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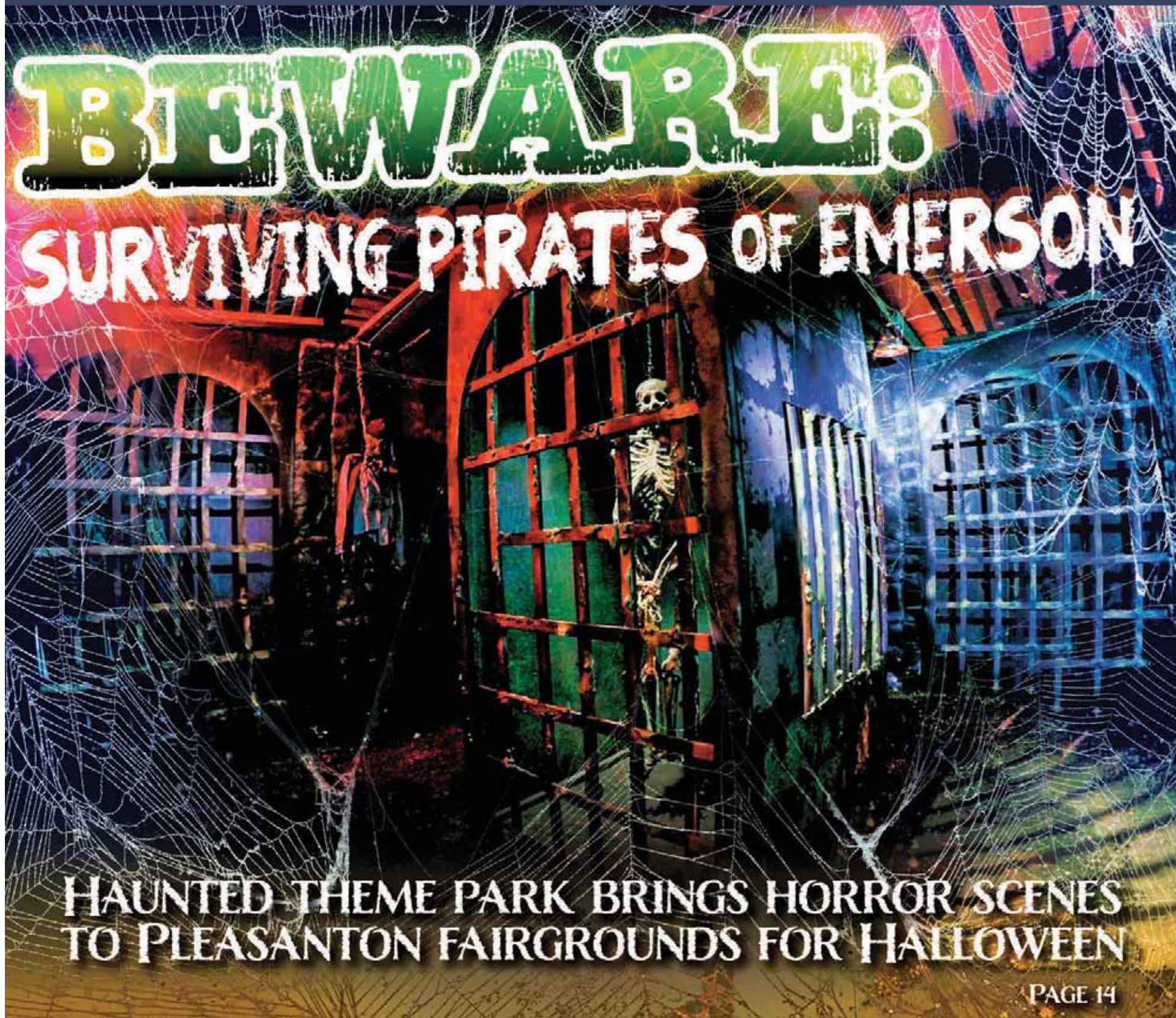
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WHAT A WEEK



By JEREMY WALSH

Helping others heal

The Tri-Valley is saying goodbye to one of its most impactful grassroots nonprofits.

Sandra J. Wing Healing Therapies Foundation, which for 15 years provided small individual grants to local cancer patients for complementary therapies to help alleviate side effects of their chemotherapy or radiation treatments, is officially dissolving in the new year.

With the namesake founder, CEO and president ready to think about retirement in 2020, the nonprofit's board opted to wind down operations rather than search for a successor in the throes of the COVID-19 pandemic, Wing told me in an honest and heartfelt interview this month.

"So, for over three years now, our focus has shifted from raising funds to closing our operations," Wing said. "This meant we needed to be more aggressive and issue more grants so that we could use our existing funds to serve as many people as possible with a target closure date of two or three years."

That moment is now at hand, as the foundation informed supporters on Oct. 2 in an email invitation to its farewell dinner on Jan. 18, during which Wing will reveal what area nonprofit will receive her foundation's remaining assets.

I certainly hope it's more than implied that Sandra J. Wing Healing Therapies Foundation's mission will live on too through this yet-unspecified organization, or another.

And what an important, under-represented charity mission it is. These grants help patients (already going through physically, emotionally and financially draining cancer treatments) pay for side effect-relieving therapies that generally are not covered by medical insurance: acupuncture, acupressure, therapeutic massage, guided/visual imagery and deep-breathing meditation.

The power of those complementary therapies was something Wing experienced first-hand amid her own battle with ovarian and uterine cancer diagnosed in November 2006 — and ultimately served as the inspiration for creating her own nonprofit to support that cause for others.

Wing realized she was not alone. Following her treatments in 2008, with a lot of business experience but none in the nonprofit industry, she and her wife Gracie began the digging that soon led to her namesake nonprofit.

What ensued was a decade and a half of tangible impact for local residents in the middle of a fight for their life.

The foundation has granted more than \$1.1 million to cancer patients in Alameda and Contra Costa counties — 2,293 grants in all, corresponding to nearly 16,000 sessions of healing therapies.

As meaningful as those stats are, Wing told me her "main personal takeaway are the heartfelt messages from beneficiaries explaining the direct impact we have made in their lives, and in their families lives."

One testimonial that still hits home for me, which I heard live at the foundation's old Ragin' Cajun gala fundraiser as well as on video at its charity golf tournament, was a man remembering how he didn't realize his neuropathy was so bad during cancer treatment until the day he was renovating a room in his house, with the carpet pulled up, and he looked down to find himself standing in a pool of blood. He couldn't feel the tacks piercing the pads of his feet.

After a series of acupuncture appointments, helped by grant funds from the foundation, he soon regained the sensations in his hands and feet. The emotion in his voice and on his face recalling that moment of joy was palpable.

The impact of the foundation is real. That's why my heart sank a little when I saw the email invitation saying they were disbanding, although part of me wasn't totally surprised. After the pandemic hit, I noticed a major reduction in press releases and other communiques from the nonprofit.

As it turns out, it's mainly because of the internal shift following the board's decision upon Wing's desire to retire — with the nonprofit halting its donation drives by October 2020 and instead focusing on distributing remaining funds and taking necessary steps to close operations.

As the official end date nears, Wing and her wife have moved to a 55-and-older community out of the area and are ready for the future retirement will bring.

"I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to our community," Wing said. "Thank you to each and everyone who contributed financially. Thank you to all those that shared their time and talent with us. The amazing contributions we received resulted in cancer patients receiving over 16,000 therapies!" ■

About the Cover

The Pirates of Emerson haunted theme park brings gruesome and gory experiences to the Alameda County Fairgrounds each fall in celebration of Halloween. Photos courtesy Pirates of Emerson.

Cover design by Doug Young.

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What types of Halloween decorations do you like to see and/or display?



Amy Pastori
Legal assistant

I prefer decorations that aren't scary, but which instead are colorful, fun and pretty. Like painted pumpkins, sweet treat boards, hanging witches brooms, glittery witch hats and flying bats.



Michael Raderman, with Penelope
Arborist

I love those really, really tall skeletons, because when skeletons go into a bar, they order a beer and a mop ... Get it?



Angela Franco
Realtor

I really like all things "Spooktacular", like mannequins wrapped up in gauze to look like mummies. We put those out each year and all of the neighborhood kids just love them, along with the "graveyard" we create, which includes a fog machine.



Margot Sappern
Fine artist

Oh, I enjoy looking at all sorts of different kinds of decorations, except for those spooky fake spiderwebs strewn willy-nilly outside of homes, and all over bushes and trees, because birds and many other small animals get stuck in them and do not have the strength to break free. They're like a death trap. I wish no one would use or display those anywhere, ever.



Cameron Cushner
Lawyer

I was in New Orleans for law school and every year there was this one house that would set up "skeleton memes" all over their lawn, like the Bernie Sanders mitten meme but with a skeleton. I like those kinds of decorations because they involve thought and an element of cleverness. I really appreciate that.

—Compiled by Nancy and Jeff Lewis

Have a Streetwise question? Email editor@PleasantonWeekly.com

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26th Annual Tri-Valley Veteran's Day Parade

Sunday, November 5, 2023 starting at 1pm
Main Street in Pleasanton



Join the celebration as we honor those who served our nation.

Featuring two Pleasanton residents who served during WWII and two Pleasanton residents who served in the Korean War.

2:00 PM Band concert
featuring the Pleasanton Community Concert Band
Under the direction of Bob Williams
In front of the Pleasanton Veterans Memorial Hall
301 Main Street

Special thanks to all who have worked so hard to make this year's parade the biggest and best ever. This will indeed be a special event that is not to be missed.



DIGEST

Harvest Festival

The annual Pleasanton Harvest Festival returns to the Alameda County Fairgrounds this weekend, a three-day event centered around anything and everything arts and crafts for autumn and into the holiday season.

“Featuring 24,000 American handmade arts and crafts such as fine and fashion jewelry, ceramics, original art, specialty food, decor, clothing and much more, the festival is known as a premier in-door craft show,” organizers said.

“Enjoy live entertainment performed daily by local musicians, the Evan Thomas Blues Band. They bring soulful, classic blues along with cryin’ guitar playing to the experience,” organizers added.

The festival will run from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday and Saturday (Oct. 27-28) and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday (Oct. 29) at the fairgrounds in Pleasanton. Learn more at alamedacountyfair.com.

Halloween Brew Crawl

The spooky spirit in downtown Pleasanton will culminate this weekend as the Halloween Brew Crawl is back.

“Get ready for a spooktacular in-person event here in downtown Pleasanton. Join us for a night of chilling fun as we explore a variety of 25-plus bewitching brews from local breweries,” according to the Pleasanton Downtown Association, which is organizing the event. “Costumes encouraged!”

The event will run from 5-8 p.m. Saturday (Oct. 28). For tickets, visit www.pleasanton-downtown.net.

These will also be the final days of the PDA’s Pumpkins on Main Scavenger Hunt for kids. Pick up a free game card at Towne Center Books (555 Main St.) now through Sunday.

Feeling ‘The Vibe’

The region’s destination marketing organization, Visit Tri-Valley, recently launched a new digital platform designed as a one-stop-shop for both event seekers and event producers in Pleasanton, Livermore, Dublin and Danville.

“An interactive, intuitive platform, ‘The Vibe’ is for everyone — event producers who want to get the word out, locals looking for fun, and visitors planning to make the most of their travel,” officials said. “Wine tasting? Check. Art exhibits? Check. Festivals, lectures, seasonal celebrations, and sporting events? Check, check, and check.”

“A bonus feature for those who create an account, ‘The Vibe’ offers social media-style liking and sharing tools for inviting friends, joining groups, and receiving personalized invites to upcoming events,” they added.

Check out “The Vibe” via events.vibetrivalley.com. ■

Pleasanton teachers declare impasse in negotiations with school district

PUSD admin, union reps remain far apart on salary increases, other provisions

By Christian Trujano

The Association of Pleasanton Teachers announced on Tuesday that it declared an impasse in negotiations with the district after the two sides remain nearly 10% apart on proposed salary increases, among other disputed contract stipulations.

Negotiations between both parties have been at a standstill for some time now, including after negotiation sessions last week and this week.

“APT has worked extremely hard to adjust their student-centered

proposals to aid in repurposing PUSD’s budget in order to support students and educators,” APT president Cheryl Atkins told the Weekly on Tuesday.

“Based on district management’s most recent counterproposal, which did not move on salary, APT’s concessions over the past year and a statement made by district management that despite the movement that APT has made, these concessions will not structurally affect the money that district management can put on the table, we declared an impasse,” Atkins added.

PUSD has not responded to requests for comments on the impasse as of Tuesday night.

Though details about the specific process going forward remain unclear, after an impasse is declared the two sides typically would advance to a fact-finding stage of the negotiations.

The last time the APT declared an impasse in negotiations with the district was in September 2021 after two years of negotiations with the district.

At that time, the union was on the verge of potentially going on

strike after more than 98% of the collective bargaining unit’s members who cast a ballot voted to authorize a strike to be called. A deal was ultimately reached that November.

In May 2022, both sides approved a new collective bargaining agreement that included a 3.25% salary increase and 2% additional compensation benefits. The contract, which is open for negotiations every three years, covers the next three academic years.

See **IMPASSE** on Page 6



Activist, educator and sociologist Harry Edwards speaks about the importance of education in looking toward America’s future on Oct. 19. COURTESY DUBLIN CHAMBER

‘Views of America’s Future’

Legendary activist, educator Harry Edwards delivers keynote speech at Dublin chamber event

By Cierra Bailey

Education is the driving force of America’s future, according to sociologist and civil rights leader Harry Edwards, who delivered a profound keynote address in Dublin last week.

Local officials, high school students, military personnel and other community members gathered in a theater at Regal Hacienda Crossings to hear Edwards’ talk titled “Views of America’s Future.” The event was hosted by the Dublin Chamber of Commerce as part of its Thought Leadership Speaker Series.

While Edwards, 80, kicked off his speech by stating “I’m a teacher and have been for more than half

a century,” he is well-known for a number of other roles and accomplishments over the course of his distinguished career, including organizing the Olympic Project for Human Rights movement that influenced the winner’s podium protest by Olympians Tommie Smith and John Carlos in the Mexico City summer games of 1968.

