

Pleasanton Weekly

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Housing Element

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AROUND THE VALLEY



BY GINA CHANNELL WILCOX

See something, say something

The video of the altercation outside of the Pleasanton Library on Jan. 19 between two children later identified as Pleasanton Middle School students posted on social media showed a vicious attack.

The raw brutality left my stomach in knots. The aggressor smiling at the end left me angry.

When PMS parent Ghezal Beliakoff saw the video, she was outraged and posted it on social media asking people to identify the perpetrator. "Up to this point, my daughter would talk about fights (at PMS) and I didn't know (the extent)," Beliakoff said. "Then the video was posted two weeks later."

"It was straight out assault," Beliakoff said. "I went to the police station saying I want to press charges. I want to hire a lawyer and I want to press charges against this girl."

The Pleasanton Police Department doesn't have the authority in this case, though. The school district is responsible for students from the time they get to school until they return home — on and off campus.

Of course, some incidents will rise to the level of law enforcement being brought in. But how officers respond to calls involving students and the outcomes are not "prescriptive," explained PPD Chief David Swing.

"There are several factors (when) our officers respond to a call," Swing said. "Age is certainly a consideration, the totality of the circumstances, the intent of the law, those are all different factors officers take into consideration."

PPD Lt. Erik Silacci said in cases such as fights, there could be police and school consequences depending on the student's age but noted that people under the age of 14 are generally not arrested per California Penal Code.

"The goal of the juvenile justice system is to focus on rehabilitation," Silacci said.

But the wheels of justice — even "restorative justice" — turn slowly.

Patrick Gannon, director of communications for the Pleasanton Unified School District, said something that stuck with me. He said, "Social media can amplify a single incident exponentially."

It definitely did in this case.

The fact it was posted over a weekend added fuel to the fire. It's only natural that viewers wanted immediate action and definitive

consequences. When that didn't happen, they got frustrated, causing further amplification.

PMS principal Joe Nguyen did send an email the day after the altercation, most likely before the video was posted. It said, in part, "This behavior is unacceptable ... We have identified the students and will hold them accountable..."

But only the school community received it, so everyone else had several days to stew and ask why nothing was being done.

"We take student discipline seriously," Ed Diolazo, PUSD's deputy superintendent of student support services, told me. "Because we are educators first, we need to consider consequences in terms of what will support all students involved both socially and emotionally as they learn and mature into adults. We follow a well-defined process and investigate each instance thoroughly in order to determine the appropriate outcome for students."

The well-defined process is based on the California Education Code; it starts with an investigation, which can take weeks or months.

We want the people who are making decisions with children involved to take their time. They only have one shot at getting it right, and they need to get it right.

In his email, Nguyen also addressed another aspect of this awful situation that shocked viewers: the bystanders videotaping, cheering and high-fiving. He implored caregivers to remind their students that if they see something, they should say something.

"Taking videos has become a natural response whenever something occurs within the community," Nguyen wrote. "We ask that students not promote inappropriate behavior by taking videos or urging peers to encourage the wrong behavior."

"I've been here for almost 14 years. This is my home," Beliakoff said. "We choose to live here because of the environment and because of the safety and it's completely being taken away from us."

There is no doubt this incident rocked our community and made us fearful — for ourselves and our children. Nguyen encouraged students if they see something they should say something. That's good advice for everyone as we restore our sense of safety and work together to ensure this never happens again. ■

About the Cover

Wente Vineyards in Livermore is celebrating its 140th anniversary this year. Shown: Aly Wente, Elizabeth Kester and Niki Wente at the winemaker's property in the valley. Photo courtesy Wente Vineyards. Cover design by Paul Llewellyn.

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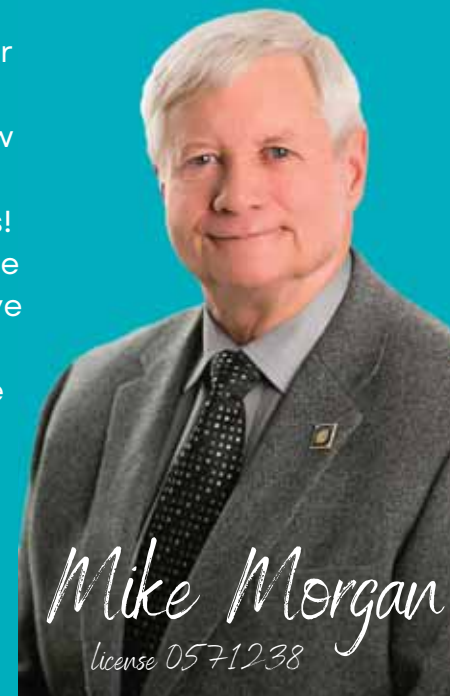
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Are you planning to travel somewhere warm during these next few cold months?



Abby Miers
Regulatory analyst

Probably not, because my fiancé and I are trying to save money for our wedding. But we do plan to take a few day trips to Half Moon Bay and other dog-friendly coastal areas nearby, like Santa Cruz and Carmel.



Tate Alley
Software developer

Not really. I've actually been enjoying the cold spell and the rain, and the resulting lush, green hills. But we are planning to take a trip down to San Diego, which is a bit warmer than here, in March in order to celebrate my beautiful fiancée Abby's birthday.



Tracy Wynn
Electrical engineer

Absolutely. I'm from Florida but have been here in the Bay Area for work since September. I am so looking forward to heading back to Florida, to my wife and kids, next week. I will be thrilled to be back with my family and to totally embrace the warmth of The Sunshine State!



Robert Ladkani
Electrical engineer

No, actually. But I am looking forward to heading to Tahoe for a bit and to Mount Hood in Oregon, in order to take advantage of the cold weather and the spectacular skiing conditions that go along with it.



Barb McKay
Business owner

Oh yes! But only in my mind. At some point within the next month, I'll be heading, totally in my mind, to the Maldives with my beloved husband Josh (shown), where we'll be staying in an overwater bungalow for a bit. We'll be leaving the kids behind and are really looking forward to swimming in the warm, clear blue waters of the Indian Ocean and eating fresh fish every single day.

—Compiled by Nancy and Jeff Lewis

Have a Streetwise question? Email editor@PleasantonWeekly.com

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A message from our Livermore Vine editor, Cierra Bailey



Cierra Bailey
EDITOR

I'm Cierra Bailey, and I'm an editor for Embarcadero Media, the small local news organization that includes the Pleasanton Weekly, Livermore Vine and DanvilleSanRamon.

My interest in pursuing journalism began as a high school student in Livermore and was inspired by the fact that I was inquisitive and loved to write. It wasn't until years later when I started my first internship with the Pleasanton Weekly that I truly recognized the importance of local journalism.

One of the first stories I ever wrote for the Weekly was about Relay for Life, a 24-hour cancer fundraising walk that was taking place in Pleasanton. Speaking to local cancer survivors who shared the details of their battles against the disease and their commitment to supporting others going through similar journeys sparked a light in me that let me know this is what I'm supposed to be doing. My calling is to uplift the voices of those who are making significant impacts in communities that are often overlooked.

In the years since, I've had the privilege of covering a number of compelling stories for our news organization as a reporter and as the founding editor of LivermoreVine.com.

More recently, I had the pleasure of interviewing Brock Uhl, who at the time was 17 years old and was changing the culture of the Tri-Valley by organizing and hosting drag shows at local venues throughout the region.

I didn't realize at first the impact the article had by shining a spotlight on drag culture and underscoring the importance of inclusion and acceptance in the Tri-Valley. However, when Uhl reached out to me after the article was published and asked to meet in person so that he could thank me face-to-face, I was reminded yet again why local community journalism matters. Our stories have the power to make people feel seen and it has been an honor to do so in the community that has been home to me for most of my life.

Because of these experiences and so many more over the course of my career, I strongly believe that community is at the heart of local journalism which is why we need your help to sustain it. Your support means we can continue this journey together. Consider helping us fulfill our mission by becoming a member today.

DIGEST

Smoke at Vine Cinema

Smoke spotted at Vine Cinema & Alehouse last week was the result of smoldering rags at the Zephyr Grill & Bar next door in downtown Livermore.

The call first came in around 7:15 a.m. Jan. 26 reporting smoke inside Vine Cinema. Arriving firefighters did not see any signs of smoke or fire at the front of the building, but as they investigated they found smoke inside the theater that was originating from the restaurant next door, according to Aaron Lacey, deputy chief with the Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department.

Firefighters gained access to the Zephyr Grill & Bar and found smoldering rags within the trash area near the back of the kitchen. "The hazard was removed from the building and smoke was cleared from the two buildings. No fire damage was sustained to either building and no one was injured," Lacey said.

Major I-680 roadwork

Caltrans has scheduled a major repaving project on Interstate 680 that will close the northbound lanes between Sunol and Pleasanton for three consecutive weekends in February, according to Caltrans.

The closure will stretch from the Koopman Road on-ramp in Sunol (just north of the Highway 84 interchange) to Sunol Boulevard in Pleasanton.

The schedule for closing the northbound lanes is as follows: 10 p.m. today (Feb. 3) through 5 a.m. Monday (Feb. 6); 10 p.m. Feb. 10 through 5 a.m. Feb. 13; and over Presidents' Day weekend — between Sunol Boulevard and Bernal Avenue only — from 10 p.m. Feb. 17 to 5 a.m. Feb. 21.

These dates replace the original schedule planned to start with the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday, later postponed due to weather.

Southbound I-680 will remain open and will not be affected by the closure. Learn more at www.680paving.com.

—Bay City News Service

Schiff bids for Senate

U.S. Rep. Adam Schiff (D-Burbank), who was raised in Alamo and graduated from Monte Vista High School in Danville, has announced a bid for the U.S. Senate seat currently held by longtime California Democrat Dianne Feinstein, whose term expires in 2024.

Schiff, a 12-term congressman representing the Los Angeles area who gained national prominence for his role leading the first impeachment trial against then-President Donald Trump, formally launched his campaign on Jan. 25. ■

Council adopts new Housing Element

Approves density increase to PUSD downtown site, brings back St. Augustine location

By CHRISTIAN TRUJANO

The Pleasanton City Council signed off on its 2023-31 Housing Element document during a special council meeting last week after making modifications to the list of sites such as raising the number of units at the downtown school district headquarters.

City staff had first begun working on the city's sixth Housing Element cycle back in March 2021 to accommodate Pleasanton's state-mandated Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) of 5,965 new units — 2,758 of which are targeted toward lower-income households.

Staff then developed a site list with 24 potential locations for redevelopment, which was sent to the California Department of Housing and Community Development for several layers of evaluations and reports back to staff. That list has now been cut down to 19 sites.

During their last hearing on the

matter Dec. 20, council members voted 3-1 to modify the site list by reducing the number of housing units and buildable acres at the Pleasanton Unified School District headquarters on Bernal Avenue, with Vice Mayor Jack Balch dissenting and Councilmember Julie Testa recusing herself because she lives close to the downtown site.

The council directed city staff to reduce the originally recommended 163 dwelling units for the 10.68-acre PUSD district office site to 128 units, which comes out to less than 12 units per acre.

They also voted in December to reduce the 10-acre PUSD Vineyard site, located between Thiessen Street and Manoir Lane, to 7 acres and have three to four units per acre, which adds up to an assumed capacity of 21 to 28 units. They also voted to add some type of greenbelt park that goes through the development.

PUSD Superintendent David

Haglund had worked with the city to add both district-owned sites to the housing sites list with the intention of turning them into workforce housing for teachers.

But after that December meeting, dozens of community members and PUSD officials voiced their concerns either through public comments at the Jan. 17 council meeting or through emails like the district sent on Jan. 9 which outlined why they wanted to keep the flexibility of a higher density range.

"The City Council's decision has serious consequences not only for these district owned properties, but more importantly the City Council's stated desire to retain local control over planning decisions, protect community members from incompatible high-density projects being located immediately adjacent to their neighborhoods and create affordable housing opportunities for school district, city and other municipal

workers," Haglund stated in the email.

Haglund said in the email that the district would have had to enforce a new state law — Assembly Bill 2295 — which would allow PUSD to build workforce housing on land it owns without approval of or input from the city. The minimum density under AB 2295 is 30 units per acre.

That is something that many residents did not want to see, leading many to plead to increase the densities at the district properties.

"Academic excellence for each PUSD student according to their abilities; this should be the goal of our entire community," Pleasanton resident Jan Batcheller said during public comment. "This cannot be achieved or even strived for, without good teachers. There is no better way to attract good young teachers than to have housing they can afford."

See HOUSING on Page 8

Black History Month happenings in the Tri-Valley

A&E events, workshops, panel discussions and more

By NICOLE GONZALES

Across the Tri-Valley, various organizations and groups have planned events to honor Black History Month that runs throughout February.

From film screenings to panel discussions to concerts to dance workshops and more, there are events to educate and entertain everyone during the special recognition month.

Today and Saturday, the city of Dublin and Cheza Nami will present "Moving Together" to showcase rich cultural dance and drumming performances and workshops. Hosted at the Dublin High School performing arts center, dance workshops are held at various times throughout the weekend ranging from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

The dance company will hold the Essence Show on Saturday (Feb. 4) at 7:30 p.m. as their main recital. The production is said to explore the intricacies of culture and music and how different regions express movement to honor their ancestors.

At the Firehouse Arts Center in Pleasanton, "Deep River with Alex Taite" will provide a lecture about African American history, culture and spirituality. It is a one-man show performed



COURTESY LVA

Cleo Parker Robinson Dance's "The Four Journeys" is coming to the Bankhead Theater on Feb. 9.

by Taite in which he explores community and modern connections from his point of view. The lecture takes place this Saturday at 8 p.m.

The Firehouse will also be hosting "An Afternoon or Evening with Frederick Douglass" on Tuesday (Feb. 7) at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. as part of a speaker series co-hosted by the Museum on Main. Douglass will be brought to the stage by scholar-actor Jim

Armstead.

Next Thursday (Feb. 9) at 7:30 p.m. guests can watch Cleo Parker Robinson Dance as they present "The Four Journeys" at the Bankhead Theater in Livermore. The Bankhead said this performance is meant to honor African Diaspora, champion social justice and celebrate cultural diversity. The show is

See BLACK HISTORY on Page 6

DA Price reopens Chavez investigation

PPD officers were previously cleared in 2022 fatal shooting

By CHRISTIAN TRUJANO

Alameda County District Attorney Pamela Price announced Tuesday that her newly created Public Accountability Unit will be reopening the investigation of two Pleasanton police officers who were previously cleared of wrongdoing for fatally shooting a man armed with a knife last year.

A 10-month-long investigation conducted under the purview of then-DA Nancy O'Malley concluded in December that no criminal charges were going to be filed against the two officers for their actions while responding to the domestic violence call that turned into a standoff with Cody Chavez nearly one year ago.

