

Pleasanton Weekly

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AN APPROPRIATE EDUCATION

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*Data collection period: 7/2019 - 12/2019 and 7/2020 - 3/2021

WHAT A WEEK



By JEREMY WALSH

New DA and new sheriff

Law enforcement leadership looks a lot different at the county level this month.

New Alameda County District Attorney Pamela Price and new Sheriff-Coroner Yesenia Sanchez were formally sworn into office last week after their monumental elections to shake up long-held establishments in the respective public offices.

Both women represent big change, but they aren't the same type of change — on paper, anyway.

Sanchez was an internal candidate, a jail commander who had worked more than 20 years with the Alameda County Sheriff's Office. Price was a total outsider, a progressive civil rights attorney based in Oakland who had plenty of time as defense counsel but had never prosecuted a case before.

There's so much intrigue about what will happen next for both departments, but we can do little except speculate until we see their separate administrations in action.

I actually have some experience reporting on what happens when voters overhaul county sheriff's and DA's offices in the same election cycle.

Just months after graduating journalism school, I was thrown into the 2010 general election coverage in a brand-new community about to get a different DA after the incumbent was ousted in the primary and the longtime sheriff would go on to lose to one of his deputies — and not even a member of his command staff, but just a rank-and-file officer.

I've witnessed first-hand what these transitions can look like on the ground.

And we've already seen the stage being set by Sanchez and Price.

Sanchez defeated her boss, Sheriff Greg Ahern, and a third candidate outright in the June primary election on a platform of positive change from within. She became the first Latina and first female sheriff in county history, and announced her new command staff last Friday, three days after taking the oath of office.

That included a range of promotions such as Colby Staysa and Emmanuel Christy as assistant sheriffs, Nate Schmidt, Christopher Lucia and Timothy Schellenberg as commanders, Daniel McNaughton, Gurvinder Gosal and Anthony DeSousa as captains and Leticia Davis as lieutenant.

One name should be very familiar in the Tri-Valley, as Schmidt served for years as a captain with Dublin

Police Services under the city's contract with the county. I interacted with Schmidt a lot as DPS' public information officer.

A drop in the bucket for the changes to come under Sanchez's tenure, I'm sure.

Meanwhile Price, who beat long-time deputy DA Terry Wiley (outgoing DA Nancy O'Malley's preferred candidate) in a November runoff election to become the first African American woman to hold the post, unveiled her transition team last Friday as well.

Hers is a list filled with folks new to the DA's office, including retired Marin County assistant DA Otis Bruce Jr. and Royle L. Roberts, former general counsel for Peralta Community College District, as chief assistant DAs; former San Francisco head deputy public defender Kwixuan H. Maloof, civil attorney Simona Farrise Best and criminal justice reform lawyer Cynthia Chandler as senior assistant DAs, and one of her top campaign officials, Ryan LaLonde, as director of communications.

"We will have a DA committed to transparency, equity and accountability to make the system work for all of us," Price said in her speech after taking the oath Jan. 3.

Of course, many people in certain circles are concerned about the impact of Price's progressive platform on the necessary public safety duty of criminal prosecutions. And they point to the debacle across the Bay, where public defender turned district attorney Chesa Boudin got recalled after 2-1/2 years in office.

I'm not sure Price is as extreme (nor as inexperienced a leader) as Boudin, but her administration will be a jolt to the norm.

All I know is this is a drastic shift that a majority of participating voters in Alameda County demanded when faced with clear-cut choices on a one-on-one ballot — and that has to count for something.

One sign early for Price and Sanchez alike will be how staffing levels are affected by their arrivals. A significant exodus throughout the ranks would be a huge red flag for both the department and the public.

For now, I join many others in taking a wait-and-see approach with these new administrations wondering just how each woman will mold her department and what changes will come next.

Let the ride begin. ■

About the Cover

Piper Cummings is a middle school student living in Pleasanton. She has multiple learning disabilities like dyslexia and dyscalculia and while she works hard to keep up and advocate for her education, her parents say the district is not doing enough to help. Photo courtesy Cummings family. Cover design by Doug Young.

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Is there a particular book you enjoy reading over and over again?



Shain Wasser
Lawyer

My favorite book is “Why We Sleep” by Matthew Walker, a neuroscientist at Stanford. It’s all about how sleep happens, sleep’s major health and psychological benefits, and the best ways to get better sleep. It’s a fascinating read no matter how many times I pick it up. I highly recommend it.



Marc Cicchetto
Retired/artist

Absolutely. In the early ‘70s I found a book that’s set in Japan during the 1600s. It’s about a boy who wants to become the greatest swordsman ever, and he travels from mountain to mountain and town to town mastering his craft. I’ve read it about 11 times and listened to it as an audio book too. With each read I find portions of the story that I don’t recall well, so it’s like finding a great new book all over again.



Neb Fixico
Manager

There is a book called “The Crow Girl” that I enjoy reading over and over again. It’s a Swedish crime novel that is very suspenseful, realistic and intense no matter how many times I read it. And whenever I reread it, I always pick up on something new that I didn’t catch during my earlier reads.



Jonathan Roslund
Physicist

I can and do read “The Great Gatsby” over and over again. I really appreciate the author’s writing style, his command of the English language, and the ambiguous themes. It’s very much a great American novel.



Erin Brown and Vida
Engineer

I generally don’t reread books, but there is a collection of short stories by Manuel Gonzales, called “The Miniature Wife and Other Stories”. Each story is very quirky and whimsical, so I enjoy revisiting them all when I need a quick mood adjustment.

—Compiled by Nancy and Jeff Lewis

Have a Streetwise question? Email editor@PleasantonWeekly.com

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2022 was an incredible year - thanks in part to a strong group of philanthropists who believe in our community and what we can accomplish together. We are pleased to share Three Valleys Community Foundation has more than \$1.7 million in donor assets – after only one year of operation. We are humbled and grateful to all who believe in the power of three!

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DIGEST

I-680 work called off

With the ongoing rainstorms, Caltrans has postponed the closure on northbound Interstate 680 in the Tri-Valley that had been scheduled for the entire Martin Luther King Jr. Day holiday weekend.

Part of a year-and-a-half-long project to improve pavement conditions on I-680 from Sunol to San Ramon, crews had been poised to shut down northbound I-680 from Highway 84 in Sunol to Sunol Boulevard-Castlewood Drive in Pleasanton from tonight through Monday.

Caltrans officials said they anticipate the 72-hour closure work will likely be rescheduled for the Presidents' Day weekend next month, weather permitting.

MLK Breakfast

The Pleasanton Community of Character Collaborative is hosting its 23rd annual Martin Luther King Jr. Fellowship Breakfast — the first in-person iteration in two years due to the pandemic — on Jan. 23 at 8 a.m. in the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Pleasanton at the Club.

Traditionally held one week after the official Martin Luther King Jr. Day holiday, the event features a keynote address and presentation of awards to folks in the Tri-Valley who have embodied character traits that further the King's legacy.

This year, the keynote address will be delivered by William Nelson, an assistant superintendent at Pleasanton Unified School District, and the awards will go to three individuals: Kelly O'Lague, former leader of the collaborative as well as Hively and the Tri-Valley YMCA; Ronnie Forbes, founder of the One Nation Dream Makers food pantry; and Matt Troiano, co-founder of the annual Tri-Valley Community Thanksgiving Dinner.

Tickets are \$40 per person; visit www.Pleasanton.org. Proceeds benefit the collaborative's Juanita Haugen Memorial Scholarship program for local students.

Women's HOF nominees

Officials are accepting nominations for the 2023 Class of the Alameda County Women's Hall of Fame.

"Nominations can be submitted in 13 categories that span most fields of work, including business, community service, culture and art, justice, education, philanthropy, STEM, Health, and education. There are also categories for emerging leaders, high school youth and non-traditional careers," officials said.

The deadline to submit is next Friday (Jan. 20) ahead of judging in February and the awards ceremony on March 25. Go to www.acgov.org/whof or call 510-272-3882. ■

DA clears police of criminal wrongdoing for fatal shooting in February 2022

Two PPD officers found to be justified in lethal actions against Cody Chavez

BY JEANITA LYMAN

The Alameda County District Attorney's Office has concluded no criminal charges will be filed against the two police officers who shot and killed a man armed with a knife outside a Pleasanton apartment while responding to a domestic violence call that turned into a standoff early last year.

The announcement came following the conclusion of a 10-month-plus investigation into the death of Cody Chavez, and the release of a report from the DA's

officer-involved shooting (OIS) team that was shared publicly last Friday after internal review starting Dec. 5.

"After careful review, the District Attorney's Office concluded the officers' use of deadly force was necessary in the defense of others and the involved officers will not be charged with a crime," Pleasanton Police Department Lt. Erik Silacci said in a statement Friday afternoon.

PPD officers Brian Jewell and Mario Guillermo were found by investigators from the OIS team to

have been legally justified in killing 33-year-old Chavez outside an apartment on 4899 Willow Road on Feb. 17, 2022 when he approached police with a knife and failed to respond to commands that he drop the weapon before running toward the officers.

"All available evidence indicates that officers Jewell and Guillermo were justified in believing Cody Chavez posed a significant threat of death or serious bodily injury to others," the OIS team concluded in their report, adding that there is insufficient evidence

to criminally prosecute the two officers.

The investigation into Chavez's death was undertaken and concluded under the administration of now-former district attorney Nancy O'Malley, although the report was first made public on Friday, three days after newly elected District Attorney Pamela Price took office.

Price had been critical of the Chavez shooting in the days after it occurred in the middle of

See **NO CHARGES** on Page 7



CHRISTIAN TRUJANO

Father Sandeep Kolte and son Rayaen embrace while Rayaen holds a photo of his late brother Neev, who died in 2021 from a rare form of cancer. Rayaen organized a toy drive in Neev's memory this past Christmastime for kids undergoing treatment at UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital.

A toy drive for Neev

Fairlands fifth grader organizes holiday campaign in memory of his late younger brother

BY CHRISTIAN TRUJANO

Neev Kolte was just like any other Fairlands Elementary School student.

From eating spicy chili peppers from his backyard with his older brother, to playing in the sandbox with the neighbors' son, Neev was another regular kid living in Pleasanton.

But during one of his bike rides with his dad around the neighborhood, he started losing his balance.

Sandeep Kolte, Neev's father, told the Weekly that he remembered being a little annoyed at first. But the next day, Neev's eyes went

red and he wasn't able to stand straight.

Sandeep and his wife decided to go to the doctor, who unexpectedly referred them to the emergency room and after several brain scans the doctors confirmed their worst nightmare.

Neev had terminal cancer.

"They asked a social worker to be there and that was kind of a big red flag. And there were four or five doctors and they said, 'Well, we have no cure and this is inoperable,'" Sandeep said. "I kept asking them, how much time do we have and they wouldn't answer."

That all happened back in August 2020 — what followed was a 15-month battle for young Neev. He died on Nov. 30, 2021.

But as the Kolte family looked for ways to mourn Neev's death, his brother Rayaen took it upon himself to turn that grief into something positive.

That led him to put together a toy drive this past Christmas where he helped collect 258 toys from others in Pleasanton and donate them to families in need at the University of California,

See **TOY DRIVE** on Page 10

Stormy break for Sunol Glen School

Spent all of last week cleaning up mess from creek flooding

BY CHRISTIAN TRUJANO

After a week's worth of cleanup and damage control from the recent atmospheric river storms, Sunol Glen School opened its doors for the first day back from winter break with little to no restrictions on Monday.

Superintendent and principal Molleen Barnes has kept the Sunol community up-to-date on the ongoing restorative actions that have taken place since the heavy rain and wind from the New Year's Eve storm flooded most of the back area.

"The main part of the school is doing phenomenal," Barnes said in an update video from last Friday. "Luckily the damage that was done by the storm has left our main part of our campus intact. That was really fortuitous, because that allows us to operate school as we know it."

Over the past week-plus, the Tri-Valley has been hit with a barrage of winter storms that have also been affecting all of Northern California.

But the storm on New Year's Eve hit the small school in Sunol the most, as several parts of the school were flooded by the Alameda Creek, which runs adjacent to the

See **SUNOL GLEN** on Page 8

Sandia researchers develop pandemic tracking software

Innovative program awarded two-year grant from Department of Energy

By CIERRA BAILEY

Nearly two years after the arrival of the coronavirus pandemic, researchers at Sandia National Laboratories in Livermore have been recognized and rewarded for their development of an infection rate tracking program that can predict outbreaks of a virus like COVID-19.

Using publicly available health data, the software known as "PRIME" is able to make predictions on a county-by-county level. Amid the most recent pandemic, the predictions helped the New Mexico Department of Health in its response to the



Jaideep Ray

spread of COVID-19, according to Sandia officials.

Sandia is headquartered in New Mexico and has a campus in Livermore next to the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory.

With the pandemic tracking software's potential to prevent the spread of an outbreak, the Department of Energy has invested funding to support further developing the technology.

The Sandia researchers have teamed up with Illinois-based Argonne National Laboratory to advance their work toward learning to stop outbreaks before they have a chance to spread. Their joint proposal was accepted by the DOE's Office of Science last August, with a total project award of \$825,000 a year for two years.

Jaideep Ray, one of the

researchers behind the software, told the Weekly in a recent interview that developing the tool has actually been a project 18 years in the making, dating back to the anthrax scare in the early 2000s when a powdery substance containing the infectious bacteria was being distributed through envelopes in the mail.

"That's when this whole business started of looking at any incomplete data that we get today and trying to predict how bad things are going to be — predict how many people are still hidden or how quickly the disease is spreading," Ray said.

In the years since then, the team — which includes fellow researcher Cosmin Safta — has continued refining the technology, researching and collecting data. However, it was in 2020 when the COVID-19 pandemic

hit that all of the theory and mathematics they had developed was revamped into a software in a span of two weeks, which allowed the researchers to begin conducting forecasts for California and other states throughout the country.

With this new DOE funding, Ray said there are additional refinements and improvements to be made to the existing software.

"The thing that we really want to do is not just forecast what the disease is going to do but also allow a public health official to plan out various kinds of scenarios. For example, if I imposed certain kinds of lockdowns today, how would the disease then evolve and what kind of economic and social consequences is it going to have?" Ray said, explaining how the software could offer even more insight

ahead of a future outbreak.

