

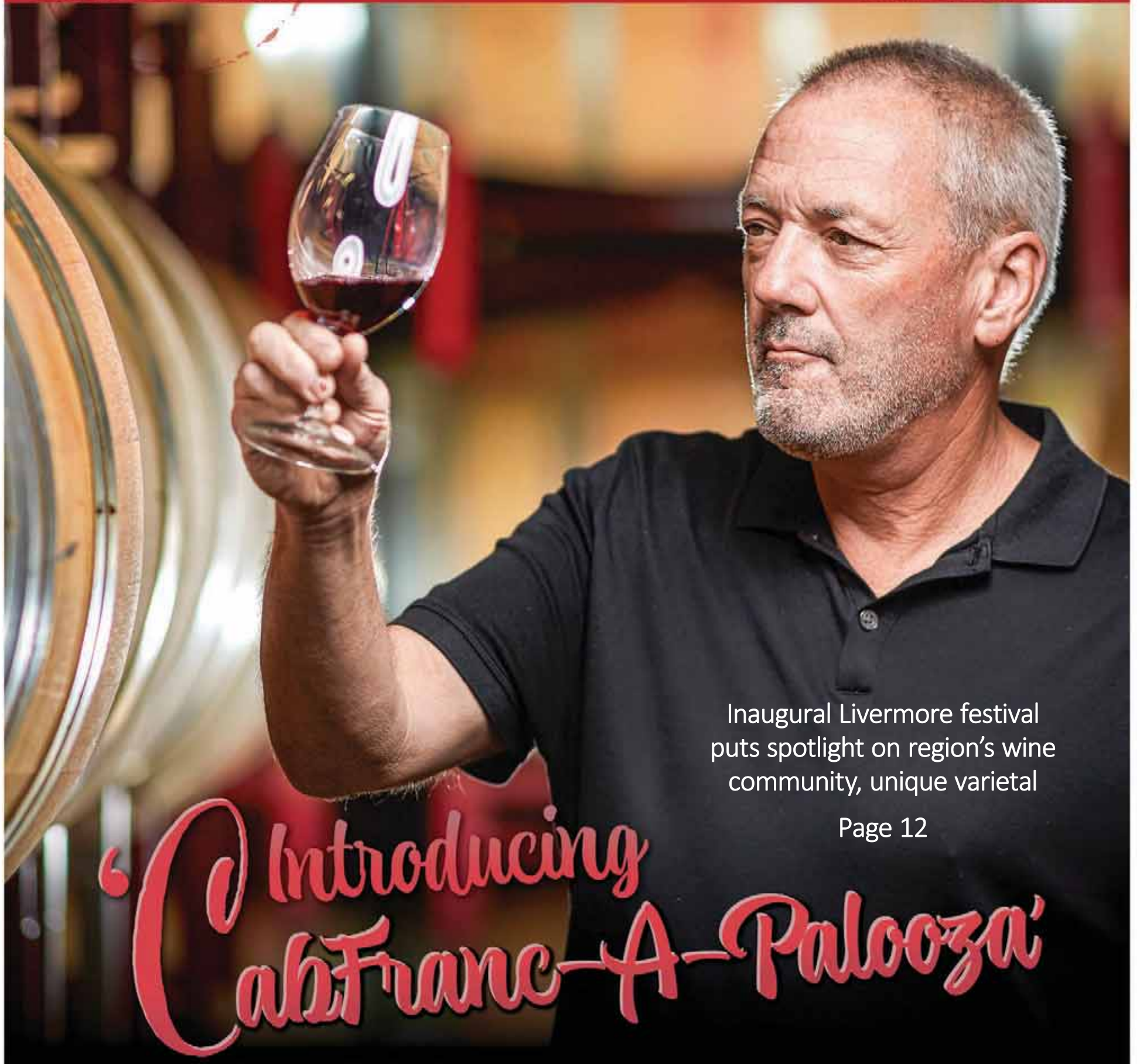
Pleasanton Weekly

City closing in on final budget

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Inaugural Livermore festival puts spotlight on region's wine community, unique varietal

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Introducing CabFranc-A-Palooza!

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- 18 | **SPORTS** Coach Bronzan inducted into Wrestling Hall of Fame

CAN YOU SPOT A STROKE?

BEFAST

Know when to go seek help.

BALANCE

Watch for a loss of balance.

EYES

Check for vision changes.

FACE

Look for a drooping face.

ARM

Check if one arm is weak.

SPEECH

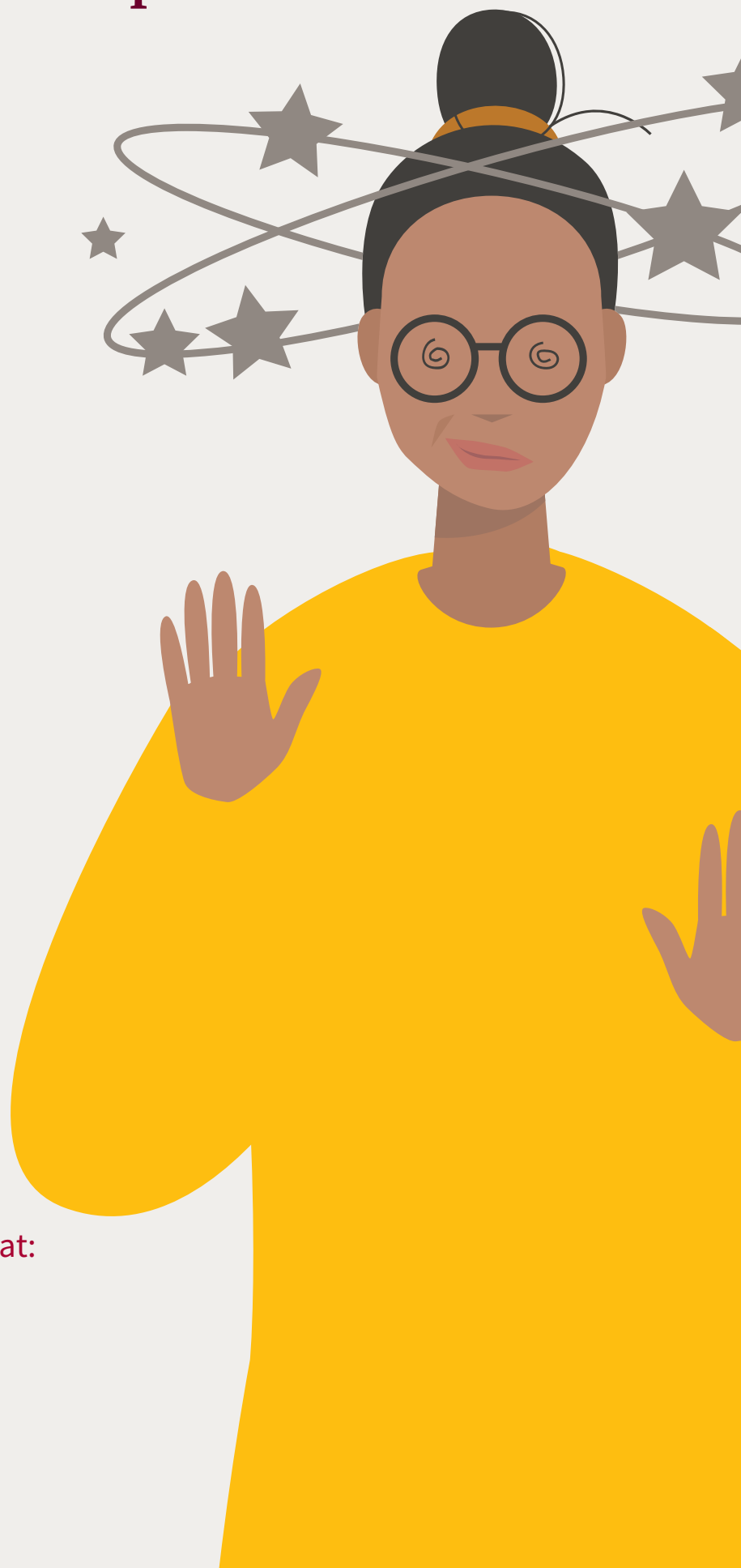
Listen for slurred speech.

TIME

CALL 911 right away.

Stroke is a serious medical emergency. If you or anyone is experiencing any of the above signs of stroke, **CALL 911**. Knowing how to identify the symptoms and responding immediately can save your life or the life of a loved one.

Learn more about how to spot a stroke at:
stanfordhealthcare.org/stroke



WHAT A WEEK



By JEREMY WALSH

What a season ahead

Livermore Valley Arts this week unveiled the 2023-24 lineup for its Bankhead Presents series of shows at the downtown entertainment venue. Eclectic barely begins to describe the list.

“There is a good mix of genres this year that will continue to bring high quality Arts programming to our community,” LVA Executive Director Chris Carter said in a statement. “If you asked me to pick just one or two shows on my list, I couldn’t do it — I’m excited for just about everything, I couldn’t pick!”

Id be right there with him (of course, nobody is really asking me though), but there is little doubt that next season’s schedule fits the bill for the theater LVA espouses as “an intimate space that performers and audiences alike treasure.”

Now I’ll be honest with you. I’ve been in and around the Bankhead Theater for work reasons plenty of times, but I’ve only seen one show there personally in my near-decade tenure with Embarcadero Media — a Tri-Valley Repertory Theatre rendition of the modern musical classic “Avenue Q.” What a stellar experience that was, thanks largely to the production’s embracing of the up-close-and-personal venue.

I just might have to make myself get out to the Bankhead more, looking at next season’s intriguing schedule.

LVA really jumps out of the gate strong with its September slate. The Brilliance at the Bankhead gala featuring Tony- and Emmy-winning performer Jason Alexander (of “Seinfeld” fame) opens the 2023-24 season on Sept. 9.

The major names then continue throughout the month: Five for Fighting, best known for the 2001 hit “Superman (It’s Not Easy)”, performs with a string quartet on Sept. 15 (and apparently he’s a solo singer-songwriter, not a band ... guess I am that naive); creative vocal legend Bobby McFerrin (“Don’t Worry, Be Happy”) performs the next night; and comedy favorite Amy Sedaris follows on Sept. 22.

There’s also the “Best of San Francisco Comedy Competition” at the Bankhead on Sept. 21, “When You Wish Upon a Star: A Jazz Tribute to 100 Years of Disney” on Sept. 29 and the opener of the Rae Dorough Speaker Series, television personality Kari Byron of “MythBusters” fame, on Sept. 28.

The other speakers in the annual Livermore series include health justice lawyer Priti Krishtel, music expert Scott Freiman presenting “Deconstructing The Beatles” and Dr. Aomawa Shields presenting “Life on Other Planets” (plus a fifth and final person yet to be announced).

I’m going to have to cherrypick from here because as much as I’d love to highlight all 50ish shows on the list, 700 words can only go so far.

Recognizable acts set to play include The Righteous Brothers on Oct. 11 and 12 (who doesn’t love their version of “Unchained Melody?”), John Tesh: Big Band Live on Oct. 22, Tony winner Brian Stokes Mitchell on Nov. 10, “Songs and Stories with Roger McGuinn” (of Byrds fame) on April 12 and Paula Cole on April 20 (her “I Don’t Want to Wait” and “Where Have All the Cowboys Gone?” stand out on any 1990s playlist).

The music of The Beatles and Johnny Cash are among the tribute shows on the docket. And don’t sleep on “Rising Voices” on Nov. 17, featuring up-and-comers Lizzie No, Buffalo Nichols and Sunny War.

Returning groups include Ballet Folklorico Mexicano de Carlos Moreno, Nava Dance Theatre, International Guitar Night, Funny Women of a Certain Age and Danú: Traditional Music of Ireland.

There will be “Napoleon Dynamite Live”, “History That Doesn’t Suck” (Bankhead Presents’ first time hosting live podcast), the American Ballet Theatre Studio Company, “Coco’ In Concert”, Big Bad Voodoo Daddy’s “Wild and Swingin’ Holiday Party”, “God is a Scottish Drag Queen”, a special free presentation by Livermore Lab Director Kim Budil and Livermore native Jason Lyle Black’s “From Blockbusters to Broadway: 100 Hits of Stage & Screen”.

Large theater productions will include “Cross That River, The Musical” in late fall and L.A. Theatre Works’ “A Weekend with Pablo Picasso” in late winter.

The Bankhead will also host resident companies with their own shows separate from the LVA’s “Presents” programming: Tri-Valley Rep, Cantabella Children’s Chorus, Del Valle Fine Arts, Livermore Valley Opera, Valley Dance Theatre, Valley Concert Chorale, Livermore-Amador Symphony and Pacific Chamber Orchestra.

Check out the list of shows for yourself at livermorearts.org. ■

About the Cover

Livermore Valley winemaker Steven Kent Mirassou is spearheading the inaugural four-day “CabFranc-A-Palooza”, set to arrive in the Tri-Valley from June 1-4. Photo courtesy Steven Kent Winery. Cover design by Doug Young.

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What is your biggest gripe with social media?



TJ McGrath
Retired

I have two major issues with social media, actually. First, it's really not "social" as I understand that term (face to face) — it just pretends to be. And second, it's impersonal, and can be very antisocial if you can't see the face and body language of the person who is communicating information over social media.



Daljeet Singh
Mixologist

I don't like that young children are exposed to so much information and imagery that they are not mature enough, mentally and/or physically, to see and process. I also don't like that social media is so calculated to show just bits and pieces of things, rather than the entire reality of the situation.



Jude Bischoff
Fine artist

I don't like that I spend way too much time staring at my phone, instead of doing my work and engaging with people in real time and in the same physical space and dimension.



Michelle Rockmael
Accounting assistant

I feel like social media creates a false sense of reality. Everyone looks as though they've just stepped out of a photo shoot for Vogue magazine. Obviously that can't possibly be the case in most instances, but many people don't realize that and try to live up to that same expectation, which is totally unreasonable and unattainable.



Shiry Zamir and Eri Kringel
Psychologist and HR manager

Social media has a way of making people feel as though the grass is always greener on the other side of the fence. This is a real thing and it makes people feel inadequate and as though they can't keep up. People base their own sense of self worth on what they see on social media. These feelings cause very real anxiety and depression to the level of being a legitimate psychological disorder.

—Compiled by Nancy and Jeff Lewis

Have a Streetwise question? Email editor@PleasantonWeekly.com

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Kid-sized care for kid-sized people.

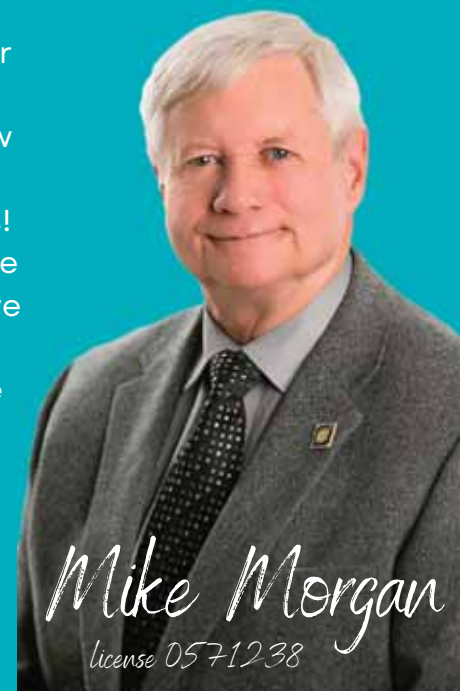


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DIGEST

Memorial Day ceremony

Pleasanton veteran support organizations, community groups and local leaders are joining together to honor those who gave the ultimate sacrifice in military service during the 2023 Memorial Day Remembrance Celebration this Monday.

The program, which begins at 11 a.m. in Centennial Park outside the Pleasanton Senior Center on Sunol Boulevard, will include the presentation of colors, national anthem, "Pledge of Allegiance", invocation, salute to the fallen, "Taps" and keynote speakers. The Pleasanton Community Concert Band will also perform there throughout the morning and early afternoon.

For more information, go to www.americanlegionpost237.org.

No I-680 closure

Caltrans has canceled the closure of northbound Interstate 680 between Sunol Boulevard and Bernal Avenue previously scheduled to occur over this Memorial Day holiday weekend as part of the ongoing I-680 pavement rehabilitation project between Sunol and San Ramon.

The agency plans to reschedule a weekend-long closure through the area for a future date range yet to be determined. Crews are continuing to conduct separate overnight closures through the area Sundays to Thursdays associated with the project from 10 p.m. to 5 a.m. Visit www.680paving.com to learn more.

Night Market

The 626 Night Market festival is back at the Alameda County Fairgrounds in Pleasanton this holiday weekend, offering food, entertainment and arts-and-crafts vendors spread across over 10 football fields worth of space.

Designed in the spirit of the open-air markets made famous in many Asian countries, the 626 Night Market will be open 3-11 p.m. today and 1-11 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, with entrance via Gate 8. Learn more at alamedacountyfair.com.

Cone with a Cop

The Pleasanton Police Department is holding its annual Cone with a Cop community event next Wednesday (May 31) from 2-5 p.m. at Meadowlark Dairy on West Neal Street downtown.

