

Pleasanton Weekly

Music, magic
and laughs

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VOL. XXIV, NUMBER 25 • JULY 14, 2023

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**10 years
of growth**

**IRBY RANCH, GARDEN
PROGRAM, FUTURE
HOUSING PROJECTS ARE
JUST THE BEGINNING
FOR SUNFLOWER HILL**

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— First Place, Arts and Entertainment Coverage

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— Second Place, Editorial Comment

Kate Bradshaw's first-person hiking writing is deliciously fresh and funny. The expert guide at the end is welcomed and thorough. The idea itself is a home-run as we expanded our COVID cocoons. Thanks, Kate for the fun read and photos.

— First Place, Feature Story

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Pleasanton
Weekly

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WHAT A WEEK



By JEREMY WALSH

In their time of need

Pleasanton and its people will always be my shining light that lit the pathway through the darkness, and into a better understanding of what it means to be compassionate, kind, and giving, without reward. I try every day to pass that on, and for that ... Pleasanton, I will be immensely and eternally grateful."

Those heartfelt reflections Elaine Olson shared with me ahead of the 25th anniversary of the terrible tragedy that forever changed her family and truly captivated the collective conscience of their community.

On July 10, 1998, Jim and Elaine Olson were driving with two of their daughters through Nevada on their way to a family reunion in Colorado when their van hydroplaned in a sudden desert storm and rolled out of control on the freeway near Elko.

Jim Olson, 47, a landscaper and youth sports coach in Pleasanton, was killed. Elaine suffered severe leg injuries, 14-year-old daughter Ashley Lyn Olson was thrown from the van and ultimately paralyzed from the waist down and youngest daughter Lori Olson, then 11, sustained broken bones and major cuts and bruises. Eldest daughter Kristina Olson was not driving with her family that fateful day as she'd been home working as an oceanography assistant.

That's when the Pleasanton community spirit stepped forward in an awe-inspiring way.

Elaine remembers close friends, total strangers and everywhere in between raised money (including a barbecue fundraiser with some 2,000 people), brought over meals and goods, installed a bathroom downstairs with roll-in shower, built a ramp into their house and donated a laptop for Ashley, to name a few examples.

"It just pulled at people's hearts," Elaine said, with a pause. "There was just a need to make us OK ... and that part makes me emotional."

Knowing this anniversary was coming up, I was fortunate enough to connect with Elaine and her three daughters separately. As much as this story is about the Pleasanton community coming together in an incredible way, it's as impactful to me as the story about the resilience and personal growth of these four women.

As an eldest child with two siblings, I find myself drawn to Kristina's experience.

"I will never understand each of their pains as this was so life-altering and I still find it hard to explain. I

also can't fix it, no matter how strong I am," Kristina said. "The question I asked myself was, 'Is my life even worth the one that was taken?' To live a life for someone else is noble but I am realizing not healthy."

She opened up how difficult the aftermath of the crash was for her, as well as the ensuing years, but said she's found peace amid her "battle" in recent years through Christianity.

"I have been living in Georgia for the last five years and have fallen in love with this place," Kristina said. "Thank you to every single one of you that helped my mom and sisters!"

For Lori, the psychological impact of the crash has been longer lasting than the physical trauma.

"This has been hard to reconcile over the years because I had the least injuries, but mentally I struggled because I was awake for everything and remembered everything that happened," Lori shared with me. "I learned everything during that time was survival, and now it's time to release the things that no longer serve me, like acting OK for the sake of others. I hope this resonates with someone!"

Ashley's may be a more familiar story, as she's been an assertive advocate for access including through her wheelchairtraveling.com website, launching the Access 2 Parks Project and publishing a book, "Confined to Align".

"Losing a beloved family member so suddenly and young is hard, to say the least," Ashley told me. "As a whole, being paralyzed and the accident was a doorway to enlightenment — a conscious connectedness."

"Physically feeling less spiritually opened me to feeling more," she added. "The transition and attention I got from being paralyzed after the accident were challenging, but the way Pleasanton came together to create wheelchair access at our two-story home continues to inspire me."

And Elaine said she looks back on this somber anniversary wishing to express eternal gratitude:

"We can't possibly say thank you to every single person who was involved in those days, 25 years ago, but you all must know the message was sent loud and clear that you acknowledged Jim's dedication to this community he so loved, and I know he would have been grateful beyond words, for the love and kindness Pleasanton showed to take care of his family in those following days and months." ■

About the Cover

Lynn Monica, former Sunflower Hill board member and co-founder of the Sunflower Hill Gardens, walks past the all-accessible planter beds at the organization's garden at Hagemann Ranch in Livermore. Photo by Christian Trujano. Cover design by Doug Young. Vol. XXIV, Number 25



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Where in the world do you feel most comfortable and at ease?



Oscar Rodriguez
Waiter

I definitely feel very comfortable at home, but I also am very comfortable at work because I feel so much love from my co-workers and customers. Especially my regular customers.



Beth Sprole
Strategy and marketing executive

Out on my own stone patio, with our little patio lights twinkling, and our two dogs nearby, while enjoying a leisurely, home-cooked dinner and of course, a glass of wine.



Jake Francisco
Dining room manager

I'm most comfortable and at ease while working at the restaurant. I assume this is because I truly enjoy interacting with my customers, and also because I used to own my own restaurant so being in a restaurant just feels like home to me.



Sarah Sprole
MBA student

I would have to say I feel most comfortable and at ease while spending time with my family at Lake George, especially when we're all sitting around a campfire during the evening. I've been doing that every single summer for my entire life — or at least for as long as I can remember — so I have so many warm, comfortable memories of that.



Madison Sprole
Mechanical engineer

At home on my couch, sprawled out with a good book, with the windows open and my dogs by my side. I just love feeling the cool breeze and hearing the rustling of the trees. It's so relaxing that I usually will end up taking a really nice, recuperative nap.

—Compiled by Nancy and Jeff Lewis

Have a Streetwise question? Email editor@PleasantonWeekly.com

The Pleasanton Weekly is published every Friday by Embarcadero Media, 5506 Sunol Blvd., Suite 203, Pleasanton, CA 94566; (925) 600-0840. Mailed at Periodicals Postage Rate, USPS 020407.

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

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Pleasanton Weekly, 5506 Sunol Blvd., Suite 203, Pleasanton, CA 94566. ©2023 by Embarcadero Media. All rights reserved. Reproduction without permission is strictly prohibited.

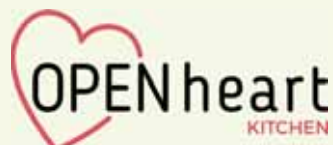
*Congratulations &
Happy 10th Anniversary
Sunflower Hill!*



The generous produce and flower donations provided to us from the Sunflower Hill Garden helps further our missions.

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DIGEST

Water smartly

Pleasanton city officials are reminding residents that July is Smart Irrigation Month, and with the change in weather toward summer heat taking hold, this is the best time to make sure home irrigation systems are running efficiently.

Key tips from city officials include “set your irrigation schedule to water no more than three days per week; water between 9 p.m. and 6 a.m. to reduce evaporation; adjust your sprinkler heads to reduce overspray; use the cycle and soak method to reduce runoff; and switch your sprinklers to drip where applicable.”

The city offers a free controller assistance program; call 925-931-5525.

‘Avoiding Apocalypse’

The Livermore Public Library is hosting local author Jeff Colvin to talk about his new book, “Avoiding Apocalypse: How Science and Scientists Ended the Cold War”, next Sunday (July 23) at 2 p.m. in the Civic Center Library Storytime Room at 1188 S. Livermore Ave.

The book “tells the little-known story of the worldwide scientists’ boycott of the Soviet Union that set in motion an astonishing sequence of events,” according to library officials.

Colvin, who lives part-time in Livermore and part-time in Gettysburg, Penn., played a leadership role in the boycott and later held an appointed position in the U.S. Department of Energy in Washington, D.C. during the George H. W. Bush administration.

D&D improv

Creatures of Impulse, the Pleasanton-based teen improv troupe, is continuing its summer “Tri-Valley High: The Series” program for the next two Wednesdays at the Firehouse Arts Center.

The fully improvised four-part series is based in the world of Dungeons and Dragons for summer 2023, with the heroes and villains completing a full campaign each week.

The final two performances of the summer are set for July 19 and July 26 from 7:30-9 p.m. each night. Get tickets via firehousearts.org. ■

Corrections

Last week’s story “Houses represent history and heritage of Pleasanton” inadvertently mislabeled two of the award-winning houses in the photo captions: 3900 Stanley Blvd. and 443 St. Mary St. The Weekly regrets the error.

Livermore council approves long-debated new airport development policy

Members direct city attorney to research additional consequences for noise violators

By CIERRA BAILEY
Despite several requests to further delay its final decision on the Livermore Municipal Airport’s new development policy, the City Council voted Monday to approve the document that has been a source of heated debate throughout the southern Tri-Valley for months.

The council previously held off on a vote at its June 26 meeting,

directing staff to make some revisions to the proposal after a lengthy discussion and public comment period.

The draft document returned to the council as part of the July 10 meeting agenda where another extensive conversation took place and several speakers echoed previous concerns about noise, pollution and eliminating the use of leaded fuel, among other issues that they believe

are not adequately addressed in the now-approved policy.

The purpose of the new policy is to establish a clear, defined process to allow proper review and approval of proposed development at the airport, according to city officials, who worked with the Aviation Management Consulting Group to create the initial draft of the document.

Although city staff worked on the

policy for nearly a year and it underwent several rounds of revisions even just in the last few months, many residents urged the council to delay its vote and take more time to address their concerns.

Councilmember Ben Barrientos was the only one on the dais who agreed with requests to continue the discussion to a later date

See **AIRPORT** on Page 7



JOHN HUSEBY / CALTRANS BAY AREA

A construction worker toils away on a portion of the soon-to-be-completed Alameda Creek Bridge on Niles Canyon Road. The project is resulting in a full closure of that stretch of Highway 84 this weekend.

Highway 84 to fully close through Niles Canyon all weekend long

Crews to conduct Alameda Creek Bridge work; detours to be set in Sunol and Fremont

By CHRISTIAN TRUJANO
A portion of Niles Canyon Road — also known as Highway 84 — is scheduled to close from this Friday night through Monday morning in order to allow construction crews to connect an existing roadway to a new one that will lead to the new Alameda Creek Bridge, according to Caltrans.

The scope of the work includes “grinding the pavement, laying down hot mix asphalt and rubberized asphalt paving and striping the roadway,” the state agency said in a press release last week.

“The bridge will have the same number of lanes, but will include standard shoulders and a wider median,” Caltrans spokesperson Janis Mara told the Weekly. “Adding shoulders enhances safety on the bridge because if a motorist’s vehicle becomes disabled,

the motorist can pull onto the shoulder.”

The construction, which is part of the overall State Route 84 Niles Canyon Safety Improvements project, will start at 8 p.m. on Friday (July 14) and will close the highway in both directions from Palomares Road in Fremont to Main Street in Sunol. Major detours will direct drivers to Highway 238 and Interstate 680, respectively.

The project dates back to 2015 when Caltrans first started eyeing the bridge for improvement and began talking to the community. According to Mara, the project underwent and completed an environmental study in 2017, which allowed the project to break ground.

“Replacing the bridge will enhance safety by improving the roadway alignment, providing standard shoulders, and addressing seismic concerns,” Mara said.

She also added that the project is being funded by the State Highway Operation and Protection Program, which has allocated \$28.4 million toward the project.

“The 2022 State Highway Operation and Protection Program is the State Highway System’s ‘fix-it-first’ program that funds the repair and preservation, emergency repairs, safety improvements and some highway operational improvements on the state highway system,” Mara said.

According to Caltrans, if everything goes as planned and the project remains on schedule, the road will be reopened to traffic on Monday (July 17) at 5 a.m.

“Caltrans thanks motorists and residents for their patience as we work to maintain and improve the Bay Area’s highways, bridges and tunnels,” according to the press release. ■

Staying safe amid hot temps

Excessive heat warning issued for Tri-Valley, surrounding areas

By NICOLE GONZALES

With summer now in full swing and triple-digit temperatures imminent again in the Tri-Valley and surrounding areas, local health officials have provided tips to help residents endure the heat.

According to the National Weather Service, temperatures in the Tri-Valley could reach up to 104 degrees this weekend, leading to the agency issuing an extreme heat watch in Pleasanton, Livermore, Danville, Dublin and San Ramon this Friday through Sunday (July 14-16).

Residents are urged to stay indoors if possible and adhere to heat safety guidelines.

To combat anticipated heat-related illnesses, the Alameda County Public Health Department has issued an emergency preparedness and heat event guide detailing cooling strategies and warning signs of exhaustion and stroke.

“The changing climate will make extreme heat waves more common in Alameda County,” county officials said in the guide. “High temperatures can feel even hotter when living in an urban environment. Heat waves can be dangerous (and) a very high body temperature can affect the brain and other vital organs.”

The county added that certain groups may be more vulnerable to the extreme weather due to preexisting health conditions.

“Some health conditions, like dehydration, obesity and heart disease, can make it harder for the body to

See **HEAT** on Page 6

Breaking ground on new senior health care facility

PACE Center on track to open next year in Livermore, serve patients in greater Tri-Valley

By JEANITA LYMAN

Tri-Valley seniors are set to have a new health care option available starting next year, with construction commencing on a center set to host services from a regional organization focused on patients 55 years old and up.

Livermore officials joined leaders from the Center for Elders' Independence for a groundbreaking ceremony on June 30 marking the next step for the Program for All Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) Center set to open early next year and aimed at providing long-term and preventative healthcare for seniors across the Tri-Valley.

"The Tri-Valley area has a large need for services focused on the older population and we are thrilled to provide those much needed services of senior health care and social connections," Center for Elders' Independence CEO Maria Zamora said in a statement. "By opening this

new center, older community members won't have to travel over an hour to see their doctor. They can find treatment from doctors who look like them and speak like them in a community they are familiar with."

The new center is aimed at addressing the current and future needs for senior health care throughout the region, with the California Department of Aging projecting a 195% increase in the over-60 population between 2010 and 2060, plus a 534% increase in the population over the age of 80 in that timeframe.

"This is tremendous, because we're welcoming a program with all-inclusive care for elders to Livermore, and that's the PACE program," Livermore Mayor John Marchand said at the groundbreaking ceremony. "And it is so important, because we don't have those services here in Livermore, and I'm so excited that they are coming out here."

The facility set for construction

at 2441 Constitution Drive in Livermore will serve populations throughout the city and surrounding Livermore Valley as well as Pleasanton, Dublin and San Ramon.

"I just really want to acknowledge this is super cool," Councilmember Evan Branning said at the ceremony. "Like having this here, in Livermore serving our residents and I appreciate that you guys are taking care of some of our most vulnerable communities and neighbors in one of the hardest periods of their life, and you're doing it with compassion and kindness and really making sure they feel loved, when oftentimes they're put into nursing homes or places where they might feel isolated."

With its emphasis being on preventative treatment with a holistic approach to care, the goal of PACE programs and facilities is to keep older patients out of nursing homes and hospitals, according to organizers.



CEI

Officials with the city of Livermore and the Center for Elders' Independence came together on June 30 for a groundbreaking ceremony celebrating the PACE Tri-Valley Center set to open early next year.

The PACE model is designed for patients over 55 years old with pre-existing conditions, aiming to treat those conditions before they advance further and support overall physical and mental health.

The center is set to open its doors early next year, with organizers and officials anticipating the facility will

usher in approximately 40 new jobs in the Livermore for physicians, nurses and support staff.

