

Pleasanton Weekly

Remembering
Sept. 11

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Don of a new era

Community reflects
on 100 years of
Amador Valley High School

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

— First Place, Feature Story

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Pleasanton Weekly

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WHAT A WEEK



By JEREMY WALSH

Remembering Charles Huff

The Pleasanton community lost one of a kind last week when Charles Huff, a long-time community contributor, local architect, devoted family man and the city's "unofficial historian", died suddenly of natural causes. He was 75.

We profiled Huff just last year when he was named an Ed Kinney Community Patriot for his decades of service to Pleasanton. And reading more about his life in the obituaries on the Weekly website and his Ever Loved memorial page really tells the story of Huff's impact on this community he was so passionate about.

Fitting as Huff was a storyteller at heart — with a dry sense of humor to boot — according to the growing count of remembrances on his online memorial.

Born in Berkeley and raised in Whittier outside Los Angeles, Huff became drawn to building design at a young age, inspired by an older church parishioner who was a professional architect, according to his obituary. He also still holds a track record at California High School (no, not that Cal High) for his time of 21.7 seconds in the 220-yard dash.

He met his future wife Kathleen, or "Kay" as many around here know her, not long after graduating from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo. They lived in San Jose for a time before relocating to Pleasanton for good in 1980 with newborn son Ryan — later to be graced with a second son, Tyler.

His Pleasanton roots spread that much deeper in 1985 when he established his own firm, Charles Huff AIA Architect.

Professionally, over the next 38 years, Huff would design more than 1,400 homes and businesses in the Tri-Valley. His obituary also spotlighted his work in the Monterey area, namely a remodel of a former home of late author John Steinbeck. I have to imagine the historical connections of that project piqued Huff's interest greatly.

Huff was fascinated by — and loved entertaining others with — stories of local history.

"So he served as the city's unofficial historian, documenting Pleasanton history and leading downtown tours with stories of early settlers, underground tunnels, movie locations, murders, speakeasies and brothels," his family wrote. "Along the way, business owners would tell Charles about ghostly encounters they experienced in older buildings."

The Museum on Main's Ghost Walks, which were born from the

ghost tour of town Huff used to lead, likely won't seem the same this year when they return next month ahead of Halloween.

Supporting the museum was one of Huff's community passions. He helped renovate the historic downtown building in the 1980s that now houses the museum, and he served on the board of directors for the Amador-Livermore Valley Historical Society/Museum on Main for over 30 years. And his family is asking those who want to honor Huff's memory to consider donating to the Charles Huff Memorial Fund at the Museum on Main.

Among other service roles, he volunteered on the Pleasanton Downtown Design Review Committee, the Pleasanton Rotary Club, the Rotary Club of Pleasanton North and the Pleasanton Jaycees. Plus countless hours contributing to local sports and Boy Scouts as a father.

He received the Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce Community Service Award in 1990, and he and Kay shared the chamber's Distinguished Individual Service Award in 2006. Then, of course, the coveted Ed Kinney Community Patriot Award in 2022.

We can't write the modern history of Pleasanton without a section on Charles Huff. Rest in peace.

A celebration of Huff's life is set for this Monday at 11 a.m. at Trinity Lutheran Church in Pleasanton, to be followed by a reception downtown at the Veterans Memorial Building.

My thoughts over the last week have also been with the family and friends of Jared Lee, a recent Dougherty Valley High School alum who died unexpectedly last month at age 25 in the Irvine area where he was living and working for the UC Irvine Office of the Ombuds. He was the youngest child of San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District Board President Michelle Lee and Roger Lee, current president of the Dublin Historical Society.

"In Jared, the world has lost a beautiful soul. His kindness, love, and commitment to service will continue to inspire all who knew him," Lee's family wrote in a heartfelt obituary remembering the former Dougherty Valley class officer, Eagle Scout, multi-sport athlete and "Mr. Wildcat" finalist.

A celebration of life for Lee will be held this Saturday at 2 p.m. at the Dougherty Station Community Center in San Ramon. Hawaiian shirts are encouraged. ■

About the Cover

The Pleasanton community is celebrating the centennial of Amador Valley High School next week. See a recap of the special events inside, Pages 12-13. Contributed photos. Cover design by Kristin Brown. Vol. XXIV, Number 33



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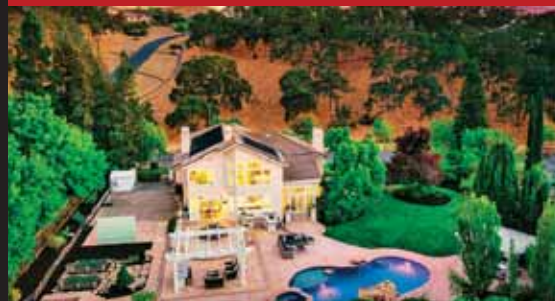
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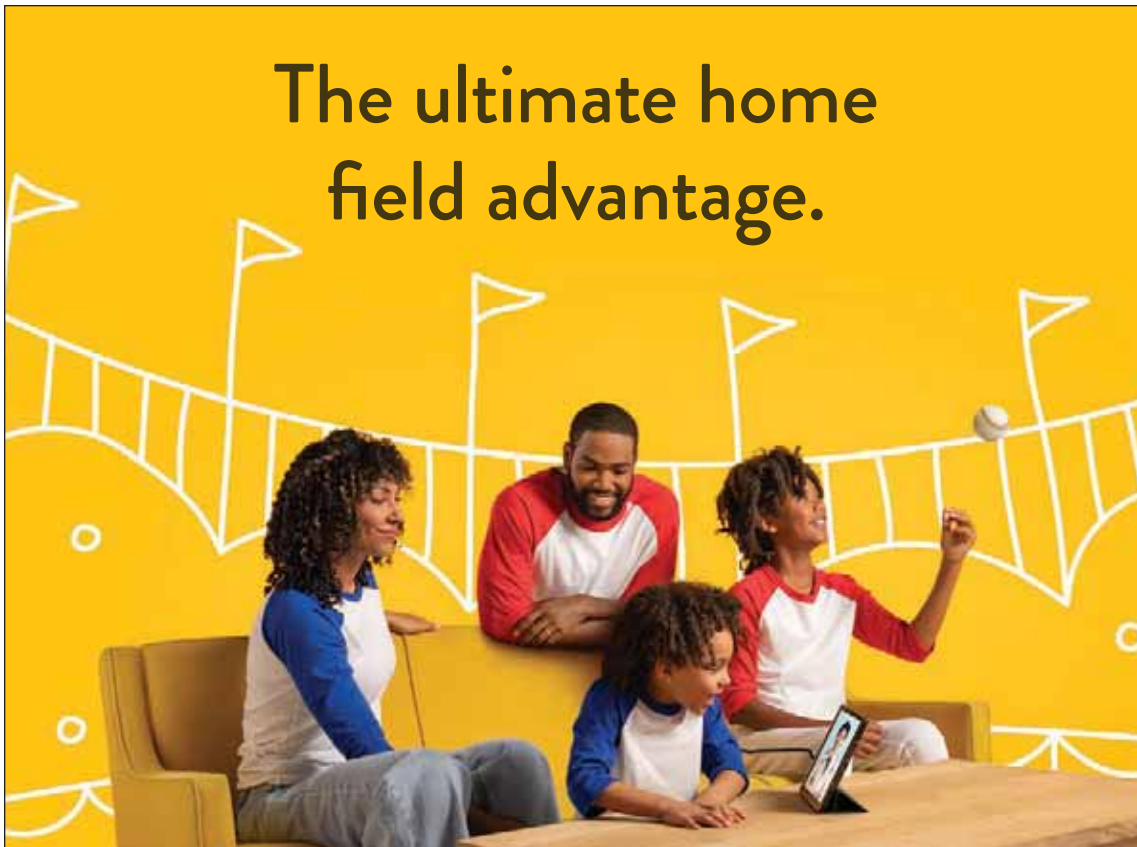
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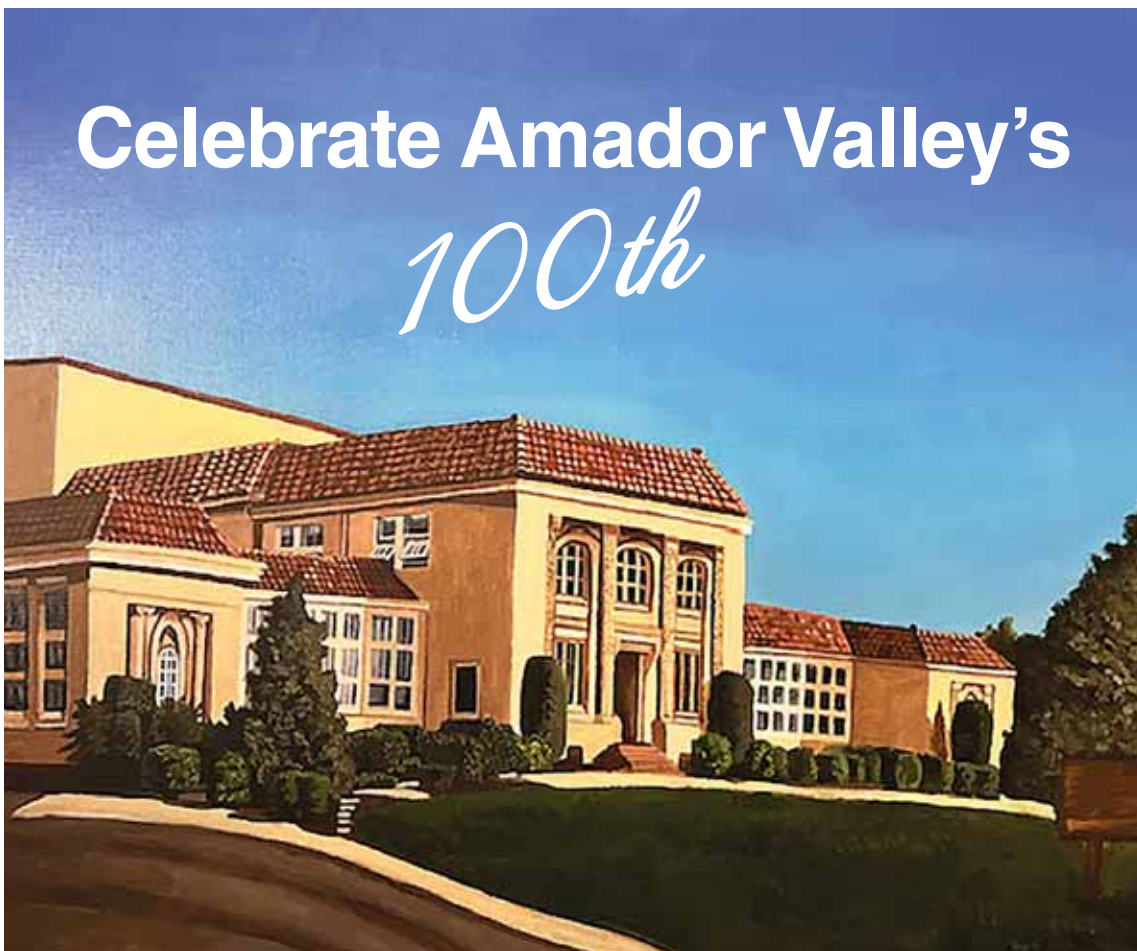
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 Pancake Breakfast Sept. 16th 8:30am-11:00am AVHS Outside Multipurpose Room

www.Amador100.com

Streetwise

ASKED AROUND TOWN

What types of things do you do in order to transition from summer into fall?



Ethan Rodricks
Server

I start wearing warmer clothes like sweaters and flannel shirts and sweatpants. I really prefer the cooler weather that comes along in the fall, so all year long I look forward to being able to do this.



Sophia Brown
Engineer

I look forward to being able to watch the Cal Poly women's soccer team play during their fall season. I used to be the goalie on that team back when I was in college. Once their season starts, I know fall is upon us.



Tim LaBarge
Retired

In my opinion, there really isn't a huge transition because we live in California after all. But I do clean the gutters as fall approaches so that when the leaves start falling off the trees, the gutters won't get clogged.



Kris Acosta
Engineer

I transition into fall by looking forward to the cooler weather. I enjoy being able to comfortably light candles and layer up. Sweater weather. Ahhhhhhhh, my favorite.



Vicki LaBarge
Retired

I start clearing out my garden of all of the plants that are no longer producing. I check all the trees to see which ones might need some pruning as we usher in the fall. And I also fertilize all of my citrus trees in order to prepare them for the colder weather.

—Compiled by Nancy and Jeff Lewis

Have a Streetwise question? Email editor@PleasantonWeekly.com

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DIGEST

'Began in a Garden'

The Livermore-Amador Valley Garden Club is hosting the first meeting of its new club year next Thursday evening with guest speaker Ann DuMont and a theme of "It All Began in a Garden".

DuMont, who has "transformed her Castro Valley yard into an oasis of a succulent garden", is behind Ms. DuMont Garden Inspired Accessories, a venture that combines her roles as a master gardener, graphic designer, photographer and seamstress, club officials said.

"She transforms her lush succulent and perennial gardens into stunning fabric creations," officials said.

The LAVGC meeting will be held from 6-8 p.m. Thursday (Sept. 14) in-person only at Alisal Elementary School at 1454 Santa Rita Road. Learn more at www.lavgc.org.

Haven counseling

Tri-Valley Haven has openings available for individual counseling and group support sessions for survivors of domestic violence or sexual assault in the region.

"If you are a survivor and you feel alone, misunderstood, and disconnected from others, please call for support. Tri-Valley Haven would be happy to help you along your healing journey. We are committed to fostering a world without violence and supporting healthy, strong survivors!" the local non-profit said.

Call Tri-Valley Haven's counseling intake line at 925-449-5845, ext. 2852.

A brilliant gala

Livermore Valley Arts is gearing up for its signature gala, Brilliance at the Bankhead, this Saturday evening headlined by television comedy legend and Tony Award-winning stage actor Jason Alexander performing "a whimsical salute to Broadway musicals" accompanied by the Livermore-Amador Symphony.

The annual fundraising event, which benefits the Bankhead Theater and Bothwell Arts Center as well as other LVA educational and cultural efforts, will feature live and silent auctions and a raffle for a 14-karat white gold diamond bracelet donated by Lance Cavalieri Jewelers — in addition to the dinner and show.

A longtime actor of stage and screen, Alexander is best known for his nine-year run as George Costanza on "Seinfeld". He also won a Tony Award in 1989 for his lead performance in "Jerome Robbins' Broadway".

For more information on the gala, which is not yet sold out, visit livermorearts.org. ■

Residents weigh in on proposed water rate increases — and they're not happy

Many back petition to pause process, say city should've communicated information better

By CHRISTIAN TRUJANO

More than a thousand people have recently signed a new petition to ask the Pleasanton City Council and city staff to postpone the upcoming decision to increase water rates.

The petition on change.org, which cites just over 1,600 signatures as of Wednesday morning, claims that city officials have not done a good job communicating accurate information about their proposal — which is a shared concern among some residents.

Resident concerns were heightened after the city sent out a state-mandated public notice brochure, which many said was very confusing to read and understand. Several residents, like Jocelyn Combs, even pointed out

formatting errors that made the document difficult to follow.

"I am not disputing the necessity of increasing the water rates," longtime resident Jocelyn Combs told the Weekly. "What my concern is, is that I'm not quite sure the increase is based on the information that was sent out, and that's really unfortunate."

However city leaders continue to say the rate increases are necessary and are working through different online mediums to put out as much information as possible before the council makes an official decision regarding the rates at its Sept. 19 meeting.