The afternoon will give attendees of all ages the chance to connect with members of PPD, and learn about local safety and security measures. Oh, and everyone in attendance can receive one free ice cream cone (last year PPD and the dairy distributed more than 1,800 cones). ■

City Council closing in on budget approval after final workshop

Debate again centers on spending choices amid tight financial times ahead for Pleasanton

By CHRISTIAN TRUJANO

The Pleasanton City Council discussed various aspects of the latest recommended budget plan that staff presented during the last formal workshop earlier this month, including possibly adding funds toward repairing the Alamo Canal Trail.

The consideration came after Pleasanton resident Sharon Piekarski requested that the council take action on that and other neglected trails.

"I hear this city values residents' safety, addressing climate change and mitigating traffic congestion. However, there are elements of this budget that tell a different story," Piekarski said during public comments at the May 16 budget workshop.

She added that she has been advocating for the city to repair and resurface that trail for a long time and that while the city's current four-year capital improvement program (CIP)

does have \$100,000 in funding set aside for resurfacing trails, it is not enough to speed up the timeline for what she said were lifesaving repairs.

"Our most recent collision report showed that 14% of all collisions with vehicles involved bicyclists and two-thirds of those collisions were the driver's fault," Piekarski told the council. "Considering the ratio of bicyclists to drivers on our streets, this statistic is horrific."

She added by saying that the city

needs to invest in trails that can be used for safe transportation and that given the several projects that are being funded in this year's budget, the city should consider adding an additional \$200,000 per year from discretionary funds to the annual trail resurfacing project.

"In this CIP budget, for parks, there's \$1.5 million for court and playground maintenance, \$600,000

See **BUDGET** on Page 6

Stronger penalties for use of fireworks

Livermore ordinance aims to deter ongoing violations

By CIERRA BAILEY

With Independence Day just around the corner, the Livermore City Council this month approved an ordinance amending the city's established municipal code to include additional prohibitions and penalties related to fireworks.

The Livermore Police Department introduced the ordinance to the council during its May 8 regular meeting, and the council approved it as part of its consent calendar at its May 22 meeting.

The approved amendments to Livermore's current fireworks ordinance include a social hosting provision and the discretion to use administrative fines and penalties that city officials say aim to improve the police department's ability to enforce fireworks related statutes and discourage the use of fireworks within the city altogether.

The social hosting provision would hold hosts liable for the actions of their guests on their property — or within the public right-of-way adjacent to their property — when an individual violator cannot be identified.

Using observations and information from other sources, such as witness statements and fireworks debris, officers can issue an administrative citation to the homeowner or person in charge of the gathering. Fines would not exceed \$500. Additional penalties could also include cost



CHRISTIAN TRUJANO

Pleasanton Mayor Karla Brown speaks Monday during the ceremony kicking off the community garden and farm at the Bernal Community Park.

Wildflowers (and optimism) bloom at site of future community garden, farm

While overall project is still in early stages, expectations are high for planned amenity

By CHRISTIAN TRUJANO

Wildflowers have blossomed in Pleasanton's unfinished educational community garden and farm and while city leaders say funding might be an issue for completing the overall project design anytime soon, the gardeners behind the project said the fact that the soil is laid out is already a win in itself.

"While it might not look like much now — although I have to say the wildflowers are spectacular ... Eventually, we will have garden plots for our residents to

reserve and grow their own food," Pleasanton Mayor Karla Brown told a crowd of roughly 30 people during the community garden's debut kick off event on Monday.

The Bernal Park Community Farm is a project that was first introduced in 2006. Pleasanton voters ratified the Bernal Property Phase II Specific Plan through the approval of Measure P in 2006, which included a land use plan separating the property into multiple sub-areas.

That plan, which added projects such as the oak woodland trails,

playgrounds and turf sports fields to the park, also included the call for a community farm and garden — an effort that has been led by the University of California Master Gardener Program of Alameda County since 2016.

And while the pandemic and funding for designing and constructing the space have delayed the project's timeline over the years, city leaders along with volunteers and members of the Master Gardener program were finally

See **GARDEN** on Page 8

See **FIREWORKS** on Page 10

Dublin High Culinary Academy founder retiring

Upshaw-Lawson has been force behind renowned education program, student catering operation

By JEANITA LYMAN

Dublin High School's expansive culinary program and associated student-run catering service is saying goodbye to its founding teacher this spring.

Jackie Upshaw-Lawson, who spearheaded the creation and evolution of the school's Culinary Academy from the start of her time at the district in 2009, is retiring at the end of the school year — and school leadership is in the midst of the interview process to hire her successor for the fall.

"I would love to have somebody come in and add some new classes, just carry the program on to higher levels than it is now," Upshaw-Lawson told the Weekly in an interview Tuesday.

That's what Upshaw-Lawson did herself upon her arrival in the district for the 2009-10 academic year, in what was the launch of her second career trajectory after years in sales and marketing.

"I started at Dublin High School teaching three culinary classes," Upshaw-Lawson said. "That was all they had at the time. I was teaching other things as well. We moved to a new building and they asked for help designing the new kitchen, so I had some input in that we ended up with two kitchens."

While the second kitchen was an important springboard for Upshaw-Lawson and her students, she said it

became clear that providing proper equipment to make the most of it would require additional funding and support.

"I quickly realized that we needed money," Upshaw-Lawson said. "There wasn't money in the program."

With a full-sized kitchen, however, as well as classes full of eager young chefs and culinary workers, the opportunity to provide catering services for high-profile local events quickly emerged.

"Tim Sbranti, the mayor of Dublin at the time, asked us to do a luncheon for the Lions (Club)," Upshaw-Lawson said. "They were hosting a whole bunch of veterans and I said sure, we can do that, not knowing what I was getting into."

Sbranti, who now serves as athletic director at Dublin High, wound up hosting between 100 and 150 veterans for the first event catered by the culinary class all those years ago.

The large-scale and high-profile inaugural event would turn out to be far from the last for the budding culinary program and catering operation that has grossed over \$750,000 during the past 12 years, according to district officials.

"We've made dinner for Senator Steve Glazer. We've cooked for most of the politicians in the area; Rebecca Bauer-Kahan used to hire us for her Christmas parties," Upshaw-Lawson said.

Other clients have included the police and fire departments, as well as Pleasanton seniors.

"The list goes on; it's endless," Upshaw-Lawson said.

One in particular, though, stood out — the Red Cross.

"So probably the coolest thing that ever happened, the biggest honor I would say, is the American Red Cross heard about us," Upshaw-Lawson said. "The local chapter contacted us and they asked if we would be an emergency food purveyor because I kept a good amount of food on hand."

Taking on that role meant that Upshaw-Lawson and her students were on call 24 hours a day for a full year in case of a local emergency. While emergency services didn't prove to be needed that year, she said it was a valuable experience for her and her students to have that responsibility and be prepared to use their skills to support the community should disaster strike.

While Upshaw-Lawson never planned to work with students when she was growing up, she had aspired to be a chef. Although she said she was deterred by the low pay and prevalent sexism in the industry, the opportunity to turn the three culinary classes at Dublin High into a full academy and to launch the careers of young chefs has served as an outlet to share her



COURTESY DUSD

Jackie Upshaw-Lawson (shown seated) is nearing the end of her tenure leading the Dublin High School Culinary Academy.

passion for cooking with others.

"I didn't really have a path for the program," Upshaw-Lawson said. "I just knew I wanted to grow the program. I really wanted students to have the love of cooking that I did, and to get them to think about different things, different international cuisines, so that was really what I was trying to get to."

Since the start of Upshaw-Lawson's tenure at the district, the three culinary classes have expanded to seven different classes and a total of 15 different sections, with two teachers other than Lawson. Her colleagues

are set to stay in their current positions while the district seeks someone with more catering experience to fill Upshaw-Lawson's role, she said.

Following a near-lifetime of work that started when she was high school-aged and spanned two different and rewarding careers, Upshaw-Lawson said she is eager for retirement.

"I've been working full-time since I was 17; I put myself through college," Upshaw-Lawson said. "I've loved working. It's been great, but I just want to do what I want when I want." ■

BUDGET

Continued from Page 5

for park trails and pathway maintenance, as well as an additional \$2.7 million for the skatepark for a total of over \$5.5 million in just two years. All from discretionary general fund money," Piekarski said.

"In the same two-year period, I see \$200,000 for renovating long neglected trails that can be used for both recreation and transportation. This clearly shows that purely recreational facilities are a much higher priority in this city than the safety of residents using active transportation that will also provide traffic mitigation and greenhouse gas emission reductions," she added.

While both councilmembers Valerie Arkin and Jeff Nibert expressed that they wanted staff to look into allocating more funds toward trail resurfacing projects such as the Alamo Trail, City Manager Gerry Beaudin told the council that finding extra spendable discretionary funds is not easy.

However, he offered one solution where staff could look at moving grant money that has been budgeted on a yearly basis for bicycle and pedestrian related improvements to the trail resurfacing project.

"It's basically taking resources

from what would be otherwise assigned in other parts of the community and putting them to the trail and finding the right size for those projects to keep (the other) projects moving, but also getting the trails done sooner," Beaudin said.

But moving money around for various resurfacing projects was only one piece of last week's budget discussion, as staff went through several updates that came after the April 18 budget workshop including the governor's May revise for the state budget, which showed a larger projected deficit than originally planned.

City finance director Susan Hsieh gave the council a detailed overview of what staff say is a balanced budget, despite the fact that the budget is projecting two scenarios with eight years of deficits for the city — one with a recession possible and one without.

She summarized how while general fund revenues did not change much from staff's last budget presentation, they are projected to increase by 4.6% from the 2022-23 to 2024-25 fiscal years.

Hsieh added that revenues and expenditures are estimated at about \$150 million for fiscal year 2023-24 and \$155 million for fiscal year 2024-25 and that citywide operating expenditures are projected to exceed \$230 million in the next two fiscal

years with the largest expenditures being personnel costs that make up about 70% of the overall budget. Pleasanton approves budgets in two-year cycles.

She also said the general fund will receive \$2 million from the rainy day fund, \$350,000 from the business loan repayment fund for each fiscal year over the next two years, and that the general fund will contribute \$2 million to the city's CIP.

Hsieh said that while the economy is showing signs of slowing down and with higher interest rates from the federal reserve to lower inflation, the city's local economy is expected to remain positive in the near future.

"The projected deficits reflect that expenditures are expected to outpace revenues," Hsieh said. "This is really normal for most agencies. Actually, our picture looks better than some of the ones that I have seen in the past."

Hsieh also explained that as the city's proposed budget was finalized, staff received higher cost estimates for general liability insurance and certain legal activities that is forcing staff to delay or reduce funding for certain program such as the East Pleasanton Development Plan, the Library and Recreation Strategic Plan and the Citywide Strategic Communication Plan.

"The adjustments also include reductions in contributions to certain

repair replacement funds," she said. "With these adjustments, there will not be an overall impact to the general fund."

But Vice Mayor Jack Balch took issue to the eight-year projected deficits to the city and said that while he does support a large portion of the overall budget, he can't support allocating discretionary funds toward amenities like a new skate park or the Century House renovations that can be put on pause while the city tackles other issues such as water contamination.

"We're facing some tough sledding ahead in Pleasanton and if you doubt me just look at the first three pages of this budget," Balch said. "It shows that Pleasanton is not flush with cash."

"I support a large portion of this budget — and I want to make that clear — but it's really hard for me to support discretionary amenities that will draw down on available cash and, once completed, add to the annual maintenance obligation of this city, when I see eight to nine years of deficits," he added. "So I have a difficult, ethical challenge, personally, attending a ribbon-cutting for a \$6.4 million skate park, while possibly at the same time trying to figure out how to pay for water pumps and city staff."

But as Balch asked the council to

at least consider putting a pause on discretionary CIP amenities and to maybe consider a phased approach for projects such as the Century House rebuild project, Mayor Karla Brown responded by saying that she doesn't believe the council should be "flip-flopping" on projects previously approved.

"I think when this council makes a decision to move forward on an amenity, especially one that really is fairly small in the entire budget, I would not support (deferring it) unless there was a catastrophic situation (that) happens," Brown said.

As for addressing water contamination issues and the overall water supply in Pleasanton, Brown said that instead of looking at outside funding sources, the city needs to find ways to increase the water enterprise funds through things like water rates.

"We're talking about many water alternatives and that's where we should be," she said. "That final decision hasn't been made but in my opinion, water pays for water, sewer pays for sewer. Those are enterprise funds."

The updated budget draft is scheduled to be presented to the council on June 6 for final approval and adoption where any final decisions regarding council recommendations will be reflected. ■

House Ethics Committee closes investigation into Swalwell, takes no action

Probe centered on allegations related to former campaign volunteer, suspected Chinese spy

By JEREMY WALSH

The House Ethics Committee this week ended its two-year investigation into U.S. Rep. Eric Swalwell (D-Livermore) without taking any further action related to a complaint against the congressman after revelations a former campaign volunteer was later pegged as a spy from China.



Eric Swalwell

The sixth-term congressman reacted with vindication in a statement Tuesday after confirming the conclusion of an internal probe by peers in both parties into allegations that have hounded Swalwell in some public circles, especially among conservative critics, since news first broke about Chinese national Fang Fang (also known as Christine Fang) in late 2020.

"It's time to move on," Swalwell said. "The bipartisan House Ethics Committee had this case for over two years. They had the power of subpoena. They received answers from me in response to requests for information. Today, they are closing this matter and did not make a

finding of any wrongdoing."

The Fang case, for which Swalwell was reportedly always cooperative with FBI investigators and never accused of any criminal wrongdoing, was at the heart of Swalwell's removal from the House Intelligence Committee by new House Speaker Kevin McCarthy in January. The California Republican cited national security concerns if Swalwell remained on the committee; Swalwell countered that the ouster was strictly an act of political vengeance.

"If the intent in bringing this complaint and leveling false smears was to silence me that is not going to happen. I will continue to be a voice on behalf of my constituents and a passionate defender of democracy," Swalwell said on Tuesday.

The name Fang Fang was thrust into the national discourse after Axios released an investigative news report in December 2020 detailing allegations about the Chinese national secretly working for her country's main civilian spy agency and targeting multiple up-and-coming American politicians, including Swalwell, between 2011 and 2015.

Fang reportedly served as a volunteer on Swalwell's congressional campaign, including raising funds

for his reelection effort in 2014. Axios reported that Swalwell immediately cut off ties with Fang in 2015 after investigators informed him about their concerns surrounding Fang's actions.

"Nearly 10 years ago I assisted the FBI in their counterintelligence investigation of a campaign volunteer," Swalwell said Tuesday. "The case and my assistance were briefed to Republican Speaker of the House, John Boehner, and two years later, Republican Speaker of the House, Paul Ryan, reappointed me to the House Intelligence Committee. Neither Speaker questioned my actions nor politicized my cooperation."

"Despite the FBI repeatedly saying I was nothing but helpful and never accused of wrongdoing, this complaint was filed by a House Republican," Swalwell added.

The complaint led to the House Ethics Committee launching an investigation in April 2021 into whether Swalwell "may have violated House Rules, laws, or other standards of conduct in connection with your interactions with Ms. Christine Fang," according to a letter signed Monday by committee Chairman Michael Guest (R-Miss.) and Ranking Member

Susan Wild (D-Penn.).

"The Committee will take no further action in this matter," Guest and Wild wrote, signaling the conclusion of the investigation into Swalwell.

"The Committee has previously reviewed allegations of improper influence by foreign agents and in doing so, cautioned that Members should be conscious of

the possibility that foreign governments may attempt to secure improper influence through gifts and other interactions. We encourage you to contact the Office of House Security for any guidance on steps you can take to prevent or address such attempts," the committee leaders said.

"It is not our intention to release this letter publicly unless you make public statements regarding this matter that are inconsistent with the spirit and purpose of this letter," Guest and Wild added.

Swalwell released a copy of the letter alongside his public statement on Tuesday. ■

LPC appoints dean as new vice president of academic services

Nan Ho elevated from STEM department to campus-wide leadership position

By CIERRA BAILEY

Las Positas College has promoted Nan Ho from dean of science, technology, engineering and mathematics to become the community college's new vice president of academic services.

The appointment — approved by the Chabot-Las Positas Community College Board of Trustees on May 16 — reflects Ho's "exceptional dedication to the LPC community and her 27 years of exemplary leadership and administrative service," according to a statement from the school announcing the promotion.

"I am honored and excited to take on this new role at Las Positas College," Ho said. "I look forward to working closely with our outstanding faculty, administrators, classified professionals and students to strengthen our academic programs, enhance student success initiatives and continue to create an inclusive learning environment where everyone can thrive."

In this new role, Ho succeeds Kristina Whalen who left LPC earlier this year to take on the position

as president of Foothill College in Los Altos Hills.

With an extensive background in education, Ho brings a wealth of experience to her new role, according to LPC officials. She has contributed to various transfer, career technical education and credit and noncredit programs. Ho has also fostered a culture of excellence and innovation among the team of more than 130 faculty and classified professionals that she's overseen.

As vice president of academic services, Ho's primary responsibilities will include managing all aspects of academic programs, curriculum development, student support services and faculty development initiatives. Ho will also collaborate closely with the college's administration, faculty and classified professionals.

"Dr. Nan Ho has been an invaluable asset to Las Positas College,



Nan Ho

and we are thrilled to see her take on this new leadership role," LPC President Dyrell Foster said in a statement. "Her passion for education, strategic vision, and unwavering dedication to our students make her the perfect choice for LPC's vice president of academic services. We have full confidence in her ability to advance our academic programs and support our community's educational needs."