Edwards is also a former Black Panther, an author and has been a staff consultant to the San Francisco 49ers for several decades. He also spent 10 years as a counselor and consultant on player personnel development with the Golden State Warriors and was previously involved in the process of developing and hiring minority

talent for front-office executive positions in Major League Baseball.

As a Black man standing at 6 feet 8 inches tall and a former athlete, much of Edwards’ work over the years has focused on the intersections of race, sports and society.

During his talk in Dublin, he drew from his experiences working with professional athletes and teaching college students at UC Berkeley to illustrate his points and underscore the importance of education.

“In human affairs — with the notable exceptions of acts of nature — the future is never a consequence of predestined or preordained

See **EDWARDS** on Page 10

Fired city director alleges retaliation

Repp seeks \$1.65M in wrongful termination claim

By Christian Trujano

A former Pleasanton utilities director has filed a claim against the city alleging that while the city manager said he was being fired for unprofessional behavior, the real reason behind his termination was retaliation for voicing serious concerns about the water and sewer operations.

Dan Repp, who worked as managing director of utilities and environmental services for the city of Pleasanton, is seeking \$1.65 million in damages after getting fired this summer primarily for the use of profanity toward a subordinate, even though Repp argues that cursing is common in the city government’s workplace and the actual motivation was City Manager Gerry Beaudin wanting to avoid fallout from Repp’s departmental revelations.

“Everyone (Repp) worked with, or had interactions with at the city, engages in the use of foul language, including the City Manager himself,” Repp’s attorney Judith Wolff wrote in a tort claim for wrongful termination, a copy of which was obtained by the Weekly. “Given the commonplace nature of foul language throughout the city ... (Repp’s) termination was, in fact, retaliation.”

“(Repp’s) performance of his job,

See **CLAIM** on Page 12

Pleasanton pursuing new wells to protect water supply

Council hopes to partner with Zone 7 to reduce costs of estimated \$23M-\$42M project

BY CHRISTIAN TRUJANO

The Pleasanton City Council unanimously gave staff the green light last week to move forward with a plan to construct two new groundwater wells, which is expected to cost the city a minimum of \$23 million.

“The main thing is we want to provide clean and safe water to our residents, and that’s what we are trying to address here,” Councilmember Valerie Arkin said during the Oct. 17 meeting.

Staff told the dais during the council meeting that the construction of the two new wells, which is scheduled to take three to four years to complete, will help the city meet its long-term water needs and ensure safe, PFAS-free drinking water to Pleasanton residents.

“This provides the highest reliability at the lowest cost. The operational complexity is low,” said engineer Jenny Gain from city consultant Brown and Caldwell, an engineering and construction firm focused on water and environmental sectors. “Groundwater pumping is something that city staff are already doing, have done in the past, and it is within the city’s wheelhouse, whereas treatment is not.”

PFAS, also known as forever chemicals, have plagued the city’s groundwater basin since 2019 when city staff first learned of its existence in its city-owned wells 5, 6 and 8, which help meet the city’s quota of producing 20% of the city’s drinking water supply. The rest of the city’s water comes from the Zone 7 Water Agency.

The council recently agreed to allow Well 5 and Well 6 to be turned on as deemed necessary during this summer’s peak water demands with the caveat that staff must test the wells every month — they are not currently on. Those wells have been found to have significantly less PFAS contamination than Well 8, which was the first well that the city found PFAS chemicals and continues to have the highest

concentration of the chemicals.

That’s why the city has been hard at work in finding other solutions to address PFAS.

Originally, the council began by eyeing plans to construct a water treatment and rehabilitation facility, known as the PFAS Treatment and Wells Rehabilitation Project, to treat and rehabilitate the three wells in Pleasanton and to create a new centralized treatment facility for PFAS treatment, disinfection and fluoridation.

But on Sept. 6, 2022, the council paused that project in order to evaluate other options, mainly due to a \$46 million price-tag on the treatment facility. That number had since gone up to roughly \$60 million, according to staff.

Since then, a water ad hoc subcommittee was formed; the council established a new water supply alternatives study capital project and contracted with Brown and Caldwell in order to evaluate different potential options. The council accepted the final report of the water supply alternatives study on Oct. 17 with no additional comments.

After several months of collecting and reviewing data from the city and from the Zone 7 groundwater model, staff narrowed a comprehensive list of 11 of water supply alternatives down to four preferred options and presented those options to the council on Sept. 19.

Those four options were the PFAS Treatment and Well Rehabilitation Project, bringing back the PFAS treatment facility and treating Wells 5, 6 and 8; treating only Well 8 for PFAS contamination; and purchasing 100% of Pleasanton’s water supply from Zone 7.

After reviewing the options, the council showed strong support for the option to build two new wells — Well 9 and Well 10 — outside of the PFAS plume, which has been spreading PFAS contaminants mostly in the East Pleasanton region. The two new wells would be located within the Bernal subbasin.

“It is something that will yield high-quality drinking water drawn in a manner unaffected by and not disturbing the PFAS plume,” Gain told the council.

According to Gain, staff is recommending that the city drill test wells ahead of the final designs for the two new wells, while Zone 7 performs its groundwater modeling to confirm the water quality and production capacity at the new locations. She said that pre-design work is expected to be completed by October 2024.

The goal, Gain said, is to have the two new wells constructed and operational by early 2028.

She said that by October 2024, the city needs to make the critical decision of moving forward with the two new wells plan or if it wants to pivot to a contingency plan, which would be treating only Well 8 for PFAS contamination.

“If you get to October of 2024, and we find that the test wells show that it’s infeasible or less favorable to move in the direction of two new city wells, the city can pivot to the reduced baseline alternative (treating Well 8) and still stay within that same schedule and actually maybe finished a few months earlier,” Gain said.

Arkin, however, clarified with staff that the Well 8 treatment option could have some additional personnel costs.

“The cost overall could possibly — possibly not for sure, but possibly — be less with the reduced baseline,” Arkin said. “But we have operations and maintenance costs that will be ongoing, that will be higher, and we would have personnel costs ... that would also add to the cost.”

“Hopefully we don’t have to pivot to the other plant,” she added. “I think that gets us more into the treatment business, which I think we’re trying to avoid and there’s additional ongoing costs in perpetuity for that option so hopefully (the two new wells plan) works.”

Gain also said the city also work with Zone 7 to ensure the new wells align with the local groundwater basin management plan and minimize potential PFAS contamination, while also exploring the possibility of working with the water agency, which is also looking at constructing similar wells in that area of the sub-basin.

“They’re also exploring installation of new wells in a similar area,” Gain said. “Staff will investigate possible opportunities for coordinated implementation, which could yield cost savings.”

Staff told the council that if the city does partner with Zone 7 in the future, both agencies could see a 15% to 20% reduction on overall costs.

That possibility of working with Zone 7 to build the two wells as a joint project that would be owned by both agencies was one of the main talking points for council members who said they think it would be the best option moving forward.

Staff said that as Zone 7 continues its process of determining the viability of the two locations for new wells, the city will have to agree on coming up with some type of agreement with the water agency to officially partner with them.

“I’m really hopeful that we have a joint cooperative approach that can solve problems for both of us,” Councilmember Jeff Nibert said during the meeting.

“I also just wanted to express my thanks to Zone 7 for the partnership that potentially we will have, to do this, but also their vote unanimously of their board to accelerate the groundwater basin study which we need,” Vice Mayor Jack Balch added.

The other main talking point was the costs for the two new wells, which staff said the design would be between about \$23 million to up to \$42 million. The actual costs will be brought to the council after the design work is completed, according to Gain.

“As we continue to progress with designing alternative three to new city wells, that level of certainty will become much more clear as we continue to figure out siting and specific requirements,” Gain said.

The council already allocated \$500,000 during the Oct. 17 meeting for administrative activities, developing agreements, monitoring and working with Zone 7 on its modeling efforts.

Staff said that if the city pivots to

See **WELLS** on Page 11

IMPASSE

Continued from Page 5

The contract also included a one-year settlement for the 2022-23 portion of the agreement and health benefits for employees in line with CalPERS health benefits — a maximum of \$5,000 including all CalPERS-required contributions.

In addition to the salary raise, another 0.25% was added to the increase with the approval of a 2022 Public Agency Retirement Services memorandum of understanding for retirement incentive. This brought the total salary increase to 3.5% in the ratified 2022-23 APT contract.

However, each year the APT and district representatives get the opportunity to open articles — such as salary, calendar and benefits — in the contract to renegotiate, which is what is going on right now.

According to the APT’s website, the union is demanding a 15% salary increase as well as fully paid health benefits, reduced class sizes and changes to the school year work calendar stating that the district must allocate new ongoing money it received from the state toward paying teachers.

Atkins told the school board during the Oct. 12 board meeting — where dozens of PUSD teachers packed the board meeting room

and hallway — that the district has no excuse given the new funds and needs to prioritize properly compensating its educators.

Union leadership previously said they were not happy with the district’s offer of a 6.3% pay raise, which is why teachers took a stand and showed up to the last board meeting. They also took to the streets with picket signs in front of each school to raise awareness of why they are asking for better compensation.

According to Atkins, the district had raised their offer up to 6.5% during the last bargaining session on Oct. 17 but during Tuesday’s session, “they did not move at all.”

She added that district negotiators countered with a small increase in master degree stipends from \$750 to \$1,000 but made “no other movement” on anything else that cost the district money.

“No other movement was made that cost money,” she said. “They did agree to class size for K-3 to be 24, which does not cost money, it only puts the current status quo into the (collective bargaining agreement) language.”

A petition to demand the district prioritize teachers’ salary and health benefits, which was posted on change.org on Monday, has been gaining traction online with nearly 1,900 signatures as of Tuesday afternoon. ■



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Council approves downtown parks' redesign plans

Improvements include gazebo-style bandstand closer to Firehouse, updating Delucchi restroom

BY CHRISTIAN TRUJANO

The Pleasanton City Council voted unanimously last week to approve plans to redesign Lions Wayside and Delucchi parks, including moving the bandstand closer to the Firehouse Arts Center and renovate it to look more like a gazebo in order to match the houses in the surrounding downtown area.

Other improvements included in the approved design plans will be constructing a decomposed granite pathway extending from the restroom at Delucchi Park northward to the sidewalk on Neal Street and adding plants around the restroom to provide “enhanced aesthetics and better visibility for safety and security around that restroom.”

“I’m hoping tonight is potentially the end of a long road of talking about renovating these parks to actually taking the first step to renovating the parks,” city landscape architect Matt Gruber told the dais on Oct. 17.

Back in February, the council voted 4-1 — with Vice Mayor Jack Balch dissenting — to halt the Lions Wayside and Delucchi Park Master Plan update process, with the council majority agreeing that it was too costly at a minimum of \$10 million

and that the designs included were ultimately unnecessary.

That’s why staff had brought these new improvements to the council on Oct. 17, which would instead cost the city roughly \$1.9 million that would come from the existing budget that the city had allocated toward the overall Lions Wayside and Delucchi parks capital improvement project budget, Gruber said.

Originally, the staff recommended that the council approve the move of the bandstand to the north side of the park next to the Firehouse Arts Center but had also recommended that the bandstand’s new design be more modernized in order to match the aesthetic of the arts center.

But the entire council collectively gave that idea a thumbs down and instead voted to keep the bandstand’s look more traditional to compliment the Victorian-style homes on First and Second streets.

“In regards to the bandstand, I do not like option A either,” Councilmember Valerie Arkin said. “I know it said it ties in more with the firehouse but I think option B is much better with the gazebo that ties in with the historic homes, which are across the street. I think it just looks better.”

There was also a third option that would have had the bandstand reflect the character of downtown Pleasanton Arch, which Councilmember Julie Testa really liked, but did not get any support from the other members of the dais.

A lot of the discussion last week mainly focused on the details of the design concept for the Lions Wayside Park which will see a larger lawn area totaling 26,650 square feet; the addition of 23 proposed trees; additional seating around both parks and the arts center; and a temporary trail connecting to the existing trail next to the Firehouse.

There will also be a dance area constructed in front of the new bandstand location as well as additional picnic areas.

Mayor Karla Brown was the only voice who supported mainly the second overall concept design of the Lions Wayside Park saying that she thought the bandstand would be too close to the street and that there would be more noise coming from the road that would impede the music.

“I heard from one of our local residents and they expressed concern that this bandstand is going to be so remote, it’s going to be so

far away from everything that it’s going to feel awkward,” Brown said.

However, she also recognized how crowded the current bandstand location could be and opted to agree with the rest of the council’s decision to move the bandstand closer to the Firehouse.

At the end the consensus was that the increased lawn area could serve as a way for people to get closer to the music and that the city could look in the future to install some sort of sound system.

That idea of a sound system, which was initially proposed by the Pleasanton Downtown Association among other proposals, is just one of the many other improvements that the council would evaluate as Phase 2 improvements, which wouldn’t be funded with the existing \$1.9 million.

Those Phase 2 improvements could also possibly include constructing a playground, a restroom or a lawn with seating to provide more concert viewing areas at Lions Wayside.

The city will also be looking at possibly accommodating the expansion of the farmers market by adding pavers into Delucchi Park; creating a gateway into downtown at First and Neal Streets; and adding a parking lot next to Lions Wayside Park, all as Phase 2 improvements.

Balch told staff that one

important thing that he wanted staff to consider looking ahead to the Phase 2 improvements was that he wants more community input from the public and from associations like the PDA on what they would like to see.

“We’ve got to come back to the public on Phase 2,” Balch said. “Whether a bathroom, a tot lot, the parking lot, the regional trail, the gateway plaza on Neal Street and the removable bollards so we can connect the two parks ... I think all of those should be evaluated as to what Phase two would be.”

“I think Phase 2 is far enough off that we really should go back to our partners, that neighborhood and the community at large to try to figure out what those are,” he added.

Now that staff have the approval of the designs and the approval of the professional services agreement with Callander Associates — a landscape architectural firm based in San Jose — the goal from staff will be to complete the design process sometime in the fall or winter of this year.

After that, construction will be tentatively scheduled to start at the end of the summer 2024 Concerts in the Park series, which will still be held at the parks just like it was this year. Construction is planned for completion before the 2025 concert series begins. ■

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TAKE US ALONG



Family reunion, with a guest: Colleen and Jeff Nespor enjoyed a family reunion in Estes Park, Colorado this summer. Here, they shared the Weekly with a large elk that stayed at the camp all day.

