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AROUND THE VALLEY



BY GINA CHANNELL WILCOX

Unintended consequences

A tip of the hat to San Ramon Mayor David Hudson for doing the right thing even though he technically didn't have to.

Hudson, who was recently re-elected in November, recused himself from a vote at the Nov. 22 City Council meeting because he had received a campaign contribution from the vendor at the center of the vote — Alameda County Industries of San Ramon, Inc.

ACI provides collection services of recyclables, organics, and garbage in San Ramon. At that meeting, the council was to vote on adjusting the agreement with ACI to increase rates.

Almost a year earlier, Dec. 22, 2021, Hudson received a \$5,000 contribution to his 2022 campaign for mayor from ACI.

The Levine Act, adopted in 1982, prohibits state and local "officers" from accepting \$250 or more from an applicant or affiliated party when the officer will vote or decide on matters the applicant has a financial interest in within three months.

"Officers" under the Levine Act didn't include state and local elected officials like mayors, councilmembers, county supervisors and others directly elected.

That's about to change.

State Sen. Steve Glazer (D-Orinda) authored SB 1439, an amendment to the so-called "Pay to Play" law, so local elected and appointed officials and candidates are no longer exempt. It also extends the covered period from three months to 12 months for elected officials. Gov. Gavin Newsom signed the bill into law Sept. 22.

The law says if a candidate accepts a campaign contribution of \$250 or more within 12 months of a decision on a matter the contributor or affiliate has a financial interest in, the elected must disclose this and recuse himself or herself.

The "hat tip" is because Hudson technically didn't have to recuse himself; the contribution came in well before the bill was even introduced and the law doesn't go into effect until Jan. 1, 2023. In addition, the Fair Political Practices Commission has decided to not make the law retroactive to 2022, which only seems fair since a lot of money was contributed before Sept. 29.

It's not clear if contributions from groups like unions and political action committees will be treated as

parties with financial interest in decisions made by elected officials.

Groups like these still lobby and most have an indirect or secondary financial interest. For example, it's very unlikely that the California Association of Realtors PAC would contribute to the campaign of a candidate who is against development of housing. CAR's members — Realtors — will benefit if housing is developed and they need to show their support of their members.

Similarly, electricians, carpenters, plumbers and other tradespeople will benefit from housing being developed, and many such unions contribute to campaigns.

If the goal of the new law is to stop the influence of money on local decisions, shouldn't unions and PACs like the aforementioned examples be viewed as "parties" and follow the same limits?

If not, there might be the unintended consequence of less transparency about who is contributing. Large contributions to candidates will still be made, but they will be funneled through PACs.

One final hat tip to Glazer for introducing the bill. While not all politicians allow money to influence decisions on how to vote, some do. Hopefully this law will prevent that — or bag the bad apples.

This is only one of hundreds of new California laws that will take effect in 2023. Like the "Pay to Play" law, some may have negative unintended consequences.

The "Affordable Housing and High Road Jobs Act of 2022" will allow developers to fast-track housing developments in unused commercial areas, like vacant parking lots and strip malls. If the application meets certain criteria, there will be little local control over the project.

An amended section of the Education Code, the "Criminal Records: Relief" goes into effect July 1 and allows people to seal criminal records, making them not visible on background checks. This is not an option for those convicted of violent felonies like murder, kidnap and rape. However, we know from San Ramon Valley school district's experience with former teacher Nicholas Moseby, who was arrested and charged with sexual abuse of teen girls in September, misdemeanors can be red flags of deviant behavior. ■



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About the Cover

Ryan Nielsen, owner of Alpine Christmas Trees in Dublin, explains the differences between noble firs and Nordmann firs and how they are some of the best Christmas trees due to the strong branches. Photo by Christian Trujano. Cover design by Doug Young.

Do you have a favorite ornament that you look forward to putting up each year?



Suzanne Liversidge
Managing partner

I absolutely do! It is a Snoopy ornament that says "Christmas 1978". It's a souvenir my father bought for me during our first trip to America. It was Easter time, but we got the ornament at a store in Disney World that sold Christmas items all year long. I was 10, and I love how it reminds of that totally epic adventure. We're celebrating Christmas in Spain this year and that ornament is coming with us.



Anaya Doshi
Middle school student

My favorite ornament is a little gingerbread house that my best friend made for me out of clay and plastic. When I place it on the tree every year, I am reminded of the beauty of our friendship and the joy I find in it.



Meg Catalano
Lawyer

I do have a favorite and it is a teddy bear — red — from Switzerland when we lived there. We all love it; it reminds us of a special time as a family living abroad and having to navigate a new culture and language together. It wasn't easy, but we bonded over it and we were forever changed by the chance to see the world from a different perspective.



Roberto Losado
Engineer

My favorite ornament is one that my daughter, who is now grown, made when she was in preschool. It has her tiny handprint on it, so whenever I see this ornament I'm flooded with beautiful memories from that precious time in our lives.



Stefan Avenzano
Commercial pilot

I do! It is a miniature cigar that was given to me as a gift when I gave up smoking cigars several years ago. Each time I see it, it reminds me how lucky I am to have lived another year, and that if I had continued to smoke cigars, that might not be the case.

—Compiled by Nancy and Jeff Lewis

Have a Streetwise question? Email editor@PleasantonWeekly.com

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DIGEST

Veteran outreach

The Pleasanton Public Library is set Monday to host the VA Palo Alto Mobile Medical Outreach team to help facilitate exams, consultations and referrals for enrolled veterans from throughout the Tri-Valley area.

“Veterans uncertain of their benefits eligibility are encouraged to visit as requirements have changed, and VA health care may complement current medical coverage. VA representatives will provide information to veterans, spouses, caregivers, family members and survivors, and assist with veteran enrollment for VA care,” city officials said.

Veterans are asked to bring their military discharge papers (Form DD-214) and a list of current medications.

The Veterans Connect @ the Library event is set to run from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday (Dec. 19) in the library parking lot at 400 Old Bernal Ave. For more information, contact the library by phone at 925-931-3400, ext. 4, or by email at information@pleasantonlibrary.zendesk.com.

Dublin city awards

Dublin city officials are now soliciting nominations for the city's annual community awards, including 2022 Citizen of the Year, Young Citizen of the Year and Organization of the Year.

The awards are open to any individual or group who contributed to improve the quality of life in Dublin during the year (provided they have not been a winner in the previous three years, and for the youth award are currently in the first through 12th grade).

“Those judging the entries will be looking at the individual or the organization's accomplishments in the past year, and how they have served the Dublin community; extraordinary challenges they've faced in performing their service to the community; and support they may have received from the community in order to provide their service,” city officials said.

Nominations are due by 5 p.m. Jan. 13. Go to www.dublin.ca.gov/vre.

Bye, Matsjo

The Pleasanton Police Department is bidding adieu to retiring K-9 Matsjo after nearly six years with the department. The Belgian Malinois worked alongside human Officer Tim Martens.

“During his career, Matsjo demonstrated his unique capabilities at community events, and his strong drive and keen sense of smell led to the apprehension of numerous criminal offenders and the location of illegal narcotics throughout the Tri-Valley,” PPD officials said. “We appreciate Matsjo for his many contributions to our community and wish him an enjoyable retirement. Congrats!” ■

Council reviews state of Pleasanton water amid updates from Zone 7

Key topics included water rates, PFAS chemical monitoring, treatment center plans

By **CHRISTIAN TRUJANO**

Pleasanton residents will have to start paying a little bit more on their water bills after the City Council approved a resolution following a presentation by staff from the Zone 7 Water Agency last week.

The costs will help fund future

water treatment and rehabilitation projects such as the construction of a Stoneridge facility for PFAS treatment, staff said during a separate presentation from Zone 7 where they updated the council on several topics concerning chemicals in the Tri-Valley's groundwater sources.

“These contaminants need to

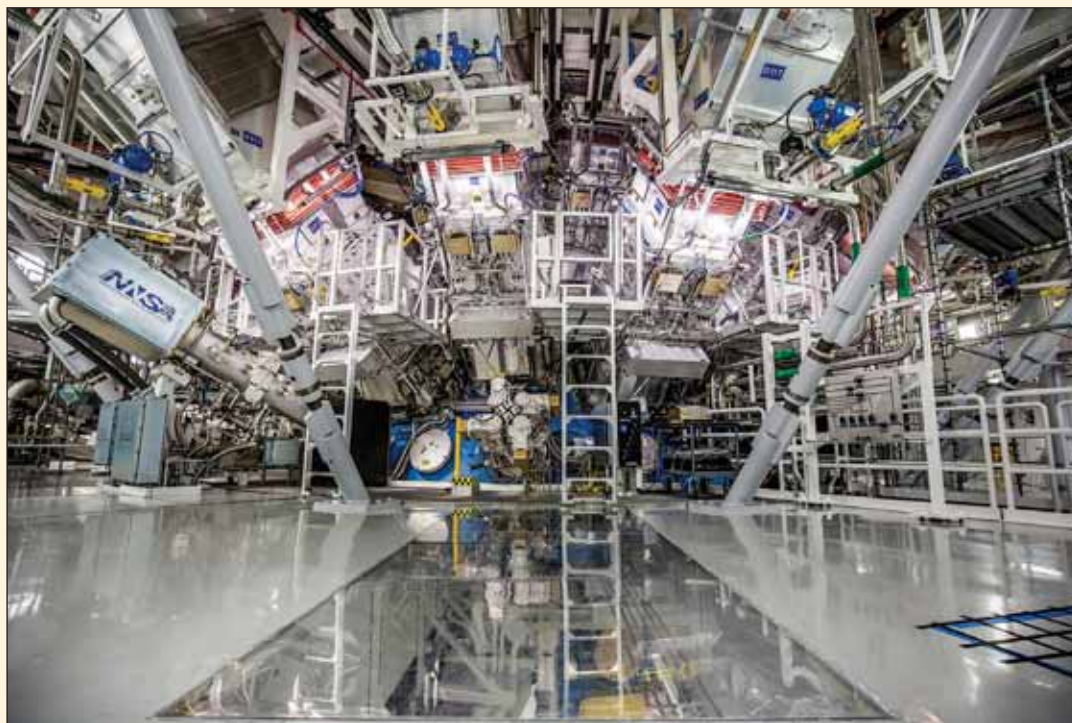
be removed and it's going to cost money, but these are reasonable costs,” said Mayor Karla Brown during the Dec. 6 council meeting.

Starting Feb. 1, the water agency's rates will go from \$3.61 per 100 cubic feet of water to \$3.93 — that change reflects a 5.5% increase that the Zone 7 Board of Directors

approved in November for the next four years.

The Zone 7 board will revisit the rate schedules for 2025 and 2026 through a public process and will make any changes to the rates by November 2024.

See **WATER** on Page 6



The target chamber of Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory's National Ignition Facility, where 192 laser beams delivered more than 2 million joules of ultraviolet energy to a tiny fuel pellet to create fusion ignition on Dec. 5.

Livermore Lab breakthrough marks major scientific milestone

Researchers achieve energy breakeven in fusion ignition experiment for first time ever

By **CIERRA BAILEY**

Scientists at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory have reached a major accomplishment in fusion ignition that officials said will pave the way for advancements in national defense and the future of clean energy.

The National Ignition Facility (NIF) at LLNL successfully conducted the first controlled fusion experiment in history on Dec. 5 to reach this milestone — also known as scientific energy breakeven, meaning it produced more energy from fusion than the laser energy used to drive it.

“We took a shot just after 1 a.m. last Monday and as the data started to come in, we

saw the first indications that we had produced more fusion energy than the laser input,” said Alex Zylstra, the principal experimentalist for the project. He also noted that the fusion work that the current team is doing is built on the decades of effort and research put in by their predecessors.

In addition to providing unprecedented capability to support the National Nuclear Security Administration's Stockpile Stewardship Program, fusion ignition's potential for clean fusion energy could be a game-changer for efforts to achieve President Joe Biden's goal of a net-zero carbon economy, according to federal officials.

“The pursuit of fusion ignition

in the laboratory is one of the most significant scientific challenges ever tackled by humanity, and achieving it is a triumph of science, engineering, and most of all, people,” LLNL Director Kim Budil said in a statement.

“Crossing this threshold is the vision that has driven 60 years of dedicated pursuit — a continual process of learning, building, expanding knowledge and capability, and then finding ways to overcome the new challenges that emerged. These are the problems that the U.S. national laboratories were created to solve,” she added.

The U.S. Department of Energy and the NNSA held

See **LIVERMORE LAB** on Page 8

District, teachers reach deal on time off

Union also eyes reduced class sizes in ongoing labor talks

By **CHRISTIAN TRUJANO**

The Pleasanton Unified School District and Association of Pleasanton Teachers signed a memorandum of understanding last week that both sides say signifies a successful start to next year's labor negotiations.

Cheryl Atkins, president of the association, told the Weekly that PUSD and the teachers union signed the agreement on Dec. 7 to clarify the language in their contract regarding calculating time off for personal or medical reasons.

“The MOU stated that an eight-hour day would be used when calculating leaves,” Atkins said. “This MOU is important because, when teachers apply to go on leave ... the total hours worked in the last year are calculated to qualify. Teachers' instructional day with students is not eight hours, however, their additional time used to plan and prepare for their teaching, write lesson plans, communicate with parents, correct work and assessments, is often more than eight hours.”

According to a news release from the district, apart from the memorandum enabling teachers to continue to access Family and Medical Leave Act benefits, it has also led to a positive “interest-based” approach to the negotiations process.

“We'd like to thank our partners at APT for a constructive start to our negotiations, a process that serves our students, staff and (the) community,” Julio Hernandez, assistant superintendent of human

See **TEACHERS** on Page 8

Health officials reinstate more stringent masking rules in county

Also: FDA expands COVID-19 omicron booster vaccine to children under 5

More stringent masking rules have been reinstated in Alameda County to protect against the spread of COVID-19, county health officials said last Friday.

State officials are again requiring masking for staff and residents in homeless shelters, emergency shelters, and cooling and heating centers, while county correctional and detention centers must now comply with both state and local guidance.

