

Pleasanton Weekly

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at Bankhead

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AROUND THE VALLEY



BY GINA CHANNELL WILCOX

A hat tip and (re)introduction

The name of this column is a hat tip to two journalists who had columns in this space for many years.

Jeb Bing, the founding editor of the Pleasanton Weekly, wrote the "Around Town" column that appeared on Page 3 of the publication every week for more than 17 years. Every week for 17 years ... that is not a typo!

When Jeb retired from writing with us, we asked the Pleasanton Weekly's founding managing editor, Dolores Fox Ciardelli, to share this space biweekly. She was the Pleasanton Weekly's lifestyles editor at the time. The name of Dolores' column was "Valley Views," a take off of the "Diablo Views" column she wrote in the Danville Weekly when she was the editor there.

In honor of two of the most professional, persistent, passionate and personable journalists I have ever had the good fortune to work with, I'm blending the names of the columns that graced this page for more than 20 years by calling it "Around the Valley."

Jeb and Dolores have retired, and I will now share this space with Jeremy Walsh, the division's editor for the past five years.

Let me introduce myself, or reintroduce myself as the case may be. I've been the president of Embarcadero Media Group's East Bay Division and publisher of its print and online publications for more than 15 years.

You might have seen my byline or my name on the masthead (aka, the staff box), but I've never had a column in the Weekly. That was always reserved for the editor, or editors.

I was once an editor, though, and a reporter before that. I always wanted to work in news. When I was 5 years old, my parents drove past the Beacon-News building in downtown Aurora, Ill., and I confidently announced I would work there someday.

And I did, for about nine years, at a time when most newspapers had 20% profit margins. It wasn't necessarily the heyday of newspapers, but it wasn't bad. The newsroom was packed with reporters and we had four staff photographers.

In my 30-plus years in news media, much has changed — how

news is gathered and delivered and the business model being the biggies. No more 20% profit margins. Or profit margins at all in many cases.

One thing that has not changed is what people want to read, whether they read it in the local paper or on a computer, tablet or phone.

People are interested in topics that directly affect them, like declining enrollment in the public school districts, election districting maps and police news.

But people also want to read about the things that connect them to others. These pieces are generally called human-interest stories, and they fall into a couple different categories.

For example, there are the genuine "feel-good" human interest stories, like hearing from a couple married more than 60 years on how to have a healthy relationship, or the mother and son who rescued ducklings from a storm drain.

Then there are the human interest stories that inspire us, like a young woman who created a nonprofit to fund research for a disease her mother suffers from, or a formerly unhoused and hungry man fighting his personal demons to eventually go on to help the unhoused and hungry.

Other human interest stories connect us because we have been where these neighbors are, or know someone who has or is going through similar challenges. We understand and feel for a person who is battling cancer ... maybe again ... or caring for a loved one with cancer. Or the widower trying to move on after the death of his wife of 50 years. Or the couple who suffers a stillbirth at 34 weeks of pregnancy.

We are human and as humans we feel. I'm not promising a "tug on the heart strings" human interest story with every column. But I do love writing these.

Some columns might fall in the "need to know" category and deal with more hard news. Some columns might fall into the "things that make you go hmmm" category, answering long-asked questions around the Valley, like how "soon" is Cook's Seafood coming to the corner of Bernal and Valley?

I welcome your ideas, thoughts and questions. ■

About the Cover

Francis X. Hogan, chef at Sabio on Main in Pleasanton, prepares dishes during the Chef Collaboration Dinner that opened the 2022 Taste Tri-Valley Restaurant Week. Photo by Travis Fisher/Rose Street Collective; courtesy of Visit Tri-Valley. Cover design by Paul Llewellyn.

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Streetwise

ASKED AROUND TOWN

How comfortable (or not) do you feel going indoors these days without wearing a mask?



Rachel Dalton
Beer-tender

My comfort level depends a lot upon where I am. If I'm indoors in a place with really close quarters where everyone is packed together, I feel uncomfortable. But if people are spread out a bit, I'm fine with that.



Ryan Poffenbarger
Catering business owner

I feel totally comfortable because at this point, so many people are vaccinated, and the ones who aren't have probably already had and recovered from COVID so they're unlikely to be able to spread it.



Kevin Fitzgerald
Sales

I feel comfortable because I've been listening to the science from Dr. Fauci, who I trust. All of the figures are aligning with his predictions so I feel safe.



Juliane Wise
Admin

I feel extremely comfortable not wearing a mask indoors because (1) I'm triply vaccinated and (2) I've already had COVID so the risk of getting it again, and getting very sick from it, is pretty slim.



Beate Mordasini
Teacher

Here in the Bay Area, but not so much in other places, I feel quite comfortable because we have a high vaccination rate and people seem to have a really good sense of responsibility toward others in the community.

—Compiled by Nancy and Jeff Lewis

Have a Streetwise question? Email editor@PleasantonWeekly.com

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DIGEST

Spring Pack-Out

Pleasanton Military Families is getting ready for its Spring Pack-Out event when volunteers will join together later this month to prepare care packages for local military servicewomen and servicemen deployed overseas.

The organization is seeking signups from people interested in volunteering during the pack-out, as well as donations of money or items for the care packages ("from toiletries, to snacks, to magazines, to socks and every necessity in between").

The donation deadline is March 17. Visit pleasantonmilitaryfamilies.org or email pmfsg.ca@gmail.com. Money can be especially helpful because PMF typically spends between \$3,500 and \$5,000 on shipping fees.

The pack-out will take place from 9 a.m. to noon on March 19 at the Veterans Memorial Building on Main Street in Pleasanton.

Bike safety workshops

Bike East Bay is hosting the first in a series of bicycle safety workshops in Pleasanton next Saturday (March 12), in coordination with the city and a certified instructor.

"Learn basic rules of the road, how to equip your bicycle, fit your helmet, avoid bike theft, ride after dark and prevent common crashes. Two-hour, indoor workshop for adults and teens, no bike required," organizers said.

The "Urban Cycling 101 Workshop: Day 1" is set for 10 a.m. to noon March 12 at the Amador Recreation Center. The "Day 2" workshop, with on-the-bike road classes, will be 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. March 20 at Hart Middle School. A family cycling workshop will follow on April 10 at Hart.

Visit bikeeastbay.org for more details.

Fair board seat

The Alameda County Agricultural Fair Association Board of Directors is recruiting applicants for one vacancy on its dais.

Board members serve four-year terms and "provide leadership to assure long-term success of the association," including year-round operations of the Alameda County Fairgrounds in Pleasanton, fair officials said.

Interested candidates must submit a letter of interest, resume and completed candidate information form by next Friday (March 11).

Candidates must permanently reside in Alameda County. "The board shall give special consideration to: a) special expertise needed; b) Geographic area of representation within the county, and c) the diversity of the county and its representation within the association board membership," officials said.

Applications are available online at alamedacountyfair.com. ■

Split vote decides city election map

Pleasanton council settles on boundaries for transition to district-based balloting

By JEREMY WALSH

The process to divide the city of Pleasanton into four districts for future elections is ending with the City Council divided over the final map set for adoption.

The council voted 3-2 on Tuesday night to formalize the same majority's earlier endorsement of the Tangerine map, with those in favor lauding the boundaries as the best option on the table for representation locally and citywide, while the dissenting councilmembers lamented the fact some key lines were drawn along neighborhood streets and the Ventana Hills community was split.

"We've given a lot of time on this," Vice Mayor Valerie Arkin said ahead of voting with the majority. "Every single map, to me, has

some advantages and some disadvantages. But we had to pick one, and we had to pick one, again, that is legally compliant."

"What I do like about it: I like that there are three districts that all share a core center of town, not just Main Street but sharing in the core of town," Arkin continued in support of the Tangerine map, adding that when it comes to finding prospective candidates, "You incorporate more than just one corner of town, you incorporate more communities of interest."

"I didn't want to divide Ventana Hills and Mission Park; that's the one thing I don't like about it. And I worked really hard last time to not do that ... and we could not do it, with the demographer helping us," she said.

Mayor Karla Brown, in comments

just before the final vote that was obviously split, said, "I'm hoping that this council can put it behind us. Our intention is to serve all of Pleasanton, all residents, all areas, all neighborhoods and all districts, so that will be the goal, just like it was when we were an at-large election."

"All five have vowed to support the entire city of Pleasanton. Whether the maps are one fruit or another, we're here for you, and that's important," the mayor added.

In dissent, Councilman Jack Balch said, "While the Tangerine map may be legally compliant with all the boxes, I still cannot see how it is a superior map to other options. And I don't believe it fully complies with the spirit of the law."

"How unfortunate and disheartening it is to me that our

community and neighborhoods have been divided, not only by the district lines themselves but also by this council not being able to come up with a 5-0 map," he added. "The fracturing of our community is already apparent."

Councilwoman Kathy Narum, who also voted No, said she couldn't support the Tangerine map "primarily because it divides a neighborhood community of interest using residential streets versus arterial streets."

"I'd really ask my colleagues to encourage you to consider one more attempt at trying to find a map that doesn't divide the neighborhoods and will build trust in our local government here," Narum added.

See **CITY MAP** on Page 8

Both sides react to Eden Housing suit ruling

Mayor, developer pleased; opponent weighs next steps

By CIERRA BAILEY

Developer Eden Housing and Livermore Mayor Bob Woerner weighed in last week on the recent court ruling that denied a lawsuit against the approved 130-unit affordable housing development planned for downtown Livermore.

"While we at Eden are pleased with the court's decision, we would vastly have preferred to be proceeding with the construction of this development in 2022," Eden Housing president Linda Mandolini said in a statement.

"The delays created by this action required Eden to return a \$68 million award of Low-Income Housing Tax Credits. Had we been able to retain that award, we would be starting construction later this year. Instead, we will be starting over to apply for this funding," Mandolini added.

On Feb. 4, Alameda County Superior Court Judge Frank Roesch denied community group Save Livermore Downtown's petition challenging the city's approval of the project. The group filed its lawsuit last June, which claimed the project is inconsistent with Livermore's Downtown Specific Plan and

See **EDEN** on Page 6



COURTESY OF PPD VIDEO

Still photograph pulled from Pleasanton PD video released Feb. 24 shows suspect Cody Chavez exiting the apartment with an object in his right hand that police say was an 8-inch blade kitchen knife, in the seconds before he is fatal shot after running at officers on Feb. 17.

Pleasanton PD releases video, identifies man killed in police shooting last month

Footage depicts man charging at officers with knife after standoff outside Willow Road apartment

By JEREMY WALSH

The Pleasanton Police Department provided more details on Feb. 24 about the fatal encounter that occurred one week earlier, including releasing composite video from the hours-long standoff that ended with a domestic violence suspect being shot and killed after running at officers with a knife in hand.

Police identified the decedent

as 33-year-old San Jose resident Cody Chavez. He allegedly holed up in his girlfriend's apartment for hours on Feb. 17 after she reported him for domestic violence earlier that day.

"We gave him every opportunity to peacefully surrender, and unfortunately he decided to charge at officers with a knife," PPD Lt. Erik Silacci told the Weekly in an interview Feb. 24. "It was tragic.

I know it affects the entire community, and obviously this was an apartment complex, neighbors."

The fatal shooting remains under investigation, separately, by Pleasanton PD and the Alameda County District Attorney's Office.

Silacci confirmed the Pleasanton police officers who fired the lethal bullets were Brian Jewell,

See **SHOOTING** on Page 9

Amid state's new school masking policy, Tri-Valley districts await county guidance

County health officials expected to weigh in by end of week

BY CIERRA BAILEY

In light of Gov. Gavin Newsom's announcement Monday that the state would be adopting new masking policies in schools, Tri-Valley school districts are looking to county health officials for guidance on how to proceed.

After March 11, the state is moving from requiring masks to strongly recommending them in schools. Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District, Pleasanton Unified School District and Dublin Unified School District each sent statements to parents and families Monday, following the governor's announcement.

All three of the districts said in their statements that their protocols will remain unchanged until the Alameda County Public Health

Department (ACPHD) issues its guidance.

The county public health department released a statement of its own Monday, announcing its plan to review the state's changes and assess the local impacts. It is expected that the department will provide direction later this week, according to local district officials. The policy update was pending as of press time Wednesday.

Tri-Valley district officials said that they must adhere to the ACPHD's guidelines, which could be stricter than the state's.

The local districts' approach aligns with the Alameda County Office of Education, which also said it will wait for ACPHD's assessment before advising any protocol changes.

"In the meantime, we want our school communities and families to persist in their efforts to safeguard students and staff and take actions that minimize the risk of transmission to all, including vaccination of all those eligible, staying home when ill, utilizing testing where appropriate and reducing opportunities for exposure," ACOE officials said.

California joins Oregon and Washington in this decision to adopt new masking policies in schools as case rates and hospitalizations decline across the west coast.

"California continues to adjust our policies based on the latest data and science, applying what we've learned over the past two years to guide our response to

the pandemic," Newsom said in a statement.

"Masks are an effective tool to minimize spread of the virus and future variants, especially when transmission rates are high. We cannot predict the future of the virus, but we are better prepared for it and will continue to take measures rooted in science to keep California moving forward," he added.

According to state officials, masks will still be required for everyone in high transmission settings like public transit, emergency shelters, health care settings, correctional facilities, homeless shelters and long-term care facilities.

On Tuesday, county health officer Dr. Nicholas Moss confirmed that masking requirements for

schools would be announced by the end of the week during a Board of Supervisors regular meeting, according to a Bay City News report.

He said that the case rate in Alameda County continues to fall and was at 16 per 100,000 residents per day as of Tuesday.

Currently, hospitals in the county are caring for 139 people with COVID-19 and 24 of those are in intensive care units, according to Moss.

The decline the county is seeing is attributed to the fact that more people have been vaccinated. Moss said that nearly 83% of the county population is fully vaccinated and 61% of all fully vaccinated residents have received a booster shot.

The test positivity rate is 3.5% overall. In the most socio-economically disadvantaged communities of the county, the test positivity rate is 4.2%. ■

Editor's note: Information from the Bay City News Service was used in this article.

PUSD looks at latest enrollment projections

Downward trend predicted to continue in immediate future, with some stability on horizon

BY JEANITA LYMAN

Trustees at the Pleasanton Unified School District heard and discussed forecasts for enrollment in district schools in the next six years last week in a report from demographers that incorporated the most recent data available.

"Every October we ask for a snapshot of your student data, we map the students ... so we know where all of your current students live. We research the active and future development within your district, so we know what's going on now and the future. We also look at other more recent demographic data within the last three to four years to capture current trends and roll that out into

a seven year student forecast," demographer David Kaitz, of Davis Demographics, said during the Feb. 24 board meeting.

Kaitz said that mapping the actual locations of students to get a sense of how many students are in each "attendance zone" was key to offering insight at a granular, local level, with districtwide numbers being used for comparison.

"This is a snapshot of where the parents are choosing to send their children," Kaitz said.

"We focus on where the students live. We want to look at what's going on in these areas where they live: Is it growing? Is it declining? Is it stable? That's what we need to

figure out," he added.