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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Group sues county for approving Livermore cemetery project

Monte Vista Memorial CEO laments civil case as 'somewhat expected'

By CIERRA BAILEY

The Friends of Livermore community group has filed a lawsuit seeking to overturn the Alameda County Board of Supervisors' approval of a new 47-acre cemetery planned for unincorporated north Livermore.

The group filed its lawsuit against the county and project developer Monte Vista Memorial Investment Group LLC in Alameda County Superior Court on Sept. 25, citing violations of Measure D — an initiative first passed by voters in 2000 that aims to preserve agricultural land and open space in eastern Alameda County.

"Friends of Livermore is committed to ensuring the continued enforcement of the provisions of Measure D. We will stand up to the county when they approve projects that erode the open space and agricultural land protections that the voters have supported for over 20 years," the group said in a previous statement announcing the lawsuit.

The Board of Supervisors approved the Monte Vista Memorial Gardens project on Aug. 10 after it had received a green light from the county's Planning Commission in December 2022. In addition to approving the project, the board also rejected an

appeal by the city of Livermore and a joint appeal by Friends of Livermore (FOL) and Friends of Vineyards and Open Space.

FOL is the only appellant that has since filed a lawsuit.

Ron Kahn, CEO of Monte Vista Memorial Investment Group LLC, said the lawsuit was "somewhat expected."

"All indications have always been that they will fight anything that is intended to do development, and it's disappointing," Kahn said.

"It's a bump in the road for us but we believe that part of the work that we did in getting through the Board of Supervisors' appeal process answered the majority of the questions and we made significant modifications to the project. We did everything we could and we believe we've ended up with a better project overall," he added.

The project is set to be developed at 3656 Las Colinas Road, situated between the North Livermore Avenue and North First Street exits.

A funeral home, burial areas and associated services, with a crematorium and mortuary, are included in the plans for the facility, which would mostly serve all religions and accommodate the needs of several

multicultural communities with roughly five acres specifically designated for the Jewish community. This area, called the Magen David section, will include a below-ground mausoleum with trellis framing designed in the shape of the Star of David.

"As proposed, the project would construct large mortuary and funeral event buildings outside the county urban growth boundary (UGB) on land designated for Large Parcel Agriculture," FOL said in its statement. "Mortuaries and funeral event centers are urban uses that must be located inside the UGB. The project would also exceed the floor area limit for non-agricultural buildings in north Livermore, and it would erect non-agricultural buildings outside the required 2-acre development envelope," the group added.

Although an amendment to Measure D was passed by voters in the November 2022 general election to allow more flexibility for the size and location of certain agriculture-related buildings and equestrian riding arenas, FOL argues that the

planned mortuary building and funeral pavilion are urban uses not permitted outside the urban growth boundary of Measure D.

Kahn, however, said that the funeral home is an integral part of the project to fulfill the needs of the community.

"The infrastructure of the Tri-Valley area has not kept up with the demographics and changes of the population and the attempt here is to bring a valuable asset and infrastructure to the area that's greatly needed and to do it in the best possible way," Kahn said.

Before being approved by the Board of Supervisors, the proposal had undergone several changes, including scaling down the building sizes not to exceed a maximum of 12,000 square feet to comply with Measure D. The decision to move the mausoleum underground was also a change from the original proposal offered by the developer as a compromise due to a sticking point during the board's deliberations regarding what constitutes a building

according to county zoning laws.

Kahn reiterated that the current plans align with industry standards that indicate people prefer a one point of service experience where they can handle all aspects of end-of-life arrangements in one place. He said he believes that FOL's position represents a very small but vocal group of people.

In addition to objections to the project itself, FOL's lawsuit also challenges the county's 45-day limit for filing legal actions that challenge development approvals.

"State law requires a 90-day filing period for such actions," the group said. "The county's 45-day limit violates state law. The shorter time period prevented FOL from exploring a lawsuit in collaboration with the city of Livermore, whose appeal of the cemetery project the Alameda County Supervisors also denied." According to FOL, a hearing date has not yet been set.

At the time of publication, county counsel had not responded to a request for comment. ■

EDWARDS

Continued from Page 5

fate. Rather, the future is born of the human and institutional actions and the perspectives that motivate and drive them. The future of America is no exception," Edwards said.

He continued, "In the normal course of developments, by virtue of the structural relationships and dynamics driving the evolution of the future, formal education is a critical component of that process and teachers by definition are leaders and participants in formal education."

Edwards noted that in times of crisis like the coronavirus pandemic, first responders are often at the forefront of conversation, which he said is justifiable, but teachers are in an even more significant classification that he referred to as "indispensable responders."

He doubled down on that point by highlighting the invaluable role teachers played when schools closed across the nation and even now in the aftermath as students still work to overcome the education gaps and mental health effects of the pandemic.

"Without a viable, functioning educational institution in our modern world, democracy is reduced to a charade and freedom to a farce," Edwards said.

In addition to addressing the value of education, Edwards also spoke about the challenges currently facing education today including teachers being overworked, book bans, restrictions on classroom topics of discussion and limitations on establishing educational policy and curriculum, among other obstacles.

"It doesn't matter what profession you are in or the loftiness or celebrated status of that profession, somewhere at some point in your journey along your path to it, you can thank a teacher," Edwards said.

Toward the end of the approximately hour-long discussion that incorporated both poignancy and humor, Edwards reiterated the crucial place of education in the future of America.

"Let me conclude by recalling again what's at stake here; the future of not just our students, not just education but the future of this nation that we all care so much about," he said.

He continued, "These students will be the leaders, the problem solvers, the indispensable responders, preparing future generations of students to confront the challenges of their times, of this society and of this world. We owe them the best preparation, the best education and the best chance of providing for those generations to come that we can possibly muster."

During the Q&A portion of the

event, Edwards was asked what was next in the evolution of his storied career to which he replied, "I'm done."

Referring to his diagnosis of terminal bone cancer, Edwards shared that his sojourn on Earth is coming to an end. "It's not a sad or a morbid thing, it's part of the deal on this planet. So we get over it, get on with it, make the best of it and realize that nobody gets out of life alive," he said.

He also shared an excerpt from a letter he wrote to his grandsons the day after his diagnosis.

"At this — the conclusion of my 80th trip around the sun — I feel the transcendently profound privilege of being part of a universe so great that it evolved us; nothing less than a consciousness of itself to gaze out upon its beauty, diversity and immensity with wonder, awe, amazement and the curiosity and capacity to ponder the mysteries of its very existence in hopes of understanding the mind of God," Edwards read, adding "You asked me where I'm headed next? That's it. That's my last statement." ■

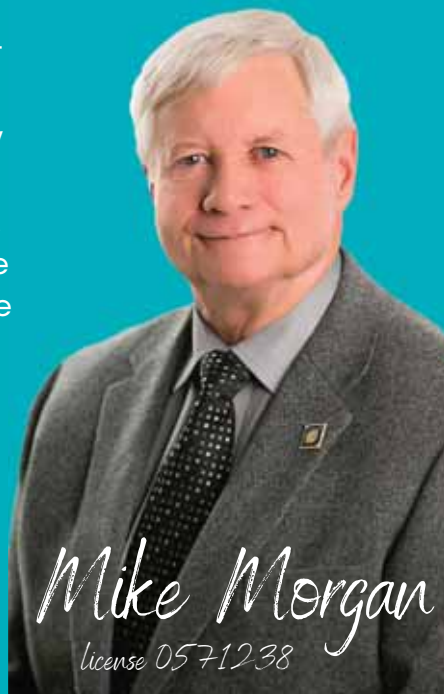


CIERRA BAILEY

The audience of listeners young and old in the Regal Hacienda Crossings theater last week.

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DUSD board allocates \$27.6M in bond funds; Trustee Cherrier again leaves abruptly

Majority favors district-wide upgrades over parking garage for Emerald High

By NICOLE GONZALES

Dublin school board members approved how to disperse \$27.6 million in bond funds in a contentious conversation earlier this month.

In a series of votes on Oct. 10, Dublin Unified School District trustees opted to support staff recommendations of facility upgrades across the district and defeated a motion to construct a new parking garage on the Emerald High School campus — after which Trustee Dan Cherrier left mid-meeting for the second time in a month.

Staff recommended utilizing the funds to complete renovations of Dublin Elementary (\$14.7 million) and Murray Elementary (\$6.8 million), and provide HVAC systems to gymnasiums at Fallon Middle, Wells Middle and Dublin High schools (\$6.1 million). Other projects under consideration that were not approved for the unused funds was a multi-level parking garage for Emerald High and Dougherty Elementary multipurpose room modernization.

Prior to the main discussions or vote taking, members of the Dublin community shared their thoughts during the meeting's public comment section.

"I urge you to distinguish between wants and needs," parent Matt Townley said when addressing the board. "Imagine for a moment that all of the school names were stripped from the plan list. If you had to vote based purely on the facts and were unaware of which school was which, would your vote change?"

Townley brought attention to the more fundamental aspects of school site projects, such as the HVAC system installations in school gyms, in contrast to a less immediate need for an Emerald parking facility.

"I have a hard time believing that

anyone here would objectively prioritize the convenience of a multi-level parking garage of a school that won't reach full capacity for at least three years before addressing the basic health and safety concerns of thousands of kids today," Townley added.

The board reviewed a presentation on possible fund allocations given by Thomas Moore, assistant superintendent of facility planning and construction.

Remaining funds up for discussion were left over from a Facilities Master Plan, previously approved by the board in February 2022. The board approved immediate improvements and structural upgrades to many school sites. The master plan also featured a 600-fixed-seat theater for Emerald High.

After the funding of the theater project, the district was left with an estimated \$27.6 million in remaining funds to be used on various projects in the district, according to the staff report that night.

Board Vice President Kristin Pelham voiced her disapproval of allocating funds toward a parking garage at the new high school being built in two phases in East Dublin.

"This is district money. We did not do a bond just for the Emerald area, or just for the west side area," Pelham said. "Every kid across Dublin deserves a clean, safe school. I will not support pushing this off and I will not support a parking garage."

Trustee William Kuo also disapproved of the parking building, saying, "I'm not comfortable approving a parking garage to take from this general fund just for EHS."

Student representative and Dublin High senior Anika Yu shared her thoughts on the item.

"There are also climate considerations ... EHS doesn't really require a

parking garage and building it would take an extra toll on the climate," Yu said. "As a district I think we need to make decisions that support more renewable transportation methods like walking, biking and bussing."

"I did ask everyone on the student advisory council what they thought about all the possible projects that we could pursue. Every single one of the students were in favor of the staff recommendation," she added.

Board President Gabi Blackman spoke in favor of approving funds for the parking structure.

"I do believe it needs to be considered," Blackman said, emphasizing the lack of existing parking in the area. "The city undercounted the number of garage parking spaces for the residents with all that dense housing, as a result almost every single

person has to park one vehicle on the street. There is no street parking."

"The other thing to understand is who will be coming to the site," Blackman added. "We are going to have games here, quite large games here, our gym is designed to accommodate large events."

In a motion to build the parking garage, the board voted 3-2 against building the parking garage, with Blackman and Cherrier in favor of the project but losing out to the other three trustees.

Next, the board voted on HVAC implementation at Wells, Fallon and Dublin High which was approved unanimously. The board then voted 4-1 against approving the MPR project at Dougherty, with Blackman the single member in favor of it.


The board voted 3-2 to approve

the staff recommendations for remainder funds, minus the HVAC projects because these had been singled out and approved in a previous motion.


Following the votes, a five-minute break occurred during which Cherrier left the meeting and did not return. "Following ITEM G2, Trustee Cherrier departed this evening's Board meeting," DUSD officials stated in a social media post on X, formerly Twitter.

No explanation was given for Cherrier's early departure after the defeat of the Emerald parking garage, for which he had advocated in multiple meetings. Attempts to contact Cherrier for comment were unsuccessful.

One month earlier, Cherrier walked out of the board's Sept. 12 meeting after being on the losing side of a 3-2 vote to hire an investigator to probe whether district administration and staff were fully adhering to the board majority's prior directive to halt work toward standards-based grading. ■



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WELLS

Continued from Page 6

the Well 8 treatment plan next year, the sunk costs could be anywhere up to \$1 million but would mostly come from the \$500,000 that was allocated that night and any money spent on drilling the test wells next year.

That money for the preliminary design work will be moved from the city's water enterprise fund balance to the water replacement capital improvement program.

If the city decides to pivot to the Well 8 treatment plan, staff are estimating the cost being anywhere from \$29 million up to \$34 million.

That's why staff and the council reiterated that partnering with Zone 7 should be the path moving forward so that the city could save more money.

"I'm really hoping we will find a way to reduce some of these costs and not obviously pay for our two wells and their two wells and all of that," Balch said. "I'd rather us find a path forward, especially for design and, and well drilling costs."

Despite Gain saying that city staff will be working to secure grants and seeking federal funds, including loans to reduce the impact on rate-payers, regardless of the alternative that is selected, Balch said he will be looking forward to more studies to see how the city will be paying for these options.

"None of this will be easy and none of this is inexpensive," Balch said. "So I look forward to a full and frank rate study, where we are very transparent with our public as to what needs to go in and how we will be looking to finance this." ■

CLAIM

Continued from Page 5

with the assistance of his staff, uncovered illegal, unauthorized and unlicensed conditions that the city manager did not want public, because he did not want to have to deal with the fallout from their revelation," according to the tort claim dated Sept. 25.

Pleasanton City Attorney Dan Sodergren declined to comment when contacted by the Weekly, saying on Oct. 18 that it is the city's practice "not to comment on pending claims and litigation."

The letter of termination sent by Beaudin to Repp on June 30 details

the city's justifications for firing the three-year employee after an investigation into a complaint against Repp for allegedly creating a hostile work environment.

"This decision is based on among other things, the memorandum dated June 30, 2023, where the city determined that your use of profanity in the workplace toward a city employee was unprofessional and does not meet the expectations for your position as managing director of utilities and environmental services," Beaudin writes in his letter.

When asked for an interview this week, Wolff told the Weekly that her client "doesn't have any comments

to share at the moment," apart from what has been stated in the tort claim.

The city, under the leadership of former city manager Nelson Fialho, hired Repp back in June 2020, after he left a similar job in Morgan Hill so that he could be closer to his elderly father who couldn't live on his own anymore, according to the claim.

