

Pleasanton Weekly

Life beyond
leukemia

Page 14

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Holiday Fund begins

*This year's campaign will support
10 nonprofits in Tri-Valley*

Page 12

5 | **NEWS** Sunol trustees served with recall intent notices

5 | **NEWS** Dublin, Livermore at odds over Crosby property

18 | **SPORTS** Scholarship remembers late PGSL leader



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WHAT A WEEK



By JEREMY WALSH

Checking on a cold case

It was nine years ago this Saturday that David Ruenzel, a popular journalism and literature teacher in the Tri-Valley, was gunned down in broad daylight on a public trail in the Oakland hills.

Ruenzel's murder remains unsolved, despite some potential leads that seemed promising at the time in the fall of 2014, and there haven't really been any major developments in the investigation since — or maybe, at least no new details that the East Bay Regional Park District Police Department is comfortable sharing publicly with the news media.

"Unfortunately there's not a lot of information I can give you," Lt. Joseph Scott told me in a phone interview last week. "It's definitely an important case to us, one we're still working on."

Scott said the key facts of the initial investigation are still true as when the department first reported about the deadly shooting, but the lieutenant declined to answer my specific questions trying to get at whether any revelations have occurred in the ensuing nine years — has a motive been confirmed, do police have suspects identified, what about the "persons of interest" from 2014, etc.

I get it when the police are tight-lipped with us. The integrity of the investigation has to be paramount for them, and they can't threaten to jeopardize a potential lead or arrest when talking to the press. My general hope, especially with cold cases, is that they work to keep the family as informed as possible.

Those are the people who matter most — Ruenzel's family and the many students and readers he impacted throughout his long career as an author and educator.

I was unable to connect with Ruenzel's loved ones in the run-up to this column. The "Remembering Dave Ruenzel" group on Facebook was filled with messages of support for the family and recollections about the beloved husband, father, grandfather, teacher and storyteller.

A story of remembrance from his son and a song written and performed by his daughter — each posted on the day after his birthday in 2021 — really stand out on the Facebook page, which remains active after all of these years.

His memory also lives on at The Athenian School, the private school at the foothills of Mount Diablo in Danville where he taught for nearly 10 years right up until his death. "The David Ruenzel Journalism Room" in

the school's library is dedicated in his honor.

"David is thought of often at this time of year by current and alumni community members," Eric Niles, head of school at Athenian, told me in a statement this month.

Musadiq Bidar, an Athenian alum, called Ruenzel "one of the best teachers and mentors that I could have asked for while attending Athenian. David taught me the value of journalism and helped me understand the fundamentals of reporting. He encouraged me to ask questions, be curious and tell stories that included everyone's voice."

That represents a good glimpse at the life taken so suddenly during Thanksgiving week nine years ago.

EBRPD police reported that Ruenzel, 60, was found mortally wounded at Huckleberry Botanic Regional Preserve on Skyline Boulevard in Oakland, one of his favorite and frequent hiking destinations, at 3:25 p.m. on Nov. 25, 2014.

Officers responding to reports of gunfire located Ruenzel lying down on a trail south of a staging area. Paramedics subsequently pronounced him dead at the scene.

Investigators determined he'd arrived at the park just moments before, at 3:12 p.m., and it was 12 minutes later when witnesses heard three gunshots.

Police at the time released sketches of two men seen in the area who were explicitly deemed "persons of interest", and not suspects, at the time. Scott said he could not confirm whether those men were ever identified or if they were still considered relevant to the case.

The lieutenant said no motive had been confirmed yet, but nothing obvious had been removed from the table either. In 2014, police said robbery was a possibility because Ruenzel's wallet was taken and his credit cards were used in Oakland after his death.

Though he did not want to comment on any specific hurdles with the Ruenzel investigation, Scott told me that cold cases present a range of difficulties in general.

"It's just the amount of time that has gone by. Witnesses don't remember as much, that kind of thing," he said, while reiterating Ruenzel's homicide is still one the department is working to solve.

Anyone with information about the case can call the East Bay Parks police tip line at 510-690-6521. ■

About the Cover

This week marks the start of the 2023-24 Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund. Learn more inside about our 10 nonprofit beneficiaries and how to donate, Pages 12-13. Cover design by Paul Llewellyn.

Vol. XXIV, Number 44



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If you were to move out of the Bay Area, where do you think you would go?



Benjamin Harrison
Heavy equipment dealer

Well that's a no-brainer. I'd move to Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. It is home for me, and also one of the most physically beautiful places on the planet.



Niall MacGearailt
Finance

I would go directly to Barcelona, Spain, for family reasons and because of its beautiful Mediterranean climate, which is similar to what we have here in the East Bay. Also, in Barcelona, there is a great love and appreciation for "the beautiful game".



Rachel Suizo
Payroll

I'd probably move toward the Sacramento area because I don't like living in the Bay Area. It's too congested, and there's too much traffic. I'd really like to be somewhere where there's a lot more open space.



Jas Singh
HR specialist

I'd move to Sacramento because housing is so much more affordable there. Also, I see many more job opportunities out that way.



Joseph Vindiola
Medical equipment sales

Hmmm, that's a great question. I think I'd probably head down toward San Diego. The weather there is almost always perfect and I have a lot of family there. And of course the beaches there are beautiful.

—Compiled by Nancy and Jeff Lewis

Have a Streetwise question? Email editor@PleasantonWeekly.com

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DIGEST

'Shop Small'

With Small Business Saturday arriving this weekend in the wake of the corporate commercial craze of Black Friday, the Pleasanton Downtown Association and city of Pleasanton have unveiled their new campaign to encourage people to shop, dine and explore local this holiday season.

"Think Big & Shop Small is a celebration of downtown Pleasanton's small businesses, ranging from retail stores and restaurants to fitness studios, salons, and everything in between," PDA officials said.

"We are asking our community to make the pledge to Shop Small and Support Local," they added. "When you Shop Small you do something Big! For every \$1 spent at a small business, \$0.67 stays in the community."

Participating downtown merchants will have special offers, deals and a commemorative custom Pleasanton tote (limited supply) in coordination with the campaign.

Threat not credible

Last Friday morning, a mass phishing email was sent regarding a bomb threat targeting two Livermore private schools. As a precaution, the schools took action and the police department assisted, Livermore police said. The threat was ultimately deemed non-credible.

The police department confirmed that Valley Montessori School was one of the campuses involved as police were spotted on the scene Friday. Parents on social media named Our Savior Lutheran School as the other campus to receive the email threat but LPD officials declined to confirm.

Some parents also believed St. Michael School was involved, however, LPD clarified that the school did not receive the email but the principal notified parents that it had been sent to other campuses.

Tesla Park input

California State Parks officials are in the middle of collecting public feedback about the future of the Alameda-Tesla property outside Livermore, following the deal two years ago to preserve the swath of land from becoming an expansion of the adjacent Carnegie State Vehicular Recreation Area.

An online survey is now open to help state officials and the project team better understand what the public's vision is for the property.

There will also be a virtual workshop next Tuesday (Nov. 28) from 6-7:30 p.m. for residents to learn more about the project and share their ideas. For more information, visit alamedateslaplan.com. ■

Sunol school board majority served with official recall notices

First step before proponents can gather signatures; Jergensen, Hurley vow to fight removal effort

By CHRISTIAN TRUJANO

Sunol Glen School Board President Ryan Jergensen and Trustee Linda Hurley received official recall intent notices last week, marking the first step in the process aimed at ousting the board majority in the weeks after the small-town school district was thrust into the headlines for its new flag policy.

Saying the move was cumulative and long overdue, Matthew Sylvester — one of the parents involved with recall advocate group United for Sunol Glen — told the Weekly that the proponents filed their petition effort with the Alameda County Registrar of Voters' Office, and once they hear back from the election officials, they will begin gathering

signatures to qualify the recall for the ballot.

"It frankly sucks that we're in this position. We would all love to go back to just normal adult parenting, living our lives type of things. Unfortunately, we're in this situation now where we feel like we have to recall," Sylvester said. "This is about ... bad governance, so we need to focus on that and send a message that that won't be tolerated."

Both Jergensen and Hurley, who earned their current seats in the November 2022 election, told the Weekly they'll stand up to the recall proponents and have every intention of continuing to serve.

"I will not let the bullies win, and I intend to fight their recall effort vigorously," Jergensen said in a statement.

"I was elected to serve this community and protect this school and I will continue to do so," Hurley told the Weekly.

If the recall effort were successful, it could lead to sea change for the Sunol Glen Unified School District — two trustees being removed from office on a three-member board that oversees the small district with a lone school serving students in kindergarten through eighth grade.

Jergensen is serving a full four-year term he won in the November 2022 election after sitting nearly a year on the board in a temporary appointed capacity. Hurley claimed a two-year seat on the board, through the 2024 election, by winning a tight race for the short-term position in November 2022.

Sylvester, a 10-year resident of Sunol who has a kindergartener, said the thought of recalling both board members has been circulating in the community for a while after Hurley had introduced an item on the May 9 agenda to discuss two controversial State Assembly bills; one to out transgender students to their parents and one based in censoring books about gender and sexuality that some might consider controversial.

Sylvester said he and other parents thought those anti-LGBTQ items and discussions had no place in their small community but nothing really came out after that because both of those items were removed from the agenda during that May meeting.

See **SUNOL** on Page 11

Dublin community rallies for teachers

Union, district prepare for negotiation session next week

By NICOLE GONZALES

Dozens of parents, students and community members stood side-by-side with teachers last week in an attempt to urge Dublin Unified School District leaders to hear their demands ahead of upcoming negotiations.

The Dublin Teachers Association hosted the rally on Nov. 14, several hours before the regular school board meeting was set to take place. Community members continued chanting outside of the boardroom with members inside during a closed session.

"I'm out here to support because I care about the kids. They deserve the best educators that we can give them," said Danelle Meyn, a third grade teacher at Frederiksen Elementary School. "When tortillas are costing \$7, we need to match that rate set by the state. It's non-negotiable."

Meyn told the Weekly she has been working within DUSD for the past 23 years but cost of living increases and stagnant salaries have made it difficult for educators to maintain their own livelihood.

For the 2023-24 school year, the district received an 8.22% increase in state funding, a statutory cost-of-living adjustment, yet only offered a 2% increase in the DTA salary schedule, according to the union.

Educators say the 2% increase



NICOLE GONZALES

SRVEA vice president Melinda Daily speaks to a crowd of Dublin Teachers Association members and supporters on Nov. 14.

does not reflect the reality of the cost of living, and many of them work in a city they cannot afford to live in.

"We know that on paper it looks like we make a lot of money, but here in the Bay Area it's hard to make it here on a teacher's salary," Meyn said. "I love teaching these kids. I love seeing the differences that we make everyday and I don't want to stop doing that but there is a point where I have to provide for my children and myself and I can't do this if the district can't keep up with our basic needs."

DUSD administration, who said they were unable to respond to questions this week due to the Thanksgiving break, did confirm that their bargaining team's next

negotiation session with DTA representatives is set for next Tuesday (Nov. 28).

At the rally last week, chants could be heard from a crowd of around 100 community members calling for respect, adequate pay and better benefits for teachers right outside of the district boardroom.

"We give everything we have for (the students)," Meyn continued. "I hope that our superintendent can hear our call; we're just asking for them to listen to us and give us what we deserve. That's all we're saying."

Members of the East Bay Coalition for Student Success and

See **TEACHERS** on Page 6

Cities at odds over Crosby property

Dublin, Livermore to negotiate about whether to develop land

By NICOLE GONZALES

Following months of discussion between the two Tri-Valley communities, Livermore and Dublin hope to collaborate over a contentious land-use issue that would impact both cities.

Representatives from the two cities have expressed interest in working together to find an agreeable solution on how to move forward with a 180-acre parcel of unincorporated, privately owned land known as the Crosby property. While Dublin is looking for a portion of the land to be developed, Livermore is pushing to keep it entirely open space.

"The property is located in Alameda County and currently protected by Measure D, which has a goal of preserving agricultural lands and protecting open space, watersheds, and wildlife habitat," Livermore officials told the Weekly. "In addition, the City of Livermore's 2003 General Plan includes policies for establishing a greenbelt buffer in Doolan Canyon, preserving scenic viewsheds, and protecting open space."

See **CROSBY LAND** on Page 8

Feds, state sue to block John Muir Health's acquisition of SRRMC

Regulators argue \$142.5M deal would reduce competition, increase patient costs

By JEANITA LYMAN

Government regulators are seeking to block John Muir Health's acquisition of San Ramon Regional Medical Center from Tenet Healthcare, citing concerns about the planned deal's potential to reduce competition for health care in the valley and thereby threatening quality and costs to patients.

The Federal Trade Commission and California Attorney General Rob Bonta's office announced Friday that they had filed a joint antitrust lawsuit regarding the proposed agreement following a months-long review in which they said they had reason to believe the deal would eradicate competition between hospitals along the I-680 corridor.