"The city is committed to being transparent in this rate-setting process and has created additional information in response to community questions, including

a special edition 'Pleasanton Pipeline' e-newsletter and a 'Water Rate FAQ' that clarifies much of the information on the public hearing notice," city communication manager Heather Tiernan told the Weekly. "The official public hearing notice is prescriptive as to what is included to satisfy all legal requirements."

The city had been on track to raise its water rates back in 2019. At the time, city officials were planning to conduct a water rate study, but due to the COVID-19 pandemic, they put a pause on the study.

That led to three years of no increases, which Councilmember Julie Testa said was something that put the city financially behind and left the current council in a difficult position of having

to raise the rates in order to begin restoring the city's water enterprise fund.

"With the kind of money we're talking about ... it sounds like a big increase because we're coming from being pretty far behind," Testa told the Weekly.

If approved at the Sept. 19 council meeting, the water rates would go up by 30% beginning Nov. 1, followed by another 20% increase beginning Jan. 1, 2025 and a 12% increase the following year.

Single-family residential customers would see an average increase of about \$33 every other month during the first year, depending on their bimonthly water consumption, according to

See **WATER** on Page 10



COURTESY CITY OF PLEASANTON

The city of Pleasanton is ready to welcome the 2023-24 season at the Firehouse Arts Center with the inaugural Firehouse Art & Music Fest on Sept. 8.

Firehouse Art & Music Fest

Inaugural open house to kick off new season of shows at downtown Pleasanton venue

By JEREMY WALSH

A brand-new kickoff festival will usher in the new season at the Firehouse Arts Center this Friday in downtown Pleasanton.

The inaugural Firehouse Art & Music Fest is envisioned as an open house showcase featuring live entertainment, theater workshops, art demonstrations and hands-on activities for all ages while also highlighting the upcoming 2023-24 season of entertainment at the city-operated

theater and gallery venue.

"As we prepare to kick off an exciting new season of shows at the Firehouse, we invite the community to join us for a special evening celebrating art and music," city library and recreation spokesman Nick Binzoni told the Weekly. "We designed this event to reflect the wide assortment of shows, exhibits and programs offered at the Firehouse, and give attendees the opportunity to experience and explore all of this at once."

"We are passionate about

creating a space where the community can come together and build connections through a shared love for the arts. And so, we welcome all individuals and families to come, have fun and help us make lasting memories," Binzoni added.

Among the attractions at the festival will be live art demonstrations by local artists Claudette McDermott and Chieko Shimizu bringing "their visions to life

See **FIREHOUSE** on Page 6

City, PPOA reach deal

Key terms of new union contract yet to be disclosed

By JEREMY WALSH

The bargaining teams for the city of Pleasanton and the Pleasanton Police Officers Association have reached a tentative agreement to end months of tense contract negotiations.

A city press release on the night of Aug. 31 said the new contract would "increase wages and benefits for police officers and sergeants", but specific terms of the deal have not been released publicly.

The tentative agreement, which received approval from union membership that evening, is pending final certification by the Pleasanton City Council next month.

"I am pleased that Pleasanton's leadership and the PPOA came to a contractual agreement that has been endorsed by both parties. I deeply appreciate the City Manager and City Attorney's work during the negotiations and their commitment to providing the public with current information and updates on the negotiation," Mayor Karla Brown said in the press release.

"The City Council is proud of the outstanding service our police officers provide to the community, and we believe this new contract

See **UNION** on Page 6

State deems Pleasanton's Housing Element compliant

Confirmation comes months after HCD sent document back to city for revisions

BY CHRISTIAN TRUJANO

Pleasanton's newest Housing Element has been officially certified by the California Department of Housing and Community Development after the state had previously sent the document back to the city for revisions, city officials confirmed last week.

The mandated 2023-2031 Housing Element update is now compliant with the state law, which means the city will not have to worry about things like the builder's remedy. According to the city press release, it will now help ensure that the city's plans and goals "address the housing needs of Pleasanton residents and provide fair housing options."

"Housing is a key priority in Pleasanton, and a certified Housing Element update demonstrates our continued commitment to this priority," Mayor Karla Brown stated in the Aug. 29 press release. "An outstanding quality of life for our city is closely connected to quality housing, and this update is an important step to keeping Pleasanton a desirable place to live and work for everyone."

The city has been working on its

Housing Element update for nearly two years in order to get to this point.

The City Council had adopted the document on Jan. 26 after years of deliberation on which occupied and vacant sites to zone in order to meet the city's assigned Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) counts for new residential units within designated affordability categories.

Pleasanton's Housing Element will serve as a plan to address the city's assigned RHNA tally of 5,965 new units — 2,758 of which are targeted toward lower-income households — over the next eight years through the rezoning of 19 sites for housing.

The city had originally resubmitted the Housing Element on Feb. 14 so that state officials could review and approve the document. While HCD officials found that most of the document complied with state Housing Element law statutory requirements, a notice letter from HCD sent to City Manager Gerry Beaudin on April 10 noted that the city needed to make some additional revisions in order for the document to be certified.

Since then, city staff have been

working to address those issues that the state pointed out.

Those issues included three major topics, according to the state: information to demonstrate viability of some of the non-vacant housing sites; program modifications to address environmental and regulatory constraints to housing development; and enhancement of Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing (AFFH) policies and programs.

In terms of the sites inventory, the changes that HCD outlined in the notice letter are that the city needed to better demonstrate the potential for redevelopment at specific sites such as the 10.68-acre Pleasanton Unified School District headquarters on Bernal Avenue and the 7-acre PUSD Vineyard site, located between Thiessen Street and Manoir Lane.

Apart from providing more evidence and context into potential sites for redevelopment, HCD was also looking for more clarity on the timelines for developing housing on those sites.

As for program modifications for the planned unit development process, the notice letter also outlined issues that might arise depending

on the results of the city having to reanalyze its sites list, which the city had to address in order to be compliant with the state's housing laws.

One major talking point during this current Housing Element cycle — which had many municipalities scrambling to reach official certification with the state — was the lurking possibility of the builder's remedy.

The builder's remedy states that if a jurisdiction fails to adopt a compliant update by the statutory deadline — Jan. 31 for the Bay Area municipalities — local governments could lose the authority to deny certain development proposals based on inconsistencies with their zoning and General Plan requirements, if presented with a proposed development that meets state affordable housing rules.

But now that the city has a state-certified Housing Element as of Aug. 25, Pleasanton will not have to worry about the builder's remedy, according to city officials. Instead, the city will have to look to potential developers to come in and propose housing projects on the sites listed in the Housing Element. ■

Final site inventory list

- Lester property
- Stoneridge Shopping Center
- Laborers Council
- Signature Center
- Hacienda Terrace
- Muslim Community Center of the East Bay
- Metro 580
- St. Elizabeth Seton Catholic Church
- St. Augustine Catholic Church
- Tri-Valley Inn
- Valley Plaza
- Black Avenue area
- Kiewit affordable housing site
- Kiewit market-rate housing sites
- Merritt property
- Sunol Boulevard area
- Pleasanton Unified School District headquarters
- PUSD's Vineyard Avenue property
- Oracle property

UNION

Continued from Page 5

demonstrates our commitment to the men and women that serve," Brown added.

"After 92 days without a contract, we are pleased to have reached an agreement with the City. Our members are ready to move on and get back to serving this great community. We cannot thank the community enough for their unwavering support of our officers and public safety," Brian Jewell, president of the PPOA, said in a statement on Sept. 1.

"Public safety requires a continued and intentional commitment as a city priority. We will continue to work with the Mayor and City Council to ensure that it is," Jewell added.

The two sides had been locked in negotiations for months before the union declared an impasse in late May — a week before their prior contract expired — after rejecting the city's final contract offer in the spring.

After mediation failed in July, city and union negotiators were poised for the fact-finding stage with the state labor board in late September, but that step now appears moot in light of the tentative agreement.

The new contract, which would be retroactive to June 1 and run through May 31, 2026, will be presented to the City Council for public consideration on Sept. 19 ahead of an anticipated final vote on Oct. 3, according to city officials. Specific terms of the deal are expected to be released the week before the first council hearing. ■

FIREHOUSE

Continued from Page 5

before the audiences' very eyes," Firehouse officials said.

Live music will include performances by Caribbean music artist Asheba, Bay Area funk-rock-jazz band Moving Parts and Pleasanton's own High School Music Collaborative. Face-painting will be among the interactive activities available for families led by Firehouse art instructors, Pleasanton Art League, Pleasanton Cultural Arts Council and Museum on Main.

"Attendees are also invited to

join a public art tour and discover the captivating realm of theater through interactive workshops, as Pleasanton Youth Theater Company staff lead lessons on the art of dance, improv and character development," Firehouse officials said.

The first-ever Firehouse Art & Music Fest is set for 4-8 p.m. this Friday (Sept. 8) at the venue, 4444 Railroad Ave. in downtown Pleasanton. For a full schedule of events, visit firehousearts.org. And learn more about the 2023-24 season lineup at the Firehouse in next week's cover story in the Weekly. ■

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Tri-Valley prepares to remember 9/11

Exchange Club ceremony in Danville, plus LPFD observances on tap

By JEANITA LYMAN

Tri-Valley organizers have been preparing in recent weeks for the upcoming anniversary of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, seeking to commemorate the event with those who were impacted by it at the time as well as shed light on it for the younger generation that has come of age in the 22 years since.

The Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department is set to hold memorial events at fire stations throughout the two cities, with the Exchange Club of the San Ramon Valley set to resume its longstanding remembrance ceremony in Danville.

Karen Stepper, Danville vice mayor and former Exchange Club president, emphasized the importance of remembering the anniversary of the 9/11 attacks as it fades further from the memories of those who were alive at the time — and more importantly, educating young people who don't remember 2001 or a time before the hijacked planes in that day's attacks hit the World Trade Center towers, The Pentagon and a field in Pennsylvania and sent reverberations that impacted the globe.

"People are always asking, 'Why do we still have the ceremony? It was a long time ago,'" Stepper said. "And that's the answer — it was a long time ago."

"Kids need to know the history of what has happened so that they will be a part of the solutions going forward," she added.

To that end, the local Exchange Club ceremony aims to draw and feature the voices of young people — specifically, the Monte Vista High School choir, who will perform at Monday's event, and the troops of Boy Scouts and American Heritage Girls who will open the ceremony with a flag-bearing procession.

In addition to remembering the deadly 2001 attacks, this year's ceremony is aimed at marking the anniversary of a lesser-recognized attack even longer ago — the earlier 1993 bombing of the World Trade Center that has been eclipsed in collective memory by the terrorism of 2001.

"We've never done the 30th anniversary because people don't know about it — they don't remember that a World Trade Center bomber came eight years before this one," Stepper said.

The earlier attack, however, will be a focal point at this year's San Ramon Valley ceremony, with keynote speaker Max Noel sharing insight into that event and its repercussions from his perspective as a retired FBI agent who was in the midst of the agency's development of a division devoted

to counterterrorism, which was solidified at the end of 1999.

In addition to Noel's talk, the 1993 bombing will be the topic of this year's Exchange Club essay contest, in which elementary through high school students are invited to enter their writing for cash prizes ranging from \$50 to \$500.

For Stepper, who has been a high-profile member of the San Ramon Valley community for decades and a key figure in the Exchange Club's memorial efforts since 2006, the memory of the attacks is still fresh in her mind 22 years later.

"That day was the most patriotic day I can remember, ever since the Kennedy death," Stepper said. "I'm very proud of our community."

LPFD Fire Chief Joe Testa also remembers the day clearly, and its

impact on the department, calling the day "surreal and tragic."

He said that at the time of the attacks in 2001, LPFD was in the midst of fighting one of the largest apartment building fires the department had seen, near East Avenue in Livermore, as other units were gearing up to tackle wildfires in more far-flung parts of the state.

"My own role was providing backfill at a station in Pleasanton (now the Firehouse Arts Center)," Testa said. "We momentarily glanced at the news and saw what was happening in New York, but knew that we had to meet our mission locally and get units in-service to backfill those already deployed and to protect our communities."

"Once we had a moment to pause, the magnitude of events hit us, and the emotions that were

likely felt by most that day followed," he added. "Horror, sadness and when we learned it was an attack, anger, were a few we experienced."

As LPFD first responders from the earlier shift that day wrapped up, they were held on standby in case of subsequent attacks on the Tri-Valley. Testa said they joined the millions of Americans and citizens throughout the world who were transfixed by television news footage of first responders in New York engaged in rescue missions in the rubble of the Twin Towers.

"To the LPFD and to the firefighting community as whole, the number 343 will always have meaning as the number of firefighters who died that day," Testa said. "We mourn their loss, but we also know that the fire service found strength and unity in tragedy."

The ceremonies are set for all LPFD fire stations in Livermore and Pleasanton on Monday at 9:45 a.m. (Pacific) — it was by 9:45 a.m. (Eastern) 22 years ago both Twin Towers had been hit by the hijacked planes and rescue efforts were underway.

Uniformed service members as well as community members at large are invited to the remembrance ceremonies at the flagpoles at the 10 fire stations, with flags set to be at half-staff.

The Exchange Club ceremony is set for later in the day, kicking off with a flag-bearing procession at 5:30 p.m. Monday (Sept. 11) at the All Wars Memorial at Oak Hill Park at 3005 Stone Valley Road in Danville, with Stepper and current Exchange Club President Tim White serving as emcees ahead of Noel's keynote talk. ■



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Tech leaders discuss how AI can foster workforce resilience

Automation of day-to-day tasks, collecting data insights among examples cited at Tri-Valley summit

By CIERRA BAILEY

With a packed house at Patelco Credit Union corporate headquarters in Dublin, four artificial intelligence experts shared insights and tips about the direction of the technology and how it can be used in various professional and corporate settings.

Hosted by Startup Tri-Valley, Rezolve.ai, the city of Dublin and Patelco, the Tri-Valley AI Summit on Aug. 29 was the first of its kind in the region. The event brought together business and community leaders to learn about benefits of generative AI — artificial intelligence that is capable of generating text, images or other media using generative models, like ChatGPT.

“In my 25 years in the tech space, I’ve seen cloud and big data and blockchain and any other number of technologies come and take hold, but personally I think generative AI and the transformation potential of it is significantly larger than any of them,” said Saurabh Kumar, CEO of Dublin-based Rezolve.ai and a panelist at the summit.

The panel discussion titled, “A Resilience-Centered Framework Built on Generative AI For

Businesses and Individuals,” featured Kumar along with Jamar Thomas, a lead enterprise architect at Google; Matthew Andrew, director of advanced research for Carl Zeiss X-ray Microscopy; and Monte LaBute, a technologist and research scientist who is currently leading an advanced research and technology team at Workday focused on scaling AI/ML features across the company’s products.

The approximately 45-minute conversation was moderated by Jason Sydow, founding partner of Next47, a venture capital firm based in Palo Alto.

To kick off the event, Dublin Mayor Melissa Hernandez shared remarks. She referred to the Tri-Valley as “the new Silicon Valley” in her comments, alluding to the many emerging tech and science businesses planting roots in the area.

The first official question to the panel asked, “How can generative AI be used to create more resilient applications or environments?” In his response, LaBute reassured the audience that the tech industry is not looking to take jobs away with AI but rather “repurpose talented people to do more strategic things” while using

AI and other technologies to lighten workloads.

Examples he provided were accounting and HR systems operating with more intelligence and more automation in a way that’s working with people as opposed to replacing them.