Looking at data at the hyperlocal level, rather than district level, means better tracking the causes behind impacts such as transfers in and out, and seeing precisely where they are happening, Kaitz noted.

The projections additionally took into account data regarding mobility factors in looking at the future of district enrollment. These consisted of rates of housing resales, foreclosures, apartment migration and high school dropouts. Kaitz lauded the district's numbers regarding the final factor, noting that it means the district is keeping most of its high school students in school.

Birth rates and forecasts are

generally a major factor taken into play when predicting enrollment, Kaitz said, which the report he presented last week had done. However, he noted that PUSD stood out for yielding rates of kindergarten students that are much higher than birth rates alone might predict.

"One thing that's really obvious, and this goes all the way back now to 2006 and beyond, is you have more kids attending kindergarten than were born in your area five years earlier," Kaitz said. "This is unusual, but it just shows how desirable your schools are. Essentially you've been 41% above the average birth counts the past five years. So you're getting kids coming in that

were born there, and then some."

Additionally, the projections presented Feb. 24 took into account the expansion of universal transitional kindergarten, as well as students anticipated to live in new housing planned for development in the next seven years.

"Over the next four years, all the districts in California are going to ramp up from three months of TK to a full grade in 2025 and beyond," Kaitz said, noting that this was one factor that boded well for elementary school enrollment projections.

However, Kaitz noted that the impacts of new housing developments

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EDEN

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violates California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) regulations.

In his ruling, Roesch said that the CEQA arguments were "almost utterly without merit" and that the city has supported its position with substantial evidence as it relates to its Downtown Specific Plan.

"I wish to reiterate that when the lawsuit was filed last June, I said it was meritless," Woerner said in response to the recent ruling.

"In October, my view was bolstered when the court ruled on the motion requiring (Save Livermore Downtown) to post a bond for damages. Now, the court has definitively ruled that indeed their claims were meritless. I firmly believe it would be best for the community if they would stop these extremely divisive and futile delaying tactics and let us move forward," he added.

The ruling may not be the end of the ongoing battle over the development.

Save Livermore Downtown representative Jean King said the group is "still considering our next steps in light of the court's ruling."

"We disagree with the ruling and believe that the City needed to undertake additional environmental review for Eden Housing's project," King told Livermore Vine in an email. "We also believe that the court incorrectly ruled that the evidence supported the City's determination that the project is consistent with the Downtown Specific Plan."

Although King said the group recognizes affordable housing is needed in Livermore, they stand behind their belief that this project should be placed elsewhere.

"Whether we appeal or not, Save Livermore Downtown is not giving up on fighting for a downtown Livermore that reflects the character

of the community. While we know affordable housing is needed in Livermore, there are feasible alternatives to residential development on the Lucky's site that would support even greater housing opportunities for Livermore residents. Pursuing an expanded project in a different location would enable the creation of a destination park in the heart of downtown," she said.

The latest ruling came after Roesch ordered Save Livermore Downtown to post a \$500,000 bond to Eden Housing last fall for "costs and damages incurred as a result of the affordable housing project's delay."

Eden Housing asked the court to impose the bond and on Sept. 27, Roesch ruled in their favor after finding that Save Livermore Downtown's lawsuit "has the effect of delaying the provision of affordable housing and that the preponderance of the evidence supports

the conclusion that the action has been brought for the purpose of delaying the provision of affordable housing."

Mandolini said the downtown Livermore project is a significant step toward alleviating the ongoing housing crisis.

"Alameda County and the greater Bay Area Region face an affordable housing crisis of epic proportion. Developments like the one correctly approved by the city of Livermore provide permanent affordable housing that helps solve the region's affordable housing shortage," Mandolini said.

The new development will consist of homes ranging from one to three bedrooms for low-income families and the local workforce at the southeast corner of the Railroad Avenue and L Street intersection, a site that formerly housed a Lucky store.

The units would be reserved for

residents with incomes between 20% and 60% of the Alameda County area median income, which includes individuals earning less than \$55,000 a year and less than \$78,000 a year for a family of four.

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

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

Two private underground parking garages are also a part of the plan, with additional parking reserved for residents of the complex in the nearby L Street public garage. ■

Bauer-Kahan addresses terror symbols, illegal dumping, guns in new bill package

Environmental and wildfire protections among other legislation introduced

By CIERRA BAILEY

Assemblymember Rebecca Bauer-Kahan (D-Orinda) has introduced her 2022 bill package that focuses on district and statewide priorities, including firearm advertisements, penalizing the use of hate symbols and illegal dumping, among other issues, according to a statement from her office.

"I'm proud to have introduced over 15 pieces of legislation that reaffirm my commitment to the values of this district," said Bauer-Kahan, whose district includes the Tri-Valley. "From addressing climate change and our drought, to reproductive rights and keeping our kids safe from gun violence, I'm ready to fight for the future of District 16 and all of California."

Among these bills is Assembly Bill 2282, which intends to equalize penalties for using three

symbols of terror: the swastika, the noose and the desecrated cross.

Existing law treats all three as symbols of terror but applies different criminal penalties for the use of each symbol, Bauer-Kahan's office said.

Currently, at least one of the three terror symbols can be used legally in cemeteries, places of worship, public spaces and public facilities. Using a noose is penalized the most lightly of the three while a burning cross is the most penalized and is barred only from schools and private property.

AB 2282 would make the criminal penalties the same for using each symbol and expand the locations where they are all banned to include K-12 schools, colleges, cemeteries, places of worship, places of employment, private property, public parks, public spaces and



Assemblymember Rebecca Bauer-Kahan discusses legislation at a California Legislative Women's Caucus event.

public facilities.

"When we punish a burning cross more than a swastika, we are negating the psychological impact on and physical threat to a targeted group," Bauer-Kahan said.

"With hate crimes increasing across the state, it's critical to recognize the power and destructiveness of these symbols, and restrict their use accordingly."

AB 2282 is jointly authored by

Assemblymember Marc Levine (D-San Rafael) and has more than a dozen Democrat co-authors across the Assembly and State Senate.

Also proposed by the local legislator, AB 2374 was introduced in response to an illegal dumping issue seen in communities across California.

The bill builds upon previous legislative efforts of Bauer-Kahan and Alameda and Contra Costa counties in 2019, which provided funding to the two counties to establish a pilot program for additional enforcement of illegal dumping laws in both counties.

AB 2374 raises fines on illegal dumping of commercial quantities up to \$5,000 upon first conviction, up to \$10,000 on a second conviction, and up to \$20,000 on third or subsequent conviction.

Additionally, this bill will give judges discretion to require the convicted to pay for the removal of their illegal dumping, suspend the business license of any individual convicted of dumping waste

See **BAUER-KAHAN** on Page 10

CITY MAP

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The same council majority picked the Tangerine plan as their top option for final consideration after reviewing draft maps at a special meeting Feb. 24.

Once adopted following a second reading at the next council meeting, the election map will be in effect for the next 10 years, in line with the U.S. census schedule.

The city is transitioning from at-large elections for the four regular City Council seats to district-based

balloting starting this November, with the council agreeing to voluntarily make the switch after being compelled — like several other Tri-Valley jurisdictions and many others across the state — by the threat of a costly and likely unwinnable lawsuit that alleged discrimination and dilution of minority representation due to the city's current at-large election process.

"We've all acknowledged that it's a process that we didn't choose to happen. We all want to be able to have the entire city vote for a candidate," Councilwoman Julie Testa said.

"But the factors that this process was designed to correct don't exist in Pleasanton, and there are not disadvantaged neighborhoods that are going to be harmed," she said.

All maps up for final review were within the legal parameters for population deviation and general contiguity, and incumbents' residency was not a factor for the demographer in creating any of the maps, according to the city's consultant. Still, the selection of the Tangerine didn't pass the political smell test for some, especially in the Ventana Hills neighborhood.

The council heard positive feedback about the Tangerine map, as well as criticism from those favoring the alternative "Lime" map, during about 15 minutes worth of public comment Tuesday night. Brown said the council also received a wealth of emails on both sides in the past week.

As they've considered public input, demography data and draft maps in the new year, with a key deadline to avoid litigation looming in the middle of this month, the councilmembers have faced two different but interconnected questions: where to draw the lines and how to sequence the elections.

The council majority answered the latter question on Tuesday, too.

Under the Tangerine map, District 1 in northwest Pleasanton (where Narum is termed out in November) and District 3 in the southwest (where fourth-year Testa is eligible for another term) would be up for election in November 2022. Districts 2 and 4 would be on the ballot in 2024, and Arkin and Balch, who live in those respective areas now, would technically serve out their existing first terms at-large for the



COURTESY OF CITY OF PLEASANTON

The final district election boundaries, dubbed the "Tangerine" map, was approved by the Pleasanton City Council in a 3-2 vote on Tuesday.

next two years.

The Tangerine map has the characteristic that each current regular council member resides within a different district from all others. But that wasn't the case with all of the final alternatives up for consideration at a special meeting Feb. 24, where Arkin, Brown and Testa ultimately favored Tangerine.

The alternative Lime map, preferred by Narum and Balch, would have placed Testa and Balch — seen by many as political opponents — in the same residential area, District 4, among other nuanced differences in the boundary lines.

"How does dividing Ventana Hills along Independence (Drive) make any sense at all? It only makes sense if the political aim is to gerrymander because Julie Testa and Jack Balch would be in the same district if the neighborhood is not split up," resident Vicki LaBarge told the council on Tuesday.

In support of the Tangerine map,

resident John Bauer said, "Brown, Arkin and Testa have been accused of gerrymandering. What's ironic is that tonight a number of speakers will in essence state, 'I don't like the Tangerine map.' Who are really the ones trying to gerrymander the district maps?"

Brown did hint Tuesday at her previously having balked at the idea suggested under the Lime map discussion that the unrepresented District 3 go on the 2022 ballot before District 4, essentially booting Testa out of office after 2022 by council action rather than an election. That sequencing was not mandatory under the Lime proposal.

Pleasanton's election map needs to be finalized through the approval of an ordinance, a required two-step process. The first reading passed 3-2 on Tuesday, and the second reading and final adoption is scheduled for the next regular council meeting, March 15 — which is the deadline date the city faces. ■

THE CITY OF PLEASANTON

HIGHLIGHTS

Civic Arts Commission Meeting

March 7, 2022 – 6:00 p.m.

- Review And Allocate Community Grant Funds in The Civic Arts Category for Fiscal Year 2022/2023
- Review Civic Arts Project Status Report
- Review and Comment on the 2021 Library and Recreation Department Annual Report

Youth Commission Meeting

March 9, 2022 – 6:00 p.m.

- Review And Allocate Community Grant Funds in The Youth Category for Fiscal Year 2022/23
- Review and Comment on the 2021 Library and Recreation Department Annual Report

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

SHOOTING

Continued from Page 5

who has been on the force for four years, and Mario Guillermo, a seven-year veteran. Two other officers on scene discharged non-lethal rounds toward Chavez as well.

Both Guillermo and Jewell have been placed on paid administrative leave at this point in the investigation, under department protocol, according to Silacci. “We anticipate them returning to work soon,” the lieutenant said.

This represented Pleasanton police’s first fatal shooting since 2017 — another situation that turned deadly after a man in a domestic dispute case charged toward officers with an apparent weapon.

The approximately 3-1/2-hour encounter on Feb. 17 at the Galloway Apartments complex on Willow Road ultimately ended in the span of about six seconds when Chavez exited the first-floor unit, walked several feet and then turned and ran at officers with a kitchen chopping knife in his hand, according to the police video.

“Domestic violence calls, these are dangerous types of incidents,” Silacci told the Weekly. “The survivor made a courageous effort in seeking help. We’re here to support her.”

Chavez’s death and the ongoing police investigation have come under political scrutiny in recent days as well.

Oakland civil rights attorney Pamela Price, who is a candidate for Alameda County district attorney in the June primary election, joined the Tri-Valley Democratic Club and the Southern Alameda County Progressive Democrats Executive Board in calling for California Attorney General Rob Bonta to investigate the case.

“A call for help should never turn into a death sentence. I know exactly what it is like to fear harm from a loved one and need to have police intervention,” Price said in a statement on Monday. “But domestic violence should not be a death sentence — not for the victim and not for the perpetrator.”

“The Pleasanton Police Department is not being transparent. Witness accounts call into question the story that the media is trying to sell to the public,” Price added, without specificity.

An attorney for the Pleasanton Police Officers Association had not responded to a request for comment as of press time.

The eight-minute, 21-second video released by PPD incorporates snippets from hours worth of visual and audio footage related to the incident, including from the initial 911 call from Chavez’s girlfriend, officers’ body-worn cameras and an Alameda County Sheriff’s Office drone.

The video — which also includes written slides from PPD explaining case details, captions with audio and other elements added during production — was created by a

video-editing company in close consultation with police staff, according to Silacci.

Early in the footage, police present part of the audio exchange between 911 dispatch and the woman, whose voice is said to be modified to help protect her identity.

The woman, who makes the call at 11:51 a.m. Feb. 17, describes an incident with her boyfriend in her apartment that occurred around 2-3 a.m. that day.

“I’ve called the police out on him before,” she tells the dispatcher. “He had a restraining order ... I released it because he was, obviously he, you know, smooth operator got me back in. But last night was, it was it for me.”

Silacci confirmed Pleasanton police responded to a domestic violence call involving this same couple in January, and Chavez was arrested on suspicion of felony domestic battery.

Chavez had other criminal arrests on his record, including for a hate crime assault that was publicized in June 2020. Santa Cruz police reported arresting Chavez for beating a Black man and hurling racial epithets toward the victim in an apparently unprovoked attack.

The 33-year-old was released from jail at some point after his January arrest in Pleasanton, and that case was still under review when the situation unfolded on Feb. 17, according to Silacci — who said he did not know the circumstances of Chavez’s release from custody. The lieutenant said a temporary restraining order against Chavez after his arrest was no longer active at the time of the second incident.

The woman told the dispatcher on Feb. 17 that overnight her boyfriend had “covered my face with a pillow, he pushed me, he pulled my hair, he wouldn’t let me leave the room.” He remained in the apartment, but she later made it out to another location at the complex and then called police.

Officers contacted the woman “who was in a safe location on the (Galloway) property” and then moved toward the first-floor unit where Chavez was reportedly inside, according to the video.

“Officers went to the apartment and attempts to contact Mr. Chavez were unsuccessful,” according to a video slide. “Officers could see Mr. Chavez looking out the window of the apartment. They used a public address system to instruct Mr. Chavez to leave the apartment but he did not comply.”

The video included audio of one police warning to Chavez: “You need to come outside, open the door with nothing in your hands; your hands up and you will not be harmed.”

As the situation evolved, the police response included patrol officers, plainclothes officers and crisis negotiators, as well as the department’s armored vehicle, Silacci said. Fire personnel and paramedics were also at the scene.

During the standoff, police said they obtained a warrant for Chavez’s arrest signed by a judge.

“After 40 minutes of intermittent communication, Mr. Chavez stopped communications with crisis negotiators,” a video slide stated. “A plan was developed to send a robot into the apartment to re-establish communication. Officers approached the apartment with protective equipment, including a less-lethal device.”