"San Ramon Regional Medical Center has played an important role in ensuring Californians in the I-680 corridor have access to quality, affordable care for critical health care services, such as cardiac surgery and childbirth," Henry Liu, director of the FTC's Bureau of Competition, said in Friday's announcement. "John Muir's acquisition of San Ramon Medical would increase already high health care costs in the area and threaten to stall quality improvements that help advance care for all patients."

Under the proposed deal, John Muir Health — which has had a 49% non-operating interest in the hospital since 2013 — was set to be sole proprietor and owner of the facility, acquiring Tenet Healthcare

Corporation's current 51% interest and additional assets including operating rights at Pleasanton Diagnostic Imagery for \$142.5 million.

The deal was announced early this year, with officials at both companies expecting it to be finalized by the end of the year pending approval from federal regulators.

Pleasanton Diagnostic Services had also been poised for acquisition by John Muir Health, with Friday's court filings putting a halt to that.

John Muir Health officials said they were in the process of exploring next steps as of Friday.

"We are disappointed by the FTC's decision, and are discussing our options and next steps, including challenging the decision in court," said Mike Thomas, president and CEO of John Muir Health. "We believe the proposed acquisition would benefit our community, caregivers and patients, as well as John Muir Health, San Ramon Regional Medical Center, and Pleasanton Diagnostic Imaging."

However, John Muir and Tenet were already aware in March that federal regulators would be conducting an in-depth review of the deal, with both companies having submitted large amounts of documentation and data as well as letters of support from local experts, according to an announcement from John Muir Health late Friday morning.

Contrary to FTC allegations, John Muir officials said that the acquisition had been poised to improve services and patient outcomes by extending

existing programs and practices at John Muir to the San Ramon hospital and investing in it with the goal of reducing the likelihood that patients would need to leave the area for care.

"We appreciate the patience of John Muir Health, San Ramon Regional Medical Center and Pleasanton Diagnostic Imaging-affiliated employees and physicians throughout this process," Thomas said. "Once we determine our course of action, we will communicate with all impacted audiences."

The federal antitrust suit submitted to California Northern District Court on Friday is in addition to an administrative complaint filed with the FTC, with officials noting that administrative complaints are issued when the commission has grounds to believe that a deal would violate the law and that the decision to halt a deal is in the public interest.

The FTC voted 3-0 to approve the administrative complaint as well as seek a temporary injunction and restraining order to prevent the acquisition.

Without intervention from the FTC, John Muir Health and Tenet were set to have the greenlight to commence with the deal as of Nov. 22. Friday's filings by state and federal regulators put a stop to that.

Bonta and the FTC allege that if the deal were to go through, John Muir Health would have the power to control more than half of the market along the I-680 corridor for acute patient care and drive up prices, with

SRRMC currently offering lower prices and serving as a competitor to John Muir Health.

"We're in court today challenging John Muir Health's anticompetitive acquisition of San Ramon Regional Medical Center, because when healthcare markets illegally consolidate, patients pay the price," Bonta said in Friday's announcement.

"At the California Department of Justice, ensuring that every Californian can access quality, affordable care is a top priority. Competitive markets help keep prices lower," Bonta added. "We will continue to fight to ensure that Bay Area residents — and all Californians — can access the affordable healthcare they need to live healthy and happy lives."

Prosecutors in the federal lawsuit point to evidence of John Muir Health's high costs for insurance companies, and argue that SRRMC — one of the few other non-Kaiser affiliated inpatient hospital along the I-680 corridor — has historically been pressured to improve their services while keeping costs lower than those at John Muir facilities in order to compete in the region.

"Multiple insurers who offer health plans to individuals along the I-680 corridor confirm that John Muir's hospitals are more expensive than other facilities in the area," prosecutors wrote in the federal complaint.

They allege that officials at John Muir Health and Tenet were both

aware of this dynamic when they entered the deal, and that they knew the deal would have the potential to reduce competition in violation of federal antitrust laws.

"The Proposed Acquisition is presumptively illegal because it will significantly increase concentration in the already highly concentrated I-680 corridor market for inpatient GAC services sold to commercial insurers and their enrollees," prosecutors wrote.

"Post-acquisition, John Muir will control more than 50% of inpatient GAC (general acute care) services offered in the I-680 corridor as measured by hospital discharge data," they continued. "These high market shares and concentration levels underscore the competition the Proposed Acquisition will eliminate and render the Proposed Acquisition presumptively unlawful under the relevant case law. An array of qualitative and quantitative evidence confirms this strong presumption of illegality."

Tenet and John Muir Health have until Dec. 1 to respond to the allegations in Friday's filings should they choose to do so.

An evidentiary hearing in the case is scheduled for April 17 at 10 a.m. at the FTC offices in Washington, D.C. The federal complaint is currently in the process of being assigned to a judge in the California Northern District Court. ■

TEACHERS

Continued from Page 5

San Ramon Valley were also present. Melinda Daily, vice president of the SRVEA, attended the rally to show solidarity and support for her fellow educators.

"I wanted to be here because students matter, the education of all students matters," Daily said. "It doesn't matter if you're in San Ramon, Dublin, Pleasanton or wherever — we're talking about the education of kids. We want to stand in solidarity with our neighbors and really make sure everybody is doing what's best for kids. We need to be taking care of each other."

Daily emphasized the importance of collaborating regionally with other educators groups.

"We have our East Bay Coalition so we are partnering with education associations all across the east bay, all the way from Antioch to San Leandro. Working together has been transformative. It's so great to see what we can do when we partner," she added.

Dozens of local educators cited a failure in adequate compensation and a lack of respect from district management making it difficult to retain and fairly pay teachers.

"Teachers can't live in the area where they work and that is a concern," said Christine Davi, a second grade Frederiksen Elementary teacher. "The cost of living is up 8.2%; why is our salary not up 8.2%? Who

would be teaching these students if we don't live here?"

In addition to struggling for financial security, many teachers end up paying for supplies or tools out of their own pockets, according to Davi.

"If it wasn't for my husband, I wouldn't be able to live in this area at all on a teacher's salary. This is California and one of the most expensive areas to live in," Davi said.

"We as teachers can't afford to live and work in this area despite having to engage with the community and families in this area day in and day out," she added. "Students need us, and if we are not there for them, who will be there for them? Parents don't always have the capability to do so, and we don't have the capability to do so, so who is there for them?"

Frederiksen third grade teacher Brad Dobrzanski said it can be taxing to witness your colleagues go through financial hardships.

"My mentor passed away from cancer. She was a teacher in our district, and they did not give her health care so she was struggling with that during her time here. I want to make sure that no one else has to go through that," he said.

"We need to make sure that teachers are able to give the best to their students because they are our future," Dobrzanski added. "We need to support livable salaries and health care for teachers because we are raising the next generation and we need to be able to be there for them." ■



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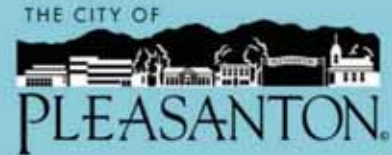
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Divided Dublin council advances term limit expansion measure

Voters to decide increasing max tenure to 12 years on November 2024 ballot

By NICOLE GONZALES

After months of debate, a divided Dublin City Council this month decided to send a measure to expand municipal term limits to city voters on next year's general election ballot.

The city leaders in a 3-2 vote approved adding a measure to the Nov. 5, 2024 ballot to propose a new limit of 12 years combined for mayor and council service, up from the current maximum of eight consecutive years. The expanded term limits would not be retained by the current mayor or council members.

"It is something that needs to be done, in my opinion. Because you do have people who take at least a couple years to get started in their seat, and to bring that institutional knowledge to our city of Dublin," Mayor Melissa Hernandez said at the Nov. 7 meeting in support of increasing the current limits. "I do feel that we should go forward with extending our term limits."

Hernandez, who based on existing city law is due to term out at the end of next year, said that she would support the measure if the term expansions were applicable to current council members or not.

"What we are trying to do here is bring our term limits up to the norm of Alameda County and our nearby cities," she added.

The current Dublin policy, approved by voters in 1996, limits individuals to serving a total of eight years in any combination of City Council positions.

With many city leaders now viewing that limit as too restrictive and multiple council debates on the issue this year, the dais was presented with six options, as well as additional research and verbiage choices, from city staff for an expanded policy to propose to voters next year.

City staff has made it clear that adding any measures to the primary election in March would bring on additional expenses to taxpayers, as it's not a regular municipal election date for the city of Dublin. Such a special ballot has been estimated to cost between \$244,328 and over \$300,000. There would be an additional \$5,000 cost in related printing materials, based on data from Alameda County election officials.

However, because the city is already participating in the November 2024 general election, the cost incurred by adding a ballot measure

alongside the normal mayoral and council elections would be much less.

Councilmember Sherry Hu drew attention to the additional cost. "If we put a measure in the March election, the cost is about \$250,000," she said. "But, if we put it in November we will already have a ballot so the incremental cost will only be around \$5,000."

City staff also shared rough estimates of voter turnout based on numbers provided by the county for the November 2022 election. They found that a March special election would bring around 30% of voter turnout, while a November general election would yield 50%.

Councilmember Kashef Qaadri emphasized the data, saying that while he strongly supports expanding term limits he did not agree with placing the measure on

a spring ballot.

"Based on these numbers that we're hearing, we would increase the engagement of the community (if placed on a November ballot). For that reason I'm opposed to a March ballot," Qaadri said.

Following the initial presentation, members of the community were given the chance to express their thoughts during the public comment portion.

"According to the agenda packet, the cost to expand term limits in the March election is estimated to potentially exceed \$300,000. That's a lot of taxpayer money to spend on something that will only serve five elected officials," Dublin resident Shirley Lewandowski said, alluding to the fact a March election could allow a new term limit to take effect for November 2024. "This amount of money is better spent on the needs of Dublin residents, for example, there are traffic signals needed at many busy intersections near schools."

"There are hundreds of other city needs and projects that are much more important than extending term

limits," added Lewandowski. "Eight years is more than enough to provide public service."

"As a resident of the city of Dublin, I don't agree on spending \$300,000 for a ballot measure in the March 2024 election," said Suzan Chan. "The city can still do it in November 2024 for a lesser cost and have more time to prepare. We can use this money to better serve our community."

Vice Mayor Michael McCorriston made a motion to adopt Option 3B to "impose a combined term limit of 12 years for the mayor and/or city councilmembers, while not retaining existing term limits for the current mayor and city councilmembers."

The motion passed 3-2, with Hu and Councilmember Jean Josey in dissent and instead expressing their support for other options given to the council.

"I would like to say I prefer option 2B," Hu said. Josey did not comment after the motion was approved.

The city of Dublin staff is expected to release more information and wording on the approved option in the coming months. ■

CROSBY LAND

Continued from Page 5

"Consistent with these policies, Livermore would support maintaining an agricultural or open space designation on the property with a staging area and trail access into Doolan Canyon," they added.

Last month, Dublin City Manager Linda Smith outlined Dublin's major goals for the land in an open letter to the city of Livermore.

"The City of Dublin, like the City of Livermore, has great interest in seeing Dublin Boulevard extended to North Canyons Parkway," Smith wrote. "This is an expensive and needed improvement for the cities, and it will also serve the region by relieving I-580."

Dublin has said that developing the area surrounding the planned Dublin Boulevard extension into an industrial and business region would help to offset the costs of the approximately \$166 million project.

"The Crosby property from east to west is nearly 3,000 feet. Dublin is certain that implementing a 200-foot-wide view corridor can easily be addressed through continued discussions between Dublin and Livermore," Smith added. "Dublin's objective in considering non-residential, business park development of the Crosby property relates to reducing the cost of the extension."

Dublin city staff also stressed the value to the entire Tri-Valley of the Dublin Boulevard extension — which both cities are on board with.

"We should not downplay the economic importance of the extension to the entire Tri-Valley region, as it will open approximately 5.3 million square feet of new development, add close to 14,000 permanent new jobs, bring more industries, and address

the lack of a continuous I-580 reliever route from Dublin to Livermore along the north side of I-580," Smith continued in the letter.

The Alameda Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) — the state-mandated local agency that oversees boundary changes of cities or special districts — is the entity that will ultimately decide how to move forward with the Crosby property.

LAFCO requires cities to obtain approval before entering contracts or development plans with private individuals or owners, such as the Crosby property owners.

Livermore and Dublin have the ability to present a proposal to LAFCO individually or together, yet the goal is to present a joint solution to the agency, Livermore city staff said.

The item was further discussed at the Nov. 13 Livermore City Council meeting.

Livermore senior planner Ashley Vera explained that in October, LAFCO sent out a municipal service review to both cities.

"As part of that survey, staff requested a sphere of influence (SOI) amendment to preserve the existing open space," Vera explained. "This was after learning that the city of Dublin made a similar request with the intent to permit development within this area."

Recently, the Dublin City Council had asked city staff to draft language for a ballot measure that would address developing the area. However, staff did not move forward with the task after the property owner requested additional time for outreach and planning.

Around the same time, Livermore opted to conduct a citywide poll to gauge residents' thoughts about what to do with the land.

