

Pleasanton Weekly

Car caravan
for a cause

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Native animals of Sunol Wilderness

Summer sessions with naturalists
spotlight bats, birds and scorpions

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WE'RE PROUD TO BRING OUR READERS SOME OF THE BEST JOURNALISM IN THE STATE.

The annual **California Journalism Awards** competition, which celebrates excellence in reporting, design, photography and multimedia recognized our organization with **17 awards** in the following categories:

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Great way to localize and put a human face on a story that has grabbed national headlines.

— First Place, Arts and Entertainment Coverage

This was explanatory journalism that is so important in communities that rely on us for answers. Loved it.

— 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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Weekly

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WHAT A WEEK



BY JEREMY WALSH

History in the flesh

Time is running out to catch the 2023 Ed Kinney Speaker Series.

After “An Afternoon or Evening with Chuck Yeager” starring scholar-actor Doug Mishler later this month, there are only two installments left in the popular program presented by the Museum on Main.

The immersive performances on the Firehouse Arts Center stage are done in the Chautauquan style, meaning the speaker embodies the real person for a biographical presentation and interactive Q&A before answering final audience queries out of character based on their extensive research.

The annual series in Pleasanton, named for the late former mayor of the city, is one of the few places on the West Coast where people can experience this type of performance, which originated in Chautauqua, N.Y.

“You’re in a certain moment in time with the historical character” is how Museum on Main Executive Director Sarah Schaefer described the setting in her opening remarks at “An Afternoon or Evening with Cass Elliot” last month.

I had the opportunity to watch the July edition, and what an insightful, entertaining opportunity it was. (In addition to the live matinee and evening shows on performance day, the museum offers a one-day-only virtual viewing afterward via the BigMarker webinar platform.)

With a charismatic stage presence very much representative of the 1960s-’70s singer she portrayed, scholar-actor Karen Vuranch pulled the audience right in as she covered a whole lot of ground in a short period of time about the life of Cass Elliot.

I went into the performance with cursory knowledge about Elliot and her group The Mamas & the Papas, namely their hits like “California Dreamin’”, “Go Where You Wanna Go” and “Dream a Little Dream of Me”. I knew what she looked like, and of course I’d heard the unseemly myth about the cause of her death at 32 years old. (As Vuranch adamantly reinforced, it was a heart attack in her sleep, not choking on a ham sandwich.)

But it was fascinating learning so much more about Elliot — her successes, her struggles and everything in between — through a primarily first-person presentation.

Her rise as a powerful singer with no formal training. Her battle with substance abuse and addiction that

began with diet pills at her mother’s urging as a teen. Her friendships with the likes of John Lennon, the Beach Boys and Sharon Tate. Her efforts to shed the “Mama Cass” image. The countless ups and downs for the quartet that catapulted her to fame.

Come to find out, she attended the same college in Washington, D.C. as a certain editorial director — apparently despite not completing high school in Baltimore ... guess American University’s admissions standards haven’t changed much over the decades.

Just an enjoyable, educational evening; I wish I could’ve been in the room.

I’ve only had one experience with Chautauquan performance live and in-person, not via Museum on Main but in Colonial Williamsburg in 2018.

A scholar-actor portrayed George Washington on an outdoor stage for scores of us looking for a little interactive, educational entertainment — and maybe a place to sit down for a bit during a warm Virginia fall afternoon.

The format was engaging and informative, but honestly what stands out in my memory were the murmurs in the audience as the performer recited excerpts from President Washington’s “Farewell Address” verbatim about his decision to leave office, a landmark moment in American history.

One couple near us just got up and left, mumbling something about the show being too political. I was caught between outright laughing and being frozen in discomfort. People really think this scholar was skewing documented history to push some ... whatever.

I guess the lesson is these performances are not for the faint of heart — or mind.

That’s where the power of Chautauquan lies: its authenticity. And maybe that’s not always a comfortable exercise when presenting about a real person in history. Informative about society and our shared human experience though.

There are three more chances this year to catch Chautauqua at the Firehouse (or from home).

The Chuck Yeager installment arrives on Aug. 15 at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m., accompanied by the virtual viewing on Aug. 22.

The last two shows will see former British prime minister Winston Churchill on Sept. 19 and author Mary Shelley on Oct. 3. ■

About the Cover

An acorn woodpecker, a native bird of the Sunol Wilderness Regional Preserve, sits in an oak tree. Acorn woodpeckers are known to collect acorns in the fall and store them in trees throughout the year. Photo by Jerry King, via EBRPD. Cover design by Paul Llewellyn. Vol. XXIV, Number 28

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LAS POSITAS
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What is a topic you really enjoy delving into and learning as much about as you possibly can?



Charles Turner
Accounting specialist

I love researching our National Park System and the national parks, generally. I really enjoy planning trips and figuring out itineraries that will enable me to visit many sites and parks all in one trip. It is my goal to visit all of the national parks in my lifetime, and I'm so grateful to be able to say that I am already halfway to that goal!



Debi Aripez
Retired

I really love researching history and ancestry. They go together hand in hand, and there are always surprises. Both good and bad. And since the technology to trace ancestors and learn about their lives just keeps on improving, I will always be able to delve deeper and deeper.



Ryan Moura, with Mason
Benefits broker

I really enjoy learning about bourbon — how it's made, and how different distilleries process, finish and age it. And of course my interest in bourbon involves tasting various bourbons, especially at my favorite local spot, Beer Baron, which is right here in Pleasanton.



Brett Winters
Scientist

I'm fascinated by the fish that are native to the Bay Area, like salmonids. Many of these species are threatened and even endangered. And the droughts have exacerbated this problem. So I like to learn about what we, as a society, can do to mitigate this problem.



Mike McCormick, with Cara
Product manager

I love exploring and learning about local parks and other outdoor venues where my wife and I can take our little daughter to play and learn. There are so many great places, right here in the East Bay, that we are never at a loss for where to go.

—Compiled by Nancy and Jeff Lewis

Have a Streetwise question? Email editor@PleasantonWeekly.com

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DIGEST

First Weekend on Main

The Pleasanton Downtown Association's monthly First Weekends on Main program returns from this Friday (Aug. 4) at 5 p.m. through Sunday (Aug. 6) at 9 p.m., during which Main Street will be closed to vehicular traffic to allow pedestrians, cyclists and activities in the roadway.

One highlight of the August edition will be the "Porsches on Main" event from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, where more than 100 of the luxury cars will line Main Street for viewing. The Porsche Livermore dealership will also collect school supplies and clothing donations that day to support Pleasanton students in need.

For more information, go to www.pleasantondowntown.net.

Arts center review

Dublin city officials are holding two community meetings next week to provide residents with details and solicit feedback about the proposed Quarry Lane School Performing Arts Center project, which aims to build a 13,800-square-foot facility and 126 new parking spaces at the southern end of the school property at 6237 Tassajara Road.

No increase in total student enrollment nor expansion of existing school operations is proposed by the private school at this time, according to city officials.

The community meetings, scheduled for Tuesday (Aug. 8) at 7 p.m. and Wednesday (Aug. 9) at 6 p.m., will be held remotely via Zoom and will provide the same information at each event. Learn more at dublin.ca.gov.

Mayors' Summit

The Tri-Valley Mayors' Summit, hosted this year by the San Ramon Chamber of Commerce, is set for 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Aug. 31 at the San Ramon Marriott.

Moderated by former state assemblymember and current California Fair Political Practices Commissioner Catharine Baker, the discussion will feature mayors Karla Brown (Pleasanton), Melissa Hernandez (Dublin), Dave Hudson (San Ramon), John Marchand (Livermore) and Robert Storer (Danville).

Tickets will remain on sale until Aug. 17, unless sold out first. Visit sanramon.org. ■

Corrections

Last week's cover story "Goat in the Zone" misidentified one source from the Zone 7 Water Agency. Mike Miller is the employee who manages maintenance and construction of the various flood channels for Zone 7, including the goat program. The Weekly regrets the error.

Tensions continue to rise in stalled negotiations between city, police union

After mediation fails, two sides moving to next step in labor process — fact-finding

By CHRISTIAN TRUJANO

It's two months since the Pleasanton Police Officers Association declared an impasse during its labor talks with the city administration, and the two sides appear as far apart as ever.

After the recent confirmation that mediation between both parties has failed, it remains unclear when, or if, Pleasanton police officers and city officials will see a contract advanced that meets their respective demands.

"Our goal here is to get a fair contract," Brian Jewell, president of the PPOA, told the Weekly. "We're not asking to be the top-paid agency; we're asking to be fairly compensated and be at the median."

The PPOA first declared the impasse on May 24 after the union had rejected the city's offer of a 15% pay increase for officers over the

three-year contract. The previous contract between the city and the union ended on May 31, meaning the union is now beyond day 60 without a new contract.

According to the city's website, the city's offer would have consisted of a 6% pay increase on June 1, a 5% pay increase in 2024 and a 4% pay increase in 2025 for regular officers. An 18% pay raise over the three-year contract would have been enacted for police sergeants, who are also represented by the union.

City officials say they also agreed to the PPOA's request to "triple the city's contribution to employee's retiree health savings accounts and to provide an additional 5% premium pay for specific departmental assignments."

"The city has offered a generous compensation package that

represents one of the largest pay increases for police officers and sergeants in its history," Heather Tiernan, communication manager for the city, told the Weekly on Friday.

But while the city's offer somewhat mirrored the PPOA's request of a 19.5% increase over three years, one of the main reasons why the union turned down the city's offer was because of retention pay, which the city flat out rejected.

The retention pay, according to the city's website, would have offered a 2% increase to officers who have been with the department for eight years, 4% to those who have been there 12 years and 5% to those with 15 years on the force.

"We know firsthand, other officers are looking elsewhere," Chris Lewellyn, vice president of the

PPOA, told the Weekly. "They have gone on ride-alongs with other agencies to see if that's a fit for them and we expect officers to be leaving this organization if we don't get a fair contract."

Lewellyn said that as someone who runs the personnel and training unit, he knows the issues regarding recruitment and retention for the Pleasanton Police Department.

"We've had six officers and or sergeants who have been out for over a year and it is unlikely that they will return," he said. "At this point, now we have 13 total on leave just due to injury. That includes ... eight vacancies in August. So 21 people are not available to work."

City Manager Gerry Beaudin, however, touched on the topic

See **UNION** on Page 10

Critics hit hard at DA Price

'Everyone is in danger', Oakland NAACP says as recall effort looms

By KEITH BURBANK / BCN

Local elected leaders need to declare a public safety emergency in Oakland because of rampant crime in the city impacting minority communities the hardest, the Oakland branch of the NAACP said in a lengthy statement last week.

"Everyone is in danger" in Oakland, the NAACP argued in its statement released July 27. "Failed leadership, including the movement to defund the police, our District Attorney's unwillingness to charge and prosecute people who murder and commit life threatening serious crimes, and the proliferation of anti-police rhetoric have created a heyday for Oakland criminals."

If criminals face no consequences for their actions, "crime will continue to soar," according to the NAACP.

Crime in Alameda County's biggest city, Oakland, is up 26% overall from last year at this time. The city's violent crime index, which is a combination of killings, rapes, robberies and aggravated assaults, is up 15%. Slayings in Oakland were down 13% year over year as of last week.

In response to the statement, District Attorney Pamela Price said

See **PRICE** on Page 11



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A line of cars cross an intersection during Sunday's car caravan to raise awareness for child sex trafficking. The caravan started at Walmart in Livermore and ended at the Raley's on Sunol Boulevard in Pleasanton.

Sunol mom organizes car caravan through Tri-Valley for a cause

Group raises awareness about child sex trafficking

By CHRISTIAN TRUJANO

A group of 18 Tri-Valley residents took to the street on Sunday with their cars covered in paint and signage to raise awareness about child sex trafficking.

Rachel Jergensen, a resident of Sunol and mother of six, told the Weekly that she had wanted to contribute to the fight against child trafficking for years.

She had previously signed up to receive texts from Operation Underground Railroad, the anti-child sex trafficking organization that recently gained recognition after the release of the movie

"Sound of Freedom", which depicts a former federal agent rescuing children from exploitation.

But it wasn't until after she saw the movie that she received the notification from the organization — also known as OURrescue — telling her about the idea of organizing a car caravan to raise awareness.