With the robot at the door, two officers approached at 3:33 p.m. and one used a handheld battering ram to break open the door, a majority of which was made of glass, according to the video.

The two officers backed away from the door and police could see him opening and closing the busted door with a knife in his hand, according to the video. With the wheeled robot unable to get inside, police decided to break one of the windows around the corner from the door to allow a drone to view inside.

As officers break the window at 3:38:40 p.m., Chavez is seen walking out of the front door wearing a white T-shirt, dark pants and red sneakers and carrying a kitchen knife in his hand. He walks down the paved path several feet, turns at a hard-right in the path toward the officers at the window several yards away and runs toward them with the knife — all in the span of approximately six seconds, according to the video.

One officer is identified as discharging a non-lethal firearm as Chavez is walking toward the bend. After Chavez starts to run at the police, one officer is shown to also discharge non-lethal bullets while two other officers (one on the ground and another perched atop the armored vehicle) fire their guns, according to the video.

The video shows the moment of the fatal encounter from multiple angles, including a grid of four body-cams at once.

The audio picks up multiple police voices, saying or shouting in succession: “At the door. At the door. Hey, he’s at the door. At the door, barricading the door. Hey, door open now. He’s coming out. Get back. Drop the knife. Drop the ... Shots fired. Shots fired. Shots fired. Shots fired.”

The video does not appear to depict Chavez saying anything during those final six seconds.

Multiple gunshots were fired by police, but it is difficult to discern a count from the video and audio. Silacci said the number of bullets fired, as well as how many hit Chavez, is still under investigation. A coroner’s autopsy has already been performed but the results are pending, according to the lieutenant.

As for the non-lethal rounds, one



Cody Chavez



COURTESY OF PPD VIDEO

Grid shows four body-cam videos at the same time in the seconds leading up to and through the fatal shooting.

set were small bean bag bullets while the other set were round plastic projectiles, Silacci said. The video also shows a photograph of the kitchen knife with an 8-inch blade that police said is the same weapon Chavez was holding.

Officers and paramedics attempted to render emergency aid, but Chavez died at the scene, according to the video.

“Our goal is to peacefully resolve ... We also know domestic violence calls are some of the most dangerous ones,” Silacci said. He noted that domestic support advocates responded to the scene that day to assist the survivor.

This marked the first fatal police shooting in Pleasanton in just under five years, but the circumstances were not too dissimilar. In May 2017, an officer shot and killed

Shannon Edward Estill after the Pleasanton man charged out of his garage toward the officer with an apparent weapon later deemed to be a black, pistol-sized BB gun.

Estill had holed up in his house while officers responded to a domestic incident, authorities said. The DA’s Office deemed the death to be justifiable self-defense by police.

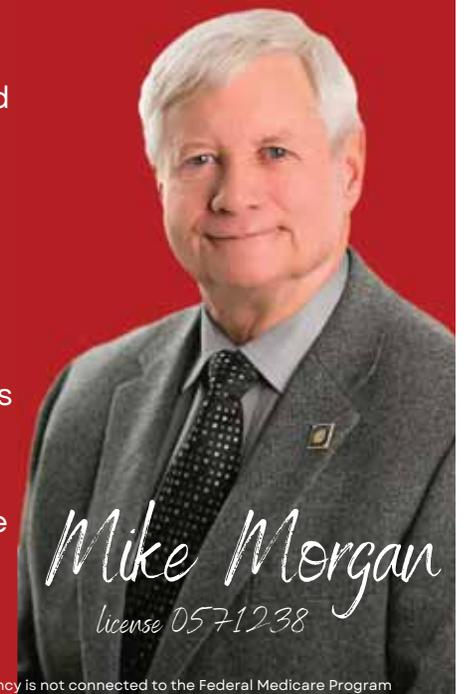
Prior to Estill’s death, Pleasanton PD had only one other fatal police shooting since 2000: the John Deming Jr. case from July 2015.

The department had a more recent and high profile in-custody fatality — the death of Jacob Bauer in 2018 — but firearms were not used. ■

Editor’s note: The police-produced composite video from the Chavez encounter can be viewed via YouTube on PleasantonWeekly.com; viewer discretion is advised.

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MULTIPLAN_MAFLYERGMLM

Bay Area legislators back sanctions on Russia after Ukraine invasion

Swalwell among elected officials to speak out

BY GENNADY SHEYNER/
PALO ALTO WEEKLY

With the Russian Federation launching a full-scale invasion of Ukraine, Rep. Anna Eshoo last week denounced Russian President Vladimir Putin and backed the new package of sanctions that the United States government and its allies have announced against Russia.

Eshoo, a Democrat, said in a statement on Feb. 24 that she is “praying for the brave people of Ukraine as their country suffers Russia’s military assault.”

“We know Vladimir Putin is an enemy of democracy and he has revealed his purposeful pursuit of his authoritarian ambitions,” Eshoo said. “I fully support the U.S. and our allies to inflict tough sanctions to make clear to Mr. Putin and autocrats throughout the world that attacks on free and sovereign countries will be met with severe

consequences.”

Eshoo issued the statement in the morning as Russian soldiers were battling Ukrainian troops throughout Ukraine and closing on the capital city of Kyiv and as U.S. President Joe Biden unveiled a new package of sanctions against Russia. These include freezing Russian assets in the United States, imposing sanctions on four major Russian banks and cutting off exports of technology to Russia. The United States is also expanding the list of Russian elites and their families on the sanctions list.

“These are people who personally gain from the Kremlin’s policies and they should share in the pain,” Biden said in a morning address on Feb. 24.

Eshoo was one of several Bay Area legislators to denounce Putin’s actions last week. Rep. Eric Swalwell, a Democrat whose district is

in the east bay, called Putin “a ruthless dictator whose actions are a threat to democracies everywhere.”

Swalwell called for the U.S. military to give resources to Ukrainians to assist in their defense and for the intelligence community to provide Ukraine with actionable intelligence. He also called for the U.S. to lead a global sanctions regime that “stops the flow of Russia’s money, oil and travelers.”

“Most importantly, we must unite the American people at home, even as former President Trump roots for Russia. I hope every American recognizes the privilege of living in a free country. What is our democracy worth if we can’t stand against the invasion of another’s?”

Swalwell has also made waves nationally after recommending the U.S. government consider expelling Russian students in America.

State Assemblymember Kevin



ARRIKEL/WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Damage in Kyiv, Ukraine following a missile strike on the city on Feb. 24.

Mullin, a Democrat who is vying for Rep. Jackie Speier’s seat in Congress, also said in a statement that Putin’s aggression in Ukraine demand “severe sanctions.”

“The rise of authoritarianism is a growing threat to democracy and freedom across the globe,” Mullin said in a statement. “This latest example has no doubt been exacerbated and even encouraged by the radical behavior of other authoritarian figures both foreign and domestic.

“I have full faith in the Biden administration’s ability to respond swiftly, in concert with our G7 and European Union allies, to Putin’s unprovoked aggression.”

Assemblymember Marc Berman, who represents the 24th District in the Midpeninsula called Putin’s decision to invade “an assault on freedom everywhere.”

“The international response to Putin’s aggression must be united, swift, and severe,” Berman said in a statement. ■

Contra Costa supervisors start process of changing Kirker Pass Road name

‘I’ve lived here since I was a kid. I had no idea how despicable this person was’

Like so many people who’ve grown up in Contra Costa County, Karen Mitchoff just figured Kirker Pass was named after a rancher who settled near the well-traveled road winding through the hills between Concord and Pittsburg.

“I had no idea,” said Mitchoff, the chairperson of the county Board of Supervisors and whose district includes the western portion of Kirker Pass Road. “I’ve lived here since I was a kid. I had no idea how despicable this person was.”

That person was James Kirker.

And, while he settled in the area, and may have done some ranching, he was far from the average 19th-century settler. Which is why the board is exploring changing the name of Kirker Pass.

As municipalities all over the U.S. reevaluate the names put on schools, roads, and other local institutions, longstanding traditions are being challenged by a new unwillingness to turn a blind eye to the misdeeds of once-celebrated figures.

In Kirker’s case, the name has been uttered by locals for at least

130 years, since at least 1892, when county supervisors officially named the road and the steep hills around it after Kirker, who lived in the county for less than three years. Kirker came to Contra Costa in 1850 and died either in 1852 or 1853, depending on who you ask.

What’s not disputed is that Kirker was widely known as a “scalp hunter,” and a killer of hundreds of Native Americans, working for the Mexican government in the 1840s.

Some accounts say he was responsible for killing women and children.

He reportedly came north to Contra Costa only after switching allegiances in 1846 to fight for the U.S. in the Mexican-American War, earning a bounty on his head from Mexico.

“I’m having a hard time even saying his name in public,” Mitchoff said. “There’s absolutely nothing redeeming about this individual.”

The issue came up at the board’s Feb. 8 meeting, at which Daniel Kelly spoke up about Kirker. Kelly, a retired San Francisco social worker and a master’s student in history at Arizona State University, wrote

an op-ed in a Bay Area publication about Kirker.

Kelly accused Kirker of leading a raiding party in the Mexican state of Chihuahua during the night in 1846 and killing between 130 and 170 Apache men, women and children while they slept, after they struck a bargain with local officials to stay and trade in the area.

“They mounted their scalps on poles,” Kelly wrote. “A few months later, an English traveler passing through the capitol of Chihuahua found the plaza festooned with Apache scalps.”

The Contra Costa County Historical Society has in its archives an essay written by local historian William Mero, in which he describes

See **KIRKER PASS** on Page 11

BAUER-KAHAN

Continued from Page 8

connected to their business, and allow for that person’s name and name of the business to be publicly displayed as convicted of illegal dumping.

The assemblymember has partnered with Gov. Gavin Newsom to advance the state’s gun control measures with AB 2571, which seeks to restrict advertising of firearms to children and youth.

According to Bauer-Kahan’s office, the last time any attempts were made to regulate firearm marketing was in 2014 through the unsuccessful passage of the federal Children’s Firearm Marketing Safety Act. Since then, gun violence by and affecting children has skyrocketed. In 2021 alone

there were approximately 259 unintentional shootings by children, resulting in 104 deaths and 168 injuries.

“I have no issue with guns or gun owners. I have serious issues with gun violence,” Newsom said at a Feb. 18 press conference in San Diego where the introduction of the bill was announced.

He continued, “I have serious issues with a company that thinks it’s OK to market a JR-15 modeled after a weapon of war, an AR-15 that took the lives of 20 precious first graders and six adults at Sandy Hook, and to promote it with a skull and bone and a pacifier. How the hell do they think that’s OK? Selling stickers, t-shirts and hats marketing not a toy gun, but a JR-15, to start them early.”

AB 2146 is another bill introduced by Bauer-Kahan.

Co-authored by Assemblymember Ash Kalra (D-San Jose), the legislation aims to protect bees and other pollinators from five key neonicotinoid (neonic) pesticides.

AB 2146 would ban the use of imidacloprid, clothianidin, thiamethoxam, dinotefuran and acetamiprid on non-agricultural crops. Neonicotinoids are the world’s most widely used insecticides and are toxic to pollinators — just one square foot of grass treated with a typical neonic lawn product can contain enough neonics to kill one million bees, according to a statement from Bauer-Kahan’s office.

AB 2070 aims to increase accountability and transparency when a private utility company conducts high-risk fire mitigation work, ensuring that local fire districts are aware and prepared when utility companies conduct

“hot work” or controlled burns within their jurisdiction.

According to Bauer-Kahan’s office, the bill comes from the judgment in a legal case between PG&E and the San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District.

PG&E had sued the city of San Ramon to avoid an ordinance requiring the utility report when they did risky hot work. The court ruled in 2020 in favor of the fire district, which then reached a compromise with PG&E that will be codified in AB 2070.

Officials said that codifying this compromise from San Ramon into a new broader law will serve to protect Californians statewide when utilities perform this type of work.

“Our fire districts do so much to protect us from fires. It’s essential we give them all the tools they need, especially during fire season,”

Bauer-Kahan said. “Utility work must happen in collaboration with fire chiefs to ensure our communities are safe from accidental blazes.”

AB 2070 will also establish a framework for the utility to compensate a fire district for the use of an emergency transport team in the event that the company fails to provide sufficient notice of high fire risk work and a transport team is dispatched, according to Bauer-Kahan’s office.

Other pieces of the legislative package include AB 1838, which aims to improve communications from schools to non-English speaking parents, AB 1907, which streamlines inspections of nursing homes in order to improve oversight, and AB 2436, which seeks to eliminate discrimination from gendered language on state death certificates. ■

Alameda County homeless count conducted after delay due to COVID

'This count counts more than any count before'

Alameda County's homeless residents suffered through a cold night before volunteers counted them last week in the county's first biennial count since 2019.

About 500 volunteers fanned out across the county starting at about 5 a.m. Feb. 23 when it felt like 34 degrees at the Oakland Airport, according to the National Weather Service.

EveryOne Home coordinated the count as a community-based organization aiming to end homelessness in the county. The COVID-19 pandemic forced the count to be delayed a year.

Oakland Mayor Libby Schaaf, who was out that morning counting the homeless residents near Lake Merritt, called the situation "heartbreaking."

"It was freezing this morning," Schaaf said.

She expects to see more homeless people counted as sheltered compared to the previous count, but she is concerned because some of that shelter is being paid for by the Federal Emergency Management Agency and will be going away.

None of the homeless residents were found dead on Feb. 23, seeing how cold it was, Oakland spokeswoman Karen Boyd said. Boyd helped with the count in East Oakland where encampments are more spread out compared to West Oakland.

Boyd said she saw a lot of recreational vehicles and other vehicles between the Oakland Coliseum and the airport. In general, more homeless residents are sheltering in



HARIKA MADDALA/BCN

Homeless tents under a Highway 24 overpass in Oakland on Feb. 23.

vehicles than in the past, Boyd said.

"This count counts more than any count before," said Chelsea Andrews, executive director of EveryOne Home.

That's because a lot has changed since the last count and agencies and nonprofits can get a true sense of the problem and can advocate for more resources and spend resources wisely, Andrews said.

EveryOne Home will also conduct a paper survey of homeless residents, who will be compensated for their help, to get a clearer picture of who's experiencing homelessness and the resources that need to be deployed.

Helping with the count in 2022 were volunteers from Swords to Plowshares, a group that helps veterans of the armed forces.

John Gibson, an outreach specialist with the group, said the COVID-19 pandemic created a whole new demographic in the homeless population.

Gibson is looking forward to getting the results of the count because

he hopes it will raise awareness in the state capital and in Washington, D.C. so lawmakers can make informed decisions to address the crisis.

"It drives the aid that we get," Schaaf said of the count.

Schaaf believes her city needs more permanent affordable housing. The level of housing unaffordability in the Bay Area "is unconscionable," she said.

A person making minimum wage cannot afford any housing in the region while people making the median income can afford housing in only 27% of Bay Area ZIP codes, Schaaf said.

"Something definitely needs to be done," said Laurence Walker, an Oakland resident and outreach specialist with Swords to Plowshares.

He counted homeless residents near Skyline High School and saw four cars, he said.

