

Pleasanton Weekly

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YEAR

IN

REVIEW

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Happy New Year!
with Lauryn Marie
JAN 6 @ 8 PM



Americano Social Club:
Family Ruckus
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'80s Dance Party
with DJ Jessica Platt
JAN 19 @ 8 PM



Moving Parts
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Happy Birthday Elvis!
with Jim Anderson
& The Rebels
JAN 21 @ 2 PM



GET IT!
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California Feetwarmers
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Flamenco at the
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Stella Meets Nat
The Music of Nat King Cole
FEB 16 @ 8 PM



Jeff Bordes
Valentine's Show
FEB 17 @ 8 PM

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WHAT A WEEK



BY JEREMY WALSH

It's the end of the year

As we know it and I feel ... well, I wouldn't say "fine", but I'm certainly ready for it.

These final weeks of 2023 have been quite the push, professionally and personally.

Our organization is completing the last steps to transition from a for-profit news publishing company to a journalism nonprofit foundation effective Jan. 1. That plus a few other major internal changes, including a couple you'll learn about very soon, have made for quite the eventful fourth quarter at work.

The Tri-Valley news world has stayed very active as well, which is great for our editorial team and has kept me busy. Oh, and once again I took the lead on our Year in Review package — and while it looks awesome, I'm adult enough to admit I bit off way more than I could chew for this special edition of our newspaper. (If only you knew what time it was when I started writing this column...)

Ah well, just put on my headphones, crank up the '80s college rock playlist I've had on repeat this week and power through. That explains the R.E.M. lyrics on the brain.

Sometimes I feel like I was born in the wrong generation, musically. My listening trends tend to gravitate toward stuff from the '70s and '80s — although I do have a few '90s and '00s collections cycling through too, the modern sounds from when I was growing up. I would probably be wise to expose myself to more music from this century, especially with a child to help mold.

Wait, what am I doing? Focus, reset, after all no time to fret.

Not always easy to stay on track with so much going on.

At home, our little guy is turning 2 this Saturday. (Happy Birthday, Francis!) We had his party at a park last weekend, lucking out with a beautiful fall day just before the rain arrived.

That prep was quite the whirlwind — maybe too much, as all three of us find ourselves a bit under the weather midweek. But we're hopefully moving in the right direction ahead of the holiday week, which promises to be another busy spell with family gatherings, play dates and outings with friends.

Who knows? Maybe even a round

of golf, a couple of Warriors' games on the couch, a full night of sleep here or there, and working in a movie or two to regain some progress on our long journey of watching the Best Picture winners in order. (We've been stuck on "Rain Man" for a few weeks now, but hey, with it we've finally made it into the subcategory of "Best Picture winners from my lifetime".)

Of course, it won't be a proper vacation week ahead for me. While I'll take a day or two off, more so because daycare is closed than for my own R&R, there will be plenty of work to be done too.

Even though we're not publishing a newspaper next Friday, our Jan. 5 print edition is not all that far away — and the stories will continue to flow online next week.

There is a lot you can look forward to reading on PleasantonWeekly.com soon, including our team's coverage of Tuesday night's Pleasanton City Council meeting, some interesting school board developments and several A&E features in the queue, to name a few.

Politicized drama is also in the offing, as campaign season is here.

We're looking into the possible ethics inquiry of local U.S. Rep. Eric Swalwell for reportedly reserving the space on Capitol Hill that Hunter Biden used for his press conference pushing to give public testimony while ultimately defying a congressional subpoena demanding his deposition in closed-session.

Closer to home, Jennifer Esteen — the lone challenger against Alameda County District 4 Supervisor Nate Miley — is crying foul this week for not being reappointed to her seat on the Alameda Health System Board of Trustees, implying electoral motivations by her opponent and citing her recent public statement calling for a permanent ceasefire in Gaza.

A lot for our team to unpack with those stories, not to mention still trying to wrap our reporting heads around the supposed shenanigans (or some might say gamesmanship) involved with the candidate filings for the State Senate district that includes Pleasanton, Dublin and Livermore.

Feeling pretty psyched. ■

Editor's note: Jeremy Walsh is the editorial director for the Embarcadero Media East Bay Division. His "What a Week" column is a recurring feature in the Pleasanton Weekly.

About the Cover

The Weekly looks back over the top news stories month by month during a busy 2023 in our annual Year in Review package. Check it out inside, starting on Page 14. Cover design by Doug Young. Vol. XXIV, Number 48

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Warmest Wishes For A Beautiful Holiday Season!

Do you have any special holiday plans coming up?



Stacy Overcamp, with Beach Boy
Sales

I'm planning to spend Christmas Day in San Francisco, walking around and admiring all of the beautiful decorations and scenery. There won't be any traffic or crowds and I'll probably have some great Chinese food, too, at my favorite restaurant in Chinatown that's always open on Christmas.



Mehrdad Biglarbегian and Fatima Rezvani
Engineer / accountant

We are going to Cancun! We're planning to just relax, energize and recharge our batteries. We hope to embrace the new year feeling rejuvenated and refreshed.



Brooke Cowens, with William Henry
Hairstylist

After we celebrate the holidays with our own families here in the States, we're traveling to the Netherlands to visit my husband's grandparents. We're so excited!



Yanina Calamari
Business owner

Oh yes! On Christmas Day, we're having all of our Argentinian friends who live in Pleasanton and Livermore come over to our house for a lovely gathering. And after Christmas, we'll be traveling with both of our kids to Argentina in order to spend time with our families.



Ben Hubbard
Physician's assistant

Well, earlier this month, my wife and I traveled to Hawaii with our two little girls. We had the most wonderful time! So for the rest of the holiday season, we will both largely be working at our respective hospitals. We're so grateful and fortunate to have local parents who take really great care of our daughters while we're at work.

—Compiled by Nancy and Jeff Lewis

Have a Streetwise question? Email editor@PleasantonWeekly.com

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DIGEST

See you on Jan. 5

Today's paper will be the final Pleasanton Weekly print edition of 2023, as we opted for a larger special issue with our Year in Review this week and take a break from the newspaper production between Christmas and New Year's Day.

Our print paper will be back as usual on Jan. 5.

The news coverage won't stop in the interim, however. Our journalists will be hard at work reporting articles online over the next week. Visit PleasantonWeekly.com to see all of the big stories, and we will see you again in print in 2024. Happy Holidays!

Cheer with Beer

Visit Tri-Valley has brought back its Spread Cheer with Beer campaign to encourage residents and visitors in Pleasanton, Livermore, Dublin and Danville to sample suds for charity this holiday season.

Continuing through Jan. 2, the program will reward people who go to 10 or more participating breweries, alehouses and taprooms along the Tri-Valley Beer Trail with a \$20 donation to the local nonprofit of their choice. A limited-edition Pom Pom Beanie is also being handed out, while supplies last.

"We had such a great response to this campaign last year, we knew we had to bring it back this year," said Robin Fahr, VP of marketing at Visit Tri-Valley. "It's a perfect way for locals and visitors to get in the holiday spirit, explore great stops along the Tri-Valley Beer Trail while raising funds for a local charity. Everyone wins in the season of giving."

For rules and more information, go to www.visittrivalley.com.

Catch it on TV30

Tri-Valley Community Television is in the holiday spirit, with special programming airing through Christmas Eve of coverage from the tree lighting ceremony in Dublin and parades and tree lightings in Pleasanton and Livermore from earlier this month.

Then on Christmas Eve night from 6 p.m. to midnight, TV30 will broadcast the "Sleepy Dog at the Fire with Sounds of the Holidays". This will be followed by a marathon of the parades, three lightings and a seasonal musical performance by the Cantabella Children's Chorus all Christmas Day long.

Over the next weekend, TV30 will air its New Year's Day Football-A-Thon with replays of three Tri-Valley high school football games from this past season. Visit tv30.org. ■

No contract deal for PUSD, teachers following state mediation session

Union members vote 98.5% in favor of authorizing strike if needed amid stalled negotiations

By CHRISTIAN TRUJANO

The Pleasanton Unified School District and the Association of Pleasanton Teachers have once again failed to reach a labor settlement agreement after a state-mandated mediation session last Friday — even after the union told district leaders that members voted 98.5% in favor of authorizing a strike.

While the teachers have not officially called a strike nor have immediate plans to call one, the vote does mean that the APT members have given union leadership the clearance to make that decision, if needed, as the two sides remain at impasse while far apart on salary proposals.

"Our educators are the dedicated professionals who guide and inspire our students," APT President Cheryl Atkins told the PUSD school board during its meeting on Dec. 14, the night before the mediation session. "It's only fair that we prioritize their well-being by providing healthcare with premium increases

and acknowledging the invaluable contributions they make by offering a fair compensation package that reflects the historical funding increase to education that I have seen in my 30-plus years of teaching."