Masking continues to be required in health care and long-term care facilities.

The previous rules were reinstated because hospital use for COVID-19 patients has increased in the county based on numbers from the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

"We have observed worsening increases in COVID-19 case reports and hospitalizations since October," Alameda County Health Officer Dr. Nicholas Moss said in

a statement. "Taking actions like masking and staying home when sick can prevent spreading illnesses like COVID-19, flu, and RSV and help protect our health care system from strain."

Daily reports of COVID-19 and hospitalizations in the county are rising quickly, health officials said. As of Dec. 8, 149 county residents are hospitalized with COVID-19 and the case rate averaged over seven days is 21 per 100,000 residents.

COVID-19 spreads through the air, according to the public health department, so residents should consider wearing a mask again if they have stopped. Children under 2 years old should not wear a mask, health officials said.

Residents at risk for severe illness and their households are advised to wear a mask in crowded indoor places.

Adults and some teenagers can get free medication to prevent

hospitalization from COVID-19 if they have even mild symptoms and they test positive for the disease, according to health officials.

People can talk to a health provider about the options or visit covid19.ca.gov/treatment. Alameda County's community support line at 510-268-2101 can also help residents understand their treatment options.

—Keith Burbank, Bay City News

In other news

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration last week expanded its authorization for the omicron-specific COVID-19 booster vaccine to include children under age 5.

Children between the ages of 6 months and 5 years who received the initial Moderna COVID-19 vaccine will become eligible for the Moderna booster if they completed their initial vaccine series at least two months prior.

For children aged 4 and younger

who have not yet started their three-dose primary series of the vaccine manufactured by Pfizer-BioNTech, the updated booster will now be used as the third dose following two doses of the original Pfizer vaccine, according to the FDA.

Children who have already received all three vaccine doses in the Pfizer series will not be eligible for a booster dose at this time, FDA officials said, but the agency plans to review safety and effectiveness data in January for giving those children a fourth dose with the updated booster.

"More children now have the opportunity to update their protection against COVID-19 with a bivalent COVID-19 vaccine, and we encourage parents and caregivers of those eligible to consider doing so -- especially as we head into the holidays and winter months where more time will be spent indoors," FDA Commissioner Dr. Robert

Califf said in a statement Dec. 8.

The updated, "bivalent" boosters target both the initial COVID-19 strain and the BA.4 and BA.5 sub-variants of the highly contagious omicron variant.

The updated boosters have been used for all booster vaccinations since the FDA approved them in early September, while the original mRNA vaccines are only currently authorized for initial vaccine series.

Anyone age 12 and up was originally eligible for the bivalent booster and children between the ages of 5 and 11 have been eligible since mid-October. Common side effects are similar to that of the original vaccine, including soreness at the injection site, fatigue and fever.

"Vaccines remain the best defense against the most devastating consequences of disease caused by the currently circulating omicron variant, such as hospitalization and death," said Dr. Peter Marks, the director of the FDA's Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research.

"Based on available data, the updated, bivalent vaccines are expected to provide increased protection against COVID-19," Marks said. ■

—Eli Walsh, BCN Foundation

WATER

Continued from Page 5

The water rate increases were just one small piece of the larger discussion Dec. 6 regarding the agency's recently completed groundwater modeling analysis of the expanding PFAS plume that has been affecting water pumping wells in Pleasanton and the rest of the Tri-Valley.

PFAS, formally known as per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, are widely used and long-lasting chemicals, components of which break down very slowly over time.

In recent years, city officials have discovered variations of the chemicals in the city's groundwater supply facilities — specifically in the city-maintained wells — and have been working to address the problem.

The findings from the modeling study were presented to the Zone 7 board on Aug. 31, and Zone 7 General Manager Valerie Pryor along with other Zone 7 staff presented mostly the same information to the City Council.

However, there were some new pieces of information that forced the water agency to relook at some of their treatment options and led to the decision of focusing on continuing to pump and treat the water at the affected wells to stop the westward spread of the plume.

Perfluorohexane Sulfonic acid (PFHxS) is one of the specific PFAS chemicals that the state established health-based notification and response levels for recently in October — Pleasanton's wells 5, 6 and 8 all exceed these levels now

thanks to the new levels, staff said.

Ken Minn, Zone 7 groundwater resources manager, told the council that in order to stop the PFAS plume from spreading, the water agency will be moving away from just blending the water from different sources and instead look to pumping and treating the water more.

"We really have to understand or consider the treatment as a viable means of preserving our local water resource," Minn said. "That is what the mobilization study told us is that this is what it is going to be ... pumping and treating is definitely going to be helpful in effectively treating the plume."

Councilmember Kathy Narum noted that even if the city were to replace any of the wells, the chance of the chemicals reappearing would still be very high.

"If we're going to do anything and make any kind of investments in the wells themselves, we really should be putting a treatment system on top," said Daniel Repp, managing director of utility and environmental services for the city.

"We don't know how long it would take to get the (PFAS) levels down below," Repp added. "This stuff is going to be with us for a while. So I think the bottom line, at least from my point of view as an engineer and a technical person, is we probably just think about treatment if we're going to be looking at groundwater."

Vice Mayor Valerie Arkin asked Repp if there was any chance the wells could be turned back on to which he said as of now, it's looking like they will be permanently

shut down for the time being.

One of the biggest questions the council had for Minn was one that he couldn't really answer which was — what was the source of the plume.

Minn said that the state is currently investigating the source and that a regional board will send out inquiry letters to places like firefighter buildings where some of the council members said could be the culprit due to fire foam.

Fire foam is a chemical solvent used to put out fires.

Minn added that while Zone 7 doesn't have the authority to investigate the cause, they can continue to monitor the areas surrounding the fire stations and any other hot spots.

He also said that apart from the push for more treatment centers, the water agency will be looking to diversify its groundwater sources from the different sub basins located in the Livermore Valley Groundwater Basin, the main aquifer the water agency extracts water from.

"We learned from the past three years that when push comes to shove, this precious local resource is the one that we have to depend on," Minn said. "Local resources are the one that we have to preserve and we have to relish."

"We need to diversify our groundwater extraction, so that we will become much more resilient during the drought," he added.

As the water agency continues to track, monitor, look for grants to fund the treatment centers' construction and pump the wells in the Tri-Valley, Councilmember Jack

Balch said the city needs to also work fast in coming up with a treatment plan.

The council previously voted to pause its PFAS treatment and wells rehabilitation project due to high costs and staff are in the process of looking at different alternatives to the problem. The 20% of the water produced from the water wells will be outsourced to the Zone 7 agency for the time being.

"We've got to move with haste on the study on the pause figuring out what we're going to do," Balch said. "I thank Zone 7 for the partnership to bridge us on the 3,500 acre-feet of water that we are not pumping now, or would be this summer."

"With their capital plans and ability to bring on their treatment plant and time, hopefully that all does line out but obviously, we've got to move with haste on our side, in partnership, on all solutions for it ... We've got to work together and work in haste," Balch added.

Apart from the presentations from Zone 7, Pleasanton city staff also presented the city's 2022 public health goals report, which found other chemicals like copper and uranium in the drinking water.

As a water purveyor the city prepares this report every three years, which includes information about water quality components detected in the drinking water and how they relate to state public health goals (PHGs).

The California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment establishes these water quality goals, which are levels of

chemical constituents in drinking water that do not pose a significant risk to health, and they are not regulatory standards.

"It's really a policymaking tool and as the governing body for distribution for the city of Pleasanton this is really an opportunity to identify trends and to make sure that we're weighing the pros and cons of either newly identified contaminants in our water system or contaminants that we know of, but we're monitoring the level of contamination," City Manager Gerry Beaudin said.

"It's really not, are we concerned or are we not concerned," he added. "It's, are we aware and are we able to properly plan for and finance should we need to take specific action."

Even though city staff did find that PHGs were exceeded for copper and uranium, they said that the technology needed to treat these issues — which staff say the potential health benefits of treating is not clear — is too expensive.

According to the staff presentation, to install and operate a reverse osmosis system, which is what would be needed to remove copper and uranium, would cost approximately \$10.7 million (per year) for the life of the system.

The council agreed and moved with staff's recommendation to not move forward with the reverse osmosis system because the city's drinking water meets all state drinking water standards, the effectiveness of the treatment is still uncertain and the health benefits of these potential reductions in copper and uranium are not clear. ■

Dublin Transit Center garage construction underway

Facility on track to open in December 2023

By NICOLE GONZALES

Dublin is poised to see a major construction project completed for much-needed parking space next year.

The Livermore Amador Valley Transit Authority, which operates the Tri-Valley's Wheels bus system, has announced the project that will serve as the new "Dublin Transit Center Parking Garage" began construction this fall, and the large-scale parking facility and is expected to finish in December of next year.

Plans to build the garage facility were largely inspired by a need for a lack of parking availability in the area for residents, commuters and BART passengers alike, city staff confirmed.

Alameda County Supervisor David Haubert said in a LAVTA-issued press release, "Prior to the start of the pandemic, there were thousands of Tri-Valley residents on a waiting list to get a reserved parking space at this BART station and

the remaining spaces were completely filled by 7 a.m. on most days."

"Much changed in March of 2020, but we are seeing more and more Bay Area employees returning to work each day and it is only a matter of time until freeway congestion convinces commuters to return to BART. We will be ready," added Haubert, a former mayor of Dublin.

Current Dublin Mayor Melissa Hernandez also provided statements about the new public parking facility adjacent to the Dublin-Pleasanton BART Station.

"We are certainly excited to have the additional parking this facility will bring, because in pre-COVID times, many commuters would find the BART garage full and park in the adjacent neighborhoods, frustrating our city's residents who live in the area," Hernandez said.

"The new garage is only part of what the city of Dublin has planned for this parcel of land," she added. "The remainder will be residential



Rendering shows design concept for the new Dublin Transit Center parking garage now under construction.

units with convenient access not only to BART, but also to a number of local and regional bus services, including the Tri-Valley's own

Wheels and Rapid bus routes."

Once completed, the facility is designed to add over 500 parking spots near the Tri-Valley's

easternmost BART station. Services are expected to accommodate electric vehicles, offering secure charging locations. ■

Ott officially appointed as assistant city manager in Pleasanton

Longtime administrator has interim tag removed after extensive hiring process

By CHRISTIAN TRUJANO

Pamela Ott, who has been serving for nearly a year as Pleasanton's interim assistant city manager, has been promoted to the position on a permanent basis, according to a news release from the city on Tuesday.

After a long executive recruitment process, Pleasanton staff will continue to see Ott doing the same work she already has been doing since former assistant city manager Brian Dolan was elevated to interim city manager in December 2021 before retiring in



Pamela Ott

the spring after Gerry Beaudin was hired as the new city manager.

"It's a pleasure to appoint Pamela formally as the city's assistant city manager," Beaudin said in a statement. "Her customer-oriented approach to meeting city goals and her skill at navigating complex issues and challenges make Pamela an excellent choice for this role."

According to the release, Ott has more than 30 years of operations and management experience in both the private and public sectors.

She has been working for the city of Pleasanton for 19 years where she served as economic development manager and director, and then as deputy city manager.

During her time working with

the city, she has spearheaded several projects associated with Workday, 10x Genomics and Johnson Drive Economic Development Zone — which is associated with the new Costco development near Stoneridge Drive and Interstate 680.

"As I think about moving into 2023, I'm particularly focused on working on projects that are important to the long-term sustainability of our city, such as the water supply alternatives study and infrastructure planning, along with many other priorities that benefit our residents and businesses," she told the Weekly.

According to the news release, Ott has also overseen the city's public information activities; planned

and enhanced efficiency in service delivery; facilitated the city's Economic Vitality Committee and ad hoc task forces; helped design and deliver business support programs; and served as the city's representative to numerous local and regional organizations.

Before she worked for the city, she previously served as the executive director of the Pleasanton Downtown Association where she helped build community-based associations in other cities. Prior to joining the public sector, she worked in retail and banking operations.

"I am honored and excited to continue serving the Pleasanton community in this role. As a resident of Pleasanton since 2001, I am deeply

committed to our city's well-being," Ott said in the news release. "I look forward to collaborating with the city manager and executive team, our outstanding staff, and the City Council to ensure that Pleasanton remains the exceptional city that it is."

Ott has a bachelor's degree in business administration from the University of Florida, a master's degree in organization development from the University of San Francisco and she completed the Continuing Education for Public Officials program, which according to its website, helps public officials "make informed decisions around utility operations and finances."

She also served on the Citizens Oversight Committee for the Chabot-Las Positas Community College District, on the board of the Valley Humane Society and she is currently on the community advisory relations board for Stanford Health Care Tri-Valley. ■

BART approves fare grace period for brief trips that begin, end at same station

No 'excursion fare' if out of station within 30 minutes

BART's governing board voted unanimously this month to grant a short-term grace period for the system's fare for trips that begin and end at the same station.

The \$6.40 "excursion fare" has been part of BART's fare structure since the 1970s and is intended to prevent some forms of fare evasion and abuses of parking and charges a fare for BART riders who only want to experience the

transit system without traveling to a destination.

The fare is charged regardless of whether a person rides a BART train or enters and exits a BART station within a short period of time.

While BART offers ways for riders to seek a refund or reimbursement for the fee, like asking a station agent to submit paperwork for a refund or seeking reimbursement through Clipper, BART

officials argued the current process is "cumbersome."

The policy approved by BART's Board of Directors on Dec. 1 would offer a 30-minute grace period for the fee.

While only about 1% of BART customers pay the excursion fee, 80% of excursion fare riders exited the transit system within 30 minutes of entering during the 2021-22 fiscal year.

According to BART's assistant general manager for performance and budget Pamela Herhold, the new policy would have reduced BART's fare revenue by \$1.3 million during the 2022 fiscal year.

"We end up losing a little bit of money, but it's money we shouldn't have had in the first place and it makes the riders feel a lot better," BART Board President Rebecca Saltzman said. "And I think that's

so important to maintaining our riders, especially when they've had a frustrating experience with BART service."