"I watched closely for their texts, because my heart was broken by the movie," Jergensen said. "When I received the text from OURrescue about the caravan, I decided that is something I could do to help fight against this terrible wrong."

The caravan of cars started its journey at the Livermore Walmart parking lot, on 2700 Las Positas Road last Sunday afternoon at around 3 p.m. as it followed the route, which went down Railroad Avenue and Stanley Boulevard.

Then, after passing through downtown Pleasanton on First Street and turning a lot of heads, according to Jergensen, they ended at the Raley's parking lot on Sunol Boulevard.

"There was a sense of solemnity and urgency as we briefly

See **CARAVAN** on Page 7

City installs traffic modifications along Valley Avenue

First phase of road improvements will offer chance to collect data, analyze traffic patterns

BY CHRISTIAN TRUJANO

New traffic improvements to help ensure pedestrian safety while using crosswalks were being installed last week along Valley Avenue as the city begins its month-long analysis on several intersections with high pedestrian collisions.

According to city communications manager Heather Tiernan, the traffic modification project will install green bollards at the Valley Avenue and Paseo Santa Cruz south intersection along with new pavement markings.

"This will increase pedestrian safety at the intersection by reducing the crossing distance for pedestrians," Tiernan told the Weekly.

This first set of improvements is just the beginning of a recently revised schedule from the city's Community Development Department, which will span over the next few months. The department's plan is to slowly introduce these changes to the traffic lanes in phases in order to gather data before making a final determination on modifying other intersections on Valley Avenue.

According to Mike Tassano, deputy director of community development and transportation, the intent of these modifications is to address safety concerns raised by residents who say that drivers fail to stop at intersections like at Valley Avenue and Paseo Santa Cruz.

"Most of the stop sign collision reports and discussion with police officers identify that the driver failed to recognize that there was an intersection/stop sign," Tassano wrote in a July 11 email to Pleasanton residents.

According to a multi-year summary of all the pedestrian-involved collisions in the city that Tassano provided in the email, the intersection at Valley Avenue and Paseo Santa Cruz has the third highest number of vehicle-versus-pedestrian collisions with six in total. The intersection of Valley Avenue and Santa Rita Road is second with seven — the intersection of Rose Avenue and Main Street is at the top of the list with nine total collisions.

The goal, Tassano added, would be to reduce the average crossing distance across Valley Avenue from about 110 feet, to 67 feet.

"The extension of the corners into the intersection will provide added visibility of the side street and the presence of an intersection," Tassano added. "This also allows the right side stop sign to be moved to a more prevalent location that is more directly in the vehicle's line of sight."

Tassano's email was a response to 45 emails that he said the city had received after putting up signs and traffic cones along Valley Avenue last month that were meant to serve as a temporary way of showing the proposed green bollards are installed.

"The majority of these emails expressed concern of added delay with the elimination of the right turn pocket and also a difficulty making the right turns," Tassano wrote.

Tiernan said that while the city removed the cones after the demonstration period was over, not as a result of residents' concerns, the main focus of the city is to now collect and monitor traffic from now until September to assess the impact of the modifications for future sites along Valley Avenue.

"The purpose of the cone

placement at the intersections is to provide the residents advanced notice of the proposed changes and allow the opportunity to provide input prior to any construction," Tassano said in the July 11 email. "The cones were not placed to test the change in delay or other operational characteristics. The revised schedule will place cones in September so the public can conceptualize the changes with standard peak traffic volumes."

After this first phase of improvements at Paseo Santa Cruz south, the city will continue to monitor the benefits of the modifications and traffic patterns until the end of October.

During that time, Tassano said the city will also be collecting video data for the intersections of Valley Avenue at Paseo Santa Cruz north and at Hansen Drive and will be placing the same traffic cones there to measure traffic behavior.

And even though many residents had previously voiced their frustrations about the cones on social media sites like Nextdoor saying that removing the right-turn pocket will increase traffic congestion, Tassano

also said that by collecting data and monitoring traffic patterns, the city will be able to better understand what is working and what isn't.

Another modification that the city could consider for these intersections is adding traffic signals, which Tassano said is already included in the city's General Plan for the future.

Even though these intersections rank relatively high in the city's priority list for traffic signal installations, he said that the funding for those installations wouldn't be available until 2025. That's why the city wants to install the green bollards before — so residents can feel somewhat safer in the time being.

He also pointed out that while traffic signals would improve pedestrian safety, they would also increase traffic congestion.

"While a traffic signal will improve pedestrian visibility and address the stop sign violations, delay will increase for residents leaving the neighborhood," he said. "Right now, the time it takes to leave the neighborhood using the stop sign is minimal, but could be over a minute with a traffic signal." ■

Fire jumps Stanley Boulevard, threatens neighborhoods

Also: Car fire ignites vegetation on I-580 in windy conditions on Altamont Pass

BY PLEASANTON WEEKLY STAFF

Local firefighters battled a vegetation blaze over the weekend that closed Stanley Boulevard, threatened two nearby neighborhoods and led to Shadow Cliffs Regional Recreation Area being evacuated, according to

the Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department.

The flames ignited for unknown reasons around 4:15 p.m. Saturday on the north side of Stanley Boulevard just north of the Pleasanton BMX Park, according to LPPD battalion chief Craig Berchtold.

The fire jumped Stanley Boulevard, leading to the closure of the major thoroughfare between Pleasanton and Livermore in both directions for nearly five hours that evening, according to Berchtold. The railroad tracks adjacent to the road were also closed.

Shadow Cliffs was evacuated and two neighborhoods adjacent to the fire were in the process of being evacuated when crews contained the spread of the flames to approximately 15 acres, Berchtold said.

It took crews roughly six hours to fully extinguish the fire, and LPPD personnel returned to the scene on Sunday to mop up remaining hot spots, according to Berchtold.

The origin of the fire remains under investigation, he added.

Assisting LPPD in the response on Saturday were Cal Fire, Alameda County Fire Department, the city of Alameda Fire Department, East Bay Regional Park District, Pleasanton Police Department, Falck Ambulance and California

Highway Patrol, according to Berchtold.

— Jeremy Walsh

In another Tri-Valley fire this weekend, a car fire on eastbound Interstate 580 in Livermore ignited vegetation in the Altamont Pass and spread to approximately 80 acres before being contained Saturday night, according to ACFD.

The fire, near North Flynn Road and Carroll Road, was reported at 6:58 p.m. and brought under control around 8:30 p.m., the fire department said.

Cal Fire was called in to help with the blaze, whose spread was accelerated by wind conditions, the fire department said. ■

— Bay City News Service



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Pleasanton police shared this photo of the road closure during the fire along Stanley Boulevard on July 29. PPD

PG&E seeks solutions to future problems at Innovation Summit

Keynote presentation features company's CEO Patti Poppe and Elon Musk

By SPENCER OTTE / BCN

PG&E, one of the nation's largest utility companies, presented challenges for the future and sought solutions at their Innovation Summit held last week in San Ramon.

This was the first Innovation Summit in the company's history. About 300 representatives of startups, government agencies and private industries attended the event at the Roundhouse Conference Center, with over 1,000 tuning in via Zoom on July 25.

"In the typical utility structure, people are so closed about what our problems are," said Quinn Nakayama, PG&E's director of grid research. "We are taking the opposite approach, because we think that by showing the world and industry, 'here are the things that we're looking to partner with,' the industry will then respond and say, 'I have a solution for these problems,' and that's so much more effective."

Nakayama said that the company plans to hold the event every other year so that their efforts are not being duplicated.

"This is something that has been a long time coming in PG&E history. We first had to make sure that we dealt with fires. And then we had to make sure that we came out of bankruptcy," Nakayama said. "Now that we've had a lot of innovation, and a lot of controls being put into place to manage wildfire-related risks, we can take a step back and say what are the other areas of the energy ecosystem that we should really be focusing on?"

A panel was held related to PG&E's

goal of moving 10,000 miles of overhead wires underground in order to reduce the risk of wildfires. The company said that in 2021 and 2022, 250 miles of wires were installed underground and it plans to add an additional 350 miles this year. Matt Pender and Trevor Fulks, who both work on the undergrounding project for PG&E, highlighted the challenges the company faces.

The company already has 30,000 miles of underground wires in its network, mostly in suburban or urban areas. Many of the wires the company plans to move underground are in rural areas with spotty cell service and difficult or uneven terrain that makes traditional tools and equipment unusable.

"We are trying to underground 10-20-mile segments of circuits. That's a big project, it takes a long time," said Pender. "It has big impacts for those communities based on road closures and things like that."

Currently, the company has a default minimum depth of 30 inches, but the company is looking for ways to reduce the depth needed to protect the wires, displacing less soil and generating less waste. Occasionally, natural obstacles like creeks can require wires to be placed up to 70 feet underground. Fulks said that sometimes working with various counties leads to difficulties, including in one case where a county that Fulks left unnamed did not have a detailed map of their water lines, leaving PG&E to find and map them.

"I think it's very humble of them to even hold a summit like this, instead of thinking they can

figure it all out themselves," said James Wingate, executive director of Underground Service Alert of Northern California and Nevada, more commonly known as 811.

Wingate said he is happy with the progress PG&E has made in their undergrounding effort but acknowledges the project will be a challenge.

"It's starting off slowly, but I think they're figuring out what's working and what's not. So, I think that's a good plan," said Wingate. "There's a reason why these lines weren't underground in the first place, because it's a lot more expensive than to do it overhead."

PG&E, which has paid millions in fines in recent years related to its role in wildfires in California, held a panel on their efforts to reduce the destructive and often deadly fires. According to the company, their efforts reduced major ignitions on primary distribution lines by 68% in 2022 compared to the 2018-2020 three-year-average.

James Tuccillo, the manager of distribution and asset planning for PG&E, showed off advancements the company has made in wildfire monitoring technology as well as automatic shutoff systems, which cut power to lines within a tenth of a second of it coming in contact with branches or other fuel sources for wildfires.

Bill Clerico, who runs Convective Capital, a firm that invests in wildfire technology, said he thought the event was a step in the right direction for the utility company.

"I think it's amazing to see the largest utility in the U.S. opening up their doors, airing their big problems and



RAY SAINT GERMAIN / BCN

PG&E CEO Patti Poppe asks Elon Musk, on screen from Italy, a question during the inaugural PG&E Innovation Summit in San Ramon on July 25.

asking for help from the startup and innovation community," said Clerico.

PG&E projects a massive increase in demand for electricity over the next decade, thanks in part to California's decision to phase out combustion engine vehicles in favor of electric vehicles. State regulators last year passed a rule that will require 100% of new cars and light trucks sold in California to be zero-emission vehicles by 2035.

The company says that 1.2 million EV charging stations will be needed by 2030 to support the change. The company hopes to increase the number of bi-directional charging stations in use, which PG&E says will increase the capacity of the electrical grid by several thousand megawatts.

Currently, these bi-directional chargers are costly to install and can cost as much as 16 times as a traditional one-way charger. During a panel on the challenges of expanding the EV charging grid, PG&E employees discussed potential incentives for homeowners to install these chargers, including reduced rates and cash rebates to offset the costs of installation.

During a keynote presentation with PG&E CEO Patti Poppe, Elon Musk, the CEO of Tesla, praised the utility company's support of Tesla's bidirectional Powerwall chargers.

"If customers do get caught in a wildfire, or for some reason electricity is down, then we need to cut off home power from the grid so it's contained and the power will come out of the house. It's actually important from a safety standpoint, and I appreciate your help in enabling that," he said.

Musk also predicted a massive increase in demand for electricity in California as EVs become more common.

"The mitigation is that long-term most electricity will be generated with solar batteries," Musk said. "Fortunately, we have the sun which is throwing off energy and it's zero maintenance and it just shows up every day."

PG&E will host a Pitch Fest in September, seeking solutions from startups and tech companies to the problems presented at the Innovation Summit. ■

CARAVAN

Continued from Page 5

discussed how the United States ranks in the top 3 of consumption in the child sex industry, many years even ranking No. 1," Jergensen said. "We also had a sense of fellowship as we joined together to help spread the word."

According to Special Operations Finding Kids, an organization based in the Bay Area that deploys private investigators to help find missing and exploited children, almost half a million American children are reported missing every year.

