

Pleasanton Weekly

Tri-Valley
Turkey Burn

Page 20

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Holiday Happenings



Special events
celebrate season
from Thanksgiving
to New Year's

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— First Place, Arts and Entertainment Coverage

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

— Second Place, Editorial Comment

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

— First Place, Feature Story

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WHAT A WEEK



By JEREMY WALSH

Thanksgiving time

The lead-up to Thanksgiving is usually a hectic time for me professionally and personally. The time away with family, the meal, the football and the (hopefully) long weekend ... they're all awesome, don't get me wrong.

But the push to get there can be a lot: Powering through our weekly print production cycle with one fewer day because of the press holiday, finding the chance to buy ingredients at the store (and actually preparing our delectable contributions for the pot luck) and getting everything and everyone loaded up for the drive to our Turkey Day destination.

In fact, things have been so crazy at work and home that I had to switch out my column topic last-minute. Well, I'm sure my own time management/priority-balancing skills were factors too.

Originally I was planning to pontificate about the Metropolitan Transportation Commission's feasibility study on converting Bay Area freeways to all-lane tolling to alleviate congestion and achieve climate goals. Of all the disingenuous ideas to float, at this time, while ignoring the actual reasons for our traffic gridlock and pretending their effort isn't really about ... No, Jeremy, save it for that future article.

I had also hoped to write recently about the Pleasanton City Council's conversation last month about consolidating certain city commissions and committees, which is an intriguing and ongoing debate, but I just haven't had the opportunity.

So with time tight and turkey on the brain I pivoted to Thanksgiving.

The holiday has often been tied to work for me. Back in college, first as a dorm desk receptionist and then a resident assistant (RA), with their 24-hour staffing requirements, I agreed to take on shifts on or around Thanksgiving. I wasn't flying home to the Bay Area for the five-day break anyway, so why not help out?

When I entered the professional journalism world, I usually wouldn't find the news slowing down just because there's a holiday, whether in my general assignment reporter days in Lake County or upon joining Embarcadero Media (which was 10 years ago last Saturday, by the way).

I have a distinct memory of pursuing coverage at an in-law's house, laptop in tow for on-call purposes, of the terrible DUI crash along Stanley Boulevard on Thanksgiving

Eve 2017 that killed two passengers: Village High School student Violet Campbell, 16, and Livermore resident Alexys Garcia, 25.

Breaking news, sadly, tends to find a way on holiday weekends — as I've written about here before.

There are also plenty of positive stories surrounding Thanksgiving for us. There's the annual interfaith Thanksgiving service coming up on Sunday at St. Clare's Episcopal Church in Pleasanton, presented by the Livermore-Pleasanton Interfaith Clergy Association.

The Tri-Valley Community Outreach Thanksgiving Dinner returns next Thursday from 12-4 p.m. at St. Raymond Catholic Church in Dublin, a good option for local families, seniors, military members, singles and anyone else needing the holiday meal.

Pleasanton North Rotary's ninth annual Tri-Valley Turkey Burn is back on Thursday morning at Ken Mercer Sports Park, and Sunset Development is debuting its inaugural Bishop Ranch Turkey Trot in San Ramon that same day.

Read more about those Turkey Day events inside this paper and/or on our websites.

On the "sorta serious" side, it also caught my eye when the city of Pleasanton's November e-newsletter touted kitchen safety because cooking accidents are usually the most common cause of house fires each year.

Their tip sheet starts with "stay in the kitchen when you are cooking on the stove top so you can keep an eye on the food".

Other top suggestions for families included "stay in the home when cooking your turkey and check on it frequently", "keep children away from the stove", "make sure kids stay away from hot food and liquids", "keep the floor clear so you don't trip over kids, toys, pocketbooks or bags", and "make sure your smoke alarms are working; test them by pushing the test button."

Good ideas all, but also to me things we should be watchful for every time we cook, not just the holiday season. Or at least I try to.

And with that, I'm ready for the big meal Thursday to come already, especially the turkey, gravy, apple pie and stuffing (well, actually I prefer dressing). I look forward to telling my family what I'm thankful for this year, and hearing from them too. "Happy Thanksgiving" to you all. ■

About the Cover

Valley Dance Theatre will present its annual production of The Nutcracker for the holiday season from Dec. 9-17 at the Bankhead Theater in Livermore. Read about that event and many more in our "Holiday Happenings" inside, Pages 15-20. Photo by Jerwin Chua. Cover design by Doug Young.

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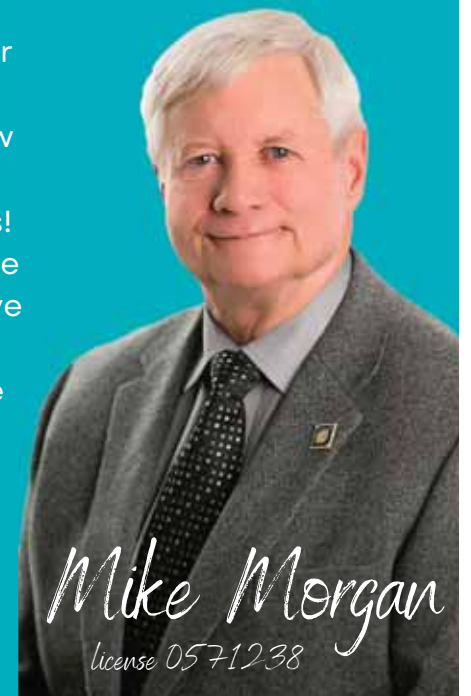
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Have you done anything recently, for someone else, that you feel really good about?



Liz Iverson, with Graham
IT sales

Yes! I recently donated a whole bunch of baby clothes, that are still in really good shape but that my own babies have outgrown, to Goodwill. I feel really good about it because lots of other babies will now be able to benefit from those sweet little clothes.



Blake Iverson, with Lemon
Human resources

I just helped a neighbor demolish his dilapidated deck and then I helped him load up the materials so that he could take them all to the dump. It felt great to help him out and to be a good neighbor and friend.



Martha Jensen
Sales

About nine months ago, I moved a homeless man and his tamed feral cat into my home because I feel so strongly that no one, at the age of 75, should have spent more than 30 years living in a tent. Issues? Of course, but it's all working out fine.



Andrea Bloom
Wellness entrepreneur

When my company was exhibiting at a conference, the woman in the booth next to mine told me about how her father was suffering with bladder cancer. I was able to inform her about so many things I've learned about caring for patients with bladder cancer and I gave her a lot of good information. She contacted me weeks later to let me know how helpful these concrete materials were, and how she referred to them regularly.

—Compiled by Nancy and Jeff Lewis



Mitch Levinson
Medical device engineer

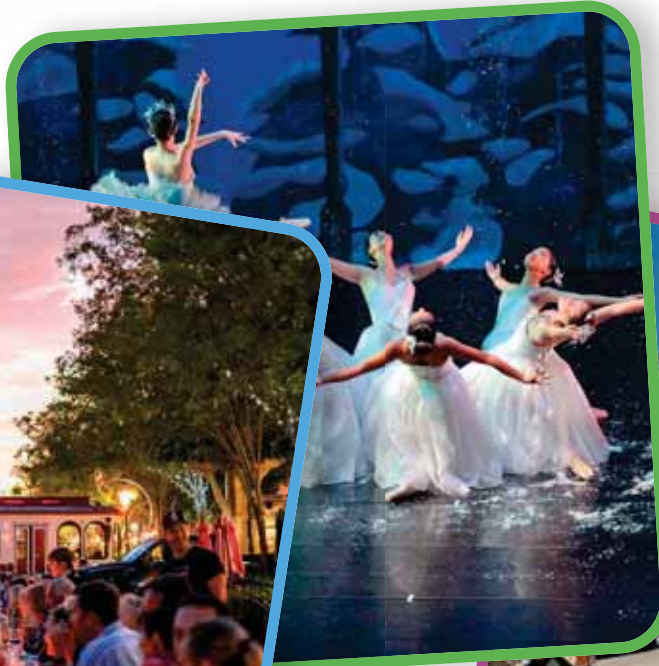
I have a friend at work whose son is thinking about going into engineering. So I spent time with this young man, talking to him about his intended career path. He found it very helpful, and I felt so good about being able to give him some advice and guidance for his future.

Have a Streetwise question? Email editor@PleasantonWeekly.com

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DIGEST

Interfaith dialogue

“Who is Christ? Jesus in Christianity and Islam” will be the topic for this weekend’s interfaith dialogue being held at the Muslim Community Center of the East Bay in Pleasanton.

The panel discussion from 6-7:30 p.m. Sunday (Nov. 19) will feature Rev. Andrew Lobban of St. Bartholomew’s Episcopal Church in Livermore and Dr. Ali Ataie of MCC East Bay. It will be preceded by an interfaith dinner at 5:15 p.m. after the Maghrib sunset prayer at 5 p.m.

“Ahead of the holiday season, this event is intended to show that despite religious differences and worldwide turmoil, people of faith can always find common ground,” organizers said. “Join two seasoned interfaith speakers for a Sunday afternoon educational chat that examines the role of Jesus, son of Mary (peace and blessings be upon him), in the Bible and Christian theology and contrasts with his role in the Qur’an and Islamic theology.”

For more information, visit mccceastbay.org. The panel will also be livestreamed on the website that evening.

PUSD job fair

The Pleasanton Unified School District is holding a Classified Job Fair on Dec. 6 for people interested in applying for a variety of open positions within the district, including custodial, maintenance, HVAC, grounds, paraprofessionals, coaches, child nutrition, bus drivers, expanded learning and instructional assistants.

The event will begin with an orientation from 10-10:30 a.m. focused on tips for applying to PUSD and standing out in interviews. Then from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. there will be job fair interviews.

The event will take place at PUSD headquarters at 5758 W. Las Positas Blvd. in Pleasanton. People can apply in advance at edjoin.org/pleasanton.

Foster Medal

The Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory recognized retired U.S. Navy Admiral Richard Mies, who has served on the lab’s board of governors since 2004, for his “exceptional and inspirational career dedicated to national security, nuclear deterrence, and scientific innovation,” officials said in a statement.

Mies is the eighth recipient of the lab’s John S. Foster Jr. Medal, which he received at a recognition ceremony last month. The award, which is named after former LLNL director John Foster who took the position in 1965, includes a citation, a gold medal bearing the likeness of Foster and a \$25,000 cash award. ■

Stakeholders say PPD ‘dropped the ball’ in Fairlands campus intruder incident

‘We fell short in this case, and that was tough to hear,’ Chief Swing tells the Weekly

By Christian Trujano

Fairlands Elementary School teachers and parents criticized the Pleasanton Police Department last week for not adequately responding to a call reporting a person jumping the school’s fence one night in October, which precipitated Fairlands locking down the next morning after that intruder was found sleeping in a storage room on campus.

Over a dozen people voiced their concerns directed toward the PPD during the special school board session held in the Fairlands

multipurpose room on Nov. 6, which was put together after parents previously packed the Oct. 12 board meeting asking for more accountability at the top.

“I am disappointed in the Pleasanton police, they dropped the ball so many times,” Megan Fernandez, a kindergarten teacher at Fairlands, said during the Nov. 6 meeting.

On Oct. 6, Fairlands students and staff experienced a lockdown after a teacher found 32-year-old Rhodney Henderson, a transient out of Berkeley, sleeping in a storage area

on the second floor of the school, according to authorities.

According to Pleasanton Unified School District deputy superintendent Ed Diolazo’s presentation on Nov. 6, school staff had initially noticed there was some Halloween candy missing from the teacher lounge and that three large garbage bags of donated socks were also missing.

He said the teacher discovered Henderson while searching the storage areas on the second floor for the socks.

According to a probable cause

declaration written by PPD Officer Mario Guillermo, the intruder was found wearing only his boxers and lying on a couch surrounded by open food and drinks. It was later discovered that he had concealed three knives — which were from the teacher’s lounge, according to Diolazo — and a hammer underneath the pillow that he was sleeping on in the storage room.

According to the presentation, additional knives were discovered by a fifth grade teacher wrapped in a towel

See FAIRLANDS on Page 10



CHUCK DECKERT

A photo of the city-owned concrete newspaper rack located next to the Pleasanton Hotel at 855 Main St.

Council looks to consolidate downtown newspaper racks

Staff to return with ideas for artwork, Little Free Libraries to create better fit with aesthetic of Main Street

By Christian Trujano

The Pleasanton City Council waived the first reading of an ordinance to begin the process of consolidating the number of newspaper racks in the downtown area from five locations down to three at last week’s meeting.

City staff will now have to bring it back for a second reading after council amended the original recommendation after the item was pulled off the consent calendar for a roughly 30-minute

discussion Nov. 7. The changes were for staff to explore the possibility of adding a Little Free Library and see how the city can paint or add artwork to the new newsracks so that they fit in with the historic charm of downtown.

“I think those boxes ... they’re massive in their footprint. I just don’t think they look like Pleasanton,” Mayor Karla Brown said during the hearing.

Currently, there are five free-standing newsracks located along Main Street — they are at 201

Main St., 300 Main St., 624 Main St., 855 Main St. and 900 Main St. The city owns each of the concrete “newsracks” while individual media organizations own, manage and service the metal boxes within the newsracks, including the Pleasanton Weekly.

City staff said these newsracks, which have been in place for decades, have not been maintained, kept in good condition and are riddled with “clutter, debris, dust

See NEWSRACKS on Page 8

DSRSD promotes Lee as next GM

Taking reins upon McIntyre’s retirement next month

By Jeanita Lyman

The Dublin San Ramon Services District is set to be under new leadership next month, with the agency’s current general manager poised for retirement after seven years on the job.

