

# Pleasanton Weekly

Rising Voices

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**2023**

# VETERANS DAY

REVERENT PARADE  
DOWNTOWN HONORS  
THOSE WHO SERVED

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# WHAT A WEEK



By JEREMY WALSH

## Pets on the brain

Rescue animals have always been near and dear to my heart. Every pet we had when I was growing up was an adoptee from a shelter, a store event or the neighborhood.

Our beloved Biscuits Walsh, whom my wife and I took in seven years ago, came from the Animal Rescue Foundation in Walnut Creek. We walked in one late afternoon when ready personally and financially to adopt, he gravitated toward us before the others in his cat condo and the deal was sealed within the hour.

He was perfect for us, although we did change his name. I came up with "Biscuits" because of his color and the fact he kept kneading his paws ... Plus, what kind of a name is "Douglas Fir" (not even the pun spelling), anyway?

It was at least his third time in a shelter after being let go twice before. I was proud we could provide him a forever home in a loving environment. I still am — and Biscuits, if you're reading this and willing to start keeping it down at 3-4 a.m. every morning while a certain toddler sleeps, that would be great. Wink.

That experience throughout my life is among the reasons the Valley Humane Society press release on Oct. 25 jumped out at me. The Pleasanton nonprofit was spotlighting six cats and dogs who'd been long tenants at their shelter and shared a fun connection: They all had names from the mystery novel world.

By the time I reached out for coverage this week, I learned five of them had been adopted (Nancy Drew, Frank Hardy, Hercule Poirot, Sherlock and Watson). Only Miss Marple remained as of press day, a long-stay black cat who "exudes elegance with her graceful demeanor and watchful eyes. She's a master of deduction, bent on solving the mystery of the missing adopters," according to Valley Humane.

The nonprofit is currently caring for approximately 90 adoptable animals, and officials told me requests from people to surrender their pets have quadrupled in the past few months.

"Like many animal welfare organizations today, Valley Humane Society is experiencing a bottleneck," President Melanie Sadek said. "We have a giant task in front of us. There are simply too many dogs and cats in need of care and not enough adopters. Valley Humane Society is looking for community support."

Among their other long-stays right now are "The Tabby Trio" (Autumn,

Barbie and Geralt; the last of their litter), bonded small dogs Little Miss Sunshine and Mr. Cheerful, and medium-sized pup Wyatt, who was our Pet of the Week several weeks ago.

Valley Humane is fortunate because as a private shelter it has the ability to control its intake.

Government-operated facilities like the East County Animal Shelter in Dublin don't have that luxury, so when faced with capacity concerns, euthanasia becomes a real factor.

"Everyone — the shelter staff and volunteers — do their very best to give every animal the best chance of getting adopted. But they do have to euthanize for behavioral and health issues, and being at full capacity does not always allow for some of these issues to get resolved," said Sue James, president of Tri-Valley Animal Rescue, which helps the county shelter facilitate adoptions and fosters.

"The shelter is very, very full with dogs — as full as I can remember it being and I've been volunteering at TVAR and at the shelter for over 15 years," James told me.

Among the long-stays TVAR shared with me for this article are Trinidad, a playful black Shepherd mix; Cinnamon, a silly American bully mix; and Boogie, who also happens to be our Pet of the Week.

Adjacent to the county shelter is the East Bay SPCA Dublin Adoption Center, which has the flexibility of a private operation but still faces the same "converging challenges," as VP of marketing Sandy Mallalieu put it.

"The number of animals going into shelters is outweighing the number of animals leaving shelters, lengthening the time they are spending with us on average," she said. "When that happens, it's harder to take in more animals and help shelter partners in our community and beyond."

Mallalieu added that other lesser-covered factors are very much at play: the need to focus on keeping people and their pets together, addressing the "massive shortage within the veterinary field across all roles" and the deficit of spay-neuter surgeries since the pandemic lockdowns.

East Bay SPCA noted that Mervyns and Circuit (bonded domestic short-hair kitties), American pit bull terrier Petey and Siberian Husky Snow, a recent Pet of the Week, are among their long-stays.

If you or your family is willing and able, consider reaching out to these organizations or others to inquire about adopting your next furry companion today. ■

### About the Cover

Patriot Guard Riders were part of the Tri-Valley Veterans Day Parade last Sunday in downtown Pleasanton. Photo by Jude Strzemp. Cover design by Doug Young.

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## What is one thing you're looking forward to happening within the next two weeks?



**Alexandra Morgan and Brian Feiger**  
*Art historian and endodontist*

Oh my goodness! Funny you should ask. We're heading up to Napa next weekend to visit with a dear friend who owns a store there. We're planning to then have dinner with her at a lovely restaurant just a few doors down from her shop. We're so looking forward to every moment of this adventure.



**Peter Warren**  
*Audio/video sales*

I'm looking forward to taking some new classes I signed up for, like "Introduction to Pickleball". It looks like low-velocity tennis, which I expect will be enjoyable for me. And of course it's also a great way to get some exercise.



**Faiza Syed**  
*Nursery sales*

I'm looking forward to the upcoming wedding of my two best friends from my childhood. They're marrying one another. Attending their nuptials will be a joyful experience for everyone present.



**Karen Barry**  
*Artist*

In the next week or two I'm going to be working on some new projects involving waterfowl around Alameda Creek and Quarry Lakes in Fremont. It's always exciting to start a new project, especially one depicting local waterfowl.



**Clare Koehler**  
*Inventory planner*

I'm really looking forward to the Cal vs. Stanford game on Saturday, Nov. 18. Go Bears! It's the biggest event on my calendar for the next month, except for Thanksgiving.

—Compiled by Nancy and Jeff Lewis

**Have a Streetwise question?** Email [editor@PleasantonWeekly.com](mailto:editor@PleasantonWeekly.com)

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## DIGEST

### Goodguys car show

Classic car and truck fans are set to converge upon the Alameda County Fairgrounds this weekend as the Goodguys 33rd Fuel Curve Autumn Get-Together returns to Pleasanton.

"It's been one heck of a year but before it's time to head back into the garage for the winter we have one more California event for you to stretch your legs and listen to those car folks fire up those beautiful engines," organizers said on the Goodguys website.

The event will feature more than 2,500 American-made or -powered vehicles, indoor truck show, Goodguys AutoCross, Nitro Thunderfest Dragster Exhibition, burnout competition, Smash 4 Cash Demo Derby, swap meet, Cars 4 Sale Corral, kids' zone activities and more. In honor of Veterans Day, all active military members and veterans (with valid military ID) will receive free spectator admission at the gate on both Saturday and Sunday.

### Parade prep

Pleasanton city officials are busy preparing for the 2023 Hometown Holiday Celebration, with the parade set to start at 5 p.m. Dec. 2.

"The Hometown Holiday Celebration parade features festive floats, cars, marching bands, community organizations, and is followed by a community tree lighting. The parade is rain or shine, and entry forms are available to all individuals, community groups and organizations," city officials said.

Parade entry submissions are being accepted now through Nov. 27. Volunteers can also reach out via the online application at [www.hometownholiday.com](http://www.hometownholiday.com). To learn more, call 925-931-5352.

### Doc screening

St. Clare's Episcopal Church in Pleasanton is hosting a free showing of Margo Guernsey's documentary film "The Philadelphia Eleven: Courage to Change" this Sunday (Nov. 12) at noon following the regular morning service.

Part of the church's "Movies that Matter" series, the film tells the story of 11 women ordained as Episcopal priests in Philadelphia against church rules in 1974.

"Hugely controversial at the time, this first ordination of women hit a chord in a deeply divided world by questioning who speaks the word of God," organizers said. "Each woman had to decide how to live out her priesthood in the face of an institution that did not accept her. 'The Philadelphia Eleven' tells the story of these women priests in their own words." ■

## Pleasanton council approves alternative two-year water rate increases

Rather than three-year recommendation, majority implements 30% hike for 2024, 12% for 2025

By CHRISTIAN TRUJANO

Pleasanton residents can expect to see an increase in their water bill starting in January after the City Council voted to raise the rates over the next two years following a contentious discussion and an hour's worth of residents opposing the hikes Tuesday night.

While the decision to increase the rates by 30% for the average residential customer next year and by 12% in 2025 was not city staff's original recommendation of 62% in increases over the next three years, the council majority voted 3-2 to accept the modified alternative because not doing anything would hurt the city's ability to provide quality water.

"As the city manager said, nobody wants to be in the situation we're in right now to say there's a rate increase," Mayor Karla Brown said at the council meeting. "There's just not a lot of options. Bankrupting our Water Enterprise Fund is not a solution."

Councilmember Valerie Arkin, who dissented, said that while she did not necessarily agree with delaying the replenishment of the enterprise fund, she wanted the council to collaborate on a joint solution and mainly wanted to see the 30% increase be the same among all ratepayers, not just those who average using less.

"It's been transparent that an average single-family residence

would be 30%. I think we need to be 30% across the board for all users. To me that's a little more fair," Arkin said. "I understand they're using more water, but ... users using more water, their 30% is going to be higher than somebody using less."

There hasn't been a water rate increase in Pleasanton since 2011, apart from increases based on the consumer price index in certain years. Back in 2019, the city was supposed to conduct a water rate study in order to begin the process of increasing its water rates, but the work was halted due to the pandemic. Staff also pointed out Tuesday that there was supposed to be an increase in 2017 that did not happen.

All of these years without overhauling the rates resulted in the city's Water Enterprise Fund reserves being depleted and the looming projection of a roughly \$29 million deficit in the fund, according to city staff.

Norm Dorais, interim public works director, said that apart from replenishing the fund, the rate increases will help fund near-term essential water system upgrades, the water supply alternative project design work to construct two new wells, new positions in the public works department to help maintain the water distribution system and more importantly help purchase

See **WATER RATES** on Page 11



CHRISTIAN TRUJANO

The 122-room SpringHill Suites hotel located in the Johnson Drive Economic Development Zone is set to open on Dec. 20.

## SpringHill Suites set to open in December

Second hotel next door due to follow in February; will mark first new additions to JDEDZ area

By CHRISTIAN TRUJANO

The first of the two hotels that are part of the Johnson Drive Economic Development Zone project is scheduled to open in Pleasanton next month.

SpringHill Suites, owned by Marriott International, is a 122-room hotel that will be located at 7270 Johnson Drive. According to its website, which is now up and running for people to book rooms, the hotel is set to open to the public on Dec. 20.

The hotel is just one piece of

the larger JDEDZ project that aims to redevelop approximately 40 acres of land fronting Johnson Drive — near Stoneridge Drive and Interstate 680 — into a commercial corridor including the wholesale retail giant Costco and the two hotels.

The second 110-room hotel, TownePlace Suites — which will be located at 7260 Johnson Drive, also owned by Marriott — is set to open in February, but the city does not know what day specifically it will open, according to Heather Tiernan, communications

manager for the city.

"With the addition of two new hotels in Pleasanton, Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) revenues are expected to increase," Tiernan told the Weekly. "In addition to TOT revenues, the city will benefit from additional funding from the assessments collected as part of the Tri-Valley Tourism Marketing District (TMD)."

"The majority of the TMD funds Visit Tri-Valley, the region's destination marketing organization,

See **HOTELS** on Page 6

## Woman sues districts over abuse

Alleges failure to protect her from predatory employee

By JEANITA LYMAN

A former Livermore student filed a lawsuit last week against the city's school and parks districts, alleging the two agencies failed to uphold their duty of care to her as a child 20 years ago, resulting in sexual abuse she experienced at the hands of an ex-employee.

The complaint, filed in Alameda County Superior Court on Oct. 30, is from a 27-year-old woman identified as "Jane Doe" represented by San Francisco-based attorneys Mary Alexander and Catalina Munoz, who allege that the plaintiff suffered from long-term grooming and sexual abuse as a 7-year-old student by former Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District employee Jason Quero — who was subsequently convicted of child sex abuse in 2014 in a separate case and completed a five-year prison sentence in 2019.

