

# Pleasanton Weekly

Threads of Change

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# TOGETHER WE ARE **ABLE**



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# Food for Heart

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# WHAT A WEEK



By JEREMY WALSH

## Back to the grind

Well, a different kind of grind that is. I'm back to work after taking about a month away from the job on paternity leave — but as many of you know, these early weeks with a newborn are a far cry from “time off”.

Our son was born just after noon on Dec. 23: Francis Terrence Walsh, named after our late grandfathers. My grandpa was Francis Michael Walsh. Fran, for short. I'm anxious to find out which nickname sticks for our little guy.

We had an adventurous birth story, though one more common than you might think.

Sitting four days past his due date with no action, my wife's routine checkup turned into a medical recommendation for immediate admittance to the hospital to begin an induction. Amid an intense afternoon and night the medications did the trick, initiating the labor process by the next morning. When not enough progress was made after nearly four hours of pushing, the doctor urged an unplanned C-section.

The range of emotions in the operating room less than a half-hour later was immense: seeing my son lifted into life by the doctors and nurses and me being the first person to hug him juxtaposed with my wife partially sedated in the throes of active surgery, her blood loss and open wound in clear view.

Fortunately, mom and baby did so well after the operation, and we were out of the hospital on Christmas night.

Once home, the reality of parenthood set in. So many diapers. So many loads of laundry. So many dishes. So little sleep.

I would not change any of it.

Francis is a pretty great baby. He's so expressive. He's growing well. Sure, he can be feisty. He often fights going down for naps in the bassinet, but luckily he usually has one or two good chunks of sleep at night now.

That wasn't always the case, especially those early days when he had to feed every two hours. Those times were a blur. Just put a movie, show or sports on the TV, or listen to some music, and work to stay energized as we wake him, feed him, burp him, change him, rock him to sleep and put him down. And repeat. And repeat. And repeat...

Being the non-birth parent during this initial time is a distinctive

experience. There's so much you can do to help, but also, there's only so much you can do.

Watching my wife grow and thrive as a first-time mother, all while recovering from major surgery, has been inspiring. Francis and I love you so much.

You can certainly see it in his eyes. Now, he's able to engage with us a little bit more and seems to be recognizing the world around him more and more. He really enjoys our walks in the neighborhood.

I'm able to still join on the afternoon strolls daily as I'm working from home pretty much exclusively for the time being.

I'm fortunate to have that work flexibility, just as I was fortunate to have the opportunity to spend Francis' first month away from work. And the paper remains in great shape upon my return, thanks to the team effort led by our outstanding publisher Gina Channell Wilcox during my absence.

It's intriguing to think about what impact fatherhood will have on my job. I'll be a different editor, a different journalist. I hope a better one.

I've always tried to maintain a realist's perspective about my work. We tell people's stories, often about issues deeply important to them or that greatly impact them. Those articles live in perpetuity online, and that can affect those people on a real, personal level.

It affects me as well. Every piece I write has the potential to reflect on me, professionally and personally, in the moment and for years to come. Sure, it's a little selfish to think that way, but to think otherwise would lack necessary self-awareness too.

I can't help but wonder just how my approach to work, and my work itself, will change as a parent. I've always been a newshound, as a reporter and as an editor. Sometimes that meant staying in the office after dinner, or covering a meeting well after 10 p.m., or writing on the weekend.

It's the accepted demand of my career. Or at least it was. Now I'll have to balance that with the more important demand of being a dad. Only time will tell how well I do; I look forward to asking Francis that someday soon. ■

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

### About the Cover

Livermore Lab ABLE members celebrate at their last in-person Juneteenth event pre-pandemic. Photo courtesy of LLNL. Cover design by Doug Young. Vol. XXIII, Number 2

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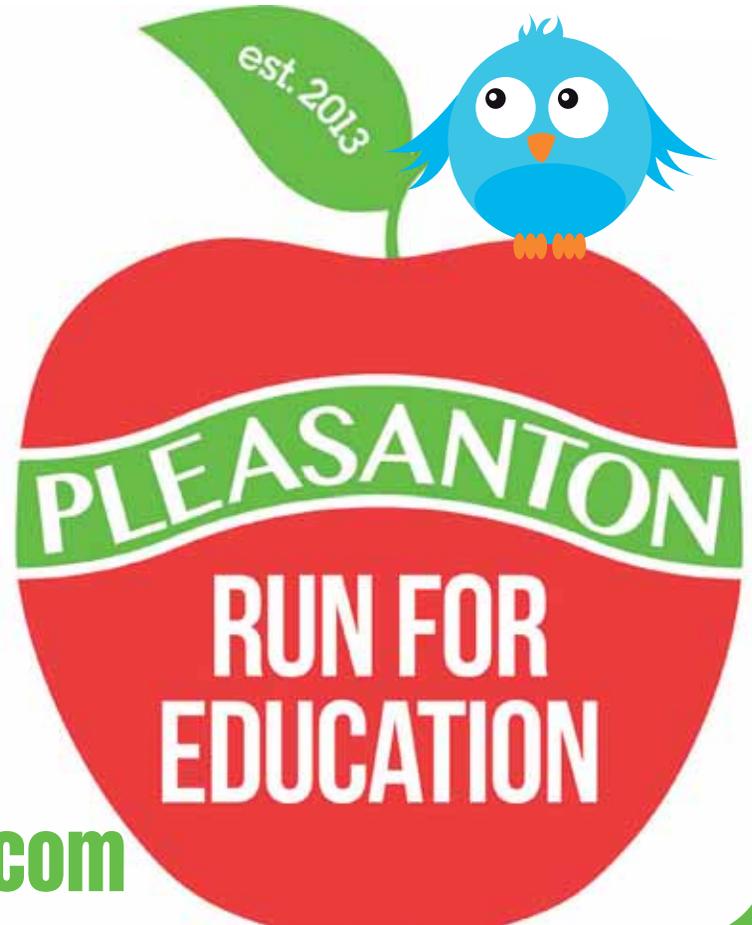
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## When you're on the internet, how concerned are you about your privacy?



**Jered Lovell**  
Waiter

I'm extremely concerned about it because the internet is a deep, vast space where it's almost impossible to feel completely safe. It takes just a click or two for a hacker to find out all sorts of your personal information.



**Carolyn Jocson**  
Customer success

I'm not concerned at all. Most websites allow you to opt out of their tracking systems, and if you really want to be invisible and protect your private information, there's almost always a way to do it. You just have to know how.



**Jake LeBeau**  
Software architect

I'm concerned about it. So whenever I get the opportunity to turn off tracking cookies, I will always take it. Every single time.



**Suman Kahlon**  
Real estate broker

I'm concerned, especially when I feel like I'm being followed after I search for something and am then suddenly flooded with advertisement for that product. I've discovered that the search engine DuckDuckGo is the way to go. It has really changed my internet experience.



**Alex Weber**  
Graphic designer

I'm moderately concerned because the internet keeps becoming a riskier environment. There is increasingly less protection out there that used to be built into the infrastructure.

—Compiled by Nancy and Jeff Lewis

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

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# Grab a front row seat to local high school sports

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## DIGEST

### Apply for LAFCO

The Alameda Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO), the public agency responsible for coordinating changes to governmental boundaries and establishing planning spheres of influence for each city and special district in Alameda County, is seeking residents to apply for its open public member seat.

"The public members represent all Alameda County citizens in an objective and impartial manner," LAFCO officials said. "Applicants must be residents of Alameda County, and cannot be a current board or council member, officer or employee of Alameda County, a city or special district in Alameda County."

The application deadline is 5 p.m. March 4. The appointment is a four-year term, with a \$100 stipend per meeting. Visit [acgov.org/lafco](http://acgov.org/lafco).

### Nancy's House

East Bay nonprofit Ruby's Place commemorated Alameda County District Attorney Nancy O'Malley's career-long focus on combatting human trafficking by naming its new youth transitional housing facility in Hayward as Nancy's House in honor of the outgoing DA.

"Nancy's House provides low-barrier emergency and transitional housing for youth ages 18-20 who have been sex trafficked," the DA's office said after the Jan. 28 dedication. "Nancy's House will provide wrap-around care for each young person in the house, including: healthy food, a safe and secure place to sleep, and case management to help them identify a plan for a safe place to live long-term."

### Bauters is ACTC chair

The Alameda County Transportation Commission recently appointed Emeryville Mayor John J. Bauters to serve as commission chair for 2022 and AC Transit Board President Elsa Ortiz as vice chair.

The commission is charged with overseeing and implementing funding from the voter-approved Measures B and BB transportation sales taxes, as well as the Measure F vehicle license fee, across the county.

Bauters said his priorities as chair will include: "expansion of multimodal infrastructure that prioritizes the safety of all users and advances Vision Zero policies and strategies; investing in active transportation; and improving multimodal transportation options for historically underserved communities to increase access to goods, services, jobs and education and result in a more equitable transportation system." ■

## Council debates housing site inventory, again postpones final vote on list

Balch, Testa participate in Housing Element discussion after FPPC guidance on residency concerns

By JULIA BAUM

An anticipated vote on a final site inventory list for Pleasanton's next Housing Element update was delayed again after the Pleasanton City Council agreed on Tuesday to not make a final decision until a special meeting next week.

Prior to Tuesday's council meeting, councilmembers Julie Testa and

Jack Balch were advised by the California Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC) on whether they could vote on items concerning the housing sites inventory. Testa and Balch each live within 500 feet of sites that are proposed for inclusion on the sites inventory list.

In their response to the city's inquiry, FPPC officials said both council members have "a potentially

disqualifying financial interest in governmental decisions related to the Housing Sites Inventory."

"However, the public generally exception applies to the decision to approve the list as a whole and general policy discussions and decisions applicable to all properties on the list," FPPC officials said.

Both Balch and Testa may still participate in the discussion and

decision to approve the site inventory list "as a whole and general policy decisions applicable to all the properties on the list," according to city attorney Dan Sodergren.

"However, at the same time, the FPPC also pointed out that the exception may not apply to a decision to remove a site that is in proximity to their homes or a discussion of

See **HOUSING** on Page 8



CIERRA BAILEY

These signs were installed in front of the Livermore Valley school district building early Tuesday morning to greet staff as they entered the building and board members ahead of that night's meeting

## A splash of positivity

Community members plant surprise sign garden in support of LVJUSD

By CIERRA BAILEY

In a show of appreciation for the Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District (LVJUSD), community members this week installed a sign garden featuring colorful posters with words of support and encouragement for teachers, Board of Education members and district staff.

"Throughout this COVID pandemic, the school officials have been faced with really difficult decisions and they had to be made quickly. Teachers and staff have had to respond on the fly to changing needs and circumstances," said Joanne Morrison, a Livermore resident who participated in the display and has two surrogate grandchildren attending LVJUSD schools.

"Of course, the decisions and policies that have been made couldn't possibly please everyone

but all in all, the district has consistently put the children first in their considerations and they've made the best decisions they could for the kids," Morrison added.

Over the past several months, parents and other residents who oppose the district's mask requirement for students have been attending school board meetings and submitting comments, urging officials to drop their mask policy, among other complaints.

"Lately, the school officials have endured a whole lot of criticism — some of it really hostile — and they've done it while showing the utmost respect for all of the viewpoints that are expressed at these meetings," Morrison said.

Morrison said that the community members who came together to create the sign garden

felt like it was time to show the district that there are residents who support and appreciate their efforts to keep students safe.

They made the signs on Sunday and installed them in front of the district building at 685 East Jack London Blvd. early Tuesday morning so that the display would greet staff as they entered the building and board members ahead of Tuesday night's regular board meeting.

"It was a big surprise, they didn't know it was coming, and I've been hearing that they were quite surprised and a lot of them were really moved by it," Morrison said of district officials' reaction to the display.

She said the signs will stay up for as long as the district allows and that she was told the sprinkler system will be temporarily shut off to preserve them. ■

## Fee hikes give PUSD programs boost

Fiscal outlook improves, but Horizon and STEAM Preschool still in red

By JULIA BAUM

Things have improved for the long-running Horizon Early Education Center and STEAM Preschool since attendance fees were raised nearly six months ago, but it is unclear how long Pleasanton Unified School District will be able to operate both programs.

District staff delivered a brief update on the daycare and preschool programs at the Board of Trustees meeting last week. Expenditures exceeded revenue for both programs this year, but only Horizon's fiscal forecast shows an upward trend.

According to PUSD, the daycare program is currently in the red at -\$74,631, but with an expected \$44,275 in revenue this year, the program should climb further out of debt to a fiscal year 2021-22 total of -\$30,357.

The financial picture for STEAM Preschool is less promising, however. This year's actuals to date show the program is at -\$54,833, and is expected to dive another approximately \$24,000 into debt, bringing its projected fiscal year 2021-22 totals to -\$78,868.

Salary and benefits costs are the main expenditures in both programs, according to staff, particularly the district's FICA and PERS burden rates as well as health care.

In August, the school board increased fees for STEAM Preschool from \$1,350 per month to \$1,500

See **HORIZON** on Page 6

# Dublin preschool works to recover from back-to-back burglaries

Break-ins less than 48 hours apart came amid uptick of COVID cases, closure last month

By JEANITA LYMAN

Teachers, staff and administration at a Dublin preschool are seeking a return to normalcy this month following a difficult start to 2022 that was marked by a closure for an uptick in COVID-19 cases during which the school's premises were ransacked in two burglaries.

"We feel like this past week we're feeling our sense of normal back; people are starting to feel more comfortable," Wazhma Masarweh, director of Resurrection Lutheran Child Development Center, told the Weekly on Tuesday.

The preschool facility, housed in Resurrection Lutheran Church on Amador Valley Boulevard, was first broken into on a Sunday morning last month, at approximately 9:30 a.m. on Jan. 9.

Although a suspect was arrested in that case, which was submitted to the Alameda County District Attorney's Office for review, Dublin police Lt. Jared Hattaway said that

"detectives are still attempting to identify the suspects in the second burglary" -- which occurred the following evening, on Jan. 10, and which Masarweh discovered the following morning.

"Who does this to a school, right? Just to vandalize and invade some of that personal space, and personal things that we built up for the kids, really it all goes toward the children ... It's one of those things that you don't have an answer for, and we still don't know who did it," Masarweh said.

While culprits remain at large in the second incident, Masarweh and her staff have been able to recover financially and then some, thanks to a well-supported GoFundMe campaign launched on Jan. 12 by one of the school's parents, Courtney Treffkorn.

"This preschool has been around for many years, and has made a huge impact for many local Dubliners whose children have gone

here," Treffkorn wrote in a statement for the fundraiser. "They operate out of a small church and already make far less than large corporate preschools. They also charge much less for their care. It is very apparent when you visit Resurrection Lutheran Child Development that these teachers do what they do out of love. They love and cherish the children that they care for."

The fundraiser met and exceeded its \$7,000 goal rapidly, with donations amounting to more than \$11,000 this week. Masarweh said that families of children at the school, city officials and community members at large had all been rallying behind them in the weeks since the burglaries, by assisting with finances but also donating time, work and support.

In particular, the school has been undergoing upgrades to security measures such as fencing and surveillance cameras, thanks to the volunteer work of community

members.

All in all, Masarweh said that she and her staff were feeling better about the school's material circumstances, but that they were still just beginning to recover emotionally.

"I would say this week has been good," Masarweh said. "For me personally, the emotional effects of this (are that) some days I wake up, and I don't have a sense of fear, but I don't have a sense of comfort either yet."