"We have seen many thoughts and prayers being bandied about the police murder of Tyre Nichols in Memphis, Tennessee. The people of Tennessee want accountability — and so do the people of Alameda County," Price said. "I promised accountability. This unit and its work are the start of the reckoning Alameda County has asked for

See CHAVEZ on Page 11

BART on the brink? Future of agency likely to hinge on voter-approved funding measure

Ridership still only a fraction of pre-pandemic levels, creating \$300M annual budget hole

Barring a sudden return to pre-pandemic ridership levels, BART's long-term future will likely hinge on a future ballot measure that would partially subsidize the transit agency, officials said last week.

The San Francisco and San Jose metropolitan areas have the lowest office occupancy rates among the top-10 biggest metros in the country, with San Francisco sitting at just 20.8% according to badge swipe data from Kastle Security.

By comparison, an average of 32.8% of office space is occupied among the 10 largest metro areas, which includes the two Bay Area cities as well as Los Angeles, New York, Chicago and Austin.

That lack of in-person workers, particularly in San Francisco, has punched a massive hole in BART's annual revenue and the agency could soon cut service and close stations in the coming years as a result.

Riders generated roughly \$500 million per year pre-pandemic via fare revenue, but with weekday ridership regularly sitting between 30% and 40% of pre-pandemic expectations and no sign of a return to the ridership levels of the previous decade, BART is now aiming to close an annual budget gap of some \$300 million.

"We built our budget around peak worker riders, and when they went away, it sort of broke our back, it broke the budget," BART Board Director Mark Foley said during a presentation Jan. 26 by the agency's budget and operations officials.

BART's financial planning is further complicated by roughly two-thirds of its expenses being fixed or semi-fixed, such as upkeep of BART facilities, maintenance and

maintaining the BART police force.

As such, BART officials have been adamant that there is not a level of service cuts that would erase the agency's projected deficits without gutting service to the point that BART would go into a "death spiral," as planning officials said at the board's Dec. 2 meeting.

Without additional revenue from fares, new taxes or some other source, BART is on track to run out of pandemic-era emergency relief funding by mid-2025.

At that point, BART officials estimate that the agency would have to eliminate service on the Richmond-Millbrae and San Jose-Daly City lines, close roughly nine stations, reduce service to weekdays only and limit trains to arriving once every hour just to break even.

With that sword of Damocles hanging over BART as well as the region's other major public transit operations, the Metropolitan Transportation Commission, the region's transit coordination agency, has considered placing a long-term funding measure on the 2026 or 2028 ballot.

The MTC is also considering placing a \$10 billion bond on the November 2024 ballot, which the agency argues will support the development of more than 45,000 affordable housing units across the Bay Area's nine counties.

Transit officials have been hesitant to place both a housing and transit funding measure on the same ballot, with the expectation that voters may shy away from approving multiple bond measures or tax increases at the same time.

A transit-specific ballot measure would support either the Bay Area's

five main counties — San Francisco, Alameda, Santa Clara, San Mateo and Contra Costa — or all nine counties.

BART could also place its own measure on a future ballot, one which could be focused on voters in BART's three counties with the most service — San Francisco, Alameda and Contra Costa — or all five counties that the agency serves.

Even with the agency's fiscal cliff not forecasted for another two calendar years, BART Board President Janice Li argued the timeline to decide on the impending budget crisis is even shorter.

"If we don't have a plan in place by the time we pass our next budget in June, we're going to start having to consider austerity measures," she said.

Li suggested not finalizing a long-term funding plan in the coming months will also further exacerbate BART's current hiring issues, as workers will be hesitant to apply to a job where they may soon face layoffs.

BART officials plan to meet with state legislators next week and federal legislators in March to discuss the need for protecting and even making efforts to bolster transportation funding.

Some Bay Area state legislators have already indicated support to do so.

A baker's dozen of lawmakers including Sen. Scott Wiener (D-San Francisco) and Assemblywoman Mia Bonta (D-Oakland) sending a letter Jan. 18 to leadership of both legislative bodies to protect planned transportation funding after Gov. Gavin Newsom suggested billions in cuts in his proposed state budget.



RAY SAINT GERMAIN/BCN FOUNDATION

A BART train arrives at an East Bay station.

The state is currently facing a deficit of some \$22.5 billion, largely due to a nearly \$30 billion year-over-year drop in capital gains tax revenue. Newsom has proposed cutting or delaying the allocation of several billion dollars that had previously been earmarked for transit infrastructure projects and modernization.

The legislators argued the state should honor its prior commitments for transportation funding, dipping into the state's \$35.6 billion in reserves if necessary, and plan to provide relief funding in next year's budget.

BART Director Debora Allen suggested the agency should re-examine and possibly reorganize its structure even if it's not possible to make enough feasible cuts to close BART's projected deficits.

"It's clear more money is needed. ... We cannot cut all the way out of this but I will say that I believe we can cut some of our spending to sort of meet in the middle between more revenue and the expenditures that it

takes to run this organization," she said.

Foley argued that BART officials should also develop a back-up plan if the agency forges ahead with placing a funding measure on a future ballot, noting that the current "plan B" is the drastic reduction of service officials have forecast.

"I am concerned that putting our eggs in the tax measure basket, what if that fails, like so many other measures fail, because people don't want to be taxed anymore?" he asked.

Foley added that remote work and hybrid schedules are the new normal and that the agency cannot expect the region to ever return to workers taking BART to their office or business five days per week.

"Any recognition we have around that change of workers and working in the Bay Area needs to be factored into ... our projections," he said. "How do we run this service when you only get 50% of the riders for the next two decades? What does that look like?" ■

—Eli Walsh, BCN Foundation

BLACK HISTORY

Continued from Page 5

a ballet that infuses African and Mexican elements of dance, with

influences of Asia and Europe as well.

In San Ramon, the local YMCA group will be hosting the "We Are Black History Family Skate Party"

to bring community members together. Free skate rentals are available, as well as food, raffles and other games. The event takes place on Feb. 11 from 7:30-9:30 p.m. at The Golden Skate.

For the second year, the Livermore Public Library will display the art exhibit "The Arthur Wright" for the entirety of Black History Month.

Works in the exhibit are meant to celebrate the African Diaspora. The gallery will be on display from Feb. 1-28. Artists such as Hilda Robinson, Yolonda Patton and others are featured. A reception is planned for Feb. 11 at 2 p.m. at the Civic Center Library Art Gallery in Livermore.

As part of a tribute performance, Stella Health is set to showcase "The Billie Holiday Project" to honor one of Jazz's most iconic figures. The show will take place Feb. 12 at 2 p.m. at the Firehouse.

On Feb. 18 at 8 p.m. at the Bankhead, guests can watch the music of Sam Cooke come to life from musical talent, Darrian Ford in "The Cooke Book: The Music of Sam Cooke". Ford performs over 20 songs from Cooke's discography, the late artist that inspired so many African-American artists into musical careers. According to Bankhead staff, Ford will perform expanded and re-invigorated arrangements of the original Cooke songs.

Feb. 23 at 7:30 p.m. the professional dance group Step Afrika! is performing their main recital at the Bankhead Theater. Traditional styles of movement from African and African-American cultures, as well as contemporary dances, will be performed. Step Afrika! Aims to highlight the act of stepping through art and education.

A free screening of the movie "Hidden Figures" will be shown at the Danville Senior Center on Feb.

28 at 10 a.m. Senior Center staff encourage adults to come out and celebrate Black History Month with the movie that portrays historical strides made not only for NASA and space exploration but for the African American community.

As part of the Livermore Public Library's Black History Month celebrations, "Black Women Who Create" will take place Feb. 28 at 7 p.m. on Zoom. Hosted by author Tina Jones Williams, the online panel focuses on a diverse group of women and the various artistic careers they have. Williams is an award-winning author who champions traditions and history of African American communities.

Organizers said, "The group includes writers, visual artists, educators, philanthropists, and entrepreneurs. Each panel member will share her story, why she chose her current path, challenges, successes, and hopes for the future." ■

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Community rallies to support Sunol Glen School cleanup efforts

Campus still recovering from New Year's Eve storm and flood damage

BY CHRISTIAN TRUJANO

Over 200 people will be cleaning up flood damage at the Sunol Glen School this Saturday caused by the barrage of atmospheric river storms, which started on New Year's Eve, school district Superintendent Molleen Barnes confirmed.

The "Sunol Glen Flood Damage Clean Up Day" will have residents help with wiping down play structures, move fallen debris, rake the fields and shovel mud.

"We are incredibly grateful for our school and community and know that we have a lot of folks pulling for us and who are providing not only funds and supplies, but their willingness to come and work side-by-side to get our school closer to its beautiful pre-storm condition," Barnes told the Weekly.

The clean up event, which will take place from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., will be hosted by the office of Alameda County Supervisor David Haubert.

"Sunol experienced a tremendous amount of damage," Haubert, whose district encompasses the community, said in a press release. "The atmospheric river deluge devastated Sunol

Glen School, creating extensive damage to classrooms, offices, the school garden and playground. When you combine that with the road and infrastructure damage, as well as the personal property losses for many residents, it's clear Sunol neighbors need our help."

Along with getting the community's physical help to clean up the school, the Three Valleys Community Foundation recently announced that it will also help the Sunol school through a special philanthropic fund.

"We are delighted to stand strong with the greater Sunol community to help address these unmet needs," foundation CEO Kelly Bowers said in a statement. "The rains may have dissipated, but the relief needs remain. This field of interest fund will provide that necessary long-term recovery assistance."

The second-year regional foundation works with local donors and nonprofits to "achieve their impact goals through inclusive leadership, thoughtful funding, informed giving and collaborative action," according to its website.

According to a press release from

the foundation, three Sunol based organizations — the Sunol Business Guild, the Sunol Glen Community Club and the Sunol Citizens Advisory Council — have joined together to "prioritize the recovery and directly help local businesses and residents via the Sunol Relief and Recovery Fund."

"Our three organizations are committed to helping our residents, school and local businesses recover from this emergency," said Andrew Turnbull, an officer with the Sunol Business Guild. "We hope residents in the greater Tri-Valley and East Bay will join our efforts and support the Sunol Relief and Recovery Fund."

Barnes told the Weekly that she is appreciative of the help coming in from all sides of the county and of the foundation for working to provide a donation that will help mitigate the needs due to the flood's aftermath.

She added that while she and her fellow Sunol Glen Unified School District leaders have been working hard over the past four weeks in cleaning up the school, there is still a lot more to be done.



SGUSD

Recovery efforts continue indoors and outdoors at Sunol Glen School following flooding damage last month.

"We have put forth a lot of work over the past four weeks including using bobcats to remove mud and debris from our blacktop surfaces, empty out classrooms, offices and storage rooms that were flooded, begin the work of putting in new walls and flooring, working on starting the process to repair and replace the three portable classrooms (that will need to be demolished) and repair areas that were significantly damaged," Barnes said.

"We were able to put up temporary

fencing along the back of the school and carve out small 'play areas' so that the students are able to have safe places to run around for recess and P.E. — it is a joy to see how resilient kids are and that although 85% of their play area is gone, they are truly making the most of it!" she added.

Apart from the three new portable classrooms, the school will also need a new fence, playground equipment, classroom materials, new rugs and other miscellaneous supplies before the school is fully restored. ■

HOUSING

Continued from Page 5

Pleasanton Downtown Association board president Randy Brown added to that saying his organization would much rather have a locally planned and well built housing project that the council has a chance to weigh in on compared to a 30 units per acre project that would take away from the downtown charm.

In the Jan. 9 PUSD letter to the council, the district came up with a new assumed capacity number of units at 139 total, for which the council unanimously approved during the special meeting on Jan. 26.

The downtown site will now be zoned for 8-13 dwelling units per acre to reach the 139 total units, but that decision wasn't the first proposal as Councilmember Valerie Arkin had first motioned to keep the previously reduced density range.

"My reason for decreasing the density — and it is just a little bit, it's not very much — is, I am trying to be sensitive to the neighboring residents, the historic neighborhood in particular," said Arkin, who is a former PUSD trustee. "This is a gateway to our downtown, it is going to change the character of our downtown."

She made it clear that while she was never originally supportive of the district zoning its properties because of the possible future need of another site to build a school, she was always supportive of workforce housing for teachers.

While she stated that her reasons for the decision were because the

council was only voting on rezoning parameters and not on workforce housing for that specific site, she noted that the district could have always come back with a development agreement to increase the unit count in the future.

But as Arkin looked for a second to her motion of keeping the low-density range, Councilmember Jeff Nibert weighed in saying that one important aspect of the discussion was that the Planning Commission never received a plan for the district site coming into the December meeting where the council voted to first reduce that site's density range.

"The staff report from that date on page 17 contains one paragraph regarding the site where it says there may be an opportunity to work with PUSD to develop at least some of the units here as teacher housing," Nibert said. "No mention of any plan."

As a former planning commissioner, Nibert said that following the Jan. 9 letter that contained the PUSD revised proposal, he felt more comfortable agreeing to that plan, which proposes several compromises.

"It turns out that it did address my concerns," Nibert said regarding the letter. "It also contained a terrific suggestion to enter into a pre-development agreement with the city that will be good for 10 years. Having said that, I want to also reiterate what I have long believed: I tremendously value maintaining and strengthening a strong collaboration between the city and the school district. I think the revised plan and the pre-development and development

agreements that are suggested would greatly support our partnership."

Balch seconded Nibert's motion stating that he supports the district's proposal and added that he trusts district leadership to properly plan out the development while taking into consideration the many concerns brought up by surrounding neighbors such as traffic and loss of privacy.

"I absolutely believe our school district is trustworthy ... and I want to support them in their endeavors to educate our children in this community," Balch said. "So why are they being put through so many hoops when 17 other property owners did not have to produce a plan either. So I sit here and I have to say; why are we doing this if we are supposed to be in partnership with our school district?"

After Arkin went back on her motion and the council unanimously approved the increase in density at the downtown site, the PUSD site on Vineyard was the other main site in question.

Testa had suggested at first to completely remove the site from the list as she wanted the district to honor a promise of turning that location into a school or a park.

"To be liquidating school sites at a time when the city is being forced to increase housing stock by 20%, this may not currently be the appropriate location," Testa said. "But banking it and holding on to it as Councilmember Arkin said, would be the appropriate thing to do in a community that is being forced to cover all land with housing."

But after that didn't pass and the council tried to work through different alternate motions, they ended up voting to keep the Vineyard site at three to four dwelling units per acre with the 3 acres of open space.

Apart from the PUSD sites, the other big item that was discussed was the St. Augustine Catholic Church site, which staff originally took off the site list but decided to bring back during the December meeting.

That decision to bring the location back was one that many residents of the area were not fond of as they pointed to water issues in the ground that could affect the neighborhood.

