

Pleasanton Weekly

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Weekly

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WHAT A WEEK



By JEREMY WALSH

On city elections

Another election cycle is in the books. Our editorial team can finally exhale after the all-consuming local political season. It's some of the most important work we do as journalists, but it sure is taxing.

I can't turn the page, though, without writing some final reflections on the outcomes that stood out from the city elections in the Tri-Valley this fall.

I've considered Pleasanton to have the reputation as the most distinctly divided city/town council of the five Tri-Valley municipalities, almost always split on the question of new land developments. Control of the majority viewpoint may shift, but the vocal minority perspective is usually there on the dais too. And the sides are clear.

With that in mind, Pleasanton City Council results — incumbent Julie Testa earning reelection and newcomer Jeff Nibert winning the District 1 seat — weren't too surprising to me, although the final margins were a bit.

The 61.26% to 38.74% split in favor of Nibert was quite decisive. His demonstrated record as a planning commissioner no doubt helped (compared to opponent Dean Wallace, with no city service experience), but surely so too did his slow-growth campaign.

Some may look at the District 3 numbers and conclude that Testa (42.94%) was aided significantly by having opponents who were like-minded with each other, with Joel Liu (33.34%) and Jamie Yee (23.71%) effectively splitting votes. I'd think some of that was at play, but it's not the reason Testa won reelection. She's a passionate advocate for her community and that resonates with voters, especially fellow local-control constituents. That messaging could very well have easily won a 1-on-1 ballot too.

Pleasanton now has a slow-growth council majority that picked up a seat to stand at 4-1 with Nibert's victory. (Councilmember Kathy Narum was ineligible for reelection due to the city's temporary term limits; her effective and thoughtful presence on the dais will be missed.)

I wouldn't go as far as some people incredulously imply — that the Pleasanton majority is wholly anti-growth — but voters have given them the control to take it whatever direction they see fit. And

while this majority is often aligned on development issues, they are less in lock-step when it comes to issues like water supply and police policy, which could make things very interesting.

Of course, in the top position on the council, Pleasanton Mayor Karla Brown ran unopposed for reelection to a second term, a clear community endorsement of her track record to have no challengers come forward.

Familiar mayors were very popular in the Tri-Valley: That has to be one of the big takeaways from this election.

Dublin Mayor Melissa Hernandez was also reelected unchallenged. In San Ramon, Dave Hudson (48.64%) claimed a second term comfortably over outgoing Councilmember Sabina Zafar (27.75%) and challenger Dinesh Govindarao (23.60%).

The race in Livermore was very close, actually with the lead flip-flopping multiple times over the days of ballot counting, before former mayor John Marchand held on for good over Mony Nop.

In the end, voters backed Marchand's bid to the tune of 53.25% to 46.75%, equating to a shade over 2,000 votes' difference.

A lot was made of the political puppeteering by Livermore special interest groups, particularly those funded by the owners of The Independent newspaper and their allies, with the curtain pulled back publicly this election season about the financial maneuvering of organizations like Take Back Livermore — which, among other things, is entrenched against the Eden Housing affordable project.

Nop was one of the Take Back Livermore-supported candidates to lose. Carol Wahrer (40.88%) in District 1 was the other, falling to Planning Commissioner Evan Branning (59.12%).

But in District 2, the group's candidate Ben Barrientos scored a comfortable victory over Mel Chiong, 55.09% to 44.91%. Barrientos, who has been oddly curt with our journalists at every turn, seemed particularly helped by focusing his campaign on Springtown-area issues.

With the oaths of office due for new and returning city electeds in the days ahead, we'll soon find out how these new councils all work together — or maybe don't work together. Take a deep breath. ■

About the Cover

People were decked out in costumes awaiting word on the status of the Pleasanton holiday parade amid rain last Saturday afternoon. The procession was ultimately canceled, but the tree lighting went on that evening. Photo by Chuck Deckert. Cover design by Paul Llewellyn.

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What special events and/or parties are you looking forward to this holiday season?



Madison Monahan
Bartender

I'm planning to head to Austin, Texas soon for my best friend's birthday. I'm so excited for it. We're planning to celebrate, a lot, and then prepare for a spectacular New Year's Eve.



Jason Meadows
Electrician

In just a couple of weeks, there is a nationwide event called Wreaths Across America, where volunteers like me place wreaths upon the headstones of veterans in cemeteries across the country. As I am a veteran myself, of the Army, this event is very meaningful to me and I am so looking forward to actively participating in it.



Linda Randall
Administrative specialist

I'm really looking forward to the upcoming "Cookies and Cocoa" party with my dog park friends and their dogs. It will either be at the Muirwood Dog Park, or Cubby's K-9 Memorial Dog Park off of Bernal Avenue. We are a really tight-knit group and enjoy spending time together, with our dogs, of course!



Deedra Perez
Military

I am so totally looking forward to my unit's upcoming holiday party, at Camp Parks, the military base off of Dublin Boulevard in Dublin. Primarily because I am the host of it this year. I'm also looking forward to going home to North Carolina in a few weeks to see and spend time with my family.



Kelly Randall
Surgical technician

I was really looking forward to participating in Pleasanton's Hometown Holiday Parade, with our dogs and dog park buddies. But unfortunately, it was canceled due to the rain. Fortunately though, the tree lighting ceremony went on as scheduled, and all of us dog folks were able to spend some great time at McKay's together, due to the cancellation of the parade.

—Compiled by Nancy and Jeff Lewis

Have a Streetwise question? Email editor@PleasantonWeekly.com

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DIGEST

Movies at the fair

The Alameda County Fairgrounds in Pleasanton is hosting “Holiday Movie Nights” — drive-in style — on four evenings this month.

The showings are set as “Elf” on Dec. 16, “The Nightmare Before Christmas” on Dec. 17, “Frozen” on Dec. 27 and “Abominable” on Dec. 28. There will be a food court open, and the first two nights will feature carolers and letters to Santa Claus, and the final two will see New Year’s resolution trees.

The final three events will also each include a special winter drone show at 6 p.m., right before the screening, above the movie screen in the middle of the lot.

The cost is \$35 per vehicle. To learn more, go to alamedaacounty-fair.com/drive-in-movies.

Survivor support

Tri-Valley Haven is set to offer an eight-week, in-person support group for survivors of domestic violence.

The program will run from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. each Monday starting next week (Dec. 12), with the exception of holidays. Registration is required; no drop-ins allowed.

“Our weekly, facilitated support groups are confidential and conducted by licensed professionals. For safety and confidentiality, the location of the group meeting will be given upon registration,” the nonprofit stated.

“When privacy is required or desired, we offer one-on-one therapy sessions with licensed therapists for both adults and children, to address all domestic violence or sexual assault-related issues. Counseling sessions are initially free, and then available on a sliding scale,” officials said.

To learn more, contact Sharon at 925-449-5846, ext. 2607, or sharon@trivalleyhaven.org.

Dublin Blvd. work

Ongoing pavement rehabilitation work on Dublin Boulevard, between Scarlett and Hacienda drives, has been delayed due to the recent stormy weather and cold temperatures, according to city officials. The project is now expected to be completed by January.

“Because the pavement is currently uneven, drivers should be especially cautious when driving in that area, and pedestrians should be careful when crossing intersections,” city officials said.

The upcoming paving work is set to occur during daytime hours because of the cold nights, so intermittent lane closures and detours will be required during those days. The traffic delays are anticipated to last about seven days once the work begins. To learn more, visit dublin.ca.gov. ■

Environmental review ongoing for future operations at Livermore Lab

Federal agency hosting virtual meeting Tuesday on alternatives for next 15 years

By CIERRA BAILEY

The National Nuclear Security Administration is in the midst of public hearings to receive input on a draft document evaluating potential environmental impacts associated with the operation of the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory.

The draft site-wide environmental impact statement (SWEIS) prepared by the NNSA analyzes the potential environmental impacts of specific alternatives for continuing LLNL operations for approximately the next 15 years, according to the NNSA’s summary of the document.

“The continued operation of

the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) is critical to NNSA’s Stockpile Stewardship and Management Program, to prevent the spread and use of nuclear weapons worldwide, and to many other areas that may impact national security and global stability,” the NNSA’s summary reads.

The two alternatives the SWEIS analyzes include a “no-action alternative” and a “proposed action alternative.”

Under the no-action alternative, NNSA would continue current facility operations throughout LLNL in support of assigned missions. The no-action alternative also

includes the construction of new facilities; modernization/upgrade/utility projects; and decontamination, decommissioning, and demolition of excess and aging facilities.

The proposed action includes the scope of the no-action alternative and an increase in current facility operations or enhanced operations that may require new or modified facilities and that are reasonably foreseeable over the next 15 years.

Continued reinvestment would enable the lab “to meet mission deliverables and sustain science, technology, and engineering excellence to respond to future national security challenges,” according to

the NNSA report.

Under both alternatives, the document also analyzes the new hybrid work environment due to an increase in telework at LLNL.

NNSA is holding a 60-day public comment period on the SWEIS, which included two in-person public hearings in Livermore and Tracy earlier this week and a virtual session set for next Tuesday (Dec. 13) from 6-8 p.m.

Learn more about the virtual meeting, as well as access a digital copy of the draft SWEIS, online at www.energy.gov. Copies of the draft are also available for review at the Livermore Public Library. ■

‘Her Side of the Story’

Museum on Main exhibit on California’s pioneer women open through December

By CHRISTIAN TRUJANO

Pleasanton’s Museum on Main is currently featuring a touring exhibit that highlights the hardships, joys and lives of female pioneers in California.

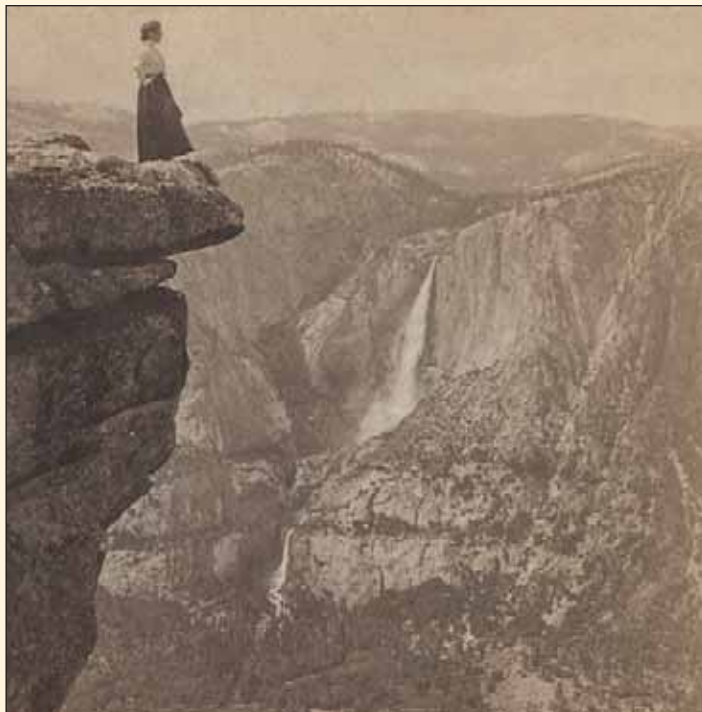
“Her Side of the Story: Tales of California Pioneer Women” is a traveling exhibit developed by the Society of California Pioneers that focuses on 30 first-person accounts from women who settled throughout California prior to January 1, 1854.

The basis of the exhibit is a single ledger that contains over 800 handwritten stories of California pioneer women that is meant to create a more complete understanding of the state’s history by highlighting women’s voices and experiences.

According to a news release from the museum, the Association of Pioneer Women of California, a group that was formed in the early 1900s and disbanded in the ‘70s, were the ones who collected and preserved these women’s experiences in the ledger.

“We’re very excited to host this exhibit,” Museum on Main curator Ken MacLennan said in the news release. “The Society has collected some amazing stories about women’s experiences in the early years of statehood, and this is a great way to present them.”

The exhibit, which is open in downtown Pleasanton until Dec. 30, also has a section of 40 diverse



SOCIETY OF CALIFORNIA PIONEERS

A photo of a woman standing across from the Yosemite falls in 1902, among the artifacts now on display at the Museum on Main.

portraits of unidentified women who represent the thousands of pioneers whose stories were never recorded.

In addition to viewing the exhibition, teachers, historians and researchers will be able to access the ledger and can search through the digital transcriptions of each story to learn more about the experiences of these women and their journeys to California.

“To enhance the images and text of the exhibit, Museum on Main

has included a variety of relevant historic and reproduction items from its collections, including an early Singer sewing machine, a barrel-style butter churn, and the 1860s-style dress that Beverly Eckley wore when playing General Alfred Pleasanton’s sister Laura in civic and classroom appearances with her husband Ormond, who portrayed the general himself,” the news release stated. ■

Sanwong leaving Zone 7 for EBRPD

Director resigning after earning park board seat unopposed

By CHRISTIAN TRUJANO

Zone 7 Water Agency Director Olivia Sanwong will be stepping down from her position on the agency’s governing board later this month so she can start her new role on the East Bay Regional Park District Board of Directors.

Sanwong, who has served on the Zone 7 board for the last 4-1/2 years, told the Weekly that she will begin her new role as EBRPD Ward 5 director effective Jan. 2, succeeding longtime Director Ayn Wieskamp. Sanwong, a Pleasanton native who won reelection to her Zone 7 seat in June, opted to run for the EBRPD position after Wieskamp announced her retirement and was the only candidate to file for Ward 5 ahead of the November election.

“I believe our regional parks are one of the best parts of living in the East Bay,” Sanwong said. “I decided to run for the East Bay Regional



Olivia Sanwong

See **SANWONG** on Page 6

Las Positas College celebrates new horticulture facility

2-acre space includes greenhouse, gardening grounds, orchard field

BY CHRISTIAN TRUJANO

Las Positas College's newly constructed horticulture facility and the soon-to-be-completed viticulture building are some examples of how district officials said the college is teaching sustainability while also looking at the Tri-Valley's agricultural history.

"You need knowledgeable people in the workforce to understand how to recommend plants, (how) to run their own landscaping companies," said Nan Ho, dean of science, technology, engineering and math at Las Positas. "This is a pathway for students to actually learn all this, get their certificate or get their degree and then they can actually open their own landscape company."

The new agriculture science facility includes a classroom, greenhouse, shade structure, growing grounds and an orchard area along with new parking spaces.

Some of the most notable amenities that Ho pointed out are the growing grounds, the greenhouse and the shade structure because they provides hands-on learning for students.

"The greenhouse is state-of-the-art," she said. "We have really large temperature fluctuations in Livermore, especially in the summer, so being able to control temperature in a large greenhouse is



CHUCK DECKERT

Las Positas College and Chabot-Las Positas Community College District officials participate in a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new Horticulture Building on Nov. 15.

really important."