BART officials and the Metropolitan Transportation Commission — the Bay Area's transportation coordination and financing agency — are currently determining whether the grace period could be implemented with the current Clipper fare system.

If not, it would be implemented as part of the launch of Clipper 2.0, which will modernize the backend of the Clipper system. The next generation Clipper system is scheduled to launch in early 2024. ■

—Eli Walsh, BCN Foundation

San Ramon debuts e-bike/e-scooter program

Partnership with Bird to serve as micromobility pilot project

By JEANITA LYMAN

Officials with the city of San Ramon and the e-scooter company Bird announced the debut of a partnership between the two entities that aims to increase local transit options and attract commuting residents.

The pilot program that launched last week means that 150 e-scooters and e-bikes are now available for rental at a number of “nests” scattered throughout the city.

The vehicles provided by Bird

and the company’s technological infrastructure mean “the capability to define safe operation, and to monitor and control the fleet in real time, including setting slow speed zones and no-parking zones with unprecedented accuracy,” Chris Weeks, the city’s division manager of transportation, said in a statement on Dec. 7.

Weeks added that the programming options include the ability to enforce speed zones via the use of geo-fencing.

“When the Bird vehicles are

operated in these zones, the vehicle communicates with the user using a digital dashboard on the scooter, then automatically adjusts to the parameters set for the zone,” Weeks said. “This allows the operator to create custom speed limits and zones that are completely off limits to the vehicles. This capability allows for special storage areas called ‘nests’ that allow orderly storage of vehicles when not in use.”

The vehicles will operate at a top speed of 15 mph, and only

within San Ramon city limits.

While the new offering fits with the hi-tech vision many have for the rapidly growing city, the goal is also pragmatic — part of a package of measures intended to help meet San Ramon’s greenhouse gas reduction target, Weeks said — and the “first among many”, according to city officials.

The launch of the San Ramon program is also part of the company’s more ambitious goals, according to last week’s announcement.

“Bird is extremely excited about launching a shared mobility program that could one day connect the entire East Bay and Tri-Valley area,” said Austin Marshburn, director of city and university partnerships for Bird. “Bird is passionate about solving the ‘last mile’ problem currently facing the residents, commuters and tourists of San Ramon.”

The pilot program is set to run for 12 months. More information is available at www.sanramon.ca.gov. ■

LIVERMORE LAB

Continued from Page 5

a press conference Tuesday announcing the historical feat along with Budil and the team of LLNL experts behind the experiment.

“The people at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory’s National Ignition Facility reached this ignition milestone because of the work others did before them, their analysis of data and models, their continued pursuit to have the best possible facility and their sheer excellence and grit,” NNSA Administrator Jill Hruby said during the announcement.

Many scientists over the years have worked toward achieving this breakthrough since the 1960s when a group of LLNL scientists hypothesized that lasers could be used to induce fusion in a laboratory setting.

Led by physicist John Nuckolls, who later served as LLNL director from 1988 to 1994, the revolutionary idea became inertial confinement fusion, kicking off more than six decades of research and development in lasers, optics, diagnostics, target fabrication, computer modeling and simulation and experimental design, according to LLNL officials.

To pursue this concept, LLNL built a series of increasingly powerful laser systems, leading to the creation of NIF, the world’s largest and most energetic laser system. NIF is the size of a sports stadium and uses powerful laser beams to create temperatures and pressures like those in the cores of stars and giant planets, and inside exploding nuclear weapons.

Among those who previously worked to reach fusion ignition at LLNL is Arati Prabhakar, the president’s chief adviser for science and technology and director of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy.

“It was 1978, I was a summer student in the middle of my college years, a 19-year-old kid and I got the chance to go work at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory,” Prabhakar recalled during Tuesday’s press conference.

She continued, “I show up and they give me a laser to work on and I said, ‘This is cool. I like lasers but what’s this laser all about?’ and they said, ‘We think that if you point enough lasers at a pellet of fuel, we want to see if we can get more energy released from fusion than the amount of energy that the laser’s delivering to that pellet.’”

Prabhakar said she spent the entire summer working on the project and then went on to do other unrelated things, but she kept an eye on what was going on at LLNL as they continued to pursue fusion ignition for many more years until finally accomplishing it last week. “I just think this is such a tremendous example of what perseverance really can achieve,” she said.

Fusion is the process by which two light nuclei combine to form a single heavier nucleus, releasing a large amount of energy, according to LLNL officials. To create fusion ignition, 192 laser beams delivered more than 2 million joules of ultraviolet energy to a tiny fuel pellet.

“Fusion is an essential process in modern nuclear weapons and fusion also has the potential for abundant clean energy,” said Marvin “Marv” Adams, NNSA’s deputy administrator for defense programs.

LLNL’s milestone experiment surpassed the fusion threshold by delivering 2.05 megajoules of energy from the laser to the target, resulting in 3.15 megajoules of fusion energy output, demonstrating for the first time a most fundamental science basis for inertial

fusion energy (IFE).

Many advanced science and technology developments are still needed to achieve simple, affordable IFE to power homes and businesses, and the DOE is currently restarting a broad-based, coordinated IFE program in the U.S. Combined with private-sector investment, there is a lot of momentum to drive rapid progress toward fusion commercialization.

However, Budil noted during Tuesday’s press conference that while this experiment was a very critical first step, commercialization is still a number of years away.

“This is one igniting capsule, one time and to realize commercial fusion energy you have to do many things. You have to be able to produce many, many fusion ignition events per minute and you have to have a robust system of drivers to enable that,” Budil said, adding that it probably won’t be another six decades.

“I think it’s moving into the foreground and probably with concerted effort and investment, a few decades of research on the underlying technologies could put us in a position to build a power plant,” she said.

In the days since making the

breakthrough, Budil said the team was analyzing all of the data and diagnostics to make sure all of the numbers were correct before announcing the historical feat. “It’s really important that we tell you the facts and that we get them right before we go public,” she said.

U.S. Rep. Eric Swalwell (D-Livermore) praised LLNL’s accomplishment in a statement and pledged to continue pursuing funding toward the Lab’s fusion work.

“I am thrilled that NIF — the United States’ most cutting-edge nuclear research facility — has achieved fusion ignition, potentially providing for a new clean and sustainable energy source in the future. This breakthrough will ensure the safety and reliability of our nuclear stockpile, open new frontiers in science, and enable progress toward new ways to power our homes and offices in future decades,” Swalwell said.

“I commend the scientists and researchers for their hard work and dedication that led to this monumental scientific achievement, and I will continue to push for robust funding for NIF to support advancements in fusion research,” he added. ■

TEACHERS

Continued from Page 5

resources, said in the news release. “We look forward to a collaborative and open relationship as we move forward in the best interest of our students and staff.”

According to the release, the agreement represents a shift for a “more open negotiations process with the goal of increased transparency and identifying shared interests to reach agreements.”

Back in May, the district approved a new collective bargaining agreement between the district and the teachers association that included a 3.25% salary increase and new health benefits.

The tentative agreement covers the next three academic years,

with a one-year settlement for the 2022-23 portion of the agreement and health benefits for employees in line with CalPERS health benefits — a maximum of \$5,000 including all CalPERS-required contributions.

Atkins said that the union negotiates salary, calendar and benefits every year and each side of the negotiations teams gets the opportunity to open to articles in the contract to renegotiate.

The entire contract is open for negotiations every three years.

Apart from time off, the teachers association has shined — which is another way of saying it reopened — the article in the contract regarding class sizes and caseloads for negotiations during the 2023-24 school year.

Atkins said the association shined that article in late October and is now waiting for the district to shine their article in the joint contract, which she said will occur during the Jan. 19 school board meeting.

She said negotiations will hopefully start shortly after that meeting but as of now, there are no set dates.

“(The Association of Pleasanton Teachers) and the district have been working together on building better relationships since our near strike,” Atkins said. “I feel that is

going well, and it is our hope to see this carry into our upcoming negotiations.”

She was referring to October 2021 when more than 98% of

PUSD’s collective bargaining unit members on the APT voted to allow a strike, which did not materialize after the district reached an agreement with the association. ■



Members from the PUSD and APT negotiations teams celebrate signing a memorandum of understanding concerning time off.

Dublin Big Lots! store prepares to close permanently

Local shutdown among closures nationwide amid revenue losses

By NICOLE GONZALES

Dublin's only Big Lots! store location, one of two in the Tri-Valley, is set to cease operations in the new year.

With a large banner that reads "store closing" placed atop the building and dozens of other signs throughout the inside, customers are made aware of the imminent closure and associated blowout sales. While a specific closing date is not known, representatives have noted the location in West Dublin on 7991 Amador Valley Blvd. plans to cease operations sometime in January.

The move comes after the chain in January 2022 initially announced plans to open over 500 storefronts in a span of several years. This changed over the

course of the year.

Reasons for the store shutdowns have largely pointed toward earning losses for the company, which was later confirmed via a company report from top officials.

According to vice president and chief financial officer Jonathan Ramsden in a public earnings call this month, recent national Big Lots! statements have reported losses of up to 9.8%, or \$87 million.

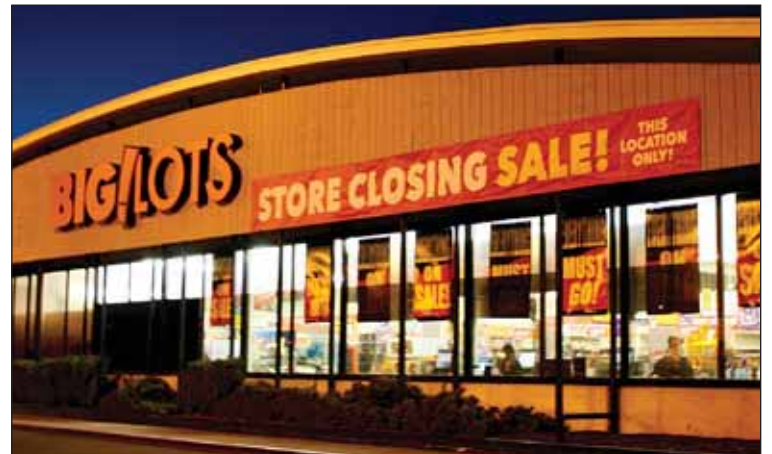
His report examined results from the third quarter of 2022. Ramsden cited "underperforming" store locations that the company will shut down in hopes to offset costs. Big Lots! also plans to shift the company focus to sparsely populated areas that may face less competition for storefronts.

"To reiterate that our real estate strategy is going to be increasingly oriented towards these rural small town stores where the economics are significantly stronger than in the urban stores," Ramsden said in the call.

Big Lots! has planned a number of other store closures across the nation. "With regard to closures, we do have an accelerated number of closures this year," Ramsden said. "The closures this year will end up being somewhat higher than the openings."

Ramsden added, "Going forward, we would hope and expect to return to a more normalized level of closures, but we'll certainly continue to look closely at underperforming stores."

The discount retail store's second



NICOLE GONZALES

The Big Lots! store in Dublin is set to close in the weeks ahead.

Tri-Valley location, Livermore's Big Lots! on 4484 Las Positas Road, the closures. Another storefront in

Tracy will stay open as well. The future of the tenant space occupied by Big Lots! in Dublin is unknown. ■

Overnight closures begin on northbound I-680 at Highway 84 junction

Multi-phase project to extend to San Ramon over next year and a half

Caltrans started work Monday night on Interstate 680 that will close the northbound lanes overnight for more than a year in the Tri-Valley north of the junction of Highway 84 in Sunol.

The first phase closes northbound I-680 between 10 p.m. to 5 a.m. Mondays through Fridays until February 2023 between Koopman Road in Sunol north to Sunol Boulevard in Pleasanton.

Phase two begins in February, when the northbound highway will close overnight through April from Sunol Boulevard to Bernal Avenue in Pleasanton.

The work is part of a major improvement project that will rehabilitate and repave I-680 and

replace entire sections of the roadway to enhance safety and provide a smoother ride to motorists, according to Caltrans. The project ultimately is set to extend to Alcosta Boulevard in San Ramon, lasting about a year and a half.

Regional detours will be activated to advise motorists coming from the South Bay to take I-880 to Highway 238 to I-580 instead of I-680.

For closures between the Koopman Road and Sunol Boulevard interchanges: Motorists on northbound I-680 are advised to exit I-680 at Calaveras, take Paloma Way, take Pleasanton Sunol Road and re-enter northbound I-680 at Sunol Boulevard. Those

traveling on eastbound I-580 are advised to take eastbound Highway 84 to I-580.

For closures between Sunol Boulevard and Bernal Avenue: I-680 northbound traffic should exit I-680 at Sunol Boulevard, take Bernal Avenue and re-enter the freeway from Bernal Avenue. Traffic on eastbound I-580 should take eastbound Highway 84 to I-580.

The project will also close northbound I-680 for 72 hours on the following holiday weekends: Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Presidents' Day, Memorial Day and Labor Day.

For more information, visit the project website at dot.ca.gov. ■

—Bay City News Service

BikeLink mobile app can now be used to park bikes in lockers at BART stations

Agency charges 5 cents per hour for storage

BART announced last Friday that riders who come to the agency's train stations via bicycle can now park their bikes in secure lockers using a new mobile app.

BikeLink cards have previously been the way to pay for the lockers at BART stations for 5 cents per hour, and BikeLink now has an app that bicyclists can use across 40 BART stations.

People can download the BikeLink app on either iOS or

Android and can start with only \$5 on their app's account, while the minimum amount required to set up a BikeLink card is \$20. BART officials note that a balance on a card is not connected to an account on the app.

To use the lockers, a rider should go up to an available one, pull up the app and follow on-screen instructions to add time to the meter and open the door to place their bike inside.

According to BART, use of the app at its bike stations at the Ashby, Berryessa, Civic Center, Downtown Berkeley, Embarcadero, MacArthur, Milpitas and Pleasant Hill/Contra Costa Centre stations won't be available until early 2023.