"We don't want to strike," Atkins added. "A strike will have negative ramifications on this community for a very long time, but we are committed and we will if we have to."

The mediation session is confidential on both sides, Atkins told the Weekly, which means that the details of why the session failed on Friday are also confidential. However, PUSD Superintendent David Haglund did offer some insight as to what transpired.

"As the session concluded, APT requested additional time to consider the district's proposal," Haglund told the Weekly. "The district agreed to the request in the interest of seeking an amicable resolution in the mediation process."

Atkins said that even though they were unable to reach an agreement

Friday, APT is still committed to fighting for a fair contract.

"APT is still committed to giving their students the best — which is class sizes, caps and caseloads, resources and supports and highly qualified teachers that they can attract and retain," Atkins told the Weekly.

The union declared the impasse in negotiations with the district on Oct. 24, which initiated the state mediation process. That process, which is what took place on Friday, is facilitated by a state mediator assigned by the Mediation and Conciliation Service of the Public Employee Relations Board.

While there are other compensation and contract requests from the APT, the salary component has been the main sticking point for both sides, as the district has held a strong stance against the large increase in salary mainly due to budget restrictions while the teachers have been very vocal about the need for higher pay and fully paid benefits.

The district originally proposed raising teacher salaries 6.3% but has since increased its offer to 6.5%, while the APT initially asked for a 15% raise and has since lowered it to 14.25%.

Since the impasse decision, there have been several failed follow-up negotiation sessions between the two sides.

According to a Dec. 14 joint press release from the APT and the East Bay Coalition for Student Success, which is a union support organization made up of several union chapters affiliated with the 310,000-member California Teachers Association and the 3 million-member National Education Association, every chapter within the coalition has been fighting similar battles respectively since the coalition's formation back in September 2022.

"Nearly all districts in California received an 8.22% increase in their per-student funding from the state,

See **TEACHERS** on Page 9



CHUCK DECKERT

The Pleasanton Unified School District is selling this piece of property located along Vineyard Avenue to a developer that is looking to build at least 27 homes with three acres of park space.

Board approves sale of PUSD property to developer for \$34.7M

Landsea Homes plans to build 27 residential units

By CHRISTIAN TRUJANO

The Pleasanton school board voted unanimously last week to sell the district-owned Neal property located along Vineyard Avenue between Thiessen Street and Manoir Lane to a housing developer for \$34,695,000.

The purchase agreement for the property, also known as the Neal property or the Vineyard site, would have the buyer — Landsea Homes of California — also pay an additional \$1.2 million for

"each residential lot approved by the city" on top of the 27 homes that the developer plans on building.

Initially, Landsea Homes wanted to go up to 41 homes, but according to Dominic Dutra — CEO and founder of 3D Strategies, a real estate consulting firm for educational institutions — that option was eliminated after listening to community input.

"We were able to, as you know, work with the district to remain at 28 — actually, they're doing 27

homes, less than what the neighbors wanted," Dutra said during the Dec. 14 board meeting. "That is, in essence, to retain the ability to have three acres of park and open space that I think the neighborhood is going to be very, very happy with."

Several years ago, the Pleasanton Unified School District wanted to look at its surplus property and identify some sites to place on the city's latest Housing Element.

See **PROPERTY** on Page 8

\$16M in federal funding for LLNL

Part of national program to advance fusion energy tech

By JOSHUA PICAZO / BCN

The U.S. Department of Energy announced on Dec. 11 that Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory will be receiving a \$16 million boost in federal funding as part of a national billion-dollar program aimed at advancing fusion energy, which many advocates see as a clean energy alternative.

The DOE's Livermore Lab is one of three hubs selected to receive new funding.

"The potential of fusion energy represents a new frontier in our efforts to produce clean, dependable energy that sustainably powers our nation," Sen. Alex Padilla said in a statement.

During a fusion reaction, two light nuclei combine to form a single heavier nucleus. When that occurs, energy is released because the mass

See **LAB** on Page 8

Proposed sale of SRRMC called off after antitrust complaint

John Muir Health, Tenet terminate \$142.5M deal, citing 'cost and disruption of litigation'

By JEANITA LYMAN

The planned acquisition of San Ramon Regional Medical Center by John Muir Health that has been on the table for nearly a year is no longer going forward, with officials

at JMH and the current majority owner scrapping the deal weeks after an antitrust complaint aimed at halting it.

John Muir Health officials announced Friday that they and Tenet Healthcare Corp. had decided not

to seek legal recourse following a federal lawsuit filed jointly by the Federal Trade Commission and California Attorney General's Office.

"We made this decision due to the cost and disruption of litigation," JMH officials said in a statement Monday.

The decision means that the hospital will continue to operate under its current ownership for the foreseeable future, with Tenet owning 51% of the hospital and managing its operations and JMH continuing to have 49% ownership without operating rights.

"Both Tenet and JMH remain very disappointed in the FTC's decision and strongly disagree with the assumptions and conclusions that were reached in their court submission," JMH officials said.

"We maintain our shared belief that the proposed transaction would have provided substantial benefits for patients and the community," they added. "However, the significant investment of time and money required to litigate can be better spent on other initiatives within our health systems and in support of our joint venture."

Under the now-defunct deal, JMH would have purchased Tenet's shares of the hospital and other assets for \$142.5 million, with officials and employees at SRRMC already gearing up to see the facility change hands in recent months.

Federal and state regulators filed a joint antitrust lawsuit seeking to



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

San Ramon Regional Medical Center.

block the acquisition on Nov. 17, alleging that it would function to monopolize emergency and critical health care services in the San Ramon Valley and put an end to what they said was an existing, healthy competition between Tenet and John Muir.

"John Muir's anticompetitive hospital takeover would have driven up health care costs for critical services like heart surgery, spinal surgery, and maternity care," Henry Liu, director of the FTC's Bureau of Competition, said in an announcement Monday. "It also threatened to eliminate improvements in care driven by competition, which directly benefit patients."

JMH officials characterized their relationship with Tenet as a partnership rather than a competition, however, and said they would continue to work with SRRMC and

other healthcare facilities in the Tri-Valley.

"As partners, we remain committed to delivering high-quality, compassionate care and expanding access to specialty care in San Ramon, Dublin, Pleasanton and surrounding areas," JMH officials said.

Under the acquisition, JMH would have also acquired ownership and operating rights at Pleasanton Diagnostic Testing, which is also set to remain under Tenet following the deal's termination.

Following the announcement that JMH and Tenet had decided not to move forward with the deal, federal and state prosecutors moved to dismiss the federal case they filed last month, with the FTC dismissing its administrative challenge of the deal as of Monday. ■



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Spreading holiday cheer to troops overseas

Holiday packages prepared at a recent Pleasanton Military Families pack-out event, led by volunteers including Kathy Skelton whose son is stationed abroad, made their way to American service members overseas complete with care items and personalized cards from Pleasanton students.

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Contested races set for Zone 7 board election

Four candidates running for three full terms; two vying for two-year short term

By CHRISTIAN TRUJANO

With four positions up for grabs on the Zone 7 Water Agency Board of Directors, the candidate list is now set for the March 5 primary election ballot with a total of four candidates running for the three full-term seats and two newcomers running for the short-term seat, according to the Alameda County Registrar of Voters' Office.

Out of those six candidates, three of them are current Zone 7 incumbents Sandy Figuers, Laurene Green and Kathy Narum. Current Zone 7 Director Angela Ramirez Holmes previously confirmed to the Weekly that she will not seek another term.

Figures, Narum and Green will each be running for one of the three four-year term positions. Alan Burnham, a chemist who has previously worked at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory

for 35 years and was an adjunct professor at Stanford University for eight years, according to his election website, will be the fourth person running for the one of the full-term positions.

Burnham's website also states that he currently operates a business that provides affordable spaces for nonprofit organizations and that as a Zone 7 board member, he will "vigorously support programs for water conservation, groundwater protection and new water sources."

A fifth prospective candidate, a water affairs professional named Robert Seeley, had previously filed papers for the four-year term, but his candidacy has been withdrawn, according to the registrar's office.

The fourth position up for election on the board, which is a shortened two-year seat, currently has two names running for the seat: newcomers Catherine Brown and Seema Badar, a development

director and former candidate for Dublin San Ramon Services District Board of Directors.

The two-year position is to complete the unexpired term vacated by former director Olivia Sanwong, for which Narum was appointed on an interim basis through this primary election.