Throughout her career, Ho has cultivated relationships across the community and region, collaborating with educational institutions, industry leaders, government agencies and nonprofit organizations, according to LPC officials. Her commitment to equity and opportunity has secured extensive grant funding, including LPC's first-ever National Science Foundation grant.

She has helped lead and facilitate transformative initiatives at LPC, including Guided Pathways and Assembly Bill 705, both of which focus on equity and student success.

See LPC on Page 11

THE CITY OF PLEASANTON

HIGHLIGHTS

Library Commission Meeting

Thursday, June 1, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.
The meeting will be held at the City Council Chamber –
200 Old Bernal Ave.

- Review and discuss the Pleasanton Library Marketing Presentation
- Schedule of Upcoming Programs, Events and Meetings of Interest

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Newsom picks BART's assistant inspector general to replace embattled boss

Claudette Biemeret set for four-year term

BY BAY CITY NEWS SERVICE

Gov. Gavin Newsom appointed BART's assistant inspector general to head the Office of the Inspector General after her boss took early retirement amid clashes with transit agency officials.

Claudette Biemeret was named to a four-year term as inspector general, responsible for maintaining independent oversight of the agency's finances and practices. She replaces Harriet Richardson, who left March 17, five months before her term was to end.

The Office of the Inspector General has repeatedly battled with transit agency officials since its creation in 2018 and "is significantly underfunded and unable

to fulfill its mission of uncovering waste, fraud and abuse," according to an Alameda County Civil Grand Jury report published in September.

BART said Biemeret's name was one of three submitted to Newsom as a possible successor to Richardson, who was appointed the first inspector general in 2019.

"We at BART are grateful to the governor for filling this vital position with a highly qualified professional so quickly," BART General Manager Bob Powers said in a statement. "The inspector general plays a very important role in maintaining the integrity of government through preventing and detecting fraud, waste, and abuse."

State Sen. Steve Glazer (D-Orinda) who resigned from a Senate committee on public transit in February in protest of BART's fiscal oversight, said Biemeret must get more cooperation than her predecessor.

"To be able to fulfill her duties, she must have the full power to root out waste and abuse," Glazer said in a statement. "The previous inspector general resigned, in part, due to the refusal of BART to give full access to data and whistleblowers."

Richardson declined to point to any specific reason for her early retirement, instead suggesting that the civil grand jury report and other publicly reported spats between the OIG and BART management

provided sufficient evidence.

Critics of BART's financial management have repeatedly cited an OIG report from Feb. 3, which found that the agency spent some \$350,000 on a homeless outreach program that resulted in just one confirmed unsheltered resident entering substance abuse treatment.

The civil grand jury's report compared the size of BART's inspector general's staff, with just three employees, to the inspector general's offices at transit agencies in Los Angeles, which has almost 25 employees, and Washington, D.C., which has almost 45 employees.

Voters across the Bay Area created the Office of the Inspector General

in 2018 when they approved Bay Area Regional Measure 3, which reserves \$1 million in toll revenue each year to fund the inspector general.

In its official response to the grand jury report, BART disagreed with all six of its findings that the OIG was underfunded, understaffed, and regularly impeded by BART management.

Biemeret, of Santa Rosa, has been assistant inspector general at BART since 2020. The governor's office said she served as audit manager for the City of Berkeley from 2014 to 2020.

The BART inspector general supervises the independent oversight of all BART activities and operations, including independent audits and investigations. The Office of the Inspector General reports its findings to BART's nine-member board of directors, the state Legislature, and the public. ■

GARDEN

Continued from Page 5

able to celebrate the cover crops that were planted having bloomed.

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, these are crops that are usually established and grown in the fall to increase the quality of the soil.

"This is a big project," said Dawn Kooyumjian, program coordinator for the Master Gardener program. "It's taken a long time to get to this point and there's still a big project ahead of us. However, where do you start? You start with the soil."

Last September, the group had received funding from the Pleasanton City Council to get started with a "Phase 0" stage of the community farm master plan. This initial stage of building the farm includes the master gardeners planting the cover crop.

The goal behind the cover crop was to enrich the soil at the 1.2 acre garden, which is located at 550 Laguna Creek Lane, so that the gardeners can start planting the educational gardens.

For Kooyumjian, it was an emotional day to be able to see the flowers growing and to know that, despite having a long way to go before the public garden and farm is fully functional, the metaphorical seed for the project has taken root and is finally materializing into reality.

"It is absolutely amazing," she told the Weekly. "It's just, to me in some ways, mind boggling, because it's been something that we've been working on for so long. Any project that takes that long has its ups and downs, and this is the big up here."

She also said that it is especially exciting because of the fact that the gardeners are a group of volunteers that train individuals in the science and art of gardening and so having a space like the demonstration garden in Pleasanton will help teach residents ways to grow their own

food and maintain gardens by using water saving techniques.

"It is a garden to demonstrate best practices on all things that are in the Master Gardener mission," Kooyumjian said. "The Master Gardener mission is to provide research based knowledge and information on home horticulture ... integrated pest management and sustainable landscaping practices."

Sheila Barry, director for University of California Cooperative Extension programs in Alameda County, told the Weekly that research-based education is the main goal of not just the Master Gardener program, but for the overall UC extension program, which overlooks the gardener program as well as others such as nutrition education.

"Our goal is to take research-based information from the university and connect it to our communities for improved sustainability, for improvement to support agriculture, to support community health and well being," she said.

The extension program is connected to the land grant university, which is land given by the federal government to the states to provide outreach and education to the community through federal, state and local support. Barry said that in California, the universities

connected to this program include UC Davis, Berkeley, Riverside and Merced.

"We are in every county in the state, and we do applied research and outreach and address the local community needs," she said.

She said that with growing concerns and issues about protecting water, land and food sources along with addressing climate change, resources like the community garden and farm in Pleasanton will offer residents a chance to ask questions and be able to get answers based on local research tailored to their region.

Judy Matthew, who has been a volunteer with the Master Gardeners since 2010, told the Weekly that the educational resource for the community is very important and she's happy to see it finally come to fruition after such a long time of planning.

"It's been frustrating that it took us eight years ... because the demonstration garden is very important to involve the community and the kids and show them what they can grow and how to grow," Matthew said.

She said that spaces like this are very important because you can show people in real time how to tend to gardens, which not only helps their pockets and health, but also the overall environment

She and Sarah Lee, who is one of the more recent volunteers, having started in 2022, said that it also provides a space where they can answer specific questions that residents in the area might have that are specific to their region in terms of growing plants in the Tri-Valley weather.

"Somebody else who lives close by and they're crop didn't go this year, we can actually explain well, it's been a wet winter, it's a cold winter that failed because of that. Now, what do we do from this point forward? How do we amend the soil? How do we incorporate StopWaste compost to enrich the soil?" Lee said.

The future plans for the 5-acre site includes garden plots that residents can rent, an educational center to train people on gardening skills and the community garden

that will offer educational opportunities through workshops.

While the timeline of completion for the garden and then overall community farm is still up in the air, due to the several phases of the project, Brown said that the city will do all it can to educate residents about environmental sustainability.

She added that one way the city is helping with cutting back on its waste is through a free composting hub that is conveniently located at the garden site — and that while the city offers that, it will be looking at outside funding or grant opportunities to pay for designing and completing the full garden and farm.

"It's expensive," Brown told the Weekly. "We're gonna have to be in economic status with the city where we can afford this kind of program or we're gonna have to look at other funding sources, which is what we do all the time. We're always looking for funding sources and grants for things like farming that support farming and growing your own healthy food." ■



Master Gardener Lou Astbury points to the wildflowers in the cover crop fields that have begun to bloom.

CHRISTIAN TRUJANO

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PRESIDENT
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Livermore VINE

A message from our Publisher, Gina Channell Wilcox

I'm Gina Channell Wilcox and I've been with Embarcadero Media Group since 2006, when I was hired as the president and publisher of the East Bay Division. At that time, the division reported on only Pleasanton and Danville. Now, with a smaller staff, we cover Tri-Valley communities of Pleasanton, Livermore, Dublin, San Ramon and Danville.

While I wear many hats in my position, I'm a journalist at heart. My passion is connecting people to their community and each other, providing useful information and being a catalyst for change.

My colleagues and I are committed to reporting the truth, like when false accusations were lodged against a group of cheerleaders and we set the record straight.

We try to explain complex ideas that affect residents, such as why city councils have to plan for more housing even though there is a water crisis and crowded schools and streets.

We shine light on those who use wealth, manipulation and deception for years to thwart plans for a downtown that is supported by almost all residents.

But we also tell stories of compassion and inspiration, like the family that went to Ukraine to help in the first days of the war or the tale of Danville resident Joe Alvarez, a World War II and Korean War veteran who survived his ship being bombed twice. At 98 years old, Joe still dances with his girlfriend and enjoys a beer (or two) while bowling with his friends. Now that's an inspiration!

Our staff may have decreased over the years but our dedication to journalism has increased exponentially, as has the number of people we reach.

We understand how critical it is for residents of the Tri-Valley to get factual and unbiased news about our cities, schools and communities at large. In turn, our small but mighty staff depends on readers to help us continue our important work. Please consider Supporting Local Journalism.

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Livermore VFW to mark Memorial Day downtown

Ceremony planned for Stockmen's Park on Monday

By CIERRA BAILEY

A Memorial Day remembrance ceremony is set to take place at Stockmen's Park in Livermore to commemorate the federal holiday that honors those who died while serving in the military.

The event is a collaboration between

the Livermore Valley Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States Post 7265, the American Legion Post 47 and the city of Livermore, according to a statement from the organizers.

The ceremony will begin at 11 a.m. on Monday (May 29) and feature a

performance of the national anthem by local resident Jeana Collinsworth and remarks from guest speakers including Livermore Mayor John Marchand and Parks Reserve Force Training Area Command Sgt. Maj. Eric Soto.

There will also be a Quilts of Valor

presentation to four veterans and the Livermore VFW along with the Livermore Police Honor Guard will be honoring fallen service members with a three-rifle volley.

Other organizations participating in the event include Blue Star Moms, Daughters of the American

Revolution, Native Daughters of the Golden West and Boy Scouts of America.

For those unable to attend in person, the ceremony will be recorded by Amos Productions and available for streaming on the VFW Post 7265 website and YouTube channel. ■

McCoy-Thompson reflects on first months leading Gratitude Network

Says nonprofit helps him support kids around world while staying true to Pleasanton roots

By CHRISTIAN TRUJANO

Steve McCoy-Thompson, known locally for working years as executive director of the Pleasanton Partnerships in Education Foundation, is entering his fourth month as the new executive director of Gratitude Network — an organization that supports nonprofits that work with children.

"I love the opportunity to connect with these impact leaders throughout the U.S. and the world," McCoy-Thompson told the Weekly. "It's a great opportunity for me to retain my Pleasanton roots and still try to have global impact."

Gratitude Network is a nonprofit founded 10 years ago and based in downtown Pleasanton right above the Peet's coffee shop on Main Street. The organization identifies other charity organizations



Steve McCoy-Thompson

that work with youth globally and provides them with coaching and counseling so that they can better serve their communities and those kids.

"The entire organization is very excited that Steve has been promoted to executive director of Gratitude Network," Randy Haykin, founder and chief purpose officer of Gratitude Network, told the Weekly.

"As chairman of the Gratitude Network, I will be working very closely with Steve in his new role and the two of us will 'co-pilot' the organization with a balance between strategic growth of the organization and day-to-day operational focus," Haykin added. "Steve and I have known each other for nearly 25 years, have worked together in the past and are really excited about scaling Gratitude Network into a global brand."

McCoy-Thompson said that not only does Gratitude Network provide other nonprofits with the skills they need to have a greater impact

in the work they do, but it also connects their donors with the other nonprofits in order to boost their presence in their communities.

"We've reached 40 million children by helping over 160 nonprofit leaders, in over 60 countries, have a greater impact," he said.

McCoy-Thompson first started working for the nonprofit in January after he announced his departure from PPIE last November. He had worked for the school support foundation since 2016, and while he enjoyed the work he did for PPIE, he said that the current job allows him to use his past management consulting experience that he did around the world.

"The reason why I do this, the reason why I am excited about this project, is that in my career, I've lived and worked in over 50 countries," he said. "So the opportunity to combine my international experience with the opportunities that help children and youth reach their full potential ... it's a great opportunity."

"In my experience — having worked in these countries all around the world — I have come to believe that the best way to make a sustainable impact is to work in the communities where the children and their families live," McCoy-Thompson added. "The best way to do that, for us, is to identify the nonprofits that are already working there and help them to do better."

One of the ways he said the organization helps these nonprofits is through its year-long fellowship program where Gratitude Network provides them with one-on-one professional coaching, courses on best business practices and extensive peer networking.

He said one recent example of someone who went through the fellowship program was a woman from India who created an app to help report on and address social and emotional abuse of children.

McCoy-Thompson said she was recently praised by the secretary general of the United Nations for her work and that her organization

has grown dramatically since she finished Gratitude Network's program several years ago.

One local nonprofit that he said Gratitude Network has worked with recently in the Tri-Valley is The Freedom Story, which works on preventing child trafficking.

"One of my favorite parts of the job is getting to know these nonprofit leaders who are working in very challenging circumstances," McCoy-Thompson said.

He also said that Gratitude Network is working on building regional hubs, including one in the Bay Area, to increase the impact of local nonprofits that work with children and youth.

"A hub means that we're trying to identify local nonprofits and match them with local coaches and encourage local funding," he said. "(For) people who want to invest in the community, this is the way to do that."

He also added that while he still helps and supports PPIE in any way he can when they ask for help, he also wants to start making connections between Gratitude Network and the Pleasanton Unified School District in order to educate students about what's going on in the world and what it's like running a nonprofit. ■

FIREWORKS

Continued from Page 5

recovery fees related to the law enforcement response, according to the city staff report.

While the sale, possession and use of all fireworks is illegal in the city of Livermore, LPD says it receives numerous complaints about fireworks each year — especially around the Fourth of July holiday. The reported concerns are typically around noise and potential fire dangers.

City officials noted in their staff report that they expect nearly 100 complaints of illegal fireworks on the Fourth of July this year, an increase from last year which saw 87 complaints — none of which resulted in citations.

Throughout the entire year of 2022, LPD received a total of 298 fireworks complaints, according to a presentation by the department to the City Council on May 8.

When the ordinance was first proposed, Councilmember Evan Branning expressed concern about whether the fines could potentially

disproportionately impact economically disadvantaged residents and Councilmember Bob Carling questioned how social hosts are identified if violators are on city property such as the middle of a street.

They both also emphasized the importance of thoroughly educating the community on the change. But overall, the council expressed support for the effort to address the illegal use of fireworks in the city before adopting the ordinance two weeks later.

"We're not going to target people in lower socioeconomic status, but this is about protecting our community and we get a lot of complaints about this where people say that they're living in a war zone," Mayor John Marchand said, noting that the city is entrusting the police department to use these strategies wisely.

"As members of this council, our No. 1 priority — as we've said over and over again — is public safety. So I will continue to support giving you whatever tools you believe you need to continue to protect this community," Marchand added, addressing

the LPD officials in attendance at the meeting.

Prior to this new ordinance, police said they have faced challenges enforcing fireworks regulations in the city due to state law which requires the offense be committed in the officer's presence. City staff said their experience has shown that violators rarely sell, openly possess or use fireworks directly in front of a police officer, thus limiting the officer's authority to take action on suspected violations.

Additionally, people who report complaints about fireworks to the police often have limited details about who or where exactly the fireworks were discharged from.

In researching ways to mitigate these obstacles, city staff and LPD identified the social hosting provision and administrative fines as strategies that are not subject to the strict requirements of state law for officers to personally observe the offense as these methods allow officers to handle the violations as administrative actions as opposed to criminal actions. ■



CHUCK DECKERT

Hike for Hope raises over \$150,000

Nearly 850 people turned out to support Tri-Valley nonprofit Hope Hospice at its annual Hike for Hope fundraiser at Del Valle Regional Park in Livermore on May 6. In the face of rainy spring weather, the hikers helped raise \$153,000 for the organization — a little below the record-setting total generated at the 2022 event. "The relationship between Hope and the Tri-Valley community is remarkable," Hope Hospice director of philanthropy Marc Rovetti said in a statement announcing the results. "It's uplifting to witness the generosity of so many, and reassuring to know that volunteer time and donor dollars go right back into the place we all call home." ■

Work begins on Iron Horse Trail overcrossing at Bollinger Canyon

Officials host groundbreaking for long-anticipated project in San Ramon

By JEANITA LYMAN

Following nearly a decade of discussions, studies and public outreach, work has begun on a long-awaited pedestrian and bicycle overcrossing aimed at providing Iron Horse Regional Trail users a safer option than traversing a busy road in San Ramon.

City, county and parks district officials convened near the intersection of the well-traveled regional trail and Bollinger Canyon Road last week for a groundbreaking ceremony celebrating the launch of construction on the “Iron Horse Trail Bollinger Canyon Road Bicycle and Pedestrian Overcrossing Project”.

Although construction of the project is anticipated to take approximately 18 to 24 months, according to an announcement from the city, the start of work at the site is seen as a victory for the officials and safety activists who first began seeking to bring it to fruition more than a decade ago.

