

Pleasanton Weekly

Hear it 'Through the Grapevine'

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WHAT A WEEK



BY JEREMY WALSH

A 'disappointing' deal

Seeing the name of the new Facebook group jumped out at me after it was created last weekend: "Justice for Linda Susan Woodward".

We broke the sad story last year that Woodward, a 73-year-old Livermore resident, died in an area hospital from critical injuries suffered two months earlier in a car crash on North Livermore Avenue caused, according to police, by a young man fleeing from officers at high speeds.

Come to find out, the criminal case against now-20-year-old Sekou Abayomia Brandon — which includes a charge of murder for Woodward's death — toiled in the court system for more than a year with little advancement but now could be ending in a truly dispiriting manner for the victim's family.

The Alameda County District Attorney's Office has offered the defendant a plea deal to accept felony counts of vehicular manslaughter and evading police causing injury in exchange for murder and other charges to be dropped, according to Woodward's family — and because of sentencing guidelines in California, the prospect of being out of prison in 2025.

"We are not happy at all ... Just doesn't feel right," Woodward's daughter Tammi Woodward Vital told me by phone on Tuesday. "I think we always expected a plea bargain; just disappointed in the lack of time he'll be serving."

"We were in complete shock ... utter disappointment in our judicial system," Stephanie Klino, another of Woodward's three daughters, said to me.

The DA's Office declined to comment, with a spokesperson saying they couldn't do so until a potential agreement became part of the public court record. Brandon's defense attorney, Anne Beles, did not respond to my inquiry this week.

Though it seems a very likely outcome, the plea offer is not a done deal quite yet.

Brandon, who has pleaded not guilty to this point, has a court appearance scheduled for next Friday (Aug. 25) where the agreement would be presented to a judge, assuming the defendant accepts it.

That's the main reason Vital created the Facebook group, to increase public knowledge about the plea deal the family opposes and encourage people who knew their mother to write a letter to the court.

The group has also served as a

venue for people to share remembrances. So many posts reminisced about "Ms. Woodward" that I initially assumed she had been a teacher.

Woodward was certainly a recognizable face to many in the Tri-Valley, though not from the classroom. Raising her girls as a single parent in Livermore, Woodward worked for years at the post office on Black Avenue in Pleasanton before retiring.

She was also very welcoming to neighborhood kids as a parent and to her ever-growing circle of friends locally and around the world, according to her daughters. "She was just an incredible human being that treated everybody she met like family. No one was a stranger to her," Klino said.

Woodward remained very active in retirement, enjoying bicycling, hiking, playing pickleball and traveling.

She was on her way home from having foot surgery earlier that fateful day, sitting in the backseat of her car with her foot propped up while her sister Janet Garvin drove, according to Vital.

As they were in the car at the bottom of the North Livermore Avenue freeway ramp, their SUV was struck by a red Lexus that police allege was speeding at nearly 65 mph while trying to elude officers at around 3 p.m. Feb. 17, 2022. An officer positively identified the driver as Brandon, then 19, and he was arrested.

Woodward spent a significant amount of time in Eden Medical Center in Castro Valley before being transferred to Kaiser Permanente in Walnut Creek for what would be her final weeks. She would never recover from the severe internal injuries sustained in the wreck, dying on April 15, 2022. As a result, the initial charges were upgraded to include murder.

Woodward's family confirmed the rumors I heard last year — that Brandon was actually wearing an ankle monitor at the time of the crash, having been out of custody for just three months following his involvement in a robbery turned homicide as a juvenile.

While it's hard to know how, if at all, that past will factor into the judge's sentence if the plea deal comes to pass, it is certainly one of the many factors on the mind of Woodward's daughters and their supporters as they stare down the real possibility that the person responsible for their mother's death will only serve 3 years, 10 months behind bars. ■

About the Cover

Volunteer Brittany Griffin prepares a meal during Open Heart Kitchen service at the Dublin Senior Center earlier this month. Photo by Chuck Deckert. Cover design by Paul Llewellyn.

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What do you (or did you) find most challenging about being a new parent?



Eryk Gettell
Lawyer

For me, the most challenging thing about being a new parent was adjusting to my baby's sleep schedule — or not sleep, which was more often the case. Not being able to sleep through the night was so exhausting. But the sleep cycle got better over time, especially once the baby was more than 3 months old.



Samuel Lawrence
Recovery services

I would have to say it was realizing how little I actually knew about raising a child. I felt so unprepared to take care of a whole little human life that depended on us for absolutely everything. It was such a gift and an honor for us to be able to do that. Toughest job I've ever loved.



Leslie Holzman
Retired

Becoming a new mom to a 5-1/2-year-old, through adoption, was definitely a challenge. I went from having a relatively care-free life to not having a moment to myself, ever, basically overnight. It was quite an adjustment but I wouldn't change a thing.



Cynthia Smith
Research and development

It took me a while to realize that the likelihood of my daughter dying of sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS) was incredibly remote. I spent so much time watching her sleep, and not sleeping myself, because I was so afraid she was going to stop breathing during the middle of the night. (She didn't. Thank goodness. But I'm sure it wasn't because I was watching her every second.)

—Compiled by Nancy and Jeff Lewis



Mark Egeland
Retired

My son had horrible ear infections, almost constantly, for the first year and a half or so of his life. It was very difficult, and I always marveled about how I loved him so very much, even though he deprived me of so much sleep.

Have a Streetwise question? Email editor@PleasantonWeekly.com

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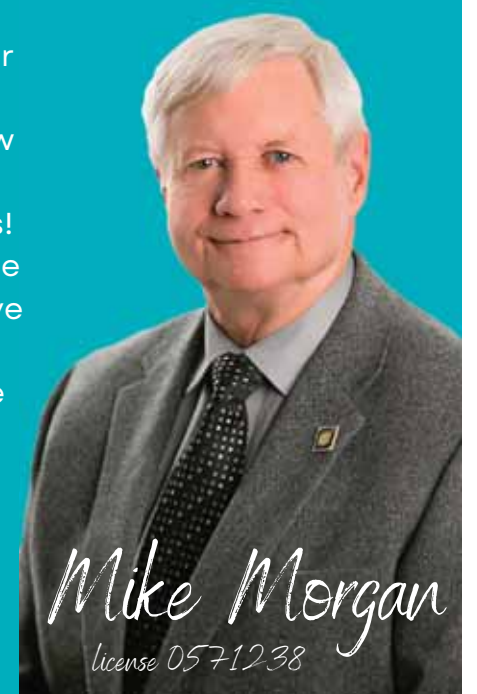


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DIGEST

Zone 7 award

The Zone 7 Water Agency has received the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada for its 2021-22 annual comprehensive financial report.

This marks the seventh year that Zone 7 has earned the award that reflects the agency's "commitment to responsible fiscal management, transparency and public accountability," according to Osborn Solitei, Zone 7's treasurer and assistant general manager of finance.

"The preparation of this annual report represents the culmination of a concerted team effort by the entire staff of the Finance and Accounting departments, Office of the General Manager, and other departmental staff, who have demonstrated their professionalism, dedication, efficiency and transparency in the preparation of this report," Solitei added.

'Unmoored' author

The Livermore Public Library is welcoming J.R. Roessl, author of the memoir "Unmoored: Coming of Age in Troubled Waters," for a presentation next Sunday (Aug. 27) at 2 p.m. in the Storytime Room at the Civic Center Library at 1188 S. Livermore Ave.

Set in the backdrop of 1960s San Francisco, the book follows a 16-year-old girl embarking with her family on a sailing trip in a boat built by their father.

"'Unmoored' is a story of adventure, revelation, and ultimately redemption. The outcome is never guaranteed, and sometimes not even the journey is a sure thing, but the discovery of resilience, strength, and most of all forgiveness is an inspiration for those who have dared to dream and thought they failed," library officials said.

Leadership Livermore

The Livermore Valley Chamber of Commerce is recruiting applicants for its 2023-24 Leadership Livermore program.

Participants will take part in monthly meetings from Oct. 24 to June 18, 2024, to help "develop their understanding of leadership roles and learn about prevailing issues within the Livermore Valley," chamber officials said.

"Leadership Livermore is a program designed to identify, train and motivate the finest current and future leaders from all segments of the Livermore community. Its aim is to prepare participants for involvement in community oriented leadership roles," they added.

The program is open to the public at a cost of \$999 for chamber members and \$1,099 for non-members. Visit business.livermorechamber.org. ■

Community crowds City Council meeting to demand better contract for police union

Stalled negotiations headed to fact-finding stage with state labor board next month

By CHRISTIAN TRUJANO

Nearly 60 Pleasanton residents, former city leaders and police officers packed Tuesday night's City Council meeting to demand that city officials settle on a fair contract with the Pleasanton Police Officers Association.

The group including retired Pleasanton Police Department Capt. Craig Eicher and former council-member Arne Olson, overworked police officers and concerned citizens showed up half an hour before the meeting, which was held at the

Operations Services Center on Busch Road, to rally and show their support for the PPOA with signs and chants.

They all had the same message to the council and city staff: pay the police officers what they deserve and end the months-long impasse in labor negotiations.

"In my 39 years as a resident, I have never witnessed the lack of support this council is showing for our Pleasanton police officers," Pleasanton resident Vicki La Barge said during public comment. "The ineffective leadership and pet project spending by this council will not go

unnoticed at the voting booth."

The PPOA 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 that as of Wednesday the union is on day 77 without a new contract.

According to the city's website, the city's offer 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.

"The city did offer a package that has a \$6.6 million value over the life of the contract," City Manager Gerry Beaudin said after roughly 20 speakers voiced their concerns during public comment. "It is the largest increase that this city has offered to the PPOA ever."

City officials said they also agreed to the PPOA's request to triple the city's contribution to employee's

See **COUNCIL** on Page 8



New school administrators honored at the LVJUSD Board of Education meeting last week were (from left) Garrett Fitch, Roxana Mohammed, Michelle Suegling, Donielle Machi, Lisa Keck, Doug D'Amour, Lauren Shiffrin and Holly Barker.

New Livermore High principal Mohammed among LVJUSD administrator transitions

Gladden returns to East Avenue Middle School

By CIERRA BAILEY

The Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District has announced Roxana Mohammed as the new principal of Livermore High School after having served as vice principal for the past 11 years.

Mohammed's promotion comes after former Livermore High principal Helen Gladden moved to fill a need at nearby East Avenue Middle School.

Earning both her Bachelor of Science in psychology and Master of Arts in educational leadership from California State University,

East Bay, Mohammed has more than 30 years of educational experience as a teacher, staff developer and vice principal preparing her for the new role as principal.

"I have a deep passion for working with young individuals and believe that as educators, we have a profound responsibility and extraordinary opportunity to both impart knowledge and make a positive impact on their lives," Mohammed said.

Gladden sat at the helm of the high school for the past four years before returning to East Avenue where she previously served as

principal during the 2015-16 and 2016-17 school years.

"Ms. Gladden brings a wealth of knowledge with her previous middle school and high school principal experience that will support student success in middle school and prepare them for high school success," LVJUSD officials said in an email.

During her tenure at Livermore High, Gladden led the campus community through distance learning, hybrid learning, a return to in-person learning, major

See **TURNOVER** on Page 6

Recall petition becomes official

Critics of DA Price file notice to collect signatures

By BAY CITY NEWS SERVICE

Opponents of Alameda County District Attorney Pamela Price have given formal notification that they intend to remove her from office.

A notice of intention to circulate a recall petition was filed Tuesday with the Alameda County Registrar of Voters' Office.

The notice, addressed to Price, said she "is failing us in her responsibility to enforce the law, prosecute criminals, and keep violent offenders off our streets."

Proponents call themselves Save Alameda

For Everyone (SAFE), defined as "a broad coalition of Alameda County residents, business owners, victims, victims' families and concerned citizens."