"When an individual in the Tri-Valley enrolls in PACE, they are not just a list of diagnoses or a list of medications," Zamora said at the ceremony. "PACE really seeks to serve the whole person." ■

Hu becomes second Dublin councilmember to launch 2024 mayoral campaign

Emphasizes safety, local business growth and quality of life

By NICOLE GONZALES

Dublin City Councilmember Sherry Hu, whose first term on the dais will come to an end next year, has announced that she will run for mayor in the November 2024 general election.

Hu has said that safety will remain her No. 1 priority, followed by promoting local businesses and a high quality of life for residents. Hu is now the second sitting council member to publicly confirm plans for a mayoral bid next year with current Mayor Melissa Hernandez terming out, as Jean Josey announced her campaign in recent weeks.

Hu made the official announcement during a dinner held June 8 at the Mayflower restaurant in

Dublin where she was surrounded by supporters, friends and family and spoke to her major goals and vision for the city, saying that she will prioritize safety through new approaches. She confirmed the news in a press release last Friday.

"Safety is No. 1. Our quality of life depends on a safe community in our homes, schools and local businesses," Hu said. "I advocate a proactive approach that utilizes advanced technology, the most modern police practices, and zero tolerance for violent crime."



Sherry Hu

"A successful police and fire department shall be visible and accountable to the citizens. Expansion of community watch and school resource officers in our schools will make our children safe," Hu added.

Having first been elected in November 2020, Hu's term on City Council is set to expire in December 2024.

In alignment with current Dublin term limits that permit any individual to a maximum of eight consecutive years in any city council position, Hu would qualify for four more years either as a regular councilmember or mayor.

"Our current mayor is prohibited from running for another term of office," Hu said, referencing Hernandez. "Dublin has had

an impressive list of strong leaders in our city's history, (and) I want to take the city of Dublin to the next level for our citizens. I enjoy a wide band of support in the community and I want to translate that energy into action."

On the topic of local businesses, Hu said it will be imperative to support them for the prosperity of Dublin.

"There are too many empty storefronts and vacant space in Dublin; I will make it a priority to bring jobs and prosperity to Dublin," Hu said. "Without a strong business community, Dublin will not have the resources to provide the best services to our residents. It is not good enough to say we want tech and clean jobs, leadership (also

requires an action plan to make that happen."

Hu also spoke about her volunteer and community service work.

Aside from her role on council, she is a member of several regional leadership boards, such as the East Bay Community Energy board, Alameda County Library Commission and the Dublin Unified School District liaison committee.

"I believe in giving back to the community," she said. "In the past, I volunteered in my children's schools as a classroom parent at Kolb Elementary school and was vice president of the Fallon Middle School PTA."

"I have the energy and ideas to effectively lead our community," she added.

Hu, a longtime resident of Dublin, has a Ph.D. in architectural engineering. She has previously worked in finance and project management.

To find out more about Hu's 2024 mayoral campaign, visit www.sherryhu.com. ■

HEAT

Continued from Page 5

stay cool in hot weather," county officials said.

The most important aspect in a heat wave is to stay hydrated, even if you don't feel thirsty. The health department also encourages residents to avoid drinking alcohol, caffeine and sugary drinks as they can often increase dehydration.

Closing curtains and avoiding cooking during the hottest hours of the day can help keep houses cool.

With the two biggest heat-related illnesses being exhaustion and stroke, the health department

encourages residents to learn the symptoms of each.

Main warning signs of heat exhaustion are headache, dizziness and tiredness. While heat exhaustion is less severe than heat stroke, the health department emphasizes it is still a serious condition. If heat exhaustion occurs, immediately move to a cooler place, hydrate and rest.

Heat stroke, when severe, can be life-threatening. Main warning signs are nausea, fast pulse and loss of consciousness. If a heat stroke is suspected, the health department urges individuals to call 911.

More information from Alameda County on heat and health can be found at acphd.org/phep/

heat-and-health/.

Ahead of the high temperatures, PG&E has also shared safety tips for its users.

"Weather can get extremely hot and quickly go from fun to dangerous. Extreme heat can be life threatening," the utility company said. They encourage the use of a buddy system, saying this can help keep vulnerable populations safe. "During a heat wave, have someone, such as a family member, friend or a local volunteer, check in on elderly or frail people. Check-in with your co-workers if you work outside."

Many government agencies warn that heat waves will continue to get longer and more extreme in the

coming years. The state of California has recently announced a new heat preparedness program known as "Heat Ready CA" to inform residents about this phenomenon.

The program adds \$20 million in funds to educate and prepare Californians for what the state calls "the deadliest form of climate-driven extreme weather."

"The impacts of climate change have never been more clear — the hots continue to get hotter in our state and across the West putting millions of Californians at risk," Gov. Gavin Newsom after announcing the launch of Heat Ready CA this Tuesday.

"We're asking everyone to stay

alert to changing weather and take the necessary steps to keep themselves and their families safer from deadly heat waves," Newsom added.

In the announcement, the Governor's Office explained how extreme heat will continue to impact residents in the future.

"Scientists project that all of California will be impacted in the years and decades to come by higher average temperatures and more frequent and life-threatening heat waves, disproportionately impacting the most vulnerable communities," state officials said.

To find more updates and weather forecasts from the National Weather Service, visit www.weather.gov. ■

Supes apologize for county's part in destruction of Russell City

'We forced you out ... (with) direct intent,' Carson acknowledges to former residents and descendants

By KEITH BURBANK / BCN

Seized and destroyed last century thanks in part to actions by former members of the Alameda County Board of Supervisors, the current supervisors formally apologized to previous residents and descendants of Russell City, a community established in 1853 near the Hayward shoreline.

Board of Supervisors President Nate Miley brought the apology forward in a resolution along with new Supervisor Elisa Marquez. The board passed the resolution unanimously.

Supervisors in 1950 told residents of Russell City, who for decades pleaded for public services, that the county had no obligation to provide sanitation and water, forcing families and individuals to leave.

"We forced you out," said Alameda County Supervisor Keith Carson to former residents and descendants of Russell City present at the meeting on June 27.

With "direct intent," Russell City residents were forced out, Carson said.

Residents of Russell City had a sense of community, pride, and among other things, joy, Marquez said.

"I'm sorry that was taken away

from you," she said.

Also destroyed was a vibrant music scene that included the likes of Ray Charles, blues pioneer T-Bone Walker and Willie Mae "Big Mama" Thornton, also a blues legend who recorded "Hound Dog" before Elvis Presley sang his version.

Supervisors made the apology while some former residents are still alive. At least two former residents and one descendant were at the meeting.

Descendant and Fremont Fire Department spokesperson Aisha Knowles was at the meeting and spoke about "The Apology," a movie about Russell City.

Knowles helped produce the movie, which began with an interview of her father. Creators are submitting the movie to film festivals before it debuts more broadly to the public next year.

Russell City was erased by eminent domain to make way for an industrial development, for which supervisors provided public services such as water and sanitation.

County officials paid \$2.85 million "to clear Russell City of seven churches, thirteen businesses, and 205 family and 33 individual homes," the resolution said.



HAYWARD AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY VIA BCN

Russell City (also known as Russell) in an undated photo was an unincorporated community in Alameda County about 10 miles south of Oakland in present-day Hayward. Russell City existed from 1853 until 1964, when the last of the residents were forced out to make way for an industrial park.

Ethnic minorities such as Black, Hispanic and Puerto Rican people were paid around \$2,000 for their property, which was said to be fair market value, according to the resolution.

But one white property owner was paid over half a million dollars for their property in Russell City, according to a 1964 newspaper article.

Russell City "is just an example of why some people don't trust

government," Supervisor David Haubert said.

Carson cited other forms of government oppression of Black people, such as New York's use of eminent domain to remove Black people from Seneca Village to make way for Central Park.

Carson added that the framers of the United States Constitution were slave owners who intended to keep Black people from having land.

Following the murder of George Floyd in Minneapolis in 2020, Alameda County supervisors adopted a resolution seeking community reparations for Black people.

Since then, county supervisors have made Juneteenth a paid county holiday and established an ad hoc committee and a reparations commission to draft a plan to address inequities Black people face in Alameda County. ■

AIRPORT

Continued from Page 5

and proposed pushing it out to the next regular council meeting. Subsequently, he was the only dissenter when his colleagues decided to move ahead with a vote Monday night.

Councilmember Evan Branning reiterated during the meeting that the development policy ensures that the city has a choice in what is built at the airport, which he said is an improvement from the "general and vague" rules that they were previously guided by.

"I understand that there are people who are going to be upset by us moving forward with the development policy; however, the policy gives us more control over what will be at the airport than what will happen if a determined developer comes in and goes through the FAA to try to force the issue," Branning said.

"So when I hear calls asking for us to continue this item for months, I believe that opens us up to exposure. I believe what we have in this policy is something that really gives us the opportunity to choose what we build at the airport," he added.

Branning also emphasized that the newly approved policy is focused on development and many of the concerns raised by the community fall under other areas such as operations and facilities, which are separate issues.

Councilmember Bob Carling echoed similar sentiments as Branning about the policy being an upgrade from what they had a year ago and not wanting to delay the decision further. However, he suggested changing some verbiage in statements within the document to be more direct and less "wishy-washy".

Carling's grammatical changes were included as part of the motion to approve the policy along with approval for the city manager to fix typographical errors found within the document.

Vice Mayor Brittni Kiick noted in her comments, among other points, that noise is a risk of purchasing a home near an airport.

"Regarding noise, I get it. They fly over my house too. But if you were misled in a purchasing decision about buying a house next to an airport and thought maybe it wasn't going to be loud, I'd have a talk with your Realtor about that," she said. "It just doesn't really make a lot of sense to assume that we can force planes to be quiet."

After approving the policy, the council took a separate vote proposed by Mayor John Marchand directing the city attorney to research potential tools that the city can use to ensure compliance with the airport operations such as the possibility of terminating a lease agreement for frequent violators of noise guidelines and the potential for fines for low-flying aircraft. ■

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Crews close to completing work in Sycamore Creek neighborhood

Project includes clearing water and debris from city's stormwater system

By CHRISTIAN TRUJANO

Even though one of California's wettest winters is nothing more than a distant memory, efforts to repair the damage caused by the heavy rain and winds are still ongoing in certain parts of Pleasanton.

According to Heather Tiernan, communications manager for

the city, Pleasanton Operations Services Department crews have been out in areas like the Sycamore Creek neighborhood ever since the first wave of atmospheric river storms first hit the Tri-Valley back in January.

The area had suffered from severe flooding at the time, which forced the city to deploy vacuum

and jetting trucks to clear up the water and debris, city officials said in a press release at the time.

Tiernan said they have been working on clearing water and debris from the city's stormwater system at the intersection area of Sycamore Creek Road and Sunol Boulevard since the winter and will continue to do so for about

three more weeks with an estimated completion date at the end of July.

"By clearing the drains during the dry season, we will be ready for the rainy season," Tiernan said. "The storms in early 2023 caused a lot of debris flow to get stuck in our drainage system, which contributed to localized

flooding. Clearing the drains now will allow the water to flow freely and avoid flooding during the next rainy season."

She added that the city will be working with the Federal Emergency Management Agency to reimburse the city for the total cost of the work that has been done to the stormwater system.

City Manager Gerry Beaudin said during a special City Council meeting back on Jan. 11 that the city had suffered \$5 million in public damage overall from the atmospheric river storms. ■

3VCF announces new 'Give, Grant & Grow Green Fund'

Grants to support environmental nonprofits, initiatives in Tri-Valley

By JOSEPH CHIU

The Three Valleys Community Foundation (3VCF) recently launched a "Give, Grant & Grow Green Fund" designed to support nonprofits, programs and opportunities in the environmental sector.

The foundation works with donors and nonprofits to display inclusive leadership, thoughtful funding, informed giving and collaborative action to achieve their impact goals, according to 3VCF officials.

The contributions received from

the new fund will be distributed to nonprofits working to address local environmental education, issues and opportunities. Jean King, a longtime community member and Livermore resident, is responsible for lead-gifting this fund and hopes the community can work together to support these nonprofits.

"I am excited to contribute to the launch of this special Give, Grant & Grow Green Fund at Three Valleys Community Foundation," King said in a press release. "Safeguarding our precious resources and making

a positive impact on our environment is one of the most important issues of our time. I believe that if we work collectively, we can make a difference."

The 3VCF Board of Directors will oversee fund payments and welcome contributions from local leaders and residents looking to provide impactful and inspirational grant-making through these donations.

"Our sincere thanks to Jean King for her generous gift launching this important fund," 3VCF President and CEO Kelly Bowers said in a

press release. "Green giving is more than making a charitable donation. It is an investment in local nonprofits that promote environmental education, sustainability and stewardship, among other green initiatives, as well as in the work that's underway to create a cleaner, healthier world and future."

The nonprofit is also set to host the State of Giving Gathering event on Nov. 28 in the Mertes Center for the Arts at Las Positas College in Livermore. The state of philanthropy in the region will be discussed along

with awarding impact and action grants to eligible nonprofits.

3VCF has previously supported issues such as youth mental health, school facilities improvement and flood disaster relief and recovery for community benefit and regional causes. Its first grant-making via the Power of Collaboration Corporate Challenge campaign is set for summer-fall 2023.

Check out the Three Valleys Community Foundation website at 3vcf.org to make donations and learn more about the organization. ■

Dublin promotes Baksa to city finance director

Succeeds retiring Hisatomi to lead department

By NICOLE GONZALES

The city of Dublin has recently welcomed its newest executive staff member — finance director Jay Baksa.

Beginning July 1, Baksa took

over the position from previous finance director Lisa Hisatomi following her retirement. He enters the new position with thorough experience in government finance, strategic planning and accounting,

fields he has worked in for over 14 years including the last eight years in Dublin, according to city officials.

City Manager Linda Smith spoke of Baksa's promotion in an announcement statement.

"I am so pleased to announce the appointment of Jay Baksa to the position of finance director for the City of Dublin," Smith said in a statement. "Jay has been an invaluable member of the Dublin team, and his background and experience

in finance will continue to help guide us in operational efficiencies and proper fiscal management."

Baksa, a graduate of San Diego State University, joined the city of Dublin staff in 2015 as a financial analyst. In 2020, he was promoted to the position of assistant administrative services director.

"The City of Dublin is an incredible organization, and I am honored to have been given the opportunity to lead the Finance Department," Baksa said in the same statement.

Prior to Baksa's work with Dublin, he spent several years as a financial analyst for Fresno County.

Since joining the team in Dublin, city officials said Baksa successfully oversaw and led a team of finance and accounting professionals to carry out necessary functions within the city. His main responsibilities have included budget monitoring, investment management and payroll operations.

Baksa has helped to develop and manage several major city projects, such as the city's annual budget preparation, a fiscal sustainability task force and the User Fee Study/Cost Allocation Plan, officials said. He also developed a 10-year model that works to forecast fiscal developments for city leaders. ■



Jay Baksa

THE CITY OF PLEASANTON



HIGHLIGHTS

City Council Meeting
Tuesday, July 18, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.
The meeting will be held at the Remillard Conference Room Operations Service Center— 3333 Busch Road., via video/ teleconference and will be broadcast live on Channel 29 and at <https://www.tri-valleytv.org> and <https://www.youtube.com/user/TheCityofPleasanton>.