All of the panelists at different points throughout the discussion referenced the coronavirus pandemic, which expedited the need and desire for businesses to rely more on automation and artificial intelligence to continue operations remotely and in many cases, with reduced staffing resources.

“The definition for resilience for me in this context is about, of course, adopting the change but also becoming more agile, faster, more cost efficient. So this to me — resilience kind of in a changing world — means making your business itself more resilient using AI as one of those foundational capabilities,” Kumar said.

When asked what are some of the key skills that may shift or be added within the workforce because of emerging generative solutions that

See AI SUMMIT on Page 11

Couple provide fresh microgreens to local restaurants

MicroDreams aims to enrich and serve community with homegrown produce

By JUDE STRZEMP

LED lights shine down upon many soil-filled trays and their occupants for 18 hours a day. These trays — some with greens poking above the soil and others with developing seeds — fill racks that border a 250-square-foot converted garage.

Within days to weeks, they grow into small but familiar vegetables and herbs: micro cilantro, micro arugula, micro radish and more.

Two years ago, this indoor production started with just a \$300 budget for seeds, soil and equipment.

But with proper tending, Katie Lee and Chris Ybarra — co-owners of MicroDreams in Livermore — grew their dream from hobby to business with ideals of human connection and quality in mind.

MicroDreams has bloomed into a business that produces and supplies microgreens of laudable freshness to local businesses and households. Owning the company has brought challenges, but Lee and Ybarra



Katie Lee and Chris Ybarra, co-owners of MicroDreams, with radish microgreens, 2023.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

See MICRODREAMS on Page 11

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Dublin Boulevard closures set on two weekends this month

New bridge seeks to provide easier, safer access to Iron Horse Trail

By NICOLE GONZALES
Total closures of Dublin Boulevard between Dougherty Road and Hacienda Drive are scheduled to take place during two weekends this month for the installation of a new Iron Horse Regional Trail overcrossing.

The ongoing project to build a bridge for pedestrians and cyclists over busy Dublin Boulevard through the area will require a closure this Saturday (Sept. 9) at 11 p.m. through Sunday (Sept. 10) at 11 p.m. to install the overcrossing. The second closure, to pour the concrete walkway on the bridge, will follow Sept. 23 at 11 p.m. through Sept. 24 at 7 a.m.

Detour signs will be on display to direct drivers south to Pleasanton, according to Dublin city officials.

City staff have said the goal of the project is to allow for safer and quicker crossing of pedestrians and cyclists along the Iron Horse Trail.

Currently, pedestrians must take additional steps and directions to continue on the route. The bridge will now allow pedestrians to stay on the trail and cross over multiple lanes of vehicle traffic.

“The existing trail at-grade crossing of Dublin Boulevard is quite skewed,” city officials said in the traffic advisory. “Trail users approaching Dublin Boulevard from the southeast are currently required to turn left and use the

sidewalk along the south side of Dublin Boulevard for approximately 200 feet, cross the street at the existing Scarlett Drive signalized intersection, and then turn right and use the sidewalk along the northside of Dublin Boulevard for approximately 100 feet to get back to the Trail.”

According to the city, local vehicle and pedestrian access will be allowed up to Scarlet Drive and Sterling Street during the Dublin Boulevard work. The city has advised that exact dates and times of the closures may vary depending on unpredictable circumstances.

The overcrossing will span an estimated 230 feet over Dublin Boulevard with a height of 20 feet at its tallest.

The project is estimated to cost \$14 million, funded by Alameda County Measure BB, BART Measure RR and the Bay Area Air Quality Management District Transportation Fund for Clean Air. Prior to initiating construction, the city completed several studies on the feasibility and impact of such an overcrossing installation.

Contracted by the city of Dublin, Goodfellow Bros. Sequoia A JV, began construction of the project in April 2022 with foundation piles, concrete bents and elevated walkways. Now the final step involves lifting and placing the pre-built pieces into place.

For updates on the closures, visit dublin.ca.gov. ■

TAKE US ALONG



Happy 93rd birthday: Billy Timmons celebrated his 93rd birthday in Cabo San Lucas, Mexico with family earlier this year. Shown at the hotel pool deck overlooking the marina are (from left) Chris Studendorff, Dyan Timmons, the birthday boy, Debbie Studendorff, Josh Studendorff, Bethany Studendorff and Michael Studendorff.

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.

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OCTOBER 23, 2023

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- ✓ The event has a quick pace of play. Most people complete 18 holes every two hours. Although score is not of primary importance, we will award prizes related to your score.
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- ✓ Your registration is a display of your heartfelt generosity to raise a minimum of \$2,500 in support toward Hope's mission of care and service to our community. Your green fees, cart rental, three meals, and course beverages are all covered.
- ✓ Some players pay their own registration; others seek sponsorship from friends, family, or their employer to cover the cost.

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Hope100GolfMarathon.com

BART frequency changes effective Monday

Dublin-Pleasanton to have 20-minute headways

By Bay City News Service

BART will be ending all 30-minute frequencies on nights and weekends starting on Monday.

There will be an increase of daily service on the Yellow line running from Antioch to San

Francisco, with trains arriving approximately every 10 minutes before 9 p.m. Monday through Friday.

BART's Blue line to and from Dublin-Pleasanton will have 20-minute frequencies at all hours, increasing nights and

weekends with an added five minutes between trains during weekday daytime hours.

Riders coming from the Richmond and Berryessa/North San Jose direction will have frequencies of approximately 10 minutes on weekdays during

daytime hours. There will be an increase in options for transfers to take the Orange line running between Richmond and Berryessa, if necessary.

San Francisco International Airport will see up to nine trains per hour on nights and

weekends, with trains arriving and departing approximately every 20 minutes. All Red line trains will now stop at SFO before heading to Millbrae with more trains on nights and weekends to Oakland International Airport. ■

WATER

Continued from Page 5

the city's website.

While Testa said that she is the last person who wants to raise the rates for residents, it is necessary to start building funds in order to address future water infrastructure and supply projects — especially in light of the city's ongoing issue with PFAS, or forever chemicals, in its groundwater systems.

"The proposed rate increases will allow for the funding of near-term projects to provide for the delivery of additional water from Zone 7 and other water distribution system improvements," Tiernan said. "Rates have only been adjusted for inflation since 2011, except for 2017, 2020, 2021 and 2022 when there weren't any increases at all. These inflationary increases do not account for capital projects such as infrastructure repairs and improvements."

That's why during the July 18 meeting, the City Council moved forward with sending out the public notice late last month, so that residents could see the

rate increase breakdowns for themselves.

But that notice was what also caused a lot of the pushback from residents.

"It was filled with mistakes," longtime resident Linda Kelly told the Weekly. "As they put it together, the tables were in the wrong place and didn't describe what the text described. It was put together too fast."

Kelly, who said she was speaking to the Weekly solely as a resident and not as a representative of the city's Energy and Environment Committee, stated that not only was the information hard to digest, she even knew a few people who had accidentally thrown away the public notice thinking it was junk mail.

And to her, that combined with the lack of information on how the rate increases compared to what residents are currently paying and errors throughout the brochure tells her that the city is rushing this process.

Diane Rodriguez, who supports the online petition to postpone the increases, also told the Weekly that as a resident, she didn't appreciate the way the public notice was laid out either.

She said that there was too much unnecessary information about the Zone 7 Water Agency and other fees and that the information should have been tightened up and focused specifically on the change ratepayers will be noticing over the next three years.

She was also particularly worried about the increase over those three years and claimed, after doing the math herself, that she saw an increase of over 1,000% in her own bills for her Pleasanton home.

"I think that's a stunning number and they don't want to talk about it," Rodriguez said. "They want us to look at all the numbers combined together, but I don't think you should because the other numbers aren't changing that much. It's their numbers that are changing so much."

However, according to Tiernan, those several components to the water rates on current utility bills, including usage-based charges for both Zone 7 and Pleasanton as well as the one fixed-meter charge, are important aspects to consider when talking about the rates overall.

She addressed some of the

comments from the community that called out the increases saying that they will put residents at the higher ends of rates compared to surrounding cities.

"There have been comments that after the three years of rate increases, Pleasanton's rates will no longer be at the lower end of surrounding agencies," Tiernan said. "Comparing Pleasanton's 2026 rates to other agencies' 2023 is not comparing like values as we don't know how other agencies' rates will change in the upcoming years."

For her part, Testa said that the petition, which called out several components of the rate increases saying that the changes would be drastically significant, is distorting the actual numbers and what they actually mean.

"When looking at individual components of the proposed rates, some changes are significant," Tiernan added. "However, as part of the overall rate recalibration included in the water rate study, the increase for the average single-family residence is about \$33 per billing cycle (every two months), which equates to an approximately 30% increase in the total water portion of the utility bill, or about a 13% increase to the overall utility bill. 55% of Pleasanton's single-family residential customers are in this usage tier."

Tiernan also said that while the current "Pleasanton Water Var Charge" distribution rate, which she said has been the main focus in the community, is

changing significantly due to the costs shifting from fixed-meter charges as it does not sufficiently cover the cost of delivering water to the city's 22,000 customers and maintaining the distribution system.

"Focusing on only specific components of the proposed rate increase gives an incomplete view and understanding of the overall rate adjustment that was recommended in the water rate study," Tiernan said. "The city understands that the proposed rate increase is significant, but after years of minimal or no increases the current rates simply aren't enough to address critical issues such as PFAS and aging infrastructure, and without this rate increase, necessary improvements will not be possible."

However, residents such as Combs and Kelly said that they understand the need for water rate increases and that their issues are more with how things feel rushed and how the issues with the public notice are not allowing residents to make accurate judgements on the increases before the Sept. 19 meeting.

"We deserve better. We're the ones that are paying this," Combs said, adding that the public notice could have helped prevent any distrust from residents.

"It wasn't transparent. It wasn't clear," Combs added. "I'm not suggesting that this was done on purpose. I just think it was very poorly done because transparency builds trust, and lack of transparency erodes trust." ■

TRI-VALLEY REACH
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MICRODREAMS

Continued from Page 8

have overcome through collaboration and anticipate MicroDreams' further expansion, they told the Weekly.

In addition to the financial viability of growing at home, Lee said the two chose Livermore as a place to take root since, "Wanting to serve our community first and branch out later as we're able to."

Sales started at the Livermore Farmers' Market, which connected them to their mission of growing relationships with the community over fresh greens.

While MicroDreams is no longer selling at the market, they sell direct-to-consumer and supply microgreens to local eateries like Livermore's Sons of Liberty Alehouse, Wingen Bakery and The Press, which also has a location in Pleasanton.

Even with the increased scale of production, the business has carried on its initial commitment to providing quality, locally grown greens to the public. They usually deliver microgreens within 24 hours of cultivation.

"Our thing has always been quality. If something isn't up to what we would say is our good standard, then we will not give it to our customers," Lee said.

Trevor Hubbard, chef at Sons of Liberty in Livermore and San Leandro, partnered with MicroDreams, in part, because he said their greens stay fresh longer than those from other suppliers.

"It was just pretty evident from the beginning that they were super fresh. That alone was reason for me to start using it," Hubbard said of MicroDream's microgreens.

With the success of their budding business, Lee and Ybarra also help each other remain positive in the face of challenges.

"There's burnout from being at a regular job and having to do your other job," Lee said. "The last year and a half has been a lot of learning, a lot of finding middle ground and just remember(ing) that we really enjoy doing it. So we're trying not to let the rest of it get in the way of the fun we're having. But it is not for the faint of heart."

The couple's plans for the future of MicroDreams include acquiring a commercial growing space, increasing their presence at Livermore restaurants and maybe even entering local grocery stores.

All the while, Lee and Ybarra plan to tend MicroDreams in rhythm with their original intentions.

"We had a bunch of different ideas about a business that we could start and our main theme was something that we could give to people that would enrich their lives — be of a benefit to them — not just something to sell," Lee said.

More information about MicroDreams is available at www.microdreamsnorcal.com. ■

AI SUMMIT

Continued from Page 8

could make people more resilient to the new work processes, Thomas pointed to "democratizing data" as an example.

He highlighted a scenario where a business owner may need to find data insights to answer certain questions and they may have an AI dashboard that shows these insights which then need to be translated into a chart or sequel. The person may not necessarily have the skills to create those assets themselves but with generative AI capabilities, they could use simple terms and natural language

to ask the technology to generate those charts or sequels quickly and efficiently for them.

Toward the end of the discussion, the panelists held a brief Q&A with audience members. One of the attendees asked what would be a fundamental note to keep in mind when building an AI product or integrating AI into an existing product.

The panelists agreed that value to the customer is No. 1. They advised focusing on the solution to the problem you're trying to solve within your business and really evaluating whether generative AI is even the right tool before choosing that approach. ■

Deborah Waterman

June 20, 1952 – May 11, 2023

It's with immense sadness that we must announce the sudden passing of our Mother Deborah Dee Waterman. A beloved Mom, Grandma, sister, and friend, Debbie passed away on May 11th, 2023 in Pleasanton, CA surrounded by loved ones.

There aren't enough words to express the influence and impact a wonderful soul like Debbie had on the lives of her children, family and friends. Debbie was born June 20th 1952 to Charles and Dee Foster. The oldest of 7, Debbie developed a nurturing spirit by looking after her siblings. Debbie remained close to her family throughout her life spending time visiting Arizona where most of her sisters and Mom reside.

After starting a family in Tucson, Debbie relocated to California in 1993 where she raised her children with Daniel Waterman. It was here she found her "tribe of friends" who supported her and loved her deeply. Anyone who knew Deb can tell you how fun, energetic and free spirited she was. It was common to find Debbie on the phone with one of her sisters or girlfriends, telling jokes and laughing for hours.

Debbie was a loving mother and grandmother. She lived for her kids Kevin, Sarah, and Brian as well as her grandkids Trevor, Isabelle, Noah, Ellie and Camden. She was also mother in law to Justin, Evelyn, and Gail, and second mother to Felicia (among many others). Family was always the most important thing in her life. She raised her children with love, kindness, understanding, and acceptance. Our home was always open to friends for gatherings, Holidays, and extended stays. She never missed a sports game, dance practice, or school event. She dedicated her life to her family.

Debbie's bright aura and positive energy came from her belief that we are all connected spiritually. She lived as a being of "light" and believed in the healing power of love and positivity. You could be your true self around her without fear of judgement or negativity - she accepted everyone as they are. Her caring nature was also obvious in the way she loved her animal friends. Not only did Debbie adopt dogs and cats as our family pets, she went out of her way to care for strays and local wildlife.

She had so much life to live and love to give, the hole in our hearts will never be replaced. If you know Debbie, then you know we were blessed to have had such a pure and caring soul in our lives. We take comfort knowing she has joined her Father, Charles Foster, in the journey after life.

A celebration of life will be held on Sunday September 10th from 11:00am to 2:00pm PST at Callippe Golf Course.

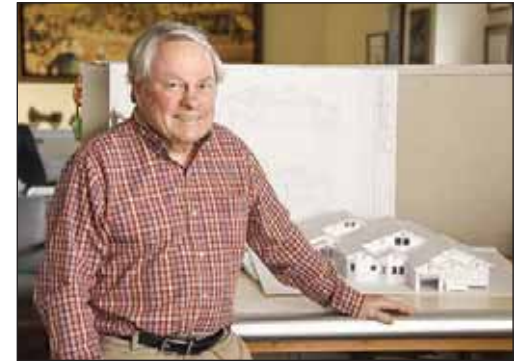


PAID OBITUARY

Charles Huff

May 31, 1948 – August 31, 2023

Longtime Pleasanton architect, historian and community leader Charles Huff passed away of natural causes on August 31, 2023.



