Pleasanton Weekly

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Parks redesign put on hold

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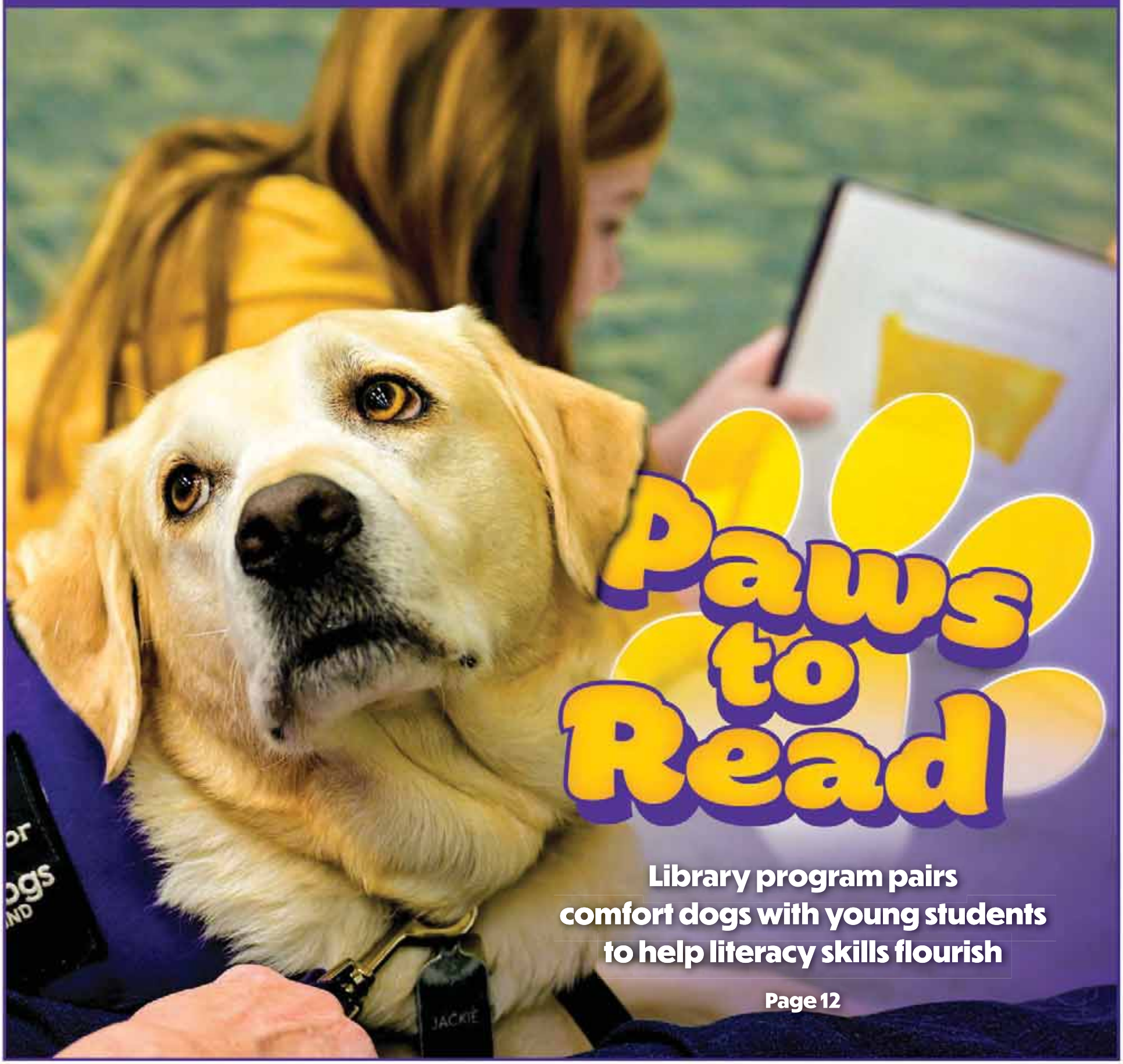

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WHAT A WEEK

By Jeremy Walsh

Bauer-Kahan's new bills

Drought. Microplastics. Reproductive health apps. Body armor. Abortion misinformation. Toxic tents. The future of bees.

That list represents the ambitious legislative agenda for Assemblymember Rebecca Bauer-Kahan — well, her agenda so far; she's introduced seven bills in Sacramento since Jan. 26, so there's even a chance she could have a new one between the time I finish writing this column and when the paper comes out today.

Starting her third term representing the Tri-Valley and Lamorinda communities as part of Assembly District 16, the Orinda Democrat appears to be keeping close to key campaign priorities from throughout her tenure — women's rights, the environment and reducing gun violence.

Three of those bills fall under Bauer-Kahan's "Clean California" package.

Assembly Bill 234, dubbed the "Microplastics Elimination Act", aims to address the scourge of non-biodegradable microplastics that permeate our consumer products, our water sources and even ourselves.

It's an escalating area of concern across the globe, and a topic that should unite us all for the good of human health — but forgive me for not being overly optimistic about that; I've lived through the COVID pandemic years after all. We'll haggle over which solutions are right and wrong, and probably allow those responsible for the harm to just carry on.

As for her motivation, Bauer-Kahan said, "The presence of microplastics in our waterways and in our own bodies is an environmental emergency that demands immediate, decisive action. It's time for California to take bold steps to protect our children, our pollinators, and our environment from the harmful effects of microplastics."

Along the lines of harmful-to-human chemicals, her AB 267 would require cancerous and endocrine-disrupting chemicals used in fire retardants to be eliminated from tents, particularly small tents and kids' tents.

Bauer-Kahan is again trying to tackle protections for bees and other pollinators with AB 363, which would direct the state's Department of Pesticide Regulation to review the impacts of neonicotinoids for non-agricultural uses on the health of pollinators and humans, and take appropriate action as needed. A more stringent proposal by her on this topic last session was vetoed by the governor.

Also with an eye toward the environment, Bauer-Kahan's AB 460 would give new authority to the State Water Resources Control Board to stop detrimental water usage "that violate(s) the Constitution, water quality objectives, water right permits and licenses, and fish and wildlife."

In this era of persistent drought and potable water scarcity in California, the assemblymember says she's striving to stem "ongoing illegal or wasteful water use practices."

A proponent of regulations to reduce gun-related violence, Bauer-Kahan has brought forward AB 301 to limit the use of tactical body armor in California to only qualifying professionals such as police officers, firefighters and private investigators. The bill would also make it illegal to sell or distribute body armor in the state, an area that is currently unregulated.

In another area where existing law is concerningly quiet, in her view, Bauer-Kahan introduced AB 254 to give sensitive health information protections to private personal details given to apps and websites that offer reproductive and sexual health services.

She said her motivation is putting laws in place in California while other states are looking at using menstrual-tracking apps or other digital services as investigative tools to enforce bans on abortions or gender-affirming health care and activities. She hopes too that the bill will end predatory advertising that can occur based on data in such apps.

And finally, there's AB 315, which targets how "crisis pregnancy centers" advertise themselves and their services — with Bauer-Kahan saying that these centers are run by anti-abortion groups that aggressively mislead people about what sort of services they offer and advocate.

"With the increase in abortion seekers coming from other states, it is even more critical to end this dangerous deception," she added.

Bauer-Kahan's legislative agenda certainly covers a lot of ground, especially coming off a 2021-2022 cycle when she saw Gov. Gavin Newsom sign 15 of her bills into law. We'll have to wait and see if that momentum continues for her in her third term. ■

About the Cover

Valley Humane Society canine comfort dog Jackie sits next to a student reading during the 20th anniversary event for the Paws to Read program at the Pleasanton Public Library on Jan. 28. Photo by Chuck Deckert.
Cover design by Doug Young.

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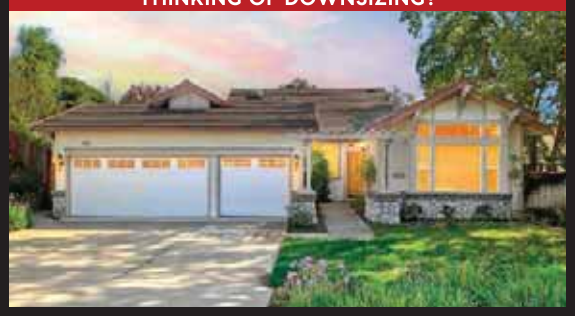

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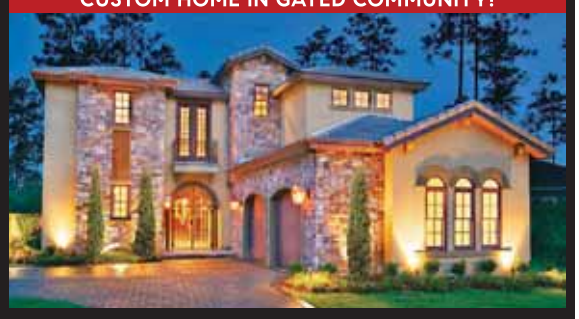

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Streetwise

ASKED AROUND TOWN

Do you have any special Valentine's Day/Palentine's Day plans this year?

Cieara Gragg, with Gianna
Realtor

Absolutely! We'll be spending the day introducing my baby daughter to her first solid food (rice cereal). I'll be sipping Champagne, and we'll be surrounded by my beloved parents and sisters, a close cousin, some dear friends and our family pets. What could be better than that?

Joe Cristiano
Human resources

Well, I'm kind of a single guy. So I'm planning to go to my favorite sushi restaurant here in Pleasanton in order to reflect on what I can do to become less single, so that next year on Valentine's Day I'll have some really excellent plans.

Brian Harp
Middle school teacher

My girlfriend and I will be trying out a restaurant in Pleasanton that we've never been to before. This has become our annual Valentine's Day tradition that we always enjoy. This year will be our fourth Valentine's Day together!

John Honea
Lacrosse coach

That's a great question! My girlfriend and I just celebrated our one-year anniversary. So last year at this time we both felt it would be a little premature to make a big deal over Valentine's Day. But this year we feel very comfortable doing something major. I just haven't figured out yet what that's going to look like.

Jamie Drollinger
Sales

My boyfriend and I are planning to stay in and prepare a homemade meal together that we'll share along with a bottle of wine. It will be really great, especially after a long, hard day at work.

—Compiled by Nancy and Jeff Lewis

Have a Streetwise question? Email editor@PleasantonWeekly.com

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DIGEST

Foothill team on top

Foothill High's We the People competition civics team is the California champion for the first time in school history, besting rival Amador Valley High to win the state title on Saturday.

Both Pleasanton schools are headed to nationals in Washington, D.C., in the weeks ahead, with Amador securing a wild-card spot courtesy of their second-place finish at the state level.

Amador is the defending national champion after its victory in D.C. in April 2022 — Foothill also qualified for nationals last year and finished fourth overall in the civics competition that tests students' understanding of the U.S. government and the Constitution.

I-680 closure is on

After last weekend's roadwork was canceled due to rainy weather, Caltrans is ready to move forward with the start of a full closure of northbound Interstate 680 between Sunol and Pleasanton for three consecutive weekends of paving work.

As of press time Wednesday, the closure is scheduled to begin at 10 p.m. today (Feb. 10) and run through 5 a.m. Monday (Feb. 13) from the Koopman Road on-ramp just north of the Highway 84 interchange in Sunol to Sunol Boulevard in Pleasanton.

There will then be a four-day closure over the Presidents' Day weekend in the same area, from 10 p.m. Feb. 17 to 5 a.m. Feb. 21.

The final weekend of work as scheduled will run from 10 p.m. Feb. 24 to 5 a.m. Feb. 27, but in a shorter segment, between Sunol Boulevard and Bernal Avenue in Pleasanton.

Major detours will be in effect for the northbound side of the freeway. The southbound lanes of I-680 will remain fully open. All of the scheduled work is weather permitting. To learn more, visit www.680paving.com.

LAFCO seat open

The Alameda Local Agency Formation Commission is accepting applications for its alternate public member position now through 5 p.m. March 3.

An independent government agency, LAFCO "is responsible for coordinating logical and timely changes in local governmental boundaries, conducting special studies that review ways to reorganize, simplify and streamline governmental structure, and establishing planning spheres of influence (SOIs) for each city and special district within the county," officials said.

To apply for the four-year term, download the application at www.alamedalafco.org. ■

Council approves major components of Stoneridge Mall redevelopment framework

Up to 1,170 housing units initially allocated as part of converting site to mixed-use

By Christian Trujano

The Pleasanton City Council has adopted key components of the policy framework for redeveloping Stoneridge Shopping Center into a mixed-use property, including an initial allocation of up to 1,170 housing units across the mall site.

The 18-acre site will be rezoned to allow for multi-family residential development at 50-65 dwelling units per acre in order to help the city meet its state-mandated Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) of 5,965 new units. New and retained retail and commercial activities, along with entertainment and public gathering spaces, are part of the redevelopment vision statement as well.

"We've seen the Stoneridge Mall grow less active, less vital, less interesting and less populated," Mayor Karla Brown said during the Jan. 26 meeting. "This is a chance to, I think, make one of the most important decisions within 10 years easily ... revitalizing this Stoneridge Mall."

According to the framework's vision statement, the Stoneridge mall area will continue to be a "community destination and a strong economic contributor; (will continue) evolving to be a vibrant mixed-use community with a variety of land uses that are integrated and well-connected with a multi-modal circulation system, and including public and private gathering spaces and placemaking amenities."

Councilmember Jeff Nibert was the lone dissenter in the 4-1 vote to adopt the density components because of the fact he lives in — and represents — that area of Pleasanton and was not happy about the traffic impacts from the new development plans.

He said that while he appreciates staff's work in developing what he said will be a "fantastic product at the mall" and understands that it is a bit too late to request for fewer units to be developed at the site, he could not vote yes.

"I know that we're so far down the path that my objection, and my frustration, probably will not make a difference in the final outcome. But I wanted to register it to get that on the record, and I believe that the citizens of the northwest part of Pleasanton are being asked to bear a traffic burden that's out of proportion," Nibert said.

The Stoneridge Shopping Center

See **STONERIDGE** on Page **7**

CHRISTIAN TRUJANO

Pleasanton city staff will be evaluating only renovations to the bandstand at Lions Wayside Park rather than a full redesign of the facility and adjacent Delucchi Park after the council voted to temporarily halt the entire larger-scale effort.

Parks redesign put on hold

Council majority balks at $14M project to overhaul Lions Wayside and Delucchi downtown

By Christian Trujano

The Pleasanton City Council temporarily halted the Lions Wayside and Delucchi Park Master Plan update process Tuesday so that staff could further evaluate a simpler and possibly cheaper renovation project.

In a 4-1 vote, the council majority went against the proposed staff recommendation to approve an update to the conceptual plan for the adjacent downtown parks, which proposes a complete redesign that could cost up to $14 million.