- Receive presentation of Community Survey results
- Receive overview of water and sewer rates and set public hearing date to consider rate increases for September 19, 2023
- Adopt the updated Economic Development Strategic Plan for fiscal years 2024-2028

Housing Commission Meeting
Thursday, July 20, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.
This meeting will be held at the Library Large Meeting Room, 400 Old Bernal Ave. and streamed live at <https://www.youtube.com/user/TheCityofPleasanton>.

- Overview of Citywide Strategic Plan Project



Whiteout in May: Robin and Dustin Boyce of downtown Pleasanton experienced "crazy whiteout conditions" when they skied at Heavenly Ski Resort in South Lake Tahoe in May. Here they are with the Weekly just before taking the Powderbowl Run.

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

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

Supervisors OK law targeting spectators of sideshows

Following 3-1 vote by board, new rules to take effect Aug. 9

By CHARLES AYITEY / BCN
Spectators of sideshows could face steep fines or jail time under a new law voted by the Alameda County Board of Supervisors on Tuesday.

The ordinance makes it illegal to be within 200 feet of a sideshow, which is an outlawed gathering of cars that often involves reckless driving and stunting. Violators of the law could receive a misdemeanor charge and be fined up to \$1,000 or face up to six months in jail.

Under the new law, proving a violation must include evidence of prior acts of being present or attending a sideshow event in the last three years.

The board considered the law in response to the growing number of sideshows in Alameda County.

The ordinance was passed by a 3-1 vote. Supervisors David Haubert, Lena Tam and Nate Miley voted yes. Supervisor Elisa Marquez voted no and Supervisor Keith Carson was excused from the vote.

Supervisor Marquez insisted drivers must be the target, not spectators.

“Increasing patrol and blocking areas where sideshows are going to take place has been a mitigated effort,” Marquez said. “I would prefer to see more work done than enforcing this ordinance.”

Alameda County Public Defender Brendon Woods also has problems with the law, including whether the ordinance is even constitutional. He is also concerned about people of color, such as Black

and Hispanic people, being swept up by law enforcement just because they are Black and Hispanic.

“This ordinance has such the potential to do that,” he said.

The ordinance was jointly authored and introduced on June 13 by Miley and Alameda County Sheriff Yesenia Sanchez.

In a letter submitted last week to the entire board in the proposition of the ordinance, Sanchez and Miley said the rule would “provide law enforcement with another tool to stop and prevent sideshows

and reduce risk” in the county’s neighborhoods.

In San Francisco, cars involved in sideshows are seized for 30 days. Pico Rivera in Southern California made it illegal for people to be within 500 feet of sideshows, and violators can be fined up to \$2,000. Turlock in the Central Valley recently passed a similar law to Pico Rivera — all ostensibly passed to keep neighborhoods safe by attempting to reduce the activity.

The newly approved ordinance takes effect on Aug. 9. ■

Alameda County responds to lawsuit over foster youth center

City of Hayward sued county alleging sex trafficking, drug use, violence at mismanaged facility

By LYDIA SIDHOM / BCN
After the city of Hayward filed a lawsuit against Alameda County for alleged “criminal activity” within a foster youth facility, the Alameda County Social Services Agency issued a statement seeking collaboration instead of litigation.

The lawsuit, filed on June 22, concerns the Alameda County

Assessment Center, or AC, which is intended to provide a temporary living space for displaced or runaway foster youth who are awaiting placement elsewhere.

At the center, foster children “frequently go missing and are knowingly exposed to and/ or coerced into drug use, assaults and other forms of violence, sex trafficking and

prostitution,” alleged a city press release on June 22.

The county said that they “do not agree with the City’s characterization of recent isolated incidents with certain high needs foster youth,” in reference to the lawsuit and a letter issued at the end of May from Hayward Mayor Mark Salinas to the Alameda County Board of Supervisors and

County Sheriff Yesenia Sanchez.

The letter, which outlined concerns that had been brought to the attention of the Hayward Police Department, said that criminal activity, including the grooming and trafficking of 10- to 13-year-old girls by older juveniles, is “not new and has allegedly been happening at the AC for years.”

The lawsuit states that the Hayward Police Department has conducted investigations on human trafficking at the AC this year and have issued an arrest warrant for two children at the center that recruited a 12-year-old girl into to prostitution and assaulted her after she refused to participate.

The city brought forward additional concerns about AC’s security in the lawsuit. According to the complaint, AC upholds a “hands-off” policy, meaning that they do not prevent children over the age of 10 from walking out without permission and

See **LAWSUIT** on Page 10

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Stanford University graduate workers succeed in unionizing

Student employees seek representation to negotiate for higher pay, benefits, health care

By SUE DREMANN

Graduate-student workers at Stanford University have unionized, the result of an April vote that saw 94% of ballots cast in favoring the move, the Stanford Graduate Workers Union (SGWU-UE) announced. The new union will be represented by the United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers (UE).

The graduate students have said they long sought to gain better wages and benefits, a lower cost of living, stronger support for international students and better protections against harassment and discrimination at Stanford. Graduate workers provide services to the university that include teaching and research and numerous other kinds of support.

Failing to achieve their goals, in April the students mounted an election to form a union to bargain on their behalf. The student employees signed 2,500 union cards on the first day of the April drive, the union organizers said.

The National Labor Relations Board released the results on July 6, which showed that approximately 51% of eligible voters cast a ballot. Of those, 1,639 voted yes (94%) and 108 voted no.

“The overwhelming margin of victory in this historic election shows that we have widespread support for our platform of better wages that keep up with the cost of living, and increased protections for graduate workers,” said Chris Gustin, a fourth year Ph.D. candidate and

international student in Stanford’s Applied Physics department. “We are excited to begin working toward negotiating a first contract with Stanford that can win us these goals.”

The Stanford Graduate Workers Union is the first graduate union to complete both a card drive and election in one quarter. The new union joins ones at Dartmouth, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Johns Hopkins, Northwestern, University of Chicago, and other universities that have academic workers’ unions for graduate students.

“The creation of SGWU-UE was driven by the same issues that have been central to the recent wave of graduate worker unionization across the country: stipends that do not



FILE PHOTO BY VERONICA WEBER

Students sit outside the Cecil H. Green library at Stanford University.

keep up with the rising cost of living, supervisor abuse, high costs for child care and dependent health care, insufficient protections for

international workers, and many others,” the new union stated in the

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LAWSUIT

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going “AWOL.”

In mid-February, according to the complaint, the Alameda County Sheriff’s Office withdrew deputies from staffing AC, whereas before they had provided 24/7 on-site security services there. Emergency

response and security was thus left to the Hayward Police Department and a private security firm that was hired.

Since the elimination of the deputies, the Hayward Police reported that they responded to one to three calls daily from the center, according to the lawsuit. Between February 15, 2023 and June 7, 2023 the HPD has received 321 calls for service to the AC, approximately 250 of which were

related to AWOL children.

The County of Alameda, property owner Wolf Investment Company, LLC and the consulting group managing the facility, WestCoast Children’s Clinic, are named as defendants in the lawsuit. The city is requesting that the Alameda County Superior Court cease all operations at the AC until the center changes its policies - including the elimination

of the “hands-off” rule and the reinstatement of the Alameda County Sheriff’s Office deputies.

The county said they do not comment on ongoing litigation or on the specific allegations made in the lawsuit. They urged for a halt in litigation, pointing to discussions that the county initiated with the city following the mayor’s letter.

“In locations across the County,

resources belonging to cities, the County, and local non-profits support at-risk foster youth. Hayward is no exception,” the Alameda County Social Services Agency said in the announcement. “It takes all of us working together to meet the needs of the foster youth, providing them with emotional support and a place to stabilize and start to heal, like the Assessment Center.” ■

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Why single-payer advocates are split on how to overhaul health care in California

‘To get the Legislature to adopt a full blown single-payer program in one fell swoop has not proven to be viable politically’

By ANA B. IBARRA / CALMATTERS

For many Californians, the proposal of a state-run single-payer health system remains a ‘pie-in-the-sky’ idea, and odds are it could remain that way, especially if leading advocates can’t agree on how to get there.

Democratic leaders and advocates who are looking to transform the current complex health care system are divided on their approach.

On one side, a coalition of health, labor and civil rights advocacy groups is standing behind Senate Bill 770, which seeks an incremental path toward “unified financing,” where a statewide system would pay for health care for all residents. This could be single payer or a similar model. The bill would task a workgroup of experts and consumers to come up with next steps in advancing toward this goal and deliver a report to the Legislature by next June.

SB 770 also calls for the Newsom administration to engage the federal government, which would need to approve such a system in California, on this issue. The bill, authored by San Francisco’s Sen. Scott Wiener, is currently making its way through the Legislature — two weeks ago it received the green light from the Assembly Health Committee and is headed to a fiscal committee next.

On the other side, the California nurses union, a longtime driving force behind the single-payer movement, opposes Wiener’s bill, arguing it could derail its own legislation, Assembly Bill 1690. That two-year bill authored by Assemblyman Ash Kalra, a San Jose Democrat, would establish a single-payer system dubbed CalCare. The bill was introduced earlier this year, but won’t come up for a hearing until the next legislative session.

There are currently no details in the CalCare bill, but union leaders said they are using their previous attempt at single payer, Assembly Bill 1400, as a starting point. AB 1400 died last year after its author, Kalra, opted not to take it up on the Assembly floor because he was

short on votes.

Last week, Kalra joined the nurses union in publicly opposing Wiener’s bill, calling it a “detraction” from his and the nurses’ ongoing efforts.

Single payer has been politically dicey even in blue California because of pushback from the health industry, including health insurers and some physician groups, but also powerful business interests, such as the Chamber of Commerce, citing the tax hikes that would be needed to fund such a system. Still, the status quo costs too much and leaves too many people behind, experts and health advocates say.

Carmen Comsti, lead regulatory policy specialist with the California Nurses Association, said the two bills are conflicting because legislators can use Wiener’s bill as an excuse to vote down the bill backed by the nurses union next year.

“We do not believe the Legislature would pick up and pass single payer if they just authorized another work group to consider the program,” Comsti told CalMatters. Instead, it opens the door for legislators to say: “It’s too soon to talk about CalCare and single payer because we’re studying it,” she said.

But Wiener and those supporting his proposal see the two bills as complementary, not conflicting. For example, to carry out a single-payer system, California would need to eventually seek a waiver, or permission from the federal government, to skirt current rules that dictate how the state can spend federal health dollars. Wiener’s bill would start those conversations, the author said.

“If CalCare passes, then at that point California will go to the federal government and make waiver applications. The work here, having those discussions with the federal government will be helpful; it dovetails,” Wiener said during last week’s hearing.

Some Democrats who sit on the Assembly Health Committee noted they see Wiener’s bill as a way to get the ball rolling on single payer while

they wait for wider support from their colleagues.

Kevin McCarty, a Sacramento Democrat, noted the nurses’ single-payer bill last year was “dramatically short” on votes. “It’s nowhere close,” McCarty said. “In the meantime, are we going to be purists or try to get more? That’s what I think (SB 770) is trying to do. I don’t think they’re mutually exclusive.”

Michael Lighty, president of the coalition sponsoring Wiener’s bill, said the point is to follow up on the findings from the Healthy California for All Commission, a group assembled by Gov. Gavin Newsom. The group’s work culminated last year in a 105-page report, but no action.

Lighty is a veteran in the single-payer movement and at one point worked as the director of public policy for the nurses union. The California Nurses Association is actually part of the health coalition he leads, but on this particular piece of legislation, they haven’t seen eye to eye.

Another main concern for the nurses union is the language used in the commission’s report and Wiener’s bill. “Unified financing does not equal single payer,” Comsti said. She argued that if “unified financing” includes programs that leave room for health insurers or any middlemen to profit, then that essentially goes against the single-payer system they’re seeking.

Lighty sees the language argument as an issue of nomenclature; ultimately both sides want the same outcome, he said. And after multiple failed attempts to get to single payer, perhaps it’s time for a new way in, he said.

“To get the Legislature to adopt a full blown single-payer program in one fell swoop has not proven to be viable politically,” Lighty told CalMatters.

By 2031 health care spending in California is projected to increase by \$158 billion; a “unified finance” system can help slow down that growth, according to the Healthy California for All Commission report. ■

STANFORD

Continued from Page 10

announcement.

“As Stanford is both employer and landlord for a vast majority of its graduate workers, it is imperative that graduate workers have a say in their living and working conditions. SGWU-UE will fight to address these issues.”

On July 6, Stanford University President Marc Tessier-Lavigne and

Provost Persis Drell addressed the unionization in a statement.

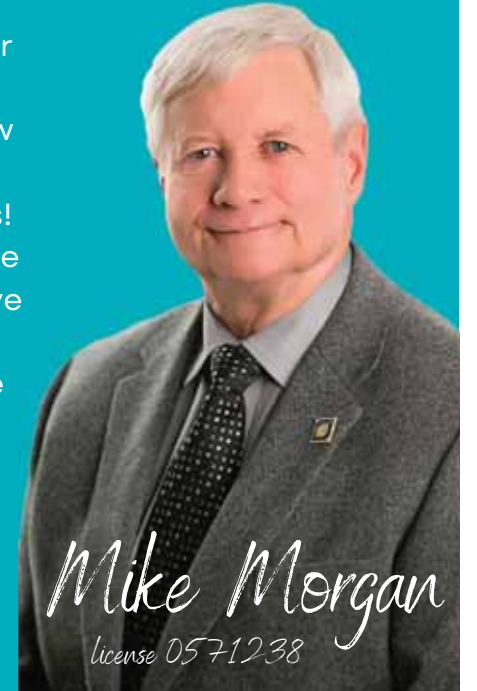
“We look forward to working in good faith with SGWU. As has been our position throughout the election process, we are dedicated to the success of our graduate students and to our education and research mission. These commitments will continue to guide us. We will provide information to our community about the next steps in the bargaining process as it becomes available.”

The United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers has been selected as the exclusive representative of the Stanford Graduate Workers Union bargaining unit, the university noted.

“Thank you to all those who participated in the election and to those who provided support for the election process. As university leaders, we will continue to respect, support, and work to advance the needs of our graduate student community,” the university stated. ■

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Irby Ranch, garden program, future housing projects are just the beginning for Sunflower Hill | By Christian Trujano

For most young adults, moving out of their parents' home can be one of the most pivotal moments in their lives, especially in the Bay Area where finding an affordable option can be difficult.

But for many people with intellectual or developmental disabilities, striking out on their own might not seem like an attainable option most of the time for a variety of practical reasons, which can create a stressful problem as their parents get older and less able to take care of their children who may also be craving more independence themselves.

"Part of our journey as humans is to feel like how can we help our fellow man or fellow woman, and this is a population that is never going to ask you directly," said Susan Houghton, founder of Sunflower Hill. "So it's up to us to reach out, it's up to us to acknowledge, it is up to us to talk to a parent of a special needs child and say, 'How can I help you? What can I do? How can I bring awareness?'"

Sunflower Hill is a nonprofit organization based in the Tri-Valley that aims to create affordable housing

and vocational opportunities for people with disabilities and special needs — something that Houghton told the Weekly is often overlooked in many communities.

As she gets set to celebrate Sunflower Hill's 10th anniversary, Houghton took some time to reflect on the nonprofit's successful development of 31 affordable housing units at Irby Ranch in Pleasanton, the plans to construct more units at two other locations in the East Bay and its renowned garden in Livermore, which in many ways paved the way for the organization's growth over the last decade.

More importantly for Houghton, she reflected on the fact that while they have done so much work, there is still more to do in order to make sure that the unseen population of people with an intellectual or developmental disability (IDD), like her own son Robby, continue to have a voice in the fight for more affordable housing in the Bay Area.