The DSRSD Board of Directors voted unanimously on Nov. 7 to appoint assistant general manager Jan Lee as the successor of current General Manager Dan McIntyre, with the change set to go into effect in late December.

“It has been my great pleasure to work with Dan McIntyre over the last several years as he has navigated the agency through several challenges, including the district office flood, droughts and a pandemic,” Lee said in a statement Nov. 9. “As I step into the role of general manager, I look forward to working closely with the board to serve our community and protect the environment.”

Lee, a longtime resident of the Tri-Valley who currently lives in Pleasanton with her husband and



Jan Lee

See DSRSD on Page 6

EBCE rebrands, now Ava Community Energy

Alameda County's community choice power program expanding to Stockton in 2025

By NICOLE GONZALES

Regional public power agency East Bay Community Energy has renamed itself Ava Community Energy in an effort to better represent its strategic goals and growing customer base, representatives with the not-for-profit organization announced this fall.

A community choice aggregation program that focuses on alternative energy sources in line with

California's climate action goals, Ava provides power to customers in the cities of Dublin, Livermore and Pleasanton and the town of Sunol, among its Alameda County clientele.

The name change, which will not affect agency operations or services, comes as a part of a larger rebranding effort amid Ava's service area expanding eastward to incorporate more areas of San Joaquin County in 2025, including

Stockton, according to Ava officials.

"There were two main factors driving our decision to evolve our brand. The first was strategic, we want to help drive the clean energy transition by making it easy and affordable for our customers to discover, try and adopt clean energy technologies like EVs and induction cooktops," Annie Henderson, vice president of marketing and account services, told the Weekly. "Those are personal and emotional decisions, so we knew we needed to evolve our brand to better influence them."

"The second reason is geographic," Henderson continued. "Our service territory is expanding."

After conducting research, prospective Ava customers in the Central Valley did not feel like they were part of the "East Bay Community," so EBCE officials opted to look for a more inclusive identifier. The new name was chosen because it represents the additional communities that are farther out from Alameda County.

"We want all our customers to understand that they are part of our community, so we knew a name change was a required piece of our brand evolution," Henderson added.

As for the name choice itself, Henderson said the "A" comes from Alameda County and the "Va" from the Valley, reflecting the East Bay and Central Valley regions.

Ava was also favored over



As part of its rebrand to Ava Community Energy, the agency unveiled this new logo. AVA

EBCE due to it being shorter and more memorable, according to Henderson.

She explained that deciding on a name was a long and detailed process in which Ava leaders enlisted help from various in-house and third-party groups.

"It was a rigorous and deliberate process," Henderson said. "We explored a wide variety of name types and options. We collaborated with ad hoc committees of both our Board of Directors and Community Advisory Committee throughout the process — they provided invaluable input and direction."

"We tested several name options with our constituents and put them through both a legal and linguistic screening process. At the end of the day, we were delighted to land on Ava Community Energy," she said.

The name change also represents how the agency is looking toward the future.

"Ava symbolizes how we're

powering progress toward better living across all aspects of life, from how we get to work, to how we cook dinner for the family, to how we keep the lights on in our homes during extreme weather," Henderson explained. "We want those experiences to be more delightful, lower cost and less polluting. We want people to think about Ava Community Energy as a trusted partner in providing solutions to their energy challenges."

"Over the past five years we have proven our model in Alameda County and in Tracy, and are now bringing this blueprint to more of San Joaquin County, where more communities are in need of more accessible, affordable renewable energy," Henderson said.

Ava also covers other cities within Alameda County, such as Albany, Berkeley, Emeryville, Fremont, Hayward, Newark, Oakland, Piedmont, San Leandro and Union City. Learn more at avaenergy.org. ■



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DSRSD

Continued from Page 5

two daughters, will become the first woman to lead the water and sewer agency in its 70-year history.

She has been second in command to McIntyre for more than three years, having been appointed as DSRSD's assistant general manager in 2020. She came into the position with nearly 25 years of relevant experience, including positions with the city of Hayward as assistant director of public works and utilities and water resources manager after a tenure at the East Bay Municipal Utility District as a supervising engineer and project manager of the Richmond Advanced Recycled Water Project.

Her interest in water and public utilities extends even further back, stemming from a fascination with the San Francisco Bay and its surrounding water systems that came to be at the forefront of her research as an undergraduate student in civil and environmental engineering at UC Davis.

"The past three and a half years have been fantastic," Lee told the Weekly in an interview Monday. "This is really an outstanding

organization. I have really benefited from the leadership and mentorship of Dan McIntyre."

Lee hit the ground running at the district in March 2020, with the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic and associated shutdowns coming right as she stepped into her current role.

"It's been a very interesting time for DSRSD," Lee said. "We've gone from drought, to wildfire, to the pandemic."

While she's been in the thick of the increasing number of challenges facing the agency and other utilities agencies throughout the state, Lee emphasized that she also sees opportunities for change and evolution in the current era.

"I'm hopeful that the pandemic is mostly in the rearview mirror," Lee said. "Over the last couple of years, my efforts have really focused on increasing the district's resiliency in terms of water supply and working within the organization to cultivate the next generation of talent."

One aspect of this will be looking toward a replacement for her current assistant GM position, which she said is on her mind but won't be happening in the immediate future.

"I'm a very collaborative leader,"

Lee said. "I'm very inclusive. I definitely believe in teamwork. As I progress in my career I've been both confident with what I know but humbled in what I don't know, and I need to have a strong team that surrounds me."

Fostering a collaborative environment will be part of carrying on McIntyre's legacy, she said, as well as something that his mentorship over the past several years has prepared her for.

"I both worked for him and I felt that we worked in partnership as well, and that's something I think I bring to this organization, is partnership not just externally but with our staff as well," Lee said.

Lee is set to take over on Dec. 23 as general manager of DSRSD, which provides water and wastewater service in Dublin and parts of San Ramon as well as sewer service in Pleasanton by contract.

"With the retirement of an excellent leader like Dan, we could not have picked a more suitable candidate for this position," DSRSD Director Dinesh Govindarao said in a statement. "I am impressed by Jan's technical expertise and the strong relationships she has built with our regional partners." ■

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City answers after people told to wait outside amid capacity crowd

Officials say everything was done to make sure new voices heard, but critics contend that wasn't enough

BY CHRISTIAN TRUJANO

While many Pleasanton residents might not be happy with their water bills increasing starting next year, some community members said they are also mad about how the final public hearing went down.

Linda Kelly, a longtime resident who has been involved in water-related discussions in Pleasanton for years, said the city knew there was a group of residents like her who could not go inside the at-capacity Operations Services Center during the City Council meeting last week and still didn't do enough about the problem.

"It didn't feel like the kind of open council meeting that I'm accustomed to seeing," Kelly told the Weekly. "It felt wrong and it still feels wrong."

However, according to Mayor Karla Brown, the city did everything it could to make sure those who did not speak at the Sept. 19 water rate discussion had a chance to speak at the Nov. 7 hearing.

"I was 100% assured by the city clerk that all people that wanted to speak and did not speak at the previous meeting, had the opportunity to do so," Brown told the Weekly. "This included those, if any, that were outside. However, I saw many people come in from outside and join the meeting as it progressed."

On Nov. 7, the council majority voted 3-2 to accept a modified two-year water rate increase schedule where the city plans to raise the rates by 30% for the average residential customer starting Jan. 1 and by 12% in 2025 amid financial instability for

the city's water enterprise fund.

While residents once again packed the council meeting, which was held in an interim setting as the city continues to renovate the dedicated council chambers at city hall, Kelly said at one point roughly 25 people were told to wait outside — a lot of whom left almost immediately. It was the first council meeting after a 3-2 vote at the prior session to eliminate the option for residents to offer live public comments to the council remotely.

Kelly said she left early on because as someone who has attended countless meetings over the years, there was no point in waiting hours outside in the cold for her name to get called.

"If I had stayed, I'd have been sitting out there almost two and a half hours before I could speak," she added.

City communications manager Heather Tiernan, however, told the Weekly, that wasn't the full story.

"The city was aware that people were waiting outside at the beginning of the City Council meeting on Nov. 7, but nobody was turned away from speaking," Tiernan said. "The Remillard Room has the capacity for 54 audience members — after considering the City Council, staff and TV 30 crew — and once that capacity was reached, the fire marshal asked people to wait outside until space became available inside or until their name was called to speak."

The Remillard Room has less audience capacity than the regular council chambers, which also has an adjacent indoor lobby space where a meeting can be observed.

Tiernan said that chairs were provided outside on Nov. 7, people were following along with the meeting on the YouTube stream and that as people left the meeting, "the fire marshal allowed people in on a one out, one in ratio. By 8:30 p.m. there was nobody outside waiting to get into the meeting."

But Kelly said there was no

loudspeaker to hear what was going on and that she isn't tech savvy enough to stream the meeting on her phone. She said even if she wanted to follow the meeting virtually, she still wouldn't have.

"I don't think I'd have been willing to sit out and watch the meeting on YouTube on my phone sitting on that hard bench," she said. "It was dark and getting darker and it felt like we were unwelcomed."

While what transpired during the meeting wasn't something Vice Mayor Jack Balch had predicted would happen, he said the majority council's decision to remove virtual comments didn't help the matter.

Balch had initially advocated for the city to continue using virtual comments and said that while he understands other cities have seen issues with people spewing hate speech anonymously, there are a lot of benefits to having virtual comments for people who are unable to attend meetings in person for whatever reason.

"I understand it's hate speech what

See **MEETING ROOM** on Page 10

NEWSRACKS

Continued from Page 5

and broken windows."

"You can see that by the pictures that we're showing you this evening ... they're in pretty sad condition these days," assistant city manager Pamela Ott said during the Nov. 7 meeting. "There's been a lot of neglect, many of the boxes do not have publications in them."

That's why Ott said staff recommended the ordinance that would consolidate the newsracks into three that would be owned by the city. Those new racks would be located at 201 Main St., 624 Main St. and 400 Old Bernal Ave., which is right next to the Pleasanton Public Library. With the three new locations all being on city-owned property, it would give the city the ability to maintain them and keep them clean, Ott said.

She added that the newsracks are a way of distributing speech that is protected under the First

Amendment and that while the city can impose reasonable restrictions on the time, place or manner of the placement of the newsracks, the city cannot eliminate them in their entirety.

But getting rid of the newsracks or the consolidation of them weren't really the main focus of the council's discussion of the ordinance.

Councilmember Julie Testa, who was the only member of the council who voted No on the proposed ordinance, had originally pulled the item from the consent calendar because she said the newsracks that staff are recommending to replace the existing ones do not fit with the downtown aesthetic. Items on the consent calendar are routine in nature and are typically voted on with a single vote with little to no discussion.

"I certainly agree that the current structures and the boxes are unmaintained and in poor condition and that we need to do something," Testa said. "My concern is the box

... doesn't look like it belongs in downtown."

She said that the four compartment, metal boxes were too industrial-looking and should not replace the existing concrete newsrack that are more aligned to the city's historic look. She had suggested that staff look at keeping the concrete and instead replace the existing compartment boxes or simply remove the ones that are not being used and fill in the gap with some sort of mural or art.

She said she would have supported that, instead of spending \$16,000 on the new racks — a total that doesn't include the amount it would cost the Public Works Department to remove the existing concrete racks and restore those areas.

Ott, however, had explained during her presentation that the city didn't have much to choose from as it had previously tried going to one newsrack vendor, which shortly after went out of business.

She said staff were able to find the vendor it is currently suggesting for the manufacturing of the new racks and that the city can — and now with council recommendation will — look at painting the metal racks to match the city's unofficial green color.

"We do have the ability to customize that color and make it feel like it's going to complement all of the other landscape in downtown," Ott said.

The rest of the council agreed with the idea of customizing the new racks and went further to suggest the possibility of getting local artists, possibly even children, to paint the racks so that they could

act as pieces of public art.

Vice Mayor Jack Balch voiced the idea of adding Little Free Library, which are volunteer-led book exchange boxes that offer free books for everyone in the community, next to each of the newsracks.

While the rest of the council did entertain other ideas of removing some of the existing compartment boxes and adding murals or little library boxes to the current concrete newsracks, the majority ended up settling on the staff's recommendation with the amendments to explore painting the new racks and adding the free library boxes to the side. ■



Family (and a friend) in Hawaii: The Morris and Mayer families enjoyed reading the Weekly at the beach in Hawaii earlier this year. They brought a special edition on their trip, the Feb. 24, 2023 paper with Sharon Morris' neighbor and friend George Bowen on the cover.

