

Pleasanton Weekly

Living Well

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VOL. XXIV, NUMBER 8 • MARCH 17, 2023

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WHAT A WEEK



By JEREMY WALSH

Women's Hall of Fame

The Alameda County Women's Hall of Fame recently revealed its Class of 2023, a list of 13 female leaders who've made an indelible impact on their communities and the county at large.

This is the first year back in action for the Women's Hall of Fame, which had inducted standout women and girls each year since 1993 until pausing in 2021 and 2022 due to the pandemic.

The recognition is held in March, which is Women's History Month, a time when the accomplishments and contributions of women past and present are elevated to the forefront in classrooms and community events.

This year's Hall of Fame class, which was determined by a panel of judges who reviewed more than 80 nominations for 13 specific categories, includes one Tri-Valley representative — Dublin High School senior Noor Dharni.

The 17-year-old was honored in the Youth category for her commitment to advocate for mental health support for young people locally and nationwide, inspired by her own personal experiences, according to county officials.

Dharni, who plans to study psychology or cognitive science at a four-year college after graduating from Dublin High, told me that being selected for the Women's Hall of Fame "is an honor beyond what I ever could have imagined."

"Mental health awareness and advocacy is very close to my heart and an award like this is so meaningful to me, and just another reminder of how important continuing to make efforts about mental health awareness truly is," she said. "One year ago I could have never imagined that I would be where I am now; it truly feels so surreal to have the platform I do and beyond that, to be recognized for it."

"I hope my induction serves as a way to continue normalizing the conversation about mental health and show how important it is to break down the stigmas surrounding it," Dharni added. "I further hope other young girls are inspired to take action for what they believe in and am once again truly honored to be a part of such an empowering event."

The class of 2023 also features...
Business & Professions: Maya Shiroyama, the retired owner of Kitazawa Seed Company in Oakland, which focuses on seeds for people to grow vegetables used in traditional Asian dishes.

Culture & Art: Angela Wellman, founder of the Oakland Public Conservatory of Music, which "centers the Black experience in the development of American musical culture," according to county officials.

Community Service: Anna Wang, co-founder and vice president of the nonprofit Friends of Children with Special Needs, which was created by parents of children with developmental disabilities more than 25 years ago.

Education: Elizabeth Shaughnessy, a two-term member of the Berkeley school board and a global chess champion who locally established the Berkeley Chess School 41 years ago.

Emerging Leader: Davida Scott, a teacher at the Hayward Adult School who founded the Raising Leaders program at-promise youth with needed support through life skills workshops and internships.

Environment: Elsa Ortiz, who is honored for championing environmental policy during four terms on the AC Transit Board of Directors.

Health: Dr. Stephanie Y. Brown, an emergency medicine physician at Alta Bates Summit Medical Center and clinical lead for the Sutter Health Institute for Advancing Health Equity.

Justice: Corrina Gould, the tribal chair for the Confederated Villages of Lisjan Nation in the Bay Area and co-founder of the Sogorea Te' Land Trust.

Philanthropy: Zuhul Bahaduri, a health care business analyst, creator of the mental health awareness brand Breathe and co-founder of The Five Pillars Organization, a volunteer group that helps welcome and resettle Afghan refugees to Alameda County.

Non-Traditional Careers: Patricia Hendricks, a sensei in the Japanese martial arts style of aikido. Her Aikido of San Leandro has been open since 1984.

Sports & Athletics: Darlene "Dar" Vendegna, a longtime coach in Bay Area sports who now serves as Oakland's ambassador to the USA Pickleball Association.

Science, Technology, Engineering: Tanya Moore, Ph.D., founder of Intersecting Lines and a devoted advocate "for broadening participation in STEM fields for BIPOC women ... her love of math and science had influenced many young women to enter the field and succeed," county officials said.

What an inspiring and impactful group of women. ■

About the Cover

Traditional Irish entertainment is among the cultural draws to the annual St. Patrick's Day Celebration in Dublin. Photo courtesy City of Dublin. Cover design by Paul Llewellyn.

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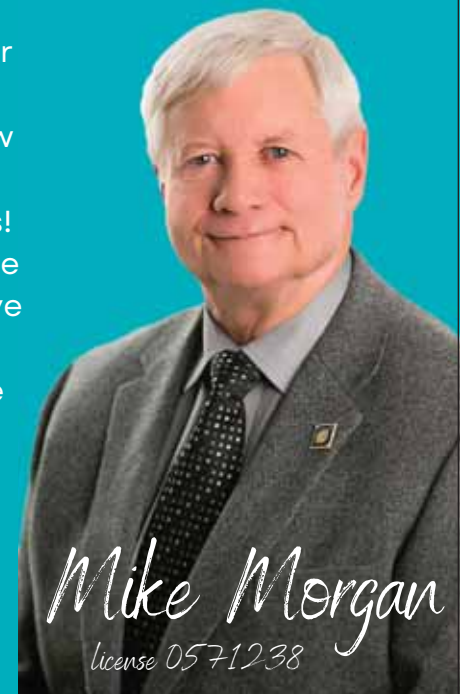
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If you had an 'entrance song' for each time you entered a room, what would it be?



Garret Dwello (with Piper)
Supervisor

It would be the theme song from "Jurassic Park". It reminds me of my childhood, and I find it so nostalgic. It would make me feel so good as I entered the room, and hopefully it would make everyone else in the room feel good as well.



Maithili Bode
Researcher

It actually depends on my mood. The song would change depending upon whether I'm feeling totally in love with my husband, or whether we just had an argument, or whether I'm in "totally me time", which is actually quite rare. When I'm totally loving my husband, the song would be "Pehla Nasha" because it is "our song". It's a very beautiful, romantic Indian love song.



Mary Corpora
Librarian

It would be the Rick Astley song "Never Gonna Give You Up" so that every time I entered a room, everyone in it would get Rick-rolled. (Rick-rolling is a very entertaining internet prank.)



Lana Hodzic
Software developer

I'm pretty sure it would be "Beautiful Crazy" by Luke Combs because that song very accurately describes the story of my life. I start each day with coffee and end it with wine. I take forever to get ready so I'm never on time. I make plans for the weekend, but then decide we should just stay home on the couch and watch TV.



Julian Weiner
Engineer

It would be Billy Joel's "Root Beer Rag". It's a great song that doesn't even have lyrics. It's just really fantastic jazz music that makes people feel great and energetic, like they have to either tap their feet or get up and dance. I could listen to it all day long, every day. Not just when I walk into a room. If you haven't heard it, I suggest you look it up!

—Compiled by Nancy and Jeff Lewis

Have a Streetwise question? Email editor@PleasantonWeekly.com

The Pleasanton Weekly is published every Friday by Embarcadero Media, 5506 Sunol Blvd., Suite 203, Pleasanton, CA 94566; (925) 600-0840. Mailed at Periodicals Postage Rate, USPS 020407. The Pleasanton Weekly is mailed upon request to homes and apartments in Pleasanton. However, in order to continue delivering you the news you depend on, we encourage you to become a paid subscribing member. Go to www.PleasantonWeekly.com/subscribe to start supporting the Pleasanton Weekly today. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Pleasanton Weekly, 5506 Sunol Blvd., Suite 203, Pleasanton, CA 94566. ©2023 by Embarcadero Media. All rights reserved. Reproduction without permission is strictly prohibited.

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DIGEST

I-680 closure set

Caltrans announced on Wednesday that it is moving forward with the third weekend closure of northbound Interstate 680 in the Pleasanton area this weekend after this final leg of the winter project was postponed for multiple weeks due to rainy weather.

The new dates, which are still considered to be weather permitting, are from 10 p.m. this Friday (March 17) through Monday (March 20) at 5 a.m. between Sunol Boulevard and Bernal Avenue in Pleasanton. The major repaving project will result in all northbound lanes in that area being closed and significant detours in place. Southbound lanes will remain fully open.

Caltrans is in the midst of work that included plans to close northbound I-680 lanes between Sunol and Pleasanton on three entire weekends. To learn more, visit www.680paving.com.

Human services needs

The cities of Pleasanton, Dublin and Livermore are in the process of working with consultant firm JSI to update the Human Services Needs Assessment in the Tri-Valley.

"Needs assessments are used to understand the unique qualities of a given community, including its strengths and opportunities for growth. Needs assessments often utilize both quantitative data and qualitative data to gain a representative depiction of a community," officials said.

The consultants and city staffs are set to present to the individual city councils in April and May, and the overall process is expected to be completed by November. Officials are looking for public feedback as part of the process. To learn more, visit the city websites including dublin.ca.gov.

Fireworks in Dublin

The city of Dublin is gearing up for the yearly sales period of Safe and Sane fireworks by local nonprofits ahead of Independence Day.

The application period is now underway and runs through 4 p.m. April 21, after which a drawing will be held to determine which nonprofits are allowed to operate booths. The fireworks are sold as a fundraising activity for the organizations.

For more information, contact Dublin fire prevention staff at 925-833-6606 or via email at dublinfp@acgov.org. ■

Corrections

The March 10 Streetwise column incorrectly spelled the name of one respondent. The first answer was given by Christina Mitine. The Pleasanton Weekly regrets the error.

Council votes to end financial support for chamber's Leadership Pleasanton

City will look to create its own similar, no-cost program by early 2024

By Christian Trujano

The Pleasanton City Council voted last week to stop the city's financial support of the Leadership Pleasanton program and reduce staff time dedicated to it as the city works to create a similar program of its own.

The council voted in its 4-1 decision to not provide the \$10,000 sponsorship that the program typically received every year from 2000 until 2019, before it was paused due to the pandemic. The city did not support the program in 2021.

"I cannot personally support another \$10,000. We stepped back from that (in 2021) and it seems that we're

going in the reverse direction if we say, 'Here, let's, let's leave it as is and give you another \$10,000 and just buy some more time' — (that's) not what I hear up here on the council," Mayor Karla Brown said at the March 7 council meeting.

"The goal is to very kindly separate and have two programs that complement each other," Brown added. "If there's overlap, it's very little overlap. But if anybody that has been in the Leadership program or people who may want to be in the Leadership program go through the program, they will want to do both if they want to get involved at a higher level with the city."

Organized by the Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce, Leadership Pleasanton was developed in 1987 by two men from Georgia who went throughout the country and spoke to different chambers of commerce about creating a program to identify and help develop community leaders from different sectors within the community, according to Yianna Theodorou.

She said the first class graduated in 1989.

Each annual program runs from September through May and hosts 30 to 32 participants. Applicants to the program are residents, local business leaders, local government members,

social service organizations and professional participants.

Theodorou, a chamber employee who manages the Leadership Pleasanton program, told the council that about 75% of the applicants from the first class back from the pandemic got their fees paid by their employers while four scholarships and tuition donations were given to those who couldn't afford to pay the \$950 application fee.

She told the council that the city first started sponsoring the program with \$7,500 in 2000 before sending the \$10,000 every subsequent year.

See LEADERSHIP on Page 9



COURTESY CITY OF DUBLIN

Traditional Irish music will fill the air at the St. Patrick's Day Celebration in Dublin, which runs this Saturday and Sunday.

Going green in Dublin

Community embodying Irish spirit for annual St. Patrick's Day Celebration

By Nicole Gonzales

Downtown Dublin will be covered in green, gold and Irish pride this weekend at the city's annual St. Patrick's Day Celebration. The cultural festival will have no shortage of Celtic-themed activities for guests to enjoy.

Held at the Dublin Civic Center, the festivities take place this Saturday and Sunday (March 18 and 19) from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The celebration is set to feature three entertainment stages, a shopping center, food and carnival activities.

"The St. Patrick's Day Festival will have a variety of entertainment and activities for all

attendees to enjoy," said Tyler Phillips, city recreation supervisor and organizer of the event. "It is an important event for the city of Dublin and its neighboring communities. It gives those that live here a chance to build community, celebrate together, support local businesses and to just have fun."

On Saturday, the Dublin Lions Club will host the 39th St. Patrick's Day Parade at 9:30 a.m., signaling the official commencement of celebrations.

"The parade kicks off at Dublin Boulevard and Amador Plaza Road, traveling east on Dublin Boulevard, north on Village Parkway, and west on Amador

Valley Boulevard, ending near the Dublin Senior Center," Phillips said.

Over 80 participating groups will be riding or walking in the procession, including dance companies, floats and equestrians. Guests of the parade are invited to bring lawn chairs or blankets to line the sidewalks.

For music and dance, guests can listen to round-the-clock traditional Irish folk and Celtic rock music from regional performers. For the selection of food, attendees can choose from a variety of cuisines at the "International Food Court".

See ST. PATRICK'S on Page 6

Hart MS opens new science classrooms

Measure 11 project brings more space, modern equipment

By Christian Trujano

When most people think of a science class, they think of large classrooms filled with beakers, measuring scales, microscopes and other tools scientists use.

But for science teachers at Hart Middle School, the problem was never having that type of equipment — it was not having the classroom or lab space.

"I was in a different room than some of the other science teachers. Some of them did have lab stations, but I didn't," Brian Wigand, a sixth grade science teacher at Hart Middle School and chair of the science department, told the Weekly.

He said the classroom where he taught his class for the last 10 years was so cramped that it only had one sink. If he wanted to get any supplies, he would have to run down the hall into another teacher's room where they would have every teacher's lab supplies and chemicals.

Now, after almost two years of construction, that has all changed.