Some of the redesign proposals included relocating the Kottinger Creek further east, relocating the Chan Henderson Bicentennial Bandstand to be on the west side of the creek and reorienting the bandstand to face toward a large open space on the downtown side of Lions Wayside.

"I first want to apologize to any staff member or consultant who has invested themselves in this plan because I'm in no way suggesting that it wouldn't be lovely to have," Councilmember Julie Testa said during Tuesday's meeting. "I do not see our community coming out and asking us to spend $14 million on this and I don't see the value of getting there."

The master plan for both parks had originally started in 1993, according to Bay Area landscape architect Richard Larson, who has been working on the project for several decades now.

Larson said that the joined parks were to be included as part of the downtown transportation corridor plan and serve as a trail to connect into downtown.

What followed was a decade of design contracts being approved and several designs being evaluated before the 2014 City Council adopted the original master plan.

One of the crucial elements in that 2014 master plan was placing the Kottinger Creek into an underground type of tunnel within Lions Wayside. However, Larson said several regulatory agencies made it clear that the city would not be able to obtain the environmental permits required to do that.

Most of the concerns from the environmental regulatory agencies were regarding the potential loss of riparian habitat and impacts on surrounding watersheds.

After having to spend the following years redesigning an updated conceptual plan, staff came back to the agencies in December 2021

See **PARKS** on Page **10**

Narum appointed to Zone 7 board

Ex-councilwoman fills seat vacated upon Sanwong's exit to EBRPD

By Christian Trujano

Former Pleasanton City Council member Kathy Narum's time away from public service was short-lived as she was selected last week to fill the Zone 7 Water Agency's open seat on its Board of Directors.

"I think it's no secret that I believe and am committed to the importance of public service, which contributes to the betterment of the community and I think I've certainly shown that over the years," Narum told the Weekly on Monday. "When this position became available, it was of interest to me because I had done so much of the work on water within Pleasanton, as well as the Tri-Valley Water Roundtable, representing Pleasanton."

The Zone7 board voted 4-2 in the first vote of the special board meeting on Feb. 2 to appoint Narum after interviewing four other final candidates that were chosen out of a pool of 20 applicants.

The other finalists included former Pleasanton mayor Jennifer Hosterman, Cathy Brown, Holly Garber and Janet Gardner.

See **NARUM** on Page **9**

LVJUSD, teachers union reach tentative salary agreement

Deal includes 9% in increases during current school year, plus 3% for 2023-24

By Cierra Bailey

After several weeks of negotiations, Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District (LVJUSD) and the Livermore Education Association have reached a tentative agreement regarding teacher salary increases for the current school year as well as 2023-24.

The district and the union have agreed upon a 3% ongoing salary increase retroactive to July 1, 2022 and an additional 6% salary increase beginning March 1, 2023.

For the 2023-24 school year, they will receive an additional 3% starting July 1 of this year with contingency language that could add an increase greater than 3% if additional money is made available through either an increase in revenue or a decrease in expenses.

"I think this was very challenging but I think that both sides worked very diligently to understand the perspective of the other side," LEA President Aimee Thompson told the Weekly. "I think both sides worked very diligently to try to understand the data that was presented and in working through and trying to understand each other, we were able to come to agreement. And, I think because of the challenging nature of this process, we now have better understanding for a longer term goal and process to not only make us competitive right now, in this moment, but to maintain that competitiveness in some restructuring of the budget planning process," she added.

LEA vice president Eileen Greenlee agreed with Thompson and added that the fact that Livermore had fallen so far behind other districts in compensation generated more interest and engagement from LEA's members as well as the broader community.

Another piece of the puzzle, according to Thompson and Greenlee, was navigating working together with new members of the district's negotiating team.

The new agreement is tentative pending ratification by LEA's membership and approval by the Board of Education.

LEA's initial request for a 10.9% ongoing salary increase for the current school year was sparked by Livermore teacher salaries ranking significantly below other similar, neighboring districts and the union's concern that if their compensation was not improved, Livermore would struggle to attract and retain educators — an issue further exacerbated by the nationwide teacher shortage.

"Livermore has been a place that has been very attractive to job candidates over the years, and we anticipate that it will remain that way," LVJUSD Superintendent Chris Van Schaack said. "We also took very seriously the concerns expressed by our teachers that they feared their colleagues would leave for higher paying jobs in neighboring districts. We think this new salary schedule is a step in the right direction, though we also acknowledge that there is work to be done to stay competitive."

Prior to agreeing to the new salary schedule, Livermore ranked 14 out of 19 nearby districts including the Tri-Valley cities of Pleasanton, Dublin and San Ramon as well as Brentwood, Fremont and Hayward, among others.

Under the new agreement — when the additional 6% is implemented in March — Livermore will rank sixth out of those 19 districts.

Van Schaack also addressed the obstacles in reaching the agreement.

"I have participated in negotiations with our district teams for 15 years, and each year brings its own set of challenges that usually stimulate our creative thinking," Van Schaack said.

He noted that while both teams were in agreement about the need for developing a more competitive salary schedule amid the nationwide teacher shortage, the timing of LEA's request presented a hurdle initially because the district had already created and had been operating on a balanced budget for the year.

"By reprioritizing some of our one-time funds we were able to free up money in the short-term and we will be working with all parties to modify our budget to put more of a focus on competitive compensation in the long-term," Van Schaack said.

One of the sticking points in the process from the district's perspective was the ability to afford a compensation increase without affecting other areas such as class sizes or programs. Van Schaack said that at this time, classroom sizes are not expected to be impacted as a result of this new agreement.

"We do not anticipate having to modify our contract language around class size," Van Schacck said.

He continued, "Current targets are 24 students per class in TK-3; 30 in 4-5; and 30 in 6-12. Those targets will remain in place. Coming out of covid, we added staff to help transition students back to full-time in-school learning and to help mitigate any learning loss. We will likely scale back a little bit in those areas. We are looking primarily for modifications to our operations that do not have significant impact on student achievement."

Pending LEA's ratification vote — which is set for next week — the district plans to take the tentative agreement to the school board for approval at its Feb. 21 meeting. ■

Zone 7 publishes annual report

Takeaways include completion of treatment facilities, increased public conservation

By Christian Trujano

The Zone 7 Water Agency recently released its 2021-22 annual report, which highlights completed construction projects, water conservation participation, and various flood and fire mitigation efforts including the use of goats.

The agency, which supplies water to all of northeastern Alameda County and sells wholesale treated water to local retailers, publishes the report in order to provide information about its operations, updates on drought conditions and overall water quality improvements.

Last year was a particularly significant year as it marked the third year of extreme drought conditions as the report pointed to "record-breaking" low precipitation having affected reservoir levels and groundwater basins.

Because of this, Zone 7 declared a local drought emergency where the agency was able to expedite the completion of the Valley Booster Pump Station, a water reliability infrastructure project.

According to the report, the pump station helped increase the capacity of water wells and reduced the strain on pipelines by lowering the operating pressure.

The drought emergency also allowed the agency to increase its rebate amounts for water efficient lawn conversions resulting in 222 high-efficiency clothes washer rebates and 157 weather-based irrigation controller rebates, according to the report.

It also stated that about 36,854 people visited the agency's website on water conservation and rebates.

"We offer our sincere appreciation to the entire Tri-Valley community for answering our conservation call and reducing water consumption by a total of 10% throughout the previous fiscal year," Zone 7 General Manager Valerie Pryor said in a recent press release.

Another achievement listed in the report were the upgrades to the Patterson Pass Water Treatment Plant, which were completed last spring.

The project — which cost $110 million for planning, design and construction — improved the water quality by efficiently upgrading the water treatment process and switching to ozone as the water's primary disinfectant, according to the agency

In terms of flood and fire preparedness efforts, one of the most notable features in the Zone 7 report were the goats that are part of the "Goat in the Zone" project.

According to the report, after a successful pilot program, the agency began deploying across seven different sites where they would "eat overgrown vegetation that gets dry in summer months and is at risk for fire and blocks the flow of water in flood channels during the rainy season."

"The goats 'work' along select access roads and channels to control the growth of herbaceous vegetation and invasive weeds, reduce fire fuel loads and maintain grassland habitat for special-status species," the report states.

One of the main regional highlights that the agency listed in its report included the formation of the Los Vaqueros Reservoir Expansion Project Joint Powers Authority, which is made up of eight regional water agencies.

The group provides oversight of the expansion project, which is an effort to increase the Los Vaqueros reservoir's capacity and to build a pipeline that will connect the reservoir to the South Bay Aqueduct.

Some other water supply reliability projects listed in the report include continued participation in projects like the Sites Reservoir Project, an effort to build a new off-stream reservoir to capture and store stormwater flows from the Sacramento River, and with the Delta Conveyance Project, a project to add new conveyance facilities in the Delta.

View the full report at https://zone7water.report/. ■

TAKE US ALONG

Baby why don't we go: Steve and Kellie Pulido celebrated their 38th wedding anniversary at Montego Bay.

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

STONERIDGE

Continued from Page **5**

in the northwest part of Pleasanton is the largest site in the city's 2023-31 Housing Element sites list with the location's proximity to the BART and interstates 580 and 680. But because of the size and owners' desire to completely redevelop the area, the council approved staff to work on an early-stage development plan, which led to the Stoneridge Mall framework.

The idea behind the framework, which was initiated in August, was to create a policy document that would not only help decide how many residential units should be allocated there, but it would also guide staff in the ongoing allocation of housing among the parcels at the location.

Since last summer, city staff have hosted community meetings, one of which was a joint meeting with the Planning Commission, and coordinated input from the four property owners to develop the framework so that it aligns with the adoption of the city's Housing Element, which also happened during the same special council meeting.

The original Housing Element draft had contemplated between 900 and 1,440 units at the mall within approximately 18 of the total approximately 75 acres with a density range of between 50 to 80 dwelling units per acre.

But at the Jan. 26 meeting, the council approved staff's recommendation to allocate between 150 and 195 dwelling units at each of the six parcels at the mall, resulting in an overall range of 900 to 1,170 units.

That number range is exclusive of any 50% density bonus allowed under state law — if all projects in the mall qualify for the state bonus, the total would be between 1,350 and 1,755 units, according to the staff presentation during the meeting. The actual maximum would depend on specific project applications, which may or may not seek density bonuses at the maximum allowed.

Those high numbers were one of the primary reasons why Nibert, along with some of the other council members, shared concerns about the impacts that will come with new residents moving there.

However, as community development director Ellen Clark pointed out during staff's presentation that a traffic analysis showed no real change in traffic with the upper range of 65 units per acre.

She said that with the recent closure of the Nordstrom store at the mall, "the p.m. peak level of service at the intersection studied remains the same."

One of the key elements in the framework that would help alleviate the traffic burden is the fact that the BART is right there and the overall design that would create a sense of everything being connected, according to city staff.

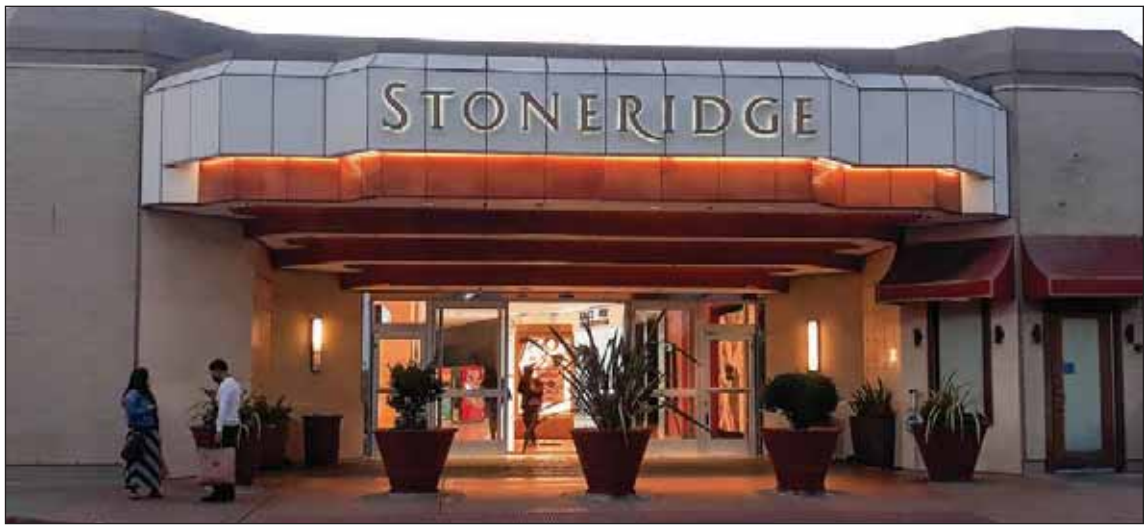
Everything will have a flow to it so that the BART connects to the surrounding businesses and the proposed open space recreation areas will help connect the whole mall. That way, it incentivizes people to take public transportation.

Vice Mayor Jack Balch emphasized that goal and pushed staff to also include more bicycle- and pedestrian-friendly pathways so that it helps lower the overall traffic in the area.

Staff also explained how the building designs for the proposed housing will be more open as well in order to have more eyes looking at the streets so that people can call out any safety or crime concerns much easier, which also helps create a sense of community.

While no real design plans are set in stone, Clark touched maintaining a balance in the framework between getting a sense of what things will look like without getting into any design specifics.

She said that the next steps will be drawing out some kind of master plan or design specific plan, but currently staff have no real immediate plans.



WEEKLY FILE PHOTO

Pleasanton city officials have advanced the policy framework for redeveloping Stoneridge Shopping Center property into a mix of uses, including a significant amount of housing.

Clark added that while they don't have those specific plans, she hopes staff can carry the momentum from creating the framework and continue the process sometime later in the year.

Especially given that all property owners of the six parcels at the mall have continuously expressed their interest in continuing the process — so long as they maintain some flexibility in deciding how to distribute units and how the development will look like.

"I believe that the developers, the property owners and other interested parties in the mall framework are accepting of this language to create that flexibility, which will then allow us to continue with our public process and continue to discuss this project with the City Council," City Manager Gerry Beaudin said. ■

Food bank receives semi-truck full of donations

One Nation Dream Makers grateful for 'timely' aid

By Nicole Gonzales

A food bank in Livermore recently garnered its largest donation of food and supplies since its opening — one that the founder called "timely and incredible".

One Nation Dream Makers was happy to accept a semi-truck filled to the brim with food items and other necessary supplies on the evening of Jan. 31, according to founder Ronnie Forbes. The organization counted 24 pallets containing various canned goods, dry and nonperishable items. The donated goods came out to an estimated 40,000 pounds of food.

In a statement released by the group, Forbes expressed excitement and gratitude for the donation, calling it an extremely timely delivery.