Held from Oct. 30 through early

November, the survey found that Livermore residents are strongly opposed to developing the open area but do support the Dublin Boulevard extension project.

"The poll results showed a high level of support for maintaining open space between the two cities," Vera said. "In addition, the majority of residents strongly supported the Dublin Boulevard extension project, (but) respondents were more likely to support the roadway connection if the surrounding land remained as open space."

The city of Dublin conducted its own resident survey in which the results differed from Livermore's — 71% of Dublin residents polled showed support for the roadway project alone and 59% of residents support the development plan along with the project.

During last week's Livermore council meeting, Mayor John Marchand expressed his desire to keep the area open.

"It is critically important to have that open space between the cities. We have this urban growth boundary — that helps define Livermore," Marchand said.

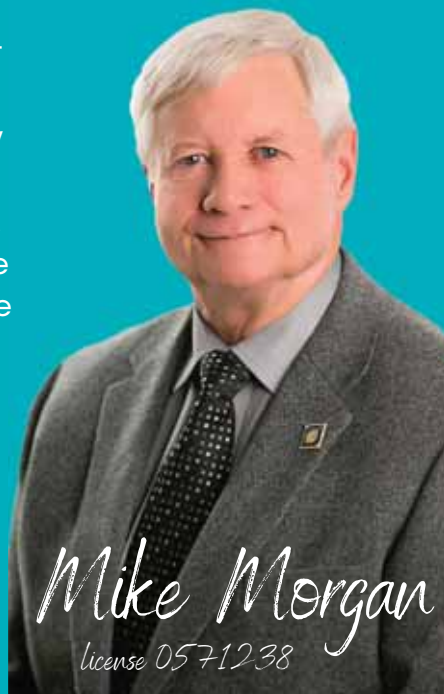
"I absolutely support the continuing negotiations. We need to come together with a plan and take that to LAFCO as something that we've both agreed to. I look forward to finding a workable solution that works for everybody," Marchand added.

Once a proposal is submitted, LAFCO should take three to four months to process the materials and come to a decision, according to city officials.

Livermore staff said that at this time, they are coordinating a meeting with the city of Dublin to further discuss the Crosby property. No other immediate action is planned from either city. ■

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Pleasanton launches new city website

Redesign includes streamlined features to keep residents, visitors informed

BY CHRISTIAN TRUJANO

The city of Pleasanton has unveiled its new website, which officials said was designed as an improved, user-friendly way to inform residents and visitors about everything going on in the city.

The update to the website at www.cityofpleasantonca.gov was an effort aligned with the ONE Pleasanton, five-year strategic plan goal of optimizing the city by “leveraging technology for efficient and effective use by city staff and the public,” according to a city press release days before the launch on Nov. 16.

“We are excited to present our new website to the community,” City Manager Gerry Beaudin said in the press release. “This digital upgrade aligns with our commitment to transparency, accessibility,

and the convenience of our residents and business owners. It will be a valuable resource for anyone engaging with the city.”

Heather Tiernan, communications manager, told the Weekly that the city had engaged with Ogden Costa Creative Group, a Pleasanton-based design company, for consulting services from April through November for website development.

Tiernan said that the total design and implementation cost to create the new website was \$134,000 and that the project was identified as a priority item in the City Council’s previous work plan and that it was budgeted for in the city’s general fund budget.

The new website aims to provide easy access to information, services and resources that residents can easily navigate through in a

“visually appealing design and a responsive layout that adapts seamlessly to various devices, ensuring accessibility on desktops, tablets and smartphones,” according to the press release.

Some of the key features of the website include streamlined access to city services and departments, up-to-date news and announcements, interactive maps, a citizen feedback portal, and a user-friendly search function that Tiernan said is designed to be “intuitive, easily providing accurate and comprehensive results.”

Another feature of the new website is accessibility improvements

like a translation button that has a dozen languages, screen-reader and keyboard navigation functionality and other readability features.

Tiernan said that the accessibility features will ensure city services are “accessible to all residents, including those with disabilities. The website standards ensure a barrier-free experience for users with diverse needs.”

One of the main changes that many residents might notice off the bat is the way governance meetings, agendas and documents can be accessed. To view old, archived reports and notes from City Council and other committees or

commissions meetings, residents will have to continue using the old “City of Pleasanton Records Center” website that many have been using already.

But now, any meeting packets and reports after Nov. 7 can be accessed through the new portal located on the new website.

“In conjunction with the city’s website redesign, an integrated agenda management system allows for upcoming City Council, commission, and committee meeting agendas and agenda packets to be viewed in one convenient location from the website homepage,” according to the press release. ■

Livermore, Granada high schools shifting to semester system

Change set to take effect next academic year

BY CIERRA BAILEY

Students attending either of the two comprehensive high schools in Livermore will face a transition from the current trimester schedule to a more traditional semester system in the 2024-25 school year.

Earlier this month, eighth through 11th grade families of Livermore and Granada high schools received emails from the Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District detailing the new class schedule and its benefits.

The district said in its email that strong and supportive teacher-student relationships were identified as a key component to students’ academic success and well-being through various forms of outreach to teachers, counselors and administrators and meetings with high school student advisory groups as well as feedback from the district’s Local Control and Accountability Plan and English Learner Advisory Committee meetings and surveys.

“At the high school level, the trimester system has been identified as a barrier to relationship-building as teacher-student assignments have the potential for change each trimester, roughly every 60 days,” LVJUSD officials said.

This revelation is what prompted the decision to move to a semester schedule, which is not completely new to the district as the high schools previously operated on semesters prior to switching to trimesters in 2008.

“Semester systems are commonly used by surrounding districts and throughout the state, and we are confident that this structure will better meet the social-emotional and educational needs of our high school students without impacting current and future 4-year plans and robust elective

opportunities,” the district said.

Although the 2024-25 calendar is still in the finalization stage and has not been approved by the Board of Education yet, next school year is tentatively planned to begin approximately one week earlier in August than this year.

The proposed first day of school will be no earlier than Monday, Aug. 12, 2024, with an anticipated last day of school on Friday, May 30, 2025.

“This shift will allow for both high school semesters to include a like number of instructional days, and for the first semester to conclude prior to winter break,” district officials said.

While acknowledging that the first year of any transition can be difficult, district officials stressed that the schedule change will not impact any high school student’s ability to fulfill their existing four-year course plan or to access courses needed to meet college application requirements.

The benefits of the semester schedule highlighted by the district include eliminating gaps in learning with year-long courses, increasing the likelihood of students remaining with the same teacher for both semesters, providing more time to complete assignments and demonstrate learning during the instructional period, and providing additional support and enrichment time for students with disabilities, among other potential advantages.

Under the new semester system, LVJUSD will be implementing an A/B block schedule model which provides four, 90-minute instructional blocks each day, along with 10-minute passing periods and a 30-minute lunch. Five additional minutes will be added to class three and four to account for

morning announcements.

The majority of students will complete a full schedule (60 units) by taking six classes in total each year; attending three, 90-minute instructional blocks each day. For students taking classes one through six, each school day would begin at 8:40 a.m. and conclude at 2 p.m.

“For athletes, this schedule can be advantageous as it should avoid students missing class time in order to participate in competition,” the district noted in its correspondence to families.

For students who desire to take more than six classes, this schedule allows for addition of a seventh or eighth class to be added into an open spot on either an A or B day. For these students, the school day would begin at 8:40 a.m. and conclude at 3:40 p.m. on the days their additional classes meet.

While the high schools will have to adapt to this forthcoming change, the district said that elementary and middle schools will remain on the trimester system at this time.

“Elementary and middle school students largely remain with constant teacher assignments for an entire school year, and therefore do not experience the same trimester challenges to relationship-building that high school students do,” district officials said. “Continuing the trimester structure for elementary and middle school will allow teachers to preserve three assessment / grading periods throughout the school year as they monitor student progress and needed supports.”

The district encouraged families to reach out to their respective administrators with questions or concerns, saying, “We will work with families to overcome any challenges and ensure that the 2024-25 school year gets off to a great start.” ■



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Pleasanton Red Cross workers vote to unionize

Local employees now under Teamsters' national contract

By JEANITA LYMAN

Pleasanton's Red Cross collections workers joined a number of their colleagues across the nation in unionizing, with a national contract between the Teamsters Union and Red Cross already in effect and bargaining for a supplemental agreement for the local facility on the horizon.

The move came on the heels of the same decision by neighboring collections workers in Newark, with both groups now represented by the Teamsters Local 856 as of Oct. 23, bringing the number of unionized American

Red Cross collections workers up to nearly 2,000 employees.

"We are thrilled to welcome another group of American Red Cross workers to the Teamsters," said Peter Finn, Teamsters Western Region international vice president and secretary-treasurer of Local 856. "These workers play a pivotal role in the blood supply chain and are deserving of the protections of a strong union contract. We're looking forward to getting to work on securing this group a superior supplement."

The national contract between the Teamsters and the Red Cross was ratified last

year, with hundreds of workers throughout the country voting to join their local unions since then, including those in Oakland as of Nov. 6.

"Thanks to our national agreement, which the staff is immediately covered under, Red Cross workers who join the Teamsters have access to the same high-quality care that they provide — at a fraction of the cost compared to their non-union counterparts," Teamsters spokesperson Matthew McQuaid told the Weekly. "It also includes annual wage increases, health care at a fraction of the cost of what non-union workers pay, paid sick

leave, seniority, protections against unjust discipline and termination."

While the national contract is already in place, McQuaid said that bargaining for a supplemental agreement specific to the Pleasanton facility would kick off at a later date.

"I supported forming a union with the Teamsters because I want to see change in the workplace and I want our voices to be heard," said Faith Rimando, a collections phlebotomist at American Red Cross in Pleasanton.

Local and national American Red Cross spokespeople did not respond to requests for comment. ■

SUNOL

Continued from Page 5

But then on Sept. 12, both Hurley and Jergensen voted to pass a resolution that limits the district and its Sunol Glen School to only fly the U.S. and California state flags.

The decision, which they doubled down on in October, followed a public debate that centered largely on acceptance of the LGBTQ+ Pride flag, which had been raised on the school flagpole in June — although the resolution does not list the LGBTQ+ flag by name and the board majority denied they were targeting that or any other group.

While Jergensen and Hurley have remained steadfast in their views that the U.S. and state flags are all-inclusive and that the resolution wasn't aimed directly at banning the Pride flag, many residents like Sylvester have continued to say that the new flag policy has brought a divisiveness that has no place in Sunol.

The community found itself featured in a range of regional, statewide and even national news stories after the resolution passed 2-1 with Trustee Peter "Ted" Romo in dissent.

"There were no major issues (at the school)," Sylvester said. "It is a very well-respected school, parents bring their kids here from all over to attend ... There were no major problems whatsoever."

"Suddenly, with the actions of two of these school board members, we're seeing culture wars come to our school," he added. "We're seeing our school board meetings go from six to 10 attendees to 150 people from all over the place with no kids at the school. So from my perspective, I've been seeing Ryan and Linda not listening to their constituents, to their staff, to the superintendent."

After receiving the recall notice, Jergensen said in a statement to the Weekly — sent via the communications firm CM Public Affairs — that he also sees a political divide in the community but is instead blaming those behind the recall effort, a majority of whom he believes aren't even from Sunol.

"Our small town has been through a lot over its 152-year history, but we have always persevered because we have always been united as Sunolians," Jergensen said, adding that he and his family have been threatened and harassed



Linda Hurley



Ryan Jergensen

over the last several months but that the bullying and intimidation will not get to him.

"Therefore, it is disappointing to see a very small number of activists — many from outside our community — continue to try to divide us in order to politicize our small school. Our students and staff deserve better than this," Jergensen said.

But Guin Van Dyke, a former Sunol school board trustee and 28-year resident, said that the recall effort isn't just about flag resolution or any other personal policies of Hurley and Jergensen. She said both members have "lost their way to ethically and responsibly govern on behalf of Sunol Glen and that this has become their pathway for pushing personal agendas."

"The continuing suppression of opinions from the community, Sunol Glen School parents, and Sunol Glen School teachers and staff is appalling," she said in a letter to the Inform Sunol newsletter on Nov. 16.

One example that Van Dyke pointed to was one that Sylvester had mentioned as well — Jergensen not allowing public comment sessions to go past the 20 minutes that is typically allotted for comments.

"School board members used to allow all who submitted comment cards to speak," Van Dyke said. "Even once a 20-minute per topic limitation was instituted, the 20 minutes consisted of actual comments from the public. Today, the board president keeps the 20-minute timer running in-between speakers in an effort to run down the clock and limit the comment time."

Another point recall supporters made was the order in which Jergensen has called public speakers. Sylvester said that during the Sept. 12 meeting, he got there early and was supposed to be the second speaker based on the fact that his speaker card had the number two and that he was the second to submit the speaker card.

Instead, he never got the chance to speak. He also saw during that meeting how Jergensen disregarded Romo's and Superintendent Molleen Barnes' comments about stopping the clock in between speakers so that the time would run down quicker.