"Since 2018, our contract private investigators have helped identify, recover and support over 100 victims of child sexual exploitation in the Bay Area and Nevada," according to the organization's website.

To add to that, the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children reported a 93% increase in online enticement reports during COVID-19, according to OnWatch.

OnWatch is an online training program led by survivors and industry leaders to help communities combat sex trafficking.

According to its website, only 1% of sex trafficking victims in the U.S. are ever identified.

It's because of these statistics that Jergensen wanted to organize Sunday's caravan in the hope that people would feel motivated to do something in order to help children escape or avoid sex traffickers.

"I hoped people would benefit from feeling a sense of community in fighting this evil," she said. "Alone, we might feel weak. Together, we are powerful."

She said that apart from planning on organizing another caravan next year, she hopes that people complete more online training to help them recognize and prevent sex trafficking.

"Then, people can encourage their friends, family and perhaps their social media followers to do the same," she said. ■

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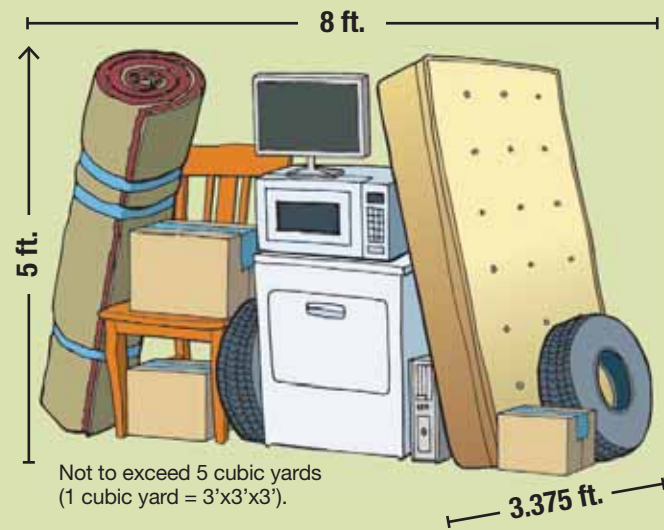
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Ashland nurse, former state candidate Esteen running for county supervisor

Says her main priorities include housing, health care, job security, social justice

By CHRISTIAN TRUJANO

Increased health care and housing resources are just a few of the goals that Jennifer Esteen is hoping to achieve if she wins next year's Alameda County Board of Supervisors District 4 election.

A registered nurse, community activist and former candidate for State Assembly, Esteen will be vying to defeat longtime Supervisor Nate Miley, who is running for re-election in the March 2024 primary to represent the sprawling district that includes Pleasanton.

"Another one of the reasons why I'm running is because I'm tired of yelling at the halls of power and having these people pay lip service but



Jennifer Esteen

then vote against us," Esteen told the Weekly. "We as community members have to sometimes take matters into our own hands and that's a part of what this campaign represents — that we're all in it together and we're doing it so we can all have a better life."

Esteen has lived in the East Bay for 20 years and currently lives in Ashland, which is one of the communities that would be under her purview if elected to the District 4 seat. If elected, she would be the first openly LGBTQ member of the Alameda County Board of Supervisors.

As someone who was unemployed during the 2008 recession, lost her home to foreclosure and put herself through school in order to become a registered nurse, Esteen said that she embodies the average person who just wants to see her communities thrive.

She wants to see a county where

everyone can afford housing, be able to afford to live in the areas where they work and have access to high-quality preventative health care, which would address folks with mental health issues that are sometimes forced into the criminal justice system due to a lack of those resources.

"When we spend on housing and preventive health care and primary care, we end up spending less on crisis," she said. "We spend less in the jail and we actually can make meaningful, long lasting benefits that are realized by the health of our community. But that's not what we're doing right now."

Esteen also wants to keep residents who live in Alameda County working within the county rather than leaving for outside agencies due to rent increases or better pay.

She said that if they can offer more help with housing, it will not only keep these workers within the

county, but it will also help local economies and boost the bandwidth of what these county programs or resources can actually do for residents. That means the county would be able to prioritize funding for extended after school youth programs that would help kids better their futures and keep them out of jail.

She also said she wants to prioritize stronger countywide tenant protections to help that cause, arguing that the county needs to have housing subsidies that can benefit renters and people who are trying to buy homes.

While acknowledging she did lose the Assembly District 20 primary election in 2022, falling 1.7% out of a spot in the runoff ultimately won by Liz Ortega, Esteen said through that campaign, she was able to raise nearly \$500,000 in individual donations without any corporate money — and those efforts show people are ready for a

change and that they believe in her.

She added that while Supervisorial District 4 is a large area that covers a wide range of social, economic and political demographics, her main message is that she is here to listen to the different communities and find ways to engage with everyone in order to best address their needs while also sticking to her values.

"I think people are tired of being told that 'I'm welcoming but I'm not going to listen and I'm not going to carry water for you,' and so they're ready for change," Esteen said. "Those are the community members that are coming to partner with me and to work with me."

Esteen serves as the vice president of the Alameda Health System Board of Trustees, which manages the \$1 billion budget of the county's health care safety net, and is also a member of the Eden Municipal Advisory Council, which works to serve the county's unincorporated communities.

In addition to Pleasanton and Ashland, the other areas District 4 covers are East Oakland, Montclair, Castro Valley, Cherryland, Fairview and El Portal Ridge. ■

Health and sun: Free wellness event set at Livermore park

Organizations aim to reach out to those in need in local community

By JOSIE DE LA TORRE

The Tri-Valley Nonprofit Alliance is working with Axis Community Health, CityServe of the Tri-Valley, Tri-Valley Haven and Open Heart Kitchen to present Salud Y Sol End of Summer Health Fiesta next weekend.

"This is the launch of the TVNPA Livermore Connects program and doing it through Salud Y Sol

The goal of the event is to attract Livermore individuals and families to visit our partner organizations and other non-profit organizations," said Juliana Schirmer, director of development and communications for the alliance.

The free summer event aims to create a sense of community while offering the Livermore community with valuable health-related services, information and activities for

everyone of all ages.

"The goal of the event is to inform residents about the nonprofit organizations around them," Schirmer said. "They are from dental, mental health, housing and other support services for the community to get informed and set up an appointment on something specific for their needs."

There will be food, music entertainment and face-painting for kids. The Tri-Valley Haven booth will be

giving away free backpacks filled with essential school supplies for children, along with the Axis Community Health having educational health information and giving away dental kits to ensure your overall well-being.

Other organizations participating include CAPE Headstart, Spectrum Community Services, Partners for Change, city of Livermore and Tri-Valley Air Quality Community Alliance.

Livermore Connects is a coalition of TVNPA, Axis Community Health, Tri-Valley Haven, Open Heart Kitchen and CityServe of the Tri-Valley. They are funded by Alameda County as a response for

North Livermore being hit the hardest from COVID-19 and to provide services to the local community.

"The brand-new program funded by Alameda County is going to do a two-year program doing a wrap-around of the programs for North Livermore residents. If someone needs a service, they have access to their services. This is to assist those who are underserved, the LGBT, the homeless and other folks. The event is open to everybody," Schirmer said.

The event takes place at May Nissen Community Park in Livermore from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. next Saturday (Aug. 12). For more information, visit www.tvnpa.org. ■



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TAKE US ALONG



The Blue Mosque: Pleasanton residents Shawn and Angie Henley visit the beautiful Blue Mosque, built in the early 1600s, in Istanbul during their vacation to Turkey, Italy and Greece.

Construction continues for new Emerald High School

Inaugural 9th-grade class to start together this fall at temporary site on Dublin High campus

By NICOLE GONZALES

Work to build Dublin's highly anticipated second comprehensive high school has been well underway, with milestones continuing to be reached as Phase 1 remains on track to end in the months ahead.

According to recent school announcements and social media posts, the construction process has moved along smoothly, with most construction projects meeting their intended deadlines thus far. Located at 3600 Central Pkwy., the new Emerald High School campus will be home to the Aerouants.

As a way to kick off the 2023-24 school year and welcome its first class of incoming ninth-grade students, Emerald has set up a temporary site at the Dublin High School campus. Emerald will have their own office and teachers on the site utilizing several of the portable classrooms.

"We will start this school year as guests of Dublin High," school representatives said on social media. "We are excited to have the first class of Emerald students learning from their Emerald teachers. Our temporary office is open and ready for business. We are excited to kick things off in just a few weeks."

School representatives have said Emerald will operate on the Dublin High bell schedule. Emerald plans to add a grade level each year for the next three years until its student body has grown.

Emerald will also introduce its inaugural football and basketball sports teams ready to play this fall.

"These Emerald freshmen will make history this fall when they take to the field as part of the first Aerouant football team," school representatives said online. "We are excited to see some of the first Aerouant athletes preparing for their inaugural season."

Building teams anticipate the Emerald site being completed in two phases. Underway since December 2021, the project is expected to finish Phase 1 of construction this December and see a final closeout in April 2024.

With closeout of Phase 1 just months away, the site has seen development of many key features for the school, including construction of the administration building, student union, a visual and performing arts center, sports facilities and more.

Since last fall, construction of the gym, lower floors of the first academic tower have been completed with all interior walls and windows in place.

Contracted to the Napa-based company, BHM Construction Inc., Phase 1 has a budget of approximately \$282 million.

Construction for Phase 2 is set to finish in July 2025, however, the school will be able to host students on campus prior to the completion of Phase 2, district officials said.

Emerald will host a fall orientation and student check-in on Monday (Aug. 7) on the Dublin High campus. At the event, students will be able to take their school photo, collect their ID cards and pick up textbooks. The first day of school will soon follow for the Aerouants next Thursday (Aug. 10).

To find out more information on Emerald High School, visit <https://ehs.dublinusd.org>. ■



Construction progress at the site of Emerald High School, which will be Dublin Unified School District's second comprehensive high school.

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Sheep herd replaces goats in BART fire mitigation efforts

Prefer to eat grasses, short roughage that are more present around transit agency lands

By KILEY RUSSELL / BCN

The BART bestiary expanded by one species this year when a flock of sheep took over fire mitigation duties previously held by their goat cousins, transit agency officials recently announced.

The sheep, like the goats before them, are employed to devour dried vegetation on BART property in order to reduce the fuels that could

feed wildfires.

The goats first made their appearance two years ago and have been replaced by sheep because of the different types of plants the animals prefer — sheep like to eat grasses and short roughage, while goats tend to go for taller woody plants, BART officials said.

“BART has been using goats for a while now, meaning there’s more fine grasses and less brush now,”

said Mike Canaday, owner of Living Systems Land Management, the Fresno County company that provides the herds.

The four-legged fire suppressors are considered more beneficial than human crews because they’re more agile and can more easily clear rough terrain, they cost less and don’t use fume-spewing gas-powered mechanical equipment, according to BART.

“Using heavy machinery poses a high risk of fire, too,” BART fence and irrigation technician Josh Soltero said. “We always carried backpacks of water in case something flared up.”

The sheep are munching their way up along the BART tracks from the Berryessa-North San Jose Station and will end their culinary journey at the Pittsburg-Bay Point Station.

Currently, they’re grazing along

the Yellow Line along Springbrook Road in Walnut Creek, BART officials said.

The use of goats and sheep to reduce fire fuels has become increasingly popular among Bay Area agencies in recent years, including Zone 7 Water Agency, East Bay Regional Park District, Oakland Fire Department and Contra Costa County Fire Protection District, among others. ■

UNION

Continued from Page 5

during the July 18 City Council meeting, saying there is an important difference between a leave and a vacancy, which adds another layer to the police staffing problem.

“We have a number of employees that are on leave ... Those leaves are held positions — they’re not vacancies — and so we’re waiting for those employees to come back to our organization. We don’t recruit for positions for employees that are on leave.”

“We value those employees, and we want to make sure that they know that they have a spot to come back to,” he added. “That’s the law and beyond that, that’s our commitment to our employees.”

Jewell also said that the temporary disbandment of the special enforcement, crime prevention and traffic units is affecting officer morale in terms of being able to move up within the department.

“This makes officers feel that their ability to go into specialized units and attain their goals,” he said. “The

succession planning, they feel, is not here, which impacts the likelihood of us retaining officers.”