"This is awesome," he said. "We thank God for providing a timely delivery of incredible food to increase our ability to do more for more of our community troops that are in big time need."

Forbes, a U.S. Army veteran, founded One Nation Dream Makers in 2017. He has been candid about his struggles with post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), incarceration and addiction following his discharge from the service.

After personally experiencing food insecurity and financial hardship throughout his life, he felt a strong desire to give back to his community. He has said his drive for charity work comes from his Christian faith and belief system.

The main mission of the group is to work with vulnerable populations in Alameda County with the goal of combating hunger and food insecurity.

Forbes spoke to the Weekly about the semi-truck donation and his reflections on the work One Nation Dream Makers has done.

"When we found out that we were going to be getting a whole truckload, it was so exciting," he said. "We always ask God to give us the opportunity to do more for more people and now the green light has come for us to be able to do more."

Forbes explained that the group continues to see a rise in food insecurity.

"We've already increased our distribution throughout the course of this last year. Donations like this allow us to be able to help the increasing population of food insecure individuals," he added. "A lot of people that would have never ended up in the food bank line will end up in a food bank line."

In addition to running the food bank operation out of an old Livermore fire station, he opened up the Livermore Warming Center this year. The organization is also currently planning new programs that will expand their outreach into Contra Costa County.

One Nation Dream Makers now focuses its efforts on food rescue, sorting and re-boxing and then delivering the supplies to low-income and in-need residents or unhoused communities. The organization works with other food banks in the area, such as Tri-Valley Haven in Livermore and St. Raymond Catholic Church in Dublin.

The delivery came as a part of a surplus program from The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Humanitarian Surplus Food Donation. Overflow from the church's own farm and food production systems are given to charitable organizations across the country when they are available.

"When there are surplus commodities in these warehouses, the food is donated to assist with disasters, such as fires and floods in California, and to food banks to assist the needy in other communities," church representative Ken Mano said.

KEN MANO

Food donated to One Nation Dream Makers are set up to be organized, re-boxed and delivered to in-need communities.

A total of three semi-trucks full of food were donated from warehouses in Salt Lake City; the remaining two were delivered to food banks in Santa Rosa and Monterey counties.

"It would not be possible to make this kind of donation locally without organizations like Ronnie, who can accept, store, sort and process this food into smaller boxes which he delivers to the homeless and needy in our local communities," Mano continued. "Ronnie can always use volunteers at his location in Livermore to help sort, process and box the food."

"I don't care what race you are, I don't care what gender you are as long as you are looking to change your life and you need a hand up — I and our staff are here to help find a need and fill it," Forbes said. "We're feeding them, we're loving them, we're showing them how they can turn their lives around. We're giving them counsel."

To find more information about One Nation Dream Makers, visit onenationdreammakers.org. ■

California snowpack reaches record high in latest survey

Feb. 1 manual survey finds 88.5 inches of snow in Sierra Nevada

The series of atmospheric rivers that hit California in the months of December and January certainly improved the state's snowpack, state water officials confirmed during their second snow survey of the year.

Results from the state's latest manual snow survey, conducted on Feb. 1, recorded 85.5 inches of snow at the Sierra Nevada's Phillips Station, which is 193% of average for the area at this time of year.

Electronic snow sensors installed around California reveal that statewide, the snowpack is 205% of average for Feb. 1, which beats the state's record snow levels in 1982.

The numbers come after the state endured one of its wettest three-week periods ever, which followed a severe three-year drought and a prolonged heat wave over the summer.

David Rizzardo, hydrology manager for the California Department of Water Resources, said January's atmospheric rivers ensures that this year's data is different than that of last year's, when the state was hit with the driest January, February and March on record after reaching snow depths of 150% above normal at the beginning of 2022.

"There's a contrast to the year before, when we did have some good storms in December and a really good snowpack around Jan. 1, but those were only two or three atmospheric rivers," Rizzardo said. "So it is a major difference when you have that number of storms all coming in at different angles and orientations into the mountains and really distributing snow fairly well."

Rizzardo added that the snow in higher elevations is very cold and not very dense — the perfect conditions for the snowpack to last until spring. Snow in lower parts of the mountains is likely to melt quickly and rebuild, which is not alarming, he said.

State water officials err on the side of caution before celebrating, as California still has two months before it should reach its snowpack peak for the wet season. Called the "frozen reservoir," the snowpack makes up about 30% of the state's water supplies and significantly influences how water officials manage the state's water supplies.

"California has always experienced some degree of swings between wet and dry, but the past few months have demonstrated how much more extreme those swings are becoming," said DWR Director Karla Nemeth. "California is preparing for more intense and dangerous climate swings by bolstering both drought and flood preparation."

JONATHAN WONG/DWR, VIA BCN

From left: California Department of Water Resources Director Karla Nemeth, Anthony Burdock, Sean de Guzman and Andy Reising conduct a snow survey at Phillips Station in the Sierra Nevada Mountains this winter.

California typically receives about half of its annual precipitation during December, January and February, said State Climatologist Michael Anderson. This season, the state received 80% of its snowfall in a matter of three weeks.

But Jeanine Jones, interstate resources manager at DWR, added that above-average rain and snow levels does not necessarily translate into water for Californians' taps. She said that the state's groundwater and reservoir systems are like "really big buckets" that need more than just one good wet season to be fully replenished, after years of depleted levels.

"Some areas will likely come out of drought conditions because of the very wet conditions that we've had, but it really depends on the circumstances of a water suppliers," Jones said. "If they're taking water from just only groundwater in an area that's been very depleted over time, or if they're taking water from a reservoir that's really full." ■

—Olivia Wynkoop, BCN Foundation

Dublin introduces 'WIN for All' workplace program to support adults with disabilities

Futures Explored collaboration hopes to encourage diversity and equity

By Nicole Gonzales

The city of Dublin has recently announced its newest partnership with the organization Futures Explored to increase opportunities for adults with disabilities in the workplace.

The new program, Workforce Inclusion Network (WIN) for All, will see the hiring of adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) in positions across the city. Additional staff training on equity and inclusion is also expected to roll out with the partnership.

According to a city press release, Dublin plans to hire a total of 15 qualifying adults over the next 18 months in the Parks and Community Services Department. Most of the roles are expected to be filled at The Wave, the city's recreational and aquatics facility.

"We partnered with the City of Dublin as our missions align and complement each other's organizations. The City of Dublin is a progressive and inclusive organization with a wide range of job opportunities," Futures Explored CEO Karen Smith said.

"We are hopeful that the program, WIN for All, will move the needle on employment for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities," she added.

Founded in 1964, Futures Explored works with adults with disabilities who may have struggled with employment. The main goal of the organization is to create equitable programs and job opportunities for those individuals.

Smith explained that the unemployment rate of adults with disabilities is nearly double that of adults without disabilities.

"Being employed can lead to a life of independence and fulfillment. The other reason that this program is a WIN for All, is that the City and the Community of Dublin will be introduced and work side by side with some really awesome folks," Smith added.

Staff at city facilities will receive additional training on the program and working with disabilities in the workplace, as well as training on equity and implicit bias.

"This partnership with the city of Dublin moves us all closer to this reality of inclusion," Smith said.

To find out more information on the city's partnership with Futures Explored, visit dublin.ca.gov. ■

NARUM

Continued from Page 5

Additional familiar names in the original applicant pool included former Zone 7 board member Dick Quigley and 2022 Zone 7 election candidate Todd Shinohara.

Kathy Narum

"We are very pleased to welcome Kathy Narum to the Zone 7 Water Board," current Zone 7 Board President Sarah Palmer told the Weekly in a statement. "There were several highly qualified applicants, but Kathy stood out with her level of preparation and her insight to what Zone 7 as an agency does."

"Zone 7 has challenging times ahead and several key projects that require thought and resolve. I am confident that Kathy will serve well the Board and the community at large with her intelligence and knowledge. I look forward to serving with her in the years ahead," Palmer added.

The open seat on the board was a result of now-former director Olivia Sanwong resigning in order to serve on the East Bay Regional Park District Board of Directors.

Narum will be immediately taking over the office and will have a swearing in ceremony at the Feb. 15 board meeting, said Zone 7 communication specialist Alexandra Bradley. Narum will serve the remainder of Sanwong's term, which expires on June 30, 2026.

A longtime veteran in the public service world, Narum had just been termed out of the Pleasanton City Council after 9-1/2 years of service in December before she said she was encouraged by several elected officials in the area to apply for the Zone 7 position.

She said that her city council experience coupled with the fact that she served on the water liaison committee made her believe that she would bring a unique experience from the retailer perspective to the Zone 7 board.

"I think I'm able to make the tough decisions even knowing I'm going to make some people mad, but doing it in the best interest for Pleasanton," Narum said. "I believe I will be able to continue that in the best interest of the Tri-Valley as far as water."

Some of Narum's goals for her time on the board include contributing to the opening of the Los Vaqueros Reservoir expansion project, which will increase local storage and build new conveyance; bringing the wells that were shut down due to PFAS contamination in Pleasanton back online; working on the flood protection phase improvement plans following recent flooding due to atmospheric river storms; and completing an energy master plan for the agency.

She said her emphasis on energy stems from her time on the East Bay Community Energy Board of Directors.

"It takes energy to pump the water around and I think it's important that we're looking at anything we can do to conserve," Narum said. "You've got to be able to get the water to my faucet, to your faucet and that takes energy, it takes pumping. I think that's important."

But despite all of her experience and accolades within the public service world, Narum said she has much to learn in her new role.

From the water treatment process, to flood control practices, Narum said that she will be spending a lot of time doing her homework as she steps into her new role.

She also said that with the Zone 7 board being made up of six other directors, she will have to also work on building consensus with other board members on the issues that might spark differing opinions.

Narum said that she looks forward to working with those fellow board members so that they can get to the four votes needed to get things done.

"I'm looking forward to serving on the board and I see it as a challenge, a different challenge from being on the City Council," Narum said. "I'm looking forward to working collaboratively and building consensus with my fellow board members and as I said I have a lot to learn from them now and I know that, I'm realistic. While I come with a good knowledge base, I still have much to learn about the agency and the workings and so forth." ■

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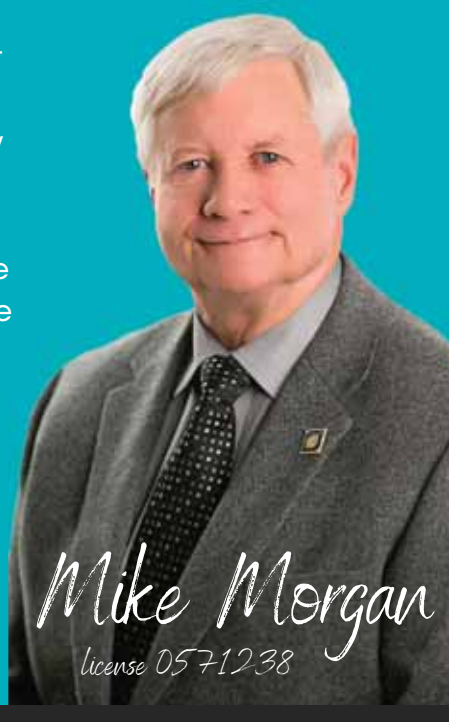

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Massive Bishop Ranch solar project enters next phase

35,000 panels set for installation throughout six sites

By Jeanita Lyman

Following a breakthrough in the future of clean energy at Lawrence Livermore National Lab late last year, the Tri-Valley is now set to house another one of the world's most ambitious renewable energy projects to date, with thousands of new solar panels set for installation at Bishop Ranch in San Ramon.

Officials at Sunset Development Company recently announced the second phase of their partnership with New York-based DSD Renewables, which will see 35,000 new solar panels installed across Bishop Ranch by early next year — enough to offset an estimated 90% of energy use at the redeveloping business park.

"As we continue to transform Bishop Ranch into a vibrant downtown, DSD remains the ideal partner to assist in getting us one step closer to our ultimate goal of relying 100% on clean, renewable energy," said Alexander Mehran Jr., president and CEO of Sunset Development Company.

The first phase of the project, which kicked off in 2021, has offset energy use at City Center Bishop Ranch by 75%, and made it the largest shopping center in the world to earn Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Platinum certification from the U.S. Green Building Council.

Currently, San Ramon has the largest concentration of property with LEED certification outside of a metropolitan area.

"DSD's acclaimed state-of-the-art technology reflects and complements Bishop Ranch's commitment to sustainability," Mehran said. "The immense scale of this second phase, along with its innovative design and overall aesthetic, is set to place San Ramon on the map for solar and energy storage installations."

In total, the solar energy and storage project is estimated to be capable of producing and holding nearly 25 megawatts of electricity upon completion, officials said.

SUNSET DEVELOPMENT

Solar panels in place as part of the first phase of installation at Bishop Ranch, with the second phase set for completion by early 2024.

"The second phase of solar installation at Bishop Ranch is a testament to their sustainable business practices, and we are excited to partner with them at this scale to design and build this architecturally stunning solar plus storage portfolio," said Ben Jones, executive vice president of canopy design engineering at DSD Renewables. ■

Ramirez Holmes to continue leading Los Vaqueros Reservoir JPA board

Oversees important regional water supply project

By Christian Trujano

The Tri-Valley will keep its prominent voice on the Los Vaqueros Reservoir Joint Powers Authority Board of Directors as Zone 7 Water Agency Director Angela Ramirez Holmes will serve a second term as board chair.

The authority board is composed of eight water agencies that oversee the Los Vaqueros Reservoir expansion project. Los Vaqueros is an off-stream reservoir in eastern Contra Costa County that currently holds 160,000 acre-feet of water.

Angela Ramirez Holmes

Ramirez Holmes, who was first selected as board chair back in November 2021, will continue in her role after the JPA board unanimously voted to retain its current leadership for one more year at its Jan. 11 board meeting.

"I am honored to continue serving as chair of the Los Vaqueros Reservoir JPA," Ramirez Holmes said in a Zone 7 press release. "This significant collaboration among the partner agencies has allowed us to reach several important milestones, and we look forward to continuing our efforts into 2023 as we get ready to break ground."

The JPA, which formed in October 2021, was created with the intent of increasing the reservoir's capacity from 160,000 acre-feet to 275,000 acre-feet and building a pipeline to connect it to the South Bay Aqueduct.

According to the press release, the Los Vaqueros expansion project aims to "increase Bay Area and Central Valley water supply reliability, develop water supplies for wildlife refuges and improve water quality while protecting Delta fisheries and providing additional Delta ecosystem benefits."

Once the necessary reviews and approvals are done, construction of the project is expected to begin this year and would continue through 2030.

The project was approved for $477 million from California Proposition 1 funds and $164 million for construction from federal appropriations — the remainder of the funding costs will be covered by additional federal funding and JPA member contributions. ■

PARKS

Continued from Page 5

with a new plan that met the regulatory requirements.