Horticulture is a branch of agriculture that deals with the science, technology and business of plant cultivation — Las Positas offers several classes on the topic as well as different types of certification degrees.

According to the department's website, the horticulture program prepares students for careers in all the major horticultural disciplines

including: landscape design and construction; nursery and greenhouse management; floral production and design; turf management; and arboriculture.

In 2017, the Chabot-Las Positas Community College District began drafting the 2018 Facilities Master Plan where students, faculty and other stakeholders provided input on much needed services and upgrades, such as these new facilities.

The funding for the facilities and other upgrades to the district came from a \$950 million Measure A bond that was approved by voters in 2016. The bond allows the schools to upgrade technology and science labs and aging classrooms, retrofit buildings for improved safety and security, and acquire facilities and equipment.

After the master plan was developed, work went underway for

the horticulture facility. AC Martin was the Pleasanton-based architectural firm that spent 18 months on designing the 8,800-square-foot building along with the surrounding 2-acre space.

At first, the design process saw some hiccups as the land that the facility was originally supposed to be built atop was in dispute. Then, once the design team moved to a different location, there was an issue with the soil.

"With regards to soil, we have some really unique soil at Las Positas College," said Ann Kroll, the project planner for the district who oversees all the bond programs. "We had to have several tests performed before and then during the soil placement ... to make sure that the type of plants that were going to be planted would actually live and survive in the soil."

But after six stressful weeks, Kroll said that was taken care of so that C. Overaa and Company construction could spend the next 14 months building the facility that was made available for students this fall.

For Kroll, one of the aspects of the new facility that she really liked was the spaces for students to get hands-on experience in

See **HORTICULTURE** on Page 10

SANWONG

Continued from Page 5

Park District Ward 5 Director to continue Director Ayn Wieskamp's legacy of managing our natural resources responsibly and balancing recreational access with environmental protections. I have served as an EBRPD Park Advisory Committee member since 2015, learning about issues facing EBRPD and being responsive to residents and park users."

The district is made up of 73 parks spanning across Alameda and Contra Costa counties, overseen by an elected Board of Directors that works to manage and preserve the region's natural and cultural resources, according to its website.

Ward 5, where Sanwong will soon represent, includes the areas of Dublin, a portion of Fremont, Livermore, Newark, Pleasanton, Sunol and unincorporated eastern and southern Alameda County.

Dave Mason, public information supervisor at the park district, told the Weekly that Sanwong had qualified for the seat unopposed, which is why the Ward 5 position wasn't on the Nov. 8 general election ballot.

Current Ward 5 Director Wieskamp, a longtime public

official and community leader in Livermore, announced her pending retirement from EBRPD at the end of July, saying she would not seek reelection, which was when Sanwong said she decided to run for the position even after she was just reelected on the Zone 7 board.

According to Mason, Wieskamp served as a park district director representing Ward 5 for 24 years and is the second-longest serving female board member in park district history.

Sanwong said she will be leaving the water agency after having won reelection for a second four-year term with Zone 7 in the June primary because she could not hold voting positions on both boards due to conflict-of-interest rules.

"I am proud of the Zone 7 Board of Directors' work over the past 4.5 years and want to thank my colleagues for trusting me to serve as Board President and Vice President," Sanwong said. "We faced many challenges during my tenure with Zone 7, and I am grateful to our fantastic Zone 7 management and staff for their hard work."

Zone 7 communications specialist Alexandra Bradley told the Weekly that after Sanwong submitted her letter of resignation as director at the water agency on

Nov. 30, it will result in a vacancy on the board for a term that ends on June 30, 2026.

"It was an honor working with her," Zone 7 General Manager Valerie Pryor said of Sanwong. "I appreciate her dedication and passion for water and flood protection. I know she is equally passionate about recreation so the EBRPD role will be a perfect fit for her."

Sanwong said that her final Zone 7 board meeting will be on Dec. 21 and that the remaining board will decide what to do about the vacant seat. She said they will most likely follow the agency's established appointment process to fill the seat.

Bradley said Zone 7 follows government guidelines for filling vacancies on the board, having 60 days after Sanwong officially leaves to replace her.

"If the Board of Directors does not act to fill a vacancy during that time, the Board of Supervisors of the county of Alameda has the authority to fill the vacancy during the next 30 days," Bradley said. "In either case, the individual appointed to fill the vacancy will only serve until the next general district election, which will be in June 2024."

She added that the individual who is elected in June 2024 would

serve for two years until the completion of Sanwong's original term in 2026 and could stand for reelection in the June 2026 election.

"This is an excellent opportunity

for someone interested in water issues," Sanwong added. "I learned a lot during my time with Zone 7 and will always cherish my experience with this agency." ■

TAKE US ALONG



Hammers in Haines: Bill Newman and Rosanne Crane visited Haines, Alaska during the Southeast Alaska State Fair. Here, they stopped at the famed Hammer Museum operated by longshoreman Dave Pahl (shown walking in background), who maintains a collection of more than 7,000 hammers and just completed a new scholarly book on the subject.

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

League of California Cities backs Livermore in Eden Housing appeal

Key hearing set for next week in case over downtown affordable housing development

By **CIERRA BAILEY**

The League of California Cities recently demonstrated support for the city of Livermore in the pending appeal challenging the City Council's approval of the 130-unit Eden Housing development under the California Environmental Quality Act.

The association, also known as Cal Cities, filed an amicus brief with the appellate court last month, backing the city against community group Save Livermore Downtown, which filed the appeal in April after its initial lawsuit against the city was denied in Alameda County Superior Court earlier this year.

SLD argues that the city's approval of the complex — set to be built at the southeast corner of Railroad Avenue and L Street — violated state environmental policy and the city's own Downtown Specific Plan.

The group is advocating for the housing development to be relocated to a yet-undetermined location and for a community park to be built on the project site instead.

In the midst of the ongoing litigation, the previously city-owned land has already been sold to developer Eden Housing, Inc. but opponents of the project are not backing down.

Cal Cities — an association of 479 California cities — “is dedicated to protecting and restoring local control to provide for the public health, safety, and welfare of their residents, and to enhance the quality of life for all Californians,” according to court documents obtained by Livermore Vine.

The organization filed the amicus brief after determining that the case raises issues that affect all cities.

“Specifically, the appellant's contentions concerning the standard of judicial review and its piecemeal (and often mistaken) focus on various design standards without addressing the city's overall findings of the project at issue's consistency with its Downtown Specific Plan implicate the constitutionally allocated authority of cities and counties,” the document reads.

Cal Cities also said that SLD's environmental claims demonstrate a concerning and growing practice of litigation abuse.

“As Cal Cities' members strive to meet their communities' mounting housing needs, opponents of housing development seek to delay or halt such efforts through misuse of the state's environmental laws. Cal Cities believes this court's decision on the appellant's CEQA claims may implicate future CEQA

disputes and ultimately, the law's identity as either an obstructive tool for anti-housing groups or a powerful tool for proponents of affordable housing.”

Citing several references including relevant literature, authorities and other California appellate court examples, Cal Cities' amicus brief urges the court to affirm the trial court's decision and uphold the city's approval of the project.

The Cal Cities' amicus brief contends that SLD is misusing CEQA in an effort to block affordable housing, which was also the argument at the center of California Attorney General Rob Bonta's amicus brief filed back in August.

“Perhaps the most compelling evidence that SLD is motivated by personal preferences rather than by legitimate environmental concerns is the fact that SLD does not even

claim the housing project will negatively impact the environment,” Cal Cities' amicus brief reads, adding:

“Rather, appellant's CEQA claims rely on the argument that the ‘soil and groundwater contamination at the project site is far more severe than what was assumed in the city's previous environmental review documents.’ Appellant argues that because it contends the contamination at the project site is greater than what was originally believed, the city was required to do additional environmental review. In arguing this point, SLD reveals its lack of experience working with CEQA.”

The hearing for the appeal is set for next Wednesday (Dec. 14), following a partially granted joint motion filed by the city and Eden Housing, Inc. to expedite review of the case. ■

Pleasanton council endorses concept of creating Citywide Strategic Plan

Will move away from two-year work plan process that had become trademark for city

By **CHRISTIAN TRUJANO**

Pleasanton's longstanding two-year process for identifying and prioritizing public projects, programs and policy initiatives will soon be a thing of the past following the City Council's decision to try something new.

The old biennial council work plan, a system that residents have been used to for nearly 20 years under prior city manager Nelson Fialho, is going to be replaced with a Citywide Strategic Plan that first-year City Manager Gerry Beaudin championed saying it is more forward-looking.

“I would say that what we're doing now is maybe creating a bit of false hope for people who are passionate about those projects because we don't link existing resources to an intended outcome as part of this process,” Beaudin told the council on Nov. 15 regarding the old process.

In addition to the day-to-day operations, city staff are responsible for the consideration of different ideas, projects and services that are brought up by residents. Instead of approving these initiatives and activities throughout the year, the City Council uses a priority-setting process to leverage city resources to meet those needs.

The approved council priorities were presented as a work plan that guided staff and financial resource allocation — this process also aligned with the city's two-year budgeting cycle, and involved soliciting input from city

commission and committee members, the City Council, and residents and other stakeholders to create new recommendations.

Past items that would generate council meetings which lasted well into the late night, often focused on development-related projects.

But because the city's current two-year priority setting process has been in place for more than 17 years, Beaudin said during his Nov. 15 presentation to the council, that the newly adopted strategic plan will allow for a more streamlined five-year version of the process.

The Citywide Strategic Plan is a top-down approach to priority planning that will start with creating a first-of-its-kind guiding document that will have city officials holistically engage in creating a five-year strategic planning framework.

The goal is to attempt to capture the community's interests for today and into the future, more on the range of five years, 10 years and 20 years rather than just two years.

“You're going to get a document that says: This is what the community values, here's how those values translate into actionable items and projects, and here's what the city can realistically accomplish in that period of time. And then we'll have some aspirational things as well, because that's important,” Beaudin said.

After the council approved the strategic plan concept, staff are

now in the process of identifying a consultant and paying them between \$85,000 to \$100,000 to help design the plan. Beaudin said the money will come from the city manager's general fund account.

City officials will start to develop the strategic planning process over the ensuing nine months, including seeking input from residents, commissioners, council members and other key stakeholders.

As for the existing council priorities work plan, which has 78 individual items, it will remain in place and staff will move through the current list until the end of the 2023-24 fiscal year, creating a third, “gap” year in the prioritization process.

Some council members, however, were a bit hesitant at first with supporting the new strategic plan saying that some good did come out of the two year process that aligned with the budget cycle.

“I do think a longer term broader or fuller outlook is essential for us,” Councilmember Jack Balch said. “I slightly worry about decoupling from the two year budget cycle but I think from what I'm hearing, it actually will allow us to probably achieve a bit more synergy with the budget and where we're going.”

He originally had some issues with rising inflation that could lead to seeing budget dollars being “eaten up more by the necessary items of infrastructure and operating budget in of itself.”

Councilmember Kathy Narum

shared concerns similar to other council members about the public input process for the gap year saying she hopes the community will still be able to make their voices heard.

“I understand what you're trying to do, but (I'm) just making sure that we know we've got this list of things that we're not going to be able to get done in the 12 months and how do you decide what rises to the top and get that community input ... I guess that's a bit of a concern for me with this.”

Beaudin responded by saying the city has already completed a first round of prioritization for the 78 projects on the current list and is mainly going to the commissions and committees to get confirmation that these are still the

things that the city wants to move forward with if they haven't been accomplished.

But at the end of the day, most of them agreed that the change was needed as the prior process had too many projects and it ended up feeling like it had become an “intense lobbying effect.”

“I just remember, Tuesday, I dreaded it because I'd be through my cell phone battery charge by 1 o'clock, from everybody lobbying, and people having the sense that right or wrong, if you turn out and you send emails, you get on the list, and then you win,” Narum said. “I'm not sure that's necessarily at the end of the day, the best way to govern the city and, and

See **PLAN** on Page 9



GAY NINETIES PIZZA CO.
Italian Style Spaghetti & Ravioli

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Future of BART dependent on increased public funding, officials say

‘Death spiral’ possible as 9-figure deficits could be on horizon

Cutting BART service enough to shore up its projected nine-figure annual deficits in the coming years would result in a “death spiral” for the transit agency, officials said last week.

BART planning officials prepared a five-year financial outlook at the behest of the Metropolitan Transportation Commission, the regional transit coordination agency, to estimate how three levels of post-pandemic ridership recovery would affect service.

A full return to the transit system’s pre-pandemic ridership levels would enable BART to balance its budget each year, but such an outcome is “not feasible” without a new source of annual revenue.

Meanwhile, BART recapturing 85% of its pre-pandemic revenue

by the 2028 fiscal year would result in annual deficits of \$125 million.

Those deficits would climb to \$233 million per year if fare revenue remains stagnant through mid-2029, when the 2028 fiscal year ends, according to BART officials.

But the agency’s budget officials argued that BART cannot realistically make cuts to its operating costs to fully close those deficits because rail transit has high fixed costs — in BART’s case, roughly 30% of its overall operating costs are fixed.

According to BART financial planning director Michael Eiseman, the cuts necessary to at least meet the annual deficits with stagnant fare revenue would eliminate service on the Richmond-Millbrae and

San Jose-Daly City lines, close nine stations, reduce service to week-days only and limit trains to arriving once every hour.

“Cutting to balance in two of the three scenarios results in minimal service that would not meet the region’s needs or even provide enough capacity to meet demand,” Eiseman said to the BART Board of Directors on Dec. 1.

“Critically, this poor service would lead to further loss of ridership fare revenue and further deterioration of our fiscal position,” he said.

BART officials were quick to stress that the agency is not considering cutting service or eliminating train routes at this time.

Transit officials across the region have already floated ideas to



RAY SAINT GERMAIN/BCN FOUNDATION

A BART train arrives at an East Bay station.

save transit agencies that have suffered heavily from reduced ridership during the COVID-19 pandemic, as fewer riders are traveling into and out of downtown San Francisco for work five days per week.

Those proposals have included a ballot measure for a regional tax as well as identifying consistent state or federal funding. For BART, a

new revenue source will likely be needed by mid-2025, when the agency is set to exhaust its federal relief funding.

“Ultimately, BART’s future depends on working to develop a funding model that includes more public investment so that we are less reliant on passenger fares,” Eiseman said. ■

—Eli Walsh, BCN Foundation

Former interim police chief to lead Community of Character Collaborative

BY CHRISTIAN TRUJANO

Craig Eicher, a former member of the Pleasanton Police Department for more than three decades including six months as interim police chief, was recently named president of Pleasanton’s Community of Character Collaborative.