Since coming on board, Repp received positive recognition for his work as the claim references his past city performance reviews where he was given high marks and raises throughout his tenure for "his excellent performance."

However, in March of this year, Repp was placed on administrative leave following a complaint by a laboratory services specialist.

According to the claim, staff member Stephanie Perley, who no longer works for the city, alleged that Repp "created an abusive and hostile work environment by demonstrating a lack of tolerance for dissent, yelling and screaming at employees, making gestures of anger, swearing in an angry manner," which devalued her

position as an employee.

Repp never returned to work following that complaint — his subsequent termination by Beaudin was effective on July 14.

The claim states that following an internal probe, the only allegation from the complaint that was sustained by the city's contracted investigator was that Repp did swear in the workplace. Repp's filing also featured a full list of people he heard use foul language in the city offices, including Beaudin, the complainant herself, city directors, management staff and supervisors.

"(Repp) and other city employees note that everyone swears in the workplace at the city," the tort claim states. "Foul language is a fact of the workplace."

Yet, despite the lack of sustaining the serious accusations from the laboratory specialist's complaint, the tort claim alleges Beaudin still ended up firing Repp, citing the profanity as the main reason.

Because the claim makes the point of foul language being common

in the workplace, it then goes on to argue that the reasons given for Repp's termination was pretextual and, in fact, retaliation for Repp engaging in protected communication, reports and complaints regarding issues with the city.

That includes Repp calling Beaudin's attention to the city's wastewater utility not being in compliance with state law, according to the claim.

"An internal audit performed under (Repp's) direction in 2022 by an outside consultant found the city out of compliance with state law and that as a result, water and sewer service customers were — and still are — paying for services they do not receive, a violation of policy and law, as well as a potential public relations nightmare," the tort claim argues.

According to Repp, he tried to work on addressing the issue with Beaudin by presenting a series of policies for the City Council to consider adopting; however, Beaudin disagreed with the recommendations and said the policies were not a topic for the council but rather a matter for the city manager's office.

The tort claim alleges other reasons Repp was retaliated against included Repp calling Beaudin's attention to deficient billing from the Zone 7 Water Agency, bringing to attention an illegal sewer connection at the Alameda County Fairgrounds, and not pushing for a quicker timeline on the recently completed water supply assessment project.

Repp's lawyer points to other instances where Repp called out the impacts to the city's water system if customers' demand exceeded the available supply and Repp having called the city's attention to new housing development water storage deficiencies.

"Said revelations would reflect poorly on Beaudin and on the city management generally," the tort claim alleges. "It was expedient to terminate the employment of (Repp), who was vocal about doing things legally, and about fixing things that had been done either without authorization or illegally."

While Repp's wrongful termination claim was sent to the city on Sept. 27, the City Council was in the middle of its annual evaluation of Beaudin's performance, holding separate meetings in August, September and October in order to determine if Beaudin should receive a positive review — and pay raise as a result. The council approved Beaudin's salary increase during this Tuesday's meeting as part of its consent calendar.

According to his claim, Repp is seeking \$1.4 million for what he would have made in salary and benefits at his job over five years had he not been fired, \$250,000 in emotional distress damages and an undetermined amount of money that would go toward attorney fees.

The city must now review the claim and determine whether it wants to resolve it by agreeing to Repp's terms or if it wants to reject the claim, which could lead to a lawsuit. ■

Lucy Morgan

February 26, 1943 – October 6, 2023

Lucy Margaret Morgan passed away on October 6th in Pleasanton, CA at the age of 80. She was a remarkable woman who will be deeply missed. She is survived by her husband, Joseph Morgan, and her children John (Bonnie), Sharon, Christine (Jason), Annette (Hans) and her grandchildren, Elise, Kayleigh, Trevor, Jack and Ava, all of whom she was so very proud. She is also survived by her 12 siblings, Cecilia, Barbara (Roger), Theresa (Paul), Catherine (Bernie), Dolores, Rita (Bill), Bernard (Jamie), Gene (Kim), Leo (Jan), Marietta (John), Bernadette (Craig) and Jeanette (Bruce). She was predeceased by her parents, Frank and Stella Zipp, and her infant brother Paul.



Lucy, the third child was born on February 26, 1943 in Seattle, Washington and spent her entire childhood with all of her siblings in the home her father built. Lucy graduated from Holy Names Academy on Capitol Hill in 1961, and then went to the Cabrini School of Nursing where she graduated as an RN in 1964. She later graduated from San Jose State University with a BA in Nursing. She started her career in Hospital Nursing in Seattle, WA and continued to Millbrae, CA, Syracuse, NY, Cleveland, OH, and San Jose, CA. Her second career was dedicated to caring for Seniors which grew into Care Service Agency management positions.

She met her husband, Joe in the Bay Area and was married on August 26, 1967 in Seattle. Soon thereafter they bought their home in Pleasanton, began a family and became active in the community. She was an active member of the Catholic Community of Pleasanton and a part-time Parishioner of Our Lady of The Sierras Church in Arnold, California, the location of their Mountain Home.

Lucy spent her life helping people. She spent the first part of her career as a hospital nurse and later went on to become an advocate and management of Senior Care services. She enjoyed playing the piano, exercising, baking, traveling, playing horseshoes and playing cards, and small stakes gambling but most of all she enjoyed spending time with friends and family. Lucy was a diehard fan of the San Francisco Giants and 49ers. She was wife and best friend to her husband Joe for 56 years. She maintained a lasting relationship with her twelve siblings and extended family. She passed on the legacy of the Catholic faith, the love of neighbor, dedication to care giving and just having fun.

There will be a funeral service at St. Augustine's Catholic Church in Pleasanton on October 26th at 10:00AM followed by a reception.

The Family would like to extend their heartfelt thanks to all those who have offered their support and condolences. In lieu of flowers or gifts, the family requests that you please send donations to the Alzheimer's Association in memory of Lucy Morgan.

PAID OBITUARY

Stephen (Steve) James Howell

February 18, 1944 – October 4, 2023

Beloved husband, father, grandfather and great grandfather, Stephen (Steve) James Howell, passed away peacefully on October 4, 2023. A decades long member of the Pleasanton community, he was 79, and a resident of The Parkview Assisted Living Facility.

He was born on February 18, 1944, in New York, New York, to James Goff Howell and Sarah Frances (Flowtree) Howell. He and his family then relocated to Nebraska for a few years before making California their permanent home. Steve attended San Leandro High school where he met and later married his high school sweetheart, Pam (Davis) Howell. They were married for 59 years and raised three children together. Steve served as a firefighter for the city of Berkeley for many years before attending Cal State Hayward and earning a bachelor's degree in political science. He then proudly worked for the Internal Revenue Service for over 30 years.

Steve had a real gift for the gab and could talk to anyone about anything. He will be fondly remembered for his contagious laugh and love of Queen Anne's Cherry Cordials. He spent many years involved in Job's Daughter, Bethel 14, Pleasanton, where he served as Associate Bethel Guardian from 1989 - 1991. He was an avid Elvis enthusiast, enjoyed leisurely walks around the grocery store, and never missed a Sunday football game.

Steve is survived by his loving wife - Pam, brother - David Howell, son - Mark (Judy) Howell, daughter - Kelly Peterson, son-in-law - Todd Phillips, four grandchildren - Allie (Tim) Byrnes, Maddie Peterson, Matthew Howell, Christopher Howell, and great grandson - Salem Byrnes.

He is preceded in death by daughter, Jennifer (Howell) Phillips, and son-in-law, John Peterson.

A celebration of life will be held on Friday, November 3 at 1:00 p.m. at Graham Hitch Mortuary, 4167 First St., Pleasanton.

To honor his life, donations may be made to Guide Dogs for the Blind.

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PAID OBITUARY

'The Government Inspector' coming to LPC stage

Theater program takes on political satire in latest production

By JEANITA LYMAN

The Las Positas College theater arts department's newest production is set to debut this week, with "The Government Inspector" starting its two-weekend run Friday evening.

While the play is coming in the wake of an intensive, relatively short rehearsal schedule, the idea of producing it locally first came to the college's performing arts and theater coordinator, Titian Lish, in 2019 after her first experience with the play at a theater festival.

"We laughed so hard that we cackled," Lish said in an announcement from Las Positas College. "We put it on our shortlist, and I am so excited to be working on it. It was a hilarious night of theater while also being bitingly spot-on in the political criticism."

The play was written well over a century ago by Russian writer Nikolai Gogol, who first published the work in 1836 before a revision in 1842, with Gogol saying it was based on accounts he'd heard from renowned writer Alexander Pushkin, who died a year after it was first published.

While the story had initially been meant to serve as a critique of corrupt politics in 19th century Russia, Lish noted that she had been struck by its continued resonance in the 21st century.

"For me, one of the alarming realities of the play is just how relevant it remains and how universally relatable it is to all groups of people," Lish continued. "It doesn't hold any group in precious esteem. Its wit and stylistic charm are so fun, and I am very excited for audiences to come cackle with me."

Behind the scenes, the cast and crew have already had their fair share of laughs and reflection on the current political era and its similarities with 19th century Russia.

"In this era of extreme political polarization it is a breath of fresh air to be able to cackle at how 'absolute power corrupts absolutely,'" said Sean McGrory, who plays The Judge in the upcoming production.

McGrory added that the play showcases — often hilariously — the ways in which the worst of human nature can have the same impact on people from a range of backgrounds and positions, including "scheming government

officials, filthy townfolk, identical 'twins' and more."

"Whether it's bribes, over imbibing, or adultery this show plays on humanity's worst impulses wrapped neatly in a veneer of sanctimony and righteousness, not unlike our situation with many elected officials today," McGrory said. "So, if you are exhausted by our current political landscape, or just are in need of a laugh, come spend a night with us at the Las Positas theater, and meet these sorry saps stuck inside their small Russian hamlet."

McGrory, who has an extensive background in local theater prior to his time as a returning student at Las Positas, noted that the intensive rehearsal process was nearly identical in his experience to that seen in professional theater, noting that this is by design for a program intent on preparing students for the real world of professional theater.

His castmates emphasized that diving into the material and the busy rehearsal schedule had been a once-in-a-lifetime experience that they hope to translate to audiences over the next two weekends of the play's run.

"The Government Inspector' is truly going to be a show I look back on fondly as an actor, as a theater student, and as a person," said William Burgess, who plays The Mayor.

Castmate Mason Homer, who plays Ivan Hlestakov, said that getting to know his character in particular in addition to the humorous material and adventures during rehearsals was helping him experience and solidify his thirst for acting.

"Everyone has really come together for this hilarious farce and I have been having a very fun time," Homer said. "Playing Ivan has brought to me a greater understanding of my passion and I'm very fortunate for every opportunity this show has given me."

The play kicks off this Friday (Oct. 27) at 8 p.m. in the Barbara F. Mertes Center for the Arts black box theater at the Las Positas campus at 3000 Campus Hill Drive in Livermore. Evening performances are set for the same 8 p.m. on Saturday (Oct. 28) and during the second weekend of shows on Nov. 3-4, with 2 p.m. matinees scheduled both Sundays (Oct. 29 and Nov. 5).

Tickets are available at the door or via www.laspositascollege.edu/theater. ■

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BEWARE!

SURVIVING PIRATES OF EMERSON



HAUNTED THEME PARK BRINGS HORROR SCENES TO PLEASANTON FAIRGROUNDS FOR HALLOWEEN

BY CIERRA BAILEY

I love Halloween but I am not a horror buff. I'll watch a scary movie or two during spooky season to get into the festive spirit, but I definitely don't do gore.

With my aversion to horror, I was reluctant when one of my closest friends presented the idea of a group visit to Pirates of Emerson

— the haunted Halloween theme park that takes over a portion of the parking lot at the Alameda County Fairgrounds each fall.

It took some convincing but ultimately I agreed because I realized it was one of the few longtime Tri-Valley traditions that I had never experienced, and I know many people who have gone over the years and survived. I figured it was about time to see for myself what

the hype was about.

This year marks the 33rd anniversary of "Northern California's premier haunted attraction" and the 13th year at the Pleasanton fairgrounds.

It all started three decades ago when the Fields family set up a haunted attraction in their yard on Emerson Street in Fremont. Visitors were asked to bring canned goods for admission which were donated to the Tri-City Homeless Shelter. The trio that makes the magic happen includes couple Karl and Patty, now in their 70s, along with their son Brian.

While the family still runs the show, they now have the help of their staff of about 80 cast members as well as support from fairgrounds employees, Brian Fields told the Weekly in an interview.

"It's a lot of dedication from a lot of good people," Fields said. "We have a lot of people who have been with us for years — one guy 17 years."

Learning the altruistic and family-centered origins of the event made me feel a little better about going. I felt more like I was participating in a harmless family tradition rather than a night of terror.

"We have people that come and say, 'I used to come when it was in your yard and this is my kid and this is their kid and we're still coming,'" Fields said. "We call ourselves the Bay Area's Halloween tradition and that's our thing."

Pirates of Emerson has received recognition beyond the Bay Area as well. The theme park has been featured by the Discovery Channel

and was previously listed by the Travel Channel as one of the top 10 favorite haunted attractions in the country based on Facebook votes. Fields said they've also created other haunted experiences in San Francisco and Santa Cruz and participated in video game development, among other accomplishments over the years.

My friend who came up with the idea for us to attend Pirates of Emerson this year had to leave to Southern California unexpectedly and our plans for a group trip fell through, but I was still committed to going and documenting the experience in the name of journalism.

I needed to find a new companion and when my husband refused, I called my cousin. I knew she had attended Pirates of Emerson in the past so I thought she could help prepare me a little for what to expect and minimize my fear.

It was the exact opposite.

Somehow, I managed to be the calm one while she was terrified from the very moment we stepped foot out of the car.