Like the mayor, he thinks Oakland needs more affordable housing and "desolate land" in Oakland could be used for it. ■

—Keith Burbank, BCN

KIRKER PASS

Continued from Page 10

Kirker as an Irish immigrant who fought the British as a privateer during the War of 1812. He later moved to the Southwest, working as a trapper and soldier, sometimes for the Mexican government.

In New Mexico, he "seems to have become friends with the first American settler in Contra Costa County, Dr. John Marsh," Mero wrote. Kirker became a naturalized Mexican citizen until the Mexican-American War.

"He guarded Mexican copper mines of Santa Rita against raiding Indians," Mero wrote. "He was a friend of young Kit Carson and found him a job at the mines. Kirker organized militias in many of the villages in Chihuahua State against growing Apache attacks.

"Later James Kirker led a large band of Mexican, American, Delaware and Shawnee warriors. They fought the Apaches, who were raiding deeper and deeper into northern

Mexico. Kirker's band was just one of many such mercenary gangs of American and Mexican Apache scalp hunters working for the State of Chihuahua. However there is no evidence that Kirker personally took scalps himself," Mero wrote.

When Kirker moved to Contra Costa in 1850, he settled on land adjacent to Marsh's, including the hills where Kirker Pass Road now connects Central Contra Costa with East County. The pass was known as "Kirker's Pass" as early as 1856, according to Contra Costa County Supervisor John Gioia.

"I'm aware of his reputation of essentially being a mercenary — leading attacks against Indigenous groups of people," Gioia said. "He was called a scalp hunter, not the kind of person you want to name a major county road after."

Gioia is a history buff who is putting together a display of previous Boards of Supervisors for the relatively new county building to which supervisors will eventually return post-pandemic. He said his

collection includes a book in which Kirker is personally attributed 487 scalps. Though he acknowledged the author didn't show solid attribution for the accusation.

Either way, he said Kirker isn't worthy of having his name on a county road.

"We're clearly much more aware of our history, and we're reevaluating place names and changing them where appropriate," Gioia said. "And that's the right thing to do. We don't want to name important county places after racists and killers."

Mitchoff said she requested a report from county staff outlining the necessary steps to rename the road, which she expects back soon. She said the process will likely take at least six months, including what will likely be a very public process of renaming the road. Mitchoff agrees with Kelly that a name honoring local indigenous people could be appropriate.

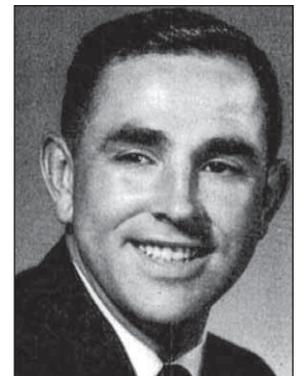
"I want to get this done as soon as possible," Mitchoff said. ■

—Tony Hicks, BCN Foundation

Charles Patrick Fracisco

March 17, 1934 – February 10, 2022

Charles Patrick Fracisco passed away peacefully in Livermore on Tuesday, February 10, 2022. Pat was born on St. Patrick's Day at St. Paul's Hospital in Livermore, the oldest son of parents who were born and raised in Livermore and Pleasanton, respectively. He attended St. Michael's School and later graduated from Livermore High School in 1951. After a brief period at St. Mary's College on a basketball scholarship, he transferred to San Francisco City College where he played football; an injury ended his playing career, though his love of sports continued! He earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree and Masters of Arts Degree in Physical Education from San Jose State College. He was a member of Alpha Tau Omega fraternity.



Pat's teaching and coaching career in the Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District (LVJUSD) spanned 33 years. Initially, he was hired to teach and coach at Livermore High. He taught Physical Education and coached football, basketball, baseball and swimming. In 1963, he was asked to transfer to Granada High the year the school opened. At GHS, he taught, coached, and served as the school's first Athletic Director. Pat coached football and basketball during the school's first year, and then focused his coaching efforts on varsity basketball directing the Matadors until 1982. He was an offensive-minded coach who emphasized proper training, practice and execution; his teams were highly competitive and had many winning seasons. During the 1970s, Pat conducted a popular youth summer camp, the Bulls Basketball "Kamp." Coach Fracisco played an instrumental role in helping shape young men's lives on and off of the court, and was especially pleased when former players and students would return and visit. He touched countless lives and established many lasting friendships.

When not teaching and coaching, Pat worked in his father's Livermore-based real estate and insurance company. Pat operated a Livermore real estate brokerage that served many clients that his father had previously assisted. Later, Pat's two sons and daughter-in law, Mike, Pat Jr., and Collette joined him in the real estate business. Pat was presented with an Honorary Lifetime Member award from the Bay East Association of Realtors in 2015.

Pat was an Army Veteran, who first served in active duty then later in the reserves. Pat was a lifelong parishioner at St. Michaels, then the Catholic Community of Pleasanton. His faith was very important to him. Pat practiced his faith and led by example. He was kind, loyal, respectful, and often characterized as a gentleman. He enjoyed playing golf and was a member of the Castlewood Country Club. He was a member of Livermore's Fraternal Order of Eagles #609, and the Sons of Retirement (SIRs) Livermore.

Pat will be dearly missed by family, friends and all that knew him. He is survived by his loving wife, Phyllis, of 64 years. The couple met at the Alameda County Fair horse races, where they both worked over one summer in college. The fair and horse races would become a special place for them to enjoy time together. Additionally, they enjoyed traveling, and spending time celebrating special events with their closest friends most of whom were long-time Livermore residents. Pat loved and was very supportive of his family. He is survived by his three children, son Michael (Gayla), son Patrick (Collette), daughter Jill, five grandchildren Kristen, Eric (Katrina), Patrick, John, Audrey, and two great-grandchildren Evelyn and Kira. Additionally, he leaves behind three siblings, Jeanne (Darrell) Packard, Martha (Lawrence) Kopp, Thomas (Betty) Fracisco, and eleven nieces and nephews — each of whom he loved. Pat is preceded in death by his sister, Barbara (David) Mertes, and parents Margaret (Barthe) and Charles J. Fracisco.

There will be a public celebration of his life announced in the coming months.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in his name to either the Livermore Granada Boosters at 2117 Fourth Street, Livermore, CA 94550 or the American Heart Association at PO Box 840692, Dallas, TX 75284-0692.

PAID OBITUARY

Reflecting on Restaurant Week

Taste Tri-Valley highlights the best in local food and drink



BY DEBORAH GROSSMAN

The second annual Taste Tri-Valley Restaurant Week kicked off in grand style with a Chef Collaboration Dinner on Feb. 17 and continued for 10 delicious days.

Held at Sabio on Main in Pleasanton, the collaboration dinner sold out in days with 48 on the waiting list. Busy preparing, the four chefs radiated energy for the kick-off event.

“The opportunity to work with three great chefs in my kitchen was special. The benefit for Open Heart Kitchen was an extra reason to cook together,” Sabio host chef Francis X. Hogan said.

For chef Tullio Rosano, owner of the three Tri-Valley Locanda restaurants, the dinner was a chance to mingle with other chefs. “I know chef Eduardo Posada of Posada restaurant because he stops in our new Locanda Wine Bar in Livermore, and I met Hogan and chef Matt Greco of Salt Craft,” Rosano said.

At the dinner, Erika Keene of Pleasanton said she knew the restaurants. “To eat from several of the best Tri-Valley chefs in one evening is so unusual,” Keene added. “We enjoyed the sea bass ceviche from Posada and the Sabio five-spice Liberty duck, and we will try other Restaurant Week menu specials, too.”

Keene had an array of choices for dining — 32 restaurants with several partnering wineries and two

breweries participating in the event that lasted through Feb. 27. Sponsored by Visit Tri-Valley, the mission of Restaurant Week was to encourage locals to dine out and attract others to discover the many food and drink options throughout the four member communities of the organization: Pleasanton, Livermore, Dublin and Danville.

Menus ranged from American and Asian/Indian cuisine to Italian and Mexican. With lunch pricing from \$15 to \$25 and dinner from \$35 to \$50, the restaurant owners said they aimed to keep costs reasonable.

The concept of Restaurant Week started 30 years ago in New York City, said Clark Wolf, the founder of restaurant consultancy Clark Wolf Company. During a political convention, added Clark, “The restaurateur of Windows on The World and the Rainbow Room presented a week-long lunch special to give visitors an affordable taste of the city. It caught on for dinner and then went nationwide to activate diner interest in slow or tough times.”

During the 10-day event in the Tri-Valley last week, Sabio was busy during weeknights in addition to weekends, according to Hogan. “It felt like a renaissance of people dining in restaurants with friends and family as the pandemic subsides,” Hogan said.

Showcasing food and drink

Leigh De La Torre, owner of De La Torre’s restaurant in Pleasanton,



Top: De La Torre’s beef and ricotta ravioli with Cuda Ridge Cabernet Franc. Above: Sabio on Main chef Francis X. Hogan (left) joins colleagues at the collaboration dinner that launched the second annual Taste Tri-Valley. Below: At BottleTaps, Eric Wall and Heather McGrail count the votes in the wine vs beer competition during Taste Tri-Valley Restaurant Week. (Photos by Deborah Grossman)

participated in the inaugural event last year when only outdoor dining and take-out were available.

“Both regulars and new guests dined this year. We added a winery partner after Larry Dino, owner of

Cuda Ridge Wines in Livermore, reached out to us. The majority of guests who chose the special menu also enjoyed the wine pairings we offered,” De La Torre said.

Serendipity is the word owner

Dino used to describe the collaboration. “We dined at De La Torre’s several years ago and liked their food,” he said. “When I phoned Leigh, she emphasized bringing not-so-common wines because she wanted her guests to try something new. Our signature wine is Cabernet Franc, which paired well with the beef and ricotta ravioli with marinara sauce.”

With three Locanda restaurants participating, Rosano customized the special menu by location.

“Since Locanda Wine Bar has evolved into a date-night destination, we emphasized that angle with a shareable antipasti of meats, cheeses, fruits and nuts, and then each guest chose an entree. With Locanda Ravello in Danville open since 2015, we highlighted guests’ favorites such as Neapolitan ragu with rigatoni and Margherita pizza,” Rosano said.

Bridges and The Vine and Spirits, two sister restaurants in Danville, also presented popular Restaurant Week menus.





Sabio on Main in downtown Pleasanton is filled during the Chef Collaboration Dinner that opened the 2022 Taste Tri-Valley Restaurant Week. (Photo by Travis Fisher/Rose Street Collective; courtesy of Visit Tri-Valley)

A manager at both restaurants, Jeff Leiden noted that the best sellers at Bridges were salmon and herbed chicken. At drinks-oriented Vine and Spirits, a glass of wine was included with both the \$20 lunch and the \$50 dinner.

Value propositions

Many restaurants offered excellent pricing for the specials. Burma! Burma! in Dublin was also serving large portions.

According to managing partner Bradley Wills, nearly a quarter of guests chose the special dinner for two menu with one appetizer, two entrees from the long list of seafood, chicken, lamb, pork, beef or vegetable options plus two sides of rice. The meal prompted many take-home boxes.

Gobi Mongolian Grill in Pleasanton presented several value choices for lunch and dinner. At the restaurant, guests take a bowl, fill it with

meat, vegetables and noodles. After handing the bowl to the chef to cook the ingredients on the grill, guests then season their dish. Prices ranged from \$20 for one medium dinner and one kid's dinner to the \$50 option for four medium dinners.

Bringing the fun

Taste Tri-Valley also featured two Tri-Valley Beer Trail members, BottleTaps, the beer-oriented restaurant in Pleasanton, and Shadow Puppet

Brewing in Livermore. As a first-time participant, Shadow Puppet Brewing offered two events, a beer and food patio event and a three-hour "Beer Blending" experience.

"Beer Blending" on Feb. 18 presented an unusual opportunity for guests to experiment with various mixers and unlimited beer from 24 taps to create custom drinks. Shadow Puppet shared their "secret menu" for blends such as the "Creamsicle" with their Cinch Vanilla Cream Ale

and a blood orange IPA.

BottleTaps hosted a two-hour beer judging event and a "Foods around the World: Beer versus Wine" five-course dinner that quickly sold out. Owner Eric Wall and Heather McGrail, owner of winery partner McGrail Vineyards, offered a second dinner seating.

"We are thrilled to share wine pairings at full tables again," said McGrail, who admitted she didn't like beer until she partnered with Wall on these events.

After each course, guests voted for their favorite pairing, McGrail's wine or the BottleTaps-selected beer.

California inspired the first course BottleTaps chef Andre Muller prepared: crostini with date jam and Mt. Tam fondue paired with McGrail Chardonnay or Chimay Red Belgian Dubbel. At the first seating, guests voted for beer; at the second, wine won by a large margin. The second course of Polynesian-style ceviche was a win for McGrail's Peyton Page Sauvignon Blanc over a hazy IPA.

The Asian noodle salad with edamame surprised everyone — the winning McGrail Merlot is usually paired with meat.

Keene also attended the BottleTaps "Foods around the World: Beer versus Wine" dinner and confessed she wasn't a beer drinker. Yet she voted for the Flemish Red Sour Ale paired with the main course of coq au vin rather than the Cabernet Sauvignon.

"The delicious pairing with the sour ale completely surprised me. The event was a lot of fun," she said.

With restaurant and beverage partners eager to try new pairings and special events, Robin Fahr, vice president of Visit Tri-Valley, expects to continue Taste Tri-Valley as an annual event. Stay tuned for more local food and wine adventures next winter. ■



Left: Cuda Ridge Winery owner Larry Dino chats with Nancy and Parky Parkison of Livermore. Above: Dinner for two at Burma! Burma! during Restaurant Week. (Photos by Deborah Grossman)

GLOBAL ENTERTAINMENT AT THE BANKHEAD

Guitar greats, Mexican ballet, Irish dancing on the docket this month



PHOTOS COURTESY OF LIVERMORE ARTS

Ballet Folklórico de México will be performing at the Bankhead Theater in Livermore on March 14.

By JEREMY WALSH

“The Bankhead is set to take its audiences on a trip around the world.”

That's how managers of the downtown Livermore theater are gearing the community up for their latest slate of performances — which include International Guitar Night, Ballet Folklórico de México and Velocity Irish Dance.

The global entertainment arrives in the Tri-Valley tonight with the 22nd International Guitar Night annual tour, back on stage in North America after taking a hiatus in 2021 due to the pandemic.

The four-act lineup features acoustic rock prodigy Luca Stricagnoli of Italy, progressive classical guitarist Thu Le of Vietnam, Slack Key master Jim Kimo West from Hawaii and Latin swing pioneer Lulo Reinhardt from Germany.

The concert starts at 8 p.m. in the Bankhead, with tickets still available as of press time.



International Guitar Night on March 4 features (from left) Luca Stricagnoli of Italy, Thu Le of Vietnam, Jim Kimo West from Hawaii and Lulo Reinhardt from Germany.

Next up will be Ballet Folklórico de México, known for their “thrilling, colorful and classic choreography”, for a Monday night performance in Livermore.