Larson said that Pleasanton city staff were not expecting it but once they got the green light, they got right to work.

In February 2022, staff presented its final concepts to the Parks and Recreation Commission and then to the City Council in April — both approved the plans and council proceeded to request staff to seek public input.

At Tuesday's meeting, staff presented those public outreach findings to the council in hopes that afterward they would have given staff the OK to fully update the joint park master plan so they can begin looking at the total cost estimates for the final design.

But after a round of questions from council members, Testa made the first move toward suggesting a full halt on the project after hearing some of the cost estimates from Pleasanton landscape architect Matt Gruber.

According to Gruber, the city had originally set aside just over $4 million for the overall master plan project that was dipped into for working through the regulatory agency issues — $2 million from that capital investment project fund were also used to purchase land to the north of Lions Wayside (4363 and 4377 First St.) in the hopes of using it for additional downtown parking.

"We're looking at a $12 million to $14 million cost for the 2022 concept plan. But we really won't know what those numbers are until we adopt this plan, we get through the work plan process and we assign real values to the construction of this concept," Gruber said.

But it wasn't just an issue about the cost.

Testa said she enjoyed the parks as they currently stand and that she really thinks the only real changes should be to the bandstand.

She also said that she didn't want to see the creek being moved, as it was proposed in the conceptual design, as it provides a great amenity for children to play in without really getting hurt.

Mayor Karla Brown immediately seconded Testa's motion after already being critical of the conceptual plan during her questioning. She disliked a design option that placed the bandstand facing downtown businesses possibly having a negative noise impact and that construction would also affect concerts in the park or any families looking to spend time there.

But Brown's main criticism, after hearing Testa's substitute motion to simply keep the park mainly as it is, was that the park is beautiful as it is and it contributes to the historic feel of the downtown area — so spending that much money on a renovation project did not make sense.

"We have a perfectly natural park that water flows to a creek," Brown said. "We get emails from residents who send us pictures of riparian ducks and other animals in this creek. It is nature's ark, and it's beautiful and that's one of the reasons it's been enjoyed by so many during concerts in the park, ice cream sundaes and picnics downtown. We have an historic downtown and I think we need a historic gazebo ... and certainly not an amphitheater in this location."

She pointed to various other park and recreation projects that the city could use the remaining $1.9 million from the joint park project budget to fund — including things like the Century House and new skate park projects.

What followed was a heated discussion between Brown and Vice Mayor Jack Balch, who wanted to emphasize the original goal of connecting both parks in order to create a sense of connectivity and have a space that would not only bring vitality to the downtown area but also create one large, open lawn space for the public to use.

He also pointed out that while the council had no knowledge of the cost estimates, they should have waited until staff had those estimates before shutting down the entire master plan.

"I don't know the cost of it, I don't know how we'll pay for it ... but I think that the design and the work and public input that we've received through the surveys and and the years this has gone, I think lends it to say this conceptual plan is is a winner," said Balch, who cast the lone dissenting vote.

Councilmember Jeff Nibert had also originally supported staff's updates to the conceptual plan before Testa's motion, but after the lengthy discussion he agreed with Councilmember Valerie Arkin who made a third motion, which is the one that passed on Tuesday, to have staff put a pause on the master plan.

The motion made by Arkin was to have staff produce cost estimates for the renovation and relocation of the bandstand, which according to Gruber would have to be moved either way due to regulatory issues. That could mean simply moving the stage forward a little bit or moving it to an entirely new location in the park.

Staff will also have to produce some type of cost estimates for the conceptual plan so that the council can compare the two and decide which one would be best moving forward.

They will also be looking at the Parks and Recreation Commission to weigh in on the two choices and staff will conduct minimal public outreach per the council's request.

City Manager Gerry Beaudin said the decision to keep the park mainly as it is is a fairly straightforward one that would not need months of planning and public outreach compared to if the council would have wanted to proceed with a renovation plan that would specifically use the almost $2 million in funds.

"If that's the direction, then it's not a $2 million project," Beaudin said regarding the simple renovation of the bandstand and other light renovations. "If we want to use the $2 million that's been set aside for the park project over the years ... then that's a significant public investment and we would likely have that process. If it's, you know, some new benches and a new bandstand, that's a different and probably more straightforward approach." ■

San Ramon, Danville among plaintiffs in new lawsuit against Monsanto over contaminants

17 municipalities plus county seek relief for costs associated with cleanup efforts

By Jeanita Lyman

The San Ramon Valley municipalities, along with more than a dozen others in Contra Costa County, are seeking damages against Monsanto for alleged contamination of the San Francisco Bay along with portions of the western Sacramento River Delta starting nearly a century ago.

Danville and San Ramon have joined with Concord, Pleasant Hill, Moraga, Pinole, Brentwood, Clayton, Oakley, Hercules, Martinez, Lafayette, Orinda, Pittsburg, Lafayette, Richmond, San Pablo and the county government this winter in suing Monsanto and its two associated companies, which are facing public nuisance, private nuisance and trespassing allegations in the civil case.

"Our courts provide a level playing field so that local communities like these can take on powerful polluters like Monsanto," said Paul Stephan, of Sher Edling Law Office in San Francisco, which represents the plaintiffs. "This case is an important part of protecting the health and quality of life for residents, businesses, and communities throughout the county."

The suit — along with several similar ones filed by municipalities across the country — alleges that Monsanto officials were aware of the threat to human health posed by polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) for decades prior to a 1976 ban on their use, yet continued to produce and market products with them.

"In 1936, the Halowax Corporation reported severe chloracne (an acne-like skin irritation that can be caused by exposure to PCBs) among many of its workers using chlorinated biphenyls," Sher Elding attorneys said in the lawsuit. "Also, three of Halowax's workers died with symptoms of jaundice. Autopsies showed that two of the three decedents had severe liver damage."

Attorneys go on to allege that the toxic effects pointed to in the study was closely followed by Monsanto, who they note went on to manufacture more than 1.4 million PCBs starting in the 1920s and through 1997.

"Monsanto knew its PCBs were creating a widespread environmental and public health problem," Sher Elding attorneys continued.

Despite this, the complaint alleges that the chemical company did nothing to stop the production and use of PCBs, instead sowing disinformation and confusion around the matter.

"Monsanto's internal communications and public statements were severely inconsistent: even as Monsanto internally acknowledged the pervasive risks posed by its large-scale manufacture, distribution, and sale of PCB," Sher Elding attorneys wrote. "Monsanto minimized or denied those risks in its public statements. For example Monsanto provided false and/or misleading information to federal, state, and local government authorities that were investigating PCBs risks."

"Monsanto provided false and/or misleading information and improper instructions about PCBs, 'including disposal instructions, to its customers, distributors, and salespeople," they added.

Following the ban, municipalities across the area continued to face pollution from the chemical via spills and abandoned areas, leading to additional regulations and costs according to attorneys, as well as issues that continue into the present day.

"During the period it made, promoted, marketed, distributed, and sold PCBs, Monsanto knew that PCBs were dangerous to human health, animal health, and the environment," attorneys wrote in the lawsuit. "Monsanto knew that PCBs' physical attributes magnified those risks and meant they would persist for many decades after PCBs were disposed and/or released into the environment."

"Monsanto knew that PCBs were being disposed and/or released into the environment (including in and near the County, the Municipalities, the Bay, and the Delta Waterways) in massive quantities. Monsanto knew its PCBs were creating a widespread environmental and public health problem," they continued.

With products containing the chemical being dumped throughout the county, attorneys argue that the contamination continues to have a massive impact decades on, with Monsanto being responsible for it.

"PCBs entered the environment from accidental spills and leaks of the chemicals, and from accidental spills and leaks of products containing the chemicals," attorneys wrote. "These spills and leaks were exacerbated by Monsanto's failure to provide adequate warnings and instructions."

Given the interconnectedness of the San Francisco Bay and the Sacramento Delta and the extent of the use of the chemical, attorneys allege that the damage throughout the region is widespread, allowing pollution to spread far and wide throughout the waterways.

"Once released, PCBs have cycled and transported within and among land, air, and water in and near the County and the Municipalities," attorneys alleged in the complaint.

Sources of alleged contamination include construction material, fluorescent light ballasts, and roadway paint.

With firm regulations in place to address and prevent PCB contamination in the future, attorneys allege that Danville, San Ramon and the other represented municipalities are facing high costs for cleanup and prevention efforts, which the complaint is seeking from Monsanto.

An announcement from Sher Elding on Feb. 3 highlighted the impact of PCB pollution in the region, with portions of the San Francisco Bay being designated as "hot spots" with exceptionally high concentrations of the chemical. PCB contamination is the reason it's advised not to eat skin and fatty tissue from fish caught in the bay, and for children and women ages 18 to 49 being advised to avoid certain species altogether if they're caught in the bay.

The complaint, filed in the Contra Costa County Superior Court on Dec. 21, is the latest to seek damages from Monsanto for its impact on the Bay Area, with Sher Edling also representing the counties of San Mateo and Marin, along with local municipalities, in two other suits against Monsanto. A case management conference is scheduled for May in the Costa Costa County lawsuit, with plaintiffs seeking a jury trial. ■

State water officials announce increased deliveries in wake of winter storms

Agencies that pull from State Water Project to get 30% of requested deliveries

In the wake of a series of powerful winter storms that lashed California for three weeks in January, the state recently announced that it will deliver more water than expected from its major storage and delivery system.

All 29 public water agencies — serving 27 million people — that pull water from the State Water Project can expect to receive 30% of requested deliveries, up from just 5% of requested amounts announced in December. The Zone 7 Water Agency is among those that utilize the State Water Project.

"We are not out of drought in California but this certainly makes a significant dent," said Department of Water Resources Director Karla Nemeth, who called the announcement "a little bit of good news."

The increased allocations are based primarily on water storage levels at the state's largest reservoirs, Lake Oroville and San Luis Reservoir.

Oroville is currently at 63% of capacity and 110% of average for this date and San Luis is at 56% of capacity and 77% of average.

Many other reservoirs across the state are doing similarly well, but water managers cautioned against unbridled optimism, since it's not clear how much more precipitation will fall between now and April 1, which typically marks the end of the rainy season.

"This could very well end up being simply an average water year," Nemeth said. "I know it doesn't really feel like it right now."

Gov. Gavin Newsom released a statement saying the state is working to "modernize" its storage and delivery infrastructure to better capture precipitation as climate change intensifies California's weather extremes.

"Thanks to the water captured and stored from recent storms, the state is increasing deliveries to local agencies that support two-thirds of Californians — good news for communities and farms in the Bay Area, San Joaquin Valley and Southern California," Newsom said.

While any increase in water deliveries from the state is welcome news to local water systems, the 30% allocation is only about half of what the state delivers on an average year and it's unclear how much of the recent deluges will make it into groundwater basins for future use.

Additionally, the Colorado River watershed is still struggling through a historic dry spell so far only far north Del Norte County has been removed from a drought classification by the U.S. Drought Monitor, with most other parts of the state still lingering under "moderate" or "severe" conditions.

"Our message is that three weeks of storms doesn't erase three years of drought," said Kirsten Struve, assistant officer for water supply at the Santa Clara Valley Water District, which gets about 40% of its supply from the state system and the federally run Central Valley Project.

"Last year we had a very wet December and then we had the driest three-month period that followed," Struve said. "It's a little too soon to celebrate."

Struve said none of the water conservation efforts implemented to ease the worst of the drought's impacts have stopped and she urged people to continue to save as much water as they can.

"The news has been great of course, but we're still in moderate drought and we want to make conservation a way of life," Struve said. ■

—Kiley Russell, BCN Foundation

Paws to Read

Library program pairs comfort dogs with young students to help literacy skills flourish

Story by Nicole Gonzales • Photos by Chuck Deckert

The Pleasanton Public Library recently reached a milestone anniversary for one of its most popular and impactful programs — Paws to Read.

Meant to encourage literacy and animal welfare, Paws to Read allows elementary school students in first through fifth grades to read in one-on-one sessions with dogs from Valley Humane Society's certified canine comfort teams. Animals in these teams are trained to provide emotional support and comfort.

To celebrate two decades of successful operation, a ceremony was held on Jan. 28 at the library. Following opening remarks by several organizers, the event featured a variety of games and activities for both students and adults in the audience.

A main goal of Paws to Read is to help improve and encourage literacy among children via a low stakes and comforting environment. It is said to inhibit a growth in confidence and self-esteem for the students who partake.

More than 15,000 young children in Pleasanton have taken part in the program since its inception.

Melanie Sadek, executive director of Valley Humane Society, shared remarks about the 20th anniversary with the Weekly.

"The Paws to Read program, that started 20 years ago as a partnership between Valley Humane Society and the Pleasanton Library, has blossomed into a larger program," Sadek said.

Beginning in November 2002, the Pleasanton Library was the first in the state to offer the program; other branches in the state and nation have since followed suit.

"This program thrives because it is proven to help build literacy skills in young readers," Sadek added. "Children are required to meet milestones in their learning development and for those who struggle to learn the skill, reading can be associated with strong anxiety. This anxiety creates a learning block in the child's brain."

Sadek discussed how the environment created by Paws to Read is advantageous to the children.

"When we introduce a positive association with the act of reading, that (learning) block starts to be removed. It is an incredible experience to watch," she said. "Our handlers are very special volunteers with incredible dogs. They volunteer their time to help young readers thrive."

Sadek is the founder of Murphy's Paw, a retail pet store in Downtown Pleasanton. She is also the vice president of the California Animal Welfare Association.

Local resident Chuck Deckert has worked closely with Paws to Read, his dog Zoey has participated in the program for the last five years.

In a conversation with the Weekly, Deckert recalled one of the most touching stories between his dog Zoey and a student within the program. Several years ago they encountered a boy with autism and speaking disabilities at one of the Pleasanton Library's reading sessions.

"The child had what was called selective mutism," Deckert explained. Selective mutism is a condition where the child, either due to anxiety or other reasons, is usually only able to speak in the home to their parents or those they feel comfortable with.

"While he was reading to the boy, the boy just stayed quiet. But then about 5 or 10 minutes into it, he started to move his lips to the words of the book," Deckert said. "The father's eyes started to get very moist; pretty soon he had tears coming down his eyes."

In a short amount of time, the 7-year-old boy then started to whisper the words of the book along with his father, something he had never done before.

"At that point, the father lost it. He just started crying and couldn't keep himself together. At the end of the 30-minute session, they both walked out of the room arm and arm," Deckert said. "He found a way to speak. That was the breakthrough moment that his father had been waiting for all that time."

The program regularly sees children who have special needs, autism or reading challenges. Many parents and organizers witness the real-time benefits from working with the certified therapy dogs.