He will be remembered as a loving husband, father and grandfather and someone with a giant smile who always made you feel like the most important person in the room.

A celebration of his life will be held at 11 a.m. on Monday, September 11, 2023, at Trinity Lutheran Church, 1225 Hopyard Road, Pleasanton. A reception will follow at the Veterans Memorial Center, 301 Main St.

Charles' life began in Berkeley on May 31, 1948, the only child of Ruth and James Huff. While he would later return to his NorCal roots, he spent most of his childhood in the Los Angeles suburb of Whittier. When he was 12, he joined a Baptist church and was inspired by a parishioner who practiced architecture. That man offered him a part-time internship after school, sparking his six-decade love affair with designing homes and other buildings.

Charles was a track sprinter at California High School and landed an athletic scholarship to Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, where he later graduated with a bachelor's degree in architecture. It's also where he met Kathleen Rominger, whom he married in April 1974. Kay and Charles moved to the San Jose area, where Charles took on various architectural jobs.

They had stopped through Pleasanton on occasion and thought it would be a nice place to raise a family. In 1980, with a newborn in hand, they set up life in Pleasanton. Charles in 1985 established his own architectural firm, called Charles Huff AIA Architect. Over the next 38 years, he would go on to design more than 1,400 Tri-Valley homes and businesses.

Charles also served as the city's unofficial historian, documenting Pleasanton history and leading downtown tours with stories of early settlers, underground tunnels, movie locations, murders and speakeasies.

Charles also served as a member of the Downtown and North Pleasanton Rotary groups, vice president of the Pleasanton Jaycees and board member for the Museum on Main, a historic building he helped renovate in the 1980s. In 1990, Charles received the Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce Community Service Award for the restoration of the old Pleasanton Train Station, where his office was located for more than 20 years. In 2006, Kay and Charles earned the Chamber's Distinguished Individual Service Award.

"I've been fairly lucky my whole life," he said ahead of a lifetime achievement honor he earned in 2022, the Ed Kinney Community Patriot Award. "And I wouldn't change a thing. With all the opportunities that Kay and I have had, we've met some wonderful people and made great friends."

Charles is survived by his wife of nearly 50 years, Kathleen Huff; sons Ryan and Tyler Huff; daughter-in-law Laurie Huff; and granddaughters Norah (10) and Savannah (8). Charles was preceded in death by his parents. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to the Charles Huff Memorial Fund at the Museum on Main: <https://www.museumonmain.org/donate.html>

PAID OBITUARY

DON OF A

Community reflects of Amador Valley

BY CHRISTIAN TRUJANO

Celebration is in the air for Amador Valley Dons young and old as the high school commemorates its 100th year of existence with an array of special events scheduled for the week ahead.

And while many are looking forward to what's to come in the next couple of decades — including new gyms, a new theater space and other facility improvements — several alumni from the past took some time to reflect on what the school has meant for them, their families and the overall Pleasanton community given that it was the city's first real high school campus.

"Back in that day ... that school nurtured a lot of really good people and there's a proud tradition there," Tom Orloff, former Alameda County district attorney and Amador alum, told the Weekly.

Founded in 1923, Amador was a result of an almost-grassroots effort by Pleasanton parents and students who, before then, were tired of having to travel all the way to Livermore High School.

Donna Kamp McMillion, a former director at Hope Hospice and longtime author, shared the story of how her great-grandfather Henry Mohr, one of the founders of the city, had to take his five daughters on a horse and buggy to Livermore for classes.

"That was when he and some other leaders of the community were going to start Amador," McMillion said. "Pleasanton really wanted a high school."

That then led to the formation of the Amador Valley Joint Union High School District, which spurred the efforts to build Amador High. At the time, the classes were very small — when the second year started, the student body was only about 90 kids, according to Museum on Main curator Ken MacLennan.

McMillion said that Mohr ended up being on the first school board for that district, as well as her own father later down the line.

The school soon began to grow and even began taking in students from surrounding towns such as Dublin, Sunol and other



areas in the Tri-Valley. Then, in 1988, a ballot measure passed which allowed the Amador high school district to merge with the Pleasanton Joint School District in order to form the Pleasanton Unified School District.

Current PUSD Superintendent David Haglund told the Weekly that he sees the 100th year milestone as a monumental one that resonates with the educators, families, students and alumni who have all contributed to the legacy of excellence that the school continues to uphold to this day.

"It's inspiring to me that so many generations of families are so proud to be part of Amador Valley's history and others will continue to build into the future," Haglund said.

It was during those early years of their lives that McMillion and Orloff said they made some of their favorite memories and met some of their closest

friends that they still keep in touch with to this day.

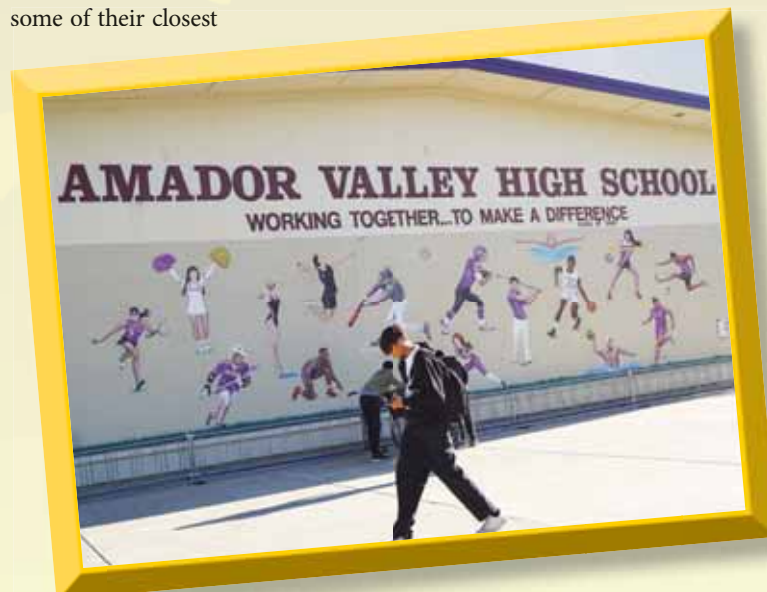
"It was the total opposite of some high-end private high school," Orloff said of Amador when he attended. "It was just a wonderful mix of kids and by large everybody got along, everybody knew everybody."

Orloff, who graduated from Amador in 1961, said one thing that contributed to that strong sense of community was the fact that his class was only made up of 85 students who all knew each other since elementary school.

"It was very different. Very tight-knit, very close," he said. "Maybe it still is, to a degree, but I'm sure it's different because it's so large."

Orloff did have a point, given that his class of 85 is just a mere fraction of the nearly 700 seniors who graduated this past June.

But, according to current Amador senior



Clockwise from top left: Gayle Cairo Lund (far right) poses with her fellow cheerleaders during the Cruising Down Memory Lane Panel Presentation on Sept. 16. (Photo courtesy of Ann Pfaff-Doss). A Don walks to class during the first day of school last year. (Photo courtesy of Ann Pfaff-Doss). Anita Ratna Gautam, that sense of community is still very much alive today — even if there are a lot more students at the school now.

Anita Ratna Gautam, that sense of community is still very much alive today — even if there are a lot more students at the school now.

"I think it is hard to keep all 600 and 700 students connected at all times ... but it's not like we all don't know each other," she told the Weekly.

Gautam was born in Russia before moving to the Tri-Valley five years ago, attended Amador all four years and said that as she gets set to continue pursuing her passion — which is journalism — after high school, she is proud to be a part of the school's historic centennial celebration.

that we are making history. We are living through it."

She also said that with the centennial — and the rivalry football game on Sept. 23 against cross-town Foothill High School, which is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year — Amador has been filled with school pride and has been making everyone feel that much more connected with each other.

"We are making Pleasanton bleed purple, at least for that weekend," Gautam said. "Everybody is trying to be more connected and more spirited this year."

To McMillion, the past memories of watching Orloff play basketball, friends cruising down Main Street, riding their horses around town are what made Amador special — which are all stories that she helped tell in the book "Cruising Down Memory Lane: Stories of Pleasanton in the 1950s."

That's why she and other former

NEW ERA

Reflections on 100 years at Amador Valley High School



Speakers at the centennial celebration outside of Amador Valley High School in 2022. Lund will be one of the speakers at the celebration (Photo by Christian Trujano). Tony Wang, who was chosen as Amador's 2023 Don (Photo by Christian Trujano). A photo of Amador Valley High School from 1967. (Photo by Christian Trujano).



As a 1956 graduate, Lund said she is not only excited about the parade and all of the other festive celebrations — she is particularly looking forward to touring the school to see just how much it has changed since the days she was a cheerleader there in the '50s.

She also said that as someone who was part of the small classes and small community that was Amador in the early days of the school's history, it will be nice to see old friends who she can reminisce with and other graduates from later years that she knew.

Especially given that her class doesn't have many reunions anymore.

"I just think it's wonderful that they are putting on something and celebrating in the way they are and to be able to spread it out over a few days so that everyone can come to town and reconnect," Lund said. "I'm looking forward to seeing old friends and seeing other graduates from Amador that I babysat for over the years."

Another person who is also excited for the festivities — including the parade, which will feature his business float — is Meadowlark Dairy owner Bruce Takens, who is a proud Amador alumnus.

Takens graduated from the school in 1974 along with his wife, Patti, before they took over the dairy from his parents in the '80s. His brother and sister also graduated from the school just a few years before then, which meant his love and appreciation for the school and the memories

during his time and all the other things that made his experience at Amador a positive one.

Like Orloff, McMillion and Lund, Takens wanted to make sure that the teachers from over the years are also celebrated because they were the people who were really responsible for molding him and other students into who they are today.

"The teachers would really make the difference because they weren't there just to teach you; they were there for a life experience or a lifetime friend," Takens

said.

And, according to Gautam, that connection is something that hasn't changed much over the decades.

"I think Amador succeeds in making relationships between students and teachers," she said. "There's a lot of teachers I met, even from my freshman year which was online, where I still know what's going on and they still know about me."

To view the full list of events during the centennial celebration weekend, visit www.amadorvalleycentennial.com. ■

Centennial schedule

- **Wine and Cheese Opening Reception:** Sept. 14, 5-7:30 p.m. at Museum on Main. Tickets are \$50 per person, available through the museum's website.
- **Amador Valley High School tours:** Sept. 15, 9 a.m. to noon.
- **Centennial Parade on Main Street:** Sept. 15, at 2:30 p.m. The parade will begin at Veterans Memorial Building and proceed north on Main Street toward Amador.
- **Pigskin Festival and Football Game event:** Sept. 15, 4:30 p.m. in the quad area of the school. Tickets are not required for the pigskin game but will be needed for the football game versus Monte Vista High School later that night at 7 p.m.
- **Centennial Pancake Breakfast:** Sept. 16, 8:30-11 a.m. outside of the school's multipurpose room.
- **Cruising Down Memory Lane Panel Presentation:** Sept. 16, 11:30 a.m. in the school's library. No reservations will be required.
- **Meet Up in the Park:** All weekend at Wayside and Delucchi parks. Reunions, in general, will be encouraged throughout the celebration. Alumni can find more information about whether or not their graduating classes will be meeting for reunions at the centennial's website under the reunions tab.

alumni are excited for the celebration events coming up next week. It gives them a place to reconnect with longtime friends and a chance to relive some of those old memories.

The four-day program will kick off next Thursday (Sept. 14) with a "Wine and Cheese Opening Reception" at the Museum on Main, which also recently opened a special exhibit commemorating the school's centennial.

"The Don Century: Amador Valley High School 1923-2023" features everything from old cheerleader uniforms to building fragments from the original Amador classroom building, which was torn down in 1968, to a report card from Amador's first year of instruction and much more.

"I look forward to celebrating with members of the Amador Valley community — both past and present — during events that include a pancake breakfast, a

parade down Main Street and the homecoming game," Haglund said regarding the four-day celebration. "I encourage everyone who has played a part in Amador Valley's history to come out and join us as we celebrate during these special events."

There will also be a panel of speakers next Saturday (Sept. 16) whom McMillion said will put stories to those artifacts given that they all — but one — graduated from Amador in the 1950s and grew up with all of those things currently in the museum.

One of the panelists, Gayle Cairo Lund, told the Weekly that she actually remembers one time when she recently visited the museum with a friend and they both saw their names and senior photos in one of the old yearbooks.

"Somebody was there from a newspaper that asked us if we knew those people, we said we are those people," Lund said.

FIVE FOR FIGHTING IN CONCERT

Artist behind emotional 2001 hit performing with string quartet at Bankhead

By JEANITA LYMAN

With the anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks approaching next week, Tri-Valley residents are also set to have the opportunity to reflect on some of the music that resonated throughout the world in the aftermath in 2001 — specifically that of John Ondrasik, better known by his stage name Five for Fighting.

Ondrasik is scheduled to stop in Livermore as part of an ongoing tour that sees his music showcased by his distinctive vocals and piano, with the addition of a string quartet, for a performance at the Bankhead Theater next Friday (Sept. 15).

“There’s nothing like performing for an audience, and I think for any of us the pandemic was a wake up call in how fortunate we are to do this kind of community experience,” Ondrasik told the Weekly.

“I’ve toured a lot back in the early 2000s,” he added. “I think after the pandemic, all of a sudden I wanted to get back on the bus.”

Five for Fighting’s breakout hit was the 2001 single “Superman (It’s Not Easy)” from the album “America Town” — an omnipresent part of the collective American soundtrack of the early wake of 9/11 that made it to the top of the Billboard charts that year — which was followed by several high-performing singles, including his second No. 1 hit “100 Years” in 2003.

His current tour features Ondrasik’s hits — in addition to new material including the 2022 “Can One Man Save the World,” better known as the “Ukraine Song” for its resonance in the ongoing war in that country — in a warmer and more intimate atmosphere than his earlier stadium shows, with the addition of the string quartet. The adjustment is nothing new for Ondrasik, whose roots are in classical music.

“My mom was a piano teacher, so she started me very young. And she was very wise when I was 13 and didn’t want to practice anymore and she let me quit,” Ondrasik said.

Later in his teens, Ondrasik said that he began gravitating toward well-known rock singers, including Journey vocalist Steve Perry, whose voice teacher he was able to find and consult.

“I realized that a lot of these great singers trained classically,”

Ondrasik said.

While Ondrasik had his eyes on the pop charts early on, he went on to train in opera for five years, as well as explore his earlier attraction to rock vocals.

“I got out of college and I joined a band with all of Pat Benatar’s ex-musicians,” Ondrasik said. “We were on the verge of getting a record deal, but then this little band called Nirvana came out.”

While the rise and early dominance of grunge music that was catalyzed by Nirvana’s first album in 1991 presented an obstacle for Ondrasik’s band and other musicians seeking to blend rock and pop influences, the tides turned in his favor a decade later.

“It’s surreal — I’m a 15-year overnight success,” Ondrasik said. “I struggled so long and I was relatively old. I was in my late-20s when I started having hit songs, which is really old for a performer, because usually by then reality strikes.”

When “Superman” was first released, Ondrasik was already motivated by its early resonance with audiences on the heels of his earlier single “Easy Tonight,” which he described as “just enough of a hit to give us another song.”

“When I played it I saw people kind of be moved by it,” Ondrasik said. “I got a really strange call from the record company, and they said ‘Superman’ was No. 1 in the Philippines.”

“We saw that there was something there, and then the song really started to take off, and then 9/11 happened,” Ondrasik said.