"We're like down a hill from the St. Augustine property," Andrew Shotland said. "My backyard is probably about a 2,000-square-foot kind of wall of ivy and trees and I believe our neighbors have the same. We never water that property never and it thrives. It's got wildlife, all that kind of stuff. I'm concerned that if we do a lot of construction up there, we're going to screw around with the aquifer or whatever is keeping all of our trees and such alive and kind of make that habitat unstable."

He and other of his neighbors also said that the tall buildings that would be built on top of the hill would impede on their privacy.

"I'm a widow with two young boys. I moved to Pleasanton and my home for three reasons: my home bordered an open space, I was in a safe cul-de-sac and I didn't have a ton of neighbors in my backyard," Carolyn DeVault told the council. "These three reasons were important

to me because I care about the safety and security of my boys. This proposed development compromises all the reasons I moved to Pleasanton and my home."

But despite the comments, the council voted to keep the site at the two to seven units per acre across the roughly 4 acres with an assumed capacity of 29 total units.

Mayor Karla Brown asked staff about the water issues, to which community development director Ellen Clark said staff would look into it at later stages.

"As part of any development plan, we would carefully review the grading stormwater management and make sure that stormwater was properly detained and did not cause offsite impact," Clark said.

The council also ended up unanimously voting to keep the site as Mayor Brown added that even though the city is being forced to develop tons of new housing projects, St. Augustine is one that she can support. Balch recused himself from the vote as he lived near the church.

The council also unanimously voted on density increases to the Metro 580 and Oracle properties and a decrease to Valley Plaza property due to concerns that four-story buildings may not be appropriate in this location given residential adjacencies.

Now that the Housing Element has been adopted, staff will have to resubmit it to HCD, which then has 30-60 days to review the document and issue any additional comments before final certification. ■

Swalwell fires back after Intelligence Committee ouster

McCarthy cites 'national security' concerns; Swalwell alleges 'political vengeance'

By JEANITA LYMAN

U.S. Rep. Eric Swalwell (D-Livermore) responded last week to newly elected House Speaker Kevin McCarthy's decision to reject him from reappointment to the House Intelligence Committee, defending himself against allegations from the Republican leader while calling the decision an act of "political vengeance" and a repeat of history.

"The new McCarthy looks a lot like the old McCarthy," Swalwell said in a press conference on Jan. 25 — referring to late Sen. Joseph McCarthy's infamous tenure in the 1950s. "The old McCarthy abused political power to punish and demean and smear his political opponents, and the new McCarthy in Washington is doing the same."

Swalwell was joined by fellow U.S. Rep. Adam Schiff (D-Burbank) and Rep. Ilhan Omar (D-Minn.), who also responded to allegations from McCarthy and his decision to reject the former from reappointment to chair of the Intelligence Committee, as well as his promise to block the latter from appointment to the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

"Throughout this journey of vengeance, the three of us have chosen to stick together because this isn't about any individual committee assignment, this is about an institution where the speaker of the house is using his power to go after his political opponents and pick them off the field," Swalwell said.

Schiff, who led the first impeachment trial against then-President Donald Trump, has Tri-Valley ties as well, having grown up partly in Alamo and graduated from Monte Vista High School in Danville.

McCarthy was elected as House majority speaker on Jan. 7, following several days of contentious votes and Republican infighting at the outset of the 118th U.S. Congress on Jan. 3, which marked the first time in over 100 years that a speaker was elected past the first day of a new Congress' proceedings.

Hakeem Jeffries (D-N.Y.) was elected as minority leader by House Democrats on Jan. 3, following their loss of a majority of congressional seats in last year's general election and the retirement of Rep. Nancy Pelosi (D-S.F.) as Democratic House leader.

As Speaker of the House, McCarthy — who has unilateral authority over the House Intelligence Committee — moved quickly to remove Swalwell and Schiff, reasoning that his national security concerns about the two democrats outweighed

their experience and time on the committee in a response to a letter to Jeffries from Jan. 21 requesting that he keep Reps. Swalwell and Schiff on the body.

"I appreciate the loyalty you have to your Democrat colleagues, and I acknowledge your efforts to have two Members of Congress reinstated to the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence," McCarthy said in a Jan. 24 letter to Jeffries that he posted on Twitter. "But I cannot put partisan loyalty ahead of national security, and I cannot simply recognize years of service as the sole criteria for membership



Eric Swalwell

on this essential committee."

For Swalwell in particular, McCarthy cited an FBI briefing from 2015 that found a woman who served for Swalwell's campaign had been discovered to be a spy for China's Ministry of State Security, leading to House Republicans — then in the minority — to call for Swalwell's removal from the committee in 2020 when the news was leaked to Axios.

The national news report by Axios over two years ago stated that Swalwell was not accused of any wrongdoing and immediately cut ties in 2015 when alerted to the allegations against Fang Fang, also known as Christine Fang. Still, Republican critics and conservative media have used the Fang Fang case in efforts to erode Swalwell's credibility.

Last week, Swalwell emphasized that he had been shocked to learn of the potential foreign interference in his 2014 campaign and doubled-down on his stance that McCarthy had political motives behind the decision, rather than national security concerns.

"The claims that Speaker McCarthy has made about me — that I could never get a security clearance — Mr. Schiff was also briefed on and supported me staying on the committee because the FBI said three times that all I did was two things: I helped them, over and over, and I was never suspected of wrongdoing," Swalwell said.

Swalwell added that, with the incident and FBI investigation being years old, speakers prior to McCarthy, along with then-President Trump, had been privy

to the same information, yet kept him on the committee.

"Donald Trump at the time had more access to any classified information than anyone here," Swalwell said. "Just like he called out my colleagues here at rallies, he called me out all the time. If he could have embarrassed me to weaponize classified information, you know he would."

Despite expressing frustrations and concerns about the veracity of the House and its committees under McCarthy's leadership, Swalwell said that he, Schiff and Omar would continue to band together to fight against what they see as destructive moves from the new House speaker.

"We're not going away," Swalwell said. "I think he will regret giving us more time on our hands." ■



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LVJUSD bids farewell to Trustee White

Served on Livermore school board for 32 years

By CIERRA BAILEY

Longevity in an elected position is often a sign of effective leadership and Anne White's 32-year tenure on the Livermore school board proved to be a testament to that. Although she was not chosen by voters to serve another term, she leaves behind a commendable legacy lauded by her former colleagues.

At its Jan. 17 meeting, the current Board of Education recognized White's contributions to the Livermore education system in a special tribute that included a video montage featuring photos of her through the years.

After the presentation, White shared some outgoing words of advice and encouragement to the current board.

"Go to the spelling bee. When a teacher invites you to her classroom, go. Go to the plays. Go to

the music concerts. That's the fun part," she said, adding that she knows that sometimes the work can be "unfun" but the good parts make it all worthwhile. "We all are here for the students and we all mean well for them," she said.

Prior to the Nov. 8 general election, White was the longest serving member of the board. She was first elected in 1990.

"Mrs. White served eight consecutive four-year terms. She worked with five different superintendents — which is half the total we've had in the district's history," Superintendent Chris Van Schaack said during the recognition ceremony.

He continued, "She was a trustee for the graduation of over 25,000 students from Livermore schools and worked on countless committees and subcommittees. She attended over 600 board meetings

and helped to commemorate both the beginning and the ending of many storied careers in this district. She has participated in the highs and the lows of over three decades of this educational institution. She will forever be remembered as the district historian and for being a trustee committed to asking probing and challenging questions."

The trustees who worked with White also shared farewell remarks.

Kristie Wang and Yanira Guzmán — who were both elected in 2020 and are still in their first terms — said that they considered White a mentor as she answered their questions and offered them guidance when they first decided to run for seats on the board and after they won.

Board Clerk Emily Prusso also said she learned a lot from White over the years.

"I've learned the ins and outs of being a board member, how to be on a committee, how to participate



LVJUSD

The Livermore school board paid tribute to longtime Trustee Anne White at her final meeting.

in meetings and how to wave in parades — which is the most important part," she said humorously.

White ran for reelection in 2022 along with fellow incumbents Prusso and Craig Bueno. While Prusso and Bueno held onto their spots on the board, White fell short of receiving enough votes to

reclaim her seat. She came in sixth place out of nine candidates, according to the final results certified by the Alameda County Registrar of Voters' Office.

The newest trustee who clenched the third seat is Steven Drouin. He was sworn in at the board's Dec. 13 meeting. ■

San Ramon Mayor Hudson absent indefinitely after stroke

Vice Mayor Armstrong filling in for mayoral duties

By JEREMY WALSH

San Ramon Mayor Dave Hudson is currently not participating in City Council meetings and other city business while he recovers from a recent stroke.

Interim City Manager Steven Spedowski confirmed the mayor's extended absence on Monday after Hudson missed two City Council meetings last week amid his recovery. There is no timetable for Hudson's return.

"Upon return from a trip to Washington D.C., Mayor Hudson fell ill and is currently recovering.

He is expected to return in the future," Spedowski told the Weekly. "In the meantime, Vice Mayor Mark Armstrong is fulfilling the mayoral duties. We wish Mayor Hudson a speedy recovery and look forward to his return as soon as he feels better."

Hudson just started his second consecutive two-year term as mayor after winning a three-candidate race in the November general election. He



Dave Hudson

had held a regular City Council seat for 23 straight years before being first elected as mayor in November 2020.

The illness — later confirmed to be a stroke — forced Hudson to miss last week's regular council meeting as well as a special joint meeting with the Parks and Community Services Commission, according to Spedowski. The State of the City event, organized by the San Ramon Chamber of Commerce to center around the mayor's annual address, has also been postponed indefinitely from its Feb. 7 date in light of Hudson's absence. ■

Appellate court denies group's rehearing request in Eden Housing case

By CIERRA BAILEY

The state appellate court has rejected Save Livermore Downtown's petition for a rehearing after previously denying the group's appeal against the city's approval of a 130-unit affordable housing development.

The court also opted to certify its ruling as a published opinion, granting requests submitted from multiple organizations throughout the month of January, including the city of Livermore and developer Eden Housing, Inc. as well as the California Building Industry Association and state deputy attorney general Andrew R. Contreiras, among others.

Presiding Justice Alison M. Tucher authored the opinion and Justices Carin Fujisaki and Ioana

Petrou concurred.

"The City of Livermore is pleased that the Court of Appeals denied the request for rehearing and that it reaffirmed its decision which upheld the City of Livermore's approval of the project, and contains its determination that Save Livermore Downtown's lawsuit was meritless," city attorney Jason Alcalá told Livermore Vine in an email.

"The City also appreciates the Courts' decision to publish the opinion so that it becomes binding law in California. The decision has garnered significant interest to curb the abuses inherent in CEQA litigation that enable parties to needlessly delay much needed housing projects," Alcalá added.

SLD filed its appeal last April after the initial lawsuit was denied

in Alameda County Superior Court back in February of 2022.

The appellate court's decision marks another setback for the group that has been advocating for the housing to be relocated to an undetermined location and for a public park to be built on the current project site in downtown Livermore instead.

SLD's case hinged on the argument that the plans for the project are inconsistent with the city's own Downtown Specific Plan and violate state environmental requirements.

However, the appellate court agreed with the trial court that SLD's arguments "lack merit" and determined that there was "no abuse of discretion in the trial court's ruling."

A request for comment from SLD was unsuccessful as of press time. ■

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Bay Area bridge toll increases finally approved at end of long litigation

State Supreme Court clears way for \$545 million in RM3 funds to be released

A pot of \$545 million destined for new projects in the Bay Area may soon be released from escrow after litigation over a 2018 ballot measure on bridge toll increases finally comes to an end.

The California Supreme Court on Jan. 25 let stand a decision from the state Court of Appeal in a case brought by the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association challenging toll increases on seven state-operated Bay Area bridges.

Howard Jarvis was an anti-tax gadfly best known for his role in the 1978 passage of Proposition 13, which amended the California Constitution to limit tax on California real estate. HJTA advocates and frequently litigates against taxes.

HJTA challenged the \$1 bridge toll increases set for 2019, 2022 and 2025 as part of Regional Measure 3, which was approved by the region's voters in 2018. HJTA argued that the tolls were actually taxes and even though they were approved in the state Legislature and by citizen ballots, the percentages approved were less than the two-thirds required for special taxes.

The case was filed in San Francisco Superior Court in 2018. That court ruled against HJTA on April 23, 2019, and the Court of Appeal affirmed the decision on June 29, 2020.

HJTA then successfully petitioned the California Supreme Court to take the case up for review, but the high court put

the case on hold pending the disposition of a case with similar issues involving charges for trash and recycling pickup in Oakland. Once that case was resolved, the Supreme Court dismissed HJTA's petition for review and returned the case to the Court of Appeal.

Under the California Rules of Court, when the Supreme Court dismisses a petition for review, the opinion of the Court of Appeal remains in effect.

The 2019 and 2022 toll increases were not suspended during the case and the roughly \$545 million collected was placed into escrow pending the conclusion of the litigation, according to a spokesperson for the Metropolitan Transportation Commission.

A third toll increase is scheduled for 2025 and it is anticipated that the tolls will ultimately provide \$4.45 billion in capital funding for major transportation projects to relieve traffic congestion in the Bay Area, including \$325 million for a Caltrain downtown San Francisco extension and \$500 million for new BART cars.

Emily Loper, a spokesperson for the Bay Area Council, a business advocacy organization, said the release of the funds will await further procedural steps, but that the parties are "committed to unlocking the funds quickly to flow to these projects."

Loper said the council "led the campaign to pass the measure in June 2018."

Tom Butt, until two weeks ago the mayor of the city of Richmond, was elated by the decision, which he said "includes hundreds of millions of dollars to relieve traffic congestion at the Richmond San Rafael Bridge, including \$75 million specially for the east end. It also includes \$300 million for enhancing ferry service, including the Richmond ferry."

In an interview with Bay City News, Butt said that he never doubted the ultimate outcome but was disappointed that it took so long.

"It was kind of a no-brainer, but you know these things have to work their way through the system," he said. ■

—Joe Dworetzky, BCN Foundation

CHAVEZ

Continued from Page 5

holding people accountable for their misconduct."

Officers Brian Jewell and Mario Guillermo were found to be legally justified in killing 33-year-old Chavez outside an apartment on Willow Road on Feb. 17, 2022. The former DA's officer-involved shooting investigation team stated that Chavez approached police with a large knife and failed to respond to commands that he drop the weapon before running toward the officers.

The report, signed by O'Malley, was released publicly by the Pleasanton Police Department in early January.

"The Pleasanton Police Officers Association is confident that any fair and objective review of this case will simply confirm the findings of the comprehensive investigation previously conducted," Nicholas Albert, president of the Pleasanton Police Officers Association, told the Weekly on Tuesday.

"An investigation in which the District Attorney's Office concluded, 'There is insufficient evidence to support the criminal prosecution of our involved officers and further stated that officers' use of deadly force was necessary because Mr. Chavez posed an imminent threat of death or serious bodily injury to officers,' " Albert added. "The Pleasanton Police Officers Association is steadfast in our support of our officers' necessary actions taken to protect the community and themselves."