Elected board members receive compensation for their attendance to meetings and conferences related to their service in water supply and flood protection. The board also meets once a month and each member serves on at least one subcommittee.

Zone 7 board seats are at-large across the agency's entire Alameda County service area, which includes incorporated and unincorporated Pleasanton, Livermore and Dublin. The agency provides flood protection to the Livermore and Amador valleys as well as serves as the water wholesaler for retailers in those communities. ■



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PROPERTY

Continued from Page 5

The Pleasanton City Council voted in December to reduce the developable area at the 10-acre site to 7 acres and have three to four units per acre, which adds up to an assumed capacity of 21 to 28 units. Councilmembers also voted to add three acres of some type of greenbelt park space that goes through the development.

As the city finalized its Housing Element late last year, the district decided to form a 7-11 Committee — made up of seven to 11 different community stakeholders, helped the district decide how to best utilize some of its property assets and ended up identifying the Vineyard site as surplus property that the district could sell.

“Doing that was strategically really prudent because that property in that location was not needed,” Ahmad Sheikholeslami, assistant superintendent of business services, told the board.

He said some of the reasons the 7-11 Committee and the district decided it was in their best interest to sell was that looking at the demographics of that area, there would be no use to build another school there.

He also said the property itself was too costly because of the money the district put in cutting grass for fire mitigation and clearing debris.

“It’s really not benefiting the district,” Sheikholeslami said. “So the district took a strategic review of what it is doing with its assets and we determined that the best way really is to monetize that asset and reallocate it into other facilities.”

That’s why the district took the necessary steps over the past year to lawfully sell the property by declaring the property as exempt surplus land, which was then submitted and approved as exempt surplus land by the California Department of Housing and Community Development.

The district then made certain offers to government agencies to

submit the land to be used for park and recreational purposes, as required by educational codes, but the district did not receive any responses to those offers.

That’s when the district decided to seek a waiver for competitive bidding requirements, instead seeking to sell the land via a request for proposals (RFP) process, which was approved by the state on Nov. 8. The state, however, imposed conditions that the board needed to determine the most desirable proposal within 30 to 60 days following a public meeting in which they received that proposal, and that the selected proposal be on the agenda in a public meeting prior to its approval.

Then during the Oct. 26 board meeting, six proposals were presented to the board. While the dais did not select a proposal back then, they did direct staff to negotiate a formal purchase and sale agreement with Landsea Homes.

“We’ve been engaged in that work for the last several weeks and we’re really excited about

bringing forward this agreement,” Sheikholeslami said.

Now, after the board first approved a resolution declaring its intent to sell the property, the sale has been approved.

“Through the RFP process, we have received very competitive bids,” Sheikholeslami said. “Landsea was not only the most competitive bid and pricing, but we believe offers the best value and the best product in terms of their ability to build these homes and develop this property.”

According to the Dec. 14 agenda report for the meeting, Landsea Homes will have a 60-day feasibility period where it will investigate the property and perform testing.

“The purchase price will be reduced by any costs to satisfy conditions imposed by the city to improve or dedicate land for park or vineyard purposes, with a cap on those costs to be agreed upon by the parties during the feasibility period,” according to the staff report.

Dutra told the board that while

there isn’t a concrete site plan as the developers still need to go through the design process with the city’s Planning Commission, the initial site plan that Landsea has right now reflects what the neighbors of that area have incorporated in a letter they previously sent and that the site will likely mirror the adjoining properties.

“I think it really is a win-win for the district, the city and the neighbors,” Dutra said.

“There’s no specific plan that is approved other than the direction from the City Council to make sure that there’s three acres retained for a park or open space,” he added. “The developer still has to work with the city to get through a tentative map process. That’s an approximate 15-month period.”

That design review process will include times for the public to provide input and reiterate their ideas and requests for how they want the housing to look like at the property. ■

LAB

Continued from Page 5

of the single nucleus is less than the mass of the two original nuclei and the remaining mass becomes energy. The product is helium which is a non-toxic gas not known to produce environmental or health risks.

“I applaud this critical funding for a fusion energy hub, and I am excited to see the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory spearhead this effort with partners across California and the country on the heels of last year’s breakthrough,” Padilla added.

The breakthrough he is referring to was Livermore Lab achieving “fusion ignition” last year, meaning it produced more energy from fusion reactions than the energy that was used to drive the reaction.

Tammy Ma, lead for the LLNL Inertial Fusion Energy Initiative, said the program is a step towards realizing the DOE’s goal to commercialize fusion energy within a decade.

“The project will begin developing the workforce of the future for inertial fusion energy through partnerships with leading universities and innovative new curriculum development and implementation,” said Ma.

Fusion energy is seen by energy experts as a clean alternative that does not produce carbon, however it has been notoriously difficult to implement.

Researchers and advocates for its funding hope this effort will build on that breakthrough.

“I am thrilled that Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory’s National Ignition Facility (NIF) — a cutting-edge nuclear research facility located within my district — was selected to receive \$16 million to advance fusion energy technologies,” U.S. Rep. Eric Swalwell (D-Livermore) said in a statement released by his office.

The laboratory is the largest employer in Livermore, according to the city’s 2022 financial report. ■

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Goodness Village seeks support for programming, resources

Regular operations not covered by building expansion funds

By CIERRA BAILEY

In the roughly two and a half years that Goodness Village has been open, the nonprofit tiny home community has received an abundance of local support and recognition. Still, the Livermore-based organization has a number of unmet needs to sustain day-to-day operations.

Executive Director Kim Curtis told Livermore Vine in a recent interview that in addition to generally increasing awareness about the village, which provides safe and affordable living spaces to formerly unhoused people, an ongoing goal is to secure more funding for the necessary services they provide to their residents.

State Sen. Steve Glazer (D-Orinda)

helped secure \$5 million last year through the California Department of Social Services toward construction of a community center that is set to break ground in the new year. However, Curtis clarified that those funds are limited to being used strictly for the build and not for other aspects of the program.

Curtis acknowledged that the village has received separate grants and other funding toward its operational budget, which are helpful but mostly come in small dollar amounts that only go so far for a residential community operating 28 tiny homes.

"We may get 10 grand here, \$2,500 here. Because we're so new we're not really eligible for those big ones that people will help position us into a much better space, so we're building

our credibility; we're showing that we're good stewards of money," Curtis said. "It looks like we're getting awarded all over the place but it's very small dollar amounts at the same time so there's a lot of misunderstanding about where we're at."

The village's annual budget moving into 2024 is approximately \$1.4 million, which includes its 24-hour wraparound mental health services, vocational program for the residents, fees paid to CrossWinds Church for using its property and wages for the Goodness Village staff, among other expenses.

Curtis stressed that Goodness Village is much more than just providing basic shelter for people. She said having four walls doesn't automatically fix the obstacles the residents face. Providing resources for their safety, mental health, physical health and training them to re-enter

the workforce are all part of the Goodness Village model.

She noted that many people also don't realize that they are a permanent housing program and that's what makes them unique from other similar organizations but also accounts for some of their operating costs. She said she's faced questions about why there isn't a time limit for rotating residents out of the village, like the 18-month cap other organizations have.

"I think it's important that people realize there's definitely a shortage of housing just across the United States — like seven million houses short — so that's one thing but also just the cost of living in this area versus what their social security income is for disability and they're pulling maybe \$1,200 in a month, so where would they go?" Curtis said, adding that most of the

residents are also over 50.

"Transitioning people of this population that we're serving, we're looking at three to five years, not 18 months and that I think is where the system is broken in what we've done before here, since we are the only model doing it this way," Curtis said.

Moving people out too soon and before they are fully prepared can result in regressive behaviors that lead people back to homelessness and perpetuates a cycle that Goodness Village aims to break. "We're really trying to hold people here for longer periods so that we can see the reasons the recidivism back to homelessness continues to happen for the chronically unsheltered," Curtis said.

Beyond the extensive level of resources and support Goodness

See **GOODNESS** on Page 12

TEACHERS

Continued from Page 5

yet many management teams are preferring to keep that increase out of the classrooms and into their unrestricted reserves," according to the Dec. 14 press release. "Every chapter within the coalition has been working hard at their bargaining tables to ensure that collective bargaining agreements use state funding to ensure that students and educators get the best resources."

Atkins added to that sentiment as she pleaded with the board and the district on the eve of their mediation session to bring the current impasse to an end by saying that the focus of PUSD should be on students, and not on unnecessary spending.

"Our focus should not be on threats to lay off employees ... and overspending of funds," Atkins said. "That is what is happening. I'm hearing from members every day. Our focus should not be on buildings and facilities before students and staff."

