

Pleasanton Weekly

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'Seussical'

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ST. PATRICK'S DAY IN DUBLIN



Annual festivities help connect city to its Irish history — which might not actually be the story you thought you knew

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WHAT A WEEK



By JEREMY WALSH

Budget takeaways

Yours truly was back on the beat last week, filling in to cover the Pleasanton City Council meeting, along with other temporary duties, amid two vacancies on our staff.

Though dominated by the district map vote, the March 1 session included another item very important to the future to the city, short- and long-term: the midterm budget update for the 2021-22 fiscal year.

“What I heard today was confidence in our budget, confidence in the recovery and confidence in the city of Pleasanton,” Mayor Karla Brown said after the 35-minute budget discussion.

That’s clearly the headline. The city budget is in stellar shape so far, to the point that the council enacted adjustments recommended by city staff that included spending for a projected \$5,362,549 general fund surplus.

All of that money was allocated to the capital improvement program (CIP) reserves, with a specific eye on high-dollar projects in the queue such as the all-abilities playground, skate park and West Las Positas Boulevard improvements.

The surplus includes about \$2.5 million in sales tax revenue above estimates, driven by purchases of consumer goods and at restaurants, hotels and gas stations — oh, and the higher prices at the register. There’s also more revenue from business license (\$700,000) and documentary transfer (\$400,000) taxes than expected.

Overall, there is about \$4.8 million in increased general fund revenue, and when coupled with the use of some COVID reserve funds and \$313,699 less in expenditures (mainly due to personnel costs amid employee attrition), the result is the estimated \$5.4 million surplus.

General fund revenues are now estimated at just under \$136.5 million for 2021-22. The fund’s reserve is expected to be nearly \$33.8 million, or 26% of operating expenses (well within city policy calling for 20%-30%), come year-end.

Here are some takeaways from other city-operated funds:

- The water fund is projected to have about \$3.2 million less revenue than budgeted due to drought conservation, but that is offset somewhat by a \$1.9 million decrease on the expense side for reduced water purchase costs from Zone 7.

- On that front, look for a council discussion next week on drought rates for water customers.

- For the sewer fund, revenues are also down (attributed in part due to less use at office buildings), but that also comes with a decrease in expenses from DSRSD charges. The city did have to buy a \$255,000 flusher truck.

- The golf fund, related to operation of Callippe Preserve Golf Course, is in good shape as revenues are estimated to be up \$400,006 due to increased rounds of golf and sales at the facility. The net surplus is expected to be \$208,006 in light of some increased expenditures.

The budget presentation had a bittersweet tone. It was the final council meeting for finance director Tina Olson. Her last day on the job was this Wednesday as she takes a step up to administrative services director with the city of Livermore.

Council members and Interim City Manager Brian Dolan commended Olson for her seven years of service and wished her the best. The mayor also dropped a quip through a laugh: “So reconsider, would you?”

That’s not the first time — by far — in my years of covering governing boards, including Pleasanton, that an official said something like that from the dais to a departing employee in a public meeting, intending to be complimentary while tongue-in-cheek. I’ve always found it cringeworthy. Leaving a job is a deeply personal decision, often a difficult one. The joke never really lands, and just seems awkward to an unsuspecting public. In my view, anyway.

The city will start recruiting for a new finance director soon, and the current staff will fill the duties in acting capacities until a permanent hire is made, according to deputy city manager Pam Ott.

Ott also confirmed that Debra Gill, the city’s director of human resources and labor relations, is retiring effective April 15.

And of course, the council and consultants continue to search for the next permanent city manager following Nelson Fialho’s departure at the end of November.

The city of Pleasanton appears to be in the throes of a key hiring season, just like we are. And judging by the signs around town and ads online, it is clear we’re not the only ones. ■

About the Cover

Dublin is welcoming the return of its full St. Patrick’s Day celebration this weekend, after seeing the event canceled in 2020 and scaled back in 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Photo courtesy of city of Dublin. Cover design by Doug Young.

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Once you feel comfortable to travel again, where do you plan to go?



Kim Lambert
Financial consultant

Whenever that time comes, I'm planning to go with my beautiful wife Deb to a villa in Baja California, Mexico. Once we get there, our plan is to just eat, drink, relax and chill.



Debra Lambert
Public relations

I would really like to take a trip on a riverboat cruise through the south of France. Departing from Paris ... the "city of lights".



Stephanie Grossman
Retired

I plan to travel to Lille, France, in order to go to its famous flea market. It is the largest flea market in all of Europe, and I'm eager to go there to search for treasures to bring home as gifts for family members and friends.



Heidi Swanson
Retired

Well, I never really stopped traveling during the pandemic. I've just been very careful to travel prudently and safely. In fact, I've traveled to multiple sporting events and have even been to Hawaii a few times in the past year and have never caught COVID.



Glen Dayton and Abby Grossman
Retired

We plan to take a Transatlantic cruise to the Canary Islands, and then other cruises, including one through the Mexican Riviera, two to Alaska and then some California coastal cruises, too. We're also going to go to Hawaii.

—Compiled by Nancy Lewis

Have a Streetwise question? Email editor@PleasantonWeekly.com

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DIGEST

Candidacy deadline

The initial deadline to qualify as a candidate for the June 7 primary election is today at 5 p.m., with results due after the Weekly's press deadline. Follow ongoing coverage of the candidacy lists this weekend at PleasantonWeekly.com.

The nomination period will be extended five calendar days — to 5 p.m. Wednesday (March 16) — in any election contest in which an eligible incumbent is not running for re-election. In those situations, the extension is only open to non-incumbent candidates.

Thus far, for local races applicable to the Tri-Valley, Alameda County District Attorney Nancy O'Malley and Zone 7 Water Agency Director Michelle Smith McDonald have both declared they will not seek re-election.

Other local races on the ballot will include U.S. House of Representatives, State Assembly, county sheriff-coroner, superintendent of schools, assessor, auditor-controller and treasurer-tax collector, board of education and superior court judgeships.

State of the District

Pleasanton Unified School District Superintendent David Haglund is set to deliver his third annual State of the District address next Thursday (March 17) at a 1 p.m. event at the Firehouse Arts Center presented by the district and the Pleasanton Partnerships in Education Foundation.

"The annual event will feature an address by (Haglund) after a historic year, as well as remarks from Pleasanton Mayor Karla Brown on city-school district collaboration and the presentation of the 2021 PPIE Pillars of Pleasanton Awards," officials said.

"PPIE initiated the State of the School District event three years ago to showcase our schools and to highlight our Pillars of Pleasanton Awards, which recognize great local businesses that support our schools with funding, volunteerism and more," PPIE Executive Director Steve McCoy-Thompson said.

The speech will be livestreamed and available to all community members. Register to attend at pusdedu.info/RSVP.

St. Pat's Brew Crawl

The downtown corridor is ready to turn green again for St. Patrick's Day as the Pleasanton Downtown Association brings back its annual St. Patrick's Day Brew Crawl next Thursday (March 17) from 6-9 p.m.

Attendees have the chance to sip craft brews and sample snacks at more than 25 locations in the downtown area. Guests are encouraged to wear green clothes and accessories in the spirit. For tickets, visit pleasantondowntown.net. ■

Alameda County aligns with state's new guidelines on school masking

Tri-Valley districts to move to 'strongly recommended but not required' policy

By CIERRA BAILEY

The Alameda County Public Health Department last week announced that it will align with the state's updated masking policy for schools, which includes a move from requiring masks to strongly recommending them as of today.

"Cases are declining to near pre-surge levels everywhere, and this is the right time to move face masking guidance from requirement to recommendation in most settings," county health officer Dr. Nicholas Moss said in a statement on March 3.

However, he reiterated that this

change does not signify the end of the pandemic. "COVID will be with us perhaps forever, and masks are tools we can depend on for protection. New surges that threaten public health and the lives of vulnerable residents may call for quick and assertive action and a new requirement to mask," he said.

Pleasanton, Livermore Valley and Dublin school districts distributed updated announcements to their campus communities about the forthcoming changes to masking policies, confirming that they will be adopting the guidelines supported by the state and county.

"We know that the pandemic is not over, and that families will make different decisions about whether their students will continue to wear masks in the classroom," Pleasanton Unified School District officials said in their statement to families.

"Regardless of whether a student or teacher is wearing a mask or not, it is important that each of us lead with kindness and tolerance regardless of one's decision and the many potential reasons behind them. We must continue to lead as a community of character, and there will be zero tolerance for unkindness or exclusion related to mask wearing," PUSD added.

The Livermore Valley and Dublin districts' statements shared similar sentiments about respecting differing choices about masking. LVJUSD also noted in its message that students and staff were to be required to wear masks indoors at school and for after-school events yesterday. The first day of in-class instruction with strongly recommended, but optional masking will be this Monday (March 14).

Staff is required to follow the requirements of the California Division of Safety and Health (Cal/OSHA), which is also aligning with the state

See MASKS on Page 6



COURTESY OF KATERNYA BILA, VIA BCN FOUNDATION

Ukraine natives Katernya Bila and Oleksandr Bilyi of Dublin and their two children show their support for their country at a rally in San Francisco. Bila is organizing a donation drive for items needed by war victims.

Dublin mom organizes donations as relatives are trapped in Kyiv

'We are really thankful ... The American people are so generous and so compassionate'

By KARI HULAC / BCN FOUNDATION

As a Dublin mother of two tries to not worry endlessly about her own mother, who must shelter in a basement several times a day in Kyiv, she's taking action by organizing a donation drive in the Tri-Valley.

Katernya Bila, a pharmacist who came to the Bay Area from Ukraine with her husband Oleksandr Bilyi two years ago, filled her apartment and SUV in just

two days with items collected from her neighbors for a Bay Area humanitarian aid collection center in San Jose.

Bila, mom to a 1-year-old and an almost 5-year-old, and her husband are collecting non-perishable food, including baby food and formula, medicine, first aid supplies and more, for a collection center managed by volunteers, Wellfamed on Amazon, IDL Packaging and the charitable organization Nova Ukraine,

based in Palo Alto.

She said all of her husband's family is still in Ukraine not far from the center of the Russian attacks. His sister and her two children were able to evacuate to Poland but cannot come to the United States without a visa.

"I felt really bad when my mom called me, and she told me what happened and what went on," Bila said in an interview

See DUBLIN MOM on Page 7

LVJUSD parcel tax election goes ahead

Judge's ruling clears way for special mail ballot on tax renewal

By CIERRA BAILEY

After facing a lawsuit filed by two local taxpayer groups, Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District's May 3 special election for a parcel tax renewal will proceed as planned following Alameda County Superior Court Judge Frank Roesch's ruling last week.

"On February 28, 2022 the case put forth against the parcel tax was heard by the court," said LVJUSD spokesperson Michelle Dawson in an email. "We believed that the structure and process used to initiate the proposed ballot measure stood on solid legal ground and that claims suggesting otherwise were unfounded. The court's ruling supported that assessment and the ballot measure will now proceed as planned. It will be on the May 3 Special Election All-Mail Ballot," she added.

LVJUSD officials said that, if approved by voters, Measure A would extend, but not increase, the current annual tax rate of \$138 per parcel for another seven years. The measure needs a two-thirds supermajority vote in order to pass successfully.

On Feb. 11, the Alameda County Taxpayers' Association

See PARCEL TAX on Page 8

Longtime Axis CEO Compton set to retire in June

Nonprofit healthcare provider more than doubled its service capacity during her tenure

By JEREMY WALSH

Axis Community Health CEO Sue Compton has announced she is retiring later this spring after a long career with the Tri-Valley nonprofit healthcare agency, including the past 15 years as its leader.