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



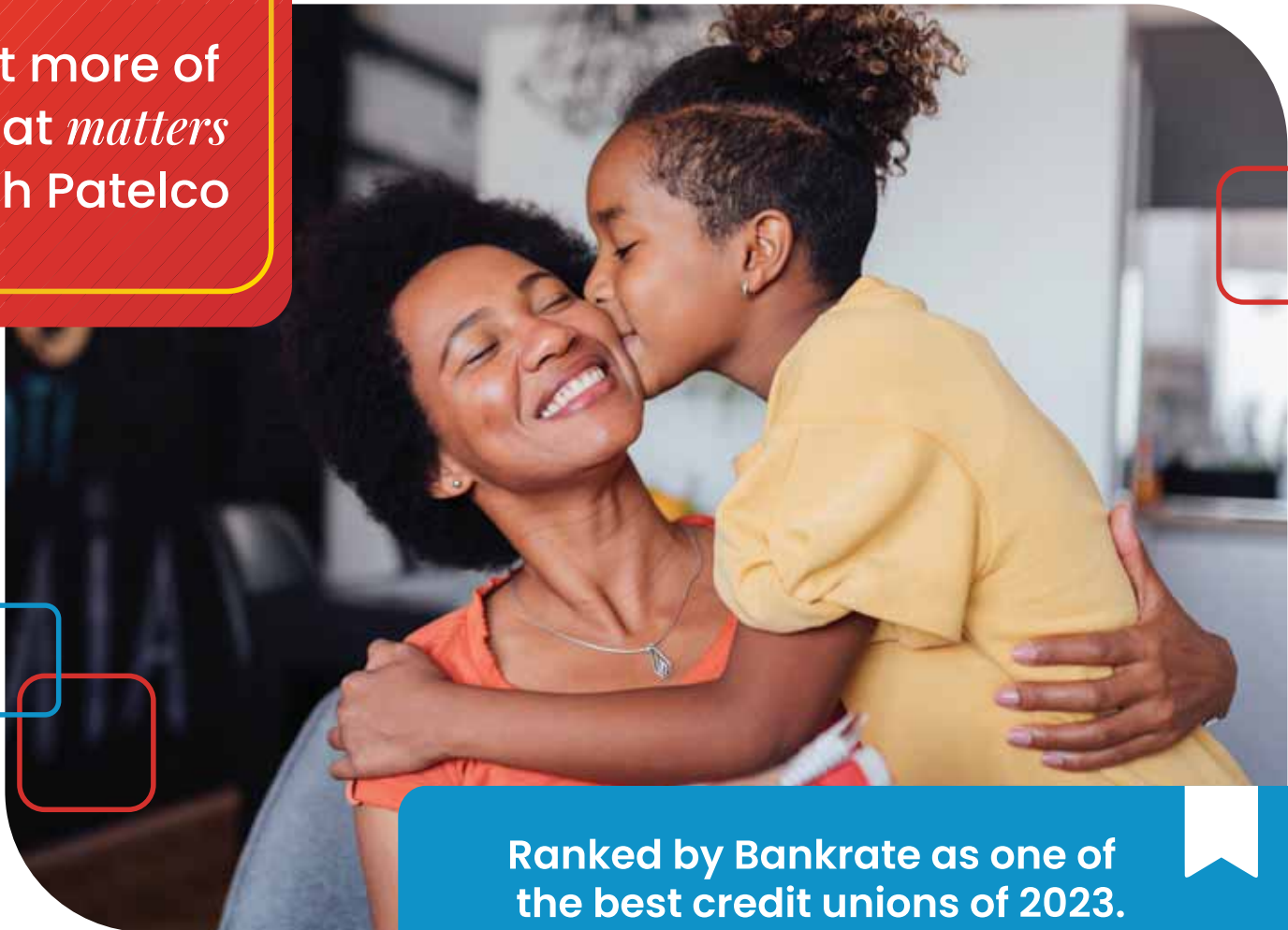
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FAIRLANDS

Continued from Page 5

at the bottom of a sock drive box. Custodians cleaned and searched the area the next day and Fairlands principal Heidi Deeringhoff additionally went out to the school that weekend to do a thorough search for any other items but nothing else was found.

Henderson has been charged by the Alameda County District Attorney's Office with two felony counts: having weapons on school grounds and second-degree burglary. He has two prior convictions for second-degree robbery — in 2009 and 2011 — in Contra Costa County, according to prosecutors. He was scheduled to appear in court for a hearing this week.

During the beginning of the meeting on Nov. 6, Diolazo told the community and the school board members present that since the incident the district has installed a front-door buzzer system, which many parents said should be a priority during the Oct. 12 board meeting.

That includes an intercom camera

and remote lock system, according to the presentation.

Amos Nugent — director of adult and career education who also serves as a safety officer for the district — went on to go over the comprehensive safety plan and safety procedures which he said Fairlands followed.

However, he did say that the incident showed that there were areas for improvement including more comprehensive training for staff, making sure staff go around the school periodically to ensure the doors are locked at all times, and developing more diverse drills so that students and staff aren't left to scramble if they happen to be out during recess or PE and don't have a classroom to go to during a lockdown.

But while district officials talked about the front-door buzzer and the areas of improvement regarding drill protocols, the focus of the night's discussion circled back to one main theme from speakers: Fairlands teachers and staff did everything they could to ensure the safety of their students and PPD did not by

failing to thoroughly search the school the night before Henderson was discovered.

That sentiment was best encapsulated by Fernandez, who kicked off the public comment section of the meeting by addressing parents who have been critical of the school and how staff handled the situation.

She said that while no drill is ever going to prepare anyone for every single incident, she was confident in her training and the anger she has been seeing on social media and at recent public meetings is misplaced and is only hurting the school.

She said instead, people have to shift their focus on how PPD did not do their job the night before Henderson was found when a resident called 911 to report someone jumping the fence.

According to PPD officer Guillermo's report, PPD received a call on Oct. 5 that around 8:24 p.m. a person was seen jumping the fence near the Fairlands multipurpose room. It was later discovered that Henderson had indeed jumped the fence and walked into the school through a door that was left open by a custodian who was working that night.

During the meeting, it was brought up that the custodian — who was not notified by PPD that the call was made — had left the door open because it was hot and the air conditioning is usually turned off by the district.

Principal Deeringhoff also clarified that while custodians do conduct general sweeps of the school in the morning and in the evening, Henderson had jumped the fence and entered the school an hour after the custodian finished the evening sweep.

But what really set off many teachers and parents during the meeting was when Fairlands kindergarten teacher Shari Eastman had asked Police Chief David Swing — who was present at the meeting and was answering any questions — if the officers who responded to the initial

Oct. 5 call did any type of sweep of the campus, which would have prevented the lockdown from even happening.

"Did you come on campus, peek through the fence ... because this could have been prevented," Eastman asked.

Swing told her and the group that the officers did not do a sweep that night and the three officers shone their spotlights through the fence and were at the school for about two to three minutes before determining that there wasn't anyone there.

"That's disappointing that three officers ... were here and within two or three minutes they left," Eastman added.

On Thursday, Swing responded to additional questions the Weekly had asked regarding the lack of follow through with the initial call and said that officers respond to each situation based on the circumstances presented.

"My expectation is that the initial responding officers should have taken more steps to investigate the report of a person jumping the fence on Thursday night," Swing told the Weekly.

Another question that came out of the community meeting was about communication between the police department and the district, specifically on why the district and the school were not notified of the 911 call the night before the lockdown and why PPD did not provide additional support after the arrest in sweeping the school for other potential weapons.

Swing took some time to apologize to Deeringhoff directly for not checking in with her after the incident.

"We are committed to enhancing our communication and being more proactive about communicating with all schools should a similar event occur in the future," Swing told the Weekly on Thursday. "While the City and district regularly communicate on issues of safety, we can also strengthen communication with private schools."

Carly Kennedy, a third grade teacher at John Green Elementary School in Dublin, also spoke out on how she thinks, as many others pointed out, that PPD needs to be more present in the district and must be familiar with all of the schools in town. She referenced how Dublin police are very active in the schools and regularly do walk-throughs and training at several schools, which is something that PPD should consider.

"The safety of our community, especially our children, is the top priority for the police department as it is for the city and district," Swing told the Weekly in a follow-up interview Nov. 9. "As a way to enhance safety around schools, officers will increase their presence at the school sites by regularly checking in with school staff and being present on campus. While it is not feasible for all officers to have direct knowledge about each school, all field personnel and dispatchers have immediate access to diagrams of each school site to aid in their response."

Overall, many parents did take the time to thank Fairlands staff and teachers for how they handled the situation and said that while it could have been worse, the incident must serve as a way for PPD to improve its protocols and communication with how it handles these types of cases that, hopefully, don't happen again.

"The vision of the Pleasanton Police Department is to always be a model of excellence. We fell short in this case; and that was tough to hear. As the chief I take ownership for how we do in meeting the community's and our own expectations," Swing told the Weekly. "I am proud that we are a learning organization and learn from our mistakes by discussing them with the team and the community. We have reinforced our expectations with police personnel and will always look for opportunities to strengthen trust with the Pleasanton community, starting with receiving feedback from the Fairlands community." ■



FREE EVENT: YOU'RE INVITED!

Homeowners 55+: Maximize Your Property Tax Advantages!

November 29, 2023
11:00-12:00pm

7021 Koll Center Pkwy, Pleasanton

Join us as we discuss and answer questions on:

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- **Parent-Child Reassessment Exclusion:** Benefits and limitations
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Amanda Ewing-Rice - Estate Planning & Trust Administration Attorney and Master of Laws in Taxation



Eileen Manger,
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PLEASE RSVP:

Call Andriana (925)595-5759 or
Visit Tinyurl.com/5h3pkzks or
Scan the QR code to register >>>



MEETING ROOM

Continued from Page 8

some of these people are doing," he added. "But is it worse to have that? Or is it worse to exclude people from being able to participate in their government? ... The answer is, it's worse to exclude people from being able to participate in their government."

He added that when residents come to meetings with the presumption that they are going to speak in real time and they are not able to, the alternatives of emailing, writing in and calling other council members are no longer really on the table, which means their voices are no longer able to be heard.

That's why he said he will be asking the council to consider reinstating virtual comments during the matters initiated portion of the next council meeting in December.

Tiernan noted the council will

continue to hold meetings at the Operations Services Center on Busch Road while renovations to improve the audio for those in the room and listening at home are made to the main council chambers at the Pleasanton Civic Center on Old Bernal Avenue.

She said that "in the event that a council member must attend a meeting virtually, public comment will also be allowed virtually for those meetings."

In the end, a still-frustrated Kelly told the Weekly that the mayor had approached her days after the meeting trying to defend the city by saying that Kelly and others who might have wanted to speak at the Nov. 7 meeting had already spoken at previous water rate meetings. Brown had actually kicked off the meeting last week by saying the same thing and reminded folks at the beginning of public comments that many residents

already had a chance to speak on the topic at the prior hearing.

However, Kelly said that since the Sept. 19 meeting, the city had launched a water rate calculator that allowed single-family homeowners to calculate what the rate increases would do to their particular situation. That gave Kelly and other residents a chance to see how the rates would affect their bills, which led to more questions and possible alternative solutions that residents wanted to present to the council, but might not have been able to do so.

"I had learned some other things that were pertinent and I knew a different way of avoiding that 30% kick in the teeth," Kelly said. "When I watched the meeting afterwards, there was another gentleman who had done some really good calculations and he wanted to present it. But because he had spoken at the previous meeting, he was disallowed." ■

POLICE BULLETIN

DA: Progress made in investigation into SRJ inmate's death

The investigation into the 2021 death of an inmate at Santa Rita Jail in Dublin gained some traction last week with the announcement that the Alameda County Sheriff's Office will comply with a request for information on the case.

District Attorney Pamela Price announced on Nov. 8 that Sheriff Yesenia Sanchez has agreed to provide information to investigators from Price's office regarding the death of Maurice Monk, who was found dead in his cell on Nov. 5, 2021.

Monk had been arrested about a month earlier on suspicion of disorderly conduct for allegedly refusing to get off an Alameda-Contra Costa Transit bus and failing to appear on a misdemeanor warrant for another alleged altercation on a bus, according to prosecutors.

By the time jail guards found Monk's body in his cell, it appeared that he had been dead for at least 72 hours.

Monk's family settled a wrongful death lawsuit with Alameda County for \$7 million and currently has a civil case pending against Wellpath, the jail's medical provider, Price's office said.

"Mr. Monk, I am told, had a mental illness — a diagnosis. He had medical issues. We all know that mental illness is not a crime, and it should not be a death sentence in Alameda County," Price said.

A lawyer for Monk's family said he expects Price to file criminal charges once the investigation is complete.

"We know multiple jail guards and medical staff from Wellpath — which has a \$250 million contract for medical services at the jail — saw him lying face-down, unmoving, in a growing puddle of bodily fluids, for days. This goes beyond negligence. It was criminal," said attorney Adante Pointer.

A spokesperson for the Sheriff's Office said sheriff's officials will continue to cooperate with the district attorney's investigation.

"The Alameda County Sheriff's Office has and will continue to cooperate with the Alameda County District Attorney's Office on in-custody death investigations as outlined in the Memorandum of Understanding that has been in place for several years," Lt. Tya Modeste said in an email Nov. 9.

A spokesperson for Wellpath didn't immediately respond to a request for comment.

—Kiley Russell, BCN

In other news

• The Pleasanton Police Department reported uncovering a large-scale ID theft and forgery operation at a home in Pleasanton last month after having assisted the U.S. Marshals Service in arresting the resident — a wanted fugitive who violated probation for similar charges in the past, according to federal authorities.

On Oct. 24, the Marshals Fugitive Task Force served an arrest warrant for 41-year-old Chanta Duane Hopkins, who had a federal warrant for supervised release violation, which is more commonly known as probation violation, according to Chris Tamayo, senior inspector for the regional task force.

Tamayo told the Weekly that Hopkins initially had a warrant out for his arrest in December 2021 for allegedly violating conditions of a supervised release from the federal court. Tamayo said the charges from Hopkins' initial arrest in 2017

that put him on supervised release were identity theft, conspiracy to commit fraud, unlawful use of access devices to obtain \$1,000 or more and possession with intent to distribute cocaine.

"Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) initially brought the case to San Francisco and brought it federal. It was listed as dangerous drug charges and fraud," Tamayo said. "Those charges ... looks like they probably were brought to the federal court, adopted and HSI proceeded to prosecute that case with the U.S. Attorney's Office."

Even though Tamayo was not able to confirm what local agency in the Bay Area initially wanted Hopkins arrested, he said Hopkins probably had some local charges that in cases like this, are typically adopted by the federal court, which is what happened in 2017.

When U.S. Marshals officers arrested Hopkins, PPD officers assisting with the arrest had also reportedly discovered a large-scale ID theft and forgery operation that

is believed to have affected victims across the Bay Area, which Tamayo said is essentially the same thing Hopkins had been charged with in the past.

PPD officers also discovered two unregistered guns, over a kilogram of cocaine and around \$3,000 in cash during the arrest, which has led to a separate PPD investigation, according to police Sgt. Marty Billdt.

"Since this is an ongoing investigation, and we're still sifting through all of the evidence collected, we're unable to provide an estimated or current number of victims," Billdt told the Weekly.

"Once the investigation is concluded, our detectives will submit a complaint to the District Attorney."

According to Billdt, Hopkins is still being held in Santa Rita Jail but did not see any bail information or future court dates.

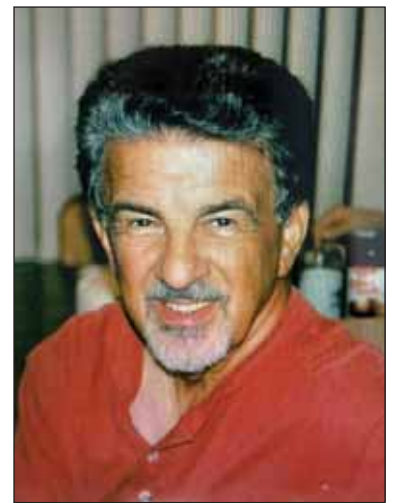
Tamayo said people with supervised release violations don't get to post bail until the courts have enforced an initial appearance, which Hopkins did the day after he was arrested. It was not immediately clear whether Hopkins has yet entered a plea in the federal arrest warrant case. ■

—Christian Trujano

John Phillip Scafetta

December 3, 1927 – October 22, 2023

John Phillip Scafetta, our beloved husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather, passed away peacefully on October 22, 2023 in his home surrounded by his family at the age of 95. John was born December 3, 1927 in Batavia, NY, where his parents settled after immigrating from Italy. He was the second oldest of 5 siblings, of which two still live in New York. He served in the U.S. Navy from 1945-1947 and was proud to be a Veteran. He worked as a Manufacturing Engineer for Xerox Corporation, moved to Pleasanton, California in 1978 with his family and continued working for Xerox before transferring to Hexcel Corporation. John loved to golf, was a member of SIR'S and worked as a marshal at Castlewood Golf Course. He loved watching baseball and his favorite team was the New York Yankees. John also loved Jazz and Big Band music and you would always find him tapping his fingers to the beats! As a young man he learned to play the trumpet and picked it up again at the age of 90! John saw many changes in his 95 years and always embraced life. He was loved by all and had a way of making people around



him laugh and feel at ease. He loved to garden and was handy with projects around the house. He found comfort in his Catholic faith, always touching and praying to his statues of saints and crosses throughout the house. John was a very giving person, always ready to lend a hand to family and friends.



He is survived by his wife, Linda, children Cheryl Herrmann of New York, John Scafetta of Georgia, Amy Robertson and son-in-law Therrin of Meridian, ID, and Keri McDonald and son-in-law Jeff of Pleasanton, CA, as well as ten grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

A service will be held at Cloverdale Funeral Home in Meridian, ID on December 8th at 11:00 a.m. with a burial at Dry Creek Cemetery in Eagle, ID.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in John's honor to St. Jude's Hospital or Tunnel 2 Towers, two of his favorite charities.

PAID OBITUARY

Joyce Robinson

July 30, 1924 – November 5, 2023

Joyce A. Robinson, a longtime resident of Pleasanton, passed away on Sunday, November 5, 2023, at the age of 99. Joyce was born in London, England on July 30, 1924, to Henry William Brewer and Emily Louisa Brewer. She was evacuated to Cornwall along with her younger sister Vera at the start of WWII, later returning to London where she lived and worked during the Blitz of 1940 and 1941. She had a successful career as an Executive Secretary and taught typewriting and business skill classes at the Woolwich Polytechnic in London. After travelling in Europe during her twenties, her adventurous spirit led her to North America, where she worked her way across Canada for two years before coming to the United States and falling in love with San Francisco. She immigrated to the United States in 1958 and met Al Robinson on a Sierra Club outing. They married in 1959 and in 1961, their first daughter was born, followed by a second daughter in 1964. Joyce and Al raised their children in various locations across the San Francisco Bay Area, moving to Pleasanton in 1977. Joyce's gifts during this time were mostly channeled into homemaking, parenting, church, and community activities, as well as two years working as the neighborhood Avon lady. Joyce was active in Gideons International for over 30 years, volunteered in the health library at the Valley Care-Stanford Auxiliary for 25 years and worked alongside her husband as a poll worker for 20 years after Al retired, never missing an election. Travel was Joyce's passion and she loved exploring new places and learning about different cultures. During retirement, in addition to regular camping trips, she and Al took eight cruises covering Alaska, Canada, Mexico, the Mediterranean and the Far East. Joyce and Al were married just shy of 50 years when Al passed away in 2009. Joyce is survived by her daughter Gillian Aufricht and son in law Phillip Aufricht of San Jose, daughter Jacqueline Robinson-Ramorino and son in law Richard Ramorino of San Francisco, and her two grandchildren, Julia, and Jack Aufricht.



A celebration of life is planned for January 6, 2024 at 1:30pm at Valley Community Church, 4455 Del Valle Parkway, Pleasanton, CA. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Gideons International.

PAID OBITUARY

PLEASANTON WEEKLY TO BECOME A NONPROFIT IN 2024



Embarcadero Media, which has been operating in the San Francisco Bay Area for the last 44 years, will transition its business model to a new nonprofit called Embarcadero Media Foundation. The Foundation will continue as a hyperlocal news publisher, operating seven local digital news publications and three weekly print publications.

- Palo Alto Weekly
- Palo Alto Online
- The Almanac
- Mountain View Voice
- Redwood City Pulse
- Pleasanton Weekly
- Danville | San Ramon
- Livermore Vine



Above:
Pleasanton Weekly Editorial Director Jeremy Walsh;

Right: Pleasanton Weekly Publisher Gina Channell Wilcox (standing) speaks with reporters Nicole Gonzales and Christian Trujano.

Photos by Magali Gauthier

Embarcadero Media jumps on industry trend to gain greater financial sustainability

By Jocelyn Dong, Gennady Sheyner, Isha Trivedi

Embarcadero Media, a 44-year-old Bay Area news publisher and the parent company of the Pleasanton Weekly, has announced that it will become a nonprofit organization at the start of 2024.

The decision to go nonprofit was made after a careful review of the company's business model and financial outlook, the company stated in a press release. The boards of directors of the for-profit Embarcadero Media and the nonprofit Embarcadero Media Foundation on

local business closures from the pandemic paired with a significant decline in real estate listings and advertising, the press release stated.

"Operating as a nonprofit will enable Embarcadero to continue to provide high-quality journalism to the community, become financially sustainable and expand its coverage to areas of public interest," said Adam Dawes, CEO of the for-profit Embarcadero Media, who is slated to helm the Embarcadero Media Foundation in 2024.

In adopting a nonprofit model, Embarcadero Media is joining a host of other news organizations around the United States that have sought financial sustainability by forgoing their for-profit status. As a nonprofit, news groups can solicit and accept philanthropic donations to supplement revenue from advertising, memberships, sponsorship fees and events.

The embrace of a new business model is one of numerous ways that an anxious global media industry is trying to regain a solid financial footing after seeing revenues collapse over the past two decades.

The disruptors of the news media's traditional business model, which once thrived on print advertising revenues, are many and oft-cited: a massive shift in readers' habits to digital consumption, the rise of social media as a ubiquitous source of information, the monopolistic grip on digital advertising revenue by tech behemoths, and more.

"Advertising once accounted for 80% of newspapers' revenue. In the past 20 years, that revenue stream has fallen by 80%. The economics that supported the news industry for most of the twentieth century are no longer viable," according to the American Journalism Project, a venture philanthropy that is working to attract hundreds of millions of investment dollars to fund nonprofit newsrooms.

Nov. 14 approved an agreement for the company to donate the operation to the nonprofit.

In recent years, Embarcadero Media has faced significant challenges, including declining advertising revenue due to the



'Operating as a nonprofit will enable Embarcadero to continue to provide high-quality journalism to the community, become financially sustainable and expand its coverage to areas of public interest.'

—Adam Dawes, CEO, Embarcadero Media



Jamey Padojino.

The Palo Alto Weekly journalists participate in a disaster preparedness training exercise.

The United States has lost a quarter of its newspapers — some 2,500 — since 2005, leaving 6,380 newspapers as of last year, according to “The State of Local News 2022,” a report from the Medill Local News Initiative at Northwestern University. Of the remaining papers, 1,230 were dailies and 5,150 were weeklies.

It’s a trend that continues unabated with the loss of about two per week, and newsrooms at all levels of the industry have been hit. Even major outlets are struggling to bring in the revenue to support their staffing, resulting in recent layoffs at the Washington Post and Gannett, among others, and the entire shutdowns of online sites like BuzzFeed News and Jezebel.

But local weekly newspapers have been the hardest hit, the State of Local News report found. Of the 360 newspapers that shuttered across the country between late 2019 and May 2022, nearly all were weeklies. Even affluent suburban communities are losing their newspapers and joining the one-fifth of the country without a local news source, the report stated.

About 60% of the nation’s newspaper journalists have lost their jobs since 2005, raising alarm over the ability of newsrooms to hold government officials accountable or to even bring readers essential information about their communities.

In response to the disappearance of newspapers, digital-only newsrooms have sprouted from coast to coast. The growth of digital-only sites is making up for, barely, the loss of papers, but in 2022, there were still only 545 such state and local sites, the State of Local News report said. Many of these are small outfits and not nearly able to replace the headcount of laid-off newspaper journalists.

BANDING TOGETHER

To counter the industry’s catastrophic revenue freefall, everyone from academics to C-suite executives have been urgently searching for ways to radically reinvent how the news is delivered and funded.

In 2009, journalists from 27 nonpartisan, nonprofit newsrooms banded together to form what is today called the Institute for Nonprofit News, a major player in the burgeoning nonprofit news sector.

The collective has since grown to include 425 member organizations that collaborate and produce public-service journalism. These news nonprofits employ some 4,000 people, including 2,700 journalists, and that figure is growing: The Institute for Nonprofit News reported in 2022 that staffing among its member newsrooms had

Continued on next page

Dear reader: We’re transitioning to a nonprofit

A message from the publisher / CEO of Embarcadero Media

By Adam Dawes

After taking over in September 2022 from Bill Johnson, the company’s founder and CEO for the last 42 years, my top priority has been to chart a course for the company that would ensure our survival for decades to come. The company has been navigating the changes afflicting the local news industry for many years and it was clear that we needed to move aggressively

to become less reliant on our print advertising revenue in this post pandemic environment. It’s been a rollercoaster ride, shifting more resources towards our digital products, restructuring our management organization and learning how to support our team who gets the news out every day. It has become increasingly clear this year that to maintain our future viability, we need to update our business model. As of Jan. 1, 2024 all of our publications will be operated by the Embarcadero Media Foundation, a 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization

Why is this necessary? There are two main reasons. First, with all of the headwinds that we and other local news publishers across the country are facing, we need to shift our business model to rely more directly on donations from our communities. Second, operating as a nonprofit will enable us to grow and evolve our journalism in exciting ways that can provide greater benefit to the community.

The headwinds we’re experiencing as a business have been dramatic. Over 75% of our revenue still comes from advertising and starting with the pandemic in 2020, many local businesses that advertised with us have closed. In particular, since 2019 we’ve experienced a 45% erosion of real estate advertising, our largest advertising category. We see that relying too heavily on advertising going forward could lead to our downfall, which has happened to so many other local news publishers.

An unflinching look at our bottom line is sobering. Across our three newspapers and special publications, we’ve seen our print ads revenue decline by more than 42% since the end of 2019. Revenue across our entire operation, including print, our seven news websites and three newsletters, has declined by 32%. Were it not for the federal government and two rounds of funding from the Paycheck Protection Program and the Employee Retention Tax Credit, our company would have failed and local news in our communities would be gone.

We have not sat idly through this decline. We have built up a significant new revenue stream around subscriptions. This year we’re expecting to top \$900K in revenue, which will cover about 18% of our 2024 budget. While we had a huge surge in paid membership during the pandemic, we are struggling to bring on more new members to replace those that leave us. We continue to find and invest in new ways to bring on new members, but it’s a tough row to hoe. Media organizations everywhere are seeing declines in subscribers. We’re actually doing pretty well compared to the industry.

We’ve also been willing to make hard choices. Over this year, we made cuts to management and administrative expenses, including reducing our office space to adapt to the number of employees who are working remotely, that will collectively reduce our annual operating expenses by more than \$900K. We made these changes without any reduction to our investment in our editorial team. But we still need to change our business model to meet our remaining deficit, prepare for further declines in advertising and invest in new technology and our editorial department.

Converting to a nonprofit will allow us to rely more on the giving capacity of our communities. Our target is to raise \$3M over the next three years, with \$1M of that coming in 2024. We’re already off to a fast start with pledges totalling about \$200K from several incredibly generous individuals who are offering gifts as large as \$100K.