She also said that teachers have been patiently waiting on an offer that reflects their commitment to the district and shows students and educators that it's not "just a matter of dollars and cents, it's a matter of investing in the future of Pleasanton students."

"The board has voted to give the executive cabinet full health insurance coverage, automatic salary increases and automatic longevity increases every year," Atkins said. "Why are our students and staff last? Why can't all staff receive the same from the board?"

Lisa Hopkins, a first grade teacher at Fairlands Elementary and a parent of a PUSD student, added to the idea that the students are counting on the district to demonstrate that it plans on putting students' education first.

She also called out the district saying that during a recent leadership meeting at Fairlands, she had heard the district is threatening to

cut employee positions as well as support programs and resources for students with intensive needs if the APT keeps asking for more money, which did not sit well with her.

"In threatening to cut the universal access and valuable training for science, reading instruction, you are showing that you are not putting students first," Hopkins said. "If you succeed in making these cuts, you will blame us, you will make our jobs harder by adding back more to our plates, you're going to further burn teachers out with your unending demands of unrealistic expectations without appropriate support."

She also said that it feels like the district is constantly getting money for office needs and things the district wants while the needs from teachers are labeled as too expensive.

"When you threaten to take away the things you know we need most in hopes that it will scare us into settling for less than we are worth, it hurts kids," Hopkins said. "It disappoints, frustrates, breaks us down, but it hurts kids. Once again you would prove you're not so student focused. You're not teacher focused. What is the end goal for this district? It's not looking good."

A petition that has been circulating on change.org demanding that PUSD prioritize teacher salary and health benefits since Oct. 16 has been once again gaining more signatures as it is now up to just under 3,000.

Atkins said now that mediation has failed, the two sides will now advance to a fact-finding stage of the negotiations. Fact-finding is when one neutral party along with one representative from each side of the negotiations reviews the proposals, documents and any facts before attempting to reach an agreement. If an agreement is not reached, then the fact-finder releases a report.

Atkins said that as of now, the APT and PUSD do not have a date set for the fact-finding session. ■

Department of Toxic Substances Control

DECEMBER 2023

DTSC PUBLIC NOTICE

Department of Toxic Substances Control – Our Mission is to protect California's people, communities, and environment from toxic substances, to enhance economic vitality by restoring contaminated land, and to compel manufacturers to make safer consumer products.

DTSC IS EXTENDING THE PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD FOR THE PROPOSED CLEANUP PLAN AT THE FORMER KIEWIT PROPERTY

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) invites you to review and comment on a Draft Removal Action Workplan (RAW) for the Former **Kiewit Property** (Site), located at **3300 Busch Road in Pleasanton, California 94566**. Historically, the Site was used as a borrow pit operation that was reportedly backfilled prior to the Kiewit Corporation (Kiewit) taking ownership of the property in the 1960s. Kiewit utilized the Site for storage and maintenance of construction equipment and materials. The draft RAW is a cleanup plan that proposes excavation to address the presence of total petroleum hydrocarbons and polychlorinated biphenyls in soil at the Site. **The public comment period began on October 23, 2023 with an initial end date of November 27, 2023, but it is now extended to end on December 29, 2023.** Written comments must be postmarked or emailed by December 29, 2023 and sent to: Matthew Kasjaka, DTSC Project Manager, 8800 Cal Center Drive, Sacramento, California 95826, or email to Matthew.Kasjaka@dtsc.ca.gov.

DTSC encourages you to comment on the draft RAW. We will consider and respond to all public comments before making a final decision on the draft RAW. A Response to Comments document will be sent to everyone who submits comments or requests a copy. You may review the draft RAW and other Site documents at the following information repositories: https://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/profile_report.asp?global_id=60003462; City of Pleasanton Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave, Pleasanton, CA 94566; Phone: (925) 931-3400; DTSC File Room, 8800 Cal Center Drive, Sacramento, CA 95826; Phone: (916) 255-4159; call for appointment.

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) As a lead agency under CEQA, DTSC prepared a Notice of Exemption (NOE) for the Site and determined that the project would not have a significant effect on public health or the environment.

CONTACTS: For questions regarding this Site, you may contact Matthew Kasjaka, DTSC Project Manager at (916) 255-3698, or Matthew.Kasjaka@dtsc.ca.gov. For questions regarding public participation and information in Spanish, please contact Ashley Blesio, DTSC Public Participation Specialist, at (916) 255- 6519 or Ashley.Blesio@dtsc.ca.gov.



Hearing impaired individuals may use the California Relay Service at 711 or 800-735-2929 TTY/VCO/HCO to voice.



Additional information on DTSC sites can be found through our **EnviroStor**. (rev. 5 - 2020)

Holiday Fund

Each year, the Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund raises money to support programs and services that care for local families and children in our community.

The Holiday Fund partners with the Embarcadero Media Foundation, which handles all finances, so every dollar of your tax-deductible donation goes directly to local nonprofits with no administrative expenses.

Holiday Fund

Please consider donating online, which enables your gift to be processed immediately. The secure website is:
PleasantonWeekly.com/holiday_fund

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The Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund is sponsored by the Embarcadero Media Foundation. It is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt charitable organization, allowing your donation to be tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the law.

All donors and their gift amounts will be published in the Pleasanton Weekly unless the boxes below are checked.

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Make checks payable to Embarcadero Media Foundation and send to:
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The following agencies will benefit from the Holiday Fund:

Axis Community Health is the Tri-Valley's sole provider of medical and mental health services for individuals and families who have a low income or who are uninsured. It serves more than 14,000 members of our community.

CityServe of the Tri-Valley supports the community by caring for people in crisis, coordinating resources between the faith-based community, nonprofits, schools, businesses, and government agencies and connecting volunteers in the community to nonprofits.

Culinary Angels is a volunteer-driven organization that provides organic, nutrient-rich meals and nutrition education to cancer patients and their caregivers in the Tri-Valley.

Goodness Village is a proactive housing program with a tiny-home community in Livermore, along with 24-hour, wraparound supportive services to those who have been unsheltered for a significant amount of time.

Hope Hospice provides ethical hospice care, transition services for those not eligible for hospice, bereavement support for adults and children and end-of-life education to Tri-Valley families, regardless of insurance or income status.

Open Heart Kitchen is the largest hot meal program of its kind in the Tri-Valley feeding the hungry every weekday at multiple locations.

Pleasanton Partnerships in Education (PPIE) has provided critical supplemental funding to benefit all 14,500 students at all 15 Pleasanton public schools for more than 30 years with the mission to enhance learning experiences for students.

Sunflower Hill provides places and spaces where adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) live, learn, work, and thrive in the greater community. The group develops residential communities and programming for individuals with I/DD.

Tri-Valley REACH provides safe, quality and affordable living environments where adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) may live independently.

Valley Humane Society rescues and rehabilitates companion animals, champions responsible caretaking, shares pets' soothing affections with people in need of comfort, and supports and preserves existing pet-guardian relationships.

2023-24 Holiday Fund Donors

As of December 20th, 134 donors have contributed \$39,622 to the Holiday Fund.

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PUSD assistant superintendent takes new job outside L.A.

Colleagues reflect on Hernandez's work over past seven years in Pleasanton

By **CHRISTIAN TRUJANO**

Pleasanton Unified School District assistant superintendent of human resources

Julio Hernandez is parting ways with the district after he accepted a job as the chief personnel officer at Torrance Unified School District in Los Angeles County.

His last day, according to PUSD Superintendent David Haglund, will be on Dec. 31.



Julio Hernandez

"I am particularly grateful for the work Julio did in engaging with our Spanish speaking families in Pleasanton. He was a critical resource and helped them navigate various U.S. systems effectively," Haglund said. "I have heard many positive comments from the community regarding his friendship and advocacy. I have also heard from members of our district staff who have reached out to him during times they needed help."

The Weekly was not able to reach Hernandez for comment as he is currently on vacation and will be for the remainder of the month.

"On behalf of the trustees and

cabinet, I wish Mr. Hernandez nothing but the best as he returns home to Southern California and takes on his new responsibilities in Torrance," Haglund added.

Sara Myers, director of communications at Torrance, told the Weekly that Hernandez's official first day with the new district will be on Dec. 28.

"Mr. Hernandez was chosen because of his exceptional experience, great references, and ability to develop strong working relationships, all of which he demonstrated throughout the hiring process," Myers said. "We feel truly fortunate to have Mr. Hernandez joining our Torrance Unified team."

Hernandez was first hired by the district in 2017. Since then, Haglund said he has been a "great, great partner and co-collaborator" as Hernandez took on critical projects like bringing the district into alignment with California Education Code and law.

