

Celebrating Black culture at Las Positas College

Campus resource center serves as hub for African American students, employees

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AROUND THE VALLEY



BY GINA CHANNELL WILCOX

The right priorities

The primary responsibility of the Lafayette School District is to provide for the safety of our students," the district's superintendent, Brent Stephens, wrote in an email explaining why he put a principal on administrative leave.

Yes, the first priority of a school district is the safety of the students.

Or at least it should be.

A pattern shows this is definitely not the case at San Ramon Valley Unified School District.

Stephens' email concerned a Lafayette district employee, Nicole Chaplan, who was an assistant principal at San Ramon Valley High School during the 2021-22 school year. While at SRVHS, Chaplan was assigned to the investigation of student complaints of inappropriate touching and comments by a teacher, Nicholas Moseby.

At the end of the school year, Chaplan was hired by the Lafayette district as a middle school principal and Moseby was moved to a SRVUSD middle school.

In September 2022, Moseby was arrested and charged with sexual harassment and molestation alleged by five minors during his time as a cheer coach at a local training center and a teacher at SRVUSD.

Moseby is now awaiting a jury trial for three felony charges of lewd acts upon a child, a felony charge for sending harmful material to seduce a minor, two misdemeanor charges for child molestation and one for sexual battery.

Concerns about how the investigations into the student claims at SRVHS came about when prosecutors went looking for records of the investigations and they were "missing."

Several red flags were missed or ignored before his hiring — prior arrests — and after he was hired — student complaints.

One of those red flags was that Chaplan and Moseby were friends before his hiring. They were well enough acquainted that Chaplan was a reference for Moseby on his application to SRVUSD.

When Stephens learned of the missing documents and Chaplan's role in the "investigations," he put Chaplan on leave pending an investigation by the Lafayette district.

Kudos to Stephens for having his priorities in order and the integrity to place Chaplan on leave to investigate a situation that put student safety at risk at another district.

For Stephens, student safety came before protecting staff. It came

before making sure "the district's reputation and image" were not besmirched. It came before they "lawyered up."

SRVUSD has a history of putting the mental health and physical safety of their students at risk — even their lives — while there are absolutely no consequences for the adults in charge when they are harmed.

SRVHS principal Whitney Cottrell is ultimately responsible for this debacle. Cottrell put Chaplan in charge of "investigating" her friend, and she must not have asked for documentation.

I asked SRVUSD Superintendent John Malloy if Cottrell would be placed on leave while the district conducts an investigation into the missing complaint investigation documents and Cottrell's questionable judgment of having Moseby's friend and professional reference conduct those investigations. And, if not, why?

Malloy responded, "The district conducted an internal investigation, and from the information that we have, we have determined not to place the employee on leave. I do want to confirm that we are methodically reviewing and improving our practices to train members of our administrative team regarding the handling of complaints and any subsequent investigations."

Of course she wouldn't be placed on leave.

Aaron Becker, a teacher at SRVHS, wasn't put on leave when a child died on his watch. Not one day! There wasn't even an investigation!

In May 2018, Ben Curry, a freshman at SRVHS, drowned in a physical education class in front of Becker. Security cameras caught him staring at his cellphone as Ben slipped under the water. Ben was left at the bottom of the pool for over an hour, found 10 minutes after the next class started.

There were no consequences. Becker is still teaching PE and still the varsity football head coach!

I was told by the Curry family's attorney the school district called their law firm before they called for an ambulance.

Lest we forget when Malloy himself put 28 California High School cheerleaders in harm's way physically and emotionally by not correcting a blatantly false social media post with an obviously doctored photo of the team's "mascot."

We need Malloy and everyone involved with SRVUSD to get their priorities straight. ■

About the Cover

Members of the Black Education Association at Las Positas College kicked off the start of a recent Black History Month event by singing the hymn "Lift Every Voice and Sing" together. Photo courtesy LPC. Cover design by Paul Llewellyn.

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What do you do to prepare yourself for video conference calls these days?



Harriet Adler
Retired

It depends on whether I'm planning to Zoom with family/friends or with former colleagues. If I'm chatting with family, I don't prepare at all and just go with a "What you see is what you get" approach. On the other hand, if I'm going to be visible to former colleagues, I look in the mirror first, to make sure I don't have anything between my teeth, and I also put on a bit of makeup.



Jorge Cervantes
Brewer

I clean up everything behind me that's visible so that my space appears neat and tidy. I prefer doing that to blurring my background or picking an artificial one because I think that looks weird, like I'm trying to hide something.



Nancy Marks (with granddaughter Natalie)
Retired

Well, if the call is with my doctor, I always have all of my questions written down beforehand so that I'm ready to ask them and write down the doctor's response. But if the call is with my friends or family members, I just try to hold my iPad at an angle that makes me look something less than 95 years old.



Gary Marks (with granddaughter Aubrie)
Retired

I don't actually do a thing except occasionally check my hair, in order to make sure that the hair I still have on my head is pretty much in place. I like to be as authentic as possible and to look like myself, as much as that can be done in two dimensions.



Rachel Robinson
Receptionist

If I'm at home, I always bring my dogs to the room in the house that is the most distant room from where my call will be, and confine them to that space, because they often bark very noisily and can therefore be a bit disruptive. If I'm at work, I don't really have to do anything at all because I know I already look pretty presentable. As a receptionist, that's part of my job.

—Compiled by Nancy and Jeff Lewis

Have a Streetwise question? Email editor@PleasantonWeekly.com

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Restaurant Week

Taste Tri-Valley Restaurant Week is back starting next week, running for 10 days total between next Friday (Feb. 24) and March 5.

Organized by Visit Tri-Valley to showcase the culinary prowess of the region, the third annual Restaurant Week is being held at participating restaurants, wineries and breweries in Pleasanton, Livermore, Dublin, Danville and City Center Bishop Ranch in San Ramon. There will also be a special kickoff dinner on the eve of the event (Feb. 23) at Wente Vineyards in Livermore.

Restaurant Week will feature a series of special pricing options, discounts and special events during its 10-day run. There will also be a ticketed Sunday Supper on the final day, March 5, at Locanda Amalfi in Pleasanton, as well as a new Taste of the Tri-Valley Food Tour presented by Livermore Wine Trolley.

For more details, go to visittrivalley.com/restaurantweek.

'Improv Face-Off'

Creatures of Impulse, the city of Pleasanton's youth improv troupe, is presenting its "Improv Face-Off" four times next week at the Firehouse Arts Center.

"Watch as local Bay Area improv teams 'compete' against Creatures of Impulse in this pro wrestling themed run of shows. Four performances, four different bouts, four reasons to see all shows with an interactive format that gives the audience a chance to win prizes," Firehouse officials said.

The performances are scheduled for next Thursday, Friday and Saturday (Feb. 23-25) at 7:30 p.m. as well as a 2 p.m. matinee on Saturday. For tickets and more information, visit firehousearts.org.

PTSCA exchange trip

The Pleasanton-Tulancingo Sister City Association is recruiting eligible high school students interested in taking part in the organization's annual exchange trip to Mexico this summer.

Interested students and parents can attend informational meetings next Wednesday or Thursday (Feb. 22-23) at 7 p.m. at the Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce office at 777 Peters Ave. in downtown. Online information sessions are set for the following week, Feb. 27 and 28, via Zoom at 7 p.m. both days.

It is a reciprocal program, with students from Pleasanton going to Tulancingo homes for several weeks and then students from Mexico making the trip to the Tri-Valley. Participants must be sophomores, juniors or seniors with two years of Spanish language experience. To learn more, visit ptscs.org. ■

Parents voice concerns over student violence to City Council, Board of Trustees

City, school district officials will meet in April to discuss possible solutions

By CHRISTIAN TRUJANO

Some parents are calling for administrators at Pleasanton Middle School to step down and for the city to work with the school district to address what they say is a longstanding problem of fighting and bullying at the campus.

Tiffany Karaiyan was one of the mothers who told the Pleasanton City Council on Feb. 7, during the non-agenda public comments section of the council meeting, that as a mother of a fifth grader who is set to attend Pleasanton Middle School soon, she fears for her child's safety.

"I'm terrified to send him

there," Karaiyan said. "I have heard nothing but horrible things about PMS. The reputation of violence, bullying, intimidation and fear is pervasive in the city when you talk about that school."

The public controversy escalated on Jan. 19 after a video was posted on social media showing a girl, later identified as a Pleasanton Middle School student, punching and stomping on the head of another student in front of the Pleasanton Public Library.

The video went viral around the community and prompted parents to attend both the

council and the Pleasanton Unified School District Board of Trustees public meetings last week to voice their concerns on not just this latest beating, but what they say is a culture of violence at Pleasanton Middle School.

"What we saw in January was not the first time. I have sent the school district and the current principal at Pleasanton Middle videos of beatings ... on school campus, at the libraries (and) around town," Sara Campbell told the council during the Feb. 7 meeting. "Heads being stomped on and kicked like soccer balls is not a fight, that is a beating."

Campbell was also one of the parents who attended the school board meeting two days later and followed up by saying that the current administration at Pleasanton Middle School needs to be replaced because they are being dismissive of parent concerns.

That sentiment was also shared by several of the parents at the council meeting.

"The teachers have their hands tied to correct this behavior at any grade level," Pleasanton resident Vicki LaBarge said. "Administration of the PMS

See **VIOLENCE** on Page 10



Foothill High School's civics team pose after winning the program's first-ever championship in the We the People state competition on Feb. 4.

Foothill captures state championship

Second-place Amador also headed to nationals in We the People civics competition

By CHRISTIAN TRUJANO

Foothill High School will be representing California in this year's We the People national competition in Washington, D.C. after winning the state championship earlier this month.

Amador Valley High School, the defending U.S. champion, will join their Pleasanton peers at nationals in April as the

second school to represent California in 2023 after taking home the second place award in the state competition on Feb. 4, which secured their spot in D.C.

We the People is a national educational program where students demonstrate their understanding of government and the Constitution by participating in simulated congressional

hearings, according to a press release from Pleasanton Unified School District.

The news of going to nationals spread soon after Foothill seniors celebrated their state championship more than a week ago. This marks the sixth time that the school will represent California in the national

See **WE THE PEOPLE** on Page 6

County Supervisor Valle dies

Represented District 2, including Sunol, for more than 10 years

By JEREMY WALSH

Alameda County Supervisor Richard Valle, who represented District 2 including his hometown of Union City as well as part of Sunol and elsewhere for more than 10 years, died last week following a nearly two-year battle with prostate cancer. He was 73.

Valle, who served on the City Council in Union City for 13 years prior to earning election to the Alameda County Board of Supervisors in 2012, had just earned another term in office by winning the primary election unchallenged last year.

Board President Nate Miley confirmed Valle's death on the afternoon of Feb. 8, saying he was "devastated to learn of the passing of my colleague and friend. Richard Valle was a champion for his district, especially his hometown of Union City."