"You can do this using models and there are models to do that but you want those models to be at least predictive and getting those models to be predictive — to agree with data — is an extremely tough job," he added.

Where Argonne and Sandia come together in achieving this goal is that Argonne has the agent-based modeling tool Ray described and Sandia has the mathematical framework. "The DOE said, the two of you work together and get this done and so, we're getting it done," Ray said.

"Such a breakthrough, funded through this research grant, might one day help the nation avoid the debilitating and deadly impacts of the next pandemic," Sandia officials said in a news release. ■

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LPC launches 'Lifelong Learning Academy' courses for all

Low-cost and accessible classes feature variety of subject matter

By NICOLE GONZALES

Las Positas College in Livermore is poised to introduce a new educational program designed for a diverse group of students and community members.

The "Lifelong Learning Academy" initiative will provide a number of courses taught by school faculty on various subjects. The community college encourages people to revisit a hobby or interest, possibly after retirement or undergraduate education.

Notably, courses are offered without homework or exams. This type of learning, the school said, will give students the chance to explore new fields and skills without an extreme feeling of pressure or commitment.

Kristina Whalen, vice president of academic services for Las Positas College, described the unique benefits of this learning style.

"(Students) gain the intellectual enrichment that comes with being in a community of learners without the burden of assignments and exams required to award credit toward a degree. This approach appeals to an audience that seeks the intrinsic worth of learning," Whalen said.

"Moreover, without the workload of grading homework and exams, professors have the capacity to invite more lifelong learners into the classroom," she added.

The program will include classes on nutrition science, gender and sexuality, cinema, archaeology and music studies. Whalen said the

school hopes to expand the course offerings over the next several years.

"Scholarly articles on lifelong learning show that people gain confidence, creativity, and enjoyment by sustained connection to the pursuit of new knowledge and ideas," Whalen said. "The Lifelong Learning Academy provides those rewards to Tri-Valley community members."

Faculty member Daniel Cearley from the department of anthropology will be instructing courses within the Lifelong Learning Academy. Cearley told the Weekly his introductory archeology course provides a foundation about the science of archaeological investigations.

"It is very hands-on with periodic exercises designed to expose students to techniques archaeologists use to gather data and ask questions about the past," he said.

Cearley also discussed the advantages of the learning academy.

"These sorts of programs produce a more diverse campus environment where students from various ages and backgrounds can interact. This sharing of knowledge across generations provides a rich learning experience for all," Cearley said. "I hope that the Lifelong Learning Academy will encourage ever increasing numbers of people from the Tri-Valley area, and beyond, to see Las Positas College as a welcoming place to cultivate our inherent curious nature."

School officials have said enrollment in a course does not impact a student's grade-point average but will be included on the official transcript. First courses are offered at a flat rate of \$30, each additional course after that is \$1.

Classes will align with the regular school schedule, starting Jan. 17.

To learn more about the Las Positas Lifelong Learning Academy, visit laspositascollege.edu. ■



Elizabeth Wing Brooks, professor in the humanities department at Las Positas College, will be teaching in the Lifelong Learning Academy.

Ten in Tri-Valley named California Distinguished Schools

No Pleasanton campuses on list

By JEANITA LYMAN

Ten elementary schools in the Tri-Valley — but none in Pleasanton Unified — are among the 356 schools throughout the state to receive a recent recognition by the California Department of Education.

Honorees for the 2023 California Distinguished Schools program included Vista Grande, Neil Armstrong, Live Oak, Sycamore Valley, Hidden Hills, John Baldwin, Walt Disney, Greenbrook and Alamo elementary schools in the San Ramon Valley Unified School

District.

John Green Elementary School in the Dublin Unified School District was the only other Tri-Valley campus honored. No schools from the Pleasanton or Livermore Valley Joint unified school districts were named this year.

“California Distinguished Schools represent examples of not just excellent teaching, learning, and collaboration, but also highly successful, data-driven school efforts ranging from professional development for educators to mental health and social-emotional

wellness strategies to address the needs of students and families,” said Tony Thurmond, state superintendent of public instruction, in a statement last week.

Schools are selected for the distinction based on a range of measures, with this year’s program looking at data from 2022 on chronic absenteeism, assessment results, suspension rates, and socioeconomic factors. They are selected for the title based on either exceptional student performance or closing the achievement gap.

This year’s awards mark the

return of the program, which was put on hold due to the suspension of student data reporting that started with the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020.

John Green Elementary was among the 22 Alameda County schools named in this year’s program, with the nine SRVUSD schools being among the 28 Contra Costa County recipients.

“Over the last three years, educators and support staff have overcome hurdles that no one could foresee,” said Lynn Mackey, Contra Costa superintendent of schools. “I

commend all of you for your diligence and commitment to scholars in Contra Costa County.”

The Distinguished Schools program names elementary schools and middle and high schools in alternating years, with the latter set to be the focus of next year’s distinctions.

Two schools from the state awards will be eligible candidates for the National ESEA Distinguished Schools Program. The date for that announcement remains to be determined, according to the education department. ■

NO CHARGES

Continued from Page 5

the primary election campaign. “Witness videos contradict the story told by lawyers for the police officers involved in the shooting. It is clear that an independent investigation needs to be implemented,” Price said in a statement at the time. “(D)omestic violence should not be a death sentence — not for the victim and not for the perpetrator.”

The DA’s office, now under Price’s oversight, offered a comment to the Weekly about the final OIS report on Tuesday.

“The investigation and report regarding the officer-involved shooting of Cody Chavez was conducted under former District Attorney Nancy O’Malley and has her signature. District Attorney Pamela Price has the authority to review and/or reopen any case.”

PPD officers first responded to a domestic violence call at the Galloway Apartments at 1 p.m. on Feb. 17, 2022 where they attempted to contact Chavez and enter the apartment following a report from the resident of an apartment — a woman in a romantic relationship with Chavez — who said that he’d beaten her and attempted to smother her with a pillow the previous night.

Chavez, who was seen peering through the blinds at one point, refused to answer the door, and locked it repeatedly after officers attempted to gain access via a code provided by the resident, according to the DA’s report.

Pleasanton police fortified their response, with a SWAT team and armored response vehicle (ARV) arriving at the scene at 1:40 p.m., followed by a crisis negotiation team at 2:10 p.m. who attempted to speak to Chavez by phone and text, with Chavez responding at 2:52 p.m. and 3:10 p.m. but denying that he was in the apartment.

Despite denying his presence in the apartment, officers had evidence from the resident that he

was inside and aware of the police response outside in the form of screenshots of text messages he’d sent her during the standoff.

“They gonna kick this door in and kill me,” Chavez said in a text message to the resident. “That’s what they will do.”

During what came to be an approximately three-hour-long standoff, officers also obtained a warrant for Chavez’ arrest for assault and imprisonment of the resident of the apartment.

Tactical officers then attempted to deploy a wheeled robot with cameras and a two-way communication system into the apartment after forcing the door open. Chavez, who was behind the door, was able to throw the robot outside and close the door again, with police confirming his identity and being made aware of the kitchen knife he was holding via intelligence from the robot, according to the report.

Officers then attempted to deploy a drone after breaking a window, with Jewell and Guillermo standing by to provide cover with lethal weapons, with the former positioned in the turret of the armored vehicle. Chavez exited the front door with the approximately eight-inch Faberware kitchen knife in hand, and began running toward officers at the window, according to the report.

When bean bag rounds from other officers, as well as commands to drop the knife, failed to deter Chavez, Jewell and Guillermo fired a total of seven rounds at Chavez that struck the suspect, according to the report. Chavez was pronounced dead at the scene.

Although the report indicates that Chavez was killed by Jewell and Guillermo, investigators point to the threat that Chavez could be considered to pose to the officers he was running toward, including video of the encounter and statements from Jewell, Guillermo and the other officers at the scene.

Jewell told investigators in a statement that he believed Chavez

intended to kill the officers at the window, and that he believed he would have done so had Jewell not fired at that time. Guillermo also said that he feared for the lives of the officers Chavez was approaching.

The DA’s report concludes that Jewell and Guillermo’s deadly use of force against Chavez, based on the facts of the incident obtained in their investigation, was justified under relevant California law regarding police use of force.

“The overwhelming, credible, and admissible evidence shows that Officer Jewell and Officer

Guillermo acted lawfully in defense of other officers,” investigators wrote in the report’s conclusion.

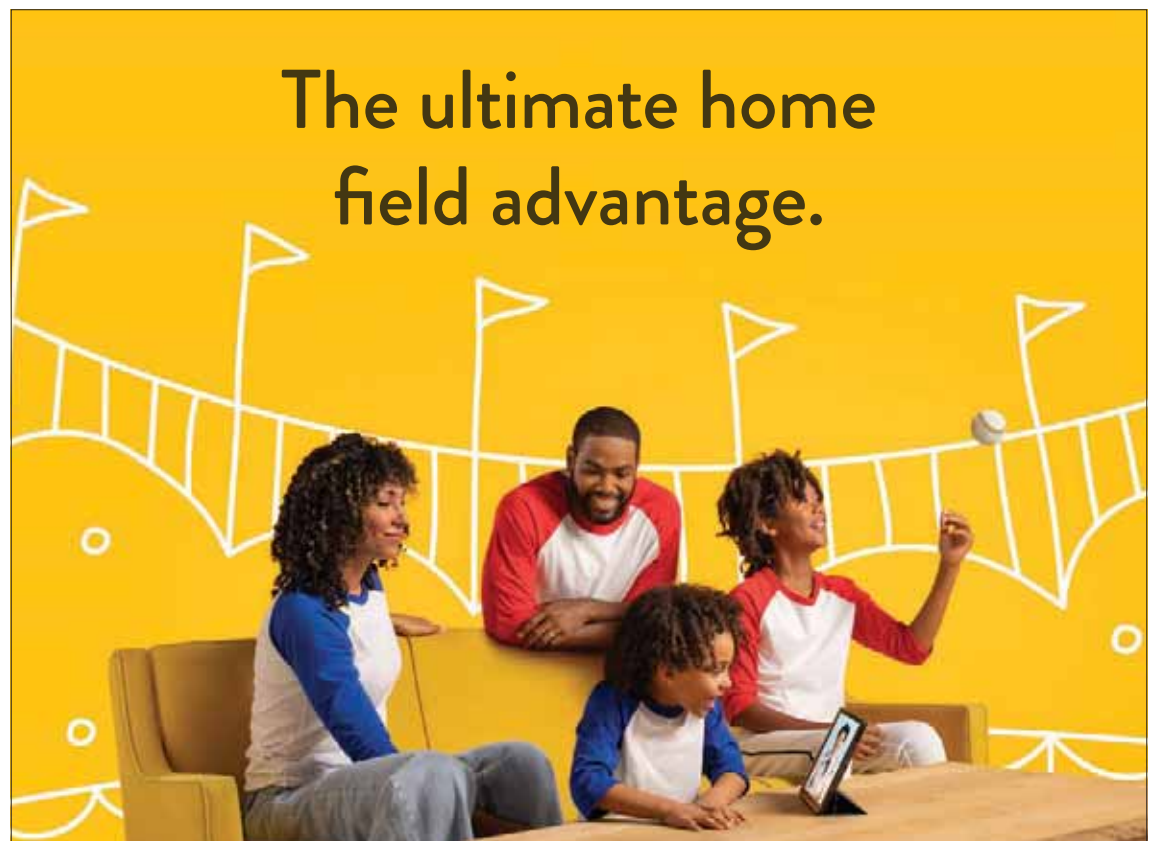
In addition to finding the homicide justified under relevant state law, investigators pointed to the hours-long standoff and use of less-lethal weapons as initial lines of response to the situation, with deadly force only coming into play when other methods had failed.

“The Pleasanton Police Department values the sanctity of life and extends its sincere condolences to everyone affected by

this event,” Silacci said in Friday’s statement.

This was the third fatal police shooting, and fourth in-custody death overall, involving Pleasanton police officers since 2015 — all of which were deemed as justifiable homicide by the DA’s office under the O’Malley administration.

View the full DA’s office report into Chavez’s death, as well as the officers’ bodyworn camera footage and other relevant investigative details released by Pleasanton PD, on the city’s “Policing in Pleasanton” website at policing.cityofpleasantonca.gov. ■



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Zone 7 accepting applications for vacant board seat

Candidacy period runs through Jan. 25

BY CHRISTIAN TRUJANO

The Zone 7 Water Agency is recruiting applicants for a temporary appointment to its Board of Directors in order to fill former director Olivia Sanwong's seat that became vacant following her resignation to serve on another regional elected board.

Whoever is appointed will serve the remainder of Sanwong's term, which expires on June 30, 2026, according to a press release from the water agency.

The water agency, which is the wholesale water retailer for the cities of Pleasanton and Livermore, Cal Water's Livermore division, and DSRSD serving Dublin and San Ramon's Dougherty Valley,

is overseen by a seven-member Board of Directors. Only residents in Pleasanton, Dublin and Livermore can apply for the position because Zone 7 is technically an Alameda County agency.

These directors provide oversight and planning for Zone 7's policies, programs and finances.

"A qualified candidate is 18 years of age or older and lives within the boundaries of Zone 7 service area," according to the press release. "Elected board members receive compensation for their attendance to meetings and conferences related to their service."

Those who wish to apply must do so by 2 p.m. on Jan. 25. Applicants must be registered to

vote and will have to commit to the board's schedule of meeting once a month. Each member must also serve on at least one subcommittee.

Sanwong, who served on the Zone 7 board for the past 4-1/2 years, first submitted her letter of resignation as director at the water agency on Nov. 30 so that she could take on her new role on the East Bay Regional Park District Board of Directors beginning in mid-December.

The Pleasanton native had originally won reelection to her Zone 7 seat in June, but opted to run for the EBRPD Ward 5 director position after longtime director Ayn Wieskamp announced her

retirement from the park district. Sanwong was the only candidate to file for Ward 5 ahead of the November election, so she earned the seat without an election.

With Sanwong gone, the remaining Zone 7 board members will have to fill the vacancy by undergoing an application process where the directors will review applications and interview finalists until a new director is chosen.