Pleasanton PD administration had not yet responded to requests for comment about Price reopening the case.

In the wake of recent police brutality discussions following the Nichols case and to keep her campaign promise of police accountability after taking office four weeks ago, Price stated

in a press release Tuesday that she wants her office to further review the Chavez case and seven other officer-involved or in-custody deaths.

"These reports were released at the 11th hour, just weeks before I took office. As the top prosecutor, I want to give each case a thorough review to ensure justice has not been forgotten," Price said. "I've made sure that my office has attempted to reach out to each of the families of the deceased. The healing process cannot begin until we do our due diligence."

The Public Accountability Unit, which Price recently formed, will be tasked with holding law enforcement and public officials accountable for misconduct. The unit will be housed under a Civil Rights Bureau, which will oversee the new unit.

The five other officer-involved shooting cases that will be reviewed include the deaths of Caleb Smith involving Hayward Police in 2021; Joshua Gloria involving Fremont Police in 2021; Agustin Gonzalez involving Hayward Police in 2019; Mack Jody Woodfox involving the Oakland Police in 2008; and Andrew Moppin-Buckskin involving the Oakland Police in 2007.

"Three of the six officer-involved shooting cases were recently reviewed by the office, under the direction of former District Attorney Nancy O'Malley, with findings in December 2022 that no criminal charges were justified," Price's press release stated.

The cases of Mario Gonzalez, who died in custody of the Alameda Police Department in 2021, and Vinetta Martin, who died at Santa Rita Jail in Dublin in 2021, will also



Cody Chavez

be reopened.

"Madam DA has heard the voices of the community when she was elected to this office and has put her vision for police accountability into action," said senior assistant DA Kwixuan Maloof, head of the Public Accountability Unit and lead attorney of the Civil Rights Bureau. "A reopening of these cases does not guarantee charges will be filed, but will give this office and my team time for a thoughtful review and to leave no stone left unturned."

The investigation into Chavez's death was released days before Price was set to take over the DA's office.

According to the DA investigation report, PPD officers responded to a domestic violence call at the Galloway Apartments at 1 p.m. on Feb. 17, 2022 where they attempted to make contact with Chavez and enter the apartment following a report from a woman who was in a romantic relationship with Chavez and who lived at the apartment.

According to her initial 911 call, Chavez had beaten her and attempted to smother her with a pillow the previous night.

What followed was an hours-long standoff between Chavez and PPD officers and special units who attempted to de-escalate the situation after noticing Chavez had barricaded himself inside, according to the report.

After three hours, officers obtained a judge-signed warrant for Chavez's arrest on two counts of assault and imprisonment of the resident of the apartment, police said. Officers then attempted to use tactical robots and a drone to get into the apartment to assess the situation.

But according to the investigation report and body camera footage, Chavez exited the apartment and charged at the officers with the 8-inch kitchen knife. ■

Ralph "Dennis" Remund

January 16, 1944 – December 30, 2022

Dennis Remund passed away peacefully in his sleep, surrounded by his family on December 30, 2022. He was raised in Oakland, CA and graduated from St. Elizabeth's High School in 1962. He married his high school sweetheart and the love of his life, Jeanne Silva in 1964. They relocated to Castro Valley for a few short years then settled in their forever home in Pleasanton, CA where they raised four children together.



Dennis was a well respected plumber who worked on many landmark projects throughout the Bay Area. He was a Local 444 which merged with Local 342 union member who worked for only two employers for the duration of his career before his well-deserved retirement.

Dennis enjoyed camping and boating with his wife and family. He created lasting memories at numerous California recreational lakes including his favorite, Lake Shasta where they vacationed every summer for over 30 years. He loved sports, specifically baseball and football and was a die hard Green Bay Packers fan. Dennis was a talented craftsman who enjoyed woodworking in his spare time.

He was a known practical joker. He loved creating gag gifts for family during the holidays and wrapping them in creative packages, if Dennis picked your name out of the hat, you were in for a humorous surprise!

He was a loving husband, dedicated father and an adored "Papa". He was a faithful friend to everyone he knew and went out of his way to help anyone in need. He will be remembered for his genuine kindness and his fantastic sense of humor.

Dennis is survived by his wife Jeanne of more than 58 wonderful years, his daughters Lisa, Kris and Katy, his son Vince and his ten grandchildren, Alyssa, Trevor, Ali, Tori, Madi, Jenna, Kayla, Paige, Emily and Olivia.

There will be a Celebration of life at St. Augustine's Catholic Church, 3999 Bernal Ave., Pleasanton, CA 94566 at 10:00 AM on Saturday, February 18, 2023. In Lieu of flowers, please consider donating to Hospice, Gimag Healthcare, who took amazing care of Dennis in his final days, www.gimaghealth.com

PAID OBITUARY



Making an impact in the Tri-Valley and beyond



Top of page: Fourth and fifth generations of the Wente family: Christine, Niki, Phil, Aly, Karl D., Jordan, Carolyn and Eric. (Photo courtesy Wente Vineyards). **Above:** Tasting Lounge reserve tasting with crab cake and prawn. (Photo by Deborah Grossman).

Wente Vineyards has called Livermore home for 140 years. On the national front, Wente is the oldest, continuously operating family winery. It is rare for a family business to survive past three generations. The fifth generation of Wentes now lead the company.

Survival since 1883 is remarkable for any company, especially American wineries. Many shuttered during Prohibition and some faltered during the COVID-19 disruption. Wente survived the dry years by selling sacramental wine. During the pandemic years, the Wente family has reinvented their hospitality profile and recommitted to quality wine, sustainability and community focus.

The Wentes have long focused on bringing friends together at the table with good wine and food while encouraging people to enjoy the arts, especially music. Before the pandemic, The Restaurant on Arroyo Road was known for white tablecloth dining with fine food and a lengthy wine list. The summer concerts drew big-name entertainers. Wine tastings were offered at both the tasting room by the production facility on Tesla Road and next to The Restaurant.

Aly Wente, vice president of marketing and customer experience and one of the four women comprising the Wente fifth generation, has helped reimagine the hospitality profile. "Guests used to visit the Wente venue mainly for the food. We now shine the light on our wine, and food is available to complement the wine," she said.

BY DEBORAH GROSSMAN

'We want to continue to make Livermore Valley ... a world-class winegrowing region and destination.'

Karl D. Wente,
COO and chief winemaker

What's new at Wente

After closing the Tesla Road tasting room, Wente transformed the dining building and patio into The Tasting Lounge open from Thursday through Sunday with Mondays added in March. The three tasting experiences range from a wine flight with a la carte food (think: \$5 popcorn or \$30 charcuterie boards) to The Reserve Tasting with a dedicated ambassador pouring four wines and serving a three-course mini gourmet meal.

The Grill restaurant at The Course at Wente Vineyards golf center near the wine lounge serves casual food, wine and cocktails to the public during daytime hours Thursday through Sunday.

For those missing Wente full-on meals, the winery has started hosting culinary events at the Wente Event Center next to the wine lounge, with three winemaker dinners planned through May.

The first culinary event was a January crab feed. After the feast, Howard Hughes of Livermore said he previously enjoyed the gourmet dinners and concerts with Tony Bennett and Train, but added, "The all-you-can-eat food and wine today were good, and the live band was fun and not too loud."

Live Music Saturdays at The Tasting Lounge present local bands, wine by the bottle and snacks for purchase with no cover charge. The summer concert schedule includes five tribute bands. The casual events call for bringing low-backed lawn chairs and noshing at food trucks.



WENTE VINEYARDS

The Wentes gather to toast the 140th anniversary of the longtime family business.



WENTE VINEYARDS

Historic photo shows Wente Vineyards founder Carl H. Wente.

The wine portfolio

Morning Fog Chardonnay is the biggest selling Wente Vineyards wine. Riva Ranch Chardonnay is another Wente top seller. The winery also sells nth DEGREE Chardonnay, a project originated by fifth generation chief operating officer and chief winemaker Karl D. Wente 20 years ago, and Eric's Chardonnay made in the un-oaked style preferred by Eric Wente, third generation chairman emeritus of the board.

Wines with the Wente Vineyards label, aka the estate tier, are sold nationally at grocery

and wine stores and listed on many restaurant beverage lists. The Southern Hills Cabernet Sauvignon, Wetmore Cabernet Sauvignon and Riva Ranch Pinot Noir are also top sellers. The additional wine tiers, Small Lot, Limited Release, nth DEGREE and Artist series, are only available at the winery, though the wine club or online.

Eric's Chardonnay is part of the Small Lot production. Several other family members have also helped create wines. Aly's Pinot Noir, a light and food-friendly wine, was recently launched. Aly's sister Niki, a rosé fan, helped develop Niki's Rosé Pinot Noir.

The Artist Series is of special note for two reasons. The labels are currently designed by a local Daly City artist. From the sale of the wines, 5% is donated to support arts in local schools and the community through the Wente Foundation for Arts Education (WFAE).

Impact on California, and the world

For a medium-sized U.S. winery, Wente has held an oversized influence on the national wine industry and the Tri-Valley region.

Eric's daughter Christine Wente was the first of the fifth generation Wentes to join the business. She helped establish the WFAE in 2012. Since then the WFAE has donated over \$1.1 million to support the community.

During the shelter-in-place in 2020, WFAE donated \$50,000 to the Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District to purchase technology for distance learning. Christine chairs the Livermore Valley Wine Auction, a partnership of the WFAE and the Livermore Valley Winegrowers Foundation, which benefits East Bay children.

In the hospitality arena, the former Tesla Road tasting room was one of the first public wine tasting venues in California.

In the 1980s, fourth generation Eric, Phil and Carolyn Wente purchased the historic abandoned Cresta Blanca winery on Arroyo Road. With strategic vision, Carolyn, now chair of the board, developed the on-site lifestyle options: a Greg Norman-designed golf course and California's third winery restaurant with the concert venue in the natural amphitheater behind it.

A visionary in winegrowing, Ernest Wente

of the second generation pursued acquisition of the best white wine vines. An earlier vintner had planted Chardonnay in the Gier vineyard in Pleasanton. Ernest transplanted cuttings from those vines to Livermore.

In 1912, Ernest traveled to a well-known nursery in France, purchased and hand-packed vine clippings into his suitcase. These two sets of vines evolved into what is known as the Wente clone, or selection, now planted in 75% of California Chardonnay vineyards.

In 1936, Ernest made a radical move when he labeled the wine "Chardonnay". Previously bottles said "White Burgundy" without reference to the grape. Marking labels with the grape name became a hallmark of the American wine industry's success



in selling approachable wine.

While Ernest focused on the vineyard, his brother Herman made the wine. Herman Wente collaborated with other California vintners to establish

'Wente is the oldest, continuously operating family winery in the U.S.'

The Wine Institute in San Francisco to promote the state's wines. The institute is now a strong voice in the national wine industry. Christine represents San Francisco Bay Area wineries on the Board of Directors.

The Wentes also helped establish what is now known as the Livermore Valley Wine Community; Karl D. Wente is currently vice president of the group which promotes Livermore Valley wines and sponsors events such as the Harvest Wine Celebration.

See **WENTE** on Page 14

A MEMORABLE AND IMPORTANT WENTE TRIP TO AUSTRALIA

While visiting the Claire Valley wine region of South Australia in 2006, I told a gathering of local vintners and fellow journalists my hometown was the Livermore Valley wine region of California.

I was surprised when a vintner's wife sitting next to me asked if I knew the Wentes. I replied that Wente Vineyards was nearby. I quickly discovered that third generation Karl L. Wente and his wife Jean had visited her family's winery, Quelltaler Estate, which had since been sold.

A few months later, I asked to interview Jean Wente to share greetings from Australia and learn more about the trip. Jean vividly remembered visiting Quelltaler Estate during a three-week Australia trip.

"Karl was keenly interested in meeting as many Australia vintners as possible. He talked non-stop with them about winemaking. I remember Karl's excitement about seeing their use of stainless steel tanks to control the temperature for fermenting grapes and also picking grapes during cooler nights to preserve grape quality — and he applied these ideas to our winery," Jean said.

Karl L. is credited with introducing these now standard winemaking practices to other American vintners.



WENTE VINEYARDS

Awards from early Valle de Oro labels before the winery became known as Wente Vineyards.



WENTE VINEYARDS

Founder Carl H. Wenté and family undated photo.

WENTE

Continued from Page 13

Karl L. Wenté, Ernest's son, studied and traveled broadly to find new ways to improve grape farming and winemaking. Among his several innovations was the introduction of overhead irrigation to the California wine industry. This practice reduced water usage and mitigated the impact of occasional frost on the vines.

Following his uncle Herman's lead in promoting California wines, Karl L. was also one of the first vintners in the state to export wine to other countries in the post-World War II years. With Eric's continued focus, Wenté exports wine to 75 countries.

Though eager to plant more Chardonnay in Livermore during the 1950s, Karl L. observed the area's urbanization and rising land prices. After scouting for property, the vintner purchased land in Arroyo Seco, Monterey County where he pioneered planting Chardonnay and Pinot Noir vineyards.

The Wentés planted grapes in Livermore and Arroyo Seco long before the regions were designated as American appellations (American viticulture areas) based on unique soils and weather conditions. Fourth generation Phil Wenté worked to establish these two AVAs in the 1980s and the San Francisco Bay AVA in 1999. As the source of food and beverage matters more to the public, the AVA on each bottle draws attention to the wine's origins.

Phil also revived an historic winery on Mines Road, renaming it Murrieta's Well to honor the legendary 19th century bandit who headquartered there. Phil's daughter, fifth generation Jordan Wenté, is the brand manager of the estate where sunset hikes with wine and picnics in the surrounding vineyard hills and tastings in the wood-beamed tasting room are offered. Murrieta's Well wines are only sold at the winery, through the wine club or online.

In the 1990s the number of wineries in Livermore Valley remained stagnant as more open land turned to housing developments. Like his father Karl L., Phil recognized the need to preserve the agricultural heritage of Livermore Valley and proposed the South Livermore Plan. Authorized in 1993, the plan has controlled real estate development with 20-acre vineyard plots, resulting in increased grape production and winery openings.

The biggest wine producer in Livermore Valley, the Wentés have supported both new and old wineries.

Concannon Vineyard, also established in 1883, struggled with financial difficulties in the 1980s.

Aware of Concannon's heritage wines, the Wenté family bought and operated the winery for a decade until purchased by The Wine



DEBORAH GROSSMAN

Aly Wenté at a classic wine flight tasting with charcuterie board.



WENTE VINEYARDS

The family business has evolved over the generations, including the addition of the Wenté Vineyards Events Center.

Group in 2002.

Steven Mirassou, sixth generation of the Mirassou winegrowing family in the South Bay, selected Livermore for the site of Steven Kent Winery, now The Lineage Collection in 1996. Mirassou recalled his winery was the 17th in the Livermore Valley.