“Ballet Folklórico brings together the music, dance and costume of Mexican folklore from pre-Colombian civilizations through the modern era,” Bankhead officials said. “Featuring 60 folk dancers and musicians who have performed extensively across México and abroad, the show

serves as a welcome ambassador for Mexican culture, with more than 30 million spectators and countless recognitions.”

The show is scheduled begin at 7:30 p.m. March 14.

Then closing out the month, in the wake of St. Patrick's Day, the eclectic Velocity Irish Dance will perform “a high-octane celebration of the past, present, and future of Irish dance” at the Bankhead, officials said.

Led by world champion Irish dancers James Devine and David Geaney, the group will bring their touch of the Emerald Isle to downtown Livermore at 7:30 p.m. March 30.

“Catch these talents, along with a motley crew of mind-blowing musicians and an old school scratch DJ, at the Bankhead on March 30, as they break away from the idea of what an Irish dance show is to create one that is expressive, free, fast-paced and edgy, driven by passion and pride,” officials said.

While the stage will have a true international feel this month, the adjacent Bankhead Theater Gallery still has its local art exhibit on display.

“Double Take: Art and Literature Side by Side”, which features art by East Bay artists and poetry by Tri-Valley writers, blends together the two creative mediums for an

exhibit that “will sing to the heart, evoke a flair for the dramatic, wax lyric, and offer a rhythmic cadence,” visual arts manager Anne Giancola said.

The exhibit, which opened in January, will remain active through March 27 during performance nights as well as Thursdays through Sundays from 1-5 p.m. Admission to the gallery is free.

For more information on all of the Bankhead showings, visit LivermoreArts.org. ■



Velocity Irish Dance will bring a taste of the Emerald Isle to the Tri-Valley on March 30.



New public art piece at Alviso Adobe park

Sculpture 'Eventide' unveiled last weekend

Community leaders came together over the weekend to welcome the newest public artwork to Pleasanton.

"Eventide", a welded steel sculpture of a mountain lion by Colorado artist Parker McDonald, was installed at the Alviso Adobe Community Park near Pleasanton Ridge. It is the latest public art piece brought to town through the Harrington Art Partnership Piece

for You (HAPPY) program.

Nancy Harrington, who helped lead the unveiling on Saturday, noted that the new sculpture stands out sitting between the orchard and native plant garden at the historic adobe park property.

Harrington said she and husband Gary first discovered McDonald's art while attending the Loveland Sculpture Festival in 2018 in the artist's home state.

"It was at the festival, and we absolutely fell in love with Parker McDonald's work and knew it was perfect for the Alviso Adobe. We felt a bronze piece would be too formal for the park but a rougher version, like 'Eventide', was perfect," Harrington said. "We are excited to finally bring 'Eventide' to Alviso Adobe Community Park and to the city of Pleasanton."

The artwork, which was approved by the city last year and funded by Mary Sites and the Harrington Art Partnership, can be viewed now at the Alviso Adobe Community Park at 3465 Old Foothill Road. ■

—Jeremy Walsh



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

"Eventide", welded steel sculpture, by Parker McDonald.

O'Neill site among East Bay national parks to get new superintendent

Berry moving West from South Carolina post

The National Park Service has named K. Lynn Berry superintendent of four national parks in the Contra Costa County area, including one in the Tri-Valley.



K. Lynn Berry

Berry, currently the superintendent of Congaree National Park in

South Carolina, will take over leadership duties in April at the Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site in Danville, John Muir National Historic Site, Port Chicago Naval Magazine National Memorial and Rosie the Riveter-World War II Home Front National Historical Park on the Richmond waterfront.

"K. Lynn brings a wealth of experience working cooperatively with communities and partners to support

access and stewardship," said Frank Lands, the area's regional director, in a statement. "This experience will help connect park and community interests in mutually beneficial ways throughout the San Francisco Bay Area and beyond."

Berry called her new job sites "unique and important parks."

"The parks' stories inspire me, but I'm even more impressed by what I've heard about how the staff

is telling these stories and engaging surrounding communities," Berry said. "It will be an honor to help them continue growing those connections."

Berry joined the National Park Service in 2010 with a background in community and environmental planning, as well as cultural resource management and public involvement processes.

She also has experience working

in the South Atlantic Gulf Region, as well as acting superintendent of DeSoto National Memorial, regional chief of community assistance and partnerships for the National Capital Area, and acting superintendent of Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve.

Berry has anthropology degrees, as well as a master's degree in city and regional planning. ■

—Tony Hicks, BCN Foundation

'Celebrate the Night' with Valley Concert Chorale

Group performing at churches next weekend

BY JEREMY WALSH

The Valley Concert Chorale is bringing its musical talents to two Tri-Valley churches next weekend for its latest concert, "Celebrate the Night: Dreams, the Moon and the Stars".

The longstanding local choral group, under the direction of John Emory Bush, is known for its range of musical stylings — and the upcoming shows seem to be no different.

"Enjoy musical selections about dreams, moon and the stars," chorale officials said, adding:

"From the serious to the lighter side, the Chorale will perform songs of American composers Stephen Foster and Johnny Mercer, and Daniel Elder's version of 'Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star'. The concert would not be complete without every choral singer's favorites: Morten Lauridsen's beloved 'Sure

on this Shining Night' and Eric Whitacre's beautiful 'Sleep'. The audience will surely enjoy Disney's timeless 'When You Wish upon a Star' and Henry Mancini's romantic 'Moon River'."

Each performance will also feature the chorale's accompanying pianist, Daniel Glover, playing Beethoven's "Moonlight Sonata".

The concerts are scheduled for next Saturday (March 12) at 7:30 p.m. at Our Savior Lutheran Church in Livermore and next Sunday (March 13) at 3 p.m. at Trinity Lutheran Church in Pleasanton.

Tickets cost \$25 in advance and \$30 at the door. High school and college students are \$10 with valid student ID. Children can attend for free. Visit valleyconcertchorale.org or call 925-866-4003 for tickets or more information, including the latest COVID-19 requirements for attendees and performers. ■



VCC

The Valley Concert Chorale is performing next weekend at Our Savior Lutheran Church in Livermore and Trinity Lutheran Church in Pleasanton.

Gardening in small spaces

Club talk to feature designer from Ruth Bancroft Garden

The Livermore-Amador Valley Garden Club is hosting its next guest speaker presentation on a topic relevant to many residents across the Tri-Valley — gardening in small spaces.

"Do you have a small garden space and don't know what to do? Learn how to create a perfect 'jewel box' space to maximize impact for a beautiful, useful garden," club officials said ahead of their meeting next Thursday (March 10).

Cricket Riley, a landscape design consultant from Ruth Bancroft Garden in Walnut Creek, will be the guest presenter. She creates plant-centered designs,

leads workshops, orders plants for the garden and writes about plants for its newsletter.

"Cricket will discuss factors to consider and navigate the process of refurbishing a garden bed or designing a brand-new garden. Educating gardeners on the beauty, diversity and sustainability of regionally appropriate planting is always her goal. 'Your garden should look good, feel good and do good. If we have accomplished those three things, then we're successful,'" club officials said.

The club meets at 7 p.m., with the speaker starting at 7:30 p.m., on the second Thursday of each month between September and



Cricket Riley

June. All of its meetings are currently held via Zoom. To learn more, visit www.lavgc.org. ■

—Jeremy Walsh

'Lightning Thief' onstage

Youth troupe bringing musical to life

The young performers of Christian Youth Theater (CYT) Tri-Valley are taking their talents to the Danville stage this weekend, presenting "Lightning Thief: The Percy Jackson Musical" at the Village Theatre.

Billed as an "action-packed theatrical adventure", the show is a musical adaptation of the best-selling Disney-Hyperion novel by Rick Riordan. CYT Tri-Valley notes it will be the first Bay Area youth theater group to perform this musical.

"In 'The Lightning Thief', the Greek gods are real and they're ruining Percy Jackson's life. As a son of Poseidon, Percy has newly discovered powers he can't control and monsters on his trail. He's on a quest to find Zeus's lightning bolt to prevent a war between the gods. Normal is a myth in this mythical tale — especially when you're a demigod," CYT Tri-Valley officials said.

In its ninth year, the CYT Tri-Valley chapter will also see its High

School Youth Pursuing Excellence (HYPE) group partner with Kids Against Hunger for a fundraiser through a raffle with the musical.

After opening last night, the remaining shows — which have dual casts — are set for 7 p.m. today, 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday at the historic Village Theatre and Art Gallery in downtown Danville. Tickets are \$16 in advance or \$18 at the door. Visit www.cyttrivalley.org. ■

—Jeremy Walsh

POLICE BULLETIN

Man arrested in I-580 gunfire, accused of second freeway shooting

A Hayward man was arrested after authorities allege he injured people in separate freeway shootings minutes and miles apart on Sunday morning, including an incident in Livermore that brought one side of Interstate 580 to a standstill.

The California Highway Patrol said 24-year-old Armando Perez was booked into Santa Rita Jail on suspicion of attempted murder and other felonies in connection with the Livermore shooting, while charges are expected to follow for the earlier, more serious gunfire in San Joaquin County.

“The motive for these shootings is still under investigation,” officials with the CHP’s Golden Gate Division said on Monday afternoon. “Public safety is the top priority of the CHP. Freeway shootings are a serious crime and the CHP investigates each incident to the fullest extent.”

The CHP said that Perez was taken into custody in Castro Valley just before noon Sunday after being located in the vehicle directly linked to the Livermore shooting minutes earlier, and subsequent collaboration with investigators in San Joaquin County led to him being identified as their primary suspect as well.

The situation began unfolding at approximately 11:15 a.m. Sunday when a person was critically injured in a shooting on westbound Interstate 205 near the I-5 interchange in the San Joaquin Valley, according to the CHP.

Then, at 11:44 a.m., a call came in to 911 about a freeway shooting on the westbound side of I-580 just west of the North Livermore Avenue interchange, the CHP said. Arriving officers found that a male occupant of a white Dodge pickup truck had been shot; he was later transported to Eden Medical Center for treatment of non-life-threatening injuries.

The gunman drove away, but he was confirmed to be the only person inside a brown sedan. CHP officers in Castro Valley reported locating the suspect vehicle on westbound I-580 near Strobridge Avenue, and took the driver into custody at 11:56 a.m. The driver was later identified as Perez, according to the CHP.

Officers shut down the westbound side of I-580 near North Livermore Avenue from 12:17-12:42 p.m. for their investigation, bringing traffic to a halt.

It was upon further investigation that detectives with the CHP-Golden Gate special investigations unit and CHP-Valley Division investigators linked the two freeway shootings and identified Perez as their suspect for both.

Perez was booked into the jail in Dublin on suspicion of attempted

murder, shooting at an occupied vehicle and assault with a deadly weapon in connection with the Livermore incident. Separate charges are expected to be filed in the San Joaquin County case soon, according to the CHP.

“As these are both ongoing investigations, the victims’ identities and extent of injuries are not being released at this time,” CHP officials said.

They added that anyone with information about either of the two freeway shootings can contact the agency’s tip line at 707-917-4491.

—Jeremy Walsh

In other news

- A 16-year-old motorcyclist sustained major injuries in a collision with a turning vehicle on First Street in Livermore on Monday afternoon, city police said.

The incident occurred at about 3:30 p.m. when a motorcycle traveling eastbound on First Street collided with an oncoming vehicle that was making a left turn into a business entryway just past the Portola Avenue intersection, according to Livermore police spokesperson Azenith Smith.

The motorcycle rider, identified only as a 16-year-old boy, was transported to a local hospital for treatment of undisclosed major injuries, according to Smith.

“At this point, the investigation is in the early stages and fault has yet to be determined,” Smith told the Weekly.

Police closed northbound First Street between Portola Avenue and Mines Road for approximately three hours into the evening on Monday due to the crash investigation and cleanup.

—Jeremy Walsh

- An international online vehicle auction company will pay out nearly \$1 million as part of a settlement

agreement with several California cities and counties over alleged hazardous waste violations.

The agreement involving Copart Inc. and 16 cities and counties includes civil penalties and enforcement costs totaling \$800,000, according to the Contra Costa County District Attorney’s Office.

The Dallas-based company is alleged to have improperly discarded hazardous waste in the trash.

Items allegedly included “used office supplies, and items removed from vehicles being prepared for sale such as personal items, small electronics, personal care, automotive, and other consumer products,” according to a news release from the Contra Costa DA Monday.

In addition to the fines and fees, the agreement includes a permanent injunction that prohibits the company from violating hazardous waste laws and requiring it to implement “compliance assurance measures,” according to prosecutors.

“Copart was cooperative with the investigation and enhanced their existing training programs designed to properly manage and dispose of all items that are regulated as hazardous waste,” said Contra Costa District Attorney Diana Becton.

Copart didn’t immediately respond to a request for comment.

—Bay City News Service

- The San Ramon Police Department notified residents on social media Wednesday to be on the lookout for scam calls impersonating SRPD’s phone number, following several reports that day.

“Several community members received calls today in which the phone number displayed was our main number (925-973-2700),” SRPD said in a Feb. 23 Facebook post. “The caller identified themselves as an officer with our agency and told the individual who answered that they hadn’t responded

to a subpoena or that they had a warrant for their arrest.”

The caller would go on to tell residents they owed a fine that needed to be “paid immediately,” although the announcement said that no one had fallen victim to the financial scam that day.

Department officials added that SRPD would never contact residents by phone regarding outstanding fines, warrants, or requests for payment.

—Jeanita Lyman

- Dublin Police Services has been recruiting residents to apply for this year’s installment of the department’s Citizens Academy.

The program will see law enforcement staff educate participants on crime scene and evidence collection, gangs and drugs, emergency services, traffic and radio operations, burglaries, a tour of Santa Rita Jail and a sampling of officer training at the emergency vehicle operations course.

“The goal of the Citizens Academy is to teach the public about law enforcement operations, foster kinship between the community and law enforcement and promote community policing by supporting and encouraging citizen involvement,” DPS officials said.

The program runs for 10 weeks each Wednesday from 5:30-8 p.m. beginning March 30. Applicants must be at least 18 years old, live or work in Dublin, complete a successful background check and receive approval from the police chief.

“Instructors plan to host the academy in person this year, but will continue to monitor the COVID situation and alter the program, as COVID restrictions allow,” officials said.

Visit dublin.ca.gov for more details. ■

—Jeremy Walsh

Join our team!

Seeking passionate, experienced multimedia news reporter

Embarcadero Media Group’s East Bay Division – which includes Pleasanton Weekly, PleasantonWeekly.com, DanvilleSanRamon.com and LivermoreVine.com — is seeking an enthusiastic and talented staff news reporter with previous journalism experience working in print and digital news environments. The reporter will cover and edit stories ranging from meetings to breaking news to features for our award-winning print and digital publications.

At least three years of experience in news reporting is required.

Beyond excellent reporting and writing skills, a bachelor’s degree in journalism or a related field, previous experience in a newsroom setting, demonstrated news judgment and the ability to prioritize tasks and handle stress of daily deadlines and multiple priorities are required. The ability to deliver clean, vibrant copy while working to very tight deadlines is crucial.

Photography skills, social media and copy editing experience are a plus. The candidate must also be able to work the required hours, which include some night assignments and occasional weekend hours.