More details about the BikeLink program and information on taking bicycles to BART stations and on trains can be found at <https://www.bart.gov/guide/bikes>. ■

—Bay City News Service

Mary Foos

October 1, 1931 – November 23, 2022

Mary was a loving mother and grandmother, who passed away peacefully at 91.

Born in La Paz, Bolivia to Jose Calderon and Maria Villegas Calderon, Mary was the youngest girl of 5 children and the only one in her generation who received a university education in the US.

After returning to Bolivia, she worked in various government agencies and US institutions such as the Peace Corps and USAID. Mary met her future husband, Oscar, while he was working in Bolivia. They called each other "Vida" which means "life" in Spanish. They did not get married until 1965, after she had moved to southern California a few years earlier. They had their only child, Joe, in August 1966.

In 1968, the family moved to Beirut, Lebanon and lived there for 15 years. It was the "Paris of the Middle East" and Mary loved the Mediterranean lifestyle and multi-cultural people. During this time, Mary focused on raising her child far away from family, and frequently evacuating due to the ongoing civil war that started in 1975.

Once their son graduated from high school in 1983, the family decided to move back to the US and settled in Santa Barbara, CA because it reminded them so much of Beirut. Mary made many new friends and worked in various roles while also becoming a licensed tax preparer. Oscar passed away in 1995, and Mary retired by moving to Pleasanton in 1997 to await the birth of her third grandchild.

In Pleasanton, she continued helping others with income tax filing and volunteering in many senior citizen communities such as Ridgeview Commons.

But mostly, she attended every event her grandchildren celebrated.

Mary had a passion for helping others. She was on every charity's mailing list and volunteered her time whenever she was asked.

Mary is survived by her son Joe, daughter-in-law Ginny, and grandchildren Dasha, Alex, and Ben.

A memorial service will be held in the near future to allow family and friends to travel more easily after the holidays.



Community Pulse

POLICE BULLETIN

Former Dublin women's prison warden convicted of sex-related crimes

The former warden of a women's prison in Dublin was convicted last week of crimes involving sexually abusive conduct against three inmates and of lying to federal agents, according to the U.S. Attorney's Office.

Ray Garcia, 55, of Merced, was convicted of sexual abuse and abusive sexual contact with one victim and abusive sexual contact with two others over the period of December 2019 to July 2021.

Garcia was also convicted of making false statements to government agents on July 22, 2021, according to prosecutors.

"Today's guilty verdict is one important step in our ongoing efforts to root out sexual misconduct within the Bureau of Prisons," U.S. Deputy Attorney General Lisa Monaco said in a statement on Dec. 8. "It also delivers justice to the victims in this case."

Monaco said the victims were abused repeatedly and subjected to Garcia's "gross exploitation of power."

Garcia was responsible for ensuring the care and welfare of the people incarcerated at Federal Correctional Institute Dublin, U.S. Attorney Stephanie Hinds said.

Garcia was also responsible for demonstrating to employees that illegal and unethical behavior by prison officials "would not be tolerated," Hinds said.

Instead, Garcia used his power "to prey sexually upon female inmates under his control," Hinds said.

Garcia "repeatedly lied to try to cover up his crimes, and fostered a culture of abuse at FCI Dublin,"

Michael Horowitz, inspector general for the U.S. Department of Justice, said in a statement.

Initially, Garcia was charged on Sept. 24, 2021, with sexual abuse of an inmate. But a federal grand jury on Aug. 23, 2022, issued a superseding indictment charging the former warden with three counts of sexual abuse and four counts of abusive sexual contact.

The same indictment included lying to government agents while the criminal investigation was ongoing.

The three counts of sexual abuse and one count of sexually abusive contact occurred against the inmate identified as victim one, prosecutors said. The crimes occurred between December 2019 and March 2020.

Prosecutors said Garcia committed the abuse and/or abusive contact in the area of the prison visitation room, which includes a bathroom and inmate changing stall.

Against victim two, Garcia was convicted of two counts of abusive sexual contact. The acts occurred in a prison warehouse and in the victim's cell between January and July 2021, prosecutors said. Both areas were generally out of the view of others, according to the U.S. Attorney's Office.

Abusive sexual contact with victim three occurred between March and September 2020 in the prison's electrical shop, prosecutors said.

On the day Garcia lied to government agents, Garcia told the agents that he never touched an inmate sexually and never asked inmates to undress for him. Trial evidence showed otherwise, prosecutors said.

Before becoming warden at FCI Dublin, Garcia was an associate warden of the all-female, low security prison.

As of October, three other correctional officers at FCI Dublin had

either been arrested, indicted or charged with offenses of a sexual nature against inmates at the prison, according to the U.S. Attorney's Office.

Also, James Theodore Highhouse, former chaplain with the Federal Bureau of Prisons, pleaded guilty in February to five felonies for abusing an inmate sexually at FCI Dublin and then lying to federal agents.

Garcia could be sentenced to more than 50 years in prison for the crimes.

U.S. District Judge Yvonne Rogers set Garcia's sentencing date for March 8. Garcia remains free until his sentencing, prosecutors said.

—Keith Burbank, BCN

In other news

- Police departments in the Tri-Valley are encouraging — and warning — residents not to drive while impaired this holiday season.

The Livermore Police Department and Dublin Police Services each have a DUI checkpoint being set up tonight at an undisclosed location in its city, while the Pleasanton Police Department said it is increasing DUI patrols throughout its city through New Year's Day. Each effort is funded with support from state and federal agencies.

"The holidays are a special time of year for many, and we want drivers to act responsibly," Pleasanton police Sgt. Steve Ayers said in a statement. "This enforcement period allows us to get the message out that driving impaired is an illegal, senseless behavior that takes lives."

"Impaired drivers put others on the road at a significant risk," Dublin police Capt. Nate Schmidt stated. "Any prevention measures that reduce the number of impaired drivers on our roads significantly improves

traffic safety."

In Dublin, police will be operating the DUI and driver's license checkpoint from 7 p.m. today to 3 a.m. Saturday at an undisclosed location that is associated with a history of DUI-related collisions or arrests.

DPS will also have a special increased patrol throughout the city overnight Saturday — from 6 p.m. Saturday to 2 a.m. Sunday — specifically looking for motorists showing signs of being under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

In neighboring Livermore, LPD will also be holding a DUI checkpoint overnight, from 6 p.m. tonight to 2 a.m. Saturday, at an undisclosed location associated with past DUI incidents.

"The Livermore Police Department reminds the public that impaired driving is not just from alcohol. Some prescription medications and over-the-counter drugs may interfere with driving. While medicinal and recreational marijuana are legal, driving under the influence of marijuana is illegal," LPD officials said. "Drivers charged with a first-time DUI face an average of \$13,500 in fines and penalties, as well as a suspended license." Also participating in the national "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over" campaign, PPD will have additional officers on patrol looking for DUI drivers from this week through Jan. 1. No checkpoints have been announced for Pleasanton to date.

Police agencies urge residents to take proactive steps to avoid DUIs this holiday season, including designating a sober driver or using a rideshare company, taxi or public transportation to get home, having someone sober join with you if you're walking home while impaired, monitoring others' drinking if you're hosting a party, or calling 911 if you suspect another motorist is driving while intoxicated.

For all three agencies, their operations are being funded by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety, through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

—Jeremy Walsh

- A man died after crashing his car at the interchange of interstates 580 and 680 in Dublin last week, according to the California Highway Patrol.

The situation unfolded at about 3:10 a.m. Dec. 8 when a 2001 BMW 540i traveling westbound on I-580 tried to take the ramp to northbound I-680, but "due to the vehicle's excessive speed, the BMW lost control and crashed into the concrete divider-wall and overturned," according to CHP-Dublin Officer Tyler Hahn.

When CHP officers arrived at the wreckage, they found the driver unresponsive in the sedan while still restrained by the seat belt. He was pronounced dead at the scene, according to Hahn.

The Alameda County Coroner's Bureau later identified the driver as

31-year-old Castro Valley resident Nicholas Garcia, according to Bay City News Service

The circumstances of the crash are under investigation, and officers do not yet know whether DUI was a factor, according to Hahn.

The off-ramp from westbound I-580 to I-680 northbound was closed from 3:48 a.m. until 5:07 a.m. to accommodate the CHP investigation. There was minimal impact to traffic, Hahn said.

It marked the third consecutive week with a fatal crash for the Tri-Valley, following a deadly head-on collision on Altamont Pass Road on Thanksgiving Day and a high-speed rollover crash down an I-580 embankment east of Livermore on Nov. 29.

—Jeremy Walsh

- A former Alameda County sheriff's deputy pleaded not guilty Monday morning in a Dublin courtroom to charges that he shot his girlfriend and her husband in September.

Devin Williams Jr., 24, of Stockton allegedly shot the couple in the head and neck before police responded at 12:45 a.m. Sept. 7 to the couple's house in the 3100 block of Colebrook Lane in Dublin. The couple died at the home.

Williams allegedly fled after the shootings, but detectives reviewed footage from license-plate readers, which showed a gray Volkswagen sedan with California license plate 6MEA916 traveling south on Fallon Road in Dublin at 12:46 a.m.

Fallon Road eventually connects the couple's home to Interstate 580.

Authorities did not have to do much more searching, because Williams called Dublin Police Chief Garrett Holmes at 11:07 a.m. to end his flight, according to court documents.

Just after noon, inside the Volkswagen, Williams surrendered to California Highway Patrol officers in the area of Coalinga, 147 miles from Dublin. Court documents said what was believed to be blood was found in the Volkswagen.

The two people killed were 57-year-old Benison Tran and 42-year-old Maria Tran. Members of the couple's family were present during the shooting, according to court documents.

At the couple's home, detectives found six bullet shell casings of the same kind used by the Alameda County Sheriff's Office. Detectives also heard six gunshots when they listened to the 911 call.

Williams' father told detectives that Williams had been dating Maria Tran, according to court documents.

Charges against Williams include two counts of murder.

Williams is being held without bail at Santa Rita Jail in Dublin. He is scheduled to be in court again Feb. 1 for a pretrial hearing. ■

—Keith Burbank, BCN

POLICE REPORT

The Pleasanton Police Department made the following information available.

Dec. 8

Burglary

- 10:10 a.m. on the 3900 block of Stoneridge Drive
- 8:51 p.m. on the 2600 block of Trevor Parkway

Robbery

- 3:11 p.m. on the 3400 block of Andrews Drive

Theft

- 3:15 p.m. on the 3400 block of Pickens Lane
- 8:15 p.m., 4500 block of Rosewood Drive; theft from auto

Trespassing/prowling

- 4:14 p.m. on the 5500 block of West Las Positas Boulevard

Dec. 7

Graffiti offense

- 8:49 a.m. on the 4200 block of Black Avenue
- 12:31 p.m. at Owens and Hacienda drives

Theft

- 10:55 a.m. on the 4000 block of West Las Positas Boulevard

- 2:56 p.m., 1300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting
- 3:19 p.m. on the 5500 block of Springhouse Drive
- 4:13 p.m. on the 2400 block of Via De Los Milagros
- 6:26 p.m., 2700 block of Stoneridge Drive; theft from auto

DUI

- 5:21 p.m. at Kottinger Drive and Spring Street

Burglary

- 5:40 p.m. on the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive

Domestic battery

- 8:58 p.m. on Owens Drive

Dec. 6

Drug violation

- 7:27 a.m. on the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive

Alcohol violation

- 3:47 p.m. on the 1700 block of Santa Rita Road

Dec. 5

Embezzlement

- 7:40 a.m. on the 5500 block of Sunol Boulevard

Theft

- 9:37 a.m., 1500 block of East Gate Way; theft from auto
- 12:17 p.m. on the 4500 block of Willow Road
- 2:59 p.m. on the 3900 block of Fairlands Drive
- 4:18 p.m., 1300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting
- 6:17 p.m. on the 4500 block of Pleasanton Avenue

Graffiti offense

- 10:14 a.m. on the 7600 block of Olive Drive

Fraud

- 10:59 a.m. on the 3600 block of Washington Street

Dec. 4

Drug violation

- 8:32 a.m. on the 3100 block of Santa Rita Road

Warrant arrest

- 9:57 a.m. on the 6700 block of Santa Rita Road

Weapons violation

- 1:11 p.m. on the 1400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

Theft

- 7:22 p.m. on the 4400 block of Bacon Court

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TIM TALK

BY TIM HUNT

Valley faces challenge with high demand for industrial land

Key news for the economic development leaders and policy makers in the Tri-Valley cities: If a major manufacturer wanted to locate a facility here, there's no zoned parcel large enough that is available.

That's the word from David Scarpinato, an industrial land broker, speaking to attendees at the Hoge Fenton law firm's real estate update. The significance of this is that the valley cities have urban growth boundaries. Designating additional developable land likely will involve moving those lines — discussions that have been controversial, to say the least, in the past.

Gillig, the nation's leading bus manufacturer, has been based in the Bay Area for its 131-year history. In 2017, it moved into three buildings totaling 677,000 square feet in Livermore. The parcel was nearly 40 acres.

When it moved, Gillig was employing more than 900 people at the Livermore facility. And, it generates a pile of sales tax for the city of Livermore.

In short, it was a home run for all concerned.

The current challenge, with the vacancy rate for industrial buildings at about 4%, is there's not another parcel that could accommodate a similar manufacturing operation. Scarpinato said that there are only four buildings with 50,000 square feet available as warehouse or manufacturing space in the market.

That theme contrasted sharply with the outlook for office. Dan Watson, the executive manager at Newmark, talked about the "antiquated" office buildings in the Tri-Valley that were ripe for redevelopment. Heading the list is the 90-acre Chevron Park which the energy company sold back to Bishop Ranch owner, Sunset Development Co. Chevron leased 400,000 square feet elsewhere in Bishop Ranch to maintain its headquarters in San Ramon while relocating jobs to Houston.

Sunset already has rezoned land in the park for 4,500 residential units in its core as well as building the City Center shopping, entertainment and dining hub for its vision as a mixed-use facility.

It is just starting to work with the city on a plan for the Chevron

parcel, but expect plenty of housing. Watson repeated what the SummerHill Homes president said earlier: its interest list for the parcel it is building in Bishop Ranch was the highest ever for a project.