Price was elected in November on a platform of criminal justice reform. Her campaign office didn't immediately respond to a request for comment. Price has previously described the recall effort as coming from a Republican-backed group who "refuse to accept the results of a legitimate, democratic election to remove the status quo." ■



Pamela Price

Pleasanton couple reflect on being in Maui amid wildfires

Their condo complex now sheltering employees who lost homes last week

By JEANITA LYMAN

Two Pleasanton residents were among the numerous visitors to Maui who were caught off guard by the unexpected and catastrophic wildfires on the Hawaiian island that have drawn international attention and round-the-clock news coverage since their rapid onset last week.

Susan and Tom Fox returned home to the Tri-Valley last Friday following a two-week trip to a condo that they've owned for approximately eight years on the island they've visited regularly and loved for more than 40 years — with their vacation home now occupied by workers at the facility who lost their homes in the recent inferno.

"It's just such a beautiful place, and it's very calm and peaceful," Susan Fox told the Weekly.

Fox said that she and her husband travel to the island approximately three or four times a year on average, where they stay in the condo located approximately 10 miles north of Lahaina — a hub for visitors and

residents of the island that was effectively burned to the ground during last week's blaze and where much of the rising death toll was centered.

"It was totally shocking," Susan Fox said. "We had lost power the day before. The winds were extremely strong — we lost power on Monday through very early Tuesday. We had heard Tuesday morning that there had been a brush fire, and it had been contained was what we heard. We had no idea that Lahaina was burning."

With the power outage and loss of cellphone reception throughout the island, as well as wind blowing smoke in the opposite direction from their condo, Tom Fox said that those in that part of Maui at the time were likely some of the last to find out about the fires as the story rapidly spread throughout national and international media outlets.

"There was no power anywhere, so outside of Maui you all saw pictures and got news reports before we did," Tom Fox said.

"We just knew Wednesday

morning when the employees came in crying because they had lost their homes," Susan Fox said.

As the only property owners in the condo at the time of the fires, and as longtime visitors to the island, the couple said they had known employees at the facility for years.

While their property was unscathed, Susan Fox said that the destruction in Lahaina was painful for everyone with connections to the island, visitors and residents alike.

"That's such a historic town," Susan Fox said. "I think everyone who comes to Maui eventually goes there."

Among the historic sites lost in the fire was Waiola Church — built on the site of a mission that was first established 200 years ago this year — where the couple had long attended services, and where their building manager, Anela Rosa, was a pastor.

While the Foxes said they plan to return to the island to visit and help support their friends and acquaintances when feasible, Susan Fox said that the community would need a



SUSAN FOX

Lahaina, roughly 10 miles south of the Foxes' condo, was a hub for visitors and residents on Maui and the center of destruction and the rising death toll from the wildfires that broke out on Aug. 8 and proceeded to wreak havoc on the island.

break from casual tourists in the immediate future.

"Nobody should go there and gawk," Susan Fox said. "They need to help their own people."

Susan Fox added that she and her husband were keeping in contact with their friends and acquaintances on the island, and waiting to hear

what help they need firsthand, rather than seeking to provide relief through an organization. However, they pointed to the Hawai'i Community Foundation's Maui Strong Fund as a well-respected and recommended source to donate to. More information is available at hawaiicommunityfoundation.org/maui-strong. ■

TURNOVER

Continued from Page 5

construction and a successful accreditation review, according to the school district website.

East Avenue's previous principal, Jesse Hansen, resigned at the end of last school year to pursue other opportunities, according to the district.

Lisa Keck has taken on the vice principal position vacated by Mohammed at Livermore High.

Keck is in her 29th year in education, having worked in both New

York and California as a teacher, vice principal and elementary and middle school principal. "I look forward to working with the LHS team to provide students with the kinds of educational opportunities and support they need for success," Keck said.

Many other LVJUSD students will also be welcomed to campus by new administrators when school starts next week.

At Joe Michell TK-8 School, Donielle Machi has taken the wheel as principal.

Machi previously taught at Joe

Michell before her most recent role as vice principal at Junction Avenue TK-8 School. She brings with her more than 20 years of educational experience to lead the International Baccalaureate (IB) school.

In a statement, Machi expressed excitement for her new position.

"I look forward to building upon Michell's strong foundation of IB curriculum and culture of kindness, respect, and acceptance. We hope to shape not only exceptional students, but also exceptional human beings who will make a

positive impact in the world," she said.

Machi's transition back to Joe Michell left a vice principal position open at Junction that has been filled by Lauren Shiffrin.

Shiffrin's decade-long career in education started in Chicago and includes experience in both elementary and secondary teaching and special education. Most recently, Shiffrin served as an assistant principal in the Morgan Hill Unified School District.

At Marilyn Avenue STEAM Academy — formerly known as Marylin Avenue Elementary School — former teacher Holly Barker will work alongside principal Joe Meunier as the STEAM Magnet program coordinator.

District officials said Barker's more than 16 years as an educator will be instrumental in collaborating with teachers and staff to develop and implement a new educational magnet program focused on science, technology, engineering, art and math.

Former San Ramon Valley Unified School District administrator Garrett Fitch has joined the Mendenhall Middle School team as vice principal.

Fitch's move to LVJUSD follows his resignation from his assistant principal role at Charlotte Wood Middle School in Danville ahead of this academic year.

"While this was an incredibly difficult decision, I am confident it is the right one for me and my family," Fitch wrote in a message to the Charlotte Wood community at the time of his resignation. "We live in Livermore, and this will allow me to work in the school district my kids are going through, and more importantly, will shrink my

commute to and from work to an amazing 5 minutes!"

Ahead of starting his new journey at LVJUSD's largest middle school, Fitch said that he is "eager to build meaningful connections with staff, students and parents so that we can work collectively to help our students achieve at the highest level."

Vineyard Alternative School also has a new vice principal. Michelle Seugling brings her experience as a former elementary and middle school teacher and educational technology instructional coach to serve in the role at Vineyard, which offers independent study, hybrid learning and dual-enrollment educational models for students in grades K-12.

At the district level, Doug D'Amour joins LVJUSD as director of fiscal services.

D'Amour's most recent role as director of financial systems support for the Alameda County Office of Education included leading the implementation of financial system projects for 10 ACOE school districts.

Prior to his time at ACOE, D'Amour worked as an account manager and fiscal director for San Leandro Unified School District and Emery Unified School District, respectively.

"When change occurs, we are pleased to be able to both promote from within our organization and embrace new administrators who bring fresh perspectives to our District," Superintendent Chris Van Schaack said of all the transitions. "We look forward to all of our leaders collaborating with District and site staff as they work towards their common goals for student success this year." ■



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AVBotz earn fifth place at 2023 RoboSub competition

Team ranks in top five at international tournament for second year in a row

By JOSEPH CHIU

Amador Valley High School's robotics team finished in fifth place at this year's international RoboSub competition, where teams battled to create an autonomous underwater vehicle (AUV) that completes tasks to its best ability.

In all, 35 high school and collegiate programs from five different countries competed at NIWC Pacific's TRANSDEC in San Diego from July 31 to Aug. 6.

AVBotz team members drove down to San Diego for the seven-day competition to embark on their long-awaited opportunity together. They embraced the journey and worked hard with one another through the ups and downs, as they knew all the long nights and time spent in a garage working on the project would eventually pay off, according to team representatives.

"The fact that we met so often during the school year and especially the summer, I think just shows everyone's sheer dedication to this one project," Craig Wang, vice president of software, told the Weekly. "Everyone has different motivations for why they are in this club, but we all share the same vision of preparing the robot to be as amazing as it can be. This beautiful outpouring of effort into one facet is what makes this project so rewarding and unique in my eyes."

During the competition, however, unexpected software and hardware issues abruptly led to three grueling days of fixing and replacing different parts of the electrical system, with some members "pulling several all-nighters" in the process. As a result of the submarine's issues, the team scored low during the semifinal runs, with team morale hitting rock-bottom, according to Wang.

Thinking they'd been eliminated, the team later discovered that everyone was granted one more opportunity in a "Third Chance Round" to gain more points, and their last chance to climb up the rankings. Despite running on multiple backup components, AVBotz capitalized by scoring almost 5,000 points to qualify for the finals.

From there, the team regained hope and put up a solid finals run en route to their ensuing fifth-place finish.

"Even though we did not place No. 1 as I had initially hoped, I am still very proud of what we accomplished because of our resiliency to continue pushing even when hardware failures brought us on the verge of elimination in the competition," Eaton Huang, vice president of electrical, told the Weekly. "The fact that we were able to still solidify a top five spot in RoboSub speaks of many all-nighters and long grueling hours of debugging and recreating our

entire motor control last minute."

Over the past year, AVBotz members dedicated themselves to the program and shared the same goal of successfully preparing their submarine for RoboSub 2023, following the club's second-place finish in 2022.

"I cannot express with words how grateful I am to have worked with this group of dedicated and enthusiastic students," Huang said. "I don't think I could have ever spent my final high school moments with a better group of students and friends. The times I've spent with this team are one of the most memorable things I will remember for the rest of my life."

"Continue showing dedication to the club," Wang said in a final message to next year's team, adding:

"We've shown time and time again that the amount of resources,



The AVBotz team with their customized banner and \$1,000 check to the club following their fifth-place showing at RoboSub 2023.

knowledge, or talent does not necessarily matter. Instead, the most important predictor of success is how much dedication the team shows, including the time spent during the

year, the time spent during the summer, and early-morning and late-night testing the team consistently conducts to get to their goal. It starts from dedication to the submarine

and dedication to one's craft, that really makes this club blossom and shine as a unique opportunity for high school students to work on this kind of tech. Good luck!" ■

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County approves 47-acre cemetery planned for north Livermore

Supervisors also deny appeals by city, community groups opposing project

By CIERRA BAILEY

The Alameda County Board of Supervisors voted last week to approve a new 47-acre cemetery planned for unincorporated north Livermore that had already received a green light from the county's Planning Commission.

Additionally, the board rejected an appeal by the city of Livermore and a joint appeal by community groups Friends of Livermore and Friends of Vineyards and Open Space. Both challenges sought to overturn the commission's decision to move the project forward last December, citing violations of Measure D — an initiative first passed by voters in 2000 that aims to preserve agricultural land and open space in eastern Alameda County.

An amendment to Measure D was passed by voters in the November 2022 general election to allow more flexibility for the size and location of certain agriculture-related buildings and expand permitted wine country visitor-serving uses. However, opponents of the cemetery project argue that the planned mortuary building and funeral pavilion are urban uses not permitted outside the urban growth boundary of Measure D.

Proposed by developers Monte Vista Memorial Investment Group LLC, the project is set to be developed at 3656 Las Colinas Road, situated between the North Livermore Avenue and North First Street exits. It will include a funeral home, burial areas and associated

services, including a crematorium and mortuary.

The cemetery, aptly named Monte Vista Memorial Gardens, would mostly serve all religions and accommodate the needs of several multicultural communities; however, roughly five acres will be specifically designed for the Jewish community. This area, called the Magen David section, will include a mausoleum designed in the shape of the Star of David.

The Board of Supervisors planning meeting on Aug. 10 was a continuation from a June meeting when the board directed the developers to revise the plans to scale down the building sizes not to exceed a maximum of 12,000 square feet to comply with Measure D.

Despite the building size

reductions, the appellants and other opponents of the project argued during the meeting that the project's building footprint still exceeded 12,000 square feet due to the mausoleum structures in the initial proposal, which they believe to be buildings and should be treated as such.

Opponents also argued that a funeral home is not agriculture related or compatible with agriculture and that funeral homes and cemeteries are separate and distinct uses, among other concerns.

The developers insisted that their goal by including a funeral home, mortuary and crematorium in the plans was to align with industry trends that indicate people prefer one-stop-shop experiences — especially for handling end-of-life

services — than having to travel to multiple different places. They said that convenience and less time spent on the road is generally more desirable to people.

With Supervisors Lena Tam and Keith Carson absent, the remaining members — David Haubert, Nate Miley and Elisa Márquez — deliberated during the meeting about whether the mausoleum structures fall under the category of buildings.

County zoning law defines "buildings" as "any structure erected for the support, shelter or enclosure of persons, animals or property." According to the appellants, human remains are property that would make mausoleums and columbaria qualify as buildings.