"I've talked to a lot of former school board members and teachers who say, when something controversial comes up, it's totally allowed to add another 20 minutes of comment time, or to take comments from the audience if you didn't get to speak, so that everyone could speak. Especially in a small town like Sunol," Sylvester said.

According to the United for Sunol Glen website, which describes itself as "a dedicated group of parents and community members

who have launched a grassroots effort to repair, protect and heal our school district," there are plenty of other reasons why they are launching the recall.

The reasons range from disrespecting school staff and the community, to "opposing the stated values and vision of the district by enacting policy with callous indifference to the impact it has on the mental health and wellbeing of vulnerable students."

But there is still a long way to go.

According to the 2023 procedures for recalling state and local officials guide that was prepared by the California Secretary of State's Office, United for Sunol Glen must get signatures from 30% of those who are registered to vote in Sunol. After that, the proponents could then submit those signatures so that an official ballot can be developed and sent to Sunolians

to vote either yes or no to the recall.

And while there are several challenges to that, such as the fact that Sunol Glen is a commuter school and many of the parents who might agree to the recall effort might not get a say in the vote, Sylvester has high hopes.

He contended that contrary to what Jergensen says, there are plenty of people in Sunol who don't agree with him and that he wouldn't know that because he is so focused on his own agenda.

"The large majority of people working on the recall are Sunolians who have joined with some commuter families that are working on this as well," Sylvester said. "The majority of Sunol, the majority of the school staff, the superintendent all disagree with his policies, I believe that he's trying to gaslight us and I believe that he brought in the divisiveness." ■

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Holiday Fund begins

*This year's campaign
will support 10
nonprofits in Tri-Valley*

By JEREMY WALSH



CHUCK DECKERT

Nearly 3,000 attendees joined PPIE for its Pleasanton Run for Education raising \$115,000 for PUSD students.

A tradition close to our hearts, the 22nd annual Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund is now underway as our news organization turns its attention toward generating financial support and community awareness for 10 nonprofit beneficiaries in the Tri-Valley this holiday season.

Looking to build upon the momentum of last year's campaign, which received more than 250 donations and raised over \$83,000 in total, the 2023-24 Holiday Fund will continue through mid-January and benefit Axis Community Health, CityServe of the Tri-Valley, Culinary Angels, Goodness Village, Hope Hospice, Open Heart Kitchen, Pleasanton Partnerships in Education (PPIE), Sunflower Hill, Tri-Valley REACH and Valley Humane Society.

"As we embark on our new future as a journalism nonprofit in 2024, we are proud to again support organizations who provide vital safety-net services in the Tri-Valley through our annual Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund — and we are excited to bring Culinary Angels and Goodness Village into the fold as beneficiaries this year," said Gina Channell Wilcox, president and publisher of Embarcadero Media's East Bay Division.

"So we ask our readers, local

businesses and community partners to consider our Holiday Fund as you look to donate to important causes on Giving Tuesday next week or throughout the winter holiday season. Your contributions are so humbling and so inspiring," Wilcox added.

Every dollar raised will be given away in grants to these 10 organizations, who will evenly split the campaign's closing total, as the Weekly covers all administrative expenses and donates all of the advertising related to the Holiday Fund.

The program is being managed this year by our Embarcadero Media Foundation, which means that 100% of the money raised will go directly to the designated beneficiaries with all donations fully tax deductible as well as eligible for corporate matching where applicable thanks to our foundation's own nonprofit status.

Please consider donating to our giving campaign this holiday season, via PleasantonWeekly.com/holiday_fund. Get to know more about our 10 beneficiaries here:

Axis Community Health

Committed to providing "accessible and high-quality health care for all individuals, irrespective of their socio-economic

status or background," Axis Community Health serves more than 14,000 residents at five facilities across the Tri-Valley.

CEO Liz Perez-Howe said money raised during the Holiday Fund will be crucial toward advancing that mission, including a particular focus on "bridging the gap" in the growing demand for behavioral health services locally.

"At Axis, we are committed to breaking barriers and promoting health equity, and this contribution will enable us to expand our capacity to meet the growing needs of individuals who lack insurance or are underinsured. The focus on behavioral health counseling aligns seamlessly with our dedication to creating a healthier, more resilient community for all," Perez-Howe said.

CityServe of the Tri-Valley

Motivated by a vision "to mobilize mercy and practical compassion," CityServe of the Tri-Valley is a growing nonprofit that supports people in the region "through care coordination, outreach efforts to underserved communities, and to inspire community engagement — this mobilization is designed to humanize the human services."

CEO Christine Beitsch-Bahmani told the Weekly, "CityServe is humbled and honored to be selected as a recipient

of the Holiday Fund. This acknowledgment underscores the importance of our mission and the impact we aspire to make. We extend our deepest thanks for this recognition, which empowers us to continue serving our community with renewed dedication and purpose."

Culinary Angels

A Holiday Fund beneficiary for the first time, Culinary Angels is a volunteer-driven organization that focuses on providing organic, nutrient-rich meals and nutrition education to patients in the Tri-Valley experiencing cancer. Uniquely, the nonprofit also offers nutritious meals to the patients' caregivers, in recognition of their vital role in their loved one's healing journey.

"We are incredibly excited and honored to have been chosen for this timely gift opportunity," said Executive Director Lisa McNaney, who founded the nonprofit in 2016.

"The need to provide nutritious meals to people going through cancer only increases year after year and we depend on community support as one of our main sources of funding. It has been an unusually difficult year

for us financially and as a result, we have had to make adjustments to our budget," McNaney added.

Goodness Village

A new addition to the Holiday Fund beneficiary list, Goodness Village has hit the ground running since establishing its tiny-home community in Livermore near CrossWinds Church in recent years to offer new residential opportunities and support for formerly unhoused people in the Tri-Valley.

"We are more than a house; we are a proactive housing program that provides 24-hour, wraparound supportive services to those who have been unsheltered for a significant amount of time and might benefit from some extra support and a hand up," according to Goodness Village. "Our village is a vibrant and joyful space of recovery and reconnection."

Board President Lisa Brown said, "I am humbled by the outpouring of support the Pleasanton Weekly has given to Goodness Village; being chosen for your Holiday Fund warms my heart and allows us to continue to do important work. It is inspiring to see the strength and resilience that our Goodness Village neighbors show every day. The world can feel very dark these days and I am just so proud to be a part of an organization and a mission that is a beacon of light for our residents and our communities."

Hope Hospice

Hope Hospice and Health Services is the Tri-Valley's leading nonprofit provider of compassionate services for patients at the end of life and support for their caregivers and families, including a range of educational opportunities such as its one-hour grief workshop "Handling the Holidays" due for a second installment in 2023 on Dec. 14.



CULINARY ANGELS

A new Holiday Fund beneficiary, Culinary Angels provides nutritious meals to cancer patients and their immediate caregivers.



CHUCK DECKERT

At Hope Hospice's Hike for Hope, an education station encourages participants to help tie knots in newly sewn lap blankets that are presented to new patients who have prior military service.



ABBY LOURENCO

Program participants show off the fruits of their labor at the Sunflower Hill garden: fresh zucchini and squash.

“Hope Hospice has been an essential Tri-Valley resource since 1980. The generosity of our community has enabled us to grow outstanding supportive programs that make a heavy season of life feel a little lighter for families across the East Bay,” CEO Jennifer Hansen told the Weekly.

“Hope is a leader in our region in dementia care education, family caregiver support, and bereavement care — services that are funded by donations from people who value our vision of a thorough hospice program that prioritizes people over profits,” Hansen added.

Open Heart Kitchen

Hunger and food insecurity are ever-present, but these problems can be exacerbated during the winter season. Open Heart Kitchen strives to address the need by serving prepared, nutritious and free meals to residents in the Tri-Valley.

Executive Director John Bost said, “For an individual, a family, or a senior experiencing food insecurity during the holidays, Open Heart Kitchen provides a place of welcome where folks can connect with others and enjoy a hot meal. With the gifts from the Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund, we are able to meet the increased demand for food assistance during the holiday season.”

In line with its mission, “Equitable access to nutritious food today, while building a food secure tomorrow,” the nonprofit is also working to fund its Open Heart at Vineyard project and its new Open Heart Kitchen Food Bank — both in Livermore.

PPIE

The Pleasanton Partnerships in Education Foundation works to galvanize community, business and education leaders to enhance the learning experience of students across the Pleasanton Unified School District.

Following the mindset of “it takes a community to grow

strong schools and raise leaders of the future,” PPIE focuses on staffing support and program grants to benefit the education of students in Pleasanton. Holiday Fund money will go toward mental health programming for middle and high schools, as well as increasing student, teacher and competition grants.

“PPIE is honored to again be chosen for this wonderful program facilitated by the Weekly and supported by so many generous donors in our community. PPIE is proud to serve the students of PUSD and grateful for the ability to do so thanks to the giving spirit our community embodies,” PPIE Board President Robin Dias said.

Sunflower Hill

Sunflower Hill works to co-develop affordable housing communities and create programs for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) “so that they can live, work, learn and thrive as part of the greater community.”

“We are thrilled and honored to be chosen as a Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund beneficiary,” Executive Director Jen Lenard-Benson said. “The Pleasanton Weekly has been so supportive of Sunflower Hill over the years, and the outpouring of support from the community during this time of year is heartwarming.”

“Sunflower Hill depends almost solely on donations to provide life-changing programming for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities at our Garden and at Irby Ranch,” she explained. “Gifts made to the Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund support our programs and classes, from our Hands-On Garden Programs to the many enrichment activities at Irby Ranch for residents and the community alike. These programs build life skills, lifelong friendships, and a sense of community for our folks, many who have felt like they never fit in before.”



Holiday Fund



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Tri-Valley REACH

With a mantra of “The Key to Independence”, Tri-Valley REACH aims to offer affordable residential opportunities for adults with I/DD to live independently within existing neighborhoods in the region in a shared housing model that “promotes inclusivity at its best.”

“Affordable housing is a pressing concern for individuals with I/DD since most are classified in the extremely low-income bracket,” said Kay King, board chair for Tri-Valley REACH. “That is why our rents are based upon income and are as low as \$350 per month.”

“REACH strongly believes housing is the key to independence and we are pleased to share that eight new REACH residents will soon live in safe, accessible, and affordable housing. REACH’s newly acquired Livermore property, is currently undergoing accommodations.

Construction is also underway for two new accessory dwelling units (ADUs) in Pleasanton.”

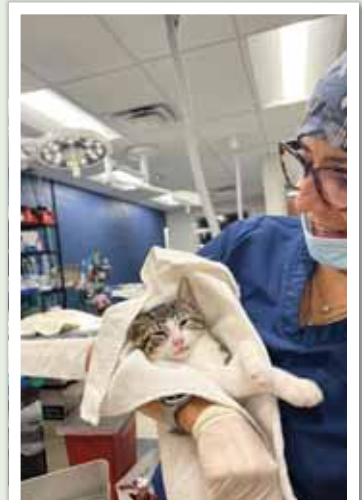
Valley Humane Society

It has been another busy year for Valley Humane Society in its efforts to support the needs of pets and strengthen the relationships between animals and their human companions. The nonprofit has coordinated more than 500 adoptions so far in 2023, and since its Phil Scholz Veterinary Surgery Center opened in Pleasanton in February, has performed more than 4,500 spay and neuter procedures.

“For more than 35 years, Valley Humane Society has been committed to transforming lives in the Tri-Valley,” President Melanie Sadek said. “We look forward to continuing our impact in 2024, thanks to the support of our generous community of supporters, donors, and volunteers.”

Donations to the Holiday Fund

will help Valley Humane provide care to long-stay pets in its shelter, as there has been a notable uptick in the amount of time it takes these animals to find their new forever home. ■



VALLEY HUMANE SOCIETY / G. HUNT

A recently altered kitten recovers from surgery.

Livermore boy enjoys life beyond leukemia

Now checking items off bucket list he created
during four rounds of chemo

By JUDE STRZEMP

Pierce Estremo, a 7-year-old Livermore resident, is enjoying just being a kid again since completing treatment for leukemia earlier this year.

Instead of enduring grueling chemotherapy, he's playing baseball, soccer and working to tick items off a long bucket list of sports and adventures like learning to snowboard, jet skiing and riding an ATV in Hawaii.

Estremo rang the golden bell at Lucile Packard Children's Hospital Stanford amid applause and cheers back in January. Participating in the longtime tradition signaled the completion of Estremo's treatment and his discharge from the hospital.

His six-month journey in treatment was challenging, but not one shadowed in gloom. Instead, the Livermore family kept positive attitudes through his unexpected cancer diagnosis and intensive treatments, according to his mom Meredith Estremo.

"We have a lot of gratitude for the space that we got to be in with Stanford, the friends that we had down there that supported us and the community," Meredith Estremo said.

In addition to his bucket list and sports, Estremo has returned to school at Emma C. Smith Elementary and spending time at home with his family.

Before his symptoms began in the summer of 2022, then 6-year-old Estremo had been healthy and active. His mom said that as soon as he was able to hold a ball, he loved playing baseball. Later, he grew into gymnastics, martial arts, soccer and swimming.