"During his 10 years of service on the Board of Supervisors, Richard fought for safety-net services, mental health programs and was a tireless supporter of Saint Rose Hospital," Miley said. "He uplifted community volunteers through a highly successful annual volunteer appreciation event, promoted walkable neighborhoods through the

See **VALLE** on Page 8

Former Pleasanton PD officer sues city for wrongful termination

Lawsuit argues McNeff was unjustly fired for political opinions at 'Stop the Steal' rally

By CHRISTIAN TRUJANO

A former Pleasanton police officer has filed a federal lawsuit against city and police department officials for allegedly firing him after finding out he attended a "Stop the Steal" rally in Sacramento at the same time as the insurrection in the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021.



Peter McNeff

Peter "Pete" McNeff was a five-year-plus veteran at the Pleasanton Police Department, after having joined the department back in December 2015. McNeff's attorneys contend that he had been previously lauded for his "exemplary record" and recognized for his actions in the department throughout his career.

But when McNeff decided to attend a "Stop the Steal" rally on Jan. 6, 2021 in the state's capital city on his own personal time, which was

on the same day as the insurrection at Washington D.C., several of his co-workers saw photos of McNeff at the rally that he posted on his social media accounts, according to the lawsuit.

That led to complaints being filed against McNeff and officers criticizing him for his political beliefs, ultimately resulting on him being placed on leave, according to the lawsuit.

"On January 7, 2021, a police sergeant sent a memorandum to Mr. (David) Swing documenting internal complaints regarding Mr. McNeff's political action," the federal lawsuit states. "In this memorandum, authored and sent one day following the January 6, 2021 political rally, this Sergeant 'concluded' that Mr. McNeff attended an event organized by a group known for their propensity to discuss extreme violence, incitement of violence, and threats."

The memorandum also stated that McNeff had "directly associated himself with the unlawful activities at the U.S. Capitol."

While the lawsuit argues that there is no evidence that McNeff did anything other than attend and observe the rally, PPD followed up with a formal investigation just a few months later that year.

The investigation, led by an outside law firm, looked into McNeff's entire social media history and interviewed several other PPD employees before making five separate allegations all relating to his current and past political views, according to the lawsuit.

"The Department chose to commence such an investigation into Mr. McNeff's suspected radicalized and/or extremist associations, absent any information that Mr. McNeff actually associated with or supported any such hate or extremist groups, resulting in lasting and irreversible damage to Mr. McNeff's character and reputation. The department did so after at least one senior officer urged them not to touch this issue with a ten-foot pole," according to the lawsuit.

Some of the allegations made by the law firm included being

associated with racist, extremist groups like the Proud Boys and posting multiple racist and anti-Muslim comments on several of his social media accounts, according to the lawsuit.

While the lawsuit states that most of the allegations were not sustained and some were exonerated due to freedom of speech and rights to express political views, McNeff was ultimately fired from PPD on Feb. 4, 2022.

"The department and city's stated reasons for termination are pretext," the lawsuit states. "Mr. McNeff was, in fact, fired because he expressed protected political opinions and ideologies deemed 'unpopular' and even stupid by the department, (Chief) Swing, and (PPD Capt. Larry) Cox."

Pleasanton city attorney Dan Sodergren told the Weekly that the city cannot comment on pending litigation and could not provide personnel records regarding McNeff's termination.

PPD Sgt. Marty Billdt also told the Weekly that the city is "legally

prohibited from commenting on personnel matters."

McNeff will be seeking a trial by jury for economic and non-economic compensation and is alleging that the Pleasanton Police Department and city officials violated his First Amendment rights, retaliated against him for engaging in political activity, and wrongfully fired him for lawful, off-duty activities.

"They knew that firing Mr. McNeff for engaging in off-duty political speech protected by the First Amendment was illegal, immoral and wrong," according to the lawsuit. "In addition, they knew or should have known, and acted with reckless disregard of the fact that engaging in the above-described adverse employment actions would result in substantial harm to Mr. McNeff, his reputation, his career, his employment, and his employability. Nevertheless, they acted with cruel and retaliatory motives and deliberate indifference to Mr. McNeff's rights under the law."

The lawsuit, filed on Jan. 10 in the U.S. District Court for Northern California in Oakland, names as defendants the city, PPD, Chief Swing, Capt. Cox and Brian Dolan, who was interim city manager at the time. ■

New district attorney under fire for controversial plea deal

Price stands by agreement to reduce three murder charges to one manslaughter count

Families of victims slain in Oakland are saying new Alameda County District Attorney Pamela Price is not listening to them and needs to be recalled for being too soft on crime.

The statements came following what critics describe as a lenient plea deal announced last week regarding Delonzo Logwood, 32, who was previously charged with allegedly killing three people in 2008.

Under the plea deal, Logwood pleaded no contest to voluntary manslaughter and personal use of a gun. The charges for allegedly killing the two others were dropped.



Pamela Price

Logwood was just 18 then and is very sorry for his behavior, according to a statement Friday by Price. The judge was not convinced that Logwood was remorseful, in what Price described as "critical comments from the bench."

Logwood has been incarcerated since 2009. He has been in Santa Rita Jail since 2015.

"Given the state of the evidence and the age of the cases, our office concluded it was in the interests of justice to resolve the prosecution of Mr. Logwood with a plea to multiple crimes in connection with the murder of Eric Ford," Price said in a statement released Friday.

But Brenda Grisham said the families of the victims need to have a say in how long a criminal goes to prison. Grisham lost her son Christopher Jones to violence in

Oakland in 2010.

Following her son's death, Grisham started the Christopher Lavelle Jones Foundation and Their Lives Matter, both to honor the memory of Jones.

"The families are watching very closely," Grisham said. "They should be a little important to somebody."

Grisham said Price is out of touch with victims' families. No one is going to speak for her son but her, she said.

Logwood will continue to be incarcerated for years under the plea deal with Alameda County prosecutors, Price said.

"The Logwood case is a difficult case by any measure," she said.

Logwood was allegedly part of the Ghost Town gang, a subset of the P-Team gang, according to testimony in 2018 by Oakland police

Acting Capt. Tony Jones.

Jones was testifying as a gang expert in a preliminary hearing for Logwood and a co-defendant accused of five fatal shootings in 45 days in Oakland in the summer of 2008.

That year, 125 people were slain in the city and a disproportionate number of them were Black, according to a report by the Urban Strategies Council, which aims to eliminate persistent poverty in the Bay Area.

"She needs to be recalled," Grisham said of Price. Everyone in Grisham's circle and others agree with that, Grisham alleges. "This is life and death," she added.

Price has defended her stance on violence and its effects on communities.

"The level of violent assaults that

injured and took the lives of so many young Black men in the summer of 2008 was not acceptable then, and it is not acceptable today," she said. "Our mission in the here and now is to stop violence in our community."

Price said these old cases have created pressure and trauma for survivors, defendants and their families, the court system and Price's staff. She said everyone responsible for administering justice in Alameda County must do better.

Defense lawyer Linda Fullerton declined to speak about the case until after the sentencing, which is scheduled for March 23. Logwood remains in Santa Rita Jail. He's being held without bail.

Price did not respond Tuesday evening to a request for comment. ■

—Keith Burbank, BCN

WE THE PEOPLE

Continued from Page 5

competition.

"This victory belongs to every member of our team," said Graham McBride, the Foothill U.S. history teacher who leads the civics team each year. "They put the time and effort in, and we're thrilled that that work has paid off. This is the first time FHS

has won the state championship and our program is excited to celebrate this milestone."

Amador is also no stranger to the competition, as last year's team actually won the whole thing at nationals.

"The students and I are so excited to be heading to D.C. to compete in the National Finals this year," said Stacey Sklar, the English and social studies teacher who coaches Amador's

civics team. "We look forward to preparing our questions, seeing the sights and competing against some terrific teams."

PUSD Superintendent David Haglund lauded both teams in his report out to the Board of Trustees during the Feb. 9 school board meeting and commended the students and the teachers for their hard work and dedication.

"Congratulations are due to coaches Graham McBride, Jeremy

Detamore and Stacey Sklar, who dedicate hundreds of hours with the students as they prepare for the competitions every year," Haglund said. "We are really proud of these amazing teachers and, of course, their incredible students and we wish them best of luck in Washington D.C."

The competitive civics program, which is sponsored by the Center for Civic Education, is

held annually at the country's capitol — this year's competition will take place from April 22-24. Only the top two teams from the state championships go on to compete in the national competition.

According to the program's website, more than 30 million students and 75,000 educators have participated in the We the People program since it was first founded in 1987. ■

CPUC explores ways to mitigate high natural gas prices

Speeds up climate credit for consumers, but seen as only 'short-term Band-Aid'

BY GRACE GEDYE / CALMATTERS

Gas prices have spiked in California.

That may sound like old news after months of high prices at the pump, but this time another kind of gas is running up the tab: natural gas, which fuels stoves and heats water and homes.

Average bills for PG&E residential customers in Northern California shot up to an estimated \$195 in January, compared to \$151 the year before; SoCalGas customers got hit with \$300 on average, compared to \$123 last year, according to data shared by Jean Spencer, supervisor of the energy division of California's public utility commission, at a recent hearing. Meanwhile, across the country, wholesale natural gas prices have fallen an average of 50% since October, according to reporting in Bloomberg.

What gives? California's Public Utilities Commission held a hearing on Feb. 7 attended by different state energy agencies and industry representatives to look into the question and discussed strategies to mitigate high prices.

While the commission can't directly set prices, attendees raised different long-term options that might keep the cost of gas down for consumers.

The meeting followed a decision by the commission last week to speed up a climate credit for consumers that should reduce gas bills. That move will translate to roughly \$50 off customers' bills — but, said commission president Alice Busching Reynolds, it "was a short-term Band-Aid and this is a longer-term problem."

At least one California gas company expects bills to go down in February.

Why are prices so high?

California pipes in 90% of the natural gas it uses from elsewhere, making the state vulnerable to issues outside its borders.

Several factors conspired to send natural gas prices soaring in the West, according to the U.S. Energy Information Agency: below-normal temperatures; high gas use; lower imports of natural gas from Canada; gas pipeline constraints, including maintenance issues in West Texas; and lower gas storage levels in the Pacific region.

On Feb. 6, Gov. Gavin Newsom made clear he isn't satisfied we have the whole story, writing in a letter to federal regulators that "those known factors cannot explain the extent and longevity of the price spike." He asked federal energy regulators to investigate "whether market manipulation, anticompetitive behavior, or other anomalous activities are driving these ongoing

elevated prices in the western gas markets."

What, if anything, can be done?

The price of natural gas is set by regional and national markets. But the utilities commission and industry representatives raised short- and longer-term changes that could insulate California customers from wildly fluctuating bills.

In addition to accelerating the climate credit, the Public Advocate's Office at the utilities commission has proposed spreading the increased cost over three to six months, to make each individual bill more affordable and mitigate the risk of disconnections.