However, other commenters who support the project argued that it would be a reach to determine that a structure with no walls, no utilities and no restrooms is a building. Miley said he leaned more toward

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COUNCIL

Continued from Page 5

retiree health savings accounts and to provide an additional 5% premium pay for specific departmental assignments.

"That is a commitment from this organization to our police officers and with that, we would be within 3% of the mean, which is the city's compensation philosophy ... this contract does that," Beaudin said.

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.

Eicher, who has an extensive history of being on both sides of the negotiations table including six months as interim police chief, told the dais that low wages also lead to retention issues, which translates into new police officers using the city as a training ground so that they get the experience needed to transfer to a city with better compensation.

"One of the problems I see here is that the city has allowed officer pay to get so low, that it's taking a lot of money to get it caught back up," Eicher said. "Low compensation is going to give you exactly what you're trying to avoid. If you don't get the right officers in to do the job, you're

going to impact the organization and you're not going to like the outcome."

Several current members of the PPOA and longtime residents also stood in front of the dais and pleaded for the council to end what they said would be a long and contentious contract negotiation process by meeting the union's request for higher, competitive wages.

"In collective bargaining when we open a session, both sides indicate their goals," PPOA President Brian Jewell said. "One of the city's stated goals was to keep our pay in the median or above of our 10 comparable cities. This has always been the city policy and a point on which we agree. The city's last offer did not do that. If accepted, we would continue to be at the bottom."

Following the news that mediation efforts to reach an agreement between both parties failed back in July, Beaudin told the crowd that the California Public Employment Relations Board will be conducting a fact-finding on Sept. 26 and Sept. 27. Fact-finding is when a qualified, impartial third party makes written

findings of fact and recommendations for resolution of an impasse.

He added that on top of the fact that the city has an obligation to maintain the job positions of officers who are currently out on either sick or injury leave, Pleasanton cannot do what many of the speakers asked for, which was to use other funds for capital improvement projects, to go toward paying police officers.

"Those are different dollars,"

Beaudin explained. "We don't have the ability to use one-time money for salaries and benefits because those are recurring costs. Once they're in the contract, they're in the contract forever and we want to make sure that we're being good fiscal stewards and financial stewards for the community and for the organization. We're not interested in running deficits and getting into contracts that we can't afford." ■



CHUCK DECKERT

A group of Pleasanton residents stand along Busch Road with their signs that outline their demands for the city provide a fair contract to the police union.

THE CITY OF PLEASANTON

HIGHLIGHTS

Civic Arts Commission Special Meeting

Monday, August 21, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.
Remillard Conference Room Operations Service Center – 3333 Busch Road

- Review and Approve Letter from Civic Arts Commission to City Council Providing Feedback on Citywide Strategic Plan Project

Planning Commission Special Meeting

Wednesday, August 23, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.
Remillard Conference Room Operations Service Center – 3333 Busch Road

- P19-0379, Terry Townsend, 1 Brozozky Hill Lane – Work session to review and provide comments on an application for Planned Unit Development (PUD) development plan approval to subdivide an approximately 20-acre site with up to four lots, consisting of three new single-family lots for custom homes and one lot containing the existing residence located at 1 Brozozky Hill Lane
- PUD-148, Meenu Gochhwal, 2207 Martin Avenue – Application to establish development standards for an existing single-family residence located at 2207 Martin Avenue

City Council Workshop

Thursday, August 24, 2023 at 9 a.m.
Remillard Conference Room Operations Service Center – 3333 Busch Road

- Citywide Strategic Planning Workshop

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Dr Inning Chen

Optometrist

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Congressmen hold joint town hall meeting in Dublin

Swalwell, DeSaulnier answer resident questions, share updates on happenings in D.C.

By JOSIE DE LA TORRE

U.S. Reps. Mark DeSaulnier (D-Concord) and Eric Swalwell (D-Livermore) recently hosted a joint town hall session at Shannon Community Center in Dublin for an in-person discussion sharing their current political efforts and holding a Q&A with residents from their respective districts.

With an audience of nearly 300 people on July 31, Swalwell and DeSaulnier answered questions on issues, including transportation, education, climate change, the war in Ukraine and Social Security.

The joint town hall between the two representatives comes after the redistricting of their district boundaries by splitting west Dublin to Swalwell and east Dublin to DeSaulnier, instead of all in the same district.

Swalwell acknowledged hardships of everyday working Americans experiencing record-high inflation, supply chain issues and the cost of living going up but also news of record unemployment rates as jobs are being created and inflation starting

to come down. He said his main priorities are addressing the increasing costs of prescription drugs, health care costs, and the costs of education and living.

"We are doing all we can with the votes we take, the legislation we invest in, to make sure we work hard. If you work hard, it adds up to you doing better for yourself and dreaming bigger," Swalwell said.

DeSaulnier talked about how both houses passed investments for infrastructure for half a trillion dollars, along with the "biggest investment in the transition of fossil fuels to clean alternative fuels."

"We in the Bay Area, in this corridor, the recipients of much of that because we have been ahead of the rest of the country in most of these things," DeSaulnier said.

When asked about homelessness, Swalwell shared his story of helping a family member get off the streets and become rehabilitated. Both Swalwell and DeSaulnier acknowledged that homelessness has gone exponentially higher the past few years.

"First rule is no one is invisible, no

person is invisible because of their station in life and we, I believe in government, have to make sure that our streets are safe for businesses in the community, that they are safe for pedestrians and consumers in the community. And that the people who have addiction, mental health or drug addiction are able to find the resources they need," Swalwell said.

"That's where I believe spending less on defense, spending more on targeted health care, mental health care and drug addiction go a long way," Swalwell added.

Both representatives expressed pride and gratitude for the program they worked on to help individuals going through a mental health crisis.

"We have a number, 988 — instead of 911 — where you call and will receive a response from a professional about your mental health," Swalwell said.

One question from the audience was how to ensure transportation that is "dependable, affordable, and accessible for the Tri-Valley?"

"It's a struggle; we want to do Valley Link," DeSaulnier said.

He compared mass transit

commuters of London and New York to be much higher than the Bay Area and believes BART needs to do better for commuters. Both DeSaulnier and Swalwell stated they wrote letters to legislators expressing their opposition to increasing bridge tolls as it would affect the working class the most. The extra finances, if the toll increase is approved, would go to cover BART expenses amid dwindling ridership revenue during and after the COVID-19 pandemic.

Swalwell said he supports Valley Link, the proposed commuter light rail system to connect San Joaquin County and Livermore to the Dublin-Pleasanton BART Station, as its goal is to reduce cars on the road and reduce emissions.

"The goal is to have people spend less time in their cars and more time with their families," the congressman said.

Regarding the topic of education on funding public schools instead of private schools, DeSaulnier argued that investing and supporting public education is most beneficial.

"If you invest and get good teachers and get good counselors, kids do better. We also have a tremendous community college system in California. And of course, the CSU and UC system," he said.

The subject of Social Security was asked from the audience about whether changes to Social Security or Medicare will affect those in their 60s. DeSaulnier pointed to obstruction and other challenges in the House toward working for a compromise but it is manageable with wealthier people contributing more.

Swalwell and DeSaulnier ended the town hall by meeting people from the audience to answer questions and take photos. ■

CEMETERY

Continued from Page 8

the side that the structures are buildings while Márquez's feelings aligned more with the opposite.

While the board did not formally assert its interpretation of what a building is, the version of the project that the supervisors approved eliminates the above-ground mausoleum structures altogether and

instead requires below-ground interment with trellis framing the area designed in the same Star of David shape, which was among the proposals presented by the developer as a compromise.

To further protect the ridgelines around the project site, the approved version also increases the conservation easement from 15 to 18 acres to approximately 25 acres, with the exact size pending a

consultation between the developers and the Tri-Valley Conservancy.

Now that the project has been approved, development is set to occur in two phases. The Phase I buildout would occur over approximately five years. Phase II buildout would occur over approximately 100 years and would be developed in subphases based on future demand and other development and regulatory factors. ■

TRI-VALLEY REACH
Tickets: www.trivalleyreach.org/events/

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6PM • MCGRAIL VINEYARD

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— Second Place, Editorial Comment

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

— First Place, Feature Story

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Pleasanton Weekly

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Community Pulse

POLICE BULLETIN

Man shot after road rage near Pleasanton dies in hospital

A Manteca man died at a local hospital from injuries sustained one week earlier in a shooting that was apparently precipitated by a road-rage exchange beginning on the freeway near Pleasanton and continuing east all the way into Tracy.

The Tracy Police Department confirmed last Friday that the victim, 61-year-old Ryan Wood, succumbed to his injuries earlier that day.

As a result, the defendants arrested in the case — Lodi residents Eduardo Tarvin, 23, and Jacob Nevarez, 21 — had their primary charge upgraded from attempted murder to murder, according to police.

“These two suspects have allegedly been responsible for several road rage/weapon brandishing incidents in the area over the past few months. We are asking anyone who has been a victim of these incidents, or has information about them, to contact us,” police said on Friday.

The now-deadly encounter unfolded on the afternoon of Aug. 4. Tracy police units were called to the 700 block of West Clover Road just before 2:45 p.m. on multiple reports of shots fired. Officers arrived to find a man — later identified as Wood — suffering from life-threatening injuries.

Wood was transported from the scene to an area hospital on the day of the shooting, and he would succumb to those critical injuries on Aug. 11, police said.

As their investigation developed on the afternoon of the shooting, police learned the impetus for the violence was likely a road-rage exchange between the victim and the occupants of another vehicle that began some 30 miles away on Interstate 580 near Pleasanton and continued via I-205 into the Tracy area, where the gunfire occurred.

Although the suspect vehicle left the scene, officers located it on I-205 soon after that afternoon and arrested two occupants, identified as Tarvin and Nevarez.

Police revealed on Friday that in addition to vital information from witnesses, the department’s automated license plate reader technology helped officers identify and locate the suspects within 15 minutes of the shooting.

Investigators are still looking for witnesses with information about the homicide case, as well as potential past road-rage violence involving the defendants. People can contact Detective Brian Azevedo at Brian.Azevedo@TracyPD.com or 209-831-6534 or Tracy Crime Stoppers at 209-831-4847 or text TIPTPD to 274637.

—Jeremy Walsh

In other news

- Authorities are continuing to investigate the circumstances surrounding a call to a Danville home last week in which an adult and two children were found dead at the scene in what the sheriff’s office has described as an apparent murder-suicide.

The Contra Costa County Sheriff’s Office has confirmed the identities of the three decedents as 44-year-old Danville resident Nemanja Isailovic, 13-year-old Danville resident Evelyn Isailovic and 11-year-old Danville resident Amelia Isailovic.

Few details about the circumstances of the apparent murder-suicide have been revealed publicly, with the sheriff’s office saying the investigation is still active.

The scene was first discovered by Danville Police Department officers, who responded at approximately 5:20 p.m. Aug. 9 to a home on the 100 block of Larkwood Circle in the south of town near Greenbrook Elementary School and the Iron Horse Regional Trail.

Police entered the residence to find the three unresponsive people, who were then confirmed to be dead by firefighters, according to sheriff’s officials.

The sheriff’s office is continuing an active investigation into the case, with no additional information available as of press time Wednesday. Among the questions unanswered publicly by sheriff’s officials are the relationship between the three decedents and who the assailant was in the murder-suicide.

Investigators are asking anyone with information to submit tips via tips@so.cccounty.us or by calling 866-846-3592.

—Jeanita Lyman and Jeremy Walsh

- The BART Police Department announced they are looking to recruit 28 new members to fill vacant positions after their Board of Directors agreed to increase the salaries of their police officers.

The transit police agency said in a news release last week that their board and general manager have also committed to adding 19 more officer positions once the department fills all current vacancies.

BART police said they seek to hire six new officers a month starting in August.

Their recruitment in July attracted 65 prospects, of whom 21 immediately applied to take the Police Department’s written and physical exams, according to BART police.

Those interested can check out the BART Police Department’s employment page at bart.gov/about/police/employment.

—Bay City News Service

- Dublin police say there’s a scammer on the loose, identifying themselves as a sergeant with the Alameda County Sheriff’s Office.