The initial idea for the overcrossing project came as part of the San

Ramon Valley Bicycle Pedestrian Corridor Concept Plan, approved by the City Council in 2009. A subsequent feasibility study for the project was conducted as a collaboration between the city, Contra Costa County, the town of Danville and the East Bay Regional Park District.

Funding for the next phases of the project, consisting of community outreach and preliminary design, was secured by the city via Measure J in 2012.

The overhead bridge is aimed at facilitating safer travel for pedestrians and bicyclists along the Iron Horse Trail, and preventing them from encountering vehicles as is currently the case, in which trail-users use a traffic signal to cross Bollinger Canyon Road on the ground. Other aims include increasing vehicle traffic flow without the existing traffic signals and stops and encouraging trail use.

The final design and construction phase is the fourth and final stage of the project, which is set to be completed by the end of next year.

Final design was selected based on

feedback from the extensive community outreach phase of the project in the years between the feasibility study and the May 18 groundbreaking, city officials said. The total cost for the overcrossing is expected to come out to \$29.1 million, funded by \$13.2 million in Measure J funds, \$10.5 million in grants, \$2.9 million in long-term debt and \$2.5 million in other city funds. ■



COURTESY CITY OF SAN RAMON

The final design for the overcrossing was approved as part of the fourth stage ahead of construction of the project.

Thomas Joseph Gallagher

May 9, 1938 – May 13, 2023

Proud citizen of Pleasanton since 1970

Devoted and loving family man and loyal friend to many, Thomas “Tom” Gallagher faithfully embraced his passing peacefully and went to be with our Lord and his beloved wife Carolyn of 50 years on May 13th after battling with several medical complications for close to 6 months. He had celebrated his 85th birthday just days prior.

Tom was a lifelong Alameda County resident, 3rd generation Californian and a very proud Irish Catholic American. Tom was born and raised in Oakland by his parents Joseph and Loretta and grew up in the Diamond district along with his two older sisters Mary and Joanne. He attended St. Jarlath Parish Church and School, and Bishop O’Dowd High School. He then went on to earn a Business Finance degree at the University of San Francisco, but Tom would like to say “Life really began” when he started dating the love of his life Carolyn Russell. After only a 10-day courtship he proposed, and they were married at St. Jarlath in Oakland in October 1963. Soon children followed. Three sons in a row, Michael, Kevin, and John and in the summer of 1970, they packed up their two Impalas and made the big move to Pleasanton. He said moving to Pleasanton was the best decision that they ever made. Soon after arrival, the daughter they were praying for, the princess, Joanne arrived. “Finally a girl..” he would say..

Raising his family and going to work every day to provide was his top priority. Dinners as a family every night, attending Church on Sunday and supporting his kids in everything they did was his purpose. While raising four kids he was also like a Dad to everyone in the neighborhood and community. Kids would gravitate to Mr. Gallagher for advice or encouragement and many of those kids, now adults, created a lifelong special bond with him.

He also planned several summer trips in the family station wagon. Those trips to Grand Tetons, Yellowstone, British Columbia, Disneyland, and Lake Tahoe were always eventful. The Gallaghers were “National Lampoon Vacation” before the Griswolds.

Upon graduation from USF he took on a position in the Accounting Department at the Lucky Stores Headquarters in San Leandro and worked at the same company for over 43 years, making

many lifelong friends. He retired as Director of Accounting in 1999. After his retirement he became a Professional Grandpa “Papa Tom” to his nine grandchildren, all who lived within a mile

radius of the family home. He had a special bond with each of them. He loved Pleasanton and became active in City matters and was an honored recipient of the Mayor’s Award in the restoration of his beloved Kottinger Park across from the family home. He was also active at the Catholic

Community of Pleasanton and served as an 8th Grade Catechist for many years, Eucharistic Minister to the hospitalized and home bound, Finance Council member and the Knights of Columbus.

You were either Tom’s friend or you just hadn’t met him yet. He would win you over quickly with his Irish twinkly blue eyes, smile and charm. His favorite holiday was St. Patrick’s Day. He so enjoyed celebrating with family and friends. He truly loved his Irish Heritage and was able to visit his Homeland Emerald Isle four times. He would always say, “I might be American, but I’m 100% Irish!” He thought Ireland was like heaven on earth.

Tom’s immediate family, who will miss him terribly, are Son Michael (Anne Marie) grandchildren Emily, Elizabeth, Thomas and Patrick. Son Kevin, grandchildren Kaitlin, Madison, and Timothy (mother Luci), Son John (Katherine), Daughter Joanne (Steve), grandchildren Grace, and Alexis (father Bob). Also, his 91-year-old sister, Sister of St. Joseph Joanne Gallagher, Brother-N-Law Jack Russell (Marci), Niece Cathy Schneider, Nephews: Jim, Dennis and Joe Plant and Chris and Drew Russell.

He was preceded in death by his bride Carolyn (2014), his Parents Joseph and Loretta, his brother Joseph, sister Mary Plant and his nephew/godson Joe Russell.

Friends and Family are invited to a viewing on Friday June 2nd from 6-7 pm followed by a Vigil of prayer and sharing memories at 7:00 p.m. Funeral Mass on Saturday June 3rd at 1:00pm. Both at St. Augustine Church, 3999 Bernal Avenue Pleasanton, CA. Reception to follow at Ruby and Roses in downtown Pleasanton.

In honor of Tom’s wife Carolyn, in lieu of flowers, please donate to the ALS Cure Project www.alscure.org or a charity of your choice.



LPC

Continued from Page 7

Her teaching, research and leadership abilities have been recognized through a number of awards such as the Chancellor’s Award, which she earned on three separate occasions.

Additionally, she was acknowledged as the Outstanding Full-Time Faculty awardee and three-time recipient of the Outstanding Teaching Award — all bestowed upon her by students.

Ho holds a doctorate of organizational change and leadership from the University of Southern California. She also earned master’s and bachelor’s degrees in biological science from Stanford University.

Beyond the classroom, Ho has also served in various leadership positions such as department coordinator, committee chair, grievance officer for the Faculty Association, president of the Administrators’ Association and faculty advisor to student clubs and the Beta Beta Beta Honor Society. ■

TAKE US ALONG



At the beach: Lance and Julia Smith of Pleasanton enjoy the sun at Smathers Beach in Key West, Fla. earlier this year. Julia was reading in the Weekly about the St. Patrick’s Day festivities coming up in Dublin and reminiscing about her days as an Irish dancer, while Lance was getting prepared to root on his mighty Aztecs of San Diego State in the NCAA Men’s Basketball national title game.

PAID OBITUARY

Introducing 'CabFranc-A-Palooza'

Inaugural Livermore festival puts spotlight on region's wine community, unique varietal

BY NICOLE GONZALES

An upcoming festival in the Tri-Valley is set to put a spotlight on the Livermore wine community and one of its most unique drinking varieties — the Cabernet Franc.

Dubbed by organizers as “the largest Cab Franc festival in the world”, the first-ever “CabFranc-A-Palooza” is scheduled from next Thursday to Sunday (June 1-4) with a full list of events, activities and live music planned. Hosted at the Steven Kent Winery, the palooza will feature over 40 wineries both local and from afar.

Co-owner of Steven Kent Winery and co-founder of the CabFranc-A-Palooza festival, Steven Kent Mirassou, spoke to the Weekly about the event and his passion for winemaking.

With deep family roots in wine, Mirassou has worked within the industry his entire life. Being a sixth-generation winemaker, Mirassou feels it is in his blood.

“From a winemaking standpoint, my job is making wine. We are focused on creating the best Cabernet Franc in the world. That's our mission as a winery and family,” he said.

While the Steven Kent Winery has been operational since 1996, his family has been making wine in California since 1854.

Mirassou described what inspired him to set up the wine festival was a way to uplift the regional makers and the Cabernet Franc variety.

“This has been a multi-year effort,” Mirassou said. “Even

before we came up with the idea for CabFranc-A-Palooza, it was more about trying to figure out a way to highlight Livermore Valley. It's one of the oldest wine growing regions in California and it's not known for anything at this point.”

Event organizers specifically chose to focus on the Cabernet Franc drinking variety because of its quality and growing popularity in the region. Mirassou shared high praise for the wine.

“That variety is so much more interesting, diverse and sexy and delicious. It's mind boggling in the best possible way,” he said. “And because it grows so well here, it just makes sense for us to push this idea that the Livermore Valley can be the home for Cab Franc in the nation.”

“The CabFranc festival became a very obvious way for us to celebrate this specific variety in a really fun way,” he added.

Mirassou explained a similar event was hosted last year exclusively for Steven Kent Winery club members only. Due to its success and positive feedback, he felt it was time to have his much larger event idea come to fruition.

“When the reception we got was great from last year, I felt like we finally finally hit it with the right variety,” Mirassou said. “We started thinking about how we could create something that would increase visibility even more. That's when we came up with the idea of doing an event that would attract wineries from outside of the area.”

Beth Murray, assistant winemaker

at Steven Kent Winery and fellow festival co-founder, spoke about the event inspirations and her love of Cabernet Franc.

Murray explained that similar events exist elsewhere, such as a Pinot Noir festival in Oregon known as the International Pinot Noir Celebration. This served as inspiration for their own event.

“The IPNC happens every year and people come from all over the world to taste and talk about Pinot Noir, that was kind of an inspiration for us,” Murray said. “Our goal with the palooza is to bring people to Livermore and to have them understand what an amazing wine region this is.”

Murray explained that currently, Cabernet Franc is not as popular as other drinking varieties. She and the other organizers hope this will change.

“Cabernet Franc (of the black grape variety) is not quite as widely planted, although we hope that's going to change,” Murray said. “It's very unlike other varieties. Whereas Cabernet Sauvignon is fruit-driven and very tannic, Cabernet Franc is a lot more lively and when done right should have a little bit of sage, bayleaf and maybe some smoked paprika or chili pepper.”

Mirassou has described the Cabernet Franc as a “polarizing variety.”

“It requires a depth of hands by the winery and in the cellar,” he said. “The winery has a lot to do in order to make a wine that is reminiscent of a Cab Franc without



COURTESY STEVEN KENT WINERY

Steven Kent Winery is the primary host of the inaugural “CabFranc-A-Palooza” set for June 1-4.

being too green, and without losing all the green. It's tough as a type of wine to make well.”

In the future the organizers hope to expand the event further, increasing the amount of wineries involved and visitor capacity.

“We have an opportunity to help secure the future of Livermore Valley as a standalone wine region that makes real class wine and focuses on Cabernet Franc,” said Mirassou. “We get a chance to celebrate for a week every year and become the center of the wine world. That's our long-term success goal.”

“We want to help people celebrate wine, being that it is one of the things that can make a well lived life,” he added.

Murray echoed the same hopes for the festival.

“We hope to have even a bigger venue next year and to have even more people and wineries involved. This is something that we see growing because we believe Livermore is such an amazing growing region for Cab Franc,” said Murray.

Murray encouraged the public to attend, saying the CabFranc-A-Palooza will feature events and activities for folks across the wine knowledge spectrum from

beginner to expert.

“This is an event for everyone, if you want to really deep dive into the nitty gritty of winemaking, like soil types, growing regions or barrel aging, we have an event for that,” she said. “We've worked really hard to make sure it is an event that will be fun for everyone whether they're complete wine nerds or just wanting to know a little more about Cab Franc.”

Organizers anticipate a high turnout of visitors and have noted that several events have low-ticket availability or are already sold out.

“Though we're half-way joking when we say it's the biggest Cabernet Franc Festival in the universe, it literally is the largest Cab Franc festival ever,” said Matt Toomey, a CabFranc-A-Palooza organizer. “Over the course of four days, 35+ wineries will celebrate all things Cabernet Franc with events and tastings culminating in the ‘Grand Tasting’ on Sunday June 4th.”

“We have wineries coming from Napa, Sonoma, Santa Barbara, Bordeaux (and) more,” Toomey added.

For more information about the event, visit cabfrancpalooza.com. ■



RON ESSEX PHOTOGRAPHY / COURTESY STEVEN KENT WINERY

Steven Kent Mirassou (right) stands next to his son Aiden Mirassou and assistant winemaker Beth Murray.



RON ESSEX PHOTOGRAPHY / COURTESY STEVEN KENT WINERY

Steven and Aiden Mirassou hope the new festival will become an annual event highlighting Cabernet Franc wines produced in Northern California.

Paula Poundstone to headline at the Bankhead

Comedian reflects on personal inspiration and her love of 'silly' humor ahead of Livermore show

By NICOLE GONZALES

Esteemed stand-up comedian Paula Poundstone returns to the Bankhead Theater stage for a night of laughs and personal anecdotes next month.

Known for her sharp observational humor, Poundstone has been an active comedian since 1979. Currently, she is the host of comedy podcast "Nobody Listens to Paula Poundstone" and appears regularly on the NPR comedy segment "Wait Wait ... Don't Tell Me!"

When asked about what viewers can expect at her show in Livermore on June 10, Poundstone quipped assurance, "Well, there's no physical violence."

"My act is largely autobiographical," she told the Weekly in a recent interview. "I talk about raising a house full of kids and animals. I talk a little bit about politics here and there, although I am no expert."

Throughout her act, Poundstone often interacts with and calls on members of the audience — she said she enjoys that aspect of the show the most.

"My favorite part of the night is

just talking to the audience. I do a bit where I ask them what do you do for a living and in this way we get to hear little biographies of audience members," Poundstone said. "So I really don't know what I'm going to talk about the entire time because it's very much directed by who I talk to in the audience."

Poundstone explained that during the COVID-19 stay-at-home orders, comedians — unlike musicians who could record themselves or do virtual concerts — were largely left out.

"If you're a musician, and many musicians did this, they would record or tape themselves singing in their living room and could get by that way. As a comic, many of us were scrambling," Poundstone said. "Nobody knew if the theaters would ever open up again."

Now with many venues and events returning to in-person shows, Poundstone feels that it brings people together in a way that virtual events may lack in.

"Often when you watch a video or see a picture or whatever, you're just looking at it on your phone screen

by yourself. You might acknowledge in your head that you think it's funny. You might even smile, but people rarely laugh out loud," she said. "But when you're in a group of people, it's infectious. Sometimes you laugh at stuff that you wouldn't have even laughed at if you weren't with the rest of the crowd."

Poundstone continued, emphasizing the unique experience of communal laughter.

"A whole crowd is experiencing the same thing at the same time. There's something about that collective experience that is so rich and so magnetized, so far beyond what it would be if you were by yourself," Poundstone said. "To be back with that again is just priceless. As an audience member, and certainly as a performer, it's just so great to experience that with strangers."

Poundstone discussed her personal comedic inspirations as a child, ranging from Lily Tomlin to the Three Stooges.

"I had carefully cut out a clip from a Time Magazine article about her, there was a cover story about Lily Tomlin when she was



PHOTO BY SHANNON GREER / COURTESY LVA

Comedian Paula Poundstone is set to perform at the Bankhead Theater on June 10.

on Broadway with a one-woman show," Poundstone recalled. "I cut the little pictures out that were inside the article as well and put them up on my wall."

She went on to describe herself as a fan of "silly humor."

"I love the Three Stooges because they did silly, really funny things," Poundstone said. "Honestly I don't think I've ever laughed harder in my life than just seeing somebody with

toilet paper stuck on the bottom of their shoe. I just love silly jokes."

Over the years Poundstone has hosted many solo television specials and has appeared as a commentator on "The Tonight Show with Jay Leno."

Poundstone is set to headline at the Bankhead Theater in downtown Livermore on June 10. For tickets and more information about the show, visit livermorearts.org. ■

Museum on Main ready to launch event series next month

Family Days return on June 3; historic walking tours kick off June 10

By JEREMY WALSH

Pleasanton's Museum on Main is gearing up for a busy late-spring and summer chock full of special events aiming to educate and engage residents of all ages.

The museum's popular Family Days program is back beginning next Saturday (June 3) while a docent-led monthly historic walking tour series is due to get underway the following weekend.

"For each Family Day, we aim to provide families with free, hands-on and fun learning experiences during those long summer days," museum education director Rachel Brickell said in a statement.

And looking toward the walking tours, museum officials said, "These free walking tours will explore the people and buildings that helped make this town what it is today. You will learn about the larger than life figures and the unsung heroes of our town, as well as compare historic photographs from the museum's archive to what is still standing today."

Family Days

On Saturdays once a month June through September, the museum lawn will host free Family Days designed for children, parents and

grandparents around a central theme.

The kick-off event next Saturday (June 3) will focus on "Old Time County Fair", with activities such as carnival games with prizes, mock horse racing, paper quilts, coloring and animal judging tryouts — "a perfect warmup" with the 2023 Alameda County Fair set to open in Pleasanton two weeks later, Brickell said.

The Family Day on July 8 will be part of the museum's "Celebrate Community" series in partnership with Sunol Wilderness Preserve. "Activities might include learning about Ohlone-related objects and resources like tule, discovering fossils from the park's collection and journaling about nature," museum officials said.

Attendees will have the chance to "Step Back in Time" for the Aug. 5 Family Day, a glimpse at "life in Pleasanton without modern conveniences" with activities such as dipping candles, stamping leather, making smelling salts and pressing tortillas, according to the museum.