Paws to Read operates in seasonal sessions, with the current winter 2023 session running through Feb. 28. Registration for the program is required. All sessions are held at the Pleasanton Library.

To register or find out more information about Paws to Read, visit cityofpleasantonca.gov. ■

Editor's note: Chuck Deckert, who volunteers with Paws to Read, is a freelance photographer with the Pleasanton Weekly and captured the pictures that accompany this story.

Above: Valley Humane Society canine comfort dog Liberty sits next to a student reading during the 20th anniversary event for the Paws to Read program on Jan. 28. Bottom left: Paws to Read volunteer team celebrates the milestone. Bottom right: Therapy dogs Nori and Cosmo greet students at Paws to Read in the Pleasanton Public Library.

‘From Sand to Silicon Chip’ debuts at Danville gallery

New Village Theatre exhibit highlights relationship between art and technology

By Jeanita Lyman

The Village Theatre and Art Gallery’s latest exhibit explores the history of one of the world’s oldest known crafts and its relationship with modern technology, offering a tangible way of experiencing new and old debates over art and mass production.

“From Sand to Silicon Chip” is guest curator John Toki’s means of bringing to life the themes and questions raised by his academic work as a ceramics professor and textbook author, highlighting the artistic work of more than 10 people who don’t necessarily all consider themselves artists.

The exhibit, which debuted on Jan. 21 and runs through the middle of March, comes several years after Marija Nelson Bleier, visual arts coordinator for the Village Theatre gallery, met Toki and discussed his work during a past clay exhibition in 2018.

TOWN OF DANVILLE

3-D clay printer in action at opening reception.

In the latest edition of his co-authored textbook “Hands in Clay,” Toki includes a new chapter on ceramics and technology, which led him to explore the topic from an academic angle and seek examples of work that incorporates the ancient craft with modern technological advances.

“The argument sometimes is ‘oh no, will the art value be lost when you can print things in clay? But honestly no, because it always does start with the designer,” Bleier said.

Toki seeks to make this point clear, she said, with the exhibit incorporating a range of recently developed hardware and software in making and mass producing clay pieces by designers, engineers, and architects who he sees as exemplifying the blending of old and new forms of craftsmanship.

“Most of these artists he already knew,” Bleier said. “Some of them consider themselves designers or architects or engineers.”

She noted that this meant that for many of the featured artists, the exhibit offered a rare opportunity for them to showcase their work outside of a professional setting.

“I think some of the artists in the show were excited because if you design for a housewares company, maybe you’re not used to seeing your work in a gallery,” Bleier said.

The recent opening reception saw many of the featured artists in attendance to discuss their work, and educate a full house about their use of technology.

“We had a really good turnout,” Bleier said. “The gallery was completely full and I think that in general people were really happily surprised at the kind of things we have on display here, because it’s really a show about art meets technology.”

One popular example, she said, was a 3-D clay printer that attendees were able to watch in action at the reception.

“Attendees got to watch an entire vase be created, which was really cool, and we also had different pieces that the 3-D printer made that had already been fired and glazed on display,” Bleier said.

Along with seeing the process of a vase being formed by machine, attendees were invited to learn about the process behind creating the pieces on display, such as a bust that was created by scanning a person’s face with an iPhone and using the 3-D technology to create a clay figure.

“There’s a lot of learning you can do at this exhibit,” Bleier said.

She noted that with clay being one of the oldest and most long-lasting materials on earth, this includes history of the craft and the impact of technological advances on its uses, design, and production.

TOWN OF DANVILLE

John Toki, curator of the recently debuted “From Sand to Silicon Chip” exhibit at the Village Theatre and Art Gallery during the opening reception on Jan. 21.

“We do have a couple of traditional pieces on view, just to kind of give you this idea and appreciation for the aesthetic of this really old hand blown vase and you can kind of see the progression of when technology is introduced,” Bleier said.

In addition to bringing his academic work to life, Bleier said that the exhibit serves as a way for Toki, who has deep roots in the ceramics world, to reach a wider audience with contemporary themes.

“John Toki comes from a family of ceramic artists and he’s exhibited in a variety of places and worked with many ceramic artists, and I think he wanted the opportunity to do something different that would appeal to wider audiences,” Bleier said. “He kind of wanted to do something that would show them visually the ability of how technology can make an impact on the arts.”

“From Sand to Silicon Chip” is on display at 233 Front St. in downtown Danville through March 18. More information and gallery hours are available at danville.ca.gov. ■

Pandemic creativity on display

‘Stir Crazy Quilts’ exhibit opens at museum

By Jeanita Lyman

The Museum of the San Ramon Valley’s next exhibit sees the historical museum inside the former Danville train station showcasing a contemporary theme that is likely to be the subject of numerous accounts by future historians.

“Stir Crazy Quilts” features a selection of quilts created during the earlier days of the COVID-19 pandemic, as lockdown and quarantine measures at the outset in 2020 led many quilters to explore their craft in ways they hadn’t before.

“We asked the community to send us pictures and stories of quilts they made during the pandemic,” museum spokesman John Keenan said. “The response was amazing. From this large group, we curated a group of quilts and stories that help to tell the feelings, experiences, and emotions of life during that time.”

With access to a range of local talent, as well as a being the center of operations for many local history enthusiasts, the museum was a natural fit for showcasing the work of local artists and documenting the thoughts, feelings, and creative expression brought on by the early, uncertain days of the pandemic, as “one of the most challenging times in recent history,” according to Keenan.

“Quinevere the Quarantine Queen” by Arden Dougan.

“From the depictions of social distancing and mask-wearing to more abstract representations of the emotions brought on by the pandemic, these quilts are a testament to the resilience and creativity of the human spirit,” Keenan said.

While some of the featured quilts make use of conventional patterns and techniques, others are the product of creating new designs and using experimental techniques.

In addition to the urge for new creative outlets and forms of expression brought on by pandemic lockdowns, exhibit organizers pointed to the limitation on materials to work with caused by the lack of in-person shopping opportunities and supply chain upheavals as being chronicled in the exhibit.

“Most quilts came from ‘stashes’ of fabrics which quilters have in their homes especially since, for a time, specialty quilt stores were closed,” organizers said in the event description. “One quilt is made up of clothes the quilter ‘impulse bought’ and then cut up for her quilt.”

Other quilts on display chronicle signs of the times more blatantly — such as a piece called “Quinevere the Quarantine Queen” by Arden Dougan featuring what have come to be symbols of the pandemic’s early days such as toilet paper, a “Stay Home” symbol and a “2nd dose” vaccination pin, along with an image of Dr. Anthony Fauci.

“Stir Crazy Quilts” debuted last week at 205 Railroad Ave. in Danville and will be on display through May 31. More information and museum hours are available at museumsrv.org. ■

COURTESY LVA

‘The Music of Sam Cooke’ at the Bankhead

It won’t be just “Another Saturday Night” next weekend at the Bankhead Theater — even though that might be one of the classics on the set list. Performer Darrian Ford will embody the spirit of late singer-songwriter Sam Cooke in a tribute show with “timeless and classic melodies with expanded and reinvigorated arrangements that hold stylistically true to the era,” according to Livermore Valley Arts. “The Cooke Book: The Music of Sam Cooke” is set for next Saturday (Feb. 18) at 8 p.m. at the Bankhead Theater in downtown Livermore. Visit livermorearts.org.

Community Pulse

Over $1,000 stolen in smash-and-grab at The Press

Their break-in, along with nearby vandalism issues, leaves business owner on high alert

By Christian Trujano

When The Press, a popular breakfast and lunch spot in Pleasanton, was broken into last week, owner Rebekah Culp said that while the cost-related damages weren't too bad, she worries it won't be the last time.

"It's annoying," Culp told the Weekly. "You feel like you've been violated, you know? Like, why do people do that?"

On the day before the burglary, Jan. 29, Culp's husband finished locking up their artisan cafe shop located on Santa Rita Road after a Sunday morning of prepping the store for the Monday morning shift.

The next day, both the owners woke up to the news on Jan. 30 that their front glass door had been smashed in and their 150-pound safe and cash registers were gone.

In total, Culp said they lost a little over $1,000 — not counting the money they spent on replacing the door.

According to Teri Yan, community and public relations coordinator at the Pleasanton Police Department, there are currently no suspects.

And while Culp said they do have security cameras, they stopped working on the day of the break-in.

She said that while it was weird, she doesn't want to believe that any of her staff was involved, saying it was most likely a glitch with the actual camera, which is something that they have experienced before.

Culp also said that it wasn't the first crime at a business in the Mission Plaza area, which is where The Press is located, within the last couple of weeks — adding to her belief that it was just another random crime.

She pointed out that the TN Nails Spa and the American Cancer Society Discovery Shop were both vandalized in recent weeks.

"We don't want to think that it could be an internal thing, because we want to see our staff, you know, as being loyal and trustworthy," she said. "It could be totally a glitch on the camera system, especially after I learned that so many places also got affected."

According to Pleasanton PD's Citizen Connect Crime Mapper, there have been five commercial burglaries in January.

Yan said there were no reports of entry having been made in both vandalism cases at Mission Plaza — nothing was reported lost either.

"At the moment, there isn't sufficient evidence for us to confirm a connection between the cases; however, we haven't ruled anything out," PPD investigations Sgt. Robert Shuffield said in a statement to the Weekly. "Our detectives are examining all possibilities, and they are following up on all reasonable leads."

Culp said that she still thinks that PPD should increase their efforts in informing the community about these recent break-ins because people and business owners need to be more on the lookout for any suspicious activity.

"A customer also texted me and said a karate place in Pleasanton also had a similar thing happen," Culp said. "So it seems like something is going around, like why all of the sudden (is) Pleasanton (being) targeted?"

She said that even though she knows Pleasanton is considered a safe city, these recent break-ins have her a bit more on edge.

She also said that while she has asked the neighboring stores to check and see if their security cameras captured anything, it's a little too late to really do anything.

"If they find something you know, what can you do? It's already done," Culp said.

She said she was, however, appreciative of the support and concern from her customers and her community as she and her husband went through this experience.

"It means a lot that we're not going through this alone," Culp said. "Especially with other businesses in town that (are) going through the same thing ... we need to kind of rally and get together and support each other and kind of be on the watch out for each other."

Yan said that he wants to remind community members that if they see something, say something.

"If they witness suspicious activity, they are encouraged to call 911 for emergencies or 925-931-5100 for non-emergencies," Yan said. "Local business owners may also contact our Crime Prevention Officer, Ryan Tujague, to schedule a free security survey." ■

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Employees at The Press in Pleasanton came to work on Jan. 30 to find a smashed door and the safe stolen.

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POLICE BULLETIN

Sheriff: No foul play in death of Santa Rita Jail inmate

No foul play or trauma was found in a preliminary investigation into the death of a jail inmate Saturday in Dublin, according to the Alameda County Sheriff's Office.

The investigation is ongoing into the death of 45-year-old Charles Johnson, who died Saturday, two days after suffering "a medical emergency", according to Monday's announcement from the office of Sheriff-Coroner Yesenia Sanchez.

The cause of death is still to be determined by the Alameda County medical examiner.

The announcement reported that, "Our preliminary investigation revealed no obvious signs of trauma or foul play, and Mr. Johnson's medical and mental health intake information did not present any red flags."

Johnson had been at the Santa Rita Jail in Dublin since Jan. 27, after officers from the Oakland Police Department arrested him on suspicion of "violating a served protective order." He was booked at the jail, where medical and mental health staff screened and cleared him, according to the announcement.

Six days later — at about 11:20 a.m. Feb. 2 — Johnson was found unresponsive in his cell where authorities said he was the sole occupant. Deputies and then paramedics performed life-saving measures on Johnson, who was taken to a local hospital where he was put on a ventilator.

On Saturday, after no improvement in his condition, he was declared dead at about 1:17 p.m., according to the announcement, which noted that "Johnson's next of kin was notified, and they were able to spend time with him at the hospital prior to his death."

—Bay City News Service

In other news

• Livermore police recently returned a stolen Christmas gift to a 13-year-boy after a 30-year-old grinch allegedly celebrated New Year's Day by stealing his scooter.

Just before 4 p.m. on Jan. 1, police investigated the theft of a Hiboy electric scooter at Target on Las Positas Road.

Officers determined the suspected culprit was 30-year-old Zakkery Vance from Modesto, who was already on parole for first-degree robbery.

San Ramon police arrested Vance on Jan. 26 for violating his parole. Police allege the man had a Taser stun gun, pepper spray, methamphetamine and drug paraphernalia.

Livermore police then interviewed Vance, whom they say admitted to stealing the scooter and told detectives he sold it to someone in Modesto.

Livermore police drove to Modesto, contacted the buyer — who they say didn't realize it was stolen — and returned it to the 13-year-old boy.

Vance, who was arrested in Contra Costa County, is now facing grand theft charges in Alameda County.

—Tony Hicks, BCN Foundation

LPD

San Ramon police arrested a 30-year-old Modesto man on Jan. 26 on suspicion of stealing an electric scooter at Target on Las Positas Road in Livermore on New Year's Day.

See **BULLETIN** on Page **15**

BULLETIN

Continued from Page **14**

• An alleged gang member from San Jose who is already in custody and has criminal ties to the Tri-Valley was charged last week with the murder of a man who went missing in 2021, police and prosecutors said.

Ricardo Padilla, 34, was arrested on July 4, 2021, near Coyote Creek in San Jose in connection with a "violent crime spree" that took place from May to July of that year, including backing over a Livermore Police Department motorcycle and injuring the officer.

Police alleged that Padilla shot and killed Thomas Calamia, 49, off West Virginia Street in San Jose and that Padilla later killed Samuel Torres, 43, near Coyote Creek, though his body has not been found.

Police said that Padilla was attempting to dispose of a gun in the area of Coyote Creek near Wool Creek Drive when they arrested him the day that Torres went missing.

According to San Jose Police Sgt. Christian Camarillo, a "no-body homicide" charge is very rare.

Padilla was arraigned last week on felony charges.

In addition to the two murders, he is accused of two stabbings and a shooting that summer. At least one victim has identified Padilla as their assailant.

Padilla has also been charged with the attempted murder of a Livermore officer after Padilla backed his car over the officer's motorcycle during a traffic stop in June 2021.

Padilla remains in custody awaiting his next court date on March 27 when he is expected to enter a plea.

—Heather Allen, BCN Foundation

• The San Ramon Police Department arrested three suspects in a liquor store theft last week following a search that allegedly yielded approximately $2,000 in stolen alcohol.

The three arrestees — a 29-year-old San Mateo woman, a 30-year-old San Mateo woman and a 24-year-old Stockton man, whose names have not been released — were booked into the Martinez Detention Facility following their arrests shortly after midnight on Feb. 2.