The rest is history, with this year marking the 22nd anniversary of “Superman” becoming an indelible part of the soundtrack of the post-9/11 era and launching Five for Fighting into international fame.

That fame and his place in the history of pop music was also solidified with the subsequent hit “100 Years” in 2003, followed by a new generation of listeners who have come to appreciate Ondrasik’s work amidst the rise of social media.

“I’ve just been incredibly blessed with ‘100 Years’ becoming one of those songs,” Ondrasik said. “I still pinch myself when I hear it on the radio.”

Changes in the media landscape in the rise of the digital age have



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

John Ondrasik has returned to the road with the ongoing Five for Fighting with String Quartet tour set to stop in Livermore on Sept. 15.

also impacted how Ondrasik and other artists measure success.

“It’s really cool to see younger kids finding the music and having it impact this new generation,” Ondrasik said. “The last couple of songs — they’re not songs that get millions of spins on the radio, but they get millions of views and impacts.”

Among these is the “Ukraine Song,” which Ondrasik wrote with the Ukrainian people in mind amidst the ongoing attacks from Russian forces, and which saw him welcomed to the war-torn country to film the accompanying music video, despite initial plans to film in neighboring Poland as the early

months of the conflict escalated.

“Every member of that orchestra had a family member killed or lost or on the frontlines,” Ondrasik said. “Every emotion you could feel, you felt — you’re horrified and angry about what’s going on, but you’re also incredibly inspired by these people.”

“I think it’s our job as musicians to do things like that, and to support freedom and fighting for freedom,” he added.

Ondrasik said that seeking to bring his experience filming the video to life for audiences was a highlight of the setlist on the tour heading to Livermore next week.

“I think people, when they see

the show, they can get a sense very quickly of what we’ve heard and what we saw while we were there,” Ondrasik said. “So that’s always a very poignant moment during our set.”

He added that his travels had brought him to the Tri-Valley in the past.

“We’ve played Livermore before,” Ondrasik said. “We had a great time.”

Ondrasik is set to return for the upcoming “Five for Fighting with String Quartet” performance at the Bankhead Theater at 2400 First St. in Livermore on Sept. 15 starting at 8 p.m. Tickets are available at livermorearts.org. ■



MIKE DONAHUE

Five for Fighting’s current tour features smaller, more intimate performances in contrast to his prior stadium shows, as well as the addition of a string quartet.

Valley Concert Chorale presenting 'Music to Soothe Your Soul'

Vocal talents sought for singing group's 2023-24 season of shows

By NICOLE GONZALES

Before their upcoming performance season begins later this year, the Valley Concert Chorale is currently searching for a number of experienced and talented people to sing among them in upcoming shows.

The group will be conducting auditions for its 2023-24 season, "Music to Soothe Your Soul", throughout this month. Tryouts are set for the next two Mondays (Sept. 11 and Sept. 18) at the First Presbyterian Church in Livermore.

VCC is looking for seasoned singers with sight-reading abilities, as well as those who enjoy performing

"exciting and challenging music".

Interested vocalists are encouraged to reach out and book an audition appointment by calling the group's general information line at 925-866-4003. During the 15-minute appointment, singers will be asked to sight-read a page of motet, perform a clapping exercise and have their vocal range designated.

In a typical season, the chorale performs three concert sets out of a wide variety of music styles, ranging from modern to classical to contemporary.

This season's performances are set to kick off with the annual holiday concert held in December,

called "The Miracle of Christmas". The group will then follow up with a series of performances in the spring of 2024.

"The March concerts will include Faure's 'Cantique de Jean Racine', Mozart's 'Ave Verum', Durufle's 'In Paradisum' from his 'Requiem' and of contemporary choral composers Ola Gjeilo and Peteris Vasks," chorale members said in a statement.

"May's concert, titled 'On the Lighter Side', includes songs by Nat King Cole, Billy Joel, Elton John and Disney's Movie Magic," they added.

VCC has been active in the region for over 60 years.



VCC

The Valley Concert Chorale is hosting auditions for its upcoming 2023-24 season of live shows.

The nonprofit vocal group has maintained its goal to engage audiences through the power of music — continuing to operate completely on volunteers and through donations, fundraisers and ticket sales.

Artistic director and conductor, John Emory Bush, has commanded

the chorus since 1998. Bush, who was trained at the Juilliard School of Music, also plays piano, organ and harp.

More information on the audition process or upcoming shows of the chorus can be found at www.valleyconcertchorale.org. ■

Dublin teen named county's youth poet laureate

Guan selected out of record 52 applicants

By KEITH BURBANK / BCN

Teens from Dublin and Albany are this year's youth poet laureate and youth poet vice-laureate in Alameda County, according to the Alameda County Library, which has held the competition for the past three years.

Brian Guan of Dublin is the youth poet laureate and Sunwoo (Sunny) Eom of Albany is the county's youth poet vice-laureate.

The winners were announced publicly Aug. 25 at the Cherryland Community Center after the judges considered six finalists from among a record 52 applicants.

"The Alameda County Youth Poet Laureate competition celebrates teen voices from all over the county," said Nate Miley, president of the Alameda County Board of Supervisors. "When teens express themselves creatively and

authentically through poetry, they inspire our next generation of leaders to amplify their voices and make a difference in their communities."

The other finalists were Rose America Garcia of San Leandro, Vyahruti Gudoor of Fremont, Lia Le-Nguyen of Fremont and Anika Yu of Dublin.

The competition was open to Alameda County teens 13 to 18 years old and was held during National Poetry Month in April. Judges based their decisions on the content of each teen's poetry, how well it was crafted and the poetry's voice. Applicants submitted three poems each.

"When I served as a judge during the inaugural year of the Alameda County Youth Poet Laureate competition, I learned just how talented youth poets are," County Librarian Cindy Chadwick said in a statement. "I congratulate the



ALAMEDA COUNTY

Brian Guan

winners, finalists, and all applicants for their participation in this year's competition."

Guan and Eom will be ambassadors through August 2024, using their status to inspire other Alameda County youth to get involved civically while promoting social justice, literary excellence and cultural awareness.



ALAMEDA COUNTY

Sunwoo (Sunny) Eom

For winning, Guan will receive a MacBook Pro, a suite of Apple products and his poetry will be included in the National Poetry Anthology. Eom will receive an iPad and a suite of Apple products.

"Poetry is a medium of humanity," Guan said in a statement. "It is emotion distilled into words and line breaks. Poetry is empathetic.

Poetry is the spark before change."

Eom said, "Poetry inspires me to reevaluate my assumptions and understandings of both language and the world it encapsulates."

"Poetry offers a space for me to voice up and be vulnerable, and I aim to share untold stories of my community through it," Eom added.

Winners and finalists from this year's competition will be invited to recite their work at events throughout the year. Winners are eligible to compete in the regional youth poet laureate and state of California youth poet laureate competitions.

Previous winners from Alameda County have been finalists in the state competition, which is notable because this is only the third year for the competition in the county, said Jenny Rogers, a librarian in the social justice services department of the Alameda County Library. Rogers' department facilitates the competition. What struck her from among this year's 12 semifinalists was the level of enthusiasm and vision that each poet had. ■

Speaker switch: WWII journalist Pyle replaces Churchill presentation

Museum series pushes ahead with new act

By JEREMY WALSH

World War II will still be the primary theme, only through a different voice, as a cancellation forced the Museum on Main to change its September installment of the Ed Kinney Speaker Series.

"An Afternoon or Evening with Ernie Pyle", featuring scholar-actor Doug Mishler portraying the Pulitzer Prize-winning American journalist and war correspondent, is replacing the originally scheduled Winston Churchill performance by Kevin Radaker that was

called off for medical reasons, the museum recently announced.

"Pyle's news articles were full of the pathos, joy, and struggle of everyday life that marked America between 1927 and 1945," Mishler said in a statement through the museum. "He used a unique reporting style to create vivid columns, glimpsing great and common events but always through the lives of ordinary people."

"His powerful and gritty 'bottom-up' style deftly illuminated the American character under the duress of the Depression, the Dust

Bowl, and a World War," Mishler added. "Pyle perfectly chronicled the everyday life of his time, as no one else did. While other writers offered a wide-angle view of history, Pyle offered a stunningly brutal close-up."

Mishler is a recognizable performer in the Chautauquan style, in which actors embody the historical figure onstage before answering audience questions out of character at the end, having just appeared in the museum's series last month as aviator Chuck Yeager.

"The Chuck Yeager evening performance was close to selling out in



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Scholar-actor Doug Mishler as World War II journalist Ernie Pyle.

August, and attendees raved about Mishler's comedic monologue as the fearless pilot who broke the sound barrier. We are thrilled to

welcome Mishler back so soon as the equally interesting Ernie Pyle," said Rachel Brickell, director of education for the series.

"For those interested in WWII, this performance is a great alternative to seeing Winston Churchill," she added.

Mishler will perform as Pyle at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Sept. 19 at the Firehouse Arts Center in downtown Pleasanton. An online version via the webinar platform BigMarker is set for Sept. 26.

Tickets are on sale now. Anyone who bought seats for the Churchill show and doesn't want to attend the Pyle alternative can contact the museum — otherwise, the Churchill ticket is redeemable for the Pyle show.

Go to www.museumonmain.org or call 925-462-2766. ■

Eugene O’Neill Festival to culminate with ‘Anna Christie’

Protagonist ‘searching for perhaps the greatest thing someone can search for ... herself’

BY JEANITA LYMAN

The cast and crew of the upcoming full production of a Eugene O’Neill play on the grounds of his former Danville home — the signature event of the annual festival produced by the foundation named for the famed playwright — is preparing for opening night, as Tri-Valley residents rapidly snap up tickets.

“Anna Christie” is set to debut to an enthusiastic audience on Saturday (Sept. 9) for a three-weekend run, of which two weekends full of shows are already sold out.

The 1921 play and its namesake protagonist have served as the inspiration for the theme of this year’s Eugene O’Neill Festival — “Having Her Say” — which has seen a range of women’s voices showcased, including dramaturg and Walnut Creek native Beth Wynstra’s release and associated discussions of her

new book “Vows, Veils, and Masks” that explores the role of marriage in O’Neill’s plays, as well as a production of “The Yellow Wallpaper 2.0” by playwright Jennifer Maisel earlier in the festival’s run.

“The reason I really like the play so much is because of her big Act 3 scene in which she has her father and her fiance kind of arguing and basically treating her, as she says, like a piece of furniture, and she basically shouts them down,” artistic director Eric Fraisher Hayes said of “Anna Christie.” “So I locked onto the idea that she really has her say in that scene, so that really became the theme of tying the festival together around making women’s voices heard.”

As his own take on the play, which Hayes is directing for the first time, the title character’s voice is highlighted even further by the addition of a prologue and an ending scene

from her perspective, in contrast with the original play, in which her father Christ Christopherson is introduced in the beginning and the focal point of the final scene.

“I knew I was going to make the ending about her, and I thought OK, to track it back I need to make the beginning about her,” Hayes said.

With a five-member cast, Hayes also elected to eliminate a number of supporting male characters that he believed were incidental to the overall plot of the play — and whom he believed were written that way.

“I think that a big part of the theme in the play is her getting to define herself and not letting other people define her,” Hayes said.

Lead actress Adrian Deane emphasized the protagonist’s trajectory of self-discovery as central to themes and tone of the play.

“Anna is someone who is search-



ERIC FRAISHER HAYES

Adrian Deane leads the five-member cast of “Anna Christie” as its title character in the upcoming Tao House production.

ing for perhaps the greatest thing someone can search for: more even than a father, another’s love and a home where she belongs, Anna is searching for herself,” Deane said. “At the end of this play she comes to know as if by better acquaintance that this ‘Anna Christie’ she used to call herself is an important part of her too — someone she has grown from yes, but also someone who will always be a part of her and whom she will no longer hide or hide from.”

While attendance has been healthy throughout the festival, according to organizers, “Anna Christie” is shaping up to be performed to full houses throughout its run, with few remaining tickets available for its final weekend starting Sept. 22.

The remaining available show-times for “Anna Christie” are at 7:30 p.m. on Sept. 22 and Sept. 23, plus a matinee at 2 p.m. on Sept. 24. More information and tickets are available at eugeneoneill.org. ■

Family honors educators by naming scholarships after them

Third generation adds two Granada teachers to growing list

BY CIERRA BAILEY

The spirit of philanthropy runs strong in one family that has recognized Livermore educators through the Pedrozzi Foundation’s scholarship program for the past eight years.

Jay and Mary Davis have been funding scholarships since 2015, allowing their children Kathy and Rob to choose teachers from their Livermore school experiences to name scholarship awards after, according to a statement from the Pedrozzi Foundation.

The Davis family continued to

grow their portfolio of named scholarships over the years and recently brought their grandchildren, Melinda and Jack, into the tradition by asking them to select two additional teachers to honor.

The Davis grandchildren are graduates of Granada High School where they were both four-year varsity swimmers and Jack Davis also played varsity water polo. Melinda Davis chose to honor Amanda Cleveland, her chemistry teacher, and her brother chose to honor one of his math teachers, Matthew Clifton.

These teachers left an impact on

the two young adults, helping inspire and prepare them for their next steps. Melinda Davis, now a senior at Azusa Pacific University, is majoring in medical sciences and is a member of the school’s swim team. Jack Davis is a freshman at Occidental College in the physics-engineering program that will culminate at California Institute of Technology. He will also play water polo for the college.

With three generations participating in naming and growing the scholarships, Jay and Mary Davis decided to begin endowing them, beginning with the scholarships in



JAY DAVIS

Melinda and Jack Davis were invited by their grandparents, Jay and Mary Davis, to honor two of their Granada High School teachers.

honor of the educators selected by their grandchildren.

Next spring, the Pedrozzi Foundation plans to award the endowed scholarships recognizing Cleveland and Clifton to two members

of the Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District class of 2024.

The next cycle of Pedrozzi Scholarship applications opens in January. More information can be found at Pedrozzi.org. ■

Paint Pleasanton 2023

Public art event returns this weekend

BY JEREMY WALSH

Artists will have their run of Pleasanton this weekend with the return of the annual Paint Pleasanton en plein air event.

This marks the sixth year of the outdoor art competition in which painters and other artists create in downtown and elsewhere in the city and then present their resulting artworks at the Museum on Main for public viewing, awards and purchase.

“Artists come from all over the Bay Area to paint and draw our historic sites and beautiful community, setting up their easels and getting those brushes moving,” said Meghana Mitragotri, president of

the Pleasanton Art League. “Any local merchants interested in having an artist depict their business (area) are welcome to reach out to us and we will make the invitation known to participating artists.”

Paint Pleasanton 2023 will open on Saturday morning (Sept. 9) with registration required and continue through Sunday afternoon (Sept. 10) with a show of works and awards ceremony, which will be “a great time to meet local and Bay Area artists,” Mitragotri said.

Many of the works created during the event will be available for purchase. To learn more, visit www.pal-art.com. ■



PAL

Pleasanton Art League member Rebecca Davies paints the Museum on Main.



PAL

Artist Tuan Karsevar takes part in Paint Pleasanton 2022.

POLICE BULLETIN

SF police find \$19,500 in property taken in Pleasanton retail theft

An estimated \$19,500 in merchandise stolen in a mass retail theft in Pleasanton turned up in a double-parked car in San Francisco's Tenderloin neighborhood, San Francisco police said last Friday.

A passenger in the car fled from police, but the driver, 20-year-old Angelleak Duncan of Oakland, was taken into custody on suspicion of receiving stolen property, possession of burglary tools and parking violations, police said.