According to a news release from the organization, Eicher, a longtime Pleasanton resident, has been on the Board of Directors for several years and has helped with things like manning the barbecue fundraising events for the organization, which looks to instill good values in the community.

“We appreciate Craig for his willingness to continue serving the Pleasanton community after

his retirement,” according to the news release.

The nonprofit is a joint collaboration among the city government, the Pleasanton Unified School District and the Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce. According to its website, the organization’s goals are to “help create a community of character built on values, goodwill and the traits of responsibility, compassion, self-discipline, honesty, respect and integrity.”

Some of the ways the collaborative helps the community is by putting together scholarships;



Craig Eicher

holding award ceremonies for character and service; and putting together a special olympics where Eicher has previously volunteered in handing out awards to the athletes.

Eicher will be taking over after former president Kelly O’Lague announced her departure from the collaborative so that she could take the CEO position of the United Way of the Columbia-Willamette, an organization in Portland, Oregon.

O’Lague had a long presence in nonprofit leadership in the Tri-Valley, including guiding the Tri-Valley’s Child Care Links as CEO through its merger with the San Leandro-based Family Service Counseling and Community

Resource Center in July 2019. The nonprofit rebranded as Hively one month later.

Hively parted ways with O’Lague in February and while this new job is in Oregon, the collaborative’s news release stated that O’Lague will continue to be a member of the Community of Character’s Board of Directors, while maintaining a residence in Pleasanton.

It also stated that she took the job to be closer to her daughter and grandchild who live in Oregon.

“Kelly continues to be a wonderful and compassionate leader who is committed to helping children, seniors, and those in need,” according to the news release. “We appreciate her many years

of selfless service and personal sacrifice to the community all while promoting the values of the Community of Character.”

Eicher was hired as a full-time police officer with the Pleasanton Police Department in 1991, rising through the ranks up to a promotion as captain about 10 years ago. He served as interim police chief for more than six months in 2019 and 2020, and officially retired from the force in January 2021.

He also founded the Pleasanton Police Officers Charitable Foundation, was president of the Pleasanton Police Officers Association for six years and was on the Board of Directors of Hope Hospice where he served as board president for six years. ■



JOSEPH VILLAREAL

Rainbow over Pleasanton

Reader Joseph Villareal snapped this photograph of a rainbow over Pleasanton just before 8 a.m. Monday after it caught his eye while he was donating clothes in the bins near the freeway behind the San Francisco Premium Outlets in Livermore.

District offers buy-back program for older, high-polluting vehicles

Bay Area residents with a vehicle made before 1999 can receive up to \$1,200 as part of a buy-back program to improve local air quality, the Bay Area Air Quality Management District recently announced.

The buy-back program will pay owners of older cars and small trucks to voluntarily get rid of them. Vehicles made before 1999 often lack modern carbon emission controls and have higher air pollution rates than newer vehicles, according to the air district.

To qualify for the program, vehicles must be the 1998 model year or older, registered in the Bay Area for the last 24 months and currently

drivable. Vehicles must also be smog certified.

“Transportation remains the largest source of air pollution in the Bay Area and scrapping older vehicles helps limit harmful tailpipe emissions in the air we breathe,” said Sharon Landers, the air district’s interim executive officer.

The air district has retired more than 90,000 vehicles via its buy-back program since 1996, removing an estimated 75 pounds of air pollution per vehicle per year.

Information about the buy-back program can be found at www.baaqmd.gov. ■

—Eli Walsh, BCN Foundation

Save Mount Diablo eyes purchase of portion of 'Missing Mile'

Option agreement in place for long-sought Krane Pond property on north peak

By JEANITA LYMAN

A small but significant piece of land adjacent to Mount Diablo State Park that has been sought after by Save Mount Diablo for decades as part of what's been dubbed the "Missing Mile" is now one step closer to being part of the environmental nonprofit's efforts to connect and restore pieces of land on the mountain in the name of conservation.

The nonprofit has signed an option agreement to purchase the Krane Pond property on the mountain's northern slope, which is home to a spring-fed pond that the organization says is important for wildlife in the park's ecosystem. The site has been on SMD's radar since its inception, on the list of priorities by co-founder and botanist Mary Bowerman.

"The Missing Mile is one of our high-priority land acquisition areas," SMD Executive Director Ted Clement said in a statement.

He added that the entire "Missing Mile" area consists of primarily private properties that have not yet been the sites of development or

conservation efforts, despite being on Mount Diablo and connected to the park.

The organization is seeking to raise \$500,000 to cover two options to hold the property, as well as to ultimately buy it and provide for the initial stewardship. If successful, the Krane Pond property would be the next in a series of land acquisition projects by SMD, collectively amounting to more than 200 acres.

"Thus, amidst our 50th anniversary celebrations, it was very special to recently secure an option to purchase, and a purchase and sale agreement on the Krane Pond property, which is located in the Missing Mile," Clement said. "Now we have one year to raise the necessary funds to ensure this important Krane Pond property is permanently protected."

The property came into its current iteration in 1978, upon being purchased by Walter and Roseann Krane, who originally intended to build a house for their family on it in order to take advantage of the pond and the impressive views

on the 6.7-acre lot. However, they ultimately decided to keep the land in its natural state.

"Instead of building a house, we decided to preserve the land," Roseann Krane said. "Walt loved the outdoors and our family camped and fished all over California. Walt adored our boys and was an assistant scoutmaster for 11 years."

While Krane Pond continues to be an important water source on Mount Diablo, it was much deeper and larger to the point of being considered a lake rather than a pond when the property was purchased by the Krane family, who turned it into a fishing and recreation destination.

"He (Walter Krane) bought 200 bass and stocked the lake and helped the kids build a dock. We spent time with Indian Guides, Boy Scouts, soccer, and many friends picnicking, swimming, boating, fishing, and horseback riding at the site," Roseann Krane continued. "Wildlife we observed visiting the property included many deer, bucks, songbirds, ducks, ground squirrels, rattlesnakes, and



SEAN BURKE/SMD

The Krane Pond property has been eyed by Save Mount Diablo since the nonprofit's inception, when it was identified as a priority by co-founder Mary Bowerman.

a great blue heron."

According to SMD, the pond continues to be vital for a range of familiar local species including ground squirrels and mountain lions, as well as endangered species including the California red-legged frog and Alameda whipsnake.

Roseann Krane added that as lovers of the outdoors and Mount Diablo themselves, her family had been longtime supporters and sympathizers of Save Mount Diablo since its establishment several years before their purchase of the land, with her husband Walter Krane donating his professional artworks to

the organization for their Moonlight on the Mountain fundraiser prior to his death in 2021.

"I thought that the best way to honor Walt's memory and love of the outdoors was having our open space preserved by Save Mount Diablo, and eventually be part of the state park system," she said.

SMD is set to enter a survey phase on the property during their fundraising period, in which they will assess the property's boundaries. If they're successful in acquiring the property, their first stewardship efforts would include fence and dam repairs. ■

All three LARPD board incumbents win reelection

Pierpont, Furst, Summers Faltings reclaim seats for another four years

By NICOLE GONZALES

Livermore residents voted for three at-large positions on the Livermore Area Recreation and Park District Board of Directors, a governing body that establishes policy and provides guidance and general direction for district operation.

Incumbents Philip Pierpont, David Furst and Maryalice Summers Faltings were all re-elected for four-year terms from December 2022 to December 2026.

According to the most current ballot numbers from the Alameda

County Registrar of Voters' Office, Pierpont leads in first place with 23.78%, Furst follows second with 22.16% and Summers Faltings sits at 20.56%.

The three LARPD board veterans came out on top despite a packed race that included newcomers Ruby Moppin (15.14%), Corey Hahn (9.57%) and Robert Sanchez (8.80%).

Pierpont first joined the board in



David Furst



Maryalice Summers Faltings



Philip Pierpont

2017. He is the owner of outdoor and sporting goods store Sunrise Mountain Sports in downtown Livermore and a veteran of the U.S. military. Pierpont is also a member

of the Livermore Downtown, Inc. Board of Directors.

Currently the longest serving member on the board, Summers Faltings was first elected to the position in 1994. Since, she has remained an active volunteer and contributor for various Livermore recreational events.

Furst, a retired sociology and sport psychology university professor, first became a part of the LARPD board in 2002. The Weekly spoke to Furst about his race experiences and reflections.

"My initial reaction was gratitude to the thousands of people

who had faith in me and my continued ability to contribute to the park district," Furst said. "I also was thankful that the voters respected my experience and my energy."

"It is very positive that other candidates showed an interest in the LARPD, and I hope they will get involved in the park district by joining the LARPD Foundation and/or becoming volunteers," he added.

At the time of writing, requests for comment from Pierpont and Summers Faltings were unsuccessful. ■

PLAN

Continued from Page 7

use our resources for capital for staff and everything."

Beaudin added to that saying the old system was too issue-specific to groups of individuals who knew how to work around the process and that it wasn't inclusive to the people who didn't even know about the two-year process in the first place.

He also wanted to make a point that he didn't want to diminish the old process, saying that it did bring some great things to the city.

"A lot of really great things have happened because of the two-year work planning process over the years," he said. "Major accomplishments. Recycled water was once on the list; things like that."

But he added that this change was still needed to set achievable expectations and provide transparency for the community within the city's financial and staffing realities.

He said the new system would focus on identifying bigger picture issues that are important to the community so that the city can

best position itself in five to 10 years down the road to have those projects completed.

"I've been pretty vocal for the last four years that we've had too many projects and projects that didn't belong on our priority setting," Councilmember Julie Testa said. "I watched some other cities and what I brought back was that they would have 10 items where we had 78. Street paving; we're gonna do street paving no matter what and I didn't understand why we had to be taking the time to have those kinds of projects there."

Beaudin said the main point in the new process will be asking forward-thinking questions like: does the city want to accomplish these projects sooner or later; why are future projects important to the city's values and mission; and what specific benchmarks could be tracked toward achieving those goals?

"A lot of it is above the water, if you think about the iceberg analogy — and so these are really high-value-add projects, but they also are in addition to the (day-to-day) work that gets done in the community," Beaudin said.

Mayor Karla Brown, who at first wanted to take a simpler approach in simply cutting down the projects on the list collectively as a council rather than creating this new strategic plan, said she supports the new plan but as long as it is done right.

"I think we do need some flexibility as we go through the two years, and even in this gap year; we absolutely do need to be budget focused," Brown said. "I trust our city manager to come up with the program. I hope it's not too high-level because I want it to really mean something." ■

Wingen Bakery completes expansion ahead of the holidays

Owners also honor late daughter with annual 'Way Day'

By CIERRA BAILEY

Since Aimee and Bryan Wingen opened their brick-and-mortar bakery in June 2021, it has quickly become a go-to spot in Livermore for bread, pastries and other baked goods.

In addition to its growing popularity, Wingen Bakery has also undergone an expansion that was completed last month — just in time for the holidays.

In May of this year, the Wingens took over the lease at 54 S Livermore Ave., which was previously occupied by Del Sole Comfort Shoes. Upon securing the space, Bryan Wingen got to work designing and renovating the former shoe store into a commercial kitchen to serve as their new pastry production space.

The 1,200-square-foot space features an enclosed bread room with glass windows visible to the public as well as additional seating made by local woodworker Ben O'Hearn.

The existing bakery side — at 50 S Livermore Ave. — will now be fully dedicated to a bistro style menu. Expanded menu items will highlight brunch and lunch. "Think biscuits and gravy, French toast, more sandwiches options and soups," Aimee Wingen told Livermore Vine in an email. "Everything will continue to be made in house, focusing on seasonality and sustainability," she added.

Both kitchens will continue to operate Wednesday to Monday from 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

The Wingens also held their third annual "Way Day" last Sunday commemorating the birthday of their late daughter Waylynn. She was born on Dec. 4, 2019 and died just eight months later after being diagnosed with a terminal genetic disorder called Zellweger syndrome.

The celebratory event is a fundraiser that benefits organizations dedicated to supporting children with life-threatening and chronic illnesses. This year they raised money for the Global Foundation for Peroxisomal Disorders, according to a post on Wingen Bakery's Instagram account.

"The Global Foundation for Peroxisomal Disorders (or GFPD) supports families and children affected by Zellweger Syndrome and



CIERRA BAILEY

Wingen Bakery has undergone an expansion after taking over the lease of the space next door formerly occupied by Del Sole Comfort Shoes.

we are setting up a direct donation page and in addition we will be donating a portion of our sales on December 4th to the GFPD," the post reads.

Wingen Bakery offered a number

of specials as part of the Way Day celebration including Waylynn's Chocolate Birthday Cake by the slice and blueberry pancakes — which was one of the few foods Waylynn was able to taste. ■

Shirley Ludwig

October 4, 1937 – October 11, 2022

A force of love and passion to be reckoned with.

On the morning of October 11th, long-time Pleasanton, CA resident, Shirley (Valencia) Ludwig passed peacefully in her sleep and was born into eternity, in Salem, OR. She spent the prior days surrounded by the love, laughter and tears of family and friends. Born October 4th, 1937, in Richmond, CA. The former roller derby queen, bowling and water-skiing enthusiast was affectionately known as "Ducky" to her friends and family and "Grandma Shirley" to her 8 grandchildren and two great grandchildren. Grandma Shirley will always be remembered for her infectious laugh and fiery spirit. She loved family gatherings and adventures with her grandkids to places like the San Francisco Zoo, or her favorite seafood joint in San Francisco, Scoma's. Sometimes her road trip adventures would lead to unexpected detours or destinations, however fun was always on the menu.

Ducky cherished, and was proud of, her Portuguese heritage, she loved to laugh, watch football and was quite the cheerleader at all family sporting events! She passionately loved her family and extended family, especially her two sisters: Diane "Tootsie" and Terri. Ducky was always up for a family gathering which would give her a reason to dress up and shop for a new outfit. She was the life of the party, feisty, and kind while taking every opportunity to spoil her grandkids.

She enjoyed, and looked forward to, weekends on Kings Island (the Delta) waterskiing and just being crazy with her high school friend, Ardell (Franke) Shelfo and the Shelfo crew.

Shirley worked in a variety of fields including a Donut Shoppe (which her kids loved most!) and enjoyed a long career in bookkeeping. Her work ethic and passion for family was her strength, which she inherited from her mother, Alice (Ornellas) Rietmulder, and affectionately passed to her children.

She is survived by her loving husband of 55 years, Robert Ludwig, sisters; Diane "Tootsie" Valencia, Terri Reitmulder-Knoke, her children; Tanya (Gene) Guy, Tandra (Roy) White, Joe (Katie Parr) Terry and Spencer (Kathy) Greene. Her Grandchildren; Lloyd, Kenna, Kyle, Travis, Chad, Alexa, Kayla, and Genoa. Great Grandchildren; Ellie and Pryce.