"The Wenté family has helped the Livermore Valley grow to 50 wineries with their practical expertise, equipment sharing, and leadership. The Wentés long history of innovation and support for the up-and-coming wineries such as ours, Nottingham and McGrail Vineyards, has served as a force behind the excitement around the region's wine," Mirassou said.

Sustainable winegrowing

Niki Wenté followed her father Phil around the Wenté vineyards as a young girl. As the senior vineyard and viticulture manager, Niki oversees the family's 3,000 acres of land holdings.

Since Wenté Vineyards is a certified California sustainable winery, Niki oversees viticulture practices long followed by the company plus the Climate Smart Winegrowing Plan emphasized by the California Sustainable Winegrowing Alliance. She is focused on optimizing soil health and managing pests while minimizing chemical additives, maintaining water reliability and planning for extreme weather events.

The green cover crops between the vineyard rows, for example, reduce carbon emissions from the soil. This method of keeping carbon in the soil — or "carbon sequestration" — is part of the regenerative, sustainable farming that Niki follows. In the winter when weeds grow high, Wenté "hires" sheep to munch them down.

On the energy front, Wenté is an early purchaser of the first driver-optional electric vehicle (EV) tractors. Produced by Monarch Tractor headquartered in Livermore, the EV equipment reduces the winery's use of fossil fuels.

As for people aspects of sustainability, Wenté encourages employees to take time to volunteer with paid hours at community groups.

In the years since Carl H. Wenté first purchased land in Livermore, how has Wenté managed to thrive as a family firm? Aly Wenté points to the family's 20-year practice of hiring outside CEOs to add new perspectives and inspiration.

Karl D. credits much of the success to strategy from the family business council: "We follow

DID YOU KNOW? MORE WINES FROM THE WENTE FAMILY

Wenté Family Estates makes sense as the official name for the company comprising Wenté Vineyards and Murrieta's Well. What is not so obvious are the other wine brands sold by Wenté Family Estates. The Wenté name is not on these wine labels, and the wines are not sold at the winery.

Angel's Ink is the fastest-growing brand in the portfolio. Launched in 2020, the name Angel's Ink refers to the use of wine as a writing agent for centuries. The Pinot Noir and rosé are made from vineyards across California's Central Coast and are sold at selected Target and Total Wine stores and supermarkets.

Ravel & Stitch is another brand introduced in 2019 with Cabernet Sauvignon currently available.

Since 1989, Wenté has launched partnerships in Argentina and Spain to import wines. Bodega Cuarto Dominio Malbec is owned by a fourth-generation family in Argentina. Blanchard & Lurton Les Fous Sauvignon Blanc is also from Argentina. Blanchard Perez is an organic cava from Spain. These imported wines are sold at a small number of restaurants and wine stores across the country.

a guideline that after graduating from college, family members work apart from the company for five years, learning to manage people and finding what it takes to succeed. I worked at wineries in Australia and Napa; my cousin Aly worked for a land development company and then a large wine company."

"When we return, we are ready to work at Wenté to make and sell delicious wine made with the intention of sustainable farming and leading strong teams. We want to continue to make Livermore Valley all it can be as a world-class winegrowing region and destination," he added.

Meanwhile, the youngest of the fifth generation Wentés is working for an out-of-state wine distributor. Many of the sixth generation are too young to appreciate wine, though they may join the big 140th Wenté Anniversary celebration to be held outside at harvest time on Sept. 9. ■

Discover Diablo in 2023

Expanded programming to connect residents with natural beauty of Tri-Valley



SCOTT HEIN/SMD

Save Mount Diablo's Discover Diablo hike series offers residents the chance to explore the scenic natural terrain on and around Mount Diablo.

By JEANITA LYMAN

Staff and volunteers with Save Mount Diablo are now in the throes of bringing expanded programming planned for the current year's Discover Diablo series to life, following the first event of the year-long series late last month.

The series consists of guided hikes and other outdoor adventures by local experts aimed at showcasing the area's natural history, and stories of the region, as well as encouraging the community to enjoy the scenery of the mountain and its surrounding area, including the Tri-Valley.

Hikes in this year's lineup are scheduled to kick off near Livermore and Alamo in the coming weeks, in addition to rock climbing opportunities in Danville.

"We wanted to be able to offer a variety of different events for different communities, so we wanted to be able to offer not just hiking," said Laura Kindsvater, communications manager for Save Mount Diablo.

In addition to hiking and rock climbing, the 2023 lineup consists of a total of 36 events ranging from plein air painting, meditation walks and trail running, along with the addition of a second day for the

popular tarantula walk in the fall, with expanded options this year in response to increased demand.

Kindsvater said that while the specific locations and activities were chosen by the nonprofit conservation group's staff and volunteers, the overall mission of all of the activities was shared with that of Save Mount Diablo's broader vision.

"When people enjoy nature, when they have the opportunity to connect with nature, then they have more will and more interest in taking care of nature," Kindsvater said. "What we love we take care of."

Ted Clement, the organization's executive director, emphasized the ways in which opportunities to connect with nature particularly serve to build a sense of place and community on a local level.

"It is the goal of the Discover Diablo program to build connections between people, Save Mount Diablo, and the land, helping our communities develop a strong sense of place and a deepened appreciation for our collective backyard," Clement said in a statement. "Most importantly, we want to cultivate a love of the land in participants, as that is what it will take to ensure the precious Mount

Diablo natural area is taken care of for generations to come."

With Save Mount Diablo's origins dating back to more than half a century, and its success in expanding conservation efforts on and around the mountain, Kindsvater noted that the organization has already invested work in efforts that have paid off for the current generation of Bay Area residents.

"Mount Diablo is a really beautiful place," Kindsvater said. "It's a refuge for millions of people. When Save Mount Diablo started its work in 1971 it was just one park on Mount Diablo and a little less than 7,000 square feet in size, but because of the work Save Mount Diablo has done over the last 50 years now we have more than 120 acres."

While wet weather led to the cancellation of one of the first events of the season, a hike at Shell Ridge Open Space proceeded as planned at the start of this season's programming on Jan. 21. The canceled hike at Two Ridges and Creek was rescheduled for last weekend.

The next two events — both scheduled for Tri-Valley locations — are set for Feb. 25. A guided hike along Bob Walker Ridge is set to commence from 9401 Morgan Territory Road in Livermore at 9 a.m. with the loop trail offering views of the expansive East Bay Regional Park District preserve, along with the peak of Mount Diablo and portions of the Sacramento river.

The San Ramon Valley will also be home to a concurrent Discover Diablo event, with a belay rock climbing course kicking off at 9 a.m. on the western side of the mountain



Above: A past Discover Diablo hike at Puerto Canyon. (Photo by Sean Burke). Bottom left: An introductory climbing class is set at Danville's Boy Scout Rocks on Feb. 25. (Photo courtesy Save Mount Diablo)

from the Rock City Parking Lot at South Gate Road in Danville.

The event will consist of training for beginning rock climbers on equipment, knots and best practices for partnered climbing on the mountain's Boy Scout Rocks.

While both upcoming events are fully booked, Kindsvater said to keep an eye out for openings, which often become available after last-minute cancellations starting about one week before events. She noted that with limited spaces for the free programming, events generally book up fast, with organizers opening registration for 60 days ahead of each event rather than the full season. Registration is first-come, first-served.

Near the beginning of spring, the next Tri-Valley event in the series is set for the Macedo Ranch Staging Area starting at 9 a.m. at 3756 Green Valley Road in Alamo on March 25, with a six-mile hike along the mountain's southeastern slopes offering views of the San Ramon Valley

throughout grasslands and woods.

In October, organizers will return to Danville for another perspective on rocks in the area — a talk and hands-on tour of the mountain's geologic history, "Rocks on the Move" at the Rock City parking lot.

Hikers interested in experiencing Bob Walker Ridge will have another opportunity in November, with an easy to moderate four-mile hike set to offer views of the mountain's eastern side and Blue Oak woodlands.

In addition to the Tri-Valley activities, the expanded Discover Diablo lineup for the current year consists of a range of other opportunities on the more than 100,000 acres of protected land on and around the mountain, including Mount Diablo State Park, EBRPD, Walnut Creek Open Space Foundation, Stanislaus County and National Park Service property.

More information and registration for all the free Discover Diablo events are available at savemountdiablo.org. ■



‘The Italian Affair’ to benefit Livermore Valley Opera

A night of wine, games and performing arts at Ruby Hill on Feb. 11

By NICOLE GONZALES

One of the Tri-Valley’s most esteemed performing arts groups, Livermore Valley Opera, will be hosting a benefit event in honor of its 31st season later this month.

Complete with wine, dining and entertainment, funds raised from the event will go toward LVO and its future endeavors.

Dubbed “The Italian Affair”, the event will take place next Saturday (Feb. 11) from 4:30-9:30 p.m. at The Club at Ruby Hill in Pleasanton. Held annually, the benefit event promotes the LVO’s mission and encourages the public to support local arts organizations.

“This is the first benefit event we’ve been able to host in two years due to COVID-19,” LVO board

president Keith Sawyer said in a press release.

“We had to postpone our 30th Anniversary benefit event, so we are instead celebrating this season. We are very excited about all the activities we have planned for our guests on Feb. 11,” Sawyer added.

LVO, initially founded in 1992, presents shows year-round at the Bankhead Theater in downtown Livermore. The group is led by award-winning artistic director Eric Mills.

A full evening of entertainment, wine and fine dining is planned, said organizers of the benefit.

According to the schedule, “The Italian Affair” will begin with a wine reception, appetizers and starter games. Members of the

Livermore-based SPARC Theater are set to perform scenes from one of Shakespeare’s most iconic plays set in Italy, “Much Ado About Nothing”.

Guests can play a variety of games for prizes, such as “Diva’s Dice”, for the chance to win gold jewelry or premium bottles of wine.

Promoting an upcoming production in March of this year, cast members from LVO’s “Tosca” are to perform a musical number from the show.

Tickets to the event are available online at livermorevalleyopera.com. The deadline to purchase is next Friday (Feb. 10). While black tie is optional, organizers are encouraging guests to sport purple and gold colors, this year’s theme. ■



A look at a prior year’s Livermore Valley Opera benefit event.

LVO

LLNL’s Discovery Center reopens to visitors

In-person ‘Fun with Science’ field trips for fifth graders also resuming



GARRY MCLEOD/LLNL

Two students stand inside a model of the National Ignition Facility target chamber inside LLNL’s Discovery Center.

After three years of closure due to COVID-19, the Discovery Center at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory reopened to visitors on Wednesday.

The center’s reopening features facility renovations and a host of new exhibits related to the lab’s research programs, as well as the institutional history and community role of the lab, according to a statement from LLNL.

Open to all ages, the Discovery Center supports LLNL’s educational outreach initiatives by providing grade school students with hands-on scientific content.

Science education program manager Joanna Albala said visitors will get to “walk through an updated model of the target chamber from the National Ignition Facility, learn more about LLNL’s role in the fight against COVID and view an exhibit on our science in space.”

Discovery Center staples like pedaling energy bikes and trivia games are also returning. New exhibits visitors can expect include LLNL’s CubeSat satellite — a modular

nanosatellite used for optical sensing in low Earth orbit — and NIFFY, the lab’s own woolly mammoth.

The Discovery Center also will resume in-person “Fun with Science” field trips. The popular fifth grade excursion introduces students to the science behind NIF, the world’s largest and most energetic laser system.

“Aligned with the California Next Generation Science Standards for fifth grade, students will delve into the concepts of light, lasers, optics and physics through demonstrations, hands-on activities and science displays,” Albala said.

Field trips are offered Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9-11 a.m. Registration is required. For those unable to attend or participate in person, the virtual Discovery Center and videos of “Fun with Science” are available online.

The Discovery Center will be open for visits Mondays through Fridays, from noon to 4 p.m. Further information on the Discovery Center and its offerings can be found at www.llnl.gov. ■

—Livermore Vine staff

Oscar winner Marlee Matlin appearing at Bankhead

Longtime actress, activist sharing her life story this month

By JEREMY WALSH

Livermore is welcoming an Academy Award-winning performer to the Bankhead Theater stage later this month as “An Evening with Marlee Matlin” marks the latest installment of the 2022-23 Rae Dorough Speaker Series.

Matlin, who broke barriers as the first deaf actor to win an Oscar for her performance in “Children of a Lesser God”, will share with local audiences about her life, career and efforts as a “staunch advocate for inclusion, acceptance and access,” according to Livermore Valley Arts officials. Her presentation on Feb. 16 will be offered in ASL and translated by an interpreter.

“Matlin boldly challenges audiences to endeavor to live a life without judgment of others



Marlee Matlin

— everybody’s different, and nobody’s perfect. Audiences can expect to come away informed and empowered to make a difference in the world, with the knowledge that we can begin by changing just one person’s life,” officials said.

Matlin burst onto the scene in Hollywood with her acclaimed performance in “Children of a Lesser God” in 1986, becoming the youngest woman to win the Academy Award for Best Actress at 21 years old and being one of the few actresses to win the lead Oscar

for her film debut.

Matlin’s career has continued in the decades since, notably with memorable roles on television series such as “The West Wing”, “Seinfeld”, “Picket Fences” and “Law and Order: SVU”. In 2021 she co-starred in the movie “CODA”, which won Best Picture at the Academy Awards.

“An Evening with Marlee Matlin” is presented as part of the Rae Dorough Speaker Series in partnership with the Livermore Valley Arts at the Bankhead. The series is organized each year to honor the late Dorough, a devoted supporter of cultural events in Livermore.

The event is set for 7:30 p.m. Feb. 16. For tickets and more information, visit www.livermorearts.org. ■

Amador alum’s Dolphin Hyperspace playing the Firehouse

Dolphin Hyperspace, an electro-jazz duo featuring Amador Valley High School graduate Logan Kane on bass and Nicole McCabe on saxophone, is making its debut at Kane’s hometown Firehouse Arts Center tonight. The Los Angeles-based band is known for its “daring improvisation featured amongst zany synths, insane baselines and bonkers production,” according to Firehouse officials. The concert is scheduled to begin at 8 p.m. today (Feb. 3); for tickets and more information, visit firehousearts.org.



COURTESY FIREHOUSE ARTS

Community Pulse

POLICE BULLETIN

Dublin man dies after shooting in S.F.

A 44-year-old Dublin man was shot and killed in San Francisco's Potrero Hill District last Saturday, according to police.

At about 8:20 p.m., officers from the San Francisco Police Department's Bayview Station were sent to the 700 block of Missouri Street to investigate a shot spotter notification in the area but were unable to find a victim.

Soon after, the officers learned that the victim had been taken to a hospital, where he died from apparent gunshot wounds, according to police. The victim's name has not yet been released publicly.