Lewellyn said that as someone who has been with PPD for so long, and has personally collected the equipment of so many officers who have left the department, the main reasons officers are leaving are because of mandatory overtime, disbandment of units and comparatively low pay that the PPOA has been highlighting publicly during the negotiations.

But he also said the turnover is relatively new, as he has noticed that shift of Pleasanton officers leaving more in the last four years — before that he said it was almost unheard of for PPD officers to leave because of their love for the city and their job.

That’s why he said it was disappointing to hear that the city was not willing to include retention pay in negotiations.

The shortage of staff is something that hasn’t just been felt by residents, both of the union leaders said. It’s something that their fellow officers are feeling in the form of being overworked.

“On June 6, I spoke to the City Council regarding the staffing issues at Pleasanton Police Department, emphasizing the closure of the traffic unit and the subsequent result of lowered enforcement,” said Rebecca Rodriguez, a PPD officer who spoke during public comments at the July 18 council meeting.

“Curiously, four days later, a member of this City Council called Pleasanton PD to ask why there were no traffic officers staffing the intersection due to the gridlock traffic caused by the I-680 closure,” she continued. “We have been trying to tell you that Pleasanton PD has no dedicated traffic officers to contribute.”

Rodriguez was just one of several speakers who said they were concerned about the city’s lack of action to find some sort of resolution during these negotiation talks.

Several speakers at that meeting, and other prior meetings, made the point that the city should utilize dollars from capital projects such as the recently approved cricket field, new skate park at Ken Mercer Sports Park and the Century House renovations to solidify police pay instead.

But, according to Tiernan, that just isn’t the best solution in the city’s eyes.

“Salaries and benefits represent recurring costs that require ongoing revenues to fund these expenses. Using one-time resources from capital projects or the General Fund reserve to cover employee compensation costs will lead to a budget deficit in the long run and will impact city services and programming, as these one-time revenues will not be available in future years,” Tiernan told the Weekly.

“Unrestricted fund balances (reserves) are intended to be used for emergencies (fire recovery, storm recovery, etc.) and economic uncertainties and depleting the General Fund reserve will impact the city’s ability to provide vital city services and community programs during such times,” she added.

Even so, Rodriguez went on to emphasize the importance of coming up with a contract that will be able to properly compensate their work so that they can continue to provide their crucial services to the city.

“I was working that day and in

the same three hours that you called to ask for traffic enforcement, I responded to a baby not breathing, a fight in progress and an overdose,” Rodriguez said to the council. “I can state with confidence that there was no time that day for anything but emergency calls.”

Lewellyn and Jewell, who also spoke to the council during the July 18 meeting, emphasized that in order to keep their officers from getting burnt out to the point where they consider leaving the department, retention pay must be added to the city’s contract offer.

“In our negotiations, we wanted to include retention pay for that reason, because if we’re able to include that incentive, we would be able to retain our talent,” Lewellyn said. “That is an industry standard. Out of our 10 comparable cities, we’re the only agency without a retention incentive.”

According to Tiernan, the lack of retention pay is coupled with the fact the current salary for officers and sergeants is below the average of the cities being used as a comparison, which will continue to be the case if the city’s contract isn’t accepted by the PPOA.

“This is a typical scenario for public agencies at the end of a labor contract due to the different bargaining cycles of other agencies and usually changes when the wage adjustments for the new contract take effect,” Tiernan said.

However, out of those comparable cities, one noteworthy PPOA supporter that came forward during the July 18 council meeting was recently retired Dublin police chief Garrett Holmes, who said that Pleasanton needs to work harder to meet the demands of the union.

A 50-year resident of Pleasanton who was in law enforcement for 30 years, Holmes took to the podium and gave the council and Beaudin a scathing critique of the continued stall in negotiations.

He particularly called out Beaudin, just like Jewell and Lewellyn did, on how the second-year city manager said in a June 6 council meeting that “staffing is not as it is being described,” that “we had to make adjustments in how we deliver services” and that the situation was “really just a routine transition of employees.”

“Yes, every police department has regular staffing issues with people on leave, who are injured, etc,” Holmes said. “This is not what we’re talking about here. Units don’t get shut down or reallocated just for regular staffing issues.”

He added that even though Dublin is a smaller city, there are more officers per shift on the street right now and they are also running special units — which shows that if Dublin can do it, so can Pleasanton.

“The morale in your police department is low. These officers are coming to you and meeting to tell you that things are not great, and are asking for your help, all of you, to settle their contract,” Holmes told the dais. “They are asking you to show your commitment to the public safety and show your commitment to this police department. Instead, you have stalled any contract settlement.”

And at the end of the day, that’s what the PPOA wants from the city, according to union leaders — to show them that the city values their work by working together on a contract that will help them retain their talent.

“In the last City Council meeting, several council members and city manager stated that they value our police officers and they appreciate us. But while we hear them, we would like them to show us how they value us because right now, we’re not feeling that,” Jewell said. “We feel that we are just a number — a position being filled. They’re not showing us that they value us.”

After the City Council recently met with city negotiators during a closed-session meeting on July 26 for an update on the outcome of the failed mediation, Tiernan said that the next step is for the California Public Employment Relations Board to conduct a fact-finding. That is when a qualified, impartial third party makes written findings of fact and recommendations for resolution of an impasse.

As of Friday, Tiernan said there have been no new contract offers from the city.

“The city remains committed to reaching an agreement that works financially within budget restraints, while demonstrating its commitment to the well-being of its police officers and sergeants,” Tiernan said. ■

THE CITY OF PLEASANTON



HIGHLIGHTS

Civic Arts Commission Special Meeting

Monday, August 7, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.

The meeting will be held at the Remillard Conference Room Operations Service Center— 3333 Busch Road

- Receive an Overview of the Citywide Strategic Plan Project
- Discuss and Identify Process Improvements for the Community Grant Program – Civic Arts Category

Parks and Recreation Commission Special Meeting

Thursday, August 10, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.

The meeting will be held at the Remillard Conference Room Operations Service Center— 3333 Busch Road

- Review the Urban Forest Master Plan (UFMP) outreach process and provide staff with comments regarding the process
- West Las Positas Multimodal Reconstruction Project Concept Plans

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

County residents weigh in on incorporation feasibility

LAFCO report analyzes scenarios for unincorporated Castro Valley, San Lorenzo, Fairview and more

By KEITH BURBANK / BCN

Several unincorporated Alameda County communities may become better places to live if the residents decide to form a city, an economic development consultant said last week.

Consultant Richard Berkson provided an initial feasibility analysis to the Alameda County Local Agency Formation Commission for residents to consider.

Some combination of the unincorporated communities of Castro Valley, Ashland, Cherryland, San Lorenzo, Fairview and Hayward Acres could become a new East Bay city.

Berkson analyzed three

combinations.

The effort to incorporate may be challenging though. No new city has been created in California since 2000 without the benefit of property tax revenue from the state in lieu of revenue from vehicle license fees, according to the feasibility analysis.

Moreover, new cities are no longer entitled to this in lieu of revenue from the state, said Berkson, principal at Berkson Associates. In addition, some residents may oppose the change.

Michelle Clowser, a San Lorenzo resident, said her community would cease to be San Lorenzo, disappointing her and others.

"The incorporation of San Lorenzo

would mean a literal end to 'San Lorenzo,'" Clowser said through Facebook. "You would no longer be from San Lorenzo but rather live in a different named location."

Kelly Russell responded to Clowser on Facebook, saying, "I know that you are only one person but I hope that your words reach everyone and y'all come together and push these pests of people away. LEAVE SAN LORENZO ALONE!!!"

Berkson laid out the possible revenue and expenditures for three potential city formations in his analysis and projected deficits for all three.

Berkson analyzed an incorporated Castro Valley; a city encompassing Castro Valley, Fairview and Eden;

and a city of only Fairview and Eden.

The formation of incorporated Castro Valley, Fairview and Eden faces the largest deficit at about \$14.7 million followed by incorporated Fairview and Eden at \$12.3 million and incorporated Castro Valley at \$7.2 million.

But Berkson said if the state enacted legislation to provide new cities with state money, new cities would be more feasible. He suggested that alternatively the county could provide money. New sales taxes are also an option for revenue.

As recently as 2019, state legislation was introduced to provide new cities with state money, but none of the legislation has passed.

Berkson said history has shown — in his experience — that incorporated areas are better places to live because cities have more revenue and more control of revenue and services and that gives them a better chance to improve their community.

But San Lorenzo resident Lita Clapper said, "As a lifelong resident of San Lorenzo (almost 70 years), I am totally against incorporation. Is San Lorenzo perfect? By no means, but this community has survived all these years and improvements can be made if we come together."

Comments on the report, which can be found at <https://alamedalafco.org>, can be made through next Friday (Aug. 11). ■

PRICE

Continued from Page 5

her office is "disappointed" Bishop Bob Jackson and the Oakland chapter of the NAACP "would take a false narrative on such an important matter. We would expect more from" them.

The same minority communities hit hardest by crime are facing biases in the criminal justice system and mass incarceration. The divide is playing out countywide with at least two factions facing off over whether to recall Price, who is being criticized for being too lenient on criminals.

Price says she is reforming a biased criminal justice system.

Price and Oakland police met with Oakland Hills residents in Montclair on the night of July 27 for a public safety meeting as a recall effort grows. About 400 people attended.

A leader of the recall effort said in an interview that day that her main issue is how Price treats the families of violent crime victims.

Brenda Grisham, whose son was killed in Oakland violence in 2010, is helping to lead the Save Alameda For Everyone recall effort, based on paperwork filed with the Alameda County Registrar of Voters' Office.

One reason for Grisham's displeasure is what she says is Price's unwillingness to give victims' families a say in the sentencing of those convicted of killing their sons and daughters. Price also disregarded victims' families at a meeting in April at a local church, Grisham said.

"I'm loyal to the families," said Grisham, who started a foundation in memory of her son and who is part of Family Support Advocates, a group of local mothers who have lost children to violence.

A petition on Change.org to gauge support for a recall of Price had garnered more than 24,000 signatures as of July 28.

Save Alameda For Everyone will officially collect signatures as the effort moves ahead. The recall effort has the support of the Alameda County Republican Party Central Committee, which passed a resolution in May supporting it.

The Alameda County Democratic Central Committee is considering a resolution this week to oppose a recall, a member said by email.



Pamela Price

Florence McCrary, who lost her only son Terrence Paul McCrary Jr. to a stray bullet in Oakland in 2016, is also angered by Price's actions.

Price met recently with Family Support Advocates and came unprepared, Florence McCrary said. Price did not know the substance of the cases the mothers wanted answers on, which McCrary said angered them.

But the district attorney cares deeply about victims' families, according to Price's office, adding that the district attorney is not light on crime. It is a change in state law that is guiding sentencing in criminal cases like the ones Price has faced criticism for, her office said.

Price has become a lightning rod for the issue, though all district attorneys across the state must abide by the same law.

Price's office said that in the past, too many enhancements were filed, disproportionately affecting Black residents and prompting changes to state law around sentencing.

"The criminal justice system really has not been working well for a long time," said Rivka Polatnick, a resident of Alameda County for more than 50 years and a Price supporter who worked on her campaign to be elected district attorney.

She said it has not worked for underserved communities such as Black and poor people.

"The statistics are alarming," Polatnick said.

She said, "We need someone who is going to do something about it" and Price is that person.

"I don't feel the answer is to go back to mass incarceration," Polatnick said.

Leaders with the NAACP in Oakland said criminals know that no one will come to help people in

danger in Oakland because the city needs more police officers and the 911 system doesn't work.

"There is nothing compassionate or progressive about allowing criminal behavior to fester & rob Oakland residents of their basic rights to public safety," NAACP leaders said. "It is not racist or unkind to want to be safe from crime."

Part of the solution, according to the NAACP, is to provide jobs, training and mentors for youth so they have alternatives to crime. ■



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MULTIPLAN_MAFLYERGMLM



The Sunol Wilderness Regional Preserve, part of the East Bay Regional Park District system, is home to a number of native birds, insects and other animals. The park is open to visitors year-round.