"They're quiet folk," Houghton said. "But they're on the border of homelessness to where if I wasn't here, if Robby didn't have Irby

Ranch, where would he be? He would be on the streets or needing mental health services."

The seed was planted

When Robby was about to graduate high school in 2012, Houghton had attended a transition fair that was meant to help her figure out what came next for her son.

Robby, who was diagnosed with autism at a very young age, was given three options for where he could live now that he was an adult and not in high school, according to Houghton: live in a group home, live totally on his own or continue living with her at home.

"I remember being at that meeting and saying well that's it? How can there be no other options?" Houghton said.

It was there that she met another of Sunflower Hill's founding members who heard Houghton asking a bunch of questions, which led to Houghton's realization that if she wanted more options for her son to live on his own, it was up to them to do something about it.

So she decided to call up a group

of other parents that she knew who had children with disabilities and gathered them all together at a coffee shop in downtown Pleasanton where they discussed the idea of creating a permanent residential community for IDD adults.

"We didn't know what we were doing," she said. "We just thought if we don't do it, who else will. And there was nothing greater than a group of motivated parents who had not only their own children to think about, but the greater society."

So after they all officially formed the nonprofit in 2013, Sunflower Hill began its long journey of executing that goal — which first started with the creation of the Sunflower Hill Garden at Hagemann Ranch in Livermore.

"One day, I opened up the newspaper and I saw that the city of Livermore was accepting applications for people to run programs at Hagemann Ranch," Houghton said. "We had watched other communities like Sunflower Hill, do gardening programs, and we thought, 'Oh, my gosh, that's a great skill set for our kids, we should do that.'"

It also lined up with the fact that longtime board member Lynn Monica and another member had just attended the prestigious Alice Waters Edible School Program at a garden made out of a cement parking lot in Berkeley.

"After we went to that, we thought well, this is something we could adapt to our population," she said.

Monica became involved with Sunflower Hill sort of by proxy because her husband, Jon Elfin, was one of the founding board members. Elfin, who used to coach the Special Olympics in Pleasanton, has a son with special needs who now lives at Irby Ranch.

Because of her background in technology, she started off by helping with things like the website design and marketing projects. But

after the nonprofit was awarded the space at the ranch for a garden, it became Monica's sole responsibility.

"We always had this vision of wherever we build this community, we wanted to have a garden because we felt it was really important and therapeutic to teach the special needs individuals where their food came from," Monica said.

So after months of cleaning up the weeds and debris, designing the space and bringing hundreds of volunteers to help plant and build structures, Monica's dream garden finally opened in 2015.

Filled with a sensory garden, lifted garden beds, wider spaces in between rows of crops, a compost area and dozens of tools specially designed for folks with disabilities, the garden ended up becoming the biggest marketing tool for Sunflower Hill and its broader goal of building housing.

"Nobody knew who we were until this garden started," Monica said.

After producing almost 10,000 pounds of produce that first summer, bringing in people with special needs or disabilities from surrounding transitional high school and adult day programs and cementing themselves as the Nonprofit of the Year in 2017, Sunflower Hill was ready to finally break ground on its first housing project.

Living at Irby Ranch

In 2017, the Pleasanton City Council unanimously approved the final designs for the 31-unit Sunflower Hill apartment complex at Irby Ranch, and by 2019, the project was officially underway.

Then, in 2020, the first groups of residents started to move into the residential community on the edge of downtown Pleasanton and Houghton was able to finally realize her dream of providing housing options for a population of people that often can't afford to live anywhere



Top of page: Sunflower Hill members, volunteers and residents of the surrounding Livermore community gather for the May 16, 2015 work day where everyone helped construct the organization's garden at Hagemann Ranch. (Photo courtesy of Sunflower Hill). Above: An exterior shot of one of Sunflower Hill's residential apartment buildings at Irby Ranch in Pleasanton. (Photo by Christian Trujano).

else in the Bay Area.

“I don’t think a lot of people realize that most of the residents at Irby Ranch are existing just on a Social Security disability income,” she said. “Robby gets \$1,100 a month from Social Security. That’s it.”

Now there are 38 residents currently living in the apartment complex — some share a two-bedroom apartment and there’s even one family living there. They all pay rent based on 30% to 60% of the area median income on the affordability scale.

The complex sits at the edge of Irby Ranch and is made up of a two-story residential building, a pool with an all-access lift, a small all-inclusive basketball court, a community center and plenty of other amenities like an arts and crafts room, laundry rooms and a storage room for bicycles.

But Sunflower Hill Executive Director Jen Lenard-Benson told the Weekly that it was important to make sure that the public knows the complex isn’t like a senior living center — it’s just like any other apartment complex only with added features so that individuals with disabilities can be as independent as they want to be.

Lenard-Benson is only the nonprofit’s second executive director and is fairly new, having started in March 2022. But since she first started, she immediately saw the importance of having a space like at Irby Ranch.

“I would say that I get three to five emails and phone calls a day for people who need somewhere to live,” she said.

She also said that the waitlist for the apartments at Irby Ranch is about 250 and that they had to stop taking names because of the fact that the number could easily reach into the thousands.

“That’s how high the need is for affordable housing for people with disabilities,” Lenard-Benson said. “Because again, as folks who may live with family members, their family members are aging. And so as they age, our folks need somewhere to go.”

Throughout her time working at both the apartments and at the garden, Lenard-Benson has seen the impact Sunflower Hill has had on the community.

“I talk to our residents and they say, ‘I’m so thankful for Sunflower Hill,’” she said.

She said that the residents tell her that the organization has given them “a chance to feel like I belong, to feel like I fit in.”

And the same goes for the garden.

“I can see, in the residents and even the community members who come in, they’re so happy to be involved in something and feel like they’re a part of something bigger,” said Olivia Christensen, residential activities coordinator for Sunflower Hill.

Christensen, who oversees all activities at Irby Ranch, said that as a



Pleasanton native who was always an advocate for individuals with disabilities, she was extremely happy to be a part of a nonprofit like Sunflower Hill.

“It’s really exciting and fun to see people who may not have been given the opportunities to be a part of a club or a group when they were younger, when they were in school, now be a part of something that’s welcoming to them,” Christensen said. “I’m just super excited to continue to build on that and get to know everyone a little bit better.”

For Houghton, she’s especially proud of the fact that people like her son are able to finally take more control of their lives and be a part of their community in a place where they can feel safe and have easy access to grocery stores, transit and other important amenities.

“There’s a sense of pride that you see,” Houghton said. “I see this in many of the residents there. They are so proud to be a part of a community where literally it’s their friends. And that’s the benefit of living in a community like Irby Ranch is that two doors down is the boy who Robby’s known since he’s been 7 years old.”

Lenard-Benson added that it’s nice to see the residents at Irby Ranch also take advantage of the different evening activities and programs at the community center such as movie nights, cooking classes and other activities that are sometimes curated by the residents themselves.

“The way that this transforms their lives, I feel like you can see it,” she said.

Even as they celebrate recently opening up certain programs at the community center for the public and working with local nonprofits to donate food to places like Culinary Angels and flowers to Hope Hospice from the garden, Lenard-Benson said there is still a long way to go.

She said that building another 10 complexes like the one at Irby Ranch wouldn’t even begin to scratch the surface of providing enough affordable housing for this community of people.

“If people don’t take action now, the next 10 years will be bleak,” she said. “We need more affordable housing for people with disabilities, period.”

What’s next for Sunflower Hill

While Houghton said that Sunflower Hill has cemented itself as a nonprofit that serves a demographic of people with disabilities, it is only one of many similar organizations and needs to do more in terms of working with others to address the issue of a lack of affordable housing for this specific community.

“That’s the vision we have for Sunflower Hill,” she said. “We want to come in and help play a role. We’re part of that garden; we want other organizations to help our garden grow. And I’m saying that metaphorically.”

And that metaphorical garden of affordable housing is already breaking some grounds in other places in the Tri-Valley.

In 2021, the organization was approved for its second residential community complex in partnership with Pacific West Communities Inc., Miramar Capital and Novin Development Corporation. Sunflower Hill will co-develop a new residential community in Lafayette, which will offer 38 affordable housing units for folks with disabilities.

Lenard-Benson said that the project’s architect is currently reworking on the design and that the units are set to “probably open in 2025”. She said the building is slated to be four stories tall, more compact compared to Irby Ranch and will include an educational kitchen for more extensive cooking classes.

She also said that the organization is working on creating 22 units



Left: A person takes a moment to relax under a blanket at the sensory garden section of Sunflower Hill’s garden. (Photo by Christian Trujano). Above: Robby Houghton (right), son of Sunflower Hill’s founder Susan Houghton, works alongside others to plant some of the first vegetables that were grown at the organization’s garden in Livermore. (Photo courtesy of Sunflower Hill).

at Francis Ranch, formerly Croak Ranch, in Dublin through a partnership with Trumark Homes and Eden Housing.

While both projects are still in the early funding stages, Houghton said they are that much closer in creating all of these different opportunities for people with disabilities at different locations that would best suit their needs and level of independence.

“We really want to continue to build as many Sunflower communities as we can,” she said. “You give us land, we will come. That’s our mantra.”

And with cities throughout the entire state of California having gone through the process of zoning land for residential as part of their Housing Elements, which aim to allocate land so that cities can meet their state-mandated Regional Housing Needs Allocations, those opportunities could become more abundant.

“We continually look for housing opportunities,” said former Sunflower Hill board president Kathy Layman, who joined the organization in 2016.

Layman, who recently stepped out of the president role, continues to serve as the head of the nonprofit’s land committee and works more as an adviser to the board.

She said that while many residents might have a negative view on the state’s housing crunch, these Housing Elements in cities around the Tri-Valley and throughout California are forcing developers to look for

partners like Sunflower Hill in order to work in affordable housing units so that their projects can get approved for development.

“We have had a couple of cities reach out to us and want to talk to us about potential projects,” Layman said. “For us, I think it’s a good opportunity to get in some places that we might not have been able to get into before.”

And as these opportunities grow, Layman — just like the rest of the members of Sunflower Hill — continues to wish for elected officials, city representatives and community members to keep offering their support so that more housing can be developed and it doesn’t just end with a few developments here and there.

“When I look back over the last 10 years; the individuals, the corporations, the organizations, the government elected folks — it’s taken a village, and it will continue to take that village if we’re going to impact the numbers and make a difference,” Houghton said “I would just invite anyone who wants to be part of our village and part of our garden, come on down. Because together we can grow.”

Sunflower Hill will be celebrating its 10th anniversary with a special event on Sept. 30 at the Blackhawk Museum in Danville. The theme is moonlight at the museum, and the event will be open to the public. For more information and ticket purchases, visit www.sunflowerhill.org. ■



The main entrance to Sunflower Hill’s affordable housing community at Irby Ranch in Pleasanton.

CHRISTIAN TRUJANO

Music, magic and laughs

Summer shows roll along at Bankhead Theater

By JEREMY WALSH

A little bit of comedy, a little bit of magic and a whole lot of music — that is Livermore Valley Arts' recipe for entertainment at the Bankhead Theater this July and August.

The downtown Livermore venue's summer schedule continues this Friday (July 14) with local performer and music educator Jack Quigley on the bill for the Courtyard Concert evening series held outside the theater in the Madden Courtyard.

Quigley performs as a solo artist as well as with different bands across the Bay Area. He also serves as a music minister at the Center for Spiritual Living Livermore Valley and works as music director for the Valley Montessori School in Livermore, teaching more than 450 kids in preschool through eighth grade, according to LVA officials.

His concert, which begins at 5:30 p.m. Friday, will feature "a gumbo pot of acoustic musical styles, including blues, gospel, spiritual, folk, country, rock and bluegrass," LVA officials said.

The Courtyard Concerts conclude next month with Matt Finders & Friends playing the final show of the 2023 series.

A bassist, composer and educator living in Livermore, Finders spent 17 years playing trombone in The Tonight Show with Jay Leno Band. His career also includes performing with the likes of Benny Goodman, Harry Connick Jr., Toshiko Akiyoshi Jazz Orchestra, and Blood Sweat and Tears, among others, according to LVA.

The Matt Finders & Friends show in the Madden Courtyard will begin at 5:30 p.m. Aug. 11.

Meanwhile, inside the Bankhead, pianist and composer Keiko Matsui



will make her return to the Tri-Valley on Aug. 4 for a Friday night concert highlighting the "transcendent and haunting melodies, which have made her a worldwide icon in contemporary smooth jazz," according to LVA officials.

"A consummate artist freely at home in any musical context, she borrows from such diverse idioms as jazz, classical, rock, blues, and traditional world music to create timeless, passionate and emotional melodies that speak a universally appealing language," LVA reps said.

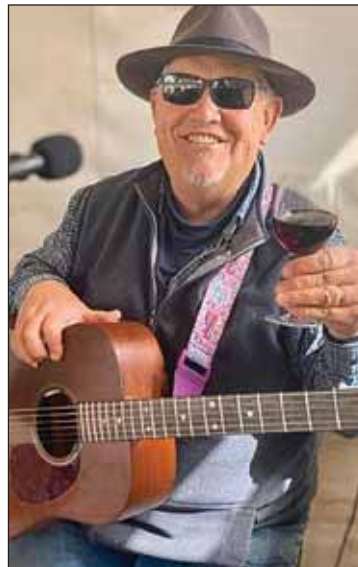
Matsui will be in concert at 8 p.m. Aug. 4, with tickets still available but selling fast.

On the next evening, comedian and actress Maria Bamford will take to the Bankhead stage for the first time in her career.

Best known for her comedy specials on Netflix and Comedy Central, as well as her web series "The Maria Bamford Show," acting on the show "Lady Dynamite" and a range of voiceover work including "Big Mouth" and "BoJack Horseman," Bamford has also received acclaim for her efforts in mental health advocacy, according to LVA officials. They say Bamford's show at 8 p.m. Aug. 5 is also selling fast.

The music continues again on Aug. 19, with Mustangs of the West coming to the Bankhead, including lead vocalist and guitarist Suzanna Spring, who hails from Livermore.