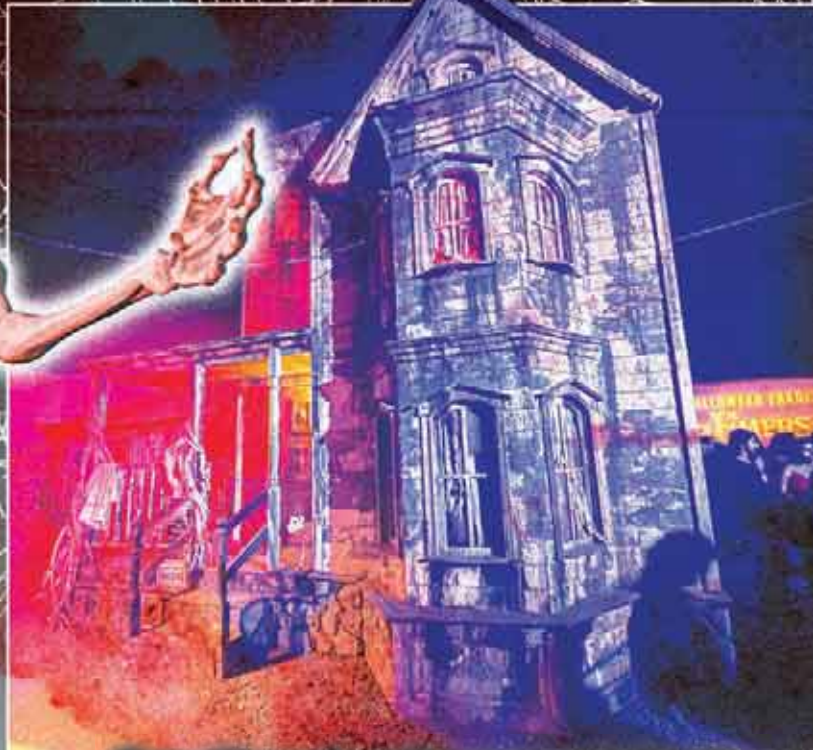
We arrived early as the sun was just beginning to set, partly to take photos and speak to organizers before it got too dark and hectic but also because I thought if I got the lay of the land before nightfall, it would be less scary.

Again, I was mistaken.

The park opens promptly at 7 p.m. and right around that time, all of the actors in full character and costume run out into the crowd, shouting, shrieking and brandishing their fake but very lifelike chainsaws, knives and other weapons.



The Alameda County Fairgrounds has been home to Pirates of Emerson's haunting experiences for the past 13 years. The 2023 version continues through Halloween. (Photos by Cierra Bailey or courtesy Pirates of Emerson).



Pirates of Emerson began 33 years ago as a family tradition and has grown into a celebrated Halloween theme park attracting thousands of visitors each fall, including a somewhat-reluctant editor Cierra Bailey, shown on left side in adjacent photograph. (Photos by Cierra Bailey or courtesy Pirates of Emerson).

People — including my cousin and me — screamed, ran, covered our eyes and grabbed on tight to those we came with.

Things calmed down once all of the cast members took their places inside their respective houses but that unanticipated scare set the tone for the rest of the evening.

The price of admission includes entry into four different experiences — “Clowndemic,” “Pandemonium,” “Physco Path” (pronounced “psychopath”) and of course, “Pirates of Emerson”.

Everyone is given a punch card upon entry to keep track of the houses you go into as you’re only allowed one walk through each. We were advised to keep our punch cards secure because if we lost them, we would be charged again for a replacement.

Fields said that the themes of the houses change year to year and in 2020, they even had to change the entire format to a drive-thru experience due to the coronavirus pandemic. However, they were still able to have a successful turnout.

“We didn’t have much of a choice, we either had to do something else or not open the haunt, so we just went out there and came up with something and came up with this idea of driving the cars through — and only like two other places in the whole country did it, so it came out really good for us,” Fields said, adding that once restrictions lifted it was easy to transition back to a walk-through experience because it was what they had done for decades before.

People like my cousin may have preferred the drive-thru version because although we watched several groups and couples walk in and out of all four experiences, we only made it through half of one.

We were told by a group of teens that “Physco Path” was a good starting point to prepare us for the others. The theme — from what I saw when my eyes weren’t closed — was designed as a haunted psychiatric ward. Fields confirmed that my assessment was correct.

The scariest part for me in any type of haunted house is not knowing when a figure in my path is just a statue, puppet or an actual human being. My cousin, on the other hand, didn’t care to find out. She was absolutely horrified by every inch of the experience and just wanted out.

After we exited the first half of “Physco Path,” my cousin was in such distress that the guide — who was also in character but directing people and maintaining the flow of foot traffic — stopped us in our tracks and would not let us continue until she calmed down, but that never happened. Her rapid breathing escalated to hyperventilation and the guide directed us to the emergency exit and gave my cousin a bottle of water. I knew we were done after that.

We sat down at a bench as she drank her water and caught her breath, and I enjoyed a stick of delicious, sugary goodness better known as cotton candy.

The presence of food vendors was a pleasant surprise of the night. I figured there would be at least one concession stand offering water, soft drinks and maybe a few snacks but there was a decent variety of treats that I did not expect. Fields said all of the food vendors are provided by the fairgrounds.

After making one last loop around the park to snap some more photos and watch from afar as one of the actors with a chainsaw scared the living daylights out of unsuspecting groups, we made our exit.

Aside from the brief period of concern for my cousin during her moment of emotional distress, I had a fun time. In addition to the haunted houses there is a maze, music, decorated areas for taking spooky pictures, a themed merchandise stand and even a virtual reality experience.

There is no doubt that the Halloween spirit is in full swing at Pirates of Emerson. I would



return in the future but preferably in a group of at least four. As the saying goes, there is strength in numbers.

Pirates of Emerson is open now through Halloween, with tickets available to buy online only. For more information, visit www.piratesofemerson.com. ■

Views of the Golden State

New exhibit displays California landscapes, local artist spotlight

By NICOLE GONZALES

From the High Sierra Mountains to Yosemite Valley to Marin County, renowned painter William Keith devoted his artistic career to capturing the beauty and stillness of California landscapes.

Six of the painter's most iconic images, along with the work of various regional contemporary artists, are on display in Livermore through the holiday season. Guests can view "150 Years of A Beautiful California: Landscapes From William Keith to Today" at the UNCLE Credit Union Art Gallery inside the Bankhead Theater lobby now through Jan. 7.

The exhibit highlights imagery of rivers, lakes, forests and woodlands throughout the state.

"The public is invited to share in this magnificent exhibit and surrounding events at The Bankhead, to celebrate our own heritage and the beautiful state in which we are privileged to live," Livermore Valley Arts officials said in a statement about the exhibit.

The late Keith was a San Francisco-based artist most known for capturing the California landscape through paintings. He immigrated from Scotland during the 1850s with his family in an attempt to establish an engraving business.

Keith's work was heavily inspired by his friend, fellow Scotsman and naturalist John Muir. It is said that Muir encouraged Keith to capture the details of landscapes and nature early on in his artistic career, according to exhibit organizers.

It was after many camping trips into the California wilderness with Muir, in areas like the Russian River



COURTESY LVA

"Langetree Ranch" by David Gates is on display in the new exhibit, "150 Years of A Beautiful California: Landscapes From William Keith to Today" in the UNCLE Credit Union Art Gallery at the Bankhead Theater.

or Yosemite Valley, the artist developed an appreciation for the scenery.

During the middle of his career, Keith's style and inspiration had altered after several trips to Europe.

"By the time he returned to San Francisco in 1872, his painting style had changed considerably," LVA officials said in its statement. "The abundance of foreground detail typical of early works like 'San Anselmo Valley Near San Rafael' had been replaced by looser, sketchier brushstrokes as in 'Mount Lyell, California Sierra.'"

Works from Keith are presented by LVA in collaboration with Saint Mary's College Museum of Art.

"His European experience had consisted more of looking at art, talking with artists, and painting on his own rather than of formal art education," LVA added.

Keith was influenced by then-modern French and German painters of the time period.

By the 1880s, the painter had developed a strong reputation for "grand panoramic landscapes" on

canvases as large as 6 feet by 10 feet.

In his lifetime, the artist was celebrated for his ability to recreate the picturesque views of the Golden State.

In addition to Keith's work, the UNCLE Credit Union Art Gallery exhibit features contemporary artists from around the Bay Area who also focus on painting California landscapes.

"Showcasing all the beauty around us, this exhibit exudes an aura of the

hills, blue skies, and lush landscapes that surround us here in our wonderful state. Many of these artists are award-winning artists — all are noted for their exceptional landscapes," organizers said.

Works by artists such as David Gates, Jeff Hemming and Norma Webb are on display too.

A special section of the exhibit features the work of local artist George Staehle in "Talking Art". Staehle's art is displayed in the Founders Room of the Bankhead.

The artist highlight shows off Staehle's watercolor creations, which are said to be a mix of whimsical and thought-provoking.

"They contain people in solitude or bliss, a fox and deer in camouflage, pelicans confronting armadas of sailboats, boat works and bridge taking showers, sandpipers adorning beaches, blackbirds and a cat inspecting fences, a dinosaur puzzled in Livermore's Sycamore Groves trees, ghostly blue rapids on the Truckee River, and a congregation of churches, one with four personalities," said LVA of Staehle's work.

Staehle previously studied with Pleasant Hill watercolor artist Jade Fon and Livermore's Margo Kirkwood. He was also a physicist at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory for over 40 years and now writes poetry, in addition to painting.

Staehle is set to host a reception and artist talk for "Talking Art" at the gallery on Nov. 11 from 2-4 p.m.

To find out more about the "150 Years of A Beautiful California: Landscapes From William Keith to Today" and "Talking Art" exhibits, visit livermorearts.org. ■

'Napoleon Dynamite Live!' at the Bankhead

Q&A with stars after screening of 2004 cult classic movie

By JEREMY WALSH

"Some and you are pretty much friends by now, right?"

Looks like that was more than a question for just the characters in the movie — it applied to the stars as well.

Actors Jon Heder and Efen Ramirez, who rose to fame in the 2000s cult classic "Napoleon Dynamite" portraying Napoleon and Pedro, respectively, will be appearing in Livermore next week for a conversation and Q&A with the

audience following a screening of the film in the Bankhead Theater. Of course, Uncle Rico (actor Jon Gries) will be there too.

"Napoleon Dynamite Live!" will see audiences "treated to an exclusive behind-the-scenes look into the making of the film and the unforgettable characters that have captured the hearts of audiences worldwide," according to Livermore Valley Arts officials.

"The evening is less a serious deconstruction of a film we all love, and more a fun celebration of this

amazing comedy classic," organizers added.

The independent movie about awkward Idaho teenager Napoleon Dynamite navigating friendship, family and young love connected with audiences after being released in 2004, making nearly 100 times its humble \$400,000 budget at the box office — and it continues to thrive in pop culture to this day, helped in part by a handful of popular memes, GIFs and a certain mesmerizing dance video.

The special event in Livermore



COURTESY LVA

From left: Actors Jon Gries, Jon Heder and Efen Ramirez will reflect on their roles in the cult classic as part of the upcoming "Napoleon Dynamite Live!"

will offer the chance to rewatch the movie in a theater setting before hearing from three of the top stars live and onstage as part of their touring presentation.

"Napoleon Dynamite Live!" will begin at 8 p.m. next Friday (Nov. 3) in the downtown venue. Tickets have been selling fast so only a few remain; visit livermorearts.org. ■

POLICE BULLETIN

Police: Gun store owner fatally shoots would-be robber

A Redwood City man died after he was shot while allegedly trying to rob a gun store in central Livermore on Sunday afternoon.

The owner of East Bay Firearms, who fired the two rounds that ultimately proved fatal, is not considered to be a suspect in a crime at this point as investigators have initially categorized the shooting as an apparent act of self-defense, according to the Livermore Police Department.

Confirming details for the first time late Monday morning, police said the call came in around 2:30 p.m. Sunday about a report of a robbery at the gun store on First Street.

Police said when officers arrived they found a 28-year-old Redwood City man suffering from a gunshot wound. Officers and paramedics attempted life-saving measures, but the man died from his injuries at the scene. His name has not been released publicly yet, with family notification still pending.

The subsequent investigation preliminarily revealed that the Redwood City man entered the gun store acting suspiciously while wearing a mask, gloves and a hooded sweatshirt over his head, according to police.

“According to witness statements, he then attempted to rob the gun store by taking a firearm while armed with a hammer. The gun store owner fired two rounds fatally wounding the man,” police said.

The gun store owner, whose name has not been confirmed publicly, has been cooperating with the investigation by the department’s criminal investigations unit, according to police. “At this stage in the investigation, it appears that this was a case of self-defense,” police added.

Five customers were inside the store when the attempted robbery and shooting occurred, none of whom were injured, according to police.

Livermore police detectives continue to investigate the circumstances and follow up on leads. Anyone with information that could be relevant to the case can contact the department via its anonymous tip line at 925-371-4790.

—Jeremy Walsh

In other news

- A wrongful death lawsuit filed this summer claims the married couple allegedly killed by a now-former Alameda County sheriff’s deputy in Dublin last year reported his frightening behavior a month before they were killed, but the county failed to do anything.

Devin Williams Jr., then 24, and Maria Tran, 42, were both employed by the county. Maria was a nurse at John George Psychiatric Hospital, and she met Williams at work. They

developed a personal relationship, but plaintiffs say when Tran attempted to end that relationship, Williams went to her home in the 3100 block of Colebrook Lane on Aug. 8, 2022.

Maria and her 57-year-old husband Benison Tran called for help — stating that Williams was repeatedly ringing their doorbell, demanding to talk — and they were afraid. But a law enforcement officer responding to the call gave Williams “preferential treatment” due to his employment as a sheriff’s deputy, according to the lawsuit.

Then around 12:45 a.m. on Sept. 7, 2022, police again responded to Colebrook Lane, finding Maria and Benison with gunshot wounds to the head and neck. Williams was identified as a suspect and a brief manhunt ensued but he surrendered to the California Highway Patrol early that afternoon in the Coalinga area, roughly 150 miles away from the crime scene. He is alleged to have used his service weapon in the commission of the crime.

Family members of the victims argue that if Williams had been stripped of his badge and gun after the incident in August, Maria and Benison might still be alive. They also allege Williams was one of roughly four dozen deputies found to have failed their psychological screening exams during an audit performed in the weeks after Williams’ arrest.

The Sheriff’s Office announced that 47 deputies, or nearly 5% of the force, had been moved to desk jobs as a result of that audit as of Sept. 27, 2022. Then-Alameda County Sheriff Greg Ahern said in a Sept. 23, 2022 letter to the affected deputies they had been deemed “not suited” for work in law enforcement by a psychologist and could not legally serve as a peace officer under state law.