"When she was just a little girl, Jason Quero did horrible things to my client," Alexander said in a statement after the lawsuit was filed. "He did this to other girls who are now adults still struggling with the trauma

See **LAWSUIT** on Page 10

# Residents express frustration, distrust over Garaventa Hills project

City defends its obligation to process contentious housing proposal for North Livermore

BY CIERRA BAILEY

Emotions ran high during last week's neighborhood meeting to discuss the resurgence of the proposed 44-unit Garaventa Hills housing development planned for North Livermore.

Residents living near the project site expressed passionate pleas for city officials to do anything possible to "save the hill" and kill the project.

Assistant community development director Steve Stewart delivered a slideshow presentation that included the project's history all the way through where things stand now. At one point he was interrupted by someone exclaiming, "You can just skip to the part where we save the hill."

Stewart opened the floor for questions and comments after his presentation on Nov. 1. Concerns raised by residents ranged from environmental impacts of the project, increased traffic throughout the neighborhood and overcrowding in schools — particularly at Altamont Creek Elementary School, where the meeting was held in its multipurpose room.

Residents also shared that their

trust has been challenged over the years because of the city's prior neglect to adequately analyze the alternative of not doing the project as well as other instances they perceived as a lack of transparency and communication, such as construction previously started by PG&E on Bear Creek Drive to install new power lines to support the housing project after it had been denied.

City officials admitted that the situation was an unfortunate mistake. "Errors happen sometimes and when that happens we go back and look at what happened in the system and changes were made with the processing and review to make sure that doesn't happen again," they said, adding that the community meeting itself is a reflection of their intent to be transparent.

Acknowledging the tension in the room, one resident said, "You've got to understand that these things that have happened are to our detriment and if we don't find them, then we could get screwed. So you've got to understand why we're coming out this way, because there have been mistakes made and it's like 'eh' but it's a big deal and as this goes on, it's hard to trust."

While there were a couple of people who spoke up to defend the project and the city, an overwhelming majority expressed their opposition.

Proposed by developer Lafferty Communities, the project seeks to build a total of 44 homes on the approximately 32-acre, privately owned Garaventa Hills site located at the western terminus of Bear Creek Drive and north of Altamont Creek Elementary School and Altamont Creek Park.

The project includes 38 detached single-family units and six affordable duet units along with publicly accessible trails and paths and a Hawk Street Bridge for emergency vehicles, pedestrians, bikes and mobility devices.

Stewart emphasized during the meeting that the project hasn't changed since it was first approved in 2019. However the City Council had to rescind its approval after losing a battle in court with community group Save the Hill.

The group filed a lawsuit against the city under the California Environmental Quality Act, citing the city's failure to evaluate a "no-project" option. The complaint

was initially rejected in superior court but the group successfully appealed, resulting in the reversal of the superior court's decision.

"Later in the spring of 2023 is when Lafferty said, 'We want to remedy what the court said was wrong with our environmental document and move forward with doing that and go through the process again,'" Stewart explained at the meeting.

The city is required by law to process Lafferty's proposal, despite the understanding that there is strong community pushback against it.

The owners of the site eyed for the project have also confirmed in writing that they are in contract with Lafferty and do not wish to sell the property to the city for preservation, according to city officials.

Stewart's presentation included information about two sources of open space acquisition funds, the Altamont Landfill Settlement Agreement — which currently has approximately \$20.6 million in its open space account — and the Dougherty Valley Settlement Agreement which has about \$4.9

million. However, the criteria for both funding sources requires willing sellers.

"The Garaventa family has not been a willing seller to the city. We'll ask them again but it's been our experience for years now that they're in a contract with Lafferty and they're not interested in selling it to the city," Stewart said. "Based on our experience of these committees, the acquisition of the Garaventa property will not be eligible to use these funds based on the criteria that are in place and have been used over the last 15 years."

Toward the end of the meeting, staff apologized for the previous breakdowns in communication and past situations that have undermined trust. They said they will do their "very best" to rebuild that trust.

As for the project's next steps, by January the city anticipates a public hearing by the Planning Commission to receive comments on an updated final environmental impact report followed by another public hearing in March for Planning Commission review and recommendation to the City Council.

April 2024 is estimated for when the project would go before the City Council for a decision. City officials said they will keep information about the project updated on the city's website. ■

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## HOTELS

Continued from Page 5

which is charged with marketing the Tri-Valley and its member cities to increase hotel room nights and promote local shopping, dining, and recreation," she added.

As for the new Costco that will be constructed as part of the JDEDZ project, assistant city manager Pamela Ott confirmed that the city issued the building permit on Oct. 20 and that construction work has "already started to get the site stabilized before the winter rains."

"The current tentative schedule is that the Costco store will be completed by fall 2024; this is dependent on the weather over the winter months," Ott said.

Other street improvements in the JDEDZ project include making the Stoneridge Drive and I-680 northbound onramp wider in order to create a second lane, making Johnson Drive wider to create a second northbound lane and traffic signalization improvements on Owens and Commerce drives.

According to Tiernan, that widening of the I-680 ramp has been the most notable roadway improvement of late. Construction workers began pouring the cement of the new bridge deck in mid-October, she added.

"The I-680 onramp bridge has been poured and the bank restoration has been completed; work will

continue on the bridge deck and approach roadway throughout the winter," Ott said. "Roadway improvements along Johnson Drive will be moving forward in early spring following utility relocation work by PG&E that is scheduled to start in December, toward estimated completion in summer 2024."

As part of its approval of the JDEDZ project, the city agreed to reimburse a portion of the design and construction costs with traffic impact fees to be imposed on future JDEDZ developers and a portion of the sales tax revenues generated by the new Costco store, with Costco fronting a portion of the overall roadwork costs in addition to its own share.

Then in July 2022, the Pleasanton City Council voted to move forward with allowing the construction of the infrastructure improvements, which estimated a total cost of about \$33.5 million — an increase from the initial \$21.47 million in 2017 — and acquiring the right-of-way needed to construct the traffic mitigation measures.

Costco, now a landowner within the project area, had been vying to construct the new store for nearly a decade but the city's JDEDZ project faced a lengthy public process that included an opposition measure that lost at the ballot box, two lawsuits and years worth of city review and council hearings.

The two hotels were the first building projects approved for construction in the JDEDZ. ■

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Pleasanton  
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# State officials present \$16M grant check to Zone 7

Money will help cover costs of Stoneridge Ion Exchange PFAS Treatment Facility

BY CHRISTIAN TRUJANO

Representatives from the California Department of Water Resources' sustainable groundwater management grant program presented a \$16 million grant check to Zone 7 Water Agency officials last week.

According to Zone 7, the money was granted to the water agency so that it could use the money to help fund its new state-of-the-art water treatment facility to remove PFAS, otherwise known as forever chemicals, from the Stoneridge groundwater well in Pleasanton.

"The Stoneridge project will help improve both water quality and water supply reliability for the residents and businesses in the Tri-Valley," Zone 7 General Manager Valerie Pryor said in a

press release from the DWR.

"The DWR grant funds will offset the local cost of this critical infrastructure upgrade, returning our most productive groundwater well to service and effectively removing these chemicals from our water," she added. "We are deeply grateful for this partnership with DWR and the funds they have provided to support our sustainable groundwater use and help us to maintain healthy and safe drinking water for our community."

On Sept. 13, Zone 7 celebrated the official opening of its Ion Exchange PFAS Treatment Facility, which uses tanks that are filled with small ion-exchange polymers, to attract PFAS chemicals in the water.

Once the chemicals are separated, through a process called the

ion exchange treatment process, the facility then works to pump and deliver the now clean water to homes and businesses.

Since opening, the first-of-its-kind facility in Northern California has begun to help treat 6.6 million gallons of water per day and drinking water supplies in the area will also increase by 16%, according to the press release.

Zone 7 staff had been working on getting the facility up and running for over a year ever since the State Water Resources Control Board announced a new draft response level for a PFAS compound that put the Stoneridge well out of service.

Staff quickly sought out approval to purchase the vessel tanks that are now being used at the facility once that regulation went into

effect in October 2022.

However, funding the facility was a big question early on as the total project had a value cost of \$16.3 million. Initially, Zone 7 was planning on paying that off by using its water rates, but the day before the Sept. 13 opening ceremony Zone 7 had got the word that the DWR was going to be awarding the agency with the \$16 million grant to help cover most of the cost.

According to DWR officials, the Stoneridge facility is one of 103 projects that received funding this year from the sustainable groundwater management grant program, which provides critical grant funding to help support the implementation of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act.

The facility is also one of the

projects included in the state water department's new Go Golden Initiative, which according to the press release, "highlights the partnership between the state of California and local organizations and water agencies to fund bold and innovative projects that strengthen California's water infrastructure and community resilience."

"Groundwater is a critical source of water for many communities in California, and it is more important than ever that we make investments to ensure these supplies are reliable and safe for those who depend on it," said Paul Gosselin, DWR sustainable groundwater management deputy director. "It's projects like these that are helping Californians get the water that they need." ■

# City recruiting for new free Pleasanton Community Academy

While different from Leadership Pleasanton, chamber rep says both programs should complement each other

BY CHRISTIAN TRUJANO

Pleasanton residents who want to learn how their local government works but don't want to pay for the Leadership Pleasanton program, which has provided lessons on the subject for several decades, will now be able to do so for free under the city's newly created Pleasanton Community Academy.

According to a press release from the city, the academy was designed to expand the Pleasanton community's understanding of local government.

"The Pleasanton Community Academy will consist of five sessions, each designed to offer participants an immersive experience in various aspects of the city's delivery of programs and services, and the opportunity to connect with city officials and fellow community members," the press release states. "The Pleasanton Community Academy will cover an array of topics, including infrastructure, leisure activities, public safety and management skills training."

The academy, which is set to begin its first of five sessions in January, was also mainly created so that

the city would not have to allocate \$10,000 from its budget to go toward funding the Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce's Leadership Pleasanton program.

"This is the program City Council directed staff to create to replace Pleasanton's financial participation in Leadership Pleasanton," city communication manager Heather Tiernan told the Weekly. "The program is free for community members to participate in and the city is utilizing staff time to conduct the programming."

The City Council decision Tiernan is referring to is when the council majority voted 4-1 to not provide the \$10,000 sponsorship that the program typically received every year from 2000 until 2019, before it was paused due to the pandemic, on March 7. Vice Mayor Jack Balch dissented.

The council also voted that day to reduce staff time dedicated to the chamber-run program from four days to two days.

Organized by the Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce, Leadership Pleasanton was launched in 1988 as

a way to identify and help develop community leaders from different sectors within the community.

The program takes in 30 members of the community — anyone from business leaders and elected officials to everyday residents — during the fall of each year and they all go through various sessions that help them understand how the city works.

"Topics of the sessions include Pleasanton history, local government, health and human services, business and economics, education, public safety, infrastructure and recreation," according to the chamber's website.

Previously the \$10,000 that came from the city was used by the program to not only run the program in any aspect, but would also go toward giving individuals who couldn't afford the \$950 tuition to enter the program a scholarship so that they could attend, chamber business manager Yianna Theodorou told the Weekly.

Theodorou, who also manages the leadership program, said that while the chamber is not receiving that money, it has not affected the

program moving forward in any way.

"We definitely have donations and other businesses, companies, individuals in the area who have stepped in to take the place of that — to ensure that people still have the opportunity to attend, who want to attend the class," Theodorou said.

In fact, she said that this year's group who enrolled in the program is a relatively large one with 33 active participants.

"Our program is still in full swing," Theodorou said. "We've already started the class of 2024, they've already had two classes. It has not affected the quality or any of the program's information that's been put out."