According to the agency's press release, all interviews, application reviews and appointments are scheduled to take place on Feb. 1 so that a new director can be sworn in at the agency's Feb. 15 regular board meeting.

However, if the agency needs

more time to interview applicants and make an appointment then it will hold additional meetings as needed on Feb. 2 and Feb. 22.

According to the press release, if the new director is chosen by Feb. 2, they will be sworn in at the Feb. 15 regular board meeting. If the process continues until Feb. 22, then the new director will be sworn in at the March 15 regular board meeting.

To apply, residents must complete an application available at www.zone7water.com/vacancy and return it to the Zone 7 office located at 100 North Canyons Pkwy. in Livermore. An application can also be picked up at the office. ■

SUNOL GLEN

Continued from Page 5

campus.

The good news — the main building with all the classrooms was not damaged.

"All 11 classrooms, once again, are fine," Barnes said in Friday's update video. "There was no moisture found in any of the rooms. We had them surveyed very carefully and so that feels really good."

According to several of Barnes' videos, the creek rose so high above the bank that water entered three of the raised portable classrooms on the north side of campus.

She showed how the force of the water collapsed the fence along the east edge of the grounds and how the flood waters pushed several huge storage containers onto the adjacent playground, settling one against the building.

Debris and a thick layer of mud settled on the blacktop, back playground, garden and fields as a result of the water receding.

Now, a week later, Barnes said that cleanup was going as planned.

"The back area, as we described earlier, is not doing as well, but we have done a lot of work to try to get rid of some of the mud and debris that was just caked onto our blacktop," Barnes said.

She added that they worked on getting that mud off so that the children could use the basketball courts during recess and lunch.

Barnes said that they also tried cleaning up some of the field area so that kids could still use parts of it during their free time.

"We were able to get a small section of the blacktop open and one of the small fields cordoned off so that we could use it," Barnes told the Weekly in an email Monday. "Both areas are very small, but we are grateful that we have them because the larger areas that we

normally use are filled with debris. I need a lot more work before they're usable."

However, she showed how they were also adding fencing along those areas in the north of the school because it's too dangerous for kids to be around the damaged portables and damaged play structures.

"The backfield area at this point is not going to be eligible for students to play on because it's just not safe there at this point," Barnes said.

The art and childcare programs that worked out of those portables in the back have been relocated to classrooms inside the main building and to the cafeteria, Barnes said.

Other main issues that the school had to address before opening was the sewer line, which got the green light last Friday, and pressure washing as much of the mud, silt and debris off of our campus as possible.

"We have a lot of plans in place to continue our programs and make sure education is going forward as always, but there's still some work to be done," Barnes said.

In Monday's email to the Weekly, Barnes also mentioned that preparations for the future storms are underway.

"We put out quite a few more sandbags and key locations. We made sure the drains were cleared, Barnes said. "We moved the can shipping containers that had been tossed around during the flood on New Year's Eve, so that they are now in a higher ground area and should not be in the same situation."

Since the news of the school flooding first broke out, the Sunol Glen Community Club created a Storm Flood Recovery Efforts fundraiser for the school on GoFundMe that, as of time of publication, has received over \$17,000 to go toward damages. ■

THE CITY OF PLEASANTON



HIGHLIGHTS

City Council Meeting
Tuesday, January 17, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.
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>.

- Receive an informational presentation on Firehouse Arts Center
- Approve street closures and estimated expenditures for 2023 Weekend on Main street closure program in downtown Pleasanton

Economic Vitality Committee
Thursday, January 19, 2023, at 7:30 a.m.

- Receive Update and Make Recommendations on Business Support Programs

Housing Commission
Thursday, January 19, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.

- Approval of Annual Operating Budget for Ridgeview Commons for 2023
- Appointment of New Offices (Chairperson and Vice Chairperson) for 2023

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



Sunol Glen School staff work on cleaning up the school after the New Year's Eve storm and place sand bags in preparations for last week's additional storms.

SGUSD

Newsom tries to clear misconceptions on gas price gouging penalties

Claims industry 'pushing the same lies they've used for decades to protect their profits'

Gov. Gavin Newsom recently attempted to clear the air on misconceptions about his proposed price gouging penalty against the oil industry for its unexplained spike in gas prices in California.

In early December, the governor held a special legislative session to expedite bills that would hold oil giants accountable for profiting off exorbitant prices at Californian gas pumps.

The discussion took place after California faced record-high gasoline prices of \$6.42 — almost \$3 above the national average — while the oil industry reached record-high earnings. Some companies reportedly doubled their

year-over-year profits in the same time frame.

"California's price gouging penalty is simple — either Big Oil reins in the profits and prices, or they'll pay a penalty," Newsom said on Dec. 5.

But critics said the punishments, though in line with the state's goals of ridding gas-powered vehicles by 2035, could come at the expense of Californians still dependent on the small amount of oil refineries in the state to power their cars.

Newsom's office said Dec. 29 that the oil industry is "lying" to residents and policymakers that the penalty is another gas tax that will raise prices and further

restrict supplies.

"The industry is already pushing the same lies they've used for decades to protect their profits," wrote Newsom's office.

Newsom assured that Californians won't pay a cent — rather, the penalty will discourage oil companies from excessively upping gas prices, and does not target the global supply of gas.

One proposal, introduced by State Sen. Nancy Skinner (D-Berkeley) would make excessive refiner margins illegal and punishable by civil penalty from the California Energy Commission.

"Putting the Governor's proposal

in print allows the Legislature and the public to begin discussions on this important issue. No one can deny that California's gas prices were outrageously high compared to other states. And those high prices hurt California consumers and businesses," said Skinner in a statement.

Margin thresholds and penalty amounts are still to be determined, but any penalties would be set aside and given back to residents, said Newsom.

"The penalty is on Big Oil's excess profits and funds collected from it will go to Californians," stated his office.

Newsom's office argued that

the state's gas taxes and fees are not the reason for high prices, and suspending tax would only benefit oil companies and prevent Californians from receiving savings.

The Legislature is also considering allowing state agencies more oversight on the refining, distribution and sale of gasoline in California.

If passed, the first-in-the-nation proposal would give CEC and the California Department of Tax and Fee Administration the authority to investigate and obtain data on costs and profits to prevent price shocks in the future. ■

—Olivia Wynkoop, BCN Foundation

Air district hires EPA official as new executive officer

Fine will take reins in February

The Bay Area Air Quality Management District recently announced the appointment of Philip Fine, currently an administrator with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, as the district's new executive officer.

Fine will take over the top role with the air district effective Feb.

21. He currently is serving as the principal deputy associate administrator for policy at the EPA, and prior to working at the federal agency had worked for 15 years at the South Coast Air Quality Management District in Southern California.

"Fine brings broad air quality

experience and a proven track record of building consensus across a myriad of stakeholders including community and environmental organizations, elected officials, government organizations, and industry," air district board chair and Emeryville Mayor

John Bauters said in a statement.

Fine said in the announcement, "I look forward to working with the many communities throughout the region to reduce harmful air pollution and improve the health of Bay Area residents."

After the retirement of Jack

Broadbent, who had been the executive officer since 2004 at the district that regulates air quality in the nine-county Bay Area, Sharon Landers has been serving since May as the interim executive officer. ■

—Bay City News Service



CHUCK DECKERT

A close call

A large tree fell down from the center median in the area of Del Valle Parkway and Tiffany Lane in Pleasanton on Monday night, nearly missing one of the houses adjacent to it, due to the recent onslaught of storms. The downed tree, which did clip the house's gutter and awning, was one of two to topple in the area and cause a temporary closure of Del Valle Parkway. The city of Pleasanton proclaimed a local emergency on Monday in response to the storm damage, a move that allows the city to have greater flexibility to contract for and procure services in response to storm impacts and grants access to state and federal resources.



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TOY DRIVE

Continued from Page 5

San Francisco Benioff Children's Hospital, which is where Neev received treatment.

"I wanted to do this toy drive for (Neev) because I want to make (other children) happy and I like helping people," Rayaan said. "I know how it feels to have someone in your family really sick. So I want to help other people who go through that."

Neev was only 5 years old when his family found out he had what is known as diffuse intrinsic pontine glioma, or DIPG.

According to the National Cancer

Institute, DIPG is a rare, fast-growing tumor that forms within cells inside the stem of the brain.

"DIPGs tend to spread to nearby tissue and other parts of the brain stem, are hard to treat and have a poor prognosis," according to the institute's website. "They usually occur in children."

Sandeep said that it wasn't all at once, but slowly over time he saw his son lose many of his motor function abilities such as talking, to move his neck or to even swallow.

"What sucks is you're told to go home, make memories and you're told that they cannot do anything about it and the doctors have no

answers," he said.

But both he and his wife were not ready to give up the fight.

They kept going to different places to seek treatment and finally ended up at UCSF where they spent days on end with Neev.

But a couple of months passed and Neev went into a coma in November 2021. Then after a couple of weeks, his parents decided to bring him home where he died the next day.

"At first, I felt sad and confused and I pretty much am still confused," Rayaan said regarding his brother's death. "It's kind of hard going to his room to drop things off and pick up things"

Rayaan said that he wanted to do something good in Neev's memory, so he first started by putting together a lemonade stand with another kid in his neighborhood, Athena Fasheh.

"I had always wanted to do something like that, but it always seemed kind of impossible," Fasheh said. "I learned it really wasn't that impossible, especially with the help of people that were so kind and caring."

They ended up raising \$200 that they partially used to buy toys for a child Rayaan knew whose brother had cancer.

"We gave him toys because we know how it feels to be left out when your sibling gets all the attention," Rayaan said.

Rayaan then took it a step further when he brought up the idea to put together a toy drive to his fifth grade teacher, Lizette Gianfortone, who ran with the idea by putting up flyers, involving his fellow classmates in writing get well cards and, with the help of Fairlands principal Heidi Deeringoff, sent out a newsletter to the Fairlands community asking people to donate toys.

"My entire community helped raise toys and then we brought all the toys to UCSF because I know how hard it is to go on Christmas without getting a toy," Rayaan said.

Other ways that the Fairlands and their neighborhood community helped the Kolte family, apart from donating toys, were with simple things like keeping them fed.

Kimberly Lau, Athena's mom and

next-door neighbor to the Koltes, explained how they had created a spreadsheet so that people could sign up and send the family food, which is something that Sandeep said was not a priority.

"One of the hard things about it is that Neev was the same age as my son, so it was very difficult to watch them go through this," Lau said.

Providing food for the family was something that she was proud of her community for doing, but she was just as proud of her own daughter and Rayaan for putting together the toy drive and donating all those toys.

"As a parent I of course, I am very saddened and continue to grieve Neev's loss. At the same time, I'm very proud of Rayaan and Athena for stepping out and just having the initiative to come up with an idea like this in the first place," Lau said.

Sandeep similarly said that he is proud of his son and even found inspiration in how Rayaan is looking forward to continuing the toy drive every year as part of the family's foundation for Neev.

"We all are trying to find a reason to live, a purpose to continue life, and I think each one of us in the family is trying their own way, in their own fashion and I think what you see in Rayaan is the manifestation of the same thing," he said.



KOLTE FAMILY

A photo of the late Neev Kolte.

And while Sandeep said he will never stop grieving his son's death, the main thing he wishes is to raise more awareness to these rare forms of cancer and for people to start supporting organizations that research cancer so that more funds can go toward finding cures.

"As much as I want my Neev to be remembered, I think it's the need for awareness and to give funds to cancer to the organizations (that is more important)," Sandeep said. "If you know a family that is struggling with cancer, do something to help the family." ■

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GUEST OPINION

By JACK BALCH

The responsibility of local control

Those of us involved in local government talk about the importance of local control. The thinking is that those who live in the community know best what the community needs. I agree. Therefore, if we don't want the state deciding our fate, we need to act in our own best interest.



Like many decisions, this requires conversation and compromise. At its December council meeting, Pleasanton relinquished another chance for local control by voting against a compromise solution that would put the Pleasanton Unified School District on an economically viable path to achieve teacher workforce housing with a local solution.

PUSD is facing a very real problem finding teachers and staff to support and educate our children. Like any employer, their challenges are

numerous: recruitment and retention, vacillating state funding, fluctuating student enrollment and affordable teacher workforce housing, to name a few. It should come as no surprise that PUSD is looking for viable solutions.

PUSD has been dutifully participating in the city's Housing Element process by asking that two of its properties be evaluated for housing.

In a letter to the city, PUSD affirmed their desire to find solutions to address teacher turnover and acute staffing shortages by "converting unused or underutilized property to build teacher and workforce housing." For success, PUSD requested that its district office site (on Bernal and First) be granted a density range of eight to 20 dwelling units per acre and their Vineyard site (on Vineyard and Thiessen) be granted a density range of three to five dwelling units per acre.

Under recently passed state legislation, AB 2295, which was discussed at the December council meeting,

school districts are now allowed to bypass city zoning requirements and build on their own land for teachers and others. The city may only impose basic design standards.

Moreover, school districts operating under the banner of AB 2295 are required to develop projects with a minimum density of 30 dwelling units per acre, with 30% of the units restricted to lower- or moderate-income levels.

After receiving this information, the council voted 3-1 to lower the density range to eight to 12 dwelling units per acre at the district site, well below the district's requested eight to 20 dwelling units per acre, and less than half of the minimum 30 dwelling units per acre available under AB 2295. At this lower density, it won't pencil out for our school district to build urgently needed teacher and workforce housing given current building costs.

If you were our school district, what would you do?

We want local control to be able to design and locate housing that is

compatible with our existing neighborhoods and community. We want the ability to address Pleasanton's challenges with innovative solutions in partnership with others. We want to strengthen our partnership with PUSD to support our children and families.

However, having local control comes with the responsibility to use it judiciously in finding solutions to achieve the best outcomes for our community. The school district came to the City Council in good faith and sought a compromised local solution. Some of us chose not to take it.

The council is to discuss this topic at a special meeting on Jan. 26. Voice your opinion by emailing your City Council at citycouncil@cityofpleasantonca.gov. ■

Editor's note: Vice Mayor Jack Balch is in his third year serving on the Pleasanton City Council. He was the lone dissenting vote in the 3-1 decision from the Dec. 20 council meeting related to the PUSD property. This opinion piece went to press before the Planning Commission meeting took place on Wednesday.