Industry representatives raised gas storage capacity and regulations as topics the commission should consider.

Storing gas can help protect California customers from shocking bills because, if a utility has ample gas in storage when prices are spiking, "you can run down your (current supply) for a while and not have to buy quite so much at the super expensive time," said Severin Borenstein, an energy economist at UC Berkeley, in an interview.

Roger Schwecke, senior vice president at Southern California Gas Co., suggested reevaluating how much gas is stored at Aliso Canyon, the largest natural gas storage facility in the state. A major leak occurred at Aliso Canyon in 2015, causing Southern California Gas to temporarily relocate thousands of households. In the aftermath, the utilities commission capped how much gas could be stored at the facility.

Mark Potca, a program manager

at the utilities commission's Public Advocates Office, also emphasized the importance of storage capacity at Aliso Canyon, mentioning a proposal to increase the cap, which would provide more storage capacity. How Aliso Canyon gets used is something "that the commission will need to consider closely moving forward," Potca said.

Lucy Redmond, director of gas reservoir engineering and facilities at PG&E, raised the impact of regulations from California Geologic Energy Management Division, which went into effect in 2018. She said the regulations have caused, on average, a 40% decline in the utility's well capacity.

Those rules, which were much stricter than previous gas storage standards, were enacted after the Aliso Canyon leak, said Mike Florio, a senior fellow at Gridworks and a

former utilities commissioner, in an interview with CalMatters. "A lot of people think it's really excessive, that they kind of went from not paying any attention at all to being really too strict in these regulations," Florio said. The rules require testing of gas facilities, and some of the tests can take a well out of service for as long as a year, he said.

"They've created a price problem," he said.

But the utilities commission couldn't revise the rules even if it wanted to, since a different entity, the Geologic Energy Management Division of the Department of Conservation, wrote them, Florio said. "The only way this gets resolved is if it goes up their respective chains of command, maybe even as far as the governor's office, to say, 'Hey, let's get these agencies on the same page.'" ■



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BART could implement 11% fare hike over next two years

Increase would align prices with inflation, officials say

BART could increase fares by at least 5.5% as soon as January 2024 in an effort to keep up with both wage growth in the Bay Area and inflation, officials with the transit agency said last week.

BART typically adjusts fares systemwide every two years by a rate that is 0.5% less than the rate of inflation over that two-year span, as measured by the U.S. consumer

price index.

BART fares were generally aligned with the Bay Area's CPI prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. The change in fares has not kept up with inflation in recent years, however, particularly since 2020.

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, inflation was 11.9% between January 2020 and December 2022, the period of time

on which BART is basing the next round of fare increases in January 2024.

However, BART finance officials suggested on Feb. 9 to the agency's Board of Directors that fares should rise by 5.5% in January 2024 and January 2025 rather than in one 11.4% adjustment.

"This has been a critically important part of our fiscal policy for two decades," BART financial planning director Michael Eiseman said. "I

think folks are aware that inflation has been unusually high in recent times."

According to Eiseman, a standard fare for a BART ride from Berkeley to the San Francisco Embarcadero station would rise by roughly 50 cents once both fare increases are in effect.

He also noted that non-farm wages in the four counties BART services rose by roughly 16% between 2020 and 2022 and total employment in the region has returned to pre-pandemic levels, according to data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Some BART board members were squeamish about the potential fare hikes, arguing that 5.5% increases in each of the next two years would be too much, too quickly and would

affect low-income riders the most.

"Going from Berkeley to Embarcadero, it would increase 25 cents but that's the first one," Board Director Rebecca Saltzman said. "So by the second one, it would be at least 50 cents, which means \$1 a day. Which is a lot of money, especially (because) there are still riders out there riding five days a week."

Saltzman and some other members of the board said they would support fare increases in theory, but likely at a lower rate than the twin 5.5% hikes as proposed by BART officials.

The BART board is set to consider the potential fare increases during its budgeting process this spring. ■

—Eli Walsh, BCN Foundation

MAYBE THIS TIME: AN EVENING WITH JOHNNY ORENBERG

WITH SPECIAL GUEST

FRANC D'AMBROSIO

Come & Experience the brilliance of Tenor, Johnny Orenberg with his award winning cabaret *Maybe This Time*. His cheeky humor and smooth vocals will delight all as he looks at the intricacies of life, love, and happiness.

Special guests include "The World's Longest-Running Phantom of the Opera" Franc D'Ambrosio and Johnny's lovely wife, Katie Orenberg.

Accompanying Johnny are his Music Director Joe Wicht on piano along with popular percussionist Roberta Drake.



LESHER CENTER FOR THE ARTS

MARCH 4TH @ 7:15PM
MARCH 5TH @ 2:15PM

TO PURCHASE TICKETS, VISIT:

<https://www.lesherartscenter.org/Home/Components/Calendar/Event/15337/3094>

VALLE

Continued from Page 5

Niles Canyon Stroll and Roll and educated the community about STEM programming through Science in the Park."

Miley, whose district includes Pleasanton, added of Valle: "He was an advocate for at-risk youth, job development programs, and was a steadfast champion for organized labor. My condolences to his wife, children, grandchildren, staff and to all those lucky enough to call Richard a friend. Rest in peace Supervisor Valle."

Valle is survived by his wife Barbara, daughter Monica, son Andrew and three grandchildren. The Valles had celebrated their



Richard Valle

44th wedding anniversary on Feb. 3.

Pleasanton Vice Mayor Jack Balch was among those to offer public condolences, saying Valle was a family friend and news of the supervisor's passing was hard for his family to hear.

"The supervisor and my grandfather worked together to support the great work at St. Rose Hospital to help so many in need. It is through this work that I was able to meet the supervisor and appreciate his dedication, advice, service and friendship," Balch said in a post on Facebook. "On behalf of the Balch family, thank you for your service supervisor. We will miss you."

County Supervisor David Haubert, whose district includes Dublin and Livermore, called Valle "a strong leader for his community, dedicating his life to public service and making a positive impact on the lives of many."

"His kindness, wisdom and unwavering commitment to justice

will be deeply missed," Haubert said in his weekly newsletter. "Our thoughts and prayers are with Valle's family and loved ones during this difficult time. Richard will forever be remembered as a shining example of selflessness, integrity, and generosity."

Valle spent much of his adult life in public service, starting with enlisting in the U.S. Army as a medic and serving in Vietnam in 1970. He would go on to work in the recycling industry, including founding Tri-CED Community, which is now California's largest nonprofit recycling organization.

His career in public office began in 1997 on the City Council in Union City, a position he held through 2010. Valle ascended to the county Board of Supervisors in 2012.

"He was a champion for organized labor, environmental stewardship, lifting up at-risk youth, and providing second chances for justice-involved residents," his family said in a statement released through Miley's office.

Valle was first diagnosed with prostate cancer in July 2021, battling the disease for his final years in office including his successful bid for reelection uncontested in June 2022. Supervisorial District 2 encompasses Hayward, Union City, Newark, portions of Fremont and unincorporated areas including part of Sunol.

His family said Valle passed away peacefully at home in Union City surrounded by his wife and children at 12:41 p.m. Feb. 8.

Valle is the second county supervisor to die in office in the past 15 months. Then-District 3 supervisor Wilma Chan was fatally struck by a vehicle while crossing a street with her dog in her hometown of Alameda in November 2021.

The Board of Supervisors now has nearly 50 days to fill Valle's seat on the dais (60 days from the date of his death), either by appointment or calling a special election. The board is expected to discuss the matter at a meeting later this month, according to Bay City News Service. ■



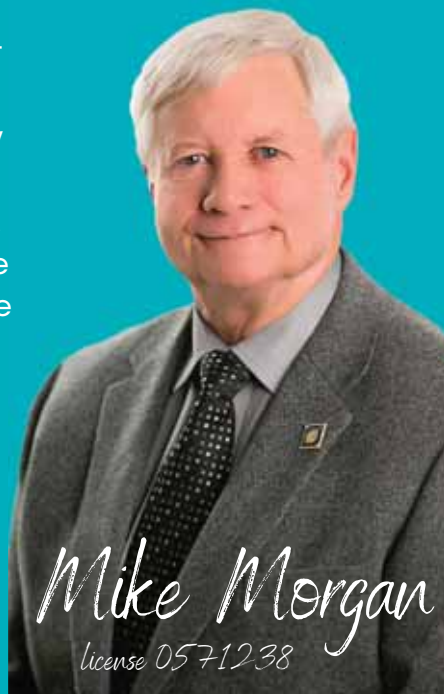
COURTESY CALTRANS

I-680 closure set for second weekend

The full shutdown of northbound Interstate 680 between Koopman Road in Sunol and Sunol Boulevard in Pleasanton is scheduled to continue for the second weekend in a row starting tonight. Crews began the project, involving significant paving overhaul work, last weekend (shown), and Caltrans said it is implementing adjustments to mitigation measures based on lessons learned from the first weekend — although northbound delays are expected to be at least an hour due to major detours. The closure over Presidents' Day weekend will run from 10 p.m. tonight (Feb. 17) through 5 a.m. Tuesday (Feb. 21), weather permitting. Southbound I-680 lanes will remain fully open.

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MULTIPLAN_MAFLYERGMI_M

Late former Livermore mayor loved city 'with all his heart'

Longtime community leader Dale Turner died at New Mexico home last month

By CIERRA BAILEY

Dale Turner, who became Livermore's first directly elected mayor more than 40 years ago, died recently at his home in New Mexico. He was 85.

"My stepmom Sabina Turner, my sister Heather Bateson and I were with him when he passed from this life," Turner's son Christian Turner told Livermore Vine. "An Air Force veteran, a soccer coach, an amazing banker, realtor, park director, city council member, and mayor. We all lost a great person that day," he added.

Turner had been battling Parkinson's disease and Lewy body dementia since the mid-2010s, according to a GoFundMe page created in his honor. His wife was his full-time caregiver for the past five years.

Prior to his election in 1982, the mayoral seat was appointed by fellow council members and rotated every two years. While Turner's last term as Livermore mayor ended in 1989, he was affectionately known as "Mr. Mayor" by many for a number of years thereafter. The city's

flags flew at half-staff the week following his death.

"I was very sorry to hear of the passing of former Mayor Dale Turner," said current Livermore Mayor John Marchand. "He was a long-time community servant and Livermore's first directly elected Mayor. While I did not have the opportunity to serve with him on the Council, I appreciate that he took the time and made the effort to serve our community."

Several years after his tenure on the council, Turner served on the board of the Livermore Area Recreation and Park District for about six years. He resigned from the board in 2007 to move to Gold Country, which had better air quality for his wife's health.

"His decision to enter politics was driven by his love for Livermore and his desire to support the people he cared about," Bateson said of her father.

Christian Turner echoed similar sentiments, adding that his dad "loved Livermore with all his heart."