"Just after midnight, an alert sergeant noticed a suspicious vehicle exiting the parking lot of a closed liquor store," SRPD officials said in a Facebook post later in the day. "The officer conducted a traffic stop on the vehicle and was speaking with the occupants when dispatch was alerted to an alarm call at the same store."

Following an additional call to the same area and response from additional officers, they found the liquor store door was broken and several bottles of alcohol had been stolen, police said. A vehicle search reportedly yielded additional suspected stolen property as well as the $2,000 in alcohol that was taken from the liquor store.

—Jeanita Lyman

• The Danville Police Department is working to identify and locate the suspects involved in a residential burglary last week in one of the town's southeastern neighborhoods.

Police responded at 10:46 p.m. Jan. 31 to a reported residential burglary earlier in the night at Wood Ranch Circle, in which multiple culprits stole property while the resident of the home was gone.

In a video from a Nest camera at the residence posted to Nextdoor, three burglars in hoods and masks can be seen quickly exiting the front door of the home with several bags of stolen property, with a male voice repeatedly urging his co-conspirators to "come on" as they rush away from the scene of the crime. The last suspect to leave looks at the camera and puts a hand on it before running after the other suspects.

DPD said in an announcement that they would not be releasing additional details about the incident or suspects due to an ongoing investigation. They are requesting that anyone with information contact them at 925-314-3700 or vbalea@danville.ca.gov. ■

—Jeanita Lyman

POLICE REPORT

The Pleasanton Police Department made the following information available.

Feb. 2

Burglary

- 1:59 a.m. on the 5700 block of Johnson Drive
- 10:29 a.m. on the 5200 block of Crestline Way
- 5:17 p.m. on the 4200 block of Rosewood Drive
- 5:49 p.m. on the 4200 block of Rosewood Drive
- 6:23 p.m. on the 4200 block of Rosewood Drive

Theft

- 6:30 a.m. on the 11900 block of Dublin Canyon Road
- 8:49 a.m., 4400 block of Willow Road; catalytic converter theft
- 10:38 a.m. on the 7500 block of Trotter Way
- 3:03 p.m. on the 1300 block of Brookline Loop

Drug violation

- 7:19 a.m. on the 3100 block of Santa Rita Road

Feb. 1

Theft

- 10:11 a.m., 5500 block of Sunol Boulevard; auto theft
- 10:26 a.m., 5000 block of Owens Drive; theft from auto
- 3:07 p.m., 4300 block of Foothill Road; auto theft
- 3:24 p.m. on the 6000 block of Johnson Drive
- 3:46 p.m. on the 4300 block of Rosewood Drive
- 8:59 p.m. on the 4700 block of Willow Road

Burglary

- 10:19 a.m. on the 3100 block of Valley Avenue
- 10:30 a.m. on the 8200 block of Sassafras Court

Graffiti

- 11:30 a.m. on the 000 block of West Neal Street

Fraud

- 12:24 p.m. on the 800 block of Sylvander Drive
- 12:55 p.m. on the 3400 block of Streamside Circle
- 1:52 p.m. on the 3500 block of Cornerstone Court

Warrant arrest

- 4:12 p.m. on the 5100 block of Hopyard Road
- 8:22 p.m. on the 1800 block of Santa Rita Road

Domestic battery

- 10:11 p.m. on Vintage Circle

Jan. 31

Vandalism

- 8:44 a.m. on the 3200 block of West Lagoon Road
- 9:01 p.m. on the 2400 block of Foothill Road

Theft

- 11:41 a.m. on the 4900 block of Pleasanton Avenue
- 1:03 p.m., 1400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting
- 2:07 p.m., 4500 block of Rosewood Drive; auto theft
- 4:37 p.m., 1100 block of Santa Rita Road; bicycle theft

Burglary

- 3:26 p.m. on the 3100 block of Valley Avenue

PPD

Drivers and residents were surprised by a cow roaming alone near downtown on the evening of Feb. 1.

Police, ranchers catch cow on the loose in Pleasanton

Returned home safely, but not before 'cow-llision' with Tesla sedan

By Jeremy Walsh

Pleasanton police found themselves dealing with an "udderly amoosing" situation near downtown last week — although at least one driver was left having beef with the four-legged stranger.

A cow on the loose in the area of Bernal Avenue and Stanley Boulevard slowed traffic and prompted multiple calls to the police department on the evening of Feb. 1.

"Our team of officers quickly responded and found a brown cow running around. Despite a cow-llision with a sedan, the cow safely returned home. There were no reported injuries," police reported on social media. "Shout out to the local ranchers for helping with this 'udderly amoosing' situation!"

Pleasanton police Sgt. Marty Billdt later confirmed that the cow ran onto Stanley Boulevard and hit a Tesla sedan. It has not been determined how the cow got loose in the first place, the sergeant added. ■

Patricia Lankford Baer

October 31, 1940 – January 25, 2023

Earth lost an angel and Heaven gained one on the death of Patti Baer on Jan 25, 2023.

Patti was born in Washington D.C. to Arthur and Marjorie Lankford. They initially lived in VA but later moved to Salt Lake City, UT. As a grade-schooler at the Wasatch Presbyterian Church, she met Alvin Baer, her future husband. During that time, she contracted polio, but a doctor with progressive methods helped her recover.

Patti's father's job took them to Idaho Falls, ID, where Patti was an active member in Job's Daughters. She also joined P.E.O., eventually being honored with her 60 year pin.

The family moved back to SLC where Patti and Alvin started dating; they married in 1962. He was in the Air Force, so they started married life in Chandler, AZ. While continuing her education at Arizona State, Patti enjoyed being an extra in the Jerry Lewis movie "The Nutty Professor." She loved to tell that story.

After Alvin graduated pilot school, they were transferred to Dover, DE where two of Patti's greatest blessings, Carol-Ann and Kristin, were born in the base hospital. Leaving the Air Force, she and Alvin moved the family to CA. She was "Mrs. Mom" through the girls' childhood and then started a 25 year career with the Pleasanton School District. She was proud to see her daughters graduate from college and marry. For the past 25 years, Patti has taken great delight in being a devoted grandmother (Gammy) to Morgan and Brent Werder. In typical Patti fashion, she wore a framed, 5x7 baby picture around her neck for weeks after each was born.

Patti was a lifelong, devoted follower of Jesus, serving through the years as a Sunday school teacher, youth leader, Deacon, Elder, choir member, and Bible Study leader. She was a church member wherever she lived, most recently at GraceWay Church in Pleasanton.

Patti was predeceased by her parents, brother Charles, and step brother Tom. She is survived by her husband Alvin, daughters Carol-Ann (Michael) and Kristin (Kurt), grandchildren (Morgan, Brent), step brothers Glenn (Leila) Hewitt and Paul (Leora) Hewitt, and sister-in-law Bonnie Hewitt.

More information at pattibaer.forevermissed.com. The family welcomes your remembrances & photos in Patti's online memory book.

A Memorial Service will be held at GraceWay Church; 1183 Quarry Lane, Pleasanton on Feb. 11, 2023 at 1pm. Seating is limited. Streaming will be available.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations in Patti's honor to:

PEO: Ruth G. White P.E.O Scholarship Fund for CA women studying medicine. Checks made out to PEO Chapter XN, "in honor of Patti Baer" may be sent to Carol Martin, 5147 Mt. Tam Circle, Pleasanton, CA 94588-3676.

OR

GraceWay Church; 1183 Quarry Lane, Pleasanton, CA 94566 or gracewaylife.org.

PAID OBITUARY

Opinion

LETTERS

Rotary helps girls in Nigeria stay in school

The Rotary Club of Pleasanton has partnered with the Rotary Club of Umuahia, Nigeria on a water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) Project entitled "Pad A Girl".

It is for the girls at Holy Rosary Secondary School, 475 girls. Menstruation is a significant obstacle to the education and health of girls due to lack of reusable sanitary pads. Many girls do not attend school during their monthly menstrual cycle. The girls cannot afford disposable pads. Currently they're using materials that lead to infection and irritation.

The solution was to provide reusable sanitary pads. The Rotary Club of Umuahia has arranged for training of a few teachers on sewing these reusable pads and they, in turn, will teach the girls at Holy Rosary Secondary School how to make them.

They will create pad kits of 10 and will give the kits to the girls at the school. The girls will continue to create these kits at school and will sell them, at cost, on an ongoing basis for sustainability.

The Rotary Club of Pleasanton contributed $3,700 to this project and the RC of Umuahia $200. Anyone interested in donating to this project can do so at pleasantonrotary.org.

—Nancy Harrington

ROTARY CLUB OF PLEASANTON

The "Pad A Girl" project helps female students in Nigeria with support from the Rotary Club of Pleasanton and others.

California water management

Olivia Sanwong's guest opinion piece, "Shadow Cliffs: A microcosm of California's water complexities", was a welcome view into the challenges involved in managing the state's water resources.

As Sanwong points out, "California laws govern water rights" and "consultation with multiple stakeholders is necessary before stormwater can be approved to transfer into Shadow Cliffs Lake." This is just one small example of how armchair experts are uninformed when they question why stormwater is being "wasted" as it flows down rivers and into the ocean.

Sophisticated modeling is used to forecast how current and expected rainfall as well as snowmelt will affect inflows to the state's reservoirs and how outflows must be managed to provide storage capacity. Many Californians have forgotten, or are unaware, that flood control is one of the primary functions of major reservoirs in the state.

It is encouraging that Zone 7 has proposed a Chain of Lakes pipeline project that could contribute to the water supply for Shadow Cliffs Lake. This would offer not only recreational benefits, but also enhance the rates of groundwater recharge in our area.

—Jeff Narum

Biden's report card

Joe Biden and his administration have been in office for two years. Let's take a look at his report card:

Appoint cabinet members with business experience, F; Exit from Afghanistan, F; Reduce taxes, F; Reduce business regulations, F; Reduce inflation, F; Curb the recession, F; Stimulate the economy, F; Reduce spending, F; Secure the southern border, F; Negotiate with China, F; Unite American citizens, F; Leadership, F; Blame Republicans for his failures, F; Accountability, F; Lies, A+.

Biden is the worst president since Jimmy Carter. We need a president and an administration that can make sound decisions, unite the American people, lead the country to a path of success by reducing taxes and regulations, cut spending, secure the southern border and to be accountable in everything that they do.

—David Ott

Community comes together to help clean up Sunol Glen School

Sunol Glen School was inundated with flood water during the recent California storms, damage was to the grounds and three portable classrooms, a fence, storage containers and the playground. A thick layer of mud was caked on the blacktop, playground, garden and fields.

A call went out to the community for help with cleanup for Saturday, Feb. 4, and the community responded over 325 strong. Volunteers were asked to wear clothes that can get dirty, and dirty they got.

They cleaned debris, wood, trees, brush from the school grounds, play areas and moved lots of mud. Some school equipment was washed away and moved, others damaged and ruined items were disposed, and school equipment was either moved back or trashed.

The Sunol school community showed up in force, with many children from the school and their families. Members of Sunol's Community Advisory Board, the Sunol PTA and even families without school children came. Over 20 members of a Fremont Buddhist Church came to help.

County Supervisor David Haubert and his staff, as well as members of Eric Swalwell's staff, were there. Other communities also showed up; Dublin Mayor Melissa Hernandez was helping.

Haubert brought tri-tip and chicken, which were barbecued by James Lowder, a volunteer from Pleasanton, who brought his own equipment and cooked over 100 pounds of barbecue. Michael Miller, owner of Bosco's Buns and Brew in Sunol, donated supplies and food and helped with lunch. Members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Sunol, Pleasanton and Livermore were there helping.

—Ken Mano, via Town Square

A destination city

Livermore is a wonderful city for so many of our inhabitants. Babies and toddlers have so much fun at the fountains, the parks, and the kids love our schools, libraries, pools and outdoor adventures.

It is a wonderful place for first-time homebuyers, move up or down or retirees, with our unique wine country vibe and offerings, beautiful hills and vibrant downtown and little pocket areas to shop, dine, sip and sing. We also have great community involvement with parks and recreation, elder care, fire and police. Livermore is definitely a destination place to live and enjoy.

—Purnell Cook

THE CITY OF PLEASANTON

HIGHLIGHTS

Economic Vitality Committee

Thursday, February 16, 2023, at 7:30 a.m.

Remillard Conference Room, 3333 Busch Rd.

- Receive Update on Stoneridge Mall Framework Project and Housing Element Update

Housing Commission Meeting

Thursday, February 16, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.

City of Pleasanton Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Ave.

- Review of Semi-Annual Reports for FY2022/23 Housing and Human Services Grant (HHSG) Subrecipients
- Update Regarding the Housing and Human Services Grant (HHSG) Review Process for FY2023/24

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

What's your opinion?

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

Pleasanton Weekly

PUBLISHER
Gina Channell Wilcox, Ext. 1171

EDITORIAL
Editorial Director
Jeremy Walsh, Ext. 1172
Livermore Vine Editor
Cierra Bailey, Ext. 6528
Editor Emeritus
Jeb Bing
Staff Reporters
Nicole Gonzales, Ext. 1175
Jeanita Lyman, Ext. 1179
Christian Trujano, Ext. 1176
Contributors
Tim Hunt, Dennis Miller, Nancy Lewis, Chuck Deckert

ART & PRODUCTION
Design and Production Manager
Kristin Brown
Designers
Linda Atilano, Paul Llewellyn, Mary Watanabe, Doug Young

ADVERTISING
Account Executive
Karen Klein, Ext. 1177
Real Estate Sales
Carol Cano, Ext. 1173

BUSINESS
Business Associate
Lisa Oefelein, Ext. 1178
Administrative Associate
Carolyn Chan, Ext. 1174

HOW TO REACH THE WEEKLY
Phone: (925) 600-0840
Fax: (925) 600-9559
Editorial email:
editor@PleasantonWeekly.com
calendar@PleasantonWeekly.com
Display Sales email:
sales@PleasantonWeekly.com
Classifieds Sales email:
ads@PleasantonWeekly.com
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PLEASANTON PREPS

By Dennis Miller

After rough run in recent years, Foothill girls' basketball starts to turn the corner

Plenty to build on for another good season in 2023-24

The golden rule in athletics is that success is measured by wins and losses.

But that isn't the lone way for a team to have a successful season. There are other variables that can determine how successful a season was turned in by a team.

Take the Foothill girls' basketball team this year, for instance.

The Falcons finished the regular season 9-13 overall and 4-6 in Valley Division play in the East Bay Athletic League. Throw in the 6-18 overall record last season, the 5-20 mark from 2019-20, and the 9-17 mark from 2018-19 season, and it looks like just another tough year for Foothill.

But this year was different.

For starters, the 4-6 mark was two wins better than last year's 2-8 league mark. The record was good enough to finish second in the Valley and get the Falcons a berth in the EBAL playoffs.