The sole provider of healthcare for low-income and uninsured residents in Pleasanton, Livermore and Dublin, Axis has more than doubled its service capacity for affordable care during Compton's tenure at the helm, including opening a new medical clinic, its first-ever dental clinic, and just last summer, an innovative mental health urgent care service, Axis Bridge.

"It has been my honor to lead a team of exceptional healthcare professionals who are passionate about providing high quality care for Tri-Valley residents who face barriers to care," Compton said in a statement to the Weekly on March 3.

About her decision to retire, Compton told the Weekly, "I'll be 70 in June and I've been working in the healthcare arena every day since I graduated from college. It's time to learn how to sleep in and smell the roses. I'm looking forward to walking my dogs in the daylight, getting back on the glorious hiking trails, and doing all the traveling I can."

James Paxson, chair of the Axis Board of Directors, lauded Compton's impact on the agency and its patients in leading key growth in care services that "established Axis as a key Tri-Valley institution for years to come."

"It is impossible to overstate Sue Compton's accomplishments at Axis," Paxson said. "This enviable legacy belongs to someone who could not be more committed and or more caring in her work. She will be greatly missed."

The nonprofit's directors are in the process of recruitment to identify Axis' next CEO. The goal is to have a permanent successor in place by the time Compton steps down, which is expected to be in early June, she said.



Sue Compton

Compton came to Axis in the 1980s, not long after the agency was first founded in 1972 in a house property on Spring Street in Pleasanton as a healthcare option for low-income children in eastern Alameda County. A public health nurse by training, in the rural south and then Milwaukee, Compton had earned a master's degree in health administration from the University of San Francisco and worked in management at Children's Hospital of Northern California.

After serving with Axis in various roles, she was hired as CEO in 2007 — a move the board made "without hesitation", Paxson recalled.

"Her long tenure at Axis and deep knowledge of the organization were exceptional," he said. "With that came a deep passion for Axis' mission, deep caring for the people Axis serves, as well as commitment to Axis' staff and the delivery of quality healthcare."

When Compton took the reins, Axis had two locations and provided primary care medicine, mental health counseling and a women's, infants and children (WIC) nutrition program. Since, the agency has grown to serve 15,000 local residents at five sites — with another in Livermore on the way — while adding dental, acupuncture and chiropractic among other new services.

The organization also increased from 70 employees to nearly 200, with an operating budget of \$31 million, compared to \$7 million in her first year, according to Axis officials.

"With the support of a devoted Board of Directors and the entire Axis team, I am proud of the many services we offer in our community and of the impact we have on the lives of more than 15,000 Tri-Valley residents," Compton said.

"Working with an incredible senior team — the secret sauce has been to surround myself with brilliant mission-driven people," she added. "Together, we have created so much, and I am humbled and honored to work with them."

Among her proudest accomplishments, Compton listed the opening of Axis' \$12 million medical clinic on West Las Positas Boulevard in Pleasanton in 2016, which gave the

agency space to double its service capacity, as well as the opening of its dental clinic in Dublin in 2019, which made affordable dental care available to uninsured residents in the Tri-Valley for the first time.

She also noted Axis is in the development process for a new clinic in downtown Livermore to expand medical, dental and counseling services — on track to open some time in 2023.

Compton pointed to the new Axis Bridge program and COVID-19 pandemic response as well.

"The creation of Axis Bridge: an innovative mental health urgent care service that is available to everyone in the community, insured or uninsured; supported by all three cities and Alameda County, opened in July 2021 and provides rapid access to mental health services, care management and psychiatry services for anyone who is facing an urgent mental health concern," she said.

Compton added that during the pandemic, "Our staff pivoted to telehealth in 48 hours, set up testing and vaccination services, and coordinated services with local school districts and community sites; to date we have provided more than 20,000 COVID tests and more than 25,000 vaccinations — and counting. The Axis staff has worked tirelessly for the past two years and I couldn't be more proud of their dedication."

Also under Compton's leadership, Axis was named Nonprofit of the Year by Assemblymember Rebecca Bauer-Kahan and by the Rotarian Foundation of Livermore in recognition of its work in 2021 during the pandemic. The agency has also been recognized as one of the nation's top community health centers by the U.S. Bureau of Primary Care.

"Although it is going to be very hard to say goodbye, the Axis team is primed to continue on its trajectory of success and I am confident that the organization will thrive in the coming years," she said.

In addition to her role as Axis CEO, Compton serves as the board chair for the Alameda Health Consortium and on the Board of Directors of the Community Health Center Network. ■

MASKS

Continued from Page 5

and county guidance.

"We are listening and finding additional ways to engage residents about their experience with COVID and what they need to be, and feel, healthy as conditions improve," Moss said. "These decisions are about

science and data, but they are also about the values we hold as one of the most diverse counties in the country. We are grateful our residents have embraced public health throughout the pandemic," he added.

County officials said that masks are still required for everyone in some settings like health care and long-term care facilities, on public transit,

and congregate settings like correctional facilities and shelters. Businesses and workplaces can choose to maintain masking requirements for everyone at least 2 years of age.

Masks must still be worn during the 10 days after known exposure to COVID-19 and for 10 days after infection if completing a shortened isolation. ■

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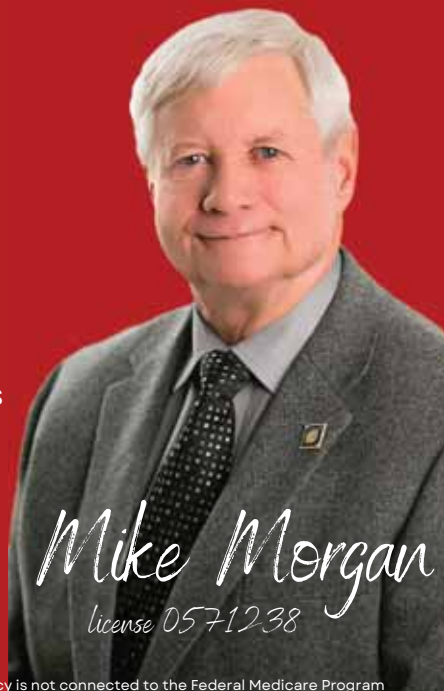
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Ex-Danville deputy Hall sentenced to six years in state prison for fatal assault

‘He violated that trust’, judge says of officer’s actions in Arboleda’s death

By TONY HICKS / BCN FOUNDATION

Andrew Hall, the former Danville police officer who shot and killed unarmed motorist Laudemer Arboleda to end a slow-speed pursuit in 2018, was sentenced to six years in state prison last Friday by a Contra Costa County Superior Court judge in Martinez.



Andrew Hall

Because he was convicted of a violent felony — assault with a firearm — Hall must spend at least 85% of his sentence in prison before being eligible for parole, or 5.1 years.

“The people of Contra Costa County put their trust in Mr. Hall to protect them, and he violated that trust,” Judge Terri Mockler said, adding that Arboleda “did not deserve to die for evading a police officer. That is really the crux of this. While he may have violated the law, it was no law that carried a sentence of death for him.”

Hall’s attorney Harry Stern objected to the description of a death sentence, considering the jury chose not to convict Hall on a manslaughter charge, to which Mockler conceded, “Point well taken. But the point is he did not deserve to die.”

Jurors found Hall guilty of assault but deadlocked on the manslaughter count following a nearly three-week trial last October.

Hall — who is still under investigation for another on-duty fatal

shooting in 2021 — received three years for the assault with a firearm charge itself, plus another three for the enhancement of inflicting great bodily harm. He could’ve received another three years for the use of the firearm, which Mockler dismissed, saying it was already factored into the original charge.

Hall shot and killed 33-year-old Arboleda at the end of a slow-speed police pursuit in Danville on Nov. 3, 2018. He shot him nine times as the Newark man pulled away at 6 mph.

Officers trailed Arboleda after someone called police to report Arboleda knocked on their door. Arboleda, whose family said he was hospitalized earlier that year for mental illness, pulled over multiple times, only to drive away from police. At one point, officers drew their guns without shooting as Arboleda drove away.

Hall was only involved at the very end, when he pulled in front of Arboleda at the corner of Front and Diablo streets. He exited his car and stood near the Honda’s front right side. As Arboleda tried pulling away, Hall discharged his weapon 10 times, hitting Arboleda with nine bullets. He was pronounced dead at the scene.

Hall’s lawyers said the officer was only trying to protect himself from an oncoming vehicle, though video shows that many of the shots came from the vehicle’s passenger side as Arboleda tried driving away. The car ended up crossing Diablo Road and colliding with an oncoming car.

Mockler took issue with a report

from the county’s Probation Department, as well as a sentencing memo from the defense, both of which she said left out “critical evidence” from the trial. Some of that evidence included testimony from other officers that Hall didn’t communicate to them he was joining the situation, and that a supervisor on the scene, located on the other side of Arboleda’s car, felt endangered by Hall’s gunfire.

Mockler also said the reports ignored expert testimony saying it wasn’t clear which shot was the chest shot they said killed Arboleda. That is pertinent because the car was moving as Hall fired the shots, which Mockler pointed out was also against Sheriff’s Office policy.

At that point, Stern asked if he could approach the bench, to which Mockler said “no.”

Mockler said the probation report also left out testimony saying Hall was trained not to fire into a moving vehicle, as doing so makes “the vehicle a guided missile, which is exactly what happened,” when it crossed the street and struck a vehicle driven by an elderly woman.

An initial investigation by the Contra Costa County Sheriff’s Office, with which Danville contracts for police services, cleared Hall of wrongdoing.

Charges weren’t filed in the Arboleda case until Hall made more news by shooting and killing another man in March 2021 in Danville, when he killed 32-year-old transient Tyrell Wilson near the Sycamore Valley Road overpass of

Interstate 680.

The two fatal shootings by Hall are the only police-involved shootings of any kind on record in Danville since 2001.

Police say Wilson approached Hall with a knife, which seems to be confirmed in bodycam video. Authorities are still investigating the Wilson shooting, and no charges have been filed.

Mockler earlier ruled the Wilson case couldn’t be used against Hall during the Arboleda trial.

Arboleda’s family members were under no such constraints Friday when speaking to Mockler before she handed down the sentence. Arboleda’s mother Jeannie Atienza called him a “murderer and a serial killer.”

“Hall violated his civil rights,” Atienza said. “He killed, and overkilled, my son because he was a brown man in the white city of Danville.”

Shortly after the October verdict, Contra Costa County agreed to pay \$4.9 million to Arboleda’s family to settle a lawsuit.

Following the sentencing hearing Friday, Contra Costa County District Attorney Diana Becton called the prison sentence “reflective of the gravity of the crime Dep. Hall” when he “unreasonably shot” Arboleda.

“Deputy’s Hall’s actions were dangerous, unreasonable, and excessive. In sentencing the defendant to prison, the Court recognized the need for accountability in Deputy Hall’s decision to fire multiple times at Laudemer Aboleda (sic), taking his life,” Becton said in a written

statement released by her office.

“No sentence imposed will bring Laudemer Aboleda (sic) back to his family,” the DA’s statement added. “The sentence imposed today is proportionate to the egregious shooting committed by a law enforcement officer who took the life of one man, and in doing so endangered the lives of his fellow officers and civilians.”

Contra Costa County Sheriff David Livingston’s office also issued a public statement Friday, confirming Hall’s termination and the logistics of his transfer to prison.

Livingston, who had cleared Hall of wrongdoing in the Arboleda shooting and also argued the Wilson shooting was justifiable self-defense, previously criticized Becton’s decision to prosecute his deputy and said he’d hoped for a not guilty verdict at trial.

“(We are) aware that Andrew Hall was sentenced today and later remanded into custody,” Livingston’s office said Friday, “Hall will be booked and transported to Solano County jail; details on where he will serve any remaining time of his sentence will be disclosed when available. Due to state law requirements about felony convictions, the Sheriff’s Office had no choice but to serve Hall with a notice for termination. That was done immediately after sentencing.”