PAID OBITUARY



HORTICULTURE

Continued from Page 6

growing different things.

"The growing grounds is what I think is really great, because students are able to work out there and plant flowers, they're growing vegetables right now up there," Kroll said. "In the orchard they'll be able to plant trees, they have a few lemon trees out there right now that they're growing, and then they'll continue to grow."

Ho said that the developers also left some raised garden beds incomplete so that students and faculty can work together themselves to figure out how and what to plant in those areas.

"The department wanted the entire building and the whole facility to actually be a learning process," she said. "They've been planting in there, they actually had irrigation beds that were just kind left unfinished so that the students and the faculty could learn together ... they were basically co creating this learning space."

The district had recently celebrated the official ribbon-cutting ceremony of the facility on Nov.

15 along with roughly 150 district officials, Livermore city officials and community members as well as the construction groundbreaking of the Viticulture and Winery Technology Building.

Viticulture is similar in that it is a branch of the science of horticulture but instead focuses on the cultivation and harvesting of grapes for wine making.

Designed by tBP architecture, a design firm based in Walnut Creek, the new viticulture wine making facility will teach students about the wine industry and will take them through the full journey from growing the grapes to distribution.

Because the college already has a 4-acre vineyard and the surrounding area is rich in wine culture, Kroll and Ho said the new facility will help students get into and understand the entire wine-making business.

"Think of it as literally from a vine to the glass, right, and the students are going to learn the entire process, so this is a pretty remarkable space," Ho said.

Similar to the horticulture facility, the design process took about

two years before the construction company, Beals Martin construction, was able to break ground last month.

The 1-acre facility that will be across from the horticulture one will consist of a teaching winery classroom, a wine crush pad and wine barrel storage areas. Crush pads are another way to define the machines that crush the grapes into a juice.

The classroom will also double as a space for students to practice serving the wine and working with potential customers.

And with the college already having a permit to sell wine, Ho said students will really be able to get the full experience of growing their own grapes and selling their finished wine products.

"The student gets every experience," Ho said. "This is a product that people purchase, which is exactly what we need in the Tri-Valley because the wine industry is so important here and it does get to that level."

Kroll said that they expect this facility to be completed in the winter of 2024 — both she and Ho said that these facilities are open to the public if they want to schedule tours and that these programs will really help bring students who are interested in these sustainable industries.

"It's wonderful to have in one place, sort of a microcosm of the Tri-Valley's agricultural history and our heritage. I think there's a lot of potential there," Ho said. "The horticulture facility becomes a model for sustainable agriculture, as does viticulture winery technology. It's part of our agricultural heritage, it's based on industry input and it's a pathway for our students." ■



CHUCK DECKERT

The 1,980-square-foot shade house at LPC's horticulture facility provides filtered sunlight and ventilation for plants.

'Shawn's Boat' fundraiser more than halfway to goal

By JEANITA LYMAN

More than four months after the death of a Danville-born woman who was hit by a truck while bicycling to work in Washington D.C., friends, family and former rowing teammates are continuing efforts to memorialize the late 40-year-old.

Shawn O'Donnell's death on July 20 was the catalyst for her former teammates on the University of California, Berkeley rowing team to reunite and reconnect with one another, which ultimately culminated in the "Shawn's Boat" fundraising effort.

"Our goal is to raise \$50,000 by Jan. 1, 2023 so that an eight-person rowing shell can be purchased, dedicated in Shawn's name, and raced this spring season by the women of Cal rowing," organizers

wrote on the fundraiser's webpage.

As of the most recent update, on Nov. 28, the reunited team was well past the halfway point of that goal — at \$31,480.

In addition to commemorating O'Donnell through a boat bearing her name, her former teammates are raising funds to enable the current high-ranking women's crew team at UC Berkeley to use it for a spring race.

"This racing shell will keep Shawn's memory alive; and those strong, fierce, and athletic women who will compete in this shell, which bears her name, will get to know Shawn and the woman she was," O'Donnell's stepfather, Claes Elfving, said.

Friends and family emphasized O'Donnell's passion for her

time as a rower, as well as for other outdoor sports and travel opportunities.

"Shawn loved nothing more than to travel, explore, and spend time with her family and friends," Shawn's Boat organizers said. "She especially treasured her time spent as a Cal Crew rower."

In addition to the online fundraiser, Shawn's Boat organizers are hosting a dinner in O'Donnell's memory at Gianni's Italian Bistro at 2065 San Ramon Valley Blvd. on Dec. 19. More information on Shawn's Boat is available at shawnsboat.com. The dinner will be part of the restaurant's Tips for Change events every Monday night, in which all tips and 10% of sales go toward a local volunteer organization. ■



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Shawn O'Donnell posed during a trip to Mount Kilimanjaro.

Dublin launching shopping rewards program

By NICOLE GONZALES

The city of Dublin is due to soon roll out its new citywide municipal rewards program — the first of its kind in the nation.

Formed through a partnership with Reach, a San Francisco-based tech and commerce company, the program is designed to generate traffic for small businesses while providing shopping incentives to residents. Shoppers are able to earn cash-back rewards in the form of "Dublin Dollars" when purchasing items at local stores.

Dublin consumers will also be able to manage and track their purchases, contact business owners and see their rewards totals. The loyalty program will operate through

a mobile app known as "Dublin Marketplace".

"The city is pleased to partner with Reach in the launch of the region's first business loyalty rewards program," Mayor Melissa Hernandez said in a press release. "This program will provide our businesses with a competitive advantage while rewarding those who shop in Dublin."

Hernandez continued, "This is truly a win-win program that will support our brick-and-mortar establishments. The Dublin Marketplace is particularly important to our diverse and hard-working small businesses who represent the uniqueness and beauty of the city."

Mike Ribero, CEO of Reach, also issued remarks on the initiative.

"Our partnership with the city of Dublin is a unique opportunity to breathe new life into the Dublin economy as local businesses and residents continue to grapple with the aftershocks of the pandemic," Ribero said.

"(This) brings a new way for Dublin residents and local businesses to engage and create maximum mutual value," Ribero added. "We are excited to see what this extension can do for the community in Dublin and many other cities to come."

Funded through the American Rescue Plan Act, Dublin Marketplace is meant to support

local commerce throughout the city after the COVID-19 pandemic left many businesses struggling, according to city officials.

The program comes from the city's Business Recovery Playbook that includes other strategies and discussions around how to revitalize small operations local to the area.

Dublin-based stores are able to apply for a business profile after completing a verification process. Residents may join the program by downloading the app and registering with an account.

For more information about the Dublin commerce program, visit Dublin.ca.gov/DublinMarketplace. ■

The Crayon Initiative appoints new executive director

By JEANITA LYMAN

The Crayon Initiative, a Danville-based nonprofit organization that supplies crayons to children's hospitals throughout the country, has a new leader at the helm as of this fall.

Bernadette Shanahan-Haas was announced as the organization's new executive director on Oct. 10, a Chicago native and longtime nonprofit manager who most recently served as executive director for Retail Bakers of America.

"After a long search for the perfect person to fill this integral role, we are so excited to have Bernadette join The Crayon



Bernadette Shanahan-Haas

Initiative family," The Crayon Initiative founder Bryan Ware said in an announcement.

"Having Bernadette on the team is crucial to our continued growth as we strive to provide free crayons to every children's hospital in the country," he continued. "Her skills and experience are invaluable additions to The Crayon Initiative."

Near the end of her first month on the job, Shanahan-Haas said she was impressed by the organization already and excited for her new role, despite having her hands full settling in.

"It's hard to believe, but I'm coming up on the end of my first month here," Shanahan-Haas said in a statement. "A couple of weeks ago, I got to tour our crayon facility for the first time. All I can say is, wow."

In addition to supplying crayons to children's hospitals, The Crayon

Initiative seeks to have a positive environmental impact by rescuing unwanted crayons that would go into landfills otherwise -- with 600,000 packs of crayons donated so far, according to Shanahan-Haas.

"I'm still learning the full impact of the work done here," Shanahan-Haas said. "But what's most moved me so far are the stories of lives touched by the organization."

While the scope of the nonprofit may seem small, they seek to make a major impact on children's lives by providing a creative outlet and supplies at a time when they might need it most. In particular, they note the mental health benefits of art and expression for children in all situations, but particularly those needing to keep their minds occupied and feel fulfilled while hospitalized.

More information is available at thecrayoninitiative.org. ■

Jeanette Arline Frevola

Nov. 28, 1928 – Nov. 20, 2022

Jeanette was born Jeanette Arline Love. Her natural father, Arlin Love, was lost fighting a forest fire when she was just 3 years old. Her mother, Signa Mae, later remarried Alfred Field and he legally adopted her and she became Jeanette Field. It is one of life's grand coincidences that at her birth her name was "Love" because that is one word that describes her life. Love of her husband, Vincent Frevola - married for 56 years, until his passing in 2004. Love of his father, Nonny (James Vincent Frevola), a sweet man whom they cared for in their home on School St in Pleasanton until his passing. Love of their four lovely daughters, Cindy Engel, Denean Gable, Nancy Strohmeyer & Marianne Sekany. Love of her 14 Grandchildren & 18 Great Grandchildren. Jeanette was the embodiment of LOVE. The children in the neighborhood knew there was always a cookie and a smile for them at her home. The students at Amador High and Foothill High knew that she was there to help, quietly and with love in the library. Her daughters knew that the gentle but firm parenting she administered was given in love. Her beloved husband, Vince, was the center of her love for 56 years and quietly trusted that love which she gave in abundance. To her many longtime friends whom she traveled, golfed and attended church with, she was known and admired as the sweet, kind, loving woman that she was. Jeanette was loved by all she touched and returned that love in full measure. She will be lovingly missed and lovingly remembered.



PAID OBITUARY

Celebrating the season

Festive tree lighting takes center stage after rain cancels holiday parade

STORY BY JEREMY WALSH. PHOTOS BY CHUCK DECKERT

Revelers gazed toward the sky to take in the colorful display as the holiday tree in downtown Pleasanton was illuminated during a festive ceremony on Saturday — although the rain clouds did put a damper on the evening, leading city officials to cancel the annual parade.

Dozens of residents stuck out the day's consistent rain to attend the tree lighting, complete with live music and an appearance from Santa Claus, which was bumped up almost two hours earlier after the call was made late in the afternoon to forgo the popular procession amid the inclement weather.

"I have loved the parade long before I was mayor. I was so pleased that friends and family from throughout Pleasanton came to the Hometown Holiday Parade with their umbrellas to listen to the music and enjoy the celebration of the lighting of the beautiful tree in front of the Museum on Main," Mayor Karla Brown told the Weekly soon after flipping the switch to light the tree.

As organizers and participants were preparing for the annual holiday parade with fingers crossed in light of the forecast, city officials were keeping an equally close eye on the rainfall Saturday morning and afternoon.

The procession typically brings thousands of spectators to Main Street and scores of entrants from businesses and community groups in decorated floats, cars or on foot.

The parade still looked promising by 3 p.m., albeit scaled back to just one announcers' stage instead of three, but the rain remained steady and the decision was reached just after 3:30 p.m. to cancel the parade for safety reasons but go forward with the tree lighting earlier at 5 p.m.

It marked the third time in the past four years that Pleasanton's holiday parade was called off, following another inclement weather cancellation in 2019 and COVID-19 pandemic restrictions in 2020. ■





The scene in downtown Pleasanton last Saturday included (clockwise from top left) the illuminated tree outside the Museum on Main, a visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus, Pleasanton's Young American Patriots Fife & Drum Corps playing, music from The LT Holiday Trio and Mayor Karla Brown flipping the switch to light the tree.



‘The Nutcracker’ onstage at the Bankhead

Valley Dance Theatre performing holiday ballet during next two weekends

By NICOLE GONZALES

An upcoming series of shows at the Bankhead Theater is set to showcase the classic holiday two-act ballet, “The Nutcracker”. Performed by local performing arts group, Valley Dance Theatre, the show highlights the magic of Christmas and child-like joy.

Audience members will be able to enjoy the iconic ballet story accompanied by the dance company's own pit orchestra musicians. Show dates on the stage in downtown Livermore begin this Saturday and Sunday (Dec. 10-11) and continue through Dec. 16-18, at alternating time slots.

Valley Dance Theatre was originally founded in 1980 by Betsy Hausburg and Penny Tomasello with the intention of providing creative, affordable and quality dancing opportunities to performers in the area. Yearly, the company and its orchestra present two separate full-length productions.

Mark Gervase is a longtime member of the dance company. This year he will be the show's new Drosselmeyer, a character who is the Nutcracker Prince's uncle.

“It's wonderful to be a part of a dance company like this, I'm happy to be participating,” Gervase said. “The mission really is to enrich and encourage our performers and create a welcoming atmosphere for them to present their artistic abilities.”

Gervase has also danced as an Opening Father and Papa Gigone. “The Nutcracker” production is a favorite among the company, according to Gervase.

“This year, ‘The Nutcracker’ will no doubt be a spectacular show for those interested in live performance art or not. We welcome all to come watch our talented



JERWIN CHUA

Snapshots from a previous year's “The Nutcracker” production by Valley Dance Theatre.

cast members,” Gervase added.

Alex Foster, an Amador Valley High School freshman, is an incoming cast member for the production. In previous years, he began working backstage and now this time around, he joins the cast as Nutcracker and Opening Boy.

Foster's family has been involved with Valley Dance Theatre for over 10 years. His sisters and mother play vital roles in the group, being dancers and an organizer respectively. He is one of many students in the dance program to have deep and significant roots there.

To find out more information about Valley Dance Theatre and “The Nutcracker” performances during the next two weekends, visit www.valleydancetheatre.com/the-nutcracker. ■

VIOLINS OF HOPE

Strings of the Holocaust

CONCERTS AT BANKHEAD THEATER, LIVERMORE

Sunday, February 5th – 3:00 pm

Monday, February 6th – 7:30 pm

Tuesday, February 7th – 7:30 pm

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Holiday Fund

Each year, the Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund raises money to support programs and services that care for local families and children in our community.

The Holiday Fund partners with the Three Valleys Community Foundation, which handles all finances, so every dollar of your tax-deductible donation goes directly to local nonprofits with no administrative expenses.

Holiday Fund

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PleasantonWeekly.com/holiday_fund

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The Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund is a field of interest fund of Three Valleys Community Foundation, a 501(c)(3) charitable organization. A contribution to this fund allows your donation to be tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the law.

All donors and their gift amounts will be published in the Pleasanton Weekly unless the boxes below are checked.

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Make checks payable to Three Valleys Community Foundation and send to:

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c/o Three Valleys Community Foundation
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The following agencies will benefit from the Holiday Fund:

Axis Community Health is the Tri-Valley's sole provider of medical and mental health services for individuals and families who have a low income or who are uninsured. It serves more than 15,000 members of our community.