This new philanthropic funding will diversify our revenue and give us greater stability to aggressively pursue our journalistic mission. We are so proud of the work we’ve done in the last year to make our community more informed, accountable and cohesive:

- Over 2,800 stories published
- Over 380 stories about Tri-Valley cities local government
- Over 500 stories about Tri-Valley cities schools
- Over 240 stories about the 2022 election across our network
- 149 candidate interviews for 2022 election across our network
- 18 candidate forums for 2022 election across our network
- \$83K raised and distributed to locally based nonprofits in the Tri-Valley with our Annual Holiday Fund

The Foundation will be able to expand and change how we cover our communities. Being a nonprofit enables us to develop partnerships with other foundations and accept major contributions from individuals who have a passion to shed more light on particular issues.

We know there are great beats that can make a big public impact, like expanding coverage of education, homelessness and housing, immigrants, health, transportation and the environment. We are thinking more ambitiously as well, like starting new online publications to provide news for chronically underserved communities.

Even though we’ve operated as a for-profit company all these decades, we have always been a mission-driven organization at our heart. What motivates our entire staff is the ability to help our communities function better. We look forward to your continued support as we make the transition.

We’re incredibly excited about this change and how it will allow us to partner and work more deeply with our communities. If you want to support us, the easiest way to do that is to become a member. If you have the ability to support us at a more significant level, please consider making a one-time donation to the Foundation now (it’s tax deductible!). If you want to help us with a major gift such as appreciated stock or a gift from your estate, or to sponsor a project going forward, please reach out to publisher@embarcaderomediafoundation.org.

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How you can help keep dedicated local journalists reporting in Pleasanton

- Read and share our print newspapers and special publications
- Become a paying member on our website
- Sign-up to receive one of our free email newsletters
- Engage with other community members by commenting on online stories
- Patronize our advertisers who support us
- Make a one-time, tax-deductible donation today!

Thank you for your support!

PleasantonWeekly.com/donate



Continued from previous page

grown 15% over the prior year.

Other initiatives have launched with ambitious aspirations to create entirely new streams of revenue by catalyzing philanthropic giving. The American Journalism Project was founded in 2018 by John Thornton — a venture capitalist and founder of the nonprofit Texas Tribune — and Elizabeth Green, founder of the nonprofit Chalkbeat, as a venture philanthropy.

To date, it has raised \$168 million for local news from funders including the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation. American Journalism Project backs 41 nonprofit news organizations so far, according to its website.

And in September, a coalition of 22 donors, spearheaded by the MacArthur Foundation, announced a five-year, half-billion-dollar initiative “to strengthen communities and democracy by supporting local news and information.”

“We have a moment to support the reimagination, revitalization, and rapid development of local news,” the MacArthur Foundation stated in its announcement of the initiative, called Press Forward.

The Knight Foundation announced it’s contributing \$150 million to the Press Forward cause.

“News is at the center of a healthy and engaged democracy. That is why a free press is protected in our constitution,” Knight Foundation president Alberto Ibargüen said in a press release. Since 2005, the Knight Foundation has invested more than \$632 million to “enhance and support robust news ecosystems.”

PATHS TO NONPROFIT STATUS

The paths that newsrooms have taken to nonprofit status are varied. Some are founded as nonprofits: the policy- and politics-oriented CalMatters and the south bay-based San Jose Spotlight are but a few.

Others converted from being for-profit businesses: The first legacy newspaper to transition to nonprofit was The Salt Lake Tribune, now viewed as the national standard bearer for nonprofit newspapers.

The Tribune made the switch in 2019 after a turbulent decade in which it won a Pulitzer Prize but had to contend with dropping advertising revenues and multiple rounds of staffing cuts.

In 2016, investor Paul Huntsman bought the paper from Digital First Media, a media conglomerate owned by the hedge fund Alden Global Capital. The change in ownership did not, however, reduce the financial challenges, and Huntsman announced in 2018 that 34 additional newsroom jobs would be cut from a staff of 90, according to The Tribune’s reporting from that time.

Unwilling to see that trend continue, the following year, Utah’s largest newspaper became the first legacy for-profit newspaper in the U.S. to transition to a 501(c)(3) nonprofit.

This move, along with other initiatives (such as reducing print from seven days per week to twice per week), appears to be bearing results. In 2021, The Tribune’s Executive Editor Lauren Gustus announced to readers that the company was “healthy” and “sustainable” — with a newsroom 23% larger than the prior year — and had no plans to return to a “previously precarious position.”

Gustus worked at The Tribune from 2004 and 2007 before moving on to management and corporate roles in other newspapers, including ones owned by Gannett and McClatchy. In November 2020, she left her position as editor at Sacramento Bee to return to The Tribune.

Among the changes that nonprofit status has brought to The Tribune, Gustus said, is that the organization no longer has a single owner.

“It has fewer demands from an ownership entity with respect to return on investment, which means we can put our profits right back into our journalism,” Gustus said. “We’ve also got more financial flexibility in that we welcome subscribers and the support they give us in subscription revenues.”

Gustus said The Tribune’s donor base is broad and mostly local. Most have indicated that they are contributing because they are interested in seeing their communities be “stronger, more resilient and healthier.” No donor is large enough to influence its approach to journalism, she added.

“That’s because we are community-owned,” Gustus said. “We truly don’t answer to anyone.”

A more local example of a newsroom that’s pursued nonprofit status — and grown as a result — is in the East Bay: BerkeleySide.

Tracey Taylor, one of the three founding members of the digital-only BerkeleySide, said the formerly for-profit news organization started as a passion project between friends in 2009.

“We ran that as a for-profit for about 10 years, but I have to say it was a pretty unprofitable for-profit,” Taylor said.

Enter Cityside, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that the BerkeleySide founders launched in 2019 to serve as the parent organization for BerkeleySide. Soon after, in 2020, Cityside also launched Oaklandside, a similar online publication covering the city of Oakland, and earlier this month announced plans to launch yet another publication, this one for the city of Richmond.

The switch to the nonprofit model has only resulted in positive growth for Cityside, both in terms of engagement from the community and its readers and also in terms of the size of the team working at Cityside across its various publications.

BerkeleySide’s newsroom had a total of five staff members before switching to the nonprofit model in 2019, and today the whole Cityside operation employs 29 staff across its publications.

Despite launching around the time of the COVID-19 pandemic, Taylor said Cityside thrived in the midst of the chaos.

“It was good for local news outlets like ourselves,” she said. “Something that people liked and supported and read was suddenly really almost indispensable because we were providing really, really essential vital information about COVID, about vaccinations when they came along, where people could get vaccinated.”

She also said the move to the nonprofit model allowed them to expand the sources of funding they could tap into, with their new eligibility for grants intended for nonprofit newsrooms, and with individual donors now able to make tax-deductible donations.

Before becoming a nonprofit, BerkeleySide was largely getting funding from advertisers and individual members who paid roughly \$100 per year to support their work, Taylor said. Today, Cityside’s revenue sources are much more varied. This year, 18% of Cityside’s funding came from sponsorships and advertising, 21% from its members, 23% from major donors, and 36% from foundations, she said.

“As soon as we became a nonprofit, it just opened so many doors,” she said.

CHALLENGES AHEAD

Despite the momentum building around the nonprofit news model, changing to nonprofit status doesn’t make a publication immune to the broader challenges that newsrooms across the country are facing today, according to newsroom leaders.

In August, the nonprofit Texas Tribune laid off 11 staff for the first time in its 14-year history.

“The strength of our revenue model has propelled us through the past 14 years,



MAGALI GAUTHIER

East Bay editor Cierra Bailey (standing) gives direction to reporter Christian Trujano while reporter Jeanita Lyman works on a story.

fueling the Tribune’s steady growth and the enterprising work and engaging storytelling of our newsroom,” Sonal Shah, CEO, said in announcing the layoffs. “In spite of this year’s budget difficulties, we believe the business is sound and will continue to thrive.”

Journalism remains a challenging business for any organization, regardless of for-profit or nonprofit status, The Salt Lake Tribune’s Gustus said.

Across the industry, news organizations have to contend with factors beyond their control, like recent changes on major social media platforms that have caused referrals to news articles to plummet, she noted.

“I think we need a lot of experimentation,” Gustus said. “We’ll continue to see significant change and disruption, and I think we need smart people in local newsrooms making bold decisions that will lead to better outcomes.”

And despite big initiatives like Press Forward, there exist deeply embedded challenges on the funding side to surmount.

According to Harvard’s Shorenstein Center on Media, Politics and Public Policy, foundations are often structured to tackle specific and time-limited projects.

“For most foundations, their grant-making process is ... defined around specific social issues or problems, making it more difficult to provide general operating support to a news nonprofit and for prospective grantees to define their fit,” the center’s 2018 report, “Funding the News: Foundations and nonprofit media,” stated.

But Gustus said that opportunity also accompanies nonprofit status. While continuing its traditional role as a newspaper that holds power to account and that points out areas where Utah can do better, The Tribune as a nonprofit now does more listening “on the front end” of reporting, she said.

This means gauging readers’ interest through annual surveys, regular crowdsourcing and listening sessions in the community to determine what issues are most important to them. (Accountability journalism is the top request, she said.)

Every story, she said, begins with the question: Why does the story deserve to be here? And the follow-up is: Who is this story for?

The nonprofit model means that The Tribune is increasingly taking a role as “helpers and conveners” in finding solutions, she said. It also means moving from competition with other media partners to collaboration.

Taylor said that the financial stability that came with the nonprofit model has allowed Cityside to be more intentional when

it came to developing Oaklandside and Richmondside.

She said staff conducted several interviews and surveys with members of the community in both cities, and they used that data to drive their decision-making around which beats to cover in which cities, and what types of stories community members wanted to see more or less of.

The switch also encouraged them to think more about how their work aligns with their overarching mission — something they had thought about prior to the switch but consider more seriously today.

Embarcadero Media’s Dawes agrees that greater community input seems to go hand-in-hand with the switch to nonprofit for many newsrooms, and he expects the same to be true for Embarcadero.

“We know there are great beats that can make a big public impact, like expanding coverage of education, homelessness and housing, immigrants, health, transportation and the environment,” he wrote in a letter to readers announcing the conversion from for-profit. “Being a nonprofit enables us to develop partnerships with other foundations and accept major contributions from individuals who have a passion to shed more light on a particular issue.

“We are thinking more ambitiously as well, like starting new online publications to provide news for chronically underserved communities,” Dawes wrote.

But those plans, he acknowledged, rest in large part upon the response of the communities that Embarcadero Media serves, which include Redwood City, Menlo Park, Atherton, Portola Valley, Woodside, Palo Alto and Mountain View on the Peninsula and Pleasanton, Danville, San Ramon and Livermore in the East Bay.

In the coming year, Embarcadero Media Foundation, which will have a budget of \$5 million, aims to raise \$1 million from philanthropic giving. Dawes reported that pledges of about \$200,000 from donors have already been made.

“Local journalism has the ability to make our communities stronger by shining a light on local institutions and helping people to feel connected to their neighbors,” Dawes said in the announcement. “But we can’t do that alone. We need the support of our community to ensure that publications can continue to thrive for years to come.” ■



Special events celebrate season from Thanksgiving to New Year's

BY CAROLYN CHAN

Thanksgiving arrives next week, December is just around the corner and before we know it 2024 will be here. The Tri-Valley has a slew of special events all holiday season long to celebrate the spirit of this time of year. Here's our overview of the "Holiday Happenings" on the calendar so far in Pleasanton, Livermore, Dublin, San Ramon and Danville from now through New Year's weekend:

Holiday Ice Rink

The Kristi Yamaguchi Holiday Ice Rink at City Center Bishop Ranch in San Ramon is open now through Jan. 7. 10 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. Tickets are purchased per 90-minute sessions. Visit citycenterbishopranch.com.

Photos with Santa at Stoneridge

The ultimate holiday tradition, pictures with Santa Claus, awaits now through Dec. 24 at Stoneridge Shopping Center in Pleasanton. For available dates and times, visit simon.com.

Letters to Santa

Write a letter to Santa and he'll write back. Drop off at Robert Livermore Community Center and write the child's name and address clearly so Santa knows where to mail his letter. 4446 East Ave. in Livermore, now through Dec. 15.

Earlier Than The Bird

The pajama shopping tradition is back. Boutique shops will be open with steals, deals and giveaways to make you the best gift giver ever this holiday season. 7-10 a.m., Nov. 18. Livermorium Plaza and downtown Livermore.

Holiday Craft Boutique

Start holiday shopping with the Dublin Senior Center at the Holiday Craft Boutique where dozens of local artisans will have goods on display and for sale. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Nov. 18. 7600 Amador Valley Blvd.

Money Nop Turkey Drive

Community members are invited to drop off a frozen turkey, gift card or cash donation to help local families in need. Proceeds benefit Tri-Valley Haven's Holiday Program. 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Nov. 19. Livermore City Hall at 1052 S. Livermore Ave.

Interfaith Interconnect & Interfaith Thanksgiving Service

Livermore-Pleasanton Interfaith Clergy Association is holding its ninth interfaith Thanksgiving service where all are welcome to attend the service and to stay on for conversation and light refreshments. 3:30 p.m., Nov. 19. St. Clare's Episcopal Church, 3350 Hopyard Road in Pleasanton.