"The all-female quintet first made waves in the burgeoning Los Angeles music scene, starting in the late-1980s," LVA officials said. "When the Mustangs (as they were known then) appeared, they immediately turned heads and developed an energetic following that tagged



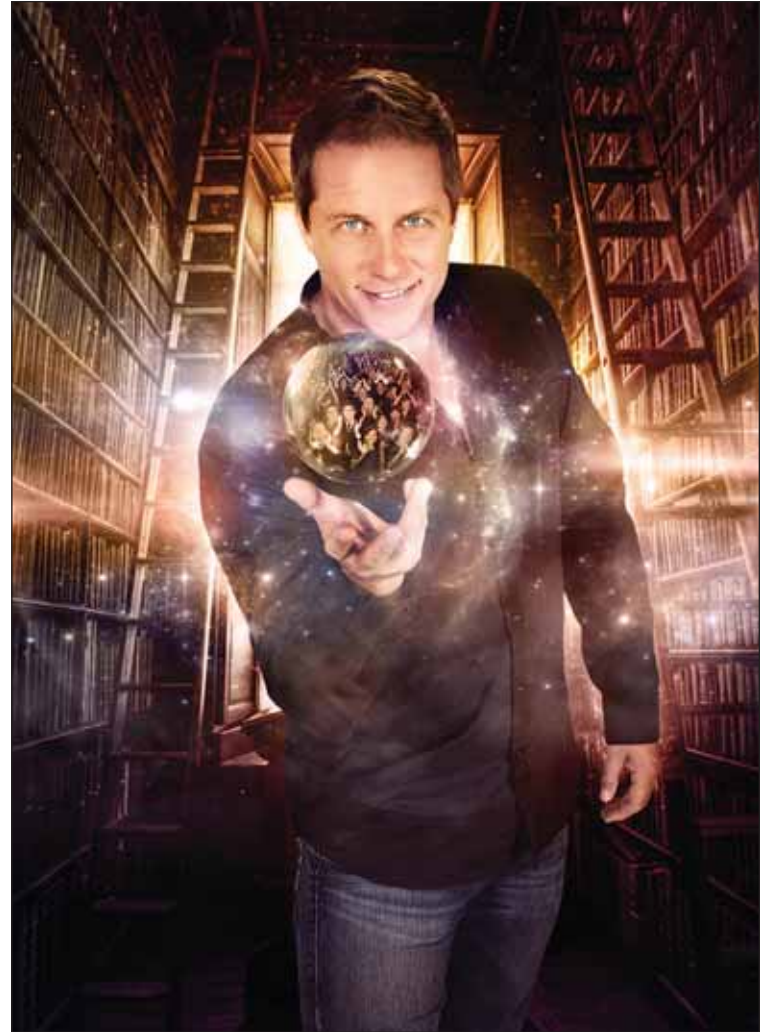
them as leaders of a new musical brigade. Now named Mustangs of the West, band members have reunited to take up where they left off in the mid-'90s and make good on their early promise."

The ladies are set to rock the Bankhead at 8 p.m. Aug. 19.

And the final LVA-hosted performance of the month will see magician Mike Super onstage with his "Magic and Illusion" show at 8 p.m. Aug. 25.

Known for his appearances on the reality TV shows "PHENOMENON" and "America's Got Talent," Super "has pioneered a new form of magic with his own inimitable, down-to-earth style and personality, bringing the art of magic back to the people; he transcends the 'trick' and connects personally with his audience on a level they can relate to," according to LVA officials.

For tickets and more information on all Bankhead performances, visit www.livermorearts.org. ■



COURTESY LVA

The upcoming schedule at the Bankhead Theater includes (clockwise from top left) Keiko Matsui on Aug. 4, Mike Super on Aug. 25, Mustangs of the West on Aug. 19 and Jack Quigley on July 14.



COURTESY LVA

Comedian Maria Bamford is performing on Aug. 5.

Shakespeare comedy under the moon and stars

‘Much Ado About Nothing’ explores themes of marriage, love and deceit

By NICOLE GONZALES

Livermore-based performing arts group SPARC Theater is set to bring the classic William Shakespeare play “Much Ado About Nothing” to local audiences over the next four weeks.

Shows will take place at Darcie Kent Vineyards in Livermore Valley wine country as part of SPARC Theater’s annual Shakespeare in the Vineyard summer series, which gives audience members the chance to experience the play on an outdoor stage.

“It’s special to see the shows, Shakespeare in particular, outdoors under the stars in a way similar

to the original productions,” said Lisa Tromovitch, SPARC artistic director.

“We want our audience to have a great time, and we don’t need the shows to be extraordinarily long for them to enjoy the story,” Tromovitch added. “While it’s usually nice in the vineyards, we have occasional cold nights.”

Originally written in 1598, “Much Ado About Nothing” follows two young couples as they make their journey to the altar — Hero and Claudio, and Beatrice and Benedick. The plot also includes two rivaling brothers who attempt to reconcile, clowns and

stolen love letters, SPARC officials noted.

Throughout the play, the characters engage in gossip that further entangles them in each other’s lives as they prepare for their weddings. The play explores main themes of deceit, romance and the role of marriage.

“Much Ado About Nothing” features veteran SPARC performers as well as those new to the theater. Actors Sydney Schwindt and Mark Vashro portray lead characters Beatrice and Benedick.

“We’re especially proud to bring Nona Truong back, a former acting apprentice in our nationally known education program,” Tromovitch said of the actress who portrays the characters Margaret and Don Pedro.

Tromovitch shared that Truong was an understudy with SPARC in 2016 and took over the role of Ariel in its production of “The Tempest”. Truong has since continued her dedication to her performing career.

“I suspect her confidence soared with that accomplishment; she then went on to get her master’s degree in acting, her union card and is now based in L.A. It’s a special treat when actors who got their start with us return to share their talents,” Tromovitch said.

SPARC Theater associate artist Mary Ann Rodgers



GREGG LE BLANC / CUMULUSLIGHT PHOTOGRAPHY

From left: Anjoli Aguilar as Hero and Sydney Schwindt as Beatrice in the SPARC Theater production of “Much Ado About Nothing” opening July 15.



GREGG LE BLANC / CUMULUSLIGHT PHOTOGRAPHY

Acting in “Much Ado About Nothing” are (from left) Mark Vashro, Sydney Schwindt and Nona Truong.

adapted the Shakespeare script for the production.

Rodgers explained that the group used a doubling method for the production where several performers play more than one character, allowing for fewer actors, a safer production and an interesting show.

“We knew we wanted a shorter script, using a maximum of seven actors for very practical reasons,” Rodgers said. “We wanted fewer people in the dressing trailer due to infection-spreading concerns.”

“As I said, very practical, but the fun came with figuring out the doubling of the roles, making something new for the artists and audience. Practical needs can lead to creative solutions that let us see the play in a new way,” Rodgers added.

Opening this Saturday (July 15) and running through Aug. 6, each show of “Much Ado About Nothing” will be starting at 7:30 p.m. at the winery on Tesla Road in Livermore. For tickets and more information, visit sparctheater.org. ■

A day with Cass Elliot

Actor portrays late singer onstage as part of museum speaker series

By JEREMY WALSH

Tri-Valley residents will get the chance to learn the story of the woman behind one of the most powerful voices in 1960s music when Museum on Main presents “An Afternoon or Evening with Cass Elliot” later this month.

Part of the Pleasanton museum’s 2023 Ed Kinney Speaker Series, the performance will see actor Karen Vuranch embody the late Elliot, best known for her work in The Mamas & the Papas before her solo career was cut short by her death of a heart attack at 32 years old.

“Cass Elliot had a fascinating life as the lead singer of the popular ‘60s band. She was incredibly talented and vibrant as a singer and performer. In terms of her time with the Mamas & the Papas, it’ll be interesting to hear Elliot’s opinions about the tumultuous relationship dynamics and romantic entanglements within the folk rock group,” said Rachel Brickell, the museum’s director of education and coordinator of the speaker series.

Elliot rose to prominence in the early 1960s with her powerful vocals accompanying her strong sense of humor and boisterous persona onstage.

Perhaps better known as “Mama Cass”, a moniker she would later grow to resent and try to distance herself from, the charismatic Elliot was central to the Mamas & the Papas hits including “California Dreamin’” and “Monday, Monday”. Her solo cover of “Dream a Little Dream of Me” also performed well on the charts.

Vuranch’s portrayal will be performed in the Chautauquan style in which the scholar-actor takes to the stage in character as the historical figure for a scripted show and ensuing Q&A session with the audience before



MUSEUM ON MAIN

Karen Vuranch will appear as Cass Elliot on July 25 in Pleasanton.

stepping out of character at the end to answer any final questions that the character themselves could not answer.

The live, in-person performances will take place at the Firehouse Arts Center in downtown Pleasanton at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. July 25. A virtual viewing via the webinar platform BigMarker will follow on Aug. 1.

For tickets and more information, visit www.museumonmain.org or call 925-462-2766. ■

ComicCon Livermore

New event highlights costumes, graphic novels and anime

By NICOLE GONZALES

In the spirit of the popular costume and character festivals around the world, a ComicCon is coming to the Tri-Valley this month. Organizers have said the event will bring adventure, fun and creativity for both adults and children alike.

To be held at the Livermore Bankhead Theater and Plaza, ComicCon Livermore will take place next Saturday (July 22) from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. A variety of activities, vendors and shops will be open for visitors and admission is free.

The Livermore ComicCon is hosted in part by Livermore Valley Arts, a local arts and entertainment organization. The one-day event will be new to the venue.

“This is the first time we are doing ComicCon,” said Ruth Eggherman, representative of LVA. “We’re excited to bring to downtown Livermore this special event for the comic and graphic novel lover in us all.”

ComicCon festivals are held around the world and typically highlight comic books, anime characters, superheroes and a type of costume play known as cosplay.

The Livermore festival will include a toy anime section, face painting and a costume contest.

The event coincides with the exhibit “Comic Crossing: The Art of the Graphic Narrative” in the UNCLE Credit Union Art Gallery in the Bankhead. The exhibit, running now to Oct. 1, displays a collection of graphic novels, comics and illustrations from well-known stories and artists.

“Comic Crossing: The Art of the Graphic Narrative” will give viewers a look into illustrated stories and their significance.

To find out more, visit livermorearts.org. ■

Community Pulse

POLICE BULLETIN

Task force recovers stolen catalytic converter etched by LPD

A Livermore resident whose catalytic converter was stolen back in May had it returned last month after the Alameda County Regional Auto Theft Taskforce (ACRATT) recovered it during a bust of a catalytic converter fencing operation.

Livermore police shared the news in a post on social media, highlighting the fact that the victim's catalytic converter had been etched with the department's logo and the vehicle's license plate prior to being stolen, making it easy for police to track down the owner when it was found among 240 stolen catalytic converters at two locations in Oakland along with a stolen vehicle, stolen firearms and \$260,000 in cash. Six people were arrested in connection with the operation.

The Livermore victim had attended one of LPD's catalytic converter "Etch and Catch" events at Las Positas College. "This is a perfect example of how etching a catalytic converter can be helpful in the investigation and prosecution of catalytic converter thieves,"

LPD said in its post.

ACRATT is a multi-agency task force which consists of the California Highway Patrol, Alameda County Sheriff's Office, Oakland Police Department, and the Alameda County Probation Department. Additional departments that assisted with this operation were the CHP Golden Gate Division Investigative Services Unit, CHP Computer Crimes Investigation Unit, Alameda Police Department, Dublin Police Services and the National Insurance Crime Bureau.

After ACRATT contacted LPD, the department was able to search its catalytic converter event records and provide the most up-to-date contact information for the victim whose device was etched. The original theft report was also taken by LPD, which they were able to provide along with other information to support investigative efforts.

"DMV records do not hold phone information and often the addresses and other important information can be out of date, which most people don't realize. Having our own record database assists in contacting the rightful owners," said LPD public information officer Azenith Smith in an email to the Weekly.

While having an etched catalytic



COURTESY LPD

LPD was able to return a stolen catalytic converter to its rightful owner through its database of people who have attended the department's "Etch and Catch" events at Las Positas College.

converter alone may not deter a thief from taking it — such as in this case — there are other factors that make etching a helpful effort.

In general, if a stolen catalytic converter is recovered intact and in a timely manner, it can sometimes be repaired by welding it back into place. Additionally, etching the converter can alert scrap dealers that the catalytic converter may be stolen.

For investigative purposes, a catalytic converter being etched could also help with charging and prosecuting the suspect(s) if there's a victim attached to it.

Under the California Penal Code, there are two different crimes associated with this type of recovery, Smith said. There is "Suspected Stolen Property" which is when the burden falls on the investigating officer or agency to prove the item(s) are stolen as it is not illegal to merely possess catalytic converters. However, most catalytic converters

aren't serialized or traceable, making theft difficult and sometimes impossible to track.

Smith also noted that catalytic converter thefts often span vast areas and timeframes of victimization. Matching the license plate from an etched device to a database with contact information to reach the rightful owner can be significant in investigating the second general crime type, "Recovered Stolen Property."

Upon identifying a catalytic converter's owner, police can ask if they gave the subject(s) permission to take/possess it. If they did not, then police have confirmed stolen property that the subject is in possession of.

LPD and Las Positas College's Automotive Technology Department plan to host another etching event in the fall, according to the department's social media post. However, there are additional measures vehicle owners can take for extra protection against theft.

- Cages can be welded directly to the catalytic converter to make it harder for thieves.
 - Whenever possible, park in well-lit, highly visible locations or in garages with the doors closed.
 - Install motion-sensitive lights and alarm systems that have cameras.
 - Paint your catalytic converter to deter buyers of stolen devices.
 - Talk to your neighbors and watch out for each other's vehicles.
- "We highly recommend adding as many possible layers to make committing the crime less appealing. Most thieves take advantage of crimes of opportunity. Taking away, or adding barriers to those opportunities make them more likely to move on to the next 'easier' target," Smith said.

—Cierra Bailey

In other news

- The Contra Costa County District Attorney's Office recently said that PetSmart has agreed to pay \$1.46 million for overcharging customers, false advertising and unfair competition.

It's the outcome of a multi-county

lawsuit that includes court orders prohibiting the company from engaging in false or misleading advertising and charging an amount greater than the lowest price posted for an item.

The settlement requires PetSmart to implement additional audit and price accuracy procedures in its California stores for three years to ensure compliance with pricing accuracy requirements, including notifying customers of their right to be charged the lowest currently advertised price for any item offered for sale.

"The law in California is clear: businesses must be accurate in charging for goods and services," Contra Costa County District Attorney Diana Becton said in a statement June 27. "For customers, it's important to monitor items scanned at a register and scrutinize your receipts to make sure you are not being overcharged."

PetSmart will pay \$1.25 million in civil penalties, \$100,000 in restitution to support consumer protection enforcement efforts, and \$110,000 for investigative costs incurred by various counties.

The DA's office said PetSmart has implemented new policies and procedures to improve pricing accuracy with routine audits, detailed record keeping, and in-store signage to notify customers about the lowest advertised prices.

The lawsuit was filed in Santa Cruz County. In addition to Contra Costa, other plaintiffs include Sonoma, Alameda, Marin, San Diego, Ventura and Los Angeles counties.

—Tony Hicks, Bay City News

- Livermore police arrested a Stockton man early Sunday morning for allegedly possessing an assault weapon and drugs, after a foot chase resulted in a police dog cornering him in a hole near a creek.

Police stopped a black Honda Accord around 11 p.m. Saturday near Airway Boulevard and Isabel Avenue for suspected vehicle code violations. The driver, a 20-year-old from Stockton, was driving without a valid driver's license, police said.

Police also reported seeing illegal drugs inside the car. While police searched the car, the man allegedly fled, ignoring an officer's commands to stop. He ran northbound across Airway Boulevard, jumped a barbed-wire fence and went through a canal, police said.

Officers also allegedly found an unserialized short-barrel assault rifle in the vehicle's trunk. Police, with help from K9 Max, found the suspect hiding in a man-made hole along a creek near Interstate 580 around 12:40 a.m. Sunday. The man was arrested on suspicion of carrying a loaded firearm, possession of an assault weapon and possession of a controlled substance. ■

—Tony Hicks, Bay City News

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

Mailed at Periodicals Postage Rate, USPS 020407.

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

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

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POLICE REPORT

The Pleasanton Police Department made the following information available.