LETTERS

Reminiscing on my years in Pleasanton

While collecting bits and pieces of the past to help celebrate my 90th birthday, I ran across a letter written years ago for my picture album as a recollection of my time in Pleasanton.

In 1952-55, I was stationed at Parks Air Force Base as an instructor in the Air Base Defense School. My wife and two small children lived in an eight-unit apartment complex located at the time at what was the west end of Rose Avenue on the far turn of the race track. The apartments were owned by the Fiorios, who along with their son Jack had a small neighborhood market on Rose Avenue a few blocks west of Main Street.

Across from us in the apartments lived Frank and Marie Pacanowski with their daughter Carol. I heard that Frank had become the first mailman in town. I believe Carol still lives in town on Jensen Street as Carol Withers. Several years ago, she helped put together a CD describing the early days of Pleasanton.

I was born and raised in Los Angeles and upon my discharge from the Air Force, I returned to Southern California and settled in Orange County. I have visited "P-town" several times over the past 60-plus years and marveled at its growth. However, in my mind it is still the one Main Street anchored at the north by the railroad tracks and the south by the "Cozy Corner".

—Bill Gifford

YOUR TURN

The Pleasanton Weekly encourages comments on our coverage or issues of local interest.

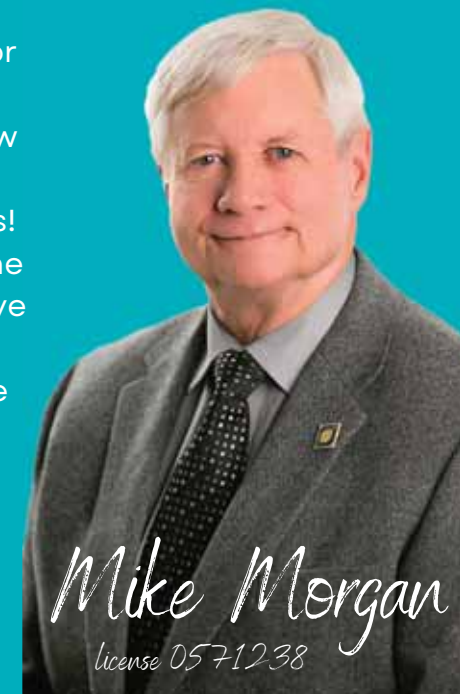
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COURTESY CUMMINGS FAMILY

Piper Cummings, a middle school student in Pleasanton, puts in more hours studying because of her learning disabilities, which make it hard to read, process numbers and express thoughts in written form.

AN APPROPRIATE EDUCATION

CONCERNED PARENTS CRITICAL OF PROLONGED PROCESS FOR IMPROVING PUSD'S LEARNING DISABILITY SUPPORT SYSTEM

By CHRISTIAN TRUJANO

For Betsy and Jamison Cummings, their daughter's education means everything. But as 13-year-old Piper looks to her future high school days, her parents are fearful that she won't get the help she needs for her learning disabilities.

"We've had the acknowledgement from teachers within Pleasanton, who have said, 'She's very fluent in what she's learning and how she learns,'" Betsy Cummings said. "So we want for her to be a member of the graduating class of 2027, at Amador — we are just fearful that they are not going to work with Piper in her advocacy and how she learns."

Piper Cummings has been diagnosed with dyslexia and dyscalculia, which are learning disabilities that affect how she learns how to process both words and numbers. She also has dysgraphia, which can cause difficulties from physically writing words to issues with organizing and expressing thoughts in written form.

Because of that, her parents said it's been hard managing her way through elementary and middle school — mainly, they contend, because the Pleasanton Unified School District hasn't given teachers the proper training in teaching kids with learning disabilities.

But the Cummings family aren't the only parents who have had issues with PUSD's efforts in implementing programs to help their kids with learning disabilities such as dyslexia.

"It took him a lot at first to get him out of Pleasanton to go to this other school," said Nancy Larson, a parent of three children, when talking about her son who has dyslexia. "Then it took a lot to bring him back because he knew how they weren't serving him the first time. Then once he came back it was off to a really bumpy start. Gradually it was getting a little bit better and then it just tanked again."

Larson argues that the district has failed in several aspects, and while district officials say they have been doing the work to help students with any and all learning disabilities in the long term, she referenced back to the past couple of years the district had to fix these issues.

But did PUSD fail these families, and is the district actively addressing its strategies and skills for teaching these students? To fully understand, one must go back to 2017, when the issue really came to the forefront.

PUSD's plan for dyslexia support

According to DyslexiaHelp, a website designed by the University of Michigan, dyslexia is thought to be one of the most common language-based learning disabilities.

"It is the most common cause of reading, writing and spelling difficulties," according to the website. "Of people with reading difficulties, 70%-80% are likely to have some form of dyslexia. It is estimated that between 5%-10% of the population has dyslexia, but this number can also be as high as 17%."

Because of recent state-led efforts to address the topic of dyslexia, PUSD approved its Dyslexia Awareness Month resolution back in 2017. As a part of that resolution, the district made a commitment to implement a Dyslexia Action Plan, which was going to outline how the district was to implement programs to help teach students with dyslexia.

Think tank meetings were held and handfuls of teachers began getting training on the Wilson Reading System, which is a curriculum meant to address dyslexia — the district had adopted the system in 2016.

Fast forward to May 2022 and the same action plan was brought up again during a Board of Trustees meeting where several parents, including Larson, criticized the district and how long it was taking to fully implement the Wilson

programs and get the teacher training that was promised in 2017.

But as the years passed, district officials told the Weekly that they wanted to shift to a broader focus to include other developmental disabilities and to focus more on addressing the learning issues at an early age.

"One thing that we realized in working so closely together, and in reviewing the Dyslexia Action Plan, is that special education can't have an initiative toward managing dyslexia without a comprehensive literacy instruction and strategy," said Jeni Rickard, senior director of special education at PUSD.

Rickard, who joined the district in 2020 amid the pandemic and remote learning, said that since then the district has been putting resources into training special education teachers and providing the materials through the Wilson system.

" Oftentimes, we hear Wilson, and we think it's just one thing — it's for students with dyslexia, but it actually is a comprehensive program," Rickard said. "Any student who is experiencing; first of all, a need for reading instruction; second of all, a need for reading intervention; and then third of all, the most intensive intervention for students with significant decoding problems, Wilson can support all of that."

She said before she was hired, several large

cohorts of PUSD teachers underwent a three-day Wilson training that taught them how to implement teaching strategies that help those students who need the most intensive intervention.

There's also more cohorts of teachers currently going through the training.

But she said instead of focusing on getting those teachers fully certified in the Wilson program, which can take about a year and a half of instruction, Rickard said it's more important to first build a strong foundation at the general education level.

"If special education says, 'We're gonna get all of our teachers trained to implement this intensive intervention program mandatory, every teacher has to do it,' and we don't have a corresponding foundation of core instruction and intervention, then this top-tier strategy for special education isn't going to be effective," Rickard said.

PUSD is also currently working on training its teachers in the Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling (LETRS) program. The two-year college level course teaches the science behind reading and how to teach reading within the classroom.

"We actually are following through with teacher training, and also with what we call structured literacy approaches, which is explicit in structured teaching of phonemic awareness and phonics and the sound to letter symbol combinations of how people learn to read," said Shay Galletti, coordinator of early literacy and numeracy.

Galletti is no stranger to the early teaching intervention world, having previously held the title of director of elementary education before taking on her new role.

According to district officials, this new role was created last year to further help address literacy at an early age through a multi-tiered system for all students.

Two years ago, Galletti sent a team of intervention specialists to become trainers in LETRS — once they were trained, they began teaching cohorts of teachers starting last year. This year they have a new cohort of 40 teachers following the previous 80.

She added that the goal is to have every teacher up to the fifth grade trained in LETRS so that the district can intervene early on in a child's learning career and help them get up to par in reading to minimize the amount of students in special education.

This is referenced as tier one intervention.

"If you look at dyslexia best practices, almost all of our reading difficulties for about 85% of our children can be handled with proper instruction in tier one," Galletti said. "So that's where we're really focusing on how do we even negate the problem before it gets to be a problem and how do we teach students and then identify those who do need help?"

But even through all the work that the district says they are doing to better screen and help children with learning disabilities at an early age, the Cummings and Larson families still believe that nothing up to this point has been followed through with fidelity.

Parents' distrust with district

Larson told the Weekly that she had first noticed something different in her son, Jason, when he was in kindergarten.

"I noticed that he was struggling," she said. "The teacher was kind of working with me to get him some extra help ... and then it just gradually seemed to be getting worse."

Larson officially found out that Jason had



FILE PHOTO

The Pleasanton Unified School District made a plan to address the needs of kids who had dyslexia back in 2017 but have since said they want to broaden their scope of focus to implement early learning strategies so they can intervene early on in a child's education if needed.

dyslexia in second grade, but like many other parents she didn't really know what to do after the diagnosis.

When a child has things like learning disabilities, the parent and the child must go through what's known as an individualized education program.

IEPs are legal documents governed by federal and state law to ensure that students with disabilities get a mapped-out plan for how they will receive proper instruction based on their needs.

"If there's a concern with a student's educational performance, we are required to assess a student in any area of suspected disability," Rickard said. "We're not assessing a student for special education because they're not performing academically; it's because we suspect a disability."

So naturally, Larson went through the process with her son, but she said her mistake was trying to do that on her own.

"When I was trying to advocate for Jason on my own at his IEP meetings, I would spend so much time trying to figure out what I need to go to them about, how do I get him help," Larson said. "And then I went to the meeting, and I was just basically told 'no' in whatever I was asking for."

After that, she decided to get help in the form of an advocate who helped Larson pull her son's files — which the advocate told Larson contained several red flags.

"It got to the point where there were so many red flags in his file that she said I'm probably going to need an attorney because things that he was tested for his IEP, the testing data wasn't complete," Larson said. "They left out certain parts and some of those certain parts were parts that would have diagnosed him with his dyslexia."

That's when Kristin Springer came into the picture.

Springer is an attorney who has helped Larson, a longtime friend, and the Cummings family as well.

"I stay very busy in Pleasanton because there's a lot of kids that are not being served — and that's just dealing with the dyslexia side," Springer said. "In Pleasanton, I've probably handled 20-25 students that have dyslexia and dyscalculia."

Because of Springer's help, Larson was able to kick start her journey of getting her son the help he needed — but at a different school called Raskob Learning Institute and Day School in Oakland.

She said the nonprofit, which specializes in teaching children and adults with learning disabilities, helped address Jason's self-esteem and

anxiety issues that stemmed from his learning issues.

Larson said he even gave a speech during his middle school graduation ceremony.

Springer said these cases should be getting more attention from the district, which led her to join Betsy and Jamison Cummings in their cause in getting PUSD to properly address the situation of taking too long to implement any programs that will help students today, not years down the road.

"Somebody should have been saying this was a critical issue we need to address," she said. "(According to the MAP scores), you have 36% of your students with disabilities fall below that 20th percentile, which is the most critical and in-need students."

Where things stand

Last year, the Cummings family spent a lot of time in court after first having filed a request for a due process hearing where they alleged that the district denied Piper her Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE).

On Feb. 24, Administrative Law Judge Charles Marson, who's been with the Sacramento regional office of the Office of Administrative Hearings since 2005, ruled in favor of Betsy and Jamison.

"The Feb. 24, 2022 decision found PUSD failed to have an IEP in place at the beginning of the 2021-2022 school year producing 'a series of results damaging to parents' participatory rights,'" according to the publicly obtained court file. "The Feb. 24, 2022 decision found that PUSD's significant violations left (Piper) with a program that was obscure and staff were left wondering what program to follow."

The family then filed a separate federal appeal case in April. According to the court documents, Springer had sent a demand letter to the district to seek reimbursement of attorney's fees without having to incur additional costs, which the family claims the district has ignored.

They plan to seek reimbursement of legal fees incurred and to obtain reimbursement on the due process fees.

The appeal document also states that the district allegedly did not reach an agreement with the Cummings family regarding Piper's services.

It was also during these hearings that the family was being assured that Piper would get the help she needed moving forward, which is why Jamison and Betsy decided to stay with PUSD — to give them another chance.

"In her mind, I think she felt secure, because we had been promised certain things," Betsy said. "It wasn't necessarily our ideal situation, but we knew that we had to give them the chance to prepare her for high school."

But she said Piper didn't receive any of the extra support in terms of even just simply checking in on her mental well-being when she wasn't doing well in her math class.

"She ended up having three full blown panic attacks at school," Betsy said.

That was almost the same thing that Larson said she was worried about when her son Jason said he wanted to come back to PUSD to play football at Amador Valley High School. She said that even though he himself was a bit hesitant on going back to a district that even he himself knew wasn't serving his learning needs, he still wanted to come back.

Larson said that even though she has lost her trust in the district, his current team at Amador and his teachers seem good. All she can do now is try to help advocate for other parents going through the same.

PUSD director of communications Patrick Gannon told the Weekly that while the district isn't able to speak publicly on any active litigation, they understand that they still have work to do and are "committed to moving forward."

"We are pleased to have filled a newly created position last year to help lead our work (coordinator of early literacy and numeracy) to support all students," Gannon said.

As that new coordinator, Galletti said that implementing these types of programs and teaching methods takes time and even if it might take longer than expected, she and Rickard want to do the job the right way.

"Telling families don't worry, we have a plan, and we're in it for the long game, doesn't help their students that day in their classroom," Rickard said. "We know that we're in it for the long game and sometimes that means that we're not going to put a Band-Aid on something that needs a more comprehensive strategy but that doesn't mean that we're not going to support our students."

"My worry is when you say, 'Oh, it's a long-term plan,' it's like we're putting things off. Nothing is being put off," Galletti added. "We're actively working daily, to ensure our teachers are trained in the science of reading to make sure they have the materials. (To make sure) principals and teachers are actively working every day to pinpoint students who are struggling, and then to provide that intervention for those who are struggling, whether it be reading math, socially, and emotionally."

But as the Cummings family and Larson previously said, they feel like they can't trust the district and that they have shown time and time again that they have not been able to properly serve their children.