CityServe of the Tri-Valley supports the community by caring for people in crisis, coordinating resources between the faith-based community, nonprofits, schools, businesses, and government agencies and connecting volunteers in the community to nonprofits.

Hope Hospice provides ethical hospice care, transition services for those not eligible for hospice, bereavement support for adults and children and end-of-life education to Tri-Valley families, regardless of insurance or income status.

Open Heart Kitchen is the largest hot meal program of its kind in the Tri-Valley feeding the hungry every weekday at multiple locations.

Pleasanton Partnerships in Education (PPIE) has provided critical supplemental funding to benefit all 14,500 students at all 15 Pleasanton public schools for more than 30 years with the mission to enhance learning experiences for students.

Sunflower Hill provides places and spaces where adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) live, learn, work, and thrive in the greater community. The group develops residential communities and programming for individuals with I/DD.

Tri-Valley REACH, an acronym for Resources Education Activities Community and Housing for Special Adults of the Tri-Valley, provides safe, quality and affordable living environments where an adult with a developmental disability may live independently.

Valley Humane Society rescues and rehabilitates companion animals, champions responsible caretaking, shares pets' soothing affections with people in need of comfort, and supports and preserves existing pet-guardian relationships.

2022-23 Holiday Fund Donors

As of December 6th, 128 donors have contributed \$36,390 to the Holiday Fund.

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CHUCK DECKERT

Hope Hospice hosts an interactive station at its Hike for Hope event to educate others about its program. The public can help make blankets as part of the day's activities.

Jack Balch	500	Van Gilbert, from Phyllis Gilbert.....	250
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The Berry Boys	100
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* Donor did not want to publish the amount of the gift.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Cantabella Children's Chorus presents 'Winter's Light' as its holiday showcase production this month in Pleasanton.

‘Winter’s Light’ — a showcase of holiday classics

Cantabella Children's Chorus concert under new artistic director

By NICOLE GONZALES

An upcoming choir production in Pleasanton is set to celebrate holiday music, performing arts and cultural diversity.

This weekend, the Cantabella Children's Chorus will debut "Winter's Light", a festive show filled with Christmas and cheerful music. Presenting a variety of holiday and winter song favorites, the choir will perform the "Northern Lights", "Deck the Halls" in 7/8ths time and "It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year". The show will also feature international carols sung in their native languages.

Those interested in attending can catch the performances this Saturday (Dec. 10) at 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. Shows take place at the Valley Community Church, 4455 Del Valle Pkwy. in Pleasanton.

This year the Cantabella Children's Chorus is welcoming a new incoming artistic director, Clement Cano.

Cano joined the chorus at the start of the current performing season. He largely comes from a professional music background and has directed other performing arts groups, such as the Vocal Arts at Sacred Prep Atherton.

Cano encouraged residents to attend, saying both he and the chorus believe watching the show will provide positive representation and cultural awareness to kids.

"Bring your children, they will be inspired," he said in a press release.

Cantabella was initially formed in 1992 with the goals of helping "develop music literacy, healthy vocal technique, choral artistry

through excellence in music education, exceptional choral productions, and collaborative cultural arts experiences to enrich our diverse community," according to its website. The award-winning choir presents both winter and spring annual productions with elementary and high school aged students.

Since its founding, the group has been able to perform for audiences across the nation. Previous shows performed by the Cantabella Children's Chorus have included the World Choir Games in Cincinnati and the Golden Gate International Choral Festival.

More information about the children's chorus, ticket prices and production details can be found at Cantabella.org. Children under 18 years old are given free admission. ■

‘A Rockin’ Holiday Revue’ at the Firehouse

Pianist Freiburg returning to Pleasanton with high-energy rock show

By JEREMY WALSH

The Firehouse Arts Center in Pleasanton will be getting into the swing of the holiday season when it welcomes back rock 'n' roll pianist Jared Freiburg for a new Christmas concert later this month.

Freiburg, who played the role of Jerry Lee Lewis in the world tour of the musical "Million Dollar Quartet", will perform an energetic holiday show, "A Rockin' Holiday Revue", on Dec. 22, accompanied by The Vagabonds. The concert will feature classics such as "White Christmas",

"Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree", "Run Run Rudolph" and "Boogie Woogie Santa Claus".

"Jared's high-energy performances are filled with joy and excitement as he journeys through the golden age of American music with an electric lineup of favorite rock 'n' roll, blues, country and jazz hits from the 1950s — serving up a healthy helping of memorable tunes by artists ranging from Chuck Berry to Sinatra to Jerry Lee Lewis, and more," Firehouse officials said.

Freiburg made his Pleasanton debut at the Firehouse during the

2021 summer concert series.

After portraying notorious rock singer and pianist Lewis for six years, Freiburg returned to the role for a spinoff show — "Million Dollar Quartet Christmas" — by the same creators last year. The Rock and Roll Hall of Famer whom Freiburg embodied for years on the stage died in October at age 87.

"A Rockin' Holiday Revue" with Jared Freiburg and The Vagabonds is set for 7:30 p.m. Dec. 22 at the Firehouse Arts Center in downtown Pleasanton. For tickets and more information, visit www.firehousearts.org. ■

‘Holidays in the Valley’ is back

Danville museum’s popular seasonal exhibit now open

By JEANITA LYMAN

The Museum of the San Ramon Valley’s long-beloved holiday exhibit has returned this year, with the current display of historical and present-day marvels of the season now open to the public in Danville’s historic downtown.

The exhibit is aimed at celebrating toys, trains, dolls and other artifacts representing seasonal celebrations from the range of populations and cultures who have resided in and defined the San Ramon Valley over the years and in the present day.

One of the main attractions in the current exhibit — and in years past — is a large model

train display in the museum’s main room, joined by a large Christmas tree display.

The exhibit also features displays of classic toys that were elected to the “Toy Hall of Fame,” according to museum organizers, such as LiteBrite, Bryer Horses, Pound Puppies, Nerf toys and the spinning top.

“These toys will bring back great memories for all,” museum organizers said in an announcement.

In addition to featuring toys themselves, the exhibit includes a photo gallery of dolls from around the world, aimed at showcasing and celebrating a

range of cultures throughout the valley.

For young visitors in particular, the exhibit features a playhouse and a station to write letters to Santa Clause, which organizers say “are guaranteed to be delivered to the North Pole”.

The exhibit, which opened on Nov. 25, is set to be on display through Jan. 8 at 205 Railroad Ave. in downtown Danville. The museum is open from 1-4 p.m. Tuesdays through Fridays. Weekend hours are 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturdays and 12-3 p.m. on Sundays.

More information is available at museumsrv.org. ■



COURTESY MSRV

Part of last year’s model train display at the “Holidays in the Valley” exhibit.

Ruth Bancroft Garden is an electrified winter wonderland

Garden D’Lights, special display around drought-tolerant landscape, open until Jan. 8

By TONY HICKS / BCN FOUNDATION

Despite Ruth Bancroft Garden celebrating its 50th anniversary this year, many still call the 2-1/2 succulent acres one of Contra Costa County’s hidden jewels.

It will be much easier to find the next six weeks. Just look for the multicolored glow over Bancroft Road in Walnut Creek.

It is the annual Garden D’Lights, the fourth straight year the drought-tolerant landscape full of cacti, succulents and California native plants get spiffed up with holiday lights, ornamentation, music and lit-up sculptures.

It is a bit like the Disneyland Main Street Electrical Parade, only immobile and alive. Oh, and there are lasers.

“Floodlights, spotlights, lasers ... we have lasers!” said Sarah Nelson, the garden’s marketing director. “The idea is people can come and it’s a self-guided tour. People can peruse the space how they want to.”

“You could really get lost in here — there’s a lot of different ways to go.”

The site was part of the 400-acre fruit farm started in Ygnacio Valley by the Bancroft family in the 1880s (the same Bancroft family whose vast collection of books on the American West helped start UC Berkeley’s Bancroft Library).

The land was eventually sold for housing, with the last part of the orchard cut down in 1971. Ruth Bancroft started her garden the next year, which has grown into the non-profit destination spot it is today (even if it’s hidden by the soundwalls on the east side of Bancroft Road, between Ygnacio Valley Road and Treat Blvd). Ruth Bancroft died in 2017 at 109 years old. She worked in her garden into her late 90s.

Three days before the Nov. 25 opening night, there was a buzz

around the garden just after sundown. There’s a volunteer preview of the decor and artists are assembling their electrified pieces commissioned for the event.

“It’s all about curating an experience,” said Jacque Lesec, an architect and artist from Napa, who’s putting together an electrified dahlia flower near the entrance. “But the plants really do the talking. It’s pretty spectacular. Some of the plants here look prehistoric.”

Earl Ruby is on the Ruth Bancroft Garden Board of Directors. He’s also the master planner of the Garden D’Lights who was planning most of the past year for Black Friday’s big opening.

Ruby, who’s worked for months with 15 to 20 volunteers, says there’s more than 1,000 strands of lights just on the pathways alone. “Just crates and crates of lights,” he said.

He also used between 700 and 800 spotlights. “I have a map that everyone uses. We had 4,000 people here last year. It’s our major fundraiser for the year. We started four years ago, because we couldn’t get people here in the winter.”

“During COVID, we planned it and waited to find out if we could do it. Two months before, the county said outdoor events were OK, and boy did people come. Because no one had anything else to do.”

Some of the artwork is as present as the plants themselves, including a large lit dome near the back, underneath lines of traveling lights that Ruby invented. The paths are lined with lights, while rotating color spots use angles making the plants — some of them growing for decades — look spectacular. There’s a narrow, covered area used during winter to shelter some plants from the cold. Now it’s a tunnel of lights.

Everything is meticulously planned, something that Ruth



Bancroft herself probably would’ve appreciated, said volunteer Adrian D’Souza.

“I knew Ruth when she was still gardening at 99 years old,” said D’Souza, a neighbor who’s also been a volunteer for a dozen years. “At 104, I took her around the garden in her wheelchair. She would stop me and say ‘One second — what’s that? That plant, I planted it somewhere else.’ And she’d be right. It had been somewhere else.”

Garden D’Lights runs from now until Jan. 8. Capacity is 140 because of limited onsite parking. Guests are encouraged to purchase tickets ahead of time for one of three nightly sessions at www.ruthbancroftgarden.org. Tickets for adults are \$28, \$16 for ages 5 to 17. People under 5 are free and members get \$8 off per ticket. ■



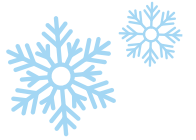
RAY SAINT GERMAIN/BCN

Top: Ruth Bancroft Garden volunteer, Scott Schildknecht with his parents Judy and Bob Schildknecht, and grandmother Cassandra Thompson attend the Garden of D’Lights event in Walnut Creek. Below: With his sculpture “Full Metal Poppy” behind him, Napa artist Jacques Lesec works on his dahlia installation at the Garden of D’Lights.



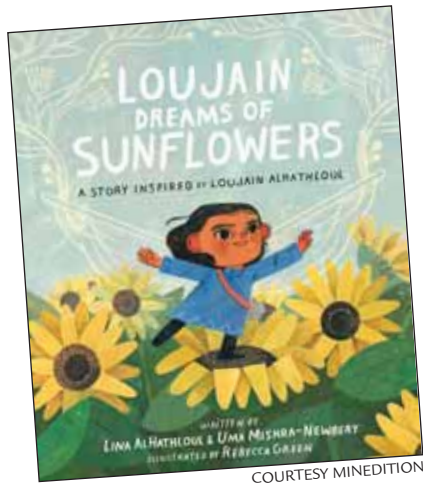
Family-friendly holiday reads with varied perspectives

Cozy up with these 7 children's books emphasizing empathy and overcoming differences

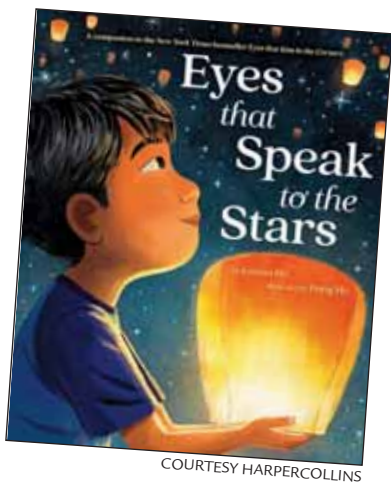


BY MARYSHEILA McMAHON

In a season that celebrates peace on earth and good will to all, now is the perfect time to share lessons about empathy, overcoming differences and working together. Some of the best children's books published in 2022 touch on these topics. This year, our suggested holiday reading list includes a selection of inspiring stories from a girl who pushes the boundaries to follow her courageous (and forbidden) dream to a mapmaker on a fantastical voyage attempting to flee from social barriers. With lively illustrations and quick-witted storytelling, these books will likely entertain young and old alike.



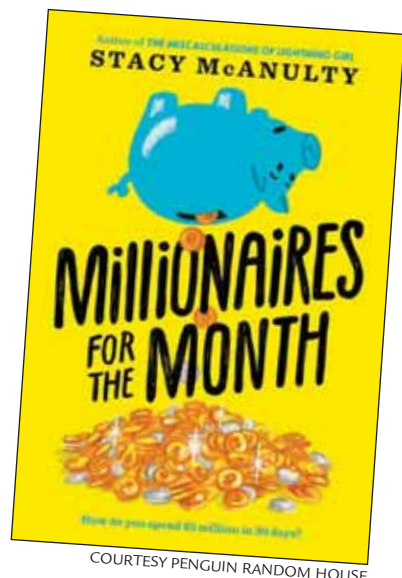
COURTESY MINEDITION



COURTESY HARPERCOLLINS



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COURTESY PENGUIN RANDOM HOUSE

■ **"Loujain Dreams of Sunflowers"** by Lina Alhathloul and Uma Mishra-Newbery, illustrated by Rebecca Green; Minedition; \$18.99; ages 4-8. Every morning, a little girl, Loujain, watches her father attach his wings and then fly over the countryside. She wants to see all the sights he describes (especially the sunflowers), but her dream faces a big obstacle; in her country, only boys are allowed to learn to fly. Eventually (after compassionate conversation between her parents), her dad agrees to teach her to fly and Loujain's dream becomes reality. There is a short, but informative biography of the real woman who inspired the book: Saudi human rights activist Loujain al-Hathloul, who was imprisoned for daring to learn to drive a car. Co-written by Loujain al-Hathloul's sister, Lina Alhathloul, the book has incredibly beautiful illustrations as well as a short letter to readers about summoning the courage to dream and create a better world.

■ **"Eyes That Speak to the Stars"** by Joanna Ho, illustrated by Dung Ho; HarperCollins; \$18.99; ages 4-8.