Bay Area candidates only; preference given to those with knowledge of the Tri-Valley. Reporters work remotely; however, there will be rare occasions when reporters will need to be in the field.

This is a full-time position that might require some field work. We offer benefits including medical/dental, a 401(k) plan, vacation and holiday pay.

Send a cover letter that details how your experience fits the needs of the position and includes your salary requirement. Also attach your resume and at least three clips/links that demonstrate your journalism and multimedia skills. Email the materials, with “Multimedia Journalist” in the subject line to Gina Channell Wilcox by March 7 at 8 a.m. No calls please. EOE.



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POLICE REPORT

The Pleasanton Police Department made the following information available

Feb. 27

Trespassing/prowling
■ 4:16 a.m. on the 2700 block of Stoneridge Drive

Bicycle theft
■ 3:29 p.m. on the 3400 block of Dennis Drive

Feb. 26

Missing property
■ 9:58 a.m., 3700 block of Rocky Mountain Court; lost property
■ 10:27 p.m., 700 block of Main Street; found property

Feb. 25

Theft
■ 11:03 a.m. on the 3900 block of Vineyard Avenue
■ 8:02 p.m. at Foothill Road and Laurel Creek Drive; auto theft recovery

Residential burglary
■ 8:09 p.m. on the 900 block of Pamela Place

Fraud
■ 3:33 p.m. on the 2100 block of Rheem Drive

Feb. 23

Theft
■ 1:14 p.m. on the 11900 block of Dublin Canyon Road

Feb. 22

Vandalism
■ 7:21 a.m. on the 3800 block of Pimlico Drive
■ 7:27 a.m. on the 1900 block of Harvest Drive
■ 7:31 a.m. on the 3700 block of Stoneridge Drive

Fraud
■ 9:25 a.m. on the 5700 block of East Avenue

■ 3:20 p.m. on the 7600 block of Driftwood Way

Weapons violation
■ 10:18 a.m. on the 3900 block of Santa Rita Road

Theft
■ 11:04 a.m. on the 000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

■ 1:38 p.m., 5500 block of Sunol Boulevard; catalytic converter theft
■ 6:55 p.m., 1400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting

DUI

■ 10:14 p.m. at Entrada Drive and Bonita Avenue

Feb. 21

Theft
■ 10:07 a.m. on the 5400 block of Sunol Boulevard

Warrant arrest
■ 10:28 a.m. on the 5500 block of Pleasant Hill Road

Fraud
■ 11:29 a.m. on the 4700 block of Saginaw Circle

Feb. 20

Domestic battery
■ 9:24 a.m. on Fairlands Drive
■ 11:32 p.m. on Fairlands Drive

Warrant arrest
■ 9:49 a.m. on the 3900 block of Vineyard Avenue

■ 10:20 a.m. on the 4200 block of First Street

Fraud
■ 12:47 p.m. on the 3700 block of Thistle Way

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EDITORIAL

THE OPINION OF THE WEEKLY

Elections have consequences, as do election maps

Elections have consequences. We saw that Tuesday night when an inferior district election map, the “Tangerine” map, was moved forward by three of the five Pleasanton City Council members.

It was ironic that the first speaker during public comment on the district election map, Jackie Byerly, said she opposed the other favored plan, the “Lime” map because “it would cause us to lose a council member.”

It’s ironic because a member of the public was the first to bring up the biggest difference between the Tangerine map and the other three maps discussed at the Feb. 24 meeting — that it puts council members Julie Testa and Jack Balch in different districts so they would not have to run against each other.

Never — not once — was this difference discussed by council members in a public meeting before that.

It was obvious residents had been asked to speak in support of the Tangerine map, and given talking points. And they were probably told why support was needed — to protect Testa. In Byerly’s case, however, she misunderstood that it was a contest between Balch and Testa the majority was seemingly trying to avoid and said Testa (not by name) would not be able to run for re-election in November.

Incorrect, but enlightening.

Perhaps the reason this unique feature of the Tangerine map was never brought up is because when you know only one of the four maps

presented Feb. 24 separates two sitting council members, that map looks gerrymandered, which by definition is to “manipulate the boundaries of (an electoral constituency) so as to favor one party or class.”

In this case, we think it is to protect Testa, who is up for election this year.

Legally required district formation criteria were given to the council before the first public meeting in January. The final map should have districts of approximately the same population that are easily identifiable and understandable by residents. The districts should be geographically contiguous “to the extent practicable,” with boundaries of natural and artificial barriers, streets or city boundaries. Neighborhoods and “communities of interest” should be kept intact.

“Communities of interest” are defined in this list by what they are and what they are not. Specifically, they do not “include relationships with political parties, incumbents or political candidates.”

Just look at the Tangerine and the Lime maps next to each other and you can see why the Lime version better complies with the relevant criteria and just makes the most sense.

It is easy to understand, with all four districts touching, using major streets — Valley Avenue and Main Street / Santa Rita Road — as boundaries. More importantly, the Lime map keeps all key neighborhoods intact and has the lowest deviation from the ideal population per district

at 1.8%. In other words, it is more easily justified if the city is dragged into a lawsuit.

The Tangerine map has a higher deviation from the ideal population-per-district than Lime, uses residential streets — Independence Drive and Mohr Avenue — as boundaries and splits Ventana Hills neighborhood into two districts.

Brown questioned in general what would happen if two members were drawn into the same district during the Feb. 24 meeting, before any true discussion of the individual plans began.

If a council member was elected in 2020, state law says he or she finishes the four-year term “at large.”

In this case, though, Testa was elected in 2018, and Balch was elected in 2020. If Balch and Testa are in the same district based on where they live, Balch would be forced to decide whether to run early against Testa in November when her term is up, or remain in the at-large seat until 2024.

If Balch chooses to run early against Testa and doesn’t win, he would remain at-large for the remaining two years of his term. His district seat will be filled in 2022, so he could run for mayor in 2024 or wait for his district election in 2026.

But if Balch runs against Testa in 2022 and wins, he would serve a four-year term representing his district. Testa could run for the remaining two years of Balch’s old at-large term — along with anyone else from the city — in a special election that,

if memory serves, could cost around \$300,000.

Or she could wait for the next election in her district.

But Testa losing in 2022 would upset the noticeable voting bloc that we see has formed with Brown, Arkin and Testa, who just happened to be the three in the majority vote for the Tangerine map.

Protecting Testa as the driving factor behind support of the Tangerine map was further demonstrated in an email sent to the City Council on March 1 from Dennis and Janis Mulhall that said, “We have just been alerted that the plan for district elections may jeopardize the seats of one or more council persons that we have supported and whom have been duly elected and are currently representing the values we feel are vital to our city. If that is the case we will work tirelessly to oppose the plan and any who support it.”

Council members Balch and Kathy Narum did not support the Tangerine map Tuesday, and both welcomed an opportunity to work with their fellow council members to get to a map worthy of a 5-0 vote by the March 15 deadline.

That offer wasn’t even acknowledged.

Like many who emailed the council, we had hoped Brown, Arkin and Testa would reconsider and agree to work to create a 5-0 worthy map.

Because elections have consequences, as do election district maps. ■

LETTERS

Educational garden

Pleasanton’s efficient effort to create the “next-generation climate action plan” is a very welcomed vision.

It’s an extremely positive direction to be heading. The city has an amazing opportunity to utilize resources locally to promote this mission. The property along Bernal Avenue could (and should) be used to provide a highly visible, accessible venue to “model” the actions discussed in this adopted plan.

Water efficiency retrofits, sustainable landscaping and efficient irrigation are all mentioned in the plan. Sustainable gardening, composting, growing native plants, attracting pollinators, providing community garden plots, and so many other practices that support these climate goals could be demonstrated here.

Since 2016, the UC Master Gardening Program of Alameda County

(MGAC) have proposed their desire to develop an Educational Garden on that property. Last year, the city agreed to allow MGAC approximately 1-1/3 acres towards this goal.

The UC Master Gardener volunteers are anxious to delve into this project with the educated volunteers to give the city of Pleasanton something tangible and effective to prove the city’s intent to make a difference in climate change.

Please, Pleasanton City Council, continue to support this incredible opportunity to make our town an exemplary example for demonstrating and educating the public on sustainable practices.

—Gail Myers

‘Police fatally shoot man’...

I was appalled to read “Police fatally shoot man in Pleasanton” as your article headline in last week’s paper. Equally appalling was the subtitle, which uses the word “allegedly”.

I saw the video footage which

shows the man exiting the house with a knife in his hand. This very biased anti-police media is disrespectful, dangerous and spews hate. You have a responsibility to write objectively. The headline should have read something like, “Pleasanton domestic violence investigation ends in fatality following a 3-hour standoff”.

We live in a country full of hate and finger-pointing. Please don’t use words to ignite that fire.

—Karen Reedy

‘What a Week’

As a regular voter and voter protection volunteer, I believe you left out an important piece of “unsolicited advice” for would-be voters in last week’s “What a Week” column. As such, I hope you’ll also consider a brief follow up in next week’s editorial: Please remind all readers it’s easy to check their voter registration status online at voterstatus.sos.ca.gov, and they can also register to

vote at registertovote.ca.gov

Thank you for reading. I look forward to next week’s edition.

—Jill Miller

Retort ignores key points

My recent letter blaming Biden’s anti-fossil fuel policies for skyrocketing gas prices was recently questioned. The writer blamed greedy big oil for wanting to make a quick profit before “gas guzzlers” are replaced by electric vehicles. He did not explain why oil futures hovered at \$40 under Trump and are now \$95 under Biden and probably still growing.

It also may be a surprise to many that the electricity used by EVs is still primarily generated by fossil fuel power plants. In addition, EV batteries loom as an environmental ticking time bomb. The overall pollution to land and water generated by the disposal of millions of lithium-ion batteries by 2030 has not yet been satisfactorily dealt with.

—Dennis Mulhall



PLEASANTON PREPS

By DENNIS MILLER

Time to get ready for spring sports

Also: Two Foothill wrestlers compete at state after 3rd-place finishes in NCS tourney

As the winter season is just about over, the spring sports are in full bloom.

That means it is time for my annual pleading for team representatives to send me their results each week.

This is the busiest of all the seasons for high school sports, so let's make a concentrated effort to get our hardworking athletes recognized. It's not tough to do and should take no more than 10-15 minutes a week. Take a load off the coach and volunteer to get me the results each week.

You don't have to be a writer — that's my job. Just put together the facts of the game or match and send to me. I will do the rest!

The only qualifier I have is that you send the results win or lose: Don't be that parent who only reports a win!

Here is a breakdown of what I am looking for from each sport:

Baseball/softball: The final scores of your games against who and where you played. Also, any highlights (individually or team) that led to the outcome. Great pitching, hitting or outstanding defensive plays.

Lacrosse: The final score, with goal scorers, any other pertinent statistical information and any great plays.

Tennis/badminton: The final score and the results of all matches, including school and score. Amador Valley's Mark Stephenson includes me on the Amador team email after each match. It allows me to cut and paste the results. (That's why you see the Amador results each week.)

Golf: The final score, the course played with par and the scores of the players that counted in the team score.

Swimming and diving: The final score and any highlights such as multiple wins or school records.

Volleyball: Who won and statistical highlights such as assists, kills, blocks, digs and service points.

Stunt: The scoring and highlights.

The results should be sent to me at acesmag@aol.com by noon on Sundays.

Pictures are also encouraged, just if they were not taken by another media service. All we need is the name of the person who took the picture as well as the identification

of your players in the picture.

Finally, I wanted to give a shout out to the parents that got me results through the winter season. Thank you to Rod Roloff (Amador boys' basketball), Sara Terpstra (Foothill girls' basketball), Sam Head (Amador girls' soccer) and Lacey Meyers (Foothill girls' soccer).

Let's add your name to the list come the end of the spring.

Foothill wrestling

Two Foothill wrestlers extended their season to the maximum, wrestling in the CIF State Meet last weekend in Bakersfield.

Senior Ethan Hoffman and junior Max Wise represented the Falcons last weekend at state after each finished third in their respective divisions at the North Coast Section tournament.

In NCS, Hoffman (182 pounds) fell in the quarterfinals, but then ran off four straight wins, including beating Weylan Knight of Fortuna 5-2 in the third-place match.

Wise earned his way to state taking third after dropping a tough 9-7 decision to Josiah Hurd of Granada in the semifinals. Wise



MARK HOFFMAN

From left: Max Wise and Ethan Hoffman celebrate after earning third-place medals at the North Coast Section meet.

then came back and beat Kaeden Timmins of Windsor 4-0 in the third-place match.

At state, Wise went 3-2 beating Nicholas Fontana of Dinuba 5-4 in his first match, before dropping his second match to Noah Tolentino of Poway.

After the loss Wise beat Zack Fierro of Gilroy 6-1, then Anthony Ramirez of Los Gatos 9-1, before ending his season with a 14-8 loss to Kos Ruiz of Calvary Chapel.

Hoffman fell to Tye Monteiro of Bakersfield and Drake Thomas of Highland to close out his season.

Amador tennis

The Dons opened league play in fine form, winning all their matches in the 9-0 decision against the Cal Grizzlies.

In singles Bryan Park (AV) defeated Aruj Bhondari (Cal) 6-2, 6-2; Minsung Kim (AV) defeated Jerry Xu (Cal) 6-2, 6-1; Roy Kim (AV) defeated Arnab Kushwah (Cal) 6-3, 6-3; Rohan Patil (AV) defeated Lars Roobal (Cal) 7-5, 6-1; Anuraag Aravindan (AV) defeated Zach Delayaya (Cal) 6-0, 6-1; and Aaron Sharma (AV) defeated Ryan Wang (Cal) 6-0, 6-2.

In doubles, the Dons were easily successful as James Heeter/Vishal Muthavel (AV) defeated Tony Gular/Dylan Hoang (Cal) 6-2, 6-1; Hrishi Hari/Vikram Murali (AV) defeated Anerudh Praveen/Grant Chen (Cal) 6-0, 6-2; and Stephen Gao/Vincent Ma (AV) defeated Danush Silarajan/Ryan Lee (Cal) 6-3, 6-2. ■

A blessing and a curse

Social media can be a tremendous tool for athletes, but can also be the death knell for their college career

By DENNIS MILLER

In the simplest terms, social media has become both a blessing and a curse.

When it comes to high school athletics, social media has become something that can make or break an athlete's future.

It can be a tremendous tool to getting the athlete's success story out there, drawing attention from potential college coaches.

On the other hand, something an athlete posts as early as, say, when he or she is 12 years old, can be the death knell for their college career.

The worst part? They may not even know what they are doing wrong.

What the student thinks is funny

and harmless at the age of 12 can be something that, six years later, may come back and keep the athlete from getting a scholarship.

"Colleges have people that their only job is to track social media," said Dublin boys' basketball coach Tom Costello. "And it goes further. How many times are you seeing professional athletes having to apologize for something they posted when they were 13 or 14?"

Ryan Partridge is a former standout football player at Amador Valley. He later coached Liberty High to a state title before moving to the college ranks. He was the coordinator of scouting and recruiting at the University of Arizona before moving to his current spot as receivers coach

at the University of Massachusetts.