They also wanted to make sure it was clear that they had nothing against any teachers as Piper has had numerous great teachers — their main issues are wanting to see those teachers, and more, getting the training they need to teach their daughter and other children with learning disabilities.

"Piper is her own advocate and so she has left her mark on dyslexia and has changed people's minds and changed some educators ... so there has been some impact ... but it's not enough to help Pleasanton," Betsy said. "(PUSD officials) have had so many chances to fix a problem that is bigger than they realized. They could have saved so much money and they have really failed so many kids in this system and it's the biggest tragedy." ■



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.

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.

Holiday Fund

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REACH

This past year, Tri-Valley REACH completed tenant improvements at multiple properties, including at this home on Vineyard Avenue where the nonprofit did a complete landscape upgrade, widened the porch and walkway to assist with their mobility issues.



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Dr. Patrice Lane examines a young patient at the Axis Community Health dental clinic in Dublin.

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SUNFLOWER HILL

Sunflower Hill Garden participants harvest and wash arugula alongside a parent volunteer.

'SOMETHING ROTTEN!' at the Bankhead

Tri-Valley Rep presenting musical satire set in Shakespearean times

BY NICOLE GONZALES

Local nonprofit performance company Tri-Valley Repertory Theatre is ready to debut its first production of 2023 at the Bankhead Theater in Livermore this weekend: "Something Rotten!"

Using elements of modern Broadway and 16th century Shakespeare, the musical satire will be staged the next three weekends to kick off Tri-Valley Rep's 39th season.

"Something Rotten!" brings audiences to the 1590s when two brothers, Nick and Nigel Bottom, attempt to create the first-ever musical. As their journey progresses, scandals and chaos ensue. The two, along with the supporting ensemble of characters, ultimately grapple with opening night and come to understand the importance of being true to oneself.

Originally created by songwriter Wayne Kirkpatrick in 2015, the musical has been praised by critics and received several Tony Award nominations.

"This is a show that highlights and celebrates Broadway and theater in general," said Brian Olkowski, director of the Tri-Valley Rep production.

For many, "Something Rotten!" could offer a return to the theaters after the pandemic. With this in mind Olkowski hopes audiences will leave the show not only with a love of performance theater, but most importantly with a sense of joy.

"I wanted to bring out that joy and excitement. I wanted to create a place to enjoy yourself and laugh, also with some great storytelling and emotion," he said.

Olkowski has been working sporadically with the theater company since 2008 when he began as an actor. In the years since, he has held various backstage roles including stage managing but has found directing to be more meaningful.

"It's a different mindset," Olkowski said. "When you're performing, you're out there on stage, but when you're watching and directing, you're looking at it closely to figure out how to make it even better."

"I love having a vision and working with the creative staff, the choreographers, the vocal director, the costumers, the sound folks, everybody. It's just amazing watching a group of people who are dedicated to bringing the best show possible," he added.

In terms of a venue choice for "Something Rotten!", Olkowski feels that nothing fits quite like the Bankhead Theater.

"It's amazing to be able to put on art in such a beautiful venue," Olkowski told the Weekly. "The Bankhead comes alive in different ways and it's always so fun and different, the variety of audiences that come

through that space."

Cast member Megan Bartlett is taking part in her second Tri-Valley Rep production with "Something Rotten!" She will be portraying Bea, whom she refers to as a "dream character".

"Something Rotten!" is such a fun show for anyone with any level of love for the theater," Bartlett said. "Every single time I watch the show it's impossible for me not to laugh at something new."

The dedication and communal spirit among cast and crew members is easy to see. Terri McDowell, a resident of south Fremont, commutes to the Tri-Valley for all "Something Rotten!" production-related events.

This being her first show with Tri-Valley Rep, McDowell said the travel time is worth it to be able to perform with the company.

"The whole cast immediately made me feel welcome and part of their family," she said. McDowell joins the cast as a haggard woman, an astrologer and acts in the ensemble as well.

Both seasoned and incoming performers express the same gratitude toward the theater troupe.

Meghan Hornbacher, choreographer for the show, has been doing shows with Tri-Valley Rep for 15 years. She will also be part of the dance ensemble.

"I love being a part of Tri-Valley Rep because it is such a warm and welcoming community of people who are very professional with how they approach making theater," Hornbacher said. "The talent that we get coming through the company is spectacular."

Like most of the



BEN KRANTZ

Above: Tory Speed (left) is Portia and Megan Bartlett is Bea in Tri-Valley Rep's production of "Something Rotten!" Below: The cast also includes Tommy Lassiter (Shakespeare) and Glen Riggs (Nostradamus).



BEN KRANTZ

Tommy Lassiter (Shakespeare) and Tory Speed (Portia) of the Tri-Valley Repertory Theatre are shown in their characters from "Something Rotten!"

cast and production, she expresses joy and eagerness for audiences to watch.

"It's a hilarious tribute to musical theater and Shakespearean plays, and is just pure fun," Hornbacher said. "There's a lot of witty and ridiculous humor, show-stopping dance numbers, and a feel good story about two brothers. We have amazing talent onstage, and are so excited to share this show with the Tri-Valley community."

Guests are able to attend afternoon or evening performances,

with Saturday evening shows Jan. 14, 21 and 28 at 8 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday afternoon performances Jan. 15, 22, 28 and 29 at 2 p.m. Tickets for the upcoming shows are still available and can be found at livermorearts.org.

As for his final words before "Something Rotten!" takes to the stage, Olkowski said, "It's been a joy working with this group of people. We have amazing leads and featured actors, but our ensemble is incredible." ■

'The First Man' arrives in Danville this weekend

Early O'Neill play functions as allegory for tension between family and individuality

By JEANITA LYMAN

The latest Eugene O'Neill Foundation production from artistic director Eric Fraisher Hayes is set for a nearly sold-out run this weekend, with themes and dynamics in the play pointing to some universal tensions that might be particularly poignant to audiences following the holiday season.

Hayes said that while he had been familiar with "The First Man", it was only over the past year — after visiting O'Neill's childhood hometown of New London, Conn. and being encouraged to revisit the 1922 play by dramaturg Beth Wynstra — that he was able to understand and appreciate its deeper, universal themes and seek to bring them to life.

"There's just a really interesting dynamic in this play where the family functions as this giant collective unit against the individual," Hayes said.

The play centers on protagonist Curtis Jayson, whose unplanned pregnancy with his wife becomes the center of his family's scrutiny, and an allegory for the problems with herd mentality that can emerge even in the smallest, most intimate groups.

"I really got into the power dynamics and the pressure, in a sense the peer pressure from your family," Hayes said.

The protagonist's family, through gossip and various cognitive biases, comes to the unfounded conclusion that the unplanned pregnancy is the result of wife Martha Jayson — whom they already have reservations about — having an affair.

"I think it's because there are biases," Hayes said. "They don't like the wife. They see her as an

outsider. She's from Nevada, from a mining town, and they're from the East Coast."

Hayes said this part of the play resonated with him on a personal level due to his own family history — in which his great grandfather had been disowned at around the same period of time, for marrying a woman from Nevada who was looked down on by the rest of the family on the East Coast.

Like many of O'Neill's works, Hayes also noted that there were elements of the playwright's own life woven into the story that helped shed light on his motivation for moving to Danville decades later.

"He was trying to escape the East Coast," Hayes said. "The East Coast was too insular, too small. Everyone knew everyone else. He needed to go west to escape, kind of what the character is experiencing in the play."

"He needed to get out of dodge, so to speak," Hayes added. "He didn't want to be confined to small places with small thinking."

But while O'Neill himself came to Danville with the goal of escaping, Hayes said that for those not living the reclusive writer's life in the 21st century, much of what O'Neill had been seeking to escape from is tangible locally.

"I think the East Coast is more with people out here than you might think, and quite honestly it still dictates a lot," Hayes said.

Ultimately though, Hayes said that the themes of "The First Man" are universal, and not dependent on a particular place or time.

"It is about the pressures of the individual against the group, even if

the group is completely benevolent and fair, and sometimes people don't fit them," Hayes said. "And this play is kind of about the friction within the family."

These group dynamics are omnipresent, Hayes said, with the expectations of audiences during the upcoming performance or others being one example.

"The audience will start watching the play and there will be unwritten expectations about how the audience is supposed to behave, and if someone doesn't conform to that, that's an issue," Hayes said.

Nonetheless, the century-old play does provide historical insight into a particular place and time, and the cultural dynamics that were in the background for its characters and O'Neill himself, which is of particular interest to dramaturg Wynstra, who has been working with Hayes for the third time in the upcoming production.

"The First Man' was produced in 1922, at a fascinating moment in our nation's history," Wynstra said. "I actually think the play is a metaphor of sorts for the sentiments in the United States both in the early 1920s and even for today."

Wynstra pointed to the then-recent development of women's suffrage as a massive cultural shift that gave way to backlash.

"When the play was first produced, women had recently gained the right to vote," Wynstra said. "I believe when many of us think about the 1920s, raucous, Gatsby-esque parties come to mind with flappers exhibiting new freedoms (and shorter hemlines!)."



EUGENE O'NEILL FOUNDATION

Director Eric Fraisher Hayes and dramaturg Beth Wynstra are collaborating for a third time on the upcoming production of "The First Man".

"The great waves of social change in the United States in the first part of the 20th century, coupled with burgeoning ideas about female independence and the post-suffrage rights of women, however complicated normative ideas around marriage and the role of wives and mothers," she said. "So, post-19th Amendment, there was actually a cultural backlash against the 'New Woman'."

In addition to the universal themes Hayes seeks to bring to light in the upcoming production, Wynstra said that the family dynamics on display in the play were also symbolic of the scrutiny and anger women were being targeted with at the time, as cultural anxieties about women's suffrage played out.

"The First Man' deals with a family who is dealing, and not dealing well, with new ideas about women, marriage and gender roles," Wynstra said. "As much as certain characters attempt to evolve their thinking to more modern understandings,

long-held and cultural-backed beliefs become hard to break."

Despite the historical significance, Wynstra noted that similar cultural tensions and shifts have persisted into the present day.

"I like this play because I think it reveals a tension still very much alive and well in our world today: a wanting of the new and the different yet an inability to break with what is known and familiar," Wynstra said.

"The First Man" will debut today (Jan. 13), with limited tickets available that evening and Saturday at 7:30 p.m. at the Museum of the San Ramon Valley in Danville. The 2 p.m. Sunday matinee has sold out.

On Saturday (Jan. 14) at 4 p.m. Wynstra will offer a free presentation entitled "Survival of the Fittest: Eugene O'Neill's The First Man and the Forces of Environment and Expectations".

More information and tickets are available at eugeneoneill.org. ■

Jazzy Thursdays in downtown Livermore

Guitarist Mark Lettieri next week; 'Songs We Love' follows Jan. 26

By JEREMY WALSH

Jazz will fill the air at the Bankhead Theater during the next two weeks when a pair of nationally renowned acts come to Livermore on back-to-back Thursdays.

The sets — "representing the range and wonder of the genre," according to Livermore Valley Arts officials — include guitarist Mark Lettieri on Jan. 19 and "Jazz at Lincoln Center - Songs We Love" on Jan. 26.

Born in San Francisco and now based in Texas, Lettieri is known in the jazz world for his work with the ensemble group Snarky Puppy in addition to his compositions in R&B and gospel.

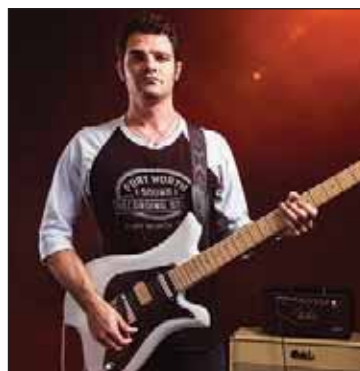
"Proficient in a multitude of styles, he records and performs in virtually every genre of popular music with both independent and major

label artists, and he also composes and produces original instrumental music under his own name," according to LVA.

Lettieri's concert at the Bankhead in downtown Livermore is set for 7:30 p.m. next Thursday (Jan. 19).

Then one week later, the venue will welcome a traveling show featuring some of the best jazz music coming out of New York City.

Under the musical direction of Riley Mulherkar, "Jazz at Lincoln Center - Songs We Love" sees vocalists Vuyo Sotashe, Tahira Clayton and Shenel Johns join an all-star band spanning the music of early blues and jazz of the 1920s and ending in the early 1950s. Combining their distinct talents, the group will sing their way through four decades of music, exploring iconic singers including Duke Ellington, Cole Porter,



CHAD JENKINS

Mark Lettieri plays the Bankhead on Jan. 19.

George Gershwin, Billie Holiday and more," LVA officials said.

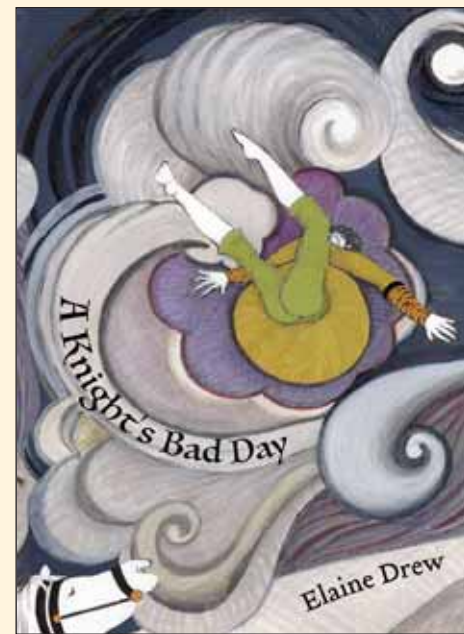
The performance in Livermore is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. Jan. 26.

For tickets and more information about both shows, visit livermorearts.org. ■

'A Knight's Bad Day' on display

Images from Pleasanton author Elaine Drew's upcoming graphic novel "A Knight's Bad Day" are being presented for the next month by the Lamorinda Arts Council in its online Wilder Gallery. The soon-to-be-published work is set in Wessex, England in the year 800 (a period Drew said she loves for its romance and mystery) and centers on a brash young knight who bites off more than he can chew. "But then, haven't we all?" Drew said.