Masarweh said that coming to work at Resurrection, after the school she'd previously been at closed due to the pandemic, had felt like a sanctuary and had been a source of comfort for herself, teachers and children.

"I felt like, oh my gosh, this is the place," Masarweh said. "I don't mind the commute every day, just because the sense of community ... everybody has been so amazing and so nice. Everybody loves children, really."

While the immediate priorities for the school in the weeks since the burglaries have been recovering items that were lost and laying the groundwork for a sense of normalcy to return, Masarweh said that the long-term psychological effects would take longer to recover from, and that programming was in the works to offer support to teachers and staff who were still shaken by the break-ins.

"I felt like some of that joy, some of that pride, some of that feeling of gosh, I just love coming to work ... some of it has kind of been overshadowed by this event that I'm trying hard to put behind me," Masarweh said.

Nonetheless, she added that she was hopeful for the school's future, and that the outpouring of community support has bolstered her spirits.

"We're at a good point right now and we're hoping to build on that," Masarweh said. ■

## County may have seen worst of COVID omicron variant

Case rates and hospitalizations still high, but falling

The worst of the omicron surge in Alameda County may be over, the county health officer said Tuesday at a meeting of the Board of Supervisors.

Case rates and hospitalizations are still high but falling, health officer Dr. Nicholas Moss said. Case rates are falling more slowly than they went up.

The daily case rate is 170 per 100,000 residents and 416 people are in the hospital with COVID-19, Moss said. Seventy-four people are in intensive care with the coronavirus.

"We seem to be past the peak," Moss said. Adding that, "We're not quite out of the woods yet."

The peak daily case rate was 266.7 on Jan. 10 and the peak number of hospitalizations was 450 on Jan. 27. Intensive care

cases peaked at 79 on Jan. 29, the county's data dashboard shows.

Moss said hospitalizations should continue to decrease. The spread of the omicron subvariant BA.2 is not expected to change that prediction, Moss said.

BA.2 appears to spread more easily than its parent, but the severity appears to be similar. Moss said the COVID-19 vaccines and booster shots appear to be effective against BA.2.

After the omicron surge subsides, the COVID risk will continue and people will see more surges, Moss said. Vaccination and testing will continue to be public health priorities, he said.

He said residents can expect to see easing of emergency requirements such as indoor masking, but masks will continue to be

important. Even if they are not required, Moss said, they will be a good thing for people to use when they are sick.

In terms of preventing illness due to COVID, vaccination is the tool, Moss said.

Alameda County is one of the most highly vaccinated areas in the nation, Moss said. With 81.4% of the population fully vaccinated, the county is sixth or seventh among all California counties, he said.

Alameda County has "not seen the same type of overwhelm" of its health care system as places with lower vaccination rates, Moss said.

"It's great that we're in the low 80s," said Board Vice Chair Nate Miley, sitting in for Board Chair Keith Carson, who was excused.



Miley asked Moss about herd immunity, whether COVID-19 would become endemic and when life would return to normal.

Moss said herd immunity and endemic don't really apply right

now, and that life won't ever return to the way things were in 2019, he said.

"It's more like we're getting closer and closer to the new normal," Moss said. ■

—Keith Burbank, BCN

### HORIZON

Continued from Page 5

for full time attendance (five days a week), \$980 for three days a week, and \$760 for twice a week.

Fees for families with children enrolled in Horizon were also increased for all age levels, from \$1,920 to \$2,300 per month, with preference given to full-time students. Part-time fees now range from \$1,100 to \$1,600 per month, depending on whether the student attends two or three days per week.

By increasing program fees, the district has hoped to avoid staff layoffs and to be able to continue

offering reduced and subsidized services for qualifying families, as it has done for more than 30 years. More recently, however, declining attendance and revenue has made Horizon struggle to stay afloat.

Horizon's enrollment for infants has decreased to 11 since December, but enrollment for toddlers increased from 10 up to 12 during that same time. Current enrollment for STEAM Preschool is listed at 22 students — 10 attending full time, and the others enrolled 2 to 3 days a week.

Staff has recommended to continue monitoring the programs throughout the school year and

enrolling both infants and toddlers. Nearly a dozen job postings including four early education educator and aide positions at Horizon are also currently listed, which staff is trying to fill.

Kids Club, which serves almost 450 children in transitional kindergarten through fifth grade daily, has been running in the red for several years but is expected to end this fiscal year in the black, according to PUSD officials. The before- and after-school program also raised its fees last year to \$550 per month for grades 1 through 5, and \$650 per month for TK and kindergarten students. ■

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# Tri-Valley freshman places third in Swalwell's App Challenge

HealthBuddy aims to help cancer patients and doctors understand symptoms, treatments

By JEANITA LYMAN

U.S. Rep. Eric Swalwell has announced the top finishers for the Congressional App Challenge in his District 15, with projects from students from American High School in Fremont taking first and second places, and Dougherty Valley High School freshman Aryan Agrawal earning third place.

Agrawal was the only San Ramon student to place high in the challenge, as well as the only ninth-grader — with second and first place prizes going to 10th- and 11th-graders.

"My motivation to build

HealthBuddy came after I saw my grandfather, who we lost to cancer, struggle to keep ... records to share with his doctor because of paper sheets given to him." Agrawal said, in a video showcasing the app.

The app is meant to help cancer patients keep track of their appointments and symptoms in a way that makes it easy to share with their doctors. The goal is for doctors to select the best treatment possible based on the full range of symptoms patients are recording.

Agrawal developed the iPhone app using machine learning, in particular an artificial neural

network, intended to help doctors make decisions by evaluating patient symptoms that are input, and outputting a suggestion for the best treatment option.

The app enables patients to keep track of their appointments, as well as any notes to share with doctors at those appointments. It additionally offers an area to input and track pain details, as well as side effects. This information can be sorted and filtered, and a button on the app allows patients to share the information with their doctors.

On their end, doctors are able to use the app to see a list of their

patients, the symptoms they're reporting, and the treatments they're receiving. Doctors are able to click on a "predict" button, at which point the neural network model presents them with a list of suggested medications based on symptoms.

"I'm always awed by the quality of our young coders' work in the Congressional App Challenge, and this year is no different," Swalwell said. "Protecting against online harassment, a fitness tracker for smartphone users' eyes, and helping cancer patients record their own medical data — these are the

kinds of apps that improve our community's quality of life, truly coding that cares. Congratulations to our winners."

Coming in at second place in the district-wide competition was American High junior Meryl Mathew, for an app called Vision which aims to detect signs of eye strain using video and promote eye health.

First place went to American High sophomores Joel Johnson, Aryaman Kukal, Chaitya Jodhvat and Sriram Natarajan, for ChatGuard, which is aimed at protecting against online harassment. ■

## Nob Hill Foods in San Ramon slated for closure in March

Developers continue to plan demolition, eye housing at shopping center site

By JEANITA LYMAN

San Ramon residents are set to have one fewer grocery store available, which a neighborhood advocacy group worries is part of a long-sounding death knell for a local shopping center.

Management at Nob Hill Foods announced last month that the company would be closing its San Ramon and Walnut Creek locations early in March.

"We proudly served these communities for more than two decades. However, the past few years have brought significant challenges, and with changing economic conditions and high market rent, the sales simply cannot support continued operation of the store," said Chelsea Minor, director of public affairs at the two stores' parent company, Raley's.

Don Routh, a member of the neighborhood group Citizens Against Marketplace Development (CAMPAD), said that while the announcement was disappointing, it was not a surprise to himself or others who had been tracking and opposing proposed developments at the Marketplace Shopping Center.

"The community is rallying behind Raley's and Nob Hill, they're not blaming them; they understand it's a business and they have to have a commercially viable business, but the foot traffic in the shopping center has declined significantly over the years," said Routh, a resident of the neighborhood near the Marketplace at Alcosta Boulevard and Bollinger Canyon Road that currently houses the grocery store.

Minor said that the company had been on month-to-month leases for both the San Ramon and Walnut Creek stores for more than a year, after the original leases

were up, but that the closure decision was based on the unique circumstances brought on by the pandemic, rather than a sustainable long-term business strategy.

"We went to month-to-month leases to continue to serve the community through the pandemic," Minor said, noting that the property owner of the San Ramon location also has plans to redevelop a portion of the property with residential.

Housing for the area has been the subject of an ongoing debate between the owners and developers of the property TRC Retail, and CAMPAD and city officials.

Although CAMPAD scored a victory when the developer decided not to move forward with a proposed five-story, 284 unit housing development at the property presently housing the shopping center, which the group had strongly opposed, Routh said that he and others remain concerned about the continued plans to demolish the shopping area to make way for housing.

"The local community feels really strongly that we need to have a local shopping area where there's a UPS Store and a grocery store, and a Chinese restaurant and things like that that aren't going to be over at City Center," Routh said. "Especially the grocery store. As we all know, having gone through this pandemic the past two years, groceries are an essential service."

With the closure of Nob Hill Foods, the options for grocery shopping in San Ramon will be limited to Safeway, Lucky, Target and Walmart Neighborhood Market, along with some specialty grocers such as Trader Joe's, Whole Foods and outposts for regional foods, such as an Indian supermarket and European grocer.

Routh said that he was concerned at the overcrowding this might present in crowded stores with narrow aisles, such as Safeway, along with traffic, as residents who previously shopped at Nob Hill, along with the city's ever-growing population, flock to a smaller number of stores for essential goods.

While Routh emphasized that his work with CAMPAD was for the sake of the community in general rather than personal reasons, the closure of Nob Hill Foods also has an impact on Routh personally, given his son's longtime position as a clerk at the store.

"It certainly is an unfortunate situation for him, although we're very fortunate that Raley's/Nob Hill is providing Josh with an opportunity at the Raley's in Pleasanton," Routh said.

The San Ramon store is set to close on March 12, a week after the Walnut Creek location on March 5.

"We are working with union leadership to minimize the impact on our team members and offer them comparable roles at other locations," Minor said. "We want to thank our loyal customers for their support and look forward to serving you at a nearby location."

Routh said that he and CAMPAD would continue to oppose what they consider to be irresponsible development in the area, and that their ultimate goal would be to see the shopping center revitalized.

"Our goal is to not only prevent irresponsible housing from going in there, but to somehow or other get the city and TRC to enhance that shopping center back to a vibrant dining and shopping opportunity for us in the community," Routh said. ■

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# Bauer-Kahan's 'pink tax' bill passes off Assembly floor

## AB 1287 would ban charging more for goods marketed to women

BY JULIA BAUM

Building on legislative work that started more than a quarter century ago, a proposed bill by Tri-Valley Assemblymember Rebecca Bauer-Kahan (D-Orinda) that would ban charging more for goods marketed to women was unanimously passed off the Assembly floor last week.

"Paying a financial cost for being a woman is unjust and only adds to the gender wage and wealth gaps," Bauer-Kahan said in a statement. "This type of arbitrary gendered pricing has no place in California.

It's past time to ensure price equality."

Aiming to address the so-called "pink tax" that happens when items that are marketed to women cost more than an identical item marketed to men, Assembly Bill 1287 expands on former Assembly member Jackie Speier's "Gender Tax Repeal Act" of 1995 that also prohibited price differentials for goods that are very similar to each other.

Bauer-Kahan said the pink tax is a "sexist burden on women's financial security," and that women pay

approximately \$1,300 annually for the same products. AB 1287 would allow an exception for price differences between goods when there is "a significant difference in the cost or time to produce."

Holly Martinez, executive director of the California Commission on the Status of Women and Girls, said "with women as a whole making an average of 79 cents to every dollar a man makes, and women of color making even less, this isn't a tax we can afford to ignore."

"Women make up as much as

85% of consumer purchases in the United States and the Pink Tax represents \$1,300 that can't go into a women's retirement fund, toward home ownership, toward her education, or to feed her family," Martinez said.

AB 1287 will head next to the State Senate for committee assignments and hearings. Other Bay Area lawmakers among the bill's coauthors are Assemblymembers Evan Low (D-San Jose) and Marc Levine (D-Marin) and State Senator Scott Wiener (D-San Francisco). ■

## HOUSING

Continued from Page 5

parameters for such sites that do not apply to the final list as a whole," Sodergren said.

Because of this, Sodergren said the two sites — St. Augustine Catholic Church and a parcel owned by the Pleasanton Unified School District — will be addressed individually first "so that council members Testa and Balch can refrain from participating in the sites in proximity to their homes."

Once it is determined whether to include those sites, the council will decide on the remaining sites on the inventory list.

Balch, who lives 45 feet from the St. Augustine site, told the Weekly that he is prohibited from participating in decisions about the site "only if it becomes its own separate matter," but is "otherwise free to discuss in context of all the sites and all the housing in the community."

On Tuesday, Testa said she appreciated the explanation, "but the letter read, as you pointed out, that we may have a conflict of interest on the individual sites that are near our homes, but it was not conclusive."

"I guess my point is that in the interest of just being conservative and wanting to make a decision that would be cautious in the city's best interest, I am choosing to re-cuse myself from even that one site because the FPPC certainly was not conclusive on that," Testa said.

More than a year after the city started identifying suitable sites for future rezoning and housing development to meet the state-mandated Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) of 5,965 new units, the list has been narrowed to 28 sites for inclusion in the environmental analysis.

Several prominent sites on the inventory are marked for high-density development, including the Stoneridge Shopping Center, Stanford Health Care-ValleyCare, Hacienda Terrace, Metro 580 and SteelWave sites. Sites that are designated low to medium density on the list include

a property owned by the PUSD in southeastern Pleasanton on Vineyard Avenue, as well as the Lester site. Both Valley and Mission plazas are also listed on the site inventory.

Prior to adoption of the final Housing Element next year, staff said the council "has the ability and discretion to decide the final list of sites to include in the inventory" and "could include more sites than strictly necessary to meet the RHNA."

According to staff, "many cities are opting to include this type of 'buffer' of additional sites capacity, particularly in light of the more stringent no net loss' provisions of state law'."

"Pleasanton could choose to either include a built-in 'buffer' of extra residential zoning capacity among the sites identified and adopted as part of the Housing Element; or to create a list of potential additional sites that are not included in the Housing Element at the time of adoption, but eligible to be considered at a future date for rezoning if needed," staff said.

By including those sites in the California Environmental Quality Act analysis, and vetting them as "conceptually suitable for housing," staff said "this back up list will simplify the process of selecting future sites in the event that additional rezonings are needed to address net loss."

Certain sites were asked to be added or removed from the inventory list during Tuesday's public hearing, particularly the SteelWave, and Valley and Mission plaza sites. One resident said he wants to preserve the "small-town feel" and multiple small businesses in both shopping centers, while former councilmember Becky Dennis said the sites are in an already walkable area.

"I think it could use refreshment, even if you put it at the very end of the development timeline of the Housing Element," Dennis said. "I think that would give eight years to plan it and involve the neighborhood in making sure it has the businesses they want."

Dennis also said she liked the

Kewitt and Boulder Court sites "because it's near the new Amazon facility, and I think the city could possibly interest Amazon in partnering with the city to create non-profit managed housing there for the workforce."

"As far as SteelWave is concerned, if housing is allowed," Dennis said the council should disallow retail and office space from being added because "it's a loser from the point of view of climate action, and puts us in the hole as far as emissions are concerned."

Steve Dunn, representative for the SteelWave site, said developing the area would add mixed-use with various densities and community benefits such as completion of the Iron Horse Regional Trail.