Ahern also told the reassigned deputies the Sheriff’s Office intended to have them reevaluated and returned to full-duty status if possible.

“It’s a hideous situation and one has to wonder whether this was accidental, or whether the sheriff’s office was having trouble recruiting and decided to scrape the bottom of the barrel,” said Christopher Dolan, lead attorney for the plaintiffs. “To have

this happen on such a scale as it did makes me think it’s a systemic issue.”

A spokesperson for the Alameda County Sheriff’s Office referred questions about the current employment status of those deputies to internal affairs. Internal affairs referred questions to the Alameda County Counsel, which did not immediately respond.

Ahern had served as Alameda County sheriff since 2007, but lost his re-election bid last year to Yesenia Sanchez, a 24-year Sheriff’s Office employee running on a reform ticket.

Ahern and Sanchez are both listed as defendants in the civil suit, alongside Alameda County and the Alameda County Sheriff’s Office. The 13-count complaint accuses county officials of wrongful death, several forms of negligence, assault, battery and infliction of emotional distress.

Dolan said several of the victims’ family members were home at the time of the homicide, including the Trans’ minor son and Maria Tran’s mother.

“The mother was actually trying to talk this fellow (Williams) into putting the gun down when he shot and killed them,” Dolan said.

The Alameda County Sheriff’s Office led the Bay Area in payouts for wrongful death and excessive force between 2015 and 2020, according to Sanchez’s 2022 campaign website.

Williams has been charged with two counts of murder, with enhancements associated with the use of a firearm. He pleaded not guilty to all charges in December.

Dolan said his clients worry Alameda County District Attorney Pamela Price may drop those enhancements to appease the law enforcement community by giving Williams a lighter sentence as part of a plea deal.

“The family doesn’t want this to become some sort of political bargaining chip,” Dolan said.

—Dave Brooksher, BCN

- An East Bay woman was arrested in Dublin last week in connection with a fatal hit-and-run crash that occurred earlier this year in Tracy, police said.

The Tracy Police Department said 32-year-old San Leandro resident Natasha Jimenez-Pazo was taken into custody on Oct. 17 in the 7000 block of Village Parkway in Dublin.

On Feb. 27 shortly before 7 p.m., the Tracy Police Department’s Communication Center received multiple 911 calls reporting a collision involving a vehicle striking a pedestrian on West 11th Street near El Portal Street.

Life-saving measures were performed on the pedestrian, but he was pronounced dead at the scene. He was identified as 50-year-old Jose Luis Gonzalez Almazan.

Police said the driver of the vehicle fled the scene but during a preliminary investigation, officers were able to locate a video from nearby cameras. Investigators allegedly identified the vehicle involved, a white 2012 Hyundai Sonata that was located in the Bay Area and was impounded for evidence processing.

Jimenez-Pazo was booked into jail on suspicion of gross vehicular manslaughter while intoxicated, vehicular

manslaughter with gross negligence, driving under the influence causing death, and hit-and-run resulting in death. Bail was set at \$2 million.

—Victoria Franco, BCN

- One person was killed and six were injured in a collision involving three vehicles early Saturday on Interstate 580 east of Livermore near the Alameda-San Joaquin county line, the California Highway Patrol said.

The crash, about 6:30 a.m. near Mountain House Parkway, occurred when an eastbound car rear-ended an SUV, the CHP said.

The SUV was pushed across the center median and broadside into a westbound car, the highway patrol said.

One person was taken to San Joaquin General Hospital in French Camp where they were pronounced dead, the CHP said. None of the injuries to the other six people were life-threatening.

The circumstances of the collision remain under investigation. ■

—Bay City News Service

Janet Lynn Harkness

February 28, 1980 – October 12, 2023

Janet Lynn Harkness, born on February 28, 1980, in Atwater, California, passed away on October 12, 2023, in Dublin, California. Janet’s memory will forever be cherished by her family and friends. Janet is survived by her mother Kathryn Harkness, father Ashley Harkness, Jr., sister Cynthia Dunnells (Paul), brother Daniel Harkness (Christy) and their children, aunt Sara Topcu (Ali), and cousin John Williams (Audrey) and their children.



Janet attended Dublin High School, graduated from California State University Hayward with a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice, and earned a Master of Science degree from the California University of Pennsylvania. Janet’s career included serving as a police officer in the East Bay Regional Park Police District in several roles, including patrol officer, detective, and trainer. Later, she joined the Offices of the District Attorney at Martinez and Richmond serving as a Case Preparation Assistant for Contra Costa County.

Janet was a Reiki Master and Teacher. She described her life’s calling as “energetic work with animals and their companions” as a Reiki practitioner. She enjoyed all sorts of creative activities including resin crafting, cooking, jewelry creation, painting, and sewing. Her “Happy Place” was Disneyland. She was a loving and devoted “cat mom” to her two cats, Sadie and Ollie. She lived her life to its fullest.

A memorial service to celebrate Janet’s life will be held on Saturday, November 4th, 2023, at the Graham-Hitch Mortuary, 4167 First Street, Pleasanton. A gathering will begin at 11:00 AM, followed by the memorial service at 12:00 PM, with a reception to follow. This will be an opportunity for family, friends, and loved ones to come together, share stories, and honor the beautiful life of Janet Lynn Harkness.

In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests donations to be made to a charity of your choice in Janet’s memory. May Janet’s soul find eternal peace, and may her memory continue to inspire and bring comfort to all those who knew and loved her.

PAID OBITUARY

POLICE REPORT

The Pleasanton Police Department made the following information available.

Oct. 21

Robbery

■ 1:18 p.m. on the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive

Assault/battery

■ 7:47 p.m. on the 3000 block of Hopyard Road

Oct. 20

Burglary

■ 5:18 a.m. on the 5300 block of Owens Court

■ 8:54 a.m. on the 1000 block of Serpentine Lane

■ 9:22 a.m. on the 1200 block of Quarry Lane

Theft

■ 7:24 a.m., 1000 block of Serpentine Lane; theft from auto

■ 8:21 a.m., 1000 block of Serpentine Lane; theft from auto

■ 8:22 a.m. on the 1000 block of Serpentine Lane

■ 10:04 a.m., 3900 block of Valley Avenue; theft from auto

Graffiti offense

■ 11:14 a.m. on the 500 block of Kottinger Drive

■ 3:37 p.m. on the 3000 block of Tonopah Circle

Oct. 19

Vandalism

■ 11:17 a.m. on the 7000 block of Pleasanton Avenue

Theft

■ 3:31 p.m. on the 2200 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

Missing person report

■ 4:44 p.m. on Johnson Drive

Warrant arrest

■ 11:39 p.m. on the 5600 block of West Las Positas Boulevard

Opinion

LETTERS

Thank you, from the Centennial Committee

We would like to extend our gratitude to the Pleasanton community for participating in the Amador Valley High School's Centennial Celebration. This was a significant milestone in our schools' and communities' history.

It would not have been possible without the support from the City, PDA, Museum On Main, Athletic Boosters, Band Boosters, Staff on campus plus many of the students. Our sponsors: Pleasanton Weekly, Pleasanton Garbage, CanAm Plumbing, Margene Gerton Rivara, PPIE, California Fences, Meadowlark Dairy (Takens family), Pleasanton Ready Mix, Tom Medina, Jennifer Hart, Cornerstone Printing (Pappas family), Karen's Yard Cards and Karl Wenthe.

This celebration was two years in the making with people giving of their time and talents helping to make a three-day tribute to the rich legacy of Amador Valley.

As our logo states: Don of a New Era. This is something past, present and future members of our community can remember with pride!

With Purple & Gold Gratitude,
—Joanie Fields, Class of 64 and Patrick Gannon, Centennial Co-chairs

Sunol flag policy

Death threats in Sunol because of a commonsense policy that requires the school to fly only the U.S. and California flag? Really?

What's next — will school board members be threatened for a curriculum that says the United States

was founded in 1776? Will folks from Fremont and Castro Valley want to recall our board members for giving kids a day off in honor of Veterans Day?

This entire political exercise in response to a commonsense policy that protects the school from lawsuits AND allows the school board to focus on our kids' education has been a lesson learned for our sleepy town. No matter the good intentions behind a simple local decision, extreme activists from outside our town will always try to threaten, politicize and divide in an effort to advance some sort of agenda.

Shame on them, and shame on some of us for falling victim to it.

It's time for Sunol to stand together, and to denounce those outsiders who are trying to divide us.

—James R. Lowder

Vote to ban Pride flag shows unfitness for office

As a parent and educator, I support the recall effort of Board President Ryan Jergensen and Trustee Linda Hurley by Sunol parents, teachers and former board members. Their votes to ban the LGBTQ Pride flag only makes sense when taken in the larger national context of extremists moving in on communities to roll back LGBTQ people's safety and equality.

Jergensen gives a "respect both sides" argument as justification for the Sept. 12 resolution. He is quoted in The USA Today as saying, "even though I may have my personal beliefs ... we don't need to ... try to control their families."

Do those "personal beliefs" you refer to so vaguely, Mr. Jergensen, include anti-LGBTQ beliefs? You have been voted in to support education for all children in your community. Bigots don't belong on the

school board. We will vote you out or you will be recalled.

—Kristine Wyndham

Extending Dublin City Council term limits

I noticed in the recent Dublin City Council meetings, a recurring topic has been term limits for the council. Unfortunately, I do think there will be popular resistance to this measure.

Popular opinion tends to lean towards shorter term limits, associating longer limits with corruption and careerism. I have to admit, even I was initially an opponent until I took the time to research and found that shorter limits don't necessarily have the results I was looking for.

With the research I have done, I think members should not be allowed to serve in office for more than 16 consecutive years.

Opponents believe that shorter limits would prevent members from becoming too comfortable and thus ineffective. In reality, research shows shorter limits demotivates policy expertise and causes candidates to view these positions as stepping stones in their career.

Conversely, a longer limit would allow members to take on long-term initiatives, make lasting connections to get policies passed, gain experience creating/passing policies, have incentive/opportunity for gaining policy expertise, etc.

There is much more to this issue than meets the eye. Since this is soon to be on the ballot, I have done the research to form an opinion and I encourage all Dublin voters to do the same. For a more extensive show of my research as a beginning to fully understanding the nuance of the issue, please visit <https://japneet.khanuja.repl.co/>.

—Japneet Khanuja

Who is the bad guy?

Why are so many people against Israel defending itself and protecting its people? When the World Trade Center was attacked, it killed more than 3,000 people.

It was condemned by world leaders and religious representatives and the international media, condemned by governments considered hostile to the United States, such as Cuba, Iran, Libya and North Korea.

All those countries surrounding Israel want a piece of that action to wipe Israel off the map. It is fair game for Israel to go on the offensive to preserve their country and defend their people.

—Michael Austin, via Town Square

Dishonest coverage

Your news coverage of the Sunol flag issue is very one-sided in support of flying the flag. Not even an attempt to be partial and fair. Your uneven reporting is emotional and is

inflaming the issue.

You don't explain fully the reason for not flying the flag, nor do you explain the statute that prevents flying other flags at schools.

What is your evidence that a majority favor flying the flag? I believe it is just the opposite, that parents want their kids left alone and not be dragged into left-wing politics. Bottom line, your journalism is dishonest.

—William Fahey

Wildlife and public health alert

Despite major opposition, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) continues to issue annual import permits for two million American bullfrogs (commercially raised) and 300,000 freshwater turtles (taken from the wild) for human consumption.

None are native to California, and all are diseased and/or parasitized, though it is illegal to import/sell such products (California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Section 236).

The market animals are routinely purchased en masse and released into local waters, where they prey upon and displace our native species, while spreading multiple diseases and parasites. Inexplicably, local health departments and environmental organizations remain remarkably silent.

Most of the bullfrogs carry a lethal chytrid fungus, *Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis* (Bd), responsible for the extinctions of 100-plus amphibian species worldwide in recent years. The problems are many: environmental protection, species extinction, risks to public health, major animal cruelty, lack of law enforcement, "political correctness," ad nauseam.

The State Fish & Game Commission will make its recommendations at the December meeting in San Diego. Easy fix: Stop the live permits, allowing only frozen frog/turtle parts. Oregon and Washington outlawed live bullfrog imports decades ago; Oregon also banned non-native turtles.

California should follow suit. Express your concerns to CDFW Director Chuck Bonham (director@wildlife.ca.gov), and the Fish & Game Commission (fgc@fgc.ca.gov).

—Eric Mills, coordinator,
Action for Animals

Our undergrounding program is an essential tool for wildfire prevention

We at PG&E are deeply committed to doing everything possible to stop wildfires in Bay Area communities.

Burying powerlines is the most effective solution to reducing the risk of wildfire from electrical equipment, reducing the risk of ignitions in areas at the highest risk of wildfire by nearly 98%. Undergrounding also makes power more reliable by reducing outages caused by winter storms, and in some cases eliminates the need for safety shutoffs.

That is why we have proposed moving overhead electric powerlines underground in highest fire-risk areas, including 40 miles in our Bay Area Region (which includes Alameda, Contra Costa, San Francisco and San Mateo counties). For these investments, all PG&E customers will benefit from lower expenses for overhead-line maintenance; improved air and water quality resulting from fewer wildfires; protection of our wildlands; and, over the long run, improved access to homeowners insurance coverage at lower premiums.

But the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) wants to gut this critical safety program, reducing proposed undergrounding to as little as 200 miles systemwide.

We've seen the devastating toll wildfires have taken on Bay Area communities. Our customers and local officials have told us time and again that they want us to underground our powerlines. That's because undergrounding is the safest and most effective tool we have to prevent ignitions in high fire-risk areas.

We urge the CPUC to revisit its proposals and accept PG&E's proposal to underground 2,000 miles through 2026. If you agree, please let the commission know by visiting www.cpuc.ca.gov/publiccomment.

—Aaron Johnson, PG&E region vice president, Bay Area

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THE CITY OF PLEASANTON

HIGHLIGHTS

Library Commission Meeting

Thursday, November 2, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.