Ever since last week, science teachers and students began moving into the new science classrooms that were built using funding from

See HART on Page 6

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Stanley Boulevard reopens amid major trail erosion

Several square yards of pathway buckle, slide down cliff face toward lake

By JEREMY WALSH

Stanley Boulevard, a major east-west thoroughfare between Pleasanton and Livermore, had one eastbound lane reopened to vehicular traffic early Monday evening after both lanes were closed for more than a day as a result of serious trail erosion adjacent to that side of the roadway.

The eastbound direction was first shut down on Sunday near Shadow Cliffs Regional Recreation Area, and those lanes remained closed through the morning and afternoon commutes on Monday until one lane reopened that evening. The westbound lanes were not affected.

That portion of Stanley Boulevard is in Alameda County's jurisdiction. The Alameda County Public Works Agency reported its crews were re-opening one lane between Valley Avenue and Lilienthal Road, while

the city of Pleasanton would be concurrently closing 300 feet of roadway, making two turn lanes unusable.

A county engineering team was out at the scene assessing the situation, but the cause of the erosion had not yet been determined, county officials said late Monday afternoon.

According to photographs from the scene provided by city and county officials, several square yards of paved trail and adjacent natural landscape

between Shadow Cliffs Lake and Stanley Boulevard buckled and fell down the embankment, leaving a



COURTESY CITY OF PLEASANTON

A segment of the trail pathway adjacent to Stanley Boulevard collapsed last weekend.

large sinkhole. A significant crack also resulted across eastbound Stanley Boulevard. ■

HART

Continued from Page 5

the \$270 million Measure I1 general obligation bond that voters passed in 2016.

The overall scope of work for the project included an 8,000-square-foot building with six fully modernized rooms equipped with LED lighting, touch-screen televisions and connecting rooms in between each class that serve as lab equipment storage spaces and preparation areas.

During a walkthrough of the new space on March 9, Superintendent David Haglund said that the old classrooms were roughly 800 square feet. Now, each class ranges from 1,040 to 1,120 square feet.

"I was just next door talking to a sixth grade science teacher. I walk inside and he has his classroom and all the tables are pushed up towards the right," Haglund said.

Haglund said that the teacher told him he wasn't used to all the additional space.

"All of a sudden, you have all of these cabinets and all of this room to spread out and you can actually decide what you want to put where," Wigand said. "It's great — it's like moving into a new house or something."

And with that metaphorical move to a new house came a new, commanding energy from the students, according to Wigand.

"I think the students really, really enjoy being in the new rooms and they feel like it's a huge difference," Wigand said. "There's just been such an excitement about it and now that we're here, I think everyone feels really happy to be here and feels really good about it." The \$11.4 million project, which broke ground in April 2021, also included removing the four old portable classrooms originally located on the site to build additional amenities.

In front of the classrooms, the district has a shaded structure and lawn area planned for construction but due to the rain adding the cement has delayed the process,

according to Haglund.

Rain had also delayed the original opening timeframe for the classrooms, but the transition for teachers and students was able to begin March 8.

The project additionally included a back area for teacher parking and a new 300-foot dropoff and pickup lane for cars that was built to help mitigate the traffic impact for local businesses, according to assistant superintendent of business services Ahmad Sheikholeslami.

While there is still some final construction work left to do, Wigand said he's just excited to finally be able to have the space to better connect with his students.

"Even though the rooms are so much bigger, the students actually feel closer because I'm able to actually maneuver around the room and get to all the students. It's not like we're all just packed into this tiny space," he said. "That's huge — just having access to all the students and being able to get to everybody and provide support and assistance." ■

ST. PATRICK'S

Continued from Page 5

Food vendors will highlight an Irish menu, along with traditional festival food such as corn dogs and popcorn. Irish food, such as corned beef sliders, Irish bangers and mash and Irish soda bread, will be sold.

Dubbed "The Irish Market Place", the shopping area is set to have over 250 vending booths.

According to event organizers, work will include traditional Celtic art pieces, Irish tartans and more from local artists and crafters.

Carnival rides will also be open for the duration of the event.

"The Dublin St. Patrick's Day event is a 'can't miss' event if you live in the Bay Area. There is something for everyone at this festival," Phillips added. "There will be plenty of Irish beer, and an International Food Court will tempt all palates."

An Irish Tea Cottage will let visitors immerse themselves in a fairytale as they sip on a cup of tea, listen to traditional music and enjoy shortbread and scones.

"There is such a great variety of activities and entertainment

throughout the weekend. It brings out a wonderfully diverse group of people. I love seeing it all come together," Phillips added.

On Sunday, over 2,000 residents are set to take part in the city's Shamrock 5K Fun Run & Walk as part of the holiday celebrations.

"Having been involved with this event for several years now, my favorite part is seeing the crowds of people enjoying themselves," Phillips said.

Additional information about the upcoming weekend event can be found at www.dublin.ca.gov. ■

Haglund presents 4th annual State of the District

Speech highlights accomplishments, obstacles for Pleasanton Unified over past year

By **CHRISTIAN TRUJANO**

Pleasanton Unified School District Superintendent David Haglund recently delivered the fourth annual State of the District speech, in which he spoke about students struggling with post-pandemic learning issues, completed and ongoing Measure II projects and school boundary adjustments.

About 50 parents, community members and PUSD staff attended the event, which was held on Feb. 28 at the Firehouse Arts Center and hosted by Pleasanton Partnerships in Education Foundation.

“The work that’s going on in our district right now, I see much of it as legacy work,” Haglund said. “Many of the projects that we’re beginning to work on, they won’t come into fruition for years to come. But we do that work ... because we see the future by looking into the eyes of our current students. We know that it’s our responsibility ... it’s my responsibility to do right by those kids and by those people who work with those kids every single day

One of the first topics that he touched on first was the lingering impacts from the pandemic.

“Students didn’t just lose academic learning during the shutdown, some lost family members, family members lost jobs, families lost income and stability and most experienced long periods of social isolation,” Haglund said.

He said that even though the pandemic is — for the most part — behind the district, students are still dealing with the fact that they did not learn important social and behavioral skills during the time schools were all online.

One example he pointed out was with second grade teachers who had students not knowing how to hold a pencil, how to share with other students or how to interact with a group.

“Those are social skills — we might call the hidden curriculum of a school — that are taught in (transitional kindergarten) and kindergarten and first grade and when those students had been at home, not all of those skills were achieved,” Haglund said.

He also said similar issues were seen at the high schools where freshmen and sophomores also hadn’t learned the “social norms of acting

together in a school community.”

“We saw behaviors, in locker rooms as an example, that look more like middle school behaviors than they did like high school behaviors,” Haglund said.

Haglund said that teachers had really stepped up in essentially doing two jobs — teaching their grade level and teaching developmental skills.

“I have a huge amount of respect for our teachers who are doing that work and bringing our kids to the place where they need to be so that they can go out and make the world a better place,” Haglund said. “This is life changing work that we’re engaged in and the amount of stress and anxiety both on the student side and on the adult side coming out of the pandemic have been almost insurmountable.”

But apart from those behavioral issues, the rest of the speech was dedicated to the good things that came out of 2022, such as the district’s reimagined focus on diversity, equity and inclusion.

Following approval from the PUSD Board of Trustees of a new equity policy last year and the creation of the Diversion Equity and Inclusion



CHRISTIAN TRUJANO

PUSD Superintendent David Haglund delivers the fourth annual State of the District speech at the Firehouse Arts Center on Feb. 28.

Task Force, Haglund said staff were a part of several tough conversations, which were long overdue.

One example he mentioned was a leadership symposium in August where those people shared personal stories about what it was like to come from out of their particular demographic into the Pleasanton schools.

“Some of those stories were incredibly difficult to listen to, because they weren’t positive,” Haglund said. “They were sharing real, personal stories of what it was like to enter a Pleasanton school, or the Pleasanton community as a whole. Those are things we don’t like to hear, we wish we wouldn’t hear, but are important that we listen to if we’re going to do this work together.”

Another way the school district

was focusing on equity work was in the elementary education team diving deep into expanding their experience and understanding of the science of reading and continuing the Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling (LETRS) program.

He said the LETRS training has been well-attended by teachers from kindergarten to fifth grade and the district has even partnered with the University of California in San Francisco as one of 30 school districts statewide to pilot a universal dyslexia screening program.

He said it would help assist the districts in providing support for developing readers.

See **DISTRICT** on Page 8

Livermore chef reflects on ‘Chopped’ experience

Lanna Thai’s Kim Gamble reached final round before elimination

By **CIERRA BAILEY**

Chef Kim Gamble represented her Thai culture and her hometown of Livermore in the “Flamin’ Hot” episode of the Food Network series “Chopped” last week.

In a spicy food competition against three other chefs, Gamble was among the last two standing before ultimately being eliminated.

The Lanna Thai restaurant owner told Livermore Vine that although this was her second time appearing on a competitive cooking show, “Chopped” was the most intense experience she’s had so far.

“Each round I feel like gets harder and harder and just more intense and all the pressure is on you in that 20 or 30 minutes,” Gamble said, adding that her nervousness was visible on the show by her facial expressions that were frequently caught on camera in the episode that aired nationally on March 7.

The judges told Gamble when she was “chopped” that — although the challenge called for bringing the heat — the dishes she prepared were too spicy, making them too difficult to eat.

However, Gamble said she doesn’t plan on toning down the spice level

in her cooking any time soon as it’s what her Lanna Thai customers are accustomed to and is part of the Thai culture’s style of cooking.

“I think everyone has different spice levels — some people can eat spicy and some people can’t handle it. Maybe mine might have been a bit overboard, but I feel like people in Livermore can handle the spice that I make because that’s what Lanna Thai is known for and the dishes that I made on the show is the spice level that we use at the restaurant,” Gamble said.

In the week after the show aired, Gamble sampled a slightly modified version of the appetizer she made on the show at her restaurant. The dish was a spicy, crab dumpling with a filling made from cream cheese and cut up Thai chili peppers and coated with crumbled “spicy cheese curls” (also known as Flamin’ Hot Cheetos) on the outside. She also added a cucumber salad on the side with a spicy Thai vinaigrette dressing.

The only difference in the version she served at the restaurant was removing the cut up chili peppers

from the filling of the dumpling.

While Gamble was ultimately happy with the way the appetizer turned out, the decision to make the dumpling on the show was actually sparked from having to make a last-minute pivot in the interest of time.

She had initially planned to make a fried crab Rangoon but one of the other chefs occupied the shared deep fryer for too long, leaving Gamble with virtually no time to use it for her own dish and prompting her to ditch the Rangoon idea and go with dumplings instead.

Since the show aired, Gamble said she’s received an outpouring of support from the Livermore community

See **‘CHOPPED’** on Page 8



COURTESY KIM GAMBLE

Livermore’s Kim Gamble was featured on a spicy food-themed episode of “Chopped,” which aired on March 7.



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BART officials broadly supportive of Glazer bill

Legislation aims to strengthen agency's internal watchdog office, lessen obstruction

BART officials said last week that they are broadly in support of state legislation that would give the transit agency's watchdog office more power over internal audits and investigations.

Tri-Valley Sen. Steve Glazer (D-Orinda) introduced Senate Bill 827 on Feb. 17. The bill would expand the scope of the Office of the Inspector General, allowing it to access all records, documents, accounts, reports, communication or other property of BART or its third-party contractors.

SB 827 would also make it a misdemeanor crime to obstruct the OIG, punishable by up to six months in jail, a fine of up to \$1,000 or both.

If approved in its current form, the bill would bring BART's OIG into closer alignment with the authority held by watchdog offices that oversee transit agencies like Caltrain and the

Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority as well as the California State Auditor.

"My staff and I are fully in support of SB 827 as a way to ensure that OIG has access to records when conducting audits and investigations," BART Inspector General Harriet Richardson said on March 9 to the agency's Board of Directors during a presentation on the bill.

The presentation on March 9 came less than a week after Richardson informed the board, to which her office reports, that she will resign this Friday (March 17), months ahead of the end of her term in August.

Richardson has argued that BART management officials have obstructed the OIG's efforts to monitor the agency since the office was created in 2018.

Independent investigators, as well as Glazer, have supported that

assertion: a report last year by the Alameda County Civil Grand Jury found that BART's OIG "is significantly underfunded and unable to fulfill its mission of uncovering waste, fraud and abuse."

The budget for BART's OIG has not changed from the \$1 million annual budget with which it began.

The grand jury also argued in its report that the office is woefully understaffed with just three employees. That number will fall to two once Richardson departs.

By comparison, the grand jury noted, the inspector general's offices at the LA Metro and Washington, D.C.'s transit agency have nearly 25 and nearly 45 employees, respectively.

BART disagreed in its official statement with all six of the grand jury's findings that the inspector general's office is underfunded, understaffed and regularly prevented by BART

officials from properly conducting its mission as a watchdog.

On March 9, BART Board President Janice Li said she intends to support efforts to strengthen the inspector general's office and has already engaged with regional transit officials at the Metropolitan Transportation Commission about increasing the OIG's budget to at least \$2.7 million, if not more.

Li also said she intends to shepherd board approval later this year of a charter for the OIG to more clearly define how the office can and should operate, which both BART management and the inspector general's office said has partially driven the tension between the two.

"There's a lot that's going on right now," she said. "While I know that there have been frustrations and conversations had via media comments, I'm very forward looking and I really

want to learn from these past failures and make structural changes and policy fixes to fully set up the Office of the Inspector General for success."

Li also shied away from supporting the punitive elements of SB 827, arguing that she is generally not in favor of creating more criminalization.

However, Board Director Debora Allen, one of the OIG's biggest proponents on the board, argued that the bill is still in its nascency and elements like possibly giving the OIG subpoena power and making it a crime to obstruct the office are likely to be negotiated or changed.