Both Bateson and Christian Turner shared that their father was known by others for his generosity and kindness.

"Growing up, my dad and I would go to the grocery store to pick up food — whenever people were in line and did not have enough money to pay for all of their groceries, he would open his wallet and pay the difference so that they would not have to choose what groceries went back," Christian Turner said.

"He did this because he genuinely loved the people of our community and helped whenever he could. This left an everlasting impression on how caring and compassionate we can be to one another. This is something I will never forget," he added.

Bateson spoke of how he showed compassion to his clients in his professional life.

"He had a gift of connecting with people and seeing the best in them, which is evident in his successful careers as a banker and a real estate agent. To this day, people still come up to me and share how my dad helped them when no one else would," she said, adding that her dad assisted people who were struggling to get approved for loans.

"My dad was that kind of guy — always willing to help and forever



COURTESY HEATHER BATESON

Dale and Sabina Turner in 1985, three years after Dale became the first directly elected mayor in Livermore history.

seeing the good in people," she said. "My dad did not hold grudges and had a gift of putting people at ease. He led with a smile and a handshake and he truly cared."

Long before planting roots in Livermore, Turner was born in New York in 1937 and lived there until his family moved to California when he was in high school, according to an online obituary posted by his family.

After graduating from high school, he served in the Air Force in the late 1950s. He was primarily stationed in

Guam. Upon leaving the military, he returned to California and eventually settled in Livermore.

Turner died on Jan. 15. He is survived by his wife Sabina Turner, son Christian Turner, daughters Bateson and Kerri Jung and their families.

A celebration of life service is set for 1 p.m. on Feb. 23 at Cedar Grove Church in Livermore. The service will also be livestreamed for those who are unable to attend in person. Turner's committal service will be a private event for his family. ■

DSRSD picks Govindarao to fill vacant seat

San Ramon doctor to prioritize public health and innovation on water/sewer board

By NICOLE GONZALES

A new director has been appointed to serve on the Dublin San Ramon Services District Board of Directors, filling the empty Division 1 seat.

Following the resignation of a previous director, the Division 1 seat had been vacant since last December. At its most recent meeting, the remaining directors selected Dinesh Govindarao, a local medical doctor and two-time former candidate for mayor of San Ramon, and he was sworn in to fulfill the role.



Dinesh Govindarao

Govindarao is expected to serve a 22-month term through fall 2024 when there will be next regular election for the seat.

"I am very excited and honored to have been appointed as a board of director for the DSRSD," Govindarao said. "I have a strong passion to serve our local community and this is a wonderful opportunity to serve in this capacity."

With experience in public health and science, the new Division 1 director said he will

strive to prioritize safety and innovation. The agency provides almost 200,000 citizens with water, wastewater and recycled water services in Dublin, parts of San Ramon and Pleasanton (sewer) by contract.

"Given my professional experience, my primary focus will be on public health and safety, when addressing water quality, water supply, recycled water and wastewater management," he said. "It is important to be innovative and look for possible solutions to address the needs of our growing population and manage through severe droughts. I would be interested to look at innovative ways to increase our recycled water usage as

The Division 1 seat was previously held by Marisol Rubio, who vacated the position once securing a spot on the San Ramon City Council in the election last November. Rubio officially left the DSRSD board to start her new role with the council on Dec. 13.

DSRSD operated with an empty Division 1 seat and actively sought a candidate after her departure by appointment rather than a special election.

After the application process review, three possible candidates were invited to a final interview at

the board meeting: Saqib Ahmad, Olumide (Olu) Adeoye and Govindarao. Ahmad is a product manager and Adeoye is an energy transition professional with experience in infrastructure and venture capital.

Govindarao secured the position and was sworn in for the role for the remainder of the meeting. His coverage area of Division 1 will include a large portion of San Ramon's Dougherty Valley.

Govindarao has been a longtime resident of San Ramon and attended California High School. He ran for San Ramon mayor in 2020 and 2022, being among the candidates to lose to Mayor Dave Hudson both times. Govindarao is also a board member of the San Ramon Valley Education Foundation.

As for his new platform goals, Govindarao hopes to connect with the community and champion their needs.

"Water has been at the forefront as a topic of concern for many residents. I will strive to engage our community and try to understand their needs and concerns," Govindarao said.

He has been appointed by the committee for the position of liaison for the cities of Pleasanton and San Ramon. ■



BE A PART OF THE PUBLIC PROCESS – VOLUNTEER FOR A CITY COMMISSION

The City Council recruits and appoints residents of Pleasanton to a variety of boards and commissions, allowing them to contribute to and influence decisions affecting the city, providing advice and feedback on important community issues.

Applications are now being accepted for the following vacancies:

LIBRARY COMMISSION

1 Vacancy – Youth member (minimum 9th grade)

PLANNING COMMISSION

1 Vacancy – Alternate member

YOUTH COMMISSION

2 Vacancies – 2 Alternate Student members (minimum 6th grade)

ALTAMONT EDUCATION ADVISORY BOARD

The City of Pleasanton is recruiting for a member to participate on the Altamont Education Advisory Board. The representative must be a must be a Science, Environmental Education or Vocational Education teacher from the Pleasanton Public Schools.

HOUSING AUTHORITY OF ALAMEDA COUNTY (HACA) HOUSING COMMISSION

The City of Pleasanton is recruiting for an at-large member to participate on the Housing Authority of Alameda County (HACA) Housing Commission.

Apply by 5 PM, Monday, March 20, 2023, on the City of Pleasanton website at <http://www.cityofpleasantonca.gov/gov/depts/clerk/boards/default.asp>

Applicants must reside within Pleasanton city limits.

For more information contact the Office of the City Clerk at (925) 931-5027.

State says spring wildflower blooms could be spectacular

Officials encourage potential viewers to follow the rules: 'Don't Doom the Bloom'

Winter showers will bring lots of spring flowers, according to the California Department of Parks and Recreation.

The record rainfall in the state will likely bring "spectacular wildflower blooms" this spring, the department said in a statement. That, in turn, will attract thousands of people.

Super blooms happen when a season of heavy rain follows years of drought that killed grasses and

weeds that take up nutrients. The state says public land managers are expecting "good" to "better-than-average" wildflower blooms in the spring, depending on the continued weather conditions.

Depending on the park, visitors may see colorful California poppies, sand verbena, desert sunflowers, evening primrose, popcorn flowers or desert lilies.

"If the state is lucky to be adorned with wildflower blooms this spring,

we want to make sure that everyone has a positive experience when exploring them," said California State Parks director Armando Quintero. "California State Parks welcomes all to enjoy these unpredictable, rare occurrences but asks visitors to 'Don't Doom the Bloom' by staying on designated trails and taking only photos, not flowers."

Detailed information on this year's potential wildflower blooms and park rules, in Spanish and English, is available online at parks.ca.gov/WildflowerBloom. ■

—Tony Hicks, BCN Foundation



STATE PARKS, VIA BCN

Wildflower bloom in 2019 in Anza-Borrego Desert State Park.

Daniel Dawson

September 19, 1942 – February 6, 2023

After 80 years of a life well-lived, Dan Dawson passed away on February 6, 2023. Dan was born on September 19, 1942 in Rockville Centre, New York to Daniel W. Dawson and Frances Davison Dawson. Dan grew up in Oceanside, New York, graduating from Oceanside High School in 1960 and then heading off to Cornell University, where he majored in mechanical engineering.



While at Cornell, he met the love of his life, Elizabeth (Betty) Enzel, a student at nearby SUNY-Cortland. They married on August 14, 1965 and moved to the Boston area to pursue further graduate studies. Dan received a Master's degree in 1968 and a PhD in 1973 from MIT in Mechanical Engineering and Materials Science. First living in Cambridge, followed by Arlington and then Bedford, Dan worked at the Watertown Arsenal conducting research on metal alloys for various national defense applications which inspired his doctoral thesis in titanium alloys. Always an avid runner, Dan ran the Boston Marathon four times between 1968 and 1974.

Dan, Betty, and their two sons headed west in November, 1974 when Dan took a position with Sandia National Laboratories in Livermore, California and purchased a home in Pleasanton, where he lived until his passing. Over the course of 30 years with Sandia he worked on both defense-related projects and a nascent solar-energy generation program. He continued his passion for running, including doing several marathons and regularly "commuting" home by running the 12 miles from Sandia.

Dan and Betty traveled extensively, ranging from family road trips around California and the west to the British Isles, Europe, Australia, New Zealand, Japan, and southeast Asia, plus many vacations to their favorite Hawaiian island of Kauai. Dan also reveled in his Scottish heritage, being active for many years with the Caledonian Club of San Francisco and its annual Highland Games in Pleasanton in addition to the Pleasanton-Blairgowrie-Fergus Sister City Organization. Starting back in his high school days, his interest in World War II aircraft and insignia led to a lifelong mission of collecting insignia and developing an extensive library of WWII history, technical details, and strategic analysis.

Dan was preceded in death by his parents, Dan and Frances, and Betty, his wife of 43 years. He is survived by his brother, Richard, of Cary, Illinois, and sons, Dan of Novato, California and Jonathan (Karen) of New York City as well as several nieces and nephews.

A celebration of life ceremony will be held at 1:00pm on Friday, February 17 at First Presbyterian Church of Livermore, 2020 Fifth Street, Livermore.

In lieu of flowers the family asks that donations be made to the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, <https://www.lls.org/>.

PAID OBITUARY

VIOLENCE

Continued from Page 5

school is either ineffective or unable to provide a safe environment for all students."

She said that her grandson, who is currently attending Hearst Elementary School, was also recently bullied.

"The answer is not moving kids who are bullied to another school or homeschooling them," LaBarge said. "The answer is holding parents responsible for providing resources to the school to help them combat the behaviors that we see at PMS and earlier grades."

Both city and district officials aimed to assure parents that they will be working closely with each other to find solutions to their concerns citing a joint city and district meeting on April 20 where they plan on talking about this issue.

"I want to highlight a comment made — which are smart, actionable, measurable, steps to go forward," Vice Mayor Jack Balch said during the City Council meeting. "We're going to have a city-school liaison (meeting) in April ... I really hope by then,

we have identified statistically, measurably how we're going to get a path forward. If a (school resource officer) has to be dedicated to the school itself, I hope the school district will evaluate that so that we can hear what the school district needs to achieve true solutions."

While all of the parents said they want to see more funds going toward the police SRO program, they want the city to add additional funds for more community officers at all the schools.

"I would like to encourage our city officials to come together with our police department and our school board and school administrators to develop a clear plan to prevent this culture of bullying and fights," Ghezal Beliakoff told the council. "We need to have a zero tolerance policy for those who are bullying, assaulting and also those who are encouraging this behavior. This has to stop before a child is seriously hurt."

But while Mayor Karla Brown attempted to assure parents that they will be working to find a solution, City Manager Gerry Beaudin emphasized that this is primarily a school district issue.