The town of Danville declined to comment when contacted Friday, deferring to the sheriff’s office. ■

Editor’s note: Pleasanton Weekly editor Jeremy Walsh contributed to this story.

DUBLIN MOM

Continued from Page 5

Sunday. “It was hard to understand it. I’m like a child who cannot help, but we do what we can do, collecting humanitarian help, and we should let everyone know what is going on and spread this information to the whole world.”

Nova Ukraine is also accepting cash donations via novaukraine.org/donate (add in the comments “Kindness San Jose”). The organization, according to its website, was founded in 2014 to coordinate programs to assist Ukraine in recovering from its social and economic crisis and in building a stronger country aligned with Western values.

Nova Ukraine said on its website that monetary contributions are preferred because they can be used to purchase needed items in Europe, avoiding some international logistics issues.

People wishing to help in other ways are asked to contact their elected representatives and request

support for Ukraine in the form of financial, material, and military aid. There are also petitions in circulation on change.org (a call to terminate relationships with Russia-linked companies) and via openpetition.com (close the airspace over Russia), which Bila said is urgent.

“They’re still wondering should they close it or not,” she said. “I can’t understand it.”

This week, Bila said, Nova Ukraine is not accepting clothes, but is in need of food, diapers, baby formula, flashlights with batteries and sleeping bags. Items can be directly purchased from an Amazon List that serves as a stark reminder of the gravity of the situation, with needed items including combat splints, cast tape and surgical wound closure supplies.

While the situation is frustrating, Bila remains grateful to those who are responding to her call for help, and she was preparing to take another load to San Jose this week.

“We are really thankful,” she said. “The American people are so generous and so compassionate.” ■

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Dublin honors local volunteers in recent award ceremony

Outstanding Citizen, Young Citizen and Organization of the Year announced

By JEANITA LYMAN

The city of Dublin recently spotlighted local volunteer service from both individuals and groups in a ceremony at the Shannon Community Center earlier in the month.

The City Manager's Office Volunteer Recognition Awards Ceremony was held on March 3 to honor the awardees for the 2021 Citizen of the Year, Young Citizen of the Year and Organization of the Year.

"The purpose of the awards is to recognize outstanding individuals and groups who have contributed to the quality of life in Dublin this past year," an announcement from the city said.

The awards' nomination criteria for both individual categories includes exhibiting the 11 "Integrity in Action Characteristics," including empathy, honesty, trustworthiness, giving, and cooperation.

Outstanding Citizen of the Year was awarded to Steve Wright, with Summer Shi being named Outstanding Young Citizen of the Year and the nonprofit Breaking BEARriers being named Outstanding Organization of the Year.

Wright, who serves as a Dublin planning commissioner, was praised for a longstanding track record of volunteer service throughout the Tri-Valley in his nomination, including working with Open Heart Kitchen throughout the height of the pandemic to deliver fresh meals to vulnerable, unhoused community members.

A 30-year Dublin resident, Wright worked as a journalist for 25 years, formerly serving as editor for the San Jose Mercury News.

"Throughout his career, his passion has always been to help underserved communities, whether it was to demystify government actions or to highlight the cultures and the lives of people that were often overlooked by the media," Wright's nomination said.

Shi, this year's Outstanding Young Citizen, is a Dublin High School student and co-founder of Breaking BEARriers, who won this year's organization award.

Shi's nomination points to the work she undertook during the height of the pandemic as well, when she provided free classes in

subjects such as debate, golf, and "destination imagination" aimed at helping students combat educational challenges and disengagement as school closures wore on.

"Her goal was to give students an outlet to escape the harsh demands of online learning and explore activities they may have never thought of doing before," Shi's nomination said.

Like Wright's, Shi's nomination also pointed to her work engaging with the community as a journalist, with the student newspaper the Dublin Shield.

Shi was also honored, along with her five co-founders and fellow Tri-Valley students, for their work with the awardee of Outstanding Organization of the Year, Breaking BEARriers.

The six students founded the nonprofit as freshmen in 2019, with the mission of using technology and new ways of thinking to support youth leadership development worldwide, growing to more than 40 members since its inception.

Last year, the organization hosted free summer classes for



Dublin Citizen of the Year Steve Wright is flanked by Mayor Melissa Hernandez and Councilmember Jean Josey.

kindergarten through eighth grade students in math, writing, debate, Chinese, basketball, golf and saxophone, aiming at keeping younger students engaged and sparking new interests over the summer.

The organization also collected more than 1,600 books during a book drive that lasted less than a month, with 600 being distributed to the local organization Children's Book Project, and 1,000 being sent

to Ghana for efforts to build a local library. The organization additionally supported the African Library Project via a Mother's Day Bakesale, which generated \$500.

Wright and Shi were awarded with \$300 donations to their nonprofits of Choice, with Breaking BEARriers receiving a \$500 cash prize. The awardees are set to be recognized at the Dublin City Council's March 15 meeting. ■

PARCEL TAX

Continued from Page 5

and Livermore Valley Taxpayers' Association announced that they had filed a lawsuit in Alameda County Superior Court challenging the special election to impose

a parcel tax on every Livermore Valley property for the next seven years. Alan Heckman, a Livermore resident and member of the Alameda County Taxpayers' Association, was named petitioner in the suit.

"The Livermore school district is needlessly wasting funds to conduct this special election.

Our lawsuit calls for a court order to stop it," Heckman said in the statement initially announcing the lawsuit. The taxpayer groups and Heckman said the special election is unnecessary as it comes just one month before the June statewide election.

Jason Bezis, the attorney representing Heckman, told the Weekly after the hearing that they are considering their options for appellate review and future legal action.

"My client believes (the ruling) was not correctly decided or fairly decided. There were a lot of misrepresentations that the county registrar of voters made in this case and there's a severe concern with the fact that the formal notice of election makes it seem that there's going to be in-person voting on May 3 but there are going to be no polling places apparently in the district to vote on May 3," Bezis said, adding that the mail-only election is a disadvantage to those who prefer to vote in person.

"Everything about this election has been deliberately set up by the school district to favor the measure," Bezis added.

Since 2004, there has been a parcel tax in place to provide funding to Livermore public schools, which is worth a total of about \$4 million per year. The tax was previously renewed in 2008 and 2014. The current parcel tax, Measure G, is set to expire at the end of June, which is why the district set the election for the renewal Measure A in May.

According to LVJUSD, the parcel tax funding is used for providing

elementary science and TK-12 technology specialists, attracting and retaining qualified teachers, keeping classroom technology and curriculum up-to-date and maintaining small class sizes.

In addition to concerns over the election's timing, the lawsuit also argued that there was misleading language within the parcel tax ballot question.

"For example, the ballot question promises 'independent citizen oversight,' yet Measure A does not actually require that any committee would be 'independent' of school administrators, would include 'citizens,' or would be empowered to engage in meaningful 'oversight.' The measure also does not guarantee that the parcel tax would not be used for administrator salaries," the taxpayer groups said in their statement.

The lawsuit argued that the district deliberately used certain language in the ballot question that would be more likely to sway voters to vote in favor of the measure, citing the results of a 2019 Parcel Tax Feasibility Survey conducted by LVJUSD.

In addition to issues with the ballot question itself, Bezis and Heckman are calling attention to what they say is misleading language on the webpages and fliers that provide information about Measure A.

Over the weekend, Bezis sent an email to the district on behalf of Heckman demanding that LVJUSD "cease and desist from its claim 'By law, no funds from Measure A could

be used for administrators' salaries,'" which is verbiage used in an informational flier about Measure A.

"My client is unaware of any provision in the State Constitution or in the California Education Code, for example, that forbids or restricts school district parcel tax revenues from being expended on 'administrator salaries,'" Bezis said in his email to the district.

He continued, "My client notes that the 2004 (Measure D) and 2008 (Measure M) versions of the LVJUSD parcel tax expressly excluded expenditure of funds on 'administrator salaries.' After the 'no administrator salaries' provision was absent in 2014 Measure G, LVJUSD administrator salaries exploded upwards in 2015. That 'no administrator salaries' provision also is missing from 2022 Measure A. The 2004 Measure D and 2008 Measure M parcel taxes expired long ago and were not permanent 'law.'"

Bezis, on behalf of Heckman, has requested that LVJUSD either justify how the statement related to administrator salaries in its informational flier is accurate or remove the language from its Measure A materials altogether.

Outside of the lawsuit, the special election has not been widely publicized by LVJUSD. Dawson told the Weekly that, "while our district can continue to provide information about the parcel tax such as how funds have been allocated, the promotion and advocacy of Measure A lies with an independent campaign committee." ■



RANDALL BROWN

Nonprofits split \$80,000 from Holiday Fund

Readers contributed over \$74,000 to the annual Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund campaign. New fiscal sponsor Three Valleys Community Foundation waived fees for administering the fund and provided a match to make it an even \$80,000, which eight Tri-Valley nonprofits split evenly. The checks were presented at the Pleasanton Rotary Club's meeting March 3. Representatives from the nonprofits and presenters are (from left, back row) Pat O'Brien, Tri-Valley REACH; Nelson Fialho, Three Valleys Community Foundation; Marc Rovetti, Hope Hospice; Gina Channell Wilcox, Pleasanton Weekly; and Steve McCoy-Thompson, PPIE; and (front row, from left) Geary Lauraya, Open Heart Kitchen; Pamela Zielske, Sunflower Hill; Melanie Sadek, Valley Humane Society; and Valerie Jonas, Axis Community Health.

Poll seeks to gauge readers' experiences

Online survey to check temperature on community's outlook on pandemic

BY PLEASANTON WEEKLY STAFF

As we approach the two-year mark since the World Health Organization officially declared the coronavirus pandemic, we're conducting a survey to assess the community's experiences, attitudes and opinions of living under

COVID-19 since 2020 and people's vision of the future.

Many of us have become acclimated to new routines, from wearing masks in public to working from home to meeting virtually. The pandemic has led to deeper risk assessments for situations

that we previously didn't think twice about, from a personal level ("Could my cough be a symptom of COVID-19?") to the bureaucratic ("Should we institute a vaccine policy?").

Never in recent history has public health been at the forefront

of local, national and global conversations.

The past 12 months brought increased vaccine availability, a revolving door of reopening plans and the spread of variants. But questions remain over when the pandemic will end and whether

we're transitioning to an endemic phase.

We invite you to take the survey, which is available via Pleasanton-Weekly.com and our sister websites, through this Sunday (March 13). We'll be sharing the results in a story later in the month. ■

Pleasanton opens applications for home loan lottery

Program available to income-eligible, first-time homebuyers in city

BY JEREMY WALSH

The city of Pleasanton has launched the application period for the upcoming lottery to secure funding of up to \$100,000 via a down payment assistance loan for qualifying first-time homebuyers in the community.

Signups to participate in the lottery are due by 5 p.m. March 23 to the city's contracted nonprofit administrator, the Bay Area Affordable Homeownership Alliance. The "Pleasanton Down-Payment Assistance Loan Program" (PDALP) lottery will provide preferences to households that live or work in the city.

"The loan has up to a 30-year term, during which time no payments on the loan are required," city officials said. "The loan is repaid with shared appreciation either at the end of the term or at the time the property is sold/transferred, or refinanced; whichever comes first."

"The amount of loan provided through the PDALP will be based on the homebuyer's financial qualifying needs; but cannot exceed \$100,000 or 20% of the property purchase price, whichever is less," they added. "Supplemental subsidies may also be available to eligible buyers through other private and public subsidy programs."

The city has allocated \$300,000 to the program, so three prospective applicants could be selected at the maximum loan amount of \$100,000 each. If a selected applicant doesn't request the full amount, there is the chance that more applicants could be assisted, according to city staff.

Eligibility requirements include that all household members must be first-time homebuyers — having not had full or partial ownership in a piece of real estate property.