EBRPD



A Sunol naturalist leads a group of visitors on a summer bird walk. During each session, a guide will share details about the local birds at the park, such as their behaviors, habits or diets. Specific bird sightings are not guaranteed.

NICOLE GONZALES



EBRPD

The western bluebird, though a native of the Sunol region, is often harder to spot in the wild than other birds. It is easily identified by its bright blue back and orange underbelly.

Native animals of

Summer sessions with naturalists

BY NICOLE GONZALES

To the south of Pleasanton, the Sunol Wilderness Regional Preserve is home to a number of distinct critters significant to the native ecosystem. This summer, the East Bay Regional Park District has made an effort to highlight those creatures and their habitats through tours and activities.

Naturalists of the Sunol park are hosting a series of outdoor educational sessions focused on the native animals of the area — namely the local bats, birds and scorpions that inhabit the park.

“Bats play a really important role in the ecosystem. All over the world they are helping us, from seed dispersal to pollination,” park naturalist Ashley Houts said when discussing the native animals.

Houts has worked with the bats throughout her time at the park, explaining how they play a vital role in agriculture and human living. Bats function as pollinators and seed dispersers, and they are even known to protect cash crops by eating harmful insects and pests.

“Here in the East Bay, they help us out by eating their favorite meal — bugs,” Houts said. “There is one bat in our area that can eat as many as 1,000 mosquitoes in one hour. By eating all of those insects, they help us to prevent disease from spreading and also help us to use less pesticides. Bats are amazing creatures.”

More than a dozen varieties of bat species are found in the greater Bay Area, with over 1,400 worldwide. The nocturnal flying mammals have an array of characteristics that allow them to thrive in the park, such as echolocation and hyper-hearing.

Naturalists say they aid in preserving local habitats and can help to slow down the effects of climate change.

Pallid bats and Townsend’s big-eared bats are two of the main species at the park. According to EBRPD naturalists, these bats are able to eat up to 50 times their body weight in one night. Pallid bats are known to regularly feast on scorpions for meals.

Houts explained that both species are threatened.

“With only having one baby one year, bats have a relatively low production rate,” Houts said. “One baby is not as many as other mammals would have in the wild, and they face other dangers, like climate change and wind farms.”

Houts encouraged local residents to visit their nearest regional park and to support bats in any way they can.

“Other things you could do (to help bats) are planting plants that attract nighttime insects, such as evening primrose or dahlias,” Houts said. “This summer, take a night hike and go camping in your East Bay regional park, and do something to help give bats a wing-up.”

Visitors can attend future “Bat Watch” sessions at the Sunol park on Aug. 16 and Aug. 30.

To highlight the native birds of the park, naturalists offer daytime guided walks for visitors. The tours welcome both experienced and new birders alike. Topics discussed are behavior patterns, habitats and migration of the local animals.

EBRPD naturalist Erica Stephens has led previous bird watching tours at the Las Trampas Wilderness Regional Preserve in



EBRPD

Bats play a key role in the park’s ecosystem, such as helping with pollination and seed dispersal.

Sunol Wilderness

spotlight bats, birds and scorpions

San Ramon. She shared tips and tricks for spotting the birds during a session.

“The key to successful birding is to start simple and to take your time. Use a smaller, more basic field guide at first. Also, focus on size and color to help figure out what bird you’re seeing based on its size,” Stephens said. “If the bird is smaller than a crow, it might be a raptor, which is a bird of prey. Larger birds tend to be easier to spot and identify.”

Although not necessary, officials recommend using a pair of binoculars.

The western bluebird, which ranges from Southern California to Washington state and through parts of the south western United States, is known to inhabit the Sunol park.

Spotting the bird can be fairly rare, according to park naturalists.

Other more common birds of the Sunol Regional Wilderness are acorn woodpecker, dark-eyed junco, black phoebe, white-crowned sparrow, California quail, turkey vulture and red-tailed hawk.

The presence and behavior of each bird species can vary significantly, Stephens explained.

“There are a lot of factors involved with birding. Different seasons bring in different birds to the bay areas as others migrate away,” Stephens said. “Certain birds prefer their own unique habitats, like shore birds along the coastlines, tree dwellers and more.”

Houts further discussed the behavior of the acorn woodpeckers common in Sunol and are also visible at the Briones Regional Park. These birds are known to leave dime-sized holes into trees on

the land, mostly to hide and store acorns in them.

“Woodpeckers peck the bark of trees for so many reasons, sometimes they’re looking for bugs to eat, other times they’re looking to drain the sap from the trees for a treat,” Houts said.

“Acorns are the nuts that grow on oak trees, and every different oak tree here in the Bay Area makes a different size and shape acorn,” Houts said. “The acorns fall to the ground in the autumn and that’s when these acorn woodpeckers collect all the acorns they can and (begin) storing them in the trees.”

Using long and pointy bills, the birds poke holes into the trees.

“Acorn woodpeckers work together in large family groups to bring all the acorns in and store them,” Houts explained. “Every year they use the same tree over and over again, we call them granary trees.”

In addition to the bird and bat sessions, naturalists including Stephens will also lead “Scorpions of the Night” — a guided search for the small fluorescent creatures at the park.

For these sessions, park staff recommend visitors bring headlamps, flashlights and wear closed toed shoes. Scorpion sightings are not guaranteed.

“It’s great to have folks go outside, get involved with their nature community and learn about the native animals we have here,” EBRPD spokesman Dave Mason said.

Sunol Wilderness Regional Preserve is managed by the EBRPD, a system of outdoor recreation areas maintained and regulated by the public agency. To find out more about the Sunol park and its upcoming activities, visit www.ebparks.org. ■



NICOLE GONZALES

A birdwatching group looks out at the Sunol Wilderness sky to see what birds they can locate.



NICOLE GONZALES

The Sunol birding group continues uphill on their tour about the native animals.



EBRPD

A fledgling bird is shown at the Sunol park in the very first few weeks of its life

AVBOTZ team ready for RoboSub 2023

Underwater vehicle competition features top students from around the world

By JOSEPH CHIU

Coming off its second-place finish in the 2022 RoboSub competition, Amador Valley High School's robotics team, AVBotz, has returned this week to defend its high standing in the international event.

The team has been preparing the entire summer, working tirelessly each day to ensure their submarine runs smoothly, according to AVBotz members.

"The AVBotz team has dedicated a lot of time towards the preparation and testing of our submarine," Meghana Kumar, mechanical subteam member, told the Weekly. "We have met almost every single day since the start of our summer break, and we've dedicated a lot of time over the school year as well.

"It takes dedication, hard work and effort to do this, and team members have to work together and be collaborative," Kumar added. "We're making new friends, establishing new connections and having fun spending time with each other. It's an experience that is unforgettable and helps forge a stronger rapport amongst ourselves."

RoboSub is a competition where participating schools work to face challenges in the underwater environment using their autonomous underwater vehicle. In the midst of the final stages of testing when contacted by the Weekly, AVBotz members have been fine-tuning its software using simulations and

running constant tests in physical pools.

"We had tested our sub, Marlin, in places such as Amador's pool, the nearby aquatic center, as well as multiple community pools," Aarav Jain, software subteam member, said last week. "These pool tests help us test the various components on our submarine. This may include testing for water leakage within our components or aligning our submarine autonomously with homemade props."

According to Craig Wang, vice president of software, the team has held meetings nearly every day from around 12-8 p.m. to work on their projects and collaborate through hands-on experiences. They've been working to find and fix any issues that may transpire during the competition by creating the necessary backup tools and components.

"Compared to well-funded university teams with access to highly advanced technical equipment, the only thing our team can do to compete is to pour in hours. And that's what we did and continue to do," said Eaton Huang, vice president of electrical. "Even though the process is long and grueling, every bit of success feels like ample reward for the hours we put in, which is why we continue to spend time and why we strive to improve every day."

"A strong team dynamic is critical especially when we're under



COURTESY AVBOTZ

Marlin V2, the submarine created by AVBotz, is set to undergo a pool test at Amador Valley High School accompanied by team members, alumni and founder Karl Schulze.

pressure," added Isabelle Lo, vice president of mechanical. "I think the fact that we're spending so much of our year together working on something so detailed and technically challenging has strengthened that relationship and our understanding of one another."

Like last year, time commitment and implementing new parts such as the grabber, torpedo and dropper will contribute to the output of this year's success. Constant testing and learning from previous mistakes will enable the team to attempt more tasks with higher accuracy and gain more points during the competition, according to team members.

"Divisions have begun inventorying different tools and parts we need to take to the competition, as well as remachining extra backup parts," Kaustubh Lole, mechanical subteam member, said regarding the planning progress. "On the mechanical side, our main goals until the competition are testing and tweaking components. For example, we are currently making small edits to our torpedo design in order to streamline it and make it consistent and effective."

For AVBotz, building chemistry and relationships with one another is key to achieving the goal of doing their best in San Diego. Aside from collaborating on the submarine, many members learn to simply enjoy the company of each other and unite through their strong friendships.

"Our interest in robotics creates the chemistry that we have in the club," said Ryan Yang, software subteam member. "With members of every grade level that contributes to the club equally as much as any other club member, we treat this club as a hobby and are always excited to get work done for our upcoming competition."

The competition has opened up opportunities for new AVBotz members exploring new heights in engineering. With anticipation building up for the final stretch, they said they've been appreciative of the support and electrical engineering skills they've received from polished veterans in the group.

"I'm super excited to participate in this year's RoboSub competition," Janav Rakesh, new business

team member, told the Weekly. "However, at first, I was nervous to join such a talented group of people, but throughout the summer, I've connected with this team through the various challenges we've faced working together. This new opportunity has allowed me to develop many new skills, and I am more than excited to display the hard work we've all put in at the competition."

"I cannot thank this club enough, especially the officers, for how much hands-on experience I have gained through the consistent meetings," added Gaurav Gupta, new electrical subteam member. "Though I have never worked with any of the people in the club prior to this year, I have been able to make new friends and become familiar with most of the people in the club."

This year's competition is ongoing now at NIWC Pacific's TRANSDEC in San Diego, being contested from this Monday through Sunday (July 31 to Aug. 6). For more information about AVBotz, including how to donate to the team, visit avbotz.com. ■



COURTESY AVBOTZ

AVBotz team members gather around the submarine as they analyze and fix any issues they encounter during these test runs.

Mustangs of the West performing in Livermore

Bankhead concert to include songs from band's new album, plus some unreleased tracks

By JOSEPH CHIU

Mustangs of the West, an all-female Americana country band based in Southern California but with a connection to the Tri-Valley, are bringing their musical talents to the Bankhead Theater later this month.

It will be the first concert following the drop of their latest album "Sea of Heartbreak," which was released just last week.

After originally achieving success as the Mustangs before breaking up in the mid-1990s, electric guitarist and vocalist Sherry Rayn Barnett reached out to two members of the original group — Holly Montgomery and Livermore's own Suzanna Spring — in 2017 to bring the band back together. They rounded out the quintet with the additions of Suzanna Morissette and Aubrey Richmond from Shooter Jennings' band and renamed the band "Mustangs of the West."

"The key component to maintaining the band has been that we've been privileged to have opportunities for us to play and record new songs, and then the magic happens in the studio," Montgomery told the Weekly. "It's complicated because

we don't live in the same city (and even state) so we feel honored to be able to get together when we do."

"Sea of Heartbreak" is the second studio album for Mustangs of the West, as their first album "Time" was released on March 27, 2020. Despite being well-received by reviewers, according to Barnett, the rise of the COVID-19 pandemic shut down their concerts and promotional plans for the album outside of live streaming on social media.

This year, the band is excited about the opportunity to play their new music live on tours and shows. "I love this record," Spring said. "As a singer, I feel that it's got some of my best vocal performances. And as a writer, the excitement comes from hearing songs you wrote on a guitar become many interesting layers of instruments and harmonies."

"Our first radio single from the album is called 'Crooked Road,' and it's one I wrote with the late Rusty Young from Poco," Spring added. "I love the interwoven harmonies on that track. Another song on the record, 'We All Lose Sometimes,' has a beautiful atmospheric guitar intro from Sherry, a driving groove, and layered harmonies on the bridge."

With anticipation building up for their show at the Bankhead, Barnett said the band hopes fans will enjoy hearing the music on their records and some unreleased songs in a live setting, and gaining a better understanding of the group and their personalities.