"Public safety is a city of Pleasanton responsibility, but when it comes to schools and how discipline and public safety is administered in the schools, we do have a memorandum of understanding and that is the heart of the discussion about how the district and the school operate," Beaudin said referencing the MOU between the district and the city on how police officers are deployed to schools.

"But in terms of our budget, and the things that we're doing here, operationally, it is a completely different set of funding source and set of different responsibilities here at the city relative to the school board and the school district," Beaudin added.

Pleasanton Middle School principal Joe Nguyen also spoke during the council meeting, saying that he is hearing the community's concerns and said that student safety will continue to be at the forefront of his administration.

He added that they will continue to engage with the community on how to make adjustments to how they can prevent this from happening again.

"I have no tolerance for violence in schools, and that deserves a response, both disciplinary and any other way that we can do that, because we're more than just an educational ... institution. We have to teach how to be people and how to be better people," Nguyen said.

PUSD Superintendent David Haglund also commented on the situation during his report to the school board during the Feb. 9 meeting, but not before first getting the location confused as Hart Middle School, as opposed to Pleasanton Middle School.

At the board meeting, Haglund said that the district is "working with site administration to address your concerns and to ensure a safe, inclusive and academically rich environment is accessible for all of our students every day." ■



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Screengrab from video of student altercation outside Pleasanton Public Library on Jan. 19

POLICE BULLETIN

Two charged in Pleasanton armed robbery

Two men accused of robbing a person at gunpoint in Pleasanton late last month have been formally charged with second-degree felony robbery, according to documents from the Alameda County District Attorney's Office.

The two defendants — Tyrell Antoine Brown, 24, and Andre Kaith Ryan, 24 — are currently not listed in the county's "Inmate Locator" systems, which indicates that they are no longer being held at the Santa Rita Jail. According to their criminal dockets, both of their bails were set at \$50,000.

News of their arrest first surfaced on Feb. 4 when the Pleasanton Police Department posted on its social media pages that two suspects were arrested for robbery and possession of stolen property.

According to a probable cause declaration prepared by Pleasanton police Officer Nickolas Skaggs, PPD received a call on Jan. 30 just before 1 p.m. from a business owner who reported that one of their employees was robbed at gunpoint in the Huntswood Court neighborhood.

The employee stated in the report that the two suspects, who were later positively identified by the victim based on photos provided after their arrest, wore ski masks while they robbed him of his wallet, cell phone and two of the business owner's laptops, according to Skaggs.

The robbers also stole the victim's wallet, which contained a \$1,200 company credit card that also belonged to the business owner, before they took off in a black Honda Accord, according to police.

But authorities allege the suspects had the whole thing carefully planned out as they followed the victim from Antioch — where the victim had made a cash withdrawal from a bank — to Pleasanton.

"During the initial investigation, the reporting party advised he left a bank in Antioch after withdrawing \$8,000 to pay his employees," according to Skaggs. "A

review of fixed (automated license plate reader) camera records in the area captured the reporting party's pickup truck traveling westbound on Bernal Avenue in Pleasanton ... three seconds after the pickup truck was captured by the fixed ALPR camera, a black Honda Accord with tinted windows and black wheels was captured following behind the victim's pickup truck."

After completing a registration check of the vehicle and confirming the owner was located in Antioch, PPD received a notice from the business owner who said their stolen credit card was used in a CVS.

According to Skaggs' report, the robbers used the card to buy birthday cards and a Visa gift card at the store, which led Pleasanton police to notify the Antioch Police Department to be on the lookout for the vehicle.

Then, around 6 p.m. the same day, Antioch police officers located the vehicle on the intersection of L Street and Loma Lane in Antioch. There they arrested Brown, who is from Vallejo, and Ryan, who is from Antioch.

"A review of our arrest data shows that the majority of individuals arrested by the police department are not Pleasanton residents," PPD Chief David Swing told the Weekly in a statement.

"There are several reasons why this occurs; however, primarily because many people come to Pleasanton from outside the area for our shopping, employment and dining," Swing added. "Pleasanton does not exist in isolation. Being at the intersection of two major interstates in a metropolitan area rich in diversity means that the diversity of those we serve is greater than diversity of our community."

Skaggs alleged that upon arrival he located in the trunk of the car the stolen laptops, a gun that matched the description from the victim and the CVS items that Ryan was caught on camera purchasing.

Both of their preliminary hearings will take place on Feb. 15 at 9 a.m. Brown is also actively on probation in Solano County for carrying a concealed firearm, which means he will face a second charge of possession of a firearm by a felon, according to court documents.

—Christian Trujano

In other news

- The Fremont Police Department is mourning the loss of one of its own, as Det. Matthew Kerner died after being found unresponsive in his home in Livermore on Jan. 30, the department announced last Friday.

A Fremont police spokesperson said the case has been classified as a death investigation and turned over to the Alameda County Coroner's Bureau. The exact cause of death is unknown at this time. Initial investigation suggests no evidence of trauma or injury, police said. As with any death investigation, an autopsy and toxicology report are performed to determine possible factors.

At approximately 2 a.m., Jan. 30, the Livermore Police Department notified Fremont police that its officers responded to Kerner's Livermore residence and found him unresponsive. First responders performed life-saving measures and transported Kerner to a local hospital, where he died a short time later.

"We send our deepest condolences and sympathy to the family," Fremont Police Chief Sean Washington said in a statement. "Our department is devastated by the tragic loss of Detective Kerner. We are heartbroken and experiencing a great deal of sadness as a result of losing our colleague."

Private services are being arranged by Kerner's family.

—Bay City News Service

- The investigation continues into the death of a Tri-Valley man who was killed in a shooting in San Francisco's Potrero Hill District late last month.

The San Francisco Office of the Chief Medical Examiner has identified the decedent as 44-year-old Demario Lockett. The office cited Lockett's residency as Contra Costa County, but the San Francisco Police Department previously confirmed the victim lived in Dublin.

The shooting occurred on the night of Jan. 28 in the 700 block of Missouri Street. Police reported officers from the SFPD Bayview Station responded to the area at 8:19 p.m. after receiving a shot spotter activation.

Officers could not find any victims at the scene, but police dispatch alerted them to a man arriving at an area hospital with apparent gunshot

wounds at 8:29 p.m., according to SFPD.

The man, later identified as Lockett, died from his injuries at the hospital. Investigators would determine that he had been shot on the 700 block of Missouri Street, according to SFPD.

The investigation remains overseen by the SFPD Homicide Detail. There were no updates in the case releasable to the public as of last week, according to the department.

—Jeremy Walsh

- Eight people are facing felony charges for their alleged involvement in a theft scheme targeting Apple stores including one in the Tri-Valley and stealing about \$1 million in electronic products, California Attorney General Rob Bonta announced last week.

In their organized operation, the suspects stole approximately \$1 million worth of expensive electronic products from locations across California, including stores in the Bay Area's Alameda, Santa Clara, Contra Costa, Marin and San Francisco counties, according to Bonta.

At a press conference held in the California Highway Patrol's San Francisco office on Feb. 9, Bonta said the suspects would enter Apple stores, hold back employees and customers, steal products, which they would likely later resell for a profit, and flee within seconds or minutes.

A 2022 investigation from CHP's organized retail crime task force and partnering agencies revealed that suspects would steal thousands of dollars' worth of iPhones, iPads and other high-value items at each retail location.

The incidents were far from petty theft or shoplifting, but an organized scheme, said Bonta.

"Today's announcement should serve as yet another warning to those who engage in this criminal activity and commit brazen crimes with no regard for the safety of workers, our businesses and our community," Bonta said. "We are watching you, and we will always hold you accountable."

The eight suspects now face multiple felony charges involving conspiracy, grand theft, theft in amounts above \$500,000 and white-collar enhancement.

The criminal complaint alleges the operation's targets included the Apple Store in Stoneridge Shopping Center in Pleasanton on Aug. 5, 2022. Nearby, the Apple Store in downtown Walnut Creek was hit on Jan. 7.

Bonta said the takedown couldn't have happened without a collaborative effort between his office, local law enforcement agencies and the CHP. He specifically thanked officers of the retail crime task force for shutting down large theft schemes that harm businesses and local communities.

Steve Ramos, assistant chief of CHP Golden Gate Division, said since their task force began in 2019, \$28.3 million worth of stolen goods have been recovered. He said the initiative is an example of what good law enforcement partnerships can look like.

Bonta encourages any resident who witnesses a retail crime to submit a tip at his website, oag.ca.gov/retail-theft.

"If you have any information or evidence that can stop retail theft, please share it with us and we will put it to work," Bonta said. "Any crime investigation is an effort, and Californians can play their part, including all of you."

—Olivia Wynkoop, BCN Foundation

- A former prison guard at the Federal Correctional Institute Dublin was sentenced to 20 months in prison on Feb. 9 for abusive sexual contact with a prison inmate.

Enrique Chavez, 50, a former Manteca resident, pleaded guilty last October to abusing an inmate under his supervision at the facility in October 2020, according to a press release from the U.S. Department of Justice.

Chavez admitted to locking the inmate in a food pantry before abusing her.

Chavez was also ordered to serve 10 years of supervised release upon his completion of his prison time. He must surrender by April 7.

He was indicted on two counts, but one of the abuse charges was dismissed as part of the sentencing by Judge Yvonne Gonzales Rodgers. Chavez's is the latest conviction in the ongoing investigation into alleged rampant abuse at the women's federal prison in Dublin. ■

—Bay City News Service

POLICE REPORT

The Pleasanton Police Department made the following information available.

Feb. 10

Shoplifting

- 1:21 p.m. on the 1700 block of Santa Rita Road
- 2:13 p.m. on the 6000 block of Johnson Drive

Warrant arrest

- 2:13 p.m. on the 3800 block of Vineyard Avenue

Vandalism

- 3:08 p.m. on the 5600 block of West Las Positas Boulevard

Robbery

- 5:32 p.m. on the 1100 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

Feb. 9

Theft

- 7:57 a.m., 5100 block of Hopyard Road; theft from auto
- 2:02 p.m. on the 1000 block of Serpentine Lane
- 3:42 p.m., 3400 block of Boulder Street; theft from structure

Vandalism

- 12:41 a.m. on the 3000 block of Hopyard Road

Criminal threats

- 2:38 p.m. on the 5300 block of Case Avenue

Domestic battery

- 8:40 p.m. on Case Avenue

Feb. 8

Burglary

- 12:53 a.m. on the 4700 block of Willow Road

Assault/battery

- 5:41 a.m. on the 3000 block of Stanley Boulevard

Theft

- 8:26 a.m., 1700 block of Santa Rita Road; shoplifting
- 5:56 p.m., 4300 block of Valley Avenue; theft from auto

Fraud

- 3:08 p.m. on the 500 block of Rowell Lane
- 5:30 p.m. on the 000 block of Vintage Circle

Domestic battery

- 6:04 p.m. on Vintage Circle

Domestic battery

- 6:40 p.m. at Santa Rita Road and West Las Positas Boulevard

Feb. 7

Warrant arrest

- 12 a.m. on the 5500 block of Johnson Drive
- 7:43 p.m. on the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive
- 9:54 p.m. on the 6000 block of Johnson Drive

Drug violation

- 3:40 a.m. on the 3500 block of Carlsbad Court

Domestic battery

- 10:59 a.m. on Santa Rita Road

Theft

- 2:09 p.m., 7700 block of Oak Creek Court; catalytic converter theft
- 4:25 p.m. on the 5500 block of Springhouse Drive

Trespassing/prowling

- 11:12 p.m. on the 300 block of Sycamore Road

DUI

- 11:36 p.m. at Santa Rita Road and Mohr Avenue

Feb. 6

Fraud

- 7:41 a.m. on the 500 block of Boulder Court



Top left: Many of this year's Black History Month events at Las Positas College (Photo by Cierra Bailey). **Bottom left:** Members of the Umoja learning community (Courtesy LPC). **Above:** LPC students and BEA members join in a group photo.