A recurring theme will close out the series on Sept. 16. For "Old Time Toys and Games", families can "enjoy an afternoon playing with all types of toys and games including old time wooden toys, optical illusion toys, and retro toys. Participants will also



COURTESY MUSEUM ON MAIN

The popular Family Days program returns to the Museum on Main in downtown Pleasanton next weekend.

be able to make some toys of their own to take home."

Family Days are set to run from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. outside the museum at 603 Main St. in the heart of downtown Pleasanton.

Historic walking tours

Offering an on-the-ground experience of "Pleasanton's long and varied history", the monthly walking tour series led by museum staff will start on June 10 with "A Storied Past: Exploring the Buildings in Downtown Pleasanton".

"From the Ohlone to today this walking tour covers how the land along Main Street was used and developed over time," museum officials said. "You will learn about early settlements, the Railroad,

Pleasanton's entrepreneurs, and this town's agricultural bounty in the 1890s. This walking tour will also reveal where the first Chinatown was and answer all your burning questions about the rumored tunnels under Pleasanton's Main Street."

The series continues on July 15 with a guided tour along St. Mary Street entitled, "If These Walls Could Talk: Exploring Downtown's Historic Homes, St. Mary Neighborhood".

A similar look at historic homes, this time along Second Street, will follow on Aug. 12. "Pleasanton's history is more than dates and historical time periods. It is about the everyday people that helped build this town," museum reps said. "You will learn about the families

that occupied those homes, their contributions, and how they lived their everyday lives in our small but industrious town."

The final tour will harken back to the opening one, a repeat of "A Storied Past: Exploring the Buildings in Downtown Pleasanton" on Sept. 23.

Each walking tour begins at 10 a.m. Pre-registration is required as groups are limited to 25 people total (large parties can request a separate group tour). The walks will go on rain or shine, and attendees are encouraged to wear comfortable shoes and a hat.

Learn more about all museum programs online at www.museumonmain.org or by phone at 925-462-2766. ■

Art and Wind Festival breezes into San Ramon

Beloved Memorial Day weekend event returns in full force this year

By JEANITA LYMAN

One of San Ramon's oldest traditions is returning to Central Park this year, which is set to be awash with high-flying and brightly colored art and kites in a well-known marker of Memorial Day weekend in the Tri-Valley.

The Art and Wind Festival is making its annual return with four stages featuring an array of live performances, two food courts and carnival rides, in addition to signature activities such as free kite-making for children and 150 arts-and-crafts vendors.

While there are a range of options for on-the-ground entertainment on tap, participants also flock to the popular event for a glimpse at sky-born spectacles in the form of kites.

"One of the most exciting elements of the Art and Wind Festival is the professional, choreographed kite flying," said Amalia Kulczyk, recreation marketing coordinator for the city of San Ramon. "These world-class kite flyers come from throughout the Western U.S. and put on demonstrations throughout the entire festival."

The unique twist on spring and summer celebrations has made the Art and Wind Festival an increasingly beloved crowd-pleaser for participants across the Tri-Valley as well as the greater Bay Area.

"The things people come back for every year are definitely the professional kite flying, the kids' kite making, and that's always really fun because the winds always seem to be so high in the park," Kulczyk said.

The event first took shape decades ago in 1989, in the form of a small street fair showcasing visual arts just six years after San Ramon's incorporation, drawing artists and revelers to the growing city ever since.

"It was such a popular event that it became a full festival filling most of San Ramon's 40-acre Central Park," Kulczyk said.

In addition to kites, art, food and entertainment, highlights of this year's festival include hot air balloon launches both days of the event and a U.S. Coast Guard helicopter landing that Sunday (May 28) at 2 p.m.

As the festival has solidified itself as a San Ramon tradition in the decades since its inception, the city's Arts Advisory Committee now commissions an art piece to represent each year's event, with Bay Area artist Malti B. Lee selected to create the piece representing this year's event that is currently on display in City Hall.

In addition to being based in the Bay Area, Lee's overall focus on the comparison, contrast and complementary aspects of flowers with



COURTESY CITY OF SAN RAMON

Kites fly overhead during a past Art and Wind Festival in San Ramon, a Memorial Day weekend staple in the Tri-Valley. This year's event is set for May 28-29.

cityscapes makes her a natural fit for San Ramon in the late spring as the city's urban landscape continues to take shape.

"Having lived exclusively in large metropolitan cities, pockets of vibrant flowers were always found against the backdrop of buildings," Lee said in her artist's statement. "The same way that noticing the fusion and contrasts of urban environments brought me moments of joy, calmness and reflection, my hope is that I can help others feel the same."

A range of Lee's work is on

display in a solo exhibition that debuted on May 2 coming to its end at the end of the holiday weekend on May 30 at the Lindsay Dirx Brown Art Gallery in the San Ramon Community Center, with the artist making an on-site appearance at the gallery from 12-4 p.m. on May 29.

"Each painting is inspired by somewhere I've been first-hand, there's a story behind each one," Lee said.

Another major attraction of the festival is its Memorial Day program honoring lost service members and

veterans on May 29. In addition to the hour-long ceremony, the day will see the "Commemorative Field of Flags" from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. allowing those with loved ones lost during or after military service to have a flag placed and displayed throughout the morning and early afternoon in their honor.

The festival's main events are set to run from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Sunday (May 28) and Monday (May 29). More information, including a schedule of performances and activities, is available at www.sanramon.ca.gov. ■



COURTESY CITIZEN FLANNEL

'90s hit parade at the Firehouse

Enjoy 1990s classics like "Semi-Charmed Life", "Wrong Way" or "Give It Away"? Or maybe one-hit wonders like Harvey Danger ("Flagpole Sitta") or Semisonic ("Closing Time")? Or all-timers from the likes of Nirvana or Pearl Jam? The Firehouse Arts Center is featuring a little bit of everything rock, punk and alternative from that decade this weekend, welcoming Bay Area '90s tribute band Citizen Flannel for a concert Saturday evening (May 27). Learn more at firehousearts.org.



COURTESY LVA

The Boxmasters at the Bankhead

Academy Award winner Billy Bob Thornton and his band The Boxmasters are coming to the Bankhead Theater next Saturday (June 3) for an eclectic rock concert. "Formed in 2007, The Boxmasters have recorded an impressive and diverse music catalog that touches on their love of a wide array of influences, but most importantly, the rock 'n' roll of the 1960s," Livermore Valley Arts reps said. "But at the core, there is a backbeat, a lyric with meaning and music played with emotion." The concert, which begins at 8 p.m., will also feature the rockabilly stylings of Fran Moran & The Nervous Wrecks. Visit livermorearts.org for tickets.

Valley Dance Theatre presenting Spring Rep showcase

Shows set for Memorial Day weekend; costumes created by award-winning designer

By NICOLE GONZALES

Tri-Valley ballet company Valley Dance Theatre has announced its 2023 spring showcase that is set to bring fairytales and carnivals alive through dance this holiday weekend.

The group will perform pieces from the ballet classics “Sleeping Beauty” and “Carnival of the Animals” for its 2023 Spring Rep shows. Set for this Saturday (May 27) at 7 p.m. and Sunday (May 28) at 2 p.m. at the Bankhead Theater in Livermore, both shows will be accompanied by a live pit orchestra.

Throughout the year VDT plans for two main shows — a full

professionally staged production and its Spring Rep show. The group has said it draws from both classic and contemporary styles of dance.

“Sleeping Beauty” takes audience members to meet Princess Aurora in a fairytale-like setting that is set to music by famous composer Tchaikovsky.

“Carnival of the Animals” by composer Saint-Saëns is a show that displays over 40 dancing creatures, such as elephants, kangaroos and swans, according to VDT officials.

“Both ‘Carnival of the Animals’ and ‘Sleeping Beauty’ are among the most elaborately costumed ballets in our repertoire,” VDT artistic

director Betsy Hausburg said in a press release. “Carnival’ has four different costume designers and ‘Sleeping Beauty’ has eight custom-made tutus alone, many showcasing the beauty and creativity of our acclaimed designer Caryne Mount.”

Award-winning costume designer Mount began working with VDT in 2001 after connecting with Hausburg. A former Livermore resident now residing in Oregon, Mount spent over 100 hours on construction, detail and design

work for the 2023 Spring Rep.

Although she has moved from the area, Mount returns to Livermore often for VDT performances and to aid in costume design.

“The right tutu elevates the dancing, and the dancer needs to be comfortable in costume,” Hausburg said of Mount’s work.

“We believe this colorful celebration will delight both the young and young-at-heart and we look forward to treating our audiences to fairytale magic and a marvelous

carnival of animals,” Hausburg added.

Hausburg originally co-founded VDT in 1980 with fellow local ballet dancer Penny Tomasello. Their mission was to provide affordable, high-quality ballet to the Tri-Valley region. In the years since, Hausburg has continued to serve as artistic director and choreographer for the group.

To find out more about VDT and the Spring Rep, visit www.valley-dancetheatre.com. ■



COURTESY VDT

Acclaimed designer Caryne Mount created the costumes for the Valley Dance Theatre’s upcoming Spring Rep production.



JERWIN CHUA / COURTESY VDT

Sara Persaud portrayed Swan in a previous Valley Dance Theatre production of “Carnival of the Animals”. This year’s Spring Rep is set for May 27-28.

Tribute bands taking to Wente Vineyards concert stage

Series runs June through October with food trucks and wine pairings

By JEREMY WALSH

The music of Prince, the Eagles, Elton John, Lynyrd Skynyrd and more are coming to Wente Vineyards over the next several months as the Livermore venue’s Tribute Band Concert Series makes its return starting next week.

Each concert event will feature local food trucks onsite, wine offerings and a special VIP upgrade package, including a table of up to 10 people, to round out the evening of entertainment. Wente officials encourage attendees 21 years old and up to bring their own low-back chairs or blankets for the concert lawn seating, which is first-come, first-served.

The series kicks off next Friday (June 2) with Mustache Harbor playing “spot-on renditions” of ‘70s and ‘80s hits that have helped them build a reputation as a popular tribute band nationwide, according to Wente officials.

Emblematic of the selection expected to be offered all series long, food trucks scheduled to be onsite for the first concert include

A Taco Guy, Que Squared, Crazy Empanadas, New Tradition and HP Taco Truck. All events will see the doors open at 6 p.m., with the concert to begin at 8 p.m.

On June 30, Wente will welcome Livermore’s own Crawdad Republic to the stage to perform original folk and bluegrass music.

Two weeks later, the distinctive sounds of The Rocket Man will fill the air when performer Kenny Metcalf covers the early hits of Elton John. “Complete with an almost identical voice to Sir Elton and dressed in his classic attire of flared bell pants, platform shoes, glasses, glitter and sequins, ‘Kenny Metcalf as Elton’ leaves listeners feeling as if they went back in time,” Wente reps said looking ahead to the July 14 concert.

Wente will then “Take It to the Limit” for the August concert as tribute band Boys of Summer play everyone’s favorite Eagles songs on Aug. 11.

The Purple Ones, an 11-piece group that includes a full horn section, will pay homage to the late, great Prince at the Wente concert

on Sept. 22.

And rounding out the series on Oct. 13 will be Skynnyn Lynnyrd, one of the best-known Lynyrd Skynyrd tribute bands in the country.

Sprinkled in among the concert

series will be a pair of other special events at Wente.

On June 18, Wente will host a Father’s Day event on the lawn open to the whole family from 12-5 p.m. featuring live music, food trucks and wine for purchase (for those of age).

Then, on July 26, Wente is

presenting its Wine Wednesday from 5-8 p.m., a complimentary event for adults 21 and older on the patio with live music and snacks and wine for purchase.

For more information or to purchase tickets for the tribute shows, visit wentevineyards.com/events. ■



COURTESY FIREHOUSE

Teens display musical talent

Pleasanton’s High School Music Collaborative is presenting its “Grad Night” concert tonight (May 26) at 7:30 p.m. as the students show off their musical skills with original and cover songs in a show that also serves as a fond farewell for members who are graduating from high school this spring. For more information about the program or for tickets at \$10 apiece, go to firehousearts.org.

POLICE BULLETIN

Coroner IDs man killed in crash near I-580 in Livermore

Authorities have confirmed the identity of the young man from Livermore who died after reportedly speeding through a red light and then hitting two other cars and a traffic pole near an Interstate 580 interchange in town earlier this month.

The decedent was 23-year-old Christian Andres Lopez, according to the Alameda County Coroner's Bureau.

According to the California Highway Patrol, the fatal crash occurred after 9 p.m. on May 6 at the intersection of North Livermore Avenue and I-580.

The driver of a 2006 Acura RL — later identified as Lopez — was traveling at a high speed southbound on North Livermore Avenue and ran a red light at the intersection while two other cars from the oncoming direction were attempting to make a protected left turn onto the freeway, according to the CHP.

The Acura struck both cars and smashed into a traffic pole, leading to lethal injuries for Lopez, according to authorities. He was pronounced dead at the scene. The occupants of the other vehicles were examined medically but declined

to be taken to the hospital, the CHP said.

—Jeremy Walsh

In other news

- The Contra Costa County District Attorney's Office released video footage and additional details about an altercation in the Danville Costco parking lot this month that prosecutors said has insufficient evidence to press charges sought after by the injured man involved.

Craig Blackburn, a 67-year-old Danville resident, spoke to media outlets at length earlier this month and appeared on camera with injuries he had sustained during a physical altercation outside the Costco store that is believed to have been sparked by an argument over a parking space on a Sunday morning, calling for charges to be pressed for what he said was a serious assault.

Officers with the Danville Police Department arrived at the scene for a reported battery at the Costco parking lot at 11:26 a.m. May 7, and proceeded with a criminal investigation. The case was subsequently referred to the DA's office, who declined to file charges against the other man — who has not been identified publicly — after they'd completed a review of evidence collected by DPD two days later.

Ted Asregadoo, public information officer for the DA's office, joined Contra Costa District

Attorney Diana Becton and deputy DA Adam Wilks for a press conference on May 11, during which they released surveillance video of the encounter and sought to explain the office's decision.

"(The video) shows that there were multiple opportunities for both of these individuals to walk away from what ended up being an argument over a parking space," Asregadoo told the Weekly.

In the beginning of video footage of the altercation, the other man can be seen sitting in his white sedan near a parking space in which Blackburn is loading groceries into his white SUV. Blackburn then passes the vehicle several minutes later to return his grocery cart, stopping briefly before pushing the cart into its receptacle then returning to the driver's side window of the sedan and appearing to speak to the driver.

About 10 seconds later, the driver's side door of the sedan opens and the other man steps out, turning toward Blackburn before taking several steps back. Blackburn then walks away as the driver returns to his vehicle and closes the door, with Blackburn turning around and returning to the driver's side window before walking back toward his vehicle, according to the video.

"Mr. Blackburn had opportunities to walk away, just to get into his car," Asregadoo said. "The other person had the opportunity to just leave, yet it was apparent that there were words exchanged and things were getting heated."

Blackburn then returns to the white sedan, with the driver opening the door and stepping out again before returning and driving away about 20 seconds later, in what appeared at first to be the end of the incident, according to the video.

"At one point another individual who is parked motions that he's going to be leaving and he can have his spot," Asregadoo said. "Instead, the person who was in the car and

yelling at Mr. Blackburn chose to go park somewhere else in the parking lot further away from where they were."

According to surveillance footage, it wasn't until a second encounter that the situation escalated to violence that resulted in Blackburn's leaving the parking lot in an ambulance and being hospitalized that day.

"The second encounter shows from the security footage that Mr. Blackburn leaves, pulls out of the parking space, goes down the aisle, but he doesn't exit the parking space and leave the area," Asregadoo said. "He instead goes to where the other person was parked and the other person has gotten out of his car. It's possible that there were words exchanged there."

The video shows Blackburn driving into a separate row of the parking lot, during which he approaches the other man — now outside of his white sedan and walking toward the store — and stops his white SUV briefly. The other man can be seen walking toward Blackburn's driver's side door and stopping there for several seconds before appearing to reach into the window as Blackburn accelerates for several feet, then abruptly stops and exits his vehicle.

"As he comes to the car, you can tell there's words exchanged," Asregadoo said. "There's an object that's thrown from the vehicle that Mr. Blackburn is in. Mr. Blackburn then accelerates his vehicle. Then Mr. Blackburn just stops, gets out of his car, and starts walking towards the alleged suspect, who turns around. And that's when punches start getting thrown."

A fistfight ensues for about five seconds before both are seen tumbling to the ground and a bystander appears to intervene, with the other man then walking away. Other bystanders come to Blackburn's aid as some shoppers look on from outside the store.

The scene showcased by the

surveillance footage contradicts the account that Blackburn gave to various media outlets this week, in which he said that the attack was unprovoked. It also makes it virtually impossible for the DA's office to prosecute, according to Asregadoo.

"To prove beyond a reasonable doubt, prosecutors have to show that Mr. Blackburn was a victim of an assault and any attempts to fight back were self defense, when what was clearly seen in the video raises reasonable doubt issues," Asregadoo said. "We would never be able to with confidence prosecute the case as he wanted it prosecuted."

Although Asregadoo said there were apparently words exchanged initially and leading up to the physical encounter, the lack of audio from the video footage and other evidence obtained by DPD made it difficult to tell exactly what had caused the situation to escalate, or what the motives of either party had been.