OK, it's against San Ramon Valley tonight — one of the best teams in Northern California — but it is still a spot.

Overall, the team was three wins better this year, but even in the losses, they were playing better. Several times the Falcons scored over 50 points, a total that just wasn't attainable in the past. They even split games with rival Amador Valley, which in recent years has been a rivalry in name only.

So, what was the difference?

"Well, we got Beti back and that made a big difference," Foothill coach Cheryl Namoca said.

Namoca was drawing reference to junior guard Beti Terpstra, who missed all last year with an injury. Terpstra is a knock-down shooter, regularly capable of scoring 20-30 points any night.

Namoca also got freshman Sophie Nguyen to take over the point guard, freeing up senior Avamarie Perry to get involved in the offense in more natural ways.

Of course, the Falcons also had 6-foot junior Riley Young to control the middle.

"With Riley back again, we had strength in the middle, had an outside shooter and had a point guard that let us make Ava not have to do everything."

After watching the Falcons, the last few years as their announcer, even though they were getting beat regularly, their effort never waned and with the strongest team Foothill has put on the court in some time, the results began to show.

Of course, I retired from announcing before the season — hey wait, maybe that was the key!

Being serious, there is plenty to build with for another good season next year.

"With Riley and Beti both back for their senior years and Sophia running the point, we can be even better," Namoca said.

For a program that has been suffering through recent years but has always optimized their work ethic, it's a welcome site.

COURTESY FOOTHILL GIRLS' BASKETBALL

There are plenty of positives to build upon from this season for the Foothill varsity girls' basketball team, including their first playoff berth in years.

Amador girls' basketball

The Dons outscored Foothill 16-6 in the third quarter to break open a close game at halftime, then held on the 42-39 win in the final game of the EBAL season.

The Falcons led 20-18 at the break, but the Dons stormed back to take the lead heading into the fourth quarter. Foothill countered with a 13-8 fourth quarter, but the Dons dug in and held on for the win.

Addison Leomiti had a great game for the Dons with 28 points, hitting three 3-pointers.

Anika Kaushik and Ellie White had four points apiece, with Megan Hoang and Emma Baer adding three points each.

Foothill got 12 from Riley Young and 11 from Savannah Montini to lead the Falcons attack. Beti Terpstra and Sophie Nguyen had eight points each.

Foothill boys' soccer

The nice little run of the late season continued for the Falcons as they picked up another two wins last week.

The week started with a 1-0 win over Granada, with the goal coming from Anthony Bonev.

Two days later the Falcons knocked off Dublin 2-1. Bonev got the first goal off an assist from Jensen McMillan. What turned out to be the winning goal then came from Dylan Russo. ■

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.

Quakes sign Valley natives

Cilley, Tingey on Homegrown Player contracts

By Jeremy Walsh

Young midfielder Cam Cilley and defender Keegan Tingey, who each grew up in the San Ramon Valley, recently agreed to Homegrown Player contracts with the San Jose Earthquakes.

Teammates at De La Salle High and Stanford University, including part of the 2020 Pac-12 champion Cardinal team, Cilley and Tingey are both products of the Quakes Academy developmental program.

"Cam and Keegan both had standout careers in the Quakes Academy and at Stanford University," Earthquakes General Manager Chris Leitch said in a statement. "They've both earned the opportunity to continue their development at the professional level."

Tingey, 22, grew up in Danville while Cilley, also 22, was raised in neighboring Alamo. Both were four-year starters at Stanford before graduating in 2022. They have Homegrown Player contracts for 2023 with club options each ensuing season through 2026.

The Quakes open their Major League Soccer regular season on Feb. 25 on the road against Atlanta United FC. ■

Piscotty among non-roster invitees to SF Giants spring training

Amador alum, longtime outfielder reportedly inks minor-league deal

By Jeremy Walsh

Pleasanton native Stephen Piscotty is looking to jumpstart his Major League Baseball career in the Bay Area in the new season, receiving an invitation to compete at San Francisco Giants spring training after spending the end of last year in the minors following his release by the Oakland Athletics.

Piscotty, a 2009 Amador Valley High graduate and former standout at Stanford University, is among 37 non-roster invitees announced by the Giants on Monday. Robert Murray of FanSided reported that Piscotty and the Giants have agreed to terms on a minor-league contract for 2023.

The 32-year-old right-hander is expected to compete for one of the remaining backup outfield positions on the Giants big-league squad this spring. If Piscotty made the team, he'd be the second Pleasanton product on the Giants, joining shortstop Brandon Crawford, a former star at Foothill High.

Piscotty made his MLB debut for the St. Louis Cardinals in 2015 and was traded to this A's after the 2017 season — a story that made national headlines as the Cardinals agreed to send Piscotty to a team closer to Pleasanton where his mother Gretchen was battling ALS.

He had a strong 2018 season with the A's, but much of the rest of his tenure in Oakland was hampered by injuries and inconsistency. He was released midway through last season after batting .190 with five homers and 14 RBI in 42 games with the A's. Piscotty played in the minors in the Cincinnati Reds' organization for the rest of 2022 before entering free agency. ■

FILE PHOTO COURTESY A'S

MLB outfielder and Pleasanton native Stephen Piscotty.

Calendar

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

Entertainment

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. For tickets visit livermorevalleyopera.com. The Club at Ruby Hill.

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 at the Firehouse Arts Center. 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 onstage A storyteller and songwriter who has been performing in Northern California for close to two decades, Emily Zisman showcases 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 all, fun. 3 p.m., Feb. 19. Tickets $55-$85. Visit livermorearts.org.

Bankhead Presents Step Afrika! As the first professional dance company dedicated to the tradition of stepping, Step Afrika! blends dance styles from historically African-American fraternities and sororities, traditional African dances, and an array of contemporary dance and art forms into a cohesive, compelling artistic experience. 7:30 p.m., Feb. 23. Tickets $55-$85. Visit livermorearts.org.

Creatures of Impulse Watch as local Bay Area improv teams compete against Creatures of Impulse in this pro wrestling themed run of shows. Feb. 23-25. Tickets $10. Visit firehousearts.org.

International Guitar Night For two decades, International Guitar Night has been the world's premier touring guitar festival, bringing together diverse master guitar musicians from around the world to play together. 8 pm., Feb. 24. Tickets $30-$60. Visit livermorearts.org.

Alt Pop Punk Band Northern California Alt Pop Punk band, Until Further Notice, dishes out their originals and covers influenced by 2000s and 1990s grunge and classic rock vibes. 8 p.m., March 3. Tickets $20. Visit firehousearts.org.

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., through 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 through March 25.

Bay Area Figurative Exhibit Bay Area Figurative Exhibit: Emerging from Abstraction is an exhibition that highlights the significance of the Bay Area Figurative Movement showcasing a number of contemporary artists working in the unique style of Bay Area Figurative. Feb. 14-April 23. Bankhead Theater.

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

Seniors

Pleasanton VIP Travel Join the Pleasanton Senior Center for a fun day in Alameda with a USS Hornet Tour and lunch, the Oakland Aviation Museum and the Pacific Pinball Museum. 9 a.m.- 5 p.m., Feb. 23. $115 members/$120 non-member. Call 925-931-5370.

Movies Madness at the Senior Center Movie Madness at the Pleasanton Senior Center is 1-3 p.m., the second and fourth Mondays of the month. For more information call 925-931-5365.

Pleasanton Pedalers at the Senior Center Pleasanton Pedalers Cycling meets at the Senior Center on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 8:30 a.m.-noon. For more information call 925-931-5365.

Drop-in Bridge Drop-in Bridge, 1-4 p.m., Thursday and Friday afternoons. Robert Livermore Community Center, 4444 East Ave.

Lunches at the Pleasanton Senior Center For (60+) served in the Main Hall, 11:45 a.m.-12:45 p.m., Mondays to Fridays. Call Open Heart Kitchen at 925-500-8241 for more information.

Legal Assistance for Seniors Free remote legal services for seniors. To schedule a phone appointment call 510-839-0393 or visit their website at lashicap.org/programs/hicap.

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

Pleasanton Rides Serving eligible Pleasanton Seniors with transportation needs, Pleasanton Rides is a door-to-door, shared-ride transportation service for Pleasanton Seniors. For reservations and information call 925-398-1045.

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.

Book Sale

Superbook Weekend: Book & Media Sale Pleasanton Library Book & Media Sale with books for all ages, DVDs and CDs, all in nearly new condition. 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Feb. 10, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Feb. 11, 11 a.m.-3 p.m., Feb. 12. Visit friendsofthepleasantonlibrary.org.

Talks

Amador Valley Quilters "Explore the World of English Paper Piecing" is the topic of the next Amador Valley Quilters meeting. Michele Crawford will discuss this traditional quilting technique used to fold fabric around paper templates and then basted together to create a consistent-sized shape. 1:30-3 p.m., Feb. 11. Visit amadorvalleyquilters.org.

Lunar New Year Celebration Join authors Ying Chang Compestine and Oliver Chin for readings, activities, refreshments and celebration at Towne Center Books in Pleasanton. 3 p.m., Feb. 11. Visit townecenterbooks.com.

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.

PET OF THE WEEK

TVAR

Lovely Luna

Luna is a sweet Border Collie mix puppy, approximately 4 months old and weighing 26 pounds. She lives in a foster home, where she is already house-trained and crate-trained. She loves to play fetch, and we love watching her entertain herself with toys — she's such a silly, fun girl! Luna is so smart, doing well with basic commands and catching on quickly. She is spayed, current on vaccines and microchipped. Contact Tri-Valley Animal Rescue via www.tvar.org.

Public Notices

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 VOODOO DADDY CONSTRUCTION
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 594565
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) BIG VOODOO 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
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)

YOANA BEAUTY SALON & BARBER
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 595023
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) YOANA BEAUTY SALON & BARBER, located at 3600 INTERNATIONAL BLVD, OAKLAND, CA, ALAMEDA COUNTY.
This business is conducted by: an Individual.
The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):
YOANA ALEXANDRA ROMERO GUZMAN
466 WARDEN AVE
SAN LEANDRO CA 94577
Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 02/15/22.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on January 26, 2023.
(PLW Feb 10, 17, 24 and Mar 3, 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/

Adolescent Suicide Prevention 101 In this Alan Hu Foundation webinar, Dr. Pamela Morris-Perez offers an introductory understanding of adolescent suicide and suicide prevention. 5-6 p.m., Feb. 15. Visit alanhufoundation.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. Visit trivalleywriters.org.

Storytelling with Diane Ferlatte and Erik Pearson Grammy-nominated storyteller Diane Ferlatte draws from a deep well of folktales, myths, legends, and fables to inform, entertain and inspire through stories, songs, sign language, humor and audience participation. 1 p.m., Feb. 25. Civic Center Library, Storytime Room.

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

Support

Tri-Valley Family Support Groups 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 Table Healthcare options can be overwhelming and Axis Community Health can help with an enrollment specialist from Axis in the Dublin Library lobby to answer questions, no appointments necessary. 1-4 p.m., Feb. 14.

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, 7 p.m., Feb. 23, March 9 and 23. All are welcome regardless of religious affiliation with no advance registration required.

Free Hot Meals Served Monday-Friday, 1-3 p.m., dine-in or take out. 4444 East Ave., Livermore. Visit openheartkitchen.org.

Free Shower & Laundry Services Monday-Wednesday, 12-4 p.m., Asbury United Methodist Church, 4743 East Ave, Livermore.

Livermore Warming Center Veterans Memorial Building, 522 S. L St., from 6 p.m.-8 a.m. when overnight temperatures are forecasted at or below 45 degrees and/or a 20% chance or higher of rain. Open to anyone on a first come, first-serve basis. For more contact info@onenationdreammakers.org.

Parkinson Network of Mt. Diablo The mission of the Parkinson Network of Mt. Diablo is to provide information, resources and social interaction to support people living with Parkinson's Disease and their caregiving community. Call 925-939-4210 or visit pnmd.net.

Volunteer

Open Space Volunteer Days Every third Saturday of the month join an LARPD ranger for a volunteer work day in the park including 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.

Volunteer with Open Heart Kitchen Open Heart Kitchen exists to meet the immediate need of hunger within the Tri-Valley community, while also seeking ways to eliminate systematic inequalities leading to hunger. Volunteers play an essential role in the organization's ability to successfully carry out this work. To learn more visit openheartkitchen.org/volunteer.

Outdoor Recreation

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.

Holdener Hills Walk Join LARPD for a walk through the Holdener hills, walking to the peaks of the park to see the surrounding views of Livermore. RSVP to 925-960-2400 or email dhaberman@larpd.org. 11 a.m., Feb. 19. At 2995 Hansen Road.

Wildflower Walk Join a Naturalist on a hike in search of wildflowers in Sycamore Grove Park for this 3-mile walk. RSVP at 925-960-2400 or email dobrien@larpd.org. 9 a.m., Feb. 20. At 5035 Arroyo Road.

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.

Fly Fishing Show The Fly Fishing Show produces the world's largest consumer fly fishing events for all levels and all ages. See the latest in rods, reels, lines, leaders and accessories. Feb. 24-26. Visit alamedacountyfair.com.

Employment

The Pleasanton Weekly offers employment advertising.

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

IT Development Manager
Safeway Inc. is hiring a IT Development Manager in Pleasanton, CA. May Telecommute. Reports to Pleasanton, CA. Must have legal right to work in U.S. Subj. to bckgrnd check. E.O.E. Salary $158,769- $219K/yr. Email resume to TA.Perm.Project@albertsons.com. Attn: R. Oliver

Sr Software Development Engineer
Workday, Inc. has an opening for Sr Software Development Engineer in Pleasanton, CA. Job duties include: Analyzes, designs, programs, debugs, and modifies software enhancements and/or new products used in local, networked, or internet-related computer programs. Salary: $183,310- $232,900 per year, 40 hours per wk. Interested candidates send resume to: J. Thurston at 6110 Stoneridge Mall Road, Pleasanton, CA 94588. Must reference job 20637.1390

Site Reliability Engineer (SRE)
Workday, Inc. has an opening for Site Reliability Engineer (SRE) in Pleasanton, CA. Job duties include: Deploy and support the Conversion Test environments. Salary: $183,310- $209,600 per year, 40 hours per wk. Interested candidates send resume to: J. Thurston at 6110 Stoneridge Mall Road, Pleasanton, CA 94588 Must reference job 20637.1656

TECHNOLOGY
BlackLine Systems, Inc. is accepting resumes for the position of Product Manager in Pleasanton, CA (Ref. #BEHL). Execute on the vision, strategy, and roadmap of our data platform aligned to user needs and overall business priorities and objectives. May work from various unanticipated worksites throughout the United States. Telecommuting permitted. Annual Salary: $155,000 to $185,000/year. Mail resume to BlackLine Systems, Inc., HR Department, Tamara Saltzman, 21300 Victory Blvd., 12th Floor, Woodland Hills, CA 91367. Resume must include Ref. #BEHL, full name, email address & mailing address. No phone calls. Must be legally authorized to work in U.S. without sponsorship. EOE.