Partridge confirms what local coaches are saying.

"I see the players' Twitter as a players' profile," said Partridge. "Coaches look at Twitter all day. It is a main way to start the recruitment of a kid. If I hear a kid is good, I search for him on Twitter and follow him. Not necessarily go straight to calling him."

And should kids be wary of what they post on social media?

"Absolutely," confirmed Partridge.

A recent ugly social media issue between two girls' East Bay Athletic League powerhouses is bringing this into the spotlight.

After a big win in their opponents' gym, members of the winning team took to social media, posting a picture in the boys' bathroom, flipping off the camera. They also made sure the location of the school was marked on the picture.

Here is a case where many players on this team are being recruited by college programs, but something

like the one post could end their dream.

Derek Perez is the president of the Foothill Athletic Boosters, as well as a parent that has a senior son — Connor — who is going through the recruiting process for football. Perez is also an assistant for the Foothill girls' softball team.

"With Connor, we learned from other kids," said Perez. "The first thing (colleges) look at is your social media — your character."

It is almost an impossible job for schools to control what their student athletes post, but they still take on the unenviable task.

"We talk with the kids, send out an email and use a group message," said San Ramon Valley boys' baseball coach Tony Battilega. "Then we have a parent meeting with parents and address it there as well."

Every coach, parent and administrator I talked with all referenced trying to set parameters.

"We talk about the positives, as well as the areas that can cause

'Coaches look at Twitter all day. It is a main way to start the recruitment of a kid.'

Ryan Partridge, Amador alum, UMass coach

problems," said Battilega. "A couple of main points we stress are, one, do not highlight yourselves over the team. Two, do not disgrace another program or a player."

Some programs take overseeing social media as a teaching moment for the team.

"Our captains are responsible for the other nine girls on the team," said San Ramon Valley girls' basketball coach John Cristiano. "If someone comes close to or goes out of bounds, the captains resolve it."

See **SOCIAL MEDIA** on Page 20

Entertainment

THE EVERLY BROTHERS EXPERIENCE

The Zmed brothers skillfully cover the Everly Brothers with a bit of their own trademark style mixed in. 8 p.m., March 5. Tickets \$28-\$38. Visit firehousearts.org.

VERDI'S OTELLO Livermore Valley Opera presents Verdi's operatic masterpiece Otello. March 5-6 and 12-13 at the Bankhead Theatre. For more information visit livermorearts.org.

SEUSSICAL THE MUSICAL Dr. Seuss' best-loved characters collide and cavort in this unforgettable musical caper at the Firehouse Arts Center. March 11-13 and 18-20. Tickets \$15-\$20. Visit firehousearts.org.

REAL IRISH COMEDY Come get a blast of blarney and Irish laughter at the Firehouse Arts Center. 7 p.m., March 12. Tickets \$30-\$40. Visit firehousearts.org.

Exhibits

WATERCOLOR NATIONAL EXHIBIT The Harrington Art Gallery in Pleasanton is displaying this exhibition featuring works by 85 premier painters, through March 12. Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave.

ART & LITERATURE TOGETHER Livermore Arts presents a pairing of art and literature together, Thursdays-Sundays, 1-5 p.m. Now through March 27. Bankhead Theatre.

PLEASANTON ART LEAGUE/MUSEUM ON MAIN EXHIBIT "Imagination Expressed 2022", features paintings, drawings, photography, ceramics, jewelry and other works by members of the Pleasanton Art League. Now through March 26. Visit museumonmain.org. 603 Main St.

Talks

FAMILY CAREGIVER EDUCATION SERIES "Living With Dementia: Managing Daily Care", is the topic of the next Education Series from Hope Hospice. Register at HopeHospice.com/family. 10-11:30 a.m., March 10.

AMADOR VALLEY QUILTERS "The Alluring World of Japanese Yukata Quilts" is the topic of this month's meeting with Patricia Belyea. 1:30-4 p.m., March 12. Visit amadorvalleyquilters.org.

LIVERMORE-AMADOR GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY "Cowboys and Ranchers in the Livermore Area" is the topic by Livermore city historian Richard Finn. He will tell tales from the bygone era of cowboys and ranchers in old Livermore during this virtual free presentation. 7-8:30 p.m., March 14. Visit l-ags.org.

TRI-VALLEY WRITERS Mary Rakow presents "What a Fabulous Edit Can Do for Your Writing & Publishing" at the next Tri-Valley Writers meeting. Register by March 18. Visit trivalleywriters.org. 2 p.m., March 19.

ALAN HU FOUNDATION MENTAL HEALTH LECTURE SERIES "Stress and Mental Health" is the topic in this free seminar by Dr. Sapolsky. He will

give a non-technical overview of the effects of stress and stress hormones on brain function. 3:30-4:30, March 21. Register by March 20 at alanhufoundation.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. Visit pleasanton.toastmastersclubs.org.

Family

URBAN CYCLING 101 This free in-person workshop teaches basic rules of the road for adults and teens, no bike required. 10 a.m.-12 p.m., March 12. To register visit bikeeastbay.org.

2022 DIESEL TRAIN RIDES See Niles Canyon in all its green winter splendor, departing from the Sunol Depot. Tickets \$15-\$25. 10:30 a.m. & 1 p.m., March 12-13 and 19-20, April 9-10 and 16-17. Visit ncry.org.

Students

TEEN JOB & CAREER FAIR This free event provides a wide range of topics for potential teen employees. Meet with employers, explore career options, identify personal strengths, attend practice interview sessions, learn resume writing, and much more. Visit www.SRTTeen.org or call 925-973-3326. 12-3 p.m., March 5. Dublin Senior Center, 7600 Amador Valley Blvd.

ARTS COMPETITION FOR PLEASANTON YOUTHS The Pleasanton Cultural Arts Council is offering Youth Excellence in Arts (YEA!) Awards with cash prizes to students in the Pleasanton High Schools. Music performance, visual arts, and writing are the categories for this year. Deadline for submission is March 12. For more information, visit pleasantonarts.org.

MASTER CLASS IN ACTING AND PLAYWRITING Applications are being accepted for all high school students for the spring Student Days at Tao House. Study and learn under the guidance of professionals in the arts. 9 a.m.-3 p.m., March 12 and 13. Free and in-person. Visit eugeneoneill.org/event.

ROTARY SCHOLARSHIP FOR HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES Students who graduate from a Pleasanton High School and are in financial need can apply for a Rotary Club of Pleasanton Scholarship to further their education. Apply through the high school or visit pleasantonrotary.org. Deadline March 31.

TRI-VALLEY WRITERS' HIGH SCHOOL WRITING CONTEST Tri-Valley Writers presents "My Story, My Vision", the groups annual writing contest for local-area students. The contest is open to students grades 9-12 in the Tri-Valley (Livermore, Pleasanton, Dublin, San Ramon, and Danville). Cash awards for winners and a one-year membership in Tri-Valley Writers. Submissions until April 3. Visit trivalleywriters.org/high-school/high-school-writing-contest-2022.

2022 YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT DAY

The City of Pleasanton and Pleasanton Unified School District will host the 2022 Youth in Government Day where high school students will have the opportunity to learn about the impact they can have through local government through job shadows, guest speakers and networking. E-mail: Jmireles@cityofpleasantonca.gov. March 31.

AAUW COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS The Livermore-Pleasanton-Dublin Branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) has a local scholarship foundation project that sponsors and awards scholarships to qualified applicants each year ranging from \$2,000-\$2,500. The deadline is May 1. Visit lpd-ca.aauw.net.

Seniors

ESTATE PLANNING WITH SHIRLEY WHITE These no charge appointments are the second Thursday of the month, in-person, at the Pleasanton Senior Center. 10-11:20 a.m., March 10. To register call 925-931-5365.

PLEASANTON SENIOR CENTER-NEWCOMERS WELCOME New to Pleasanton? Discover all the programs, classes and services available during this one hour orientation. 10:30 a.m., March 10. Call 925-931-5365.

AARP TAX ASSISTANCE AARP sponsored tax assistance returns to the Pleasanton Senior Center, Mondays and Fridays, now until April 15. To make an appointment 925-931-5365.

SENIOR MEAL SERVICES Senior lunches are served curbside at the Pleasanton Senior Center Monday-Friday 11:45 a.m.-12:45 p.m. Call Open Heart Kitchen for more information. 925-500-8241.

SENIOR SUPPORT-TRANSPORTATION Senior Support of the Tri-Valley Transportation Department can assist with rides to essential appointments. For more information contact 925-931-5387.

LEGAL ASSISTANCE FOR SENIORS For free remote legal services call 510-839-0393 or visit lashicap.org/programs/hicap.

Outdoors

CAMPFIRE WITH A RANGER Join Ranger Seth next to the campfire for lessons about the outdoors and the secret to making the perfect s'more. Bring a blanket and chair. RSVP by calling 925-960-2400. 7:30 p.m., March 5. Sycamore Grove Park, 5035 Arroyo Road.

RANGER LED PROGRAM-COYOTES Join Ranger Vickie and learn about coyotes and how they have adapted over the years. 2 p.m., March 6. RSVP by calling 925-960-2400. Sycamore Grove Park.

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

PET OF THE WEEK



EAST BAY SPCA

Dakota

Attention all husky lovers! Are you looking for a gorgeous young dog to join your adventures and keep you busy? Dakota is a lovely 2-year-old lady with a go-go-go mindset. Like many huskies, this gal will require plenty of both mental and physical exercise. Dakota is a love bug and likes to spend time with her people. She's been very playful with other dogs and may do well with a canine companion in her forever home, but Dakota would prefer not to live with any cats. Contact East Bay SPCA today.

includes 20 detailed trail descriptions available for all levels of fitness. Visit ebparks.org/trails-challenge.

Support

HOT MEALS & GROCERIES FREE OF CHARGE Prepared by Open Heart Kitchen, 1-3 p.m., Monday-Friday. 911 Loyola Way, Livermore. Drive-or-walk-thru only.

FREE SHOWER & LAUNDRY SERVICES Monday-Wednesday, 12-4 p.m., Asbury United Methodist Church, 4743 East Ave, Livermore.

POP-UP CARE TENT AT THE PLEASANTON LIBRARY Weekly CityServe Pop-Up Tents meet with those in need to coordinate care and connect to local resources. 10 a.m.-1 p.m., March 8. 400 Old Bernal Ave.

Military

PLEASANTON MILITARY FAMILIES Pleasanton Military Families send care packages to local servicemen and women and donations of all

kinds are needed with a deadline of March 17. To donate, visit pleasantonmilitaryfamilies.org. The Pack-Out is 9 a.m.-12 p.m., March 19. Pleasanton Veterans Hall, 301 Main St.

Government

MAYORS SUMMIT 2022 Join the Tri-Valley Nonprofit Alliance Mayors Summit 2022 featuring the mayors of Danville, Dublin, Livermore, Pleasanton, and the Vice Mayor of San Ramon. The online topic: "Strengthening Civic & Community Engagement". 10:30 a.m.-12 p.m., March 10. Visit tvnpa.org.

PLEASANTON UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT Regular Board meetings of the Pleasanton Unified School District are scheduled the second and fourth Thursday of each month and are open to the public. Meetings of the Board will be virtual via Zoom until further notice. The next meeting is 6 p.m., March 10. Visit pleasantonusd.net.

Public Notices

995 Fictitious Name Statement

Island One Martial Arts
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 585880

The following person doing business as: Island One Martial Arts, 4145 Fairlands Drive, Pleasanton, CA 94588, County of Alameda, is hereby registered by the following owner: Dennis J. Duarte, 4145 Fairlands Drive, Pleasanton, CA 94588. This business is conducted by Dennis J. Duarte, an Individual. Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name listed herein. Signature of Registrant: Dennis J. Duarte, Owner/Operator. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 25, 2022. (Pleasanton Weekly, February 11, 18, 25, March 4, 2022.)

Hereld & Ayres Architects
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 586561

The following person(s) doing business as: Hereld & Ayres Architects, 1039 Serpentine Lane, Suite D, Pleasanton, CA 94566, County of Alameda, is hereby registered

by the following owner(s): David Ayres, 3248 Cheryl Circle, Pleasanton, CA 94588; Kerry Ayres, 3248 Cheryl Circle, Pleasanton, CA 94588. This business is conducted by David Ayres, Kerry Ayres, a married couple. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name listed herein January 1, 2022. Signature of Registrant: Kerry Ayres, Manager. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 17, 2022. (Pleasanton Weekly, March 4, 11, 18, 25, 2022.)

Crown Trophy
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 586631
The following person doing business as: Crown Trophy, 5424-3 Sunol Blvd., Pleasanton, CA 94566, County of Alameda, is hereby registered by the following owner: JCJC, Inc., 5424-3 Sunol Blvd., Pleasanton, CA 94566, CALIFORNIA. This business is conducted by JCJC, Inc., a Corporation. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name listed herein October 10, 2001. Signature of Registrant: Jerry Rosenblatt, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 23, 2022. (Pleasanton Weekly, March 4, 11, 18, 25, 2022.)

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

SOCIAL MEDIA

Continued from Page 18

The Wolves go as far as having one of the players fill the role of CPO — chief positivity officer. This year it falls on senior Elyse Wilkerson.

“She reminds the girls all the time to be positive,” said Cristiano. “We are very serious about the girls being role models for the younger girls in the community.”

SRV gives the players a simple formula for social media. “We tell the players to never post on their individual page anything that would embarrass their parents or grandparents,” said Cristiano.

But the best laid plans are, as mentioned above, almost impossible to control.

“(Social media) is so big that it is real challenging with so many different mediums to monitor regularly,” said Foothill football coach Greg Haubner. “We tell the kids to be smart and not make the school, the program, or yourself look bad. But to be able to watch all of it is not doable.”

When a kid strays from policy, the coaches are usually the first to find out. “We hear whispers and then we respond,” said Haubner.

Fighting the negatives of social media is something local school administration teams are constantly facing.

Foothill principal Sebastian Bull regularly posts Foothill athletic pictures, always focusing on the positive, even if it is a loss by the Falcons.

“There are some huge positives for kids that want to play at the next level,” said Bull. “That’s the cool side. Then there’s the negative side and it could really affect their future.”

Bull and his staff have “Technology Use” agreements all the students at Foothill sign, in addition to the athletic contracts for the students in sports.

This has not been a bad year at Foothill.

“This year the kids have mostly been responsible,” said Bull. “Some have made some bad decisions and we addressed those with their family. There have been some years where we have spoken with an entire team.”

Kenny Olson is a senior at Foothill and has made the decision to attend Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, to continue his football career. He can remember back when the Foothill coaches initially brought up social media.

“At the end of my sophomore year, I sat down with the coaches and they gave me the rundown on it all,” said Olson of social media.

“They said nothing ever deletes on the web. They said that other people may try to mess you up but stay strong and think about what

you are doing.”

That includes the people you hang out with regularly.

“With my friend group — most are athletes, and all are smart about it,” said Olson. “When we are in larger gatherings, we think about it and are always watching what people are doing. But, as for my close friends, I trust all of them.”