"I view that as ... a minor part of this bill," Allen said of the criminal penalties. "I know some people believe it's the biggest hurdle but there are going to be conversations on bills like this, there are always conversations."

BART officials plan to meet with Glazer in the coming weeks to discuss the bill. State legislators could begin committee discussions on SB 827 as soon as March 20, once it has been in print for at least 30 days. ■

—Eli Walsh / Bay City News Service

DISTRICT

Continued from Page 7

In terms of inclusion work, Haglund said the district's Human Resources Department has also been busy as they work to recruit and expand the diversity of the PUSD workforce.

"They initiated a substitute training program to supplement their robust recruitment efforts and to help inspire new educators, including parents and community members from Pleasanton," he said. "This is taking a parent who has a (bachelor's degree), getting them their substitute certification program and then helping them into the teacher credentialing program, if that's their interest."

Haglund then went on to talk about the several recently completed and soon-to-be-completed projects

that were funded by the \$270 million Measure II general obligation bond.

He showed videos of the Lydiksen Elementary School complete rebuild, which is one building away from being done; the new science building at Hart Middle School, which just needs new cement before it's also completely done; and a second career technical education building at Foothill High School, which will house workshops and prep spaces.

Haglund said that he is personally excited to open the six new science classrooms for students, but more so for the teachers who will finally have the space needed to teach their lessons.

"It's exciting to know that our Huskies will finally have adequate science classroom spaces," Haglund said. "When the school was built, the normal size science classroom

was not a part of that construction project. So they were in regular sized classrooms and if you have ever known a science teacher, you know, they have lots of stuff.

"They do lots of labs and those teachers have been so creative for so long, it's going to be exciting to see them spread out a little bit and be able to experience the teaching environment that should have been there all along," he added.

He ended the speech talking about some of the next steps the district has been working on regarding the sale of the \$395 million Measure I general obligation bonds over the next few months that will help fund several quickstart projects.

These quickstart projects include moving the long-running Horizon Early Education Center and STEAM Preschool program to Harvest Park Middle School and replacing all of the middle schools fields in Pleasanton with artificial turf.

He said that the school board will soon be looking into the initial stages for rebuilding Village High School at the Bernal property into an Educational Options Center — which was one of the project goals in the Measure I bond.

While the district hasn't finalized any designs, the new facility will house the high school, the Pleasanton Virtual Academy and the

independent studies and adult transition program.

He also said that staff will be moving to the newly acquired district headquarters location at the Arroyo Center on West Las Positas on July 1. He said interior site improvement work has already begun and that the move and relocation of all of those programs off the Bernal property will "set the stage for repurposing that piece of property."

One way that the district plans on repurposing that Bernal location — and its Vineyard Avenue property located between Thiessen Street and Manoir Lane — is turning it into workforce housing.

Both sites were included in the city's recently adopted 2023-31 Housing Element site locations that are zoned for potential housing.

"Our employees often find it difficult to find affordable housing in town, which means they're commuting from work areas outside the Tri-Valley, but I think that our team members should have the opportunity to live and engage fully in the community that they serve," Haglund said.

And even though the district had to push back on the City Council's decision to reduce the unit count at each site — which the council eventually raised at the Bernal site — Haglund said that he's excited to

see those housing options come to fruition in general.

"Right now we're doing a survey to determine exactly how much interest there is on the part of our teachers and employees," he said. "Either way, it's happening. That's what's important to me."

Haglund ended on the topic of adjusting the district's school boundaries — a move that stemmed from the school board's decision to not construct a 10th elementary school due to declining enrollment.

The adjustment will serve to balance enrollment across the district and will begin in the spring of 2023 with the elementary and middle schools — staff will be studying the high school boundaries over the next year before they can present a plan to the board in 2024.

"We will begin to implement the new boundaries in a strategic and somewhat flexible way over the next school year, some grandfathering for people who are in existing programs that don't want to move yet, but also allowing people who really would like to move to go ahead and move if that's their interest," Haglund said. "That will take us a bit of time to straighten it all out but the idea is to try to be as flexible as we can where possible and to work with our families so that the transition is productive for them over time." ■



CHUCK DECKERT

Windstorm wreaks havoc on trees, utilities

Thousands of residents across the Tri-Valley were without power on Tuesday into Wednesday morning as the latest in a series of intense winter storms — this one involving heavy winds on a mostly dry day — made its way across the region and beyond, with others who were out and about impacted by road closures amid hazardous conditions. Shown: A longstanding tree toppled in front of the Pleasanton Gas Station in downtown on Tuesday morning.

'CHOPPED'

Continued from Page 7

and encouraging words from people who watched.

She expressed during the episode that if she had won the \$10,000 prize, she would have used it to travel and film culinary vlogs for her YouTube channel. While she didn't get to bring home the money, she said she still plans to launch her channel and share food and cooking

related content.

"I'm planning to show traditional Thai cooking at home with local ingredients you can find at local grocery stores," Gamble said, adding that she still wants to travel to Thailand and document herself learning new dishes from people there but for now her YouTube show will have a more local focus.

She's also considering a Thai cookbook in the future and possibly hosting cooking classes for the

community at her restaurant with her mom. And, she said if she's presented with other opportunities to be on the Food Network in the future, she'd be open to that too.

At Lanna Thai, customers will be able to find Gamble's spicy crab dumpling appetizer and lamb spicy curry noodle entree from the show on the regular menu available to order. The restaurant is located at 2270 Las Positas Road in Livermore. ■

LEADERSHIP

Continued from Page 5

“The goal was to make a program that went behind the scenes of the major areas of the city and gave people the opportunity to get involved and to know what was happening with just the nuts and bolts of the community,” Theodorou said. “The thought was also if people kind of were exposed to all these facets, then they’d be more invested in their surroundings and their neighborhoods and their community.”

Theodorou and James Cooper, president and CEO of the chamber, emphasized to the council that it was also a great way for many of the program participants to become future city commission and committee members or school board members and just be more involved in the community in general.

“It shows how when we work together we can put together a program that does benefit the community and it benefits the community in a way that may lead to lasting impact from those folks,” Cooper said.

But when COVID hit, Leadership Pleasanton, like many other non-essential programs at the time, was put on pause.

Then in 2021, funding of the program came to the council, where several council members voiced their concerns with the nearly \$1,000 fee and that the once-a-month classes were during the day, when most people are working.

That same sentiment was echoed at the March 7 meeting where Councilmember Julie Testa expressed her issue with the fact that city staff was even bringing up the idea of continuing to provide the \$10,000 — which includes participation fees for up to four city employees at a total of \$3,800 — when there was a discussion in 2021 to the contrary.

She also pointed to a statement made by a speaker during public comment, John Bauer, who referred to the chamber, which has a political action committee, as a political organization. Bauer said that not only should the city not be investing staff time and money on something that costs residents that much, but that they shouldn’t be spending tax dollars on any political organization.

“I think that while the money that we’re talking about in this isn’t huge in the scheme of our budget, it’s still tax dollars ... even the last speaker’s comment about tax dollars going toward a political organization, I think that was certainly brought up by other residents in 2021. So very uncomfortable with that,” Testa said.

Councilmember Jack Balch reflected on the chamber as a political organization by reminding Testa that the police and firefighter unions have PACs, but there is no talk of stopping support of those organizations.

Returning to the 2021 discussion, Testa said, “I don’t see that the chamber took into consideration the concerns that had been raised by both the council and the community.”

“We should have a program that offers opportunity without barriers, that should be accessible,” she added. “I think that really is a barrier that the chamber has not taken into consideration and is moving forward, so I have a concern about that.”

The reason staff had waited until March 7 to discuss the program was that in 2021 the council voted to evaluate the program within the second year of the council’s current two-year work plan, where it is listed as a “B” priority.

City Manager Gerry Beaudin told the council that as staff are in that second year of the work plan process, they have not initiated any processes to look into alternatives or how they will continue the partnership with the chamber, which is why the chamber representatives came to the council.

“There’s two things that are happening right now,” Beaudin said. “There’s a work plan prioritization effort that we’re going through from a city staff perspective and then there’s the upcoming budget, and so this

seems timely in terms of fitting in this analysis or this opportunity to reevaluate the program.”

Beaudin added, “But also, we need to make sure that we’re programming. It’s a really small amount relative to the overall operating budget, but it is an amount that we want to make sure that we have in or out so that we’re not sidetracking our budget discussions come April / May timeframe.”

He also said staff wanted to evaluate how the leadership program will fit within the new five-year strategic planning framework that the city is looking at to replace the longstanding two-year process for identifying and prioritizing public projects.

Now, per the council’s vote, starting with next year’s program that begins in the fall, the city will move to provide Leadership Pleasanton with two days of staff time instead of the four days the city had provided in the past.

Under Councilmember Valerie Arkin’s motion, the city will also send four people from the city — per the city manager’s discretion — and

continue to pay the \$950 fee per person required to enroll, for a total of \$3,800 each year.

However, one of the main points in Arkin’s motion was to focus on creating a city-led program by early next year — she preferred somewhere in the February timeframe — that offers educational modules just like Leadership Pleasanton does, but at no cost and at a more convenient time for people who work weekday hours.

“I don’t want to touch it for this year ... that will stay as is,” she said. “So I think we’re being generous and being a partner with the chamber and I think they have a great program. I think it’ll continue to be a good program and we will have a program that will meet the needs of others in the community that (the chamber) might not be serving.”

She said that with the goal of engaging the community, offering two programs and having the city-led one focus on modules specific to local government will only complement the Leadership Pleasanton program.

But Balch, who was the lone

dissenting voice, had several issues with the council’s move to take away staff time and funding from the program. Balch is currently going through the program himself.

After calculating the time spent toward the program, he said that the 300 hours staff contribute in preparation and planning to the program modules shouldn’t be taken away.

“So .0003% of our staff time to support the program. We have 988,000 hours of staff time equivalent, based upon the number of staff we have ... So for 300 hours, we’re not going to support our staff interacting with the community?” Balch asked.

Brown commented back saying that the city was still short on staff in the Pleasanton Police Department and other departments, which Testa agreed with saying that meant staff time was too precious.

“I’m overwhelmed with the thought that so much staff time would be going into this program, when we are so often counseled to be judicious in what we are directing staff to do,” Testa said. ■

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POLICE BULLETIN

County coroner trying to identify remains of 155 people

The Alameda County Coroner's Bureau needs help identifying one body and the cremated remains of 154 other people recently found in a Hayward warehouse.

Five other bodies found in the space have already been identified.

Authorities believe the remains were put in the warehouse between 2013 and 2021 by Oceanview Cremations, which has had its license

suspended since March 2018, the coroner's bureau said in a statement.

Oceanview Cremations was prohibited from storing remains on its premises. Nevertheless, it continued operations and kept remains in the warehouse, which was also prohibited.

The coroner's bureau and county-contracted Grissom's Mortuary recovered the remains March 1. Officials identified five bodies and contacted families, advising them of the investigation.

Family members said calls to Oceanview Cremations' owner, Robert Smith, went unanswered. Many believed their loved ones

were cremated or scattered at sea as requested.

No information was available on the unidentified body, though the coroner's office said they came to the funeral home between 2020 and 2021.

Five of the deceased bodies came from Alameda County and the sixth from Sonoma County. The coroner's office took possession of two of the deceased, Grissom's Mortuary took four decedents and the cremated remains.

Grissom's Mortuary has since sorted and alphabetized the cremated remains: 64 are from Alameda County, 23 are from San Francisco, 15 from San Mateo County, 10 from Contra Costa County, nine from Santa Clara County, one from Fresno County, nine from Marin County, two from Napa County, one from Placer County, one from Sacramento County, two from Stanislaus County, three from San Joaquin County, four from Santa Cruz County, two from Solano County, and eight from Sonoma County.

Officials say people who did business with Oceanview Cremations with final arrangements for a loved one between 2013 and 2022 and are uncertain of their remains should contact the Alameda County Coroner's Bureau at 510-382-3000.

—Tony Hicks, Bay City News Service

In other news

- An inmate died at an area hospital two days after experiencing a medical emergency at Santa Rita Jail late last

month, marking the fourth inmate death thus far in 2023 and prompting critical remarks from local activist groups who've been pushing to improve health and safety conditions at the county jail in Dublin.

Candice "Cody" Vanburen, 33, was booked into Santa Rita Jail around 1:20 p.m. Feb. 27 as a "timeserver" from Valley State Prison-Chowchilla on post-release community supervision, according to Lt. Tya Modeste of the Alameda County Sheriff's Office.

"During the intake medical screening by Wellpath custodial staff, Vanburen admitted to using a controlled substance before arriving at SRJ. Despite Vanburen's admitted drug use, there was no cause for concern found during the medical and mental health intake process," Modeste said.

After being assigned to a cell as a solo occupant, Vanburen would be found breathing but unresponsive in bed during a wellness check by a jail deputy at 5:20 a.m. Feb. 28, according to Modeste.

Wellpath custodial staff entered emergency medical services protocol and administered five doses of Narcan intranasally and three doses intramuscularly, according to Modeste. Vanburen was transported by paramedics to Stanford Health Care Tri-Valley hospital in Pleasanton and later transferred to Eden Medical Center in Castro Valley.

Vanburen was ultimately pronounced dead at Eden hospital at 4:09 p.m. on March 1, according to the lieutenant. Vanburen's next-of-kin was notified and granted visitation.

The circumstances of Vanburen's death remain under investigation, including the cause of death, by the county coroner's bureau. The Alameda County District Attorney's Office will be notified of the final findings, and the report will be sent to the California Attorney General's Office, according to Modeste.