"The lesson here is that even a hero can fail. The important thing is not his failure, but how he turns it around." The imagery display is open through Feb. 3 at lamorindaarts.org/online-galleries.



CONTRIBUTED IMAGE

Community Pulse

POLICE BULLETIN

Man charged with felony manslaughter for fatal crash in Dublin

A Livermore man now faces formal charges including vehicular manslaughter while intoxicated for allegedly striking and killing a pedestrian while driving drunk with his wife and toddler daughter in the car in Dublin last summer, the Weekly has learned.

Giovanni Fissore, 42, was arrested in the immediate aftermath of the collision on Dougherty Road that killed Roni Gage on July 31, but he was soon out of custody pending the completion of the police investigation and a charging decision by prosecutors.

The Alameda County District Attorney's Office filed a criminal

complaint against Fissore in October with three felony counts, one misdemeanor and two special allegations.

Fissore, who is not currently in custody at the Santa Rita Jail according to sheriff's online records, has pleaded not guilty in the case. He had a brief pretrial hearing last week, and his next court appearance is scheduled for March 2.

Attempts to identify and contact his defense counsel were not immediately successful.

The collision occurred just after 10 p.m. on July 31 near the 6300 block of Dougherty Road, about a half-mile north of the major Dublin thoroughfare's intersection with Interstate 580.

Officers arrived to find that a female pedestrian — later identified as 39-year-old Gage, of Dublin — had been struck by a Chevrolet SUV while she was walking in the southbound lanes of Dougherty Road, not

near an intersection or crosswalk, Dublin police said at the time. Gage was pronounced dead at the scene.

Fissore told investigators at the scene that he had just left a cousin's home in San Ramon about 10 minutes earlier and was driving home to Livermore with his wife and 2-year-old daughter in the vehicle, according to a probable cause declaration from Alameda County Sheriff's deputy Bodin Vimolchalao, who was assigned to Dublin Police Services under the city's contract with the sheriff's office.

The driver said he was driving approximately 35 to 40 mph in the far-right lane of southbound Dougherty Road when the crash happened, according to Vimolchalao.

"Just prior to the collision, Fissore was talking to his wife when he looked up at the road and saw a woman in the middle of his lane," the officer wrote. "Fissore said he swerved to his left to try to avoid the collision. He heard the impact of his vehicle hitting the victim and he pulled over to the side of the road as soon as he could."

Fissore allegedly told officers at the scene that he drank two glasses of wine that evening, with the most recent being about one hour earlier. However, according to Vimolchalao, the driver performed poorly on field sobriety tests and recorded blood-alcohol content readings by breathalyzer of 0.132% and 0.129% — well above the legal driving limit of 0.08%.

He was placed under arrest that evening on suspicion of fatal DUI and child endangerment, the latter due to his daughter's presence in his car. The investigation continued through the summer until the case



Cruz (pictured) was one of more than 50 Chihuahuas found living in unsanitary conditions at a home in Livermore. He has since been placed in a new home.

was forwarded to the DA's office and charges were filed on Oct. 11.

Fissore faces felony vehicular manslaughter while intoxicated, felony DUI causing injury, felony driving with a 0.08%-plus blood-alcohol content causing injury and misdemeanor child abuse, as well as two special allegations related to the great bodily injury Gage suffered.

—Jeremy Walsh

to be a factor in the situation at this point, according to the CHP.

The incident remains under investigation. Neither driver's name was released publicly.

—Jeremy Walsh

• Livermore Police Department announced on social media Friday that a number of Chihuahuas were available to adopt at various local animal shelters after being rescued by officials last month.

LPD officials said they recently became aware of more than 50 Chihuahuas living in "filthy conditions" at a home in north Livermore. Several of them were found in crates without food or water.

The department's animal services officer Kathy Holmes -- along with community service specialist Joanna Johnson and Pleasanton police's animal services officer Frankie Ayers -- determined the owner was hoarding the dogs and unable to care for them.

The dogs were transported to the East County Animal Shelter in Dublin and received vaccinations, nail care and were placed in clean cages.

One of the dogs needed emergency medical attention and has already been placed in a new home. The remaining dogs are dispersed among other agencies that took them in to help the East County Animal Shelter with finding placements for them.

There are 15 available for adoption at Oakland Animal Services, 12 dogs are at Dublin SPCA and approximately 10 are at Valley Humane Society.

In other news

• A Livermore man was seriously injured when he was hit by a vehicle while standing outside of his car after spinning out amid rainy conditions on Stanley Boulevard early Monday morning, according to the California Highway Patrol.

The collision unfolded at about 1:40 a.m. when a Toyota Camry driving eastbound on the thoroughfare between Pleasanton and Livermore spun out of control and came to rest inoperable in the westbound lanes facing in a southerly direction, according to the CHP.

The driver, a 26-year-old Livermore man, got out of the Camry and stood near to the driver's side door. Moments later, a westbound vehicle driven by a 20-year-old Pleasanton man crashed into the driver's side of the stalled Camry, resulting in major injuries for the Camry's driver, according to the CHP.

Stanley Boulevard was wet and it was actively raining at the time of the collision. Alcohol did not appear



Livermore police investigate a shooting at Enos Way and Junction Avenue on the afternoon of Jan. 5.

Gerard Joseph Fourie

August 11, 1953 – December 16, 2022

After a 2 year battle with leukemia, Jerry (Don't call him Gerard!) Fourie passed away with his family around his bedside on December 16, 2022.

Jerry was born to Margaret and Alfred Fourie in San Francisco on August 11, 1953. He spent his younger days in South SF graduating from St. Veronica's School in 1967 and Serra High School in 1971. He attended USF as a member of the Delta Sigma Pi Fraternity and graduated in 1975 with a BS in Business Administration.



On March 17, 1973, he had his first date with a USF classmate, Michele Dallas and they married on June 11, 1977. Within 2 years, their first daughter, Gabrielle, was on the way (born in 1980)! Her sisters Lauren and Molly followed in 1982 and 1986. After living in Novato for 6 years, the family moved to Pleasanton. Jerry became very active in coaching his daughters' soccer and softball teams. For his efforts, he was named to the PGSL Hall of Fame in 2005.

His work career began in 1975 as a Management Trainee at Macy's SF in charge of the Wine Department. Jerry and Michele started their own business and grew it into a very successful venture until they sold it and retired in 2018. But, even in retirement, he just couldn't remain idle and took a part-time position as the starter at the Pleasanton Golf Course.

Jerry was a loving husband, dedicated father, and adored grandfather. He was an outstanding friend to everyone who knew him, always the life of the party, and an eternal optimist. If you were having a bad day or just not feeling right, all it took was a conversation with Jerry and things always looked better. He was one of a kind and a true original.

Jerry is survived by his wife of 45 years, Michele, his daughters Gabrielle Stephens (JT), Lauren Fourie (Bruno), and Molly Calhoun (Kevin). He also leaves behind two wonderful grandchildren Natalie and Ellie Stephens, brother Tom (Pat), sister Margot Giusti (George) and many loving nieces and nephew.

There will be a Celebration of Life at St. Augustine's Catholic Church, 3999 Bernal Ave., Pleasanton, CA 94566 at 11 AM on Saturday, January 28, 2023. In lieu of flowers, donate to give.stanford.edu, Dr. Jason Gotlib Research Fund (Other Stanford Designation).

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There are also 12 dogs remaining at the East County Animal Shelter.

LPD advises anyone interested in adopting a dog or making a donation to help with the financial burden of caring for them to contact the agencies directly.

As for the dogs' previous living situation, LPD's animal services officer has submitted a complaint to the district attorney's office and it is currently under investigation.

—Cierra Bailey

- Shots were fired but no injured parties were immediately located on the north side of Livermore last Friday night, the second day in a row a shooting in public was reported by police in the city.

The call came into 9-1-1 just before 9 p.m. Friday to report a shooting in the area of Broadmoor Street and Scenic Avenue in Livermore, according to the Livermore Police Department.

"When officers arrived, they did not find any victims. Officers found shell casings in the area," police said on Friday night. "No suspect has been identified at this time."

The incident came roughly 30 hours after a person was hurt when they were grazed by a bullet after a verbal confrontation escalated into gunfire at about 2:45 p.m. Jan. 5 at the intersection of Enos Way and Junction Avenue. That shooting happened about two blocks from Junction Avenue K-8 School, although the campus was out of session and still on winter break.

"Police believe he had been shot after a verbal confrontation. The suspects ran away before police arrived," the department stated. "The circumstances and motive surrounding the shooting are still under investigation."

Livermore police detectives continue to investigate both cases. Anyone with relevant information can contact the department's anonymous tip line at 925-371-4790.

—Jeremy Walsh

- A firefighter with the Alameda County Fire Department was arrested over the weekend for allegedly possessing child pornography, authorities said Monday.

Charles "Chuck" Harris, who lives in Mariposa County, was taken into custody on Sunday in San Leandro, where he works as an Alameda County firefighter, officials said.

Harris, 42, was arrested on a Ramey warrant for possession and distribution of multiple files of child pornography and booked into the Mariposa County Adult Detention Facility, according to the Mariposa County Sheriff's Office.

The investigation into Harris was prompted by tips generated from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, the sheriff's office said on Facebook.

Authorities didn't release any other information about the case, only saying that Harris is on paid administrative leave per his collective bargaining agreement as an employee of ACFD.

"These allegations, if proven true, are deeply concerning and undermine the public's trust in our public safety service," San Leandro Mayor Juan Gonzalez said. "We will work closely with our partner agencies to ensure that justice is served. Each day, our community places its trust in our public safety staff, and we absolutely understand the anger and disappointment caused by the arrest of a first responder."

Alameda County fire officials were not immediately available for comment on Monday.

The Mariposa County Sheriff's Office, the Central California and Silicon Valley Internet Crimes Against Children Task Forces, and the FBI took Harris into custody on Sunday.

—Bay City News Service.



Charles Harris

- The Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority last month held a press conference regarding findings from an independent investigation into the May 26, 2021, mass shooting in the VTA's San Jose rail yard that left nine employees dead including Jose Hernandez III of Dublin.

An independent investigator was commissioned to evaluate if "there was anything we could have or should have known that might have prevented this tragedy," Jim Lawson, chief of external affairs for the VTA, said on Dec. 12.

The VTA Board of Directors authorized the release of the independent investigator's report, the VTA said.

"After months of research, the independent investigator concluded that VTA possessed no prior knowledge nor any warning that the employee/shooter was planning a mass shooting," said the VTA spokesperson.

The investigator, Morin I. Jacob from Liebert Cassidy Whitmore, said in the report given to the VTA that 47 witnesses had been interviewed, and that "there were no reports made to VTA that would have put VTA on notice that Cassidy might engage in violent behavior."

However, Jacob found, "five witnesses expressed concerns either to VTA supervisors or other VTA employees that Cassidy's demeanor or behavior was changing."

The VTA in November settled a lawsuit for \$8 million with eight of the families of people killed.

The workers killed in the shooting were Abdojlvahab Alaghmandan, 63, Adrian Balleza, 29, Jose Hernandez III, 35, Lars Lane, 63, Michael Rudometkin, 40, Paul Megia, 42, Taptejeep Singh, 36, Timothy Romo, 49, and Alex Fritch, 49.

A 10th worker, Henry Gonzales, was found dead in his home in August of an apparent suicide after witnessing the shooting. ■

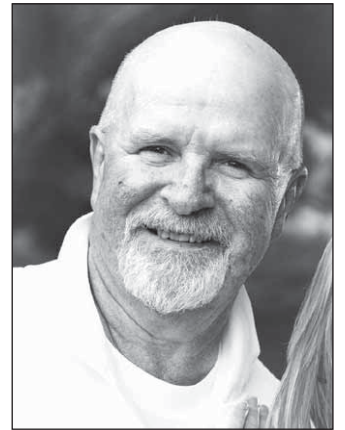
—Bay City News Service

Dennis Mahoney

Long-time Pleasanton Businessman, Family man and Friend to many

1939 – December 26, 2022

Dennis was a kind, methodical man, who left his mark on many people with his smile and sense of humor. He was earnest, honest and hardworking, serving Pleasanton's small business community with his first shop Amador Sports & Hobbies, then opening The Sports Den. He also had a small bowling shop at The Granada Bowl. Adding his contribution to local sports, he



coached PJFL and Ballistic United teams, too. He turned to real estate appraisal and retired this past July after 35 years as an appraiser, to the end, he ran his own show... But not while working at Crocker Bank in SF, where he met Patricia "Patty" Shorten, who pointed out that orange socks did not go with his brown leisure suit. Pat and Dennis were married in 1965 and moved to Pleasanton in 1968... and that's where it all began: a life filled with many adventures—Yellowstone sojourns; snow skiing (he had a truly graceful style, and you could spot him coming down the mountain from a mile away) and water skiing (had to have a boat, of course, named "Our Waterbed, Pleasanton"); camping (mmm, mmm, mmm, french toast on the griddle); Bed & Breakfasting (never afraid to make friends with other people B&B'ing too and share a dinner or two with new friends); and we must not forget—FISHING!! Dennis was an insanely skilled trout fisherman, with Burney Falls being a favorite spot. A true forever-fan of our SF Giants and 49ers (win or lose) and an adorer of music—Peter, Paul and Mary; Neil Diamond; John Denver; The Boston Pops; Fleetwood Mac...Dennis and Pat never stopped finding a new road to travel. If you had a question about how to get somewhere, these two knew the way. Married 57+++ years, Dennis passed away on December 26th—giving him one more chance to watch 'It's a Wonderful Life' on Christmas Day, for the 45th time—in Gardnerville, NV, where he and Pat lived since 2001, surrounded by mountains and Shelties.

Dennis is survived by his wife, Pat; his two daughters, Kris (Mahoney) Foscalina of Livermore and Sandy Mahoney of San Rafael; his two grandsons, Jake and Shawn Throckmorton (of Portland and Southern California), and three nephews, Kevin and Michael Mahoney of Sydney, and Randy Knoch of Salinas. He is preceded in death by his older brother, Michael, of Sydney; his younger sister, Patty (Knoch) Hiroshima, of Salinas/Bandon by the Sea, and his mother and father, Dorothy and Nelson Mahoney of La Cañada/Belmont. Also, awaiting him at the pearly gates where he'll darn-sure be welcome are his beautiful German Shepherds—Torin, Rebel, Major & Romel, and his favorite Shelties, Blazer and Dusty.