"We're a California country rock band, and five very dedicated women, so you'll hear jangly guitars, great harmonies, acoustic songs that are true to the sounds we grew up with, some rocked-up songs and some traditional country," Spring added. "We love playing live. We'll also have copies of our new album 'Sea of Heartbreak' for sale, and it's a beautiful package with photos taken by renowned rock photographer Henry Diltz."

For Spring, the return to the Bankhead will be a joyful moment for her being able to play in her hometown and reminiscing on the band's long-lasting memories at this venue prior to the pandemic. Band members said they are thankful for the opportunity and support from the town as they return to familiar territory in the Tri-Valley.

"We are so honored to be back playing at the Bankhead," Spring said. "It's a venue with fantastic sound, and I'm looking forward



MUSTANGS OF THE WEST

Mustangs of the West will be in concert at the Bankhead Theater on Aug. 19.

to seeing old and new friends and fans. I also think that seeing a band of women playing instruments on-stage is still unusual in a traditionally male-dominated field like country/rock, and I'd like to think that can inspire young female musicians too."

"I hope we give them an evening they'll remember in a way that will inspire them to support live music and the Bankhead Theater in

particular," Barnett added. "We really appreciate the fact that they're coming to see perhaps a lesser known act, yet having faith that the quality and originality of Mustangs of the West's music will be worth spending an evening with us."

The concert will be held at Bankhead Theater in Livermore on Aug. 19 with the show set to begin at 8 p.m. Tickets are available via livermorearts.org. ■

Collection of beloved Barbie dolls on display

Stoneridge Creek resident showing off her classics

By JOSIE DE LA TORRE

As "Barbie" continues to dominate at the box office, Pleasanton resident Dorothy "Dottie" Soule is displaying her collection of more than 100 classic Barbie dolls at Stoneridge Creek.

From the Barbie Elvis line to the Hollywood Legend gift set of "The Wizard of Oz" and many others, Soule said she has been a proud "Barbie Girl."

"I have four daughters and when they were kids, I used to give them Barbies as presents and then make clothes for them all. When they were all grown up and out of the house, I started thinking about Barbie again and started collecting," Soule said.

Soule saw the movie on opening weekend with her daughters and thought she would showcase her love for the plastic doll she's collected for more than 50 years.

"It was kind of different. We didn't know what to expect but it was so fun because we went to THE



JOSIE DE LA TORRE

Dottie Soule is displaying her Barbie dolls at Stoneridge Creek.

LOT in City Center in San Ramon opening night. We watched all the people going into the movie, they were all dressed like Barbie and dressed in pink. And even the guys, there were men dressed like Ken," Soule said.

Other dolls featured in Soule's display are the Marilyn Monroe Barbie dolls, Bob Mackie Barbie dolls and some Harley-Davidson Barbie dolls. Her collection will be exhibited until the end of August at the Stoneridge Creek senior living community in Pleasanton. ■

Business unveiling new mural

Artist blends 'Porsche history, racing culture and essence of San Ramon seamlessly'

By JOSEPH CHIU

A new wall mural will be revealed at the European Autotech repair shop during a ribbon-cutting ceremony later this month, with organizers inviting the San Ramon community to celebrate the shop's exterior artwork.

European Autotech collaborated with John Osgood, the mural artist for California Mural Art in Danville, to create the painting through their shared passions for creativity and community engagement. The group specializes in creating murals that grace landscapes with a commitment to delivering exceptional craftsmanship to its clients.

"John's unique style and passion for our project were evident from the moment we connected," Eric Laviolette, general manager of European Autotech, said in a press release. "He adeptly blended the heritage of our Porsche history, the racing culture, and the essence of San Ramon seamlessly into the design."

For 40 years, European Autotech has been an automotive repair and modification facility that prioritizes its relationship and satisfaction with customers. The shop underwent renovations in the summer of 2022 to focus on performance modifications and serving the racing community,



CALIFORNIA MURAL ART

The mural at European Autotech reflects the shop's journey, attracting customers and the community with lively designs.

with the new mural aiming to enhance that vision.

"As a business with no street presence or foot traffic, we depend solely on word-of-mouth referrals and advertising," Laviolette said. "The inspiration for this mural came to us as we observed the captivating street art on other businesses throughout the Bay Area. It was then we realized that our expansive wall in our parking lot offered the perfect canvas for an exceptional mural."

The mural is a vibrant tribute to the shop's journey, starting as an independent Porsche repair business into a full-service facility for vehicles, according to the general manager. The shop envisions the mural

as an artistic beacon and a reflection of its values, captivating car enthusiasts and the community by bringing life and color to the industrial park.

"We anticipate the mural will be well received in the community, attracting art enthusiasts, and car aficionados alike," Laviolette said. "It symbolizes the diversity and rich culture of San Ramon and serves as a testament to our humble beginnings, paying homage to the people who have contributed to our success."

The shop is located at 31 Beta Court, Suite J, in San Ramon, where the celebration and ribbon-cutting event will take place from 8-11 a.m. on Aug. 26. ■

Community Pulse

POLICE BULLETIN

Coroner IDs motorcyclist killed in eastern Alameda County

The Alameda County Coroner's Bureau has identified the motorcyclist who died after crashing his bike at night and then getting hit by an approaching vehicle on the far-eastern edge of unincorporated Livermore last month.

The decedent was 61-year-old Timmy Anderson, according to the coroner's bureau, which did not have a city of residence listed for Anderson.

The situation unfolded at around 9:20 p.m. July 22 on Mountain House Road west of West Grant Line Road, just on the Alameda County side of the border with San Joaquin County, California

Highway Patrol Officer Robert Purl reported at the time.

A Harley Davidson motorcycle crashed on its own while traveling eastbound, with the rider thrown off the motorcycle onto the roadway and the bike coming to rest on the right shoulder, according to Purl.

Just afterward, a Honda vehicle was coming upon the same location traveling eastbound on Mountain House Road at about 45-50 mph. "The driver of the Honda did not observe the motorcycle or its rider, on the dark road, prior to the crash. The Honda collided with the rider who had been ejected," Purl said.

The motorcyclist — later identified as Anderson — succumbed to injuries after the second crash, Purl said. The Honda driver, whose name was not released, was reportedly uninjured.

The circumstances of the fatal collision remain under investigation. Anyone who has information about the crash can contact CHP-Dublin at 925-828-0466.

Anderson's death marked the final of four separate fatal crashes in the greater Tri-Valley during a 30-hour span between July 21-22.

—Jeremy Walsh

In other news

- The Contra Costa County Coroner's Division on Monday confirmed the identity of the driver who died after crashing into a tree along Camino Tassajara last month.

The decedent was 92-year-old

Danville resident Jahangir Bozorgmanesh, authorities said.

The Danville Police Department reported the crash occurred just before 9 p.m. July 21 on eastbound Camino Tassajara east of Messiah Place when a Toyota 4Runner went off the roadway for unknown reasons and struck a tree.

The driver and lone occupant of the SUV — later identified as Bozorgmanesh — was pronounced dead at the scene, according to authorities.

The circumstances of the fatal crash remain under investigation, with no further updates on the case available, Police Chief Allan Shields said on Monday morning.

—Jeremy Walsh

- The CHP reported a driver crashed and abandoned a car on Interstate 580 in Dublin last week.

According to the state agency on social media, officers responded to a crash which occurred on the westbound lane of I-580 on July 25, just east of Hacienda Drive.

The CHP said a car slammed into a barrier at the right shoulder of the westbound lane. The vehicle, a gray Toyota sedan, sustained front-end damage.

The car was already abandoned when CHP officers approached it, according to the state agency.

A lane was temporarily blocked due to a fire caused by the crash, the CHP said. ■

—Bay City News Service

POLICE REPORT

The Pleasanton Police Department made the following information available.

July 29

Theft

■ 10:26 a.m. on the 000 block of Vintage Circle

Fraud

■ 2:20 p.m. on the 4300 block of Valley Avenue

Drug violation

■ 2:58 p.m. at Valley Avenue and Hansen Drive

Fire

■ 4:17 p.m. at Stanley Boulevard and Valley Avenue

DUI

■ 7:57 p.m. at West Las Positas Boulevard and Stoneridge Drive

Burglary

■ 9:29 p.m. on the 2600 block of Minton Court

July 28

Theft

■ 1:42 p.m., 1300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting

■ 5:51 p.m., 11900 block of Dublin Canyon Road; auto theft

■ 6:27 p.m., 000 block of West Angela Street; auto theft

■ 9:47 p.m. on the 5100 block of Monaco Drive

July 27

Theft

■ 9:13 a.m. on the 3900 block of Santa Rita Road

■ 12:09 p.m. on the 4700 block of Willow Road

■ 11:20 p.m. on the 5100 block of Hopyard Road

Vandalism

■ 11:57 a.m. on the 4800 block of Willow Road

Fraud

■ 12:00 p.m. on the 2400 block of Via Espada

Domestic battery

■ 2:46 p.m. on Berkshire Court

Warrant arrest

■ 6:50 p.m. on the 5900 block of Dougherty Avenue

July 26

Vandalism

■ 4:50 a.m. on the 4800 block of Bernal Avenue

■ 2:29 p.m. on the 600 block of Palomino Drive

Theft

■ 8:21 a.m., 5600 block of Owens Drive; auto theft

July 25

■ 9:13 a.m., 000 block of Vintage Circle; theft from auto

■ 12:16 p.m., 200 block of Kottinger Drive; theft from auto

■ 3:32 p.m. on the 5900 block of Stoneridge Drive

Burglary

■ 9:50 a.m. on the 3500 block of Milleford Court

Drug violation

■ 12:10 p.m. on the 5700 block of Johnson Drive

Robbery

■ 9:25 p.m. on the 1700 block of Santa Rita Road

Warrant arrest

■ 10:19 p.m. on the 4800 block of Bernal Avenue

July 24

■ 11:06 a.m. on the 5600 block of Owens Drive

■ 11:30 a.m., 3700 block of Kamp Drive; theft from auto

■ 2:27 p.m. on the 4700 block of Hopyard Road

■ 3:07 p.m. on the 7000 block of Johnson Drive

■ 4:11 p.m. on the 1400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

July 23

■ 9:49 a.m. on the 2500 block of Wilde Avenue

Theft

■ 10:06 a.m. on the 11900 block of Dublin Canyon Road

■ 12:27 p.m. on the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive

■ 12:29 p.m. on the 4800 block of Merganser Court

■ 2:24 p.m. on the 2400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

■ 7:41 p.m., 4500 block of Rosewood Drive; shoplifting

■ 10:16 p.m., 2700 block of Stoneridge Drive; theft from auto

Fraud

■ 11:41 a.m. on the 7100 block of Koll Center Parkway

July 22

■ 6:50 a.m. on the 5000 block of Hopyard Road

Theft

■ 8:19 a.m., 6200 block of Detjen Court; theft from auto

■ 8:53 a.m., 4600 block of Ross Gate Way; auto theft

■ 9:22 a.m. on the 2600 block of Becard Court

■ 6:20 p.m., 7000 block of Johnson Court; theft from auto

Vandalism

■ 8:38 a.m. on the 1700 block of Martin Avenue

Burglary

■ 8:46 a.m. on the 4800 block of Hopyard Road

■ 1:38 p.m. on the 2100 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

Robbery

■ 5:01 p.m. on the 2100 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

Assault/battery

■ 8:44 p.m. on the 3800 block of Vineyard Avenue

July 21

Theft

■ 6:25 a.m., 2700 block of Willowren Way; theft from auto

■ 10:03 a.m. on the 4000 block of Dorman Road

■ 11:35 a.m. on the 5600 block of Belleza Drive

■ 2:26 p.m., 5800 block of Parkside Drive; catalytic converter theft

Vandalism

■ 12:45 p.m. on the 5500 block of West Las Positas Boulevard

Burglary

■ 3:22 p.m. on the 4700 block of Willow Road

July 20

Fire

■ 12:43 a.m. on the 7000 block of Pleasanton Avenue

Graffiti

■ 10:09 a.m. on the 5800 block of Parkside Drive

■ 11:10 a.m. at Corte de Flores and Paseo Santa Cruz

Burglary

■ 11:39 a.m. on the 000 block of Happy Valley Road

Theft

■ 2:28 p.m., 1400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting

■ 2:36 p.m. on the 3200 block of Vineyard Avenue

■ 4:52 p.m. on the 1300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

■ 8:16 p.m., 1300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting

July 20

Burglary

■ 7:02 p.m. on the 1400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

Patricia Louise Burns

March 17, 1937 – July 24, 2023

PLEASANTON - Patricia Louise (Lawton) Burns, age 86, of Pleasanton, California passed away peacefully, surrounded by the love and comfort of her family on Monday, July 24th, 2023 at home.