"This is the one side of Mr. Hernandez's investments that were sometimes missed when people considered his role in the district," Haglund said. "And yet, these are some of the things I will miss the most as he goes on to this next opportunity."

But as assistant superintendent of

See **HERNANDEZ** on Page 12

New Dublin TK-8 school to be named 'Shamrock Hills'

Also: Emerald High theater to honor late trustee Catherine Kuo

By **NICOLE GONZALES**

The Dublin community now has confirmation on the names of two of its newest school site facilities — both will hold a local significance, as they celebrate Dublin's history and honor a late school board member, respectively.

During the Dec. 12 board meeting, trustees approved "Shamrock Hills" (the new TK-8 school) and "Catherine Kuo Performing Arts Center" (Emerald High School's theater) as their name selections.

According to district representatives, a naming committee was formed at the end of the 2022-23 school year composed of staff, students and parents for the TK-8 campus. This group collected community input, conducted research and administered surveys.

In late October, the committee ultimately presented three options to the board: Shamrock Hills, Hacienda Meadows and Martin Canyon. The group recommended Shamrock Hills saying that this name best reflected the community's history and culture.

"Shamrocks have deep cultural significance in Irish heritage. The word 'shamrock' translates to 'young clover', representing the journey of younger students from TK through eighth grade," Fredy Kadva, DUSD parent and naming committee member, said during the board meeting.

"Selecting Shamrock Hills honors the city's name, symbol and scenic surroundings. It reflects Dublin's Irish heritage, features the city's shamrock logo, and uniquely signifies the TK-8th grade educational journey," he added.

DUSD Superintendent Chris Funk shared remarks on the name and committee.

"We want to thank all the

members of our TK-8 School Naming Committee for the time and thoughtful effort they put into this process. Naming a school is a great honor and responsibility. The community owes you their thanks," Funk said. "I believe that Shamrock Hills TK-8 is a name that we can all embrace."

Trustees Kristin Pelham, William Kuo and Kristin Speck voted in favor of Shamrock Hills. Trustees Dan Cherrier and Gabi Blackman voted against the name.

Blackman argued that Shamrock Hills does not reference a particular geographical region so the name would not align with district naming guidelines.

"Hills are just not synonymous with anything specific in terms of geographic area. It's a descriptor for landmass. I understand Shamrock is the imagery we have with the city, but geographic area is our board policy ... that's why I'm voting no," Blackman said.

Cherrier also voted no, however he did not agree with Blackman's reasoning. He instead felt the school should bear Catherine Kuo's name.

Board members then discussed naming the Emerald High School theater.

In a 4-0 vote, they approved the "Catherine Kuo Performing Arts Center" in memory of the late Catherine Kuo. Trustee William Kuo, Catherine's widower, abstained from this vote.

A second-year trustee for District 3 and longtime school volunteer, Catherine Kuo was killed in a traffic collision while volunteering at Fallon Middle School in March 2021.

District staff explained that Catherine Kuo's name had circulated for consideration for the new TK-8

school name. The committee did not recommend her name for the school; however, staff did encourage a dedication to her with the EHS theater.

"Although the committee did not recommend naming the school after Catherine, staff feels it is very appropriate to commemorate and honor her contributions to the district by naming the Emerald theater after her," officials said in the staff report. "It is in her memory that the district recommended naming the Emerald High School theater, the Catherine Kuo Performing Arts Center."

During the meeting, Trustee William Kuo shared words on his late wife and the name dedication.

"My family and friends are honored and humbled to have this gesture bestowed upon Catherine's legacy. For us, naming the theater after Catherine is very representative of who she was," said William Kuo, who succeeded his late wife on the board. "She played the violin and was part of the UCLA symphony for a couple of years and she caught my eyes as a bass guitar player for the church band, and she sang with the band. To me, music, singing and Catherine are all intertwined."

"To all of the future students, directors, producers, teachers and staff, I now thank you in advance for your hard work and dedication to the performing arts," William Kuo added. "Your efforts will undoubtedly inspire and entertain audiences for years to come at the theater. You will no doubt bring the community together sharing your work onstage and behind the scenes." ■

Greg Landrum	500
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IN MEMORY OF

All our friends and family who passed this year, from the Kvale family	*
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BETTY PATRICK	100
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AS A GIFT FOR

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* Donor did not want to publish the amount of the gift.



Helping the Bonnie Prince: Pleasanton resident Alan Purves visited the Isle of Skye in Scotland and stopped at the gravesite of Flora MacDonald, famous for helping "Bonnie" Prince Charlie Edward Stuart escape to France in 1746.

Nine candidates file to replace retiring Supervisor Carson

'Time for a new chapter with fresh ideas,' longtime county rep

BY BAY CITY NEWS SERVICE

Nine candidates have stepped up to the plate to fill the seat of Alameda County Supervisor Keith Carson after the incumbent unexpectedly decided to drop out of the race on Dec. 8.

Carson made his announcement just before the county Registrar of Voters' Office automatically extended the filing deadline for other candidates for his seat by five days, in line with state law that is activated when an incumbent doesn't file for reelection. The final deadline lapsed at 5 p.m. Dec. 13.

Carson represents District 5, which includes Albany, Piedmont, Emeryville, Berkeley, and portions of north and west Oakland.



Keith Carson

"After much reflection, I've decided not to seek reelection in 2024 as your County Supervisor," Carson said in a statement Dec. 8 on social media. "It's been an incredible 30+ years serving you, and I'm grateful for your trust. Time for a new chapter with fresh ideas. Thank you for your unwavering support and passion for our community! Excited for Alameda County's future," Carson said.

In a longer public statement on his office's website, Carson said that he had begun the process to run again but decided against it after more consideration, prayer and consultation with his family.

"This decision was not made lightly, but I believe it is the right time for a new chapter for both myself and the district. While I am physically ready for another term, I believe it is time for new energy that reflects the evolving needs of District 5," the statement said.

Carson, a Berkeley native who

was first elected to the Board of Supervisors in 1992, pointed out that nobody else had filed to run for the seat by the end of the day Dec. 8, so he would have run unopposed.

Vying for his seat are Berkeley City Councilmember Ben Bartlett, who has a long political pedigree there, serving on the city's transportation and planning commissions, as well as Berkeley's zero waste commission and its loan advisory board.

Oakland City Councilmember Nikki Fortunato Bas is also hoping to move from the Oakland City Council to the Board of Supervisors. She was elected president of the council in 2021 and says on her campaign website that as supervisor she will focus on the "three H's: Homelessness, Housing, Healthcare."

Former Emeryville Mayor and current City Councilmember John Bauters has also thrown his proverbial hat in the ring. He is the chair of the Alameda County

Transportation Commission.

Alameda County Board of Education Trustee Ken Berrick has also filed his candidacy. He is the president of Just Advocates, a non-profit that connects children and families with supportive services.

Omar Farmer is running and has served in various positions throughout Alameda County, from his current position as a member of the Oakland Safety and Services Oversight Commission to being an advisory board member of Oakland's Reimagining Public Safety Task Force. He is also a member of the county's Veterans Affairs Commission.

Former Oakland Unified School District board member and one-time candidate for Oakland mayor Gregory Hodge will be on the ballot as well. Hodge is a consultant who works with nonprofits.

Candidate Chris Moore is the president of an investment and consulting

firm that assists tech startups, according to his LinkedIn profile. He is a board member of the East Bay Rental Housing Association and has been vocal about issues affecting landlords and property owners.

Gerald Pechenuk filed his candidacy, though there is not very much information about him other than he was a volunteer election observer in 2022 and is currently suing Carson and the county.

According to his profile on X, the platform formerly known as Twitter, Pechenuk appears to be a LaRouchePAC advocate, which is a far-right political action committee that is named for the late Lyndon LaRouche, a former U.S. presidential candidate who served five years in prison for fraud.

Finally, Piedmont President of the League of Women Voters and state LWV board member Lorrel Plimier is running. According to LinkedIn, she co-founded an organization that helps nonprofits achieve their technological potential. She is an attorney and a data scientist.

Many candidates have registered a domain for their candidacies, but only Bas has created a site so far, at www.nikki4supervisor.com. ■

GOODNESS

Continued from Page 9

Village offers its residents and seeks help to fund, Curtis confirmed that the nonprofit's plans for expansion are moving forward using the funds from Glazer. In addition to the forthcoming community center, she said they are looking to add at least 20 more homes to the community at some point.

She said that initially, they had intended for the new units and the community center to come to fruition simultaneously but those plans changed after they learned they wouldn't be able to add units to the existing property because they would cross into the high-risk zone of the Livermore Municipal Airport.