Tri-Valley Turkey Burn

Join Pleasanton North Rotary's ninth annual Tri-Valley Turkey Burn, 5K/10K, run, walk, stroll. 7:30 a.m., Nov. 23. Ken Mercer Sports Park, 5800 Parkside Drive in Pleasanton. Visit trivalleyturkeyburn.org.

Tri-Valley Community Outreach Thanksgiving Dinner

Serving families, seniors, military, singles and anyone needing Thanksgiving Dinner. Serving residents in Dublin, Pleasanton, San Ramon and Danville. Join for a traditional sit-down dinner from 12-4 p.m., Nov. 23. St. Raymond Catholic Church, 11555 Shannon Ave., Dublin.

Selfies with Santa

Santa's calendar has him landing back in the festively decorated Alexander Square at City Center Bishop Ranch. 12-4 p.m., every Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 25 to Dec. 23 at 6000 Bollinger Canyon Road in San Ramon.



A New Orleans Christmas with Jeff Bordes and Friends will be Dec. 11 at the Firehouse Arts Center in Pleasanton.



WALTER T. PETRULE

Valley Dance Theatre will present its annual production of The Nutcracker for the holiday season from Dec. 9-17 at the Bankhead Theater in Livermore.

Danville Lighting of the Old Oak Tree

Watch as Father Christmas and the Snow Angel sprinkle a little magic dust on the Old Oak Tree and bring it to light. Stroll downtown Danville and enjoy refreshments, entertainment and holiday shopping through the festively decorated streets 5-8 p.m., Nov. 25. Visit danville.ca.gov.

Big Bad Voodoo Daddy Holiday Show

This Grammy-nominated band has been delivering high-energy, jazz and swing music for over 30 years and promises to bring

their signature sound to the stage with classic holiday tunes and original hits. 8 p.m., Nov. 25. Visit livermorearts.org.

Pacific Chamber Orchestra: Glorious

Experience the sheer beauty of George Frideric Handel's beloved Messiah and be inspired by the riveting performances of four gifted soloists. 3 p.m., Nov. 26. Visit livermorearts.org.

Creatures of Impulse: Holiday Shorts

Viewer suggestions will inspire holiday themed games, scenes and improv fun in the first act. The audience then votes for which short scene Creatures of Impulse will make into an improvised play in the second act. Nov. 28 to Dec. 1. Visit firehousearts.org.

Dublin Holiday Tree Lighting

Come to Dublin Civic Center for the 40th lighting of the holiday tree and enjoy performances by local musicians and dancers. Count down as the 30-foot holiday tree is illuminated and lookout for a special guest from the North Pole. 6 p.m., Nov. 30. 100 Civic Plaza.

Downtown Pleasanton Holiday Open House

Stroll Main Street and enjoy shopping specials, dining, live music and free photos with Santa & Mrs. Claus at the Museum on Main. 4-7 p.m., Dec. 1.

Holiday Village in the Park

Join Livermore Downtown Inc. as they transform Carnegie Park into a magical holiday village. Like a Hallmark Christmas movie, but real. 4-8 p.m., Dec. 1. Visit livermoredowntown.com.

Holiday Swingin'! A Kat Edmonson Christmas

Enjoy the smooth and soulful voice of Kat Edmonson as she performs classic holiday tunes and her own original songs, accompanied by a talented jazz ensemble. 8 p.m., Dec. 1. Visit livermorearts.org.

Deacon Dave's Christmas Display

The 40th annual Deacon Dave's Christmas Display Opening Ceremonies begins at 6:30 p.m., Dec. 1 with the procession down Hillcrest Ave. in Livermore. Visit casadelpomba.com. Through Jan. 1.

Sing-It-Yourself Messiah

The holiday tradition continues as Valley Concert Chorale hosts its annual Sing-It-Yourself Messiah open to singers of all ages in the community. 7:30 p.m., Dec. 1. Asbury United Methodist Church, 4743 East Ave., Livermore. Visit valleyconcertchorale.org.

Breakfast with Santa

Santa Claus is coming to Dublin and families are invited to enjoy a hot pancake breakfast served with sausage, fruit, coffee and juice, followed by the arrival of Santa

See **HOLIDAY** on Page 16

HOLIDAY

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Claus. Santa will pose for holiday photos following each session. 8:30 a.m., 9:45 a.m., 11 a.m., Dec. 2. Shannon Community Center. Visit dublin.ca.gov/289/Holiday-Events.

Bah Humbug! 5K Fun Run, Walk & Kids

Get up, get out and get in the holiday spirit on this run or walk through the streets of San Ramon dressed up in a holiday costume or your favorite exercise outfit. 8 a.m., Dec. 2. Visit sanramon.ca.gov.

Holiday Art Fair

The Bankhead lobby will come alive with a free-admission Holiday Art Fair which will bring together art and fine handcraft vendors for shoppers to find that perfect gift, either for a special someone or for oneself. 3-6 p.m., Dec. 2.

Pleasanton Hometown Holiday Celebration

The City of Pleasanton Hometown Holiday Celebration begins at 5 p.m. Dec. 2 with a parade of floats, marching bands, community groups and more. Tree lighting after the parade includes musical entertainment and a special appearance by Santa.

Livermore Sights and Sound Parade

Enjoy floats and performances by local businesses, bands, schools, clubs and more. Tree Lighting to immediately follow. A Livermore tradition not to be missed. 6 p.m., Dec. 2.

San Ramon Community Tree Lighting

This free family-friendly event will feature holiday-themed crafts, tasty treats, festive entertainment and fun photo opportunities in and around San Ramon City Hall. Lighting of the Holiday Tree will take place following a short ceremony in the Central Park Meadow. 5:30 p.m., Dec. 2.

Livermore-Amador Symphony Free Family Concert

Enjoy the sounds of the season as talented musicians come together to bring a magical experience you and your loved ones won't soon forget. Hurry and reserve your seats today before they're all gone. 3 p.m., Dec. 2. Visit livermorearts.org.

Livermore-Amador Symphony Winter Tales

Celebrate the season with magical music and fairy tales. Get the holidays off to a festive start with the sounds of the symphony. 8 p.m., Dec. 2. Visit livermorearts.org.



JEFF INSEL

Irish Christmas in America will be at the Bankhead on the afternoon of Dec. 3.

Holidays in the Vineyards

Join for a Livermore Valley Wine Country tradition and celebrate with Holidays in the Vineyards and Toys for Tots. This festive two-day event features wine tasting, live music and shopping. 12.-4 p.m., Dec.2-3. Visit lvwine.org.

A Nutty Nutcracker: A Christmas Spectacular

Enjoy a classic holiday tale with a modern, magical twist with the East Bay Dance Company's A Nutty Nutcracker. 1 p.m. and 4 p.m., Dec. 3. Dougherty Valley Performing Arts Center. Visit tickets.sanramon.ca.gov.

Irish Christmas in America

This family favorite is filled with music, dance and storytelling, celebrating the holiday season with a unique Irish twist. 3 p.m., Dec. 3 at the Bankhead Theater. Visit livermorearts.org.

Caring Santa is Coming to Stoneridge

Exclusively for children with special needs. Reservations are required for this private photo experience. Schedule your photo today. 8:30-10:30 a.m., Dec. 3 at Stoneridge Shopping Center in Pleasanton. Visit simon.com.

A Holiday Social

Friends of the Pleasanton Senior Center present A Holiday Social. Join for holiday music, entertainment, delicious desserts and a special guest. 2:30-4:30 p.m., Dec. 7. Register at 925-931-5365.

Fratello Marionettes: The North Pole Review

The Rincon Branch Library will host Fratello Marionettes for a performance of their winter program. This music-based production showcases a graceful ice skater, Russian Trepak Dancers and a trio of dazzling acrobatic penguins. 3:30 p.m., Dec. 8. 725 Rincon Ave., Livermore.

Diablo Women's Chorale

Join the Diablo Women's Chorale, a lively social group of singers from around the East Bay for Under a Winter's Sky to ring in the holiday season with good cheer. 7 p.m., Dec. 8; 3 p.m., Dec. 10. Walnut Creek United Methodist Church. Visit diablowomenschorale.org.

Holiday Dance Escape

Kick off the season with friends at the Dublin Senior Center's annual holiday dance social featuring The Cool Tones big band. 7-10 p.m., Dec. 8. Visit dublin.ca.gov/380/Special-Events.

Deck the Homes in Dublin

Registration for Dublin's Deck the Homes holiday decorating contest is open until 4 p.m., Dec. 8. Winners will receive a gift card to a local business, yard sign and certificate of recognition from the Dublin City Council. Visit dublin.ca.gov/289/Holiday-Events.

Ho Ho Ho Holiday Carnival

Join LARPD and some of Santa's helpers for a holiday carnival at Sycamore Grove Park. There will be Midway games, face painting, arts & crafts and holiday treats. 4-8 p.m., Dec. 9. Visit larpd.org.

The Miracle of Christmas

Valley Concert Chorale presents The Miracle of Christmas holiday concert, featuring Respighi's Laud to the Nativity. 7:30 p.m., Dec. 9, First Presbyterian Church, 2020 Fifth St., Livermore; and 4 p.m., Dec. 10, Trinity Lutheran Church, 1225 Hopyard Road, Pleasanton. Visit valleyconcertchorale.org.

Chanukah Under The Stars

Join to light up Livermore's menorah while enjoying hot latkes and Chanukah doughnuts with a Chanukah music contest, city dignitaries and glow in the dark fun. 7:30 p.m., Dec. 9. In front of the Bankhead Theater.

LIVERMORE VALLEY arts
LIVE AT THE BANKHEAD

Holiday Swingin'!
A Kat Edmonson Christmas
Vintage Pop. Singer. Spirited.
FRI DEC 1 | 8 PM

Experience the magic of the season with Kat Edmonson as she croons holiday classics in the timeless style of the Rat Pack

GET TICKETS NOW!
LivermoreArts.org | 935.373.6800



RACHEL LAHLUM

New Year's Eve with The Four Freshman will be on the Bankhead stage at 8 p.m. Dec. 31.



COURTESY FIREHOUSE ARTS

Happy New Year with Lauryn Marie (Pleasanton's own) takes to the Firehouse stage Jan. 6.

Pet Photos with Santa

Bring your pets to pose with Santa at Stoneridge Shopping Center, located on the lower level. All pets must be on leash. Dec. 10. Visit simon.com.

Holiday Stocking and Gift Card Drive

Tri-Valley Haven is requesting filled stockings for local children and adults in need. Suggested items and drop off information can be found at trivalleyhaven.org. Drop off by Dec. 12. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., TVH Community Building, 3663 Pacific Ave., Livermore.

Chanukah Wonderland at Stoneridge Shopping Center

Celebrate the festival of lights with live music, holiday crafts and games, Chanukah photo-ops and face painting while kindling the 9-foot menorah in the mall's grand court from 5:30-7 p.m. on Dec. 12. Visit jewishtrivalley.com.

Sunol Menorah Lighting

The small town of Sunol is getting its very own menorah. Join to inaugurate and celebrate this new addition to the Tri-Valley's Chanukah fixtures. 5:30 p.m., Dec. 13. Sunol Community Park. Visit jewishtrivalley.com



COURTESY LVA

The Big Bad Voodoo Daddy Holiday Show is set for Nov. 25 at the Bankhead Theater in Livermore.

Chorus Eclectic - Winter Wonderlands

Chorus Eclectic performs under the dynamic leadership of Alex Taite performing a wide range of music from past and present, from classical to folk and modern styles. 7:30 p.m., Dec. 14. Visit firehousearts.org.

Chanukah on Ice

Glide across the ice to Chanukah, Israeli and Jewish music with a mega

Fire on Ice menorah lighting on the ice. 7:30 p.m., Dec. 14. Tri Valley Ice Dublin. Visit jewishtrivalley.com.

The Nutcracker

Valley Dance Theatre's full production of The Nutcracker at the Bankhead Theater is accompanied by the Valley Dance Theatre Pit Orchestra and entertains with elaborate sets, skilled dancers and beautiful costumes. Performances

are Dec. 9-10 and Dec. 15-17. Visit livermorearts.org.

Pink Martini featuring China Forbes

Returning to The Bankhead with their unique blend of jazz, classical and world music, Pink Martini promises an evening of musical diversity and cultural fusion that will leave you mesmerized. 7:30 p.m., Dec. 11. Visit livermorearts.org.

Handling the Holidays

For those who have experienced the death of a loved one the winter holiday season can be painful. Hope Hospice offers a free Zoom workshop to discuss healthy coping strategies. 2-3 p.m., Dec. 14. To register, call their Grief Support Department at 925-829-8770.

Donuts with Santa

Join for a morning of holiday cheer at the Robert Livermore Community Center for donuts, games, Santa letters, adopt-a-stuffed pet, Santa pictures and more. 8:30 a.m., 10 a.m. and 11:30 a.m., Dec. 16. Visit larpd.org.

Spirit & Sweater Stroll

Stroll visit, sip and shop in your ugliest holiday sweater while strolling through downtown Pleasanton where guests will enjoy spirits and craft cocktails at a number of downtown locations. 5-8 p.m., Dec. 16. Visit pleasantondowntown.net.

Jeff Bordes and Friends

Jeff Bordes and Friends return to the Firehouse Arts Center to present a New Orleans Christmas. 8 p.m. Dec. 16. Visit firehousearts.org.

Impressions of the Nutcracker

The San Ramon Valley Dance Company puts a fun new spin

See **HOLIDAY** on Page 18

AS LOW AS \$10 PER BOTTLE FOR LOCAL, ULTRA PREMIUM WINES!