She added that while the chamber doesn't have much else to say about the Pleasanton Community Academy because it is still in the early stages and hasn't officially launched yet, she said that her understanding is that the academy will complement the Leadership Pleasanton program.

"City staff has definitely worked hard for us to make sure that the key components that we had before making any changes to the program

are still intact moving forward," Theodorou said.

She also said that she doesn't feel like the two programs will necessarily conflict with each other simply because local government was just one piece of Leadership Pleasanton.

"(Leadership Pleasanton) goes into history, education, business, health care and all of that," Theodorou said. "It just looks a little bit different this time than it has in the past, but ... I do feel that there is room for both to complement each other."

According to the press release from the city, the Pleasanton Community Academy will begin its first session on Jan. 17, which will go over the basics of city government. Sessions will be held on Wednesday evenings from January through May, running from 6-8:30 p.m.

The program will be open for individuals who live or work in the city and who are over the age of 18. While the sessions are free, space will be limited to 25 participants. Those interested in applying can do so through the city's website — applications will be accepted through Nov. 15. ■

# Pleasanton creates consolidated Public Works Department

Move combines operations services and engineering into one

BY CHRISTIAN TRUJANO

The city of Pleasanton recently decided to merge its Operations Services and Engineering departments into a unified Public Works Department as a way to optimize staff's time in maintaining the city's infrastructure, according to city officials.

The department will now be responsible for the "operations and maintenance of the city's infrastructure and administers many quality of

life services," according to the city's website.

"A comprehensive organizational assessment validated that a growing amount of the city's work is shifting toward operating and maintaining existing city assets and infrastructure and that merging the Operations Services and Engineering departments into a unified Public Works Department is how cities similar to Pleasanton most effectively deliver services, projects and programs,"

City Manager Gerry Beaudin told the Weekly in a statement on Oct. 26.

He added that the new Public Works Department's goal was to increase the partnership between both of the prior departments, which carry out various city services.

These services include operations, maintenance, utilities, environmental services, customer service and billing, landscape architecture, land development, engineering and inspection.

According to its website, the Public

Works Department more specifically provides services such as maintaining the Callippe Preserve Golf Course, graffiti removal, tree maintenance and removal permitting, street maintenance, street sweeping and traffic control systems.

It also maintains the parks and trails, provides public landscaping, takes care of water distribution and sewer collection, maintains the storm drainage systems, takes care of utility billing, provides weed abatement,

maintains city buildings and vehicles, and works on the recycled water and water conservation programs.

"As a group, these employees are taking care of the infrastructure and amenities that make Pleasanton a well-regarded community," Beaudin said. "This new department structure will help the city deliver this important work more effectively."

The department is currently led by Norm Dorais, as interim public works director. ■



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# OHK launches \$3M fundraising campaign for new food bank

CHEF matching up to \$75,000 from resident donations through Dec. 30

**BY NICOLE GONZALES**  
Tri-Valley nonprofit Open Heart Kitchen has announced a new fundraising campaign to generate awareness and financial support for its efforts to construct a food bank facility in order to expand its services.

Organization staff launched the campaign this fall with an end goal of \$3 million going toward the Open Heart Food Bank project. To coincide with the fundraiser, the Community Health & Education Foundation (CHEF) will be matching donations up to \$75,000 from individuals at the outset.

"The Open Heart Food Bank will create an infrastructure for

large-scale food distribution in the Tri-Valley," OHK development director Denise Boulter said in the announcement. "Right now that does not exist and we are still experiencing the devastating impacts of cuts to food assistance programs and the end of emergency COVID funding."

"Our goal is to redistribute 1 million pounds of food annually within the first decade of the Open Heart Food Bank's operation. In order to build this important and necessary food bank, now is the time to help," Boulter added.

Founded in 1995 with the goal of addressing food insecurity and hunger in the Tri-Valley, OHK offers several food aid services,

including the Hot Meals Program, Senior Meal Program and the Street Outreach Program.

Currently, OHK and its administration operate out of a 19,000-square-foot warehouse on Marathon Drive in Livermore.

The food bank expansion project aims to help vulnerable populations in the area, such as the unhoused, low-income families or seniors. The facility will also work with a network of regional food and hunger partner organizations in the area.

"The Open Heart Food Bank will serve as a redistribution site for Dublin, Pleasanton and Livermore

See **OPEN HEART** on Page 11



COURTESY OHK

Open Heart Kitchen expects to serve up to 100,000 Senior Meal Program participants and 1,600 low-income recipients in the area for the 2023-24 fiscal year.

## Amid concern, city assures that new Chick-fil-A won't have drive-thru

Opening date still up in air as fast-food chain works out issues with PG&E

**BY CHRISTIAN TRUJANO**  
As construction on a second Chick-fil-A in Pleasanton continues, community concerns arose about the restaurant building a drive-thru — which was not part of the approved plans — but city representatives recently confirmed otherwise, attempting to put those worries to rest.

"The Chik-fil-A (sic) will not have a drive-thru," city communications manager Heather Tiernan told the Weekly.

The fast-food restaurant, widely known for its chicken sandwiches, signed the lease back in September 2022 for the vacant space in the Hacienda Business Park at 4501 Hopyard Road previously occupied by Sweet Tomatoes before the

buffet chain went bankrupt early in the pandemic.

But in recent weeks, a Pleasanton resident reached out to the Weekly expressing concern about what had seemed to be a drive-thru being constructed at the Chick-fil-A, even though the restaurant had no intentions of constructing one.

However, James Paxson, general manager at Hacienda, told the

Weekly that while he did see how the current construction going on could make it seem like there was a drive-thru getting built, there are absolutely no plans to build one.

Tiernan did, however, mention that some of the overall improvements to the location includes a new trash enclosure being constructed, a new path of travel from the Hopyard Road sidewalk to the main entrance compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act and a new outdoor patio dining area.

Paxson added that he is also excited about the special area that will be designated for pickup and food delivery services.

Tiernan also said that if some residents might have concerns about traffic impacts and pedestrian safety, city review of the project plans show otherwise.

"The project was reviewed by the city's Traffic Engineer prior to the issuance of approvals, which showed that the project would not create any new or worsened traffic or pedestrian safety issues," Tiernan said.

There is currently no firm anticipated opening date for the restaurant as Chick-fil-A is "working with PG&E to upgrade infrastructure and equipment," Tiernan said. ■

## LAWSUIT

Continued from Page 5

that occurred under the nose of a school district that was supposed to protect each and every one of them."

Quero was a campus supervisor and karate instructor at Livermore Valley Charter School at the time of sexual abuse toward a 14-year-old student between 2010 and 2011 that he was charged for in 2014. He pleaded guilty in early 2015 and was sentenced to six years in prison. According to Megan's Law records,

he was released in 2019 and currently lives in Livermore.

Quero had worked at the now-defunct charter school starting in 2005 prior to his departure amid charges brought against him in 2014. He came into the position after several years of employment by LVJUSD as a campus supervisor at Arroyo Mocho School starting in 2003 and as a teacher's aide for Arroyo Mocho's extended student services program by the Livermore Area Recreation and Park District from 2001 to 2003.

It was during this earlier period

of employment by LVJUSD and LARPD that the new civil complaint alleges incidents of sexual abuse at Quero's hands, which attorneys say took place from September through Nov. 6 in 2003 and which they argue both districts failed to prevent or intervene in despite having reason to know about the incidents.

"While acting in his employed capacity with Defendants LVJUSD and LARPD, Jason Quero began 'grooming' Plaintiff with the intent of manipulating her emotions and taking advantage of her young age so that

he could ultimately sexually abuse her," Alexander and Munoz said in the Oct. 30 complaint.

"He took advantage of Plaintiff during a vulnerable time in her young life," according to the lawsuit. "He befriended her, spent most of the time at recesses with her, and gave her small gifts including a card with a glittery heart on it and a bracelet. All of this was done in a calculated plan to have Plaintiff become emotionally attached to him, despite knowing she was a young child and, like many young girls, could be easily manipulated by an adult male in a position of authority."

Following this period, attorneys allege that Quero started to be inappropriately affectionate with the plaintiff, such as by stroking her hair, kissing her on the cheek and having her sit on his lap while he had an erection.

None of this behavior was under wraps during his employment at Arroyo Mocho by the school and parks districts, according to Alexander and Munoz, who argue that both districts failed in providing a duty of care that would have seen some intervention or recourse for the plaintiff during her time as a student.

"Teachers, administrators, and employees saw Jason Quero repeatedly touching Plaintiff in an affectionate and inappropriate manner," the attorneys wrote.

Alexander and Munoz further argue that both districts should have known that Quero was unfit to work with children prior to the alleged incidents in 2003, and that the two districts had failed in their duty to protect young students from harm due to negligence in Quero's hiring and oversight.

"Defendants' employees, agents or representatives knew or should have known of Jason Quero's prior and continuing sexual molestation, harassment, abuse, assault and battery towards students, including Plaintiff, and that he posed a reasonably foreseeable risk of harm to students," the attorneys said. "Defendants knew and should have known of Jason Quero's prior and continuing pedophilic tendencies and propensities to molest, harass, abuse, assault and batter students."

Spokespeople for both LVJUSD and LARPD said that they had not been aware of the lawsuit when contacted by the Weekly; however, LARPD declined to comment further.

Michelle Dawson, coordinator of community engagement at LVJUSD, said, "Our District is deeply saddened and disturbed to read of the allegations made in this lawsuit." She added that the district is currently reviewing the complaint with legal counsel and the Livermore Police Department. ■

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## WATER RATES

Continued from Page 5

additional water from the Zone 7 Water Agency.

The city has had to — and will continue to — purchase additional water from Zone 7 as it works to address the PFAS in its groundwater wells, which typically provide 20% of the city’s water supply before the dangerous contaminants were discovered in several of the wells a few years ago.

While the majority of the public who have spoken out during previous council meetings in the past months, who have taken part in recent community polls or who have spoken with council members and staff agree that something must be done to ensure that the Water Enterprise Fund does not go bankrupt and continues to help the city provide clean water, many have been critical of how the city is doing so with these now-approved, high-percentage rate hikes.

During Tuesday’s debate, like the Sept. 19 meeting, residents detailed their grievances with how they felt the city was not transparent with the specific percent increases and how staff’s original recommendation would have affected different ratepayers.

The council was actually poised to make a final decision to approve the original staff recommendation

on Sept. 19 but because of the residents’ concerns, the council decided to push pause on the decision so that staff could conduct more analysis.

Since then, Raftelis — a water and utility consulting company that conducted a previous report to determine the water rates — performed a sensitivity analysis that focused on replenishing the reserve in the near term while addressing ratepayers’ concerns about the annual and compounded rate increases.

According to staff, that analysis led to the modified recommendation, which would prolong the city’s goal of meeting its reserve target goal to a fourth year.

While staff also spent the last month updating its frequently asked questions page on its website regarding the water rates, one major development was that staff created a water rate calculator that allowed single-family homeowners to calculate what the rate increases would do to their particular situation.

That, however, only gave more fuel to residents on Tuesday who came with future water bill projections that they said were not fair.

“I’d like to thank staff for the water bill calculator. I ran our usage through it, and it found a mistake in my earlier estimate. When I told you last meeting, the increase

would raise my rates 300% sorry, that was not accurate. The accurate number is 400%,” Pleasanton resident Jon Krueger said.

Krueger said that his household uses the average amount of water a single-family residence uses every two months and that with the original staff recommendation, the increases were too high.

“That’s a big ask. It needs a compelling reason, specifics and a plan and that has not been forthcoming,” he said. “Stating that you have lots of needs is not a plan. Hiring three people is not a plan.”

He also criticized the newly adopted two-year alternative saying it is only a minor reduction and that residents still have to bear the brunt of what many other residents said were years of the city overseeing the need to raise the rates.