When friends at school create a hurtful drawing of him, a young boy turns to his family for comfort and learns to love his heritage. Inspired by stories of his grandfather's family, the boy recognizes his inner power and strength, and finds comfort in his father's affirming words. This book is a lovely companion piece to the Palo Alto author's bestselling picture book, "Eyes That Kiss in the Corners." While the previous title centered on female family members, this offering focuses on three generations of male relatives. The idea of "looking up" is a repeated textual and visual motif.

■ **"The Ogress and the Orphans"** by Kelly Barnhill; Algonquin Books; \$19.95; ages 10-18.

In a small town that has fallen on hard times, the people put their faith in a dazzling new mayor who promises that "he alone can help" renew the town. Then the library burns down, and an orphan goes missing. Suspicion, encouraged by the mayor, focuses on a newly arrived ogress who lives on the edge of town. Readers (and the orphans themselves) know that the ogress is kind and helpful, but how can they convince people who refuse to listen? By an award-winning author, this book is about the importance of generosity and friendship in a community and a cautionary tale of how a town suffers when those qualities disappear.

■ **"Millionaires for the Month"** by Stacy McAnulty; Penguin Random House; \$8.99; ages 8-12.

On a class trip to New York City, two boys find a wallet belonging to a social media billionaire. Before returning it to its owner, they take a \$20 bill from the wallet, figuring it would never be missed, but they are mistaken. To teach the kids a lesson, the billionaire offers them a deal: a

\$20,000 college scholarship or slightly over \$5 million cash that they have to spend within 30 days. What would you choose? The boys rent luxury cars, take their families to Disney World and (of course) spend thousands of dollars on video and in-app games. But the task of spending money quickly becomes a chore and then a huge problem as it changes their relationships with friends, families and each other. The book is fast-paced and funny, but also thought-provoking.

■ **"The Last Mapmaker"** by Christina Soontornvat; Candlewick; \$17.99; ages 8-12.

This story about identity and integrity is as beautiful and intricate as the maps of old. As an assistant to her country's most celebrated mapmaker, 12-year-old Sai plays the part of a well-bred young lady with a glittering future. In reality, her father is a con man and in a kingdom where the status of one's ancestors dictates their social position, the truth could ruin her. She seizes the chance to join an expedition to chart the southern seas, but she isn't the only one aboard with secrets. When she realizes that the ship might be heading for a fabled place full of riches, but also dragons and other dangers, she has to weigh the consequences of her lies. The book is suspenseful and thought-provoking.

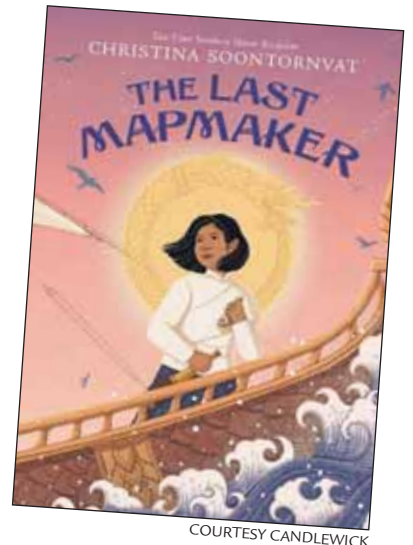
■ **"Katie the Catsitter: Best Friends for Never"** by Colleen AF Venable, illustrated by Stephanie Yue; Random House Books for Young Readers; \$12.99; ages 8-12.

This extremely engaging graphic novel series is based on a girl who, in the first book, was cat-sitting for her neighbor while also on a hunt for an arch-villain. In the new book, someone is impersonating the villain, and all of Katie's friends seem to be moving on from her. Like the first book, this pairs realistic issues (friends growing apart) with suspense over a new crime wave. Oh, and did I mention there are a lot of cats? Laughter guaranteed.

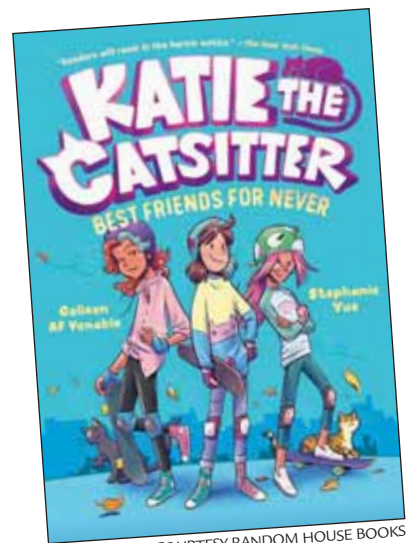
■ **"Key Player"** by Kelly Yang; Scholastic; \$17.99; ages 8-12.

The fourth book in the wonderful "Front Desk" series, this follows Mia Tang, the child of immigrants who manage a motel near San Diego. Mia tries to get a scholarship to attend a summer camp for aspiring journalists, but first she has to raise her grade in (of all things) PE class. Luckily for her, the 1999 World Cup between the U.S. and Chinese women's soccer teams is being played at the Rose Bowl in southern California. Can Mia raise her grade by getting an interview with the players from both the U.S. and the Chinese teams? This series is a wonderful exploration of the complicated issues of identity and immigration, and a great reminder of how important that 1999 World Cup competition was for women's sports.

—MarySheila McMahon is a bookseller at Linden Tree Children's Books in Los Altos. Email her at marysheila@lindentreebooks.com.



COURTESY CANDLEWICK



COURTESY RANDOM HOUSE BOOKS FOR YOUNG READERS



COURTESY SCHOLASTIC



POLICE BULLETIN

High-speed crash turns fatal on I-580 east of Livermore

A driver died after losing control of his SUV while traveling around 100 mph and crashing down an embankment on Interstate 580 outside of Livermore last week, according to the California Highway Patrol.

The decedent was identified as 21-year-old Fremont resident Masseyullah Khwaja, according to the Alameda County Coroner's Bureau.

The wreck occurred at about 7:15 a.m. Nov. 29 on eastbound I-580 east of the North Flynn Road junction when a 2010 black Ford Edge was observed speeding in the left-hand lane before veering hard to the right for unknown reasons and going off the roadway, according to CHP-Dublin Officer Tyler Hahn.

The SUV went down an embankment, ejecting the driver and coming to rest approximately 400 feet south of the southern edge of the freeway, according to Hahn.

The driver was pronounced dead at the scene, according to Hahn. It took authorities some time to positively identify Khwaja as the driver because his driver's license was not immediately located on his body or in the vehicle.

The circumstances of the

solo-vehicle crash remain under investigation by the CHP.

—Jeremy Walsh

In other news

• Dublin Police Services has named Kenneth Krainski, 38, as the decedent in a domestic disturbance in Dublin last month that escalated into his shooting death, with police continuing to believe that the shooting was in self-defense.

Police described the Nov. 20 altercation at SoFi apartments in Dublin as stemming from a domestic dispute involving a woman and her estranged husband — now identified as Krainski — that resulted in a second man shooting and killing Krainski in what Dublin police believed to be self defense, based on the initial investigation findings and eyewitness testimony.

“The investigation is ongoing and will be forwarded to the District Attorney's Office for final disposition,” DPS officials wrote in an updated statement on Nov. 29.

Identities of the woman who lived in the apartment and the shooter were still not made public as of Dec. 1, but police said the two were acquaintances.

—Jeanita Lyman

• Dublin Police Services this weekend will recognize a somber anniversary with a memorial tree lighting in honor of John Monego,



DPS

Dublin Police Services each year honors the memory of John Monego, who was killed in the line of duty in 1998.

an Alameda County sheriff's deputy who was killed in the line of duty during a robbery in progress at a restaurant in Dublin in 1998.

“This year marks the 24th anniversary of Deputy Monego's ultimate sacrifice,” Dublin police Capt. Nate Schmidt told the Weekly. “It is important that we never forget Deputy Monego's dedication to this community and is a reminder that the men and women of Dublin police continue to put their lives on the line to ensure the safety of this city.”

Monego, a 33-year-old sheriff's deputy assigned to DPS, was the second officer to arrive on-scene to investigate a 911 hangup at the

Outback Steakhouse on Regional Street late at night on Dec. 11, 1998. Unbeknownst to Monego, the hangup call actually came during a strong-arm robbery with hostages.

The first deputy to respond to the restaurant had gone inside to investigate but she was overpowered by the three robbers, who took her gun, according to the “Officer Down Memorial Page,” which honors law enforcement personnel killed on duty nationwide and retells their stories.

As Monego approached the front door, one of the robbers opened fire through a glass window, striking the deputy in the chest just above his protective vest. As Monego fell, the shooter walked outside and shot the deputy five more times at close range.

The culprits fled the scene but were later arrested after a short pursuit. Each would be convicted of various counts at trial.

Monego, a Brentwood resident who had worked for the sheriff's office for 13 years overall, was transported to a local hospital but was pronounced dead shortly after midnight on Dec. 12, 1998. He was survived by his wife and toddler son.

The annual memorial tree lighting is set to take place at 5 p.m. Saturday (Dec. 10) in the lobby of Dublin police headquarters at 6361 Clark Ave. Light refreshments will be served.

—Jeremy Walsh

• The Contra Costa County Sheriff's Office says it has been “inundated” with requests for concealed carry weapon permits since a U.S. Supreme Court ruling in June that struck down New York state's restrictions requiring applicants to give a compelling need to carry a concealed weapon in public.

The sheriff's office said in a statement last month that the ruling in the case New York State Rifle and Pistol Association v. Bruen means California's similar restrictions requiring concealed carry weapon permit applicants to demonstrate “good cause” were unconstitutional.

New staff positions recently approved by the county Board of Supervisors will be filled by people to help with more than 1,000 permit requests since July, sheriff's officials said.

Before the ruling, the sheriff's office received about 20 permit applications a month.

Obtaining a concealed weapon permit is a multi-step process requiring a detailed application, California Department of Justice fingerprints, background check, interview, and a training class. There's also a \$160 fee, due after applicants complete the training. The sheriff's office already handles renewals for about 500 current concealed weapon permit holders. ■

—Tony Hicks, BCN Foundation

POLICE REPORT

The Pleasanton Police Department made the following information available.

Dec. 2

Theft

■ 10:06 a.m. on the 6100 block of Via De Los Cerros

■ 10:59 a.m., 1000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; theft from auto

■ 6:22 p.m., 1000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting

Weapons violation

■ 10:19 a.m. on the 6700 block of Santa Rita Road

Fraud

■ 10:21 a.m. on the 4500 block of Chabot Drive

Warrant arrest

■ 12:17 p.m. on the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive

Dec. 1

Graffiti offense

■ 9:08 a.m. on the 4700 block of Muirwood Drive

Theft

■ 12:28 p.m., 4200 block of Rosewood Drive; theft from auto

■ 6:03 p.m. on the 1900 block of Paseo Del Cajon

■ 7:56 p.m., 2600 block of Stoneridge Drive; theft from auto

Embezzlement

■ 2:29 p.m. on the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive

Warrant arrest

■ 11:30 p.m. on the 5100 block of Hopyard Road

Nov. 30

Theft

■ 8:40 a.m., 5300 block of Case Avenue; catalytic converter theft

■ 9:04 a.m., 4100 block of Hacienda Drive; catalytic converter theft

■ 9:36 a.m., 6600 block of Koll Center Parkway; shoplifting

Fraud

■ 12:22 p.m. on the 200 block of Spring Street

Domestic battery

■ 3:25 p.m. on the 6200 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

Nov. 29

Drug violation

■ 7:04 a.m. on the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive

Theft

■ 7:43 a.m. on the 7200 block of Johnson Drive

■ 8:10 a.m., 7600 block of Maywood Drive; catalytic converter theft

■ 10:01 a.m., 7700 block of Highland Oaks Drive; auto theft

■ 12:28 p.m., 400 block of Koll Center Parkway; catalytic converter theft

■ 3:25 p.m., 1500 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; theft from structure

■ 4:32 p.m., 3900 block of Alma Court; catalytic converter theft

■ 7:14 p.m., 4500 block of Rosewood Drive; shoplifting

Fraud

■ 11:54 a.m. on the 3300 block of Harpers Ferry Court

Vandalism

■ 1 p.m. on the 1000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

Warrant arrest

■ 4:14 p.m. at West Las Positas Boulevard and Fairlands Drive

Nov. 28

Burglary

■ 8:04 a.m. on the 1000 block of Serpentine Lane

Theft

■ 9:02 a.m., 4800 block of Willow Road; bicycle theft

■ 2:42 p.m., 6000 block of Stoneridge Drive; theft from auto

■ 3:30 p.m., 7900 block of Kentwood Way; theft from auto

■ 3:52 p.m., 6000 block of Johnson Drive; shoplifting

■ 5:04 p.m., 5700 block of Johnson Drive; shoplifting

■ 8:45 p.m. on the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive

Trespassing/prowlng

■ 10:03 a.m. on the 1800 block of Santa Rita Road

Nov. 27

Domestic battery

■ 10:58 a.m. on Owens Court

■ 4:59 p.m. on Morgan Court

■ 8:39 p.m. on Valley Avenue

Sex offenses

■ 2:40 p.m. on Kottinger Drive

Shoplifting

■ 4:32 p.m. on the 1400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

DUI

■ 4:55 p.m. at Hopyard Road and Stoneridge Drive

Nov. 26

Vandalism

■ 1:43 a.m. on the 400 block of Vineyard Place

Theft

■ 8:35 a.m., 3800 block of Vineyard Avenue; theft from auto

■ 6:34 p.m., 1400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting

■ 7:23 p.m., 1400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting

Fraud

■ 1:01 p.m. on the 2100 block of Alexander Way

Drug violation

■ 2:27 p.m. on the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive

Robbery

■ 3:14 p.m. on the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive

Nov. 25

Shoplifting

■ 8:07 a.m. on the 5900 block of Owens Drive

■ 2:19 p.m. on the 2100 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

■ 4:49 p.m. on the 1400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

■ 5:36 p.m. on the 000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

■ 7:05 p.m. on the 1400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

Drug violation

■ 11:42 a.m. on the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive

Warrant arrest

■ 12:33 p.m. on the 6100 block of Stoneridge Drive

Domestic battery

■ 12:49 p.m. on the 4000 block of Old Bernal Avenue

Galdos is newest Pleasanton PD officer

The Pleasanton Police Department welcomed Officer Thomas Galdos, a transfer from Stockton PD, as the newest member of the local force. An alumnus of Manteca High School and San Joaquin Delta College, Galdos said he was inspired to enter law enforcement in part from his family connections — his grandfather was a former police chief in Tracy and his uncle also works in the field. “We are proud to have Officer Galdos join us in serving our city, where he can experience the level of support we are so fortunate to enjoy here in Pleasanton,” Police Chief David Swing said of Galdos, who had worked for Stockton police since 2017.