But in July, he was struck with ear infections and later back pain.

After returning from one of many urgent care visits, his parents' concern turned to shock when a doctor informed them of his diagnosis.

"There was a lot of fear, a lot of anxiety of what we didn't know and we were very naive about childhood cancer. We didn't know anyone who had gone through this," Meredith Estremo said.

The very same day, with just a blanket and an extra set of clothes for their son, Meredith

and husband Peter Estremo brought him to the Marc and Laura Andreessen Pediatric Emergency Department at Stanford Hospital in Palo Alto.

Much of his young life was put on pause, including his first grade school year at Smith.

Testing confirmed Estremo had leukemia, a type of cancer of the blood tissue, according to his primary oncologist Norman Lacayo, a pediatric hematologist-oncologist at Stanford Medicine Children's Health.

With leukemia, bone marrow forms irregular blood tissue that overwhelms regular blood tissue like oxygen-carrying red blood cells, infection-fighting white blood cells, and platelets that prevent bleeding. This results in issues with oxygen movement, fatigue and the reduced ability to fight infections.

More specifically, Estremo was diagnosed with a low-risk type of acute myelogenous leukemia (AML), a rare form of leukemia for children in the U.S, with only about 1,000 cases occurring in children below age 19 each year, according to Lacayo.

It is considered acute because of its rapid onset, but those with low-risk AML tend to respond well to chemotherapy. Plus, the disease can be curable.

Within a few days of arriving, Estremo began chemotherapy at Lucile Packard. His treatment was part of a phase-three study, the stage of a clinical trial that compares the effectiveness of newer medications to standard ones, according to Lacayo.

Estremo's leukemia was no longer detectable after just one round of chemo, according to Lacayo. But completing treatment meant three more rounds.

Every day for those six months of treatment, at least one of Estremo's parents was at his side. His older sister also visited and he constructed identical Lego sets with his best friend through video calls.

He took part in music and art therapies, schooling and video production for the hospital's in-house television broadcasts.



COURTESY MEREDITH ESTREMO

Above: Pierce Estremo poses in September, about eight months after completing treatment for acute myelogenous leukemia (AML). Below: Estremo celebrates discharge day by ringing a bell at Lucile Packard Children's Hospital Stanford on Jan. 26, 2023.

Estremo remained largely optimistic during that time, even through the fatigue, nausea and hair loss.

Meredith Estremo said she would tell him, "We have to fight this. These are things we have to do. We don't have a choice. When there's things we have a choice on, we'll give them to you."

The family's positivity in the face of adversity was intentional.

"My husband and I made it a point to keep it very light and bright for Pierce. We knew it was going to be hard, but we wanted him to feel supported. And we wanted to not make it harder from our fear and anxiety," Meredith said.

While they kept their son uplifted, she and her husband found strength in their partnership, the hospital staff, family, friends and their community of faith.

Since leaving the hospital, Estremo visits Stanford every three months to monitor his remission, though Lacayo said he does not expect any recurrence of leukemia.

When he rang that hospital bell, Estremo was celebrating more than just completing treatment, he was celebrating the transition into the rest of his life.



Publisher's note: This story was made possible by our Community Leaders Program partner. Thank you to Kris Moxley Real Estate for helping to expand local news coverage. Visit www.LivermoreVine.com to learn more. ■

LARPD grows Community Support Scholarship Program

Funds aim to ensure financial barriers don't prevent people from participating in classes, activities

By NICOLE GONZALES

Families and residents of Livermore are able to apply for financial assistance to participate in community classes offered by the Livermore Area Recreation and Park District as part of its Community Support Scholarship Program.

The available funds and extended application period are thanks to additional donations made to the LARPD Foundation earlier this year.

"The scholarships are still open and available. There is no deadline. We'll continue to enroll families throughout the year," LARPD community outreach supervisor David Weisgerber said this fall.

Back in January, the Rotary Foundation of Livermore agreed to match LARPD Foundation's contribution of \$12,000, amounting to a total of \$24,000 of dispensable scholarship funds.

"The foundation has done an

incredible job building support in the community in the past few years," Weisgerber said. "It has been exciting to watch the scholarship program grow from \$6,000 just a few years ago up to \$24,000 through their partnership with the Rotary Foundation of Livermore and the success of the Wine Down in the Grove fundraiser."

Typically, funds for the program are used up by the summer, but the additional contribution allowed

for LARPD to extend its open application period, according to the district.

The Community Support Scholarship Program dispenses partial scholarships based on income eligibility. Scholarship amounts are offered on a sliding scale covering up to 85% of a program fee.

"LARPD and the LARPD Foundation are committed to fostering a vibrant and inclusive community. Scholarships are available to

low-income families in Livermore, ensuring that financial barriers do not prevent anyone from enjoying the benefits of LARPD programs," district officials said in a statement.

Interested applicants can visit www.larpd.org/scholarship to fill out the Community Support Scholarship Program form. An eligibility coordinator will then contact individuals or families to review the application and assist with registration. ■

Finding joy in the kitchen

Tri-Valley author highlights vegetarian home-cooking in latest book

BY NICOLE GONZALES

Parisa Z. Ambwani stands in her kitchen with an array of spices, herbs, vegetables and grains displayed before her. She spends hours at a time crafting and trying out new recipes to see what can amount to the most nutritious, delicious and meaningful meals.

Ambwani, a Danville-based author and philosopher, has spent decades refining her method of cooking intertwined with spirituality. Since 1997 she has developed eight books highlighting vegetarian and plant-based diets, with sprinkles of philosophical advice. Her most recent piece “Enlightened Home-Chef III”, published earlier this year, shares over 140 dishes for the everyday chef to try.

“My efforts have been more than 30-plus years to create this content (eight books and an online library),” Ambwani said. “I’m trying to do a lot of research, and I’m trying to understand how nature and food can work together.”

The latest book is the third installment of the “Enlightened Home-Chef” series.

Ambwani believes cooking and eating can be much more than the mainstream food industry leads

people to believe, involving spirituality and a connection with nature. With dishes like “honest vegetable pizza,” “zucchini walnut bread” and “peach oat cookies,” she strongly believes in living a holistic lifestyle.

Ambwani says food can be healing — she even titled one of her cookbooks “Green Pharmacy” to emphasize this sentiment.

“Using holistic ways of living can help us improve our immune systems and increase our overall positive energy. Meditation and eating nutritious foods can go a very long way,” Ambwani said. “If you have a healthy body, you have a healthy mind.”

As to why she opts for a vegetarian and more plant-based diet, Ambwani emphasizes her appreciation of nature and its gifts.

“When I am eating more vegetarian, I find myself more connected with nature,” Ambwani said. “But of course people can be vegetarian for other reasons, maybe there is a diet issue or something like that, but for me it’s because I love nature.”

“I would say nature is everything, to me it is happiness, and people should be taking better care of it. The true beauty of human beings is to have an open heart and the ability of

this love of living nature,” Ambwani added.

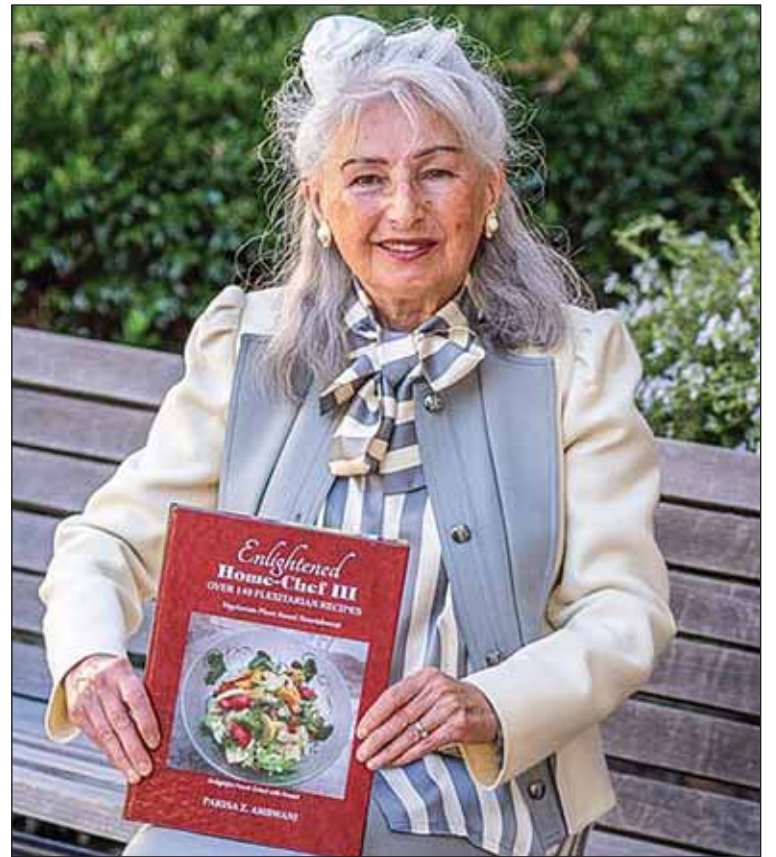
One of the main beliefs conveyed throughout her work is that eating unhealthy foods can cause toxicities in the body, mind and spirit. People can combat this and create healthier patterns in their lives by forming better relationships with food and nature. She encourages people to avoid food additives, deep-fried foods and excessive animal fats.

“On nutrition, people can get protein through foods like yogurt or eggs,” Ambwani said. “It’s hard to find 100% grass-fed meat, which is best.”

The author stresses that cooking should feel like a great joy, rather than a chore or nuisance.

“I feel like people tend to get involved in so many things because there’s so many new machines, but they deserve to have good lives and live with more consciousness,” Ambwani said.

Aside from her cookbooks, the author has also published a number of books on philosophy and spirituality. She runs an online library at www.enlightenedrecipes.com that offers a host of recipes, tips and personal reflections for the public to learn from.

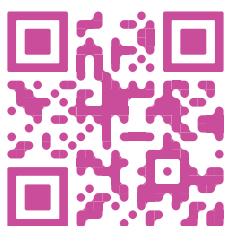


CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Danville author Parisa Z. Ambwani shows off her latest vegetarian cookbook, “Enlightened Home-Chef III”.

“I hope (I can help people) to be happy, to see eating can be spiritual no matter what religion they believe in,” said Ambwani, who already has plans for her next book which will focus on philosophy and spirituality only.

Readers can find “Enlightened Home-Chef III (Vegetarian Cookbook)” available for purchase online or at retailers like Towne Center Books in downtown Pleasanton. ■



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For more details, go to visitrivalley.com/nutcracker23



POLICE BULLETIN

4th ex-guard at Dublin women’s prison sentenced for abusing inmates

Yet another former correctional officer at the federal prison in Dublin has been sentenced for sexually abusing women who were incarcerated there, the U.S. Department of Justice announced last week

Andrew Jones, 36, of Clovis, was given eight years in prison on Nov. 15 after pleading guilty in August.

Jones supervised prisoners who worked in the food services department, and between July 2020 and June 2021, as a supervisor of all the female inmates, he received oral sex from, and/or had sexual intercourse with, three women prisoners who worked for him in the Federal Correctional Institution at Dublin kitchen. Jones admitted that he sexually abused these prisoners in multiple places near the kitchen, including a staff bathroom, a warehouse, and a room where kitchen utensils were kept.

Prosecutors argued that Jones “enforced silence and obedience” from the prisoners by using violence and threats of violence.

“Intimidation and insults on the one hand, and the flattery on the other, was aimed at cultivating pliant prisoners who Jones could abuse for his own sexual pleasure, while he remained safe in the belief that his misconduct would go unreported,” prosecutors said in the sentencing memorandum.

Jones pleaded guilty to six counts of sexual abuse of a ward involving three inmates and one count of false statements to the Justice Department’s Office of Inspector General.

Jones is one of eight correctional officers to have been charged with federal crimes involving sexual misconduct at FCI Dublin in the past three years and the fourth to have been sentenced.

Jones pleaded guilty the same time as Nakie Nunley, another prison guard at the Dublin facility. Nunley is facing up to 17 years in federal prison for abusing five women from March 2020 to November 2021.

All these are the latest in a string of indictments, convictions, plea

agreements and sentences involving employees at the low-security prison, which one federal judge called a “cesspool.”

Former warden Ray Garcia was convicted last December and sentenced to nearly six years in prison for sexually abusing three inmates and lying about it, according to the U.S. Department of Justice.

The prison’s former chaplain, James Highhouse, pleaded guilty in February 2022 and was sentenced to seven years in prison for sexually abusing an inmate from May 2018 to February 2019.

Former guard Enrique Chavez pleaded guilty last October to having sexual contact with an inmate in 2020 and was sentenced to 20 months in prison, and former guard Ross Klinger, who pleaded guilty to three counts of sexual abuse, is scheduled for sentencing on Dec. 13, according to federal prosecutors.

Another former guard, John Bellhouse, was convicted in June of sex crimes against inmates from 2018 to 2021 and prosecutors have not yet released any sentencing information.