7000 TESLA ROAD, LIVERMORE, CA 94550



BLACK FRIDAY WEEK MYSTERY CASE SALE

FRIDAY NOV 17TH - SUNDAY NOV 26*
IN THE BARN FROM 10 AM - 5 PM
*CLOSED ON THANKSGIVING, NOV 23



\$150 PER CASE GENERAL PUBLIC
\$120 PER CASE CLUB MEMBERS

THE FINE PRINT:

- Must be purchased unopened as a case of 12 wines.
- **Not an internet sale.**
- No delivery or storage available.
- Wines must be picked up at time of sale.
- Sale limited to stock on hand, while supplies last.

One stop holiday shopping!

Up to 75% off on award winning wines! All bottles are recent vintages from our surplus 2021-22 restaurant inventory.

Each case contains four bottles each of Cabernet Sauvignon, Red Blend and Petite Sirah.



COURTESY LVA

Pink Martini featuring China Forbes will be performing at the Bankhead on Dec. 11.

HOLIDAY

Continued from Page 17

on this timeless classic by incorporating multiple dance styles in a fast paced production at just over an hour. This popular story ballet performance will delight and entertain the whole family. 7:30 p.m., Dec. 16 and 1 and 3:30 p.m., Dec. 17. Visit srvda.com.

A Rockin' Holiday Review

Jared Freiburg & The Vagabonds return to the Firehouse stage this holiday season for another memorable high energy performance filled with joy and fun as they celebrate the golden age of

American music. 7:30 p.m., Dec. 21. Visit firehousearts.org

Nochebuena:

A Christmas Spectacular

This breathtaking and traditional show featuring a talented cast of dancers, singers and musicians takes you on a journey through the joy and wonder of the holiday season. With stunning choreography, dazzling costumes, and unforgettable music, Nochebuena is the perfect way to celebrate the most wonderful time of the year. 8 p.m., Dec. 23. Visit livermorearts.org.

New Year's Eve with The Four Freshmen

Ring in New Year's Eve with The Four Freshmen, the legendary vocal group known for their impeccable harmonies and timeless classics. Bid farewell to the old year and welcome the new with an evening of incredible music and entertainment. 8 p.m., Dec. 31. Visit livermorearts.org.

Happy New Year with Lauryn Marie

Ring in the New Year with Lauryn Marie a singer-songwriter from Pleasanton. With thoughtful lyrics and evocative melodies, she combines folk, indie-rock and bedroom pop to create sincere and relatable songs. 8 p.m., Jan 6. Visit firehousearts.org.

Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund

The 23rd annual Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund campaign gets underway next week and will run until mid-January. With your contributions, the Weekly and its Embarcadero Media Foundation will give grants to nonprofits serving the needs of children and families in the Pleasanton area. All funds will be held by the foundation and will be tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law. Donate at PleasantonWeekly.com/holiday_fund. ■



COURTESY BISHOP RANCH

The Kristi Yamaguchi Holiday Ice Rink is now open at City Center Bishop Ranch in San Ramon.

Livermore Amador Valley Transit Authority Aviso de audiencia pública Wheels in Motion – Propuestas de cambios de servicio

El Consejo Directivo de la Livermore Amador Valley Transit Authority (LAVTA) celebrará una audiencia el **4 de diciembre de 2023** a las **4 p.m.** para recibir opiniones y comentarios con respecto a los cambios de servicio propuestos que ajustarían las frecuencias de los autobuses de Wheels para que coincidan con los nuevos horarios de trenes de BART y restaurarían o introducirían rutas a varias áreas que actualmente carecen de servicio, de la siguiente manera:

- Servicio en días laborables:
 - Ajustes de frecuencia:
 - o Aumentar el servicio en la Ruta 15 para que circule cada 20 minutos durante las horas pico y cada hora durante las horas del mediodía
 - o Disminuir ligeramente el servicio en horas pico de las Rutas 1, 3, 8 y 14 para que circulen cada 40 minutos, y en las Rutas 10R y 30R para que circulen cada 20 minutos
 - Operar el servicio de la Ruta 10R durante una hora adicional (hasta la medianoche)
 - Introducir el servicio local en el centro de Dublín y Southwest Livermore cada 40 minutos durante las horas pico extendidas
 - Reanudar el servicio cada hora en la Ruta 2 en East Dublín
 - Reanudar el servicio limitado en horas pico a East Livermore en la Ruta 11
 - Reanudar el servicio expreso limitado en horas pico en la Ruta 580X entre Downtown Livermore y BART
 - Extender la Ruta 70X al Hacienda Business Park
- Servicio de fin de semana
 - Aumentar el servicio en la Ruta 10R para que circule cada 20 minutos los sábados y cada 40 minutos los domingos
 - Aumentar el servicio en la Ruta 30R para que circule cada 40 minutos los sábados; continuar circulando cada hora los domingos
 - Agregar un servicio local nuevo al centro de Dublín, que circula cada 40 minutos durante el día los sábados

El Consejo Directivo de LAVTA invita al público a comentar sobre los posibles cambios en la audiencia pública en persona, mediante un enlace web de Zoom y/o por teléfono.

Audiencia pública

Lunes 4 de diciembre de 2023 a las 4 p.m.
(o tan pronto como el asunto pueda ser escuchado)
Datos de Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/86244532120>
Clave del seminario web/reunión: 862 4453 2120
Código de acceso: PH1362 en la aplicación Zoom para la capacidad de audio/visual

Acceso por teléfono: (669) 900-6833 (Código de acceso telefónico: 554060) Ingrese la clave del seminario web y presione # cuando se le solicite la identificación del participante), solo para audio.

Antes de la audiencia, se puede enviar comentarios por correo, correo electrónico o teléfono a:

Board Secretary
Livermore Amador Valley Transit Authority
1362 Rutan Court, Suite 100
Livermore, CA 94551
frontdesk@lavta.org; 925-455-7555

Para asistencia de traducción o interpretación, llame a LAVTA al 925-455-7555 por lo menos tres días antes de la reunión.

If you need information in English, please contact 925-455-7555, wheelsbus.com/wheels-in-motion

如果需要其他語言的訊息, 請聯絡 925-455-755, wheelsbus.com/wheels-in-motion/mandarin

Kung kinakailangan ng impormasyon sa isa pang wika, kontak ang 925-455-7555, wheelsbus.com/wheels-in-motion/tagalog

다른 언어로 된 정보가 필요한 경우 925-455-7555로 문의하세요, wheelsbus.com/wheels-in-motion/korean

Livermore Amador Valley Transit Authority Public Hearing Notice Wheels in Motion – Proposed Service Changes

The Livermore Amador Valley Transit Authority (LAVTA) Board of Directors will hold a Public Hearing on **December 4, 2023 at 4 P.M.** to obtain input regarding proposed service changes that would adjust Wheels bus frequencies to align with new BART train schedules and would restore or introduce routes to several areas that currently lack service, as follows:

- Weekday service:
 - Frequency adjustments:
 - o Increase service on Route 15 to run every 20 minutes during rush hours (peak), and hourly during the midday
 - o Slightly decrease peak service on Routes 1, 3, 8 and 14 to run every 40 minutes, and on Routes 10R and 30R to run every 20 minutes
 - Operate Route 10R service for one additional hour (until midnight)
 - Introduce local service in Central Dublin, and Southwest Livermore every 40 minutes during extended peak hours
 - Resume hourly service on Route 2 in East Dublin
 - Resume limited peak service to East Livermore on Route 11
 - Resume limited peak express service on Route 580X between Downtown Livermore and BART
 - Extend Route 70X to the Hacienda Business Park
- Weekend service:
 - Increase service on Route 10R to run every 20 minutes on Saturdays and every 40 minutes on Sundays
 - Increase service on Route 30R to run every 40 minutes on Saturdays; continue to run hourly on Sundays
 - Add new Central Dublin local service, operating every 40 minutes during the daytime on Saturdays

The LAVTA Board of Directors invites public comment on the potential changes at the public hearing in person, via a Zoom web link and/or by phone.

Public Hearing

Monday, December 4, 2023, at 4 P.M.

(or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard)

Zoom Info: <https://zoom.us/j/86244532120>

Webinar/Meeting ID: 862 4453 2120

Passcode: PH1362 in the Zoom app for audio/visual capability

Access via Telephone: (669) 900-6833 (**Phone Passcode:** 554060) enter webinar ID and press # when prompted for participant ID) for audio only.

Prior to the hearing, comments may be sent by mail, e-mail, or phone:

Board Secretary
Livermore Amador Valley Transit Authority
1362 Rutan Court, Suite 100
Livermore, CA 94551
frontdesk@lavta.org; 925-455-7555

For translation or interpretation assistance, call LAVTA at 925-455-7555 at least three days before the meeting.

Si necesita información en otro idioma, comuníquese con 925-455-7555, wheelsbus.com/wheels-in-motion/espanol

如果需要其他語言的訊息, 請聯絡 925-455-755, wheelsbus.com/wheels-in-motion/mandarin

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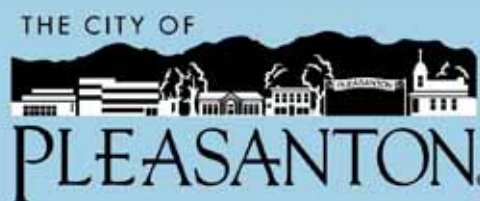
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Tri-Valley Turkey Burn adds pizzazz to Thanksgiving morning



JIM BRICE AND DARCY DECOFFE

The Tri-Valley Turkey Burn gets off to a thunderous start on Thanksgiving Day 2022. This year's event is set to start at 9 a.m. next Thursday (Nov. 23) at Ken Mercer Sports Park in Pleasanton.

Charity 5K/10K family fun run promotes good health and community spirit

By JIM BRICE

For the ninth consecutive year, Pleasanton North Rotary's Tri-Valley Turkey Burn is offering area residents a healthy way to start their Thanksgiving Day celebrations.

PNR is on track to attract more than 2,300 participants for its charity, 5K/10K family fun walk, run or stroll at Pleasanton's Ken Mercer Sports Park and nearby Mucho Arroyo Trail.

Past public support attests to the Turkey Burn as a community-wide event and annual tradition for many families and circles of friends, according to Planning Committee Chair Viviana Cherman. "We're always fine-tuning the event to add to its popularity," she said.

The Turkey Burn was inspired by digital pedometer inventor W. Ron Sutton, youth services leader Kevin Greenlee and other PNR members to give Tri-Valley residents a healthy way to celebrate the holiday. They spoke of how a 5K/10K family fun run would enable participants to burn off calories they were destined to consume around their Thanksgiving dinner tables.

Planning for the Turkey Burn has revolved around making the event affordable and convenient. Its website (www.trivalleyturkeyburn.org) is a one-stop, online location for registrations, payments, purchases of Turkey Burn t-shirts, socks and

hats, as well as corporate and individual sponsorships. Registration costs \$15 for adults, \$10 for children and teens ages 10-to-17, and \$5 for kids under 10.

Pre-race packets including bibs and instructions can be picked up next Wednesday (Nov. 22) at designated drive-thru facilities at Ken Mercer Sports Park or at the Turkey Burn staging area the morning of the event. See website for times and directions. Registrants are also encouraged to bring nonperishable food items to the park for donation to the Tri-Valley Haven Food Pantry.

The gate opens at 7:30 a.m. Thursday (Nov. 23), with group stretching exercises at 8:45 a.m. and 10K and 5K walk/runs at 9 and 9:10 a.m.

respectively. Everyone will finish by about 11 a.m., leaving ample time for Thanksgiving Day entertainment.

The Turkey Burn's iconic "I AM THANKFUL FOR ..." racing bibs have always been a big hit, Cherman noted. "It is hard to beat their ability to capture the spirit of the moment by encouraging everyone who wears a bib to announce to everybody else what they are thankful for," she said.

The social aspect of the Turkey Burn should not be overlooked. Nothing could be better than making memories with family members, old friends or while making new ones. Parents can guide their young ones in strollers. Obedient dogs on leashes are welcomed.

Rain or shine, the Turkey Burn

will be run amidst the autumn colors of a November holiday morning in Pleasanton's sprawling Ken Mercer Sports Park.

Fundraising is another important dimension to the charity event. Funds from entry fees, souvenir sales and donations from Elation Real Estate of Pleasanton and more than 20 other corporate and individual sponsors support Pleasanton North Rotary's extensive youth service program.

The club's commitment to youth services includes scholarships to the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) camp, support for the annual Richard D. King Youth Speech Contest, academic scholarships, Student of the Month awards, Rotary

International Youth Exchange, Interact Club at Foothill High, and other programs that teach young people the value of community service. All instill in their participants the same "service above self" zeal that defines what it means to be a Rotarian.

At the finish line, everyone leaves as a winner with commemorative Turkey Burn medals on a red, white and blue lanyard.

"The medals are an expression of Pleasanton North Rotary's thanks to everyone finishing this year's Turkey Burn and helping make the Tri-Valley a friendly place to live," Cherman said. ■

Editor's note: Jim Brice is a writer, photographer, Pleasanton resident and member of Pleasanton North Rotary.



JIM BRICE AND DARCY DECOFFE

The Turkey Burn is often a family affair covering multiple generations.



JIM BRICE AND DARCY DECOFFE

Everyone will receive a participant medallion at the finish line.

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LETTERS

To the Pleasanton community

I would like to address a significant issue that arose during our Nov. 7 council meeting. Shortly after public comment had closed (around 9:30 p.m.), I learned that approximately 25 of our community members had been waiting outside — our meeting room had exceeded its maximum occupancy capacity.