CELEBRATING BLACK CULTURE

Campus resource center serves as hub for African American students,

Black History Month is in full swing at Las Positas College with a lineup of celebratory events, but the centering of Black culture on campus is a year-round effort supported by the Black Education Association and student groups.

The BEA is “an employee development group that provides culturally reflective, responsive, and relevant programs and support to Black identified employees and students at Las Positas College,” according to its mission statement.

While the BEA exists across the Chabot-Las

Positas Community College District, the members at LPC include President Dyrell Foster as well as Carolyn Scott, the executive assistant to the vice president of academic services; Emerald Templeton, the educational partnerships project manager and Jeanne Wilson, the vice president of student services, among several other faculty and staff members at the Livermore campus.

In a recent interview with the Weekly, Scott, Templeton and Wilson shared the ways that the organization supports Black members of the campus community during Black History

Month and beyond.

A core value of the BEA's mission is to promote a sense of belonging and cultivate a welcoming environment for Black employees and students and one of the efforts toward achieving this mission was recently opening the Black Cultural Resource Center (BCRC), a physical space on campus that offers various resources and programs and serves as a hub for events.

The center's grand opening was in spring of 2022, but the planning for it began in fall of 2021 — in the midst of pandemic recovery.

“We knew that we would be returning (to campus) and one of the ways that we were trying to prepare for that was thinking about the many ways that we can serve our students,” Templeton said.

“Our president has charged us all with thinking about how to engage in an anti-racist environment and one of the charges that he has given us is to make this a destination college, particularly for Black students,” she added.

Scott noted that the need for the center stemmed from feedback from students that didn't feel supported or that they had a centralized, safe space on campus where they could share experiences and camaraderie with one another.

Several of this year's Black History Month events at the college are centered around bringing students together in the BCRC, including the screening of the Netflix comedy “You People” followed by a “porch talk” discussion that took place on Feb. 6 and the upcoming Afro-Centric Healing Workshop set for Feb. 22.

Among the student groups involved in

planning Black History Month events and that use the BCRC for their meetings and gatherings are the Black Student Union and the Umoja learning community as well as “Sista 2 Sista” — a leadership development support group for women of color — and the student charter program of A2MEND, which seeks to support African American male success in college and life.

While most of the events this month are geared toward members of the campus community, their culminating celebration to round out Black History Month is a talent showcase in the Mertes Center for the Arts set for Feb. 23 that is open to the public.

“If we look at the history of Black History Month, the whole purpose is to celebrate the contributions and the excellence that we see in Black communities,” Templeton said.

In addition to Black History Month, the BEA calendar includes events to commemorate Women's History Month in March, Black Student Success Week in April and even Black graduation celebrations in May.

The BEA has been organizing programs and events and supporting students long before they had the physical resource center.

Wilson said she initially founded the group about 10 years ago in her own living room.

“There were not very many African American leaders or even counselors or faculty, so it was very important for us to come together to be able to support each other as we supported students,” Wilson said, noting that the group started with roughly 30 people.

Over the years, the organization has become



COURTESY LPC

BEA members Emerald Templeton (left) and Carolyn Scott help oversee and organize events at the BCRC.



are meant to bring students together in the Black Cultural Resource Center. Community take a group photo after a screening of the Netflix film "You People" in the photo last fall. (Courtesy LPC)



Left: The BCRC held a luncheon celebrating Black Student Success Week in 2022. (Courtesy LPC)
Below: Members of the BEA during their Retreat to Excellence last September. (Courtesy LPC)



RE AT LAS POSITAS COLLEGE

employees

BY CIERRA BAILEY

more established and the BCRC is coordinated and staffed by BEA members as the center does not currently have a director overseeing it.

"All of the faculty, classified professionals and administrators have stepped up to help to make sure that students know that they have a warm and welcoming environment where they can always come to find support," Wilson said. "In the center, we offer snacks, there are tutoring opportunities, there's a lot of Historically Black College transfer information, there's going to be a college tour coming up this semester and just different workshops that build community."

The center also serves as a space for socializing. "There was a game night where even the president came in to play games with the students — it's just a welcoming environment," Wilson said.

Currently, about 4% of LPC students are of African descent, according to Wilson. However, she said that as part of their educational master plan, Foster has identified increasing those numbers as a goal.

"When we think about the mission of community colleges as being an equity mission, we really want to reinforce that it's not just for one type of student it can be for anyone," Templeton said

while highlighting that as a part of their initiative to attract more Black students, the campus hosts tours for youth that encourage them to envision themselves in college and particularly at LPC.

The BCRC also serves as a significant component of not only attracting students to the college but supporting them academically.

"When you look at research on cultural centers or any other kind of community center for students, time and again qualitative and quantitative research points to these centers being really important not only to development — like

social identity development — but to their academic success," Templeton said, adding that the tutoring services offered in the center are especially crucial for that reason.

Wilson echoed similar sentiments. "I think the key to success for most students is the relationship piece, so if someone knows my name ... At our college we have the caring campus campaign and part of the campaign is that all employees will wear their ID. It's something as simple as (students) seeing someone with a name badge and knowing that's someone they can talk to," she said.

Scott agreed with her colleagues and offered an example of how establishing relationships with

students is a priority within the BEA.

She recalled a situation when a student felt one of their instructors was being biased and they didn't feel comfortable talking directly to them so they shared their concerns with Scott and she was able to offer support and another perspective on the issue that the student was dealing with. "They felt better about going to class; they didn't feel like they were being picked on anymore," she said.

In addition to the many resources that the BEA

and the BCRC provide, Wilson said at the heart of their mission is love.

"Culturally, it's easy for many to say, 'I love you,' 'That's my brother' or 'That's my sister.' You may not be my biological brother or sister but because we have been through many of the same struggles and have many of the same backgrounds, we are grounded and rooted in family," she said.

To learn more about the BCRC and the BEA, visit laspositascollege.edu/bcrc. ■

'It was very important for us to come together to be able to support each other as we supported students.'

Jeanne Wilson,
Vice president of student services



COURTESY LPC

In addition to Black History Month, the BEA calendar includes events in the spring for Black Student Success Week and Black graduation celebrations.

SOUNDS OF THE GLOBE at the Bankhead

Canadian Brass takes stage Sunday; International Guitar Night follows Feb. 24

By JEREMY WALSH

There will be an international flavor, instrumentally speaking, at the Bankhead Theater in downtown Livermore over the next week.

Renowned quintet Canadian Brass will bring their engaging stage show this Sunday afternoon during the holiday weekend. Then five days later, the International Guitar Night tour will be returning to Livermore for the fifth time over the years, featuring guitar masters from three continents in one concert.

With a long career of dozens of albums, worldwide tours and television appearances including “The Tonight Show” and “Sesame Street”, Canadian Brass “has elevated the art of the brass quintet to what it is today,” according to Livermore Valley Arts officials.

“Each of their concerts shows the full range from trademark Baroque and Broadway hits, to new compositions and arrangements created especially for them — from formal classical presentations to music served up with lively dialogue and theatrical effects,” LVA reps said.

“The hallmark of any Canadian Brass performance is entertainment, spontaneity, virtuosity, and, most of all, exploring the possibilities of an all-brass chamber group with a spirit of fun — but never at the expense of the music, performed with utmost dedication, skill and excellence,” they said, adding: “With four decades under their belts, Canadian Brass continues to thrill audiences around the world — and they don’t look like they are letting up anytime soon.”

Canadian Brass’ matinee concert at the Bankhead is set for 3 p.m. Sunday (Feb. 19).



Above: Canadian Brass is bringing their talents to the Bankhead Theater on Feb. 19. (Photo by Nina Yoshida Nelsen). Below: International Guitar Night on Feb. 24 will feature (from left) Jocelyn Gould, Olli Soikkeli and Jesús Guerrero. (Photos courtesy LVA)

Then on Feb. 24, the International Guitar Night tour is back at the Bankhead. The concert will include Canadian jazz guitarist and vocalist Jocelyn Gould, joined by Flamenco master Jesús Guerrero of Spain, Australian contemporary classical guitarist Stephanie Jones and jazz guitarist Olli Soikkeli of Finland.

A native of Winnipeg who later

studied jazz at the University of Manitoba and Michigan State University, Gould performed while living in New York City and later became a professor in Toronto, according to LVA officials. Her debut record, “Elegant Traveler”, won a Juno Award for Jazz Album of the Year in 2021.

Guerrero started playing guitar at

the age of 11 in his native Spain, and his talent has been growing ever since. “Jesús’ natural virtuosity with the instrument and his musical creativity has led to him becoming one of the most sought-after figures of the current flamenco scene, performing with his trio, in duet with his wife Alba Carmona, and also assisting many great singers,” LVA reps said.

Jones, an Australia national currently based in Germany, is an active soloist and chamber musician who recently earned her master’s degree in classical guitar performance. “Stephanie is passionate about sharing her music with others and is recognized as an innovative and deeply musical artist,” according to LVA.

Soikkeli also started playing guitar young, at 12 years old in his native Finland, and once he was introduced to the music of Django Reinhardt and other jazz greats a few years later, his musical fate was sealed. He’s toured throughout Europe and played at legendary jazz venues in New York City during his blossoming career, LVA officials noted.

International Guitar Night is set to take over the Bankhead at 8 p.m. next Friday (Feb. 24).

For more information on both concerts, visit www.LivermoreArts.org. ■



Children's theater troupe presenting two winter musicals

'Five Children and It' and 'The Battle of Boat' at Village Theatre



Members of Christian Youth Theater, a Tri-Valley performing arts company, perform onstage during the 2022 fall showcase (above) and take part in a past summer camp program (below).

BY NICOLE GONZALES

Local children's performing arts group, Christian Youth Theater, is set to bring two full winter productions to the Tri-Valley in the coming weeks.