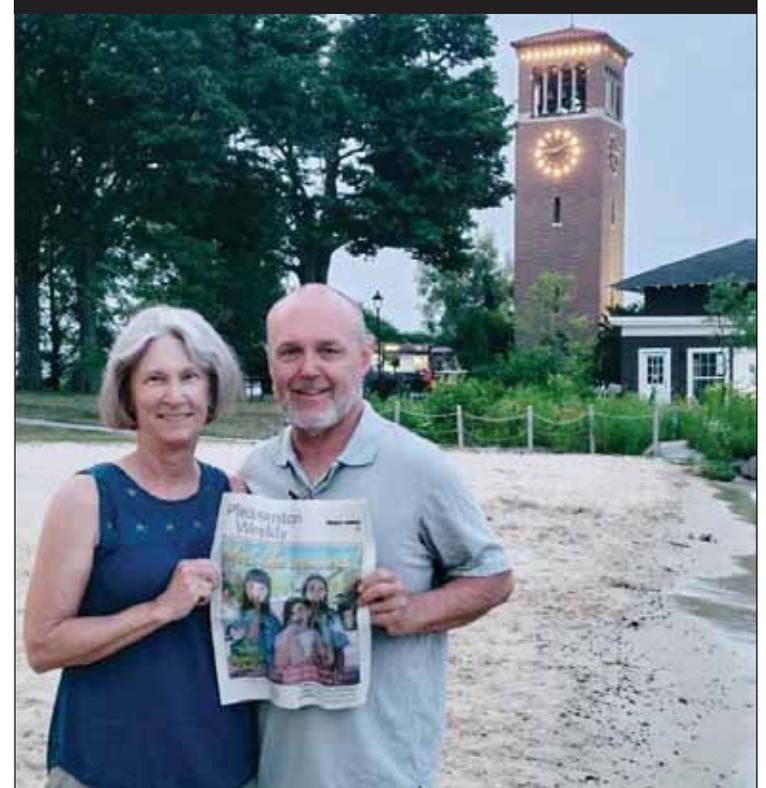
"We like this obviously to be

an informed decision," Dunn said. "This provides the council more flexibility and opportunity by studying the site and then making that educated decision."

Several residents asked to remove the Tri-Valley Inn from the list — which they said was included and then removed during the last housing cycle for having "too many units for such a piece of property" — and to keep the site zoned commercial. Similar requests were also made to omit the Donlon property from the housing site inventory list, in an effort to preserve open space for students.

The special City Council meeting to finalize the housing sites inventory has been scheduled for 6 p.m. next Tuesday (Feb. 8), according to Mayor Karla Brown. ■

## TAKE US ALONG



**Time for a trip:** Debby and John Day brought their Weekly along while visiting family in Chautauqua, N.Y., over Independence Day.

To submit your "Take Us Along" entry, email your photograph to [editor@pleasantonweekly.com](mailto:editor@pleasantonweekly.com). Be sure to identify who is in the photo (names listed from left to right), the location, the date and any relevant details about where you took your Weekly

# Monte Vista requests exception for vaccine requirement at prom venue

District hopes Oakland officials will give exemption from new city ordinance for high school events

By JEANITA LYMAN

Following unexpected news that the Oakland facility hosting Monte Vista High School's junior prom would now require that all attendees be vaccinated under a new city requirement, the Danville school's principal is asking officials to consider a proposal that would accommodate unvaccinated students.

The school dance is set to be held at the Scottish Rite Center in Oakland on Feb. 12, shortly after a citywide ordinance requiring proof of COVID-19 vaccination for attendees at indoor events went into effect this Tuesday. Oakland officials announced the new rules on Dec. 21.

Ilana Israel Samuels, director of communications at the San Ramon Valley Unified School District, said that district and Monte Vista officials weren't aware of the new Oakland requirement until the following month, when they were

notified by the venue.

"We found out on January 18th from the Scottish Rite Center that they were unfortunately going to have to change the parameters of who could attend the February 12th Prom, as they were required to now follow updated health guidelines that attendees at indoor events must be vaccinated or have a medical exemption and negative test," Samuels told DanvilleSanRamon.com

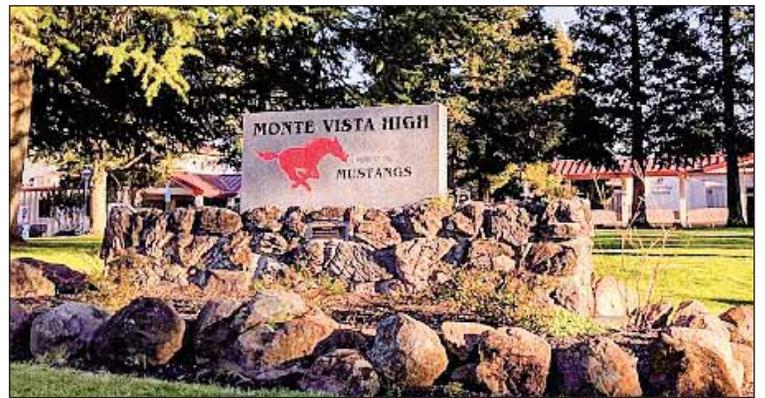
The school community was notified of the change in an email on Jan. 20, Samuels said, followed by a Jan. 25 email from Monte Vista principal Kevin Ahern, which provided further details about the medical exemption.

Prom tickets, which are non-refundable and non-transferrable, went on sale on Jan. 21, the day after the original SRVUSD announcement, with the registration page also notifying students and parents of the updated vaccine requirement.

Samuels said that while officials had tried to reschedule the event for a later date, in hopes that the Oakland ordinance would no longer be in effect by then, they'd found that the venue was fully booked every Friday and Saturday through August. In addition, she said that there was no time to find an alternative venue that would feel worthy of the occasion to students on such short notice.

"The only possible option would have been having it in our high school gym, which many students do not want, and it would then have resulted in a second year in a row having to pull out from our commitment to the Scottish Rite Center," Samuels said.

In his proposal to the Oakland City Administrator's Office on Jan. 28, Ahern said that while a majority of students in the district were vaccinated, the idea of missing prom had been difficult for students who hadn't



SRVUSD

Kevin Ahern, principal of Monte Vista High School in Danville, is asking the city of Oakland to consider a proposal that would allow unvaccinated students with a negative COVID test to attend the junior prom.

received the COVID-19 vaccination, as well as tough for their families.

He also noted that students attending junior prom are minors "who might not have control over the decision of whether to get vaccinated or not," and that other high schools could likely find themselves in the same difficult predicament under the city's current ordinance.

In addition, given the short notice of the announcement, students who would want to get vaccinated in time to attend prom wouldn't have time to, the principal argued.

Ahern requested that the city of Oakland consider allowing high schools that lease indoor-only venues for proms to instead be bound by Alameda County guidelines, which allow a negative COVID test or proof

of vaccination for attendees at indoor events. He added that if this were allowed, school and district officials would organize testing for students, with proof of vaccination still being required for guests of students and all adult workers and volunteers.

Samuels said that while there is no alternative being provided for unvaccinated Monte Vista students to celebrate junior prom, district officials are hoping that Ahern's proposal will be accepted so that the event will be open to all juniors, as planned.

"We sincerely hope that prior to February 12th, the City of Oakland may change their ordinance, as we know this is disappointing for some of our families," Samuels said. "If things shift, we will immediately notify our community." ■

# Open Heart Kitchen serves record number of meals in 2021

'Ensuring access to nutritious food is more important than ever'

By JEREMY WALSH

2021 was a record-setting year for Open Heart Kitchen as the Tri-Valley nonprofit served its highest number of meals ever — 2,033,379 — to those in need in the area.

Executive Director Heather Greaux noted that the nonprofit's prepared meals and grocery care package distribution programs were especially vital last year for community members during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

"Ensuring access to nutritious food is more important than ever — especially for people who are unhoused, families and seniors living on a tight budget," she said in a statement. "Our clients are continuing to feel the effects of the pandemic and it's critical that we continue to provide nutritious food to these vulnerable populations."

"We aim to provide the most nutritious food possible to improve people's health and well-being and we have revised our menus to offer a variety of entrees that reflect the culture of our clients," Greaux added. "When people are facing hunger, it's much harder to make healthy food choices, but they can always count on Open Heart Kitchen."

As part of its response during the pandemic, the nonprofit expanded its "Street Outreach Program" to deliver hot meals and bagged breakfasts to unhoused people six days a week — an effort that feeds about 65 people among 17 locations.

The Open Heart Kitchen "Hot

Meal Program" continues to provide meals free-of-charge Mondays through Fridays from 1-3 p.m. at the Robert Livermore Community Center, along with the "Senior Meals Program" at the senior centers in Pleasanton, Livermore and Dublin.

With plans underway for the start of construction on its Vineyard 2.0 project, Open Heart Kitchen last April moved its production kitchen to Danville temporarily until the new kitchen and dining room at the Vineyard 2.0 site on North Livermore Avenue in Livermore is complete.

Set to get off the ground this spring, the Vineyard 2.0 project includes permanent, supportive housing and other services such as

temporary overnight shelter, mailboxes, showers, laundry and free hot meals provided by Open Heart Kitchen, according to development director Denise Bridges.

"We couldn't achieve this level of service without the support of our donors and volunteers," Bridges said. "As we enter into a new year, we are full of gratitude and re-energized to help those facing food insecurity. The generosity of individuals, funders, and businesses in this region leads to more people being helped. With our new kitchen and dining room at Vineyard 2.0, we will have the flexibility to meet future needs."

To learn more about the nonprofit's programs, visit [openheartkitchen.org](http://openheartkitchen.org). ■

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THE CITY OF PLEASANTON

**HIGHLIGHTS**

**Civic Arts Commission**  
Monday, February 7, 2022, at 7:00 p.m.

- Review Fiscal Year 2020/21 Community Grant Midterm Reports
- Review Fiscal Year 2021/22 Community Grant Midterm Reports
- Discuss Evaluation Process and Meeting Format for Fiscal Year 2022/23 Civic Arts Community Grant Program Review
- Discuss and Approve a Request from Assemblymember Rebecca Bauer-Kahan's Office for a Commissioner to Act as a Community Judge for Photography Contest
- Review Civic Arts Project Status Report

**Planning Commission**  
Wednesday, February 9, 2022, at 7:00 p.m.

Consistent with State and County Orders regarding the COVID-19 pandemic this will be a virtual meeting. Instructions on how to participate and offer comments will be available after February 2, when the agenda is posted on the City's website at: [cityofpleasantonca.gov/gov/depts/cd/planning/commission/planning\\_agenda.asp](http://cityofpleasantonca.gov/gov/depts/cd/planning/commission/planning_agenda.asp)

- P21-0715, **Housing Element 6th Cycle**  
Review and provide a recommendation on housing policy topics including the inclusionary zoning ordinance, lower-income housing fund, and related City programs as part of the 2023-2031 (6th Cycle) Housing Element Update.

**Youth Commission**  
Wednesday, February 9, 2022, at 7:00 p.m.

- Discuss Evaluation Process and Meeting Format for Fiscal Year 2022/23 Community Grant Funds – Youth Category Program Review

**Parks and Recreation**  
Thursday, February 10, 2022, at 7:00 p.m.

- Review and Recommend Approval of the Draft Wayside and Delucchi Parks Conceptual Design

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

## POLICE BULLETIN

### What caused awful Saturday on I-580, BART

Back-to-back major incidents snarled vehicular traffic on Interstate 580 and stopped BART train service for hours between the Tri-Valley and Castro Valley on Saturday, authorities said.

The situation began at around 9:45 a.m. on westbound I-580 east of Eden Canyon Road with a crash that resulted in a Ford F-350 truck crashing through the freeway fence and coming to rest near the BART



Truck crashed through fence between I-580 and the BART tracks on Saturday.

tracks, according to the California Highway Patrol.

The collision was categorized on the CHP incidents website as a hit-and-run with minor injuries.

The resulting emergency response, CHP investigation and scene cleanup led to major vehicular and transit delays into early Saturday afternoon as multiple freeway lanes were closed and BART trains halted between the West Dublin-Pleasanton and Castro Valley stations.

Authorities reported that most I-580 lanes were reopened and BART resumed service briefly before both sides of the freeway were shut down and trains stopped again amid suspicious circumstances on the eastbound side of the freeway in the same area.

At 1:45 p.m., CHP received a report about a suspicious device having been found inside a Chevrolet Tahoe parked in the center divider on I-580 east of Eden Canyon Road, prompting a response from an Alameda County Sheriff's Office explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) unit and leading to all traffic being diverted off the freeway for safety reasons.

"The vehicle was thoroughly searched and x-rayed by EOD personnel before being deemed safe. All lanes of traffic were reopened at 4:22 p.m. and BART resumed its services," CHP-Dublin officials said on Twitter.

BART officials also commented on the long set of delays on Saturday, tweeting: "It was a strange day for the Dublin line being impacted by drivers. First a driver crashed into our space. Then another driver parked their vehicle on the freeway and called in a threat. CHP shut down the freeway and BART for a suspicious object that ended up not being a threat."

—Jeremy Walsh

#### In other news

- The Livermore Police Department (LPD) shared a post on Twitter last week warning the community of residential burglaries where suspects have gained access into a home by entering through the backyard and then breaking rear sliding glass doors and windows.

LPD accompanied the post with a graphic featuring a list of tips and reminders for how to help prevent becoming a victim of burglary.

The list includes:

- Lock doors, windows and backyard gates.
- Don't leave your garage open.
- Don't leave valuables unattended outside your home.
- Make sure entrances, exits, gates have good locks (deadbolts preferred) and sturdy doors.
- If possible, install video surveillance. You can share video through the Ring app and register cameras with LPD.
- Join or form a Neighborhood Watch group. LPD works with Neighborhood Watch groups.
- Encourage neighbors to call 911 if they see something suspicious.
- Have good lighting (motion lights are great).
- Trim bushes for visibility and to prevent hiding spots.

If a crime is in progress, LPD encourages people to call 911. For those who have been a victim of burglary but there is no crime in progress, LPD's non-emergency line is 925-371-4987.

—Cierra Bailey

- Federal authorities have filed charges against a Castro Valley man, alleging he committed fraud by scheming to obtain more than \$1 million in pandemic-related unemployment benefits from multiple state agencies.

The criminal complaint, announced last Friday, says 46-year-old Idowu Hashim Shittu tried using other people's personal information to get pandemic relief money.

According to a press release from the U.S. Department of Justice, Northern District of California, the criminal complaint describes three occasions when Shittu allegedly obtained fraudulently obtained benefits.

Officials say he sent a request for unemployment benefits to the Washington State Employment Security Department (ESD), which it received on May 5, 2020. The request was submitted in the name of a resident of Mercer Island, Wash., identified in the complaint only by the initials "S.O." The request included the supposed applicant's correct date of birth and social security number.

The Washington ESD deposited more than \$9,000 in an account linked to a reloadable debit card. A subsequent investigation revealed the account was used by someone in California, who withdrew cash from it at several Bay Area ATMs, including Hayward, Castro Valley, and San Jose.

The complaint says S.O. told investigators he wasn't in California at any time during 2020. A Walmart customer fitting Shittu's description was captured on camera using an ATM to withdraw cash from that account.

Shittu is also accused of at least two other instances of obtaining benefits meant for other people in Washington — one from Seattle and the other from Olympia. Both times, Bay Area ATMs were used to withdraw money from those accounts and spent in Bay Area stores. In each case, someone fitting Shittu's description was photographed engaging in transactions relating to the accounts.