Many had been waiting since the start of the meeting at 7 pm, eager to participate in their most local form of government, the City Council.

How many stood outside in the cold November evening for an hour and a half until public comment was opened, and longer for their speaker card to be called, I do not know.

The ability to participate in government is a cornerstone of democracy, vital for conducting the people's business in an open and transparent manner. Regrettably, with the majority's decision to end virtual public comments during the meeting (unless required by law) at the Oct. 23 council meeting, we have fallen short. I believe this does not align with the spirit of Pleasanton that I know — a sentiment I'm sure many of you share.

For this oversight, I am deeply sorry.

Having served our community for nearly 15 years, I have witnessed firsthand the benefits of hearing our full community — with better outcomes for all. I am committed to this. I ask, how else would we expect to foster a community of belonging, collective pride and mutual respect?

I am committed to advocate for more inclusive and accessible avenues for public participation. At the Dec. 5 council meeting, I will urge my fellow council members to join with me in reinstating virtual public comments options. We must ensure that no one is left out in the cold, both literally and figuratively.

To the people of Pleasanton, I extend my sincerest apology to you.

—Jack Balch, vice mayor of Pleasanton

Interfaith Thanksgiving

Interfaith Interconnect was founded in 2011 with the mission, "To enrich, inform, and educate ourselves and others about the great diversity of faiths and cultures in our Valley." For over a decade, we have celebrated the richness that comes from getting to know one another and learning about the beliefs and practices of different faiths and cultures.

As we see a rise in anti-Semitism and Islamophobia, we believe that the interfaith relationships we have built locally are more important than ever.

Here is an opportunity to join us in this endeavor: Interfaith Interconnect, in collaboration with Livermore-Pleasanton Interfaith Clergy Association, is holding its ninth Interfaith Thanksgiving service

on Sunday, Nov. 19, 3:30-4:30 pm at St. Clare's Episcopal Church, 3350 Hopyard Road, Pleasanton.

All are welcome to attend the service, and to stay on for conversation and light refreshments from 4:30-5 p.m. When we gather to express thanks for all that we have, we can also express a desire for peace, commit to support the freedom and dignity of all people, learn and appreciate what our diverse faiths and cultures have in common, and joyfully celebrate our diversity. Please join us. For more information, contact Interfaith.interconnect@gmail.com.

—Marcia S. Elchesen, president

—Ruth Gasten, vice president

City water rates

Regarding Pleasanton's continued efforts to ensure safe, clean, reliable water in a manner that preserves the solvency of the Water Enterprise Fund, I'm writing in support of the City leadership's efforts!

The mailers we've received, information on the city's website, and the discussions at council meetings have articulated the need and means to fund the current water supply infrastructure — and includes measures to address contamination.

Charges to businesses and residents for usage must wholly fund the costs of water supplies, and should not be subsidized by monies that would otherwise be directed to unrelated projects. Water usage must remain sustainably balanced with our regional supplies, and our City has proactively encouraged residents to responsibly conserve where possible.

The measure recently passed by the City Council has created a framework for a charge-to-consumer system that reflects water consumption for the costs of maintenance, treatment where necessary and expansion as appropriate. The details and description of pairing consumption and charges has been discussed publicly at length and the City's efforts are earnestly applauded.

While no one likes a rate increase, I understand Pleasanton continues to benefit from some of the lowest water rates in the East Bay, even after the step-ups. Considering my 35 years as an engineering consultant and resident, I have confidence in our city staff's recommendation and council's commitment to act in the best interests of our Pleasanton community.

—Ron Horner

What do you call democracy?

Did you know there is an Alameda County Democratic Central Committee (ACDCC)?

Anti-semitic sentiment is growing across the globe. ACDCC's passing of the Israel-Gaza resolution and similarly the city of Richmond is condoning and supporting not just hatred of Israel but hatred of people who follow the Jewish faith.

The Nov. 1 Zoom meeting of the ACDCC was appalling, and chaotic with disorderly conduct and a forced resolution. Committee members stated there was inadequate time to carefully consider and review all the

PET OF THE WEEK



VALLEY HUMANE SOCIETY

Terrific Tohru

A tender tabby mix who triumphantly tended to her tiny tots, Tohru is now ready to transition toward her new family. This sparkling sweetheart savors serene scenes by sunny sills. Visit valleyhumane.org to learn more or email info@valleyhumane.org to start the adoption application process.

statements included in the resolution and to fact-check the citations.

Most members present advocated for a ceasefire and strong language against Israel's actions towards Gaza. Others felt the resolution was one-sided without acknowledging the surprise attacks by Hamas and the brutal killing of over 1,400 innocent, civilian Israelis, plus 240-plus kidnapped.

Challenges presented identifying committee members attending on Zoom and unmuting those whose turn it was to speak. After finishing roll call and votes, the recording secretary commented there were members whose response was not heard but it didn't matter because a majority of Yes votes had already been achieved.

I found this action very disrespectful to those whose votes did not get heard or counted. Isn't it supposed to be recorded for the record? How is that democracy?

Educate yourself and show your voice by voting for committee members who uphold the ideals of

democracy on the Democratic presidential primary ballot.

—Janice Flanzbaum

Proud of Sunol

I want to thank the Sunol Community for standing behind our school board the past several weeks. After members of our school board were sent death threats by extremists outside of our small town, I believe our community has rallied together behind school board members Hurley and Jergensen.

Our schools should be free from the type of bare-knuckle partisan politicking we've seen over the past few months. Our local students and parents deserve a local school dedicated solely to educational excellence, and our local elected leaders deserve the opportunity to govern without being threatened.

Sunolians stand united behind Linda Hurley and Ryan Jergensen.

—Rodney Zeisse

Employment

Multiple openings: Staff Software Engineer (San Ramon, CA, \$184,662/yr); Senior Software Engineer (hybrid-remote in Atlanta, GA MSA, \$184,662/yr); Principal Architect (Plano, TX, \$197,829/yr). Primary worksite, travel/remote options, and salary indicated in parentheses; all jobs may involve travel to or relocation to anticipated or unanticipated locations across the US including client sites and Grid Dynamics offices throughout the US and/or company headquarters located in San Ramon, CA. Apply at jobs@griddynamics.com.

Workday, Inc. is accepting resumes for the following positions at various levels in Pleasanton, CA:

Business Systems Analyst (20637.1807): Customize and implement profiles, roles, security settings, sharing rules, applications, custom objects, custom fields, page layouts, workflow, validation rules, approvals, dashboards, reports, etc. Salary: \$154,523 - \$191,900 per year, 40 hours per week

Software Development Engineer (20637.2264): Analyzes, plans, programs, and modifies computer program upgrades and/or modern items utilized in nearby, organized, or internet-related computer programs. Salary: \$147,368 - \$204,000 per year, 40 hours per week

Sr CPQ Operations Analyst (20637.1623): Gather business requirements, analyze, evaluate, and provide technical solutions for Zimit surveys. Salary: \$121,597 - \$177,400 per year, 40 hours per week

Workday pay ranges vary based on work location and recruiters can share more during the hiring process. As a part of the total compensation package, this role may be eligible for the Workday Bonus Plan or a role-specific commission/bonus, as well as annual refresh stock grants. Each candidate's compensation offer will be based on multiple factors including, but not limited to, geography, experience, skills, future potential and internal pay parity. For more information regarding Workday's comprehensive benefits, please go to workday.com/en-us/company/careers/life-at-workday.html

Interested applicants submit resumes by mail to: J. Thurston at Workday, Inc., Attn: Human Resources/Immigration, 6110 Stoneridge Mall Road, Pleasanton, CA 94588. Must reference job title and job code.

ICE Mortgage Technology, Inc., Inc seeks a Sr. QA Engineer in Pleasanton, CA. Maintain automated test cases that ensure the quality of our products. 100% telecommuting permitted w/n the U.S. \$168,418 to \$168,418 per year. Applicants who are interested in this position may apply <https://www.jobpostingtoday.com/Ref #72245>.

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PLEASANTON PREPS

By DENNIS MILLER

Foothill girls' volleyball postseason run ends in CIF State semifinals

Also: Dons win EBAL tennis singles and doubles titles; Amador football loses to Pitt in playoffs

The amazing season turned in by the Foothill High girls' volleyball team came to an end on Veterans Day when the Falcons fell 3-0 to Saint Francis in the CIF State Open playoffs.

The Falcons finished the season 37-2, winning the East Bay Athletic League regular season, EBAL playoffs and North Coast Section Division I championships.

Foothill was the lone public school left in the CIF NorCal semifinals, joining Saint Francis, Mitty and the Branson School.

In the first round of the NorCal tournament, Foothill beat St. Mary's of Stockton 25-17, 23-25, 25-23, 25-21. The highlights

came from Katie Salonga (53 assists, 11 digs), Paige Bennett (24 kills, 10 digs), Kaycie Burdick (14 service points, 13 kills) and Lulu Hoenninger (7 kills, 2 blocks).

The loss to Saint Francis was 11-25, 20-25, 19-25. The leaders were Salonga (24 assists, 6 digs), Bennett (11 digs, 8 kills), Burdick (9 kills, 8 digs) and freshman Kaitlyn Vogel (14 digs).

I had a chance to see all the postseason games for Foothill, and they were fun to watch. They were good everywhere on the court. Initially as I saw the highlights sent into the paper over the course of the season, I looked at the Falcons being senior-laden.

While players like Bennett and Salonga were the heart and sole of the Falcons, and other seniors Nisa Kincaid, Maddy Snodgrass, Ema Vukojevic and Maisha Sharma all were major contributors, believe me when I say the cupboard is not empty for Foothill.

Burdick, a junior, was as good as any player in the postseason run, and freshman Vogel was composed well beyond her years.

Throw in sophomores Brook Steadman and Paige Nelson, along with Hoenninger — a junior — and the Foothill attack is going to be just fine. Sophia Burdick, Ella Choudhry and Sophia Zhang are both back as well.



MADELYN ARTHUR

Amador Valley's Montana Parkinson-Lubold won her fourth straight EBAL singles title this year.

Amador Valley girls' tennis

The Dons have played better as the season went on and their postseason — in both team and individual events — has been fantastic.

In the EBAL singles/doubles tournament, the Dons took both the titles.

In singles, Montana Parkinson-Lubold won her fourth EBAL singles title. She did so in dramatic fashion, beating Gigi Austin of Carondelet in the finals 6-0, 6-7 (3-7), 10-6.

In the doubles tournament the unseeded team of Neha Reddy and Aditi Deshpande won the championship by beating the top-seeded team of Barco and Huang of California High.

Amador football

The great, late-season run from the Dons came to an end in the first

round of the NCS D-I playoffs when they dropped a 41-14 decision to Pittsburg.

If any team is looking forward to next season, it's the Dons. It took five games for Granada transfer students Tristian Tia and Paul Tia to become eligible to play.

Once they did, the offense took off scoring over 50 points a game in the final four regular season games. With both juniors, the offense will come out firing next season.

The Dons are losing some stud players like Nate Jetter, Jake Goldsworth, Sean Cervantes and Matthew Foley to graduation. But there are sophomore Anthony Harrington and junior Viliamu Baker-Kline coming back to team with the Tias in what will be a formidable offense. ■

Public Notices

510 CLEER
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 601866
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) 510 CLEER, located at 2109 LINCOLN AVE. APT. A ALAMEDA, CA 94501, Alameda County.
This business is conducted by: an Individual.
The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):
HERNAN DE LA CRUZ
2109 LINCOLN AVE. APT. A
ALAMEDA, CA 94501
Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 10/17/2023
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on November 03 2023.
(PLW Nov 17, 24, Dec 1 and 8, 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)

TRI VALLEY CONSTRUCTION
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 601923
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) Tri Valley Construction, located at 4207 Mirador Dr. Pleasanton, CA 94566, Alameda.
This business is conducted by: an Individual.
The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):
STEPHEN DICKINSON
4207 Mirador Dr.
Pleasanton, CA 94566
Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 10/18/2018
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on November 06 2023.
(PLW Nov 17, 24, Dec 1 and 8, 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)

STUDIO WHITESPACE
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 601755
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) Studio Whitespace, located at 2024 Olivia Court, Pleasanton, CA 94588, Alameda County.
This business is conducted by: an Individual.
The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):
AMY Y. CRANDALL
2024 Olivia Court
Pleasanton, CA 94588
Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 05/01/2003
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on October 31 2023.
(PLW Nov 17, 24, Dec 1 and 8, 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)

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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

Regional Justice Center
200 Lewis Avenue
Las Vegas, NV 89155

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

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

Place a legal notice at
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"Thanksgiving is a time to give, a time to love, and a time to reflect on the things that matter most in life."
Daniele Duckery



Thank you for all your support over the years!
Wishing you all a peaceful Happy Thanksgiving from my home to yours! ~Cindy Gee & Family

 
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The **CINDY GEE** Team
REALTOR/NOTARY




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Dre# 01307919

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Realtor/Notary, GRI,



Happy Thanksgiving from our family to yours

Here are some ideas to bring a warm and cozy feeling to your home this holiday season:

- Layer blankets and pillows
- Mix neutral colors with rich colors like burgundy, rust, plum and forest green
- Light some candles and a fire
- Create a foraged centerpiece and other decorations
- Fill a vase full of mums
- Hang a fall wreath

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Pleasanton Weekly

Happy THANKSGIVING from our family to yours!



Your **Ventana Hills Resident Realtor**



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The incredible unity and generosity we've witnessed within our community has truly warmed our hearts. We look forward to continuing this journey together in the years to come. **Visit us online to stay updated on ways to give back in our community!**



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