Pat was born on St Patrick's Day, March 17, 1937 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania along with her twin brother Eugene. She was the daughter of Irish immigrants Mary Hayes and John Lawton. Pat attended Saint Raphael Catholic School in Morningside, Pennsylvania.

In 1959 Pat married William F. Burns and they had six children. They settled in Pleasanton in 1968 and Pat got her California real estate license in 1971 and ran a successful business for over 45 years.

Pat loved playing golf and was a long standing member of Castlewood Country Club. She also enjoyed betting on the ponies at the fair, travel, attending the theatre, playing bridge, throwing parties, watching sports, and going to the cinema. She was an active member of the Pleasanton-Tulancingo Sister City Association and enjoyed many visits to Mexico. She loved her girlfriends. They were her rock.

Pat will undoubtedly be greatly missed by all who were blessed to know and love her. Left to honor her legacy and cherish her memory are her surviving children Bill, Kelly, Mary, and Erin; grandchildren Kirkland, Clinton, Megan, Ainslee, and Maisie; and great grandchildren Matthew, Liam, Declan, and Elodie; and many nieces and nephews. Pat is also celebrated and remembered by dozens of Irish relatives across the diaspora. Pat was predeceased by sons Timothy and John, and grandson Connor; and by her siblings - Dennis, Mary Jo, and Eugene.

A Celebration of Life will be held for Pat on Thursday, August 24th, 2023 at the Shannon Community Center in Dublin, California from 10am to 2pm. If you'd like to attend and pay your respects, optional RSVP or any questions please contact her daughter Erin on erin@erinburns.com.

In lieu of flowers, Pat wished to have donations made to any of the following three charities: The Valley Humane Society as she loved animals so much, Hospice Foundation of America - as her care at the end was exactly what she needed, and the Young Epilepsy Sussex (YES) Club - which was founded by her eleven year old granddaughter Maisie who has epilepsy.

<https://valleyhumane.salsalabs.org/donate/index.html>

<https://hospicefoundation.org>

<https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/YESClub>



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GUEST OPINION

BY KELLY MOKASHI

What AI won't teach our kids

Be wary of Greeks bearing gifts" is a well-known saying used to warn when an act of virtue is thought to hold a hidden threat, like the story of the Trojan Horse.

Our society is at a crossroads with artificial intelligence (AI), with its ed-tech advancements juxtaposed with the potential for unethical actions and potential threats to humanity.

Indeed a watershed moment. In a recently released documentary called "Killer Robots", engineers and AI technologist experts provide explicit examples of the possible misuse of AI, from autonomous military weapons to computerized formulas of deadly warfare chemicals.

I can attest, as a professional educator for over 25 years, it's an understatement to say that the AI trajectory will forever transform how educators

teach and students learn. No matter how innovative AI exploration becomes, significant limitations and ethical concerns arise around humanism. Why? AI won't teach our kids how to build a long-lasting relationship with their teachers or resolve a conflict with another classmate.

The COVID pandemic has accelerated AI's optimization, centered around automation and augmenting eLearning instruction using non-traditional remote teaching methods, including call-center operations, virtual chatbots and virtual assistants to offer 24/7 "on-demand" remote tutoring.

I recently worked for a software-as-a-service (SaaS) ed-tech company that invested thousands of dollars in an AI language tool to replace experienced tutors. Yet, amongst all the hype, I observed first-hand minimal student engagement. And what was most desired and beneficial — Zoom one-to-one sessions — could not yield profitability based upon the scalability requirements

necessary to achieve desired results.

AI cannot keep up with increasing demands to help children develop soft skills and support their social and emotional well-being. Although ChatGPT can help someone solve a physics problem, it cannot teach anyone the fundamental concepts behind a topic nor provide the personalized, authentic, and meaningful feedback students often need.

AI can't teach our kids the principle of determination and perseverance of personal achievement, and the value of a strong work ethic. Recently, during a vacation to the heartland of Iowa, my kids stood in awe at how my 80-year-old neighbor spent a day pulling thistles from the prairie to preserve its natural habitat, a rare site these days. How can AI teach that kind of perseverance to our children?

Although there will be many future educational advancements with AI, it's important to remember that these efforts must be regulated and monitored. AI cannot build

confidence for that shy child, who may struggle to articulate and express what they may need help with, nor sympathize with that kid who suffers from test anxiety for an upcoming final that looms ahead.

I urge every parent to stay well-informed as new technologies and educational practices intermingle and move through uncharted waters.

At the end of the day, AI is just a tool. AI will never replace the human element of teaching our children values of moral conduct, ethics and love, which must prevail above anything else in molding the future of our kids' learning experiences! ■

Editor's note: Kelly Mokashi, who is in her third year as an elected trustee of the Pleasanton Unified School District, has written this Guest Opinion reflecting her opinion as a parent, education professional and resident of Pleasanton. She said any statements within this Guest Opinion do not represent her views as an elected PUSD trustee, nor are they intended to express any views on behalf of the PUSD Board of Directors.



LETTERS

Pleasanton water woes

The Pleasanton City Council agenda item on water rate increases, 30%, 20%, and 12% over 14 months beginning November, prepared by city staff under the direction of the city manager, was discussed on July 18.

The city manager was obviously locked into the rate schedule, citing the need to borrow money to replace old pipe, and rent a pump, at a cost of approximately \$6 million. (Old house, skate park come to mind.)

Councilmember Balch asked questions regarding the new rates as they tie in with borrowing money. In response to Balch's question, the city manager admitted the \$6 million was an overload, citing unknowns. Balch suggested staff should reevaluate the rate increases, consider 20% rather than 30%, initially.

There are two loan options available, with staff opting for the one without considering the long-term possibilities of loan payoff to reduce

the initial rate of 30% to 20%.

During this Balch question and discussion with the city attorney, the four majority members on the council were visibly irritated, tone-deaf. They have the majority regardless of what Balch has to say. Balch is cautioning with words of wisdom. One late speaker explained those words of wisdom to the council majority.

That late speaker was persistent when he called in; there was some glitch that prevented phone speakers the right to speak. That late speaker hung in there and persisted — that caused the phone glitch to get fixed so he could speak.

That phone glitch flew in the face of Mayor Brown, stating "we want speakers" — she did not bother to verify a system was up and running to enable phone speakers. One-hundred percent of the speakers that did have the opportunity to speak was against the rate increase schedule as presented.

—Michael Austin

YOUR TURN

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

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Embarcadero Media is an independent multimedia news organization with over 40 years of providing award-winning local news, community information and entertainment to the Midpeninsula.

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PLEASANTON PREPS

By DENNIS MILLER

Deep playoff run ends at regionals for Tri-Valley Babe Ruth 13s

Local all-stars out after two losses to Lone Peak — coached by ex-Foothill legend

The Tri-Valley Babe Ruth 13-year-old all-star team saw their postseason run come to an end last week in the Pacific Southwest Regional in Taft in Kern County.

After winning the Northern California title earlier this summer, Tri-Valley advanced to the regionals in hopes of qualifying for the World Series — an event the 14-year-old Tri-Valley team won last summer.

Tri-Valley opened the tournament with a 13-1 win over the team from Simi Valley, but then fell 9-3 to Lone Peak, Utah.

Faced with having to go through the loser's bracket, Tri-Valley did come back and beat Madera 2-0 and Torrance 9-2, but they were

eliminated from the tournament with a 10-3 loss to Lone Peak again.

Lone Peak is coached by former Foothill athletic legend Gary Daniels.

Tri-Valley ended the summer with a 6-2 record.

Tri-Valley Preps Playbook

The Tri-Valley Preps Playbook, a weekly email newsletter that goes inside the East Bay Athletic League, will return for its third year, kicking off the 2023-24 sports season on Aug. 15.

The Playbook brings you stories about athletes, teams and issues involving the EBAL schools. The Big Picture is the highlight each week, as it is the in-depth feature you get new every Tuesday. The new girls' flag football league in the EBAL will be

the opening week profile.

Also back are the popular EBAL Power Rankings, which will rank the football, flag football and girls' volleyball teams in the fall.

The Fast Five is back as well, featuring athletes from around the EBAL answering five non-sports related questions, giving the readers a chance to get to know our local athletes a little bit better.

The Playbook is free, but you need to subscribe. It will appear every Tuesday afternoon in your inbox throughout the school year.

Please go to www.pleasantonweekly.com to sign up for the Tri-Valley Preps Playbook. Once again, it's free and will keep you up to date on all things EBAL!

Fall high school sports

Even if it feels like we just started summer vacation, the "official" start date for high school sports is rapidly approaching!

Believe it or not, next Monday (Aug. 7) is the first day our local high school teams can "officially" start practice. For the fall sports, that means football, water polo, girls' volleyball, cross-country, girls' tennis, girls' golf and making its debut this year, girls' flag football.

The start of the fall season also means it's time for me to start pleading for help collecting results this year. It will take all of 15-20 minutes a week to get the results turned in to me for publication.

My deadline is the same — noon on Sunday. The key: You do not need to wait until Sunday to turn in the results but can turn them in once your team is done competing for the week.

We are coming off a great spring season so let's keep the ball rolling. Remember, you don't have to be creative — that's my job. Just get me the information and I will turn it into a story.

Let's run through the fall sports and what is needed.

Football: Who played, final score, highlights (touchdowns, turnovers, big plays, etc.).

Volleyball: Who played, the scores, highlights (kills, assists, service points, blocks, digs).

Golf: Who played, course, par, top five scores (for both teams).

Tennis: Who played, final score, results of each match.

Cross-country: Event competed, length of race, how team fared, top finishers.

Water polo: Who played, final score, highlights (goals, assists, goalie saves, steals, etc.).

Flag football: Who played, score, highlights (touchdowns, flags pulled, etc.).

As usual we also love to get pictures with the following requirements: It cannot be from another publication, we need the name of the person that took the picture and we need the IDs of the people in the picture.

Send any information or get hold of me with questions at acesmag@aol.com. ■

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

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Calendar

POST CALENDAR ITEMS AT PLEASANTONWEEKLY.COM

Entertainment

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.

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. Aug. 4-6. Darcie Kent Vineyards. Visit sparctheater.org/shakespeareinthevineyard.

BANKHEAD PRESENTS MARIA

BAMFORD Maria Bamford is revered for her deeply personal and experimental comedy about mental illness and starred in the surreal, semi-autobiographical Netflix comedy series Lady Dynamite. 8 p.m., Aug. 5. Tickets \$45-\$75. Visit livermorearts.org.

KEEP ON TRUCKIN' Keep On Truckin' has put together a special show to celebrate one of the greatest events in music history. A tribute to The Woodstock Generation, performing rock, blues, funk and R&B, faithfully recreating the musical experience of the greatest decade in music. 8 p.m., Aug. 5. Tickets \$20-\$25. Visit firehousearts.org.

TWILIGHT TUNES AT CONCANNON

VINEYARD Enjoy live music and delectable bites from local food trucks, all while savoring favorite wines at sunset. Tickets are priced at \$10 for club members and \$15 for general admission. Joey T & Friends/Ominous Burgers. Aug. 10. Visit concannonvineyard.com.

BOYS OF SUMMER One of the most authentic Eagles tribute bands around, the Boys of Summer will have you rocking out from start to finish. Bring a low-back chair or blanket, first-come, first-served on the concert lawn. Doors open at 6:00 p.m. and band starts at 8:00 p.m., Aug. 11. Tickets \$50. Visit wentvineyards.com.

COURTYARD CONCERT Kick off the weekend and join for happy hour in the Madden Courtyard starring Matt Finders & Friends. 5:30 p.m., Aug. 11. Tickets \$20. Visit livermorearts.org.