The group has announced "Five Children and It" and "The Battle of Boat" as the two musicals to be debuted at the Village Theatre in downtown Danville.

"Five Children and It" will play from Feb. 23-26, with Thursday, Friday and Saturday shows starting at 7 p.m. and afternoon shows on Saturday and Sunday at 2 p.m.

"The Battle of Boat" runs from March 2-5 with 7 p.m. performances held that Thursday, Friday and Saturday and afternoon shows that Saturday and Sunday at 2 p.m.

Rita Cheung Baird, playwright and musical director for "Five Children and It", spoke to the Weekly about her vision for the show and experience with CYT.

"My goal with 'Five Children and It' was simple: to write something that a Christian Youth theater group would love to perform. It had to be beautiful and challenging for the older actors but still fun and appropriate for the younger actors," Baird said.

Based on E. Nesbit's classic children's novel of the same name, CYT brings "Five Children and It" to the stage in a musical context for the first time ever.

"It was perfect — magic, a sand fairy, five children, a family, a town," Baird said. "It had a great variety of characters and aspects that were appealing to both children and adults. I also wanted a story that taught something without being preachy,



and the themes jumped out at me pretty quickly."

Baird and her family first got involved with CYT in early 2019 when her children worked in stage production and later began performing in shows.

"As I watched the actors and directors at work, I really fell in love with CYT," Baird said of her initial time with the group. "I saw the friendships my daughters had, I saw their striving for artistic excellence, I saw the joy on their faces, and the joy it gave me too."

When reflecting on joining CYT and becoming involved with the productions, Baird said she feels gratitude above all else.

"Personally, I have grown immensely as a musician and an artist. CYT has encouraged me to use my talents and inspired me to do things I had only dreamed of doing," she said. "It has become a second family for us, and my family is all involved now in different ways."

"This is community theater at its best because it truly involved a community. So many people were involved in the development of these shows," Baird added.

"The Battle of Boat", which is making its West Coast premiere with CYT's production, tells the story of children finding their way in the world in 1916, in the midst of World War I. The musical features almost the entire dialogue through song.

CYT was founded in 2014 with the mission of teaching children ages 4 to 18 the intricacies of theater production and performance art. Students of the theater are taught skills in a variety of topics, such as performing, stage management, singing and tech.

Over the years, the group has held performances across the Tri-Valley.

To purchase tickets and find out more information about CYT, visit www.cyttrivalley.org. ■

Morehead to serve 2nd term as Dublin poet laureate

DHS poetry events, other workshops planned across city

BY NICOLE GONZALES

James Morehead sees poetry in Dublin and its communities. As the recently reappointed poet laureate for the city, he hopes to shine a spotlight on literary arts and written forms of self-expression.

Morehead was officially selected for the role by members at the Feb. 7 Dublin City Council meeting. Mayor Melissa Hernandez certified Morehead for the position, marking his second term that runs through December 2024.

"It's an opportunity to put a spotlight on the literary arts in the community and to expand the awareness and appreciation of poetry," Morehead said. "Poetry is not just being created by a small niche part of the community; poetry is being created by many people."

Members from the Heritage and Cultural Arts Commission reviewed applications for the role. Applicants were then invited to read an original poem to the commission on Jan. 12.

The voting was unanimously in favor of Morehead.

Morehead, a published author and resident of the city since 2000, was initially selected for his first term in June 2021.

His two published poetry books, "Canvas" and "Portraits of Red and Gray", have received national recognition. His third book is set to publish later this year.

"We have a very diverse community across Dublin," Morehead said. "People have immigrated here from all around the world, and as a result, they brought into the community not only different languages for the

poetry they create but different styles and approaches to poetry. It's exciting to be able to amplify that."

For his second term, Morehead has plans to work with Dublin High School for the Poetry Out Loud competition in 2024.

He explained how many people may not feel comfortable writing or reciting poetry because there is a lack of awareness and space to do so freely. With his platform, he plans to continue creating those welcoming environments.

"It's just that most of them don't have a safe space to share what they've created, so they kind of do it in private or for friends and family," he said. "That is a key role of the poet laureate, providing safe spaces for people to share what they've created."

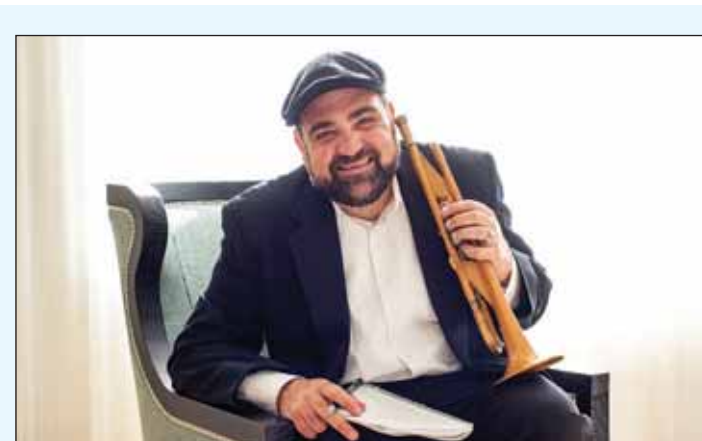
Aside from poetry, Morehead serves on the DHS Engineering and Design Academy advisory board.

The role of a poet laureate in Dublin was first introduced in 2007 when City Council members approved the notion and set a list of duties they should strive for. Those include completing public poetry reading events throughout the city and assisting in literary classes or workshops for the public.

The role is meant to advocate and encourage poetry, literacy and reading for the citizens of Dublin. Terms are fulfilled in two years. ■



James Morehead



COURTESY FIREHOUSE ARTS

'Mardi Gras Celebration' at the Firehouse

Amador Valley High alum Jeff Bordes will help bring the feel of Bourbon Street to downtown Pleasanton this weekend, as the trumpeter and jazz composer will lead "Jeff Bordes and Friends' Mardi Gras Celebration" at his hometown Firehouse Arts Center. Tickets remain available for the lively concert, embodying the New Orleans jazz spirit, set for 8 p.m. Saturday (Feb. 18). To learn more, visit firehousearts.org.

Opinion

LETTERS

Bauer-Kahan agenda is not 'ambitious'. Come on!

When you ask Californians what the biggest issues are facing the state, the No. 1 issue by a mile is either housing costs or homelessness. Over and over again people say they don't think they have a future in the state.

The most notable thing about

Asm. Rebecca Bauer-Kahan's legislative agenda is that she appears to have no interest or no solutions for anything involving housing. She consistently votes no (or NVR) on her colleagues' attempts to increase housing production or increase protections for vulnerable tenants.

I am reasonably familiar with salary scales for local journalism so you must be familiar with this issue and/or anxious about your own ability to stay in the state or hire more journalists. Come on! Aren't

you concerned your own Assembly member has no interest in what's going on in your life?

I would use a lot of words to describe Asm. Bauer-Kahan's agenda, but "ambitious" is not one of them, when it doesn't offer anything on the number one topic people are concerned about.

—Kevin Burke, in response to Feb. 10 "What a Week" column

PG&E exec's thoughts on natural gas prices

West Coast natural gas prices have been rising this winter, and PG&E wants our customers to know their energy bills are likely to rise as a result.

PG&E does not control the market prices we pay for natural gas, and we don't mark up the cost of the energy we buy to serve our customers.

In late January, California average daily prices were five times higher than the U.S. benchmark and those in New York and Chicago.

Price increases are due largely to higher demand and tighter supplies, as customers use more natural gas for heating during cooler than normal temperatures, and as power plants use more natural gas to meet electricity demand.

PG&E customers have used more gas than the five-year average, with November usage 20% higher, December 10%, and January 10% higher. As a result, residential gas and electricity bills could be 32% higher on average from November 2022 to March 2023 compared to the same time last winter, with most of the increase for energy supply costs.

PG&E works to limit price impacts by accessing the lowest-priced gas from three gas production basins, withdrawing gas from underground storage and using financial hedging products to lock in lower prices.

We're also working with regulators, policymakers and lawmakers to provide bill relief — including supporting the California Public Utilities Commission's decision to distribute the annual April Climate Credit as soon as possible, a \$91.17 credit for PG&E customers receiving gas and electricity. We also support the governor's call for a federal investigation into high gas market prices.

For energy tips and resources, visit www.pge.com/winter.

—Aaron Johnson, PG&E Bay Area regional vice president

President Pinocchio

Last week, President Pinocchio Biden told so many lies during his State of the Union address that his nose grew longer than ever. Let's fact-check some of his big lies.

He claimed to have reduced the deficit — in reality he spent \$4.2 trillion extra dollars that his budget did not have. He claimed he inherited a poor economy — in reality when Pinocchio took over the economy was in excellent health, 1.5% inflation and no recession.

He claimed wages have increased — in reality the small increases have been erased by his high inflation. He claimed to be tough on China — in reality he is very weak against China. He claimed the southern border is secure — in reality more illegal aliens, criminals and fentanyl have come across the border in the past two years than in the past 30 years.

Please, President Pinocchio, stop lying to the American people.

—David Ott

Republicans deliver dangerous spectacle

From the party who brought you bleach as a cure for COVID, we get a Speaker of the House elected after 15 ballots, George Santos, plans to gut Social Security and Medicare, George Santos, a bill to tax working families 30% while letting billionaires avoid paying their fair share, George Santos, committees set up to exact revenge for investigations into the January 6 insurrection, and, still, George Santos.

The same MAGA Republicans who supported the attempted overthrow of our government now control the House of Representatives. Watching President Biden's State of the Union address last week, I was appalled by these MAGA Republicans as they delivered a dangerous spectacle.

What also struck me were the moments during the speech when Kevin McCarthy and his MAGA colleagues smirked or rolled their eyes at commonsense measures covered by the president that are broadly popular.

Capping the cost of insulin, making hearing aids more affordable, taxing billionaires more than teachers and firefighters — these are things that Americans want and voted for in the last three elections. But Republicans apparently think they're all bad ideas, along with paid family medical leave and affordable childcare, based on their reactions when the president raised each of the issues.

Make no mistake: The agenda of MAGA Republicans is not focused on "we the people". Their motivation is to hand the wealth created by the hard work of "we the people" to billionaires, donors and corporations, while making it tougher to make ends meet for working people.

—Ward Kanowsky

Public Notices

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)

LEOPARDI WRITING CONFERENCE
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 595017

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

1.) Leopardi Writing Conference, located at 443 37th Street Oakland, CA 94609, Alameda County.

This business is conducted by: a Joint Venture

The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are): THOMAS COONEY 443 37th Street Oakland, CA 94609

FREDERICK LAIN HART 6709 40th Ave UP, MD 90782

Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 05/15/2018

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on January 25 2023.