Vanburen's death is the fourth of a Santa Rita inmate since Jan. 17.

A coalition of civil rights organizations in the county, led by the Ella Baker Center for Human Rights, issued a somber yet scathing statement in reaction to news of Vanburen's death.

"We are heartbroken and enraged to hear of yet another death related to Santa Rita Jail, the deadliest place in Alameda County," they said. "For years, advocates have called out the level of abuse, neglect, death, and cruel punishment inside Santa Rita Jail. We have stood alongside families who have lost loved ones at the hands of the Alameda County Sheriff's Office and called for transparency, diversion, and accountability -- yet these calls have been met with inaction."

"Alameda County voters hoped the election of Sheriff Yesenia Sanchez would bring meaningful change to SRJ, but the death of Cody and three others in six weeks alone tells us that nothing has changed," they added. "The death of Cody is particularly heartwrenching, as he was coming home and on his way out of Alameda County's murderous carceral system. Enough is enough." ■

—Jeremy Walsh

Elva M. Cooper

1932 – February 8, 2023

Elva M. Cooper passed away on February 8, 2023, at age 90. She was born in Inglewood, California and attended college at San Diego State and the National University of Mexico in Mexico City. And for close to 60 years she lived in Pleasanton with her husband Philip Cooper, raising their family, teaching, and contributing thousands of volunteer hours to her community. She is survived by her husband Philip Cooper (m. 1959), her children Ian Cooper of Orinda (Sari) and Monika Cooper of Walnut Creek (Ken), her grandchildren Zoë, Sofia and Jordan, sisters- and brothers-in-law, and many nieces and nephews. Her parents and her sister, Joyce Crane, preceded her in death.



Elva went with no regrets – she often said she had checked off all of her bucket

list items - but her family and friends miss her terribly. Elva was a fierce, independent woman who always stood up for the underdog. She was a lifelong educator who saw education as a way to bring opportunities to the disadvantaged. Through her tireless volunteer efforts she fought to provide supportive family crisis housing, food security for poor families, housing security in indigenous communities, and political representation for women, among many other causes. But her main focus was on her family – they always knew they had her love and support.

Fortunately, she also found time to indulge her passions – travel, good food, good wine, and good fashion – passions which she shared with Philip for nearly 70 years. Despite not having a lot of money, they travelled the world, with highlights that include living in Europe for more than 2 years as newlyweds; living in Mexico for 3 months; the pyramids in Egypt and Central America; the Great Wall; skiing (and hiking) the Alps; the Himalayas; snorkeling in the Caribbean, French Polynesia, and Indonesia; Cuba; Machu Picchu; and traveling in Europe at least 15 times and visiting Paris (her favorite city) more than 19 times! She also prided herself on her appearance and was always dressed to kill, although she would often confide that her designer clothes were thrifted.

Hers was a fantastic life – as Philip has said, better than they ever imagined it could be – and she (along with Philip) set an amazing example for those who follow. Enjoy the things and people that you love! Let them know that you love them! Help those less fortunate! Fight for what you believe in! Make the world a better place, like she did!

We will celebrate Elva's extraordinary life on Saturday, March 25, 2023, at 11:30 a.m. at Lynnewood United Methodist Church at 4444 Black Avenue in Pleasanton. It will also be live streamed. A reception will follow for all at the family home. And if you feel so inclined, wear a hat; she would have.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in Elva's name to the Lynnewood United Methodist Church (<https://lynnewood.org/>), the American Cancer Society (<https://donate.cancer.org/>), or any of the many other charities you may know that she worked with.

PAID OBITUARY

POLICE REPORT

The Pleasanton Police Department made the following information available.

March 10

Drug violation

- 8:27 p.m. on the 5100 block of Hopyard Road

Domestic battery

- 11:16 p.m. on Tonopah Circle

March 9

Catalytic converter theft

- 8:16 a.m. on the 6100 block of Inglewood Drive

Fraud

- 12:21 p.m. on the 6900 block of Via Quito

March 8

Auto theft

- 4:31 p.m. on the 7200 block of Johnson Drive

Warrant arrest

- 7:00 p.m. at Hacienda and Owens drives

March 7

Domestic battery

- 10:52 a.m. on Chabot Drive
- 7:55 p.m. on Sandpiper Way

Warrant arrest

- 1:08 p.m. at Owens and Hacienda drives

Sex offenses

- 1:44 p.m. on Maria Street

March 6

Theft

- 8:42 a.m. on the 5700 block of Johnson Drive

- 5:50 p.m., 1000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; catalytic converter theft

- 8:47 p.m. on the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive; shoplifting

Burglary

- 9 a.m. on the 8200 block of Regency Drive

- 6:04 p.m. on the 4300 block of West Ruby Hill Drive

Warrant arrest

- 2:28 p.m. on the 2000 block of Santa Rita Road

Fraud

- 4:23 p.m. on the 3800 block of Keneland Way

Drug violation

- 9:57 p.m. on the 1900 block of Santa Rita Road

March 5

Domestic battery

- 4:02 a.m. on Willow Road

Theft from auto

- 9:19 p.m. on the 7000 block of Johnson Drive

March 4

Theft

- 11:55 a.m., 000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting

- 3:28 p.m., 1400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting

- 4:51 p.m., 1000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting

- 5:23 p.m., 2600 block Minton Court; catalytic converter theft

March 3

Domestic battery

- 7:08 a.m. on Owens Drive

Theft

- 8:06 a.m. on the 3200 block of Vineyard Avenue

- 11:08 a.m. on the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive

- 1:35 p.m., 1100 block of Santa Rita Road; bicycle theft

- 1:57 p.m., 5800 block of Owens Drive; theft from auto

- 5:44 p.m., 1500 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting

- 7:36 p.m., 2700 block of Stoneridge Drive; theft from auto

- 8:45 p.m. on the 4200 block of Katie Lane

Burglary

- 1:57 p.m. on the 5500 block of Johnson Drive

Warrant arrest

- 3:57 p.m. on the 2000 block of Santa Rita Road

- 5:48 p.m. on the 6700 block of Bernal Avenue

Assault/battery

- 11:09 p.m. on the 6000 block of Johnson Drive

March 2

Theft

- 8:30 a.m., 4500 block of Rosewood Drive; shoplifting

- 3:49 p.m. on the 6100 block of West Las Positas Boulevard

- 4:39 p.m. on the 1400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

Fraud

- 12:07 p.m. on the 1300 block of Brookline Loop

Robbery

- 12:23 p.m. on the 5400 block of Sunol Boulevard

Living Well

Inside:

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- Maintaining financial health Page 14
- Hike for Hope coming in spring Page 14

Report shines spotlight on Tri-Valley's top health care needs

Behavioral health, access to care, structural racism among focus areas cited in John Muir assessment

By CIERRA BAILEY

As impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic linger, maintaining good health remains at the top of mind for many, including physical, mental, emotional and even financial.

The demand for adequate, accessible health care in the Tri-Valley is only growing and local health care providers like John Muir Health have recently shared ways in which they are addressing the community's needs.

John Muir's 2022 Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) zooms in on the top priority health needs of the Tri-Valley and their subsequent implementation strategy identifies plans to tackle them.

The 212-page CHNA — initially released in December — was a collaborative effort among several local and regional health care providers, including John Muir and Stanford Health Care Tri-Valley as well as Sutter Health, St. Rose Hospital and UCSF Benioff Children's Hospitals. Kaiser Permanente, the Alameda County Public Health Department and Contra Costa Health Services were also partners involved.

Behavioral health, structural racism, economic security, housing and homelessness, health care access and delivery, community and family safety, food security and transportation were identified as the Tri-Valley's top eight priority health needs.

Behavioral health was No. 1 on the list across the board for all of John Muir's service areas, including the Tri-Valley along with eastern Contra Costa County, central Contra



An exterior view of John Muir Health's Walnut Creek Medical Center. They have another hospital location in Concord and are in the process of acquiring San Ramon Regional Medical Center. COURTESY JMH

Costa County, western Contra Costa County and northern Alameda County.

The report is conducted every three years as required by the state for nonprofit hospitals. As part of the requirement, the CHNA must include input from experts in public health, local health departments and the community, including representatives of minority, low-income, medically underserved and other high-need populations.

According to Jamie Elmasu, director of community health improvement for John Muir, once priority areas are identified — through a process that involves collecting and analyzing various sets of health data and engaging community focus groups — each health care system brings the information back to their respective internal stakeholders to figure out a strategy to address those needs over the next three years.

John Muir Health has developed a 2023-2025 Community Health Implementation Strategy that thoroughly outlines their approach to tackling the needs of the communities they serve.

With behavioral health being the top need throughout the region, Elmasu said that was an obvious key focus area for the health system. According to the CHNA, behavioral health refers to mental health, emotional and psychological well-being, along with the ability to cope with normal, daily

life. Behavioral health also covers substance abuse, which affects many other aspects of a person's overall health.

While none of the region's top health needs are new issues, Elmasu reiterated that they were exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic and are affecting a broader range of people than typically seen during pre-pandemic years.

Citing behavioral health as an example, Elmasu said, "We're seeing it across the board, so not only uninsured and low-income folks that we typically serve; it's now insured people and even youth. We know issues with our young people — and specifically our teens — have become so severe and figuring out how can we better serve our young community through our community benefit opportunities is critical."

The health system's other focus areas for this cycle include health care access and housing and homelessness, which are also issues that had a new light shed on them as a result of COVID-19, particularly as it relates to accessing vaccines.

John Muir's mobile clinic is one of their offerings that played a significant role in bringing the vaccines to the community. "Our Mobile Health Clinic and our nurses were actually one of the first to become trained in vaccine administration and in COVID testing," Elmasu said, adding that they are proud

of their ability to serve the community during such a critical time.

In addition to structural racism overall being recognized as a significant health need in the report, the CHNA identified racial disparities within the other categories, with African American and Latino communities being impacted by several of the various health needs at a higher rate than other demographics. As a result of these findings, John Muir is also taking a closer look at how to improve the issue.

Part of their implementation strategy involves investing additional funding dollars to all of their nonprofit partners to provide workshops and education sessions and those organizations are tasked with creating an intervention to address structural racism internally like employment practices, human resources policies, board of director involvement and other aspects of the organization.

"It's very innovative and it's very new as it relates to how our community health team is partnering with our nonprofits," Elmasu said.

Accomplishing the goals to improve upon the community's needs is a process that takes time and does not come without its challenges. While their strategy aims to make an impact, there is no quick fix to the health



COURTESY JMH

Tammie Iseri, pharmacy manager at JMH, prepares a COVID-19 vaccine at the Mobile Health Clinic.

HEALTH CARE

Continued from Page 11

issues affecting the Tri-Valley and beyond.

“The single most pressing barrier, in my experience, is the fact that we’re trying to solve societal problems at large,” Elmasu said. “We’re only a few people. We have limited budget, so we have our limitations internally and of course we’re limited in terms of which nonprofit partners that exist in the area.”

She continued, “When we look at Contra Costa County versus Alameda County, Alameda County has a more robust nonprofit network providing services to the community, but Contra Costa County is growing so our nonprofit organizations, many of them that started in central county in Concord now have secondary or satellite offices out in Antioch or east county.”

Elmasu said that while there isn’t a magic amount of dollars that’s going to resolve the issues

overnight, she feels strongly that through their efforts and those of other health care systems in the area, they can impact a number of people and families to significantly change their health trajectory.

One of their newest partners as of this year is Livermore-based Goodness Village. John Muir is providing the nonprofit tiny home community with funding to support a full-time case manager for the next three years as the organization also plans to expand with additional housing units.

Elmasu also highlighted that once John Muir fully acquires San Ramon Regional Medical Center, they will be able to better serve the Tri-Valley region at large.

“We’re already doing some things, but we’re not doing a tremendous amount in the Tri-Valley — the reason being is that our hospitals currently are located in Concord and Walnut Creek and so our primary focus area is going to be around those hospitals. But we do have an outpatient center in Pleasanton and now of course if we’re expanding to purchase another hospital, I think what does that mean to make those services more robust is the question,” she said.

John Muir’s CHNA and Implementation Strategy are available to the public on their website. ■



COURTESY:JMH

School nurse Adrienne Christensen conducts a hearing screening at Cambridge Elementary School in Concord.



COURTESY:JMH

In addition to its main hospital in Walnut Creek, John Muir Health operates the Concord Medical Center (above). Its Mobile Health Clinic (below) is another way the health system aims to address the need for access to care throughout their service areas.



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Dublin students launch support app for teenage substance abuse

My Alcohol Story aims to connect struggling youth, create sense of community

By NICOLE GONZALES

An online platform created by two Dublin teens is making strides in alcohol and drug abuse support for underage users. The website and app, My Alcohol Story, allows viewers to anonymously read, share and interact with posts about their struggles with substances.

Founded by Dublin High School students Anit Annadi and Cyril Joby, My Alcohol Story aims to bridge the gap in awareness and treatment for teenage alcohol abuse. Other support groups or systems aimed toward alcoholism or drugs largely exist for adults, neglecting underage users, the pair said.

"Firstly, we understood there was a huge gap in this type of support," said Annadi, who serves as the company's CEO. "Most treatments or groups are targeted toward adults and don't address the needs of teenagers who are also struggling to find a support community."

"It's a very serious issue that most people don't think about. Things like Alcoholics Anonymous exist, but there is no well-known or accepted platform for teenage alcoholism despite it being a large problem that is often overlooked," Annadi added.