Cristiano and his San Ramon Valley staff preach the same to their players. “It goes to the character of the people you hang around with,” said Cristiano. “We tell the girls to always be aware of where you are and what you are doing.”

This also rings true for Haubner and his staff. “There are gunslingers out there to record content every chance they get,” said Haubner. “Better judgement is what you hope for, but it doesn’t always happen.”

Has Olson seen classmates make mistakes by posting something they shouldn’t?

“One hundred percent,” said Olson. “I have seen some kids that are athletes doing something and I have thought, ‘what are you doing?’”

And the lessons from the coaches was reinforced at home for Olson and his sister Grayce, a UCLA volleyball commit. Both parents were college athletes.

“My dad told us that we had a target on our backs,” said Olson. “He trusted us, but told us to

watch for others.”

Despite all the fears of the negative posts, a site like Twitter is vital for recruiting.

“For sure,” said Olson. “You post highlights and awards. If you get an offer from one school and other coaches will see it and know they have to act as well.”

As is the case in youth and high school athletics, it’s not just the athletes to worry about. The parents can and often get in over their heads when it comes to social media.

“Parents get wrapped up in it as well,” said Haubner. “They get emotional, and it can be embarrassing.”

Foothill has three social media accounts for the Falcons football team. His wife handles the Facebook page, mothers of the parents do the Instagram page and Haubner himself handles Twitter, promoting the program.

“I make every effort to be positive and represent the program in a positive way,” explained Haubner.

But you can’t control the parents, and that’s where it can go south quickly.

Perez, who does a fair share of posts on different platforms and monitors the kids — and parents — has seen it all too often.

“This is an extension of parents thinking they are so important in their kids’ athletic lives,” said Perez. “Some of the posts I have

seen are appalling. You can be excited, but do not get over the top.”

Bull and his staff at Foothill have been fortunate this year.

“We really don’t have much say in what parents say,” said Bull. “There is 99% that are supportive and don’t go down that road.”

One more troubling aspect of social media is that people are allowed to post without using their name and that’s scary. Spend a few hours scrolling through Twitter and it’s frightening to see some post, almost all taking the cowardly way of hiding behind a made up name or handle.

“(Social media) gives anonymous people a voice and that’s the dangerous part,” said Costello. “There are people hollering at the wind.”

Social media is not going away and if anything, continually gets larger as more platforms come into play. Managing it correctly is now part of the conversation for every school or administrator.

The key? Hopefully the student athletes take all the warnings to heart before making a mistake they will come to regret. ■

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.

Employment

Tech Lead, Digital Customer Experience (Software)

Safeway Inc. is hiring a Tech Lead, Digital Customer Experience (Software) in Pleasanton, CA. Must have legal right to work in U.S. Subj. to bckgrnd check. E.O.E. Email resume to TA.Perm. Project@albertsons.com Attn: M. Ferreira

Sr. Engineer, SRE

ICE Mortgage Technology, Inc. seeks Sr. Engineer, SRE in Pleasanton, CA. Employ deep troubleshooting & scripting skills to improve the availability, performance, & security. Telecommuting permitted. Applicants may apply <https://www.jobpostingtoday.com/Ref # 46602>.

Sr. Engineer, Software

ICE Mortgage Technology, Inc. seeks Sr. Engineer, Software in Pleasanton, CA. Analyze needs & req’ts of existing & proposed systems. Telecommuting permitted. Applicants may apply <https://www.jobpostingtoday.com/Ref # 89196>.

To place an ad or get a quote, call 650.223.6597 or email digitalads@pawebly.com.

TECHNOLOGY

BlackLine Systems, Inc. is accepting resumes for the position of Senior Data Engineer in Pleasanton, CA (Ref. #TUMP). Responsible for building and maintaining the machine learning data and development platform. Mail resume to BlackLine Systems, Inc., HR Department, Tamara Saltzman, 21300 Victory Blvd., 12th Floor, Woodland Hills, CA 91367. Resume must include Ref. #TUMP, full name, email address & mailing address. No phone calls. Must be legally authorized to work in U.S. without sponsorship. EOE.

HOME SALES

This week’s data represents homes sold during Jan. 3-7 for Pleasanton, Livermore and Dublin, and Jan. 24-28 for San Ramon.

Pleasanton

- 2769 Calle De La Loma** Anadkat Living Trust to N. & W. Xu for \$2,200,000
- 1913 Fiorio Circle** A. Stark to K. Gorapalli for \$1,320,000
- 3286 Flemington Court** P. & T. Dupont to M. & A. Raminfar for \$1,950,000
- 4071 Francisco Street** Seim Living Trust to Rescue Home Now LLC for \$1,015,000
- 2770 Glen Isle Court** K. & S. Desai to C. & M. Belsare for \$1,850,000
- 7320 Stonedale Drive** C. & D. Wiles to K. & S. Kulkarni for \$1,225,000
- 4407 Yuma Court** M. Fish to J. & G. Chan for \$625,000

Livermore

- 1730 5th Street** S. & J. Herzog to C. & N. Colella for \$912,000
- 4650 Almond Circle** K. & C. Waltenburg to L. & A. Sylvan for \$1,625,000
- 1472 Arlington Road** Griffin Family Trust to G. & E. Vargas for \$1,035,000
- 568 Bristol Court** K. Bartholomew to A. & D. Cruz for \$1,119,000
- 4191 Davis Way** Leyva Trust to Z. & S. Zhang for \$1,035,000
- 442 El Caminito** Tji Living Trust to P. & P. Saini for \$1,038,000
- 5468 Felicia Avenue** J. Mattera to S. & S. Yadav for \$1,100,000
- 4487 Greens Court** M. & K. Taylor to T. & E. Smith for \$865,000
- 687 Jefferson Avenue** J. & T. Menns to S. & D. Lind for \$955,000
- 3055 Kennedy Street** C. Franco to D. Bitar for \$760,000
- 9025 Mines Road** M. Hernandez to K. & B. Anderson for \$1,500,000
- 1009 Murrieta Boulevard #21** S. Dell to A. & L. Oliveira for \$450,000
- 975 Murrieta Boulevard #35** A. & K. Arroy to B. Hernandez for \$468,000

- 2443 Normandy Circle** K. & B. Anderson to S. & K. Sivashanmugam for \$2,075,000

- 175 Selby Lane #3** K. Yim to Y. & Y. Gao for \$800,000
- 5583 Stacy Court** J. & J. Tinoco to S. & R. Katragadda for \$1,920,000
- 1133 Vienna Street** R. Jackson to B. & S. Jain for \$1,330,000
- 2974 Worthing Common** J. & R. Moder to L. & J. Reddy for \$930,000

Dublin

- 6766 Amador Valley Boulevard** R. Mota to H. & J. Merliner for \$960,000
- 11689 Amarillo Court** Schneider Living Trust to A. & V. Gumenny for \$1,750,000
- 5609 Apex Drive** A. & A. Fajardo to P. & R. Murthy for \$891,000
- 4450 Chancery Lane** K. Ye to S. & D. Kim for \$1,250,000
- 7858 Crossridge Road** N. Bennett to N. Chen for \$1,618,000
- 3245 Dublin Boulevard #426** T. Ochoa to K. & P. Kumar for \$750,000
- 5645 Maymont Lane** Kachare Family Trust to Subramanian Family Trust for \$1,850,000
- 2768 Mount Dana Drive** Dunna Family Trust to S. & K. Kalapatapu for \$2,465,000
- 8257 Mulberry Place** Hinshaw Family Trust to J. & Y. Li for \$1,200,000
- 7479 Starward Drive** H. Hsiao to P. & B. Sarkar for \$1,200,000
- 1767 South Terracina Drive** J. Nareddi to Kavumpurath-Abobacker Trust for \$2,610,000
- 1602 North Terracina Drive** Diaz Family Trust to G. & V. Venugopalan for \$2,610,000

San Ramon

- 151 Avalon Court** Iyer Family Trust to R. & N. Raju for \$2,490,000
- 5160 Champion Drive** X. Huang to Mulgrew & Sidney Trust for \$1,750,000
- 416 Honeysuckle Lane** G. & P. Beaton to N. & M. Limbachiya for \$2,115,000
- 412 Joree Lane** C. Lee to V. & P. Goel for \$1,070,000

Source: California REsource



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440 SANDSTONE DRIVE, FREMONT



PENDING | LISTED AT \$3,750,000
216 MILL CREEK ROAD, FREMONT



SOLD | \$1,990,000
5652 AMBERGLEN STREET, DUBLIN



Agent Spotlight

Diego Cardoso
REALTOR
(925) 701-9613

Diego Cardoso is a top-producing Agent on the Armario Homes Team. He has a proven track record of getting Buyers into contract through his phenomenal negotiation skills. Diego has worked with countless local Sellers who agree he goes above and beyond to ensure a seamless experience. If you are in the market to buy or sell a home, be sure to contact Diego Cardoso today.

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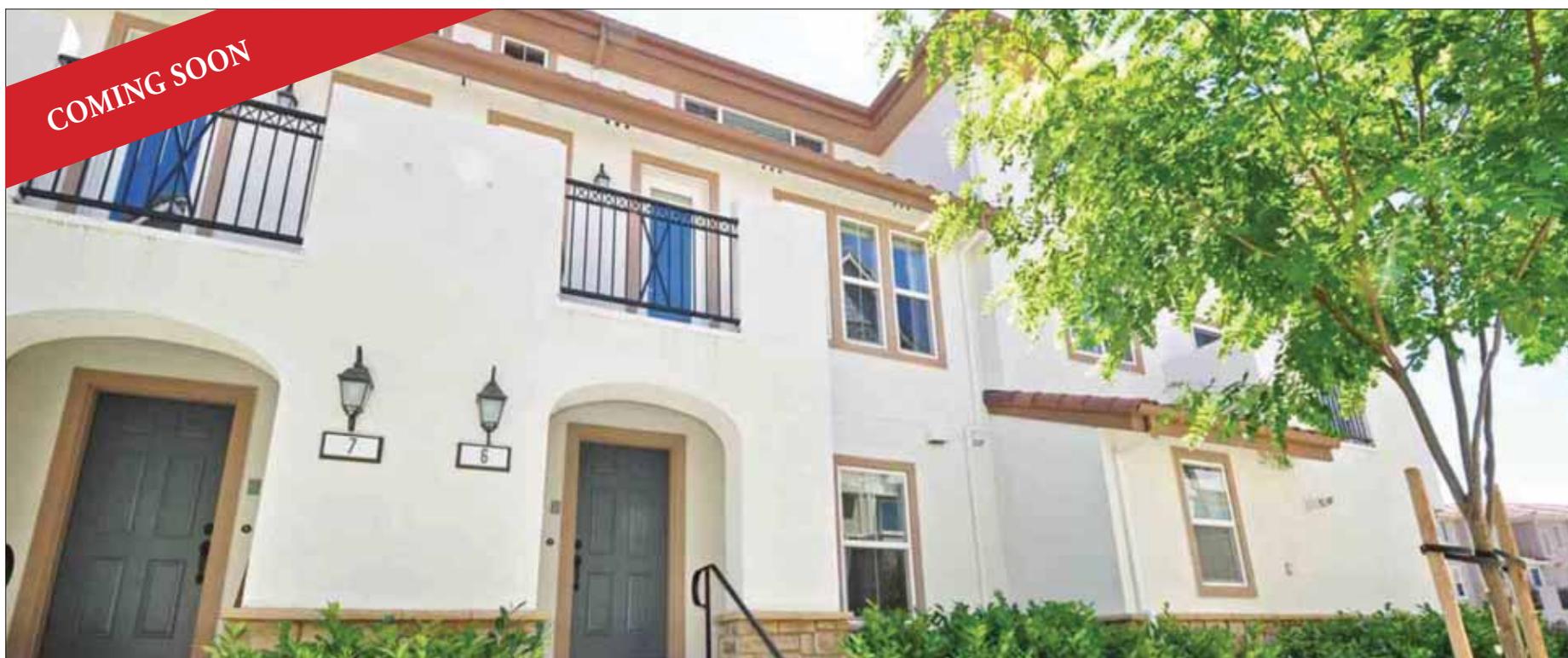
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118 SELBY LANE #6, LIVERMORE

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482 Sangro Court, Ruby Hill
 Sold for \$2,625,000 | **\$330k** Over List Price



The HIGHEST SALE EVER in this neighborhood in Ruby Hill! Since our sellers had already moved out, we had an opportunity to use all of our expertise in prepping this home for a record breaking sale. Staging, paint touch ups, inspections, photography, marketing, Vista Construction, and our amazing listing manager, Lisa Desmond, all contributed to this success. We had over 200 showings and 11 offers in 5 days. A huge thank you to our sellers, team, buyers, and buyers agent, **Alexis Venema**, for all your work on this record breaking transaction.



1352 Harvest Road, Pleasanton
 Listed at \$1,895,000

Pending for **\$335k+** Over List Price With 12 Offers! Our seller is the original owner who decided to capitalize on today's market and take the opportunity to move closer to family.



2756 Curry Street, Pleasanton
 Listed at \$1,499,000

Pending for **\$240k+** Over List Price With 9 Offers! This will be the highest sale ever in Stoneridge Square. Congrats to our agent, **Lisa Desmond**, on representing the buyers!



387 Lone Oak Court, Pleasanton
 Sold for \$1,726,000 | **\$277+** Over List Price



550 Montori Court, Ruby Hill
 Call for details and pricing!





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If you're thinking about selling your home, now is the time. Call us today to learn how our proven strategies can get you the highest possible price for your home.



PENDING

2102 Eilene Drive, Pleasanton
2ba | 2ba, 1,314+/- sq.ft on a 3,211+/- sq.ft lot
LISTED AT \$1,299,000



PENDING WITH 23 OFFERS

4137 Cristobal Way, Pleasanton
4bd/2ba | 1,368+/- sq.ft | 6,600+/- sq.ft lot
LISTED AT \$1,169,000



PENDING WITH 18 OFFERS

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



PENDING WITH 14 OFFERS

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



SOLD WITH 16 OFFERS \$301K OVER ASKING

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



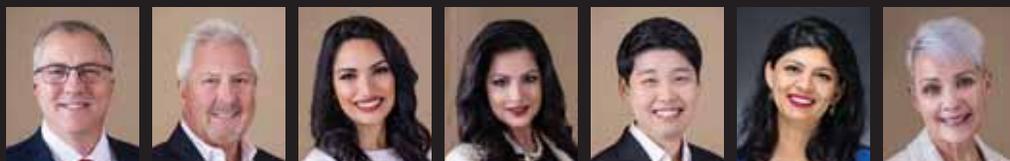
SOLD \$216K OVER ASKING WITH 6 OFFERS

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



We have bought and sold a total of 5 homes and the experience with Tim McGuire and his team was magnificent. I don't use that term often, but from the first meeting, property improvement discussions, services available, the Compass Concierge card, to final sale Tim and his team were there all the way. It was a seamless process and Tim was able to sell our home for much more than the listing. I highly recommend Tim and his Phenomenal team to sell your home. They were absolutely the best!

— Dan & Kathy Allison



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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