“This is a massive rate increase without a plan, without a justification and without a credible search for alternatives. A slight reduction does not fix that,” Krueger said.

The meeting room in the Operations Services Center, where the hearing was held with the council chambers under renovation, was so crowded that the fire marshal had to enforce the capacity limit, leading some residents to have to wait outside during the crisp night. City officials said no one was turned away from speaking, though they may not have been in

the room the whole time.

After listening to dozens of residents bring up similar points of especially a 30% increase in the first year severely skyrocketing their water bills, Vice Mayor Jack Balch introduced a substitute motion to gradually increase the rates by 15% the first year and 15% the second year.

Even though City Manager Gerry Beaudin said anything under 30% the first year was not financially viable, Balch said a gradual increase and looking back at all the city’s capital improvement projects — particularly the proposed new skatepark at Ken Mercer Sports Park and the Century House renovation project — would give city more time to review other long-term solutions to replenishing the water fund.

“I think we need to cut, immediately, discretionary funding for new amenities and use that money to stabilize the water fund,” Balch said. “This problem did not start immediately and did not get caused immediately, and I can’t believe we’re thinking we’re going to find a solution immediately.”

That motion was seconded by Arkin but failed. Both Balch and Arkin voted no on the two-year rate increase that did pass by majority vote with Brown joined by councilmembers Jeff Nibert and Julie Testa. ■

## OPEN HEART

Continued from Page 10

where we can support other small and local food pantries with fresh produce and grocery items,” Executive Director John Bost said in the announcement.

“In the event of a disaster-related emergency that would affect the Tri-Valley region, like an earthquake or wildfire, the Open Heart Food Bank can also serve as a food receiving and distribution center when the unthinkable happens,” Bost continued. “This buildout will require the support of Open Heart Kitchen’s donors and community partners to invest in the organization’s growth and the launch of the Open Heart Food Bank.”

The food bank is expected to open in the summer of 2024.

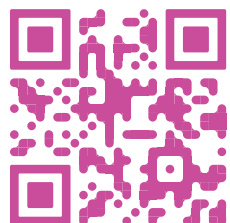
The Open Heart Food Bank project has received financial support and pledges from the Alameda County Community Food Bank, Livermore Valley Wine Auction, Tri-Valley Nonprofit Alliance and Stanford Health Care Tri-Valley.

CHEF will run its matching campaign “Build the Food Bank, Bring the Hope.” through Dec. 30. For every \$2 donated to the food bank project, CHEF plans to match \$1 up to \$75,000.

To find out more about OHK and its project, visit [www.openheart-kitchen.org](http://www.openheart-kitchen.org). ■



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Two of the four parade grand marshals, Ray Bolger (left) and Don Crocker (right), wave from a vehicle in the Tri-Valley Veterans Day Parade, Nov. 5.

# Veterans 20

## Reverent parade downtown

STORY AND PHOTOS

**T**he community turned out to celebrate military veterans in downtown Pleasanton last Sunday at the 26th annual Tri-Valley Veterans Day Parade and Band Concert.

Audience members, many dressed in stars and stripes, lined the Main Street sidewalk to view the procession featuring about 70 groups, including local veterans, organizations and elected officials. Some celebrated from cars with the honking of horns, while others marched the length of Main and waved to spectators. Among

those involved were town marshals: World War II veteran Hank Ottaviano and Don Crocker. The annual event was hosted by the Veterans Day Concert at 6298, American Legion, a city of Pleasanton to honor those who served or have served the military forces, according to officials. The parade was held the weekend of Nov. 5 to attract the greatest number of participants and audience members.



The Tri-Valley Veterans Day Parade began at about 1 p.m., with the photographed groups following up the parade's police escort.



Karla Brown, mayor of Pleasanton, smiles at the crowd during the procession.



Pleasanton City Councilmember Julie Testa (right) and former Pleasanton mayor Tom Pico (left) were among the officials who took part in the Tri-Valley Veterans Day Parade.

# ans Day 23

n honors those who served

S BY JUDE STRZEMP

he four parade grand  
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nce members possible.

“This really is community building because it’s about that cooperative spirit to come together and thank people that have made such tremendous contributions to our community and to our nation,” Livermore Mayor John Marchand said.

Following the parade, the Pleasanton Community Concert Band attracted a crowd of listeners outside the Veterans Memorial Building. Here Bob Williams, himself an Army veteran, led the group’s patriotic music performance for the last show of his career as conductor. ■



Two of the four parade grand marshals, Hank Ottaviano (front) and John Johnson (back), were part of the Tri-Valley Veterans Day Parade.



H. Robert Williams (Bob), now retired conductor of Pleasanton Community Concert Band, conducts his final show for audience outside Veterans Memorial Building at post-parade concert.



The Young American Patriots Fife & Drum Corps took part in the Tri-Valley Veterans Day Parade.



Amador Valley High School cheer squad performs during the procession.



Audience waves flags from the sidewalk at the parade in downtown Pleasanton.

## Hear **'RISING VOICES'** in the music industry

Folk singer Lizzie No excited to share music from new album during triple-bill show at Bankhead **By Christian Trujano**

Lizzie No was one of those kids who always chose to write poems instead of making PowerPoint slides for her school presentation assignments.

In a way that, combined with her classical musical background, singing in choirs and playing violin, paved the way for her becoming the singer songwriter she is today.

However, it was when she picked up the harp so she could write her own material, that really started her journey of breaking musical boundaries.

"I picked the harp in the fifth grade and started writing my own songs and poems," No told the Weekly. "My parents loved stringed instruments, so the most unusual stringed instrument I could think of was the harp."

Now, as the New York-based musician gets ready to drop her third studio album on Jan. 19, No said she is excited to bring her genre-fusing folk music to the Tri-Valley as she gets set to perform next week for the "Rising Voices" concert at the Bankhead Theater in Livermore.

"The way that she tells her stories within her music is just so compelling and so interesting," Livermore Valley Arts director of marketing Ruth Eggherman told the Weekly. "I could feel ... not just the message, but the story she's telling."

Originally from New Jersey, No said her love for folk, country and singer songwriting music started

when she began listening to artists like Bob Dylan, Ani DiFranco and Tracy Chapman in high school.

While generally categorized as contemporary folk, her 2017 debut album "Hard Won" and her 2019 album "Vanity" have so many different musical themes like blues and indie rock.

With all of her talent, it shouldn't also come as a surprise to learn that she had won an American Songwriter Magazine Lyrics Contest even before her debut album came out, which she said actually helped her get her start in the industry.

That underground success in the folk world is also one of the reasons why Eggherman said she was excited to bring No to Livermore.

"We know that when we book artists like this, we're asking our audience to take a little bit of a risk," she said. "We also know that we're going to present them with some really incredible music and an incredible experience."

"Part of our goal at Livermore Valley Arts is to ... guide our audience to new artists that they should be paying attention to," Eggherman added.

While it will be No's first time performing in the Tri-Valley, it is not her first time in the Bay Area.

A Stanford University alumna, No spent a lot of time playing gigs around the Bay and throughout California and fell in love with the West Coast, art scene and culture

"California has a very big and heavy place in my history as an artist," she said.

While she is gaining more traction in the music industry with all the touring, No said she still finds it sometimes difficult to navigate in today's music world in that she can't make a living simply by just selling her albums.

"I feel like capitalism has really entered its final stages, like, across the board. But the way that manifests in the music industry is that very few people are making almost all of the money and everybody else is



COURTESY LVA

Above: The cover of Lizzie No's 2019 album "Vanity". No will be performing in Livermore on Nov. 17. Below: American blues musician Buffalo Nichols will also be part of the "Rising Voices" concert at the Bankhead Theater.



COURTESY LVA

Nashville-based singer-songwriter Sunny War poses for a photo with her guitar.

kind of fighting over scraps," No said.

Despite that starving-artist stereotype and pushing the narrative of the music industry exploiting musicians through things like streaming platforms, No said she still enjoys what she does and is looking forward to sharing her art with folks in the Tri-Valley.

She is particularly excited to play some new songs off her upcoming album — which she has been working on since 2019 — for the people at the Bankhead, especially given that it is the first time she is putting out music on her own record label Miss Freedomland, along with Thirty Tigers, an independent label based in Nashville.

She also said she is excited to share the Bankhead stage with the other "Rising Voices" performers, Buffalo Nichols and Sunny War, not just because she likes collaborating with other artists, but because she also looks up to them as musicians.

"It's like a dream come true because I've admired their music for so long," No said. "I'm just hoping to do more of that, like, share the stage with other artists that I really admire."



Nichols is another modern day blues and folk guitar player and singer who is pushing the envelope of redefining the genre to tell the stories of Black people in America through his own lens, LVA officials said in a press release.

"While acknowledging the joy, exuberance and triumph contained in the blues, Nichols looks intently at the genre's origins, which harken back to complicated and dire circumstances for Black Americans," the press release states.

War, similarly, will also look to bring her raw take of "ecstatic gospel, dusty country blues, thoughtful folk, rip-roaring rock and roll, even avant garde studio experiments" to the show, according to LVA officials, who said War's music is an emotional journey as she self-reflects on her difficult past.

No is scheduled to perform with Nichols and War at the Bankhead next Friday (Nov. 17). The show is set to start at 8 p.m. For more information or to buy tickets, visit [www.livermorearts.org](http://www.livermorearts.org). ■

# Jane Kaczmarek well-suited for ‘Selected Shorts’

Longtime TV actor to host and perform onstage in Livermore, joined by Tony Hale and Mara Wilson

By JEANITA LYMAN

Television star Jane Kaczmarek is preparing for her first trip to Livermore this weekend, serving as host and cast member for an upcoming “Selected Shorts” performance at the Bankhead Theater as Livermore Valley Arts’ fall season continues to bring big names to the Tri-Valley.

Kaczmarek is best known for her work on the Fox sitcom “Malcolm in the Middle” from 2000 to 2006, and more recently on “The Changeling”, which debuted on Apple TV in September. However, her work with “Selected Shorts” started many years ago, with her admiration for the program extending back even further.

“I always listened to the show and loved the show, and I was first asked to participate with a Jonathan Franzen book,” Kaczmarek told the Weekly. “I was very honored and flattered to be asked to participate. I really thought very highly of the show and I just loved Jonathan Franzen. That must have been in about the early 2000s.”

While the past decade has seen a boom in audio storytelling that has led to the rise of an ever-growing number of podcasts to quench audiences’ thirst for the format, “Selected Shorts” was ahead of its time when it debuted in 1985, with the simple premise of bringing popular works of fiction to life through well-known film and television actors.



Jane Kaczmarek



Mara Wilson



Tony Hale

That tradition continues to this day, with Kaczmarek being joined by fellow TV star Tony Hale, best known for his roles in “Arrested Development” and “Veep”, plus Mara Wilson, best known for her starring role as a child actress in the 1996 film “Matilda” and her more recent work on the fiction podcast “Welcome to Night Vale.”

Kaczmarek said that she was excited to reunite with Hale, with whom she’d worked on “Selected Shorts” in the past, as well as a range of other prolific actors who’d been part of the program over the years. But particularly in a live setting, she said it was the audience and her interaction with them that was one of the most rewarding parts of the experience.

“Being in a community of people who want to hear people read stories — it’s just like now you’re talking into my good ear,” Kaczmarek

said. “That’s my clan, and they’re so appreciative and quiet and really respond.”

Despite being well known for her television roles, performing for a live audience has been a passion of Kaczmarek’s since her time as a drama student at Yale.

“I really did so much theater that I loved, and I was very lucky to do a lot of TV,” Kaczmarek said.

With “Selected Shorts” though, Kaczmarek said that her ability to interact with and respond to the audience had changed over time, and that the format gives actors a relatively high amount of artistic freedom.