Friends from many, many years ago, blessed to have been touched by this great Irishman, have come forward to share their fond and funny memories of Dennis with his family through posts and calls. For this, we are truly grateful. A Celebration of Life is being planned for this spring when family and friends can travel safely to be together.

~ Rest in Peace, Dennis, Honey, Daddy-O! ~



PAID OBITUARY

POLICE REPORT

The Pleasanton Police Department made the following information available.

Jan. 5

Theft

■ 5:46 p.m. on the 3200 block of Melanie Circle

Assault/battery

■ 11:42 p.m. on the 300 block of Rose Avenue

Jan. 4

Theft

■ 12:14 p.m., 4200 block of Siena Street; theft from auto

■ 2:42 p.m., 600 block of Del Sol Avenue; theft from structure

Jan. 3

Theft

■ 3:16 a.m., 4400 block of Valley Avenue; auto theft

■ 8:04 p.m. on the 2200 block of Segundo Court

Drug violation

■ 8:32 a.m. at Owens and Hacienda drives

Burglary

■ 11:04 a.m. on the 4400 block of Valley Avenue

Assault/battery

■ 5 p.m. on the 4000 block of Sherry Court

Jan. 2

Rape

■ 10:37 a.m. on Stoneridge Mall Road

Theft

■ 11:33 a.m., 6700 block of Payne Road; catalytic converter theft

■ 1:12 p.m., 1400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting

Vandalism

■ 12:19 p.m. on the 8500 block of Clubhouse Drive

Jan. 1

Warrant arrest

■ 2:52 p.m. at Hopyard Road and Del Valle Parkway

Theft

■ 5:17 p.m. on the 7000 block of Pleasanton Avenue

Dec. 30

Warrant arrest

■ 1:02 a.m. at Owens and Hacienda drives

Assault/battery

■ 12:13 p.m. on the 3900 block of Vineyard Avenue

■ 10:54 p.m. on the 4000 block of Sherry Court

Theft

■ 12:23 p.m., 6000 block of Johnson Drive; shoplifting

■ 6:08 p.m. on the 4600 block of Willow Road

Vandalism

■ 3:45 p.m. on the 3400 block of Cornerstone Court

Domestic battery

■ 7:53 p.m. on Santa Rita Road

■ 11:17 p.m. on West Las Positas Boulevard

Sex offenses

■ 9:01 p.m. on St. Mary Street



PLEASANTON PREPS

By DENNIS MILLER

Foothill girls get statement win over rival Amador Valley

Also: Remembering John Boruk, former SF State punter and my old coworker in Pleasanton city summer program

The Foothill girls' varsity basketball team made a statement last week with a 62-30 win over crosstown rival Amador Valley.

The game was close through the first half with the Falcons leading 19-14 at the break. It was in the third quarter the Beti Terpstra show took over, leading the Falcons to a 27-11 quarter advantage.

Terpstra finished with 14 points in the quarter, including hitting four 3-pointers. She finished the night with 28 points, hitting eight 3-pointers.

Sophie Nguyen had nine points, with Avamarie Perry scoring six. Maddy Rice and Savanah Montini had five each to round

out the top Foothill scorers.

Freshman Addison Leomiti had 11 for the Dons, nine of which came on 3-pointers. Ellie White added five points for the Dons.

Foothill boys' soccer

The Falcons split games last week, dropping a 4-3 match to James Logan, followed by a 1-0 win over Alameda on Jan. 7.

In the loss to Logan, Ryan Bjorno scored twice with Tariq Mohammad adding one. Matthew Tahir had two assists for the Falcons.

Two days later Foothill got a goal from Alejandro Ramirez for the win over Alameda.

Remembering John Boruk

The worst part of getting old is hearing about another friend or classmate passing away.

On Jan. 4, I got an email from Pleasanton Weekly editor Jeremy Walsh with an obituary attached. The message came from the departed's sister and asked if Jeremy could forward to me because I knew her brother.

When I saw it was John Boruk that had passed, it was a jolt. I don't think I had talked to John in probably 35-plus years, and probably hadn't thought of him in 20 years.

It wasn't like we were great friends — I was three years older, so our group of friends were much different.

In fact, I only knew John for a couple years when we both worked for the city of Pleasanton Parks and Recreation Department. They had a program where they employed college kids for the summer and winter breaks.

It was a fantastic job for a college kid: Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. Okay, some of those 7 a.m. Mondays were tough, but getting off at 3 p.m. on a Friday allowed us to get out of town for the weekend early.

We did, and did it often. The way the job worked is that the first summer you were with a full-time parks department regular to learn the ropes, and then the second year if you had proved your worth, you were given your own truck and one to two other college kids to form your own crew for the summer.

I think the reason John and I got along so well those couple of summers is that it was constantly a battle as to who could get the last word in. I never thought I would meet someone who liked to talk as much as I did, and then I met John.



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John Boruk

And he was funny. I can honestly not remember a day of work that was not a laugh fest.

Finally, I finished my tenure at Chico State and jumped right into the workforce. John by then was punting for the San Francisco State football team — he was a tremendous athlete — and as fate would have it, we went our separate ways.

The last I had thought of John was when former parks department employee Terry Doe passed years ago. Terry was the full-time employee who took all of us punk high school kids under his wing.

When I read John's obituary and saw that he had gotten into pottery and lived in San Luis Obispo when he was in his 50s, it didn't surprise me.

It was crappy news to get so close to Christmas, but in the end, I had a smile on my face. There is no doubt John lived life and I am happy in the years before he passed, he found such a peaceful hobby.

RIP and Godspeed John. When we cross paths again, I am sure we will share more than one laugh. ■

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.

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A message from our editorial director, Jeremy Walsh

Hi, I'm Jeremy Walsh, editorial director for the Pleasanton Weekly, DanvilleSanRamon.com and LivermoreVine.com. A Benicia native, I've been with Embarcadero Media's East Bay Division since 2013.

Part of what really draws me to local community journalism is probably what connects you to our publications too: sharing in the human experience. Telling the stories that impact people's lives can be quite powerful. So too can be the stories about the impact of people's lives.

I recently had the privilege of reflecting on the impact of Pleasanton community leader Don Lewis, an innovator and pioneer in the music world, upon his passing. Here was a man who touched so many lives through his passion and creativity — and a trademark smile — that so many around the Tri-Valley knew and respected. These are tough assignments for any reporter (and lord knows I've had my share of news obituaries this year), but they are so important for us to do, with the right balance of context, perspective and humanity. Don's story was so emblematic of the human experience; the process of telling it surely left an imprint on me as a journalist.

I'm so proud of the great journalism our small but mighty editorial team puts out on a daily basis. We recognize the vital role we play in your community, and our No. 1 goal is always to produce articles with the range and depth that our readers crave. That's why the Tri-Valley turns to us as the authoritative voice in local journalism. And we're so grateful for the support of our members, who allow us to practice our craft and grow as an organization. Consider supporting local journalism today!



Jeremy Walsh
EDITORIAL DIRECTOR

Entertainment

IMPROV PLAYHOUSE OF SAN FRANCISCO The Naked Stage, presented by the Improv Playhouse of San Francisco, takes place on a single set, in traditional stage-play style. All the actors have is the bare stage, simple suggestions from the audience and each other. 8 p.m., Jan. 13. Tickets \$20. Visit firehousearts.org.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY ELVIS Pleasanton's Firehouse Arts Center kicks off a new year with the welcome return of Jim Anderson & The Rebels and their homage to Elvis Presley. 2 p.m., Jan. 14. Tickets \$20-\$25. Visit firehousearts.org.

IRISH SCOTTISH FOLK MUSIC AT LIVERMORE LIBRARY Celtic Duo Men of Worth to perform at the Civic Center Library. Playing a wide variety of instruments, James Keigher and Donnie Macdonald entertain with a unique combination of humor, exciting tunes and soulful, heartfelt ballads. This event is free for everyone to attend. 2 p.m., Jan. 14.

BANKHEAD PRESENTS NIGHT FEVER-THE BEE GEES TRIBUTE Travel back in time to pop icons of disco performing hits like "More Than A Woman," "Islands in the Stream," "Stayin' Alive," and many more of The Bee Gees hits. 8 p.m., Jan. 20. Visit livermorearts.org.

TRIBUTE TO PATSY CLINE Take a step back in time with country western legend Patsy Cline's songs like "Crazy," "Sweet Dreams" and "I Fall To Pieces". Full of music and comedy, Joni Morris shines with true showmanship and authentic sound. 8 p.m., Jan. 21. Tickets \$20-\$30. Visit firehousearts.org.

LUCY LOVES DESI Bankhead Presents "Lucy Loves Desi: A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Sitcom". Stories, and more, with as much heart and humor as an episode of I Love Lucy itself. 7:30 p.m., Jan. 23. Tickets \$2-\$80. Visit livermorearts.org.

BANKHEAD PRESENTS JESSICA VOSK A celebrated singer and actress known for starring roles on the musical theater and concert stage, Vosk made her sold-out Carnegie Hall debut in November 2021. 8 p.m., Jan. 27. Tickets \$55-\$65. Visit livermorearts.org.

ENCORE PLAYERS PRESENT LYSISTRATA "Lysistrata", adapted by Will Huddleston, is a modern adaptation of Aristophanes classic Greek play. Set in Athens, the story tells how Lysistrata led the women of Greece to hold a sex-strike until their men agreed to end all wars. Jan. 28-29, Feb. 3-5. Tickets \$25. Visit livermorearts.org.

PLEASANTON YOUTH THEATER COMPANY Designed for elementary school students, Frozen KIDS is a 30-minute adaptation of the 2018 Broadway musical featuring all the songs from the animated film. Jan. 28. Tickets \$10. Visit firehousearts.org. Amador Theater,

A SALUTE TO GLEN CAMPBELL Andy Kahrs celebrates the legacy of Glen Campbell in a salute to the songs of this music legend. 2 p.m., Jan. 29. Tickets \$20-\$30. Visit firehousearts.org.

Exhibits

BEAUTY AND TERROR EXHIBIT AT THE BANKHEAD This free 18 piece series by Robin Bernstein at the Uncle Credit Union Art Gallery at the Bankhead Theater is an example of how people will behave under set conditions. Many of these particular pieces refer to lesser-known Holocaust crimes as well as redemptive stories and heroic acts of resistance. Jan. 12-29.

CALIFORNIA WATERCOLOR ASSOCIATION EXHIBIT The Harrington Gallery welcomes back the California Watercolor Association for their 53rd National Exhibition. Among the finest shows of watercolor in the country, the California Watercolor Association's National Exhibition displays the best from 84 premier painters. Through Mar. 17. 4444 Railroad Ave.

Support

FREE HOT MEALS Served Monday-Friday, 1-3 p.m., dine-in or take out. 4444 East Ave., Livermore. Visit openheartkitchen.org.

LIVERMORE WARMING CENTER One Nation Dream Makers is operating the warming center at the Veterans Memorial Building, 522 S. L St., from 6 p.m.-8 a.m. 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. For more contact info@onenationdreammakers.org.

GRIEF COUNSELING The death of a loved one is unlike any other loss and those grieving need time and space to honor their grief and figure out how to keep on living when a loved one is gone. Join at St. Elizabeth Seton, 7 p.m., Jan. 26, Feb. 9, 23, Mar. 9, 23. 4001 Stoneridge Drive.

Expos

MANUFACTURERS' RV SHOW & SALE Check out some of the largest and best RVs on the West Coast and speak directly with different dealers and representatives all in one convenient location. Jan. 21-29. Visit alamedacountyfair.com.

Veterans

VETERANS EVENT AT PLEASANTON LIBRARY The VA Palo Alto Mobile Medical Outreach team will be at the Pleasanton Library to facilitate examinations, consultations and referrals for enrolled veterans. Veterans should bring military discharge papers (Form DD-214) and a list of current medications. 10 a.m.- 1 p.m., Jan. 23. 400 Old Bernal Ave.

VETERANS EVENT AT LIVERMORE LIBRARY The VA Palo Alto Health Care System's mobile medical outreach van will be at the Civic Center Library parking lot with medical providers on-site to provide examinations, consultations and referrals to veterans enrolled in the VA Palo Alto Health Care System. 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Jan. 26. 1188 S. Livermore Ave.

Volunteers

MAKE A DIFFERENCE FESTIVAL This free festival is a day to get connected and stay connected through volunteerism and community service. Exhibitors can show the community what they are doing and how volunteers can make a difference. 10 a.m.- 2 p.m., Jan. 14. Pleasanton Senior Center. Visit mad4p.org/festival-home.

VOLUNTEER WITH PLEASANTON READS If looking to make a positive difference in the community partner with an adult learner of English to practice reading, writing and conversation skills. 5-8:30 p.m., Jan. 18. Contact 925-931-3405.

VOLUNTEER LITERACY TUTOR TRAINING The next three-part Tutor Training at the Livermore Civic Center Library is 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Jan. 23, 25 & 30. Participants attend all three sessions. To

Public Notices

STEPS-OF-SUCCESS
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 594242

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:

1.) STEPS-of-SUCCESS, located at 3955 Vineyard Ave Apt 72 Pleasanton, CA 94566, Alameda County.

This business is conducted by: an Individual.

The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):

DANA LEE
3955 Vineyard Ave Apt 72
Pleasanton, CA 94566

Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 11/02/2022

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on December 22 2022.

(PLW Jan 13, 20, 27 and Feb 3, 2023)

The Pleasanton Weekly is adjudicated to publish in Alameda County.

- Fictitious Business Name
- Abandonment of Fictitious Business Name
- Name Change
- Partnership Withdrawal or Dissolution
- Petition to Administer Estate - Probate Hearing
- Notice of Bulk Sale
- Legal Summons
- Trustee Sale

Deadline is Sunday at 11:59 pm.

Visit PleasantonWeekly.com/legal_notices. For assistance email LegalNotices@PleasantonWeekly.com.