Watson and Hoge Fenton attorney Sblend Sblendorio both commented on the return to work.

Watson observed that there's a direct correlation between lay-off announcements — of which there have been many in recent weeks in the tech sector — and card keys being swiped at offices. Workers have grown accustomed to the freedom of working from home, but managers believe that they're not as productive as when they're in the office. That requires a different working space that older office buildings lack, thus the redevelopment opportunity according to Watson.

Given that all three panelists as well as audience members cited the need for more housing — it's a key consideration for executives when considering sites for their businesses — expect to hear more about that and older buildings being transformed into housing sites such as the proposal for the Marketplace shopping center in San Ramon.

Watson also shared an interesting idea based on his work in the life sciences sector. The consensus was that the Tri-Valley was not yet a "hub" but moving in that direction with its combination of home-grown companies such as 10x Genomics and Unchained Labs with international firms such as Abbott, Roche and Thermo-Fisher.

A San Francisco Business Times morning newsletter last week noted that five 10x Genomics alums had founded Infinimmune in San Ramon and Alameda and obtained \$12 million in seed funding. Remember that 10x founders came out of Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, so this represents a third generation of companies — growing toward a hub. ■

Editor's note: Journalist Tim Hunt has written columns on the Tri-Valley community for more than 40 years. He grew up in the valley and lives in Pleasanton. His "Tim Talk" blog appears twice a week at PleasantonWeekly.com.

LETTERS

Thank you, Pleasanton Councilmember Kathy Narum

As a resident, I wish to express my sincerest thanks and appreciation to Councilmember Kathy Narum as she completes nearly 20-1/2 years of appointed and elected service to Pleasanton (9-1/2 years of elected service and nearly 11 years of appointed service).

Councilmember Narum has attended countless meetings, community events and fundraisers for amazing causes through her years. She has advanced causes to help those in our community such as Pleasanton Military Families, Agape Villages, Goodness Village, Seahawks, Cricket and Sunflower Hill just to name a few.

She has exemplified dedicated service to others by diligently working to improve the lives of us all, worked to improve the lives for future generations, and all the while exercising fiscal prudence and

abundant generosity with her time to mentor and advise so many in our community. Councilmember Narum championed actions to support Pleasanton's full voice being represented and heard for our collective future to be brighter — in a time where trust in elected leaders may be wavering.

Councilmember Narum's dedication to Pleasanton has remained a true North Star and is a testament to the call to service for us all. It has been an honor of my life to serve Pleasanton, but being able to do alongside such a dedicated public servant as Councilmember Narum is beyond what simple words may describe.

Please join the Council and I in thanking Councilmember Narum for her service at her final City Council meeting at 6:30 p.m. next Tuesday (Dec. 20) or by emailing citycouncil@cityofpleasanton-ca.gov. With great respect, thank you Councilmember Narum, both Pleasanton and I have benefited immensely by your service.

—Jack Balch, councilmember

What's your opinion?

Send a Letter to the Editor to Editor@PleasantonWeekly.com or put your opinion on Town Square at www.PleasantonWeekly.com. Letters must be 250 words or less.

THE CITY OF PLEASANTON



HIGHLIGHTS

City Council Meeting

Tuesday, December 20, 2022, at 6:30 p.m.

Governor Newsom proclaimed a State of Emergency due to COVID-19 and has issued Executive Order N-29-20 and approved AB 361 suspending provisions of the Brown Act allowing meetings via teleconferencing and members of the public to observe and offer comments telephonically or electronically. The meeting will be held at the City Council Chamber – 200 Old Bernal Ave., via video/teleconference and will be broadcast live on Channel 29 and at <https://www.tri-valleytv.org> and <https://www.youtube.com/user/TheCityofPleasanton>.

- Adopt a resolution declaring results of the General Municipal Election held November 8, 2022

City Council Meeting

Tuesday, December 20, 2022, at 7:00 p.m.

- **Public Hearing** – Adopt a resolution amending the master fee schedule for the Pleasanton Pioneer Cemetery effective January 1, 2023
- Consider the Draft 6th Cycle Housing Element Update and comments from the Department of Housing and Community Development, including recommended amendments in response to comments and to select the preferred sites to be considered for re-zoning to accommodate the Regional Housing Needs Allocation
- Consider and approve the draft Objective Design Standards for residential development

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

Take your pick

Running Christmas tree lots is a family tradition in the Tri-Valley

STORY AND PHOTOS BY CHRISTIAN TRUJANO

For many people, buying a Christmas tree can seem like a yearly chore that you either take care of right away, or you leave for the last minute as you scramble to find the nearest tree lot.

But for those who own these Christmas tree farms, it's about more than just a holiday — it's a tradition of connecting with the community and leaving a legacy for their own children.

"It's a family tradition in many regards," said Ryan Nielsen, owner of the Alpine Christmas Trees in Dublin. "Most of our customers are returning customers and some of those customers (who) watched me grow up ... they come back in and bring their grandkids in to pick out trees."

The longtime Dublin native has been working on his tree lot, which is located on 4441 Tassajara Road on Dublin's southern border with Pleasanton, ever since his father first started the business in 1982.

Then in 2010, Nielsen took over the family business with his wife Keri, and they are now continuing the tradition of handpicking trees in Washington and shipping them down to their lot where they now have their own kids to help.

He said that one of the best things about owning the business and having his kids work on the farm is that it teaches them work ethic and financial responsibility. He also said that, just like when he was a kid, it helps them connect with their community and the people around them.

"Even if it's a short time of year and a seasonal type of business, I think an argument that can be made is that that's disappearing in greater society," Nielsen said. "If you can come back to that and enjoy that, and I can teach my kids a little bit about it and what it takes to work and make money and be a part of a community

and part of something, that's kind of the whole reason for the season for me and the spirit of it."

But seeing multiple generations of families come back to a tree lot isn't something all too rare, especially in the smaller communities in the Tri-Valley.

That's also the case for Jerry Collver, owner of Morning Glory Farm Christmas Trees. Collver is also no stranger to the Christmas tree industry having started his business in 1977.

He told the Weekly that at first he started it just for fun, but over the years he has expanded his business to the point where he now has three lots in the Tri-Valley — his main one on the north Pleasanton border at 6900 Amador Plaza Road, and his other two in Danville and Pleasant Hill, which two of his sons now run.

"It's something they grew up doing," Collver said. "From the time they were little they were throwing Christmas trees on the truck and they love it as much as I do."

Collver, who also owns an organic produce farm in Oregon, grows most of the trees he sells and said that the Christmas tree business is a labor of love that his family uses as vacation time to reconnect with customers who have supported him throughout the years.

He said that apart from bringing his family gifts ranging from Thanksgiving dinners to coffee, he really appreciates his customers who supported his businesses even when he was diagnosed with cancer. He said his doctors at the time only gave him six months to live.

"I was diagnosed with cancer six years ago and they told me I wasn't gonna be coming back, but I beat the cancer," Collver said. "My customers were all really supportive. It was really pretty neat. I mean they



Ryan Nielsen, owner of Alpine Christmas Trees, explains the genetic differences between the various trees at his lot in Dublin and the science behind getting strong tree branches that hold ornaments.



Nielsen points out his photo wall that shows the array of employees who have stuck with his family's business for several generations.

TRADITIONS



A customer gets one of the Alpine Christmas Tree employees to help shake off excess needles from the tree he picked out using a special shaking machine.



A tree lot employee uses a saw to trim the base of a Christmas tree before wrapping it up for a customer.

watched me go through all of that.” Now, he said he is proud to keep the business alive, to see his children begin to take over and to watch his customers’ children and grandchildren start their own traditions of picking out trees.

“We got people that now come all the way from L.A., because they always bought their giant Christmas tree here,” Collver said. “They’ll get the whole family together ... and make a two day road trip out of it just because it’s tradition. That’s loyal customers.”

But unlike Collver and Nielsen, not all the tree lots in the Tri-Valley have that long history of being around.

For Craig Rivers, owner of Mocho Creek Trees in Livermore, he is in his fourth year of running his farm on his ranch, which is one of the oldest homesteads in Livermore.

The farm, located on 5723 Mines Road, has been home to Rivers’ family for over 40 years and is where he has been raising cattle as his main job.

Being the side hustler he is, Rivers said that he decided to open up the Christmas tree lot in 2019 in order to make a little extra money in a way that he can get his whole family involved.

“I thought I would try to pull the family together and see if we could do a little Christmas tree lot, something that we could all work on and build a future for the grandkids and the kids,” Rivers said. “If it works,

and we keep doing it, it’s something they can do as they grow older.”

The Livermore native said that so far, business has been good for his family and, much like Collver and Nielsen, the pandemic was actually a profitable time for them.

All three farmers said that 2020 was a really good year for them and even last year was great, but due to inflation, the economy or just bad weather conditions, this year has been a bit slower than usual.

“Ultimately, we do have to pass what cost we have to the customers and I think that people are seeing what the future may potentially hold and they’re tightening their belts,” Nielsen said. “Where we would see seven-, eight-foot Christmas trees being a dominant type and height to be sold, we’re seeing six-, seven-foot Christmas trees (being sold).”

However, all three agreed that even if they need to stay an extra week to sell those last few trees, business has been good and they hope to continue their tradition of bringing families the holiday spirit.

“People that came in with their little guys, now (those kids are) coming in with their little guys,” Collver said. “Even with only 16 years, we’ve seen generations change, so that’s pretty neat.”

All three farmers also urged people to consider buying real trees over the fake plastic trees, not because they’re biased and want the business, but because they said it’s



Another Alpine Christmas Tree employee loads a tree into the back of a customer’s car earlier this month.

environmentally sustainable.

“I think there’s a big misconception about how good for the environment fake trees are compared to real tree,” Nielsen said. “When people buy a fake Christmas tree, first off, a plastic tree is only going to come out of the box so many times when it doesn’t come out like you want it to.”

The Nature Conservancy, a global environmental nonprofit that works to conserve nature, argues on its website not only are real trees better for the environment, faux trees leave a larger carbon footprint due

to the labor of creating the plastic products and shipping them overseas.

“In the U.S., around 10 million artificial trees are purchased each season,” according to the website. “Nearly 90% of them are shipped across the world from China, resulting in an increase of carbon emissions and resources. And because of the material they are made of, most artificial trees are not recyclable and end up in local landfills.”

Collver added that not only are you helping keep plastic out of landfills when you buy a real tree,

you are also helping produce more oxygen in the atmosphere.

“A young Christmas tree will actually give you more oxygen than a full grown tree as they’re growing,” he said. “They’re creating more oxygen than a big tree because they’re young and growing.”

For Rivers, he said buying a real tree also brings in that Christmas smell that everyone knows and loves.

“To me it just doesn’t even really seem real,” he said. “It just doesn’t seem like Christmas to me with a plastic tree.” ■

Tri-Valley prepares for Hanukkah celebrations

Jewish festival celebrating light over darkness begins Sunday

By JEANITA LYMAN

With days growing increasingly shorter through the first day of winter on Dec. 21, Jewish residents and leaders throughout the Tri-Valley are getting ready to savor the upcoming celebration of light over darkness marked by the start of Hanukkah on Dec. 18.

"Everyone's really excited for Chanukah this year and preparing to celebrate with family and friends," said Rabbi Shmuli Raitman of Chabad of Danville and San Ramon.

"The light of Chanukah, it's a real palpable joy this time of year as we're gearing up," he continued. "Just in general, it inspires the message of Chanukah which is the message of light over darkness and spirit into matter and the light of the human spirit."

Raitman said that in particular, in the wake of a variety of difficulties over the past year, including the ramifications of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and a continued uptick in anti-semitic hate crimes and ideology, he and the community at large were due for a celebration with the message Chanukah brings. (Chabad uses the traditional Hebrew spelling of Chanukah.)

"I feel that this message has never been more relevant in today's world, especially for the Jewish community, and as that's some sort of rise in that the message of light and positivity and joy," Raitman said. "It's never been more important or more meaningful to share this message."

But even with this year's festivities coming at a particularly important time, according to Raitman, the message and lessons of Chanukah are universal ones that transcend particular times, places and people.

"Chanukah celebrates the triumphs of freedom over oppression and light over dark, which is all universal, and we're super excited to be celebrating," Raitman said.

This message is ripe in the traditions associated with Hanukkah celebrations, including its prominent and well-known symbols such as lighting the first candle on the menorah when the sun

goes down to mark the start of eight days of festivities.

"There's been some high profile incidents of anti-semitic hate, so it definitely affects the community, and I think one of the messages of Chanukah and lighting the menorah is that there's two ways of fighting darkness," Raitman said. "You can try to banish the darkness, fight the darkness head on itself, or you can light a candle, light a flame, and I think that's what the menorah and Chanukah teaches us — to light that flame and to be the light."

However, Raitman emphasized that the message of the celebration is focused on the light, with associated traditions meant to bring joy, happiness and a celebratory spirit as individuals come together to join their communities in celebrations worldwide.

"It's courageous, it's staying positive, it's recognizing that a little light can banish a lot of darkness and if we each do that it has great impact," Raitman said. "It might seem insignificant, an individual can seem insignificant, but again one of the messages of Chanukah and the menorah is we each have the ability to make a lot of difference."

"People are ready to embrace this message of joy and happiness, and the celebration of Chanukah and the light of our homes and our surroundings, and to share that joy with the community as well," he continued.

Jazz Salwen-Grabowski, an administrator with Tri-Valley Cultural Jews and a teacher at the organization's Jewish Culture School, also emphasized the lighthearted and joyous nature of the spirit of Hanukkah, and its universal appeal.

"I guess one thing that people might enjoy about Hanukkah is that with the tradition of celebrating the miracle of the oil, Jews are encouraged to eat a lot of oily food," Salwen-Grabowski said.

But despite decadent treats such as signature potato pancakes and jelly donuts, as well as merriment and games such as the dreidel, Salwen-Grabowski said that there was also plenty of room for spiritual wisdom, especially

for her students.