"We can't tell what's being said," Asregadoo said. "We're looking at body language — at various times the alleged suspect gets out of the car and gets back into his car. Mr. Blackburn is also doing something similar."

"You could tell these two guys do not like each other," he added. "They were two guys with short fuses, short tempers, and they happened to encounter each other."

Nonetheless, Asregadoo noted that Blackburn's injuries had been substantial, and that there was no denying the distress he'd experienced and put on display in media interviews this week.

"Mr. Blackburn was clearly attacked," Asregadoo said. "He suffered injuries. From his perspective, this is what had occurred, what he said to the media."

Asregadoo said that it was unknown if the other man had suffered injuries or been hospitalized following the altercation. ■

—Jeanita Lyman

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The Mountain View Voice is an award-winning community news organization covering the vibrant city of Mountain View in the heart of Silicon Valley. The Voice has been honored by the California Newspaper Publishers Association in recent years with multiple awards for reporting and photojournalism. We pride ourselves on providing our readers with insightful, accurate and unbiased news about our diverse community.

As a full-time reporter for the Mountain View Voice, you will be responsible for establishing productive relationships with sources, seeking out stories of interest and importance to our readers, and reporting on breaking news in our circulation area. As part of our collaborative newsroom, you will cover regional stories that are also published in Embarcadero Media's other Midpeninsula news outlets, the Palo Alto Weekly, The Almanac and the Redwood City Pulse.

The ideal candidate will have a bachelor's degree, at least one year of professional reporting experience, a thorough knowledge of AP style, excellent communication and organization skills, and be familiar with the Mountain View area. Fluency in written and spoken Spanish is a big plus. The salary range is \$21-\$26/hour, depending on experience.

For more information, go to tinyurl.com/MVBeatReporter.







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 PaloAltoOnline.com | TheAlmanacOnline.com | MountainViewOnline.com
 RWCPulse.com | TheSixFifty.com

POLICE REPORT

The Pleasanton Police Department made the following information available.

May 18

Auto theft

- 7:04 a.m. on the 5600 block of Owens Drive
- 11:46 a.m. on the 4000 block of Pimlico Drive

Vandalism

- 8:01 a.m. on the 4800 block of Willow Road
- 8:58 a.m. on the 5700 block of Owens Drive
- 9:34 a.m. on the 5600 block of Owens Drive

Robbery

- 10:55 a.m. on the 4100 block of Georgis Place

Fraud

- 1:53 p.m. on the 4500 block of Pleasanton Avenue

May 17

Theft

- 12:19 a.m., 6000 block of Johnson Drive; auto theft recovery
- 8:48 a.m. on the 3400 block of Andrews Drive

- 2:50 p.m., 6300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; bicycle theft

Vandalism

- 11:08 a.m. on the 4300 block of Hacienda Drive
- 1:02 p.m. at Inglewood Drive and Addison Way; graffiti

DUI

- 2:59 p.m. at Ray Street and Walnut Drive

May 16

Vandalism

- 9:30 a.m. on the 5500 block of Johnson Drive

Theft

- 1:32 p.m., 4900 block of Owens Drive; auto theft
- 5:37 p.m., 1400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting

May 15

Theft

- 9:49 a.m., 6200 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; bicycle theft
- 10:39 a.m., 4800 block of Bernal Avenue; auto theft
- 10:53 a.m. on the 4700 block of Hopyard Road

Vandalism

- 11:06 a.m. on the 7600 block of Stoneridge Drive

Warrant arrest

- 4:14 p.m. on the 4800 block of Bernal Avenue

Burglary

- 2:19 p.m. on the 4400 block of Black Avenue

May 14

Theft

- 12:07 a.m. on the 6200 block of Stoneridge Mall Road
- 9:44 p.m., 4200 block of Rosewood Drive; shoplifting

Weapons violation

- 2:23 a.m. on the 5800 block of Owens Drive

DUI

- 4 a.m. at Bernal Avenue and Sunol Boulevard

Trespassing/prowlng

- 6:49 a.m. on the 7300 block of Hillsdale Drive

Vandalism

- 8:53 a.m. at Mohr Avenue and Irongate Drive

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TIM TALK

By TIM HUNT

Valley Link rail will be powered by hydrogen

Come 2024 and 2025, the final plans for the Valley Link rail line should be set and construction should commence on the 42-mile rail line linking the Dublin-Pleasanton BART Station with Livermore and the San Joaquin County cities.

The Innovation Tri-Valley Leadership Group threw a “lunch and learn” event at Shannon Community Center in Dublin on May 17 to highlight its commitment to operating rail cars powered by hydrogen. As participants made clear, it’s the best choice and they expect the technology to continue to improve.

Currently, 105,000 people commute daily over the Altamont Pass, and Interstate 580 is jammed as early as 4:30 in the morning until about 9:30 a.m. on weekdays.

Kevin Sheridan, head of Valley Link, pointed out that electrified trains running up the I-580 median would involve major environmental and operational hurdles so that meant finding another

fuel. The current Union Pacific Express trains operate with diesel engines, but the board did not want to go there, even using a more environmentally friendly diesel.

He also pointed out that the freeway is about as wide as is possible and commuter buses will be parked on the freeway right beside motorists. That’s a key reason that the \$1.86 billion rail link makes sense, plus it will provide much more frequent trains than ACE and have the BART connection to bring riders into the core Bay Area.

With hydrogen the fuel choice, Valley Link is working with Stadler US, a division of the Swiss multinational rail car company. It has already tested its hydrogen train for more than 1,000 miles in Europe and anticipates more than 2,000 miles when it enters service in San Bernardino County, said Kaden Killpack who manages that project in Southern California.

To supply the hydrogen, Linde North America is planning a manufacturing plant in Tracy that initially will supply 5 tons per day. Valley Link is expected to use 3.5 tons so it will have capacity to fuel other trucks. Given the abundance of distribution centers in San Joaquin County and the state mandate to eliminate diesel-powered tractors, I suspect there will be no issue finding a market.

Wladimir Sarmiento Darkin, business development director for Linde, said his company’s biggest challenge will be rapidly scaling up its manufacturing sites to meet demand that he expects to soar.

The same could be said for the electric vehicle charging stations as well as major improvements to PG&E’s old grid.

While on the subject of traffic on I-580, work is underway for the temporary fix for the eastbound lane that slid away in the heavy storms. That work is expected to be finished within two weeks, and the design for the long-term fix is

underway with construction expected to start in two months.

One of the alternative commute routes, Tesla Road, has been closed since the torrential rains. John Medlock Jr. of Alameda County Public Works said workers were able to stabilize the road with 1-ton boulders and it should reopen soon.

Meanwhile, work on fixing the slides into Shadow Cliffs on Stanley Boulevard has started. The contractor is working 10-hour days, six days a week, with a target of completing the cellular concrete bank by June 10.

Medlock pointed out that the county has 19 repair jobs coming from the atmospheric rivers that pounded Northern California, about three times more than occurred in the winter of 2017. ■

Editor’s note: Journalist Tim Hunt has written columns on the Tri-Valley community for more than 40 years. He grew up in the valley and lives in Pleasanton. His “Tim Talk” blog appears online at PleasantonWeekly.com.

LETTERS

Clean water not a priority for Pleasanton officials

In spite of proposed federal regulations limiting the maximum allowable PFOS/PFOA amount in drinking water to the maximum contaminant level (MCL) of 4 nanograms per liter (ng/L), Pleasanton’s mayor and city council last week voted 4-1 (Balch opposed) to reopen up previously shuttered Wells 5 and 6 during the summer on an as-needed basis.

The bad news is these wells have PFOS concentrations of 12 ng/L and 18 ng/L, over 3 to 4-1/2 times the proposed federal MCL.

That doesn’t seem to matter to the four elected officials who instead of determining ways to remove the PFAS toxins from our water are focused on renovating a former private residence — Century House — and constructing yet another skate board park.

Since the city’s staff report failed to mention in any way, shape or form the proposed Federal PFAS regulations are in fact only 4 ng/L, perhaps the city manager and city attorney (Gerry Beaudin and Dan Sodergren) are hoping these standards won’t ever materialize. Perhaps that’s why rather than funding a solution to screen out the contaminants via ion exchange resins like Zone 7, the city seems to

be in permanent pause mode.

Their new priority? Unbelievably, the city just published an 81-page document to serve as a staff report for a special meeting earlier this week on “City Council Norms and Code of Conduct.”

The priority of the elected majority has shifted yet again, this time from clean and safe water to etiquette/behavior/conduct.

Our tax dollars at work ...

—Anne Fox

Public frauds tort law needed

How is it possible that dirty tricks intending to dupe the American public to tilt elections — traced back to campaign operatives — are considered legal? Does the First Amendment go so far as to cover the deliberate defrauding of the voters with a whopper capable of “nudging” the outcome?

What would James Madison say? When he coined the phrase “the consent of the governed”, wasn’t he talking about informed consent? If instead, consent is obtained through trickery and deceit, what remains of his principle?

Based on this reasoning, it will improve our campaigns to develop new tort law empowering The Public (as plaintiff) to sue any actor(s) who pushes out a public

fraud for political gain. You can think of this as an extension of defamation law, where issues of fact vs. fabrication are decided by a jury, and liability levied. The Alex Jones, Dominion and E. Jean Carroll lawsuits show the way to counter infowarfare wrongdoers in keeping with First Amendment freedoms.

—Pierre Bierre

Safeway employees give back for Community Service Day

On May 5, the Northern California Division of Safeway hosted a Community Service Day.

Associates in Pleasanton gathered that day at their division office before volunteering at four local nonprofits in the East Bay.

Volunteers helped bag groceries and stocked the shelves for hunger relief organizations, assembled care packages for children in need, and restored a garden at a campsite for children who have diverse abilities.

The Safeway Foundation donated a total of \$10,000 to the participating organizations: Alameda County Community Food Bank, Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano, Hively Family Resource Center and Taylor Family Foundation.

—Will Reisman, via Town Square

YOUR TURN

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

Submit letters to the editor of up to 250 words and guest opinion pieces up to 550 words with a short bio to editor@PleasantonWeekly.com. Include your name, address and daytime phone number so we can reach you. We reserve the right to edit contributions for length, objectionable content, libel and factual errors known to us. Anonymous letters will generally not be accepted.

Submitting a letter to the editor or guest opinion constitutes a granting of permission to the Pleasanton Weekly and Embarcadero Media to also publish it online, including in our online archives and as a post on Town Square.

For more information contact Editor Jeremy Walsh at (925) 600-0840.



PLEASANTON PREPS

BY DENNIS MILLER

Former Livermore High coach Bronzan inducted into California Wrestling Hall of Fame

Also: Amador swimmers and divers compete at state championships

Bob Bronzan was joined by family, friends and Livermore High School alumni at the Starlite Banquet Hall in San Jose for the 22nd annual California Wrestling Hall of Fame banquet earlier this month.

As a result of his lifetime dedication to coaching, mentoring and great contributions to the sport of wrestling, Bronzan was presented with the Lifetime Service Award.

Bronzan's recent induction makes him the fourth Livermore High wrestling alumni to receive this distinguished honor and sixth overall between the two high schools in the city.

He is joined by fellow Livermore wrestling alumni Steve Page (2016),

Al Fontes (2016), Clark Conover (2018) and Granada wrestling coaches Rich and Dick Bailey (father and son), who were inducted in 2017 and 2020, respectively.

Bronzan has been an integral part of the sport of wrestling and many other extracurricular activities in the Livermore school district for nearly six decades. Hired in 1964 at Livermore High School as a social science teacher, Bronzan took the helm as the head wrestling coach in 1966 and continued until the end of 1974, when he was promoted to an administrative position at the school.

During that same timeframe, he also coached football and baseball. Nearly a decade later, he took over

the wrestling program for a one-year stint during the 1982-83 season when the program was unexpectedly in need of a head coach.

A master at the art of motivating his athletes, as well as promoting his program, Bronzan on average had up to 80 kids on his roster and was also very instrumental in organizing rooster buses for students and fans to attend away dual meets.

During his coaching tenure, Bronzan produced seven East Bay Athletic League championship teams, 33 individual EBAL champions, four North Coast Section Region II placers, one NCS Region II champion, eight NCS placers, one NCS champion and a Northern California champion in 1967.

Pleasanton Preps sponsored by



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COURTESY AL FONTES

Bob Bronzan (center), the newest Livermore inductee into the California Wrestling Hall of Fame, is flanked by Al Fontes and Clark Conover, fellow Cowboys also already in the HOF.

Amador boys' run ends in NorCal volleyball tourney

The week after winning the NCS Division I boys' volleyball championship, Amador Valley saw its season come to an end with a loss to St. Francis of Mountain View in the CIF Northern California tournament.

The Lancers shut down the host Dons in straight sets winning 25-16, 25-22, 25-23.

Amador had a strong run through the season, finishing 28-8 overall, with a 10-3 record in EBAL play, and of course the NCS banner for the gym.

Senior and Stanford-bound Nate Clinton was selected as the Most Valuable Player for the EBAL. Other Dons honored with post-season awards were Bryce Nohava and Colin Bowers with First-Team picks. Colin Bowers was a Second-Team selection.

It was a great season to close out the Amador coaching career of Erin McFall. After spending eight years overall, the last five as head coach, McFall will step away from the program.

He racked up an overall record of 98-26, along with a 53-10 EBAL mark since taking over in 2019. McFall has been a part of three EBAL championships (2017, 2018 and 2022), three NCS Championships (2017, 2019 and 2023) and five CIF

NorCal appearances.

The Dons will return a talented lot next season, as many of the underclassmen found substantial playing time this year.

Juniors Aiden Husejnovic, Parker Brookhart, and Ryan Yu as well as sophomores Nick Nayak and Max Riter all contributed this season.

Amador swimming and diving

Here are the results for the Dons from the CIF State Swimming and Diving Championships held May 13 in Clovis.

Diving: Ben Lentz finished 17th on the 1-meter board, coming in as the No. 21 seed.

Girls: Rylee Hutchinson finished her outstanding freshman season, finishing 11th in the 200 freestyle in a season best and All-American Consideration time of 1:50.86.

She also got 10th in the 500 free, in an All-American Consideration time of 4:55.24. The girls' 400 free relay, consisting of seniors Florence Lin and Lilli Chau, sophomore Sydney Goldstein and Hutchinson finished 29th.

Boys: Senior Hayden Tupper ended his stellar high school swim career with the Dons by finishing 18th in the 200 free with a time of 1:40.12, and 24th in the 100 free, turning in a season best 46.37. ■

Grab a front row seat to local high school sports

TRI-VALLEY PREPS PLAYBOOK

The Playbook gives you an in-depth look at what's going on in prep sports.

Every Tuesday, veteran sports writer Dennis Miller emails you exclusive insights into:

- Season and game previews that tell you what to look for and what's at stake
- Profiles of interesting coaches and athletes
- Post-game analysis
- Entertaining features
- Local sports trends

SCAN AND SIGN UP FOR TRI-VALLEY PLAYBOOK



Sign up now at pleasantonweekly.com/express/sports/

Employment

Embedded Software Engineer Manager

Omron Robotics & Safety Technologies, Inc. has opening for Embedded Software Engineer Manager in Pleasanton, CA. Lead efforts to develop software architecture for next-generation robot controllers. Email resume to Sally. nguyen@omron.com Ref. job #49. \$205,733 - \$210,000

To place an ad or get a quote, contact **Kevin Legarda** at **650.223.6597** or email **digitalads@pawekly.com**.

Entertainment

CITIZEN FLANNEL From iconic bands like Sublime, Third Eye Blind and the Goo Goo Dolls, to superstars Green Day and the Red Hot Chili Peppers, to unforgettable one-hit wonders and grunge heroes, Citizen Flannel takes you back to that incredible time in music history. 8 p.m., May 27. Tickets \$20. Visit firehousearts.org.

VALLEY DANCE THEATRE'S SPRING REP Celebrate the beauty of dance with repertory pieces both classic and contemporary in this colorful celebration surely to delight both the young and the young at heart. 7 p.m., May 27; 2 p.m., May 28. Tickets \$30. Visit livermorearts.org.

MEMORIAL DAY CONCERT Celebrate Memorial Day with the Pleasanton Community Concert Band at the Pleasanton Senior Center Centennial Park. 10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., May 29. 5353 Sunol Blvd. Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd., Pleasanton.

TRIBUTE TO JOHNNY CASH James Garner and his band faithfully recreate Cash's biggest hits with stunning accuracy in this not-to-be-missed musical event. The show is a fun, toe-tapping trip down memory lane. 7:30 p.m., June 1. Tickets \$38-\$58. Visit livermorearts.org.

BILLY BOB THORNTON & THE BOXMASTERS The Boxmasters have recorded an impressive and diverse music catalog with a wide array of influences. A must-see show at the Bankhead featuring one of

Hollywood's biggest stars. 8 p.m., June 3. Tickets \$20-\$85. Visit livermorearts.org.

JUNETEENTH: LIVING IT, LEARNING IT, LOVING IT! Join educator, speaker and radio personality Faith Alpher as she shares insights about Juneteenth and why we all can love it and learn from it as she shares history through humor and storytelling. 3 p.m., June 4. Free with reservations required. Visit livermorearts.org.