“It took me a little while I think until I realized how much you can play with the story and wait for your response before you continue,” Kaczmarek said.

This is in sharp contrast to the often-fragmented nature of tele-

vision and film, she said, in which Kaczmarek and other actors are heavily dependent on direction off-screen.

“Television and film is completely shot out of sequence in tiny little pieces,” Kaczmarek said. “You’ll film walking up to the door one day and coming through the door three days later on a different set. You’re very reliant on your script.”

Other factors were also at play during her experience filming “Malcolm in the Middle” for a television network.

“There would be times filming ‘Malcolm’ where we’d be doing a scene and the director would say ‘you’ve got to be really big here,’ and they’d say ‘because this scene is right after the commercial.’ It’s got to be a pop to bring them back into the show, so there are a lot of different techniques, but for that you really depend on your director,” she said.

The freedom for actors in the “Selected Shorts” format means that Kaczmarek — who uses an intricate underlining and highlighting system that harkens back to her Catholic school days — has seen a range of techniques and approaches by her castmates over the years.

“I read with Liev Schreiber, who is just a great actor and a great ‘Selected Shorts’ reader,” Kaczmarek said. “He read a story once — I don’t remember what the story was, but I was so impressed listening to it. It was just masterful, and he just came back, he took his script and he tossed it in the wastebasket. I went in there and pulled it out and there wasn’t a mark on that script. There wasn’t a pen mark, there wasn’t a comma, there was nothing. I realized he had pretty much read that story through cold. That made me realize even more what a great actor he was.”

Each “Selected Shorts” installment is centered around a theme, with the upcoming performance at the Bankhead by Kaczmarek, Hale and Wilson being entanglements — “stories about the ways lives intersect in mysterious, poignant and hilarious ways,” according to event organizers.

The trio is set to take to the Bankhead stage for an approximately two-hour-long performance for an afternoon matinee starting at 3 p.m. on Sunday (Nov. 12). Tickets and more information are available at [livermorearts.org](http://livermorearts.org). ■

# Father-son duo to play European chamber classics

Pleasanton church hosts show this weekend as part of Trinity Concerts series

By NICOLE GONZALES

Markus Pawlik is a world-renowned classical musician who has performed around the globe and accumulated dozens of prestigious musical awards — but most of all he is a proud father.

Pawlik and his 16-year-old violinist son, Ariel Pawlik-Zwiebel, are set to show off their talents in an upcoming performance at the Trinity Lutheran Church in downtown Pleasanton. The show takes place this Sunday (Nov. 12) at 4 p.m., as part of Trinity Concerts.

The pair will show off the musical styling of Bach, Beethoven, Schumann and other prominent composers.

“(Pawlik) has performed as a recitalist, soloist and chamber musician throughout Europe, Asia and North America in venues as varied as the Berlin Philharmonie, the Munich Hercules Saal, Tokyo’s Suntory Hall, Davies Hall in San Francisco and the Louvre in Paris,” Trinity Concert representatives said. “In addition, he gives

international master classes, has judged numerous competitions and has taught as a guest lecturer at UCLA. Most importantly, he is Ariel’s father.”

In 1982 Pawlik won the grand prize of Eurovision “Young Musician of the Year” and began growing his repertoire and experience ever since. He has maintained a high profile career as a performing classical musician for decades.

Pawlik has been a resident of the Bay Area since 2013 and operates a teaching studio in Pleasanton.

“(Pawlik) has produced the music documentary film ‘Artur Schnabel: No Place of Exile’ which was co-produced by the television station ARTE, premiered throughout Europe in 2018 and presented at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C.,” Trinity reps said.

His son, Pawlik-Zwiebel, is currently a junior at Campolindo High School who has already achieved several musical accolades, including prizes in the Pacific Musical Society Competition and the US Open Music Competition.

He regularly performs as a recitalist with his father across the Bay Area and in groups like the Contra Costa Performing Arts Society.

“As a chamber musician, he plays with the Young Chamber Musicians program in the Kohl Mansion and has participated in the Virtuoso Program of the San Domenico School and attended the Bowdoin International Music Festival,” Trinity reps said of the 16-year-old musician.

“Ariel is the concertmaster of the YPSO Orchestra, has been a member of the San Francisco Symphony Youth Orchestra and is the co-chair of the CCPAS student chapter,” they added.

The classical European works performed by the duo will range from the Baroque to Modern periods.

Through Trinity Concerts, the church aims to offer high quality, accessible performances to local audiences. To find out more about Trinity Lutheran Church and their concert series, visit [trinitypleasanton.org](http://trinitypleasanton.org). ■



COURTESY TLC

Ariel Pawlik-Zwiebel (left) and his father Markus Pawlik (right) are set to perform Nov. 12 at the Trinity Lutheran Church in Pleasanton as part of Trinity Concerts.

# Community Pulse

## Howard Lee Mendenhall

November 9, 1936 – September 25, 2023

Howard Lee Mendenhall, affectionally called Mendy, passed peacefully with family at his side on September 25, 2023, at the age of 86 in Pleasanton, California.



Howard Mendenhall lived his life to serve others. His kind and caring nature extended to everyone he met, and he was active in his community as well as around the world. He was patient and kind, anticipating the needs of others and taking care of them without being asked.

Born in Hurley, Missouri to Harry and Nellie Mendenhall, he was the youngest of 9 children with a 25-year span between oldest and youngest. Howard, the baby of the family, attended kindergarten with his nieces. He was raised in a farmhouse with a well and a pump in the kitchen and no electricity until he was 12 years old. Stone County is known for being rocky and Howard would joke to his children that his family's crop was rocks because they spent so much time each year clearing out the rocks in the pastures and fields.

Howard joined the Air Force at the age of 18 after graduating from Hurley High School. He played basketball for the Air Force and traveled throughout Europe. After his tour of duty, he attended Spartan School of Aeronautics in Tulsa, Oklahoma, and landed a mechanic position with United Airlines. This began his 40-year career, moving up to management and operations before ending as a contract negotiator. He met his wife, Diana, in San Francisco while she was a flight attendant. Diana's roommate told her, "You have to meet this man, I think you'll like him", and that started a 60-plus-year love affair.

While working at United's headquarters in Chicago, he served on the Buffalo Grove, Ill. City Council and Planning Commission, and as a trustee for Kingswood United Methodist Church. He also volunteered for the Countryside Center for the Handicapped. Howard was a friend to all and coached local sports teams and refereed basketball. He was the first to build a treehouse, a backyard ice skating rink, and Pinewood Derby cars for neighborhood kids.

In 1983, Howard accepted a promotion and moved the family back to Pleasanton, CA. He became even more active in volunteering, starting with Habitat for Humanity East Bay in 1985. He loved to work with his hands and serve others that way. He and Diana built homes in the Bay Area as well as internationally as far away as Nepal and Mongolia. He traveled down to New Orleans as a team leader with 5 different teams to assist in the rebuilding after Hurricane Katrina, as well as to Romania 5 times to build an orphanage with Assist International. He worked on rebuilding after the fires in Calaveras County and the tornadoes in Joplin, Missouri and Moore, Oklahoma.

Locally, he served at Open Heart Kitchen and the Alameda County Foodbank. Howard was a recipient of the 1st Community of Character Award in Pleasanton in 2008. But Howard did not give so he could receive rewards or accolades; it was about creating a better world through love and support. It was about his belief that the world is a great place and people are inherently good, some just need an extra hand. Howard's giant hands were sometimes just what they needed.

He is survived by his beloved wife of 60 years, Diana, daughter Laurie Fraser, son Matthew Mendenhall and daughter-in-law Shelly Husbands; God-daughter Michelle Smith Napier and her husband Jack Napier; great nephews Gregory and Trevor Smith Napier; brothers Mark Burnley and Allen Scott and sister Joan Webb; nieces Jakie Flood, Shelby Ullom, and nephews Lynn, Jim and Bill Mendenhall; and Stephen Raper; and niece Mary Evelyn Wright.

A memorial service celebrating his life will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 2, 2023, Lynnewood United Methodist Church, 4444 Black Ave., Pleasanton, CA.

The family prefers donations in his memory to East Bay Habitat for Humanity, <https://secure.habitat.org/site/Donation> (2619 Broadway, Oakland 94612) or Assist International/Cameul Felix project, <https://assistinternational.org/donate/> (800 South Stockton Ave., Ripon, 95366; Lynnewood United Methodist Church, 4444 Black Ave. Pleasanton, CA. 94566.

PAID OBITUARY

## POLICE BULLETIN

### CHP investigating freeway shooting in Tri-Valley

California Highway Patrol officers are working to identify the person who shot at another vehicle while traveling along eastbound Interstate 580 near Hacienda Drive in Pleasanton late last Friday night.

CHP Officer Tyler Hahn reported that a vehicle was struck by gunfire on the freeway just after 11 p.m. Friday, with no injuries sustained by the driver or passengers.

The culprit has not been identified, but their vehicle was described as a black Infiniti, according to Hahn. A potential motive for the shooting also remains unclear.

The ensuing CHP investigation resulted in freeway lanes being shut down in the eastbound direction into Saturday, which compounded the gridlock much of the Tri-Valley was already experiencing amid the weekend-long closure of southbound I-680 between Pleasanton and Sunol for major repaving work.

"Continued delays eastbound I-580 from Castro Valley into the Dublin/Pleasanton area. We are investigating an incident that occurred Friday night. Lanes should be opened shortly. Thank you for your patience," CHP officials said on social media on Saturday afternoon,

about an hour before all affected I-580 lanes reopened by 5:20 p.m.

The investigation into Friday night's shooting remains ongoing, according to Hahn. "Any assistance from the public in gathering additional details surrounding this shooting is appreciated. If you have any information regarding this incident, please call the CHP Dublin Area office at 925-828-0466," he said.

—Jeremy Walsh

### In other news

- A suspect wanted in a homicide case and allegedly involved in three car thefts was arrested by police after a pursuit on Halloween from San Francisco to Pleasanton, authorities said last week.

Joseph McBee, 28, was spotted on Oct. 31 by San Francisco police and they tried to take him into custody.

The suspect drove away, however, and he was chased by San Francisco police along with other law enforcement in Alameda County. Drones were used in the pursuit and McBee was eventually taken into custody near Canyon Meadows Drive in Pleasanton, according to a release from San Francisco police.

McBee was wanted in connection with a homicide outside San Francisco, but authorities didn't provide any information about the case on Nov. 2.

In addition the suspect was

allegedly involved in the theft of at least three cars in late August in San Francisco and Oakland, police said. McBee is also suspected of robbing a postal worker on Oct. 10 in San Francisco.

Anyone with information about the case is asked to call the SFPD Tip Line at 1-415-575-4444 or Text a Tip to TIP411 and begin the text message with SFPD. Tips may remain anonymous.

—Bay City News Service

- East Avenue Middle School was evacuated last week due to a perceived bomb threat that was found to be non-credible, according to officials from the Livermore Police Department and school district.

The incident occurred after school when most students had already left for the day on Oct. 30, so the majority of those who evacuated were staff. LPD officials said the evacuation lasted for no more than 30 minutes before it was deemed safe to return to the campus.

The Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District expressed gratitude to LPD, who responded to the scene to investigate.

"We appreciate the swift response of LPD and our administrators who worked together to ensure students and staff were safely evacuated out of an abundance of caution and in keeping with response protocols," district officials said. ■

—Cierra Bailey

## POLICE REPORT

The Pleasanton Police Department made the following information available.