The arrest took place about 5:15 p.m., Aug. 25, in the 600 block of Polk Street near Eddy Street, when officers contacted the driver about the parking violations and arranged for the vehicle to be towed, police said.

"While conducting an inventory search of the vehicle for the tow, officers found several bags of suspected stolen property inside of the vehicle," police said in a statement. "Officers discovered that the property had been stolen in a mass retail theft incident, where multiple subjects ran into a retail store and stole a large amount of merchandise, that had occurred earlier in the day in Pleasanton."

The location and circumstances of the Pleasanton theft were not immediately revealed.

Anyone with information about the case is asked to contact the San Francisco Police Department at 415-575-4444 or text to TIP411 and begin the message with SFPD.

—Bay City News Service



LIGHTHOUSE BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Bill Bryson presents Lighthouse Baptist Church Honor Award to Dublin CHP Officer Marti Teunissen on Aug. 20.

In other news

• Lighthouse Baptist Church recognized area law enforcement leaders and officers last month as part of the First Responders Sunday held each year at the historic church on Neal Street in downtown Pleasanton.

Pastor Bill Bryson presented the Lighthouse Baptist Church Honor Award to Officer Marti Teunissen, of the California Highway Patrol's Dublin office, during the Aug. 20 ceremony. The church's award honored Teunissen's "outstanding achievement and dedication to her duties."

Other local authorities on hand included Dublin CHP Cmdr. Christopher Sherry, Dublin CHP volunteer Mike Sills, Tracy CHP Sgt. John Dyer, Dublin Police Chief Nate Schmidt and Pleasanton Police Chief David Swing.

"The event was a testament to the strong bond between the local first responders and the community. It is a great honor for the church to recognize the hard work and service of these brave men and women who

put their lives on the line every day to protect the community," church officials said. "All guests were personally greeted and thanked by members and attendees of the church."

—Jeremy Walsh

• A Hayward man died in a crash two weekends ago on Interstate 580 in unincorporated Alameda County west of Dublin, according to the county coroner's bureau, which released the man's name last Friday.

Mario Nunez, 22, died in a crash reported at 2:36 a.m. Aug. 27 on westbound I-580 near Eden Canyon Road between Castro Valley and Dublin.

Nunez was standing outside a 2021 Ford E-Transit van when a white 2021 Chevrolet Trailblazer veered onto the right shoulder and hit him and the van, according to the California Highway Patrol.

The CHP is asking anyone who saw the crash or who has information about it to call them at their Dublin-area office at 925-828-0466.

—Bay City News Service

• State attorneys general from six states, including California, and the Federal Trade Commission have reached a settlement with room and roommate-finding platform Roomster and its owners, according to California Attorney General Rob Bonta.

In August 2022, attorneys general and the FTC sued Roomster and owners John Shriber and Roman Zaks alleging that, in violation of federal and state consumer protection laws, the company purchased thousands of fake positive reviews to promote its app and fraudulently portrayed rooms and roommate listings to be verified and authentic.

The most recent settlement, which was announced Aug. 28 and requires substantial changes to the company's business practices, resolves the lawsuit. The state plaintiffs include the attorneys general of California, Colorado, Florida, Illinois, Massachusetts and New York.

With a special focus on lower-income renters, Roomster is a platform that allows users to find rooms and roommates in cities and towns across the globe.

The company charges subscription fees to potential renters, allowing them to message potential roommates and landlords.

"Our coalition's investigation revealed that Roomster was, in simple terms, conning people seeking rental housing," Bonta said in a statement. "That's why we sued the company last year. Today, as a result of the

hard work by our legal teams, we're holding Roomster accountable for its illegal conduct."

As part of their settlement, Roomster will pay \$1.6 million to state plaintiffs for consumer restitution, a price that is consistent with their alleged limited ability to pay.

The company and its owners are also prohibited from paying for or incentivizing reviews, using biased reviews to promote their services, and misrepresenting listings and any other materials to its consumers. These terms are applicable to any future entities created by Shriber or Zaks.

Roomster, Shriber and Zaks will also be required to monitor and halt business with affiliates who engage in deceptive practices.

If the company and its owners fail to make their required payment, violate the terms of the settlement or are discovered to have misrepresented their financial position in settlement negotiations, they must pay a suspended judgment of more than \$47 million.

In a related settlement, allegations that the review sales business AppWinn and its owner Jonathan Martinez had violated false advertising and unfair competition laws by promoting Roomster through fake online reviews were resolved.

The settlement required that Martinez comply with injunctive terms and pay \$100,000 to the states.

A lawyer for Roomster did not respond for comment. ■

—Helena Getahun-Hawkins, BCN

POLICE REPORT

The Pleasanton Police Department made the following information available.

Aug. 31

Theft

- 6:37 a.m., 7000 block of Johnson Drive; theft from auto
- 3:30 p.m., 4300 block of Hacienda Drive; catalytic converter theft
- 6:59 p.m., 4300 block of Hacienda Drive; catalytic converter theft

Aug. 30

Theft

- 2:31 p.m. on the 6700 block of Bernal Avenue

Fraud

- 2:32 p.m. on the 1800 block of Sannita Place

Aug. 29

Theft

- 8:32 a.m., 3100 block of Zuni Way; theft from auto
- 3:44 p.m. on the 4600 block of Bernal Avenue
- 4:33 p.m., 6300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; bicycle theft

Embezzlement

- 9:05 a.m. on the 5500 block of Sunol Boulevard

Vandalism

- 1:24 p.m. on the 3800 block of Vineyard Avenue

- 2:15 p.m. on the 3800 block of Vineyard Avenue

- 4:46 p.m. on the 4300 block of Hacienda Drive

Robbery

- 6:54 p.m. on the 1400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

Aug. 28

Theft

- 8:47 a.m. on the 9400 block of Blessing Drive
- 8:49 a.m., 6000 block of Tillman Court; auto theft
- 8:26 p.m. on the 6000 block of Johnson Drive

Graffiti offense

- 3:57 p.m. at Santa Rita Road and Stoneridge Drive

Burglary

- 4:07 p.m. on the 6700 block of Bernal Avenue

Warrant arrest

- 6:23 p.m. on the 1400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

Aug. 27

Burglary

- 1:46 a.m. on the 3200 block of Arbor Drive

- 11:01 a.m. on the 5700 block of Owens Drive

Warrant arrest

- 2:13 a.m. on the 5200 block of Hopyard Road

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HIGHLIGHTS

Youth Commission Meeting
Wednesday, September 13, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.
The meeting will be held at the Remillard Conference Room Operations Service Center— 3333 Busch Road

- Selection of Commission Chair and Vice Chair for School Year 2023/24
- Review and Approve Commission Meeting Schedule for School Year 2023/24
- Review and Comment on the Youth Commission 2023/24 Work Plan
- Selection of Subcommittee Assignments for School Year 2023/24
- Discuss Potential Grant Program for Pleasanton Youth

Park and Recreation Special Commission Meeting
Thursday, September 14, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.
The meeting will be held at the Remillard Conference Room Operations Service Center— 3333 Busch Road

- Lions Wayside and Delucchi Parks Updated Conceptual Plan Review
- Review and Recommend City Council Adopt a Resolution Approving Requirements for Co-sponsorship Status and Rescinding Resolution No. 98-125
- Review Donor Sponsorship to Add Pickleball Lines to Stoneridge Creek Tennis Courts and Proposal to Consider Future Pickleball Lines to Additional Courts

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

Bad news — most plastics aren't recyclable

What does “recyclable” mean to you? Most of us hope that, when we put a plastic container into the recycling bin, it will eventually be turned into some kind of new and useful product that otherwise would have been made from non-recycled material.

In other words, we believe we're reducing trash saving resources, and helping the economy.

Unfortunately, when it comes to “recyclable” plastic, the truth is far different. Most plastic is simply not getting recycled, and that little triangular “chasing arrows” symbol on the bottoms of plastic containers doesn't mean what you think it does.

The “chasing arrows” symbol doesn't mean something is recyclable. It's actually just an identification code that conveys what type of plastic something is made of (that's the little number inside the triangle). But most consumers see the “chasing arrows” and assume that means the item is recyclable, when much of the time it is not.

The fact is that even types of plastic that are technically recyclable

typically do not actually end up getting recycled. Plastics labeled with a PET No. 1 symbol (e.g. water or soda bottles) or a HDPE No. 2 symbol (e.g. milk jugs or shampoo bottles) are sometimes recycled.

But a 2017 report by a plastics industry trade group stated that only about 21% of PET plastic that's collected for recycling is actually turned into new things. A 2022 report by Greenpeace confirms this, and estimates that the reprocessing capacity for HDPE plastic is even lower — about 10%.

As for Nos. 3 through 7, those types of plastic are hardly ever recycled at all. Those salsa tubs, coffee cup lids, takeout containers and cold drink cups are most likely never going to get recycled, no matter what the number is inside the triangle.

In 2021, the state of California passed a law requiring a study of which materials actually get recycled in the state, and prohibiting the use of the “chasing arrows” symbol on any products that don't pass muster. And earlier this year, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency requested the Federal Trade Commission to require products and packaging to show that there's actually a “strong end market” to recycle that material before allowing

manufacturers to use the symbol.

The problem is that plastic is inherently difficult to recycle. According to experts, there's really no way to make plastic recyclable at scale. With so many different types of plastic out there, the first thing that would-be recyclers have to do is sort through giant piles of plastic to separate out each different type — a monumental and expensive job.

The recycling process itself is also complex and expensive. In the end, simply manufacturing new plastic is generally the cheapest solution for the industry. According to Greenpeace, “After three decades and billions of dollars of taxpayer spending, the excuse offered by the American Chemistry Council that plastic recycling is still ‘in its infancy’ can now be seen for the delaying tactic that it is.”

Plastic recycling also frequently creates microplastics that end up in the environment. The process to melt down or otherwise reprocess plastic can also result in toxic emissions. In other words, far from helping the environment by recycling plastic, in many ways we're actually hurting it.

What happens to all that plastic we thought we were recycling? In many cases, it simply gets dumped into landfills or incinerated. For decades, the United States has shipped a lot

of plastic waste overseas, mostly to China, where much of it was burned in the process of extracting usable material.

In 2018 China announced a ban on this plastic waste trade, partly because of the air pollution created by burning so much plastic. The scrap industry is now shipping the plastic waste to other countries instead. And of course, a lot of plastic ends up in the ocean, such as in the Pacific Garbage Patch.

But the desire to believe that there is somehow a way to recycle plastic is still leading many people to put all kinds of plastic — even materials that don't even have the “chasing arrows” symbol, like bags and plastic wrap — in their recycling bins out of a combination of hopefulness and reluctance to face reality.

This is sometimes called “wish-cycling,” as in “I wish this were recyclable, so I'm going to pretend that it is.”

The result is that local recycling centers have a much harder job sorting through all the garbage that gets dumped into recycling bins, which makes recycling other materials like glass and aluminum less efficient and more costly.

What's the solution? You already know the answer — we all need to

drastically reduce our consumption of plastic, especially single-use plastic. This won't be easy to do, since the plastics industry has spent decades transforming our society into one that depends on plastic.

Plastic gives us convenience, sanitation and cost savings — and it's ubiquitous, which makes it really hard to avoid. But the more we all work to be mindful of our consumer purchasing and, whenever possible, opt for non-plastic alternatives, the more we can make a difference. ■

Editor's note: Alice Kaufman is the policy and advocacy director for Green Foothills and a Redwood City Parks Commission member. She is the author of “The Green Scene” blog for the Redwood City Pulse, a sister publication of the Pleasanton Weekly. Email her at alice@greenfoothills.org.



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LETTERS

Water rate increases

Dear Mayor Brown, council members and city staff: The purpose of this message is to implore you to revisit the rate increase and the timeline for such increases.

The reason I am asking this is because the mailer that was sent out is misleading as it gives the residents no comparison to what they are paying today. It also doesn't take into account that the city will be capturing revenue from 55% of the residents that were not paying any variable costs but will be in the future.

How could a rate study have been done that didn't take that into account is questionable as to any accuracy and leads me to question how this rate increase can be put into effect without that analysis. I had the incorrect percentage increase validated by Citizens for Sensible Water Rates Zone 7. This group recently met with the assistant director of public works, and the director admitted that the percentages as stated by the city are significantly lower than reality.

I have already submitted my letter

of protest but am emailing because I believe you all on the City Council can withdraw this and revisit the necessary increases taking into account 55% will now be paying at least a portion where they didn't before. Also a new brochure needs to be sent out and whoever designed this one needs to be held accountable for the lack of information and the serious misrepresentation of the percentage of increase.

—Victoria LaBarge

Utility tax a threat

Shame on Assemblymember Bauer-Kahan and Senator Glazer for rubber-stamping a new California utility tax.

Though it would add \$400 to \$1,500 per year to our bills, the cost to our long-term safety will be even greater. It would incentivize utility companies to build more high-voltage power lines that start fires and incinerate Californians.

The way forward must include distributed energy, with rooftop solar, more local energy production, less energy waste and microgrids. Continuing to give power to PG&E and other corporations guilty of criminal neglect and manslaughter

will accelerate us into apocalypse.

PG&E and other big utilities likely lobbied the utility tax into the recently passed AB 205. There were zero public hearings and no discussion. Assemblymember Bauer-Kahan and Senator Glazer may not have even realized the provision was in the budget bill. Bauer-Kahan and Glazer must reverse this threat by appealing or amending AB 205.

—Alan Marling

Homeschool Pleasanton students cannot access college entrance exams

Pleasanton taxpaying homeowners, in district for Amador or Foothill, but whose children are unable to attend public school, are not allowed to take SAT, PSAT, ACT or AP exams at the local high schools... or any other locations in the Bay Area.

Pleasanton students are specifically barred access from these vital college gateway exams where other neighboring districts do allow homeschool students in their region to access

Send a Letter to the Editor to Editor@PleasantonWeekly.com or put your opinion on Town Square at www.PleasantonWeekly.com. Letters must be 250 words or less.



BY DENNIS MILLER

Top Amador athletes from my years in school

Including arguably the best overall athlete I grew up with

When I decided to highlight the top athletes from Amador Valley High School that I have seen over the years to coincide with the Amador Centennial Celebration next week (Sept. 14-16), it was my idea to bring up some names of athletes I remember and stood out to me.

What it has turned into is a nightmare.

Everyone is now an expert on former Amador athletes, telling me who I need to list each week.

To recap, last week I went from 1967 to 1976 naming some athletes I remember when I was growing up. This week will cover 1977 to 1985, the years I was at Amador through my college years up until I started writing for the Tri-Valley Herald. Finally, I will end by going from 1986 through present day — basically those athletes I covered.

1977-1985

Before I start, I need to once again mention this is my list based on my opinion. You may be upset by certain omissions, which is your opinion. My goal is not to force anyone into therapy because I left out a name but just to bring up some names that were memorable to me!

This is going to carry the most

names in any of my three stories because I was there and saw firsthand many of these amazing athletes. Since there will be more names, these will be listed by sport with only comments for a few.

I consulted multiple people to try and cover my bases. It helped bring back some names I had not heard in years and would have been a major mistake to not have on this list.

I even got into my garage and found the yearbook from my senior year. But for every one I remembered, there are probably two I missed. Enjoy ... and please go easy on me regarding those I missed!

The best: There were not as many sports options for the girls back then, but arguably the best overall athlete I grew up with in Pleasanton was Jayne Kuhns.

I first knew of Jayne in middle school when she was kicking our butts in pretty much any sport we played. She went to the University of Denver, then was a California Highway Patrol officer from 1985 to 2013. Anyone who grew up in Pleasanton when I did is nodding in agreement to Jayne's athletic prowess.