Gross household income, based on household size, cannot exceed 120% of Alameda County's area median income.

"A program participant must have the financial wherewithal to secure first lender approval to purchase a home," city officials said, citing criteria such as a FICO credit score of at least 660, at least 3% in cash toward the down payment

and up to 2% of the purchase price in reserves.

Lottery winners must complete a federally approved homebuyer education course as well.

City officials also noted that terms of the loan include a shared appreciation clause, "based on the percentage of the principal loan

amount provided through the PDALP at the time of purchase, in relation to the purchase price of the property."

They used an example of a \$70,000 PDALP loan on a \$700,000 property purchase with a borrower required to add 10% of the profit they make in the end

on their property to the original PDALP loan principal. So if they made \$100,000 in profit upon selling their property, the borrower would need to pay back the original \$70,000 loan to the city plus \$10,000 (10% of the profit).

Any household that meets the eligibility criteria can apply for the

PDALP lottery, regardless of where they live; although, preferences in the lottery will be given to households that live or work in Pleasanton. The property must be within the city limits.

To learn more, visit the alliance's website at www.myhomegateway.org. ■

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BART gets \$270M+ federal grant

Money will help keep BART operating as ridership remains down amid pandemic

BART will receive nearly \$271 million in relief funding from last year's federal American Rescue Plan Act, the transit agency said last week.

The \$270.8 million grant is the second-largest award for any transit agency in the country, trailing only New York's Metropolitan Transportation Authority, and will help keep

BART operating as its ridership remains below one-third of pre-pandemic estimates.

"The pandemic has made clear our operating funding model of relying so heavily on riders is outdated and hampers our efforts to provide equitable service, especially for low-income riders and marginalized

communities," BART General Manager Bob Powers said. "Increased federal funding allows BART to continue to invest in service improvements and safety enhancement as we welcome riders back to transit."

BART has previously received roughly \$1.3 billion in funding from the federal relief packages that have

been approved since the COVID-19 pandemic began.

BART budget officials said last month that the agency has used roughly half of the \$1.3 billion it has received, spending \$25 million per month over the prior six months.

At that pace, BART budget officials said the agency will likely exhaust its

federal relief funding some time in 2024 between January and September, depending on how many riders have returned to the system by then.

The funding announced March 3 came from the \$2.2 billion American Rescue Plan Additional Assistance grant program, overseen by the U.S. Federal Transit Administration.

Five Bay Area transit agencies, including BART, received a total of \$525 million from the grant program. ■

—Eli Walsh, BCN Foundation

What it means to move from pandemic to endemic

Stanford epidemiologist says that COVID-19, in some form, is likely to persist

By SUE DREMANN / PALO ALTO WEEKLY

The number of COVID-19 cases in California is steadily declining. Mask mandates are being peeled back. And Gov. Gavin Newsom recently unveiled "California SMARTER," a plan outlining a future of public health support during the next COVID-19 phase.

So what will "endemic" rather than "pandemic" COVID-19 look like? That depends on many variables, according to Stanford epidemiologist Dr. Yvonne Maldonado. Much of what will occur depends on what the virus itself will do.

At the moment, we're still in a pandemic phase of the health crisis, said Maldonado, a professor of pediatric infectious diseases and of health research and policy at Stanford.

"For now, we're in a period of declining cases and of increased immunity and there's no other variant of concern in sight" in California, she said. But "we could be heading into an endemic phase or be in the early stages."

The new subvariant of omicron — subvariant BA.2, which is 33% more transmissible than its

predecessor — is present in the Bay Area, according to local health administrators, but Maldonado said thus far it hasn't spread widely and there isn't a huge spike in cases. If that metric holds and the number of cases, whether high or low, doesn't spike, then we'll likely be in an endemic phase of the disease.

Endemic doesn't mean the disease is disappearing from within a population. It simply means that the disease is widely circulating with a more or less constant level of cases that don't fluctuate wildly. Rather than fading away, COVID-19 will likely be something we'll continue to live with.

In general, diseases can be endemic to populations in some parts of the world but not others. Cholera is present and endemic in some countries but isn't prevalent in the U.S., for example. Tuberculosis is also an endemic disease and still infects one out of three people in the world, she said.

Influenza, on the other hand, creates a pandemic every year, since it has different variants that spread throughout the world. It is controlled, however, with updated flu vaccines that target the new strains

annually. Influenza hasn't mutated to a benign disease since it still causes thousands of deaths each year.

COVID-19 did something that is relatively rare for a disease in the history of the world.

"It started in a completely susceptible world population" that didn't have any immunity, Maldonado said.

Whether a population enters an endemic phase depends on the virus and its variants, the sustainability of mitigation measures such as vaccines, and the attitudes of people toward the disease, she said.

An endemic SARS-CoV-2/COVID-19 virus could become highly transmissible but relatively benign, depending on how it evolves.

"The common cold can cause hundreds of millions of cases annually, but it doesn't put people into the hospital," she said.

COVID-19 could become influenza-like, with a high rate of transmissibility and the ability to kill many people. Up to 60,000 people die each year from influenza and its complications, she noted.

But people don't respond to influenza in the same way they currently do to COVID-19.

"We've learned to live with it or to ignore it," Maldonado said.

There's also a widely available and largely effective vaccine for influenza that is adjusted annually to help the body create antibodies against the most prevalent strains.

COVID-19 infection has thus

far killed an estimated 6 million people worldwide, though the true number of deaths is likely much higher, Maldonado said.

Vaccines against SARS-CoV-2 are highly effective against current strains, but they confer immunity only for a few months before their effectiveness begins to drop off. Immunity starts waning after four to six months for adults. In children ages 12 to 15, two doses offer protection for three to five months, after which a booster shot is needed, she said.

Variants could overcome the immunity afforded by the current vaccines.

Endemic COVID-19 will likely be managed with vaccine boosters along with masking, social distancing and all of the other known precautions that protect against the spread of the virus, she said.

It's not yet known how long boosters offer protection or if people will need another booster or sequential boosters. Perhaps a long-term booster would be possible against COVID-19, she said.

Tetanus requires a booster every 10 years, although it is a bacterium and isn't a virus, she said.

When the virus does reach the endemic phase, strategies such as the state's SMARTER plan will need to be nimble and flexible. The \$3.2 billion emergency response package includes \$1.9 billion of approved funding to equip the state's health care system with supplies and staffing.

Could an endemic virus flare up and cause a pandemic again? It's always possible, Maldonado said. It's also possible the virus could mutate or hybridize and create another pandemic.

"We could see SARS-CoV-2 co-infect with another virus and create another progeny virus," she said.

Virus mutations and transmissions from animals to humans, which some scientists think created the strain of coronavirus that started the pandemic, are also likely to continue, she said. Three recent scientific studies released on Feb. 25 and 26 indicate that SARS-CoV-2 originated in animals at the market in Wuhan, China. The studies, which are in the pre-print stage and haven't yet been published in peer-reviewed journals, are adding to the long-held theory that the virus crossed over from animals to humans.

Maldonado said that such virus transmissions are more possible now because people are encroaching into land and animal habitats they didn't frequent before and come into contact with animals that have diseases that could mutate and infect people.

Maldonado said it's important to learn the lessons of this pandemic and how to deal with public health around the world. Increased funding, expanding public health programs and worldwide conferences to keep on top of emerging infectious diseases will be necessary to fight future pandemics. ■



CULINARY ANGELS

Culinary Angels produce drive

The Pleasanton Farmers' Market has a new addition, with Culinary Angels launching a biweekly produce donation drive last weekend. "Our delivery bags and a list of the needed produce and quantity will be posted at 10 organic vendor booths so that people checking out at the register can add them to their purchases," said Lisa McNaney, founder and executive director of the nonprofit that prepares, donates and delivers nutritious meals to cancer patients and their caregivers in the Tri-Valley. Shown: Chef Claudia Castillo Holley of Culinary Angels at Swank Farms booth in the Pleasanton Farmers' Market.

State unveils Care Court plan

Program for people facing severe mental illness, substance abuse issues, homelessness

State officials unveiled a program last week intended to increase support for California residents who struggle with severe mental illness, substance abuse issues and homelessness.

The proposal — called Care Court, with "care" standing for community assistance, recovery and empowerment — would require each of the state's 58 counties to create a civil court division focused on mental health that will be able to compel treatment for mentally ill people who may not understand that they need it. Counties that do not abide by the

program, which would be funded by the state, could be punished for failing to do so.

Through the Care Court system, people suffering from mental illness or severe addiction could be sent before a superior court judge if recommended by a family member or social worker who believes the person cannot adequately care for themselves.

People could also be called before a judge if they are accused of a crime or if they are soon to be released from an involuntary psychiatric hold. The judge would then consider a

12-24-month care plan developed by local clinical workers and could compel the person to undergo treatment if they approve the plan, which can include clinical and psychiatric services, stabilizing medications and ensuring access to housing.

"(Care Court) puts the person with lived experience, puts the people who are suffering on the street at the center of treatment and works to ensure they are empowered during and after effective treatment," state Health and Human Services Secretary Dr. Mark Ghaly said March 3. ■

—Eli Walsh, BCN Foundation



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St. Patrick's Day in Dublin

Annual festivities help connect city to its Irish history — which might not actually be the story you thought you knew

By JEANITA LYMAN

Dublin's annual St. Patrick's Day celebration is set to be back in full force this weekend, marking the triumphant return of a beloved tradition that commemorates the city's Irish heritage — the story of which contains some unexpected plot twists, according to an expert on Dublin history.

Although virtual events continued to mark St. Patrick's Day during the past two years, this month's celebration marks the first return to festivities as usual since the onset of the pandemic.

"This year we are back and our attendees should expect to see a celebration akin to what they've seen in years past," said Lauren Marriott, recreation coordinator for the city's Heritage Park and Museums.

While some changes this year will include increased sanitation and cleaning, as well as more use of outdoor spaces, traditional festivities including a carnival, Irish tea cottage and various entertainers are otherwise set to resume business as usual.

"Everything that we've seen in years past is back," Marriott said. "We started to start wrapping our heads around a 'normal celebration again.'"

The big return has been met with excitement from vendors, entertainers and the community, she noted. The event will see a number of returning vendors and acts, as well as some new faces, all of whom are eager to resume in-person celebrations.

The Dublin St. Patrick's Day celebration will held at the Civic Center Plaza this Saturday and Sunday. Rather than being inside Civic Center this year, the Irish tea cottage will be fully outdoors on the plaza, offering the traditional Irish tea experience, as well as a teacup to take home as an addition this year.

Although this year marks the return of a longstanding tradition, with Dublin's dedication to Irish heritage making it appear to be a natural fit for St. Patrick's Day events, city historian Steve Minniear noted that St. Patrick's day celebrations, and Dublin's identity as a historical enclave for Irish immigrants, are far more recent developments than they might initially seem.

"Dublin has been around since

about the early 1960s as a whole subdivision in empty fields," Minniear said. "So the community gets really excited about doing stuff together. Back in the '60s there's not much to do out here; there's not that many people."

Minniear said that the origin story of St. Patrick's Day festivities in Dublin was hard to pin down, but that the tradition was preceded by an annual spring festival and several heritage day events, and a number of other parades.

"It's a little bit murky, but one of the things in Dublin is if you want to celebrate something, you have a parade," Minniear said.

The budding population in what would become Dublin, once it was incorporated in 1982, was just one recent iteration of the community in that area, Minniear emphasized, with it having been populated by local indigenous people for centuries before Spanish colonization turned much of the Tri-Valley area into grazing lands for Mission San Jose.

Minniear noted that Irish immigrants wouldn't come to the area until the 19th century, and that even then, it could hardly be considered an Irish outpost.