Finally, former guard Darrel Smith was indicted on April 13 on suspicion of having sex with three inmates

by use of force between May 2019 through May 2021.

—Katy St. Clair, BCN

In other news

• The Alameda County Coroner’s Bureau is currently conducting a death investigation in relation to an unspecified incident that occurred last week at Las Positas College.

Livermore police initially responded to the incident at the campus on the morning of Nov. 15. LPC officials did not provide details about the circumstances of the death but said there “was no reported threat to the campus and all classes and activities are continuing as scheduled.”

The college sent an email to the campus community informing them of the situation and ongoing investigation.

“We want to assure you that the safety and well-being of our students, faculty, and staff remains our top priority,” the email reads, adding that more information would be provided as it becomes publicly available.

The email also included a reminder about resources offered for mental health support and counseling through the college.

—Cierra Bailey

• The California Office of Traffic Safety recently awarded the Pleasanton Police Department a \$50,000 grant that will help provide additional programs and services focused on preventing roadside injuries and deaths.

Some of the programs and resources the grant will fund include driving under the influence saturation patrol officers — which are officers who stop drivers suspected of drunk driving — and other enforcement operations to catch drivers using their phones, drivers driving who risk pedestrian and cyclist safety due to dangerous driving, and drivers who speed or break any other general driving violations.

“This funding will strengthen our commitment to public safety in our community,” PPD Sgt. Steve Ayers said in a Nov. 8 press release from the department. “We will be able to increase our efforts in making our roads safer for everyone and focus on critical areas such as distracted driving, impaired driving and speeding.”

The California Office of Traffic Safety grant, which came through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, will last until September 2024.

Other services that will be funded by the grant include community presentations on traffic safety issues such as distracted driving, impaired driving, speeding, bicycle, and pedestrian safety; collaborative enforcement efforts with neighboring agencies; and officer training or recertification.

The training and recertification will be on the Standard Field Sobriety Test, Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement and Drug Recognition Expert.

—Christian Trujano

• San Jose police arrested two people and seized evidence from several alleged crimes during an investigation into Romanian organized crime this month.

At about noon Nov. 8, officers served multiple search warrants in San Jose and Livermore in connection with roughly 25 separate crimes associated with an organized crime ring that was operating from July to October, according to San Jose police.

The alleged crimes include carjacking, armed robbery, strong-arm robbery and grand theft, police said.

During the searches, officers found \$13,000 in cash, along with three vehicles and possible evidence of jewelry swap scams.

The suspects, 35-year-old Margos Constantin and 19-year-old Renaldo Vaduva, were arrested in San Jose on suspicion of robbery, armed carjacking and grand theft, according to police.

Jewelry swap scammers typically target elderly East Asian or Indian people by placing fake jewelry on a victim before taking real jewelry that the victim was wearing.

“SJPD has also linked this organization to armed carjackings, armed robberies, burglaries, home invasions, strong arm robbery/chain snatch robberies, Facebook marketplace vehicle scams, grand theft of jewelry and purses, organized retail theft, credit card/ATM cash-out fraud, and other various types of thefts and scams where they attempt to sell people items or fake gold jewelry,” San Jose police said in a news release Nov. 10.

Anyone with information can contact Detective Grodin at 408-277-4166 or 4591@sanjoseca.gov or send tips to the P3TIPS mobile app, call a tip line at 408-947-STOP or visit www.siliconvalleycrimestoppers.org.

—Kiley Russell, BCN

• Pleasant Hill arrested 12 people and recovered more than \$3,000 in property while running two theft suppression operations during this month.

Police were operating on Nov. 9 at the Crossroads Shopping Center and Nov. 12 at the Pleasant Hill Shopping Center.

Police arrested and booked nine adults and three juveniles on suspicion of a variety of crimes, including auto theft, grand theft, petty theft, possession of narcotics, and other possession crimes.

Police released the names of the adults arrested: James Castle, 55, of Antioch; Rashaud Robertson, 44, of Concord; Jesse Otero, 41, a transient; Joshua Henderson, 44, of Pleasanton; Matthew MacDonnell, 40, of Pleasanton; Tatiana Hackett, 35, of Oakland; Andrenay Henry, 26, of Richmond; Marvieron Wilson, 26, of Rodeo; and Patricia Boling, 45, of San Lorenzo.

Police said the public can expect similar operations throughout the holiday season. ■

—Tony Hicks, BCN

POLICE REPORT

The Pleasanton Police Department made the following information available.

Nov. 15

Theft

■ 8:05 a.m., 3600 block of South Hawaii Court; auto theft

■ 9:15 a.m., 2600 block of Calle Alegre; auto theft

■ 2:30 p.m., 2700 block of Longspur Way; auto theft

■ 5:03 p.m. on the 1400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

■ 5:11 p.m. on the 1400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

Domestic battery

■ 10:11 a.m. on Jolene Court

■ 11:35 p.m. on Paseo Navarro

Robbery

■ 10:55 a.m. on the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive

Warrant arrest

■ 4:12 p.m. at Rose Avenue and Main Street

Nov. 14

Theft

■ 8:55 a.m., 5600 block of Stoneridge Drive; shoplifting

■ 12:47 p.m. on the 2700 block of Stoneridge Drive

■ 2:42 p.m., 5700 block of Johnson Drive; shoplifting

■ 6:16 p.m., 1400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting

Fraud

■ 12:17 p.m. on the 5600 block of Stoneridge Drive

DUI

■ 11:38 p.m. on the 4200 block of First Street

Nov. 13

Theft

■ 6:08 a.m., 5600 block of Owens Drive; bicycle theft

■ 9:44 a.m., 7600 block of Canyon Meadows Circle; auto theft

■ 11:10 a.m., 7600 block of Canyon Meadows Circle; auto theft

■ 12:17 p.m. on the 7600 block of Highland Oaks Drive

■ 12:31 p.m., 3200 block of Bernal Avenue; theft from auto

■ 1:54 p.m., 5000 block of Johnson Drive; auto theft

■ 2:11 p.m., 1300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting

Graffiti offense

■ 9:10 a.m. on the 3800 block of Vineyard Avenue

■ 11:05 a.m. on the 5600 block of Owens Drive

Fraud

■ 9:18 a.m. on the 5500 block of Springhouse Drive

Vandalism

■ 1:59 p.m. on the 1000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

Nov. 12

Theft

■ 10:05 a.m., 4800 block of Hopyard Road; theft from auto

■ 4:53 p.m., 1400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting

■ 8:05 p.m. on the 4800 block of Hopyard Road

Drug violation

■ 10:13 a.m. on the 5600 block of West Las Positas Boulevard

■ 8:55 p.m. on the 3800 block of Vineyard Avenue

Warrant arrest

■ 4:51 p.m. at Coronado Lane and Hopyard Road

Vandalism

■ 7:52 p.m. on the 3800 block of Vineyard Avenue

■ 8:11 p.m. on the 3700 block of Vineyard Avenue

Domestic battery

■ 11:29 p.m. on Chabot Drive

Nov. 11

Assault/battery

■ 12:33 a.m. on the 3100 block of Half Dome Drive

Drug violation

■ 8:10 a.m. on the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive

Stolen property

■ 1:50 p.m. on the 2200 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

Theft

■ 6:04 p.m. on the 1300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

Robbery

■ 6:17 p.m. on the 6700 block of Bernal Avenue

Nov. 10

Warrant arrest

■ 2:30 a.m. on the 1800 block of Santa Rita Road

Theft

■ 7:45 a.m. on the 600 block of Palomino Drive

■ 10:34 a.m. on the 7000 block of Johnson Drive

■ 11:07 a.m. on the 4400 block of Valley Avenue

■ 12:04 p.m., 000 block of California Avenue; auto theft

■ 7:57 p.m., 1300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting

Drug violation

■ 3:13 p.m. at Hacienda and Owens Drive

■ 8:34 p.m. at West Las Positas Boulevard and Dorman Road

Domestic battery

■ 8:40 p.m. on Stoneridge Mall Road

Nov. 9

Burglary

■ 4:32 a.m. on the 200 block of Main Street

■ 3:17 p.m. on the 600 block of Johnson Drive

■ 3:24 p.m. on the 6400 block of Everglades Court

Theft

■ 10:05 a.m., 5600 block of Springhouse Drive; theft from auto

■ 2:57 p.m. on the 1300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

Fraud

■ 10:24 a.m. on the 7100 block of Koll Center Parkway

Domestic battery

■ 2:38 p.m. on Montrose Place

Drug violation

■ 11:40 p.m. on the 5200 block of Hopyard Road

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LETTERS

Why the city of Livermore will not buy Garaventa Hills

An article in the Independent on Nov. 9 suggests the city of Livermore can buy the Garaventa Hills site and conserve it as open space. For the following reasons, that scenario is a non-starter.

GH owners have exercised their prerogative to sell the land to the buyer of their choosing, housing developer Lafferty Communities, with whom the owners have entered a binding contract. If the GH owners were to sell to Livermore, they would breach that contract, an egregious violation that would expose both the owners and Livermore to litigation and significant financial penalties.

As the article references, \$20-plus million in conservation funds are available to Livermore. However, use of those funds for any purchase is subject to two key constraints:

- There must be a willing seller. In the case of GH, there is not.
- The land must be purchased at conservation prices, which in the Tri-Valley is approximately \$15,000 per acre.

According to the article, Lafferty is purchasing GH's 32 acres for \$15 million to \$20 million, or approximately \$550,000 per acre. Paying more than 30 times the going rate for open space would be a gross misuse of the city's conservation funds, and the committees that oversee the funds would likely reject the purchase.

GH is inside the urban growth boundary, conforms to the city's north Livermore plan, is zoned for precisely the type of development that Lafferty will build, and the project's EIR meets or exceeds all required environmental mediations.

I hope residents welcome their new neighbors and support the city's prudent stewardship of conservation funds.

—David Jonas

Pamela Price, DA

So grateful for Pamela Price, our Alameda County district attorney. Although she hasn't had the job very long and doesn't get in front of the cameras to promote herself or her accomplishments. They are many.

Price secured a large grant and created a unit to tackle retail theft. She is working to reduce recidivism, improving crime-victim services, reviewing the use of enhancements which create unnecessarily long sentences, the charging of children as adults while languishing in jail for years.

—Emelie Rogers

Antisemitism is all around us

Antisemitism is easy enough to find. You don't have to look very far. The hard part is recognizing it when it's staring you in the face, pretending to be something else.

We can see purportedly intelligent students at Harvard, Wellesley, UCLA and others calling Israel's actions "genocide" while completely ignoring the slaughter of innocents, the burning alive of women and children, the beheading of babies perpetrated by the Hamas terrorists who are the leaders of the very people they support.

We also see world media portraying Palestinian parents grieving over their children, while ignoring videos of Palestinian terrorists beheading babies with garden hoes, or the weeping parents at the funerals of their Jewish children in Israel.

We also can look to the city of

Richmond for a blazing display of antisemitism in their proclamation accusing Israel of "ethnic cleansing" while supporting a group that called for a "day of rage against Israelis and Jews".

These people hide behind false rhetoric claiming that they are only against Israeli policy and not all Jews. When supporting organizations and people who call for the destruction of the Jewish Homeland, it is one and the same and the two can not be separated.

If any group is to be vilified and accused of genocide, it is the terrorists of Hamas and Hezbollah as well as those who celebrate their taking of innocent hostages, their raping of Israeli women, their killing of innocent teenagers. Their very charter calls for the end of Israel.

So, it's easy to find antisemitism: It's all around us, hiding wide open. The question is how long will we continue to confront it with eyes wide shut?

—Joss Flanzbaum

Level the playing field

The California Public Utilities Commission has voted to raise the rates for all its customers by more than \$30 per month.

That rate increase according to PG&E is to cover the costs of putting its electrical utility into the ground. The utilities in my neighborhood have been in the ground for 40 years. That's PG&E electric and gas, cable, AT&T, city water and sewer.

The CPUC got it wrong again. Why should all the residents in this neighborhood pay for utilities going into the ground elsewhere? Why do unelected bureaucrats continue to take money from our pockets before we earn it? They are everywhere, there is the Bay Area Air Quality Management District, the same type of unelected bureaucrats cash hog.

Locally we have the elected majority on the Pleasanton City Council, voting to raise the water rates. All those who have conserved water will be charged a greater rate for our water use, whereas all those who have not been conserving water will be getting a lesser rate for their extravagant water use.

Will there ever be a decision that is fair and balanced for everyone? Why give an extra advantage to those who have the advantage and take away or diminish the advantage of others?

The council vote to raise our water rates went something like this: Councilmember Nibert spoke for five minutes about how he was voting for the five-year plan; he did not get it, his vote was for increasing water rates.

Councilmember Testa spoke regarding her misunderstanding of Councilmember Balch's professional analysis. She ranted it was "politics" and voted yes to raise the water rates. Testa thought she was attacking "politics" with her yes vote.