PPD

Opinion

LETTERS

To Mayor Breed, after our family's trip to SF

My young family and I were in your city on Dec. 3, for our children's first Broadway show. What was supposed to be a magical moment ended up being overshadowed by the conditions of San Francisco.

The instant we got off the freeway by the Civic Center, we witnessed a man in plain sight sticking a syringe into his arm. Our 5-year-old twins asked why he was giving himself a shot. We were not prepared to answer that question.

As we continued to drive, we saw every bus stop occupied with homeless individuals that were either sleeping or doing drugs right out in the open.

As we walked our little girls dressed as Elsa from the parking garage on Market Street, we walked past two young men in the process of doing drugs. There was a security guard shouting, "Come on guys!

There are children all around. You need to move!" Again, prompting questions from our young kids asking about the situation that we were not prepared to answer.

After the show, we dreaded the short walk back to the parking garage. Homeless people walked by us shouting and talking to themselves. The three police people stationed out front of the Orpheum provided little comfort as we sought safety in the herd of the theater crowd walking to the same parking garage.

We safely got back to our car and our girls continued to have so many questions, unfortunately their questions were not about their first Broadway show. What do we say to them? We couldn't wait to get out of the city. As we drove through the busy streets, we witnessed a drug deal in plain sight.

I am a Bay Area native with many fond childhood memories of visiting my great aunt and uncle in San Francisco. None of these memories involved what my children saw yesterday. My husband lived in Chinatown in the late 90s and his memories never involved what he saw yesterday. We got engaged in front of the Ferry Building in 2010.

After the theater, we initially planned to have dinner at the Ferry Building and show our children the spot where their daddy asked mommy to marry him. Instead, we could not wait to get out of your city.

We will advise our friends to be better prepared if they choose to take their families into San Francisco. We will not be going back anytime soon. The condition of San Francisco broke our hearts.

—Lindsey Rearick, Pleasanton resident

Weak rodeo legislation

I read happily of the recent banning of wild cow milking ban in Alameda County. However, the amendment maintaining the use of spurs, bucking straps and non-release ropes is a lateral move, and does not improve the humanity of rodeos.

Supervisor Nate Miley decried California citizens' efforts to abolish rodeo abuse as a waste of time over "human" problems. This supervisor, a person of color, should have more sympathy for the victimization of the innocent.

Supervisor David Haubert, who voted against the milking ban, said that straps, ropes and dull spurs are widely accepted across the country. That's like a 10-year-old boy who helps to stone a pigeon, later telling his mom, "Well, everyone else was doing it."

Lawmakers, please make rodeos safe demonstrations of athletic prowess, and not arenas of pain and fear. Steer tailing, tie-down calf roping and painful aids must

be outlawed.

—Thelma Lee Gross

House must stay in session

Democrats beat the odds and outperformed expectations in a historic way during the midterms. Democrats successfully beat back the expected 'red wave' of MAGA extremism.

While Republicans paid a price for their radical agenda, they did take control of the House of Representatives, which means Democrats must use every moment of the trifecta that is left to deliver as much of the Democratic agenda as possible! That means they have from now until Jan. 3, 2023 (swearing-in day) to deliver on a long list of priorities.

We need Democrats to stay in session for the remainder of this calendar year so we can minimize the harm Republicans can do by:

1. Accomplishing as much legislative clean-up as possible. This means passing wildly popular bills like the Marriage Equality Act and Electoral Count Act reforms that are ready to pass on the floor, but we know Republicans would never bring up for a vote.

2. Preventing hostage taking in the 118th Congress. This means lifting the debt ceiling so Republicans don't have a hostage to take next year — threatening Social Security, Medicare and the entire global economy.

As a member of local progressive groups like Indivisible and Swing Left, I join with other members of those organizations in the Tri-Valley and the East Bay in urging our local member of Congress, Rep. Eric Swalwell, to take advantage of the remaining short but critical time available to do as many good things as possible before the political landscape shifts.

—Ward Kanowsky

Lions Club gives back

Members of Amador Valley Lions Club celebrated the holiday season on Dec. 6 at Terra Mia Restaurant in Livermore.

As the celebration began, guests and members were hard at work writing personal well wishes and messages on holiday greeting cards. These cards will be delivered to the VA hospital in Palo Alto for distribution to the veterans at the hospital.

Amador Valley Lions also spent time boxing and stacking donated canned goods to be given to Tri-Valley Food Pantry to help restock the pantry's shelves. Maureen Hamm was in attendance to receive these boxed food items and to accept a check for \$1,000 for the Tri-Valley Food Pantry. Denise Strickland attended representing Open Heart Kitchen and was also

given a \$1,000 check for Open Heart Kitchen.

A carload of collected toys for Toys for Tots will be dropped off at a local fire station and will be distributed to needy families throughout this area.

President Nikhil Damle addressed those present reminding them of this year's other donations which included 12 backpacks and \$600 presented to Zach Lupton of Kaleidoscope Adult Program, as well as a check for \$500 given to

Kim Curtis representing Goodness Village.

Damle also thanked the members for additional donations to Eye of the Lion, Ear of the Lion and Lions' Center for the Visually Impaired as well as collecting used eyeglasses and hearing aids for International distribution. He also publicly acknowledged the many business sponsors and community members who attend and generously support all of our fundraisers throughout the year.

—Francis Valente

THE CITY OF PLEASANTON



HIGHLIGHTS

Housing Commission Special Meeting

Monday, December 12, 2022, at 7:00 p.m.

- Review and provide comments on the 6th Cycle (2023-2031) Draft Housing Element

Planning Commission

Wednesday, December 14, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.

Instructions on how to participate and offer comments will be available after December 7, 2022 when the agenda is posted on the City's website at: cityofpleasantonca.gov/gov/depts/cd/planning/commission/planning_agenda.asp

- **Housing Element Update**

Review of proposed modifications to the Draft 2023-2031 (6th Cycle) Housing Element Update and proposed rezoning sites.

- **P20-0989, City of Pleasanton, Objective Design Standards**

Work session to review draft Objective Design Standards for residential development.

Economic Vitality Committee

Thursday, December 15, 2022, at 7:30 a.m.

- Receive Employee & Residential Transportation Survey Results Overview
- Receive Information About Updated Commissioner's Handbook
- Selection of Chair and Vice Chair for 2023

Joint City Council and Planning Commission

Thursday, December 15, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.

Instructions on how to participate and offer comments will be available after December 9, 2022 when the agenda is posted on the City's website at: http://www.cityofpleasantonca.gov/gov/depts/clerk/meetings/current_council_agenda_.asp

- **P22-0969, City of Pleasanton, Stoneridge Mall Framework**

A joint work session with the Planning Commission and City Council to receive an update on the Stoneridge Mall Framework and provide direction on the draft project alternatives. The community can join and participate in the meeting via Zoom or in person at the Chamber located at 200 Old Bernal Avenue, Pleasanton, 94566. The meeting link will be available at: <https://www.stoneridgemallframework.com/>



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

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By DENNIS MILLER

Getting ready for coverage of winter sports

How to help us highlight basketball, soccer and wrestling athletes

With the completion of the CIF State Championship football bowl games this weekend, the fall season is in the past and it is full steam into the winter season.

That means it is time to start submitting results from the teams at Amador Valley and Foothill for basketball, soccer and wrestling.

But before we get to what I am looking for from winter sports, I want to give a shout-out to those who were invaluable in getting me results for the fall. Those who took the time helped us get recognition for those athletes that work so hard.

For starters the two football coaches, Danny Jones at Amador

and Greg Haubner at Foothill, make themselves available seven days a week — yes, even on Sundays — and they truly get what it means to get their athletes recognition.

Along the football lines, Bruce Baesemann — the photographer for Foothill football — sent me a link to pictures of every Foothill game. These were not used just for Foothill, but Amador and in the Tri-Valley Preps Playbook each week.

Moving on to volleyball, long-time Foothill coach Dusty Collins goes above and beyond. For as many years as I can remember, Collins religiously submits the

results each week for his girls' team in the fall and the boys' team in the spring: win or lose.

I did get some results occasionally from Amador girls' volleyball, and Amador girls water polo coach Tim Reilly and Esther Mullikin, a parent of a player, got me results throughout the season, with Reilly always available to talk when I needed to chat.

Other than that, crickets.

I tried — I try every year — putting out columns that list how easy it is to help, but it is as if the other sports don't even exist.

Please understand I don't expect the coaches to be tasked with this, but rather would have a parent

volunteer step and give us 15 minutes a week to help.

Let's not forget the usual complaints I get about when a certain team is not getting any coverage and questioning my integrity.

These people have their heads so far stuck in the sand it makes me laugh. They came up for air and fired off an email complaining. When I explain why that is the case and how they can help get me results, I never hear from them again.

Every season I promise myself I won't write this again, but then I get angry — angry and confused — as to why so many people are unwilling to make any effort to help their kids and their teammates get the recognition they deserve.

Alright, let's try this again, this time moving to the winter season.

Basketball: This is easily the least amount of work to get me results each week. There is always a scorebook and all that needs to be done is take a picture of both sides, making sure the final score and players names are legible. Send the

pictures and you are done.

Soccer: Final score, who scored for you, as well as assists, and any big plays or players. Boom — 10 minutes tops and the kids are the winners.

Wrestling: A bit more work. Let's focus on tournaments. Send me the wrestlers and how they fared, with the results of their matches and how they finished.

The best part is you don't need to write a story — that's my job! Just send the results and we take care of the rest.

Finally, we are also looking for pictures. I see someone taking shots at almost every game, and it cannot be a big ask in this digital age to fire off a couple shots and send them to me.

Here is the information to send it to: Dennis Miller at acesmag@aol.com. Your deadline is Sunday at noon for the week of results. If you send it earlier, that is awesome!

Let's do right by the athletes this year and create some memories. ■

Editor's note: Dennis Miller is a contributing sports writer for the Pleasanton Weekly.

Dublin High making strides in female wrestling

'It feels like there is a movement going on,' senior star Macias says

By DENNIS MILLER

The East Bay Athletic League has seen some girls come through wrestling programs that were solid wrestlers. But those have been individuals as opposed to a team of wrestlers, as the numbers have never been great when it comes to girls and wrestling.

That is beginning to change.

Overall while the number of girls wrestling in an EBAL high school may usually be between one and four, there are some schools in the North Coast Section that are taking steps in the right direction toward building the sports for females.

Locally, that school would be Dublin High. Boosted by a thriving middle school base, the school currently has 19 girls wrestling in its program.

Dublin coach Sam Durham pointed out that female wrestling is the fastest growing sport in college and a lot of the credit goes to the girls wrestling in the middle and high schools.

"Our biggest recruiters have been the other girls wrestling," Durham explained.

The school system in Dublin has set the template with growth in girls wrestling at the middle schools, triggering the growth in high school.

Marissa Volk is a physical education teacher at Fallon Middle School and coaches wrestling.

"Marissa has been absolutely essential in building wrestling,"



COURTESY DUBLIN HIGH

Marissa Macias (top) and Payton Dehnert (bottom) square off in an intersquad match for Dublin High School.

Durham said. "She wrestled in school and loved it. It has really helped having a female that wrestled helping to get new kids out."

Volk certainly destroys the perception of what many feel about a female wrestler.

"I grew up as a dancer and a gymnast," said Volk, who grew up in Castro Valley and is now in her 10th year at Fallon. "Then my friend's dad was a wrestling coach, and he became our coach."

Volk helped coached wrestling when she was doing her student teaching in Union City before getting hired at Fallon. "When I started at Fallon, I knew they had a wrestling

program," Volk said. "I wanted to get involved."

In addition to being a PE teacher, Volk teaches yoga and other fitness programs — and Volk is also a member of the San Francisco 49ers Gold Rush cheerleaders.

"I think it really helps that I was a wrestler," Volk said. "I try to tell the kids that you can learn valuable tools in life as a wrestler. You can still be feminine and strong."

"There still is a lot of machismos in wrestling," Durham said. "Getting the word out that this sport is good and safe is the biggest thing."

Coming in as a girl into a perceived boys' sport has at times

served as an advantage though.

"A lot of the girls come in with a chip on their shoulders," Durham said. "They outwork the boys and put that effort out on to the mat."

A shining example of how strong an influence a female wrestler can be comes in Dublin senior Marissa Macias.

"She is incredible as a role model," Durham said of Macias. "She is one of our captains and she puts in the work."

Macias started wrestling when she was in elementary school because her brother wrestled. She continued to do so at Wells Middle School — they co-practice with Fallon — and

now is in her fourth year at Dublin.

"I love it because it is a self-driven sport," Macias said. "You push yourself to be better. It's just you and one other person out there."

Macias has seen first-hand the growth of female wrestlers at Dublin.

"My first year there was like five girls," Macias said. "But it's grown every year. Honestly, I was shocked when I saw how many we have this year."

Another thing Macias has seen, confronted and destroyed, is the way people view a girl wrestling. "I know there are perceptions regarding wrestling," she said. "I always hear, 'Oh, you are so brave to be wrestling.' Every time I hear that it really makes me angry. Those are people that obviously don't know the sport."

And this year will take another step in eliminating the problem. According to Durham, there will be an EBAL meet for girls to run concurrently with the boys EBAL championship. There has been a tournament in place in North Coast Section and CIF State Meet for girls. Now there is an EBAL meet for the girls.

"When I was told there was an EBAL meet this year, I was surprised," Macias said. "It feels like there is a movement going on." ■

Editor's note: This column originally appeared in Tri-Valley Preps Playbook, a weekly sports e-newsletter published by Embarcadero Media. To sign up for free, visit www.pleasantonweekly.com/express/sports/.

Calendar

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN OUR COMMUNITY • POST CALENDAR ITEMS AT PLEASANTONWEEKLY.COM

Entertainment

ELF THE MUSICAL JR. This production by the Pleasanton Youth Theatre Company stars Buddy, a young orphan who mistakenly crawls into Santa's bag of gifts and is transported to the North Pole. Dec. 9-11 and Dec. 16-18. Amador Theater. Visit firehousearts.org.

JAZZ AT INKLINGS Featuring guest artists Rachel Smith and Guido Fazio along with local talent the Matt Finders Trio. Free with limited seating. For reservations email info@pleasantonjazzsociety.com. 5:30-7 p.m., Dec. 9.

A VERY FOLLIES HOLIDAY Join The Golden Follies at the Firehouse Arts Center as these talented and energetic senior performers brighten the holiday season. 2 p.m., Dec. 10. Visit firehousearts.org.

CHRISTMAS JOY Valley Concert Chorale's annual concert features joyous music for the holiday season including carols and a fun arrangement of Jingle Bells. The audience is invited to sing along. 7:30 p.m., Dec. 10-11. Visit valleyconcertchorale.org.