"(With) Irish mythology about Dublin, on the one hand you have good stories and on the other you have good facts," Minniear said. "Everybody wants to have a history, so you kind of make up this history. So were there Irish in Dublin? Yes. Is it the story everyone thinks about? No."

A total of three Irish immigrants were the first to arrive in the San Ramon Valley, after leaving their home in County Roscommon and first arriving in New York City. These were siblings Michael and Eleanor Murray, along with the former's friend Jeremiah Fallon, whom the latter would go on to marry.

"In the 1830s, well before the potato famine, these three folks decide they want to go to America, and they do," Minniear said. "We don't have any stories about why."

The travels of the trio upon arriving in the United States have been better recorded and understood than their motivation for initially leaving home. Although they would part ways after they first arrived,



Steve Minniear



COURTESY OF CITY OF DUBLIN

Dublin's family-friendly St. Patrick's Day celebration seeks to bring out attendees of all ages.



Dublin city historian Steve Minniear notes that even before the city's St. Patrick's Day celebrations among Dublin's growing population in the late 20th century came to be



COURTESY OF CITY OF DUBLIN

Irish dance is one of many traditions that surged in popularity with a renewed focus and appreciation of Irish heritage in the late 20th century, which continues to be performed and adapted by young performers to this day.



COURTESY OF CITY OF DUBLIN

While St. Patrick's Day festivities are set to carry on in Dublin rain or shine this weekend, there is sun in the forecast, and past years have also had luck with the weather.



COURTESY OF CITY OF DUBLIN

The Shamrock 5K Fun Run and Walk is another St. Patrick's Day tradition in Dublin that is set to resume this year.

with the young Fallon couple moving to the South and starting a shipping business, they would eventually reunite with Murray and make their way to California together.

"Around 1845 or '46, Michael has gone to Missouri, of all the crazy places, and Missouri is the wild west in 1846," Minniear said. "He convinces Eleanor, his sister who is now married to Jeremiah, to come visit him in Missouri. Michael convinces Jeremiah and Eleanor to give up their entire life, the entire shipping business, and to move away from America."

When they first set out for California, Minniear noted, it was still part of Mexico, meaning that the travelers were looking at crossing national borders and arriving in a new country at the end of their journey. However, by the time they arrived, California had been

acquired by the United States following the Mexican-American War.



"There's been a whole war by the time they left Missouri and got to California," Minniear said. "They were probably pretty surprised that they left the United States and came back to the United States."

Minniear said that it would have made sense for Irish immigrants, facing rampant discrimination in the U.S. at the time, to look toward greener pastures in Mexico.

"Mexico was very favorable to immigrants who would do two things: one, be Catholic, and two, become Mexican citizens," Minniear said.

Although the "luck of the Irish" wasn't necessarily on their side upon arriving in California, it would be shortly after, when they found themselves in the heart of the early days of the Gold Rush in 1848.

"In 1848 we have the Gold Rush, so suddenly they're the closest people you can imagine to the Gold Rush," Minniear said. "Everybody goes up to the hills, and at this point in the Gold Rush story you could still pick gold out of a stream."

Murray and the Fallons made enough money to convince Don Jose Amador, who was one of the primary landowners in the Tri-Valley at the time, to sell part of his 20,000 acre rancho to them, in the

area where Dublin now sits. Murray, who would go on to marry and raise children on the property, along with the Fallons, would be the origins of stories about Dublin's Irish heritage that came to fruition more than a century later.

"When they all had lots of kids, it left lots of people who have Irish ancestry," Minniear said. "There's not a lot of other people there."

Much of Amador's remaining land would go on to be purchased and developed by James Dougherty, a southerner, making the land that is now Dublin an outlier compared to the rapid growth Dougherty was pushing forward with.

"The story is that Dougherty said, 'There's so many Irish there they might as well call it Dublin,'" Minniear said, adding that the direct quote was probably profanity-laden, and that there had been no more than 20 people living on the Murrays' and Fallons' property at the time.

Nonetheless, this characterization and mythology would find its way to other Irish immigrants looking for a place to settle comfortably in California.

"Other people in the process of immigrating wind up coming out here, so there are all these Irish stories that circulated within these families," Minniear said.

At a time when people identified more closely with the places they were born and lived in than the present concepts of ethnicity and heritage, Minniear noted that there was no overarching sense of Irish identity until Irish immigrants who had nothing else in common started coming together.

Nonetheless, the Irish population would remain small, Minniear noted, and it wouldn't be until nearly a century later that it came to be central to the identity of the area.

"This story pops up about this huge Irish community, and that folklore is what people in the '60s

and '70s grab onto," Minniear said.

While the origin story of Irish heritage in Dublin may not live up to the legends it evokes, this emphasis on folklore as a defining characteristic of a place and people's identity is a long tradition in Irish culture, and aspects of it can be traced back to Celtic mythology. St. Patrick's Day itself, in its present day incarnation in the United States, is also a tradition that rests just as much as myth as fact, if not more so.

"As you know, everyone is Irish on St. Patrick's Day," Minniear said.

Dublin's St. Patrick's Day Parade

will kick off at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday (March 12) at Dublin Boulevard and Amador Valley Boulevard, ending at the Dublin Senior Center.

The two-day long festival will be at Civic Center Plaza from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., rain or shine. More information is available at www.dublinstpat.com.

On St. Patrick's Day itself, March 17, Minniear will speak at a virtual event on prominent Irish immigrants in local history, hosted by the Museum of the San Ramon Valley via Zoom at 11:30 a.m. Learn more at museumsrv.org. ■



COURTESY OF CITY OF DUBLIN

St. Patrick's Day festivities became a tradition, and are known for their parades.



COURTESY OF CITY OF DUBLIN

Although often associated with neighboring Scotland, bagpipes are also a staple in Irish music and culture.

Community Pulse

POLICE BULLETIN

Congresspeople demand investigation into 'rampant' abuse at Dublin prison

Eight members of Congress are demanding an investigation into allegations of abuse and misconduct at an all-women federal prison in Dublin, the leaders said last week.

The leaders including Reps. Eric Swalwell (D-Livermore), Jackie Speier (D-San Mateo), Karen Bass (D-Los Angeles), Lois Frankel (D-Florida), Brenda Lawrence (D-Michigan), Veronica Escobar (D-Texas), Sylvia Garcia (D-Texas) and Sheila Jackson Lee (D-Texas), have asked for an inspection of Federal Correctional Institution Dublin and access to a 2021 audit of it.

The leaders sent a letter to the U.S. Department of Justice's Inspector General Michael Horowitz and a separate letter to Michael Carvajal, the director of the Federal Bureau of Prisons, detailing what they want the investigation to include and what they want related to the audit.

"We were first made aware of the systemic issues plaguing FCI Dublin through the detailed articles and investigations completed by several reputable news sources earlier this month," the leaders said in a statement.

"These writings detailed how the all-women inmate population at FCI Dublin has allegedly been subjected to rampant sexual harassment and abuse at the hands of predatory male employees like former Warden Ray Garcia, former

Chaplain James Theodore Highhouse, Prison Safety Administrator John Bellhouse, and recycling technician Ross Klinger," the leaders added.

Garcia, who was 54 years old and a resident of Merced, was charged with sexual abuse of an incarcerated woman at FCI Dublin when he was the associate warden. The complaint against Garcia was filed Sept. 24 of last year.

Former chaplain with the Federal Bureau of Prisons James Theodore Highhouse pleaded guilty Feb. 23 in federal court in Northern California to five felonies for abusing an FCI Dublin inmate sexually and then lying to federal agents.

Bureau of Prisons Correctional Officer Ross Klinger was arrested June 30 of last year on suspicion of abusing an FCI Dublin inmate sexually.

The "media reports uncovered that inmates at the facility had made the first internal complaints to staff members about five years ago, but they were largely ignored," the leaders said.

"This is unacceptable considering PREA (Prison Rape Elimination Act) Standard 51(b) requires agencies to 'provide at least one way for inmates to report abuse or harassment to a public or private entity or office that is not part of the agency, and that it is able to receive and immediately forward inmate reports of sexual abuse and sexual harassment to agency officials, allowing the inmate to remain anonymous upon request,'" the members of Congress said.

The letter to Horowitz asks the Department of Justice to investigate FCI Dublin's compliance with

PREA, flawed procedures for reporting and investigating complaints and retaliation, and among other things, possible retaliation against staff and inmates for assisting with an investigation or filing a complaint.

The letter to Carvajal says the audit must aggregate data gathered from PREA-qualifying events, explain what measures were taken to investigate and respond to the data gathered, and among other things, be published for the public on the Federal Bureau of Prisons website for review and comment.

Horowitz's office declined to comment on the letter he received from the members of Congress.

Spokesman Scott Taylor of the Federal Bureau of Prisons only said they are reviewing the letter.

—Keith Burbank, BCN

In other news

- A Stockton man was killed after his motorcycle crashed into a van and then he was run over by a big-rig on Interstate 580 in Dublin last week, according to authorities.

The Alameda County Coroner's Bureau identified the decedent as 30-year-old Carlos Campo.

The crash unfolded around 7:50 a.m. March 2 on westbound I-580 just west of the Hopyard Road/Dougherty Road interchange, according to California Highway Patrol Officer Tyler Hahn. According to initial witness reports, Campo was riding a Harley Davidson motorcycle at approximately 50 mph splitting lanes between the No. 3 and No. 4 during the morning commute.

The motorcyclist apparently

failed to recognize that traffic was slowing ahead of him, and he rear-ended a Nissan van that was traveling in the No. 3 lane at between 25-30 mph, according to Hahn.

"The collision between the front of the motorcycle and the van caused the rider to be ejected from the motorcycle, to the left, into the path of a 2018 International truck tractor and trailer," Hahn said.

The driver of the big-rig, which was going about 55 mph in the No. 2 lane, was unable to avoid hitting the motorcyclist in the roadway, according to Hahn. Campo was pronounced dead at the scene.

There were no reports of injuries to the driver of the van — a 31-year-old Stockton man — nor the driver of the big-rig, who was a 34-year-old Stockton man. Neither of the surviving drivers' names have been released publicly.

"Alcohol or drugs do not seem to be a factor in the collision," Hahn said. "The collision is still under investigation."

The two left lanes of I-580 westbound were closed for about 2-1/2 hours for the crash investigation and cleanup.

—Jeremy Walsh

- Embattled Sonoma County health officer Dr. Sundari Mase addressed the county Board of Supervisors on March 1 after revelations about her past history of drinking and driving came to light last month, including one case in Alameda County.

The Santa Rosa Press Democrat reported that Mase was convicted last year for a December 2020 arrest on suspicion of DUI in Alameda County with a prior offense that

occurred in 2014 in San Diego.

Mase is an infectious disease expert who has led the county's COVID-19 response.

Mase told the Board of Supervisors that she "deeply regrets what's occurred" and that she was "not more forthcoming" about her 2014 arrest, which she said she believed had been expunged from her record.

Mase has said that she notified her employer about the 2020 arrest on suspicion of DUI and that fact was not challenged at the board meeting. The Board of Supervisors was not aware of her history until it made the news.

"I admit I made a serious lapse in judgement," she said, adding later that "I want to assure you that I have done all that is required and more to address these situations and it will not happen again."

Supervisors appeared to be behind Mase though they don't condone her actions.

On Feb. 23, Supervisor Lynda Hopkins took to her Facebook page and addressed the case.

"I fully support Dr. Mase's exceptional work as our Public Health Officer, the county's leader through the COVID-19 pandemic, and the person who has saved the lives of countless Sonoma County residents by making incredibly tough policy decisions. FULL STOP," Hopkins wrote.

Hopkins expressed "compassion" for "someone who is having one of the worst moments of her life replayed endlessly in the news and community conversations."