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

- Review and Comment on the Fiscal Year 2022/23 Library and Recreation Department Annual Report
- Review and Approve Pausing the Library Commission Outreach and Policy Subcommittees and the Joint Library and Civic Arts Commission Subcommittee for 2024
- Review and Approve Library Commission Meeting Schedule for 2024 and Amend Meeting Schedule for 2023
- Select Commission Chairperson and Vice Chairperson for 2024

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



PLEASANTON PREPS

By DENNIS MILLER

Injury-riddled Foothill forfeits to De La Salle

Culmination of factors contributing to tough year for Falcons' football program

That the Foothill High varsity football team had to forfeit a game to De La Salle last Friday may have come as a surprise to many; to me, it was inevitable.

The Falcons have been fighting numbers for some time now but came into this season with 44 players on the roster. However, it wasn't a deep 44 players.

Injuries have taken their toll on Foothill, and following the Falcons 41-29 loss to Clayton Valley on Oct. 13, Haubner was looking at suiting up maybe 24 players for the game with the Spartans.

And that included undersized and inexperienced players.

In all, of the 22 starters at the beginning of the season, 16 players were out for Foothill.

On the Saturday following Clayton Valley, Foothill coach Greg Haubner started to look at the numbers with his staff. On Sunday, Oct. 15, it looked like the game would work, but illnesses the next day shifted the decision for Haubner.

"It wasn't an easy decision," Haubner said. "I had to make the last-hour call and let De La Salle know on Tuesday that we couldn't go. We just have no depth."

The Spartans were able to scratch and claw, getting a game with El Cerrito on Friday night.

At some point the safety of the players must be a determining

factor. If the Falcons were to put a team out on the field against the Spartans, there would be players who are not even 140 pounds banging heads with De La Salle — a national powerhouse.

There are a few contributing factors to the decline of the once-proud and successful football program at the Pleasanton school.

The pool of football players at Foothill has been shrinking. There is no freshman team again this year.

And there are capable athletes at the school that would be major players for the football team who opted not to play football but rather focus on other sports. By last count, there are at least 13 athletes opting not to play football.

Everything together with the injuries is devastating.

"We are stacking bodies unlike any other time," Haubner said. "We are just beat up."

I have written in this space before that even suffering numbers-wise, each week Haubner and his staff send out a group that will battle.

Take Friday the 13th, for example. Undermanned, on the road at Clayton Valley, one of top programs in the section, and the Falcons battled to the tune of putting 29 points on the board.

Hopefully the Falcons will get healthy before their game scheduled with San Ramon Valley this Friday (Oct. 27). The seniors that

have put three years into the program certainly deserve that.

Foothill volleyball

The Falcons ended the regular season with a sweep of Amador Valley to end the regular season, followed by a pair of come-from-behind playoff wins to run their winning streak to 30.

The win over Amador was by 25-22, 25-10, 25-19. Highlights came from Paige Bennett (16 kills, 11 digs, 10 service points), Kaycie Burdick (15 digs, 11 kills) and Katie Salonga (37 assists, 8 service points).

In the East Bay Athletic League semifinals, the Falcons beat Monte Vista 17-25, 18-25, 25-17, 25-19, 15-13.

Salonga (45 assists, 10 digs), Bennett (25 kills, 13 digs), Nisa Kincaid (6 kills, 1 block), Lulu Hoenninger (6 kills, 2 blocks) and Kait Vogel (21 digs) provided the highlights.

Foothill took the title with an 18-25, 22-25, 25-21, 25-19, 15-13 win over San Ramon Valley. Bennett (19 kills, 18 service points, 16 digs), Salonga (46 assists, 11 digs), Burdick (13 kills, 10 digs) and Hoenninger (6 blocks, 5 kills) led the way.

Girls' tennis

The Falcons won against Carondelet 5-4, with singles victories by Sagarika Kashyap, Amelia

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JEFF SILVERSMITH

A hard-fought loss to Clayton Valley on Oct. 13 left the Foothill football team without enough players to face De La Salle on Oct. 20.

Unmentum, Isabelle Kang, and Michelle Lee. The doubles team of Aarushi Raj/Riley Young also won.

In a 5-4 win over Cal High, Umentum, Lee, Hayden Lu and Vinny Trivedi won in singles. The team of Clara Song/Grace Mundaden also won.

A 7-2 win over Dougherty Valley saw Maya Wu, Kashyap, Umentum

and Lee win in singles. The teams of Song/Mundaden and Young/Raj also won.

For crosstown Amador, the Dons fell 6-3 to unbeaten Monte Vista last week. Montana Parkinson-Lubold and Neha Reddy won in singles. Aditi Deshpande/Sanvi Sharma squeaked out the only doubles win. ■

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City celebrates newly named 'Stanford Medicine Sports Complex'

Three companies sponsor Bernal Park fields

By JEREMY WALSH

City leaders, corporate officials and local youth sports representatives gathered this month for a ceremony to unveil the new signage recognizing Pleasanton's Bernal Community Park athletic facilities being renamed as the "Stanford Medicine Sports Complex".

Stanford Medicine, which includes Stanford Children's Health, Stanford Health Care, Stanford Tri-Valley and Stanford School of Medicine, obtained the naming rights under a six-figure sponsorship

agreement with the city government first announced last year. Three of the park's fields are also now individually named for sponsors Stanford Medicine, 4Leaf Inc. and Construction Testing Services.

Pleasanton Mayor Karla Brown told the Weekly that the Oct. 7 naming ceremony in the park's plaza honored "this incredible sports complex but also serves as an expression of our gratitude to those who have made it possible."

"With a collective contribution of \$630,000 over seven years from Stanford Medicine, Construction

Testing Services, and 4Leaf, Inc., the city has secured the resources needed to fund the ongoing construction and maintenance of this highly treasured park," Brown said.

"Through its sponsorship, Stanford Medicine has again demonstrated its commitment to this community and a desire to invest in its betterment," the mayor added. "Their generous support will help provide a space where our youth can thrive, grow and excel for years to come. May this complex continue to be a place where dreams are born, and champions are made." ■

Entertainment

CREATURES OF IMPULSE - MAFIA-ESQUE The popular game Mafia comes to life in this completely improvised and interactive show where Creatures of Impulse create characters on the stage, but several of them have nefarious plans. 7:30 p.m., Oct. 27-28; 2 p.m., Oct. 28. Tickets \$10. Visit firehousearts.org.

THE FOUR PHANTOMS This stunning musical performance brings together four of the most talented Broadway actors who have each portrayed the iconic role of The Phantom in Andrew Lloyd Webber's *The Phantom of the Opera*. 8 p.m., Oct. 27. Tickets \$90-\$125. Visit livermorearts.org.

PINK FLOYD CONCERT EXPERIENCE The Bay Area's House of Floyd performs the music of Pink Floyd and has gained a strong following for their unique ability to enthuse both the hard-core fans of the early adventurous Floyd and those who enjoy the songs and soundscapes that later brought them widespread appeal. 8 p.m., Oct. 28. Tickets \$39-\$59. Visit livermorearts.org.

BALLET FOLKLORICO MEXICANO DE CARLOS MORENO Ballet Folklórico Mexicano de Carlos Moreno: *Día de los Muertos* returns to the Bankhead. Witness the energy and passion of this world-renowned dance company as they perform

traditional Mexican folk dances and pay tribute to the ancestors in a lively and uplifting show. 3 p.m., Oct. 29. Tickets \$30-\$50. Visit livermorearts.org.

BANKHEAD PRESENTS NAPOLEON DYNAMITE LIVE! Watch Napoleon Dynamite on the big screen then stick around after the screening for a Q&A session with Jon Heder, Jon Gries and Efrén Ramirez and get an exclusive behind-the-scenes look into the making of the film. 8 p.m., Nov. 3. Tickets \$100. Visit livermorearts.org.

HULA FESTIVAL & COMPETITION Includes an assortment of cultural dance, local music, ethnic food and arts-and-crafts vendors from around the world. Nov 3-5 Tickets \$16-\$26. Visit alamedacountyfair.com.

HARMONY & HEALING BENEFIT CONCERT WITH BOHEMIAN QUEEN Join for an unforgettable night of music and celebration as the Bankhead presents the 3rd Annual Harmony & Healing Benefit Concert & Fundraiser. Experience Bohemian Queen, the No. 1 ranked Queen tribute band. 6:30 p.m., Nov. 4. \$38.25-\$99. Visit livermorearts.org.

HSMC CABARET/COMEDY TONIGHT High School Music Collaborative present a cabaret full of the funniest songs in musical theater history. Be a part of the laughs that

will be sure to make your belly sore. 7:30 p.m., Nov. 4. Tickets \$10. Visit firehousearts.org.

ANDY KAHRS: ALWAYS ON MY MIND An intimate evening with singer/songwriter Andy Kahrs with guest appearance by Nick Crossen. Featuring a collection of country, blues and R&B classics through the years. 7:30 p.m., Nov. 9. Tickets \$20-\$30. Visit firehousearts.org.

AN EVENING WITH BRIAN STOKES MITCHELL Don't miss the opportunity to witness the magic of one of the most celebrated performers of our time, Tony Award-winning performer Brian Stokes Mitchell, in a truly illustrious live performance. 8 p.m., Nov. 10. Tickets \$80-\$110. Visit livermorearts.org.

CROSS THAT RIVER: THE MUSICAL Get transported back in time to the Wild West with *Cross That River*, the captivating story of a runaway slave turned black cowboy. Follow the adventures of Blue, our protagonist, as he navigates through a world of danger and uncertainty to pursue his dreams of freedom and success. 8 p.m., Nov. 11. Tickets \$50-\$80. Visit livermorearts.org.

SELECTED SHORTS: LET US TELL YOU A STORY Selected Shorts presents an evening of stories about the ways lives intersect in mysterious, poignant, and hilarious ways. Tony Hale, Jane Kaczmarek and Mara Wilson perform classic and contemporary tales of entanglements. 3 p.m., Nov. 12. Tickets \$35-\$65. Visit livermorearts.org.

Talks

AN EVENING WITH PRITI KRISHTEL Discover the transformative impact of Priti KrishTEL, the trailblazing health justice lawyer, as she champions equity by shedding light on the flaws within the patent system. 7:30 p.m., Nov. 9. Tickets \$25-\$55. Visit livermorearts.org.

Outdoors

WATER EXERCISE AT DOLORES BENTSON AQUATIC CENTER Water exercise classes support the body and reduce risk of muscle or joint injury through the buoyancy of water and mitigation of gravity. Classes in deep and shallow water offered. Visit cityofpleasantonca.gov.

BRUSHY PEAK ADVENTURE This strenuous hike covers approximately 4 miles over dirt and rocky trails with an elevation gain of 800+ feet. The hike includes an exploration of sandstone rock formations and an opportunity to view the plants and animals that live or visit this area. 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Nov. 4. Visit larpd.org.

IDENTIFYING FEATHERS: ART & CRAFTS Join an LARPD ranger in a pre-Thanksgiving arts and crafts activity and observe real bird feathers and learn about their unique patterns and sound effects

PET OF THE WEEK



VALLEY HUMANE SOCIETY

Meet Wyatt

Wyatt is a Halloween hound who adores cuddles and squeaky toys, and though a bit shy, he'd love to be your "spooktacular" sidekick. If you seek a sweet, laid-back companion, Wyatt's your one and only! Visit valleyhumane.org to learn more or email info@valleyhumane.org to start the adoption application process.

when in flight. Arts and crafts supplies included to make vibrant feather decorations just in time for the holidays. 2 p.m., Nov. 5. Visit larpd.org.

TURKEY TALK Drop by the Native Garden to chat with Ranger Lauren about our fowl friends, share fun facts, compare feathers and make your own take home turkey call. 2-3:30 p.m., Nov. 11. Wetmore Rd Entrance. Visit larpd.org.

Exhibits

LIVERMORE ART ASSOCIATION The Livermore Civic Center Library will showcase artwork from the Livermore Art Association, "Nature's Gifts". Oct. 1-31. Visit livermoreartassociation.org.

THE DON CENTURY EXHIBIT Featuring memorabilia and artifacts from throughout the school's history with clips from interviews with alumni and current and former faculty and staff. Through Dec. 31. 603 Main St. Visit museumonmain.org.

LANDSCAPES FROM WILLIAM KEITH TO TODAY 150 Years of A Beautiful California: Landscapes From William Keith to Today, this art exhibit showcases the beauty of California's landscapes. Now through Jan. 7. The UNCLE Credit Union Art Gallery at the Bankhead Theater.

PAL FALL MEMBERS' SHOW The PAL 16th annual Fall Members' Show is Nov. 4-Dec.16. The art exhibit will hang in the Harrington Gallery inside the Firehouse Arts Center. 444 Railroad Ave. in Pleasanton.

Family

THE BIG BOUNCE AMERICA Spend time with family and friends in a magical, candy-colored wonderland of action-packed inflatable adventure. Individual sessions are available to suit all age groups from toddlers through to adults only. Oct. 27-29. Tickets \$35-\$45. Visit alamedacountyfair.com.

PIRATES OF EMERSON Pirates of Emerson Haunted Theme Park returns to the Alameda County Fairgrounds for scary good fun. This walk through event is Northern

California's premier haunted attraction. Sept. 29-Oct. 31. Visit alamedacountyfair.com.

PLEASANTON HARVEST FESTIVAL Featuring 24,000 American handmade arts and crafts such as fine and fashion jewelry, ceramics, original art, specialty food, decor, clothing, and much more. Enjoy live entertainment performed by local musicians, the Evan Thomas Blues Band.. Oct. 27-29. Visit alamedacountyfair.com.

DIWALI FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS The celebration is an ancient Hindu festival that marks the beginning of the Hindu New Year. 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Nov. 5. Free. Bankhead Plaza.

GOODGUYS FUEL CURVE AUTUMN GET-TOGETHER Featuring over 2,500 of northern California's slickest American made and powered show cars and trucks of all years on display. Shop the huge swap meet, Cars 4 Sale Corral and vendor midway, enjoy live music and so much more. 8 a.m.- 4 p.m., Nov. 11-12. Visit alamedacountyfair.com.

Government

PLEASANTON CITY COUNCIL The next Pleasanton City Council meeting is 7 p.m., Nov. 7. Visit cityofpleasantonca.gov.

LIVERMORE PLANNING COMMISSION The Livermore Planning Commission meets the first and third Tuesday of the month. The next meeting is 7 p.m.