"At Jewish Cultural School, our theme this year is Jews around the world, and in a year where so many people have been displaced or are having insecurity for so many different reasons — we often dedicate candles on the menorah to different people, whether living or past, who we would like to remember in that moment," Salwen-Grabowski said. "This year we are honoring things that people have brought with them that we're grateful they've carried forward with them."

"When someone is displaced the things they carry with them are not always physical, not always tangible," she added.

Some examples Salwen-Grabowski's students came up with were thoughts about food, language, values such as education, and love.

Tri-Valley Cultural Jews, which aims to support and offer community for those brought to Judaism outside of birth, and spiritual and philosophical discussions for all, will host one of the Tri-Valley's smaller Hanukkah events this Sunday, with approximately 30 guests so far.

Despite the relatively small guest list, Salwen-Grabowski emphasized that all are invited to the outdoor event on Sunday starting at 10:30 a.m. More information and event details are available by calling the organization at 925-399-8029 or emailing culturaljews@gmail.com.

Chabad of the Tri-Valley, based in Pleasanton, lists a range of other opportunities for Chanukah festivities throughout the week, kicking off with Chanukah Under the Stars at the Bankhead Theater on Sunday from 7:30-8:30 p.m. featuring raffle prizes, musical guests and appearances from local elected officials.

Festivities will continue throughout the week, with Chanukah Wonderland at Stoneridge Mall in Pleasanton from 5:30-7 p.m. next Tuesday, featuring crafts, games, activities and music, and with the return of Chanukah on Ice at Dublin Iceland next Thursday (Dec. 22) at 7:30 p.m.



TRI-VALLEY CULTURAL JEWS

Celebrants light candles on menorahs at a past Hanukkah event.

Chabad of the Tri-Valley's Community Chanukah Shabbat Dinner is scheduled for Dec. 23 at 6 p.m. More information on that and other events from the community is available at jewish-trivalley.org

In Pleasanton, Congregation Beth Emek will also host a community Shabbat celebration on Dec. 23, for what is one of the annual highlights for the congregation according to Rabbi Laurence Milder.

"We will recite the Hanukkah blessings and light candles before the evening's Shabbat service," Milder said in a community message on Dec. 2. "The service itself is filled with poetry and song and the story of Hanukkah." More information is available at bethemek.org.

In the San Ramon Valley,

Raitman said that the Community Chanukah Celebration at City Center Bishop Ranch would be the major event for residents in Danville, San Ramon and the surrounding unincorporated areas.

"It's going to be a lot of fun for kids and families and really members of the community," Raitman said. "It's open to the community and people of all ages."

The Community Chanukah Celebration at City Center is set to feature returning favorites, such as a giant menorah, music, and appearances from elected officials, along with the addition of a new dreidel glass-blowing demonstration. More information is available at jewishdanville.com.

Hanukkah begins at sundown this Sunday (Dec. 18) and spans across eight days, through Dec. 26. ■

Christmas gets jazzy in Pleasanton

Homecoming show for Jeff Bordes & Friends at Firehouse this weekend

By NICOLE GONZALES

Music ensemble Jeff Bordes & Friends returns to the Firehouse Arts Center to showcase their annual holiday performance by bringing the excitement and liveliness to the bandleader's hometown.

The upcoming "Jeff Bordes & Friends: A Jazzy Christmas" concert is set to take place this Saturday (Dec. 17) at 8 p.m. Pleasanton native Bordes, a composer and trumpet player, will headline the show while supported by his band of musicians.

Bordes told the Weekly that his earliest memory of music is from watching the television show "Sesame Street" — he specifically recalls being drawn to the jazz trumpeter, Dizzy Gillespie.

Throughout his childhood and adolescence, Bordes continued to have significant connections with the music he experienced.

Another time in elementary school, Pleasanton keyboardist Don Lewis performed for Bordes' fifth grade class to present his "Say Yes to Music" program.

"I remember being awed by the music coming from his speakers.

I watched in amazement as his red shoes flew across the bass pedals and was blown away by all of the amazing sounds and music he was able to play as one man," Bordes recalled. "It was that day I knew I wanted to play music."

Bordes said that Lewis later went on to become his "godfather of music".

"He took me under his wings and truly taught me a lot about the performance component of music. He's joined me on many of these concerts — and he is going to be greatly missed," Bordes said of Lewis, who passed away last month.

For Bordes, an Amador Valley High School alumnus, returning to the Firehouse holds a special place for him.

"I love bringing this show to the Firehouse. I have family who show up, in addition to old friends, parents of friends and former teachers," he said. "I always look forward to seeing faces from my childhood in the audience. I love how intimate the theater feels, and the staff have always been absolutely amazing to work with."

The ensemble has previously

showcased an annual holiday performance, with each year taking on a different theme. In the past, Bordes and his band have done a blues Christmas, a New Orleans Christmas, swing Christmas and last year, a funky Christmas. This time, the group will be incorporating New Orleans and swing styles into their performance.

"We'll also be paying tribute to Don Lewis, who was supposed to be with us for this show," Bordes said.

His first time doing a holiday show at the Firehouse was in 2011, a time Bordes recalled his musical groups and genres being less centered. After the initial show, he had been asked back the following year.

"My hope is to always bring something new to the audience, especially those that come every year. This year, I have pulled in many of the fan favorites from past shows," Bordes said.

The 2022 holiday show will see returning musicians Danny Sandoval on tenor sax, Meredith McHenry (another Pleasanton native) on vocals, "Mayor" Ken Cefalo on guitar, Grammy award



FIREHOUSE ARTS

Jeff Bordes & Friends will perform live onstage at the Firehouse Arts Center in Pleasanton on Dec. 17.

winning trombonist Mike Rinta, jazz drummer Wally Schnalle and bassist Hunter Van Dam. This year, the group welcomes pianist Steve Carter.

Bordes has plans to return to the Firehouse Arts Center once again in the new year with "Jeff Bordes and Friends' Mardi Gras Celebration" on Feb. 18.

To find more information about

"Jeff Bordes & Friends: A Jazzy Christmas", visit firehousearts.org.

"Every time I step on stage, I hope to provide the audience an escape from their day, a couple hours to let themselves be moved by the music," Bordes added.

"With these holiday shows, my hope is if the audience isn't already in the holiday spirit, they will be by the end of the concert." ■

'All Is Calm' at the Bankhead

Poignant stage production spotlights historic Christmas truce in World War I

By JEREMY WALSH

Livermore will play host next week to a national touring production reliving the famous Christmas truce along the Western Front in World War I over a century ago, a "remarkable true story about our shared humanity", according to Livermore Valley Arts officials.

"All Is Calm: The Christmas Truce of 1914" will be onstage at the Bankhead Theater next Thursday (Dec. 22) with its unique blend of theater, music, history and holiday themes just days before Christmas 2022.

"All Is Calm' relives an astounding moment in history along the Western Front in 1914, when Allied and German soldiers laid down their arms to celebrate Christmas together, thus beginning an extraordinary night of camaraderie, music, and peace, sharing food and drink, playing soccer, singing carols, and burying each other's dead," LVA officials said. "In some places

along the Western Front, the truce lasted a single night, and in others, it endured until New Year's Day."

"This remarkable story is told through the words of the great World War I poets, official war documents, diary entries and letters written by more than thirty WWI soldiers, which are woven together with iconic WWI songs and European Christmas carols, creating a profound retelling of this extraordinary moment in human history," they added.

The production was originally created as an ode to peace by Theater Latté© Da, first as a live radio broadcast in 2007 with the vocal ensemble Cantus before expanding and evolving into the theater troupe's stage show that is now on tour across the country, according to LVA officials.

The Livermore performance is set for 7:30 p.m. next Thursday, with tickets still available. More details can be found at LivermoreArts.org. ■



LVA

"All Is Calm: The Christmas Truce of 1914" will be at the Bankhead Theater on Dec. 22.



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

Please consider donating online, which enables your gift to be processed immediately. The secure website is:

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 13th, 169 donors have contributed \$44,740 to the Holiday Fund.

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TRADITIONS

Gaels light up the night

Dublin High hosts second annual Holiday Tree Lighting

BY NICOLE GONZALES

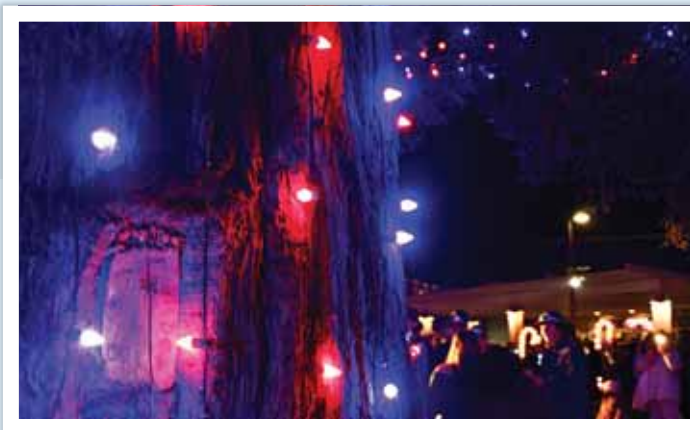
Just after sunset, a 70-foot redwood tree positioned in the middle of Dublin High School was lit up as hundreds of students, parents and faculty gathered close by. For many on the campus that evening, this was more than just a tree lighting.

The second tree lighting ceremony to be held by the school represented some of its most important values: community, diversity and acceptance.

“It was amazing to see so many members from the community show up,” Dublin High student activities director Michael D’Ambrosio said at the Dec. 7 tree lighting. “It was a great event for the community to remember those we have lost, recognize and celebrate all the holidays that our community members celebrate, and welcome in the year of 2023.”

“The students worked very hard to make sure that all students in the community were represented and to create an experience that all can join,” he added.

Being the lead organizer for



NICOLE GONZALES

Closeup of the lights placed on the Dublin High School holiday tree.

this event, the tree lighting holds a special place for D’Ambrosio. A key motivation for him was creating a space that encompassed the high school’s values.

“Our program really takes to heart making sure we are there for our community and we hope that community feels this is another event that shows this. We look forward to finding new and exciting ways to make the event successful next year as well,” he said.

Student leaders from various clubs and organizations also

spoke on the tree lighting and its significance for the student body.

Prior to the ceremony, school staff confirmed the redwood would symbolize a “holiday tree” rather than strictly a Christmas tree, to encourage other seasonal holidays such as Diwali, Kwanzaa or Hanukkah.

With a student-run shopping fair, photo opportunities and actual snow brought to the school grounds, the festival brought holiday cheer to the Dublin community. ■

Dripping with holiday spirit in Livermore

Community braves rainy weather for Holiday Sights and Sounds Parade

BY CIERRA BAILEY

Livermore Downtown Inc.’s Holiday Village in the Park and Holiday Sights and Sounds Parade went on as scheduled this month despite cold and rainy weather conditions.

“The skies were dark on parade day, but the smiles on the kiddos’ face shone bright enough to light up our entire city,” the organization said in a post on Facebook following the events on Dec. 3.

In Livermore, the Holiday Sights and Sounds Parade is always rain or shine — unlike its neighbor Pleasanton, which canceled its parade that same night citing safety concerns but held its tree lighting.

“We just can’t bear to disappoint all of those little smiling faces and all of those folks (small and big) that worked so tirelessly to create those wonderful parade floats!” Livermore parade organizers said in the post, which included a video montage



COURTESY LDI

Santa Claus greets the crowd at Livermore’s downtown holiday parade on Dec. 3.

recapping the event.

LDI Executive Director Ruby Lopez-Villarreal told Livermore Vine in an email that an estimated 10,000 people were in attendance at the parade and there were about 1,712 participants.

The participants included businesses, marching bands and colorguard teams, children’s organizations, schools and

nonprofits. Police, fire and first responder units also took part in the parade along with city officials. Livermore City Manager Marianna Marysheva served as parade grand marshal.

“We are so grateful to provide this opportunity to get together and experience this magic and adventure together,” LDI said in its post. ■

The Malko Family.....200	Robert Grubbs, from Mary & David Grubbs.....*
Rodger & Laura Miller.....*	Lee B. Young.....100
Nancy Hudson.....*	Gene & Tom Wilson, from Mary Lou Wilson.....100
Nancy Allen.....750	Charles J Sebahar & Charles J Sebahar Jr., from Karen L. Sebahar.....100
Diane Kong.....*	Coach Tony Costello, from Ed and Shannon Costello and Family.....250
Chuck & Debby Uhler.....125	Terry Scavone, from Judith Scavone.. 100
Dave Cryer.....100	Robert Himsl, From his Family.....*
Judith Del Tredici.....50	Billy L. Haraughty, from Anita Haraughty.....*
Sarah and Vince Ciccarello.....*	Nina Louwaert, from Debi Zentner..200
Frank & Muriel Capilla.....*	Lynne and Liane Pruiksma, from the Colleen Heller Family.....50
Greg Landrum.....500	Our Parents, from Chris & Erika Beratlis..*
Larry R. Willson.....40	Betty Patrick, from Charles & Joan Brown.....100
Margaret Bryant.....100	Coach Tony Costello, from Michael J Costello.....250
Jim & Elaine Keysor.....300	Karl K Witze.....800
John & Noel Wilson.....*	William “Bud” Lunde, from Louise Lunde.....*
Ana & Michael Fong.....*	Hank Gomez, Bob & Donna Williams, from Maureen Nokes & Frank Gomez..*
Jyothi & Praveen Sampat.....*	Marie Biggs, from Janice & Joe Biggs..50
Bruce Yamamoto.....200	Don Lewis, from Sue & Tom Fox.....*
John and Barbara Severini.....250	Jerry, from Charlotte Severin.....*
Dan Brumm & Janeen Rubino-Brumm.....100	Our parents, from Harold & Gena Gatlin.....*
Alan & Carol Cohen.....500	Xiaofan Han, from Xiaojun Mo’s Family.....*
D+D+D+D Bodermann.....100	Lum & Alice Marsh, from Audrey & Bill Sears.....*
Cindy Gee Team & Bob Gee.....300	James and Fritz Traini, from Matt Traini & Wendy Wong.....*
Alice Desrosiers.....*	Rick Aguiar & George Fargis Jr., from Nancy Aguiar Fargis.....*
Hilary and Kristie Gross.....100	Chris Beratlis, from Vic’s Coffee Shop Guys.....220
Chuck & Mary Shoemaker.....*	Gam & Papa Abbott, from The Casey Family.....*
Jack Balch.....500	Van Gilbert, from Phyllis Gilbert.....250
Kathy and Jeff Narum.....200	Bert Brook, from Dee Brook.....200
Carol T. Guarnaccia.....100	Merlyn Fisher Chestnut, from Timothy C. & Teri D. Bush.....*
Kathy & Bob Russman.....*	Jerry L. Lemm, from Michele, Mark, & Marilyn Lemm.....*
Donna Johnson.....100	Edythe Shewfelt, from Frank & Muriel Capilla.....*
The Sygiel Family.....200	Tracy, from Vern Kink.....*
The Stinebaugh Family.....100	James & Phillip Chin, from Harris L. Chin.....100
Martin Family.....400	Carl J. Pretzel, from Marilyn Pretzel.....*
Peter & Juliana Mason.....50	Michael Serpilio, from John and Michele Barta.....100
Bob & Marianne Eisberg.....*	John Hudson, from Liz Kerton.....250
Gloria & Richard Fredette.....*	Robert C. Bush, from Arlene Bush.....*
Dan & Deby Yeggy.....500	Jerry, from Sean Chase.....*
Carmen Merritt.....*	Elizabeth Ng, Chris & Linda Coleman...*
Barry & Carole Jollette.....250	
King Family.....300	
Rob & Kelly Bowers.....150	
Gail Lefcourt.....*	
Mike Herman.....150	
Christina Nystrom.....40	
Susan Houghton.....100	
Banahan Family.....500	
John Kerr.....*	
Falls Family.....*	
David Charles Clausen.....300	
Victor S Wheatman.....100	
Joe & Janet Cristiano.....250	
Murray and Becky Dennis.....100	