Like all other supervisors who spoke on March 1, Hopkins said she didn't condone driving inebriated but wanted to move forward to learn from this experience.

During the public comment portion of the meeting, several people expressed support for Mase, including colleagues that worked with her regarding the county's COVID-19 strategy.

Not everyone was as supportive. One unnamed speaker broke into tears as she described her sister's death that she says was caused by a drunk driver. She said that she is now raising her sister's children. "You have a problem, please get help," she said, as Mase cast her eyes downward.

A few public speakers and members of the board brought up re-thinking background checks for county hires and questioned the process. It was pointed out, however, that though the board appoints people like Mase, once in her position, she answers only to the public health director, Tina Rivera.

A Change.org petition that is going around entitled "Termination of Dr. Sundari Mase" had gotten more than 1,000 signatures as of last weekend. ■

—Katy St. Clair/BCN Foundation

POLICE REPORT

The Pleasanton Police Department made the following information available

March 4

Theft

- 4:40 a.m. at Alvarado and Kolln streets; auto theft

- 9:33 a.m., 5000 block of Hopyard Road; theft from auto

- 6:38 p.m., 3600 block of Andrews Drive; theft from structure

Burglary

- 10:53 a.m. on the 000 block of Happy Valley Road

- 11:31 a.m. on the 000 block of Vintage Circle

Assault/battery

- 4:21 p.m. on the 6700 block of Bernal Avenue

Warrant arrest

- 2:57 p.m. at Owens and Hacienda drives

Fire

- 8:17 p.m. on the 4200 block of Rosewood Drive

- 10:31 p.m. on the 3100 block of Santa Rita Road

DUI

- 5:22 a.m. on the 7900 block of Stoneridge Drive

Vandalism

- 9:45 a.m. on the 4600 block of Willow Road

Vehicle tampering

- 6:41 a.m. on the 4600 block of Inyo Court

March 3

Domestic battery

- 9:28 p.m. on Vineyard Avenue

March 2

DUI

- 12:06 a.m. on the 3500 block of Stanley Boulevard

Drug violation

- 2:13 a.m. on the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive

Burglary

- 3:17 a.m. on the 7800 block of Canyon Meadows Circle

Sex offenses

- 9:40 a.m. on Rosewood Drive

Theft

- 9:57 a.m. on the 3300 block of Steamside Circle

- 10:35 a.m. on the 100 block of Ray Street

- 5:48 p.m., 3500 block of Rathbone Way; catalytic converter theft

Graffiti offense

- 12:51 p.m. on the 4800 block of Hopyard Road

March 1

Fire

- 4:54 a.m. at Santa Rita Road and Pimlico Drive

Theft

- 9:24 a.m. on the 1100 block of Santa Rita Road

- 12:33 p.m., 1300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting

Fraud

- 12:30 p.m. on the 1200 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

Criminal threats

- 3:08 p.m. on the 4200 block of Hopyard Road

Drug violation

- 4:21 p.m. on the 5200 block of Hopyard Road

Feb. 28

Theft

- 9:43 a.m. on the 6000 block of Allbrook Circle

- 1:31 p.m. on the 4000 block of Vineyard Avenue

- 4:08 p.m., 1400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting

- 4:37 p.m. on the 3400 block of Zion Canyon Court

Vandalism

- 10:13 a.m. at Santa Rita Road and Pimlico Drive

Sex offenses

- 5:29 p.m. at Sunol Boulevard and Mission Drive



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GUEST OPINION

BY VICE MAYOR VALERIE ARKIN

Setting the record straight on districting, and moving forward in a civil manner

The past week has seen a barrage of news, editorials and incendiary blog rants regarding the City Council's recent decision to create four separate council districts in future elections. Please note that these comments are my own and do not represent the City Council, and my decision was made with the greater good of all Pleasanton residents in mind.



The process to determine individual council districts was prompted by a Southern California attorney who threatened legal action against the city if we did not do so, citing the California Voting Rights Act as a basis. All California cities that have fought this law have lost, except one that is still tied up in the courts.

Faced with squandering public funds in a no-win lawsuit, I voted to change to district elections.

The process was well-publicized in both electronic and print media, and four public meetings were scheduled to elicit input from residents. An expert demographer consultant was in attendance as well as an outside attorney to guide an open and transparent process.

Several maps were submitted, primarily from the demographer, but some from the public as well.

All the demographer maps were legally compliant with the law and adhered to the required criteria for drawing the maps.

At the fourth and final public meeting on Feb. 24, after multiple discussions and public input, a final map was chosen and voted upon by a 3-2 vote, including my own.

I will preface this by saying that all the maps had some advantages and disadvantages, there wasn't one "perfect" map. I, and the majority supported the map that offered the most representation for our downtown and the core of our city. While district boundaries will affect elections, know that I and my fellow councilmembers will continue to make decisions that affect all of Pleasanton, not just our own districts.

Each district includes multiple "communities of interest" to increase the chances that there is a candidate to run in each district. The one downside to this map is that it cuts through a neighborhood in the south of Pleasanton, something I worked hard to avoid. The demographer tried but was unable to meet the legally compliant population number criteria.

Since Feb. 24, there has been a swell of outrage spewed by one special interest group with many members who are not even Pleasanton residents, and a political agenda to boot.

LETTERS

Tangerine map is best

The Lime Plan is a juvenile display of mapping our city. Your narrative/paper's direction smell of nothing more than self interest at best. If your/papers belief is that all five council members will not represent the whole of Pleasanton, that's another story.

Cross-referencing our community within mainstream ties is an appropriate approach to settling our boundaries.

If any neighborhood should be disappointed, Las Positas Garden Townhomes has been underserved and dismissed for years. Ventana Hills should be grateful they will have two representatives. It's hard to believe that Ventana Hills, with the people I know up there, are not forwarding solutions ... instead of crying ... foul play. You guys stink...!

—Peter Miller

No to Russia, No to Iran and Yes to U.S. oil

The U.S. must stop buying oil from Russia immediately and reopen all US oil and natural gas production to the maximum capacity. We would be able to provide all the energy that we need and sell the rest to Europe.

This will stop the U.S. from funding Russia's war against Ukraine. Also, the U.S. must not negotiate any type of deal with Iran. The U.S. should continue to place the maximum economic sanctions on Iran and any other pressure that is possible to stop them from producing nuclear weapons and to stop them from being the No. 1 terrorist regime in the world.

The Biden administration must wake up and do the right thing to restore peace in the world.

—David Ott

The four meetings are archived on the city website for you to review. Comments about the map's legality, gerrymandering and more are unfounded and baseless, and the reality is quite the opposite.

I have repeatedly provided my city email to anyone in the community who wants the full facts of this issue, and I encourage anyone who wants them to please contact me at varkin@cityofpleasantonca.gov.

What has been most discouraging throughout has been the lack of kindness and respectful dialogue. In these tumultuous times

we must strive for collaborative dialogue, whether we agree or not. As the world unravels around us, my hope is that Pleasanton can still retain a sense of community and civility because I am convinced that we are better than what has been demonstrated. ■

Editor's note: Valerie Arkin is the current vice mayor of Pleasanton. She is serving her first four-year term on the Pleasanton City Council after being elected at-large in November 2020.

Prior to that, Arkin completed three terms on the Pleasanton Unified School District Board of Trustees.

THE CITY OF PLEASANTON



HIGHLIGHTS

City Council Meeting

Tuesday, March 15, 2022, at 7:00 p.m.

On March 3, 2020, Governor Newsom proclaimed a State of Emergency due to COVID-19 and has issued Executive Order N-29-20 and approved AB 361 suspending provisions of the Brown Act allowing meetings via teleconferencing and members of the public to observe and offer comments telephonically or electronically. The virtual meetings will be streamed at <https://www.youtube.com/user/TheCityofPleasanton> and <https://www.tri-valleytv.org>

- **Public Hearing** – Hear any protest concerning the renewal of the Tri-Valley Tourism Marketing District and levy of an assessment on lodging businesses within the District
- Review and approve the Ken Mercer Skatepark final conceptual design, CIP No. 20774, and provide direction to staff on whether to proceed further with the design or pause until construction funding is identified
- Provide direction on housing policy topics including the Inclusionary Zoning Ordinance, Lower-Income Housing Fund, Workforce Housing, Affordability by Design and other City housing programs, as part of the 2023-2031 (6th Cycle) Housing Element Update
- Receive an update on the 2022 water supply, Stage 2 - 15% mandatory water conservation, and adopt a resolution to activate Stage 2 Water Drought Rates

Economic Vitality Committee

Thursday, March 17, 2022, at 7:30 a.m.

- Business Needs/Recovery Survey Results Overview

Housing Commission

Thursday, March 17, 2022, at 7:00 p.m.

- Review and Recommendation to City Council for Allocation of Federal HOME Funds and City Lower Income Housing Funds Related to the Housing and Human Services Grant (HHS) Program for Fiscal Year 2022/23

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

Schools presenting

First live production since pandemic sees younger students join annual high school show

By JEANITA LYMAN

Amador Valley and Foothill high schools' joint annual production is returning with a live audience this year, after a disappointing opening night in 2020 at the dawn of the pandemic that saw seats full of stuffed animals rather than people.

"What happened in March two years ago (was that) we were actually set to open, so we had to close our show on opening night and we didn't have an audience," longtime Amador Valley theater director and teacher Mark Aubel recalled in a recent interview ahead of this weekend's debut of "Seussical the Musical".

In addition to being a blow to morale, Aubel noted that the loss of live shows was a blow to funding for productions, which is generated entirely by ticket sales rather than money from the district.

Aubel said he was optimistic so far that the return of the annual spring musical, which he's directed since 1995, would help to restore both funding and morale, particularly with this year's emphasis on appealing to younger students, both as performers and audience members.

"This year it will be nice to have an audience, and we chose 'Seussical' because we thought it would really encourage the young people to come see the show," Aubel said. "And then we had the idea to put some of the younger students in the show as well."

Although the original plan had been to get elementary students involved, Aubel said that he'd been unable to find teachers at that level to collaborate with to form a choir, given heightened COVID-19 precautions and a later vaccine rollout for younger children. However, Aubel was able to recruit performers from Harvest Park Middle School, making this the first year ever that younger students will participate in the high school musical.

In addition to the roughly 35 middle school students, the production will consist of about another 35 students from both Pleasanton comprehensive high schools, as well as an

orchestra and crew of approximately 30 and 20 teens each.

Although some more seasoned high school performers are returning to the stage this year, Aubel said that it was primarily students with less experience that had made up the pool of performers to draw from this year, given nearly two years of virtual learning during the pandemic.

"Our whole thought process was that we wanted to kind of develop a new pool of students that were interested and excited about the performing arts. So that's why we chose the musical, just because we kind of lost some momentum there, and we lost kids so our whole goal was to do this particular show because it's very kid-friendly," Aubel said.

However, Aubel emphasized that the show, based on some of Dr. Seuss' most famous tales, isn't just for children.

"It seems like a kids' show, but it really can grab at your heart and pull, and just take you for a ride because it's got some really serious themes," he said.

One of these themes, Aubel said, is exemplified in the relationship between Horton the elephant and Daisyhead Maizy, with a storyline that emphasizes the importance of kindness and "what's inside" rather than physical appearance.

Another, he said, was the reprisal of the motto "a person is a person, no matter how small" in Horton's efforts to save the Whos of Whoville.

"It's really about who you are as a person and how you have to respect others and have to show kindness to others, and it's woven throughout the show in different ways," Aubel said. "Sometimes they're obvious, and sometimes they're more subtle."

While these themes are tangible in the storyline of this year's production, Aubel noted that what the young performers take away from their work on the spring musical most years is the value of respect, non-judgement and strong relationships, exemplified in the friendships they develop with each other.