"We really fought because we're in a crisis and we don't have another space to put them, but the city doesn't want to put vulnerable people in a high-risk plane area so we're

not mad about that but now we're trying to pivot to a Plan B," Curtis said, adding that they are working with CrossWinds to explore what other space could be developed that could still tie into the village but not be below the airport line.

In the meantime, the houses have been pulled from the plans and the focus now is on the community center that will include a classroom, a much-needed laundry room, dining area, cooking space for micro-business opportunities and storage pantry as well as offices for staff.

As part of its fundraising efforts, Goodness Village has partnered with the Community Health & Education Foundation (CHEF) this month for a donation matching campaign where they will donate \$1 (up to \$10,000) for every \$2 someone donates through Dec. 31.

For more information about Goodness Village and the donation campaign, visit gvlivermore.org. ■

HERNANDEZ

Continued from Page 11

human resources, Hernandez was also known in the community and to the Association of Pleasanton Teachers for his role in working with the union during contract negotiations.

Janice Clark, the former APT president and a PUSD teacher who retired in 2019, spoke at the Dec. 14 school board meeting after hearing the news about Hernandez's departure and said she appreciated the few years she spent working with him.

"In my work with Julio, I enjoyed and valued the honest and candid discussions about any and all issues that would arise and I very much appreciated our working relationship as one of trust and support and respect," Clark said.

She also credited him for his commitment back then to finding fair and reasonable solutions for all the stakeholders involved in those past

contract negotiation sessions and said that even though it was sometimes difficult to agree on things, they always found a way to make things work.

"I wanted to come tonight to wish you the best of luck on your new venture," Clark said during the Dec. 14 meeting. "Please take with you my gratitude for always having an open door, the willingness to let me speak my mind, the way I saw fit ... and for the collaborative experience that we shared in our dedication to this history together."

Clark wasn't the only one who took the time to say a few words for Hernandez during the meeting.

Current APT President Cheryl Atkins also took the time to recognize his work and said she appreciated Hernandez for giving her a platform to have a voice so that she can bring forth issues from APT members to the district.

"Mr. Hernandez, I appreciate when I took this position ... you let me

know that there would be times that we would disagree," Atkins said at the Dec. 14 meeting. "Some would be big and some would be small. You also let me know not to make it personal. That was important for me to hear as I learned very quick that there are many disagreements in this position. I have gone back to that conversation in my head many times."

"Thank you for always answering your phone when I call and (being) willing to talk and answer my questions," Atkins added. "I wish you well in your new home and your new district."

As the district is still at an impasse with the teachers union on current contract negotiations, Haglund said that assistant superintendent of business services, Ahmad Sheikholeslami will now serve as the chief negotiator for the district.

Haglund said he does not have any additional information on hiring a replacement for Hernandez as of now. ■



AMADOR VALLEY
OPTOMETRIC

Dr Inning Chen

Optometrist

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PET OF THE WEEK



Darling Daphne

Daphne would like a home for the holidays! Tri-Valley Animal Rescue is sponsoring the adoption fee for this sweet youngster with the beautiful, brindle coat. She's already spayed and ready for her new home! Daphne is a Shepherd mix, only 7 months old and she weighs 43 pounds. She's active and playful and will need a home where she will be provided with plenty of exercise and training. She's available to meet at the East County Animal Shelter in Dublin. Visit tvar.org.

TVAR

POLICE BULLETIN

Three dead, five injured after SUV goes down I-680 embankment

An SUV carrying eight people became airborne and broadsided a tree as it crashed down an embankment off Interstate 680 between Sunol and Pleasanton on Monday afternoon, killing three adults and injuring the other occupants including two babies, according to authorities.

The driver, who survived with minor injuries, told investigators that a tire blowout on the 2004 Honda Pilot precipitated the serious wreck that resulted in two unrestrained passengers dying at the scene and a third adult succumbing from her injuries at the hospital, according to Officer Tyler Hahn of the California Highway Patrol.

The identities of the decedents have not been released publicly, nor has the name of the driver, who was transported to a hospital with the infants. The CHP has taken custody of the Honda Pilot to examine whether the tire blew out as reported, according to Hahn.

"This crash is still under investigation. Based on statements from those involved and examination on scene, this is a dark reminder that seatbelts save lives," Hahn told the Weekly.

The solo-vehicle crash occurred just after 2:30 p.m. on I-680 southbound just south of the Sunol Boulevard-Castlewood Drive interchange, according to Hahn.

The driver told officers he was traveling at approximately 65 mph when the Pilot suffered a blowout in the right rear tire, according to Hahn. The driver said he steered the SUV to the left out of initial concern about the embankment to the right of the freeway.

"Upon slightly veering to the left, his left-side tires rode partially up the jersey wall which bordered the east side of the lanes. After riding up the wall, the driver lost control, veering to the right and crossing all the lanes before traversing the right shoulder," Hahn said.

The SUV then clipped the sloped curb edge of the right shoulder, causing it "to become airborne as it broadsided a tree along the right shoulder. The Honda impacted the tree in the driver side approximately six feet above ground level," Hahn added. "The Honda Pilot came down, landing on the embankment and sliding down to its base."

The out-of-control SUV came to rest about 20 feet below the freeway level, according to the Alameda County Fire Department.

Emergency personnel arrived to find two people dead at the scene -- one adult who was not wearing a seatbelt and was ejected out of the back window, and a second unrestrained adult who died in the right rear seat, according to Hahn.

A woman who was seated in the back row with the two babies was seriously injured and taken to Eden

Medical Center in Castro Valley, where she was later pronounced dead, according to Hahn. It is unknown whether she was wearing a seatbelt.

Both infants sustained minor injuries and were transported to UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital in Oakland to get checked out, according to ACFD. Hahn said the investigation revealed one baby was in a car seat while the other was restrained with a seatbelt only.

The other surviving passenger who sustained major injuries was taken to the Regional Medical Center of San Jose with a broken pelvis. According to Hahn, she admitted to officers that she was not wearing a seatbelt.

A fifth adult passenger had minor injuries while the driver went with the infants to the Oakland hospital with minor injuries, according to Hahn. All were reported to be stable and in good condition as of Tuesday morning.

The circumstances of the crash remain under investigation. Alcohol or drugs do not appear to be a factor, according to Hahn. There was light rain at the time of the wreck.

Assistance from a medical helicopter was called off due to the rainy conditions on Monday afternoon, according to ACFD.

The right two lanes of I-680 southbound in the area were closed for hours during the evening commute as a result of the crash, emergency response and cleanup efforts. CHP officials issued a Sig-Alert for the closure just after 3 p.m., and all lanes were reopened at 6:35 p.m., according to Hahn.

Anyone who may have witnessed the crash or has information relevant to the case can contact CHP-Dublin investigators at 925-828-0466. ■

—Jeremy Walsh



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TRI-VALLEY YEAR IN REVIEW 2023

COMPILED BY JEREMY WALSH

As December draws to a close next weekend, so too does 2023 become another year that was.

Things got off to a wet and windy start back in January 2023, as huge winter storms flooded streets, toppled trees and knocked down power lines across the Tri-Valley — amid wet weather that almost seemed to last entirely until mid-spring and ultimately lifted the state out of drought conditions.

Water would continue to be a theme locally throughout the year, particularly in Pleasanton where deliberations over rate increases carried on for months and the city, along with its neighbors, grappled with the impacts

of PFAS contamination. Zone 7 Water Agency achieved a major milestone toward the latter cause in September with the opening of its Ion Exchange PFAS Treatment Facility located at the Stoneridge groundwater well.

Although there were no elections scheduled locally in 2023, the topic was pervasive nonetheless, including recall efforts targeting Alameda County District Attorney Pamela Price and two Sunol Glen Unified School District trustees, term limit debates in Dublin, and of course, campaign launch announcements and candidate lists becoming finalized toward the end of the year as the March 5 primary election is on the horizon in 2024.



CHUCK DECKERT

2023 was a banner year for Amador Valley High School, whose marching band is shown performing downtown. The school on Santa Rita Road in Pleasanton celebrated its 100th anniversary this year.

The new year will also represent the dawn of a new age for us, with our parent organization Embarcadero Media transitioning to a nonprofit journalism foundation effective Jan. 1.

That was among the news we broke during 2023, a year of so many significant stories we covered on important subjects

throughout the Tri-Valley: housing developments, homicide investigations, council and school board hearings, tense labor negotiations, high school sports, A&E features, milestone community anniversaries and so much more.

Let's look back over the biggest storylines and photographs in the Tri-Valley from 2023 in our Year

in Review in the pages ahead. We've brought back two special features as well this year: A list of our Top 23 stories from 2023 according to PleasantonWeekly.com data, and our editorial team's personal picks for their own favorite story and their own best story of 2023.