Support

GENERAL GRIEF SUPPORT GROUPS Hope Hospice offers grief support groups by Zoom video conference. Call 925-829-8770 to register and obtain the login link. General Grief, Mondays, 6-7:30 p.m., Now to Nov. 6. Visit hopehospice.com/services/grief-support.

PLEASANTON LIBRARY AND RECREATION FEE ASSISTANCE The City believes that economic barriers should not prevent any member of the community from engaging in the enriching experiences and social connections provided by library and recreation programs. Learn more at cityofpleasantonca.gov or call 925-931-5340.

Employment

Accurate Corrosion Control, Inc. seeks a Engineer (Corrosion) for Pleasanton, CA facility. Perform and review Engineering designs. Must have a Bach. & 3 yrs. exp. NACE CP-1 Certification is required. Job opportunity is 100% in person. Email resumes to: hr@accuratecorrosion.com ref. job code 002. SALARY: at least \$133,598.00 per year.

Safeway Inc. hiring Senior Product Managers (mult. openings) in Pleasanton, CA. May telecommute reports to Pleasanton. Dom. trvl 1x/quarter, 1 week duration. Must have legal right to work in US. EOE. Subj. to bckgrnd check. \$170,955-218,600/yr. Email resume TA.Applications@albertsons.com. Attn: M. Gutierrez. Ref# 1004BASA

Biostatistician for Roche Molecular Systems, Inc., Pleasanton, CA. Telecommuting permitted up to 2 days/wk. Req: PhD in Stats, Biostats, Math, Physics, or rltcd + 4 yrs exp (or Masters + 7 yrs exp). Expected salary range for position based on primary loc. in CA is \$183,552 to \$243,500 /yr. Actual pay w/in range determined based on exp, qualifications, geographic loc. & other job-rltd factors permitted by law. Discretionary annual bonus may be available based on individual & Co. performance. Qualifies for benefits detailed at Benefits (<https://roche.ehr.com/default.ashx?CLASSNAME=splash>). Apply: <http://applyroche.com/202309-121753> (Job ID: 202309-121753)

Safeway Inc. hiring Solution Architect in Pleasanton, CA. May telecommute reports to Pleasanton. Must have legal right to work in US. EOE. Subj. to bckgrnd check. \$215,197-215,197/yr. Email resume TA.Applications@albertsons.com Attn: A. Co. Ref# 1006ADR

Safeway Inc. hiring Sr. Business Systems Analyst in Pleasanton, CA. May Telecommute. Reports to Pleasanton. Must have legal right to work in US. EOE. Subj. to bckg. check. \$128,522 - \$153,816/yr. Email resume TA.Applications@albertsons.com, Attn: M. Ferreira. REF# 0620KG

Safeway Inc. hiring Sr Applications Support Engineer in Pleasanton, CA. May telecommute. Reports to Pleasanton. Must have legal right to work in US. EOE. Subj. to bckgrnd check. \$170,955-196,500/yr. Email resume TA.Applications@albertsons.com. Attn: M. Gutierrez. Ref # 0728VK

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

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Public Notices

EVMOD LLC
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 601130
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) EVMOD LLC, located at 37390 Cedar Blvd, Unit E., Newark, CA 94560, Alameda County.
This business is conducted by: a Limited Liability Company.
The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):
EVMOD LLC
37390 Cedar Blvd, Unit E., Newark, CA 94560
California
Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 07/15/2023.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on September 29 2023. (PLW Oct 6, 13, 20 and 27, 2023)

QUEER BLACK ANGELS
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 601252
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) Queer Black Angels, located at 1938 Stuart St. Berkeley, CA 94703, Alameda County.
This business is conducted by: an Individual.
The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):
ROBBIE JOSEPH
1938 Stuart St. Berkeley, CA 94703
Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 08/15/2023
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on October 05 2023. (PLW Oct 27, Nov 3, 10 and 17, 2023)

MA. T AFRICAN SERVICES
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 600386
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) MA. T African Services, located at 755 Rose Avenue Apt. 13, Pleasanton, CA 94566, Alameda.
This business is conducted by: an Individual.
The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):
AUGUSTINA A-FURHMAN
755 Rose Avenue Apt. 13 Pleasanton, CA 94566
Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 08/25/2023.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on August 26 2023. (PLW Oct 6, 13, 20 and 27, 2023)

DURASNARE
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 601182
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) Durasnare, located at 1807 Santa Rita Road, Suite H128, Pleasanton CA 94566, Alameda.
This business is conducted by: a Limited Liability Company.
The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):
Troce LLC
1807 Santa Rita Road, Suite H128 Pleasanton, CA 94566
California
Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 08/19/2023
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on October 03 2023. (PLW Oct 13, 20, 27 and Nov 3, 2023)

DIABLO FABRICATORS
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 600442
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) Diablo Fabricators, located at 7055 Commerce Circle Ste C Pleasanton, CA 94588, Alameda County.
This business is conducted by: a Limited Liability Company.
The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):
Kitchen Experts of Pleasanton, LLC
7055 Commerce Cir Ste. C 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 30 2023. (PLW Oct 13, 20, 27 and Nov 3, 2023)

DENICA'S REAL FOOD KITCHEN
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 600733
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) DENICA'S REAL FOOD KITCHEN, located at 4503 ROSEWOOD DRIVE PLEASANTON, CA 94588, ALAMEDA COUNTY.
This business is conducted by: a Corporation.
The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):
DENICA'S INC.
6058 DOUGHERTY ROAD DUBLIN, CA 94568 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 September 13 2023. (PLW Oct 13, 20, 27 and Nov 3, 2023)

FLETCHER TOWERS
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 600974
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) Fletcher Towers, located at 6088 Sunol Blvd, Suite 111, Pleasanton, CA 94566, Alameda County.
Mailing Address: PO BOX 70, 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 09/22/2023
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on September 22 2023. (PLW Oct 6, 13, 20 and 27, 2023)

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: RAMON COLMENERO NAVARRO
Case No.: 23PR044708
To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of RAMON C. NAVARRO, RAMON COLMENERO NAVARRO, RAMON NAVARRO.
A Petition for Probate has been filed by: Susana Navarro in the Superior Court of California, County of Alameda.
The Petition for Probate requests that: Susana Navarro be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.
THE PETITION requests the decedent's will and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. The will and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court. 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 October 27 2023 at 9:45 am in Dept. 201 of the Superior Court of California, County of Alameda, located at 2120 Martin Luther King Jr. Way.
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:
Shack Chew
Clark Hill PLC

505 Montgomery Street, 13th Floor
San Francisco, CA 94111
415-984-8500
(PLW Oct 20, 27 and Nov 3, 2023)

SUMM
MICHAEL M LIN, ESQ.
Nevada Bar No. 010392
LIN LAW GROUP
5288 Spring Mtn. Rd, Ste 103
Las Vegas, Nevada 89146
(702) 871 9888
Attorneys for Plaintiff

DISTRICT COURT

CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA

GOLD SHIELD GROUP, LLC., a Nevada Domestic Limited Liability Company,

Plaintiff,
vs.

PLATINUM STONE INVESTMENT LLC., a Nevada Domestic Limited Liability Company; BO ZHANG, an individual; SHELIN CHEN, an individual; and DOES I through X and ROE CORPORATIONS I through X, inclusive,

Defendants.

CASE NO.

DEPT NO.

SUMMONS

SUMMONS – (SHELIN CHEN

NOTICE! YOU HAVE BEEN SUED. THE COURT MAY DECIDE AGAINST YOU WITHOUT YOUR BEING HEARD UNLESS YOU RESPOND WITHIN 20 DAYS. READ THE INFORMATION BELOW.

TO THE DEFENDANT. A civil Complaint has been filed by the plaintiff against you for relief set forth in the Complaint

1. If you intend to defend this lawsuit. Within 20 days after this Summons is served on you exclusive of the day of service, you must do the following:

a. File with the Clerk of this Court, whose address is shown below, a formal written response to the Complaint in accordance with the rules of the Court.

b. Serve a copy of your response upon the attorney whose name and address is shown below.

2. Unless you respond, your default will be entered upon application of the plaintiff and this Court may enter a judgment against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint, which could result in the taking of money or property or other relief requested in the Complaint.

3. If you intend to seek the advice of an attorney in this matter, you should do so promptly so that your response may be filed on time.

4. The State of Nevada, its political subdivisions, agencies, officers, employees, board members, commission members, and legislators, each have 45 days after service of this Summons within which to file an Answer or other responsive pleading to the Complaint.

Issued at direction of: STEVEN D GRIERSON, CLERK OF COURT

MICHAEL M LIN, ESQ.
Nevada Bar No. 010392
NGOC PHAN, ESQ.

Nevada Bar No. 15453
5288 Spring Mtn. Rd., Ste 103
Las Vegas, NV 89146
(702) 871.9888
Attorney for Plaintiff

This is an action for damages based on breach of contract.

NOTE: When service is by publication, add a brief statement of the object of the action. See Rules of Civil Procedure, Rule 4(b).
(PLW Oct 27, Nov 3, 10 and 17, 2023)

Place a legal notice at
PleasantonWeekly.com/legal_notices/

REAL ESTATE

California considers new rules for property insurance pricing

Overhaul aims to curtail crisis amid exodus of major providers citing risk of natural disasters

California Insurance Commissioner Ricardo Lara recently announced a package of executive actions aimed at making property insurance more available throughout the state.

Considered the largest insurance reform since state voters approved Proposition 103 to protect consumers from arbitrary insurance rates and practices nearly 35 years ago, the Sustainable Insurance Strategy is a comprehensive approach to modernize California's insurance market.

The overhaul comes after several of California's largest insurance companies announced in recent months that they would no longer be writing new homeowners policies in the state due to increased risk of natural disasters and rising construction costs. The plan addresses these problems fueled by climate change, including global inflation and increased costs for rebuilding, that have led to California's insurance crisis.

"We are at a major crossroads on insurance after multiple years of wildfires and storms intensified by the threat of climate change. I am taking immediate action to implement lasting changes that will make Californians safer through a stronger, sustainable insurance market," Lara announced on Sept. 21. "The current system is not working for all Californians, and we must change course. I will continue to partner with all those who want to work toward real solutions."

In support of Lara's actions, California Gov. Gavin Newsom issued an executive order urging prompt regulatory action.

"It is critical that California's insurance market works to protect homes and businesses in every corner of our state," Newsom said. "A balanced approach that will help maintain fair prices and protections for Californians is essential."

Key regulatory elements

- Executive action by Lara to transition homeowners and businesses from the state-mandated FAIR (Fair Access to Insurance Requirements) Plan — which offers basic fire insurance coverage to high-risk properties unable to find insurance in the traditional marketplace — back into the normal insurance market.

The FAIR Plan can be expensive and only covers certain losses by fire and smoke. It is considered the insurance of last resort. Under the plan, insurance companies would commit

to cover all parts of California by writing no less than 85% of their statewide market share in high wildfire risk communities. If a company writes 20 out of 100 homes statewide, for example, it must write 17 out of 100 homes in a distressed area.

- Giving FAIR Plan policyholders who undertake wildfire mitigation efforts as part of the state's Safer from Wildfires framework first priority to transition to the normal market.

- Expediting the department's introduction of new rules for the review of climate catastrophe models that recognize the benefits of wildfire safety and mitigation actions at state and local levels.

- Directing the FAIR Plan to further expand commercial coverage to \$20 million per building to close insurance gaps for homeowners associations and condominium developments.

- Holding public meetings to explore incorporating California-only reinsurance costs into rate filings.

- Improving rate filing procedures and timelines by hiring additional department staff to review rate applications from insurance companies.

- Increasing data reporting by the FAIR Plan to the department, legislature and governor to monitor progress toward reducing its policyholders.

- Ordering changes to the FAIR Plan to prevent it from going bankrupt in the case of an extraordinary catastrophic event. This includes building its reserves and financial safeguards.

"California Realtors thank and support Commissioner Lara for taking necessary actions to strengthen and stabilize the state's insurance market," said Pleasanton-based Realtor Jennifer Branchini, who is president of the California Association of Realtors. "We look forward to working with the commissioner and stakeholders to ensure that Californians have access to critical and reliable property insurance to protect their most valuable asset — their home."

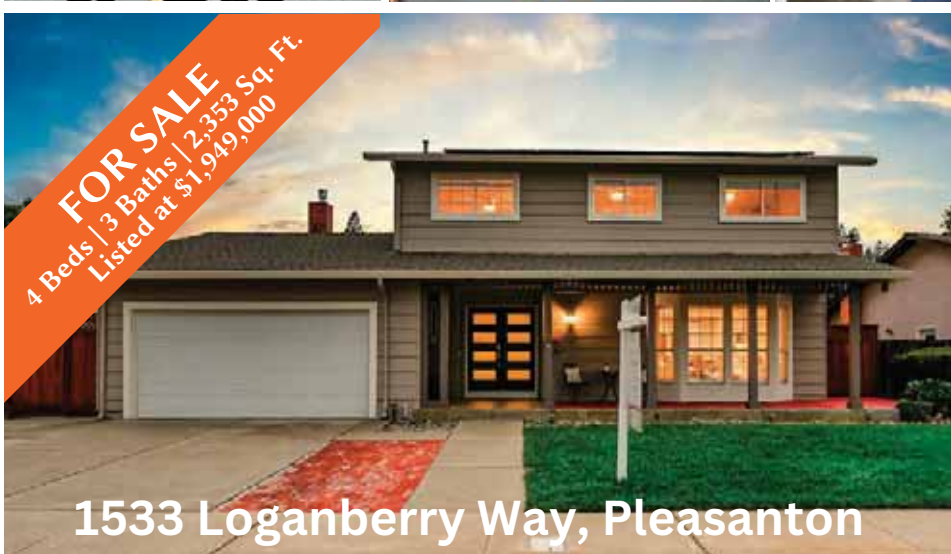
Jim Hamilton, president of the Silicon Valley Association of Realtors, also welcomed actions taken by the commissioner. "Our clients who want to purchase property in the hillside areas are particularly having a tough time getting insurance. This stalls and, in some cases, breaks a deal for homebuyers. Insurance is a basic need of every property owner." ■

—*Silicon Valley Association of Realtors*



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