What is unique about My Alcohol Story is that users are able to share their stories without using their own names. Annadi has said this aspect of the app provides teenagers with a safe place to discuss their experiences without fear of judgment or retaliation.

"The anonymity aspect is huge for our platform. When sharing their own personal stories, teens and young adults might be apprehensive to attach their name to that with the legal aspect," he said.

Annadi and Joby, currently juniors at Dublin High, coded the website and application themselves. Initially the co-founders spent large amounts of their time learning, navigating



COURTESY ANIT ANNADI

My Alcohol Story co-founder Anit Annadi (right) sits next to Sathvik Lakamsani, a coder for the app and website.

and trying out different codes and digital programming.

"We brainstormed and started to think about what it would take to build something like this," Annadi said.

Since its launch in June 2022, the app has attracted over 200 users and published dozens of stories.

They have partnered with non-profits across the nation, such as

Global Mental Health Outreach and MED-ucate by SPARK, to increase their notoriety and support skills.

The founders hope the app can untimely connect those who have struggled with addiction with similar stories and help them find a sense of community.

"We wanted people to be able to feel supported, like they're not alone with those issues," Annadi

said. "We encourage teenagers and young adults to join the platform even if you're just curious about the app or topic."

Annadi hopes My Alcohol Story will be able to continue expanding and reach broader audiences. They plan on adding more features to improve the platform in the future.

To visit the live site, go to myalcoholstory.com/. ■



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Maintaining financial health now and into the future

Plan spending and saving strategies to weather any storm

The past few years have upended many perceptions of financial stability. A layoff or career change, inflation never before seen by younger generations and the lingering uncertainty of the pandemic might have thrown off financial planning for many.

Now is a great time to review strategies for smart spending and saving to better weather whatever the future has in store.

Financial planning professionals suggest that individuals start by creating a budget. Online trackers such as Mint.com can help understand spending.

Here are tips for saving and spending in 2023:

Use credit responsibly: Pay off

credit cards each month, if possible, to avoid accumulating debt and build good credit.

Set up automatic savings: You can do this through your bank and via an employer's payroll. Use the new year to take a fresh look at the savings options through the employer, including a Health Savings Account (HSA), which can be carried over from one year to the next.

Invest windfalls: Invest any unexpected cash, such as bonuses or tax refunds, and make the money work harder.

Review your retirement plans: The new year may bring changes such as buying a home, updating a will or navigating a higher tax bracket. A professional can provide a new

year review to keep retirement plans on track no matter where someone is in their working life.

Plan your tax payments: Consider paying estimated taxes throughout the year to avoid a large tax bill in April. Estimated tax payments can be especially helpful for contract workers or freelancers who don't have taxes taken out of their pay automatically.

Shop smarter: Combat inflation by switching to store brands for some items. Check whether generic medications will work for you and compare prices for different pharmacies.

Nobody can predict the future, but prudent planning can help prepare for whatever the future holds. ■

— NewsUSA



GETTY IMAGES

Having a strategy for smart spending and saving is a prudent way to plan for the future, whatever it may hold.

Hike for Hope coming later this spring

Annual recreation event serves as key fundraiser for Hope Hospice

By JEANITA LYMAN

Supporters of Hope Hospice are set to return to the trails at Del Valle Regional Park this May for the 2023 Hike for Hope fundraising event that the nonprofit first kicked off more than a decade ago.

Registration is currently open for this year's Hike for Hope, with organizers encouraging attendees to register by March 31 to guarantee an event t-shirt. They are also seeking to connect with potential vendors by March 31. The hike is set for May 6 starting at 8:30 a.m. with easy or moderate options, followed by a free barbecue for hikers that afternoon.

"The East Shore Trail is a mostly flat out-and-back option that's a total 2.6 miles, or shorter if one turns around sooner," said Kendra Strey, communications director for Hope Hospice. "More advanced hikers can tack on a scenic loop via the Hetch Hetchy and Ridgeline trails for a payoff view after a 500-foot incline, for a total 4.4 miles."

This year's hike at the regional park in Livermore comes on the heels of a record-breaking event last year, which saw 1,300 registrants and \$180,000 in funds raised for Hope Hospice programs and services, according to Strey.

"The event has definitely evolved over the years, and we try to build upon what's working and look for areas where we can improve the experience," Strey said. "Last year, we were surprised by the high attendance. It was a good problem to have, but we saw some ways to make things go more smoothly for the attendees."

Some adjustments include changes to the site layout during the afternoon barbecue, and adding lawn games, which proved to be popular at last year's event, Strey said.

Encouraging early registration and pickup for event t-shirts ahead of the hike was also a crucial step amid last year's high attendance that is returning this year.

"This reduces the line on the morning of the event for people who need to retrieve their shirts," Strey said. "Registration remains open through event day (including on-site signups), but we only order a limited quantity of t-shirts after that March 31 cutoff, and they're available on a first come, first served basis."

With organizers anticipating high attendance again this year, Strey said that there were a number of factors that could be contributing to the hike's popularity.

"People participate for different reasons," Strey said. "For some, it's a memorial event where family members reunite and hike in remembrance of a loved one who has passed. A majority of participants return annually because they support our mission and find the event to be an enjoyable way to give back to their community."

Funds raised from the hike are crucial for maintaining a range of services at Hope Hospice, Strey said, in particular by enabling the end-of-life support organization to continue offering grief support and family caregiver programs to the community free of charge.

"That's a cause that a lot of people can get behind — it's money raised by this community, for this community," Strey said.

"We find that a lot of client families are surprised at the abundance and quality of supportive programming that complements our hospice service," she added. "It's not something you find with many other providers. We're able to offer these because of support from donations



CHUCK DECKERT

Hike for Hope is a popular fundraising event for Hope Hospice. The 2023 installment is set to arrive at Del Valle Regional Park on May 6.

and fundraisers like H4H."

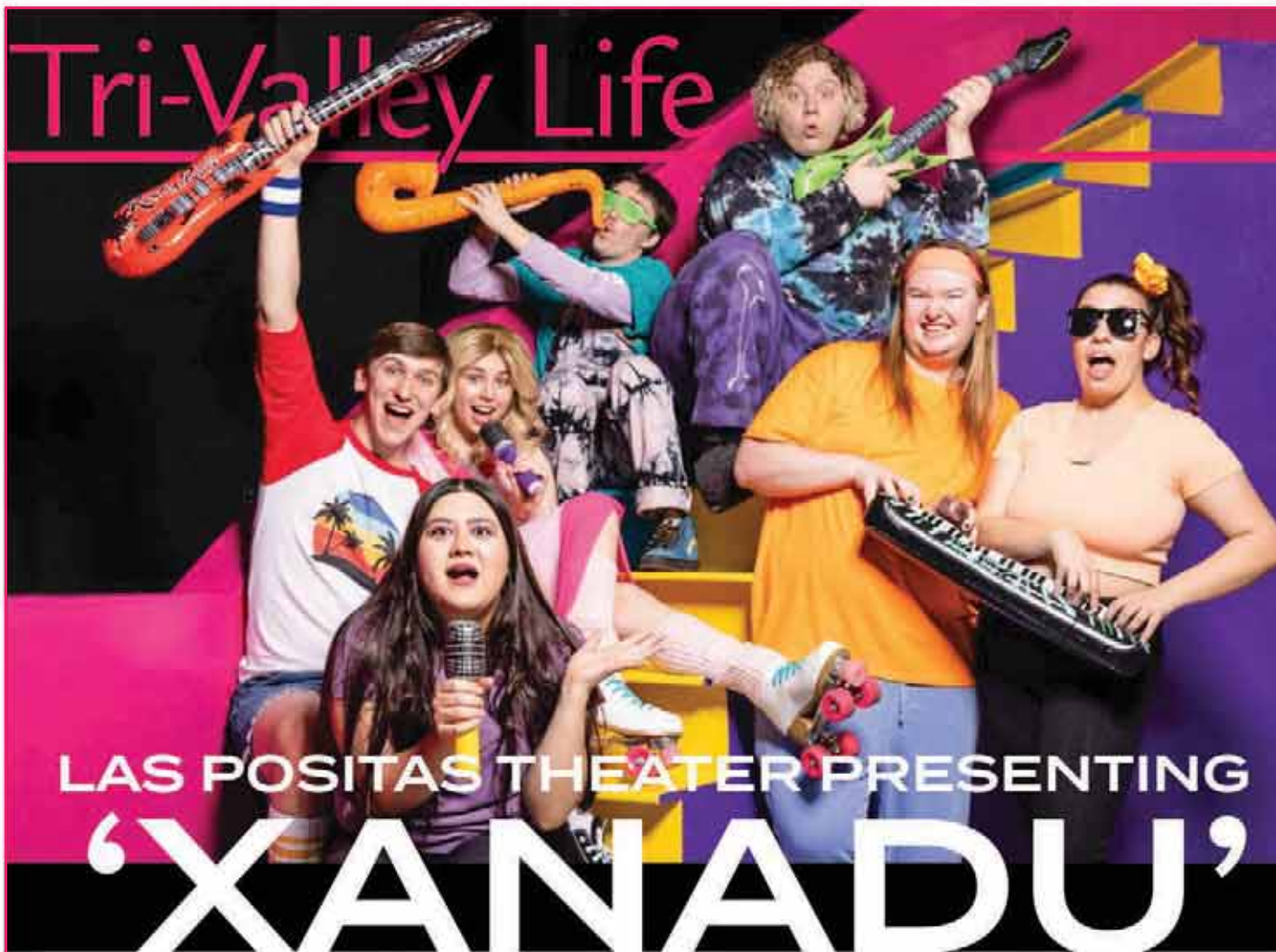
In addition to relying on fundraising support and donations as a nonprofit organization, Strey noted that volunteer workers are critical for the cause, particularly for organizing large events such as the upcoming hike.

"We couldn't do this event without our wonderful volunteers," Strey said. "A majority of them are our regular hospice volunteers who sign on to help with extra projects like this. But some people hear about the need and sign on just for the single event. About 60 people make the

event work, from the setup crew and t-shirt organizers to the trail safety team and those who help us acquire donations for our silent auction."

Registration and more information for prospective hikers, volunteers and vendors is available at thehikeforhope.com. ■





COURTESY LPC

The cast of Las Positas College's spring musical, 'Xanadu', which opens this weekend in Livermore.

Spring musical aims to be feel-good experience for cast and audience alike

By JEANITA LYMAN

The Las Positas College theater building has been abuzz with commotion, as students entered the final stages of rehearsals for their department's upcoming spring musical under the close watch of their professors and director.

"Xanadu" is set to debut this Friday for a two-weekend-long run that will showcase and test the cast's performance chops and stamina — plus their newly acquired roller skating skills — in the stage musical inspired by the 1980 cult classic movie of the same name.

"The actors also have to do accents, inhabit classical characters in a modern way, learn about the 1980s and you have to roller-skate," director Dyan McBride said in a statement earlier this month.

While the ambitious production poses unique challenges, according to program director Titian Lish — in particular, teaching actors to not just stay upright on roller skates, but serve up compelling performances and choreography — they faced an unanticipated legal challenge well into the rehearsal process.

"Fun fact that we learned after selecting 'Xanadu' and casting 'Xanadu' is it's illegal in California to roller skate on college campuses," Lish said.

With the main campus at Las Positas serving as ground zero for all of the student actors' production and practice needs, the issue came to light as students practiced their skating on campus.

"We didn't know until someone from security saw our students skating out here and they were like you can't do that. And the student was like 'what are you talking about,' and

they're like 'it's illegal,' and the student's like 'to roller skate?' And it felt so 'Footloose,' like this cannot possibly be real," Lish said.

"So we called and they were like yeah, it's illegal," she continued "So I was like whoa ... so I picked a roller skating musical. We started building a set."

Despite the unexpected revelation, Lish and her department were able to reach an agreement with college officials to allow an exception to the state law if students were in the campus's two stage spaces with supervision.

For theater faculty and students though, unexpected challenges have abounded in recent years, as has their capacity to see to it that their shows go on in spite of it all.

The college's two-year Actors' Conservatory program launched in 2020 amidst challenges to all sectors and aspects of life, but live theater in particular. The first cohort of the program, who graduated last May, entered during fully online instruction at the conservatory's inception that fall, several months into the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Lish credited Las Positas officials for recognizing the difficulty of training actors via Zoom, and allowing students in the department to meet in person in spring 2021.

However, the looming pandemic still forced students and faculty to flex their creative muscles for outside-the-box productions that would attract audiences amid the uncertain atmosphere that year. They made the most of an improvised green screen production room that had been established in a portion of the campus' theater space, producing a range of performances based on children's stories, including a "choose your own adventure" Zoom adaptation.

As live events began to return as a cultural norm in 2021, Lish along with her colleagues and students settled into continuously long hours on campus as they worked on an uninterrupted production

season for the school year.

"Last year, 2021 and 2022, the students often refer to as performing arts summer camp but for a year, because it felt like there was kind of nobody on campus but us and the turkeys ... and it was sort of like this fun, gentle incubation period for all of us to just recover from some of the trauma of the pandemic in a space that was really familiar and with people who were all doing the same thing that we're doing," Lish said.

Although the pandemic was unforeseen while planning the conservatory program, Lish said that it was developed as a "soft launch into having to be an adult and artist" in a competitive and often treacherous field. Faculty aim to keep cohort students together, enrolling them in the same classes as much as possible and encouraging them to spend much of their time in the two-year program with one another.

In addition, Lish said the program aims to fill gaps often left by leading private and professional training programs for actors and stage professionals, noting that many training programs for actors leave them in worse shape than they would have been otherwise — saddled with student debt in a challenging and unpredictable industry, without the skills necessary to navigate it.