VERSE ON THE VINE The Livermore Public Library invites the community to attend a Verse on the Vine poetry reading by Livermore Poet Laureate Peggy Schimmelman. Refreshments will be served and an open mic will follow the formal presentations. 3 p.m., June 4. Civic Center Library, Storytime Room.

AIR GUITAR CONTEST Grab your air guitar, squeeze into the spandex, put on the leather pants and fringed vests and submit your winning song. Prizes will be awarded. Contestant Entry Fee: \$20. 7:30 p.m., June 8. Visit livermorearts.org.

COURTYARD CONCERT STARRING KNR KNR is a three-piece pop/rock band from Livermore making music together for over 40 years. 5:30 p.m., June 9. Tickets \$10. Visit livermorearts.org.

MELODY MINSTRELS Musical entertainment by Dublin's own ukulele ensemble. 11:45 a.m., June 9. Pleasanton Senior Center.

PAULA POUNDSTONE AT THE BANKHEAD Known for her smart, observational humor and spontaneous wit that has become the stuff of legend, Paula can be heard weekly as the host of the comedy podcast, Nobody Listens to Paula Poundstone. 8 p.m., June 10. Tickets \$40-\$70. Visit livermorearts.org.

SONY HOLLAND: A TRIBUTE TO LINDA RONSTADT Sony Holland is a warm, inviting performer whose unaffected style has endeared her to a loyal circle of fans locally, nationally and internationally. 8 p.m., June 10. Tickets \$20-\$25. Visit firehousearts.org.

MATILDA THE MUSICAL CYT Tri-Valley presents Tony Award-winning Roald Dahl's Matilda The Musical, which tells the inspiring story of a special little girl with an extraordinary imagination. June 15-18. Tickets \$26.25. Visit livermorearts.org.

JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION AT THE BANKHEAD PLAZA Juneteenth commemorates the liberation of the last slaves in Texas, two years after the Emancipation Proclamation abolished slavery in the Confederate States in 1863. This free event will be observed with a local celebration, including music, art, drumming, singing, dancing and musical performances. 10 a.m.-4 p.m., June 17.

MIDNIGHT FLYER: A TRIBUTE TO THE EAGLES Audiences and critics alike love the Midnight Flyer band's energy and spot-on recreation of Eagles music. This Bay Area group is considered one of the premier Eagles tribute acts, packing theaters and selling out shows along the West Coast and beyond. 8 p.m., June 17. Tickets \$20-\$25. Visit firehousearts.org.

Exhibits

FRESH WORKS XI AT THE FIREHOUSE The showing is made of up 72 artworks created within the past year by many of the region's most creative artists and selected for the exhibition by juror Ashley L. Voss, owner and director of Voss Gallery in San Francisco. On display now through June 10. Harrington Gallery.

NEW MUSEUM ON MAIN EXHIBIT The exhibit "On the Job: The Changing World of Work in the Valley and Beyond" will bring to light the who, what, where, why and how of Pleasanton and the Valley at work, and how that experience fits into the nation's history. Open May 31-July 8. For more information visit museumonmain.org.

ROCK 'N' ROLL EXHIBIT An exhibit showcasing the art of rock n' roll, featuring guitars, album covers, photography and more, at the UNCLE Credit Union Art Gallery at the Bankhead Theater, now through July 9. Free 1-5 p.m., Thursdays-Sundays.

PET OF THE WEEK



TVAR

Rupert is ready

Handsome Rupert is a volunteer favorite. He's a mature gentleman, approximately 10 years old, with plenty of pep! He likes going for walks, playing in the yard and even has fun trying out the agility equipment. He weighs about 55 pounds, and he's already neutered so he's ready to go home today. Available for adoption through Tri-Valley Animal Rescue, meet Rupert in Kennel C5 at the East County Animal Shelter in Dublin. Learn more at tvar.org.

Fairs & Festivals

626 NIGHT MARKET The iconic California festival features hundreds of food, merchandise, crafts, arts, games, music and entertainment attractions in an epic event spread over 10 football fields of space that appeals to all ages. May 26-28. Visit alamedacountyfair.com.

ART & WIND FESTIVAL This annual event features fine arts, crafts and specialty food vendors, party bands and variety entertainers, children's shows, gourmet food courts, free kite making workshop and more. 11 a.m.-6 p.m., May 28-29. San Ramon's Central Park, 12501 Alcosta Blvd.

CABFRANC-A-PALOOZA! Cabernet Franc lovers and wine producers are descending upon Livermore Valley for CabFranc-A-Palooza! celebrating all things Cabernet Franc with events and tastings. June 1-4. Visit visitrivalley.com.

ALAMEDA COUNTY FAIR Themed "Summer Vibes", the Alameda County Fair runs from June 16-July 9. Filled with summertime favorites including carnival rides and games, classic fair food and drinks, vendor booths, arts and culinary exhibitions, livestock displays and more. Visit alamedacountyfair.com.

Family

CONE WITH A COP In partnership with Meadowlark Dairy, Pleasanton Police Department invites all to attend Cone with a Cop on May 31 from 2-5 p.m. This is an opportunity for the public to meet members of the police department and enjoy a free cone of ice cream.

FIRST WEEKEND ON MAIN Every first weekend of the month come to downtown Pleasanton and enjoy street closures for roaming historical downtown, events and outdoor dining. June 2-4.

JURASSIC QUEST Walk with a larger-than-life dinosaur herd with friends and family as Jurassic Quest roars through Pleasanton. Play with adorable baby Dinos, excavate fossils or train a raptor while surrounded by behemoths like sky-scraping Spinosaurus and the King himself, Tyrannosaurus

rex. June 2-4. Tickets \$24-\$41. Visit alamedacountyfair.com.

PLEASANTON MILITARY FAMILIES PANCAKE BREAKFAST Come join many local military and veteran organizations for a free pancake breakfast. Any donations will go to PMF for care package event postage. June 3. 4501 1st St., Delucchi Park. Visit pleasantonmilitaryfamilies.org.

FAMILY DAY AT MUSEUM ON MAIN "Old Time County Fair" is the theme of this Family Day at Museum on Main where activities will include carnival games and prizes, paper quilts and coloring. 10 a.m.-2 p.m., June 3. 603 Main St.

FREE CHILDREN'S CARNIVAL Celebrate summer with a circus show, games and free ice cream. Slim Chance circus will perform at 12:30 p.m. followed by time for kids to learn plate spinning, juggling, and more. 12-3 p.m., June 10. Civic Center Library, 1188 S. Livermore Ave.

LIVERMORE RODEO The Livermore Rodeo is packed with action and events including a Queen and Princess Competition, BBQ Mixer, Family Night and Cowgirl Luncheon. June 10-11. Robert Livermore Park. Visit visitrivalley.com/event/livermore-rodeo.

FATHER'S DAY CAR SHOW Blackhawk Museum hosts the 2nd annual Jon Snyder Memorial Father's Day Car Show. Celebrate in style with a thrilling car show that's fun for the whole family. 8 a.m.-2 p.m., June 18. Visit blackhawkmuseum.org.

Volunteer

TRI-VALLEY HAVEN PANTRY STOCKERS If available on Tuesday mornings consider this great volunteer opportunity. More hands make light work. Contact Lynne Menon, coordinator of volunteers, 925-667-2711. 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. 418 Junction Ave., Livermore.

TEEN VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION AT DUBLIN LIBRARY Teens needing community service hours can attend an orientation to sign up for shifts to be either a program

See **CALENDAR** on Page 20

TAKE US ALONG



Stalled out in the desert: As Joss and Janice Flanzbaum were driving up steep grades through Negev desert in Israel, the older Prius they were using stalled out for the third time so they had to pull over. "A tow truck took the car while we waited for a taxi to return us 2-1/2 hours to our destination in Hadera. Quite an adventure with beautiful views of the valley below. Thank goodness it was still winter!" Janice told the Weekly while submitting their Take Us Along.

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

Public Notices

A-1 ENTERPRISES

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No.: 597523

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

1.) A-1 ENTERPRISES, located at 3110 BUSCH ROAD, PLEASANTON, CA 94566, ALAMEDA COUNTY. MAILING ADDRESS: PO BOX 399, PLEASANTON, CA 94566.

This business is conducted by: a Limited Liability Company.

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

RECYCLING AND RESOURCE RECOVERY SYSTEMS, LLC

3110 BUSCH ROAD
PLEASANTON, CA 94566
CALIFORNIA

Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 04/09/1992

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on April 28 2023. (PLW May 19, 26, Jun 2 and 9, 2023)

EVAN MAC DELIVERY SERVICES

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No.: 597016

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

1.) Evan Mac Delivery Services, located at 4487 Arce St, Union City, CA 94587, Alameda County.

This business is conducted by: a Limited Liability Company.

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

Evan Mac Delivery Services LLC
4487 Arce St
Union City, CA 94587
California

Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 01/21/2023

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on April 10 2023. (PLW May 5, 12, 19 and 26, 2023)

PAMPERED NAILS AND SPA

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No.: 597610

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

1.) Pampered Nails and Spa, located at 6900 Village Parkway, Dublin, CA 94568, Alameda County.

This business is conducted by: an Individual.

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

LANH NGUYEN
1118 Eureka Lane #6
Concord, CA 94520

Registrant has not yet commenced transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on May 02 2023. (PLW May 26, Jun 2, 9 and 16, 2023)

TRANFORMEZ HARDWOOD FLOORS

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No.: 597122

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

1.) Transformez Hardwood Floors, located at 19263 Hathaway Avenue, Hayward, CA 94541, Alameda County.

This business is conducted by: an Individual.

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

FRANCISCO J GOMEZ
19263 Hathaway Avenue
Hayward, CA 94541

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 April 13 2023. (PLW May 26, Jun 2, 9 and 16, 2023)

TK ART

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No.: 597887

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

1.) TK ART, located at 3867 Florian St. Pleasanton, CA 94588, Alameda County.

This business is conducted by: an Individual.

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

TAEYEON KIM
3867 Florian St.
Pleasanton, CA 94588

Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 05/14/2023

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on May 15 2023. (PLW May 26, Jun 2, 9 and 16, 2023)

HOMETOWN VENDING

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No.: 597468

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

1.) Hometown Vending, located at 7554 Rosedale Court, Pleasanton CA 94588, Alameda County.

This business is conducted by: a General Partnership.

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

ELLEN FIGUEIRA
7554 Rosedale Court
Pleasanton, Ca 94588

LYTIA ZAZZERON
4763 Orangetown Court
Pleasanton, Ca 94588

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 April 26 2023. (PLW May 5, 12, 19 and 26, 2023)

GEML

GEML INC

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No.: 597082

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

1.) GEML, 2.) GEML INC, located at 1807 Santa Rita Road Unit #229, Pleasanton, CA 94566, Alameda County.

This business is conducted by: a Corporation.

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

TRUEBOO INC
2625 Middlefield Road #216
Palo Alto, CA 94306
California

Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on April 12 2023. (PLW May 5, 12, 19 and 26, 2023)

M D PROCESSING, LLC

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No.: 597643

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

1.) M D PROCESSING, LLC, located at 1736 BEACHWOOD WAY 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):

MD PROCESSING, LLC
1736 BEACHWOOD WAY
PLEASANTON, CA 94566
CALIFORNIA

Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 01/01/2011
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on May 03 2023. (PLW May 19, 26, Jun 2 and 9, 2023)

BUSINESS CASUAL YOGA

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No.: 596974

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

1.) Business Casual Yoga, located at 2607 Fulton St, Unit C, Berkeley, CA 94704, Alameda County.

This business is conducted by: a Limited Liability Company.

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

Sangha Strategies LLC
2607 Fulton St, Unit C
Berkeley, CA 94704
California

Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 06/16/2018
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on April 07 2023. (PLW May 5, 12, 19 and 26, 2023)

A TOUCH OF HEALTH

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No.: 597196

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

1.) A Touch of Health, located at 220 Kilkare Rd., Sunol, CA 94586, Alameda County. Mailing Address: P.O. Box 296, Sunol, CA 94586.

This business is conducted by: an Individual.

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

VERONICA B. HORTON
220 Kilkare Rd.
Sunol, CA 94586

Registrant began transacting business

under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 02/18/1988

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on April 17 2023. (PLW May 5, 12, 19 and 26, 2023)

TS MEDICAL

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No.: 597437

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

1.) TS Medical, located at 881 Sylvaner Dr Pleasanton Ca 94566, Alameda County.

This business is conducted by: an Individual.

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

TIM STEVENS

881 Sylvaner Dr

Pleasanton Ca 94566

Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 01/01/2006

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on April 25 2023. (PLW May 12, 19, 26 and Jun 2, 2023)

ACTION 1 PROPERTIES

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No.: 597381

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

1.) ACTION 1 PROPERTIES, located at 4695 CHABOT DRIVE, SUITE 200, PLEASANTON, CA 94588, ALAMEDA. Mailing Address: PO BOX 12062, Pleasanton, CA 94588.

This business is conducted by: a Corporation.

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

PLM INC
3521 OLYMPIC COURT SOUTH
PLEASANTON, CA 94588
CALIFORNIA

Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 01/01/2016

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on April 21 2023. (PLW May 5, 12, 19 and 26, 2023)

GSD CHIEF OF STAFF

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No.: 597499

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

1.) GSD Chief of Staff, located at 127 Sea Bridge Ct. Alameda CA 94502, Alameda County.

This business is conducted by: an Individual.

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

MELINDA MUNROE

127 Sea Bridge Ct.

Alameda, CA 94502

Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 04/27/2023

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on April 27 2023. (PLW May 12, 19, 26 and Jun 2, 2023)

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

Case No.: 23CV033725

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:

Petitioner: Sonja Kay Brown filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:

SONJA KAY BROWN to SONJA KAY KISSMAN-BROWN

THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted.

Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing. NOTICE OF HEARING: 06/20/2023, 09:30 am, Civil, Dept 14 of the Superior Court of California, County of Alameda located at 1221Oak St, Oakland, CA, 94612.

A copy of this ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county:

PLEASANTON WEEKLY

Date: 05/19/2023

Charles A. Smiley

JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT

(PLW May 26, Jun 2, 9 and 16, 2023)

Place a legal notice at
PleasantonWeekly.com/legal_notices/

CALENDAR

CALENDAR

Continued from Page 19

volunteer or Teen Advisory Group volunteer. Program volunteers help library staff prepare and/or present library programs. 12-1 p.m., June 3, in the Virginia Bennett Room.

Talks

TECHNOLOGY, SOCIAL MEDIA AND ADOLESCENT MENTAL HEALTH Dr.

Mitch Prinstein and Dr. Eva Telzer of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill present a free webinar, “Technology, Social Media and Adolescent Mental Health” offered by the Alan Hu Foundation. In this talk, they will deconstruct the psychological science on youths technology and social media use. 5-6:30 p.m., May 31. RSVP by May 30 at alanhufoundation.org.

SELF-CARE FOR THE CARETAKER

This webinar will focus on understanding the causes of stress, strategies for coping and the importance of seeking support and utilizing resources. 10-11:30 a.m., June 8. Visit hopehospice.com.

AMADOR VALLEY QUILTERS

Multiple award-winning fiber artist and AVQ member, Linda Schmidt, will speak at the first in-person meeting in 3 years. Her lecture is entitled “Short Attention Span Quilting and Trunk Show” and each of these quilts has its own story and each one is completely different from the next. 1:30-3:30 p.m., June 10. Visit amadorvalleyquilters.org.

LIVERMORE-AMADOR GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Stephen P. Morse will discuss “The 1950 Census: Searching with and without a Name Index & The 1950 Census: One Year Later”. He is the creator of the One-Step website and has held various research, development and teaching positions. 7-8:30 p.m., June 12. Visit l-ags.org. Congregation Beth Emek 3400 Nevada Court, Pleasanton.

AN EVENING OR AFTERNOON WITH ALICE PAUL

In this living-history portrayal, actress and scholar Leslie Goddard, Ph.D., portrays suffragist Alice Paul, one of the most dynamic leaders in the fight to win votes for women. Tickets \$15-\$25. 2 p.m. and 7 p.m., June 13. Firehouse Arts Center. Visit museumonmain.org.

INTERFAITH INTERCONNECT RELIGION

CHAT Rabbi Judith Seid, Tri-Valley Cultural Jews, and Eman Tai Ahmad, Muslim Community Center, will speak about the significance of their calendars and highlight some important observances and how they are celebrated. 7-8 p.m., June 14. Muslim Community Center East Bay, Conference Room/Suite 100, 5724 W. Las Positas Blvd., Pleasanton.

TRI-VALLEY WRITERS

Kate Farrell, author, storyteller and librarian, will present “Storytelling: An Interactive Workshop for Authors” where Farrell will show how to enliven your talks and create a shared experience with your listeners when you convert your stories from written pages to spoken words. Register by June 15

at trivalleywriters.org. Las Positas College, 2 p.m., June 17.

HACIENDA PARK TOASTMASTERS

Hacienda Park Toastmasters Club meets virtually via Zoom on the first, third and fifth Thursdays of every month from 12 p.m.-1 p.m. Overcome fear of speaking of speaking in a friendly, supportive atmosphere. Visit haciendapark.toastmastersclubs.org.

Outdoor Recreation

REPTILES VS. AMPHIBIANS

Join an LARPD Ranger at Sycamore Grove Park for a discussion on two animals often mistaken for one another, Reptiles and Amphibians. 12 p.m., May 27. Call the Ranger office at 925-960-2400 or email natureprograms@larpd.org.