Anyone with information regarding this investigation is asked to call the SFPD Tip Line at 415-575-4444 or text a tip to TIP411 and begin the text message with SFPD.

—Bay City News Service

In other news

- Livermore police have reunited a French bulldog with its owners after it was likely dognapped more than a year ago.

Police said that on Jan. 4, they found a parked vehicle that was reported as being driven recklessly. The driver of the vehicle "ran off," police said in a Facebook post, but was identified as a parolee with an active no bail parole violation warrant.

Inside the car, police found an abandoned French bulldog they took to the East County Animal



COURTESY LPD

French bulldog "Muny" is reunited with its owner at the East County Animal Shelter in Dublin last month after going missing from its Southern California home more than a year earlier.

Shelter in Dublin. A crew also towed the car.

A technician from the Alameda County Sheriff's Office found a microchip on the dog and discovered the dog belonged to a family in Chula Vista in San Diego County. The sheriff's office contacted the family and learned the dog was named "Muny" and went missing more than a year before.

The family informed the shelter that during Muny's disappearance, they were dogged with messages from an unknown sender asking for money for his return.

The alleged culprit never gave any proof they had Muny, so the family felt they were being scammed. Once the owners found out Muny was safe, they drove up north, reunited with the dog and took him home.

—Cierra Bailey

- Two young adults now face felony charges for allegedly collaborating in a drive-by shooting at an occupied home in northern Livermore last month.

The Alameda County District Attorney's Office recently filed a criminal complaint against Alejandro Quintero-Avalos, 20, of Tracy and Brenda Gaspar-Sanchez, 21, of Livermore in connection with a non-injury shooting on Broadmoor Street on the night of Jan. 6.

Livermore police allege Gaspar-Sanchez drove Quintero-Avalos to a house on Broadmoor Street, where they know a resident of the home, and he fired multiple gunshots at the residence. A motive has not yet been identified, according to authorities.

The police investigation began after a report came in just before 9 p.m. Jan. 6 about shots fired in the area of Broadmoor Street and Scenic Avenue. Arriving officers found no injured victims but did locate shell casings in the area.

Investigators later determined suspects in a vehicle fired several shots into a residence that night, with one bullet hitting a parked car and two more striking the garage door. Police said multiple people were inside the home at the time.

"The investigation revealed that based on cellular data analysis, surveillance video, eyewitness statements as well as physical evidence located at the scene, Brenda Gaspar and Alejandro Quintero-Avalos were responsible for the shooting and conspired together to commit this crime," Livermore police Officer James Tompkins wrote in a probable cause declaration.

Nearly two weeks into the investigation, Quintero-Avalos and

Gaspar-Sanchez were arrested on Jan. 19. Police reported that several search warrants were served in Livermore and Tracy as part of the case and that the gun used in the shooting was recovered.

According to Tompkins, Gaspar-Sanchez admitted after her arrest that she drove Quintero-Avalos to the front of the Broadmoor Street home while he shot a gun at the residence.

Quintero-Avalos and Gaspar-Sanchez were each charged on Jan. 23 with felony shooting at an inhabited dwelling, along with special allegations for violence and gun use.

Quintero-Avalos also faces felony charges of carrying a loaded firearm on a public street in a city and committing an armed criminal action, plus associated gun and violence enhancements. Gaspar-Sanchez faces a separate felony count of permitting another to shoot a gun from her vehicle.

It was not immediately clear whether the two defendants had yet entered a plea to the charges against them.

The Jan. 6 incident on Broadmoor Street marked the second shooting in public in a 30-hour period in Livermore. A person was hurt when they were grazed by a bullet after a verbal confrontation escalated to gunfire on the afternoon of Jan. 5 at the intersection of Enos Way and Junction Avenue, according to police.

—Jeremy Walsh

- Authorities this week confirmed the identity of a Livermore man who died in a solo-vehicle rollover crash on East Airway Boulevard last month.

The decedent was 39-year-old

Nathan Quimby, according to the Alameda County Coroner's Bureau.

Quimby had lived in Livermore for more than 10 years before his sudden death on Jan. 21, family members said on a GoFundMe page created in his honor.

"Those who knew Nathan know what a genuine person he was, he loved everyone, cared about how their day was going, and he always had a smile on his face," the organizers said.

"When someone speaks of Nathan, it's impossible for them to not mention his laugh, and how happy he always seemed to be. Nathan loved fishing, biking, road trips and getting his hands dirty, whether it was at work or through one of his many hobbies. What he loved most though was his family and friends," they said.

The GoFundMe drive had collected more than \$2,300 in contributions, as of Wednesday afternoon, toward its \$5,000 goal to help his family with funeral costs and other expenses resulting from his unexpected death.

According to Livermore police, the deadly crash occurred just before 2 p.m. on Jan. 21 when the driver of a Toyota Yaris — later identified as Quimby — lost control of his car and it overturned several times on East Airway Boulevard near the Rutan Drive intersection.

Officers arrived to find Quimby seriously injured, and paramedics later pronounced him dead at the scene. Police said the circumstances of the solo crash remain under investigation, including whether speed or intoxication were contributing factors. ■

—Jeremy Walsh

POLICE REPORT

The Pleasanton Police Department made the following information available.

Jan. 28

Theft

- 6:11 a.m., 4100 block of Jensen Street; auto theft
- 3:04 p.m., 1300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting

Burglary

- 12:23 p.m. on the 3100 block of Valley Avenue

Domestic battery

- 4:44 p.m. on Briggs Court

Vandalism

- 7:44 p.m. on the 6600 block of Koll Center Parkway

Warrant arrest

- 8:49 p.m. on the 6800 block of Santa Rita Road

Jan. 27

Fraud

- 9:26 a.m. on the 4400 block of Addison Way

Vandalism

- 11:08 p.m. on the 1500 block of West Lagoon Road

Jan. 26

Fraud

- 7:49 a.m. on the 6400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

Domestic battery

- 8:48 a.m. on Vineyard Avenue
- 9:35 p.m. on Case Avenue

Warrant arrest

- 4:15 p.m. at Owens and Hacienda drives
- 5:06 p.m. at Owens Court and Chabot Drive

Drug violation

- 6:24 p.m. on the 6700 block of Santa Rita Road

Sex offenses

- 9:15 p.m. on Foxwallow Circle

Jan. 25

Theft

- 11:48 a.m., 000 block of Vintage Circle; bicycle theft
- 2:22 p.m., 4300 block of Black Avenue; theft from structure

Fraud

- 7:32 p.m. on the 7600 block of Desertwood Lane

Drug violation

- 1:01 p.m. on the 1700 block of Santa Rita Road

Jan. 24

Vandalism

- 9:41 a.m. on the 5800 block of Owens Drive

Theft

- 9:47 a.m. on the 1900 block of Toyon Court
- 10:36 a.m., 2400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting
- 10:46 a.m., 5800 block of Owens Drive; auto theft
- 10:59 a.m., 2400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting
- 5:46 p.m., 4400 block of Hacienda Drive; bicycle theft

Warrant arrest

- 10:07 p.m. on the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive

Jan. 23

Theft

- 2:05 p.m., 1400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting
- 2:20 p.m., 6200 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; auto theft
- 7:24 p.m. on the 3900 block of Santa Rita Road
- 7:27 p.m. on the 600 block of Rose Avenue
- 8:59 p.m., 11900 block of Dublin Canyon Road; auto theft

Alcohol violation

- 4:07 p.m. on the 1800 block of Santa Rita Road

Jan. 22

DUI

- 2:48 a.m. on the 4300 block of First Street

Burglary

- 6:05 a.m. on the 4200 block of First Street

Theft

- 12:17 p.m., 3900 block of Santa Rita Road; theft from structure
- 3:41 p.m., 1300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting
- 9:16 p.m. on the 3600 block of Sandalford Way

Assault/battery

- 7:20 p.m. on the 5600 block of Owens Drive

Domestic battery

- 9:42 p.m. on Willow Road

Jan. 21

DUI

- 12:51 a.m. at Stoneridge and Johnson drives
- 2:19 p.m. at Jorgensen Lane and Foothill Road

Rape

- 3:04 a.m. on Hopyard Road

Vandalism

- 8:51 a.m. on the 3900 block of Vineyard Road

- 9:26 p.m. on the 2700 block of Stoneridge Drive

Theft

- 9:00 a.m., 1500 block of East Gate; bicycle theft
- 9:48 a.m. at Serra Circle and Purisima Terrace; theft from auto
- 12:36 p.m., 4000 block of Alta Court; catalytic converter theft
- 3:17 p.m. on the 2300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road
- 5:26 p.m., 2400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting
- 8:59 p.m., 2700 block of Stoneridge Drive; theft from auto
- 9:03 p.m., 2700 block of Stoneridge Drive; theft from auto
- 10:25 p.m. on the 1100 block of Kottinger Drive

Assault/battery

- 12:51 a.m. at Stoneridge and Johnson drives

Jan. 20

Warrant arrest

- 1:30 p.m. on the 5100 block of Rialto Way

Vandalism

- 2:09 p.m. on the 6000 block of Johnson Drive

Theft

- 4:51 p.m. on the 6000 block of Johnson Drive

Fading but not lost: Pleasanton's competitive edge

By DEREK DRESSLER

I grew up in Pleasanton, intrinsically aware of the bubble I was so privileged to call home. Unfortunately, this suburban utopia, renowned for its serene landscape, aesthetic downtown, quality schools and quaint charm, is slowly and steadily losing its competitive edge.

Pleasanton's desirability has been frequently noted. Most prominently, perhaps, was a 2014 USA Today article that ranked Pleasanton as the fourth best city to live in across the U.S. More recently, however, a complacency from both residents and elected leaders alike has placed Pleasanton's bright future in peril.

As cities like Livermore, Danville and Dublin invest in local decision making, innovation, and education, Pleasanton continues to lag behind.

You don't have to look far back to recall a time when Livermore's downtown lacked mass appeal, charm and commerce. Today, however, Livermorium Park, the Lizzie Fountain and the entire stretch of Sycamore-lined First Street is bustling with residents and visitors who are attracted to the influx of businesses and fun-filled attractions.

Remember even more recently when Dublin's "downtown" was nothing more than a vision in the minds

of city planners. Today, their elected leaders have taken action creating "the Village" where novel restaurants and vibrant designs are working hard to make something out of nothing.

Downtown is certainly not the only area where Pleasanton has waned.

Housing growth and expansion are intrinsic in the DNA of all California cities. The only variable is each municipality's approach. Places like Danville have shown leadership and complied with state mandates of SB 35 and the like. Because of this, their new housing developments are being built to retain Danville's aesthetic and charm through the direct input and oversight of local leaders who are limiting new construction to three stories.

Here at home, however, some of our leaders stand in the way of any

development, to the point they are excluded from the process and five-story housing complexes now tower over I-680. Our unsubstantiated satisfaction and complacency extend not only to housing, but our award-winning schools.

PUSD has put forth three recent bond measures to secure capital improvements and investments for our students' learning environments. Two of the three have narrowly passed with Measure M ultimately failing in 2020.

In fact, PUSD's pre-Measure-I bond tax rates were \$43.50 compared to San Ramon Valley's \$75 and Dublin's \$196.40. It's no wonder that Pleasanton Unified ranks 33rd in California whereas DUSD and SRVUSD rank 27th and 22nd, respectively, according to publicschoolreview.com.

It's not surprising that when a community supports its schools, their ranking tends to improve. With median home prices in Tri-Valley communities lower than our own, it is not difficult to predict that the notoriety and desirability of Pleasanton schools

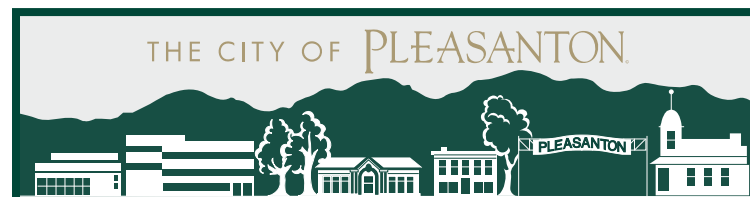
could soon fade.

From a lack of innovation downtown and relinquishing of local housing control, to ignoring the needs of our students and teachers, we must stop resting on our laurels and city name to keep us competitive in the East Bay.

It's critical we elect leaders who prioritize education, innovation and forward-thinking progress with an emphasis on local decision-making rather than voting based merely on incumbency or a name that aligns with one's own identity.

Stand up, Pleasanton, and don't let complacency deteriorate our city's legendary ethos. Attend City Council Meetings, vote and hold your leaders accountable. ■

Editor's note: Derek Dressler is a born-and-raised Pleasantonian who served as a student board member for PUSD and was the ASB president for Foothill High School. Outside of his scholastic achievements, Dressler is an Eagle Scout and currently attends the University of Pittsburgh majoring in political science and legal studies.



THE CITY OF PLEASANTON

HIGHLIGHTS

Civic Arts Commission Meeting

Monday, February 6, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.

City of Pleasanton Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Ave.

- Receive Information about Updated Commissioner's Handbook
- Select Commission Chair and Vice Chair for 2023
- Select Committee Assignments for 2023
- Review Fiscal Year 2022/23 Civic Arts Community Grant Midterm Report
- Review and Approve the Updated Civic Arts Commission Meeting Schedule for 2023
- Review Civic Arts Project Status Report

City Council Meeting

Tuesday, February 7, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.

City of Pleasanton 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>.

- Review the public outreach results, conceptual plan, and provide input to staff regarding the update to the Lions Wayside and Delucchi Parks Master Plan, CIP No. 06716
- Review and provide direction on commission and committees organizational structure
- Accept the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) and other related audits for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2022

Youth Commission Meeting

Wednesday, February 8, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.

Remillard Conference Room, 3333 Busch Rd.

- Receive Information about Updated Commissioner's Handbook

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

LETTERS

A letter to our community

In the wake of this moment, no one can stand silent. Let us be clear and direct about where the City of Pleasanton stands: the death of Tyre Nichols is inexcusable. With others, we grieve for Tyre Nichols, for his family and friends, and for the Memphis community.

The Pleasanton Police Department joins departments across the country in being angered by and in condemning the reprehensible actions of the officers involved. The video shows those officers betraying their code to protect and serve. We strive, on each and every call, to always model excellence; we remain steadfast in our commitment to serve as guardians with compassion, empathy and respect in each opportunity we have

to serve. We will continue to engage in constructive dialogue and collective work to ensure that we reflect the community we strive to be.

To those in Memphis and all affected by this needless tragedy: the City of Pleasanton and our police department stand with you.

—Pleasanton Mayor and City Council

—Pleasanton City Manager

—Pleasanton Police Chief

—Pleasanton Police Officers Association

High school speech contest

The Pleasanton chapter of Lions Clubs International, the largest service club organization in the world, is hosting a Student Speakers Contest in February. The annual competitive speech contest, which was paused during the pandemic, is open to all Pleasanton high school students.