While Lish said the conservatory program at Las Positas seeks to give aspiring actors the same experience as top-notch schools for their first two years of training, it differs in important ways — specifically that it is affordable, open to all, and aims to offer training and support in financial skills, mental health, and other key aspects of the industry such as experience and comfort with networking.

"I tried to think about what were some of the gaps I didn't have, and some of it was fiscal," Lish said.

Overlooking the necessities of day-to-day life for actors and theater technicians is just

one portion of a larger issue, according to Lish, who pointed to an appreciation for the arts not necessarily entailing an understanding of the behind-the-scenes struggles of artists.

"People love seeing live theater, but they don't always understand where it comes from," Lish said.

Lish also noted that community colleges are often hard for people to understand or appreciate, with resources that can be overlooked by their surrounding residents and the general public.

"I think that there's a misconception sometimes of community college, I think that comes from historical experience, maybe periods that maybe community colleges weren't funded in the rich way they are now," Lish said. "I think sort of popular media culture likes to trash on community colleges a little bit, and I think all of that is incredibly unfortunate."

With that in mind, Lish and the rest of the department were motivated to maintain their busy schedules for productions aimed at drawing surrounding Tri-Valley residents to experience the campus and fruits of the department's programming.

She said that while the department's most recent production last fall, "Book of Will", had fit a certain emotional niche for audiences, "Xanadu" was aimed at offering a distinct yet equally valuable one — in addition to serving as a rare, permitted exception to the state law against roller skating at colleges.

"Sometimes what's good for the audience is permission to feel things deeply in a space — and they might need that — and 'Book of Will' really granted that for them," Lish said.

"And sometimes they just need a little bit of escapism and you just need the ability to be like 'sometimes I like to go see ridiculousness for the sake of seeing ridiculousness.' And so we try to balance that when we make choices," Lush added. "So 'Book of Will' was really kind of a heady piece, and it was dramatic, beautiful and also comedic, but that was sort of 'feel deeply in a room with a bunch of strangers.'"

"So then we kind of try to balance that and say ok what is something that is just super fun — permission to just enjoy theater as pure entertainment — and so 'Xanadu' was what came up with that," she continued.

As director of the show, McBride said that she was also seeking to make it a platform for the cast to have a positive experience, despite the technical difficulties and other challenges the production poses.

"I wanted our cast to experience joy while performing, and 'Xanadu' is all good feelings and fun, with some real challenges for the actor," McBride said. "The score is bananas, and we have some excellent singers at Las Positas College, so I knew they'd rise to the challenge."

"Xanadu" premieres on Friday (March 17) at the Las Positas College Black Box Theater, with doors opening at 7 p.m. and 8 p.m. showtime.

The show will continue at 8 p.m. on Saturday (March 18) and 2 p.m. Sunday (March 19), then resume the following weekend at 8 p.m. on March 24, 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. on March 25, and 2 p.m. on March 26. Tickets and more information are available at www.laspositas-college.edu. ■

Opinion

NOTES ON THE VALLEY

By MONITH ILAVARASAN

The forever chemicals

Last month, the Pleasanton City Council once again talked through solutions for an issue that has been affecting the city for a few years.

In 2019, the city shut down one of its three wells after discovering per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). PFAS is a group of chemicals known to have wide-ranging health effects for humans and animals.

Last year Pleasanton shut down its remaining water wells after discovering the chemicals existed there as well. Councilmembers, staff and consultants talked through various solutions on how to address the issue long-term.

In the Tri-Valley, PFAS contamination has been a growing concern for several years. The groundwater contamination is believed to have primarily originated from the use of firefighting foams containing PFAS at the nearby Camp Parks military base and firefighting training facilities.

PFAS are a class of human-made chemicals used in a wide range of industrial and consumer products due to their heat-resistant and water-repellent properties. The history of PFAS dates back to the 1930s when researchers first discovered the unique properties of perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), which is one of the most common and well-known PFAS compounds.

Throughout the 1950s and 1960s, the use of PFAS compounds continued to grow as more and more industries began to recognize their unique properties. At the time, PFAS were considered a technological breakthrough because of their unique properties such as being water-resistant and non-stick.

However, as early as the 1960s, studies began to emerge showing that exposure to PFAS could be linked to a range of health problems, including cancer, developmental issues and immune system dysfunction. Despite this, companies that

produced and used PFAS continued to downplay or deny the risks associated with these chemicals. These substances are known to be persistent in the environment and can accumulate in human and animal tissues, posing significant health risks.

In some cases, companies actively covered up the health risks of PFAS by suppressing research that showed the dangers of these chemicals.

In the 1980s, DuPont began receiving reports of health problems among workers at its Teflon plant in Parkersburg, W.V., but failed to notify regulators or the public. The company also allegedly conducted secret studies that showed the toxic effects of PFAS but did not disclose the results.

Another multinational company, 3M, was accused of covering up the health risks of PFAS in the 1990s. It was discovered that the company had known for decades about the potential dangers of PFOA, a PFAS-compound that was used in the production of Teflon. In 2018, the company reached a settlement with the Minnesota Attorney General's Office, in which it agreed to pay \$850 million to be invested in drinking water and natural resource projects in the Twin Cities

east metropolitan region.

In addition, California has taken steps to reduce the exposure to PFAS amongst its citizens. In 2020, California passed a law that banned the use of PFAS in firefighting foam for training purposes, as well as in food packaging for certain products such as microwave popcorn bags and takeout containers.

The law also required manufacturers to disclose the use of PFAS in cosmetics and personal care products. The state has also established drinking water standards for PFAS and requires public water systems to regularly test for these chemicals.

The legacy of PFAS usage has harmful consequences and companies that manufacture these chemicals have failed to hold up their end of the social bargain. However, recent efforts by our state and local governments have provided a strong push in the direction of correcting past wrongs for our future health. ■

Editor's note: Monith Ilavarasan is a Pleasanton native and Amador Valley High School alum who works in the tech industry and has experience as a community organizer. His "Notes on the Valley" blog appears online every Wednesday morning at PleasantonWeekly.com.

LETTERS

On Wilcox's March 3 column

Gina Channell Wilcox's Around the Valley column on March 3 left out facts about the Pleasanton City Council vote to drop the plan to reroute Kottinger Creek from the master plan for Delucchi and Lions Wayside Parks.

Ms. Wilcox didn't reveal that the plan to reroute the creek would cost \$14 million and didn't mention that the council does plan to spend \$1.9 million to rebuild the bandstand and make other improvements.

She criticized councilmembers for

spending \$2 million to restore the Century House without fully funding park improvements. In fact, that \$2 million came from surplus money.

Later she wrote, "I can't help but wonder if the decision was influenced by friends of the majority. For example, Christine Bourg, who thanked the council during an August meeting for funding the Century House project, lives on Second Street." This statement is illogical.

Just because I live on Second Street and am friends with some of the councilmembers has nothing to do with the park vote. I never spoke to any councilmember about the park plan, yet the article implies that I influenced them. Reading this,

residents might conclude that I bear some responsibility for the no vote. I was never contacted by Ms. Wilcox to check her facts.

I called Ms. Wilcox after the article appeared. She said that she may have "extrapolated" that I influenced the park decision. She also agreed that \$14 million was too much for the city to pay for creek rerouting, but this wasn't included in her article.

I asked her to clarify that I did not influence the council's decision. Ms. Wilcox agreed to do so in her next column.

—Christine Bourg

(Editor's note: A central theme to the March 3 column was that the council majority scrapped the master plan concept as opposed to sending it back to staff for a way to lower the costs.)

Wonderful Pleasanton

The city of Pleasanton is lucky to have such a wonderful downtown and space to host concerts. Whether the city should spend a couple million to revamp the stage and pave a parking lot where Express Liquors used to be or to spend \$10 million or more to completely remodel the park and relocate a creek is a matter of City Council priority.

It was discussed openly and their logic for voting the way they did was apparent and does not invite one to wonder. But I can't help but wonder why your March 3 column gratuitously added my name in a speculative way and suggested I influenced that decision. I can't help but wonder

why you didn't satisfy your curiosity by contacting me directly.

Had you asked, you would have learned that I had absolutely zero conversations or communication with anyone on council or city staff about that issue, publicly or privately. As you didn't, I'm left to answer questions from fellow citizens and neighbors on an issue I had no involvement in.

If your comments directed at me have to do with the PUSD site in the Housing Element, let me be crystal clear and repeat what you could have heard me say by attending the public meeting.

The PUSD site is different than every other site in the Housing Element, as that land ultimately belongs to the people, the taxpayers. The people should have more of a say in what happens on that site. Nearly all comments received, including those from members of the district who appeared at the planning commission meeting agreed and prioritized teacher housing.

My comments at the meeting and recommendation was to zone for a lower density at the PUSD site with the option to increase the density once a suitable plan for teacher housing was submitted.

Attracting and retaining talented, happy, and motivated educators and school staff by offering workforce housing should be a top priority for every person who has a stake in that piece of land. If you are reading this and you pay taxes — that means you.

—Matthew Gaidos

Pleasanton Weekly

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The Pleasanton Weekly is published every Friday by Embarcadero Media, 5506 Sunol Blvd., Suite 203, Pleasanton, CA 94566; (925) 600-0840.

Mailed at Periodicals Postage Rate, USPS 020407.

The Pleasanton Weekly is mailed upon request to homes and apartments in Pleasanton. However, in order to continue delivering you the news you depend on, we encourage you to become a paid subscribing member. Go to www.PleasantonWeekly.com/subscribe to start supporting the Pleasanton Weekly today.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Pleasanton Weekly, 5506 Sunol Blvd., Suite 203, Pleasanton, CA 94566.

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TAKE US ALONG



Full of hot air: From left: Pleasanton residents Allan Freebody, David Manzi, Patty Manzi, Jerry Rosenblatt, Carol Rosenblatt and Kay Fogarty took the Weekly to the hot air balloon races in Reno.

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



PLEASANTON PREPS

By DENNIS MILLER

Amador wrestling coach Chubb's status for next season still up in the air

District says he's eligible for rehire after miscommunication, but final decision lies with principal

By DENNIS MILLER

One week after we found out about the controversy regarding whether Amador Valley wrestling coach Travis Chubb would be rehired for next year, the picture may have cleared some.

I talked with Chubb this Monday afternoon trying to get a clarification of the timeline of events. Chubb, who was somewhat reluctant — and justifiably so — to talk about all aspects, was able to give us some idea of what happened.

To set the background, Amador and Foothill athletic coaches are hired on a yearly contract basis, meaning their employment expires at the end of the school year. The contracts are almost always renewed with little to no fanfare, something I have confirmed with coaches and officials at both campuses.

But this one went south shortly after the wrestling season ended.

On the Tuesday following the CIF State Wrestling Championships on Feb. 23-25, Chubb told me he got a text from Amador Valley coordinator of operations Alphonso Powell asking for a meeting. One of the several hats Powell wears is athletic director.

"I said OK, and went to the school," Chubb said. "He told me that the district had decided to go in a different direction for the wrestling coach. Alphonso couldn't give me a reason why."

Chubb left the school with a range of emotions as he had to resign himself to not leading the Amador program any longer.

Then he met with the team later in the week after taking a couple days to digest everything. "I let the kids know I wasn't being brought back and I could see the hurt in their faces," Chubb said. "At that point, I knew I had to fight this."

Parent groups mobilized at Amador — I got a bundle of emails — all supporting Chubb. They were sent to local media, as well as PUSD and Amador.

On the following Monday, Chubb was summoned to the district offices for a meeting that included Mike Williams (senior director for human resources for PUSD) and Amador principal Jonathan Fey.

"I was told by Mike Williams it

was all a miscommunication," Chubb said. "I was told by the D.O. that I was eligible to be rehired in July."

Chubb said he was also told he had the greenlight to start offseason conditioning for the wrestlers, as well as permission to hold the wrestling banquet.

The final decision for 2023-24, according to Chubb, lies with Fey.

To the surprise of no one, Chubb has taken the high road.

"As far as I am concerned, it's in a good spot right now," Chubb said. "I am looking forward to the future."

I am trying to be optimistic this is the case. Chubb has done a tremendous job building a family in the Amador wrestling program. He has also put in time at Harvest Park Middle School with the wrestling program.

There are reasons to be confident, but does anyone else think something doesn't add up?

At the very least an explanation should be forthcoming as to why Powell would say what he did to Chubb. Are we to believe that the athletic director randomly told a coach that the district was moving on from him, without any conversation with the principal or district office?

This is the person who oversees athletics, as well as other operations around the school. Shouldn't that person be competent enough to know what he is supposed to be saying to coaches or other staff?

I find it unnerving and worrisome, but it appears as for now, we are stuck waiting for July to hear the final decision from Fey if Chubb will be leading the Amador program.

Let's hope for the athletes he is.

Foothill boys' volleyball

The Falcons started the East Bay Athletic League season off in fine form, winning a pair of big matches.

The week started with a win over San Ramon Valley, followed by a thriller over Dublin.

Highlights against the Wolves came from Tyler Keala (13 kills, 5 digs), Zach Seraj (9 kills, 9 digs), Landen Meonske (18 assists, 6 digs, 4 kills) and Noah Mitzenmacher (12 digs). Leading the way against the Gaels were Meonske (32 assists, 3 kills, 3 aces), Keala (14 kills, 8 service points),

Kayan Vohra (6 kills, 2 blocks) and Caden Stedman (3 kills, 3 blocks).

Amador boys' volleyball

The defending EBAL champs stubbed their toes a bit right out of the gate, falling to Dublin before rebounding with a win over Livermore.