(PLW Feb 17, 24, Mar 3 and 10, 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)

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA FOR THE COUNTY OF ALAMEDA

Case No.: 23CV027658

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:

Petitioner: Almas Kenges and Yanina Kenges filed a petition with this court for a decree

changing names as follows:

ZAKARIAH KENGES TO ZAKARIA KENGES

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: 03/21/2023, 9:30 AM, Dept 14 of the Superior Court of California, County of Alameda located at 1221 Oak Street, 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: 02/10/2023


Charles A. Smiley

JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT

(PLW Feb 17, 24, Mar 3 and 10, 2023)

Place a legal notice at
PleasantonWeekly.com/legal_notices/

THE CITY OF PLEASANTON



HIGHLIGHTS

City Council Meeting

Tuesday, February 21, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.
City of Pleasanton Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Ave., via video/teleconference and will be broadcast live on Channel 29 and at <https://www.tri-valleytv.org> and <https://www.youtube.com/user/TheCityofPleasanton>.

- Accept the FY 2022/23 midyear budget report and adopt a resolution approving FY 2022/23 budget amendments
- Receive Water Supply Alternatives Study Quarterly Update

Planning Commission Meeting

Wednesday, February 22, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.
Instructions on how to participate and offer comments will be available after February 15, 2023, when the agenda is posted on the City's website at: cityofpleasantonca.gov/gov/depts/cd/planning/commission/planning_agenda.asp

- PUD-136, Simon Property Group, Stoneridge Mall Residential

Consideration of: (1) Adoption of an Addendum to the Supplemental Environmental Impact Report (SEIR) for the City of Pleasanton Housing Element and Climate Action Plan General Plan Amendment and Rezonings; and (2) Application for Planned Unit Development (PUD) Development Plan approval to construct 360 multi-family apartment units and related site improvements including a new parking structure.

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



417-1600
PorkysPizzaPalace.com



THE ROSE
HOTEL

846-8802
RoseHotel.net



PLEASANTON PREPS

BY DENNIS MILLER

Amador girls ready for NCS soccer playoffs

Also: Resolution allows city adult softball season to proceed

The Amador Valley girls' varsity soccer team ended the regular season with exacting revenge against Foothill, getting a 2-0 win on Feb. 9.

Back in December, Foothill shocked the Dons 1-0, and it was a loss that ate at the Amador team all season.

The game last week was 0-0 at the half before the Dons broke through. Parker Brown got the first goal off a corner kick by Brooke Walker. Walker then got the second goal on a long free kick.

The Dons will enter the North Coast Section playoffs with the No. 3 seed in Division I.

Foothill boys' soccer

With three weeks left in the East Bay Athletic League season, the Falcons were looking like they

would not even get a sniff of the NCS playoffs.

But three weeks can be a lot of time and after the Falcons ran off five straight wins to close out the regular season, Foothill finds itself as the No. 14 seed and opens at No. 3-seeded Monte Vista in the Division I playoffs.

The last week of the season started with a 4-1 win over California. Jensen McMillan scored three goals and Anthony Bonev got one goal for Foothill.

The Falcons then closed out the regular season with a 3-1 win over Amador — a win that got the team into the NCS tournament.

Bonev, Alejandro Ramirez and Matthew Tahir scored the goals. Zach Watson had an assist.



SAM HEAD

Amador's Brooke Walker dribbles around a Livermore player earlier this year.

Amador JV boys' soccer

The Amador Valley junior varsity team completed a solid season with a 1-0 win over Foothill.

Frankie McBain scored on a header for the lone goal, heading home the pass from Clayton Kahl. Gavin Halter was forced into the goal with the Dons regular goalies both out sick. Halter came through in flying colors with the shut out.

The Dons ended the season 7-7-4 overall, and 5-5-3 in EBAL play.

Preston Lim led the scoring for the season with five goals and four

assists. McBain had four goals and two assists on the season.

Rec softball resolution

After some heated communication over the last couple of months between adult softball players and Pleasanton city staff members, a resolution to adult softball and the use of the Ken Mercer Sports Park softball has been reached.

At the heart of the matter were the issues surrounding the construction of a cricket pitch at the Sports Park.

The project was going to eliminate the use of a couple youth sports

fields during construction. To make way for the youth sports affected by the construction, the city planned to move the youth sports to the softball complex.

Along with the move, the city initially decided to cancel adult softball leagues for this year. The move outraged adult players to say the least and led to continual complaints to the city arguing that both the youth sports and adult softball could coexist.

Earlier this year, a decision was reached that both the youth sports and the adult softball could be held this season.

Pleasanton will be offering a 16-game season with five different nights of play for adult softball — Monday through Friday. Early registration is open now through Feb. 25, with regular registration from Feb. 26 to March 12. League play will begin April 10.

Visit www.teamsideline.com/pleasanton for more information or to register your team. You can also call the Pleasanton Sports Office at 925-931-3437. ■

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

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A message from our Livermore Vine editor, Cierra Bailey



Cierra Bailey
EDITOR

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Entertainment

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

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! 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 p.m., Feb. 24. Tickets \$30-\$60. Visit livermorearts.org.

Exhibits

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

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. Through April 23. Bankhead Theater.

CALIFORNIA WATERCOLOR ASSOCIATION EXHIBIT Among the finest shows of watercolor in the country, the California Watercolor Association's National Exhibition displays the best from 84 premier painters. Through March 17. Firehouse Arts Center.

Seniors

CHINESE DANCE PERFORMANCE Celebrate the Year of the Rabbit at the Pleasanton Senior Center with a dance performance by Eastbay WeDance Team. 11:45 a.m.-1 p.m., Feb. 17.

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.

AARP FREE TAX PREPARATION AARP Foundation Tax-Aide provides in-person and virtual tax assistance free of charge, Mondays and Fridays, Feb 3-April 17, with a focus on taxpayers who are over 50 and have low to moderate income. For available appointments call the Pleasanton Senior Center front desk at 925-931-5365.

MOVIES MADNESS AT THE SENIOR CENTER Movie Madness at the Pleasanton Senior Center is 1-3 p.m., the second and fourth Monday 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.

SENIOR SOLE MATES Walking is one of the easiest and most cost effective forms of exercise for adults. Participants must be able to walk 2.5 miles and keep a moderate pace with the group. 8:45-10 a.m., Wednesdays. Pleasanton Senior Center.

LUNCHES AT THE PLEASANTON SENIOR CENTER For (60+) served in the Main Hall, 11:45 a.m.-12:45 p.m., Mon.-Fri. Call Open Heart Kitchen at 925-500-8241 for more information.

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-

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ride transportation service for Pleasanton Seniors. For reservations and information call 925-398-1045.

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.

Outdoors

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. 2995 Hansen Rd.

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. 5035 Arroyo Rd.

LIVERMORE VALLEY HALF MARATHON The 9th Annual Livermore Valley Half Marathon is March 5 with registration ending March 4. Experience hyper-local feels in Downtown Livermore with award-winning local breweries, gold medal wineries and top local favorites on the main music stage. Tickets \$159. Visit livermorevalleyhalf.com.

OPEN SPACE VOLUNTEER DAYS Every third Saturday of the month join an

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

Support

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

SENIOR MEAL PROGRAM Open Heart Kitchen remains committed to serving free, nutritious meals for those over the age of 60, addressing the nutritional gap of low-income seniors. Reservations are encouraged and can be made by calling 925-500-8241. 12-1 p.m., Mondays to Fridays, Livermore Community Center.

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

LIVERMORE WARMING CENTER 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. 6 p.m.-8 a.m Veterans Memorial Building, 522 S. L St.

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.

Veterans

VA MEDICAL OUTREACH AT DUBLIN LIBRARY VA Medical Outreach for Military Veterans can help veterans and their families with enrollment in VA healthcare, appointments with a primary care physician, referrals to specialists, mental health, hearing, physical therapy and more. 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Feb. 23.

Employment

Principal Salesforce Architect

Principal Salesforce Architect, Workday, Inc., Pleasanton, CA. Design, configure, customize and implement applications and 3rd party integrations. Salary: \$183,310 - 234,400 per year, 40 hours per week. Interested candidates send resume to: J. Thurston at Workday, Inc. 6110 Stoneridge Mall Road, Pleasanton, CA 94588. Must reference job 20637.1391.

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Real Estate

OPEN HOME GUIDE AND REAL ESTATE LISTINGS



SUNSET DEVELOPMENT

Rendering shows end concept for the senior housing complex in Bishop Ranch in San Ramon.

Construction begins on senior development in San Ramon

Belmont Village complex expected to open in Bishop Ranch by fall 2024

BY JEANITA LYMAN

San Ramon's evolving Bishop Ranch neighborhood is set to see senior housing as one of the many new offerings on tap as owners, developers and city officials continue unfurling their vision to develop a central downtown area in the growing city.

Officials with Belmont Senior Living announced the groundbreaking of the upcoming San Ramon location on Feb. 8. It is set to be the company's 16th location, with a Bay Area presence already established in Los Gatos, Sunnyvale, San Jose and Albany.

"Bringing Belmont Village to Bishop Ranch is a pivotal step in the goal of continuing to build our neighborhood elements with a range of options for people of all ages," Sunset Development CEO Alexander Mehran Jr. said in a statement. "By adding a diverse blend of residential offerings in San Ramon, this partnership will undoubtedly further elevate the community."

In particular, the growing City Center Bishop Ranch is set to be a main attraction for Belmont Village residents, who are set to be able to move in starting in fall 2024.

Like its counterparts, the San Ramon location is set to offer amenities such as a saltwater pool, putting green and spa, with Belmont Village choosing Bishop Ranch and its other Bay Area sites for "the allure and appeal of being in extremely close

proximity to high-end shopping and entertainment," according to the company's announcement.

"We're thrilled to expand our presence in the Bay Area for aging adults in San Ramon," founder and CEO Patricia Will said in the announcement. "At Belmont Village, we believe that living a long, healthy, and full life is a blessing and caring for the aging is a gift."

The facility is set to offer independent and assisted-living options throughout 177 units ranging from studios to two-bedroom apartments in a 175,320-square-foot building at 6151 Bollinger Canyon Road.

In addition to assisted care options and resident amenities, Will said that the Bishop Ranch location will offer a range of programming and support services aimed at supporting residents' overall quality of life and comfort. Some of these include transportation, concierge and valet services, a fitness center, lounge, and multiple dining options on-site.

"We want our residents to feel happy and continue to lead full lives while receiving the highest quality of care," Will said. "Every time we design a community, we consider the programming, staff training, building features and amenities that will help to make that possible. Belmont Village San Ramon is an extension of that commitment to future residents in the greater Bay Area." ■



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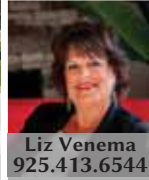
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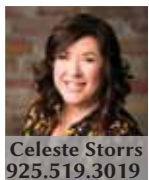


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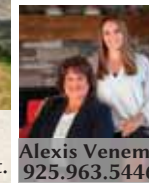


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