Shittu allegedly fraudulently obtained more than \$1 million in unemployment benefits from various state agencies, including the Washington ESD.

Shittu is charged with three counts of access device fraud and faces a maximum penalty of up to 15 years in prison for each count if convicted. A court may also order restitution, fines, a period of supervised release and other penalties.

—Tony Hicks, BCN Foundation

- Officials with the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation said Monday the agency has already begun the process of phasing out death row at San Quentin State Prison in Marin County.

In the coming weeks, the department will be proposing regulations to expand the Condemned Inmate Transfer Pilot Program, which was implemented in January 2020, according to Vicky Waters, CDCR special advisor and assistant

## Irene Still

June 24, 1933 – January 21, 2022

Irene (Kolofos) Still, age 88, of Seal Beach and Pleasanton, passed peacefully on the evening of January 21, 2022, after several years of cognitive decline.

Irene Still grew up in a quaint New England town, Methuen, which is located just north of Boston. She was a graduate of Endicott College, situated on the scenic shores of the Atlantic Ocean in Beverly, Massachusetts, and a graduate of Keuka College in upstate New York. The acclaimed field study programs offered by both colleges, as well as their proximity to an ocean and a lake, solidified her decision to matriculate there.

While Irene was engaged in college-related fieldwork in Rochester, New York, she was housed in one of the dormitories at Colgate Rochester Divinity School. At Colgate she met and later married seminarian Howard Lewis Still. Being the wife of a minister was not something fun-loving Irene had ever envisioned for herself! But her chosen profession was Social Work, and they shared a conviction for serving. They were married at the Divinity School, and the President, Dr. Sanders, officiated. During their early years of marriage, Howard completed his seminary studies at Colgate while Irene was simultaneously employed in the Medical Social Service Department of Strong Memorial Hospital which is affiliated with the University of Rochester. Upon graduating from Divinity School, Howard was ordained into the Presbyterian Church. During their years of service in this Buffalo, New York suburb community, Irene attended graduate school at the University of Buffalo and was employed in the Social Service Department of Buffalo State Hospital.

The Stills moved to California in 1960 when Howard was called to organize a new Presbyterian Church in the emerging community of Diamond Bar. In their thirteen years of residency in Diamond Bar, the Stills established a landmark Presbyterian Church as well as a lifetime of friendships. Irene described those years as their most memorable. Raising their two wonderful children, Rebecca and Timothy, in the environs of Diamond Bar was by far their greatest shared joy.

In 1976 Howard decided to pursue a career in the secular world. He accepted a position as Vice President for Development at California State University, Long Beach. The family then moved to neighboring Seal Beach. He served in that capacity until his untimely death succumbing to leukemia in 1986.

As life unfolded for Irene, Howard's dear friend,

Carl Meyer, was also left a widower. The Stills and the Meyers had been friends for many years. Carl had served as a church elder in Howard's Northminster Presbyterian Church in Diamond Bar, and Howard was noted for saying about his admired friend, "There's only one Carl Meyer."

Carl and Irene both shared the sorrow of losing a beloved spouse. Carl and Irene shared a charmed life. They traveled the world. They enjoyed frequent visits with their children. They shared religious convictions and values. But as fickle fate would have it, Carl wasn't able to keep that promise. Irene was once again widowed when Carl died of cancer after only six short years of marriage.

After Carl died, Irene elected to give thanks for the two wonderful men she had married and loved. Irene's children and daughter-in-law, Michelle Still, strengthened her with their generous love and understanding. She was immensely grateful for all of them. Grandchildren Brooklyn, Logan, Jackson, and Christian were the sunshine of her life. She could not have loved them more.

Irene was employed for almost twenty years at California State University, Long Beach, where she served as Supervisor of Special Collections and the University Archives. She was a natural teacher and loved introducing the treasures of her department to curious University 100 students. Many stayed in contact with her after their graduation. She established the Howard L. Still Memorial Music Scholarship at the University that supports and encourages talented vocal musicians in their pursuit of a professional career.

Throughout her life and in every situation, Irene took time to get to know the people she encountered. Whether the staff serving her favorite eggs benedict at Blackboard Bistro, or the gentle, caring people who helped her in her later years, Irene always found a way to make everyone around her feel special. She will be remembered as a genuinely kind and unselfishly generous soul.

Irene is survived by her two children, daughter-in-law, and four grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents, husbands, sisters, and brother.

There will be a private ceremony and day of remembrance of Irene's life in Southern California on Sunday, February 20, 2022.

In lieu of flowers, gifts may be made to the Still Meyer Rare Book Memorial Endowment at California State University, Long Beach. <https://giveto.csulb.edu/LIB10>



## POLICE REPORT

The Pleasanton Police Department made the following information available

## Jan. 29

**Catalytic converter theft**

- 1:31 p.m. on the 2300 block of Meadowlark Drive

**Fraud**

- 1:44 p.m. on the 2400 block of Bay Meadows Circle

## Jan. 28

**Theft**

- 6:30 a.m., 5100 block of Hopyard Road; theft from auto
- 6:33 a.m., 5300 block of Owens Court; theft from auto
- 8:19 a.m., 5500 block of Johnson Drive; theft from auto
- 8:32 a.m. at Pimlico Drive and Keneland Way; theft from auto
- 5:36 p.m., 1500 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting

**Warrant arrest**

- 7:31 a.m. at Madeira Drive and Sylvaner Court

**Vandalism**

- 8:28 a.m. on the 5100 block of Hopyard Road
- 11:55 a.m. at Stoneridge and Hacienda drives

**Assault/battery**

- 9:26 p.m. at Stanley Boulevard and Irby Ranch Drive

## Jan. 27

**Drug violation**

- 1:26 a.m. on the 6700 block of Santa Rita Road

**Warrant arrest**

- 5:08 a.m. on the 3900 block of Santa Rita Road

**Theft**

- 8:16 a.m. on the 6300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

**Fraud**

- 10:44 a.m. on the 900 block of Crellin Road

**Graffiti offense**

- 12:13 p.m. on the 1000 block of Kottinger Drive

**Vandalism**

- 2:06 p.m. on the 600 block of Main Street

## Jan. 26

**Domestic battery**

- 5:43 a.m. on Hacienda Drive

**Theft from auto**

- 8:18 a.m. on the 4400 block of Valley Avenue

**Vandalism**

- 11:45 a.m. on the 1000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

**Drug violation**

- 5:51 p.m. on the 6000 block of Stoneridge Drive

**Warrant arrest**

- 8:38 p.m. on the 5600 block of Owens Drive

## Jan. 25

**Assault/battery**

- 12:43 p.m. on the 5500 block of West Las Positas Boulevard

**Vandalism**

- 1:54 p.m. on the 5300 block of Brookside Court

**Warrant arrest**

- 2:14 p.m. at Johnson Court and Owens Drive

**Theft**

- 2:33 p.m., 5700 block of Johnson Drive; shoplifting
- 2:47 p.m., 1700 block of Santa Rita Road; bicycle theft
- 6:28 p.m., 1400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting

## Jan. 24

**Fire**

- 4:19 a.m. on the 5200 block of Pleasant Hill Road
- 7:10 p.m. on the 1800 block of Santa Rita Road

**Theft**

- 7:40 a.m. on the 3900 block of Stoneridge Drive
- 2:10 p.m., 5500 block of Sunol Boulevard; auto theft

**Weapons violation**

- 8:08 a.m. on the 3100 block of Bernal Avenue

**Fraud**

- 12:04 p.m. on the 1300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

**Burglary**

- 12:14 p.m. on the 7300 block of Johnson Drive

**Drug violation**

- 5:11 p.m. on the 3100 block of Bernal Avenue

**Assault/battery**

- 10:26 p.m. on the 5600 block of Owens Drive

## Jan. 23

**Domestic battery**

- 12:12 a.m. on Inyo Court

**Theft**

- 2:02 p.m. on the 000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road
- 6:18 p.m., 1300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting

**Robbery**

- 6:04 p.m. on the 1000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

## Jan. 22

**Alcohol violation**

- 2:48 a.m. on the 6700 block of Santa Rita Road

**Theft**

- 1:48 p.m., 2700 block of Stoneridge Drive; auto theft
- 3:59 p.m., 1300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting

**Burglary**

- 8:51 p.m. on the 1500 block of Honeysuckle Court

## Jan. 21

**Graffiti offense**

- 9:03 a.m. at Vineyard Avenue and Adams Way

**Theft**

- 10:11 a.m. on the 5200 block of Hopyard Road
- 11:14 a.m. on the 1800 block of Sinclair Drive

- 2:27 p.m., 1500 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting

- 4:17 p.m., 1500 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting

- 9:05 p.m. on the 2400 block of Pomino Way

- 9:17 p.m., 6700 block of Bernal Avenue; theft from auto

**Verbal threats**

- 10:42 a.m. on the 4200 block of Rosewood Drive

**Alcohol violation**

- 6:24 p.m. on the 7300 block of Johnson Drive

## Jan. 20

**Theft**

- 10:53 a.m. on the 6200 block of Ruxton Court

*Louis Csoti Moncton*

*August 5, 1935 – December 10, 2021*

Louis Csoti Moncton passed away on Friday, December 10, 2021 at the age of 86.

Louis could no longer bear the chronic excruciating pain caused by lumbar degenerative arthritis and he was losing his mobility. In February 2021, Louis also suffered extreme pain and discomfort from cancer surgery.

Louis had always been a very strong, courageous, and disciplined man who was very active in sports and working out at the gym all his life.

Louis was born in Csanadapaca, Hungary. His birth name is Lajos Csoti.

He excelled academically and was a devout Christian.

Louis had a very charismatic personality and loved people and animals especially dogs.

Louis served in the military in Hungary and also fought in the 1956 Revolution while he was at the University in Budapest. During the Revolution, Louis had to flee to the Austrian border and eventually made his way to Canada for a new start and to continue his education. While in the University in Canada, Louis officially changed his name to Louis Csoti Moncton. He met his first wife Kathleen in Toronto where his son Anthony was born. Two years later, the family moved to California where his daughter Desiree was born.

The family enjoyed many happy years in the Bay Area.

Louis and Kathleen parted after 24 years of marriage.

Later, Louis married Jane and they were happily married for 31 years until his passing.

Louis was a successful and brilliant electro-mechanical engineer and engineering manager. His favorite places to work were Caterpillar and Lockheed.

Louis played soccer for most of his life and at least 20-25 years on local teams in the Bay Area. Louis also practiced karate for 20-25 years and achieved a 4th degree black belt.

Louis loved telling jokes to uplift his family and friends. He always felt that it was important to have a good sense of humor no matter what happens in life. Louis had a wonderful sense of humor and a remarkable story telling ability that everyone loved.

Louis was an excellent cook and had an incredible green thumb in the garden growing his own peppers and tomatoes.

Louis was also an avid reader and loved music especially classical, opera, and jazz.

Louis was a very spiritual man. He prayed and read the Bible every day. He gave God thanks and praise when anything good happened. Though there were hard times, he still had faith and hope in the Lord.

Louis is survived by his loving wife, Jane Csoti; his devoted children Dr. Anthony Moncton (and his wife Veronica Ramos) and Desiree Moncton. He is also survived by his first wife, Kathleen Moncton, as well as many relatives in Hungary.

Family and friends are invited to attend the service, reception, and celebration of life on Saturday March 19, 2022 starting at 11 am at St. Clare's Episcopal Church in Pleasanton, CA, 94588. In the Celebration of Life that follows the service for Louis, family and friends will have an opportunity to share their stories about Louis.

Mask and proof of vaccination is required to attend the service, reception, and celebration of life.

Live streaming online access will also be available for remote viewing via Facebook and YouTube.

It is requested by the family that no monies, no flowers, and no cards are sent, only thoughts and prayers.

If some family and friends feel compelled to give, please send your donation to a charity of your choice that would benefit those who are most in need whether it is a person, animal, or our environment. Making this world a better kinder place is what would make Louis happy.

Thank you very much. Louis loved you all. We all miss him. This is a tremendous loss to us all.

We love you and miss you, Louis.

St Clare's Episcopal Church  
3350 Hopyard Rd, Pleasanton, CA 94588  
Phone: (925) 462-4802  
Email: stclare@att.net

**BULLETIN**

Continued from Page 10

secretary of communications.

The program allows inmates on death row to voluntarily transfer to other California prisons for job placement opportunities. Transfers for people on death row are reviewed by the CDCR's Institutional Classification Committees and take into account an inmate's security level, their behavior, and other safety concerns.

As of last Friday, the pilot program has already helped transfer 116 death row male inmates from San Quentin to other maximum security prisons throughout the state. Additionally, eight death row female inmates from the Central California Women's Facility have been transferred to other housing units at the prison under the pilot program, Waters said.

The program was created after voters approved November 2016's Proposition 66, which changed the way state courts can challenge death penalty convictions.

In 2019, Gov. Gavin Newsom signed an executive order placing a moratorium on the death penalty, calling the punishment a "failure" that "has discriminated against defendants who are mentally ill, Black and brown, or can't afford expensive legal representation."

The expansion of the Condemned Inmate Transfer Pilot Program will start the process of phasing out death row housing at San Quentin, as well as the Central California Women's Facility near Chowchilla.

According to Waters, the CDCR anticipates all of the state's 673 male inmates and 21 female inmates could all be transferred out of death row within the next two years.

—Bay City News Service

PAID OBITUARY

# Together we are ABLE

## Livermore Lab group builds community among Black employees, supports youth in science

BY CIERRA BAILEY

At Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, there are several employee resource groups that aim “to develop, sustain, and enhance a diverse and inclusive workforce through recruitment, mentoring, and networking,” according to the lab’s website.

Among these groups is the African American Body of Lab Employees (ABLE).

Driven by the motto, “Together we are able,” ABLE seeks to provide a platform of communication for its members to share their experiences and express concerns about issues pertaining to the quality of work life at LLNL.

Additionally, the group encourages networking and the sharing of resources among its members as well as providing educational opportunities and other tools to help develop the leadership potential of its members.

The group works toward these initiatives by holding meetings, hosting events and by partnering with its counterparts at neighboring Sandia National Laboratories and Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory.

“Employee resource groups like ABLE are critical in the workplace, especially one as scientifically and academically entrenched as LLNL,” said Dr. AJ Lanier, ABLE’s co-chair and organizational development consultant at LLNL.

“ABLE and other ERGs embrace the various aspects of one’s identity and provide (them) with a safe space to be their authentic selves, while providing them with personal tools and professional resources geared towards helping others flourish,” Lanier said.

The organization has been active for more than three decades.

It began in 1988 when a number of Black employees of LLNL and Sandia came together to discuss the formation of an organization that reflected the views and concerns of its members. The group launched as the Association of Black Laboratory Employees. In 2011, the name was changed to the African American Body of Laboratory Employees. The acronym, ABLE, applied to both variations of the name.

Currently, the group has 90 members and is led by a eight-member executive board, including

co-chairs Lanier and Dr. Jeremy Feaster, a research staff scientist and advanced manufactured reactors task lead at LLNL.

“There is an incredible amount of pressure that comes with being selected to work in a highly innovative environment that is touted as the ‘smartest 1.1 square mile in America,’” Lanier said, explaining the value of groups like ABLE.