Police said on Aug. 8 that a Dublin resident reported receiving a phone call from the person asking for money. The resident called the real police and was told it was a fraud.

Detectives are investigating this incident and trying to identify a suspect. Dublin police ask residents to contact the police department at 925-833-6670 upon receiving a call suspected of being a scam or if someone appears to be impersonating a police officer.

Those who suspect they’ve already received a call from 510-941-0249, or any number from someone claiming to be from law enforcement and asking for money, should call police at 925-462-1212. People in unincorporated Alameda County should call 510-667-7721.

—Bay City News Service

- The owners and operators of Fast and Easy gas stations will pay \$1.1 million to settle an environmental protection action with five counties in the greater Bay Area, Napa County’s District Attorney’s Office said last week.

Fast and Easy defendants allegedly violated state laws meant to prevent underground petroleum contamination of surface and ground waters at gas stations in Napa, Alameda, Lake, San Joaquin and Yolo counties, prosecutors said on Aug. 7.

The defendants allegedly did not adequately install, monitor, operate and calibrate on-site equipment intended to promptly detect petroleum leaks, and also breached laws regulating hazardous wastes and materials at gas stations.

The defendants, Aasim Corporation, Aasim Enterprises, Inc., Ashraf Ali, Yasmin Ali, Samir Ali, Shafique Bhimani, and Mohammed Bilal, must pay a total of \$1.1 million in civil penalties and investigative costs.

As part of the settlement, the defendants face a permanent statewide injunction prohibiting them from violating underground storage tank and hazardous waste laws. The settlement also requires them to employ an experienced, independent environmental consultant to ensure compliance with these measures at all stations.

“Underground fuel leaks pose a significant threat to Napa County’s groundwater supply and to the environment,” Napa County District Attorney Allison Haley said. “This case illustrates the importance of keeping our water supply safe from pollution by holding companies that fail to monitor and maintain their underground storage tanks accountable.”

The judgment was entered in Yolo County Superior Court. ■

—Bay City News Service

POLICE REPORT

The Pleasanton Police Department made the following information available.

Aug. 10

Disturbing the peace

- 3:53 a.m. on the 5700 block of Johnson Drive

Burglary

- 9:03 a.m. on the 9100 block of Longview Drive

Vandalism

- 2:34 p.m. on the 3500 block of Vineyard Avenue

Warrant arrest

- 2:39 p.m. on the 4800 block of Bernal Avenue

Catalytic converter theft

- 7:17 p.m. on the 3100 block of Santa Rita Road

- 7:32 p.m. on the 6000 block of Johnson Drive

Aug. 9

Fraud

- 8:59 a.m. on the 8100 block of Canyon Creek Circle

Theft

- 10:01 a.m., 1100 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting

- 10:56 a.m. on the 700 block of Rose Avenue

- 4:58 p.m. on the 4200 block of Rosewood Road

Warrant arrest

- 4:55 p.m. on the 4300 block of Hacienda Drive

Aug. 8

Drug violation

- 8:04 a.m. on the 5100 block of Hopyard Road

Trespassing/prowling

- 8:45 a.m. on the 3000 block of Valley Avenue

Embezzlement

- 12:00 p.m. on the 1300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

Theft

- 3:03 p.m. on the 3400 block of Andrews Drive

Weapons violation

- 6:44 p.m. on the 3000 block of Bernal Avenue

Linda Googins

July 29, 1944 – June 16, 2023

Linda Googins passed away peacefully on June 16th, in the family cabin in South Lake Tahoe, at the age of 78. She is survived by her sister Lonna VanMeter, as well as her three children and families: Brad Googins, wife Milena and children, Alexandria and Brock; Sean Googins, wife Racquel and children, Audrey and Jacquelyn; Tiffany Westhoff, husband Paul and children, Kayne (wife Leighanna expecting) and Peter.



Linda was born in Raleigh, North Carolina on July 29th. She graduated with a Bachelor of Arts Degree from Chico State University, in education. Following that accomplishment, she grew into a remarkable and distinguished teacher for many years in the Pleasanton school district, then again in the Fairfield/Vacaville area. She loved teaching, always pouring her heart and soul into every class she had the honor of leading. Her passion for teaching students touched the lives of many during her illustrious teaching career.

While raising her three children and pursuing her career in teaching, Linda was also intensively involved in sports as a coach, manager, scorekeeper, cheerleader, well informed fan, and the best ‘team mom’ anyone could have asked for. She had a passion for sports, and put her all into the activities, be it her children’s, grandchildren’s, or anyone associated with her teams, as well. She always went out of her way to make sure everyone got to where they needed to go for their practices/ games and that they all knew she would be there, cheering them on from the sidelines.

In recent years, Linda found peace from being at the family cabin, on our little street in South Lake Tahoe, where she was able to express her creativity and remarkable artistic abilities in a place she was comfortably close to nature and the memory of her parents. She loved watching the bears migrate up and down the hill from her windows and kept the family up to date with the snow levels each winter, as well as pictures of new bear cubs in the spring. Every wall was filled, creatively, with colorful memories of family and friends by Linda... Enduring treasures of a life filled with love by her example.

Date and time of services are still to be determined by the family. An email address has been created (see below) for those who would like to attend services for Linda or send condolences. All correspondence is appreciated and shall receive a response from the family.

lindagooginsmemorial@gmail.com

PAID OBITUARY

Fighting hunger

HOW OPEN HEART KITCHEN SERVES THE TRI-VALLEY



Open Heart Kitchen senior meal volunteer Debbie Orecchia ladles soup during service at the Pleasanton Senior Center.

STORY BY NICOLE GONZALES | PHOTOS BY CHUCK DECKERT

A nonprofit organization based in Livermore is addressing food insecurity and malnutrition throughout the entire Tri-Valley one meal at a time. And with a recent facility upgrade and several new initiatives in the works, Open Heart Kitchen plans to build upon its services for years to come.

Founded in 1995 with the goal of distributing food and meals to individuals and families in need in the area, the nonprofit continues to grow and tailor its outreach services to better serve the community.

Current Executive Director John Bost began his role in January of this year. Bost had been a volunteer with the organization since 2010 after hearing about it through a friend.

“Over the course of the last decade, I’ve had the opportunity to volunteer in a number of roles and at different locations throughout the Tri-Valley,” Bost told the Weekly in a recent interview. “When I stepped into the executive director role, I already felt as though I knew almost everyone on staff and many of the long-time volunteers. It felt like coming home.”

It’s estimated that since its inception, Open Heart Kitchen has served over 7 million meals — 3 million of those meals were served at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic from 2020 to 2022.

Last year alone, OHK served over 450,000 meals.

“We anticipate the day when we will measure our success not by how many meals we served

but by how many individuals we helped transition into realizations of self-sufficiency who no longer need our service,” Bost said.

“Every meal we can place in someone’s hands means income that can be put toward important things like prescription medication, child care, utility bills, rent and transportation,” he added. “We know that by the time people show up in our line it’s because they have cut back on food — eating less, not eating at all or eating less nutrient-dense meals.”

Denise Boulter, OHK development director, described the robust food preparation and distribution process that the organization takes on every day.

“Meals are prepared and cooked with fresh ingredients in our main production kitchen starting at 6 a.m. (Then) our delivery driver picks up the meals midmorning five days a week and delivers them to service sites throughout the Tri-Valley,”

Boulter said. “Hot meals and senior meals are served at the Robert Livermore Community Center. Senior meals are also available at the Pleasanton Senior Center and Dublin Senior Center.”

As part of its Street Outreach Program, the nonprofit delivers hot meals to approximately 18 to 25 encampment sites in the region.

“Groceries are distributed at two pop-up locations in Dublin and Pleasanton on Tuesdays and Thursdays each week,” Boulter added.

As development director, Boulter’s key role is to bring in funding support from donors so that OHK can deliver on its mission.

‘We know that by the time people show up in our line it’s because they have cut back on food.’

**John Bost,
OHK executive director**



Above: Martin Valderrama prepares green beans as part of the Danville kitchen production team.

Right: OHK assistant chef Gerardo Lopez seasons meat during meal prep





Above: OHK Executive Director John Bost (left) leads a tour of the Vineyard 2.0 construction site. Top left: OHK site supervisor Linda Roe checks in a visitor to the Pleasanton Senior Center. Bottom left: OHK's menu for a lunch service.

"Every nonprofit is faced with hard decisions of when, where and how to grow and expand to meet the ever-growing and changing needs of the community," he said. "The addition of the Open Heart Food

Bank was simply a logical next step for us."

Bost added, "We have a lot to learn from our Alameda County Community Food Bank partnership but are confident that we'll have the capacity to redistribute tens of thousands of pounds of fresh produce and groceries to local agency partners in our first several years of operation."

The Open Heart Food Bank has set the goal of redistributing 1 million pounds of food annually within the first decade of its operation.

"The new facilities — the Vineyard 2.0 Project and the Open Heart Food Bank — are game changers in our work to provide equitable access to food," Boulter said. "Also, our program staff has done an excellent job of redesigning our menus to include vegetarian meals and offer more culturally diverse options."

"The Open Heart Food Bank will be a food redistribution center for the Tri-Valley, giving easier access to other small, local pantries and being prepared to act as a receiving and distribution location in the event of a disaster," she added.

Boulter and Bost each shared positive sentiments about working with OHK, their volunteers and client base.

"We value respect and dignity for everyone that we serve and interact with, whether you are a donor, a client or a volunteer. It's important to me that anyone who interacts with Open Heart Kitchen is treated with kindness and feels valued," Boulter said.

"I'm energized by being part of a multi-talented team of individuals who all bring something unique to the table in our collective fight against food insecurity," Bost added. "This organization has been at this impactful work

'The new facilities ... are game changers in our work to provide equitable access to food'

Denise Boulter,
OHK development director

for almost 30 years now and keeps exploring ways to provide equitable access to nutritious meals while building a food-secure tomorrow."

OHK is also gearing up for a major fundraising gala to celebrate the work OHK has done and raise awareness for their programs.

Complete with live music, food and auctions, Heart of the Tri-Valley Gala will take place Sept. 8 at the Palm Event Center in Pleasanton.

The group continues to adapt its outreach work and programs year after year.

"We are actively working to rebuild our volunteer base to better meet the growing needs of our programs," Boulter said. "With rising food prices and the end of emergency COVID-19 funding, my hope is that our supporters continue to see the value in helping Open Heart Kitchen meet our clients' needs and collectively fighting hunger together."

To find out more information about the gala event or OHK programs, visit openheartkitchen.org. ■



From left: Cynthia Artinyan, Marla Ullom and Barbara Miller are members of OHK's Street Outreach Team.

Boulter said this year, OHK's goal is to raise \$3.7 million, plus another \$3 million for the launch of the Open Heart Food Bank.

As for the future, OHK has no plans to slow down or limit their services.

"One of the big steps is the near-complete Vineyard 2.0 facility at 450 N. Livermore Ave. in Livermore. This is a multimillion-dollar facility that was the dream of all three Tri-Valley cities and a whole village of nonprofit agencies and for-profit partners," Bost shared. "The facility is one-half residential and the other half a resource center for unsheltered folks and people, in general, who are in socially and economically vulnerable situations."

The new facility will host OHK's new kitchen, dining room, emergency overnight shelter and various other amenities such as laundry, showers, mailboxes and case management support.

Bost said the group is hopeful the project will come online later this year or early 2024.

Additionally, OHK recently secured a 19,000-square-foot warehouse in Livermore to be home to the first-ever Open Heart Food Bank. The move was made possible through a partnership with the Alameda County Community Food Bank.

In 2022, OHK was selected to be the county food bank's redistribution partner in the Tri-Valley, resulting in added support and funding.

"This effort will allow Open Heart to create a smaller, more efficient, accessible and localized food support system to store and redistribute food and fresh produce to agencies whose mission is to get food into the hands of community members," Bost said. "We're hopeful that construction for the infrastructure buildout for the Open Heart Food Bank will begin this fall."