ENCORE PLAYERS PRESENT PETS (AND THEIR HUMANS) When Brad's wife dies, he finds solace by talking to his pets, but what happens when his pets start talking back? A quirky, poignant comedy that encourages audiences to rethink the role of pets in their lives. Aug. 12-13; 18-20. Tickets \$25. Bothwell Arts Center. Visit livermorearts.org.

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 through 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.

Talks

AFFORDABLE HOMEOWNERSHIP PROGRAM WORKSHOP Learn about Affordable Homeownership Programs in Livermore from the City of Livermore for low or moderate income households. Requirements, income limits, application process and preference points will be covered, ending with a Q&A. 11 a.m., Aug. 5. Civic Center Library, 1188 S. Livermore Ave.

WEBINAR: SIGNS OF DEMENTIA VERSUS NORMAL AGING Have you ever worried whether some of the memory challenges you or a loved one are experiencing are normal? Hope Hospice's dementia specialists will discuss the above questions and more. Attend the live webinar for an opportunity

to ask questions at the end of the presentation. 10-11:30 a.m., Aug. 10. Visit hopehospice.com.

ARMCHAIR TRAVELERS-BIRDING IN PANAMA

Dave Yeaman will present a slideshow entitled "Birding in Panama" at the Civic Center Library. Mr. Yeaman will share stories of his recent trip and show 100 photos of the incredible birds and animals he saw there. 1:30 p.m., Aug. 10. Storytime Room, 1188 S. Livermore Ave.

Public Notices

THE STONE QUEENS
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 599294
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) The Stone Queens, located at 648 Division Street, Pleasanton, CA 94566, Alameda County.
This business is conducted by: an Individual.
The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):
YVETTE S HELMERS
648 Division Street, Pleasanton, Ca 94566
Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on July 12 2023. (PLW Jul 21, 28, Aug 4 and 11, 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)

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)

IDN ELECTRIC
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 599388
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) IDN Electric, located at 8132 Ensenada dr #4 Pleasanton, Ca 94566, Alameda.
This business is conducted by: an Individual.
The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):
JAKE SNYDER
8132 Ensenada dr. #4
Pleasanton, CA 94566
Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 07/17/2023
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on July 17 2023. (PLW Jul 28, Aug 4, 11 and 18, 2023)

KNPH SOLUTIONS
KNPH TECHNOLOGIES
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 599598
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) KNPH SOLUTIONS, 2.) KNPH TECHNOLOGI ES, located at 5049 Rigatti Cir, Pleasanton Ca 94588, ALAMEDA.
This business is conducted by: an Individual.
The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):
PARAG INGALE
5049 Rigatti Cir
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 July 26 2023. (PLW Aug 4, 11, 18 and 25, 2023)

ANAND'S PHOTOGRAPHY
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 599411
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) Anand's Photography, located at 576, Gyles Place, Pleasanton CA 94566, Alameda County.
This business is conducted by: an Individual.
The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):
ANAND KUMAR SANKARAN
576 Gyles Pl
Pleasanton, CA 94566
Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 07/06/2023
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on July 18 2023. (PLW Jul 28, Aug 4, 11 and 18, 2023)

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA FOR THE COUNTY OF ALAMEDA Case No.: 23CV038338
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:
Petitioner: Madison Cathryn Salis filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:
MADISON CATHRYN SALIS to MADISON CATHRYN WILLIAMS
THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.
NOTICE OF HEARING: 09/05/2023, 9:30am, Dept 14 of the Superior Court of California, County of Alameda located at 1221 Oak Street, Oakland, CA 94612.
A copy of this ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county:
PLEASANTON WEEKLY
Date: 07/17/2023
Charles A Smiley
JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT
(PLW Aug 4, 11, 18 and 25, 2023)

Employment

Safeway Inc. hiring Software Engineer V (android developer) in Pleasanton, CA. May telecommute reports to Pleasanton. Must have legal right to work in US. EOE. Subj. to bckgrnd check. \$183,310-196,500/yr. Email resume TA.Applications@albertsons.com. Attn: R. Oliver. Ref # 0620VU

Software Developers

HiPaaS, Inc. in Pleasanton, CA is seek'g Software Developers to dsgn & dvlp sw apps. Local trvl may be req'd; WFH benefit avail. Salary: \$183,310/yr. Send resumes to: HiPaaS, Inc., Attn: HR, 5890 Stoneridge Dr., Ste. 209, Pleasanton, CA 94588.

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

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA FOR THE COUNTY OF ALAMEDA Case No.: 23CV038786

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:
Petitioner: Aryaman Paul filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:
ARYAMAN PAUL to ARYAMAN AARAV PAUL
THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.
NOTICE OF HEARING: 09/05/2023, 9:30 A.M., Dept. 14 of the Superior Court of California, County of Alameda located at 1221 Oak Street, Oakland, CA, 94612.
A copy of this ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county:
PLEASANTON WEEKLY
Date: 07/24/2023
Charles A. Smiley
JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT
(PLW Aug 4, 11, 18 and 25, 2023)

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA FOR THE COUNTY OF ALAMEDA Case No.: 23CV038339

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:
Petitioner: Whitney Williams filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:
GABRIELLA ANGEL BARKER to GABRIELLA ANGEL WILLIAMS
THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.
NOTICE OF HEARING: 09/05/2023, 9:30am, Dept 14 of the Superior Court of California, County of Alameda located at 1221 Oak Street, Oakland, CA 94612.
A copy of this ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county:
PLEASANTON WEEKLY
Date: 07/17/2023
Charles A Smiley
JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT
(PLW Aug 4, 11, 18 and 25, 2023)

Place a legal notice at
PleasantonWeekly.com/legal_notices/

PET OF THE WEEK



VALLEY HUMANE SOCIETY

Be my Buddy

Buddy is bursting with boundless energy and needs an active abode with his future family! Basking in the sun is his blissful pastime. Food-motivated, he's very trainable and a splendid solo pet. Want to make Buddy your new best friend? Visit valleyhumane.org to learn more or email info@valleyhumane.org to start the adoption application process.

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Real Estate

OPEN HOME GUIDE AND REAL ESTATE LISTINGS

HOME SALES

This week's data represents homes sold during June 26-30 for Pleasanton and Livermore.

Pleasanton

- 340 Abbie Street** Souza Family Trust to Mclaughlin Living Trust for \$1,175,000
 - 5279 Crestline Way** G. & V. Singhal to Y. Zhou for \$1,972,000
 - 51 Golf Road** S. & C. Bassel to R. & T. Ding for \$1,950,000
 - 2629 Laramie Gate Circle** Depew Family Trust to O. & N. Dsouza for \$1,625,000
 - 4577 Las Lomas Drive** Skwarnicki Family Trust to Shiraz Trust for \$1,635,000
 - 2919 Liberty Drive** Alvarez Trust to S. & B. Gunadal for \$1,326,000
 - 3314 Prairie Drive** Duemling Family Trust to Amit Trust for \$2,450,000
 - 1045 Rutledge Place** M. Cordtz to K. & M. Patel for \$2,188,000
 - 5450 San Juan Way** Negron Trust to S. & S. Maddali for \$1,300,000
 - 5786 Shadow Ridge Court** Leone Family Trust to D. & N. Sims for \$3,850,000
- ### Livermore
- 1462 2nd Street** T. & R. Porter to S. & T. Rollins for \$930,000
 - 195 Albatross Avenue** Herrero Living Trust to Rapeta Trust for \$940,000
 - 6365 Altamar Circle** Fratanduono Living Trust to I. Talwar for \$1,040,000
 - 1990 Arroyo Road** Frost 2010 Trust to Livermore Vly Sports Ctr LLC for \$2,100,000
 - 253 Bellington Common #4** W. & M. Lin to L. Kramm for \$730,000

- 625 Bethal Place** R. Wullenwaber to Zca Homes LLC for \$820,000
- 1621 Bridle Path Court** C. & F. Donk to S. & K. Chhabra for \$1,275,000
- 484 Colusa Way** D. & M. Fumero to S. & K. Pacheco for \$1,075,000
- 3928 Dartmouth Way** T. & R. Corso to J. Li for \$990,000
- 2662 Decker Lane** R. & W. Patterson to Fratanduono Living Trust for \$1,625,000
- 3957 Duke Court** M. & S. Pal to Z. & J. Williams for \$935,000
- 902 El Rancho Drive** Remi LLC to T. & V. Pullepu for \$970,000
- 291 Fennel Way** C. Botto to S. Narayanan for \$1,025,000
- 2444 French Oak Place** D. & J. Belak to V. & V. Duggirala for \$2,050,000
- 1720 Holly Common** Kemp Living Trust to H. & S. Sampath for \$1,025,000
- 421 Hummingbird Lane** Kuhn Family Trust to C. & A. Farhang for \$1,275,000
- 1107 Innsbruck Street** Helping Homes Ca LLC to L. & R. Jones for \$1,575,000
- 63 Meritage Common #201** Y. Kang to M. Heredia for \$697,000
- 4172 Milton Way** Mesarchik Family Trust to V. Dua for \$1,860,000
- 3907 Pestana Way** N. & T. Plunkett to S. & J. Lemming for \$1,050,000

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.

Source: California REsource

Introducing the Ultimate Move:

Pleasanton to San Diego!

Have you ever fantasized about selling your Pleasanton home and embarking on a new chapter in the vibrant city of San Diego? Well, dreams do come true, and Tiffany is living proof! As a Realtor, and a native of Pleasanton who raised her children there, she took the leap of faith and moved her kids, business and her entire life to San Diego nearly 8 years ago.

If you find yourself going through a life transition as an empty nester and have longed to experience the wonders of San Diego, **the time to make it happen is now!**

Perhaps you're worried about how to make this monumental move or uncertain about which area suits you best. Fear not! **Give us a call today for a no-obligation consultation**, and we'll reveal how I, and other Pleasanton residents have successfully relocated to San Diego, many



of whom have used Prop. 19. We'll guide you through the entire process, ensuring a seamless and stress-free transition. Our expert team has meticulously crafted a custom game plan that will flawlessly orchestrate your entrance into this remarkable city.

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PENDING! REPRESENTED BUYERS
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THE MURTAGH TEAM

\$65M
2022 SALES VOLUME

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Kelly Mckaig



Desiree Fanucchi



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Each Office is Independently Owned and Operated.



WE LIST, WE SELL, WE CLOSE!

ESTATES OF MOHR



**3513 KAMP DRIVE,
PLEASANTON**

3 BD + OFFICE | 2.5 BA
2,624 SQ. FT. LIVING SPACE
LISTED FOR \$2,095,000

NORTHSIDE



**834 SEMINOLE DRIVE,
LIVERMORE**

3 BD | 2 BA
1,282 SQ. FT. LIVING SPACE
LISTED FOR \$999,500

VAL VISTA



**6337 SHOREWOOD COURT,
PLEASANTON**

4 BD | 2 BA
1,603 SQ. FT. LIVING SPACE
SOLD FOR \$1,403,000
REPRESENTED BUYERS

JENSEN



**4166 SCHOOL STREET,
PLEASANTON**

3 BD | 2 BA
1,300 SQ. FT. LIVING SPACE
SOLD FOR \$1,435,000

BRIDLE CREEK



**5786 SHADOW RIDGE COURT,
PLEASANTON**

6 BD | 5 BA
4,455 SQ. FT. LIVING SPACE
.39 ACRE LOT
SOLD FOR \$3,850,000

CARRIAGE ESTATES



**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 been 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

TOP GROUP SALES VOLUME



We are the TOP GROUP for closed sales volume 2 months in a row for NorCal and Hawaii!
As always, we are grateful for our amazing clients! THANK YOU!

5 Homes Closed This Week, 5 Reasons To Choose Us!



1976 Via Di Salerno, Ruby Hill
Multiple Offers!



3261 Novara Way, Ruby Hill
Sold in 7 days. Multiple Offers!



6577 Stanton Court, Pleasanton
Multiple Offers!



3119 Half Dome Drive, Pleasanton
Representing Buyers



7634 Fair Oaks Drive, Pleasanton
Representing Buyers

VenemaHomes.com | Liz@VenemaHomes.com | 925.413.6544 | 660 Main Street, Pleasanton | DRE# 01922957