THE NUTCRACKER Valley Dance Theatre's full production of The Nutcracker, accompanied by the Valley Dance Theatre Pit Orchestra, entertains with elaborate sets, skilled dancers and beautiful costumes. Dec. 10-11; 16-18. Bankhead Theater. Visit livermorearts.org.

ELF THE MOVIE Buddy (Will Ferrell) was accidentally transported to the North Pole as a toddler and travels to New York, in full elf uniform, in search of his real father. 6 p.m., Dec. 15. Visit firehousearts.org.

DRIVE-IN HOLIDAY MOVIES Holiday movie nights coming to the Pleasanton Fairgrounds. Dec. 16, "Elf"; Dec. 17, "The Nightmare Before Christmas"; Dec. 27, "Frozen"; Dec. 28, "Hook". Gates open at 4:30 p.m. \$35. per vehicle. The food court will be open to purchase fun meals and movie treats. Visit alamedacountyfair.com/drive-in-movies.

NUTCRACKER BY EN POINTE DANCE STUDIO En Pointe Dance Studio performs The Nutcracker at Stoneridge Shopping Center, 1 p.m. and 3 p.m., Dec. 17. Grand Court.

A JAZZY CHRISTMAS Jeff Bordes & Friends return to the Firehouse Arts Center for their annual holiday celebration. 8 p.m., Dec. 18. Visit firehousearts.org.

NOCHEBUENA: A CHRISTMAS SPECTACULAR Nochebuena returns to the Bankhead for a traditional Mexican Christmas spectacular. 7:30 p.m., Dec. 20. Visit livermorearts.org.

ALL IS CALM This is the remarkable true story of The Western Front, Christmas, 1914, told in the words and songs of the men who lived it. 7:30 p.m., Dec. 22. Visit livermorearts.org.

A ROCKIN' HOLIDAY REVUE Jared Freiburg returns to The Firehouse with his holiday celebration of the early years of rock 'n' roll. 7:30 p.m., Dec. 22. Visit firehousearts.org.

Chanukah

CHANUKAH UNDER THE STARS

Usher in the first night of Chanukah by lighting up Livermore's menorah. Enjoy hot latkes and Chanukah doughnuts with a concert, city dignitaries and glow in the dark fun. 7:30-8:30 p.m., Dec. 18. Bankhead Theater. Visit jewishtrivalley.com.

CHANUKAH WONDERLAND AT STONERIDGE

Celebrate the festival of lights with live music, a holiday game court, balloon entertainment and Chanukah face paint while kindling the 9-foot menorah in the mall's Grand Court. 5:30-7 p.m., Dec. 20. Visit jewishtrivalley.com.

CHANUKAH COMMUNITY DINNER

A Chanukah Shabbat dinner with gourmet cuisines. Celebrate with friends and family over a 3-course Shabbat feast. \$25 per person. 6 p.m., Dec. 23. Chabad of the Tri Valley, 3370 Hopyard Road, Pleasanton. Visit jewishtrivalley.com.

Visits with Santa

PET PHOTOS WITH SANTA Bring pets to pose with Santa at Stoneridge Mall, located on the lower level. All pets must be on leash. 6 p.m.-7 p.m., Dec. 11. Visit simon.com.

PHOTOS WITH SANTA AT STONERIDGE The ultimate holiday tradition awaits now through Dec. 24. For available dates and times visit simon.com.

VISITS WITH SANTA AT BISHOP RANCH Santa's calendar has him landing back in the festively decorated Alexander Square at City Center, 12-4 p.m., every Saturday and Sunday through Dec. 16.

Talks

LIVERMORE LIBRARY HOSTS

AUTHOR TALK ON DRAGONS A scientist at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory and author of the novel Dragon's Ridge, Brian T.N. Gunney will discuss his book and his aerodynamics calculations for dragons. 3 p.m., Dec. 11. Civic Center Library.

LIVERMORE-AMADOR

GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY This is the sequel to Ancestral Road Trips with the focus on the Santa Fe Trail, the Oregon-California Trail, the Mormon Pioneer Trail and the Trail of Tears. 7-8:30 p.m., Dec. 12. Visit l-ags.org.

TRI-VALLEY WRITERS Kymberlie Ingalls presents "Create a Relevant Marketing Plan" at the next Tri-Valley Writers meeting.

An award-winning essayist, editor and author, she'll explain how writers must market themselves and their work. 2 p.m., Dec. 17. Four Points by Sheraton. Visit trivalleywriters.org.

HACIENDA PARK TOASTMASTERS

Hacienda Park Toastmasters Club meets virtually via Zoom on the 1st, 3rd and 5th Thursday of every month from 12-1 p.m. Visit haciendapark.toastmastersclubs.org.

Exhibits

CALIFORNIA PIONEER WOMEN

ON DISPLAY Illuminating the hardships, joys and lives of female pioneers in California, "Her Side of the Story: Tales of California Pioneer Women" appears at Pleasanton's Museum on Main. On display through Dec. 30.

PLEASANTON ART LEAGUE

MEMBERS' EXHIBIT The group's annual Fall Members Show comes to the Harrington Gallery exhibiting a variety of 2D and 3D art. Through Dec. 17. 444 Railroad Ave. Visit pal-art.com.

Festivals

SPIRIT & SWEATER STROLL

Visit, sip and shop in your ugliest holiday sweater while strolling through downtown Pleasanton. Santa will be present. 6-9 p.m., Dec. 10. Visit pleasantondowntown.net.

RAVENSWOOD VICTORIAN YULETIDE

Join the Ravenswood Progress League to ring in the holiday season with festive decorations, music, and demonstrations from the Tri-Valley Woodcarvers and the holiday gift shop. Drinks and desserts will be available for purchase. 12-4 p.m., Dec. 11. 2647 Arroyo Rd., Livermore.

Farmers' Markets

PLEASANTON FARMERS' MARKET

The Pleasanton Farmers' Market is Saturday year round, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. W. Angela St. Visit pcfma.org/pleasanton.

LIVERMORE SUNDAY FARMERS'

MARKET Gather for music, food and fresh local and organic products directly from producers. Support small businesses and local sustainable agriculture. 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Sundays. Between J St and L St.

Support

WREATHS FOR VETERANS

Wreaths Across Pleasanton is recruiting volunteers to help assemble wreaths and boughs at Centennial Park at the Pleasanton Senior Center. 8 a.m.-5 p.m., Dec. 11. Visit wreathscrosspleasanton.org.

MEALS ON WHEELS Meals on Wheels provides home delivered meals (60+). Call 925-931-5385.

PET OF THE WEEK



TVAR

A home for Eve

Eve is a beautiful, brown tabby, domestic shorthair adult (3-6 years old) who is spayed, vaccinated and will be microchipped before adoption. Tri-Valley Animal Rescue is sponsoring Eve's adoption fee during its annual Home for the Holidays promotion. All December long, adoption fees for every dog and cat will be waived at the East County Animal Shelter in Dublin (spay/neuter and dog license fees still apply). Each pet will also go home with a stocking or gift bag full of goodies. Visit tvar.org.

PLEASANTON RIDES Pleasanton Rides is a door-to-door, shared-ride transportation service for Pleasanton Seniors. Call 925-398-1045.

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

second and fourth Wednesday of the month. The next meeting is 7 p.m., Dec. 14. Visit cityofpleasantonca.gov.

LIVERMORE CITY COUNCIL MEETING

The Livermore City Council meets the second and fourth Monday of the month. The next meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m., Dec. 12. Visit cityoflivermore.net.

LIVERMORE VALLEY JOINT

UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT The next meeting of the Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District is 7 p.m., Dec. 13. Visit livermoreschools.org.

Government

PLEASANTON PLANNING

COMMISSION The Pleasanton Planning Commission meets the

Public Notices

The Pleasanton Weekly is adjudicated to publish in Alameda County.

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

Deadline is Monday at 5 p.m.

Call Gina Channell at 925-600-0840
or email gchannell@pleasantonweekly.com
for assistance with your legal advertising needs.

Employment

Senior Financial Analyst

Safeway Inc. is hiring a Senior Financial Analyst in Pleasanton, CA. May Telecommute. Reports to Pleasanton, CA. Must have legal right to work in U.S. Subj. to bckgrnd check. E.O.E. Email resume to TA.Perm.Project@albertsons.com. Attn: J. Bryson

Product Manager, Order Fulfillment

Safeway Inc. hiring Product Manager, Order Fulfillment in Pleasanton, CA. Must have legal right to work in U.S. EOE. Subj. to backg. check. Email resume to TA.Perm.Project@albertsons.com, Attn: M. Gutierrez

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

Happy HOLIDAYS

From Our Family To Yours



We hope that you and your family are having a wonderful holiday season. As 2022 comes to a close, we would like to reflect on how this year has been in the real estate market and more specifically over the last six months. We experienced a radical shift in the market activity which was way overdue and subsequently a correction in prices since then.

However, with the recent indications from FED and CPI index showing the inflation slowdown, we believe that the local market is stabilizing and the demand increasing again. We anticipate a very strong spring in 2023.

If 2023 is the year for you to achieve your goal of downsizing, upsizing, or relocating, we would love to hear from you and be your advocate. As a courtesy, we would be happy to schedule a real estate check-up with you to discuss your current situation, 2023 goals, and answer any real estate-related questions you may have.

Let's meet (virtual or in-person) to make a plan. Call/text now at 925-580-8011



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Real Estate

OPEN HOME GUIDE AND REAL ESTATE LISTINGS

HOME SALES

This week's data represents homes sold during Oct. 10-14 for Pleasanton and Livermore.

Pleasanton

6008 Ashley Court J. & J. Braden to Y. & C. Lai for \$1,349,000
258 Birch Creek Drive L. Henry to Robinson Trust for \$765,000
5436 Black Avenue Redwood Holdings LLC to J. & J. Zhu for \$835,000
2347 Corte De La Jara Lack Trust to D. & V. Sunkara for \$1,600,000
2631 Curry Street B. & C. Kallingal to P. & K. Boddu for \$1,370,000
582 Happy Valley Road Sanders Living Trust to George Trust for \$5,400,000
4849 Mohr Avenue Moroney Family Trust to Phatak Family Trust for \$1,750,000
8015 Mountain View Drive #C L. & R. Reinhardt to T. Heh for \$504,000
2550 Skylark Way Krywe Family Trust to Green Living Trust for \$2,000,000
4095 Stanley Boulevard T. Chang to Tan-Wong Trust for \$950,000
7109 Valley Trails Drive Coutts Family Trust to C. & K. Kindness for \$1,490,000

Livermore

1746 3rd Street J. Barrett to Silveira Trust for \$1,200,000
1675 Alvarado Court Asbe Trust to B. & E. Reese for \$1,250,000
6465 Aspenwood Way S. & R. Bhatia to A. & M. Patidar for \$1,060,000
4086 Compton Court Theiss Family Trust to C. & D. Patel for \$935,000
22 Daisyfield Drive T. Altergott to B. Stawicki for \$1,125,000
1451 El Dorado Drive J. & P. Yost to J. & L. Henry-Viscuso for \$1,080,000
1002 Eve Lane Vital Family Trust to K. & D. Lee for \$955,000
6487 Half Dome Court E. & M. Atienza to P. & C. Majji for \$1,250,000
723 South K Street J. & N. Sperry to K. & Z. Theiss for \$1,415,000
846 Keystone Way G. & R. Monge to C. Cowell for \$1,195,000

Source: California REsource

Editor's note: The full list of Home Sales reported in Pleasanton, Livermore, Dublin, Sunol and San Ramon during this period can be found with the online version of this story at PleasantonWeekly.com.

OPEN HOMES THIS WEEKEND

OAKLAND

425 East 11th Street (T) **\$788,000**
Sat/Sun 1:00-4:00 2BD/2BA
Mohseni Real Estate Group @ Compass
925-580-8011

Legend: Condo (C), Townhome (T).
Agents: Submit open homes at
PleasantonWeekly.com/real_estate

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Talking Real Estate with Doug Buenz | Compass

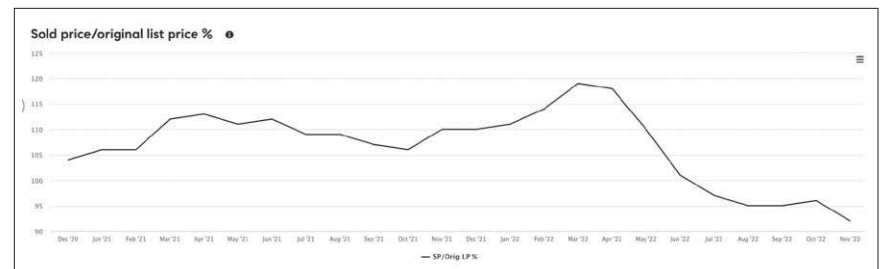
Pleasanton Real Estate Market Update – November 2022

The Pleasanton real estate market in November is slipped into hibernation mode. Most key indexes were lower, with homes sold down 8% from October and 49% from last November. Inventory is down 38% from October, but up 225% from November of 2021. Median days on market decreased slightly from October, down 6.7%, but is up a whopping 300% from November of last year.

In terms of pricing, the median price per sq ft was down 2.1% as compared to October, and down 13% from November of last year. The median sold price was up slightly from October, at \$1,630,000, but is down 4.1% from November 2021. And pending sales are down 19% from October, and 48% from November of last year.

Inventory continues to be constrained (no surprise given the time of year),

>> To read the rest of this article go to www.680homes.com/blog.



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FOR SALE

7959 Foothill Knolls Drive, Pleasanton

5 Bedrooms | 3 Bathrooms | 3,399 Square Feet | Listed at \$3,195,000

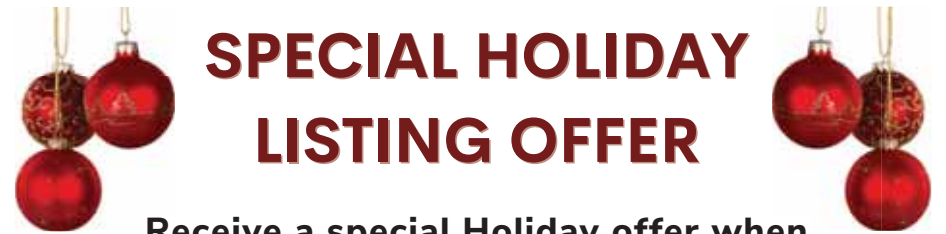


FOR SALE

12400 Morgan Territory, Livermore

5 Bedrooms | 5.5 Bathrooms | 5,992 Square Feet | Listed at \$4,449,999

VenemaHomes.com | Liz@VenemaHomes.com | **925.413.6544** | 660 Main Street, Pleasanton | DRE# 01922957



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