Hear it 'Through The Grapevine'

Local podcast spotlights small business, wine culture in Livermore Valley

By **CIERRA BAILEY**

Two sommeliers and a gym owner walk into a recording studio ... There's no punchline, they are the actual voices behind the locally produced podcast, "Through The Grapevine".

While the true origins of the show were a little more complex, the organic chemistry between hosts Jeremy Troupe-Masi, Savannah Vento-Chun and Matt Souza certainly gives listeners the sense that it was that simple.

The trio is regularly joined by chefs, farmers, winemakers, community leaders and small business owners based in the Tri-Valley and the greater Bay Area for in-depth conversations about all things hospitality and entrepreneurship.

They spotlight the movers and shakers of the region while helping to bridge the gap between the historic wine country and the newer, bustling downtown business community. "In a lot of ways hospitality touches so many different businesses, it doesn't have to exist in just food and beverage," Vento-Chun said, noting that small business in particular relies heavily on building relationships with consumers.

"When you are a small business you care about the community around you. It's what separates you from a big corporate entity, is that you genuinely give back to your community and you care about it," she said.

First launched in 2019, the podcast has featured several guests well-known to the Livermore community including Aimee and Bryan Wingen of Wingen Bakery, Phil Long of Longevity Wines, Karl Wente of Wente Vineyards, Aurora Nava of Flaca's Salsa and more recently, AJ

Wright of AJ's Bike Service, among many others.

Troupe-Masi — who is also the director of hospitality for Darcie Kent Vineyards and creator of the JTM In The Kitchen line of spice blends — is one of the founders of the podcast and the only one of the current hosts who has been involved since the very beginning.

A Livermore resident, sommelier and hospitality professional, Troupe-Masi told the Weekly the show started out largely focused on the Livermore Valley wine industry and aimed to expand the region's reach and establish a stronger identity as a destination for wine enthusiasts of all types.

In the early days, Collin Cranor, winemaker and owner of Nottingham Cellars, was a founding host of the show along with Troupe-Masi and former Nottingham brand manager Jason Montero.

It was the first podcast venture for all three of them, according to Troupe-Masi, but they felt passionate about telling the stories of the Livermore Valley through this medium.

"Generally as a region of makers, we have a lot of brilliant and amazing craftsmen and women," Troupe-Masi said. "We are one of the few regions that still produce things and relative to not getting our spotlight — the Napas of the world and particularly wine country and hospitality-centric destinations — what builds those are the stories they tell and we didn't feel like anyone was telling our stories."

While the hosts have rotated over the years, storytelling has remained at the heart of the show's mission. But once Souza — who owns CrossFit Livermore — came on board, the conversations evolved from mostly food and wine culture to small business overall.

"If I'm being honest, I was super hesitant about it because I just didn't know how it was going to play out. But it's worked out really, really well in my opinion and we've had some great conversations and it's really gotten us closer to where I think we want to be anyway," Vento-Chun said of the show's progression.

The show has both audio and video components and is recorded at Livermore-based video production agency



COURTESY JEREMY TROUPE-MASI

Matt Souza, Savannah Vento-Chun and Jeremy Troupe-Masi show off mugs from their collection of "Through The Grapevine" swag.

Advance Creative. The visual element of the show was introduced in an effort to increase accessibility. Vento-Chun said a friend of hers who is deaf brought the idea to her attention which has helped the show grow even more.

With the support of Advance Creative, the three hosts have found their rhythm and despite the previous turnover, Troupe-Masi said he feels like Souza and Vento-Chun are "here to stay".

Producing a successful podcast doesn't come without its fair share of challenges.

Troupe-Masi and Vento-Chun agreed that one of the biggest obstacles they face is scheduling — and not just guests to be interviewed but actually making time within their individual schedules to record while juggling regular jobs, families and other obligations.

"This is something that we're taking the time out for because we really believe in and we're really passionate about it because I think the messaging and what we're trying to accomplish here is very important to all three of us," Vento-Chun said.

Troupe-Masi also reflected on the challenge of remaining consistent with the podcast during the COVID-19 pandemic, prior to Vento-Chun and Souza joining the team.

"I never wanted to stop the podcast because I never wanted to stop

the habit," he said. "Whether it was a 16-episode season or just recording the podcast, it was important that I stayed doing it so I forced myself to make time and quite frankly, during the pandemic there was a lot of time."

Another element of time involved editing the podcast, which Troupe-Masi did himself for the first few seasons. He said it would take him around three to four hours a week to get it ready for distribution. Since connecting with the production company, he's been able to hand over those responsibilities to their team.

"Without Advance Creative, there's a good chance the podcast would have died just because of how time-consuming it is," Troupe-Masi said, noting that he's glad he learned the editing process but he's happy to no longer have it as a task on his plate.

Souza is the only Livermore native among the trio, with Vento-Chun originally hailing from Patterson and Troupe-Masi from Fremont. However, the two transplants have planted roots in Livermore with their respective spouses in recent years and have made numerous local connections largely through their work in hospitality and wine.

"I truly can't imagine any other place in the Bay Area where we would be this happy," Troupe-Masi said of himself and his wife.

"Through The Grapevine" recently kicked off its sixth season and the hosts celebrated the show's growth and success with their first-ever live event last month.

The event sold out, with more than 120 people gathering at Almost Famous Wine Lounge in Livermore to network and mingle. The mixer brought together listeners and business leaders — many of whom have been guests on the podcast — for an evening of entertainment, connection and of course wine.

Vento-Chun and Troupe-Masi said they see themselves hosting more of these in-person experiences in the future, including recording a podcast episode with a live audience.

Other goals for the show include securing sponsorships and monetizing the podcast as well as growing the brand into a larger media entity. While Souza is already his own boss, Troupe-Masi and Vento-Chun both said they hope to eventually reach a place where they can also work for themselves.

In the meantime, they plan to keep recording. "If we win, if the podcast wins, then we all win because we are the sum of our parts," Troupe-Masi said of the community.

"Through The Grapevine" is available on all major platforms including Apple, Spotify, YouTube, Google Podcasts and Amazon, among others. ■



COURTESY JEREMY TROUPE-MASI

Recording a session of "Through the Grapevine".

Bankhead to host Holocaust survivor Joseph Alexander

100-year-old who endured 12 concentration camps to share his story of 'Survival and Triumph'

By JEANITA LYMAN

Tri-Valley residents are set for what could be the opportunity of a lifetime to hear a first-person account of the Holocaust, with one of the few remaining concentration camp survivors scheduled to share his experiences at the Bankhead Theater next week.

Joseph Alexander, 100, is traveling from Los Angeles for his first speaking appearance in the region, a talk entitled "Survival and Triumph" hosted by Livermore Valley Arts and Chabad of the Tri-Valley.

As the years since the Holocaust wear on, Alexander is among a smaller and smaller group of survivors who can share first-person testimony about the atrocities of the era, having made it through 12 concentration camps himself and being the only one of his immediate family to make it through the Holocaust and out of Nazi Germany following the invasion of their home country of Poland in 1939.

"The motivation is to let the people know what happened, because I'm asked to speak for six million Jews who can't talk," Alexander said.

Although the centenarian is well into his retirement from a career as a Hollywood tailor, Alexander said that he continues to travel and speak throughout the world with more urgency than ever, as he sees younger generations start to forget the lessons learned in the wake of the Holocaust.

"I speak to people almost globally," Alexander said. "I was told I speak to hundreds of towns already, to junior high and high school

students. 70% of those kids never heard about the Holocaust, so that's why I'm talking — to let them know what happened. That's the most important thing, especially high school students."

Tri-Valley communities, however, have not been among those hundreds of towns until now. Rabbi Raleigh Resnick of Chabad of the Tri-Valley called the event historic, and potentially a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for students, who he is hoping will help fill the limited seats available at the Bankhead.

Resnick noted that during his lifetime so far he has seen the remaining number of survivors grow smaller and smaller, whereas it had been far more common to hear first-hand accounts when he was younger.

"It was very regular for me to see numbers on their arms — for these children, it may be their last time," Resnick said. "Literally, we're in the last few years where someone can hear a first-person account. There's this connection between generations — these high school students will then tell their children that 'I saw someone with a number on their arm.'"

Alexander, of course, has seen even more changes over the course of his own, much longer lifetime, having been born in Poland a century ago and spending most of his youth in a time when the world was naive to the atrocities of the Holocaust and the massive death toll from World War II that were on the horizon.

"We had a very good life," Alexander said. "We had Jewish organizations; we belonged to the

organizations, and it's hard to explain how nice and good a life we had until 1939 when the Germans came in and everything changed."

At 16 years old — the same age as many of the students he speaks to in the present day — Alexander had his first experience in a camp promptly after Poland was first invaded.

Initially, prisoners were allowed to return home on weekends, which Alexander took advantage of by staying home one weekend and not returning to the camp, leading to a police search. Things soon grew more restrictive, however, and the conditions in the camps — which were already severe — grew worse and worse as the death toll began to rise.

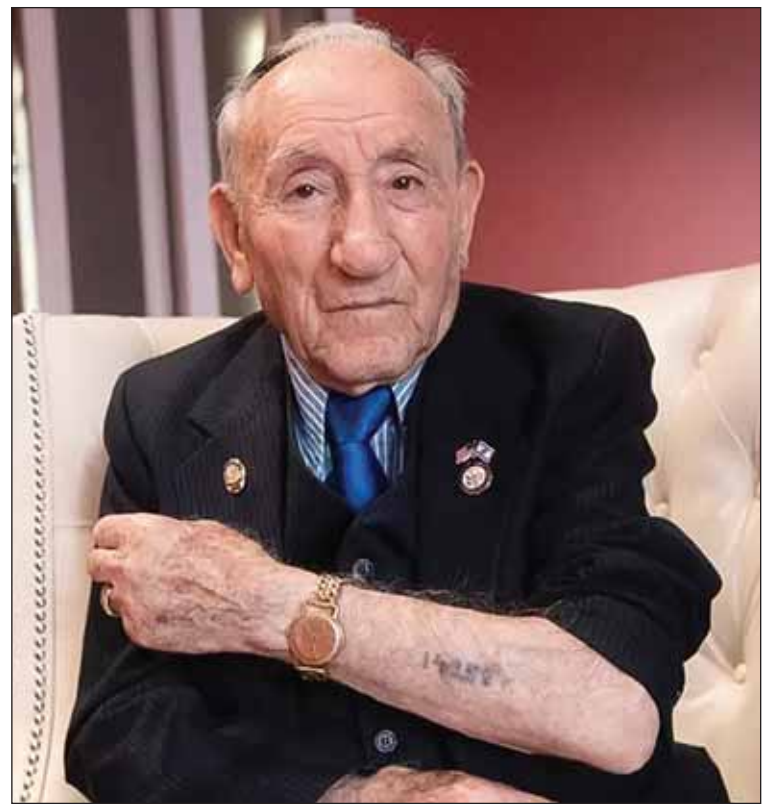
"That was the time when it started to get worse and worse," Alexander said.

Resnick pointed to the conditions in Germany in the leadup to the war and some similarities with the Bay Area and other parts of the United States 100 years later.

"We are living in the greatest time ever," Resnick said. "There are fewer discriminatory actions, there's less racism, fewer than ever in the history of humanity, and I think it's very, very important to put that in perspective."

While he noted an uptick in public displays of discrimination and antisemitism in the present day, Resnick said that the fact that these are upsetting and shocking to most people — rather than everyday occurrences — is a sign of progress.

"I think that having that as your baseline is good to know," Resnick said. "But I do think it's very, very



COURTESY CHABAD OF THE TRI-VALLEY

100-year-old Holocaust survivor Joseph Alexander is set to make his first Tri-Valley appearance at the Bankhead Theater on Aug. 24.

easy in one moment to lose that. We human beings are capable very, very quickly of slipping, and if there's ever an example of that it's Germany in the 1930s."

Like much of the Tri-Valley and broader region, Resnick said that German people in the 1930s were largely well-educated, well-cultured and generally politically liberal.

"These are the educated; this is the creme de la creme — literally as they're slaughtering they're playing classical music," Resnick said. "In

Germany they had laws that protected dogs from cruelty. So I think that we ought to remember: how does it happen?"