“We show up to work with different aspects of our identity in the workplace,” she added. “Depending on the environment and the exchange, we sacrifice parts of ourselves in exchange for fitting into the work environment. Marginalized groups often feel as though they don’t have a voice and/or they are not/will not be seen. ABLE and other ERGs provide a safe haven where these individuals can be seen, heard, embraced and can collaborate to improve the work environment for their group, as well as partnering with other ERG groups as well.”

In addition to the community and support ABLE provides for lab employees, one of the group’s key initiatives is its annual youth



One of ABLE’s key initiatives is its annual scholarship program, which is affiliated with the “My Brother’s Keeper” initiative. Pictured: Scholarship recipients Janae Burks and another recipient.

scholarship program.

The program was created to provide outreach to the community and encourage the academic development of budding Black/African American scholars, according to Lanier. It is affiliated with the “My Brother’s Keeper” nationwide initiative launched by former President Barack Obama.

The goal of the program is to help facilitate youth with exposure to positive role models and career choices. As of 2021, ABLE has awarded 14 scholarships over the past five years for a total of \$9,500. “We are currently on target to double the amount of scholarships awarded over a two-year span, by increasing community donations and organizational funding,” Lanier said.

ABLE hosts a number of fundraising events to support its scholarship

program each year. This year, they are doing a month-long See’s Candies fundraiser and a private virtual wine tasting event later this month with Black-owned winery Longevity Wines in Livermore, which will double as both a scholarship fundraiser and a Black History Month celebration.

ABLE’s commitment to local youth extends to their high school outreach programs as well, which include mentoring Livermore High School students, the “Shadow a Scientist” initiative with West High School’s Space & Engineering Academy students in Tracy and offering a mentorship network for Black student interns.

While the COVID-19 pandemic has made it challenging for the group to host community events, the members have pivoted to find unique ways to continue engaging



COURTESY OF LLNL

ABLE launched in 1988 when a group of Black employees of LLNL and Sandia came together to discuss the formation of an organization that reflected the views and concerns of its members.



In addition to providing a safe space for its 90-member organization, ABLE also offers outreach to youth in science.



COURTESY OF ABLE

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rthur Mola.



COURTESY OF LLNL

There are several employee resource groups at LLNL that aim “to develop, sustain, and enhance a diverse and inclusive workforce.”

with the community.

“The pandemic has impacted ABLE by limiting the in-person events that can be provided,” Lanier said. “We had aspirations to hold a Symbolic March of Solidarity to honor the legacy and holiday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. With the surge of omicron, the plan was shifted to hold it in February. Due to the ever-changing nature of the pandemic requirements, it is indefinitely on hold, along with other in-person events.”

Lanier said that events with their community partners have been affected as well.

“Partnership with Livermore Library for live readings was also impacted and we pivoted to do another virtual event. ABLE was also known for hosting several in-person gatherings at the lab to promote fellowship and knowledge of cultural

traditions; we have been unable to do these in lieu of the pandemic as well,” she said.

Last year during Black History Month, members of ABLE partnered with SPARC Theater and the Livermore Library to perform a virtual readers theater of the “March” trilogy graphic novel series written by late civil rights activist and U.S. Rep. John Lewis with co-author Andrew Aydin and illustrator Nate Powell.

This year, the group is teaming up with the library again and the Encore Players of Livermore for a virtual performance of a series of monologues inspired by past and present abolitionists called “Abolitionist Monologues: When Freedom Speaks” on the last day of the month. Lanier said they are currently still seeking participants for the reading as they hope to increase representation.

Throughout this month, ABLE also has a number of Black History Month events planned for its members, including a “Jeopardy” game night, an educational luncheon and a speaking engagement featuring Dr. Kimani Toussaint, a professor and senior associate dean in the school of engineering at Brown University.

Some of the Lab’s other employee resource groups include, the American Indian Activity Group, Asian Pacific American Council and the Lawrence Livermore Laboratory Women’s Association, among several others. Lanier said that ABLE has been a “partner and ally” to several of the other groups to uplift each others’ efforts.

“The synergy that is occurring among the ERGs is inspiring and definitive in moments of change,” she said. ■



COURTESY OF LLNL

ers support and



COURTESY OF LLNL

Before the pandemic, ABLE was known for hosting several in-person gatherings to promote fellowship and knowledge of cultural traditions.

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FEB. 4



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ANDRE THIERRY

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SOUL / ZYDECO

SATURDAY  
FEB. 5



Southern rock jammers who have played with Satriani, Allman & more

IDLEWILD

DOORS 6PM | SHOW 7:30PM  
\$10 ALL TICKETS



SOUTHERN ROCK

FRIDAY  
FEB. 11



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SOULFUL SECURITY

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R&B / SOUL

SATURDAY  
FEB. 12



Van Morrison’s daughter, with impressive vocals and songwriting all her own

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

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

Applications are now being accepted for the following vacancies:

**BICYCLE, PEDESTRIAN AND TRAILS COMMITTEE**

2 Vacancies – Regular members

**CIVIC ARTS COMMISSION**

2 Vacancies – 1 Regular member, 1 Youth member

**COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND THE ENVIRONMENT**

1 Vacancy – Regular member

**HOUSING COMMISSION**

1 Vacancy – Alternate member

**HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION**

2 Vacancies – Regular members

**LIBRARY COMMISSION**

1 Vacancy – Regular member

**PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION**

3 Vacancies – 1 Regular member, 1 Alternate member, 1 Youth member

**YOUTH COMMISSION**

8 Vacancies – 3 At Large Student members, 2 High School Student members, 2 Alternate Student members, 1 Adult Representative member

Apply by 5 PM, Monday, March 7, 2022, on the City of Pleasanton website at [cityofpleasantonca.gov/gov/depts/clerk/boards/](http://cityofpleasantonca.gov/gov/depts/clerk/boards/)

Applicants must reside within Pleasanton city limits.

For more information contact the Office of the City Clerk at (925) 931-5027.

## Creative Fiber Artists return with *Threads of Change*

### Quilting group's second exhibit in Danville comes after five years of artistic growth

By JEANITA LYMAN

**A**ny group of artists' first exhibit poses a number of challenges.

For Creative Fiber Artists, an offshoot of the Diablo Valley Quilters Guild dedicated to art quilting rather than traditional quilting, there was one challenge in particular to getting their first exhibit in 2017 off the ground, however.

"We had to convince people they were good enough," said Margaret Winter, longtime quilter and organizer for Creative Fiber Artists.

Winter said that, following the warm reception of their 2017 show, this lack of confidence no longer posed an obstacle to the 12 original members of the group when it came to organizing their current exhibit "Threads of Change," which opened at the Village Theatre and Art Gallery in Danville last month.

"It was a lot easier to convince people that a show was in order," Winter said.

By all accounts, the group's newly found confidence following their 2017 exhibit "Uncommon Thread," and additional five years of work developing personally and collectively as artists, has led to an entirely new experience in the new exhibit, and increased cohesiveness and creativity in the new works on display.

"They really flow together," said Marija Nelson Bleier, program coordinator for visual arts at the Village Theatre gallery. "I've hung them based off of color but also some of them have a theme, so it seems like ocean and ocean life has been an inspiration this time around. There's a good level of outdoors-as-inspiration as the subject matter for these quilts."

Getting outdoors, and being inspired by the local scenery, has long been a key aspect of Creative Fiber Artists' endeavors — which have been grounded in no small part by regular retreats, in which the members are able to fully engage with their work, and "competing" in artistic challenges inspired by them.

This unique approach, driven by an overall atmosphere of creativity, experimentation and expression, were key to what founding member



MARIJA NELSON BLEIER

"Threads of Change" is the newest exhibit at the Village Theatre and Art Gallery in downtown Danville, featuring works of Creative Fiber Artists such as "Moonlight Dance" by Cyndy Rymer (above).

Susan Dillinger wanted in a smaller offshoot of the Diablo Valley Quilters Guild.

"At our first meeting, we decided we wanted to be different from other groups," Dillinger said.

While the larger guild, and the quilting world in general, are generally focused on traditional quilting using patterns that have been passed down and repeated through generations, the founding members of Creative Fiber Artists were seeking a new group focused instead on art quilting, in which experimentation and new approaches take precedent over traditional methods.

Winter said that with traditional quilting, sometimes "you wish there was more of yourself in your quilts." In contrast, art quilting is aimed at creating pieces that are "entirely original, not from someone else's brain," Dillinger said.

"It (art quilting) is totally from the maker," Dillinger said.

This approach means not just unique methods, but experimenting with unique materials as well. One challenge the group took on

involved incorporating wire mesh, and the materials used for their projects range from cheesecloth to used teabags.

"Our families all know: 'Do not throw this away without asking,'" Winters said.

In the five years since their last show, the group members — all retired — have had time to experiment and continue finding their voices through the medium, and teach each other new methods in the process, which has been key to how the group functions since its inception.

The wealth of time, experience and shared education meant that the group was able to put together pieces for "Threads of Change" within approximately six months, after it had been delayed for two years due to the pandemic.

"Ironically, because they weren't working so much in person as a group, it's almost like their work is more thematic in colors ... Everyone's work is really complimentary with everyone else's work," Bleier said.

"Threads of Change" opened on Jan. 20 and is set to run through March 11 at the Village Theatre and Art Gallery at 233 Front St. in downtown Danville.

The gallery is open Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from noon to 5 p.m., and Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Winter and Dillinger recommend visiting during the Fridays and Saturdays hours, when they and others with works on display will be serving as docents. Learn more at [www.danville.ca.gov](http://www.danville.ca.gov). ■



# Symphony presenting ‘Brilliance of Youth’

Concert to feature winners of Competition for Young Musicians



COURTESY OF LAS

Clockwise from top: Pleasanton pianist Celicia Thendean, young violinist Dustin Breshears and his sister Valery Breshears, also on violin, will perform at “The Brilliance of Youth” on Feb. 12.

BY PATRICIA J. BOYLE

Livermore-Amador Symphony’s next concert, “The Brilliance of Youth,” will take place next Saturday (Feb. 12) at Livermore’s Bankhead Theater.

Music director Lara Webber will conduct the concert, which includes George Walker’s “Lyric for Strings” and Edvard Grieg’s “Holberg Suite.” American composer George Walker was the first African American to win the Pulitzer Prize for Music.

The concert will feature special performances by violinists Dustin Breshears and Valery Breshears, and pianist Celicia Thendean, winners of the symphony’s Competition for Young Musicians. Teen jazz band Element 116, under the direction of Matt Finders, will perform during intermission.

Thirteen-year-old Thendean, a Pleasanton resident, will perform Robert Schumann’s Piano Concerto in A Minor, 1st movement. She began piano lessons at age 5 and has won numerous prizes in solo competitions, including international contests.

She is enrolled in the San Francisco Conservatory of Music pre-college program studying cello under Eric Sung. Besides playing piano, she enjoys math and reading, and playing cello and oboe.

Dustin Breshears, 14, will perform Henri Vieuxtemps’ Violin Concerto No. 5 in A Minor, 1st movement. He lives in San Pablo and is in ninth grade at the Oakland School for the Arts.

He began violin lessons at age 4 and began studying at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music at age 7. He has soloed with four different orchestras since the age of 6 and won numerous

solo awards. Dustin comes from a family of musically talented siblings.

Valery Breshears, 12, Dustin’s sister, will perform Pablo de Sarasate’s “Zigeunerweisen.” Valery is in seventh grade at the Oakland School for the Arts.

She began violin lessons at age 2 and by age 5 began studying at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music. She has soloed eight times with six different orchestras since the age of 6 and has won numerous solo competitions.

The concert begins at 8 p.m.; doors will open by 7:30 p.m. Masks are required, and patrons 12 and older will be required to show proof of full vaccination and photo ID as they enter.

For tickets, visit the Bankhead ticket office at 2400 First St., Livermore, [www.livermorearts.org](http://www.livermorearts.org), or call 925-373-6800. Ticket holders should check [www.livermoreamadorsymphony.org](http://www.livermoreamadorsymphony.org) for updates since the concert program is subject to change due to the pandemic. ■

*Editor’s note: Patricia J. Boyle, past president of the California Writers Club Tri-Valley branch, writes about the Livermore-Amador Symphony.*



COURTESY OF LIVERMORE ARTS

The season at the Bankhead Theater will include (clockwise from top left) Lee Rocker of the Stray Cats, comedian Rita Rudner and Garrison Keillor with Linda and Robin Williams.

## Bankhead lining up next season

Summer kicking off with American icon Garrison Keillor

Livermore Arts has announced its 2022 summer season, launching June 10 with American icon Garrison Keillor, who is famous for his variety show, *A Prairie Home Companion*, which drew some 3.5 million listeners on 700 public radio stations from 1974-2016. He appears with special guests Robin and Linda Williams with their blend of bluegrass, folk, old-time and

acoustic country music.

The next day on June 11, the Bankhead will be celebrating with a Winter Dance Party, the No. 1 tribute show to Buddy Holly, Ritchie Valens and the Big Bopper. Audience members will be treated to more than two hours of unbridled, high voltage entertainment featuring all the hit songs of the ‘50s era. Other summer shows are

scheduled as follows:

- June 17 — Big Bad Voodoo Daddy, swing group.
- July 22 — Lee Rocker of the Stray Cats.
- Aug. 20 — Comedian Rita Rudner.
- Aug. 27 — Broken Seeds Still Grow, a dance and visual arts production.

For times and tickets, go to [www.LivermoreArts.org](http://www.LivermoreArts.org). ■

—Dolores Fox Ciardelli

# Tri-Valley author debuts first book in children's series

Longtime royal family aficionado fulfills childhood dreams with historical fantasy book on Queen Elizabeth

By JEANITA LYMAN

Growing up in Dublin and Pleasanton, Janet McCarroll was shocked and fascinated to learn that royalty existed in real life across the pond, not just fairy tales, when her mother told her about Princess Diana.

Although she didn't go on to fulfill her initial childhood dream that resulted, of being a royal biographer, McCarroll found herself driven to put her expertise on the British royal family to use last year, following the winding path that her aspirations went on to take.

McCarroll released her first book, "Elizabeth and the Picadilly Council: When Buckingham Calls," and what is set to be the first of a series, at the end of October, after being driven to complete the manuscript during her final semester as a graduate student in psychology at St. Mary's College earlier in the year.

"Some part of me I think just got really annoyed with all the things in life I said I was going to do and didn't do," McCarroll said.

Additionally, McCarroll said that she'd decided time was of the essence, given increased scrutiny and negative press she saw as unfairly

targeted towards Queen Elizabeth as tensions within the royal family have become public in recent years. In particular, McCarroll said that she hated to see this being directed at somebody who she'd been personally inspired by, and awed by as a historical figure.

"It kind of just pained me how many people really didn't know much about her," McCarroll said. "Granted, she's from a different country, but still, I feel like it's history in the making right here before our very eyes."

"I was just kind of sad to see here we are, approaching her platinum jubilee — and there has never been a platinum jubilee in all of British history," McCarroll said.

For McCarroll, the queen's lengthy reign is significant not just for how long she's held the throne, but also the sheer number of historical events she's witnessed and been a part of. On a personal level, McCarroll said she'd been struck when she was young by seeing a woman close to her small size command a room.

"I was like, people don't respect me as much because I'm tiny and

I'm giggly, but power doesn't have to look stoic, and tall and intimidating," McCarroll said. "There's different kinds of power, and it doesn't make it any weaker or any less than because it doesn't resemble someone else's. So I hope everybody, boy, girl, non-binary, Black, white, tall, short, young, old, atheist, religious, whatever, I hope everybody can get that message from this."