### Nov. 5

#### Drug violation

■ 1:24 a.m. on the 5500 block of West Las Positas Boulevard

#### Vandalism

■ 12:32 p.m. on the 1000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

■ 12:46 p.m. on the 4700 block of Willow Road

### Nov. 4

#### Shoplifting

■ 4:32 p.m. on the 1400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

#### DUI

■ 7:20 p.m. on the 4700 block of Hopyard Road

#### Warrant arrest

■ 9:58 p.m. on the 6700 block of Santa Rita Road

### Nov. 3

#### Domestic battery

■ 12:51 a.m. on Owens Drive

#### DUI

■ 7:24 a.m. at Foothill Road and Serenity Terrace

#### Theft

■ 10:24 a.m., 3400 block of Andrews Drive; theft from auto

■ 1:44 p.m. on the 2200 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

#### Vandalism

■ 3:46 p.m. on the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive

#### DUI

■ 8:34 p.m. at Owens Drive and Willow Road

### Nov. 2

#### Theft from auto

■ 1:17 a.m. on the 11900 block of Dublin Canyon Road

■ 1:31 a.m. on the 5500 block of Johnson Drive

■ 5:08 a.m. on the 2900 block of Liberty Drive

#### Fraud

■ 7:36 a.m. on the 1500 block of Greenwood Road

#### Burglary

■ 1:24 p.m. on the 3100 block of Valley Avenue

### Nov. 1

#### Fraud

■ 1:42 p.m. on the 500 block of Malbec Court

#### Vandalism

■ 3:17 p.m. on the 000 block of Vintage Circle

#### Graffiti offense

■ 3:50 p.m. on the 4400 block of First Street

#### Theft from auto

■ 5:16 p.m. on the 4400 block of Rosewood Drive

### Oct. 31

#### Theft

■ 4:59 a.m., 5700 block of West Las Positas Boulevard; auto theft

■ 8:29 a.m., 5500 block of Johnson Drive; theft from auto

■ 8:41 a.m., 5300 block of Owens Court; theft from auto

■ 2:31 p.m. on the 1300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

■ 3:05 p.m. on the 1500 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

■ 4:46 p.m., 4400 block of Hacienda Drive; theft from auto

■ 5:57 p.m., 11900 block of Dublin Canyon Road; theft from auto

#### Domestic battery

■ 10:20 a.m. on Annis Circle

#### Burglary

■ 2:42 p.m. on the 4300 block of Hacienda Drive

#### Vandalism

■ 5:36 p.m. on the 3800 block of Saratoga Way

■ 6:42 p.m. on the 1400 block of Quintana Terrace

■ 10:20 p.m. on the 000 block of Vintage Circle

### Oct. 30

#### Vandalism

■ 9:25 a.m. on the 400 block of Vineyard Avenue

#### Drug violation

■ 10:50 a.m. on the 6600 block of Owens Drive

#### Fraud

■ 11:56 a.m. on the 2700 block of Stoneridge Drive

■ 2:09 p.m. on the 1300 block of Brookline Loop

#### Theft from structure

■ 5:08 p.m. on the 4700 block of Willow Road

#### Trespassing/prowlng

■ 6:03 p.m. on the 1000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

#### Domestic battery

■ 8:01 p.m. on Vintage Circle

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## GUEST OPINION

By GERRY BEAUDIN

### Moving Pleasanton's water system forward

Water has been top of mind for many Pleasanton residents recently. In a survey conducted in late spring, we clearly heard that water safety and reliability is one of the community's highest priorities. I can confidently assure you that City leaders are committed to the long-term stability of our water system and keeping you fully informed about how we are meeting that commitment.

We're now in a water environment that has uncertainty about long-term supply reliability and tougher regulations around PFAS are on the horizon. Water issues can be complicated, and we're working hard to keep

you informed about necessary rate increases, water system improvement projects happening now, and how we're planning for future safety standards.

You've likely seen news and social media coverage recently about the water rate increase — I hope you've also seen the information provided by the City.

Nobody likes to pay more for water, but good business practices mean that we must sometimes take difficult



steps to maintain our water system. Increasing water rates must be part of the equation to fund vital improvements and be ready when the next crisis affects our ability to provide safe drinking water.

The rate increases will allow for the funding of near-term water distribution system improvements, the continued purchase and delivery of additional water from Zone 7, the addition of three positions to manage, plan and implement solutions for the water distribution system, and to begin the design of two new water wells that will meet the City's long-term water needs and maintain local control of our drinking water. We know that we also have to replenish the Water Enterprise Fund reserve to ensure the fund remains financially solvent.

Our studies show that we must act now to prepare for tougher regulations and steadily increasing operating costs. We'll use an array of funding sources for our water supply and quality projects, not just rate income.

The City is participating in a nationwide class action lawsuit and City leaders are working with state and federal legislators to secure supplemental funding for long-term PFAS projects that will ensure our water system stability. But rates play a major role as water users legally pay for the water system, and we simply had no choice but to raise them now.

Detailed water information is available on the City's website, [www.PleasantonWater.com](http://www.PleasantonWater.com). In addition, we're always available to talk with you about water and your rates; just call us at 925-931-5500.

And thank you for caring about our community and our water. ■

*Editor's note: Appointed in May 2022,*

*Gerry Beaudin is the city manager of Pleasanton. In this role, he is responsible for managing the operations of the full-service city organization to deliver City Council priorities to the Pleasanton community. Beaudin brings 20 years of public management experience, including four years as Pleasanton's community development director.*

## LETTERS

### Veterans Day poppies

"In Flanders Fields the poppies bloom,

Between the crosses, row on row,  
That Mark our place; and in the sky,

The Larks, still bravely singing, fly,  
Scarce heard amid the guns below,  
We are the dead."

Many know the World War I poem "In Flanders Field" by Lt Col. John McCrae. There were over 330,000 casualties during the first two battles that took place at Ypres, Belgium and John McCrae, a Canadian surgeon, was there and witnessed the devastation in 1915.

He wrote the poem after a close friend was killed. Because of his poem the red poppy soon became a symbol of remembrance for those who lost their lives during the fight for freedom.

In 1922, the Veterans of Foreign Wars adopted the poppy as its official memorial flower. The VFW poppies were made by disabled veterans working together in remembrance of their buddies who never

came back from the war.

The VFW registered the name "Buddy Poppy" in 1924, and this trademark name guarantees that the poppies are made by hospitalized, disabled or veterans in need. The VFW motto is "to honor the dead by helping the living."

When you see a veteran at a donation table handing out poppies and receiving donations, people will say, "My father, brother, son or daughter served in the military; I am very proud of their service; and thank you for your service to our country." We say, "We are very proud to be here handing you a Buddy Poppy and we thank you for your donation."

The VFW has handed out more than 750 billion poppies since 1922. So, when you see someone wearing a little red flower, they are remembering or honoring a veteran, maybe a family member or someone they knew who had served their country. Wearing a poppy shows they are proud to be an American.

—Roy Smith

### Schools honor veterans

Driving past Amador Valley High School and Vintage Hills Elementary School yesterday, I saw the beautiful banners outside each school ... electric red white and blue flags waved and saluted our nation's veterans as the reason for the upcoming school holiday.

Thank you, Pleasanton school board, for deciding to follow up last year's Veterans Day announcement with the same announcement this year. This is a perfect example of what it means for Pleasanton to be called a "City of Character" ... a city which does not forget those who have been willing to put their lives on the line for their fellow Americans.

I am sure many, many people are grateful to see these beautiful and respectful displays in front of our schools. I do hope that along with honoring our Veterans in November the schools will also choose to

acknowledge Memorial Day next May.

This small but important decision by the school board to recognize Veterans Day makes me hopeful that the board will also stand strongly in favor of continuing to promote a curriculum that focuses on American history, civics, reading, writing, science, math and public service so that each student will feel a sense of pride in being an American and hopeful that their future success will be based on each individual's hard work and academic accomplishment ... and nothing less.

As a former teacher in Pleasanton, I have seen the look on a student's face when they tackle a difficult task and suddenly "get it". This sense of pride in accomplishment cannot be replaced by any political agenda. Thank you again Pleasanton school board for doing the right thing.

—Candace Roberts

## YOUR TURN

The Pleasanton Weekly encourages comments on our coverage or issues of local interest.

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

Submitting a letter to the editor or guest opinion constitutes a granting of permission to the Pleasanton Weekly and Embarcadero Media to also publish it online, including in our online archives and as a post on Town Square.

For more information contact Editor Jeremy Walsh at (925) 600-0840.

# Employment

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The deadline is Sunday at 11:59 pm.

Visit [PleasantonWeekly.com/employment\\_ads/](http://PleasantonWeekly.com/employment_ads/).

For assistance email [LegalNotices@PleasantonWeekly.com](mailto:LegalNotices@PleasantonWeekly.com).



## PLEASANTON PREPS

By DENNIS MILLER

### Foothill girls rally to win NCS volleyball championship

Also: Loss to struggling rival drops Amador to 6 seed in football playoffs

Great teams don't have to be great all the time, just when they need to be.

Such was the case for the Foothill High girls' volleyball team in the North Coast Section Division I championship on Saturday night.

The Falcons came into the finals 35-1 and the top seed in the tournament. But following a 25-17 loss in the third set, the Falcons found themselves trailing 2-1 to No. 3 seed Marin Catholic.

A tough spot to be sure, but this has been a resilient Foothill team this year, as during the East Bay Athletic League playoffs, the Falcons trailed both Monte Vista and San Ramon Valley 2-0 before rallying to win 3-2.

It wasn't an intimidating spot

for the team and once again the Falcons rallied, winning the fourth set 25-20, and then the fifth and deciding set 15-7.

It was the first NCS championship for Foothill since 2010 after making the finals four previous times since winning its last title.

In the title match, the Falcons got big play from the usual suspects. Katie Salonga had 51 assists, 12 digs and 10 service points.

Paige Bennett had 22 kills, 16 service points and 15 digs. Kaycie Burdick added 19 digs and 14 kills, with Nisa Kincaid rounding out the attack with 10 kills and one block.

To reach the finals, the Falcons had to face rival Amador Valley — the only team to beat Foothill this year — in the semifinals.

It was another battle, but the Falcons prevailed 25-21, 17-25, 25-22, 25-18. Highlights came from Bennett (22 kills, 14 digs), Salonga (36 assists, 9 digs) and Paige Nelson (6 kills, 2 blocks).

The two wins moved Foothill to 36-1 on the season.

The seeds for the CIF State Playoffs came out Sunday, and while first-round games will have already been played when this hits the paper, both Amador Valley and Foothill are in the tournament.

Foothill was awarded the No. 3 seed in the prestigious Open Division, while Amador was seeded No. 5 in the D-I playoffs.

It is a blessing and a curse for Foothill. Had the Falcons been placed in the D-I brackets where



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Foothill Falcons celebrate winning the North Coast Section Division I girls' volleyball championship on Nov. 4.

they belong size-wise, they would have been the top seed and had a real chance to make a run for a CIF State title.

Now kicked up to Open, they are one of only two public schools in the eight-team bracket. Foothill and No. 8 Redwood are joined by six private schools that are allowed to play by a different set of rules in terms of admission standards.

The other six teams may sound

familiar when it comes to volleyball powerhouses. Mitty (1), Saint Francis (2), Sacred Heart Prep (4), Branson (5), St. Mary's-Stockton (6) and St. Ignatius (7) make up the rest of the Open field.

On the flip side, there are only four private schools in the 16-team, D-I field.

#### NCS football

When Amador Valley fell 12-7 to Foothill in the fifth week of the season, one had to wonder how that would affect the Dons when it came time for NCS seedings.

Those questions were answered on Sunday when the Open/Division I seedings and brackets were announced.

That they lost to the 1-9 Falcons was a huge blow to the Dons.

Amador played without starting quarterback Tristian Tia and his cousin and offensive lineman Paul Tia the first five games of the season thanks to horribly inconsistent transfer rules.

Once the Tias were in the fold, the Dons went 4-0, outscoring their opponents by an average of 52-1.75. That should have been enough for the 7-2 Dons to get a No. 3 seed and a home game to start the playoffs.