July 6

Warrant arrest

■ 9:39 a.m. on the 4500 block of Chabot Drive

Shoplifting

■ 11:49 a.m. on the 2100 block of Stoneridge Mall Road
■ 3:40 p.m. on the 1300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

July 5

Assault/battery

■ 9:15 a.m. on the 3700 block of Vineyard Avenue
■ 3:35 p.m. on the 3500 block of Chippendale Court

Warrant arrest

■ 11:06 a.m. on the 5300 block of Hopyard Road

Fraud

■ 12:42 p.m. on the 1600 block of Orchard Way

Theft from auto

■ 6:36 p.m. on the 000 block of Stoneridge Road

DUI

■ 9:23 p.m. at Chabot and Stoneridge drives

July 4

Trespassing/prowling

■ 3:46 a.m. on the 5500 block of West Las Positas Boulevard

Drug violation

■ 9:59 a.m. on the 5500 block of Springhouse Drive

Theft

■ 10:54 a.m. on the 5400 block of Manson Drive
■ 12:20 p.m., 1300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting

Warrant arrest

■ 11:39 a.m. at Hopyard Road/Inglewood Drive

July 3

Fraud

■ 11:18 a.m. on the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive

Vandalism

■ 3:15 p.m. on the 000 block of Vintage Circle

Theft

■ 4:28 p.m. on the 3900 block of West Las Positas Boulevard
■ 11:06 p.m. on the 4700 block of Willow Road

July 2

Drug violation

■ 1:52 a.m. on the 5300 block of Hopyard Road

■ 2:57 p.m. on the 1700 block of Santa Rita Road

Warrant arrest

■ 6:28 a.m. on the 900 block of Rose Avenue

Theft

■ 8:52 a.m., 4800 block of Willow Road; theft from auto
■ 11:07 a.m. on the 3500 block of Bernal Avenue
■ 5:07 p.m., 1400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting
■ 8:42 p.m., 2900 block of Hopyard Road; auto theft

Domestic battery

■ 11:42 p.m. on Bernal Avenue

Assault/battery

■ 11:47 p.m. on the 5100 block of Hopyard Road

July 1

DUI

■ 2:44 a.m. at Stanley Boulevard and Main Street
■ 7:07 p.m. on Bernal and Pleasanton avenues

Theft

■ 6:39 a.m., 4800 block of Bernal Avenue; auto theft
■ 10:47 a.m., 1300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting
■ 1 p.m. on the 1400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

Douglas W. Schiel

June 10, 1941 – June 24, 2023

Doug Schiel — A long time resident of Pleasanton, CA passed away unexpectedly Saturday, June 24, 2023.

Born in Minneapolis, Minnesota June 10, 1941, Doug spent his childhood in Dearborn, Michigan outside of Detroit. His parents, Walter and Margaret Schiel along with younger brother Richard and sister Carolyn moved cross country in 1957 settling in Whittier, California, outside of Los Angeles. It was here where he met, and fell in love with Sandy, with whom he'd go on to share 59 years of marriage together.

Following high school with an interest in mechanical engineering and an opportunity to compete at the college level in swimming he enrolled in the University of Wyoming, in Laramie, bringing Sandy along for this new adventure. After graduation from college and a few years back living in the Los Angeles area working in Aerospace Engineering, Doug moved with his family to Pleasanton in 1971 where he started his career in automotive engineering with Peterbilt Motors, and then with New United Motors Manufacturing (NUMMI) shifting over to Quality Assurance. His passion for golf lead him to the perfect retirement job at Dublin Ranch Golf Course for 15 years as a Course Marshall. Doug swam competitively his whole life receiving many medals, ribbons and accolades from Dearborn HS, California HS in Whittier, Fullerton College, the University of Wyoming along with Livermore Aquacowboys and Tri Valley Masters swim teams up to the age 73. He continued to get in the pool to swim his laps as he had done throughout his life, his last workout just a couple weeks back. He loved and followed all sports faithfully. Any and all games or matches grabbing his attention, didn't really matter which sport, or team, but he did have his favorites for sure.

He is survived by his wife Sandy, his son, Steve Schiel (Cathy), and daughter, Kristen Joksch (Scott), granddaughters Megan and Nicole Schiel, grandson Carson Quintana, along with brother Richard "Dick" Schiel (Laura) and sister Carolyn Schaal and their respective children and grandchildren, along with many cousins scattered about the country.

Doug lived a joyful life. He loved to laugh, and always had a good joke to tell, many of them really funny. He will be so missed by his family, friends, and all who had the pleasure of being a part of his life.

A Memorial Gathering will be held Tuesday, July 18 at 11:00am at Graham Hitch, Pleasanton. Toast and Conversation Reception immediately following at The Village at Ironwood Clubhouse.

In lieu of flowers please donate to your favorite charity.



Judy Beth Mason Vollgraf

August 21, 1941 – June 23, 2023

Judy Vollgraf passed away June 23, 2023 in Pleasanton, CA at the age of 81. Judy was born in Elmira, New York, to Sallie and Joseph Mason. She was a graduate of Thomas A. Edison High School in Elmira Heights, NY where she proudly twirled her baton as majorette. Judy and her husband Bob married in 1962, and with their children, Susan and Rob, lived in Whittier, CA and Southfield,



MI before settling in Pleasanton, CA in 1974. She enjoyed crafting and taught arts and crafts classes at Rio Hondo Community College in Whittier, CA. She enjoyed creating stained glass, macramé, holiday décor, and other arts and crafts for her family and home throughout the years. She also loved tending to her garden. An active member of the Assistance League of Amador Valley for 28 years, she served on the board in various roles including Vice President of Resources and Development and Grants Chairman. She loved participating in ALAV's fundraising and service events including the Mad Hatter's Tea Party (a favorite of hers), Operation School Bell, Screening Eyes Early (SEE), and other philanthropic events. She also volunteered as part of the Pleasanton Centennial Celebration in 1994. Judy played Bunco with many Assistance League friends and was active in book club, as she was an incessant reader and always had a book in her car to read when she had extra time. She is preceded in death by her husband of 59 years, Bob Vollgraf. She is survived by son Rob Vollgraf, daughter Sue Maur, her 8 grandchildren: Brett, Kelly, Bella, Olivia, Emma, Ava, Spencer, and Cole, and her brother, Jerry Mason of Elmira Heights, New York. She was most proud of her children and grandchildren and was a key figure in their lives. She will be missed by many.

Celebration of life service will be held July 30, 2023 at 12:00 pm at the family residence.

PAID OBITUARY

PAID OBITUARY



PLEASANTON PREPS

By DENNIS MILLER

2023 Pleasanton Mile could be seminal moment in fair racing history

Closing day competition was richest horse race in all of U.S. on Sunday

Sunday, July 9, at around 6:25 p.m., the 2023 Alameda County Fair horse racing meet came to an end.

It wrapped up one of the most successful meets in some time, culminating with the final day featuring the inaugural running of the Pleasanton Mile.

The Mile had a purse of \$150,000 making it the richest race in the history of the Northern California Fair circuit. In fact, it was the richest race in all the United States on Sunday.

That's something that has never happened in Pleasanton, yet alone any other fair. For one day, the eyes of horse racing in the United States were on Pleasanton and the Alameda County Fair.

And that was pretty cool.

It's not an easy road for the fair circuit when it comes to horse racing. In Northern California, we are down to Alameda County (Pleasanton), The State Fair (Sacramento), Sonoma County (Santa Rosa), Humboldt County (Ferndale) and The Big Fresno Fair when it comes to horse racing meets.

Over the years, we have lost the San Joaquin County (Stockton), Solano County (Vallejo) and San Mateo County (former Bay Mead-

ows) horse racing meets.

The horse racing groups at each of the fairs face external opposition from bigger tracks like Golden Gate Fields and face internal pressures. It's almost unfathomable to many involved with horse racing that there are groups within the structure of fairs that would not mind if horse racing went away.

There are feelings, and I know this is the case at more than one fair, that feel horse racing gets in the way at the fair. The thoughts are that the fairs would be better off without horse racing and that most fairgoers attend the races because they are at the fair.

That's not even close to reality.

Horse racing brings more people to the fair plain and simple, and it was on full display this year.

The thoughts in developing the Pleasanton Mile was to build a sense of pride throughout the community, building Mile Day into a tradition.

It was a home run of the grand slam variety.

The California Association of Racing Fairs, along with key members of the Alameda County Fair Board of Directors, made this happen. There may have been some anxious mo-

ments and some arm twisting, but it was given the green light.

Allen Aldrich, the longtime Pleasanton resident who is the chair of the Fair Racing and Equestrian Committee, along with Tom Doutrich, the CARF racing secretary, were the driving forces behind the Mile.

Jerome Hoban, the CEO of the fair, was instrumental in helping push the Mile through. The other members of the fair board and administration that were willing to keep an open mind were also key.

If the inaugural running is any indication, Mile Day will be a key moment in horse racing in all the United States. That there are people wondering if Mile Day will be a one-off is also hard to believe.

For the record, during fair racing, a handle (the amount of money wagered) of \$1 million a day is always a goal. On weekdays that can be tough, but that is the number to attain on a good day.

The handle for July 9 was almost \$4 million. Yep, 4 million dollars! One day — that's it — one day.

The vibe on Sunday as we welcomed horses who have raced in big races across the world was amazing. I have been attending the races in



DENNIS MILLER

The 2023 Alameda County Fair meet was arguably the most successful in fair history, culminating in the Pleasanton Mile run on July 9.

Pleasanton either as a young fan, a reporter covering the races, or as an employee hosting the handicapping seminars and promoting the races, for over 50 years.

The buzz I felt on Sunday was arguably the best I have ever felt at the races in Pleasanton. When I was doing the interview in the winners' circle with Tiago Pereira, the jockey of Katonah, the winning horse in the Mile, I announced the race was not only the richest in Northern California history for a fair race, but that it was the richest in all of the United States on Sunday.

That brought a huge roar from the crowd.

It was tangible and I felt it as I stood there, soaking it all in.

It was a roar of pride and accomplishment. It was a roar that you're not going to get from a carnival ride, an exhibit hall or even a concert. Maybe the pig races come close, but it was not the same.

Those of us close to the situation exchanged hugs and handshakes after the Mile, fully understand-

ing the gravity of what we just saw happen.

It might have been a seminal moment in bringing fair racing meets the respect they deserve. Fair racing is the grassroots of building horse racing audiences. It is by far the best way to bring new fans into the industry, and that's not open for debate.

Those who don't agree have their heads in the sand, or somewhere else.

If horse racing is going to begin to thrive again, fair racing is a must. The Pleasanton Mile is a must. If the first year can generate this much of a buzz, not to mention that big a handle, moving forward it will only get bigger.

Here's hoping to see everyone next summer for the second running of the Pleasanton Mile. It's what the people of the Pleasanton community deserve. ■

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

Dublin Leprechauns honoring baseball pioneer

July 18 ceremony to highlight legacy of You-Wen Liang

By JOSEPH CHIU

For decades, Americans have familiarized themselves with popular innovators of baseball through the joy and excitement they've brought to the game. In China, You-Wen Liang made a difference in the sport in his own right through his commitment and dedication to the game.

The Dublin Leprechauns are honoring the legacy and impact of You-Wen Liang next Tuesday (July 18) during the game against the Vallejo Seaweeds at the Fallon Sports Park in Dublin. You-Wen Liang was a pioneering advancer of baseball in his community, and his impact has been felt around the world since he began his journey in China.

"To me, the biggest impacts he

made were to introduce the sport to so many kids in China and plant the seed of passion for baseball in their hearts, and most importantly, through coaching, he instilled the spirit of teamwork, perseverance and patience in these kids," said Margaret Liang, You-Wen Liang's daughter and a Dublin resident.

When You-Wen Liang was studying in Japan, his father Fu-Chu Liang made his own impact on baseball. Fu-Chu Liang founded and coached the Panda Baseball Club in Yokohama, Japan, which won the 1942 Yokohama League Championship and was the first All-Chinese baseball team. He quickly became You-Wen Liang's foundational building block in his pursuit of baseball.

"There are many stories that

(You-Wen Liang) shared, such as how he had a triple play — which he described to me more than a thousand times throughout his life — in the 1948 Little World Series hosted by U.S. Navy back then in Shanghai, which earned him the title of MVP of the year," Margaret Liang told the Weekly.

The team was ultimately broken up in 1949, so Panda players were sent out to other cities to form and coach new teams to promote baseball. Years later, former Panda players returned to lead the National Athletic Tournament where many teams from the Yokohama League came back to play.

You-Wen Liang emigrated to the United States at the age of 58 where he continued organizing and



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The late You-Wen Liang stands next to a statue of his father Fu-Chu Liang.

coaching new youth Panda teams. In 2007, You-Wen Liang returned to his hometown of Zhongshan, China after hearing about the potential interest of developing baseball in that community. He sparked a renewed interest in the sport and coached the youth on how to play baseball.

"Despite at that time he could very well enjoy the comfort of his

home here in the Bay Area, spending happy time with the newly born grandkids, he chose to dedicate close to 10 years of his time in his hometown as a pure volunteer, living in a small apartment, in a city that's less developed than here in California, riding his bike every day to school to spend time and coach these kids," Margaret Liang said. "That to me, is true dedication, selfless dedication."

As a result of You-Wen Liang's efforts and support, Zhongshan became designated as the official "Baseball Town" by the National Athletic Association. Today, the official slogan for all Panda clubs and teams is "Chase with all might, Fight til the end", which embodies the spirit of the original Panda team from the 1940s, Fu-Chu Liang and You-Wen Liang.

"Baseball is truly his lifetime passion, that even at the age of 82, he still wanted to make a contribution to this sport in the best way he can," Margaret Liang said. "He felt that it was his mission." ■

Entertainment

CONCERTS IN THE PARK

The Pleasanton Downtown Association's popular Concert in the Park series will take place most Friday nights this summer featuring an eclectic mix of music from classic rock, blues and big band to today's hits. 7-9 p.m., July 14.

CITY CENTER UNPLUGGED

Celebrate summer with City Center Unplugged, a Friday evening outdoor music series featuring an array of local bands. Grab an outside table, enjoy a leisurely dinner, and catch some of the tunes that will be filling Alexander Square. 6-8 p.m.

COURTYARD CONCERT STARRING

JACK QUIGLEY Kick off the weekend and join for happy hour in the Madden Courtyard starring Jack Quigley for acoustic musical styles, including blues, gospel, rock and bluegrass. 5:30 p.m., July 14. Ticket \$10. Visit livermorearts.org.

MATILDA JR A gleefully witty ode to the anarchy of childhood and the power of imagination. 2 p.m., July 14; 7 p.m., July 15. Tickets \$10. Visit firehousearts.org.

SEUSSICAL KIDS Horton the Elephant, the Cat in the Hat and all of your favorite Dr. Seuss characters spring to life onstage in *Seussical KIDS*, a fantastical musical extravaganza. July 13-15. Tickets \$10. Visit firehousearts.org.

SHAKESPEARE IN THE VINEYARD

Much Ado About Nothing explores love and friendship, honor and deceit and a couple of cases of crossed wires as newly-engaged Hero and Claudio play cupid to the constantly bickering Beatrice and Benedick. July 14-16; 21-23; 27-30, Aug. 3-6. Darcie Kent Vineyards. Visit sparttheater.org.

SUNSET CONCERT FEATURING

JOHNNY & JUNE FOREVER Join McGrail for a perfect summer evening on the front lawn featuring

live music from electrifying duo, Johnny & June Forever, in this spirited tribute to Johnny Cash and June Carter. 6-9 p.m., July 15. Tickets \$35. Visit mcgrailvineyards.com.

JAZZ IN JULY Jazz in July, an annual Livermore tradition, takes over the Civic Center Library with programs by top jazz artists. The programs are free with no reservations required. The Dynamic Miss Faye Carol, 2 p.m., July 16. Storytime Room, 1188 S. Livermore Ave.