In the defeat, the Dons were led by Max Riter (12 kills, 8 digs), Luke Melvin (9 kills), Colin Bowers

(16 assists), Jackson Mello (7 service points) and Stanford-bound Nate Clinton (2 blocks).

Against Livermore the leaders were Nick Nayak (8 kills), Bryce Nohava (16 assists, 5 digs), Spencer Thiel (5 blocks), Parker Brookhart (8 digs) and Melvin (10 digs, 3 aces).

Amador boys' lacrosse

The Dons split their two games last week, beating Las Lomas but falling to Bishop O'Dowd.

In a 18-7 win over Las Lomas, Sebastian Diligent (10 goals, 1 assist), Will Coultrip (5 goals, 7 assists) and Hunter Selkow (3 goals, 3 assists) led the offense. For the defense, Matteo Gervasoni, Noah Awad and Tommy Balestreri played well.

In the 6-2 loss to O'Dowd, Diligent scored both goals. Braden O'Donnell and Alec Smith played well.

Foothill boys' lacrosse

The Falcons went on the road last week and dropped a 6-5 loss to

Berkeley in overtime.

Mikey Paulson turned in a strong game in the goal, making six saves to keep the game close. AJ Becker scored a pair of goals, with Graham Zander going coast-to-coast to add another. Wyatt Lam and Darrin Lam added goals, and Tyler Walsh had three assists. Jake Morgan, Zander, Josh Taylor and Jake Clevenger played well too.

Amador Valley tennis

The Dons pulled out a tough, 5-3 win over Dougherty Valley with one match suspended due to darkness.

Amador got wins in singles from Bryan Park, Minsung Kim, James Heeter and Roy Kim. In doubles play, the Dons got the win from the team of Case Bahl and Bhavik Singhal to clinch the team victory. ■

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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ADAM CLARK PHOTOGRAPHY

Granada boys' basketball team and coaching staff after receiving their second-place medals and trophy at the CIF State D-I Basketball Championships on March 10.

Granada falls to Notre Dame in state basketball title game

NorCal champion Matadors turn in valiant effort in 67-58 loss at Golden 1 Center

By DENNIS MILLER

The Granada boys' basketball team took on a loaded Notre Dame (Sherman Oaks) team in the CIF State Division I title game last Friday, with the Matadors putting in a valiant effort before falling 67-58 at Golden 1 Center in Sacramento.

The game started tight with the squad from Livermore trailing

only 18-14 at the end of the first quarter. Notre Dame gradually built a larger lead in the second quarter and took a 39-27 advantage into the half.

At one point in the third quarter, Granada trailed 42-27 but cut it to 48-40 at the end of three. Notre Dame opened the final quarter strong and ran the lead out to 57-40, but the Mats came back to as close as eight points.

Notre Dame, playing with at least two future Division I college players, were able to keep the Mats from getting any closer.

Caleb Foster, bound for Duke, finished with a state record 33 points for Notre Dame. Mercy Miller, a junior who has committed to Houston, added 17 points for ND.

Tyler Harris had 17 points and 10 rebounds for Granada, while St. Mary's-bound Andrew McKeever turned in a strong effort before fouling out in the fourth quarter.

The Mats' dream run this season included earning the Northern California championship by defeating Salesian 60-47 on March 7. ■

Entertainment

SUNOL REPERTORY THEATRE Sunol Repertory Theatre presents *Caught in the Villain's Gaze*, written and directed by Tom Harland. March 17-18; 24-25. Tickets \$20. Visit sunol.net/srt

XANADU AT LAS POSITAS COLLEGE This fun and funky show is a roller-skating musical journey inspired by the 1980 movie of the same name and is guaranteed to have audiences tapping their toes and singing along. March 17-19; 24-26. Visit showtix4u.com/event-details/69147.

BRIAN COPELAND: GRANDMA AND ME Through laughter and tears, Copeland compares and contrasts the trials of single parenting in the 1970s and the dawn of the 21st century as he tries to answer the question, What does it truly mean to be a father? 8 p.m., March 18.

Tickets \$15-\$30. Visit firehousearts.org.

CALICELTIC AT THE FIREHOUSE With their lively blend of original and traditional Irish songs, CaliCeltic guarantees you'll be at the best Paddy's Day show you've ever seen. 8 p.m., March 18. Tickets \$15-\$25. Visit firehousearts.org.

DEL VALLE FINE ARTS PRESENTS MUSICA PACIFICA This Bay Area treasure is one of America's premier baroque ensembles featured on NPR with eight CD's. 7:30 p.m., March 18. Tickets \$35-\$55. Visit livermorearts.org.

VALLEY CONCERT CHORALE Valley Concert Chorale Celebrates its 60th Season with Choral Currents: Celebrating American Composers. 7:30 p.m., March 18, Asbury United Methodist Church, Livermore; 4 p.m., March 19, Trinity Lutheran Church, Pleasanton. Visit valleyconcertchorale.org.

BANKHEAD PRESENTS SOMOS AMIGOS Friendship is at the heart of this joyful collaboration between Mexican songstress Sonia De Los Santos and the Americana folk duo, The Okee Dokee Brothers. 3 p.m., March 19. Tickets \$20-\$40. Visit livermorearts.org.

THE FABULOUS THUNDERBIRDS For over 30 years, The Fabulous Thunderbirds have been the quintessential American band with a distinctive and powerful sound, influenced by a diversity of musical styles. 8 p.m., March 19. Tickets \$20-\$75. Visit livermorearts.org.

RONSTADT REVUE AT THE BANKHEAD Ronstadt Revue, performed in in both English and Spanish, span every musical genre of Ms. Ronstadt's career. 7:30 p.m., March 22. Tickets \$20-\$44. Visit livermorearts.org.

HONK! JR. AT THE FIREHOUSE This heartwarming celebration of being different is sure to delight audiences of all ages with sparkling wit, unique charm and a memorable score. March 24-26; March 31-April 2. Tickets \$10. Visit firehousearts.org.

BANKHEAD PRESENTS PETER WHITE Peter White has maintained a reputation as one of the most versatile and prolific acoustic guitarists in the contemporary jazz landscape with an unparalleled

PET OF THE WEEK



EAST BAY SPCA

Rollie back again

Classically handsome, tons of fun, and smart as a whip? Yeah, I guess you could say I've got it all! Hi there, I'm Rollie. I'm a lean, mean, ball-chasing machine on a mission to find my forever home. Walking, hiking, jogging — I'm always up for an outing. I'm super food-motivated and already have a pretty impressive "sit" and "down". I'd love to learn a few more skills with you. I've been at East Bay SPCA for a whole year. Will my new family come and get me?! Visit eastbayspca.org.

combination of lyricism and energy. 8 p.m., March 25. Tickets \$20-\$80. Visit livermorearts.org.

THE FOUR SEASONS OF BUENOS AIRES Experience the passionate Nuevo Tango of Piazzolla's The Four Seasons of Buenos Aires. 3 p.m., March 26. Tickets \$66.00. Visit livermorearts.org.

AN AFTERNOON OR EVENING WITH ROBERT F. KENNEDY The Ed Kinney Speaker Series presents An Afternoon or Evening with Robert F. Kennedy. Hear his passionate views on the state of our country, its place in the world and our arc toward the future. 2 p.m. and 7

p.m., March 28. Firehouse Arts Center. Visit museumonmain.org.

BEST OF SF COMEDY COMPETITION Back at the Bankhead by popular demand, a new group of competition winners will take the stage for only one reason, to make you laugh. 8 p.m., March 31. Tickets \$20-\$45. Visit livermorearts.org.

Family

DUBLIN ST. PATRICK'S DAY CELEBRATION The 39th St. Patrick's Day Celebration has everything from traditional Irish folk music to Celtic Rock and bagpipes, and an Irish menu and marketplace. 10 a.m.- 5 p.m., March 18-19, held rain or shine. Dublin Civic Center, 100 Civic Plaza.

BISHOP RANCH HOLI CELEBRATION Holi marks the arrival of spring and is a vibrant, and colorful Indian celebration. Enjoy the throwing of colors, traditional dance performances, music and delicious food surrounded by family and friends. 2-4 p.m., March 26.

EASTER BUNNY AT STONERIDGE MALL The Easter Bunny is hopping into town at Stoneridge Shopping Center and reservations are encouraged for a Bunny Photo Experience. March 10-April 8. Visit bunnyphoto.splashthat.com.

Veterans

PLEASANTON MILITARY FAMILIES PACKOUT March Easter/Spring Packout. Prepack 3:30-6:00 p.m., March 17; Care package event, 8:45 a.m., March 18. Veterans Memorial Building, 301 Main St. pleasantonmilitaryfamilies.org.

VA MEDICAL OUTREACH The VA Palo Alto Health Care System's mobile medical outreach van will be at the Livermore Civic Center Library parking lot where Medical providers will be onsite to provide examinations, consultations, and referrals to veterans enrolled in the VA Palo Alto Health Care System. 10 a.m.-1 p.m., March 23.

VETERANS EVENT Pleasanton Library will host the VA Palo Alto Mobile Medical Outreach team to facilitate examinations, consultations and referrals for enrolled veterans. The

Public Notices

COAX CONSULTING
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 595520

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

1.) COAX CONSULTING, located at 6806 CORTE NUEVO, PLEASANTON, CA 94566, Alameda County.

This business is conducted by: an Individual.

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

STEVEN H. MOGAN

6806 CORTE NUEVO

PLEASANTON, CA 94566

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 February 10 2023.

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

DVB INSURANCE SERVICES
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 596190

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

1.) DVB Insurance Services, located at 344 Division St #209, Pleasanton, CA 94566, Alameda County.

This business is conducted by: a Limited Liability Company.

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

DIABLO VALLEY BENEFITS, LLC

344 Division St #209

Pleasanton, CA 94566

California

Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 11-1-13.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on March 09 2023.

(PLW Mar 17, 24, 31 and Apr 7, 2023)

CABLETECHS
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 594947

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

1.) CableTechs, located at 1437 Kolln St., Pleasanton, CA, 94566, Alameda County.

This business is conducted by: an Individual.

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

SCOTT CHESLEY

1437 Kolln St.,

Pleasanton, CA 94566

Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A.

This statement was filed with the County

Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on January 24 2023.

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

RIDGECREST CONSTRUCTION & REMODEL DESIGN
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 596136

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

1.) Ridgecrest Construction & Remodel Design, located at 10617 Altamont Pass Rd. Livermore, CA 94551, Alameda County.

This business is conducted by: an Individual.

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

HENRY BATTEATE

10617 Altamont Pass Rd.

Livermore, CA 94551

Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 03/01/2023

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on March 08 2023.

(PLW Mar 17, 24, 31 and Apr 7, 2023)

PLEASANTON 100% HAND CAR WASH
PLEASANTON CAR WASH
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 595656

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

1.) PLEASANTON 100% HAND CAR WASH, 2.) PLEASANTON CAR WASH, located at 4005 PIMILCO DRIVE, PLEASANTON CA 94588, ALAMEDA COUNTY.

This business is conducted by: a Corporation.

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

PLEASANTON CAR WASH, INC

4005 PIMILCO DRIVE,

PLEASANTON, CA 94588

CALIFORNIA

Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 01/01/2002

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on February 17 2023.

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

The Pleasanton Weekly is adjudicated to publish in Alameda County.

The deadline is Sunday at 11:59 pm.

Visit PleasantonWeekly.com/legal_notices/

For assistance email LegalNotices@PleasantonWeekly.com.

THE CITY OF PLEASANTON

HIGHLIGHTS

City Council Meeting
Tuesday, March 21, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.

The meeting will be held at the City Council Chamber – 200 Old Bernal Ave., via video/teleconference and will be broadcast live on Channel 29 and at <https://www.tri-valleytv.org> and <https://www.youtube.com/user/TheCityofPleasanton>.

- Consider (1) A resolution adopting a CEQA Addendum; (2) Introducing an Ordinance to approve a planned unit development (PUD) Plan (PUD-136) to construct 360 multi-family apartment units and waive first reading; and (3) A resolution approving an Affordable Housing Agreement, for a project located at 1008 Stoneridge Mall Road
- Bi-annual update to the City Council regarding Police Department operations, services and activities
- Review and consider the results of the Police Department Community Survey
- (1) Receive annual military equipment use report for 2022; (2) Introduce and waive first reading of an ordinance amending Ordinance No. 2238 to amend the Pleasanton Police Department's military equipment use policy to add equipment to the policy's military equipment inventory; and (3) Adopt a Resolution accepting the Annual Military Use Report for 2022; Determining that the Police Department's use of military equipment in 2022 complied with the standards of approval; and renewing the Military Equipment Use Policy
- Review proposed process change to the Capital Improvement project budgeting and provide direction to staff

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

drop-in event will run from 10 a.m.-1 p.m., March 27, in the library parking lot.

Exhibits

IMAGINATION EXPRESSED 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. Through March 25. 603 Main St.

BAY AREA FIGURATIVE EXHIBIT This exhibition highlights the significance of the Bay Area Figurative Movement showcasing a number of contemporary artists working in this unique style. Through April 23. Bankhead Theater.

FIREHOUSE LOBBY EXHIBITION After the Storm features nine of artist Angelica Turner's works, including the lush botanical motifs for which she is known. Through April 8.

Seniors

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.

LUNCHEAS AT THE PLEASANTON SENIOR CENTER For (60+) served in the Main Hall, 11:45 a.m.-12:45 p.m., Mondays through Fridays. 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-ride transportation service for Pleasanton Seniors. For reservations and information call 925-398-1045.