"The kids come back and tell me that it's one of the favorite things they've done in high school and that they'll always remember



Above: Mikayla Freeman as the Cat in the Hat in "Seussical the Musical". (Photo by Sally Baker).
Bottom left: The schools' joint musical returns with a live audience for the first time since 2019; the 2020 opening night saw stuffed animals only in the seats due to the pandemic. (Photo by Mark Aubel).

it, and that they've made friends for a lifetime," Aubel said. "They mostly talk about the relationships that they made doing the show. And for me that's what's important, is that they get those relationships and do something that they'll remember for a long, long time."

This is no accident, according to Aubel, who helped launch the annual spring musical in 1995 in an effort to promote collaboration and friendship, rather than rivalry, between the two PUSD high schools.

"The whole idea was to get the high schools to actually be able to work together instead of compete against each other," Aubel said. "It's worked out great. The kids make friends from the other school, and we utilize the teachers from each school."

The atmosphere in the professional theater world, which can be cut throat and full of rejection, is very different, Aubel said, making high school theater all the more valuable.

"That's why it's so important to keep musical theater alive in the high schools, because

it's such an important opportunity for kids to experience it, because it's so difficult to do professionally that the time to really have a great experience is in high school," Aubel said.

Incorporating younger students this year, and encouraging their interest in theater before getting to high school, was at the forefront of Aubel's mind for the nearly three dozen Harvest Park students involved in this year's production.

"If they love the theater arts, then I would encourage them to participate, and obviously that's our whole goal, trying to grow and develop beyond young artists and actors, and get them to continue with it when they get into high school," Aubel said.

"Seussical the Musical" will be on stage at the Amador Theater for the next two weekends, with opening night tonight. Performances are set for 7:30 p.m. on Friday and Saturday evenings, and 2 p.m. on Sunday afternoons through March 20. For tickets, visit firehouse.vbotickets.com. ■



Young poets honored at Vintage Hills

Part of school's literacy week activities

BY PLEASANTON WEEKLY STAFF

Vintage Hills Elementary School held its fourth annual Read-A-Thon event earlier this winter to encourage literacy and a love of reading among all students through a series of activities including a poetry contest.

The top two submissions were "Winter is Here" by fourth-grader Anya Pradhan and "Winter's Wonders" by Brooklyn Emig.

The Read-A-Thon — which saw parents, families and businesses combine to raise over \$15,000 — also featured a book exchange, StoryWalk, cookie sale and Bingo card reading raffle organized by the parent-teacher association, as well as local authors Nidhi Kaur, Irma Grant, Rose Owens and Steve McCoy-Thompson reading in classrooms.

Winter is Here

BY ANYA PRADHAN

The forest floor is covered with a carpet of white,
The ground, sparkling in the light.
That "White", is called snow.
Animals watched it glow,
Astonished at the wondrous sight.

Deer gasped in surprise.
So did the bears and the mice.
Not believing what they saw,
As they stared in awe,
At this magic in disguise.

But some animals felt fear!
For instance, the deer.

But an owl, a wise old creature,
(see, wisdom is his best feature,)
Excitedly said, "Winter is here!"

Every day since, animals played outdoors.
All day, from 10 to 4.

They sometimes played through the night,
And they yelled in delight.
They never felt sad, for sure.

But it was over, all too soon.
As they stared at the light of the silvery moon,
Some of them felt sad,
But others felt glad,
That in spring, the flowers would bloom.



Winter's Wonders

BY BROOKLYN EMIG

Winter's finally here
He's knocking at our door
He brings with him so many wonders
Like all the years before

Outside morning dew shines
Like crystals in the light
Little drops of rainbow
Glowing o' so bright

Carols ring in my ears
Of holidays long past
This is what winter sounds like
When it comes at last

Freshly fallen snow
Crunches under my feet
This is what it feels like
When winter comes to meet

Spending time with family
Dancing in the snow
Wishing that the winter
Would never ever go!

Cookies baking in the oven
Laughter everywhere
No matter what holiday it is
Families take good care

All this joy and happiness
Really fills my heart
This is what I really want
When winter comes to start ■



COURTESY OF LWVA

The vineyards of the Livermore Valley will be the setting for the annual Barrel Tasting Weekend on March 19-20.

A weekend at the wineries

Livermore Valley's barrel tasting showcase back after hiatus

BY JEREMY WALSH

Wineries in the Livermore Valley are welcoming spring in a familiar way this month.

The annual Barrel Tasting Weekend, organized by the Livermore Valley Winegrowers Association but on hold the past two years because of the COVID-19 pandemic, will be back next weekend (March 19-20) highlighting some of the best in Tri-Valley wines.

"Everyone in our award-winning wine region is looking forward to welcoming back fans of Barrel Tasting Weekend — this is the first one since 2019," Brandi Addington, interim executive director of the association, told the Weekly. "The environment has been redesigned to not only be safe, but also to engage guests in wine experiences that elevate their enjoyment and opportunity to learn about wine."

"We know that the Bay Area is still recovering from the pandemic and expect attendance that is consistent with the positive trend we have seen for intimate wine tasting experiences. It's an opportunity for everyone to celebrate resilience and the strength of our community," Addington said.

More than 25 wineries are scheduled to participate in the two-day event, which runs from 12-4:30 p.m.

each day — after a kick-off Champagne brunch at Garré Vineyard & Winery on the opening day, March 19.

Attendees will be able to speak with local winemakers and taste wines still in development, right out of the barrel, organizers said. Many locations will present live bands or DJs, along with artisan vendors and interactive experiences

"More than a dozen varietals, including Sangiovese, Barbera, Petite Sirah, and ever-popular Chardonnay and Cabernet Sauvignon, will be available for tasting across Livermore Valley. Some wineries will offer the unique opportunity to pre-purchase barrel wines at a discount, a practice known as buying 'futures,'" organizers said.

Barrel Tasting Weekend tickets cost \$60 with advance purchase online, or \$75 for day-of admission available at any participating winery. Tickets are valid for both days. Attendees will receive a wristband and commemorative Livermore Valley Wine Country glass. Transportation options are also available.

To learn more, visit LVwine.org or call 925-447-9463. ■

Roy Orbison tribute show

Fans can sing along to classic hits like "Oh, Pretty Woman", "Crying" and "Only the Lonely" in Livermore when Running Scared Productions presents tribute show "Roy Orbison Returns" to the Bankhead Theater on March 25. Featuring Wiley Ray & The Big O Band, the concert will delve into the late singer's best-known songs, real-life moments and career highlights. Backed by his five-piece band, Ray will also bring in some backup singers to give a taste of Patsy Cline to round out the evening of song and story, Bankhead officials said. For tickets, visit LivermoreArts.org or call 925-373-6800.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Celtic harp and stories

Musician Patrick Ball is set to highlight the beauty and history of the Celtic harp during a special performance at Trinity Lutheran Church in Pleasanton next Sunday (March 20) at 4 p.m. "The Celtic harp has a broken and troubled thousand-year tradition which Patrick Ball now revives in the 21st century, reviving the ancient art of minstrelsy and storytelling," church officials said. "He is considered one of the premier Celtic harpers and storytellers in the world today." The TLC Concert Series is free, but the church notes donations of \$15-\$20 are suggested to support the artists on their tours.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

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995 Fictitious Name Statement

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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.

FUN STUFF FOR KIDS OVER THE SUMMER

Camp Connection Summer 2022

Fashion Design & Sewing Camp @ KIDZ KRAFTZ!

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

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Stratford provides the perfect summer camp experience for your child, complete with all the fun, enriching activities they love, and the important safety measures you expect. With more options to explore, including Day Camps, Academic Camps, Specialty Camps, and Sports Camps, you can customize a one-of-a-kind experience that makes your child shine!

Day Camps

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Innovative and enriching programs are available for children ready for Preschool, Elementary, and Middle School. Give your child the Summer@Stratford experience they will remember!

Visit us online to learn more at stratfordschools.com/summer.

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Pleasanton/Palo Alto

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www.headsup.org | writenow@headsup.org

Improve your student's writing skills this summer at Emerson Montessori School of Pleasanton and Palo Alto. Courses this year are Expository Writing, Creative Writing, and Presentation Skills. Visit our website for more information.

For more information about these camps, see our online camp directory at www.pleasantonweekly.com/camp_connection/

To advertise in the April Camp Connection, call (925) 621-1177 or email kklein@pleasantonweekly.com.

Sports



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BY DENNIS MILLER

PLEASANTON PREPS

Both boys' volleyball teams off to strong starts

Also: Amador tennis continues to roll;
Foothill golf earns three wins

The Amador Valley boys' volleyball team opened with the season by taking two of their three matches last week.

The young Amador team opened the season with a 25-19, 25-23, 25-20 loss to a loaded Campolindo team.

Top performers include Bryce Nohava, a junior, with 27 assists. Nate Clinton, also a junior, paced the offense with 16 kills, 2 aces and contributed 4 blocks on the defensive side. Freshman Max Riter notched 2 blocks and an ace to jump-start his varsity career.

The Dons got their first win the next day as they beat California on the road 25-19, 25-19 and 25-18.

The Dons were paced by Nohava (5 aces), Luke Melvin (5 kills and 4 digs) and Dylan Boswell (5 digs and 2 kills) while sophomore Parker Brookhart was the team's top passer.

Amador showed some grit in their last game of the week with a comeback victory over a senior-laden De La Salle squad on the road,

rallying to win 19-25, 25-21, 22-25, 25-20, 15-8.

Amador was led by junior Jackson Mello (5 digs, 2 aces), Brookhart (3 aces, 12 digs), Riter (8 kills, 2 aces), Melvin (5 blocks), Nohava (28 assists) and Clinton (22 kills).

Across town, the Foothill boys' volleyball team also won a pair of East Bay Athletic League games to open their season.

The week started with a thrilling 21-25, 22-25, 25-15, 25-22, 15-8 comeback win over Granada.

Highlights against Granada came from Zach Seraj (16 kills, 5 aces), Landen Meonske (34 assists, 11 digs), Tyler Keala (11 kills, 6 service points), and Caden Stedman (9 service points, 4 kills).

Later in the week, the Falcons beat Livermore 25-21, 25-17, 25-17.

Highlights came from Meonske (27 assists, 10 service points), Keala (14 kills), Noah Mitzenmacher (11 digs, 4 service points) and Casey Collins (11 service points, 3 kills).

Employment

Sftwr Dvlprs

Sftwr Dvlprs (San Ramon, CA) to anlz, dsgr, prog, dvlp test & maintains s/w apps sys codig doc. Reqs MS/BS or forg eqiv in Comp Sci/App/Engg, Elec Engg, Infosys Secty, Math, Any Sci/Engg or Rltd Fld and 0-5 yrs exp in Rltd Fld. Trvl rqd. Mail Resume to: Enterprise Mobility Inc., 9260 Alcosta Blvd, Ste C26, San Ramon, CA 94583. Ref: SD2021.

Biostatistician

Biostatistician for Roche Molecular Systems, Inc, Pleasanton, CA. Travel up to 5% (int'l/domestic, fully reimbursed). Telecommuting permitted 1 day/wk. Req. Master's in Stats or rltd + 1 yr exp. Apply: <http://applyroche.com/202202-105457> (Job ID: 202202-105457)



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If you wish to learn more about the advertising options, please call 650.223.6597 or email digitalads@pawekly.com.

In their opening week of the season, the Falcons lost to Campolindo 3-1, but then swept Mission San Jose and Castro Valley.

Boys' lacrosse

The Falcons opened the season with a competitive 6-4, non-league loss to Mitty.

Foothill got goals from Wyatt Lam and Tyler Walsh to take a 2-0 lead in the first quarter. A goal from AJ Becker made it 3-2 Foothill at the half.

Senior captain Darragh Kennedy made it 4-3 at the end of three quarters, but Mitty got three goals in the fourth to get the win.