—Michael Austin

Every life is precious

I write as a concerned community member, urging our local paper to cover the unfolding tragedy in Gaza with fairness and balance. Media bias when reporting on Palestine is a grave concern. Mainstream outlets have failed to acknowledge horrific experiences lived by many within Palestinian communities, who have been calling for an end to the violence against their people (many of whom are relatives).

American outlets are providing one-sided perspectives, ignoring critical context like the apartheid designation from Human Rights Watch and Amnesty. This crisis is a continuation of the Nakba of 1948, where hundreds of thousands of Palestinians, including children, were expelled or massacred.

I have hope that my local news outlets will exhibit the integrity of true journalism and fairly represent the current crisis so that my community can make correctly informed political decisions.

The call for peace knows no borders or boundaries. Every life is precious.

—Yusra Constantino

Authors needed for 2024 animal welfare bills

Most legislators decide in October / November upon which bills to carry in the coming session. Here are five needing an author:

1. Our Department of Fish and Wildlife annually issues live import permits for two million American bullfrogs and 300,000 freshwater turtles for human consumption. None are native here, and all are diseased and/or parasitized, though it is illegal to import/sell such products.

Worse, the majority of the frogs carry a lethal chytrid fungus, *Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis* (Bd), responsible for the extinctions of 100+ amphibian species worldwide in recent years. Easy fix: Allow importation of only frozen frog/turtle parts.

2. Amend state rodeo law (Penal Code 596.7), which now allows for an "on-call" veterinarian option. The PRCA, racetracks, horse shows and endurance rides all require "on-site" veterinarians. So should all rodeos.

3. Ban "tie-down" calf roping, allowing "breakaway" roping only.

4. Ban Mexican charreada's brutal "steer tailing" event (already outlawed in Alameda and Contra Costa counties, and Nebraska).

5. Ban rodeo's non-sanctioned events: "wild cow milking," "mutton busting" and all animal "scrambles" — cruel and dangerous for all concerned.

All legislators may be written c/o the State Capitol, Sacramento, CA 95814. Email pattern for all: senator.lastname@senate.ca.gov; assembly-member.lastname@assembly.ca.gov

—Eric Mills, coordinator
Action for Animals

TAKE US ALONG



Vodka on vacation: From left: Denny Carr, Kathie Carr, Sue Connolly, Paul Martens, Mary Huk and John Huk enjoyed the Weekly on a tour of the Ocean Organic Vodka distillery in Kula, Maui in May. It is the only vodka in the world crafted from a blend of distilled organic sugar cane and deep ocean mineral water.

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.



PLEASANTON PREPS

By DENNIS MILLER

‘Jerry’s Miles for Manhattans’ honors late PGSL leader

Also: Amador’s Parkinson-Lubold repeats as NCS tennis champion

By all accounts, Jerry Fourie was a great person, amazing friend, sensational father and sincere husband.

When he passed on Dec. 16, 2022 at age 69 after a two-year battle with a rare form of leukemia, there was a huge void left in all who knew Jerry.

Being a fun-loving guy with the type of larger-than-life personality, it was no surprise that when his three grown daughters and his wife decided to host a walk for Jerry to celebrate his legacy, they had no problem getting folks involved.

“We have more than 100 people already coming,” Molly (Fourie) Calhoun said.

Molly, along with her sisters Gabrielle and Lauren, and their mother Michelle, wanted the walk to pay tribute to Jerry but also be

a good time, something that Jerry would have wanted.

The result — “Jerry’s Miles for Manhattans”.

It will take place on Saturday, Dec. 16 at the Ken Mercer Sports Park in Pleasanton. It is one lap around the entire park (two miles), beginning and ending at the Memorial Rock, a rock where names of people who have pioneered youth sports in town have their names etched.

Fourie will have his name etched on the rock in respect for what he did for the youth of Pleasanton.

It promises to be an emotional day for the family and friends. I know first-hand as my father Harry has his name etched on the rock as well.

It has been a little over two years now since we lost my dad, and we had a celebration at the rock.

Standing there and listening to the stories about each of the individuals was something I will never forget.

It made me incredibly thankful for the people that gave so much of their time to make our childhood better.

I know Michelle, Gabriel, Lauren and Molly will have those feelings on the day of the event. There will be a tinge of sadness but mixed in with the blessings of having had their dad/husband helping so many, it will leave a smile on their face.

The family has created a scholarship fund in Jerry’s name with Pleasanton Girls Softball League, an organization he supported for many years.

The Dec. 16 walk will include coffee and donuts and is free as it is paying respect to Jerry. Following the event, which ends at 11 a.m., everyone is welcome to the Hop Yard Ale House where a portion of all beers purchased will go to the scholarship fund.

Given that the Hop Yard was a favorite of Jerry’s, it is the perfect place to wrap up the event. Molly had a great story about the Hop Yard and her dad.

“He was one of the people running the big PGSL tournament that was held each year at the Sports Park,” Molly said. “They had golf carts to go between all the fields where the tournament was being held. At the end of the day when people were trying to find the group we would say, ‘They’re at Field H’. The ‘H’ stood for the Hop Yard, and you would find all the golf carts parked.”

Pleasanton Preps sponsored by



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FOURIE FAMILY

Jerry Fourie shown with his daughter Molly when she was younger and playing in the Pleasanton Girls Softball League.

For more information on the event, please go to <https://runsignup.com/Race/CA/Pleasanton/JerrysMilesforManhattans>.

Amador girls’ tennis player wins NCS

For the second consecutive year, Amador Valley tennis player Montana Parkinson-Lubold has brought home the girls’ North Coast Section Division I singles title home to Pleasanton.

The top-seeded Parkinson-Lubold did not lose a match this

year. In NCS she started with a 6-1, 6-1 win over Natalie Vale of Vintage, then followed with a 6-0, 6-0 over Shreeya Sharma of American.

In the semifinals she beat Maya Peav of Dublin 6-4, 7-6 (5), and then eliminated Caroline Beard of Montgomery 7-5, 6-1 in the final to win the crown. ■

Editor’s note: Dennis Miller is a contributing sports writer for the Pleasanton Weekly. To contact him about his Pleasanton Preps column, email acesmag@aol.com.

MLB owners vote to allow A’s to move to Las Vegas

Franchise plans to relocate from Oakland to proposed stadium at Tropicana site on Strip

By THOMAS HUGHES / BCN

The Oakland Athletics are one step closer to moving to Las Vegas.

Major League Baseball owners voted unanimously on Nov. 16 at a meeting in Arlington, Texas to allow the team to relocate.

The move comes three years after Oakland lost its National Football League franchise, the Raiders, to Las Vegas. Just a year before that, the city’s National Basketball Association team, the Warriors, moved across the Bay to San Francisco.

All three were lured by deals for new stadiums that couldn’t get past the finish line in Oakland, despite decades of negotiations on a replacement for the aging Coliseum, where the A’s still play.

A’s owner John Fisher released an open letter to fans on Nov. 16, hours after all 30 MLB team owners voted to allow Fisher and his partners to move the team to Las Vegas in 2028.

“I know that today is a very difficult day with the vote by MLB owners allowing for the A’s relocation from Oakland to Las Vegas,” Fisher said in the letter addressed to “Fans of the Oakland A’s.”

“I share a lot of those emotions — sadness that our team will be leaving its home since 1968, pride in what we have accomplished together on and off the field in Oakland, but

also hope and optimism about the future of the A’s in Las Vegas,” Fisher said in the seven-paragraph letter.

The team also released a statement on behalf of Fisher, thanking owners and MLB commissioner Rob Manfred for “their thoughtful deliberations and positive votes in favor of our relocation to Las Vegas.”

Fisher said the need for a new stadium was clear before he and business partner Lew Wolff bought the team in 2005.

He said the team spent the last six years exploring options for a new stadium in Fremont, San Jose, or Oakland, including options at Laney College, Howard Terminal, and the Coliseum site, but none worked out.

Oakland Mayor Sheng Thao released a statement following the vote saying she was disappointed by its outcome.

“But we do not see this as the end of the road. We all know there is a long way to go before shovels in the ground and that there are a number of unresolved issues surrounding this move. I have also made it clear to the Commissioner that the A’s branding and name should stay in Oakland and we will continue to work to pursue expansion opportunities.

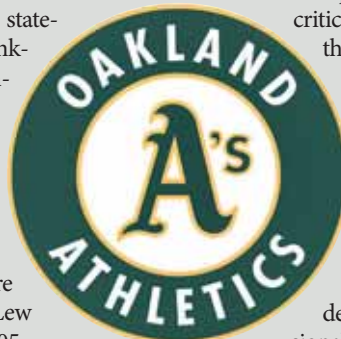
Baseball has a home in Oakland even if the A’s ownership relocates,” Thao said.

U.S. Rep. Barbara Lee (D-Oakland) criticized the move in a statement that said in part, “It’s incredibly disappointing, but not surprising that a group of billionaire owners supported another billionaire owner’s efforts to line his own pockets at the expense of a passionate community and fan base. The East Bay does not deserve to lose its last professional sports team. It’s shameful.”

The team plans to move into a yet-to-be-built \$1.5 billion stadium at the Tropicana site on the Las Vegas Strip starting in the 2028 season. Its lease with Oakland ends in 2024, leaving Fisher and the team exploring a range of options for the interim.

Fisher thanked Oakland officials for their efforts and said he was not to blame for the team’s move.

“I also understand their disappointment and frustration, and the desire in the media to place all the blame on me and the A’s organization for the inability to make this work. All I can say is that we worked as hard as possible for 6 years to find a solution in Oakland,” the letter said.



Santa

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. Now through Dec. 15.

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

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 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.

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. Visit simon.com.

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, now through Dec. 23. 6000 Bollinger Canyon Road in San Ramon.

Entertainment

BEE GEES GOLD John Acosta as Barry Gibb has performed in Bee Gees Tributes all over the world. This is the ultimate salute and experience of seeing the Bee Gees in their prime. 7:30 p.m., Nov. 24. Tickets \$59-\$89. Visit livermorearts.org.

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

HOLIDAY YOUTH MUSIC FESTIVAL The High School Music Collaborative shares the stage with the Creatures of Impulse and Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer Jr. cast members to ring in the holiday season with live, local and youthful musical expression. 2 p.m., Nov. 25. Tickets \$10. Visit firehousearts.org.

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

PACIFIC CHAMBER ORCHESTRA: GLORIOUS Begin the holiday season

anew and experience the sheer beauty of George Frideric Handel's beloved Messiah. Surround yourself with the harmonious voices of the Pacific Chamber Orchestra and Chorus alongside Handel's sublime melodies and uplifting messages. 3 p.m., Nov. 26. Tickets \$20-\$85. Visit livermorearts.org.

CREATURES OF IMPULSE: HOLIDAY SHORTS Audience suggestions will inspire holiday themed games, scenes and improv fun in the first act, then vote for which short scene Creatures of Impulse will make into an improvised play in the second act. Nov 28-Dec. 1. Tickets \$10. Visit firehousearts.org.

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. Tickets \$40-\$70. Visit livermorearts.org.

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.

HANDEL'S MESSIAH BALLET Anastasis Ballet Company presents Handel's Messiah Ballet. Classical ballet and excerpts from Messiah are paired for a holiday performance that will delight sight and sound. 7:30 p.m., Dec. 2. Mertes Center for the Arts, Las Positas College. Tickets \$25-\$40. Visit anastasisballet.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. Tickets \$42. Visit livermorearts.org.

LIVERMORE-AMADOR SYMPHONY FREE FAMILY CONCERT Enjoy the sounds of the season as talented musicians come together to bring a magical experience. 3 p.m., Dec. 2. Visit livermorearts.org.

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. Tickets \$30-\$60. Visit livermorearts.org.

Exhibits

PAL FALL MEMBERS' SHOW The PAL 16th annual Fall Members' Show exhibit will hang in the Harrington Gallery inside the Firehouse Arts Center. Wed.-Sat. 444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. Now through Dec. 16.

THE DON CENTURY EXHIBIT Featuring memorabilia and artifacts from throughout the school's history with clips from interviews with alumni and current and former faculty and staff. Now

through Dec. 31. 603 Main St. Visit museumonmain.org.

LANDSCAPES FROM WILLIAM KEITH TO TODAY This art exhibit showcases the beauty of California's landscapes over the past 150 years, featuring works from William Keith to contemporary artists. Thursdays through Sundays, 1-5 p.m. Now through Jan. 7. The Uncle Credit Union Art Gallery at the Bankhead Theater.

Parades

PLEASANTON HOMETOWN HOLIDAY CELEBRATION Enjoy a parade of floats, marching bands, community groups and more. Tree lighting after the parade includes musical entertainment and a special appearance by Santa. 5 p.m., Dec. 2.

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.

Family

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.

Farmers' Market

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

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

Outdoor Recreation

BIRD WALK Meet Ranger Vickie for a short stroll through Sycamore Grove to look for birds. Some binoculars will be provided and all ages and abilities are welcome. 10 a.m., Nov. 25. Sycamore Grove Park, 5049 Arroyo Road, Livermore.