IN MEMORY OF

Sarah Anne Lees, from Don & Judy Person.....200
Richard Parr, from Denise M. Parr.....100
Prima & Morley Family, from Teresa L. Morley.....*
Hathily P. Johnson and Marcus E. Peterson from Hathi Winston and Jerry Prettyman.....200
Andrew Costerus, from Bart & Barbara Costerus.....*
Jeff Coulthart, from Linda Coulthart.....50
Jack Young.....*
The FRIENDS We Miss Dearly! from Kay and Charles Huff.....*

IN HONOR OF

The Berry Boys.....100
Grandparents Loves S-M-M-C-B, from Richard & Gwen Spicka.....*
Our children and grandchildren, from Sue (King-) and Hank Irwin.....50
BUSINESSES & ORGANIZATIONS
Pleasanton Newcomers Club.....1,500
J.E. Moore Air Conditioning Inc.....500
Tim McGuire Team - Compass.....1,000
Rita CPA.....250
DeBernardi Development Construction & Remodeling.....50
Wells Fargo Clearing Services, LLC...250
Sue Evans Photography.....100

* Donor did not want to publish the amount of the gift.



PLEASANTON PREPS

By DENNIS MILLER

Dons earn consolation titles at recent tournaments

Also: Up-and-down starts to season for Foothill boys' soccer, girls' basketball

The Amador Valley girls' basketball team has started the season off solidly, going out to a 5-2 record and capturing the consolation titles at the Washington and Windsor tournaments.

The Windsor tournament wrapped up last Saturday and saw the Dons win a pair of games. After dropping a 43-29 game to San Leandro to open the tournament, the Dons came back with a pair of wins.

In the second round, Amador came out on top with a 43-40 win over Montgomery. Freshman Addie Leomiti hit a 3-pointer late to win it, on her way to 28 points to lead the Dons. Sophomore Anika Kaushik also played well for the Amador offense. The win sent the Dons to the consolation title game.

Amador came through with a solid

38-34 win over Petaluma to wrap up the consolation championship. Leomiti had 13, Ellie White added 9 points and Kaushik finished with 8 points.

For her efforts, Leomiti earned All-Tournament honors.

Foothill boys' soccer

The Falcons have started the season with a pair of wins to go with two losses.

The season started on Nov. 30 with a 2-1 win over Newark Memorial, thanks to a pair of goals from Anthony Boney. Next up was a 4-0 loss to Acalanes four days later.

On Dec. 6 the Falcons found the winning ways again, knocking off Heritage 2-1. After having a potential goal called back on an offside call, Foothill saw Heritage score to take

the 1-0 lead. In the second half, the Falcons rallied to take the win thanks to two goals from Alejandro Ramirez. Harry Herlich and Matthew Tahir each had an assist.

Last Saturday, the Falcons played well but came up just short to Clayton Valley, falling 3-2. Ryan Bongiorno and Tariq Mohammed each got a goal for the Falcons.

Foothill girls' basketball

The Falcons took on Castro Valley on Dec. 6 and came away with a 50-43 win over the Trojans.

Riley Young finished the game with 20 points, including hitting 10-of-14 from the free throw line. Beti Terpstra added 10 points for the Falcons.

Two days later the Falcons were back at it, playing well again, but coming out with a 65-56 loss to

Pleasanton Preps sponsored by



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KERRI LEOMITI

The Amador girls' team after their consolation championship win over Petaluma in the Windsor tournament.

Alameda.

Young and Terpstra each had 20 points, with Terpstra hitting four 3-pointers in the loss. Savannah Montini added 8 points.

The loss left the team at 2-2 for the season, but the Falcons have been consistently able to score the ball,

averaging 50 points a game through their first four contests. ■

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

Pleasanton RAGE among clubs joining women's semi-pro soccer league

Expansion teams to play in USL's W League next year



USL W logo

A women's semi-professional soccer league announced this month that six expansion teams in the Bay Area and elsewhere in Northern California will join the league starting in its 2023 season.

The United Soccer League W League announced the creation of its NorCal Division, which will include

the clubs Academica SC, California Storm, Marin FC, The Olympic Club, Pleasanton RAGE, and San Francisco Glens, along with the Oakland Soul and Stockton Cargo clubs that were already announced as a part of the league starting next year.

"The establishment of a NorCal Division is a watershed moment for the W League. Paired with our Northwest Division, the W League's footprint is now truly national," USL W League president Amanda Vandervort said in the announcement of the new teams joining the league that had its inaugural season this year.

Along with the Bay Area-based teams in Marin FC, Olympic Club, Pleasanton RAGE and the San Francisco Glens, the Academica SC club is based in Turlock and the California Storm is based in Sacramento.

The additions bring the league to more than 60 clubs nationwide, according to the league. More information about the USL W League can be found at www.uslwleague.com. ■

—Bay City News Service



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Diane Berry took home the Rookie of the Year award from Special Olympics of Northern California.

Berry wins volunteer award

Encourages others to support Special Olympics

Diane Berry, a longtime volunteer in the Pleasanton community, recently received the Rookie of the Year award from the Special Olympics of Northern California for her new role as area coordinator for the Tri-Valley Rockets team.

"I'm honored to receive such a wonderful award, and love being called a rookie," Berry told the Weekly.

"Who's next?" Berry asked, hoping to use her award to help encourage others to volunteer. "We are seeing double-digit growth in the number of local athletes coming out to play in our winter and spring programs — basketball, track and field, and bocce ball. We need more Special Olympics volunteers, from rookies to seasoned volunteers. You know who you are; come out and join our volunteer team."

Berry said the time commitment is about one or two hours per week for six weeks to help train athletes for a local tournament each season. To learn more, email volunteer4SONC@gmail.com or visit Special Olympics of Northern California at www.sonc.org. ■

—Jeremy Walsh

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.

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. 16-18. Amador Theater. Visit firehousearts.org.

THE HOPE OF CHRISTMAS Lighthouse Baptist Church Choir presents "The Hope of Christmas". 7 p.m., Dec. 16; 6 p.m., Dec. 18. Refreshments will be provided following each performance. 118 Neal St., Pleasanton.

DRIVE-IN HOLIDAY MOVIES Holiday movie nights coming to the Pleasanton Fairgrounds. Dec. 16, "Elf"; Dec. 17, "The Nightmare Before Christmas"; Dec. 27, "Frozen"; and Dec. 28, "Abominable". 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.

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. 16-18. Bankhead Theater. Visit livermorearts.org.

NUTCRACKER AT STONERIDGE En Pointe Dance Studio performs The Nutcracker at Stoneridge Shopping Center, 1 p.m. and 3 p.m., Dec. 17. Grand Court.

GRACEWAY CHURCH FAMILY EXTRAVAGANZA The morning opens with the GraceWay children's presentation of the extravaganza followed by a family Christmas party with snacks and cookie decorating. Dec. 18. 1183 Quarry Lane

A JAZZY CHRISTMAS Jeff Bordes & Friends return to the Firehouse Arts Center for their annual holiday celebration. 8 p.m., Dec. 17. 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 at the Bankhead Theater. 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.

HOLIDAY ICE RINK The Kristi Yamaguchi Holiday Ice Rink at City Center Bishop Ranch is open 12-9:30 p.m., now through Jan. 8. Tickets are purchased per 90 minute sessions. Visit <https://citycenterbishopranch.com/events>.

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 Rd., Pleasanton. Visit jewishtrivalley.com.

Visits with Santa

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. 18.

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 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.

Talks

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.

PET OF THE WEEK



VALLEY HUMANE SOCIETY

2 p.m., Dec. 17. Four Points by Sheraton. Visit trivalleywriters.org.

THE GREAT YULE LOG HUNT The annual Yule Log Hunt is old fashioned fun with a ranger from Sycamore Grove Park. Play games and hear tales of ancient Yule celebrations before heading off to hunt for the elusive log. 12-2p.m., Dec. 17. RSVP to 925-960-2400. 5035 Arroyo Rd., Livermore.

HACIENDA PARK TOASTMASTERS Hacienda Park Toastmasters Club meets virtually via Zoom on the first, third and fifth Thursdays of every month from 12-1 p.m. Overcome fear of speaking in a friendly, supportive atmosphere. Visit haciendapark.toastmastersclubs.org.

Seniors

SAN FRANCISCO MOVIE TOUR This unique sightseeing tour captures and re-creates movie magic while driving past locations made famous by scenes from "Vertigo", "Dirty Harry", "The Graduate", "San Andreas" and "Mrs. Doubtfire". Watch the actual movie clips aboard the Theater-on-Wheels. Pick-up/drop-off at LARPD. Call 925-373-5763. 9:15 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Dec. 29 and Jan. 4. \$84/R/\$92NR.

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

TECH TUTORING AT THE SENIOR CENTER If struggling with a PC laptop, tablet or smartphone, one-on-one tutoring sessions are available at the Pleasanton Senior Center. 11 a.m. Mondays, 9-10 a.m. Wednesdays. Bring device to session. \$2.50R/\$4NR. Call 925-931-5365.

PLEASANTON RIDES Pleasanton Rides is a door-to-door, shared-ride transportation service for Pleasanton Seniors. For reservations and information call 925-398-1045.

Family

WIDMER WORLD Experience the Christmas Fantasy of Widmer World with family and friends. 3671 Chelsea Court. For more holiday homes in the Tri-Valley. Visit widmer-world.com. 6-9 p.m., Dec. 1-31.

Sweet Licorice

Lick any lingering loneliness with Licorice! This 4-year-old feline is a steady companion: he'll seek you out and make sure you center your attention on him. Loving and sweet, Licorice may tolerate a canine sibling. Learn more about Licorice and other cats and dogs at valleyhumane.org. #Share

DEACON DAVE'S CHRISTMAS DISPLAY The 39th annual Deacon Dave's Christmas Display in Livermore is now through Jan 1. Visit casadelpomba.com.

Support

VA PALO ALTO MOBILE MEDICAL OUTREACH Pleasanton Library will host the VA Palo Alto Mobile Medical Outreach team to facilitate examinations, consultations and referrals for enrolled veterans. 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Dec. 19. 400 Old Bernal Ave.

LIVERMORE WARMING CENTER A warming center at the Veterans Memorial Building is open when overnight temperatures are forecasted at or below 45 degrees and/or a 20% chance or higher of rain. Open to anyone on a first-come, first-served basis. Contact info@onenationdreammakers.org. 522 S. L St.

NAMI TRI-VALLEY CONNECTION RECOVERY SUPPORT GROUP This is a free, peer-led, support group on Zoom, for any adult (18 and older) who has experienced symptoms of a mental health condition. 7 p.m., Dec 21. Visit nami-trivalley.org.

Employment

Senior Product Manager

Safeway Inc. is hiring a Senior Product Manager 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: M. Gutierrez

Mobile Developer

Safeway Inc. is hiring a Mobile Developer in Pleasanton, CA. Must have legal right to work in U.S. Subj. to bckgrnd check. E.O.E. Email resume to TA.Perm.Project@albertsons.com. Attn: R. Oliver

Sr. Associate Product Security Engineer

Workday, Inc. has an opening for Sr. Associate Product Security Engineer in Pleasanton, CA. Job duties include: Perform vulnerability assessments against Workday applications, services, and networks. Interested candidates send resume to: J. Thurston at Workday, Inc., 6110 Stoneridge Mall Road, Pleasanton, CA 94588. Must reference Job# 20637.1591

Performance Engineer

Workday, Inc. has an opening for Performance Engineer in Pleasanton, CA. Job duties include: Analyze business and data issues reported by customers to determine appropriate software development solutions. Interested candidates send resume to: J. Thurston at Workday, Inc. 6110 Stoneridge Mall Road, Pleasanton, CA 94588. Must reference job 20637.1470

Director of Engineering - Data Products

Safeway Inc. hiring Director of Engineering - Data Products in Pleasanton, CA. Domstc. travel 3-4 times/yr to other offices. May Telecommute. Reports to 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: R. Oliver.