Have fun!

JANUARY

- Many areas of the Tri-Valley begin 2023 by dealing with the aftermath of a major winter storm that hit on New Year's Eve. Multiple atmospheric rivers, with heavy rainfall and strong winds, would impact the Bay Area during the season.

- High school hoopers open their league season amid big changes for both boys' and girls' divisions of East Bay Athletic League basketball.

- Reactions pour in after the state appellate court denies Save Livermore Downtown's appeal challenging the city's approval of the 130-unit Eden Housing affordable apartment complex.

- Law enforcement leadership looks a lot different in Alameda County now, as newly elected District Attorney Pamela Price and Sheriff-Coroner Yesenia Sanchez are sworn into office.

- Pleasanton Police Department reveals the DA's Office toward the end of Nancy O'Malley's tenure declined to file charges against two PPD officers who shot and killed Cody Chavez, who was armed with a knife when he ran at police amid a standoff in February 2022. New DA Price would announce three weeks later that her Public Accountability Unit was reopening the Chavez case.

- Weekly speaks to concerned parents critical of the prolonged process for improving Pleasanton Unified School District's learning disability support system.

- Representatives announce San Ramon Regional Medical Center is set to be sold in full to John

Muir Health, pending regulatory approval of a \$142.5 million deal with the current majority owner, Tenet Healthcare.

- Pleasanton hires city of Oakland economic and workforce development director Alexa Jeffress as its new deputy city manager.

- More than \$3 million worth of cannabis, along with cash and guns, are confiscated from an unlicensed indoor cultivation operation in Livermore as part of a joint law enforcement investigation involving state and city agencies.

- Las Positas College vice president Kristina Whalen is appointed as the new president of Foothill College in Los Altos Hills.

- Pleasanton Weekly's annual Holiday Fund concludes for the season after raising more than \$83,000 to support eight local nonprofits.

- Tri-Valley and countywide emergency officials lament service provided by ambulance provider Falck Northern California as contract negotiations loom.

- Dale Turner, who became Livermore's first directly elected mayor in 1982, dies at his home in New Mexico at age 85 following battles with Parkinson's disease and dementia.

- Video makes rounds on social media showing a girl, later identified as a Pleasanton Middle School student, punching and stomping on the head of another student in front of the city's library downtown. The altercation raises concerns among PMS families, leading to tense conversations with school officials.



CHRISTINA GRAY / BELLA LUNA STUDIOS

Bob Williams retired as conductor of the Pleasanton Community Concert Band after its show during the Tri-Valley Veterans Day Parade in November.

- San Ramon Police Department is investigating the circumstances surrounding the death of a young man who was found in the common area of an apartment complex in the Dougherty Valley.

- Livermore resident Nathan Quimby dies in a solo-vehicle rollover crash on East Airway Boulevard. He was 39.

- An Alameda County Superior Court judge denies Move Eden Housing's lawsuit against the city of Livermore over the group's failed referendum attempt from last year.

- School support nonprofit Pleasanton Partnerships in Education Foundation promotes

Andrea Wilson to executive director.

- San Ramon Mayor Dave Hudson steps away from City Council meetings and other city business while he recovers from a recent stroke.

- Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District looks to determine alternative funding sources following the defeat of the \$450 million Measure G bond in last November's general election.

- Dublin senior Dorothy Jane Abel, 86, dies in a house fire on Mayan Court. The cause would later be determined as an accidental electrical fire.

- Pleasanton City Council adopts the 2023-31 Housing Element document after making modifications to the list of sites such as raising the number of units at the downtown school district headquarters. All Tri-Valley municipalities would undertake similar debates this winter ahead of the state deadline.

- Barring a sudden return to pre-pandemic ridership levels, BART's long-term future will likely hinge on a future ballot measure that would partially subsidize the transit agency, officials say.

- Stanley Middle School principal Nikki Chaplan is placed on leave by Lafayette School District while officials investigate her role

in sex abuse accusations against since-arrested San Ramon Valley teacher Nicholas Moseby.

- Dublin resident Demario Lockett, 44, is shot and killed in San Francisco's Potrero Hill District. The homicide remains unsolved.

- The Fremont Police Department is mourning the loss of one of its own, as Det. Matthew Kerner dies after being found unresponsive in his home in Livermore.

- U.S. Rep. Eric Swalwell responds to new House Speaker Kevin McCarthy's decision to reject him from reappointment to the House Intelligence Committee, defending himself against allegations from the Republican leader while calling the decision an act of "political vengeance".

- San Ramon Planning Commission, along with city and Sunset Development officials, discuss and solicit public input on the future of the 92-acre Bishop Ranch property that previously served as the headquarters for Chevron.

FEBRUARY

- Over 200 people clean up flood damage at the Sunol Glen School caused by the barrage of atmospheric rivers — an apt start to what would be a stormy year for the small-town school district.

- The Wentz family reflects on generations of wine production in the Livermore Valley as their Wentz Vineyards celebrates its 140th anniversary.

- Foothill High's We the People competition civics team is the California state champion after defeating rival Amador Valley in the finals.

- Former Pleasanton councilmember Kathy Narum is appointed to fill a vacancy on the Zone 7 Water Agency Board of Directors.

- After several weeks of negotiations, Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District and the Livermore Education Association reach a tentative agreement

regarding teacher salary increases for the current school year as well as 2023-24.

- Pleasanton City Council votes 4-1 to approve key components of the policy framework for redeveloping Stoneridge Shopping Center into a mixed-use property, including an initial allocation of up to 1,170 housing units across the mall site.

- The redesign of Lions Wayside and Delucchi parks in downtown Pleasanton is put on hold after a 4-1 decision by the City Council to direct staff to further evaluate simpler and cheaper project options.

- Longtime Alameda County Supervisor Richard Valle dies after a bout with prostate cancer. He was 73.

- Former Pleasanton police officer Pete McNeff files a federal lawsuit against city and police department officials for allegedly firing him after finding out he attended a "Stop the Steal" rally in Sacramento at the same time as the insurrection in the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021.

- Full shutdown of northbound Interstate 680 between Koopman Road in Sunol and Sunol Boulevard in Pleasanton continues for the second weekend in a row for a major repavement project. The third and final weekend would be kicked out due to weather.

- LVJUSD receives a five-year, \$5.7 million federal grant to support mental health and student wellness.

- Krisha Singhani of Monte Vista High School wins in U.S. Rep. Mark DeSaulnier's Congressional App Challenge for her app TrueDetect, which helps people track their stress and anxiety levels.

- Two men accused of robbing a person at gunpoint in Pleasanton's Huntswood Court neighborhood late last month have been formally charged with second-degree felony robbery.



CIERRA BAILEY

Alameda County District Attorney Pamela Price, shown at a press conference in Livermore, became the target of a recall campaign during a controversial first year in office.

- Valley Humane Society reflects on the opening of its new Phil Scholz Veterinary Surgery Center.

- Dublin Police Chief Garrett Holmes announces his retirement.

- Young midfielder Cam Cilley and defender Keegan Tingey, who each grew up in the San Ramon Valley, agree to Homegrown Player contracts with the San Jose Earthquakes.

- Guitar teacher and registered sex offender Rex Lee Bell of Vallejo, who taught classes in the Tri-Valley, is sentenced after being found guilty of additional felony crimes involving minors, following an arrest by officers with the San Ramon PD last fall.

- Pleasanton Realtor Jennifer Branchini, who is serving as the 2023 president of the California Association of Realtors, provides a market outlook for real estate in the Tri-Valley this year.

- Pleasanton City Council receives an update from staff on the

different water supply alternatives to address the contaminated water inside city-operated wells.

- Kim Gamble, chef and owner of Lanna Thai in Livermore, makes her second Food Network appearance in an episode of "Chopped". She would finish as the runner-up in the competition show.

- One for the books: Loud turnout as the San Ramon Valley Unified School District Board of Education discusses text acquisition and complaint policies.

- The first phase of renovations at the Chabad of the Tri-Valley building on Hopyard Road and South Valley Trails is now underway.

- Dublin Unified decides new Emerald High School's mascot will be the Aerouants, with official colors of green, blue and white.

- About 100 people chant in the rain to demand an end to Alameda County's residential eviction moratorium, which the Board of Supervisors may halt in two months or let expire.

- Federal prosecutors file a felony charge against 18-year-old Alamo resident Ozymandias Troy Watson for possession of illicit fentanyl for distribution while also alleging one person died from overdosing after purchasing pills furnished by Watson.

- Citizens Against Marketplace Area Development appeals San Ramon Planning Commission's approval of the Marketplace mixed-use condo development. The City Council would deny the challenge.