With only 500 seats available, the event is expected to sell out quickly. Student tickets can be purchased at a reduced rate of \$20.

"Survival and Triumph" is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. next Thursday (Aug. 24) in the Bankhead Theater at 2400 First St. in Livermore. Tickets and more information are available at livermorearts.org. ■

Classic Car Show at Junction Avenue TK-8 School

In its second year, event aims to raise funds for student wellness center

By JUDE STRZEMP

Junction Avenue TK-8 School is set to host its second annual Classic Car Show in its back lot next month for a day of cars, raffles, music, eating and shopping.

Invitations to this free event are extended to the whole community — car enthusiasts, students from all districts and parents.

Organized by Junction's parent-teacher association and spearheaded by Jill Scott, PTA secretary at Junction and car show chair, the event is intended to bring people together for a good cause: fundraising for Junction students.

With this year's funds, the PTA plans to contribute to purchasing much-needed furnishings and decorations for a new wellness center on campus, flipping an excess room to a space where students can relax and decompress.

The car shows are particularly important to the PTA's goals

because they are the only major fundraising events that fund the PTA, according to Jill Scott and her husband Keith, who is also a parent volunteer and car show contributor.

The Scotts said the effort is about making students' lives and school experiences better and encouraging them to be proud of their school.

Since the car show's beginning, it has been kid-inclusive, with Junction students deciding the event's marketing design through an art competition.

The focus on youth continues as event attendance grants children from any school district entrance to a prize-winning raffle. Also, they will be handed a metaphorical judge's hat, as their votes determine the show's five winners.

Kids will have plenty of options to vote on this year as the Scotts expect Junction's back lot

to be packed with about 100 cars of all types: new and old, daily-drivers and reclusive classics — all vehicles being unique and/or customized.

Attendees can enter an additional raffle by purchasing tickets. Last year, prizes for this raffle included a Traeger grill, a pizza oven, local restaurant gift cards and local sports tuition.

Hosting activities for all ages, Jill and Keith Scott — along with the entire PTA — invite the community to Junction's campus for the show which is set for Sept. 9 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. "We want everybody to come out, feel welcome, have a good time and come support the kids," Keith Scott said.

For information on how to submit to the show, email Junction's PTA at junctionavek8pta@gmail.com. Walk-ins are welcome but for ticket pre-ordering, visit the Junction PTA Facebook page. ■



COURTESY JILL SCOTT

Organizers expect about 100 cars of all types to fill the school's back lot for this year's Classic Car Show.



PLEASANTON PREPS

By DENNIS MILLER

Could EBAL tackle football be supplanted by flag football?

Declining player numbers, rising costs bring gridiron game to tipping point

This week in my Tri-Valley Preps Playbook I profiled the new East Bay Athletic League girls' flag football league.

If you didn't see it, the Playbook is a subscription email that is free and gets sent to your inbox every Tuesday. You can sign up through the Pleasanton Weekly website.

I think girls' flag football is a great addition to the EBAL and will be an exciting popular expansion for the talent-rich EBAL. There are going to be a lot of soccer, basketball, softball and track/field athletes competing in flag football.

The league will take place on Tuesday nights with home sites rotating each week, with a pair of home sites hosting three games that night.

There will be one site each week that hosts only one game. Here is a look at opening night on Sept. 5.

Games are set for 5:30 p.m., 6:45 p.m. and 8 p.m. The one-game site each week has a 5 p.m. start.

For instance, opening night on Sept. 5, Livermore will be a host site, with the schedule being Livermore vs. Foothill, Foothill vs.

Dublin and Livermore vs. Dublin.

Monte Vista will host the following: Monte Vista vs. California, California vs. Granada, Monte Vista vs. Granada.

Finally, Amador Valley will be hosting San Ramon Valley.

The games are played on the football field with smaller dimensions. The game is two, 20-minute halves with a running clock until the last two minutes of each half.

There are good coaches across the board and expect to see the teams stocked with some exceptional athletes. This is a legitimate league.

While it is exciting to look at the league getting underway, it could also be a precursor to what might lie ahead for tackle football.

I know I will get some blowback for this as there are some schools in the EBAL that are still getting big numbers, but there are others that continue to slide.

Whether it is changing demographics or people's fear about the perceived dangerous nature of football, the player numbers are declining at a rate that is leaving some schools with no freshman teams

and sparse JV and varsity units.

Look, there is no more fanatical football fan than me. My wife dreads September through January every year as she becomes one of many football widows during the season.

But while I live for the game, I am also a realistic person and have seen the writing on the wall for several years. Junior football numbers are down as well, which leaves a shrinking pool of potential high school players.

Guess what is not down — junior flag football numbers. I feel confident that if boys' high school flag football was available, it would outdraw the tackle at some of the EBAL schools.

In many ways that would pain me, as most of the memorable moments I have been privy to covering over the years have come on the football field.

Friday Night Lights is as good as it gets and in some areas of the United States, it still thrives. It's a community event that rallies everyone together.

But at the same time, I would rather see a talent-laden, loaded



BRUCE BAESEMANN

A look back at the Amador Valley-Foothill boys' tackle football game in 2022.

flag game over 50-point blowouts with some kids that should not be on the field. With some of the EBAL schools, football is as close to life support as it has ever been.

Sure, the numbers are the biggest reason, but there is the cost of the sport, insurance costs, and as I mentioned in a column last year, a declining pool of qualified officials.

I see officials every year that should be officiating freshman games forced into the varsity crew to cover games.

The pool of officials is steadily declining thanks to overzealous fans that berate officials. It's ironic to see that in this age of alleged tolerance, fan behavior continues to get worse.

At the end of the day, I am hopeful that football stays relevant, but

at the same time we cannot afford to stick our heads in the sand. Trust me when I say there are plenty of people out there that are this way and I know I will be hearing from some of them this week.

Do yourself a favor and get out to see some of the girls' games this year, and ponder if it would be worthwhile to think about taking that direction with the boys' game down the line.

Ask yourself this question — would it be better for a school to have a good flag team or an undersized, underwhelming tackle team? ■

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.

TAKE US ALONG



Catching a game: What does Pleasanton Little League President Chris Juan do when he travels to Japan? He goes to a baseball game, of course! Here he is with wife Lauren and children Aidan and Lilli at the Mazda Zoom Zoom Stadium in Hiroshima watching the Carps beat the Yomiuri Giants in a 9th-inning comeback. While traveling throughout the country, the family also attended Hiroshima's Peace Day Ceremony, an event dedicated to the victims of the atomic bomb and to the promotion of peace politics throughout the world.

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

Bay FC women's pro soccer team to play inaugural season in SJ

'A perfect place to start this journey'

By BAY CITY NEWS SERVICE

The new professional women's soccer team Bay FC announced this summer that it will play its inaugural season's home matches at PayPal Park in San Jose.

The team, founded by former U.S. Women's National Team players Brandi Chastain, Leslie Osborne, Danielle Slaton and Aly Wagner, announced in April it was joining the National Women's Soccer League starting in 2024.

The stadium announcement on July 21 said the team will also be investing more than \$3 million in a facility adjacent to PayPal Park, where the San Jose Earthquakes Major League Soccer men's team has played since it opened in 2015.

"PayPal Park is a perfect place to start this journey for Bay FC — a team that has truly been a dream and many years in the making right here in the Bay Area," Wagner said in a statement. "This has been one of the top U.S. stadiums for our women's national team to play in and will be a great atmosphere for our very first Bay FC footballers to step into and play before an energized, passionate and intelligent fan base ready to be entertained."



JL ODOM / BCN

Former pro soccer players (from left) Danielle Slaton, Aly Wagner and Leslie Osborne at "FC Day for the Bay".

The investor group behind Bay FC is also planning on a training venue at a location yet to be announced, and said the team plans to play exhibition matches and hold workouts around the Bay Area and elsewhere in Northern California.

More information about the team can be found at its website at <https://bayfc.com>. ■

Calendar

POST CALENDAR ITEMS AT PLEASANTONWEEKLY.COM

Entertainment

CONCERTS IN THE PARK The Pleasanton Downtown Association's popular Concert in the Park series will take place most Friday nights this summer featuring an eclectic mix of music from classic rock, blues and big band to today's hits. 7-9 p.m., Aug. 18. Lions Wayside Park.

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? Aug. 18-20. Tickets \$25. Bothwell Arts Center. Visit livermorearts.org.

KAIFI KHALIL KAHANI SUNO 2.0 Kaifi Khalil is a Pakistani singer-songwriter and composer based in Karachi. His song Kahani Suno 2.0 topped Spotify charts in Pakistan, Bangladesh and India. 8 p.m., Aug. 18. Tickets \$69-\$349. Visit livermorearts.org.

MUSTANGS OF THE WEST Mustangs of the West is a band with West Coast roots steeped in both classic California country and folk rock, crafted by a signature sound of three-part vocal harmonies. 8 p.m., Aug. 19. Tickets \$25-\$55. Visit livermorearts.org.

SURVIVAL & TRIUMPH Born in 1923 in Poland, Joseph Alexander remains one of the world's leading voices and survivors of the Holocaust. Listen to his harrowing tale and be captivated by his enduring faith and spirit that have outlived the evils of history. 7:30 p.m., Aug. 24. Tickets \$20-\$90. Visit livermorearts.org.

BANKHEAD PRESENTS MIKE SUPER-MAGIC & ILLUSION See an America's Got Talent finalist live on stage at the Bankhead Theater. Mike Super has taken the performance of magic to new, mainstream levels that will reach out and literally immerse you in the show. 8 p.m., Aug. 25. Tickets \$45-\$75. Visit livermorearts.org.

BALLET ROOTS DANCE COMPANY Mystery, Mystique, and Magic is the next performance by Pleasanton's own ballet company. 3 p.m. and 6 p.m., Aug. 26. Livermore High School theater. 600 Maple St. Tickets \$17-\$20. Visit balletroots.org.

JAZZ AT INKLINGS Performing jazz singer Nicolas Bearde and Matt FINDER's Trio. Seating is limited. Reservations by email at info@pleasantonjazzsociety.com. 5:30-7 p.m., Aug. 26. 533 Main St.

OPERA IN THE VINEYARD Join Livermore Valley Opera for a truly unforgettable musical experience listening to beautiful voices soar across Garré Vineyard and Winery. 5 p.m., Aug. 27. Visit livermorevalleyopera.com.

Exhibits & Festivals

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.

GOODGUYS WEST COAST NATIONALS America's Favorite Car Show returns to its roots for a celebration of cool cars, cool people and good times, featuring over 3,000 of the country's finest 1998 & older hot rods, trucks, customs, muscle cars and classics. Aug. 25-27. Tickets \$10-\$25. Visit alamedacountyfair.com.

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.

APPLEFEST AT RAVENSWOOD Enjoy ongoing activities throughout the day, including heirloom apple tasting, cider making and tasting, apple slinky making, docent-led tours, games and picnics. 12-4 p.m., Aug. 27. Ravenswood Historic Site. Cost \$5. Visit larpd.org.

FLOWER-INSPIRED ART EXHIBITION AT LIVERMORE LIBRARY "Flora in Focus" celebrates the inherent beauty of flowers and aims to inspire viewers through the collective talents of recognized local artists. The show highlights the intricate details, vibrant colors and textures that define the splendor of flowers. Now through Aug. 31. Civic Center Library, 1188 S. Livermore Ave.

COMIC CROSSING: THE ART OF THE GRAPHIC NARRATIVE A multimedia art exhibit featuring a collection of visually stunning and emotionally compelling graphic novels, comics

and illustrations. Thursdays to Sundays, 1-5 p.m., through Oct. 8. Uncle Credit Union Art Gallery. Visit livermorearts.org/visual-arts-2.

Outdoor Recreation

VALLEY VIEW HIKE Beat the heat and hike up to the peak of Sycamore Grove Park to get exercise and beautiful views of Livermore and the surrounding areas. This is a strenuous hike close to 5 miles. 9 a.m., Aug. 20. Sycamore Grove Park. Visit larpd.org.