Getting this message across to a range of audiences is what McCarroll said inspired her to write the book as a children's historical fantasy novel.

"I don't think people are very fair to adults when it comes to writing," McCarroll said. "I think that the older you get, the dryer the reading gets sometimes."

Despite her encyclopedic knowledge of the specifics in British royal history, McCarroll said she chose to incorporate elements of fantasy surrounding the queen's rise to the throne and life in Buckingham palace in the story.

"I was kind of like, well all angles have been taken, but the one thing I've never seen is a children's

adventure series on her life, especially around her youth," McCarroll said.

In particular, McCarroll said that she was sensitive to how socially isolated the queen must have been as a child, and how different growing up in a palace must have been in reality compared to fantasy. For this reason, she chose to focus the plot on what it would have been like to be a young royal, unexpectedly thrust into power, with a group of friends to support her along the way.

"I think about the very few children that Queen Elizabeth actually did have a friendship with as a child," McCarroll said. "What must it have been like for the other children to be friends with such a notable person? How was the queen able to trust anyone or know who to share secrets with? That is a connection we all need, but must have been very hard for her to come by."

McCarroll said that the cast of



characters she'd written as the queen's group of friends were closely inspired by her own friendships and people she'd met over the years.

"I think there's a little bit of every personality in there," McCarroll said. "... every friend group should be like that. It's no fun if everyone's the same." ■

## Writers hosting speaker on creativity

Author/editor to address how life patterns affect work

By DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

Author and editor Sandra Tayler will speak at the next meeting of the Tri-Valley Branch of the California Writers Club on "Structuring Life to Support Creativity," at 2 p.m. Feb. 19, via Zoom.

"The habits and patterns you build into your life can have a huge impact on your creativity," Tayler said. "This presentation shares some specific things you can do to make more space for your creative work."

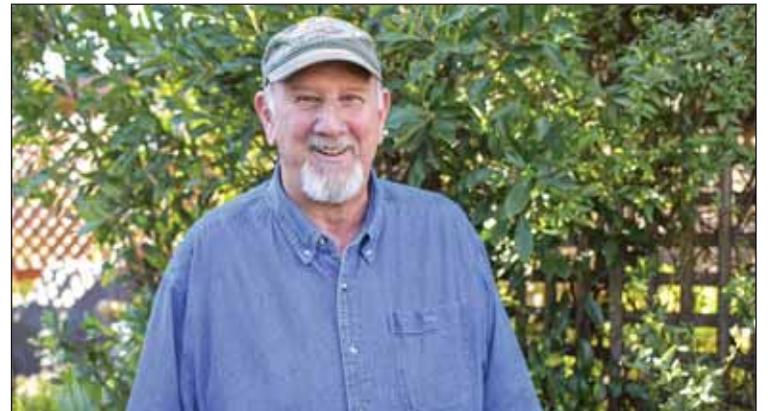
Tayler writes essays, picture books, speculative fiction, middle-grade fiction, newsletters and blog entries. She also teaches online classes and is the editor, publisher and business manager for the Schlock Mercenary comic strip.

Make reservations and pay online at [www.trivalleywriters.org](http://www.trivalleywriters.org) by Feb. 18. Fees are \$14 for California Writers Club members; \$18 for nonmembers; with lower rates for students. Zoom limits the meetings to the first 100 registrations.

The CWC Tri-Valley Branch invites writers of all genres and experience levels to learn about the craft at its monthly meetings. For more information, visit the website. ■



Sandra Tayler



COURTESY OF LAVGC

Naturalist Michael Marchiano.

## Garden Club to focus on Mount Diablo

Naturalist to share photos, debunk myths about wild creatures

By DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

Livermore-Amador Valley Garden Club members and guests will learn about local flora and fauna at the presentation, "Mount Diablo: An Island in The Middle of Suburbia," at their Feb. 10 meeting.

Guest speaker will be Michael Marchiano, a lifetime resident of the Bay Area, who takes special interest in correcting urban myths and folklore about wild creatures that live here — especially spiders and snakes. His avocation since childhood has been as a naturalist.

Marchiano photographs wildflowers, native plants, birds, insects, mushrooms and reptiles, and has led outings and done

presentations for Mt. Diablo State Park, Save Mount Diablo, Lindsay Wildlife Museum, Audubon and the Exploratorium in San Francisco. Presently he is the resident naturalist for Wild Birds Unlimited in Pleasant Hill and volunteers as a docent/naturalist with the Mt. Diablo Interpretive Association.

Livermore-Amador Valley Garden Club meets at 7 p.m., with the speaker at 7:30 p.m., the second Thursday of the month from September to June, currently online via Zoom. Guests can participate by contacting club president Jeri Stark at [jstarkhome@comcast.net](mailto:jstarkhome@comcast.net). For more information, visit [www.lavgc.org](http://www.lavgc.org). ■



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

## Rockapella returns

Rockapella singers will bring the rich and resonant sounds of just their voices — no instruments, no tracks, no mirrors — to the Bankhead Theater at 7:30 p.m. next Wednesday (Feb. 9). From their early years singing doo wop on New York City street corners to selling out performances around the world, Rockapella members have become sophisticated masters of the vocal art form of a cappella, and group is now making a fourth visit to the Bankhead. Tickets are \$20-\$78. Visit [livermorearts.org](http://livermorearts.org), call 925-373-6800, or go to the box office, 2400 First St., Livermore.

# Democracy and journalism go hand in hand.

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— Wayne S.

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# Opinion

## COUPLE'S NET

BY CHANDRAMA ANDERSON

### On miscarriage

I initially posted this in my blog in 2014 and readers found it helpful, so I'm sharing it with you again:

I have been pregnant seven times. I wanted two children. I have a wonderful son who will be 18 this year. (He'll be 26 this year!) My last miscarriage was two weeks before I turned 40 — which was my cut-off date for trying because I was physically and emotionally worn out from the multiple pregnancies and miscarriages.

It's shocking how little has been written about miscarriage, especially given how common it is. Several years ago when I was looking for books on miscarriage, I found only a few, and they were clinical; the "what went wrong" factor. I was looking for the "How do I deal with this?" aspect. Now there are a few hundred to choose from.

Miscarriage is often an unspoken loss; many couples choose not to announce a pregnancy until after the first trimester in order to avoid the risk of sharing the news only to have hope dashed. This can make for lonely beginnings of pregnancy — for women and men.

Studies show that loving care and emotional support are the best help after a miscarriage. Due to the silence surrounding miscarriage (and fertility issues), men and women alike may be deprived of the support of loving friends and family.

One to two percent of women have repeated miscarriages for unknown reasons. Fortunately, the chances of a pregnancy succeeding after multiple miscarriages is about the same as for a woman who has not had miscarriages. Maternal age and egg quality are much bigger factors.

But the stress of follow-up

pregnancies is understandably higher, and the desire to not share the news often increases as well. Both of these factors may lead to less social support at a time it is needed more than ever.

Partners may also have differing opinions — and needs — regarding whom to tell, and when to announce a pregnancy. If and when a couple ultimately decides to seek interventions for fertility concerns, their desire to talk about it may diverge even further.

Added to all of this, sex often becomes about making a baby. Sex shifts to being based on a schedule of ovulation tests or doctor recommendations prior to IVF cycles. Sex may be completely put on hold for IVF.

What was once loving, lustful, playful, bonding, and maybe even spiritual for couples, becomes a chore. This in itself is a major grief. At first, having a lot of sex is a fun part of trying to have a baby. Over time, if having sex is just about procreation, it may eventually become a tremendous block between mates.

Many couples don't talk about this shift until it has blind-sided them onto opposing sides of a great divide, and intimacy suffers. Men get tired of performing on demand, and women get tired of the singular focus of making a baby. And both persist out of their desire to be parents.

Actually talking about the stresses and loss of spontaneity can help couples maintain and even grow their intimacy. In this case, when I say intimacy, I mean emotional closeness, bonding and attachment.

It's very important to take good care of yourself and each other when dealing with miscarriage. Recognize your differing reactions and needs, and that her hormones are going through many changes.

Miscarriage is a loss of a shared, imagined future. So, do grieve, and also take breaks from your thoughts by exercising, going to movies, listening to music, doing fun things together that you used to do, and so on. Reach out for social support that may include online miscarriage support groups. Eat well, minimize alcohol consumption and get a good

night's sleep.

For those of you interested in statistics about miscarriage, here are a few:

- Most miscarriages are due to chromosomal abnormalities.
- Because women can take a pregnancy test so close to a late or missed period date, the miscarriage percentage rate is 30% or more.
- Without taking a pregnancy test, many of those eggs will miscarry without a woman even knowing she was ever pregnant; she will appear to have had a late period.
- 15%-20% of natural implantation will end in miscarriage, mostly in the first trimester.
- The rate of miscarriage is much lower once the fetal heartbeat has been located (meaning the 10%-15% discrepancy above may be implantation that did not grow properly). ■

*Editor's note: Chandrama Anderson is an author and a licensed marriage and family therapist (LMFT) specializing in couples counseling and grief. Her "Couple's Net" blog appears once a week at [PleasantonWeekly.com](http://PleasantonWeekly.com) and all Embarcadero Media sites.*

## LETTERS

### Crossing guards keep us safe

Crossing guards in Pleasanton are vital members of our "safety team" along with the PPD and all of us.

The guards not only make sure the crosswalks are clear for kids, they also educate students on safety near cars — look both ways, stay in the lines, make sure cars see you. If students are on bikes, they teach them to get off their bike and reinforce that cars can't see the bike if it's going too fast.

Crossing guards don't just keep our kids safe — they keep drivers safe too. They work hard to ensure that drivers don't hit kids. Loss of license and reputation, increased insurance, and a ticket are nothing compared to the mental and emotional toll of knowing you have injured or killed another person. That will stay with the driver forever.

I specifically wanted to appreciate Misty — the crossing guard at Valley and Northway, a very busy and high-speed intersection serving multiple levels of school.

She looks left and right quickly and with purpose, like a mama bear ready to pounce on those cars so they don't hurt her little cubs. She fiercely guards our kids like they were her own. She takes responsibility for that intersection. And she is awesome!

So when you are waiting in traffic because kids are crossing the street, be thankful that they are not the only ones being protected — drivers are being protected too.

—Christina Nystrom

### Protect U.S. border first, then Ukraine

The recent bombastic rhetoric from Biden and the progressive left regarding the importance of the Ukraine border is a double standard and is utterly ridiculous.

Biden and the progressive left continue to allow thousands of illegal aliens into the United States each month through the unprotected southern border and then they have the audacity to claim how important it is to protect the Ukraine border. Instead of sending 8,500 military troops to Eastern Europe, we should send them to the southern U.S. border to make it secure.

The American people need to wake up and demand that the U.S. border be secured. NATO and the EU countries should come to aid of Ukraine.

—David Ott

### Aramis project helps achieve ambitious energy goals

To help meet our clean energy goals, Livermore needs to welcome solar power proposals such as the Aramis solar project, which would deliver clean energy to 25,000 homes while protecting the habitat of the threatened California red-legged frog.

If it were to come to fruition, this would be the Bay Area's largest solar facility, providing 100 megawatts of clean energy to our area. In 2018, the California Clean Energy Act set an ambitious goal of reaching 100% clean energy by

2045, and to achieve this goal, we need projects like Aramis.

The 347-acre solar facility was approved by the Alameda County Board of Supervisors in March 2021 yet has faced a tirade of loud resistance.

The opposition to this project is short-sighted, prioritizing a NIMBY-fueled aesthetic campaign over our collective responsibility to fight climate change using clean energy. The legendary environmental group, the Sierra Club, even supports this project, citing the need to reach our climate targets.

Furthermore, as a Livermore resident, I appreciate how the plans for this project include hiking trails which would allow for more community access to open spaces. For our future generations, we need innovative climate solutions, including solar projects like Aramis.

—Victoria Tishman Kamerzell

### Protect the vote. Eliminate the filibuster

Despite overwhelming public support of the Freedom to Vote: John R. Lewis Act, Senate Republicans, led by Sen. McConnell, blocked this bill at every step, doing the bidding of their wealthy corporate donors instead of voters. They have made clear their interests lie with anti-voter bills and partisan gerrymandering across the country by opposing any vote on any bill for our freedom to vote.

This is a setback, not a defeat. We know the American people across the political spectrum overwhelmingly support the Freedom

to Vote: John R. Lewis Act.

I want to thank Sen. Alex Padilla for his support and co-sponsorship of this critical voting rights legislation and, beyond that, frequently and consistently calling for the elimination of the Jim Crow filibuster that ultimately blocked its passage for now. We need more leaders in Congress like Padilla who have the courage to stand up against antiquated procedures that block progress.

And I wish that Sen. Feinstein's voice against the filibuster had been more forceful during the past year while voting rights were under attack. While I appreciate her support of the bill itself, her statement on the Senate floor pushing for change in the form of a "talking filibuster" was too little too late.

—Ward Kanowsky

### High gas prices

With Tri-Valley gas pump prices hovering around \$5 a gallon and all of us paying substantially more for a fill-up, people are asking "Is this Biden's fault?"

Damn right it is!

Although it is true that Biden has not been able to immediately stop U.S. oil production growth due to legal and political complications, Biden's anti-oil industry moves disrupted the world oil marketplace. Biden's cancellation of the Key Stone-XL Pipeline and moratorium on drilling and expiration signaled to the world that the U.S. would not long contribute to a worldwide shortage of petroleum products.

With worldwide demand for oil increasing as we come out of the COVID downturn, combined with

OPEC's refusal to increase production and Biden's signaling of decreased future production, the price of oil futures has increased from the \$40 a barrel level maintained during Trump's administration to its current \$85 a barrel cost.

All this has caused U.S. gasoline prices to skyrocket.

—Dennis Mulhall

### 2022 animal welfare legislation

Feb. 18 is the deadline for introduction of new bills. Here are four needing an author:

1. Amend state rodeo law, Penal Code 596.7, so as to require an on-site veterinarian at all rodeos — the current "on call" option is not working, and animals are suffering needlessly. Race tracks, horse shows, and endurance rides all require on-site veterinarians. So should all rodeos.

2. Ban "tie-down" calf roping, allowing only "breakaway" roping as Rhode Island has done. Some vets claim that the calves are injured every time they're roped, thrown and tied — mere babies.

3. Ban the Mexican charreada's brutal "steer tailing" event (outlawed in Alameda and Contra Costa counties in 1993).

4. Ban the rodeo's blatantly sexist "wild cow milking contest," children's "mutton busting" and all animal "scrambles" — cruel and dangerous for all concerned.

All state legislators may be written c/o The State Capitol, Sacramento, CA, 95814, or via email.

—Eric Mills, Action for Animals



## PLEASANTON PREPS

BY DENNIS MILLER

### Stat-chasing coaches continue to embarrass high school sports

Also: Amador boys' basketball scores huge upset, girls' soccer keeps on rolling

I have long preached about life lessons that sports can present to our local athletes. The problem — there can be some ugly lessons as well.

I saw one last week and it stunk.

Running up the score is one of the worst things that a losing team can have happen. And when the opposing team takes full advantage of jacking up a player's stats at the expense of the other team, it is nothing short of pathetic and embarrassing.

Whether it was a local boys' or girls' basketball game is not as important, as is that it happened.

Up by 30 points in the fourth quarter the winning team still had starters in the game, including their best player who was having their way against the opponents.