FULL MOON NIGHT HIKE

Join an LARPD Ranger for an after-hours walk to learn about nocturnal animals and their adaptations. This will be a 1 mile walk at a very relaxed pace. 7:45-9:45 p.m., June 3. Sycamore Grove Park. Call 925-373-5700.

FULL MOON NIGHT HIKE

Join an LARPD ranger next to the campfire to sing, laugh and learn the secret to making the perfect campfire’s more. Bring a blanket, warm clothes and a chair. 7:30-8:45 p.m., June 17. Sycamore Grove Park. Call 925-960-2400.

Support

GENERAL GRIEF SUPPORT GROUPS

Hope Hospice offers free zoom General Grief Support Group services. Register in advance by phone at 925-829-8770. 6-7:30 p.m., Mondays. now to June 26.

SPOUSAL/PARTNER LOSS SUPPORT GROUPS

Hope Hospice offers free zoom support groups for Spousal/ Partner Loss. Register in advance by phone at 925-829-8770. Tuesdays, 6-7:30 p.m., now to June 27.

SURVIVORS OF SEXUAL ASSAULT

Tri-Valley Haven in-person support group for survivors of sexual assault are confidential and conducted by licensed professionals. Participants must be 18 and over and register in advance. For questions or registration contact Olga at 925-667-2705 or email olga@trivalleyhaven.org. 3-4:30 p.m., June 1, June 15, June 22, June 29, July 6, July 13.

Government

PLEASANTON CITY COUNCIL

The next Pleasanton City Council meeting is 7 p.m., June 6. Visit cityofpleasantonca.gov.

PLEASANTON PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

The Pleasanton Parks and Recreation Commission meets the second Thursday of each month. The next meeting is 7 p.m., June 8. Visit cityofpleasantonca.gov.

LIVERMORE PLANNING COMMISSION

The Livermore Planning Commission meets the first and third Tuesday of the month. The next meeting is 7 p.m., June 6. Visit cityoflivermore.net.

Elation opens new office in downtown Danville

Second location for Pleasanton-based firm founded three years ago

By JEREMY WALSH

Elation Real Estate is expanding its presence in the northern Tri-Valley, opening a new office in downtown Danville earlier this month to become the burgeoning company's second location across the region.

The Elation office at 380 Diablo Road, No. 201, aims to bring more personalized services to more clients for the Pleasanton-based real estate firm, according to owner-broker Gina Piper, who founded Elation just over three years ago based in downtown Pleasanton.

"Danville is a boutique community, and we think it deserves a boutique option when it comes to real estate," Piper said in a statement. "Our team's focus on providing personalized service and local expertise is what sets us apart from the big box companies, and we are excited to bring that to Danville."

Piper, a longtime real estate professional in Pleasanton with deep ties to her community including as a nonprofit board leader and

former city planning commissioner, opted to create her own brand with more of a boutique style in the winter of 2020. Elation's main offices are located on Spring Street in downtown Pleasanton.

The firm has now grown to 38 agents, with a shared team focus of "market expertise, clear communication and exceptional service," according to Piper.

"As agents with a focus on delivering a personalized experience to every client, we found that Elation's values and commitment to service and community aligned perfectly with ours," said Blake and Kylie Fahey, two recent additions to the company for its Danville team.

Rebecca Marino, another recent addition to Elation's team, added, "I was drawn to Elation because of its focus on providing an exceptional experience to clients. The level of support and collaboration amongst the team is something that I'm excited to be a part of."

Elation's Danville office opened its doors on May 12. ■



ELATION REAL ESTATE

Elation Real Estate, headquartered in downtown Pleasanton, has now opened a second office on Diablo Road in downtown Danville.

HOME SALES

This week's data represents homes sold during April 10-18 for Pleasanton, Livermore and Dublin, and April 10-21 for San Ramon.

Pleasanton

- 7875 Canyon Meadow Circle #G** Schmidt Living Trust to Y. Ko for \$715,000
- 4869 Del Valle Parkway** A. & C. Lillywhite to Nalage Family Trust for \$1,950,000
- 3186 Gulfstream Street** X. Tong to A. & S. Ganapathy for \$1,850,000
- 1797 Magnolia Circle** T. Sharma to Shi Family Trust for \$1,250,000
- 549 Tawny Drive** M. Babu to Upequity Spv1 LLC for \$700,000
- 8 Greens Lane** Yelland Trust to A. & J. Castro for \$1,415,000
- 4493 Holland Drive** Morgan Family Trust to A. & M. Maram for \$1,415,000
- 1015 Riesling Drive** C. Shaw to D. & C. Emery for \$1,825,000
- 1012 Shotwell Court** S. Dennison to Cohn Trust for \$5,620,000

Livermore

- 5183 Bianca Way** Gomez Family Trust to A. & S. Heredia for \$1,200,000
- 3050 Cabrillo Avenue** Foreverhome Properties LLC to N. & S. Wilson for \$1,080,000
- 1367 Chateau Common** Kretz Family Trust to S. Osborn for \$830,000
- 3146 Chateau Way** Sawyer Living Trust to K. & K. Quinlan for \$1,290,000
- 1563 De Soto Way** Ditmore Family Trust to Dgn Properties LLC for \$488,000
- 1086 Glenn Common** B. Wieskamp to K. & K. Mayfield for \$590,000
- 746 Hazel Street** Falconer Family Trust to T. & J. Burchfield for \$1,155,000
- 1524 Naples Court** Masi Family Trust to S. & P. Venkataramana for \$1,360,000
- 2530 Regent Road** Labarbera Trust to J. & E. Sherwood for \$1,641,000
- 2151 Stonebridge Road** K. & T. Kerling to J. & A. John for \$1,400,000
- 2146 Stonebridge Road** M. & S. Bose to B. & B. Miller for \$1,350,000
- 1036 Via Madrid** A. Sanner to Aym Ents LLC for \$950,000
- 677 Andrews Street** C. Foote to K. Sabiel for \$670,000
- 924 Dolores Street** M. Wirth to B. Ringheim for \$685,000

- 748 Mayview Way** T. Sahines to S. & C. Nicholas for \$1,058,000
- 1001 Murrieta Boulevard #64** D. Metier to Martini Trust for \$412,500
- 6333 Rubicon Way** H. & G. Shawver to D. & A. Prithvinath for \$1,355,000
- 628 Saddleback Circle** B. & B. Miller to Rocha Trust for \$571,000
- 6419 Scenic Avenue** J. & D. Gile to V. & H. Kalavala for \$1,165,000
- 2239 Sherry Court** Johnson Family Trust to S. & G. Withers for \$1,400,000
- 440 Tyler Avenue** A. & D. Peck to R. & V. Nautlyal for \$1,050,000

Dublin

- 11891 Bloomington Way** Nguyen Family Trust to A. & P. Nagarajan for \$1,550,000
- 7988 Caroline Court** Y. Li to H. & V. Karri for \$1,100,000
- 4425 Cherico Lane** S. Mishra to F. & G. Kumar for \$1,700,000
- 4173 Clarinbridge Circle** Nam Trust to S. Grewal for \$800,000
- 7813 Cranford Lane** L. Avala to S. & C. Balawat for \$1,240,000
- 7120 Cross Creek Circle #B** A-Z Properties LLC to Y. & Y. Lung for \$710,000
- 7122 Cross Creek Circle #D** P. Cherukumilli to J. Laderas for \$716,000
- 4820 Hibernia Drive #112** Ht Nest LLC to D. & P. Ganjerla for \$1,060,000
- 7161 Pike Court** Lewis Living Trust to P. & A. Kakalis for \$1,250,000
- 8456 Wicklow Lane** Chinar LLC to S. & P. Tumbal for \$1,499,000
- 7424 Brigadoon Way #112** D. Somayajula to E. Lin for \$910,000
- 11809 Dunstown Court #140** D. Hunter to Q. Du for \$375,500
- 5808 El Dorado Lane** Siegel Living Trust to Kolade Family Trust for \$1,525,000
- 11652 Fenwick Place** Tutino Trust to N. & K. Lin for \$1,830,000
- 10767 Inspiration Circle** C. & J. Martin to Jj Benefit Trust for \$2,150,000
- 5830 Midnight Place #E** N. & A. Meghani to G. & J. Purohit for \$1,050,000
- 4331 Sunset View Drive** R. Ganesan to L. & H. Chu for \$1,583,000
- 10725 Wallace Lane #78** C. Reed to J. & S. Kim for \$740,000

San Ramon

- 3898 Aragon Lane** J. Galeste to Vinoth Trust for \$1,333,000
- 1151 Arrowfield Way** A. & J. Advincula to M. & A. Syed for \$1,815,000
- 108 Barbary Lane** Debarger-Gestrung Trust to S. & S. Earayil for \$2,015,000
- 2223 Britannia Drive** K. & D. Han to P. & V. Balasubramanian for \$2,900,000
- 9867 Brunswick Way** G. Markou to A. & D. Ankali for \$1,520,000
- 3426 Cinnamon Ridge Road** F. & S. Liu to K. & S. Vadlamudi for \$1,825,000
- 1567 Craiglee Way** S. Abdelmalak to V. & H. Sundararaj for \$1,550,000
- 30 Eagle Lake Place #12** Swenson Living Trust to Z. & A. Morshedian for \$875,000
- 3113 Lakemont Drive #5** N. Kar to A. & N. Gotla for \$1,100,000
- 4071 Marblehead Drive** Gaeto Trust to Jain Family Trust for \$2,660,000
- 2994 Millbridge Drive** Wenner Family Trust to Gururaj Living Trust for \$1,777,000
- 2962 Millbridge Drive** Roney Trust to S. & K. Poreddy for \$1,400,000
- 2471 Palmira Place** Rutherford Trust to M. & C. Cole for \$1,850,000
- 227 Saint Denis Court** H. & M. Mccue to D. & V. Vergara for \$1,475,000
- 47 Sota Place** V. & B. Nemcik to R. & G. Sermugaraj for \$1,380,000
- 301 Andros Drive** Declercq 2011 Trust to Gee Living Trust for \$1,800,000
- 3886 Aragon Lane** Guillem Living Trust to R. & A. Patel for \$1,250,000

- 715 Ardleigh Court** Bernie Family Trust to Arora Trust for \$3,150,000
- 2657 Basswood Drive** Y. & N. Ramirez to S. & C. Nandyala for \$1,700,000
- 105 Belle Meade Place** Roy Trust to D. & S. Debroy for \$1,755,000
- 221 Bello Court** L. Starck to N. & L. Ayala for \$1,890,000
- 718 Bowen Court** J. & M. Richard to Gopaluni Trust for \$2,270,000
- 201 Copper Ridge Road** C. Duong to Z. Panahi for \$550,000
- 201 Crestwood Place** D. Delrosario to Naidu Trust for \$1,320,000
- 388 Eastridge Drive** Geeta Trust to K. Digiosaffatte for \$500,000
- 4032 Greenwich Drive** Frasse Trust to S. & A. Awasthi for \$2,618,000
- 2344 Magnolia Bridge Drive** S. & B. Kuchibhotla to H. & S. Ummadisingu for \$2,150,000
- 114 Pebble Place** N. & M. Luke to S. & M. Raut for \$1,700,000
- 30 Primrose Way** Gosiengfiao Trust to J. & Z. Lin for \$2,091,000
- 224 Riverton Place** R. Ranganathan to S. & P. Maloo for \$1,300,000
- 975 Springview Circle** Migas Trust to H. & T. Shah for \$1,311,000
- 83 Tahoe Court #202** Shimizu Trust to N. & A. Chudnovskiy for \$920,000
- 1077 Vista Pointe Circle** M. & J. Hill to I. & R. Vaze for \$1,380,000
- 765 Watson Canyon Court #139** Galbo Trust to S. & L. Kohler for \$630,000

Source: California REsource

SALES AT A GLANCE

Pleasanton (April 10-18)

Total sales reported: 9
Lowest sale reported: \$700,000
Highest sale reported: \$5,620,000
Average sales reported: \$1,860,000

Livermore (April 10-18)

Total sales reported: 21
Lowest sale reported: \$412,500
Highest sale reported: \$1,641,000
Average sales reported: \$1,033,356

Dublin (April 10-18)

Total sales reported: 18
Lowest sale reported: \$375,500
Highest sale reported: \$2,150,000
Average sales reported: \$1,210,472

San Ramon (April 10-21)

Total sales reported: 34
Lowest sale reported: \$500,000
Highest sale reported: \$3,150,000
Average sales reported: \$1,633,823

Source: California REsource



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KELLY MCKAIG**

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Kelly Mckaig



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BRIDLE CREEK

5786 SHADOW RIDGE CT, PLEASANTON

6 BD | 5 BA | 4,455 SQ. FT. LIVING SPACE
.39 ACRE LOT

Stunning & Highly Upgraded "Hillstar" Model in Desirable "Bridle Creek" Neighborhood. Generous .39 Acre Premium Lot Located at Back of Court. No Expense Has Been Spared for This Luxurious Home with Resort Style Grounds! This Home has 4455 Square Feet that Includes Five Bedrooms (Downstairs Spacious Guest Room En-Suite), Downstairs Office (Possible 6th Bedroom), Spacious Upstairs Primary Bedroom En-Suite (Heated Floors), Large Bonus/Theatre Room and Five Beautifully Remodeled Bathrooms. The Gorgeous Gourmet Kitchen has Calcutta Marble Countertops, Custom Tile Backsplash, Custom Cabinetry, Premium SS Wolf Appliances, Butler's Pantry Area, 130 Bottle Subzero Wine Fridge and a Spacious Walk-In Pantry. This Home & Property Shows Better than a Model Home! Gleaming Wide Plank Engineered Wood Floors, Newer Electrical Upgrades & Fixtures, New Exterior Paint & Newer Interior Paint. Includes a Three-Car Side Load Garage. Relax or Entertain in Your Private Backyard Oasis Starting with a California Room that Provides Indoor/Outdoor Living Space, a Soothing Waterfall that Cascades into the Sparkling Pebble-Tech Solar Heated In-Ground Pool & Spa. Outdoor Kitchen Area/Gazebo, Lush Zen Like Landscaping, Multiple Sitting Areas and Sports Court. Every Buyer Will Appreciate the Tasteful Luxury Finishes & Details Through-Out. Enjoy Adjacent Sycamore Creek Walking Trail and Walk To Nearby Mission Hills Park and Main Street for Shopping, Dining & Other Amenities. Just Five Minutes to Castlewood Country Club, Commuter Friendly South Pleasanton Location. Attendance Area for Award Winning Schools! This Property is Sure to Impress!

LISTED FOR \$3,495,000



MUIRWOOD MEADOWS

CARRIAGE ESTATES

OAK HILL



**7331 ELMWOOD CIRCLE,
PLEASANTON**

3 BD | 3 BA
1,813 SQ. FT. LIVING SPACE

LISTED FOR \$1,569,000

**609 BLOSSOM COURT,
PLEASANTON**

5 BD | 4.5 BA
6,448 SQ. FT. LIVING SPACE
1.75 ACRE LOT

LISTED FOR \$4,495,000

**7702 OAK CREEK COURT,
PLEASANTON**

5 BD | 3 BA
2,523 SQ. FT. LIVING SPACE

LISTED FOR \$1,895,000

This is not intended as a solicitation if your property is currently listed with another broker. The above information, is based on data received from public sources or third parties and has not be independently verified by the broker, Keller Williams Tri-Valley Realty. If important to readers, readers are advised to verify information to their own satisfaction.



"Thank you Venema Homes for always going above and beyond to give back to the community! Best team around!"

REAL ESTATE =

REAL RELATIONSHIPS



= COMMUNITY

We are always looking for new relationships with Buyers & Sellers!
98% of our clients are referral based, who do you know that we should know regarding selling, buying or investing in real estate?



COMING SOON
Listed at \$3,918,800

3029 Alburni Court, Ruby Hill



COMING SOON
Listed at \$1,949,000

6577 Stanton Court, Pleasanton

Happy Teacher Appreciation Week! Our Team gave out 13 \$100 gift cards to the incredible teachers of the Tri-Valley.

"The Venema Homes Team is always giving back! Thank you for thinking of us teachers during Teacher Appreciation Week!"



Just Listed and PENDING IN 4 DAYS with 4 OFFERS



1776 Harvest Rd.

4Bdr | 1,675 SqFt | Presented at \$1,600,000



KRIS MOXLEY
REAL ESTATE

**2280 Merlot Lane,
Livermore**

4 BR | 3.5 BA
3,940 SF

**Presented at
\$2,200,000**



Pleasanton, Kottinger Ranch
5 BR | 4 BA | 4,100 SF



Pleasanton Townhouse
2 BR | 1 BA | 903 SF

Kris Moxley

925.519.9080

DRE 00790463

moxleyrealestate.com

kris@moxleyrealestate.com

Considering Buying or Selling ?

With 43 years of Real Estate experience, I'm committed to providing the highest level of service to all of my clients.

My mission is to provide outstanding service along with being a partner and source of knowledge to help clients make an informed decision about real estate. Providing expertise in negotiating skills, value in knowledge of the market, tools that create wealth for my clients, plus a professional reputation within the community. These attributes ensure that I exceed my client's expectations in selling and/or purchasing a home.

Serving the Tri-Valley area for 43 years



COMPASS