CREATURES OF IMPULSE *Creatures of Impulse* returns with this four-part series, based in the world of *Dungeons and Dragons*. Join each week as our heroes and villains complete a full campaign. 7:30-9 p.m., July 19. Tickets \$10. Visit firehousearts.org.

DUBLIN SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

Join for the eight-week Summer Concert Series at Emerald Glen Park Amphitheater during the Dublin Farmers' Market. Local food vendors will be onsite and available for purchase. 6-8 p.m., July 20, Houserockers, 10-piece rock and soul band.

FOOTLOOSE AT LAS POSITAS

Footloose celebrates the wisdom of listening to young people while guiding them with a warm heart and open mind. 8 p.m., July 21-22; July 28-29. Tickets \$15-\$20. Outdoors, 3000 Campus Hill Drive, Livermore. Visit showtix4u.com/event-details/72858.

COMICCON LIVERMORE

Join ComicCon Livermore at the Bankhead Plaza for this free day of fun and excitement with a variety of activities from face painting, a costume contest and comic books. 11 a.m.- 4 p.m., July 22. Visit livermorearts.org.

POETS LAUREATE NIGHT AT

PATXI'S PIZZA The 12th Poetry & Pizza Open Mic at Patxi's Pizza in Dublin on July 26 will feature four current and former poets

laureate, plus a one-hour open mic hosted by City of Dublin Poet Laureate James Morehead. 6 p.m., performances by current and former East Bay poets laureate, 7 p.m., one-hour poetry open mic. 5130 Dublin Blvd., 51H.

SPAMALOT: SCHOOL EDITION

Spamalot tells the legendary tale of King Arthur's quest to find the Holy Grail. However, diverting a bit from the true story, this hilarious musical features such oddities as a line of beautiful dancing girls, a flatulent Frenchman and killer rabbits. 7:30 p.m., July 27-29, 2 p.m., July 29. Amador Theater. Tickets \$10. Visit firehousearts.org.

KEIKO MATSUI AT THE BANKHEAD

Acclaimed pianist, composer and humanitarian Keiko Matsui's transcendent and haunting melodies have long sought to build bridges and her sonic cultural exchange has reached the hearts and minds of fans throughout the world. 8 p.m., Aug. 4. Tickets \$30-\$60. Visit livermorearts.org.

Talks

IF THESE WALLS COULD TALK

Pleasanton's history is more than dates and historical time periods, it's about the everyday people that helped build this town. On this free walking tour, explore the many beautiful historic homes along St. Mary Street, Division Street and Rose Avenue. 10 a.m., July 15. Museum on Main.

AUTHOR TALK WITH JEFF COLVIN

Livermore Public Library will host author Jeff Colvin to discuss his new book *Avoiding Apocalypse: How Science and Scientists Ended the Cold War*. Registration is not necessary to attend this free program. 2 p.m., July 23. Civic Center Library Storytime Room, 1188 S. Livermore Ave.

AN AFTERNOON OR EVENING WITH

CASS ELLIOT Turn back the clock to the 1960s as Karen Vuranch presents a storytelling performance of Cass Elliot, one of the singers in the iconic band the Mamas and the Papas, considered by many to be the most charismatic member of the group. 2 & 7 p.m., July 25. Firehouse Arts Center. Tickets \$15-\$25.

HACIENDA PARK TOASTMASTERS

Hacienda Park Toastmasters Club meets in-person and virtually via Zoom. Overcome fear of speaking in a friendly, supportive atmosphere. Visit haciendapark.toastmastersclubs.org.

Outdoor Rec

BOCCE IN PLEASANTON Enjoy a game of Bocce on recently renovated courts offered through Lifetime Tennis at Centennial Park. For more information visit lifetimeactivities.com.

PICKLEBALL AT PLEASANTON MIDDLE

SCHOOL Pickleball is a fast, fun, social sport and great exercise for all ages and athletic backgrounds,

PET OF THE WEEK



VALLEY HUMANE SOCIETY

Clever Cassidy

A cool and collected companion, clever Cassidy is not a clingy lap cat, but quiet and craving affection on his terms. He'll curl up next to you for cozy cat naps. Cassidy is a captivating and contented feline friend, focused on finding his new family. Visit valleyhumane.org to learn more about Cassidy; email info@valleyhumane.org to start the adoption application process.

now offered through Lifetime Tennis at Pleasanton Middle School. For more information visit lifetimeactivities.com.

Exhibits

FALCONS AT FIFTY Pleasanton's Museum on Main's exhibit "Falcons at Fifty: Foothill High School 1973-Present" commemorates the school's fiftieth birthday featuring memorabilia and artifacts from throughout the school's history, as well as clips from interviews with alumni and current and former faculty and staff. Now to Aug. 19. Visit museumonmain.org.

WATERCOLOR SHOW AT

HARRINGTON GALLERY The California Watercolor Association features approximately 50 works of water-based media, showcasing artwork of the organization's Signature Members who have exhibited in three or more CWA National Exhibitions. Now through Aug. 26. Visit firehousearts.org.

Fairs & Festivals

DISABILITY MINISTRY'S 2ND ANNUAL CAR SHOW Disability Ministry's 2nd Annual Car Show will have cool cars, a bounce house, sensory-friendly activities, games and more, all designed for people with disabilities and their families. 2-4 p.m., July 15. Valley Community Church. Visit vc.church/upcomingevents.

ART UNDER THE OAKS Alden Lane Nursery in Livermore will showcase nearly 40 regional artists and musicians along with Livermore winemakers to share their vintages. There will be several food selections and activities for kids and special displays for the whole family to enjoy. 10 a.m.- 4 p.m., July 15-16. Parking and admission free.

626 NIGHT MARKET 626 Night Market is back at Alameda County Fairgrounds. The iconic Californian festival features hundreds of food, merchandise, crafts, arts, games, music and entertainment attractions in an epic event spread over 10+ football fields of space.

July 28-30. Visit alamedacountyfair.com.

Movies

DUBLIN PICNIC FLIX MOVIE SERIES

The City of Dublin's free outdoor movie series will be rotated through three different parks in Dublin. Movies begin at dusk and guests are encouraged to bring low-back chairs and/or blankets and dress warmly. No pets are allowed. July 14, Encanto, Emerald Glen Park.

MAGICAL MOVIE MONDAYS Join for family friendly movies on Mondays in July. Bring a blanket to get cozy on the floor to watch any of the movies. 1-3 p.m. Dublin Library.

LIVERMORE VINE FREE SUMMER

MOVIES The Vine Theater in Livermore is hosting free summer movies with any concession purchase. No tickets required, doors open at 9:30am. 10 a.m., July 18, *Minions: The Rise of Gru*. Visit vinecinema.com/classic-nights.

PLEASANTON MOVIES IN THE PARK

Grab a picnic dinner, blanket and low beach chairs to enjoy family film favorites every Thursday. All movies are free and begin at dusk. Amador Valley Community Park, 4455 Black Ave. July 20, *Angels in the Outfield*.

Volunteers

TEEN VOLUNTEERS AT TRI-VALLEY

HAVEN Whether you have a passion for public service or need hours for school, Tri-Valley haven welcomes teen volunteers and youth groups (16 and over only) at the food pantry and thrift store. Opportunities include cashiering, sorting, food distribution and organization. Ages 15-18. Visit trivalleyhaven.org/volunteer.

VOLUNTEER LITERACY TUTOR

TRAINING Become a volunteer tutor and help an adult become more confident and better able to navigate everyday situations. The next three-part Tutor Training, in which volunteers attend all three trainings, takes place at the Livermore Civic Center Library from 10a.m.-12:30 p.m., July 24, 26 & 31. Call 925-373-5507 or email literacy@livermoreca.gov.

See **CALENDAR** on Page 20

TAKE US ALONG



The Amalfi Coast:

Joyce and Fred Okimoto brought the Weekly along on their tour of beautiful Italian scenery along the Gulf of Naples, including Pompeii, Sorrento, Positano and here at Amalfi.

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

Public Notices

PLEASANTON DENTAL CARE
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 599025
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) PLEASANTON DENTAL CARE, located at 5980 Stoneridge Dr Ste 116 Pleasanton, CA, 94588-2723, Alameda County.
This business is conducted by: a Corporation.
The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):
EUNICE JONG DDS INC.
4073 W Lakeshore Drive
San Ramon, CA 94582
California
Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 06/28/23
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on June 28 2023. (PLW Jul 7, 14, 21 and 28, 2023)

SOPHIE'S SUCCULENTS
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 598561
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) Sophie's Succulents, located at 2355 Bennington Ln. Hayward, CA 94545, Alameda.
This business is conducted by: a Married Couple.
The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):
JAMES KELLEY
2355 Bennington Ln.
Hayward, CA 94545
KRISTA KELLEY
2355 Bennington Ln.
Hayward, CA 94545
Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 06/09/2023
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on June 09 2023. (PLW Jun 23, 30, Jul 7 and 14, 2023)

DUCKY WASH LAUNDROMAT
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 598981
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) Ducky Wash Laundromat, located at 7399 Amador Valley Blvd Dublin, CA 94568, Alameda County.
Mailing Address: 19 Donna Ln, Danville, CA 94526
This business is conducted by: a Corporation.
The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):
MELLO FAMILY ENTERPRISE
19 Donna Lane
Danville, CA 94526
CA
Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 06/27/23
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on June 27 2023. (PLW Jun 30, Jul 7, 14 and 21, 2023)

SCENCE FRAGRANCES
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 598959
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) Scence Fragrances, located at 3310 Guthrie Ct, Pleasanton, CA 94588, Alameda County.
This business is conducted by: an Individual.
The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):
SIDDHANT PITHADIYA
3310 Guthrie Ct
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 June 26 2023. (PLW Jul 7, 14, 21 and 28, 2023)

GLC EQUESTRIAN
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 599100
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) GLC Equestrian, located at 222 W. Angela St. Apt A Pleasanton, CA 94566, Alameda.
This business is conducted by: an Individual.
The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):
GINA COONS
222 W. Angela St. Apt A Pleasanton, CA 94566
Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 06/19/23
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on July 03 2023. (PLW Jul 14, 21, 28 and Aug 4, 2023)

PINK CHERRY CLEANING SERVICE
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 598565
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) Pink Cherry Cleaning Service, located at 5712 Owens Dr #304 Pleasanton CA, 94588, Alameda County.
This business is conducted by: an Individual.
The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):
CARMELA LEDESMA
5712 Owens Dr #304
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 June 12 2023. (PLW Jun 23, 30, Jul 7 and 14, 2023)

MTM LAW
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 598659
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) MTM Law, located at 355 Arlington Avenue, Berkeley CA 94707, Alameda County.
This business is conducted by: an Individual.
The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):
MICHELLE MCGUINNESS
355 Arlington Avenue
Berkeley, CA 94707
Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 04/29/2023
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on June 14 2023. (PLW Jun 23, 30, Jul 7 and 14, 2023)

MANE MEDICS
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 598405
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) Mane Medics, located at 1423 Broadway #1039 Oakland, CA 94612, Alameda.
This business is conducted by: a Limited Liability Company.
The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):
LEXY LUSH COSMETICS LLC
1423 Broadway #1039
Oakland, CA 94612
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 June 05 2023. (PLW Jul 14, 21, 28 and Aug 4, 2023)

The Pleasanton Weekly is adjudicated to publish in Alameda County.

- Fictitious Business Name
- Abandonment of Fictitious Business Name
- Name Change
- Partnership Withdrawal or Dissolution
- Petition to Administer Estate - Probate Hearing
- Notice of Bulk Sale
- Legal Summons
- Trustee Sale

The deadline is Sunday at 11:59 pm.

Visit PleasantonWeekly.com/legal_notices/

For assistance email LegalNotices@PleasantonWeekly.com.

CALENDAR

CALENDAR

Continued from Page 19

Government

PLEASANTON CITY COUNCIL The next teleconference Pleasanton City Council Meeting is 7 p.m., July 18. Visit cityofpleasantonca.gov.

Farmers' Markets

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

LIVERMORE THURSDAY FARMERS' MARKET The Livermore Thursday Farmers' Market is 4-8 p.m., now through Oct. 12. Rain or shine. 2155 3rd St.

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

DUBLIN FARMERS' MARKET The Dublin Farmers' Market is Thursdays, 4-8 p.m., through Sept. 28. 4201 Central Pkwy.

Seniors

FREE SENIOR LUNCHESS (60+) The Open Heart Kitchen Senior Meal Program addresses the nutritional gap of those over the age of 60. Meals are served in the Main Hall

of the Pleasanton Senior Center Monday through Friday from 11:45 a.m.-12:45 p.m. Call Open Heart Kitchen at 925-500-8241 for information or to make a reservation.

TECH TUTORING AT THE SENIOR CENTER One hour, one-on-one tutoring sessions are available at the Pleasanton Senior Center, Monday 11 a.m. Wednesday 9 and 10 a.m. \$2.50R/\$3NR. Call 925-931-5365.

SMART PHONE TRAINING Schedule a free training to make an Android phone work better. Learn how to send or receive messages, connect Bluetooth, devices and more. 10 a.m.- 12 p.m., July 31. Call 925-931-5365. Pleasanton Senior Center.

WOODSHOP AT THE SENIOR CENTER Discover the joy of wood working and take advantage of the opportunity to develop skills, work on small projects, or tackle repairs. A woodshop monitor is available for assistance 9 a.m.-12 p.m., Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. \$5.75 resident; \$6.75 non-resident. Pleasanton Senior Center.

SENIOR (50+) POP UP TRIPS Join LARP for the uplifting comeback story, "Tina-The Tina Turner Musical". Board a motorcoach to arrive at San Francisco's Union Square for brunch or lunch on your own before the matinee performance. 8:40 a.m.-5:30 p.m., Aug. 2. \$117R/\$129NR. To register call 925-373-5763.

Employment

Medallia, Inc. has the following positions available in Pleasanton, CA:
Sr. Software Engineer (CIPDM): Design & build the next generation storage as a service infrastructure, primarily focusing on building a scalable block & object storage solution to meet the data storage requirements for Medallia's Cloud platform. This position has an annual salary range of \$163,800.00 - \$183,800.00.
Senior Analyst (CIPMQ): Analyze business problems using data-driven techniques including cleaning, manipulating, summarizing & visualizing economic & statistical data, as well as more advanced quantitative analysis including regression. This position has an annual salary range of \$120,000.00 - \$140,000.00. Positions based at HQ and may be assigned to unanticipated worksites throughout the U.S. as determined by management. Telecommuting permitted. Background checks required. Send resume to hiring@medallia.com. Must reference job title and job code.

Bio-Rad Laboratories, Inc. has multiple openings in Pleasanton, CA for a Product Manager 1. Represent marketing in project meetings and new product projects. The est. base salary range is \$111,900 to \$153,900 at time of posting. To apply, email your resume to jobapplicants@bio-rad.com, with job ID indicated: **(Job Ref. 116.833.N)**.

Aroha Technologies Inc has multiple openings for the following positions to work in Pleasanton, CA and/or various client sites throughout the U.S. Must be willing to travel and/or relocate. (1) **Data Engineer**: Design, build, launch ETL data pipelines to move data across systems & build data tools. Design software & data solutions. Build & extend cross platform ETL & rpts generation framework using Python. Develop rpts using Tableau. Salary: \$125,000/yr. (2) **Pega Business Functional System Architect**: Review, understand all business reqs. Perform coding & development of reqs in the PEGA technology. Perform design, development of BPM & BRE apps using PEGA PRPC. Perform performance tuning of PRPC apps. Salary: \$133,000/yr. Apply to Aroha Technologies Inc, Attn: HR, 5000 Hopyard Rd, Ste. 415, Pleasanton, CA 94568 or email hr@arohatechnologies.com

The Pleasanton Weekly offers employment advertising.