The Student Speakers Contest is designed to raise awareness of public speaking as an important life skill. Each participating student will give a five to 10-minute speech on a subject of vital interest to the community. This year's topic: "Social Media: Connects Us or Isolates Us?"

These contests are held statewide. Every finalist uses the same speech at each level. At the Pleasanton level, the winner receives a cash award of \$100. Winning students have the chance to earn scholarships of \$4,500 and \$6,500 as they advance, with the statewide winner receiving \$10,000 in scholarship monies, making a total of \$21,000 scholarships available.

Contestants must enter soon, and the contest will take place on Feb. 21. For information on how to enter, visit www.pleasantonlionsclub.org.

—Jill Miller

LOST DOG



Lost female shepherd/lab mix, 70 lbs, gentle.

SHE'S SCARED: Do not chase, call out, whistle or follow. Reddish-brown with white chest and toes. Spayed and microchipped. Medication required.

Last seen 1/2/23
Wetmore Ave., Livermore

**CALL WITH INFORMATION
DAY OR NIGHT 925-413-3724**

If you see her, contact the Pleasanton Weekly, gchannell@pleasantonweekly.com or 925-600-0840.

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PLEASANTON PREPS

By DENNIS MILLER

Foothill boys' soccer earns two tight wins last week

Hard to believe: It's already time to prep for spring sports coverage

The Foothill boys' soccer team, who has battled throughout the season without getting many rewards, picked up a pair of wins last week.

The week started with a 1-0 loss to Dougherty Valley, which was in first place at the time of the game.

From there, it was all good for the Falcons.

First up was a 1-0 win over San Ramon Valley. The winning goal came from Anthony Bonev off an assist from Fernando Garcia. Goalie Duncan Carrothers recorded the clean sheet for Foothill.

The week came to an end with a 3-1 win over San Ramon Valley. Bonev, Alejandro Ramirez and Aarnav Reedy got the goals.

Matthew Tahir had a pair of assists, with Bonev getting the third assist.

Foothill girls' basketball

The Falcons turned in one of their best games of the year, but dropped a 53-52 game to California.

Savannah Montini led the Falcons with 22 points, with Riley Young getting 16 for Foothill.

Foothill girls' soccer

The Falcons got goals from three different players while beating Dougherty Valley 3-1.

Claire Young, just a freshman, got the first goal, knocking in a corner kick. Kiana Tahmassebi got the second goal for the Falcons, with

Gianna Guerro scoring the third and final goal for Foothill.

Spring season is right around the corner!

It is hard to believe, but the East Bay Athletic League spring sports season will officially start next week.

OK, maybe there are some unofficial practices going on currently, but the "legitimate" practices start on Monday.

That must mean it is time for me to start begging parents and team representatives to send me results each week.

Begging.

It is sad, actually it's pathetic, that I can only find very few people that

turn in results for their students' athletic events each week. In the past, the spring has actually seen the most results turned in on a regular basis, so there is hope.

Of course that could be part of the sheer volume of sports taking place in the spring, but the spring usually sees a good volume of golf, tennis, softball, and volleyball turned in by both Amador Valley and Foothill, and for that I am thankful.

After that, it turns into what is happening with the winter sports — Amador results disappear as if the sports do not exist.

Foothill baseball, lacrosse, and even track and field, regularly send in the results.

As a 1979 Amador graduate, it kills me to see this happen. When I went to Amador, parent volunteers were always willing to take 15 minutes a week to help and make sure the athletes got their just due.

Now there appears to be no interest.

What's been great in the winter the Foothill folks are sending the results win or lose. If you have seen the records for the winter teams at both schools, there has been some struggles but yet Foothill keeps sending the results every week.

As we move to the spring, I am imploring people to get involved and get the results sent to the paper.

This does not fall on the coach. They bust their tails regularly for little to no money, enduring the parental problems that are inherent to high school athletics.

Parents need to step up and send the results.

If you are a parent of a spring sport athlete and think perhaps you can do this, please contact me at acesmag@aol.com and I will show you how easy this can be by walking you through the sport your student plays.

I promise this should take no more than 15 minutes a week with the reward being helping high school athletics.

It frustrates me to have to write this every season of high school sports, and probably not as much as it frustrates you having to read this four to five times a year.

Be part of the solution, not part of the problem. Please email me and let's make this work together! ■

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.

Officials respond to racial slur at SRVHS game

District apologizes for student comments toward Dublin basketball player

By JEANITA LYMAN

A recent high school boys' basketball game between two Tri-Valley teams resulted in widespread condemnation after one or more San Ramon Valley students allegedly subjected a player on a rival team to racist remarks.

San Ramon Valley High principal Whitney Contrell shared news of the incident from a basketball game between her school's team and Dublin High School in a statement Jan. 25 to parents and community members the day following the game during which one or more SRVHS students reportedly made racist comments to a Black Dublin player as he was in the midst of a free throw.

"I want to be clear that in no uncertain terms, racist language or racial slurs will not be tolerated, whether our students are in school or elsewhere," Contrell said. "We are all responsible for creating safe and welcoming spaces both at SRV and when we are guests at other schools. Appropriate disciplinary action is being taken, and we will be apologizing to the Dublin High School basketball team and community for this unacceptable and

uncalled for behavior."

San Ramon Valley Unified School District communications director Ilana Israel Samuels said that the district had not yet determined how many SRVHS students were involved in the incident.

Dublin principal Maureen Byrne said that she and Contrell had discussed the incident on the morning of Jan. 25, after the former was made aware of it by the Dublin basketball team's coach, Tom Costello. She said in a statement that SRVHS coach Brian Botteen had also been swift in addressing the incident at his team's school.

"This behavior was hateful, uncalled for and not to be tolerated," Byrne said. "It added a hurtful and painful layer to an exciting and challenging sporting event. Both teams played exceptionally and DHS was thrilled with the win."

Byrne added that while school officials were responding by forbidding the SRVHS students involved in the incident from attending any future Dublin High events, she agreed with an assessment from the Dublin player's mother that called for deeper

systemic change in the future as well.

"While we are asking that the individual involved understand that they are not welcome at DHS events, this goes beyond one individual's actions," Byrne said. "As stated by our player's mother: 'This is not about shaming the individual who made the comment. This is about change, education and empathy.'"

In a message to SRVHS students on Jan. 26, Contrell reiterated that racist behavior was unwelcome at the school and emphasized a lack of tolerance for discriminatory behavior ahead of another basketball game that night.

"The behavior of our fans, whether at home or away for athletic contests, reflects on the entire community," Contrell said. "The unacceptable racist incident that occurred at Tuesday night's game created a hostile environment and caused significant harm for those targeted. It has no place at SRV. In the coming weeks, we will be collaborating with our student leaders and staff to ensure we take action against such acts, educate our student body about the harm they cause, and how to be an upstander."

SRVUSD Superintendent John Malloy sent a statement to the district community later in the day on Jan. 26 denouncing the incident, along with other reported racist incidents at the high-ranking and affluent school district in recent months, and promising to facilitate deeper

anti-racist efforts at the district.

"You may be aware that we have recently had some incidents of discrimination in some of our schools," Malloy said. "We know that these incidents do not reflect the values of our district and community, and we will not tolerate discrimination of any kind in our schools. We are providing professional development for our staff, listening to our students and supporting their leadership to bring about change, and exploring ways to partner most effectively with parents/caregivers so that you can support these efforts at home."

Byrne also called for addressing and contending with discrimination at Dublin High from within, asking students, staff and educators to double down on speaking up about inappropriate remarks and incidents.

"In order to continue to be unified in the message that there is no place for hate at DHS, it is critical that we remain vigilant," Byrne said. "As we hold others accountable, we must continue to monitor our community as well. Please be reminded that any language, words or actions that make a person or groups of people feel unsafe or targeted could be considered a hate crime. This includes derogatory comments regarding a person's race, ethnicity, gender, religion or sexual preference and identification."

Fight after game at MVHS

Officials at Monte Vista High

School and SRVUSD are doubling down on warnings against inappropriate behavior by students after a fight in the parking lot after a basketball game last week.

Following a basketball game between the MVHS and Dougherty Valley High School teams on Jan. 26 at the MVHS campus in Danville, officials at both high schools released comments about a physical altercation in which a DVHS student was reportedly assaulted by multiple MVHS students.

MVHS principal Kevin Ahern said that school officials and the Danville Police Department were cooperating on an investigation involving the students responsible for the incident, and that disciplinary action had already been taken against several of them by the school.

"I am very disappointed to share that after last night's basketball game between Monte Vista and Dougherty Valley, several Monte Vista students physically assaulted a student from Dougherty Valley in our parking lot," Ahern said in an email to the school community on Jan. 27.

"This incident of violence is completely unacceptable on our school campus and has no place in our community," he continued. "We are all responsible for creating a safe and welcoming environment on the MV Campus and we need to ensure that this goodwill extends to any visitors to our school." ■

Entertainment

DOLPHIN HYPERSPACE Dolphin Hyperspace is a Los Angeles-based electro-jazz duo led by acclaimed saxophonist Nicole McCabe and bassist Logan Kane. Their daring improvisation is featured amongst zany synths, insane basslines and bonkers production. 8 p.m., Feb. 3. Tickets \$20. Visit firehousearts.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. Feb. 3-5. Tickets \$25. Visit livermorearts.org.

DEEP RIVER WITH ALEX TAITE Experience this one-man show exploring an often neglected part of American society, The Negro Spiritual. Take a journey with Alex through this lecture recital to deepen your knowledge and your humanity.

8 p.m., Feb. 4. Tickets \$20-25. Visit firehousearts.org.

DOVER QUARTET Del Valle Fine Arts presents Dover Quartet, a Grammy-nominated string quartet and the ensemble-in-residence at the Curtis Institute holding residencies with the Kennedy Center and other leading institutions. 7:30 p.m., Feb. 4. Visit livermorearts.org.

VIOLINS OF HOPE Join a journey of Hope through time and music with "Violins of Hope-Strings of the Holocaust", performed by Livermore-Amador Symphony, conducted by Lara Webber, with special performances by violinist Lindsay Deutsch and cellist Peter Bedrossian. 3 p.m., Feb. 5; 7:30 p.m., Feb. 6-7. Tickets \$35-\$500. Visit livermorearts.org.

CLEO PARKER ROBINSON DANCE The Four Journeys is a new ballet conceived by Maestra Amalia Viviana Basanta Hernandez, artistic director of Ballet Folklorico de Mexico. 7:30

p.m., Feb. 9. Tickets \$38-\$48. Visit livermorearts.org.

JAZZ PERFORMANCE AT LIBRARY Listen to a live jazz performance by Tia Carroll at the Livermore Civic Center Library. 6:30 p.m., Feb. 9. Storytime Room.

THE ITALIAN AFFAIR Be transported into an Italian dream for one night of glamour, fun and drama with Livermore Valley Opera's, The Italian Affair. Musical performance by the stars of Tosca. 4:30 p.m., Feb. 11 at The Club at Ruby Hill. For tickets, visit livermorevalleyopera.com.

LAUGH UNTIL YOU CRY WITH SKYLAR SCHOCK Stand-up comedian Skylar Schock hosts a one-of-a-kind evening of stand-up comedy and a follow up discussion with a mental health expert aimed at raising awareness and providing resources for the 1 in 5 Americans who are affected by mental issues. 8 p.m., Feb. 11. Tickets \$10-\$20. Visit firehousearts.org.

THE BILLIE HOLIDAY PROJECT Stella Heath: The Billie Holiday Project, featuring some of the Bay Area's finest Jazz musicians. 2 p.m., Feb. 12. Tickets \$20-\$30. Visit firehousearts.org.

AN EVENING WITH MARLEE MATLIN Marlee Matlin received worldwide critical acclaim for her film debut in Children of a Lesser God, for which she received the Academy Award. Sponsored in part by Rae Dorough Speaker Series, this program will be offered in ASL and translated through an interpreter. 7:30 p.m., Feb. 16. Tickets \$70-\$100. Visit livermorearts.org.

EMILY ZISMAN A storyteller and songwriter who has been performing in Northern California for close to two decades, Emily Zisman showcase her newest songs and shares stories that may feel eerily familiar. 8 p.m., Feb. 17. Tickets \$10-\$20. Visit firehousearts.org.

DANIEL GLOVER CONCERT Concert pianist Daniel Glover will perform selections by Russian American composer Sergei Rachmaninoff during a benefit for the nonprofit Valley Concert Chorale. 7:30 p.m., Feb. 18. First Presbyterian Church. Visit valleyconcertchorale.org.

JEFF BORDES & FRIENDS MARDI GRAS CELEBRATION Firehouse favorite Jeff Bordes returns to usher in Mardi Gras 2023 with his infectious NOLA jazz flavor. 8 p.m., Feb. 18. Tickets \$20-\$30. Visit firehousearts.org.

THE MUSIC OF SAM COOKE The Cooke Book: The Music of Sam Cooke is a celebration of Cooke's innovative career. Darrian Ford performs these timeless and classic melodies with expanded and re-invigorated arrangements that hold stylistically true to the era. 8 p.m., Feb. 18. Tickets \$40-\$70. Visit livermorearts.org.

CANADIAN BRASS With an international reputation as one of the most popular brass ensembles today, the hallmark of any Canadian Brass performance is entertainment, spontaneity, virtuosity, and most of

PET OF THE WEEK



EAST BAY SPCA

Pick a Penny

Hi there, I'm Penny. My favorite activities are going on long hikes, playing fetch and getting yummy treats. As you might guess from my breed (German Shepherd), I'm super smart and have an incredible nose! I love to keep my brain just as active as my body, so if you've been hoping to find a dog who's eager to learn new things, I'm your gal. Do you have room in your life for a smart and silky-soft dog like me? Come meet me at the East Bay SPCA, or visit eastbayspca.org.

all, fun. 3 p.m., Feb. 19. Tickets \$55-\$85. Visit livermorearts.org.

Livermore Civic Center Library, Storytime Room.

ART OF THE AFRICAN DIASPORA Visit the Livermore Civic Center Library Art Gallery to view the artwork of several talented Bay Area artists during Black History Month. Feb. 1-28.

Exhibits

VIOLINS OF HOPE EXHIBIT Violins of Hope Exhibit is a museum-quality exhibit in the Tri-Valley. Amnon Weinstein has spent the last two decades locating and restoring violins that were played by Jewish musicians during the Holocaust. On display 11 a.m.-6 p.m., Now to Feb. 12. Bankhead Theater.

MUSEUM ON MAIN EXHIBIT Imagination Expressed is the current exhibit at Museum on Main. This annual collaboration with the Pleasanton Art League shows off the latest works in a variety of media from Tri-Valley artists. Now to March 25. 603 Main St.

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. Now through Mar. 17. 4444 Railroad Ave.