Athletes (non-sport specific, good at all sports): Eric Whalen, Darren Hicks, Mike Bowling,

Tom Northam, Greg Danska, Pat Inglesby, Mitch Campbell, Tim Heinzl, Tom Eccleston, Barry Baker, Bret Crawford, Stan Larson, Debbie Oxen, Kris Brittain, Sheryl Withoft, Jamie Watson, Carmen Macon, Marian Hagler, Sherri Brittain and Lori Gilliam.

Baseball: Rob Wicks, Mike Johnson, Dean Shotwell, Bill Edwards, Jeff Bailey (and he got me through chemistry!), Ralph Lopez, Bill Edwards, Rick Stevenson, Mark Hellum and Jim Ford.

Boys' basketball: Chris Kearns, Creighton Kearns, Darren Pembroke, Brad Pembroke, Sam Jorgenson, Mike Hansen, Mark Jorgenson, Eric Patterson, Tony Marcopolous, Greg Peters, Allen Larson, Jeff Hales, Darrell Packard, Brian Pasut, Chris Carabello and Mike Daley. **Girls:** Sue Eccleston, Shannon Garrity, Kathleen Hart, Denise Stennette, Anne Cooper and Carolyn Hill.

Football: Scott Smith (was on the field for "The Play" — Cal-Stanford legendary finish), Greg Kragen (Pro Bowler for Denver Broncos), Tim Monday (heart of a lion — passed in 1979), Steve Sebahar, Ken Whitaker, Ron Capilla ("Dr. Death"), Dave Valdix, David Hughes, Mike Harris, Glen Hill, Glen Gunter, Chuck Thole, J.

J. Costello, Jeff Withoft, Rob Flores, John Sevo, Josh Shinnick, Brian Connolly and Paul Goodison.

Golf: Frank Mona.

Boys' soccer: Joe Correia, John Costello, Kevin Crow, Steve Englebrick, Greg Oxsen, Marty Espinoza, Mike Nieto, Tony Chaverria, Brad Boldrini, Keith Clay, Mark Clay, Matt Hickman, Leonard Baines, Russell Baines, Mike Deleray, Steve Wilcox, Dave Reineking and Mark Deleray. **Girls:** Michelle Nieto, Traci Hirst, Laurie Meyers, Anne Peterson, Karie Allen, Sheri Brittain, Callie Heinbaugh, Sherry Heinbaugh and Gretchen Heinbaugh.

Softball: Michelle Hubbard and Sue Healy.

Swimming: Dave Daniels, Edmond Carter, Leonard Pagcaluigan and Dana Davidson.

Tennis: Matt Anger, Marilyn Morrell and Jenny Anger.

Gymnastics: Sandy Ellis and Lynn Eelsing.

Track and field/cross-country: Curtiss Smith, Greg Novacek, David Robinson, Jim Beagle, Casey Safreno, Danny Vargas, Dave Hill, Steve Vargas, Bryce Swartzwelder, Diane Robinson, Holly Mills, Angela Carlos, Marie Clark and Lindy Toman.

Others: Maryann Gill (toured with the Ice Capades), Mark Hanna (horse racing), Danny Morgan (horse racing), Roger Pyfer (horse racing) and Allen Aldrich (horse racing).

Foothill volleyball

The Falcons got ready for East Bay Athletic League play with a pair of big, non-league wins last week.

They opened the week with a 27-25, 25-16, 25-17 win over Branson, the defending Division I state champion. Highlights came from Paige Bennett (21 kills, 7 service points), Katie Salonga (42 assists, 8 service points, 7 digs), Ema Vu-kojevic (9 kills, 1 block) and Kaycie Burdick (12 digs, 9 kills).

Later in the week, Foothill beat Campolindo 25-20, 25-15, 25-15. This time the highlights came from Salonga (30 assists, 6 aces), Paige Nelson (5 kills, 1 block) Maddy Snodgrass (3 kills) and Lulu Hoenninger, in her first time playing since suffering torn ACL in last year's North Coast Section final (3 kills, 1 block). ■

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.

Bay Club acquires Crow Canyon Country Club

Company promises multimillion-dollar facility expansion ahead at Danville venue

BY JEREMY WALSH

Crow Canyon Country Club is in new ownership hands, with The Bay Club announcing it has acquired the sports and special events venue in Danville as the first milestone of major growth planned for the San Francisco-based company.

Terms of the transaction were not disclosed. Bay Club officials said they plan to invest millions of dollars in facility renovations and expansion at Crow Canyon, though specifics have not yet been confirmed.

"Our focus on growth remains resolute as we welcome Crow Canyon into the Bay Club family. This acquisition heralds a series of upcoming additions set to fortify our portfolio over the next 12 to 18 months," Bay Club President and

CEO Matthew Stevens said in a press release on Aug. 31.

"Crow Canyon provides a natural extension of our presence along the East Bay 680 corridor, being equidistant to our existing 180,000-square-foot clubs in Walnut Creek and Pleasanton, further strengthening our active lifestyle portfolio throughout the Bay Area," Stevens added.

Located on Silver Lake Drive just off Crow Canyon Road in Danville near the San Ramon border, Crow Canyon Country Club features an 18-hole golf course (par-69), tennis courts, aquatics and fitness amenities, in addition to special events and restaurant facilities. It is part of a gated community that includes the Crow Canyon Country Club Estates neighborhood.

Bay Club's acquisition of the venue from Invited Clubs closed on Aug. 31, representatives said.

Touching on possible plans ahead, Bay Club officials said, "After distilling insights from employees and members, Bay Club plans to continue their investment in the East Bay by embarking on a multimillion-dollar facility expansion of Crow Canyon."

This marks the first golf club acquisition in the Tri-Valley for Bay Club, which was in negotiations to potentially purchase The Club at Castlewood in Pleasanton in 2019 before Castlewood owners voted against pursuing the deal. The company entered into the Pleasanton market one year earlier, buying the ClubSport fitness and tennis facility on Johnson



COURTESY BAY CLUB

A look down at the golf course at Crow Canyon Country Club in Danville, which has been acquired by The Bay Club.

Drive adjacent to the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel.

Bay Club, which owns facilities in the Bay Area, Southern California and Oregon, eyes expanding its operations this year to include more than 25 locations with 11 campuses, 135,000 members and more than 4,000 employees, representatives said. The Crow Canyon purchase is

"an exciting glimpse into what lies ahead," they added.

"We remain on course to reinvest \$150M+ into our existing portfolio, which started in late 2022," said Jennifer Steichen, Bay Club's chief operating officer. "Acquisitions like Crow Canyon are simply incremental to our reinvestment commitment to our core members and clubs." ■

Entertainment

FIREHOUSE ART & MUSIC FEST Join this free event for a spectacular evening of music and art at Pleasanton's Firehouse Arts Center. Art demonstrations by local artists bring their visions to life and musical acts showcase the region's finest talents. 4-8 p.m., Sept. 8. Visit firehousearts.org.

AARON WEBER COMEDY Join for an evening of laughs with comedian Aaron Weber who is based out of Nashville and a regular performer at the world famous Grand Ole Opry. 8 p.m., Sept. 9. Tickets \$20. Visit firehousearts.org.

PLEASANTON CAT EXTRAVAGANZA Discover a world of feline wonder while supporting local charities and rescues. Witness an International Cat Competition, see who wins in Best in Show, learn all about cats and more. 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Sept. 9-10. Visit alamedacountyfair.com.

AUDITIONS FOR VALLEY CONCERT CHORALE The chorale is seeking experienced singers with sight-reading skills who enjoy singing exciting and challenging music. The chorale performs three concert sets a season with a wide variety of music ranging from classical to contemporary and folk to jazz. Auditions Sept. 11 and 18. Visit valleyconcertchorale.org.

ELVIS OF CAMBODIA FILM Elvis of Cambodia is a feature length documentary film which celebrates the life and legacy of beloved Cambodian singer. The film touches on the outstanding musical achievements he accomplished during his life. 6 p.m., Sept. 12. Tickets \$25-\$50. Visit livermorearts.org.

2023 USA WEIGHTLIFTING NORTH AMERICAN Join for the 2023 USA Weightlifting North American Open Series II, 8 a.m.-8 p.m., Sept. 14-16 and 8 a.m.-4 p.m., Sept. 17 at the Alameda County Fairgrounds. For more information, visit alamedacountyfair.com.

FIVE FOR FIGHTING WITH STRING QUARTET Experience a powerful evening of heartfelt music with Five for Fighting at the Bankhead Theater. Don't miss the

opportunity to witness the talent and passion of one of the most iconic singer-songwriters of our time. 8 p.m., Sept. 15. Tickets \$35-\$65. Visit livermorearts.org.

BOBBY MCFERRIN AT THE BANKHEAD Get ready for an afternoon of unforgettable music as Bobby McFerrin takes the stage, accompanied by a full band and the Valley Concert Chorale. 3 p.m., Sept. 16. Tickets \$70-\$100. Visit livermorearts.org.

CORGI CON The largest Corgi event in Northern California is coming to the Alameda County Fairgrounds. Spend a day with fluffy stumpers and celebrate all things Corgi. 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Sept. 16. Visit alamedacountyfair.com.

PACIFIC CHAMBER ORCHESTRA: EXQUISITE Bach's Brandenburg Concertos display the buoyant side of his imperishable genius and audiences will love listening to all six iconic concertos presented together in one concert. 3 p.m., Sept. 17. Tickets \$20-\$85. Visit livermorearts.org.

S.F. COMEDY COMPETITION Hosted by Dan St. Paul, a national headlining comedian at some of the top comedy clubs in the country, discover the next big name in comedy by seeing the latest installment of the legendary San Francisco Comedy Competition. 7:30 p.m., Sept. 21. Tickets \$25-\$55. Visit livermorearts.org.

Talks

AMADOR VALLEY QUILTERS Speaker Jamie Davis began quilting as a young mom who needed a creative outlet and whose passion has since grown into making and selling patterns, teaching, and conducting workshops with students. Zoom meeting 1:30-3:30 p.m., Sept. 9. Visit amadorvalleyquilters.org.

LIVERMORE-AMADOR GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY In this zoom presentation Candice Buchanan, Reference Librarian at the Library of Congress, highlights the collections, services, and resources available at the Library of Congress to assist with genealogical research. 7-8:30 p.m., Sept. 11. Visit l-ag.s.org.

LIVERMORE-AMADOR VALLEY GARDEN CLUB Ann DuMont, the face behind Ms. DuMont Garden Inspired Accessories, a venture in Northern California that melds her roles as a Master Gardener, graphic designer, photographer and seamstress, is the next speaker at the Livermore-Amador Valley Garden Club. 6-8 p.m., Sept. 14.

WEBINAR: DEMENTIA BASICS Free Hope Hospice's dementia specialists will discuss the nature and progression of dementia and the various diseases and conditions that can produce its symptoms. Participants will gain a basic understanding of the ways in which dementia can impact the brain and behavior. 10-11:30 a.m., Sept. 14. Free. Visit hopehospice.com.

STEPS OF FAITH Share in the laughter and learn with actress, motivational speaker and comedian Faith Alpher. Her unique presentation honors social justice heroes and their diverse experiences, encouraging teens to learn and laugh. Teens who attend will get a certificate of community service to present to their teachers. 4 p.m., Sept. 14. Livermore Civic Center Library.

TRI-VALLEY WRITERS A. L. Kucherenko presents "Crotches, Crucks, and Crutches" at the September Tri-Valley Writers meeting. Learn how to entice readers to linger in a fictional world with imaginary characters. Register by Sept. 14 at trivalleywriters.org. Las Positas College, 2 p.m., Sept. 16.

TEDx PLEASANTON Experience a series of speakers at the Firehouse as they share thought-provoking presentations sure to spark conversations and energize your intellectual tool belt. 2 p.m., Sept. 16. Tickets \$35. Visit firehousearts.org.

PET OF THE WEEK



TVAR

The force is with her

Leia is a young adult, female Dutch Shepherd mix with a beautiful, brindle coat. She is an enjoyable companion for volunteers who take her out for walks and exercise. She weighs 66 pounds, is already spayed and vaccinated, and will be microchipped before going to her new home. Available for adoption via Tri-Valley Animal Rescue, meet beautiful Leia (ID No. 78035) at the East County Animal Shelter in Dublin.

AN AFTERNOON OR EVENING WITH ERNIE PYLE The cancelled Winston Churchill performance will be replaced by one about Ernie Pyle who was a Pulitzer Prize winning American journalist and war correspondent during WWII. Chautauquan actor and scholar Doug Misher brings Ernie Pyle to the Pleasanton stage. 2 p.m. and 7 p.m., Sept. 19. Firehouse Art Center. For tickets visit museumonmain.org.

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.

Amador Centennial

CENTENNIAL WEEKEND WINE AND CHEESE RECEPTION As a kickoff to the Amador Valley High School centennial celebration weekend, the Museum of Main will host a wine-and-cheese reception. Tickets are \$50 each with proceeds from

this event benefiting the Museum. 5-7:30 p.m., Sept. 14. Visit museumonmain.org.

AMADOR HIGH SCHOOL CENTENNIAL PARADE Gather on Main Street in downtown Pleasanton for the parade of the Century. Dons past and present will come together with music, floats, teams and clubs. 2:30 p.m., Sept. 15.

MUSEUM ON MAIN'S EXHIBIT, "THE DON CENTURY: AMADOR VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL 1923-2023" Featuring memorabilia and artifacts from throughout the school's history with clips from interviews with alumni and current and former faculty and staff. Through Oct 7. 603 Main St. Visit museumonmain.org.

Farmers' Markets

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

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

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

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

Seniors

HOW TO HELP PREVENT MEDICARE FRAUD AND ABUSE This HICAP presentation will discuss "How to Help Prevent Medicare Fraud and Abuse". 1 p.m., Sept. 13. Pleasanton Senior Center. Call 925-931-5365.

NEWCOMER'S WELCOME AT SENIOR CENTER If new to Pleasanton or the Senior Center discover all the programs, classes and services available during this one-hour

TAKE US ALONG



Olson on safari: Jeff Olson, senior lifeguard at Dolores Bengtson Aquatic Center, brought the Weekly on an African safari with his Aussie, Texan and UK friends and their guide. This photo was taken at Kruger National Park in South Africa during a morning game drive on the Fourth of July (wintertime in Africa). The two-week safari also included Zimbabwe, Namibia and Botswana.

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.

Employment

10x Genomics in Pleasanton, CA seeks multiple positions: Scientist I-New Product Develop. (SNPD22) salary \$115,500-\$130k; Scientist II (SII22) salary \$149k-\$165k; Scientist I-Chemistry Tech. Develop. (SCTD23) salary \$115,500k-\$140k; Scientist II-Bioconjugation (SB23) salary \$137k-\$165k. Qualified applicants must mail resume to 10x Genomics, Attn: Jana Jensen, 6230 Stoneridge Mall Rd, Pleasanton, CA 94588 quoting job #.

Safeway Inc. hiring Director of Loyalty Analytics in Pleasanton, CA. May telecommute reports to Pleasanton. Must have legal right to work in US. EOE. Subj. to bckgrnd check. \$218,289-251,500/yr. Email resume TA.Applications@albertsons.com. Attn: M. Gutierrez. Ref # 0815AR

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

orientation. Tour the building and the nearby areas of Centennial Park. 10:30-11:30 a.m., Sept. 14. Call 931-5365 to register.

SOLE MATES WALKING GROUP Join the Sole Mates Walking Group 8:45-10 a.m., Wednesdays at the Pleasanton Senior Center.