Product Manager
Pleasanton, CA. Conduct mrkt research on competitive products, understand competitive products & key mrkt opportunities leveraging subject matter expertise, incl expertise in vehicle fleet mgmt for energy applics. Use computers & bus. analytics tools to run analysis & provide solutions to bus. problems, incl dvlpmt of critical portions of bus. operations, such as inventory, invoicing, purchase orders, bus. operations & procurement s/ware for customers. Produce reports for leadership team analyzing bus. intelligence data & tech. trends. Create & project manage tasks rltd to dvlp'g, documenting, & revising system dsgns. Consult w/ subject matter experts & mgmt to ensure agreement on goals & key system dsgns & bus. workflows. Req. MS in Mgmt of Info Systems, Engg Mgmt, or rltd field, + 2 yrs of exp in similar duties emphasizing product mgmt, product reqmt gathering & analysis, stakeholder mgmt, dvlp'g & revising system dsgns, use of computers & bus. analytics tools to provide solutions to dvlpmt of critical portions of bus. operations, incl procurement mgmt for customers. Base Pay Range: Min: 159,800. Max: 216,200. Email cvr ltr & resume to Stephanie Shepherd, Tekion Corp, at sshepherd@tekion.com.

Senior Manager, Product Management
Pleasanton, CA. Conduct user research w/ automotive dealerships to understand the nature of their bus. workflows & the reqmts necessary to streamline them by creating protocols & implmt'g research studies, such as interviews, contextual inquiries, analysis of secondary data, qualitative methods, etc. Conduct mrkt research to collect bus. intelligence data on competitive products to identify key mrkt gaps & opportunities. Leverage the info gathered thru research to translate users' bus. reqmts into product reqmts to create workflows, wireframes, & prototypes to explore different solutions for the bus. problems. Convert the product reqmts & dsgns into Software Requirement Specifications (SRS). Lead a globally scalable platform model for the Digital Retailing Platform suited to accommodate different vehicle mftrs & retailing strategies, such as retail consumer sales & commercial vehicle sales to businesses. Manage the Digital Retailing team. Define the product roadmap for the team that aligns w/ the co. goals & guide the team on its best execution. Define the product architecture for the product platform to ensure scalability & long-term viability. Conduct interviews & make hiring decisions for growing the team as per bus. reqmts. Define processes for team & product to scale, such as product thinking frameworks, support & escalation mgmt to handle customer support effectively, etc. Req. MS in Product Dvlpmt, Product Innovation, or rltd field, + 2 yrs of exp in similar duties emphasizing product mgmt, user research, product reqmt gathering & analysis, UI/UX Dsgn & UAT. Base Pay Range: Min: 209,100; Max: 282,900. Email cvr ltr & resume to Stephanie Shepherd, Tekion Corp, at sshepherd@tekion.com.

Want to downsize? Start decluttering now

Bay Area residents share their stories on 'going small'

By Chris Kenrick

The best time for an older person to downsize and move from a longtime home is "when you want to — not when you have to; not after you've fallen down the stairs and broken something, or your health is such that you have fewer options," said Nancy Goldcamp, a longtime real estate agent with Coldwell Banker in Palo Alto.

Goldcamp, one of a number of certified senior real estate specialists in Palo Alto, has helped hundreds of older adults through the downsizing process.

Even for people who intend to "age in place" — remaining in their homes until the end of life — Goldcamp's top tip is: Start decluttering now.

"Many of us look around and say, 'Oh my gosh, I don't know where to begin,' but you do need a plan," she said.

Palo Alto residents Meg and John Monroe had a five-year plan in mind when they began looking to downsize from their four-bedroom, 2,800-square-foot Southgate house, where they'd spent more than four decades and raised two sons.

Less than two years later — in June 2021— they had made the move into a two-bedroom, 1,600-square-foot villa with a garage at The Forum at Rancho San Antonio in Cupertino.

The couple acted quickly because new units came on the market that met their specific criteria: an appealing ownership model and community rules that allowed John to play his trombone and host his brass quintet practice right in their unit. The couple also needed garage space for John's extensive sheet music collection and Meg's quilting materials.

Monroe hired Palo Alto designer Carol Lippert to help plan the new space, determining which items from the old house would best suit the new.

But a daunting task loomed: cleaning out all that remained in the Palo Alto house. When one of their sons who now lives in Iowa was visiting, the family moved the contents of their three attics to the living room and held a FaceTime session with their other son, who lives in England.

Childhood books and a table went to England; other furniture went to Iowa. An enormous amount still remained.

"We discovered there's stuff no one wants," Monroe said, including antiques and china — and she had five sets.

Having moved frequently as a child, Monroe said she tends not to get sentimentally attached to possessions. She was thus delighted to find an estate liquidation service, Los Altos-based Kuzak's Closet, that swooped in to find a proper home for each item, right down to the canned goods in the pantry.

"It was very freeing," she said. "I didn't have to negotiate to sell things, or call Goodwill and ask, 'Are you taking upholstered furniture this week?' The value for me was the facility with which they got rid of things and feeling good about the way it was disposed of."

Los Altos resident Joyce Johnsen took a more sentimental approach in 2021 when she downsized from her three-bedroom, 2,500-square-foot house to a two-bedroom, 1,000-square-foot apartment at The Terraces at Los Altos.

"I made it so complicated because I had to give every table and every toy to the right person," Johnsen said. "It was my mission.

"I had to bring my knitting up to a knitters' group; I gave my dining room set to some newlyweds; another friend teaches children's literature, and I had a Teddy Bear's Picnic teapot, so I gave that to her. I made (downsizing) very hard on myself, but I also enjoyed it."

Downsizing was "pretty much my full-time job" for at least six months, Johnsen said. "I'd empty a closet at a time, and either have a trip to the Discovery Shop or Goodwill, or someone would come over to take something," she said. "It just had to move along. I have a big car, and I'd fill up the back of it every day."

Both Johnsen and Monroe also contracted with Managing Moves and More, a Mountain View-based business that specializes in helping older adults with downsizing, to help with many of the moving tasks.

Woodside resident Rae Schmidt has downsized twice — both times within the same hillside house she and her husband originally built in 1970.

Shortly after she was widowed about a decade ago, Schmidt was cleaning what had been their lower-level children's game room when she realized it would make the perfect, scaled-down living space for her.

She moved into the space, renting out the upper part of the house. "Emotionally, I loved the smaller space," she said. "Even though it was still my house, I didn't feel like I had the responsibility so much. And also, with so few square feet, hardly anything got lost."

But recently, the 12 steps up to her front door began to bother Schmidt's knee. The 88-year-old was in the midst of a second move to an even smaller space within the house that's easily accessible on a level path from the driveway. It's also wheelchair-accessible, should the need arise.

"It never occurred to me that stairs would become a problem in my life," said Schmidt, who just a few years ago served as a Peace Corps volunteer in the Caribbean. "There are a lot of things you sort of know about other old people, but it didn't enter my mind it could happen to me."

With both moves, Schmidt didn't bother to sell or donate her excess possessions. She simply left them for the next occupant of the space. "What I did was just walked out the door. The tenant either used it, or got rid of it," she said.

But there were still many sentimental moments as she went through her closets. "The whole downsizing thing has to do with connections with the past, and so many things you have to let go of that had a real impact on your life at that time," she said.

"It's painful to let them go — like the menu from a restaurant (husband) Charlie and I went to, or the senior class ring. But you think, 'I can't keep this.' The physical part of downsizing is nothing compared to the emotional part." ■

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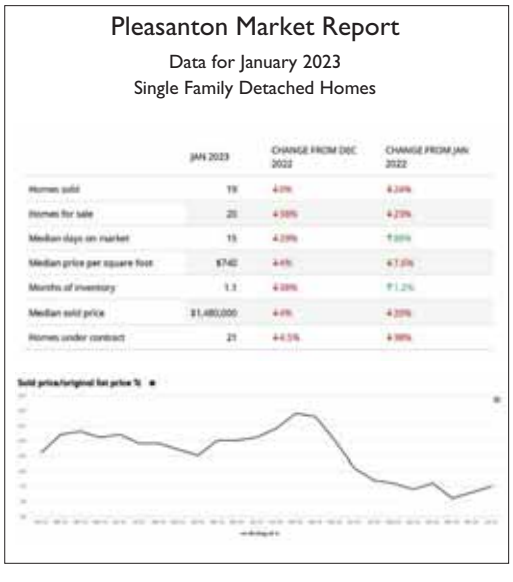
Talking Real Estate with Doug Buenz | Compass

Pleasanton Real Estate Market Update – Signs of Optimism?

The Pleasanton real estate market continued its sluggish ways in January, at least in terms of statistics. From a statistic standpoint, it was the same old story. Closed single family homes were unchanged from December, but down 24% from January of 2021. Inventory continued to be constrained, dropping by 38% from December and 23% from January of 2021. The Median price per sq ft was down 4% from December, and 7.6% from January of 2022. Median sold price also declined, down 4% from December of 2022 and 20% from January of 2022. Pending sales declined by 4.5% from December, and down a whopping 38% from January of 2022. Median days of market did show some improvement,



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

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HOME SALES

This week's data represents homes sold during Dec. 27 to Jan. 6 for Pleasanton and Livermore.

Pleasanton

4328 Addison Way Brdar Trust to S. & R. Devdasan for $1,290,000

3044 Casadero Court M. Stearns to B. & R. Ravi for $999,000

4427 Downing Court Opendoor Property Trust I to S. & X. Qian for $1,190,000

5748 Highbluff Terrace H. & E. Lee to B. Jin for $1,485,000

1173 Kolln Street Moreira Living Trust to H. & H. Kapadia for $1,230,000

133 Ray Street #U-2 L. Venturino to E. Goldstein for $677,000

2691 Turnstone Drive H. & G. Shah to M. & S. Saxena for $1,810,000

1049 Crellin Road Sell Family Trust to S. & S. Prabhu for $1,480,000

4380 Dorman Court I. & Y. Stermer to D. & L. Sullivan for $1,150,000

41 Golf Road K. Bahl to G. & N. Jawanda for $1,740,000

4592 Harper Court Pliler Living Trust to P. & P. Murthy for $1,069,000

6831 Herrin Way Marlais Family Trust to Y. & Z. Sun for $1,369,000

454 Los Rios Court Gross Family Trust to A. & D. Frindt for $1,902,500

6738 Rancho Court Savery Family Trust to Kikani Trust for $1,330,000

4701 Saginaw Circle H. Chung to S. & V. Desai for $707,000

3654 Woodbine Way K. & D. Dow to S. & A. Ghogare for $725,000

Livermore

4153 Bishop Pine Way B. Jewell to V. & P. Bisht for $850,000

890 Comanche Court Ramos Family Trust to J. & M. So for $1,055,000

4004 Dyer Road J. Soares to S. & B. Jewell for $1,750,000

553 Emerald Street D. Dahlstrom to A. & C. Cangelose for $975,000

5960 Greenwood Common K. & G. Kaminski to N. & T. Guner for $1,000,000

1194 Marigold Road M. & J. Babel to J. & A. Lowry for $890,000

919 Miranda Way Massoud Trust to L. & D. Gupta for $875,000

1552 Morning Glory Circle Jewell Living Trust to L. Teixeira for $970,000

3941 Portola Common #1 G. Sumiyoshi to T. & N. Singh for $850,000

3938 Purdue Way Weyrauch Trust to D. & R. Richards for $970,000

2272 Rapallo Common P. & J. Sanchez to S. & M. Manansala for $989,000

1127 Rincon Avenue C. & R. Ahlers to N. & A. Olavarrieta for $765,000

8414 Tesla Road Sewall Family Trust to M. & J. Flores for $2,700,000

824 Alden Lane Chen Trust to A. & J. Franco for $1,025,000

550 Bernal Avenue Logsdon Trust to A. Ursino for $600,000

2160 Chestnut Street Sangmaster Trust to S. Rubright for $440,000

Source: California REsource

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2021 Pleasanton Weekly Readers' Choice

2022 Pleasanton Weekly Readers' Choice

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Cierra Bailey
EDITOR

Livermore VINE

Pleasanton Weekly

Danville SanRamon

A message from our Livermore Vine editor, Cierra Bailey

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.

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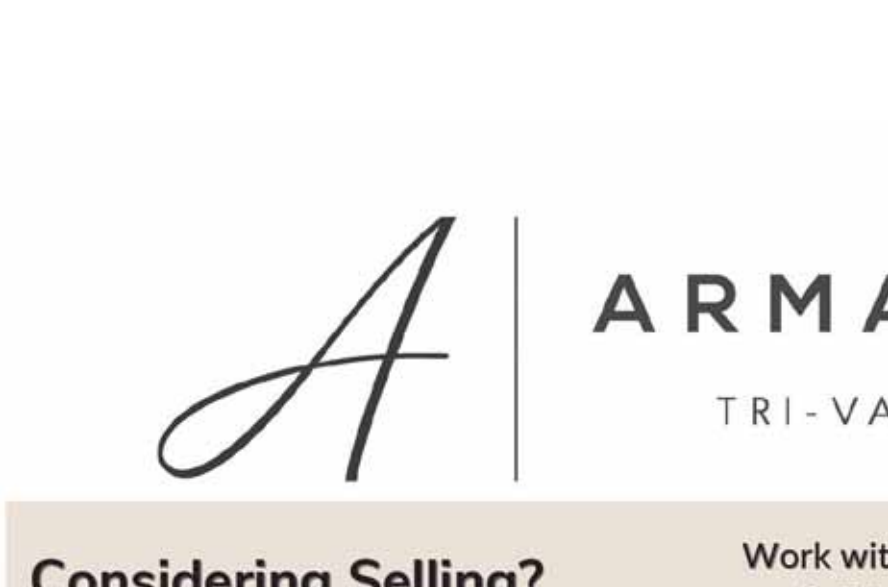

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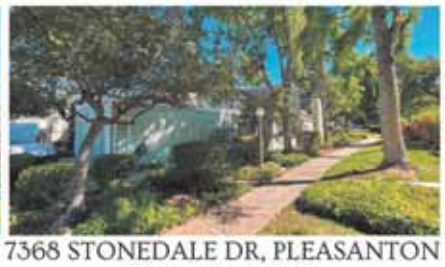
4471 LINDA WAY, PLEASANTON
SOLD $1,750,000

4854 BRAXTON PL, PLEASANTON
SOLD $2,500,000

5174 MOUNT TAM CIR, PLEASANTON
SOLD $2,150,000

3803 ROBBY CT, PLEASANTON
SOLD $1,590,000



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