Sr. Scientist (Emulsion Chemistry Group Manager)

Bio-Rad Laboratories, Inc. has an opening in Pleasanton, CA for a Sr. Scientist (Emulsion Chemistry Group Manager). Create, synthesize, and purify novel fluorocarbon-based surfactants for use in microfluidic emulsion-based technologies. To apply, email your resume to jobapplicants@bio-rad.com, with job ID indicated: (Job Ref.116.877.N).

The Pleasanton Weekly offers employment advertising.

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

HOME SALES

This week's data represents homes sold during Oct. 17-21 for Pleasanton, Livermore.

Pleasanton

- 2226 Camino Brazos** Longman Family Trust to Deepesh Trust for \$1,400,000
- 4916 Canary Drive** Furtado Trust to S. & V. Rathi for \$1,528,000
- 7615 Canyon Meadow Circle #C** K. Gonzalez to M. Jennings for \$510,000
- 3193 Chardonnay Drive** Storch Trust to Farooqi Family Trust for \$1,685,000
- 3155 Delicado Court** S. & R. Song to S. & E. Chandrasekaran for \$1,124,000
- 1069 Division Street** Horowitz Trust to E. & A. Saronwala for \$1,250,000
- 7304 Elmwood Circle** A. Khan to E. & G. Rodriguez for \$1,300,000
- 4737 Herrin Way** K. & P. Bartlett to A. & P. Kapoor for \$1,300,000
- 4108 Jensen Street** Borgonia Trust to N. & S. Yogi for \$899,000
- 4112 Moller Drive** R. Kowshik to K. & K. Pradhan for \$1,270,000
- 3971 Mount Rainier Court** Bbys LLC to Kondle Trust for \$2,045,000
- 1819 Tanglewood Way** Jc Survivors Trust to Y. & C. Wu for \$1,889,000
- 3361 Vermont Place** L. Lacap to Mohapatra Family Trust for \$1,440,000

- 4282 Amherst Way** Rescue Home Now LLC to R. Vangelder for \$920,000
- 1606 Call Of The Wild Court** R. & G. Bautista to S. & A. Moudgil for \$1,715,000
- 1740 Catalina Court** D. Whitman to D. Kim for \$900,000
- 695 Debra Street** H. Lynch to S. Richter for \$865,000
- 1058 Elaine Avenue** P. & H. Panagopoulos to R. & R. Kadali for \$985,000
- 814 Hagemann Drive** R. Rogers to N. & S. Patel for \$1,110,500
- 1040 Iroquois Avenue** K. & D. Flores to A. & J. Alvarez for \$1,175,000
- 359 Jensen Street** Wirth Living Trust to S. & S. Srinivasan for \$878,500
- 1221 Lexington Way** Sc Homes 321 LLC to G. & M. Giampaoli for \$1,425,000
- 1232 Lillian Street** Mapes Living Trust to L. Rollins for \$1,050,000
- 1418 Milan Court** Rokov Trust to N. & E. Manavala for \$1,950,000
- 131 Nadine Street** L. & E. Ekstrom to K. & K. McGinty for \$950,000
- 1597 Roselli Drive** J. Moseley to Homelight Real Estate ll LLC for \$1,050,000
- 87 Sparrow Street** J. & R. Giachello to M. & F. Fotos for \$1,530,000
- 1092 Spring Valley Common** J. Finley to L. & J. Lu for \$570,000

Source: California REsource

Livermore

- 2454 7th Street** Perry Family Trust to K. Vanderostyne-Azev for \$1,464,500
- 709 Adams Avenue** S. & C. Barker to A. & S. Jackowski for \$1,170,000

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.



COURTESY GETTY IMAGES

Father and adorable daughter in red hat building gingerbread house together. Beautiful decorated room with lights and Christmas tree, table with candles and lanterns. Happy family celebrating holiday.

Building your own house

Tips for creating a gingerbread house that looks beautiful, won't collapse

BY GINA CHANNELL WILCOX

Building a house can be a frustrating endeavor, particularly if the house is made of gingerbread. But a well-decorated gingerbread house is a perfect holiday touch sitting on a table or counter.

And it can be fun. No, really. Here are a few tips:

Use royal icing

There is no shame in using a kit, but the icing that comes with most kits doesn't cut it for building a gingerbread house that doesn't collapse. The first key to a house that won't fall down is having royal icing because it dries quickly and hard.

Royal icing recipe

- 4 cups powdered sugar
- 3 tablespoons meringue powder
- 1/2 cup warm water
- 1/2 teaspoon clear vanilla or almond extract.

In the bowl of an electric mixer combine powdered sugar and meringue powder. Add the water and extract slowly. Beat at medium-high speed until stiff peaks form, which is roughly 6 minutes. This makes about 4 cups of icing. Adding the vanilla or almond extract

might thin it a bit, so mix in some powdered sugar. Keep it covered when not in use. You can replace the meringue with 3 large egg whites and skip the water, but eating raw eggs is not a good practice. Or skip everything, type in "royal icing" on Amazon and hit "buy now."

Decorate the pieces first

Decorate the separate pieces of the house and let them dry before putting the house together. This is easier than doing it while on the house. (Picture gumdrops dropping off the slanted roof, for example.)

Be patient

The second, and most important, key to creating a beautiful, stable gingerbread house is patience. Each wall and roof piece need at least a couple of hours to dry before being handled.

After the individual pieces dry, put the walls together and let them dry for a couple of hours. If you really want to be careful, build an "L" and let it dry a bit and add the other two walls. Finally add the roof pieces and don't move, touch or breathe on the masterpiece for a few more hours. ■

SALES AT A GLANCE

Pleasanton (Oct. 17-21)

Total sales reported: 13
Lowest sale reported: \$510,000
Highest sale reported: \$2,045,000
Average sales reported: \$1,300,000

Livermore (Oct. 17-21)

Total sales reported: 17
Lowest sale reported: \$570,000
Highest sale reported: \$1,950,000
Average sales reported: \$1,050,000

Dublin (Oct. 17-21)

Total sales reported: 9
Lowest sale reported: \$705,000
Highest sale reported: \$3,100,000
Average sales reported: \$1,120,000

San Ramon (Nov. 7-10)

Total sales reported: 11
Lowest sale reported: \$595,000
Highest sale reported: \$2,710,000
Average sales reported: \$1,270,000

Source: California REsource

Happy Holidays & Happy New Year!

- SOLD** Sold: \$3,225,000
2765 Lylewood Dr. Pleasanton
- SOLD** Sold: \$3,320,000
8063 Regency Dr. Pleasanton
- SOLD** Sold: \$3,850,000
7251 Beaumont Dr. Pleasanton
- SOLD** Sold: \$3,500,000
7901 Paragon Cir, Pleasanton
- SOLD** Sold: \$3,050,000
3711 Mohr Avenue, Pleasanton

Cindy Gee
Awards: Pinnacle, Grand Master, Master, President

THANK YOU for your support over the years!
Wishing you and your family a wonderful, prosperous, and healthy New Year!!

SOLD PROPERTIES
Represented Seller
248 Martin Dr. Livermore
1650 Calle Santa Anna, Pleasanton
1294 Saint Mary Dr. Livermore
3540 Milleford Dr, Pleasanton
5230 Armani Ct, Pleasanton
7485 Sundrop Ct, Pleasanton
2144 Ponderosa Dr, Livermore

Represented Buyer
87 Sparrow St, Livermore
738 Lakeside Ct, Danville
864 Tranquility Cir, #4, Livermore
11575 Estrella Ct, Dublin

Better Homes and Gardens
REAL ESTATE

Reliance Partners
2614 Lylewood
Pleasanton
CA 94588

CINDY GEE
Realtor/Notary, GRI,
CalBRE #1307919

Call Cindy Today for a Free Home Sales Consultation

925-963-1984 cindygeesold@gmail.com



A Team That Speaks Your Language

Our Mission is to guide you throughout the home buying and selling process to ensure that your experience is as seamless and stress-free as possible.

We are committed to providing the highest level of quality service to all of our clients!

usfineliving.com

Top 1%
Nationwide

47+
Years Real Estate Experience

750+
Properties Listed and Sold

103%
Sales vs. List Price

\$800+ Million
Successful Real Estate Closings since 1992

Happy Holidays from our homes to yours!

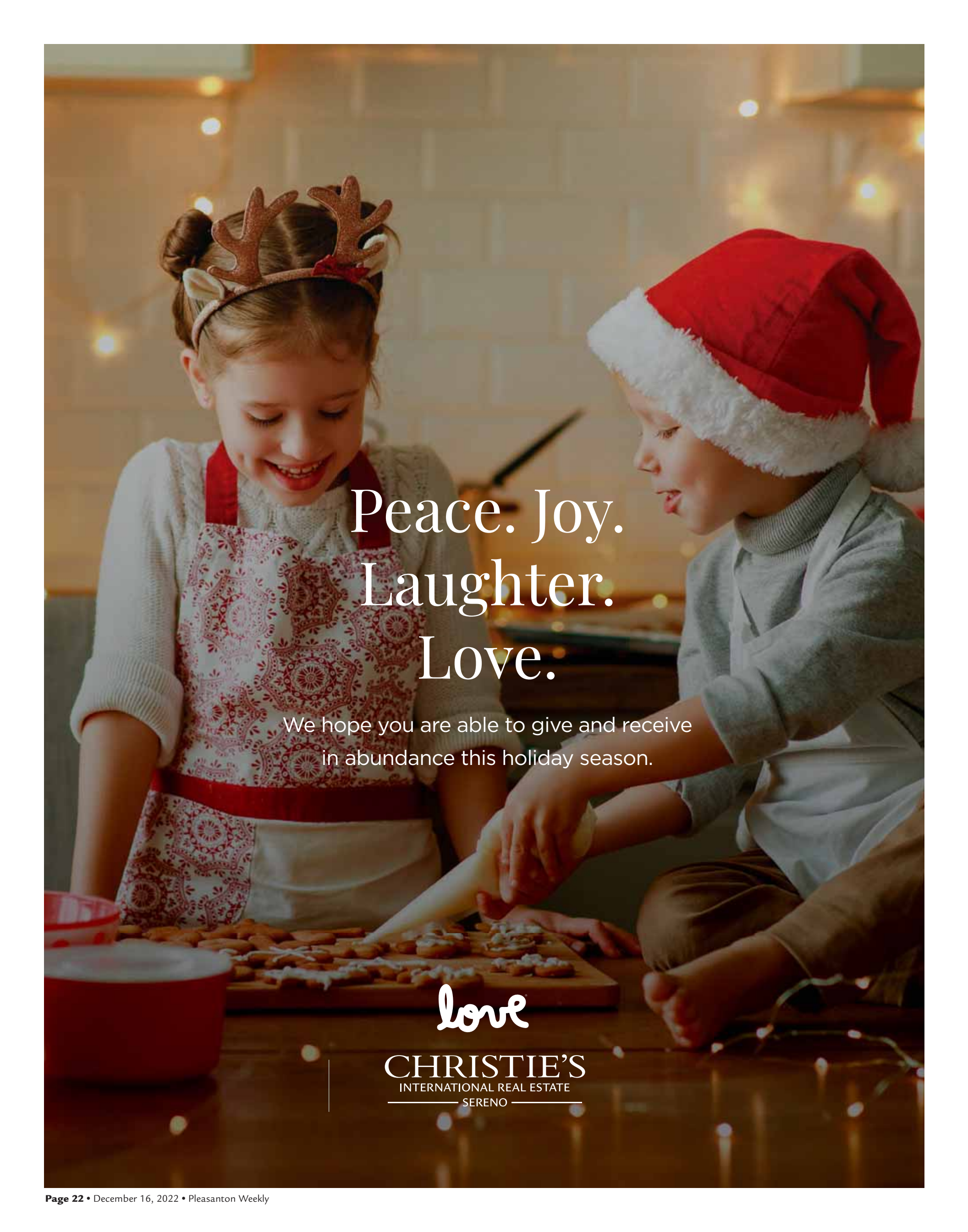
Wishing you a wonderful holiday season and a new year filled with joy, peace and prosperity.

Uwe Maercz
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Peace. Joy.
Laughter.
Love.

We hope you are able to give and receive
in abundance this holiday season.

love

CHRISTIE'S
INTERNATIONAL REAL ESTATE
SERENO



A Note From Liz Venema...

"The single most important factor in getting a home sold is the sellers's ability to make good decisions."

Seller Decisions:

- ✓ Price ✓ Showing Ability ✓ Condition
- ✓ Contract Acceptance ✓ Realtor They Work With



FOR SALE
7959 Foothill Knolls Drive, Pleasanton
 5 Bedrooms | 3 Bathrooms | 3,399 Square Feet | \$3,195,000



FOR SALE
12400 Morgan Territory, Livermore
 5 Bedrooms | 5.5 Bathrooms | 5,992 Square Feet | \$4,449,999



FOR SALE
5920 Old School Road, San Ramon
 5 Bedrooms | 2 Full/4 Half Bathrooms | 5,060 Square Feet | \$2,388,000



COMING SOON
7456 Sundrop Court, Pleasanton
 3 Bedrooms | 2 Bathrooms | 1,890 Square Feet | \$1,689,000



The market usually begins to wake up in mid-January and then accelerates in early spring. The single, most watched factor will be the interest rates, as well as the stock market.

Let me guide you into 2023 with confidence in your housing choices.



10405 Ager Rd., Montague, Ca
Represented buyers and sellers



500 Happy Valley Rd., Pleasanton
Represented buyers and sellers



4226 Silver St., Pleasanton
Represented seller



1846 Tanglewood Way, Pleasanton
Represented sellers



A Message from Kris

I'm delighted to be the sponsor for the Alameda County Fairgrounds "Holiday under the Stars" drive-in movies series. Tickets are on sale at alamedacountyfairgrounds.com. We look forward to your joining in for an old-fashioned Drive-in Movie evening under the stars.

See you at the Movies!

Serving the Tri-Valley area for over 42 years
Visit my website at moxleyrealestate.com



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kris@moxleyrealestate.com

900 Main Street,
Pleasanton, CA 94566

A warm Christmas wish for peace, cheer, happiness and the best of the coming new year.