ESTATE PLANNING AT THE PLEASANTON SENIOR CENTER In-person at the Pleasanton Senior Center, a free consultation or review only of Estate Planning including advice on trusts, wills, power of attorney and health care directives. Second Thursday of the month, 20 min appointments. To register call 925-931-5365.

SENIOR CENTER VIP TRAVEL Visit the Pleasanton Senior Center VIP Travel office 10 a.m. -2 p.m. on Monday, Wednesday or Friday. 5353 Sunol Blvd.

WOODSHOP AT THE PLEASANTON SENIOR CENTER Use their tools and equipment to complete a project while an experienced woodshop monitor is there to help and guide. Must bring your own wood and pass a safety test before using equipment. 9 a.m.-12 p.m., Monday, Wednesday, Friday. \$5.75R/\$6.75NR.

TECH TUTORING AT THE SENIOR CENTER One hour, one-on-one tutoring sessions are available at the Pleasanton Senior Center,

Monday 11 a.m., Wednesday 9 and 10 a.m. \$2.50R/\$3NR. Call 925-931-5365.

Festivals & Galas

HEART OF THE TRI-VALLEY GALA Join Open Hearts Kitchen's, Heart of the Tri-Valley Gala, the most glamorous party of the year. Enjoy fine dining, live music, exciting auctions and more, all with the magic of old Hollywood. 6 p.m., Sept. 8. Palm Event Center. For more information visit openheartkitchen.org.

DUBLIN SPLATTER 2023 The Dublin Splatter festival is a celebration of global music, art, food and dance featuring dozens of live singers, musicians and performance acts. 12 p.m.-8:30 p.m., Sept. 9. Emerald Glen Park.

LIVERMORE VALLEY SEPTEMBER SIPS Wineries will pour amongst the restaurants and retailers for guests as they shop the afternoon away. Tickets include nine wine tastings, a wine glass and small bites. 1-4:30 p.m., Sept. 10. Tickets \$30. City Center Bishop Ranch. Visit lwine.org/event/10124/september-sips.

Book Sales

FRIENDS OF DUBLIN LIBRARY BOOK SALE Find great bargains at this semi-annual sale presented by Friends of Dublin Library, Inc. Find books, DVDs and audiobook CDs. 11 a.m.-4 p.m., Sept. 16. 1-4 p.m., Sept. 17. 200 Civic Plaza.

FALL BOOK/MEDIA SALE The Friends of the Pleasanton Library's Fall Book and Media Sale helps raise needed funds for the Library. The nearly new books, CDs, and DVDs sold at this biannual event contribute to the many programs, activities, and needs of the Pleasanton Library. Sept. 21-24. 400 Old Bernal Ave. Visit friendsofthepleasantonlibrary.org.

Public Notices

ABA SHINE
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 600307
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) ABA SHINE, located at 44093 S Grimmer Blvd, Fremont, CA 94538, Alameda County. This business is conducted by: a Corporation.
The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):
ABA SHINE
44093 S Grimmer Blvd, Fremont, CA 94538
Fremont, CA 94538
California
Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 08/08/2023
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on August 24 2023.
(PLW Sep 8, 15, 22 and 29, 2023)

ACCELERATE REVENUE SERVICES
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 600306
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) Accelerate Revenue Services, located at 2226 Kamp Ct. Pleasanton, CA 94588, Alameda.
This business is conducted by: an Individual.
The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):
TODD BLASCHKA
2226 Kamp Ct.
Pleasanton, CA 94588
Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 08/24/2023
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on August 24 2023.
(PLW Sep 1, 8, 15 and 22, 2023)

HOLIDAY ORCHARD
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 599820
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) Holiday Orchard, located at 6088 Sunol Blvd Suite 111, Pleasanton, CA 94566, Alameda.
Mailing address: PO BOX 1705, Pleasanton, CA 94566.
This business is conducted by: an Individual.
The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):
PHILLIPS YEE
6865 Corte Munras
Pleasanton, CA 94566
Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 08/03/2023
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on August 03 2023.
(PLW Sep 8, 15, 22 and 29, 2023)

IMEDREG SOLUTIONS
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 600059
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) iMedReg Solutions, located at 1294 Royal Creek Court, Pleasanton, CA 94566, Alameda County.
Mailing address: 6754 Bernal Ave. Suite 740-192 Pleasanton, CA 94566.
This business is conducted by: an Individual.
The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):
CAROL CASTILLO
1294 Royal Creek Court
Pleasanton, CA 94566
Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on August 14 2023.
(PLW Aug 25, Sep 1, 8 and 15, 2023)

MODEL PLUMBING
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 599836
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) Model Plumbing, located at 508 Burger Ct. Pleasanton, Ca. 94566, Alameda.
This business is conducted by: an Individual.
The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):
CLINTON ONDERBEKE
508 Burger Ct.
Pleasanton, Ca. 94566
Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 2008.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on August 04 2023.
(PLW Sep 1, 8, 15 and 22, 2023)

PLEASANTON MINSTERIAL ASSOCIATION
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 599565
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) PLEASANTON MINSTERIAL ASSOCIATION, located at 6656 Alisal Street, Pleasanton, CA 94566, ALAMEDA.
This business is conducted by: a Corporation.
The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):
FAITH CHAPEL ASSEMBLY OF GOD OF PLEASANTON
6656 Alisal Street, Pleasanton, CA 94566
California
Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 10/19/2018
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on July 25 2023.
(PLW Sep 1, 8, 15 and 22, 2023)

HAPPY 2.0 ENTERTAINMENT
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 599677
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) Happy 2.0 Entertainment, located at 20117 Forest Ave #12 Castro Valley, CA 94546, Alameda County.
This business is conducted by: an Individual.
The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):
ARNALDO LIZARRAGA
20117 Forrest Ave. #12
Castro Valley, CA 94546
California
Registrant has not yet begun transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on July 28 2023.
(PLW Aug 25, Sep 1, 8 and 15, 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)

LIFE ON LUNACY
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 600096
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) LIFE ON LUNACY, located at 460 DIVISION ST #10 PLEASANTON, CA 94566, ALAMEDA COUNTY.
This business is conducted by: an Individual.
The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):
SHERRY HIGGS-AZIZI
460 DIVISION ST #10 PLEASANTON, CA 94566
Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 11/06/2017
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on August 14 2023.
(PLW Aug 25, Sep 1, 8 and 15, 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)

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)

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF:
KEVIN ABBOTT KREMER
Case No.: RP23146063
To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of KEVIN ABBOTT KREMER. A Petition for Probate has been filed by: Kelly S. Freet in the Superior Court of California, County of Alameda.

The Petition for Probate requests that: Kelly S. Freet 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 September 20 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.
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:
Julie K. Hardisty, A Prof. Corp.
101 Gregory Ln., Ste. 52
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523
925-689-9940
(PLW Aug 25, Sep 1 and 8, 2023)

The Pleasanton Weekly is adjudicated to publish in Alameda County.

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

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

HOME SALES

This week's data represents homes sold during July 24 to Aug. 4 for Pleasanton and Livermore.

Pleasanton

- 448 Amador Court** Neely Family Trust to C. George for \$1,300,000
- 1392 Bordeaux Street** S. & E. Gewirtz to Shailendra Trust for \$2,750,000
- 3911 Fairlands Drive** Fiutek Living Trust to J. & K. Rajasingh for \$1,700,000
- 3241 Flemington Court** Anthony Living Trust to N. & P. Aggarwal for \$1,728,000
- 1287 Greenwood Road** E. & M. Mccartney to Madyson Trust for \$1,825,000
- 1121 Kottling Drive #3** B. & T. Thomas to Y. Li for \$635,000
- 3261 Novara Way** Mooney Trust to Irani Family Trust for \$4,660,000
- 3576 Rathbone Way** Lampley Living Trust to S. & R. Venkataramanujam for \$2,401,000
- 6291 Roslin Court** S. & M. Foley to P. & N. Jampani for \$1,548,000
- 4140 Wells Street** Vigars Trust to Bird Song Flip LLC for \$1,185,000
- 2149 Arroyo Court #3** Maximillion Global Inv LLC to D. Fischer for \$567,000
- 3298 Burgundy Drive** R. & S. Gilmore to Tamvada Family Trust for \$2,055,000
- 7750 Canyon Meadow Circle #G** P. & R. Bowling to M. & C. Dejesus for \$700,000
- 4156 Georgis Place** A. & J. Modi to D. & A. Bahloul for \$880,000
- 3119 Half Dome Drive** C. & E. Bryant to L. & J. Hou for \$1,331,000
- 6007 Laurel Creek Drive** Meechan Family Trust to L. Li for \$3,026,000
- 3772 Marlboro Way** G. & V. Moola to T. & P. Jakkula for \$975,000

- 694 Peters Avenue** T. Radcliffe to Frost 2010 Trust for \$730,000
- 3264 Picadilly Court** Banducea Family Trust to A. & J. Modi for \$1,650,000
- 4865 Pipit Court** D. & T. Maxwell to D. & H. Chen for \$2,080,000
- 4102 Pleasanton Avenue** Wan Family Trust to P. & A. Jain for \$1,820,000
- 4251 Sheldon Circle** Lotoszynski Trust to M. Pepe for \$825,000
- 6577 Stanton Court** Hagmaier Living Trust to Satane Family Trust for \$1,900,000
- 2436 Via De Los Milagros** G. Arthur to V. & A. Poddar for \$2,775,000
- 1976 Via Di Salerno** Helen Trust to Papolu Trust for \$3,700,000
- 4141 Vineyard Avenue** John Trust to Y. & P. Li for \$860,000

Livermore

- 2827 1st Street #803** D. Dong to S. & M. Maclean for \$750,000
- 1740 Altamont Circle** Bgrs LLC to Talla & Bandari Trust for \$1,575,000
- 850 Cole Common** Y. Mi to L. & S. Lin for \$817,000
- 1549 Darwin Avenue** J. Branco to K. & V. Andreykiv for \$1,260,000
- 1138 Florence Road** J. & S. Udoutch to S. & A. Saini for \$1,423,000
- 1267 Hibiscus Way** S. Valley to L. Cuellar for \$805,000
- 1330 Hillcrest Avenue** H. & C. Prusso to C. & K. Kutchera for \$1,113,000
- 3837 Hillside Avenue** K. Fawver to S. & W. Zhu for \$1,750,000
- 1278 Hillview Drive** Vmm Trust to S. Malek for \$974,000

- 1144 Hollyhock Street** Nora Living Trust to J. & J. Volponi for \$960,000
- 470 Knottingham Circle** Foreverhome Properties LLC to A. & A. Patel for \$1,850,000
- 3150 Marina Avenue** Dynek Trust to Extended Day Child Care Center for \$1,997,500
- 4772 Nicol Common #108** T. & J. Hendrickson to J. Mundra for \$435,000
- 789 Olivina Avenue** S. Diesburg to K. & K. Cardana for \$925,000
- 807 Roma Street** D. & M. Spray to J. & R. Vinnakota for \$1,690,000
- 527 Shelley Street** D. Truscott to C. & L. Madapuri for \$1,000,000
- 161 Turquoise Way** K. Thien to P. & L. Stamenoff for \$1,020,000
- 1120 Wynn Circle** Gomez Family Trust to C. Talcott for \$1,352,000
- 534 Alameda Drive** L. Street to E. & M. Rahimabady for \$1,020,000

- 1977 Altair Avenue** K. Olsson to F. & P. Gutierrez for \$2,060,000
- 1683 Calcite Court** Greiner Family Trust to M. & J. Mallari for \$1,880,000
- 3622 Carrigan Common** W. & A. Kessler to Foster Trust for \$700,000
- 2344 Chateau Way** Palma Family Trust to Amaf Investments LLC for \$1,100,000
- 5378 Desiree Avenue** Nagel-Hohenberger Trust to Janice Marciel Trust for \$563,000
- 3162 Golden Crest Common #1** A. & A. Gonzalez to A. & Z. Patterson for \$685,000

Source: California REsource

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

SALES AT A GLANCE

Pleasanton (July 24-Aug. 4)

Total sales reported: 26
Lowest sale reported: \$567,000
Highest sale reported: \$4,660,000
Average sales reported: \$1,754,000

Livermore (July 24-Aug. 4)

Total sales reported: 33
Lowest sale reported: \$435,000
Highest sale reported: \$2,060,000
Average sales reported: \$1,192,621

Dublin (July 24-Aug. 4)

Total sales reported: 20
Lowest sale reported: \$720,000
Highest sale reported: \$2,600,000
Average sales reported: \$1,138,899

San Ramon (July 31-Aug. 11)

Total sales reported: 23
Lowest sale reported: \$445,000
Highest sale reported: \$2,725,000
Average sales reported: \$1,668,260

Source: California REsource

On target business solutions.

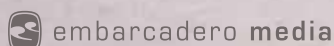
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VENEMA HOMES

EXPERIENCE



EXCELLENCE

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Liz and daughters Amanda and Alexis partner with Steve Venema their two companies to better serve you. The Award Winning Venema Homes Real Estate Team and Award Winning Vista Construction Company are your powerhouse Family leaders in selling Luxury Homes.



LIZ VENEMA, FOUNDING LUXURY MEMBER, KWTV



“ When we decided to sell our Ruby Hill home, Venema Homes was highly recommended. Steve and Liz are staples in the Pleasanton community, along with their daughter Alexis whom my son went to school with. Venema Homes is professional and utilizes it's fabulous staff to make sure you get top dollar for your home. The experience is stress free and effortless. The business is top notch. Once our home was sold we moved into a rental in a beautiful neighborhood. We returned from a trip and our back door was violently smashed. Our new home was ransacked of all jewelry, hand bags, and cash. We were heartbroken. We tried to get a door/glass company to repair the door and we're told we would have to wait two weeks. My husband called Liz and within 20 minutes Steve Venema (Liz's husband who owns Vista Construction and gets all the homes showcase ready to be sold) arrived at our house. His crew immediately boarded up the door. Venema Homes picked up the cost of all labor. Classy and kind hearted and so appreciated by us after the ordeal of a home invasion. Jeff and I wanted to give a huge rave to Venema Homes and Vista construction for being impeccable in their service to our community. We feel so blessed to have done business with Liz and Steve but more importantly privileged to now call them friends. ”

-Alexis and Jeff Dubiel





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OPEN HOUSE SAT & SUN 1-4PM
1031 KOTTINGER DRIVE, PLEASANTON
OFFERED AT \$1,799,000



OPEN HOUSE SAT & SUN 1-4PM
35 GOLF ROAD - CASTLEWOOD, PLEASANTON
OFFERED AT \$2,799,000



OPEN HOUSE SAT & SUN 1-4PM
5201 BLACKHAWK DRIVE, DANVILLE
OFFERED AT \$3,695,000



**NOW PENDING
PRODUCED MULTIPLE
COMPETITIVE OFFERS**

\$3,299,000
2347 Silver Oaks Lane, Pleasanton



**SOLD \$118K
OVER ASKING!**

- PENDING OVER LIST PRICE!
- PRODUCED MULTIPLE OFFERS
- PENDING IN 6 DAYS

\$2,217,000
902 Old Oak Road, Livermore



**SOLD \$101K
OVER ASKING!**

- PENDING IN 7 DAYS
- PRODUCED MULTIPLE OFFERS
- CLOSED IN 14 DAYS

\$3,450,000
1034 Via Di Salerno, Ruby Hill



- ✓ Competitive Seller Fees
- ✓ Listing Preparation Analysis
- ✓ Renowned Tailored Marketing
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