But when a selection committee — that sees four walls more often than high school football games — notes comparative scores of California 48-Foothill 0, Clayton Valley 41-Foothill 29 and Foothill 12-Amador 7, you can expect California and Clayton Valley to be seeded ahead of Amador.

And that's exactly what happened with Clayton Valley No. 4 and California No. 5. That meant Amador was No. 6.

Honestly, it stinks for Amador's upcoming opponent Pittsburg as well. Getting the No. 3 seed should mean an easier matchup than the most explosive offense in the section.

I fully expect the Dons to go into Pittsburg this Friday and come out with the win. ■

THE CITY OF PLEASANTON

### HIGHLIGHTS

**Human Services Joint Commission Special Meeting Workshop – City of Pleasanton, City of Dublin, City of Livermore**  
 Tuesday, November 14, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.  
 The meeting will be held at the Civic Center Meeting Hall - William H. Mendenhall Community Room, 1016 S. Livermore Ave., Livermore.

- Receive a report and provide feedback on the Eastern Alameda County Human Services Needs Update

**Committee on Energy and the Environment**  
 Wednesday, November 15, 2023, at 5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.  
 The meeting will be held at the Remillard Conference Room, Public Works – 3333 Busch Road.

- Livermore Amador Valley Transit Authority- Wheels Bus transportation presentation
- Go Green Initiative
- Set 2024 Meeting Schedule for the Committee on Energy and the Environment

**Economic Vitality Committee Meeting**  
 Thursday, November 16, 2023, at 7:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.  
 The meeting will be held at the Remillard Conference Room, Public Works – 3333 Busch Road.

- Selection of Chair & Vice Chair for 2024
- Economic Development Strategic Plan Implementation Update

To explore more about Pleasanton, visit us at [www.cityofpleasantonca.gov](http://www.cityofpleasantonca.gov)

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# Calendar

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN OUR COMMUNITY • POST CALENDAR ITEMS AT PLEASANTONWEEKLY.COM

## Entertainment

**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](http://livermorearts.org).

**JAZZ AT INKLINGS** Jazz at Inklings concert features guest singer Darryl Rowe performing with Matt Finder's Trio. Seating is limited. Reserve by email to [info@pleasantonjazzsociety.com](mailto:info@pleasantonjazzsociety.com). 6-7:30 p.m., Nov. 10, 533 Main St., Pleasanton.

**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](http://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](http://livermorearts.org).

**BANKHEAD PRESENTS COCO IN CONCERT** Join for a screening of Disney Pixar's Coco with the musical score performed by the 20-member Orquesta Folclorico Nacional de Mexico. 7:30 p.m., Nov. 15. Tickets \$60-\$90. Visit [livermorearts.org](http://livermorearts.org).

**RISEING VOICES: LIZZIE NO, BUFFALO NICHOLS AND SUNNY WAR** Immerse yourself in an evening of powerful, soulful performances. 8 p.m., Nov. 17. Tickets \$45-\$75. Visit [livermorearts.org](http://livermorearts.org).

**DEL VALLE FINE ARTS PRESENTS STEPHEN WAARTS, VIOLIN** With an unusually broad and voracious

appetite for repertoire, he has already performed more than 30 standard violin concertos as well as rarely performed works. 7:30 p.m., Nov. 18. Tickets \$55. Visit [livermorearts.org](http://livermorearts.org).

**EMILY ZISMAN AT THE FIREHOUSE** Through songwriting, Emily seeks to foster healing and sincere connection by writing songs that excavate shame and shine a light on the goodness and humor buried under each painful moment. 8 p.m., Nov. 18. Tickets \$10-\$20. Visit [firehousearts.org](http://firehousearts.org).

**ABBAFAB** AbbaFab is a stunning tribute to the music of ABBA. This production is a tribute to some of the greatest music produced in the 70s and 80s including monster hits such as Waterloo, Fernando, Honey Honey, Dancing Queen and countless others. 3 p.m., Nov. 19. Tickets \$30-\$65. Visit [livermorearts.org](http://livermorearts.org).

**BEE GEES GOLD** John Acosta as Barry Gibb has performed in Bee Gees tributes all over the world. John Acosta's Bee Gees Gold tribute is the ultimate salute, and experience of seeing the Bee Gees in their prime. 7:30 p.m., Nov. 24. Tickets \$59-\$89. Visit [livermorearts.org](http://livermorearts.org).

**BIG BAD VODOO DADDY HOLIDAY SHOW** Swing into the holiday season with Big Bad Voodoo Daddy. With classic holiday tunes and original hits, their Holiday Show is the perfect way to get into the festive spirit with family and friends. 8 p.m., Nov. 25. Tickets \$70-\$100. Visit [livermorearts.org](http://livermorearts.org).

**HOLIDAY YOUTH MUSIC FESTIVAL** The High School Music Collaborative shares the stage with the Creatures of Impulse and Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer Jr. cast members to ring in the Holiday Season with live, local, and youthful musical expression. 2 p.m., Nov. 25. Tickets \$10. Visit [firehousearts.org](http://firehousearts.org).

**AN AFTERNOON AT THE MOVIES** Pleasanton Community Concert Band performs music from Star Wars, Pirates of the Caribbean, Superman, Rocky, Harry Potter and many more. 2-3:30 p.m., Nov. 26. Free. Firehouse Arts Center.

**PACIFIC CHAMBER ORCHESTRA: GLORIOUS** Begin the holiday season anew and experience the sheer beauty of George Frideric Handel's beloved Messiah. Surround yourself with the harmonious voices of the Pacific Chamber Orchestra and Chorus alongside Handel's sublime melodies and uplifting messages. 3 p.m., Nov. 26. Tickets \$20-\$85. Visit [livermorearts.org](http://livermorearts.org).

## Exhibits

**PAL FALL MEMBERS' SHOW** The art exhibit will hang in the Harrington Gallery inside the Firehouse Arts Center through Dec. 16. Wednesdays through Saturdays at 444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton.

**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](http://museumonmain.org).

**LANDSCAPES FROM WILLIAM KEITH TO TODAY** This art exhibit, 150 Years of A Beautiful California: Landscapes From William Keith to Today, showcases the beauty of California's landscapes over the past 150 years. Thursdays to Sundays. 1-5 p.m. Through Jan. 7. The Uncle Credit Union Art Gallery at the Bankhead Theater.

## Talks

**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 Road Entrance. Visit [larpd.org](http://larpd.org).

**LIVERMORE-AMADOR GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY** In this zoom presentation Mary Kircher Roddy presents "Flying Under the Radar-Discovering Charles Olin's Alias". Charles Olin disappeared from his Nebraska roots about 1908 and this fascinating presentation highlights how persistence can win out even when faced with brick walls at almost every turn. 7-8:30 p.m., Nov. 13. Visit [l-ags.org](http://l-ags.org).

**NAMI-TRI-VALLEY-ASK THE DOC** Each year Dr. Kostalnick gives a presentation so come prepared to ask questions. Note that Dr. Kostalnick's information is for educational purposes only and is in no way intended to diagnose. 7-8:30 p.m., Nov. 14. This presentation will be given on Zoom. Visit [namitrivalley.org](http://namitrivalley.org).

**CRUISING DOWN MEMORY LANE: STORIES OF PLEASANTON IN THE 1950s** Pleasanton's Museum on Main will host an informative panel discussion focused on stories from the book Cruising Down Memory Lane: Stories of Pleasanton in the 1950s. Those who attend will hear personal stories and memories of Pleasanton life in the 1950s from residents who contributed to the book. 5-7 p.m., Nov. 15. Reserve at 925-462-2766.

## PET OF THE WEEK



TVAR

## Got Boogie fever?

Boogie is a fun and lovable youngster waiting for his forever home. He is learning commands and is very motivated to train with treats. He adores his volunteer friends, belly rubs and squeaky toys. Meet this smart Shepherd mix boy at the East County Animal Shelter in Dublin, available for adoption through Tri-Valley Animal Rescue. Visit [tvar.org](http://tvar.org).

**TRI-VALLEY WRITERS** Nina Schuyler, award-winning novelist and short story writer, will present "Making Metaphors and Other Stylish Moves" at the next Tri-Valley Writers meeting. 2 p.m., Nov. 18. Las Positas College, Room 2470 in the Multi-Purpose Building. Register by Nov. 16 at [trivalleywriters.org](http://trivalleywriters.org).

**INTERFAITH INTERCONNECT** Interfaith Interconnect and Livermore-Pleasanton Interfaith Clergy Association will hold their annual interfaith Thanksgiving service followed by a simple reception offering light refreshment and the opportunity for attendees and presenters to converse. 3:30-4:30 p.m., Nov. 19. St. Clare's Episcopal Church, 3350 Hopyard Road, Pleasanton.

**HACIENDA PARK TOASTMASTERS** Hacienda Park Toastmasters Club meets in-person and virtually via Zoom. Overcome fear of speaking in a friendly, supportive atmosphere. Visit [haciendapark.toastmastersclubs.org](http://haciendapark.toastmastersclubs.org).

## Farmers' Markets

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

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

## Volunteer

**VOLUNTEER FOR TVC COMMUNITY OUTREACH THANKSGIVING DINNER** Volunteers are needed for the Thanksgiving dinner served at St. Raymond Catholic Church to cook turkeys, purchase food & supplies, help with setup and decorating, serve dinner, take down and wash dishes. For more information visit [tvc-thanksgiving.com](http://tvc-thanksgiving.com).

**PLEASANTON MILITARY FAMILIES** The Pleasanton Military Families Christmas Prepack is 3:30-5:30

p.m., Nov. 17. The Christmas Packout is 8:45 a.m., Nov. 18. Veterans Memorial Hall. 301 Main St. Visit [pleasantonmilitaryfamilies.org](http://pleasantonmilitaryfamilies.org).

## Seniors

**LEGAL ASSISTANCE FOR SENIORS** Free remote legal services. To schedule a phone appointment, call 510-839-0393. Visit [lashicap.org/programs/hicap](http://lashicap.org/programs/hicap).

**PLEASANTON RIDES** Providing safe, comfortable, reliable, on-time, affordable rides for Pleasanton Seniors 70 years and older. Rides provided by Black Tie Transportation and funded in part by Alameda County Transportation Commission Measure BB. Call 925-398-1045 for more information or to schedule a ride.

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

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

## Support

**MONY NOP TURKEY DROP** Join the 8th Annual Mony Nop Turkey Drop to Benefit Tri-Valley Haven. Community members are invited to drop off a frozen turkey, gift card or cash donation to help local families in need. 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Nov. 19. Livermore's City Hall Bldg. 1052 S. Livermore Ave.

**HOT MEALS FREE OF CHARGE** Open Heart Kitchen serves free hot meals to anyone who is struggling to make ends meet. Monday-Friday, 1:15-3 p.m. at the Robert Livermore Community Center, 4444 East Ave.

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

## TAKE US ALONG



**At Wakayama Castle:** Two Pleasanton families recently visited the 300-plus-year-old Wakayama Castle in Japan. Shown from left are James Lynn, Kayo Lynn, Thomas Lynn, Frank Lynn, Trent Kirchdoerfer and Yuka Oyama. Kayo and Yuka met last year in Pleasanton through Cub Scout Pack 943 and realized they grew up 10 miles away from each other — Kayo in Tannowa, Japan and Yuka in nearby Wakayama.

# Public Notices

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)

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)

BLACK OWNED GAMES

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No.: 601491

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:

1.) Black Owned Games, located at 2577 Arlotta Pl, Pleasanton CA 94588, Alameda.

This business is conducted by: a Limited Liability Company.

The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):

LOJO GAMES LLC

2577 Arlotta Pl, Pleasanton CA 94588

California

Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 10/01/2023

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on October 19 2023.