CALIFORNIA BUTTERFLIES Observe California native butterflies and learn surprising facts about these insects and their significance to the ecosystem. A colorful arts and crafts activity is to follow. 2 p.m., Aug. 20. Visit larpd.org.

HIKE WITH U.S. REP. ERIC SWALWELL Enjoy an early morning hike with U.S. Rep. Eric Swalwell at Lake Chabot Regional Park in Castro

See **CALENDAR** on Page 18

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Safeway Inc. hiring Lead Programmer Analyst in Pleasanton, CA. May telecommute reports to Pleasanton. Must have legal right to work in US. EOE. Subj. to bckgrnd check. \$168,993-196,500/yr. Email resume TA.Applications@albertsons.com. Attn: S. Taylor. Ref # 0711AKS

Safeway Inc. hiring Technical Project Manager, Demand Planning in Pleasanton, CA. May telecommute reports to Pleasanton. Must have legal right to work in US. EOE. Subj. to bckgrnd check. \$147,500-246k/yr. Email resume TA.Applications@albertsons.com. Attn: R. Oliver. Ref # 0710SS

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ICE Mortgage Technology, Inc. seeks Sr. Engineer, Performance in Pleasanton, CA. to own end-to-end product performance of all IMT applications and services. Telecommuting permitted w/in the US. \$154,523.00 to \$154,523.00 per year. Apply <https://www.jobpostingtoday.com/> Ref # 75328.

Safeway Inc. hiring Customer Intelligence and Market Analyst in Pleasanton, CA. May telecommute reports to Pleasanton. Must have legal right to work in US. EOE. Subj. to bckgrnd check. \$97,367-104,400/yr. Email resume TA.Applications@albertsons.com. Attn: J. Bryson. Ref # 0628PND

Safeway Inc. hiring Product Manager III (Mobile app and site experience) in Pleasanton, CA. May telecommute reports to Pleasanton. Must have legal right to work in US. EOE. Subj. to bckgrnd check. \$154,523-196,900/yr. Email resume TA.Applications@albertsons.com. Attn: C. Hill. Ref # 0703VC

Safeway Inc. is hiring Product Manager, Test and Learn in Pleasanton, CA. May telecommute. Reports to Pleasanton. Must have legal right to work in US. EOE. Subj. to bckgrnd check. \$114,100-190,100/yr. Email resume TA.Applications@albertsons.com. Attn: S. Talib. Ref # 0619CSR

Safeway Inc. hiring Software QA Engineer (performance engineering) in Pleasanton, CA. May telecommute. Reports to Pleasanton. Must have legal right to work in US. Subj. to bckgrnd check. \$129,925-164,300/yr. EOE. Email resume TA.Applications@albertsons.com Attn: S. Gibson-Cooper Ref# 0628FM

For employment advertising, visit PleasantonWeekly.com/employment_ads/.

PET OF THE WEEK



TVAR

Meet Dougie

Dougie is playful, fun and smart. He has an adorable smile, likes belly rubs and entertains his foster family with his goofy antics. He is a terrific companion for an experienced adopter who appreciates the natural curiosity and liveliness that is typical of a young adult Jack Russell mix. Dougie is available for adoption via Tri-Valley Animal Rescue. Visit tvar.org.

Public Notices

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME File No. 526387

The following person(s)/registrant(s) has/ have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name(s). The information given below is as it appeared on the fictitious business statement that was filed at the County Clerk-Recorder's Office. FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME(S): AMADOR DENTAL AND ORTHODONTIC 5000 Pleasanton Ave, Suite 110 Pleasanton, Ca 94566 FILED IN ALAMEDA COUNTY ON: 01/11/2017 UNDER FILE NO. 526387 REGISTRANT'S NAME(S): JACOB DEVINNEY DDS INC 37 Vista Montemar Laguna Niguel, Ca 92677 State of Incorporation: California THIS BUSINESS WAS CONDUCTED BY A Corporation. This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Alameda County on July 31 2023. (PLW Aug 11, 18, 25 and Sep 1, 2023)

FASHION HISTORY CONSULTING INC FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No.: 600019

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) Fashion History Consulting Inc, located at 7662 Fair Oaks Dr. Pleasanton, CA 94588, Alameda County. This business is conducted by: a Corporation. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are): FASHION HISTORY CONSULTING INC 7662 Fair Oaks Dr. Pleasanton, CA 94588 California Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 08/09/2023. This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on August 10 2023. (PLW Aug 18, 25, Sep 1 and 8, 2023)

HOUSE OF COLOUR NORTH PLEASANTON FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No.: 599969

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) House of Colour North Pleasanton, located at 2226 Kamp Ct., Pleasanton, CA 94588, Alameda. This business is conducted by: a Limited Liability Company. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are): AMY BLASCHKA LLC 2226 Kamp Ct. Pleasanton, CA 94588 California Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 08/01/2023 This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on August 09 2023. (PLW Aug 18, 25, Sep 1 and 8, 2023)

STRUGGLE AND STRENGTH FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No.: 600026

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) Struggle and Strength, located at 3115 Finnian Way 216 Dublin, CA 94568, Alameda. This business is conducted by: a Limited Liability Company. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are): BAYBAYN LLC 3115 Finnian Way 216 Dublin, CA 94568 California Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 07/12/2023 This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on August 10 2023. (PLW Aug 18, 25, Sep 1 and 8, 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)

DUBLIN TAQUERIA FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No.: 599640

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) Dublin Taqueria, located at 3986 Summit Rd. Dublin, Cal 94566, Alameda. This business is conducted by: a Corporation. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are): DUBLIN TAQUERIA INC. 4174 Hazelhurst Ct Pleasanton, Cal. 94566 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 July 27 2023. (PLW Aug 11, 18, 25 and Sep 1, 2023)

MEL'S LIQUORS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No.: 599939

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) Mel's liquors, located at 985 Manor Blvd., San Leandro, CA 94579, Alameda. This business is conducted by: a Limited Liability Company. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are): GURDASPUR LIQUORS 17078 Loyola CT, Lathrop, CA 95330 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 August 08 2023. (PLW Aug 18, 25, Sep 1 and 8, 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 TECHNOLOGIES, 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)

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)

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)

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: 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, 9:30am, 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)

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, 9:30am, 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)

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)

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: MEROLIN PETER CHRISTIE

Case No.: RP23144735 To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of MEROLIN PETER CHRISTIE. A Petition for Probate has been filed by: Sanjay Patel in the Superior Court of California, County of Alameda. The Petition for Probate requests that: Sanjay Patel be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent. THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority. A HEARING on the petition will be held on August 23 2023 at 9:45 am in Dept: 201 of the Superior Court of California, County of Alameda, located at 2120 Martin Luther King Way, Berkeley, CA 94704, Berkeley Courthouse. If you object to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney. If you are a creditor or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58 (b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law. You may examine the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk. Attorney for Petitioner: James D. Frangos, Esq. Law Offices of James D. Frangos 411 Borel Avenue, Suite 500, San Mateo, CA 94402 650-571-6035 (PLW Aug 11, 18 and 25, 2023)

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, 9:30am, 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)

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CALENDAR

CALENDAR

Continued from Page 17

Valley. Participants meet at the Lake Chabot Marina. No registration required and no parking fee for attendees. Dog fee is \$2 and dogs must be leashed. 8:30-10 a.m., Aug. 26. 17600 Lake Chabot Road, Castro Valley.

Talks

RACE, POWER AND POVERTY IN TRI-VALLEY AND BEYOND Sheila Burks, manager of Equity and Inclusion at the Alameda County Community Food Bank, will host this discussion on "Race, Power and Poverty in Tri-Valley and Beyond" at the Livermore Civic Center Library. 1:30 p.m., Aug. 20. RSVP at mobilize.us/i7P3wk.

FROM LIVERMORE TO SNEZHINSK In the next Then & Now: Livermore Stories, a local history lecture series, former Livermore mayor Cathie Brown presents "From Livermore to Snezhinsk, our Russian Sister City." Registration is not required for this free event. 2 p.m., Aug. 20. Civic Center Library.

WELLNESS AND MENTAL HEALTH IN THE WORKPLACE Join the Dublin Chamber of Commerce and Stanford Health Care Tri-Valley for a virtual educational presentation in partnership with the Tri-Valley Chamber Alliance. Guest speaker: Winter Brown, Stanford Health Care Tri-Valley. 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Aug. 22. Visit pleasanton.org.

AUTHORS & ARTS PRESENTS AUTHOR J.R. ROESSL Meet J.R. Roessl, author of *Unmoored: Coming of Age in Troubled Waters*. Civic Center Library, Storytime Room. 2 p.m., Aug. 27.

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

Fundraisers

COMMUNITY OF CHARACTER SUMMER BBQ The Community of Character is hosting a summer barbecue fundraiser to fund college scholarships for local youth who demonstrate exceptional character traits. 6-9 p.m., Aug. 19. Cost \$75. Visit pleasanton.org.

Veterans

THE VA PALO ALTO HEALTH CARE MEDICAL OUTREACH Medical provider(s) will be on-site to provide examinations, consultations and referrals to veterans enrolled in the VA Palo Alto Health Care System. 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Aug. 24. Civic Center Library, 1188 South Livermore Ave.

Farmers' Markets

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

The Pleasanton Weekly is adjudicated to publish in Alameda County.

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

For assistance email LegalNotices@PleasantonWeekly.com. **The deadline is Sunday at 11:59 pm. Visit PleasantonWeekly.com/legal_notices/**

AI is here — and it's changing how houses are sold

Virtual 'assistants' answer questions, compile listings and connect buyers with human agents

By DAVID GOLL / CONTRIBUTOR

Artificial intelligence (AI) has entered the realm of residential real estate.

AI, computer systems developed to handle tasks that normally require human intelligence, are taking over real-time valuations for homes, data mining homes with specific characteristics, answering homebuyers' questions, creating marketing copy, connecting homebuyers with local real estate agents, and a whole lot more.

Officials from one company that has entered the local market making full use of the new technology say they hope to turn tears of frustration that often accompany real estate transactions into tears of joy.

Though anyone can use them, the target audience for AI online home-buying services are those in the millennial generation — 66 million Americans born between 1981 and 1996 — who now represent the largest homeowner majority. In 2022, millennials made up more than half of all homebuyers, according to a recent report from Rent Café.

Most of them grew up online and feel comfortable conducting many life

experiences in virtual spaces, said Josh Ades, marketing director for DwellWell — a Los Angeles-based real estate tech start-up that uses AI software to assist clients with the home-buying process. DwellWell, which is among the AI services being used in real estate transactions in the Bay Area, provides online answers to basic home-buying questions, new homebuyer educational programs, pre-approval for mortgage loans and connections with three "best match" real estate agents working in the areas where buyers are seeking homes.

"We sincerely want to help home buyers, and what Realtors don't especially love is having to answer repetitive questions," said Ades, while explaining the many ways AI can be utilized in the home-buying process.

DwellWell's online resources for a "guided" home-buying experience — which provide step-by-step guides on everything from home-buying basics to choosing an agent to how to close the deal — are especially attractive to younger, tech-savvy buyers, Ades said, noting they tend to be more comfortable with conducting research and gaining access to educational resources online.

Once there, they can chat with "Dwelly," the website's mascot and navigator, to familiarize themselves with the home-buying process, determine their eligibility to qualify for mortgage loans and find a selection of suitable real estate.

What do real estate professionals think?

AI works for Realtors, too, some say. AI can definitely be employed as a useful tool to assist agents, in the view of Dave Wetzel, CEO of Sunnyvale-based MLSListings Inc., the regional property listing service.

"I absolutely feel there is value in AI for my customers," Wetzel said, referring to the nearly 17,000 real estate agents who use his service. "There are many products and services out there today that can assist my customers."

Wetzel touted the usefulness of AI: Realtors are saving time and money using AI programs to make tasks, such as loading property photos onto their websites, less labor intensive.

Room descriptions can be handled by AI software instead of agents having to



COURTESY DWELLWELL

Sam Carow and Matt Canzoneri are the co-founders of DwellWell, a tech real estate company using artificial intelligence to help people navigate the homebuying process.