PET OF THE WEEK



EAST BAY SPCA

Hi, I'm Rollie

Classically handsome, tons of fun and smart as a whip? I guess you could say I've got it all! Walking, hiking, jogging — I'm always up for an outing. But don't get me wrong, I like to keep my brain busy, too. I'm food motivated and already have an impressive "sit" and "down". I'd love to learn a few more skills and explore this awesome world with a fun-loving human by my side. Could that be you? Make an appointment to meet me at East Bay SPCA in Dublin where my adoption fee is waived. Visit eastbayspca.org to learn more.

register call 925-373-5507 or email literacy@livermoreca.gov.

Talks

HARVESTING HAGEMANN RANCH HISTORY Then & Now: Livermore Stories features a presentation by Jeff Kaskey, Hagemann Ranch Curator, "Harvesting Hagemann Ranch History". Mr. Kaskey will share stories about the people who lived at the ranch and talk about the buildings on the property. 7 p.m., Jan. 18. Civic Center Library.

THE STATE OF OUR SONS: A TOWN HALL Learn more about the challenges boys and men face in this first ever Global Initiative for Boys and Men. Join Sean Kullman, Warren Farrell and the Board of the Global Initiative for Boys and Men for this unique town hall. Free registration at gibm.live/oursons. 6:45-8 p.m., Jan. 19. St. Raymond Parish, Dublin.

WASTE AND RECYCLING INFORMATIONAL WEBINAR Find out information about programs, services and the SB1383 Law that affects businesses. 3-4 p.m., Jan. 25. Visit cityofpleasanton.zoom.us/j/84246330650.

RANGER-LED MUSHROOM HUNT Join LARPD Rangers and the Bay Area Mycological Society for the return of the annual SGP mushroom hunt. Crawl around trees, wander through meadows and look at rotting logs to find fungi. 10 a.m., Jan. 15, Sycamore Grove Park. 925- 960-2400.

TRI-VALLEY WRITERS C. S. Lakin leads a three-hour workshop on how to convey the emotions of your characters and evoke an emotional response in readers. Ms. Larkin is the author of over a dozen nonfiction books on the craft of writing and productivity. 2 p.m., Jan. 21. Visit trivalleywriters.org.

Employment

Software Engineer/Software Development Engineer

Workday Inc. is accepting resumes for the following positions at various levels in Pleasanton, CA (Telecommuting permitted):
Software Engineer/Software Development Engineer (20637.1631): Analyzes, designs, programs, debugs, and modifies software enhancements and/or new products used in local, networked, or internet-related computer programs. Exp Inc: Object-oriented design and development; Algorithms and data structures; programming language such as Java, C# or C++; & Database and querying languages such as SQL. Telecommuting permitted. Salary: \$132,870 - \$368,900 per year, 40 hours per wk.
Submit resume by mail to: Workday Inc., Attn: Human Resources/Immigration, 6110 Stoneridge Mall Road, Pleasanton, CA 94588. Must reference job title and job code.

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 Nov. 28 to Dec. 9 for Pleasanton, Livermore, Dublin, Sunol and San Ramon.

Pleasanton

- 649 Abbie Street** A. & L. Collins to V. & S. Venkatasubbaiah for \$2,060,000
- 3042 Bolero Court** Jain Family Trust to S. & B. Kadali for \$1,030,000
- 3317 Hudson Court** Woo Trust to Pal Family Trust for \$1,592,000
- 1635 Kolln Street** Mcquaid 1996 Trust to L. Xiao for \$1,465,000
- 4317 Krause Street** D. Ilin to Q. & C. Wang for \$1,400,000
- 4759 Mchenry Gate Way** Zengel Family Trust to L. & N. Srinivasan for \$1,700,000
- 4369 Mirador Drive** R. Acosta to A. & S. Deshpande for \$1,600,000
- 409 Neal Street** Baumgart Trust to M. & O. Rico for \$1,610,000
- 3143 Thistledown Court** Kammeijer 2019 Living Trust to X. & E. Tashjian for \$1,499,000
- 3095 Tonopah Circle** K. Sgroi to Y. & R. Liang for \$690,000
- 1558 Trimmingham Drive** A. Umansky to R. & S. Vivrekar for \$1,145,000
- 4346 Valley Avenue #C9** Callaway Trust to P. & S. Bhat for \$760,000
- 8107 Arroyo Drive #2** B. Kutrowski to Y. Chen for \$505,000
- 2137 Arroyo Court #2** M. Patipa to F. Kerstetter for \$550,000
- 3611 Dunsmuir Circle** Dotson Family Trust to S. & R. Govindan for \$1,537,000
- 3831 Pinot Court** Butler Trust to S. & D. Smith for \$1,988,000

5530 San Antonio Street Redwood Holdings LLC to Y. & S. Shah for \$1,500,000

Livermore

- 1661 De Leon Way** Young Family Trust to Lohia Trust for \$1,365,000
- 2519 Farnsworth Drive** Rettinger Trust to M. Kapoor for \$1,080,000
- 446 Firenza Court** Ralph Trust to R. & J. Thomas for \$1,375,000
- 336 Jensen Street** R. & N. Blakley to S. & D. Shugrue for \$825,000
- 3866 Jerrold Road** Duguid Trust to Foreverhome Properties LLC for \$2,000,000
- 4924 Julie Street** J. Ebel to Demera Family Trust for \$1,175,000
- 829 Katrina Street** Z. Li to M. Woodmansee for \$1,350,000
- 1670 Knoll Way** Yarnell Living Trust to A. & B. West for \$1,025,000
- 2138 Latour Avenue** Booth Family Trust to J. & K. Cantwell for \$1,800,000
- 3028 Lucca Circle** R. Sharif to A. & S. Rudra for \$1,630,000
- 2027 Mulberry Common** P. & F. Agbayani to P. & V. Doshi for \$990,000
- 1085 Murrieta Boulevard #202** H. Jadhav to T. Chavez for \$370,000
- 2332 Norwood Road** C. & D. Targett to E. & A. Klipa for \$1,650,000
- 783 Partridge Common** Rogers Trust to I. & H. Phan for \$550,000
- 625 Saddleback Circle** T. Mori to B. & L. Bowen for \$925,000
- 140 Selby Lane #3** J. Yuhas to L. Adam for \$700,000
- 555 Amberwood Way** D. & E. Bay to C. & G. Divers for \$1,505,000

- 4192 Bristlecone Way** Woodward Living Trust to Z. & T. Xue for \$875,000
- 1141 Butte Court** M. & G. Davi to C. & B. Grimm for \$880,000
- 1649 Calcite Court** Hughes Family Trust to S. & C. Bhandaru for \$1,890,000
- 287 Edinburgh Drive** B. Sarubin to Smd Ents Mb Westgate Rehabilit for \$1,525,000
- 2457 Farnsworth Drive** A. & J. Allen to A. Shum for \$1,050,000
- 5185 Felicia Avenue** J. & D. Meister to R. & S. Kongara for \$925,000
- 933 Hagemann Drive** S. Bates to B. & J. Hoffmann for \$723,000
- 627 Hanover Street** Nobriga Living Trust to D. He for \$920,500
- 1228 Hibiscus Way** J. & J. Moore to P. & A. Pandey for \$870,000
- 436 Humboldt Way** Harmon Living Trust to F. & D. Bhakthan for \$925,000
- 2679 Klamath Court** D. Russell to A. & A. Boehrer for \$1,275,000
- 1062 Lambaren Avenue** Blue Bay Ventures LLC to M. Singh for \$695,000
- 1052 Locust Street** Foreverhome Properties LLC to J. & J. Quan for \$700,000
- 967 Lynn Street** Caruso Family Trust to A. & P. Vala for \$1,125,000
- 4721 Nicol Common #108** R. Guthrie to S. Levy for \$399,000
- 151 Ruby Court** Opendoor Property Trust I to B. & U. Usta for \$1,206,000
- 613 South S Street** K. & S. Klei to K. & S. Ball for \$1,100,000
- 748 Sunset Drive** Sc Homes 321 LLC to P. & S. Basavaraju for \$1,100,000
- 788 Tranquility Circle #3** Opendoor Property Trust I to A. Enwiya for \$850,000
- 2684 Wellingham Drive** R. Williams to C. Moore for \$920,000

- 4382 Sunset View Drive** M. & R. Detki to D. & S. Gande for \$1,640,000
- 6231 Sussex Drive** K. Chae to U. & N. Jadav for \$865,000
- 3230 Vittoria Loop** H. & P. Wang to M. & P. Iyer for \$1,550,000
- 4159 Blackrock Road** D. Mettem to S. & T. Subramanian for \$1,050,000
- 3695 Branding Iron Place** A. & A. Saggi to S. Chopra for \$1,185,000
- 5610 Central Parkway #201** Brookfield Hyde Park LLC to W. & J. Wong for \$1,500,000
- 8442 Davona Drive** Amazing Ventures LLC to R. & J. Devera for \$1,087,000
- 7605 Millbrook Avenue** Zen Home Offer LLC to T. & V. Kotha for \$1,061,000
- 9709 Sara Ann Court** N. & P. Desai to S. & W. Shaarani for \$2,264,000
- 5991 Sterling Street** A. Madireddy to S. & L. Sharma for \$1,425,000
- 5700 Sterling Street** Opendoor Property Trust I to M. & S. Datta for \$1,360,000

Sunol

- 2473 Killcare Road** E. & M. Valentine to D. Joubert for \$680,000

San Ramon

- 176 Canyon Green Place** Savage Living Trust to A. & C. Sebastian for \$1,268,000
- 1044 Canyon Hills Road** Chen-Hsu Family Trust to F. & K. Kircher for \$1,633,000
- 184 Copper Ridge Road** I. Johnson to J. Lynch for \$552,500
- 10010 Foxboro Circle** Wunderlich/ Trust to A. & S. Venkatesan for \$1,150,000
- 4719 Malayan Street** C. Burke to S. & N. Ediga for \$1,520,000
- 821 Pinehurst Court** B. Haddad to R. & S. Gandhi for \$1,460,000
- 436 Pocono Manor Place** Balutewicz Trust to S. & S. Ramachandran for \$1,460,000
- 2020 Tarragon Rose Court** B. Subramanian to V. & R. Ramakrishna for \$1,449,000
- 195 Terrazzo Circle D.** S. & Ceccarelli to A. & P. Bhattacharjee for \$1,930,000
- 318 Almond Court** R. & M. Chenery to H. & B. Kim for \$1,150,000
- 2080 Canyon Crest Avenue** S. Stalker to Bay Area Executive Re & Dev Gr for \$1,470,000
- 130 Fallbury Court** L. Kaina to Wu Trust for \$1,570,000
- 2793 Marsh Drive** M. Hopkins to T. & F. Ashok for \$1,100,000
- 903 Springview Circle** V. Rajarathnam to A. & Y. Zhao for \$975,000

Source: California REsource

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

Talking Real Estate with Doug Buenz | Compass

Pleasanton Real Estate Market Update – New Year, New Market?

In terms of real estate, 2021 came in like a lion and out like a lamb. What started as an over-heated (and unsustainable) seller's market stalled mid-year as a result of sharp interest rate increases. Mortgage rates essentially doubled, driving up mortgage payments to home buyers, which drastically eroded their purchasing power and driving many to the sidelines. Add the general economic uncertainty, inflation concerns, and geo-political unrest, and you have a recipe for a very sluggish real estate market.

And the data from December shows a continuation of this sluggish market (see the chart attached)

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

Pleasanton Market Report

December 2022
Single Family Detached Homes



680 | DOUG BUENZ GROUP
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SALES AT A GLANCE

Pleasanton (Nov. 28-Dec. 9)

Total sales reported: 17
Lowest sale reported: \$505,000
Highest sale reported: \$2,060,000
Average sales reported: \$1,487,294

Livermore (Nov. 28-Dec. 9)

Total sales reported: 37
Lowest sale reported: \$730,000
Highest sale reported: \$2,300,000
Average sales reported: \$1,012,567

Dublin (Nov. 28-Dec. 9)

Total sales reported: 18
Lowest sale reported: \$714,000

Highest sale reported: \$2,264,000
Average sales reported: \$1,199,444

Sunol (Nov. 28-Dec. 9)

Total sales reported: 1
Lowest sale reported: \$680,000
Highest sale reported: \$680,000
Average sales reported: \$680,000

San Ramon (Nov. 28-Dec. 9)

Total sales reported: 15
Lowest sale reported: \$552,500
Highest sale reported: \$1,930,000
Average sales reported: \$1,400,000

Source: California REsource

OPEN HOMES THIS WEEKEND

PLEASANTON

727 Peters Avenue **\$1,788,000**
Sat/Sun 12:00-4:00 4BD/3BA
Investment Real Estate 925-963-0569

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

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Real Estate Preview

Pleasanton's spotlight on local Real Estate



Coming inside your Pleasanton Weekly on **January 27, 2023**

The Real Estate Preview section will include news and articles of interest about the local market, information on obtaining a mortgage, and how to prepare a home for sale.

Attention Real Estate Agents:

Showcase your current listings and introduce yourself to prospective clients by advertising inside the Real Estate Preview section.

Contact your Sales Rep at 925-600-0840 for more information. Deadline Jan. 19.

Pleasanton Weekly

VENEMA HOMES

EXPERIENCE



EXCELLENCE



Voted Pleasanton's **BEST** Real Estate Team



A Note From Liz & Alexis...

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

Seller Decisions:

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



Vista Construction



Voted Pleasanton's **BEST** Home Improvement Contractor

In real estate, spending a little money creates a high return. Venema Homes has partnered with Vista Construction Company, Inc., ensuring you a reduced rate and top dollar for your home. In addition, your updates are completed in a timely manner, within budget. Steve Venema, owner of Vista Construction Company, Inc., started his company in 1995. From kitchen and bathroom updates to flooring and customized paint. Vista construction is just another reason why choosing Venema Homes means experiencing excellence.



"It was great that Steve Venema and Vista Construction could do all the contracting... They did such a beautiful job it was hard to believe it was the same home."

-Susan Spangler, Meadowwood Seller



"Liz organized the stager, the general contractor. I've sold a couple homes before and it had never been so seamless."

-Anne Whittaker, Yearling Seller



"The result was great - 4 offers over asking price in 4 days and closure within a month."

-John Monson, Sorano Seller