The discussion among the coaching staff turned to how many points the player had, as well as how close the star was to a triple-double.

A pair of 3-pointers in the first three minutes of the fourth quarter put the player near 40 points, with a 40-point lead for their team.

The real dagger came when they put the player back in with 1:40 left in the game, and then ran an isolation play so they could get to the basket for an easy lay-up and the 40-point goal was attained.

It was a demoralizing event for the losing team. How is a high school coach supposed to build a program when teams come in and beat them by 40 points?

I don't expect players to stop playing, but perhaps it could be players on the bench who rarely get a chance to play out there getting memorable playing time.

It also allows the team on the losing side to perhaps get a few more buckets and close out the game feeling better.

I have seen many games over the years when the star player remains in a lopsided game, but they are out there to facilitate the bench players who finally get some time on the court.

That I can get behind and enjoy watching these players get all the players involved in the game. That's not what happened here — the star player was in the game to pad their stats.

I can't blame the player either as they are just following the coaches' instructions. This falls entirely on the head coach.

I am all for winning games, but it must be done with class and not at the expense of demoralizing another team. I see some teams have systems in place when a game gets out of control, and to those coaches I tip my hat.

Hopefully this is an isolated incident. I have known one of the assistant coaches for over 20 years and have a tremendous amount of respect for him.

I am hoping they realize what they did and change their methods before another team suffers.

#### Big upset by Amador

The Amador Valley boys' basketball team started last week off by dropping a pair of games to De La Salle and Granada, but ended it with a monumental upset of



DAVE SHAW

Brooke Walker brings the ball up the field for Amador Valley against Livermore.

Dougherty Valley.

The Spartans doubled up the Dons, winning 48-24. It was a tough offensive game for Amador as Colton Cash led the scoring with 5 points, while five players added 3 points each.

De La Salle used a size advantage to run out to a 34-12 lead at the half. The Dons made size adjustments at the half and held the Spartans to only 14 points over the final two quarters.

The next night Amador faced Granada and trailed only 26-25 at the half thanks to the big lineup. In the second half, the Matadors made the adjustments and dominated the game, pulling out 70-40 win.

Kevin Gad led all scorers with 21 points, supported by Jonathan Mitchell (16) and Andrew McKeever (14) for Granada.

Amador was led by Foster Keast with 12 points and Wallace with 11.

The Dons then went out and beat the first-place team — Dougherty Valley — on Sunday, 51-44.

Tyler Cheng had 18 points with

four 3-pointers in the second half for Amador. Cash had 12 points, with 8 in the second half.

Jesse Huang came off the bench in the first half scoring 8 in the first to keep Amador close and finished with 11 points.

#### Amador girls' soccer

The Dons kept it rolling, getting two wins and a draw last week.

The week started with a scoreless draw with Granada. The Amador defense was on point, holding Granada to just two shots.

Two days later Amador put the hurt on Livermore with a 7-0 win.

The midfield, anchored by seniors Olivia Soble, Madeline Benson and Natalie O'Sullivan, controlled the game. Scoring was shared among six players, including two freshmen — Maylen Montoya and Kaia Hoyman.

The week ended with a non-league, 4-1 win over Liberty. The midfield again controlled the ball and the flow of play. Benson scored twice, with Maylen Montoya and O'Sullivan scoring the other two. ■

## Amador alum now playing D-I ball in Ivy League

Mauricio makes impact as freshman starter for Brown University

BY DENNIS MILLER

I recently had a chance to talk with former Amador Valley girls' basketball star Isabella Mauricio, now playing as a freshman for Brown University.

Mauricio had an accomplished high school career, earning All-League honors in leading the Dons to three Valley Division titles in the East Bay Athletic League. In her junior year, Mauricio averaged 21.1 points per game and shot an amazing 44% from beyond the 3-point line.

In my 35 years of covering high school basketball in the Tri-Valley, Mauricio is easily in the top 10 girls' players I had the honor to watch.

But due to the COVID pandemic times, colleges were slow to act when it came to recruiting and Mauricio was unsure where she was going to play in college.

"I didn't know what was going to happen with college," said Mauricio. "I was thinking D-III — I just didn't get a lot of exposure because of COVID."

In fact, only one D-I school showed interest — Brown.

Mauricio visited the Ivy League school during her sophomore year

but wasn't sold on going from California to Rhode Island.

"I didn't think I would come here," Mauricio said, not knowing everything would change in the next two years.

Even though COVID hindered her exposure, Mauricio embraced the time to work hard on her game. "It gave me a chance to be in the gym and workout," she said. "My dad built a little court for me, and I trained hard."

Videos of these workouts sold Brown and first-year coach Monique LeBlanc.

"Brown recruited me off those training videos," Mauricio said.

It was a win-win for both. Mauricio got her chance to play D-I ball and get a top-notch education. "I got the best of both worlds," Mauricio added. "I always felt I could play Division I."

Following COVID-shortened senior season and graduation from Amador, off went Mauricio to Providence, R.I.

As is the case for any high school athlete, there's an adjustment period when moving on to the next level. When it is an Ivy League school,

especially on the academic side, the adjustment is greatly intensified.

"The first few weeks I was exhausted," Mauricio said.

Just the task of selecting classes was nearly overwhelming, but Mauricio relied on her new teammates for help. "The upperclassmen were so helpful," Mauricio said. "I wouldn't have known what to take. They were huge in helping me. We also have a lot of academic support."

With her classes set, Mauricio turned to the hardcourt and proving she belongs — and has she ever.

Though the Bears have gotten out to a rough start (5-13 overall and 0-6 in Ivy League play), Mauricio has made an impact. The 5-foot-4 player has started in all 18 games, and averages 32 minutes a game, second best on the team.

Mauricio is averaging 13.7 points a game, leading the team in scoring. She is also hitting 34% of her 3-point attempts.

"I feel so fortunate to be getting so much time on the floor as a freshman," Mauricio said. "I have friends at other schools that hardly see any time."

I had a chance to catch her game



BROWN UNIVERSITY

Amador alum Isabella Mauricio is getting her chance to play Division I basketball at Brown University.

on ESPN+ — all Brown games are streamed on the network — against Cornell, and the Bears started four sophomores and Mauricio, so the future appears bright.

In fact, none of the starters for Brown in their first game of the season had any college playing experience due to either COVID, which canceled last season, or because they are freshmen.

Mauricio finished with a career-high 24 points and kept Brown in the game, but they fell 61-55 to Cornell.

It's been hard work that has gotten

her to where she is, but there were adjustments for Mauricio when Brown started with "open gym" the second week of school.

"Size — definitely the size," Mauricio said of adjusting to playing with and against bigger players. "I had to learn to work out harder every day. There are high standards for everything." ■

*Editor's note: This story originally appeared in the Tri-Valley Preps Playbook, a free e-newsletter that covers Tri-Valley high school sports.*

*Subscribe to the newsletter at [PleasantonWeekly.com/express/sports](http://PleasantonWeekly.com/express/sports).*

## Black History Month

**BLACK AUTHORS DISCUSS THE POWER OF STORYTELLING** In celebration of Black History Month, the Livermore Public Library will host a conversation, via Zoom, on the power of storytelling with award-winning and local author Tina Jones Williams moderating the panel conversation. Access this link to view the live program: [us02web.zoom.us/j/87826493999](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87826493999). 7 p.m., Feb. 8.

**BLACK HISTORY JEOPARDY!** Join the Livermore Public Library to play virtual Black History Jeopardy! Answer trivia questions that highlight Black excellence in a variety of fields. Special prizes will be offered to the winners. 7 p.m., Feb. 9. Visit [us02web.zoom.us/j/86180536755](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86180536755).

**BLACK HISTORY MONTH CELEBRATION FEATURING ONYE ONYEMAECHI** Join the Pleasanton Library to celebrate Black History Month with a special performance by Onye Onyemaechi, a Nigerian percussionist, songwriter and educator who brings joy and soul, and encourages active participation during his drumming performances. 11 a.m.-12 p.m., Feb. 12. Firehouse Arts Center. Visit [pleasantonlibrary.bibliocommons.com/events/search/index](https://pleasantonlibrary.bibliocommons.com/events/search/index).

**VIRTUAL TALK WITH BLACK VINTNERS** In celebration of Black History

Month, the Livermore Public Library will host a talk and Q & A session with vintners Aaliyah Nitoto (founder of Free Range Flower Winery) and Phil Long (founder of Longevity Wines). 7 p.m., Feb. 16. No registration is required. Visit: [us02web.zoom.us/j/89765525755](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89765525755).

**LIVERMORE LIBRARY CELEBRATES BLACK HISTORY MONTH** Books specifically written by Black authors will be honored in this special book display intended to introduce readers to Black authors with whom they might not be familiar. Book displays are available at all locations.

## Music

**DEL VALLE FINE ARTS PRESENTS JON NAKAMATSU** Jon Nakamatsu soared to fame in 1997 as winner of the Van Cliburn International Piano Competition. A sought-after guest soloist, he has performed with such renowned orchestras as San Francisco, Los Angeles, Berlin, Milan and Tokyo. 7:30 p.m., Feb. 5. Bankhead Theater. Visit [livermorearts.org](https://livermorearts.org).

**BLUES IN THE NIGHT, AN EVENING WITH TIA CARROLL AND FRANKIE G** Let the voice of the Female Blues Vocalist of the Year Tia Carroll and the blistering guitar & vocals of Delta Blues Star Frankie G cure what ails you in this one-night-only musical event at the Firehouse Arts Center. 8

p.m., Feb. 5. Tickets \$18-\$28. Visit [firehousearts.org](https://firehousearts.org).

**ROCKAPPELLA AT THE BANKHEAD** Making a welcome fourth visit to the Bankhead, Rockapella will rock the house with just one instrument, their voices, but with an astonishing full-band sound. 7:30 p.m., Feb. 9. Tickets \$20-\$78. Visit [livermorearts.org](https://livermorearts.org).

**LIVERMORE-AMADOR SYMPHONY** Livermore-Amador Symphony Presents, The Brilliance of Youth, at the Bankhead Theatre. Discover the artistry and musical expression of extraordinary young performers from right here in our own backyard. 8 p.m., Feb. 12. Visit [livermorearts.org](https://livermorearts.org). Bankhead Theater, 2400 1st St, Livermore.

**PIAF! THE SHOW AT THE BANKHEAD** Acclaimed worldwide, PIAF! The Show offers a remarkable musical celebration of the life and music of the legendary French chanteuse Edith Piaf. 7:30 p.m., Feb. 14. Tickets \$20-\$98. Visit [livermorearts.org](https://livermorearts.org).

**WE BANJO 3** We Banjo 3 delivers music with palpable rapport, stunning precision and infectious energy. Feb. 17-18, tickets \$25-\$35. Visit [firehousearts.org](https://firehousearts.org). Firehouse Arts Center.

## Talks

**LIVERMORE AMADOR GARDEN CLUB** The regular monthly meetings of the Livermore Amador Garden Club are now on Zoom. The next meeting is Feb. 10. Visit [lavgc.org](https://lavgc.org).

**HOPE HOSPICE WEBINAR: ADVOCATING FOR YOUR LOVED ONE** The webinar "Navigating the Healthcare Environment and Advocating for Your Loved One" will help you to understand your rights and learn to communicate effectively with healthcare professionals. 10-11:30 a.m., Feb. 10. Register for this free seminar at [hopehospice.com](https://hopehospice.com).

**AMADOR VALLEY QUILTERS** Join Linda & Carl Sullivan as they take you on their colorful, crazy quilt journey and their current obsession for pure color. Lots of show & tell and lots of quilts. 1:30-4 p.m., Feb. 12. Visit [amadorvalleyquilters.org](https://amadorvalleyquilters.org).

**WEBINAR MENTAL HEALTH LECTURE SERIES** In this free Alan Hu Foundation webinar, "Promoting Psychological Health and Well-being Among Adolescents and Adults with Autism Spectrum Disorder", Dr. Somer Bishop will discuss recent findings about depression in ASD, as well as potential new avenues for improving psychological health and well-being among adolescents and adults on the autism spectrum. 6:30-7:30, Feb. 15. Register by Feb. 14 at: [alanhufoundation.org/events](https://alanhufoundation.org/events).

**TRI-VALLEY WRITERS** Author and editor Sandra Tayler will speak to local writers about how to make time for creativity, via Zoom, in a talk called "Structuring Life to Support Creativity". Reserve and pay online by Feb. 18 at: [trivalleywriters.org](https://trivalleywriters.org). 2 p.m., Feb. 19.

## PET OF THE WEEK



VALLEY HUMANE SOCIETY

### Russ the rover

A ridiculously cute boy, Russ is a rambunctious rover who really relishes his rest after rewarding playtime. The perfect blend of rowdy and respectful, he is ready and receptive to go home to the right family. Valley Humane coordinates adoptions by appointment only. Learn more about Russ and other dogs and cats at [valleyhumane.org](https://valleyhumane.org).

### PLEASANTON TOASTMASTERS CLUB

Toastmasters International is a non-profit educational organization dedicated to helping members improve their communication and leadership skills. Join online every Tuesday evening at 7:30 pm. For more information visit [pleasanton.toastmastersclubs.org](https://pleasanton.toastmastersclubs.org).

## Exhibits

**HOME SHOW AT ALAMEDA COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS** The Spring Home show is back. See the newest in custom kitchens & baths, doors & windows, landscaping displays and more. Feb. 18-20. Visit [alamedacountyfair.com](https://alamedacountyfair.com).

**PLEASANTON ART LEAGUE/ MUSEUM ON MAIN EXHIBIT** Pleasanton's Museum on Main and the Pleasanton Art League open their fourteenth annual showcase of the Valley's artistic talents with "Imagination Expressed 2022", featuring paintings, drawings, photography, ceramics, jewelry and other works by members of the Pleasanton Art League. Now through March 26. Visit [museumonmain.org](https://museumonmain.org).

**WATERCOLOR NATIONAL EXHIBIT** The Harrington Art Gallery in Pleasanton is displaying the California Watercolor Association's 52nd National Exhibition featuring works by 85 premier painters. The exhibit runs through March 12. Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave.

**ART & LITERATURE TOGETHER** Livermore Arts presents a collaboration with Cynthia Patton, Livermore Poet Laureate, to bring a pairing of art and literature to Livermore. The artwork on display will sing to the heart, evoke a flair for the dramatic, wax lyric and offer a rhythmic cadence. Free and open to the public, Thursdays to Sundays 1-5 p.m., through March 27. Bankhead Theater.

## Fundraiser

**WINE & VALENTINES FOR MUSEUM ON MAIN** Museum on Main's 15th annual Wines & Valentines fundraiser will be virtual again due to the pandemic. Enjoy a live and silent auction and a Fund-A-Need drive, all to support the programs of Museum on Main. Tickets \$50. 7 p.m., Feb. 11. Visit [museumonmain.org](https://museumonmain.org).

## Outdoors

**RANGER LED PROGRAMS-TRUE ELK** Join Ranger Aide Jack to learn about California's largest native herbivore and find out where you can see elk in the wild. 2 p.m., Feb. 5. Call 925-960-2400. Sycamore Grove Park, 1051 Wetmore Rd., Livermore.

**TRAIL BUILDING AT SYCAMORE GROVE** Work with LARPD Rangers to prep the new 2 mile trail on the Patterson Ranch property. Must be at least 18 years old (14-17 are OK with accompanying adult). 8:30 a.m.- 3:00 p.m., Feb. 5. Visit [larpd.org/volunteer](https://larpd.org/volunteer).