Festivals

ST. PATRICK'S DAY BREW CRAWL Downtown Pleasanton will turn green for the 10th annual St. Patrick's Day Brew Crawl where downtown merchants and breweries come together for a fun and memorable night of beer tasting. 5-8 p.m., March 18. Tickets \$50. Visit pleasantondowntown.net.

FOAM GLOW AT THE FAIRGROUNDS Foam Glow is the world's largest glowing foam run and dance party. Light up the night in this 5K course and dance under high-intensity black lights. 7:15-10 p.m., March 18. Visit alamedacountyfair.com.

LIVERMORE VALLEY HOSTS BARREL TASTING WEEKEND Livermore Valley Wine Community is set to host its annual Barrel Tasting Weekend where 15 local wineries open their doors to attendees to sample wines that are still in development right out of the barrel. 4:30 p.m., March

18-19. \$15-\$25. Visit visitrivalley.com/events.

INTERNATIONAL WEDDING FESTIVAL AT THE FAIRGROUNDS This one-stop shop features an array of top professionals' fun ideas, products and services all in one place. 11 a.m.-3 p.m., March 19. Visit alamedacountyfair.com.

GOODGUYS AT THE FAIRGROUNDS America's Favorite Car Show returns to the Fairgrounds for its 40th anniversary season of cool cars, cool people and good times featuring American made and powered show cars and trucks. March 25-26. Visit alamedacountyfair.com.

Scholarships

LAS POSITAS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The program provides students with full tuition for up to two years, an annual stipend of up to \$1000 for books and school supplies, complimentary parking permits each term and personal use of a new laptop computer. Program application deadline is March 24. Visit laspositascollege.edu/presidentsscholars/index.php.

ROTARY CLUB OF PLEASANTON SCHOLARSHIPS The Rotary Club of Pleasanton invites high school seniors attending any high school in Pleasanton to apply for its \$40,000 worth of scholarships for students

in financial need in 2023. Guidelines and applications are available online at pleasantonrotary.org. Apply by March 31.

Government

PLEASANTON CITY COUNCIL The next regular Pleasanton City Council Meeting is 7 p.m., March 21. Visit cityofpleasantonca.gov.

PLEASANTON PLANNING COMMISSION The Pleasanton Planning Commission meets the second and fourth Wednesday of the month. The next meeting is 7 p.m., March 22. Visit cityofpleasantonca.gov.

PLEASANTON UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT Regular Board meetings

of the Pleasanton Unified School District are scheduled the second and fourth Thursday of each month and are open to the public. The next meeting is 6 p.m., March 23. Visit pleasantonusd.net.

LIVERMORE PLANNING COMMISSION The Livermore Planning Commission meets the first and third Tuesday of the month. The next meeting is 7 p.m., March 21. Visit cityoflivermore.net.

LIVERMORE VALLEY JOINT UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT The next meeting of the Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District is 7 p.m., March 21 at the District Office, 685 East Jack London Blvd. Visit livermoreschools.org.

Employment

To place an ad please email digitalads@pawebly.com.

Senior Tax Accountant

Baker Tilly U.S, LLP seeks Senior Tax Accountant in Pleasanton, CA to review tax returns, tax provisions & tax consulting projects. Yearly comp. ranges from \$107,723 - \$113,840. Actual comp. influenced by a variety of factors including but not limited to skills, experience, qualifications, & geographic location. Apply @ <https://www.jobpostingtoday.com/#40327>.

STAFF BIOLOGIST

Provide soil testing, including compressive strength testing to determine maximum load. Provide testing to determine steel corrosion in reinforced concrete. Must have Bachelor's in Biology and 2 yrs. exp. Salary range: \$66,000 - \$68,000 per year. Apply to: ATTN: HR, Construction Testing Services, Inc., 2118 Rheem Dr., Pleasanton, CA 94588

Lead Regional Support Engineer

Eaton Corporation – Pleasanton, CA. Lead Regional Support Engineer. Follow customer specifications and Power Systems Controls (PSC) standards for project implementation in support of PSC engineers. Up to 25% travel to customer sites. Pos. is fixed based in Pleasanton office; telecommuting from a home office loc. within commutable distance is permitted. Salary: \$157,500 - \$161,000/year. Annual base salary only, not inclusive of OT. or other incentives. Send resume to https://eaton.taleo.net/careersection/conf_ex/jobdetail.ft!?job=139237, Requisition: 139237.

Senior Software Engineer (Multiple Positions)

MS. Deg. in CIS., CS., w/ 1 yr. exp.; Dev. Appl. using Agile Scrum & behavior-driven dev. Meth., Tomcat, REST, Kafka, STS, Spring Security, OAuth2 & JWT; Migrate legacy appl. to ent. microservice appl. using Java, J2EE Spring, Spring Boot & JAX-RS; Exp. on Cloud based arch., comp. & impl. in PCF & AWS; Dev. query Eng. Frame. to opt. JPA act. using DB metadata; Dev. role-based auth. & multi-level app. flow using JDK & spring framework; Dev. SQL (DB) & opt. PLSQL scripts & perf. Opt.; Build devops pipeline & dep. Appl. using Gradle & Jenkins pipelines; Use Github & confluence manage appl. Dev. & doc.; Dev. JUnit & mock Test cases using Junit, integration testing, JMock & Mockito frameworks; Des., code, test, qual. Assu. of prod. Feat. in a dev. team; Dev.framework for comp. re-usability on User interf. using HTML, CSS, TypeScript & AngularJS; Des. Bus. logic using lucidchart/swagger API & pres. to arch. teams for app. Must be willing to trav &/or relo to work in unanticipated locations t/o the US. No Telecommuting. Salary \$158080. Send res to Noetic Information Systems LLC, 5776 Stoneridge Mall Road, Suite # 255, Pleasanton, CA-94588.

Senior Software Engineer

Senior Software Engineer, MS. Deg. in Info. Tech. & Comp., CS. w/ 1 yr. of exp.; Inv. in build. GUI using JSF, JSP, JavaScript, HTML, & CSS; Use MVC archit. Frame. like Struts to impl. user interfaces; Impl. Valid. & tiles for web pages using struts valid. Fram.; Use Java, & Spring for writ. Web srv.; Perf. Test. phases incl. Unit test. & write Test cases; Use SonarQube for cov. & code qual.; Write SQL queries for bus. logic & to retr. data used to gen. rep.; Dev. JUnit test cases for use cases & exe. them; Create & impl. TIBCO EMS arch. across ent. using rout. Tech. & MQ., Database & File Adapter; Wrk. on active.; (EMS, XML Parser, Shared conf. Reso., & Bus. Proc. Des. Wrk. Wrk. on RESTful srv. & des. Patt. using Spring MVC; Use mess. Std; (JMS & TIBCO EMS) for dev. Dist. Appl.; Wrk. on Azure DevOps for w.rk mngt. and to create & maintain CICD pipelines; Write & mod. database stored proc., func., & SQL Scripts; Build DEV Envir. from scratch & follow. Thr. to TEST & Prod. Deploy. Must be willing to travel &/or relocate to work in unanticipated locations throughout the US. No Telecommuting. Salary \$158080. Send res to Noetic Information Systems LLC, 5776 Stoneridge Mall Road, Suite # 255, Pleasanton, CA-94588.

Sr. Quality Engineer

Sr. Quality Engineer, MS. Deg. in CS., Info. Studies w/ 1 year of exp.; Main. data related tech. incl. rel. data. (SQL Srvr., PostgreSQL.), NoSQL db., dist. cache, & full text search eng.; Man. Salesforce.com dev. Envir. which incl. Cust., Std. Obj., wrkflows., triggers, SOQL & SOSL; Man. & Wrk. w/ diff. types of server. tools, AWS serv. of DMS, SDK, Glue, Athena, & QuickSight; Main. cloud appl. using pub. cloud srcv; (MS Azure Cloud srcv., Virtual Networks, Storage, Azure Active Dir.); Lead act. to dev., docu. & main. Arch., req., algo., interf., des. for soft. Syst. & dev. of code; Main. data warehouse dev. using tools; (SQL, Oracle, Linux/UNIX, IBM DataStage (Infosphere), and/or Java (Spring)). Must be willing to trav &/or relocate to work in unanticipated los throughout the US. No Telecommuting. Salary \$161491. Send res to Noetic Information Systems LLC, 5776 Stoneridge Mall Road, Suite # 255, Pleasanton, CA-94588.

Senior Software Engineer

Senior Software Engineer, MS. Deg. in CS, CIS w/ 2 yr. of exp.; Coll. Req. from bus. users; Dev. Soft. comp. using data struc. & algor. using Java/J2EE & techn.; Impl. UI appl. using Angular & Vue JS; Build & depl. Sec. Restful APIs using Spring Boot, JAX-RS, Apache CXF & Mongo DB; Build & dep. Perf.-ori. Appl. using Spring Web Flux, Mongo DB & Netty Server; Build appl. using Jboss Drools Rules Eng.; Use auth. & auth. Techn; OAuth 2.0, JAAS, Rest Sec. & Web srvs.; Use Rabbit MQ & Kafka for build.scal. appl.; Wrk. on def. mngt. tools like IBM clear quest & JIRA; Write test cases using JUnits, TestNG & Karate API auto. Frame.; Man. cont. integ. & deploy. build pipel. setup & use Jenkins, Ansible & Kubernetes; Use IDE tools like Eclipse, IntelliJ IDEA, scrip. Lang. like Groovy & Shell scrip.; Wrk. on diff. platf. like Mac OS, Linux & Windows ope. Sys.; use APM tools like App dynamics, Dynatrace to mon. appl. Perf. metrics; Work with MySQL, Cassandra & Mongo DB for DB ope. & mig. data across data bases. Must be willing to trav &/or relocate to work in unanticipated locations t/o the US. No Telecommuting. Salary \$158080. Send res to Noetic Information Systems LLC, 5776 Stoneridge Mall Road, Suite # 255, Pleasanton, CA-94588

Walker & Dunlop finances San Ramon properties

Deal complete for \$70 million for two Gale Ranch apartment complexes

By JEANITA LYMAN

Recently completed financing at two housing developments in San Ramon's Gale Ranch neighborhood by the national multifamily financing company Walker & Dunlop marks its first foray into the San Ramon Valley, with the two properties and the city itself landing on the company's radar due to a number of attractive features.

Members of the company's Affordable Team, led by managing director Jeff Kearns, secured \$46 million in financing for the 256-unit Falcon Bridge development and \$23 million for the 186-unit Valencia development in a deal that was announced last month.

"As incomes fail to keep up with rent increases and the supply of affordable multifamily options remains limited, the nationwide demand for affordable housing continues to increase," Kearns said in the announcement. "We are confident that this community will continue to provide a high-quality living for working families in this growing market."

Kearns told the Weekly that while the move was the company's first in San Ramon, the city and other portions of the Tri-Valley had been on their radar for some time, given their existing presence in the Bay Area and East Bay.

"We're active in the East Bay already, so San

Ramon was kind of a natural market for us to keep doing business in," Kearns said.

For San Ramon and the two Gale Ranch developments in particular, Kearns said that stability and reliability made them attractive investments as well as valuable to Bay Area residents overall. Falcon Bridge is located on Copperset Road, and Valencia is on Goldenbay Avenue.

"San Ramon I think has proven to be a pretty reliable bedroom community for the East Bay and the Bay Area in general," Kearns said. "The cost of housing is so high as you get close into San Jose and San Francisco and Oakland MSAs (metropolitan statistical areas), and a client of mine was an early entrant into the San Ramon market and built out a large portion of that Gale Ranch community. And I think whether they were ... smart about predicting the future and how folks would need a sub-market that's affordable to them and still have not too far of a commute into town for work."

For Gale Ranch in particular, Kearns said that measures aimed at ensuring affordability and the partnership of the city were particularly key factors that set Gale Ranch up to meet residents' needs and ensure stable occupancy.

"I think the biggest draw was the fact that they have been built and stable and

performing well, fully leased for some time," Kearns said. "So when you're looking at a new loan request you look for a couple things. One is the stability of the asset over time, and this has proven to be a location that people are drawn to and occupy and like, and you don't see a lot of turnover in the project due to some fatal flaw in it."

"Stability of occupation, location and management, those are sort of the three that really drew us to these two properties," he added.

The emphasis on affordable housing and efforts to accommodate a range of income levels also put the recently completed financing into the hands of Kearns' and his team.

"When properties have a certain percentage of units that are dedicated to lower-income residents, that's when it falls into my group's area, and these had that," Kearns said.

While the news is exciting for Kearns' team, as well as the owners and operators of the two Gale Ranch properties, he acknowledged that multi-family financing and the mission of his team can be a somewhat opaque concept to laypeople.

"My kids never knew what I did for a living, and so I tried to liken it to a loan that you get for your house in the same way owners of apartment buildings need a debt to acquire, to build, and to refinance their properties in order to

maintain them and operate them and provide the living experience that the renter needs."

In the current housing market, Kearns said that some investors were particularly interested in properties with income-restrictions and other affordability measures, for the same reasons Walker & Dunlop had been drawn to Gale Ranch.

"Because there's such a demand, and arguably a supply and demand imbalance for apartments — there's not enough of them and people need them — that people know that they're good investments, that they're interested in lending money to a lot of apartment owners," Kearns said.

While San Ramon hadn't necessarily been a target for Kearns and his team, he said that the experience with the two Gale Ranch properties had put the San Ramon Valley and surrounding area keenly on their radar.

"We're very bullish on it and know that it's a great market now and will continue going forward," Kearns said. ■

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