(PLW Nov 3, 10, 17 and 24, 2023)

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA FOR THE COUNTY OF ALAMEDA

Case No.: 23CV048066

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:

Petitioner: Cheryl Lynn Thomason filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:

CHERYL LYNN THOMASON to CHERYL LYNN MCMULLEN

THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.

NOTICE OF HEARING: 12/05/2023, 9:30 a.m., Dept 14 of the Superior Court of California, County of Alameda located at 1221 Oak Street, Oakland, CA 94612.

A copy of this ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county:

PLEASANTON WEEKLY

Date: 10/20/2023

Charles A. Smiley

JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT

(PLW Nov 3, 10, 17 and 24, 2023)

**The Pleasanton Weekly is adjudicated to publish in Alameda County.**

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

**The deadline is Sunday at 11:59 pm.**

**Visit [PleasantonWeekly.com/legal\\_notices/](http://PleasantonWeekly.com/legal_notices/)**

For assistance email [LegalNotices@PleasantonWeekly.com](mailto:LegalNotices@PleasantonWeekly.com).

# Real Estate

## HOME SALES

This week's data represents homes sold during Oct. 2-6 for Pleasanton, Livermore and Dublin, and Oct. 9-13 for San Ramon.

### Pleasanton

**4311 Camellia Court** Jordan Trust to Y. & Y. Zhou for \$1,460,000

**4386 Denker Drive** Lois Trust to N. & K. Kalyanakumar for \$1,710,500

**2112 Laguna Creek Lane** S. Polavarapu to G. Winterbottom for \$2,585,000

**2488 Sanderling Drive** C. Mannaru to Upendranath Trust for \$2,050,000

**581 Touriga Court** G. Rubio to Bay Area Executive Re & Dev Gr for \$1,350,000

### Livermore

**1352 Aster Lane** B. & D. Deluna to R. & E. Catilo for \$1,050,000

**840 Hanover Street** D. & J. Canning to E. & O. Matthew for \$1,200,000

**110 Heligan Lane #10** H. Schieferstein to J. Coughenour for \$775,000

**2707 Hollingbury Common** E. & G. Preciado to M. Hawkins for \$975,000

**971 Mocho Street** Yang Trust to X. Chen for \$1,175,000

**342 Rincon Avenue** M. Arroyo to R. Nieto for \$805,000

**745 Sandpiper Common** Blasi Trust to N. & A. Michel for \$707,000

**1556 Wagoner Drive** S. Lie to Reifyr Investments LLC for \$1,070,000

### Dublin

**7807 Alto Way** Cearley Trust to G. & L. Abburi for \$1,060,000

**5501 De Marcus Boulevard #411** Wong Trust to V. & S. Dongole for \$800,000

**6674 Ebensburg Lane** M. Martir to S. & V. Yamsani for \$1,144,500

**6138 Ledgewood Terrace** Haegele Trust to Gantas Family Trust for \$2,250,000

**3102 Maguire Way** S. Ma to Tai Family Trust for \$1,240,000

**2890 Sable Oaks Way** Micu Family Trust to A. & H. Bedi for \$2,610,000

**5140 San Vicente Terrace** Johnson Family Trust to Alhamadsheh Trust for \$1,430,000

**1715 North Terracina Drive** P. & J. Demesa to V. & V. Pethaiyan for \$2,500,000

### San Ramon

**701 Arboles Place** K. & H. Granizo to J. & M. Chin for \$1,800,000

**1494 Asterbell Drive** I. Wilbur to T. Bawari for \$2,295,000

**495 Chaucer Circle** Ehrlich Family Trust to R. & E. Gujral for \$1,910,000

**3881 Crow Canyon Road** S. Chang to L. Wang for \$719,000

**510 Levant Court** Onofrio 2005 Family Trust to D. & S. Ramkumar for \$1,710,000

**413 Pearl Crest Court** Arsenyev Trust to Q. & X. Yang for \$1,975,000

**131 San Miguel Place** J. & S. Elenbaas to J. Bremer for \$1,790,000

**430 Sutter Creek Lane** A. Salvi to J. Davis for \$870,000

**953 Winsford Court** A. & N. Katiby to M. & X. Wang for \$3,090,000

**3171 Wrangler Road** Karg Family Trust to Mishra Trust for \$1,595,000

Source: California REsource



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5 BED | 5 BATH | 5,143 SQ FT  
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**OPEN HOUSE SAT & SUN 1-4PM**  
5139 CORONA COURT, PLEASANTON  
OFFERED AT \$1,549,000



**OPEN HOUSE SAT & SUN 1-4PM**  
5201 BLACKHAWK DRIVE, DANVILLE  
OFFERED AT \$3,495,000



**SOLD \$111K  
ABOVE LIST PRICE!**

- PRODUCED MULTIPLE OFFERS
- PENDING AFTER 7 DAYS!

**SOLD \$1,910,000**  
1031 KOTTINGER DRIVE, PLEASANTON



**SOLD ABOVE  
LIST PRICE!**

- PRODUCED MULTIPLE OFFERS
- PENDING IN 7 DAYS!

**SOLD AT \$3,300,000**  
2347 SILVER OAKS LANE, PLEASANTON



**SOLD \$118K  
ABOVE LIST PRICE!**

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

**SOLD \$2,217,000**  
902 OLD OAK ROAD, LIVERMORE



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- Arts & Entertainment Coverage
- Coverage of 2022 Elections
- Coverage of Business and the Economy
- Coverage of Youth and Education
- Editorial Comment
- Feature Photo
- Feature Story
- In-Depth Reporting
- Inside Page Layout & Design
- Investigative Reporting
- Land-Use Reporting
- News Photo
- Newsletter
- Open - Investigative Reporting
- Profile Story
- Video Journalism

HERE'S WHAT SOME OF THE JUDGES OF THE 2022 CALIFORNIA JOURNALISM AWARDS ARE SAYING ABOUT OUR WORK —

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

— First Place, Arts and Entertainment Coverage

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

— Second Place, Editorial Comment

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

— First Place, Feature Story

Please help support the local journalism and the award-winning team that is driven by the desire to bring you fresh, original reporting.

We couldn't do it without you.

Pleasanton Weekly

SUPPORT LOCAL JOURNALISM



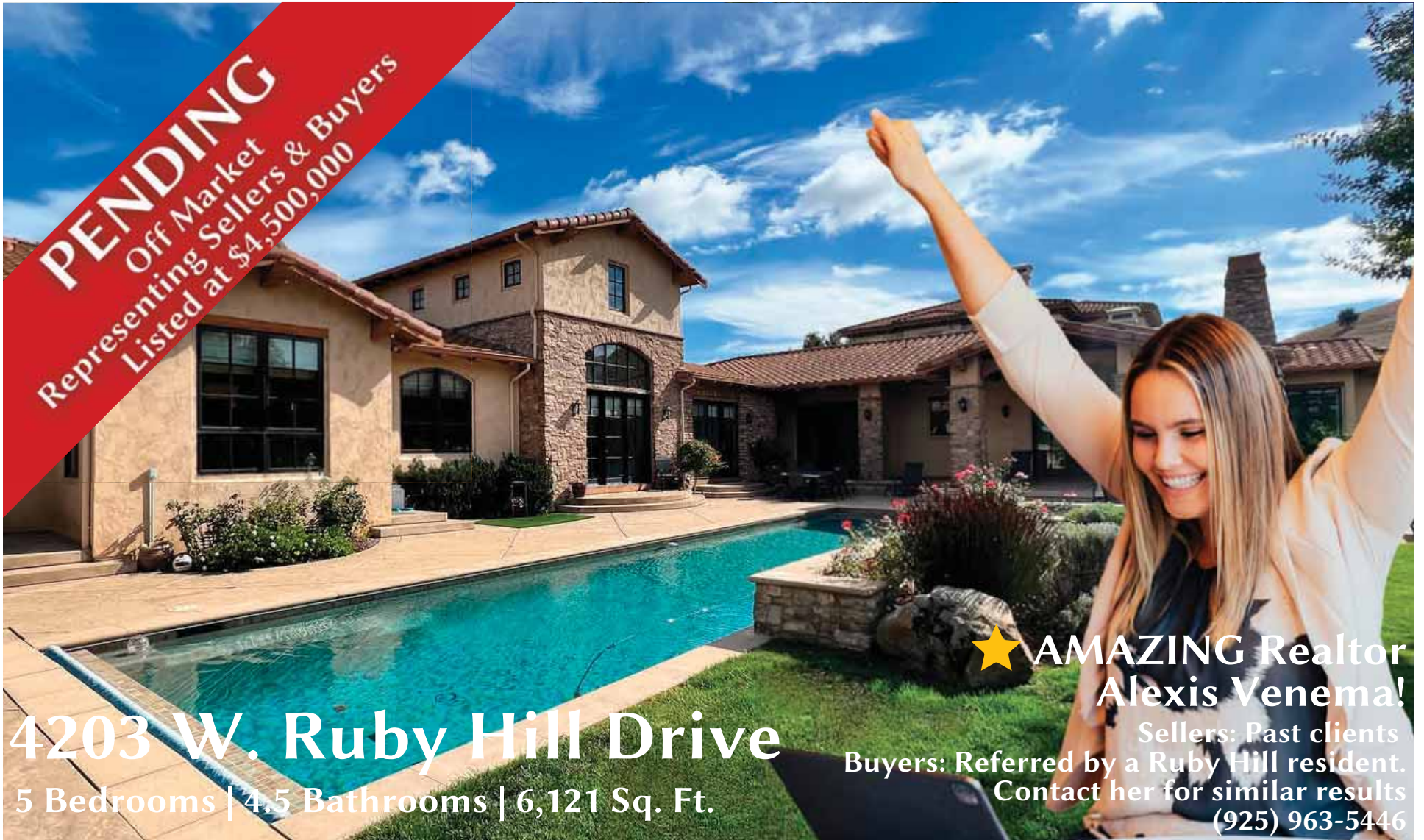
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### Alisal St, Vacant Land in Pleasanton

1.5 ACRES is A Rare Opportunity to build your dream home, an ADU on Horse property, undeveloped land and scenic views of the rolling hills. Nestled in the heart of Pleasanton, offering country quiet and city close. Just minutes from downtown and ease of commute.

**Presented at a new price of \$1,350,000**



**KRIS MOXLEY**  
REAL ESTATE



### *Just Listed* Open House Saturday 11th and Sunday 12th from 1:00 to 4:00



#### 1370 Santa Rita Rd. Pleasanton

Minutes for Pleasanton's downtown area and close to all levels of schools. This 3 Bdr 2 bath home has been updated throughout with a remodeled kitchen complimented with generous storage and cabinetry, new appliances and recessed lighting. New dual pane window, central air and remodeled/updated baths. The open floor plan shows off ease of access to the family room and dining area. A charming private back yard enjoys a covered brick patio and new sod.

**Presented at \$1,280,000**

### *Just Listed* Open house Saturday 11th from 1:00 to 4:00



#### 2174 Goldcrest Cir. Pleasanton

Enjoy ease of access to shopping and minutes from Pleasanton's downtown area. Offering 2 bedrooms and 1 bath with an attached 2 car garage. The homes kitchen has been updated offering marble counters, white cabinetry and new appliances. View the homes back yard with herringbone placed brick patio, flower gardens and mature trees. The primary bedroom also opens to the back yard with sliding glass doors. Enjoy a gas fireplace with accent cabinetry, new floors and open floor plan.

**Presented at \$1,175,000**



#### *Available*

#### 3324 Browntail Way, San Ramon

3 Bdr | 2.5 Ba | 1,606 SqFt  
2 car attached garage

**Presented at \$1,450,000**



**Kris Moxley**

925.519.9080

DRE 00790463

moxleyrealestate.com

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