**SUNSET HIKE TO CATTAIL POND** Join Ranger Danny for a 3 mile long stroll up to the cattail pond and watch the sunset from up there, see some beautiful views and hopefully some critters. 5:30 p.m., Feb. 6. RSVP by calling (925) 960-2400. Sycamore Grove Park, 1051 Wetmore Road, Livermore.

**EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT TRAILS CHALLENGE** Participate in this free, self-guided hiking and bicycling program to explore the East Bay regional parks and to keep fit outdoors. The 2022 Guidebook includes 20 detailed trail descriptions available for all levels of fitness. Visit [ebparks.org/trails-challenge](https://ebparks.org/trails-challenge).

## Seniors

**AARP TAX ASSISTANCE** AARP sponsored tax assistance returns to the Pleasanton Senior Center, Mondays and Fridays, Feb. 7 to April 15. Call 925-931-5365.

**ESTATE PLANNING WITH SHIRLEY WHITE** In-person at the Pleasanton Senior Center, a consultation or review only of Estate Planning, including advice on trusts, wills, power of attorney and health care directives. No charge. 20 minute appointments, Feb. 10. Call (925) 931-5365.

**VIRTUAL SMART PHONE TRAINING** Learn how to operate the basic functions of a smartphone, send text messages, make text larger or connect Bluetooth devices. This free, two-part online training is offered multiple times each month. Call (510) 207-8609 or email: [clin@ddtp.org](mailto:clin@ddtp.org).

## Employment

### Web UI Developer

Safeway Inc. hiring Web UI Developer in Pleasanton, California. Must have legal right to work in U.S. EOE. Subj. to backg. check. Email resume to TA.Perm. [Project@albertsons.com](mailto:Project@albertsons.com) Attn: Marnie Ferreira

### Project Manager

Project Manager – Pleasanton, CA. Seeking MS in IT Mgmt., Engg Mgmt. or rlt'd & 2 yrs IT project mgmt exp. req'd. Mail CV to Attn: HR/Job #1208, Redica Systems, Inc., 6800 Koll Center Parkway #120, Pleasanton, CA 94566.

To place an ad or get a quote, contact Kevin Legarda at 650.223.6597 or email [digitalads@pawebly.com](mailto:digitalads@pawebly.com).

## Public Notices

### 995 Fictitious Name Statement

Shape Up  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: 585406  
The following person doing business as: Shape Up, 5757 Sonoma Drive, Suite C, Pleasanton, CA 94566, County of Alameda, is hereby registered by the following owner: Shapeuppleasanton LLC, 5637 San Carlos Way, Pleasanton, CA 94566, CALIFORNIA. This business is conducted by Shapeuppleasanton LLC, a Limited Liability Company. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name listed herein October 1, 2021. Signature of Registrant: Shapeuppleasanton LLC, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 30, 2021. (Pleasanton Weekly, January 14, 21, 28, February 4, 2022.)

### The Pleasanton Weekly is adjudicated to publish in Alameda County.

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

### Deadline is Monday at noon.

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

## HOME SALES

This week's data represents homes sold during Dec. 8-10 for Pleasanton, Livermore and Dublin, and Dec. 27-30 for San Ramon.

### Pleasanton

- 408 Amador Court** K. Roth to V. & Z. Barodawala for \$1,280,000
- 1501 Brookline Loop** Glafkides Trust to Ymy Gratitude LLC for \$1,700,000
- 6 Bunker Lane** Bountis Living Trust to S. & R. Tummala for \$2,510,000
- 541 Saint Mary Street** Anger Trust to Peterson Trust for \$2,000,000
- 1265 Shady Pond Lane** S. & A. Chaudhry to X. & I. Lei for \$3,700,000
- 3897 Vine Street** M. Vishwanath to Wmk Holdings LLC for \$748,000

### Livermore

- 4603 Apple Tree Common** V. & I. Kandi to R. Luvara for \$680,000
- 6139 Augusta Way** R. & B. Popovits to M. & H. Sahoo for \$1,196,000
- 361 Basswood Common #15** A. & D. Cruz to Y. Tolentino for \$790,000
- 2122 Bella Vista Place** T. & N. Thomas to L. & C. Liu for \$2,260,000
- 2133 Bluffs Drive** L. & J. Coppock to B. Basra for \$1,650,000
- 5884 Cedarwood Common** Bertolucci Family Trust to N. & A. Kharbanda for \$1,111,000
- 5851 Elder Circle** Kemp Living Trust to S. & B. McBain for \$1,650,000
- 5428 Evelyn Way** G. & C. Iglesias to M. & S. Marcie for \$1,280,000

- 1152 Hibiscus Way** C. Mendez to A. & R. Ruley for \$940,000
- 2627 Kelly Street** Hewitt Living Trust to A. & D. Hornbaker for \$865,000
- 1055 Laguna Street** Cave Living Trust to P. & V. Mummadi for \$1,250,000
- 961 Lambaren Avenue** Shinn Trust to C. & J. Deng for \$789,000
- 1087 Murrieta Boulevard #341** Jones Living Trust to A. Ybarra for \$340,000
- 275 Northwood Commons** V. Anantha to M. & V. Gupte for \$850,000
- 2749 Patcham Common** S. Feimer to C. & C. Hsu for \$937,000
- 3804 Stanford Way** Damonte Trust to T. & N. Daybell for \$865,000
- 6305 Tioga Pass Court** M. & K. Schell to E. & N. Cleveland for \$1,200,000
- 1377 Toulon Court** J. & J. Calhoun to Eicher Trust for \$1,260,000
- 1321 Windswept Common** R. Shahab to S. & J. Purusothaman for \$985,000

### Dublin

- 4578 Central Parkway #23** Kanajanavar Family Trust to H. & B. Dudson for \$1,130,000
- 5586 El Dorado Lane** P. & M. Patil to Y. Tian for \$895,000
- 4261 Fitzwilliam Street** L. & M. Cartier to H. & L. Seibert for \$860,000
- 10898 Glengarry Lane** R. & C. Stubbs to M. Kurani for \$960,000
- 7518 Kilrush Avenue** D. Massoni to Manzanita Holdings Llp for \$900,000
- 8228 Locust Place** A. & H. Bedi to X. & N. Chai for \$1,380,000

- 8077 Peppertree Road** H. Lee to S. & H. Han for \$1,139,000
- 11555 Santo Court** S. Kumar to D. & V. Tran for \$1,625,000
- 7451 Yountville Street** W. Kim to J. & K. Nguyen for \$1,750,000

### San Ramon

- 12277 Alcosta Boulevard** Gosal Family Trust to Athul Living Trust for \$2,280,000
- 8975 Alcosta Boulevard #106** Octillion Capital LLC to M. & S. Su for \$450,000
- 9085 Alcosta Boulevard #417** Man Family Trust to M. & L. Nogueira for \$500,000
- 7439 Blue Fox Way** Eppler Trust to C. & P. Cadiente for \$1,160,000
- 2272 Camino Ramon** Artos LLC to East Bay Trinity Chinese Ch for \$1,950,000
- 200 Candytuft Court** Y. Ding to S. & M. Vrshaketu for \$1,700,000

- 2707 Canyon Creek Drive** Home Light Real Estate Li LLC to H. & P. Ramkumar for \$1,625,000
- 2030 Four Oaks Hollow** K. Kelley to M. & M. Biswas for \$2,300,000
- 4437 Irisview Place** Bbys LLC to A. & T. Fan for \$1,825,000
- 3075 Kittery Avenue** J. & C. Smith to U. & N. Sandhu for \$1,265,000
- 224 Tangerine Court** Topline Property Solutions LLC to Bacon Family Trust for \$725,000
- 12212 Toluca Drive** Weir Family Trust to L. & A. Semakov for \$1,700,000
- 106 Valdivia Circle** Mizuhara Trust to M. & H. Reiss for \$1,435,000
- 3345 Ashbourne Circle** Liauw Trust to Kosaraju Family Trust for \$2,900,000

Source: California REsource

## SALES AT A GLANCE

### Pleasanton (Dec. 8-10)

**Total sales reported:** 6  
**Lowest sale reported:** \$748,000  
**Highest sale reported:** \$3,700,000  
**Average sales reported:** \$1,850,000

### Livermore (Dec. 8-10)

**Total sales reported:** 19  
**Lowest sale reported:** \$340,000  
**Highest sale reported:** \$2,260,000  
**Average sales reported:** \$985,000

### Dublin (Dec. 8-10)

**Total sales reported:** 9  
**Lowest sale reported:** \$860,000  
**Highest sale reported:** \$1,750,000  
**Average sales reported:** \$1,130,000

### San Ramon (Dec. 27-30)

**Total sales reported:** 14  
**Lowest sale reported:** \$450,000  
**Highest sale reported:** \$2,900,000  
**Average sales reported:** \$1,662,500

Source: California REsource

An annual magazine featuring Pleasanton neighborhoods.

# Our Neighborhoods

Coming inside your Pleasanton Weekly on **February 25, 2022**

Our Neighborhoods showcases selected neighborhoods and captures the particular qualities that make it unique.

Each Neighborhood profile includes local features — such as parks and shopping centers — and a fact box including the median home sale price, how many homes were sold and the nearby schools.

Our Neighborhoods is a great resource for current residents or those looking to relocate to the Tri-Valley.

2021 edition available at <https://tinyurl.com/ycks3cxn>

**Pleasanton Weekly**



# VENEMA HOMES

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## VOTED BEST REAL ESTATE TEAM IN PLEASANTON

Contact us today to see why! We'll share our expertise, talent, and award winning strategies with you. Our success is your success!



**482 Sangro Court, Ruby Hill | Listed at \$2,295,000**

Highest Price Ever Achieved In The Neighborhood. Wow!  
PENDING for **\$300k+** Over Ask Price With 11 Offers & 200+ Buyer Showings In 5 Days.



**387 Lone Oak Court, Pleasanton**  
Listed at \$1,449,000

Pending **\$300k+** Over List Price With 9 Offers



**2756 Curry Street, Pleasanton**

3 Beds | 2.5 Baths | 1,820 sqft



**1352 Harvest Road, Pleasanton**

4 Beds | 3 Baths | 2,146 sqft



**9472 Blessing Drive, Pleasanton**

Sold at \$4,850,000

### *Your Words, Our Work...*

"Our family has lived in Pleasanton for over 20 years and decided to sell our beautiful home. Even though I am a real estate broker myself and in the homebuilding business, I knew I needed a professional team of real estate agents to handle the sales process. Our family has known Liz and Lexi Venema personally for many years and I have always respected Liz as a top agent in the Pleasanton market. It has been exciting to watch Lexi advance in this profession and team up with her mom. The two of them were a great team supporting all aspects of the sales process including, pricing, staging, marketing and photography and ultimately finding us the perfect buyer. The process was almost flawless. I recommend the Venema team to anyone considering selling their home."

-Layne Marceau, Blessing Drive Seller

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459 Main Street, Pleasanton



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RECEIVE A FREE GIFT!



FREE RAFFLE!  
PRIZE WORTH OVER \$250

Our office remodel is complete, and we want to celebrate with you. Stop by for a raffle, beverages, appetizers & great company!

Ribbon cutting ceremony at 10:30AM



JUST LISTED \$3,750,000  
216 MILL CREEK ROAD, FREMONT



JUST LISTED \$1,595,000  
440 SANDSTONE DRIVE, FREMONT



PENDING | LISTED AT \$1,699,000  
5652 AMBERGLEN STREET, DUBLIN



PENDING | LISTED AT \$875,000  
429 CHASE ST, MOUNTAIN HOUSE



SOLD \$2,700,000  
44 GOLF ROAD, CASTLEWOOD, PLEASANTON



SOLD \$795,000  
6144 FORGET ME NOT, LIVERMORE



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# Beyond Full Service A Concierge Approach to Real Estate

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COMING SOON

4137 Cristobal Way, Pleasanton  
4bd/2ba | 1,368+/- sq.ft | 6,600+/- sq.ft lot  
CALL FOR DETAILS



NEW LISTING

2384 Willet Way, Pleasanton  
5bd/3ba | 2,538+/- sq.ft | 7,592+/- sq.ft lot  
OFFERED AT \$1,879,000



NEW LISTING

1612 Saint David Drive, Danville  
3bd/2ba | 1,626+/- sq.ft | 8,720+/- sq.ft lot  
OFFERED AT \$1,350,000



PENDING WITH 16 OFFERS

1803 Sinclair Drive, Pleasanton  
2bd/2ba | 1,056+/- sq.ft | 4,991+/- sq.ft lot  
OFFERED AT \$1,049,000



SOLD BEFORE GOING TO MARKET

5860 Corte Margarita, Pleasanton  
4bd/3ba | 2,628+/- sq.ft | 9,720+/- sq.ft lot  
SOLD FOR \$2,200,000 - \$251K OVER ASKING



SOLD BEFORE GOING TO MARKET

1730 Baywood Court, Pleasanton  
4bd/2ba | 2,087+/- sq.ft | 6,899+/- sq.ft lot  
SOLD FOR \$1,640,000



SOLD \$251K OVER ASKING WITH 13 OFFER

2310 Meadowlark Drive, Pleasanton  
4bd/2ba | 2,033+/- sq.ft | 5,040+/- sq.ft lot  
SOLD FOR \$1,850,000



SOLD \$216K OVER ASKING WITH 6 OFFERS

5460 Greenfield Way, Pleasanton  
4bd/2ba | 1,882+/- sq.ft | 7,168+/- sq.ft lot  
SOLD FOR \$1,815,000



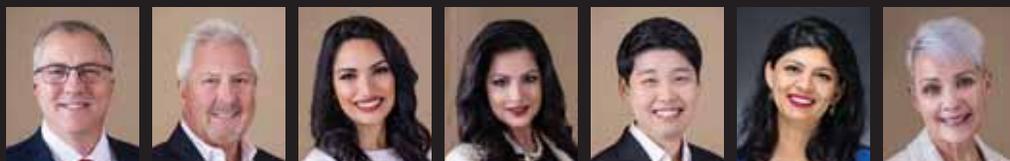
SOLD \$251K OVER ASKING WITH 3 OFFERS

2570 Larrikeet Court, Pleasanton  
4bd/3ba | 2,308+/- sq.ft | 9,015+/- sq.ft lot  
SOLD FOR \$2,050,000



We highly recommend Tim McGuire and his team for their concierge approach to help us sell our home in Pleasanton in the summer of 2021. They started by truly understanding our needs, and carried through on every promise they made. Because we were moving cross country, we asked that they help sell or donate 90% of our household goods. They dedicated a team member, Eva, to this daunting task and she was skilled at social media and did a fabulous job. We wanted as little stress as possible, and the repair people they recommended arranged to do their work on a few dedicated days with high quality. Every service we asked the McGuire team for was done, and no extra fees charged. Tim's selling strategy was clear and effective, negotiating our sale over-asking price. Throughout the process Tim and his team were courteous, caring, and extremely competent as realtors, and we would definitely hire them again.

– Marian-Stetson Rodriguez, Pleasanton



Tim McGuire Broker DRE 01349446 | Mark James Realtor® DRE 00697341 | Eva Tia Realtor® DRE 02072764 | Lori Olson Realtor® DRE 02004247 | Aiden Kim Realtor® DRE 01983236 | Upasna Gupta Realtor® DRE 01953773 | Karen Carmichael Client Services



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