See **AI IS HERE** on Page 20

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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



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Tiffany Rose

Tiffany Rose
Real Estate

858.900.1205

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DRE#01317868



Scan for real estate-related videos.

HOME SALES

This week's data represents homes sold during July 3-7 for Pleasanton, Livermore, Dublin and Sunol, and July 10-14 for San Ramon.

Pleasanton

- 4354 Addison Way** Armario Family Trust to L. Genoni for \$1,590,000
 - 475 Bonita Avenue** R. Hartman to R. & N. Lahoti for \$1,425,000
 - 2142 Camino Brazos** Cence Trust to M. & R. Ramer for \$1,975,000
 - 3591 Crespi Court** Liu Family Trust to A. & B. Dicarolo for \$3,450,000
 - 3930 Kral Place** Kumar Family Trust to A. Siddiqi for \$1,690,000
 - 6734 Paseo Catalina** Folgmann Trust to S. & S. Indupuru for \$2,200,000
 - 3737 Pinot Court** Y. Qin to U. & S. Maheshwari for \$2,002,000
 - 3260 Runnymede Court** Vangelder Trust to Nm Homes LLC for \$1,400,000
 - 4712 Saginaw Circle** M. Hayslett to D. & S. Venkatesh for \$925,000
 - 3308 Smoketree Commons Drive #110** Z. Elston to C. & A. Hein for \$649,000
 - 1569 Via Di Salerno** Dhawan Living Trust to Y. & L. Xie for \$5,150,000
 - 2363 Woodthrush Way** Archbold Family Trust to Gautam Family Trust for \$2,125,000
- Livermore
- 1072 Auburn Street** Nevin Family Trust to J. & Z. Radzikowski for \$1,175,000
 - 1453 College Avenue** Bosch Family Trust to Westcott-Timmer Family Trust for \$1,980,000
 - 2039 Galloway Common** R. Dey to B. & M. Murray for \$925,000

- 1218 Hillview Drive** Kehoe Trust to J. & N. Prathapani for \$1,010,000
- 397 Hummingbird Lane** Pjm Trust to G. & U. Ablikim for \$1,212,000
- 886 Jessica Drive** Menapace Family Trust to L. & J. Herrero for \$1,705,000
- 4671 Laurie Common #106** D. & D. Couch to A. & M. Giessman for \$523,000
- 1439 Lexington Way** Paddock Trust to J. & W. Li for \$1,420,000
- 609 Los Alamos Avenue** Redwood Holdings LLC to V. & A. Sureshbabu for \$1,098,000
- 359 Michell Street** Clouser Trust to Gwerder Living Trust for \$1,020,000
- 4071 Pomona Way** Pidoli Family Trust to N. & M. Lawrence for \$1,150,000
- 234 Swan Drive** S. Yep to J. Calvey for \$1,350,000
- 102 Windward Common #5** C. Oates to B. Lyle for \$853,000

Dublin

- 4355 Brannigan Street** M. & S. Juanco to S. & J. Coburn for \$905,000
- 6888 Duke Court** R. Dunlop to S. & S. Batra for \$1,446,000
- 7563 Hillrose Drive** Longwealth LLC to S. & S. Bijalwan for \$1,230,000
- 6753 Onyx Place** Gurske Family Trust to F. & A. Shah for \$1,550,000
- 7319 Starward Drive #32** M. Martinez to F. & F. Poulose for \$550,000

Sunol

- 1077 Kilkare Road** D. Madden to D. Domen for \$1,250,000

- 2630 Parkway** Amaya-Guerra Living Trust to Y. & R. Lim for \$925,000

San Ramon

- 7464 Blue Fox Way** A. & K. Best to W. & J. Lowe for \$1,699,000
- 70 Canyon Green Way** B. & L. Gantt to Nesbitt Trust for \$1,855,000
- 297 Casper Place** Alvarez-Bulos Living Trust to R. & A. Annadatha for \$1,425,000
- 10126 Colima Avenue** S. Kumar to E. & A. Darji for \$1,250,000
- 615 Joree Lane** J. Yoon to A. & L. Borzello for \$920,000
- 5978 Lantana Way #260** P. Liu to V. & R. Valluri for \$1,740,000

- 2550 Marsh Drive** N. & J. Swift to P. & P. Kottapalli for \$1,630,000
- 1182 Mateo Miller Circle** Toll West Coast LLC to Yu Trust for \$2,137,500
- 302 Norris Canyon Terrace** B. & R. Talbot to H. & G. Sundaresan for \$725,000
- 442 Pocono Manor Place** J. & S. Dilling to J. & J. Lippert for \$2,300,000
- 2374 Poppyview Avenue** A. Bhat to D. & A. Shringarpure for \$2,440,000
- 109 Shireoaks Court** Ridout Trust to Z. & Z. Gao for \$2,250,000
- 429 Silvercrown Way** S. Subramanian to M. & K. Kanuri for \$1,900,000

Source: California REsource

SALES AT A GLANCE

Pleasanton (July 3-7)

Total sales reported: 12
 Lowest sale reported: \$649,000
 Highest sale reported: \$5,150,000
 Average sales reported: \$2,048,416

Livermore (July 3-7)

Total sales reported: 13
 Lowest sale reported: \$523,000
 Highest sale reported: \$1,980,000
 Average sales reported: \$1,186,230

Dublin (July 3-7)

Total sales reported: 5
 Lowest sale reported: \$550,000

Highest sale reported: \$1,550,000
 Average sales reported: \$1,136,200

Sunol (July 3-7)

Total sales reported: 2
 Lowest sale reported: \$925,000
 Highest sale reported: \$1,250,000
 Average sales reported: \$1,087,000

San Ramon (July 10-14)

Total sales reported: 13
 Lowest sale reported: \$725,000
 Highest sale reported: \$2,440,000
 Average sales reported: \$1,740,000

Source: California REsource

AI IS HERE

Continued from Page 19

do this type of relatively mundane task, he explained.

"Agents can spend more time with clients," he said.

Wetzel took issue with one of Ades's contentions that Realtors appreciate being spared repetitive questions from potential homebuyers about individual properties and the home buying process.

"They love being asked those questions," he said. "It gives them the opportunity to get to know the buyers and to display their knowledge and expertise."

AI is a rapidly developing technology with great potential in the real estate industry, Wetzel said.

In the near future, Wetzel said his organization's website will employ AI to help agents upload property photos, descriptions and community details.

He also envisions future classes to educate agents on further uses of AI to help them handle the myriad daily tasks in their individual businesses

"Whether it is social media posts or a 750-word blog, for example, AI can be used to handle writing tasks," Wetzel said.

Not everyone in the industry is quite as AI-enthusiastic. Some believe that AI-generated services and tools will never be as effective as developing in-person relationships with a human real estate agent.

"Buying a home is the largest purchase most people ever make in their lives," Brian Chancellor,

Realtor in the Palo Alto office of the Sereno Group, said. "Clients need to know someone is truly in their corner."

Chancellor said he doesn't want to come across as a technology "naysayer." He said real estate agents don't always do the best job explaining their purpose and role in effectively executing real estate transactions.

He said he can see AI as being a potentially valuable tool for Realtor newcomers building up their businesses.

"But, pictures can't tell you everything about a property," Chancellor said. "And an agent can turn a client on to a property they might not consider otherwise."

Nicholas French, broker associate

in the Los Altos office of Christie's International Real Estate, said he doesn't view AI-related real estate services as competition for his own business.

He related an anecdote where a client he worked with years ago who worked in the high-tech industry became impatient with the uncertainty and sometimes slow

pace of searching for a suitable house.

The client decided to strike out on his own, doing most of his searching online. He bought a house within a month. Not long after, the housing market slipped into a downturn.

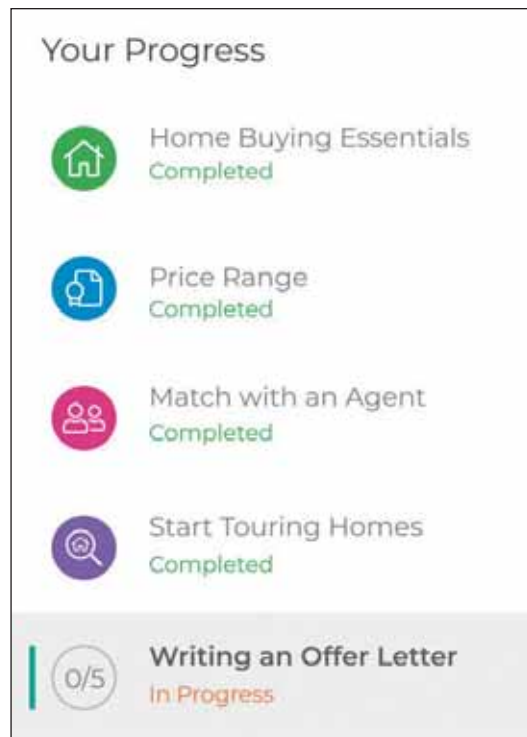
"He later admitted to me he made a mistake," by hastily buying his house, French said. "Now, we are working together again."

Far more favorable toward using AI assistance is Wajiha Tareen, a Realtor with San Jose-based NextHome Lifestyles. Tareen — a Mountain View resident and veteran agent who spent a decade selling homes overseas in Dubai — works today in a territory ranging from San Jose to Redwood City.

Tareen decided to partner with DwellWell and utilize its AI services to help connect with potential clients. Several months after paying what she described as a "small fee" and posting a profile on the DwellWell site, Tareen had an online meeting with a family from Berkeley looking to relocate closer to the father's job at Netflix in Los Gatos. They decided to work together.

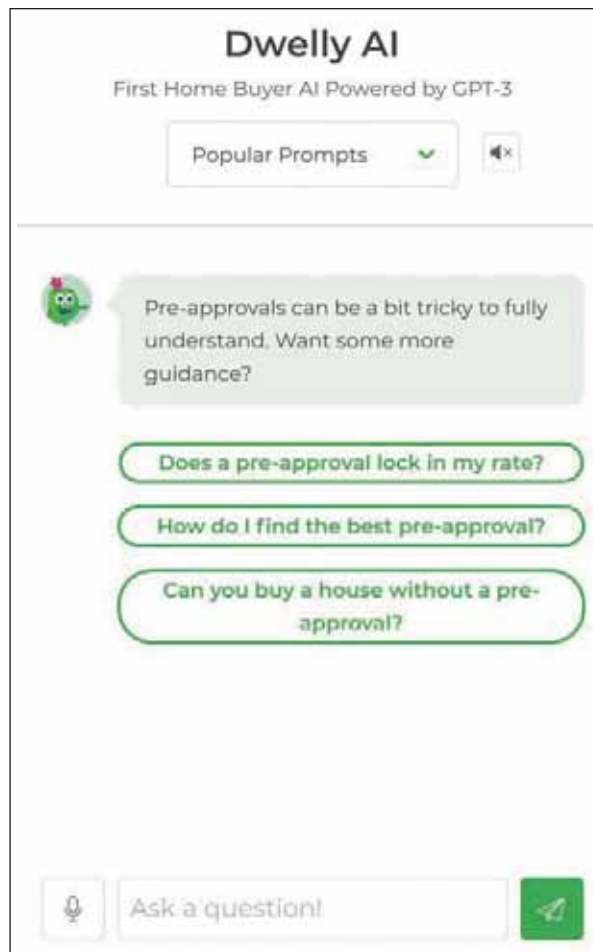
In a few weeks, Tareen helped the family find a new home in San Jose's Almaden Valley neighborhood, which they moved into last fall.

"It all worked very smoothly for me and the family," Tareen said. "I'm super positive about the experience." ■



SCREENSHOTS COURTESY DWELLWELL

Above: Homebuyers can use DwellWell's virtual assistant to help guide them through everything from homebuying basics to how to close the deal. Right: DwellWell uses a green mascot, "Dwelly," to serve as a virtual assistant that answers questions, helps homebuyers determine their eligibility to qualify for mortgage loans and connects buyers with human real estate agents.



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