The deadline is Sunday at 11:59 pm.

If you wish to learn more about the employment advertising options, please visit PleasantonWeekly.com/employment_ads/.

PLEASANTON VIP TRAVEL The Pleasanton VIP Travel office is located at the Pleasanton Senior Center behind the front desk open Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

DROP-IN BRIDGE Join drop-in Bridge 1-4 p.m., Thursday and Friday at Robert Livermore Community Center. 4444 East Ave.

PLEASANTON RIDES Pleasanton Rides is door-to-door, shared-ride transportation serving eligible Pleasanton Seniors with transportation needs throughout Pleasanton and to select destinations in the Tri-Valley. 8 a.m.- 5 p.m., Monday-Friday. For reservations and information, call 925-398-1045 or visit blacktietrans.com/more-info.

Veterans

VA MEDICAL OUTREACH FOR MILITARY VETERANS Team members can help veterans and their families with enrollment in VA healthcare, appointments with primary care physicians, referrals to specialists, mental health, hearing, physical therapy and more. 10 a.m.-1 p.m., July 18. Dublin Library, 200 Civic Plaza.

VETERANS EVENT Pleasanton Library will host the VA Palo Alto Mobile Medical Outreach team to facilitate examinations, consultations and referrals for enrolled veterans. The drop-in event will run from 10 a.m.-1 p.m., July 24, in the library parking lot. 400 Old Bernal Ave.

VETERANS AFFAIRS MEDICAL OUTREACH The Veterans Affairs Palo Alto Health Care System's mobile medical outreach van will be at the Livermore Civic Center Library parking lot to provide examinations, consultations and referrals to veterans enrolled in the VA Palo Alto Health Care System. 10 a.m.-1 p.m., July 27. 1188 S. Livermore Ave.

Support

FREE LUNCHESS FOR KIDS & TEENS

Free bag lunches for children and teens provided by Open Heart Kitchen, distributed on a first come, first served basis. No sign up or identification needed. 12-3 p.m., July 17 and 19. Rincon Library, 725 Rincon Ave., Livermore.

HOT MEALS FREE OF CHARGE Open Heart Kitchen serves free hot meals to anyone who is struggling to make ends meet. Monday- Friday, 1 pm - 3 p.m. at the Robert Livermore Community Center, 4444 East Ave.

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

BACKPACK DRIVE AT TRI-VALLEY HAVEN Donations of pre-filled backpacks are being accepted at Tri-Valley Haven until July 21. Label backpacks by grade range. Drop off donations weekdays 9 a.m.-5 p.m., 3663 Pacific Ave., Livermore. For questions contact Carla@trivalleyhaven.org.

Statewide sales and prices show rebound, but don't expect a rapid recovery

As long as more buyers than homes for sale, market will see higher price-tags, fewer options

California home sales rose in May to the highest level in eight months, and the statewide median price remained above \$800,000 for the second straight month, according to a California Housing Market Update report from the California Association of Realtors.

The San Francisco Bay Area continued to post the biggest sales lag (-23.8%) and price drop (-11.3%) of all regions in the state compared to the same time last year, but month-over-month sales and prices bounced back for most parts of the Bay Area in May.

While it appears that the market is making a rebound, experts caution not to expect a rapid recovery due to an ongoing imbalance between inventory and demand.

"The severe lack of inventory accounts for fewer home sales and recent price gains. There are more homebuyers than homes for sale," said Jim Hamilton, president of the Silicon Valley Association of Realtors.

"Many homeowners with low-interest mortgages, which they obtained a couple of years ago, are comfortable staying in place for the time being and are not wanting to sell, given higher interest rates today — even if they feel they need an extra bedroom or larger yard for their growing family," Hamilton said. "On the other hand, demand by financially ready buyers competing for fewer homes for sale will likely continue to push prices upward and accounts for multiple offers that are still occurring in some places in our region."

The California Association of Realtors' report shows that a total of 289,460 single-family homes sold in California in May, a sales pace up 9.8% compared to the previous month's sales in April when 263,650 homes sold and down 23.6% compared to a year ago. California's median home price of \$836,110 in May increased 3% compared to April's median price of \$811,950. May's median home price, however, dipped 6.4% compared to the same time last year when the median price was \$893,200.

"The bounce back in May's home sales and prices (compared to earlier this year) shows the resilience of California's housing market and is a testament to the value that consumers place on homeownership," said Pleasanton Realtor Jennifer Branchini, president of the California Association of Realtors.

"The housing market is stabilizing and even showing signs of improvement as competition is on the rise again; nearly half the homes (on the market) are selling above asking price, fewer sellers are reducing listing prices, and homes for sale are going into pending status in just two weeks compared to more than 30 days early this year," Branchini added.

Despite mortgage rates rising sharply since mid-May and peaking late last month at the highest point in six months, the number of pending sales recorded in May remained steady and only dipped slightly by less than 2% compared to the prior month. The consistent level of open-escrow sales, or sales that are not yet final, suggests that the California housing market will

register closed sales in June at around 275,000, a level that falls between what was recorded in April and May.

For the first time since January 2022, the Federal Reserve made no rate change following the latest committee meeting. However, Jerome Powell, chair of the Federal Reserve Board, suggested that they are prepared to raise rates a couple of more times, or another 50 basis points this year to tame stubborn inflation. Interest rates have been moving sideways since the announcement but are expected to stay elevated longer than previously anticipated.

According to Jordan Levine, senior vice president of the California Association of Realtors, it's

the imbalance between supply and demand that has continued to put upward pressure on home prices and nudge the median price up month over month since the beginning of the year.

"While home sales rose solidly in May, we don't expect to see a rapid recovery because of the 'lock-in effect' that's keeping prospective sellers with low-interest rate mortgages from listing their homes on the market and keeping inventory extremely tight," Levine said. "Consequently, we expect prices to continue to rise on a month-to-month basis for the next few months because of the shortage of homes for sale." ■

—Silicon Valley Association of Realtors

OPEN HOMES THIS WEEKEND

DANVILLE

5201 Blackhawk Drive **\$3,950,000**
Sat/Sun 1:00-4:00 5BD/4BA
Armario Homes - Keller Williams Tri-Valley
925-302-2626

PLEASANTON

35 Golf Road **\$2,995,000**
Sat/Sun 1:00-4:00 5BD/4.5BA
Armario Homes - Keller Williams Tri-Valley
925-302-2626

LIVERMORE

902 Old Oak Road **\$2,099,000**
Sat/Sun 1:00-4:00 4BD/2.5BA
Armario Homes - Keller Williams Tri-Valley
925-302-2626

Legend: Condo (C), Townhome (T).
Agents: Submit open homes at
PleasantonWeekly.com/real_estate

HOME SALES

This week's data represents homes sold during May 30 to June 2 for Pleasanton and Livermore.

Pleasanton

- 414 Amaral Circle** Weir Living Trust to G. & A. Lim for \$1,680,000
- 3024 Bolero Court** N. Goel to N. & V. Mohan for \$1,215,000
- 7551 Driftwood Way** A. Anderson to H. & C. Wang for \$1,280,000
- 7331 Elmwood Circle** T. Law to A. & A. Sabat for \$1,630,000
- 844 Genevieve Place** R. Olsen to C. & H. Jaser for \$2,075,000
- 3644 Kamp Drive** Scarborough Trust to H. & M. Chuang for \$1,480,000
- 7728 Knollbrook Drive** Emmett Living Trust to Darabala-Agraharam Trust for \$1,562,500
- 4931 Monaco Drive** Malone Trust to V. & A. Kumar for \$2,600,000
- 993 Montevino Drive** 2000 Vecchiarelli Trust to R. & C. Liu for \$2,000,000
- 625 Neal Street** Mclaughlin Living Trust to A. & M. Farrell for \$1,750,000
- 3963 Petrified Forest Court** L. & C. Quiros to G. & V. Moola for \$1,425,000
- 454 Pioneer Trails Place** J. Kim to L. & J. Ketchersid for \$2,570,000
- 2427 Raven Road** G. & W. Granucci to S. & S. Jagtap for \$1,803,000
- 3413 Smoketree Commons Drive #D** X. Tian to S. Breger for \$678,000
- 549 Tawny Drive** Ue Homebuyer LLC to S. & V. Panchal for \$1,110,000
- 2730 Turnstone Drive** Riddell Family Trust to Y. & S. Kim for \$1,800,000
- 3903 Vine Street** A. Sohn to B. & S. Ramachandra for \$743,500

Livermore

- 1085 Eve Lane** Family Trust to F. & H. Eris for \$1,530,000
- 1110 Flurry Drive** S. Alam to 3 Pac Trust for \$999,000
- 864 Havasu Court** C. Rosemeri to N. Prasad for \$876,000
- 1580 Hollyhock Street** Jacobs Trust to A. Brandes for \$950,000
- 635 Laurelwood Court** J. & E. Reimer to S. Yadavalli for \$1,501,000
- 427 Lincoln Avenue** R. Corlett to S. & G. Prakash for \$1,049,000
- 2280 Merlot Lane** Granzella Family Trust to Vemula Family Trust for \$2,150,000
- 4721 Nicol Common #111** D. & J. Watson to M. Mendoza for \$530,000
- 1042 Nielsen Lane** R. & S. Mclaughlin to J. & M. Gynn for \$990,000
- 636 Orange Way** K. Cipponeri to Rowland Living Trust for \$1,326,000
- 2401 Rees Circle** Miller Trust to M. & A. Kumar for \$1,830,000
- 2089 Rivers Bend Circle** Henry Family Trust to A. & D. Nott for \$2,100,000
- 1453 Saybrook Road** B. & J. Armaz to D. Tran for \$1,000,000
- 552 Selby Lane** C. & M. Grovhoug to C. Godla for \$1,090,000
- 1528 Spring Valley Common** N. Naimyar to Lam Trust for \$615,000

Source: California REsource

Editor's note: The full list of Home Sales reported in Pleasanton, Livermore, Dublin, Sunol and San Ramon during this period can be found with the online version of this story at PleasantonWeekly.com.

645 Oak Circle - New in Pleasanton!



Open House Saturday 1-4 PM

4 beds | 3 baths | 2636 sq. ft.
Listed at \$1,899,000

Welcome to this spacious, move-in ready home in the heart of Pleasanton. This beautiful property is nestled in the hills offering a lovely environment surrounded by mature trees. The interior features 4 bedrooms, 3 full bathrooms, including one bedroom and a full bath on the entry level, as well as a full 2nd living room and north facing front door. Spacious living area upstairs offers large kitchen with island, eating area, separate formal dining, wet bar and indoor laundry room. Updated kitchen with white cabinetry, granite counters and laminate floors around the house. Newer carpet, newer interior and exterior paint, updated bathrooms and much more. Private backyard with a large wood deck is perfect for entertaining friends and family.

COMPASS



For more information on this property scan the QR code with your smartphone!



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ESTATES OF MOHR

**NEW LISTING
OPEN SAT & SUN 1-4PM**



**3513 KAMP DRIVE,
PLEASANTON**

3 BD + OFFICE | 2.5 BA

2,624 SQ. FT. LIVING SPACE

Highly upgraded single level home located in the desirable estates of Mohr Park, built by Shea homes. This move-in ready property provides approximately 2624 square feet of living space, 3 spacious bedrooms plus an office (4th), 2.5 bathrooms, and volume ceilings throughout. The remodeled chefs kitchen has gorgeous honed granite slab countertops, custom cabinets, tile backsplash and newer SS appliances. Extensive millwork & wide baseboards flow throughout the interior. New LVP French Oak flooring, new interior paint, upgraded electrical outlets, recessed lighting, dual pane windows/sliders, Nest thermostat and skylights for lots of natural light. The low maintenance professionally manicured backyard is perfect for relaxing or entertaining. Three-car garage. Located in preferred school attendance area with convenient access to freeway, BART, Livermore's San Francisco outlet center, other shopping centers. Just minutes to downtown Pleasanton and Livermore valley wineries! This forever home is sure to please and will not last long!

LISTED FOR \$2,095,000

JENSEN

PENDING



**4166 SCHOOL STREET,
PLEASANTON**

3 BD | 2 BA

1,300 SQ. FT. LIVING SPACE

LISTED FOR \$1,399,000

BRIDLE CREEK

JUST CLOSED



**5786 SHADOW RIDGE CT,
PLEASANTON**

6 BD | 5 BA

4,455 SQ. FT. LIVING SPACE

.39 ACRE LOT

SOLD FOR \$3,850,000

CARRIAGE ESTATES

SOLD



**609 BLOSSOM COURT,
PLEASANTON**

5 BD | 4.5 BA

6,448 SQ. FT. LIVING SPACE

1.75 ACRE LOT

SOLD FOR \$4,325,000

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.

VENEMA HOMES

EXPERIENCE  EXCELLENCE



A Note From Liz Venema...

Be Exceptional: Sellers and Buyers, are looking for an exceptional real estate agent/team who will guide them through the process of finding their dream home.

Be Authentic: I always let my true colors shine through my interactions with clients.

Niche: I specialize in Luxury Real Estate Sales, I have established myself as the authority, receiving the highest price per square foot in luxury sales in the last 12 months.

We've had the **Highest Luxury** Home Sales In KWTX History... \$4.650, \$4.660, \$4.825, \$4.850.

“The greatest compliment you can give me is referring me to your family and friends.”

SOLD
Past Client Referral

1904 Zenato Place, Ruby Hill
\$864 Per Square Foot. Sold for \$4,650,000.

Liz Venema & Brenda Meckenstock
ROCKSTARS! ★

PENDING
in 7 days! Multiple Offers!

3261 Novara Way, Ruby Hill
5 Bedrooms | .58 Acre Lot | Listed at \$4,800,000

Liz & Alexis Venema
ROCKSTARS! ★

PENDING
All Cash Offer!

1976 Via Di Salerno, Ruby Hill
5 Bedrooms | .50 Acre Lot | Listed at \$3,950,000

Liz Venema & Lisa Desmond
ROCKSTARS! ★

PENDING
Multiple Offers!

6577 Stanton Court, Pleasanton
4 Bedrooms | 3 Bathrooms | Listed at \$1,949,000

Liz & Alexis Venema
ROCKSTARS! ★





ARMARIO HOMES

TRI-VALLEY LUXURY REALTY

LEADING LUXURY TEAM

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RUBY HILL LUXURY HOME
CALL FOR SHOWING

1034 VIA DI SALERNO - RUBY HILL, PLEASANTON
OFFERED AT \$3,349,000
4 BED | 3.5 BATH | 3,761 SQFT

BLACKHAWK LUXURY HOME
OPEN HOUSE SAT & SUN 1-4PM

5201 BLACKHAWK DR, DANVILLE
OFFERED AT \$3,950,000
5 BED | 4 BATH | 4,512 SQFT

LUXURY HOME PREMIUM LOT
OPEN HOUSE SAT & SUN 1-4PM

902 OLD OAK ROAD, LIVERMORE
OFFERED AT \$2,099,000
4 BED | 2.5 BATH | 2,532 SQFT

CASTLEWOOD LUXURY HOME
OPEN HOUSE SAT & SUN 1-4PM

35 GOLF ROAD - CASTLEWOOD, PLEASANTON
OFFERED AT \$2,995,000
6 BED | 4.5 BATH | 4,150 SQFT



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