PICKLEBALL LESSONS IN PLEASANTON Pickleball is a fast, fun, social sport and great exercise for all ages and athletic backgrounds. It is now offered through Lifetime Activities

PET OF THE WEEK



EAST BAY SPCA

Meet Miska

A 4-year-old Siberian Husky who is definitely a "busy bee," Miska is a naturally playful, curious and trusting gal. Take her for a big walk every day; give her something to do. After her job is done she'll curl up in front of the fire with you in the evenings. Her adoption fee is waived as part of our Cozy Home for the Holidays adoption promotion. Adoption fees are waived for select big dogs now through Dec. 31. Meet Miska at East Bay SPCA's Dublin Adoption Center or visit eastbayspca.org.

at Pleasanton Middle School. Visit lifetimeactivities.com/pleasanton/pickleball.

Support

HOT MEALS FREE OF CHARGE Open Heart Kitchen serves free hot meals to anyone who is struggling to make ends meet. Mondays to Fridays, 1:15-3 p.m. at the Robert Livermore Community Center, 4444 East Ave. Closed Christmas Day and New Year's Day.

MEALS ON WHEELS Meals on Wheels provides home delivered meals (60+). Call 925-931-5385 for more information.

HOLIDAY STOCKING AND GIFT CARD DRIVE Tri-Valley Haven is requesting filled stocking 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.

Veterans

VETERANS EVENT Pleasanton Public Library will host the VA Palo Alto Mobile Medical Outreach team to provide veteran benefits review, enroll veterans for care with the VA Palo Alto Health System, answer questions about VA services, and provide medical care including flu shots for enrolled veterans. 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Nov. 27. 400 Old Bernal Ave.

Government

PLEASANTON CITY COUNCIL The next Pleasanton City Council meeting is 7 p.m., Dec. 5. Visit cityofpleasantonca.gov.

LIVERMORE CITY COUNCIL The Livermore City Council meets the second and fourth Monday of the month. The next meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m., Nov. 27. Visit cityoflivermore.net.

Employment

Senior Solutions Architect sought by Subskribe, Inc., San Ramon, CA, to perform system dsgn & solution dsgn of projects, integration, & functional testing, etc. Deg'd applicants exp'd w/Oracle SQL Developer, Zuora, & PL/SQL, etc. Salary Range \$171,000 - \$172,000. Must be legally authorized to work in the U.S. w/o sponsorship. To apply, send resume to durga@subskribe.com & refer to "SSA."

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

Sr Site Reliability Engineer (20637.1156): Deploy and administer 24x7 Oracle and PostgreSQL Database on Cloud infrastructure, with a focus on the performance, high availability and scale. Salary: \$144,000 - \$216,000, 40 hour per week.

Software Engineer/Software Development Engineer (20637.2248): Analyzes, designs, programs, debugs, and modifies software enhancements and/or new products used in local, networked, or internet-related computer programs. Salary: \$147,368 - \$382,800, 40 hours per week. *Telecommuting permitted from anywhere in the U.S.

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.

Safeway Inc. hiring Product Manager – Last Mile Delivery in Pleasanton, CA. May telecommute reports to Pleasanton. Must have legal right to work in US. EOE. Subj. to bckgrnd check. \$146,266 - \$190,100/yr. Email resume TA.Applications@albertsons.com. Attn: M. Gutierrez. Ref # 0907RG

To advertise here please visit PleasantonWeekly.com/employment_ads/.

Legacy at Livermore now welcoming residents

Mixed-use complex anchored by luxury apartments opens on L Street in downtown

By CIERRA BAILEY

Developer Legacy Partners has announced that its new 222-unit, mixed-use community in downtown Livermore is now open and accepting lease applications. “We’re proud to bring these new luxury apartments to downtown Livermore,” David Eichler, senior managing director at Legacy, said in a statement last week.

“Legacy at Livermore’s location cannot be surpassed: restaurants and retail shops at your doorstep, proximity to transit and commuting routes, and great recreation opportunities nearby — all with the stunning mountains of the Diablo Range as a backdrop,” he added.

Designed by BDE Architects of San Francisco, the community is located at 57 South L St., a nine-minute walk to the ACE Train and accessible to neighboring Pleasanton and Dublin, as well as the greater Bay Area via interstates 580 and 680.

The apartment complex is also within walking distance of downtown Livermore’s array of restaurants and shops.

“With a ‘walk score’ of 98, this fabulous community is just steps



COURTESY LEGACY PARTNERS

Aerial view of the new Legacy at Livermore community, left, with a view of the rooftop deck, right.

away from an eclectic mix of eateries and entertainment, bustling breweries, and unique boutiques,” Legacy Partners said in its announcement.

The complex consists of two buildings at three and four stories, respectively, and features studios as well as one-, two- and three-bedroom layouts ranging from 550 to 1,612 square feet.

The units are equipped with gas cook tops, dressing room closets, built-in cabinetry and casework, high-speed fiber internet, full-size

washer and dryers, oversized windows, and moveable kitchen islands, according to the developer.

Additional amenities include landscaped courtyards and picnic areas; a fitness center with Techno Gym and Peloton equipment; community room with kitchen, lounge, and game room; low-emission Tesla and EV charging stations; and bicycle storage.

On the rooftop, residents have access to a pool, spa, BBQ area and views of Mount Diablo and

the surrounding mountains in the Diablo Range.

Legacy at Livermore is the newest community from Legacy to open in the East Bay. Last year, Legacy opened the 97-unit Legacy at Hayward, which is currently 93% leased, according to the developer.

Both the Livermore and Hayward projects endured a setback in 2021 when the initial contractor for the developments, Kattera, filed for bankruptcy. Construction on the two

new complexes halted for several months until a new contractor was found. In Livermore, construction resumed in November 2021 with San Jose-based SBI Builders, Inc.

In addition to the residential units, the Legacy at Livermore community also includes 11,679 square feet of ground level retail space which is being leased by Lee & Associates | East Bay, Inc.

For more information about Legacy at Livermore, visit www.legacylivermore.com. ■

HOME SALES

This week’s data represents homes sold during Oct. 9-13 for Pleasanton, Livermore and Dublin, and Oct. 16-27 for San Ramon.

Pleasanton

- 7880 Canyon Meadow Circle #A** Cash Property Investments LLC to E. & S. Saul for \$700,000
- 7717 Cottonwood Lane** V. Ozdemir to C. & M. Moliteus for \$1,513,000
- 7890 Knollbrook Drive** J. Mahan to Maxwealth Investments LLC for \$999,000
- 3963 Fairlands Drive** Martinez Family Trust to F. & N. Saraf for \$1,700,000

Livermore

- 5765 Edelweiss Way** Vermont Trust to S. & J. Kim for \$1,405,000
- 1317 Fairbrook Court** Burkle Trust to T. & M. Mccoy for \$950,000
- 972 Florence Road** C. & S. Amaral to A. & V. Rodriguez for \$1,200,000
- 557 Leona Drive** T. & T. Smith to J. & S. Bollineni for \$1,125,000
- 767 North M Street** D. & L. Didonato to Q. Martin for \$900,000
- 175 Selby Lane #5** S. & R. Moore to H. & J. Seong for \$890,000
- 3991 Yale Way** S. & L. Grey to S. & A. Koch for \$925,000
- 116 El Caminito** Julson Family Trust to K. & T. Ferris for \$921,000
- 1486 Heather Lane** Hearne Living Trust to Bay Area Executive Re & Dev Gr for \$750,000
- 1418 Honeysuckle Road** F. Shea to Zca Homes LLC for \$750,000

- 829 Keystone Way** Matsumoto Trust to N. & T. Dinh for \$1,150,000
- 1754 Mount Diablo Way** Whetzell Family Trust to S. & N. Aslami for \$1,400,000
- 2586 Regent Road** R. & S. Schallert to J. & B. Davis for \$1,750,000
- 490 School Street** G. Rose to J. & R. Singh for \$1,200,000
- 608 Via Del Sol** Goswami Living Trust to R. & M. Manthena for \$1,450,000
- 110 Wildrose Common #2** G. Ledo to T. & K. Silver for \$825,000

Dublin

- 7828 Cranford Lane** Vandussen Family Trust to S. & P. Kamath for \$1,380,000
- 7011 North Mariposa Lane** D. Lu to R. & S. Shanmughasundaram for \$1,250,000
- 5528 Barrel Court** V. Gama to A. Kalita for \$1,180,000
- 7530 Bonfield Court** J. & T. Ravazza to T. & E. Huynh for \$1,250,000
- 4380 Foxford Way** Scoppettone Living Trust to P. & N. Menon for \$1,820,000
- 9586 Joey Dare Court** Trettin Trust to J. Cao for \$2,207,000
- 11867 West Vomic Road** Knezevich Trust to A. & A. Thulasiram for \$1,735,000

San Ramon

- 331 Adelaide Hills Court** S. & L. Demeter to S. & A. Jain for \$2,125,500
- 372 Cardona Circle** Ruiz Family Trust to M. & B. Ng for \$1,708,500
- 162 Dogwood Place** Zale Trust to Coit Trust for \$825,000

- 5056 Fioli Loop** T. Fu to C. & A. Parmar for \$1,200,000
- 79 Ryegate Place** M. Davis to K. & J. Gonda for \$1,360,000
- 795 Watson Canyon Court #254** V. Denardi to Y. & Z. Cui for \$513,000
- 1400 Allanmere Drive** Sundaram Living Trust to Shah Family Trust for \$2,065,000
- 3285 Ashbourne Circle** National Residential to J. & S. Gu for \$3,420,000
- 358 Bellflower Drive** Lapson Living Trust to Nageswara Trust for \$1,352,000
- 200 Blackthorn Court** Burns Living Trust to H. & M. Mkhoyan for \$2,150,000
- 7403 Briza Loop** G. Iseri to R. & V. Kesary for \$1,350,000
- 437 South Clovercrest Lane** M. & S. Garcia to S. & R. Rangnekar for \$1,130,000

- 7602 Corrinne Place** Krenzer Trust to Singhalgoyal Trust for \$1,100,000
- 3731 Crow Canyon Road** H. & J. Nguyen to Barnes Family Trust for \$760,000
- 9519 Davona Drive** Harman Trust to C. & P. Tumilla for \$1,325,000
- 532 Hyacinthus Court** Rong Living Trust to Manda & Boora Living Trust for \$2,330,000
- 1186 Mateo Miller Circle** Toll West Coast LLC to Chuang-Liu Family Trust for \$1,863,000
- 1068 Portabella Terrace** Toll West Coast LLC to E. & D. Bubnov for \$900,000
- 235 Reflections Drive #28** S. Espiar to A. Thach for \$520,000
- 222 Tewksbury Court** Mutha Family Trust to Vasu & Suba Family Trust for \$2,600,000

Source: California REsource

SALES AT A GLANCE

Pleasanton (Oct. 9-13)

Total sales reported: 4
Lowest sale reported: \$700,000
Highest sale reported: \$1,700,000
Average sales reported: \$1,227,999

Livermore (Oct. 9-13)

Total sales reported: 16
Lowest sale reported: \$750,000
Highest sale reported: \$1,750,000
Average sales reported: \$1,099,437

Dublin (Oct. 9-13)

Total sales reported: 7
Lowest sale reported: \$1,180,000
Highest sale reported: \$2,207,000
Average sales reported: \$1,546,000

San Ramon (Oct. 16-27)

Total sales reported: 20
Lowest sale reported: \$513,000
Highest sale reported: \$3,420,000
Average sales reported: \$1,329,700

Source: California REsource



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PENDING ABOVE ASKING!

5139 CORONA COURT, PLEASANTON
LISTED AT \$1,499,000



NOW PENDING

- \$1M IN LUXURY UPDATES
- BLACKHAWK COMMUNITY

5201 BLACKHAWK DRIVE, DANVILLE
LISTED AT \$3,495,000



SOLD \$111K ABOVE LIST PRICE!

- PRODUCED MULTIPLE OFFERS
- PENDING AFTER 7 DAYS!

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



SOLD ABOVE LIST PRICE!

- PRODUCED MULTIPLE OFFERS
- PENDING IN 7 DAYS!

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



SOLD \$118K ABOVE LIST PRICE!

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

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



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- ✓ Competitive Seller Fees
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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)

BLISSFUL FIRES
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 602032
The following person (persons) is (are)
doing business as:
1.) BLISSFUL FIRES, located at 6200
STONERIDGE MALL RD SUITE 300,
PLEASANTON, CA 94588, ALAMEDA
COUNTY.
This business is conducted by: a Limited
Liability Company.
The name and residence address of the
registrant(s) is(are):
FAME VENTURES LLC
6200 STONERIDGE MALL RD SUITE 300
PLEASANTON, CA 94588
CALIFORNIA
Registrant began transacting business
under the fictitious business name(s) listed
above on 10/30/2023.
This statement was filed with the County
Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on November
13 2023.
(PLW Nov 24, Dec 1, 8 and 15, 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)

Place a legal notice at
PleasantonWeekly.com/legal_notices/

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SOLD - \$3,450,000



2570 Chateau Way, Livermore
SOLD - \$1,525,000



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Kris Moxley

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