Black History Month

NAME THAT TUNE Compete against other teens to see who can recognize songs by influential Black artists throughout history. All participants will be entered into a raffle for a chance to win wireless earbuds. This program is for teens in grades 6-12. 4:30 p.m., Feb. 3. Civic Center Library Storytime Room.

WRITING WORKSHOP Join Bay Area writers Alie Jones and Phaedra Tillery-Boughton for a community writing workshop centered on the collective power of storytelling. Attendees will acquire practical skills for confidently writing and sharing their art. 4 p.m., Feb. 4. Registration required at 925-373-5505 to register. Civic Center Library.

POETRY READING Poetry Reading and Panel Discussion. Join Bay Area poets Alie Jones, Tongo Eisen-Martin, Landon Smith and Meilani Clay to celebrate the exploration of liberation. 6:30 p.m., Feb. 16.

Farmers' Markets

PLEASANTON FARMERS' MARKET The Pleasanton Farmers' Market is Saturday year round, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. West Angela Street. Visit pcfma.org/pleasanton.

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

Talks

FAMILY FRIENDLY BEAR TALK Join Ranger Seth for a discussion about all the different species of bears including the largest extinct bear species and why to appreciate these animals and not fear them. Amphitheater, Sycamore Grove Park. 2 p.m., Feb. 4. Call 925-373-5700.

INTERFAITH INTERCONNECT RELIGION CHAT This month's Religion Chat topic: "How does your religion adapt itself to reflect changing times?" Speakers: Rev. Kwame Assenyoh, St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church, Livermore; and Rev. Sangye Hawke, Unitarian Universalist Church in Livermore. 5-6 p.m., Feb. 8. Visit us02web.zoom.us/j/81880844246.

AAUW-CAREER SPEAKER SERIES The American Association of University Women presents a series of virtual zoom sessions featuring a panel of professional women sharing their career experiences. 7 p.m., Feb. 8 and 16. For more information visit lpd-ca.aauw.net.

ARMCHAIR TRAVELERS: BOUVET ISLAND Frank Rainer will show a slideshow of photos and share stories of the excursion he and his wife took to Bouvet Island, an uninhabited protected nature reserve and the world's most remote island. 1:30 p.m., Feb. 9. Civic Center Library, 1188 S. Livermore Ave.

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)

TOSCHI COLLINS DOYLE & HOUVENER FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 594262
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) Toschi Collins Doyle & Houvener, located at 5145 Johnson Drive, Pleasanton, CA 94588, Alameda County.
This business is conducted by: a Corporation.
The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):
TCD PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION
5145 Johnson Drive Pleasanton, CA 94588 California
Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 12/01/2022
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on December 22 2022.
(PLW Jan 20, 27, Feb 3 and 10, 2023)

BIG WOODOO DADDY CONSTRUCTION FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 594565
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) BIG WOODOO DADDY CONSTRUCTION, located at 29137 MARSHBROOK DRIVE HAYWARD, CA 94545, ALAMEDA.
This business is conducted by: an Individual.
The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):
MARK C. PRZYBUS
29137 MARSHBROOK DRIVE HAYWARD, CA 94545
Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 11/01/2022
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on January 06 2023.
(PLW Jan 27, Feb 3, 10 and 17, 2023)

SANTA RITA AUTO SALES & SERVICE FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 594778
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) SANTA RITA AUTO SALES & SERVICE, located at 3878 OLD SANTA RITA ROAD, PLEASANTON, CA 94588, ALAMEDA.
This business is conducted by: a Limited Liability Company.
The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):
SANTA RITA AUTO SALES & SERVICE, LLC
3878 OLD SANTA RITA ROAD, PLEASANTON, CA 94588
PLEASANTON, CA 94588 CALIFORNIA
Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on January 17 2023.
(PLW Feb 3, 10, 17 and 24, 2023)

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA FOR THE COUNTY OF ALAMEDA
Case No.: 23CV025965
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:
Petitioner: Rachel Luiza Dunaway filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:
RACHEL LUIZA DUNAWAY to RAIN LUIZA DUNAWAY
THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.
NOTICE OF HEARING: 03/07/2023, 9:30am, Civil, Dept. 14 of the Superior Court of California, County of Alameda located at 1221 Oak St., Oakland, CA 94612.
A copy of this ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county:
PLEASANTON WEEKLY
Date: 01/20/2023
Charles A. Smiley
JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT
(PLW Jan 27, Feb 3, 10 and 17, 2023)

Place a legal notice at
PleasantonWeekly.com/legal_notices.



COURTESY CITY OF LIVERMORE

Water Conservation Art Contest

The city of Livermore, Zone 7 and Cal Water-Livermore are again hosting their annual Water Conservation Art Contest, encouraging Livermore students in kindergarten through 12th grade to submit works of art such as paintings, photographs, sculptures and more. This year's submissions should focus on the theme of "the beauty and water-saving power of California native plants." Entries are due by 5 p.m. March 1; visit www.livermoreca.gov/contests. Shown: Last year's grand-prize winning artwork, "A Water Droplet's Journey" by Ananya Garg — then a seventh grader at Mendenhall Middle School.

LIVERMORE-AMADOR VALLEY GARDEN CLUB Alameda County Master Gardeners Sandy Wood, Guy Duran and Laura Cornett will discuss seed saving and propagation at the next Livermore-Amador Valley Garden Club meeting. 7 p.m., social/refreshments, 8 p.m. speaker presentation. Feb. 9. Alisal Elementary School, 1454 Santa Rita Road in Pleasanton. Visit lavgc.org.

LIVING WITH DEMENTIA Providing daily care for a loved one with dementia can present overwhelming demands. Attend this live webinar for an opportunity to ask questions at the end of the presentation. 10-11:30 a.m., Feb. 9. Visit hopehospice.com.

GRIEF MINISTRY 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 Catholic Church, 7 p.m., Feb. 9 and 23, March 9 and 23. All are welcome regardless of religious affiliation with no advance registration required. 4001 Stoneridge Drive.

LIVERMORE-AMADOR GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY Sara Cochran, a full-time professional genealogist, presents "Shaky Leaf Syndrome: Using Website Generated Hints More Effectively", discussing indexing, optical character recognition and

computer algorithms which make finding obscure records about our families easier than ever. 6:30-8:30 p.m., Feb. 13. Visit l-ags.org.

TRI-VALLEY WRITERS FEBRUARY SPEAKER Betsy Graziani Fasbinder presents How to Be the Best Ambassador for Your Book: Pitfalls to Avoid, Practices that Pay Off at the next Tri-Valley Writers meeting. 2 p.m., Feb. 18. RSVP by Feb. 16. Las Positas College. Visit trivalleywriters.org.

Seniors

LARPD POP-UP TRIP Portland's multi-genre, multi-lingual little orchestra, Pink Martini, brings its mix of classical, jazz and old-fashioned pop for one show at the Gallo Center for the Arts in Modesto. Full banquet dinner at Skewers Kabob House included. 1-7:30 p.m., Feb. 5. \$136R/\$149NR. Call 925-373-5763.

Expos

NORCAL REPTILE EXPO The Norcal Reptile Expo returns for two days of family-friendly fun bringing a unique variety of vendors including specialized breeders, wholesale supplies, cages, plus amazing animal displays and activities for children. Feb. 18-19. Visit alamedacountyfair.com.

EXOTIC BIRD MART & EXPO The Exotic Bird Mart & Expo is landing at the Fairgrounds with feathered

friends for a day of entertainment, learning and shopping with the whole family. Shop hundreds of accessories and meet thousands of potential sellers and buyers. 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Feb. 19. Visit alamedacountyfair.com.

Outdoor Recreation

BIRD WATCHING AT THE LIBRARY The Livermore Civic Center Library and LARPD are hosting a free all-ages program introducing participants to the joys of birdwatching. A Ranger will share tips with the audience then take the group outside to look and listen for signs of local birds. 10 a.m., Feb. 4. Registration required at 925-373-5500.

FIRE ECOLOGY HIKE Join Naturalist Dora and Open Space volunteers on a hike in the hills to see the impact and recovery of the park from the 2020 lightning-strike fires. 9 a.m.-12 p.m., Feb. 11. Call 925-373-5700. Sycamore Grove Park.

OPEN SPACE VOLUNTEER DAYS Every third Saturday of the month join an LARPD ranger for a volunteer work day in the park. From removing invasive plants to litter pick-ups to trail maintenance, volunteers will help maintain Sycamore Grove Park as a beautiful and healthy place for both visitors and wildlife. 9 a.m.-12 p.m., Feb. 18. Call 925-373-5700.

SCIENCE SPOTLIGHT FOR TEENS Amphibians: Teens will hit the trails on a scientific exploration to find evidence of amphibians and learn about their ecology and conservation at the equestrian staging lot at the Ridgeline and Lakeview trailhead in Del Valle Regional Park, 7000 Del Valle Road. 9-11 a.m., Feb. 19. Register by calling 925-373-5500.

Support

FAMILY SUPPORT GROUP NAMI Tri-Valley offers a twice-monthly Family Support Group for support and information to cope with an adult loved one's mental illness. 7-9 p.m., Feb. 13. Visit nami-trivalley.org.

AXIS COMMUNITY HEALTH Every second Tuesday of the month, an enrollment specialist from Axis will be in the library lobby to answer questions. No appointments necessary. 1-4 p.m., Feb. 14.

ADOLESCENT SUICIDE PREVENTION 101 In this Alan Hu Foundation webinar, Dr. Pamela Morris-Perez offers an introductory understanding of adolescent suicide and suicide prevention. She will demystify adolescent suicide, discuss why it is ok, and important, to ask directly about suicide and share what works in schools, homes, and pediatricians offices. 5-6 p.m., Feb. 15. Visit alanhufoundation.org.

Scholarship

COMMUNITY OF CHARACTER SCHOLARSHIP The Community of Character Collaborative invites all High School seniors attending Pleasanton Unified School District schools to apply for the annual \$1,000 Juanita Haugen Memorial Scholarship. Applications and guidelines are available online at CommunityofCharacter.org. Apply by Feb. 6.

Employment

Site Reliability Engineer

Workday, Inc. has an opening for Site Reliability Engineer in Pleasanton, CA. Job duties include: Prepare, automate, monitor, triage, refine and execute weekly maintenance activities. Salary: \$132,870 - \$177,200 40 hours per week. Interested candidates send resume to: J. Thurston at Workday, Inc. 6110 Stoneridge Mall Road, Pleasanton, CA 94588. Must reference job 20637.1550.4.

Sr Machine Learning Engineer

Workday, Inc. has an opening for Sr Machine Learning Engineer in Pleasanton, CA. Job duties include: Perform data exploration, transformation and feature engineering. Salary: \$183,310 - \$266,600, 40 hours per week. Interested candidates send resume to: J. Thurston at Workday, Inc. 6110 Stoneridge Mall Road, Pleasanton, CA 94588. Must reference Job# 20637.1809.4.

Sr Site Reliability Engineer (SRE)

Workday, Inc. has an opening for Sr Site Reliability Engineer (SRE) in Pleasanton, CA. Job duties include Maintain the reliability and availability of our customer environments. Salary: \$183,310 - \$209,600

Interested candidates send resume to: J. Thurston at Workday, Inc., 6110 Stoneridge mall Road, Pleasanton, CA 94588. Must reference Job # 20637.1539

Sr Application Security Engineer

Workday, Inc. has an opening for Sr Application Security Engineer in Pleasanton, CA. Job duties include: Perform security assessments of company products that may include vulnerability and risk assessments, threat analysis, and security code reviews to identify potential design and implementation vulnerabilities. Salary: \$157,100 - \$235,700, 40 hours per week. Interested candidates send resume to: J. Thurston at Workday, Inc. 6110 Stoneridge Mall Road, Pleasanton, CA 94588. Must reference job 20637.1271.5.

Business Systems Analyst

Workday, Inc. has an opening for Business Systems Analyst in Pleasanton, CA. Job duties include: Collaborate with Sales business functions, along with other stakeholder groups, to analyze and translate simple-to-complex business problems. Salary: \$154,523 - \$160,000, 40 hours per week. Interested candidates send resume to: J. Thurston at Workday, Inc. 6110 Stoneridge Mall Road, Pleasanton, CA 94588. Must reference job 20637.1137.5.



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Senior Manager, Development

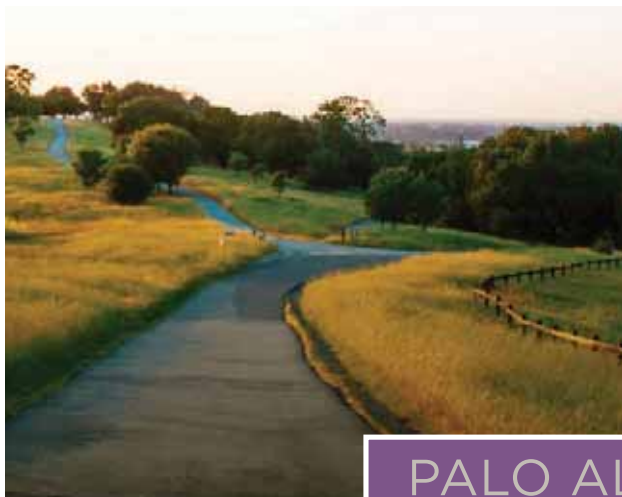
Workday, Inc. has an opening for Senior Manager, Development - Apttus CPQ in Pleasanton, CA. Job duties include: Provides leadership for those involved in the development, design and optimization of one or more information technology and systems functions supporting company business processes and technical information systems platforms. Salary: \$185,371 - \$253,300 per year, 40 hours per week. Interested candidates send resume to: J. Thurston at Workday, Inc. 6110 Stoneridge Mall Road, Pleasanton, CA 94588. Must reference job 20637.1171.5.

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.

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- Jeny Smith, REALTOR[®]
Christie's Sereno Palo Alto

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- Jahan Abtahie, REALTOR[®]
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A central location, close to schools
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3 BA | 2 BA

Remodeled inside and out.
This is a showstopper home

Did you know?

- Bathroom Trends Study, found homeowners are updating to a luxury-spa design.
- Kitchen renovations show off Engineered quartz remains the most popular material. While granite remains the second-most popular material.
- Kitchen counter colors are going more colorful with blues and green tones.
- Grey flooring tones are out bringing back the lighter brown tones.
- Exterior trends are on the rise, enhancing with darker tones, and don't forget the front door changes.
- Inventory is at a 4 year low.

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7959 Foothill Knolls Drive, Pleasanton
 5 Bedrooms | 3 Bathrooms | 3,399 Square Feet



5920 Old School Road, San Ramon
 5 Bedrooms | 2 Full/4 Half Bathrooms | 5,060 Square Feet



12400 Morgan Territory, Livermore
 5 Bedrooms | 5.5 Bathrooms | 5,992 Square Feet



5804 San Carlos Way, Pleasanton
 4 Bedrooms | 2 Bathrooms | 2,000 Square Feet