Foothill goalie Mikey Paulson had 6 saves and played amazing the entire game against a tough Mitty attack crew. Ground ball recovery was led by Graham Zander with 5 scoops. Bennett Zander, Graham Zander and Caden Garofalo all played well on defense.

Meanwhile, the Dons dropped their season — and home opener — to Bellarmine by a 14-8 final.

Colin Wallace led the team in scoring with 3 goals, while Luke Jacobson (2 goals) and Sebastian Diligent (goal, assist) each had 2 points.

Alex Kragen and Will Coultrip each recorded 3 ground balls, while Daniel Kniveton and Kragen each forced 2 turnovers. Max Young won over 50% of his faceoffs, while Jonny Wessel faced an onslaught of shots but made 19 saves.

Amador tennis

The Dons boys' team rolled once again, topping De La Salle 9-0.

In singles Amador got wins from Bryan Park 6-0, 6-4; Minsung Kim 6-0, 6-0; James Heeter 6-0, 6-0; Rohan Patil 6-0, 6-0; Steven Yang 6-0, 6-2; and Vikram Murali 6-4, 6-4.

In doubles the Dons got wins from Anuraag Aravindan/Roy Kim 6-0, 6-2; Nolan Smith/Aaditya Geddam 6-0, 6-0; and Subhajit Das/Arnab Murarka 6-0, 6-3.

Foothill golf

The Foothill golf season is off to a very strong start as the Falcons won a pair of dual matches and a tournament.

The week started beating Livermore 192-253 at Castlewood, with Brandon Knight leading the way with a 36.

The next day the Falcons took first place at the Cowboy Classic played at The Course at Wente Vineyards. Foothill beat 23 other teams, including Dougherty Valley by one stroke, shooting a 375. Chanhee Ryu took first place shooting a 69.

The Falcons ended the week beating Dublin 189-197 at Callippe. Knight once again was the low score with a 36. ■

Entertainment

SHOWSTOPPER DANCE COMPETITION AT THE FAIRGROUNDS America's first and longest-running dance competition, setting the standards for competitive dance in America. March 11-13. Visit alamedacountyfair.com.

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

VERDI'S OTELLO Livermore Valley Opera presents Verdi's operatic masterpiece, Otello. March 12-13 at the Bankhead Theater. Visit livermorearts.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.

VALLEY CONCERT CHORALE Valley Concert Chorale presents Celebrate the Night: Dreams, the Moon and Stars featuring pianist Daniel Glover. March 12-13. Tickets \$10-\$25. Visit valleyconcertchorale.org.

THE MANHATTAN TRANSFER AT THE BANKHEAD Wowing audiences for 50 years, The Manhattan Transfer have become the cornerstones of contemporary music. 8 p.m., March 18. Tickets \$20-\$100. Visit livermorearts.org.

ASHBURY PLAYERS COMMUNITY THEATER The Ashbury Players present, "Done to Death", by Fred Carmichael, a murder-mystery comedy. 7 p.m., March 19-20, 25-27. Ashbury United Methodist Church, 4743 East Ave., Livermore.

TRIO 180 AT THE BANKHEAD Del Valle Fine Arts Presents Trio 180, performing a wide range of music from the classical era to the present. 7:30 p.m., March 19. Tickets \$16-\$52. Visit livermorearts.org.

BESSIE, BILLIE, & NINA: PIONEERING WOMEN IN JAZZ The musical and social legacies of Bessie Smith, Billie Holiday and Nina Simone remain as relevant as ever in this performance at the Bankhead. 3 p.m., March 20. Tickets \$20-\$80. Visit livermorearts.org.



LIVERMORE ARTS

Talks

AMADOR VALLEY QUILTERS Patricia Belyea presents "The Alluring World of Japanese Yukata Quilts". A creative quilt maker, speaker and teacher, Patricia co-owns Okan Arts, a small family business importing vintage Japanese textiles for adventuresome quilters. 1:30-4 p.m., March 12. Visit amadorvalleyquilters.org.

URBAN CYCLING 101 In this free in-person workshop, taught by the League of American Bicyclists in coordination with the City of Pleasanton, learn basic rules of the road. No bike required. 10 a.m.-12 p.m., March 12. To register, visit bikeeastbay.org.

LIVERMORE-AMADOR GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY "Migrations in the Southeastern U.S. Prior to 1900" is the topic of this free zoom presentation by Evan Wilson, PhD. 7-8:30 p.m., March 14. Visit l-ags.org.

ED KINNEY SPEAKER SERIES Ed Kinney Speaker Series presents An Afternoon or Evening with Cesar Chavez, a dramatic bilingual portrayal of the civil rights and labor leader. 2 p.m. and 7 p.m., March 15. Firehouse Arts Center. Visit museumonmain.org.

COFFEE WITH A COP IN LIVERMORE Meet some of Livermore's finest, 9-11 a.m., March 17. Espresso Rosetta, 206 South J St.

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 at trivalleywriters.org. 2 p.m., March 19.

ALAN HU FOUNDATION MENTAL HEALTH LECTURE SERIES In this free webinar "Stress and Mental Health", Dr. Sapolsky 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.

Exhibits

TRI-VALLEY INNOVATION FAIR Quest Science Center hosts the 4th Annual Tri-Valley Innovation Fair at the Alameda County Fairgrounds with over 50 exhibitors providing

hands-on exhibits, experiments and interactive activities. Admission is free. 10 a.m.-5 p.m., March 19. Visit quest-science.org.

ART & LITERATURE TOGETHER Livermore Arts presents a collaboration with Cynthia Patton, Livermore Poet Laureate, to bring a pairing of art and literature to the Bankhead Theater. Free and open to the public, Thursdays-Sundays, 1-5 p.m. Now through March 27.

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

Outdoors

2022 TRAIL BUILDING AT SYCAMORE GROVE Join the next Volunteer work day on the Patterson Ranch Trail. LARPD is seeking volunteers to assist with the Patterson Ranch Trail Building Project at Sycamore Grove Park. 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., March 12. Visit larpd.org/volunteer.

HIKE FOR HOPE REGISTRATION The 2022 Hike for Hope is May 14 at Del Valle Regional Park in Livermore. This annual memorial hike raises funds for Hope Hospice. Register early to receive a t-shirt at TheHikeForHope.com or call 925-829-8770.

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 keep fit outdoors. Visit ebparks.org/trails-challenge.

SPRING'S EVE WALK Spend the last afternoon of winter with Ranger Gilbert on a short hike through the Sycamore Grove Nature Area. 2 p.m., March 19. RSVP to 925-960-2500. 1051 Wetmore Road.

Military

PLEASANTON MILITARY FAMILIES Pleasanton Military Families sends care packages to local service men and women and donations of all kinds are needed with a deadline of March 17. To donate please visit: pleasantonmilitaryfamilies.org. The Pack-Out is 9 a.m.-12 p.m., March 19. Pleasanton Veterans Hall, 301 Main St.

Family

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

Students

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

PET OF THE WEEK



TVAR

Meet Wallace

Wallace has been a favorite of Tri-Valley Animal Rescue volunteers. The photographer noted that he looks kind of serious in his pictures, but really he was staring longingly at the treats behind the camera. Snacks are his favorite! Wallace seems to be a medium-energy guy. He occasionally gets a case of the "zoomies" and will run around and play, but other times seems happy just to hang out. He's approximately 5 years old and weighs just under 60 pounds. Visit tvar.org.

submission is March 12. For more information visit pleasantonarts.org.

TRI-VALLEY WRITERS' HIGH SCHOOL WRITING CONTEST Tri-Valley Writers presents "My Story, My Vision", the group's eleventh 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 Feb. 13-April 3. Visit trivalleywriters.org/high-school/high-school-writing-contest-2022.

ADULTING 101 JOB SEARCH Looking for summer jobs or internships? Need help with a resume or interview skills? The Pleasanton Public Library presents: Adulting 101 Job Search for ages 13-18. 1-3 p.m., March 26. Register for an appointment at 925-931-3400, ext. 4412.

2022 YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT DAY Pleasanton high school students will have the opportunity to learn about the impact they can have through local government through job shadows, guest speakers and a networking lunch. E-mail: Jmireles@cityofpleasantonca.gov.

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.

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

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

Support

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

HOT MEALS & GROCERIES FREE OF CHARGE 1-3 p.m., Monday-Friday. 911 Loyola Way, Livermore. Around the corner from the Robert Livermore Community Center. Drive or Walk-thru only.

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 15. 400 Old Bernal Ave.

Government

PLEASANTON CITY COUNCIL The Pleasanton City Council meets the first and third Tuesday of the month, currently held virtually. The next meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m., March 15. Visit cityofpleasantonca.gov.

LIVERMORE CITY COUNCIL The Livermore City Council meets the second and fourth Monday of the month. The next meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m., March 14. For more information visit cityoflivermore.net.

LIVERMORE VALLEY JOINT UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT The Regular Board Meeting will be conducted via zoom and members of the public are encouraged to observe and participate remotely. The next meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m., March 15. Visit livermoreschools.org.

PLEASANTON'S STATE OF THE CITY 2022 The Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce presents the State of the City Pleasanton 2022, featuring Mayor Karla Brown. The community is invited to hear Mayor Brown's first in-person State of the City address, 11:30 a.m., March 29. DoubleTree by Hilton Pleasanton at The Club. \$60. Visit pleasanton.org.



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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!



1693 E Gate Way, Pleasanton
Call for details and pricing!



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



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



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

Sold: Pleasanton



1846 Tanglewood Way, Pleasanton

The seller is thrilled with the offers for their home, a 4 BD | 2 BA | 2,146 Sq.Ft. | The Holiday model. Located in the Pleasanton Valley neighborhood, the buyers are so happy to soon becoming the new owners of this home.

Listed at \$1,625,000 | Sold at \$2,050,000 | RECEIVING 27 OFFERS.

Pending: San Lorenzo



16150 Via Media, San Lorenzo

This charming home built in 1944 offers 4 BD and 1 BA with 1,216 SqFt. of living space on a spacious 5,000 lot. The 4th bedroom could be a bonus room or home office. New carpet throughout along with new interior paint. Make this home as you desire with upgrades and remodeling.

Listed at \$800,000

Tracy



2639 Gaines Court, Tracy

Located in a court this 4 BD 2.5 BA offers so much for a home buyer. Owned solar. 1,789 SqFt. of living space. New flooring throughout, new paint both exterior and interior. Close to area shopping, schools, parks and ease of commute.

Listed at \$700,000

**Sold
Representing the Buyers**

682 Alameda, Livermore

This Livermore home welcomes my buyers, thrilled to call this house their own. This highly updated home with a modern design offers 4 BD and 3 BA with custom features throughout.



Sold



750 Alexander Way, Livermore
3 BD | 2 BA | open beam ceiling family room | 1,344 SqFt. | side yard access.
Listed at \$1,070,000 | Sold at \$1,205,000

Sold



284 Mavis Dr., Pleasanton
3 BD | 2.5 BA | 1,249 SqFt.
**Listed at \$1,090,000
Sold at \$1,112,000**

Sold



1598 Bluebell Dr., Livermore
2 BD | 2 BA | 1,280 SqFt.
**Listed at \$895,000
Sold at \$962,000**

Sold



4550 Gatetree Cir., Pleasanton
4 BD | 2 BA | 1,808 SqFt. of living space
**Listed at \$1,515,000
Sold at \$1,815,000**

Sold



4686 Sutter Gate Ave., Pleasanton
3 BD | 2 BA plus an office | 1,963 SqFt.
**Listed at \$1,585,000
Sold at \$1,685,000**

Sold



4241 Bevilacqua Ct., Pleasanton
4 BD | 3 BA | 2,253 SqFt. of living space
**Listed at \$1,890,000
Sold at \$1,940,000**

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