MARCH

- After weeks of the Association of Pleasanton Teachers pleading with PUSD to reopen bargaining on salary and benefits for the current school year, the district announces its negotiations team

won't touch the ratified contract for 2022-23 but is eager to return to the table for labor talks in 2023-24.

- City and county officials pick Cmdr. Nate Schmidt as the next police chief of Dublin Police Services.

- Workers at the Starbucks store in downtown Pleasanton petition to unionize.

- Livermore is set to become home to Dust Bowl Brewing Company's fourth taproom location in the state and its first in the Bay Area.

- Bay Area rap legend E-40 is confirmed as the headliner for the 2023 Alameda County Fair's Big O Tires Concert Series.

- Taste Tri-Valley Restaurant Week wraps up a successful run celebrating local cuisine.

- Work is underway to bring a third Grocery Outlet to the Tri-Valley, with the discount retailer planning to move into the old Big Lots! spot in Dublin.

- The Granada High School boys' basketball team makes a dream run in the postseason, going all the way to the CIF State Division I championship game before falling to Notre Dame (Sherman Oaks), 67-58.

- Following community and district efforts to fix winter storm damage in the Sunol Glen School theater, the Sunol Repertory Theatre is able to stage its 40th season production, "Caught in the Villain's Gaze".

- Alameda County inducts its Women's Hall of Fame Class of 2023, with Dublin High senior Noor Dharni among the 13 honorees.

- Pleasanton City Council votes to stop the city's financial support of the Leadership Pleasanton program and reduce staff time dedicated to it as the city works to create a similar program of its own.

- Clashes between outspoken critics of access to material and discussion on gender and sexuality in public schools and openly LGBTQ students, staff and allies continue at another SRVUSD board meeting, following a raucous and lengthy meeting on policies around material in school libraries at their previous meeting.

- One eastbound lane of Stanley Boulevard reopens to traffic after major roadside erosion near Shadow Cliffs Regional Recreation Area.

- The inaugural George Bowen Master Guitar Summit is held at the Bankhead Theater to raise funds for the ALS CURE Project.

- PUSD officials offer a tour of new Hart Middle School science classrooms completed this year with funding from 2016's Measure II.

See **YEAR IN REVIEW** on Page 16



CALTRANS DISTRICT 4

A look at the work conducted during the first weekend closure in February on northbound Interstate 680 between Sunol and Pleasanton. Freeway construction was a theme for Tri-Valley residents throughout 2023.

YEAR IN REVIEW

Continued from Page 15

- Longtime Pleasanton police official Maria Sarasua will make local history for the Pacifica Police Department next month when she takes the reins as its new police chief, becoming the first woman to ever hold the position in the coastal city.

- Thousands of Dublin residents and visitors enjoy the city's annual St. Patrick's Day Celebration.

- Pleasanton Middle School principal Joe Nguyen announces that after nearly four years at the school he will resign from his administrative position effective June 30. The decision comes two months after PMS was in the news locally over a student fight that went viral on social media.

- Weekly reporter Jeanita Lyman shines spotlight on transportation issues in a first-person cover story, "Watching the wheels of progress in Tri-Valley transit: A reporter's reflections on commuting for coverage without a car in the Bay Area."

- Russia native Maksim Kniazhev wins the Ultraman Arizona Triathlon in record-setting fashion after training for the past months with his girlfriend Mila Borodavkina, originally from Ukraine, and his Pleasanton sponsor Jeff Parrett.

- Pleasanton City Council approves mixed-use development with 360 apartments on a portion of Stoneridge Shopping Center property.

- Pleasanton City Council defers or deletes 14 priority projects from the city's General Fund Capital Improvement Program (CIP) project list.

- Shawn's Boat hits the water: UC Berkeley rowers seek to carry on legacy of late teammate Shawn O'Donnell, a Danville native who was killed last summer while riding her bike to work in Washington, D.C.

- Approximately 10% of the workforce at Kaiser Permanente's national headquarters in Oakland are set to be moved to the Pleasanton campus at 4460 Hacienda Drive starting in 2024.

- Weekly highlights the catalytic converter etching program coordinated between Livermore Police Department and Las Positas College's automotive technology program in the hopes of deterring thefts of the oft-targeted car part.

- Livermore Valley Chamber of Commerce promotes Sherri Souza to interim CEO and president, with prior leader Dawn Argula out on extended medical leave. Souza would receive the role on a permanent basis later this fall following Argula's retirement.

- First Church of Christ, Scientist, in Livermore celebrates its centennial.

- Amador's competition cheer team repeats as champions in the Varsity Show Medium Division at USA Spirit Nationals in Anaheim.

APRIL

- Vigil outside Santa Rita Jail urges substantive change after four inmates have died while in custody at the Dublin facility so far in 2023.

- Hayward City Councilmember Elisa Marquez is sworn in as the new Alameda County supervisor for District 2, succeeding the late Richard Valle.

- Alameda County Board of Supervisors approves the formation of a commission that will create an action plan to address inequities caused by slavery and discrimination against Black residents.

- A woman opens up to the Weekly about her decision to file a lawsuit against PUSD alleging negligence after abuse 23 years ago at the hands of her then-teacher Stephen Briggs, who was subsequently convicted of sexually assaulting another student.

- Pleasanton Public Library will be closed for almost a full month in order to finish the final phase of the roof replacement project.

- Former "Seinfeld" actor and Tony Award winner Jason Alexander is revealed as the headliner for the Brilliance at the Bankhead gala.

- Deborah Grossman debuts her new "Tri-Valley Foodist" blog on PleasantonWeekly.com, starting out with reflections at the Livermore Downtown Farmers' Market.

- Pleasanton contributors Ken Mano and Todd Utikal will receive the 2023 Ed Kinney Community Patriots awards.

- Home Depot loss prevention worker Blake Mohs is shot and killed while trying to stop a shop-lifter at the Johnson Drive store. Benicia Knapps is arrested and charged with murder in connection with Mohs' death; alleged getaway driver David Guillory also faces charges in the case.

- Workers vote to unionize Starbucks in downtown Pleasanton.

- Pleasanton celebrates the wide-ranging contributions of Julie Lewis and her late husband Don when the couple are presented with the 2023 Mayor's Award in recognition of their positive impact on local youth, their community and the music industry at-large.

- Pleasanton's 2023-31 Housing Element is back under review as city staff are now working to address comments the city received from the California Department of Housing and Community Development in determining the document to be non-compliant.

- Former Hart Middle School principal Terry Conde sues PUSD, alleging harassment and retaliation over her disability. District denies allegations.

- BART is on track to run out of federal relief funds by March 2025, with estimated operating deficits of more than \$300 million per year over the next several years, according to the transit agency's preliminary budget.

- The city of Livermore has reached a new milestone in its "Tactical East Avenue" initiative with the help of volunteers who installed pilot pedestrian safety improvements in the area. However, not all of the public feedback about the project has been positive.

- Kristo Ayala Valderrama, 25, of Pleasanton is among three



LLNL

Annie Kritcher, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory design physicist, was named on Time's annual list of the 100 most influential people in the world.

people charged in the fatal shooting on I-880 in Fremont that killed 5-year-old Eliyanah Crisostomo.

- The California Supreme Court rejects Save Livermore Downtown's request for review of the appellate court's denial of its challenge to the 130-unit Eden Housing affordable residential complex.

- Zone 7 Water Agency declares an end to drought emergency.

- Pleasanton City Council reviews several aspects of what Mayor Karla Brown called the "tightest budget I've had" during a special workshop meeting.

- Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory's Andrea "Annie" Kritcher has been named to Time magazine's TIME100 list of the 100 most influential people in the world.

- Former Pleasanton police Sgt. Ted Young receives a 10-year prison sentence from a Tuolumne County judge after being convicted in the drunk-driving crash that killed another driver near Sonoma just over one year ago. Show of support from some former police colleagues in court raises eyebrows.

- 200-plus people attend a city of Livermore public meeting to hear about plans for the Springtown Open Space: Community garden, pickleball courts and disc golf course are among proposed Phase 1 amenities.

- Officials gather to formally break ground on what will be the final segment of HOV/toll lanes between Sunol and San Ramon on southbound I-680. The nine-mile, \$326 million express lane project is scheduled for completion in late 2026.

- Pleasanton welcomes more than two dozen officials and community representatives from



SF GIANTS

Pleasanton native Brandon Crawford, shown here during the 2021 MLB season, likely played his final game for the San Francisco Giants in October after 13 years with the club.

Tulancingo, Mexico, for a special delegation trip to commemorate the milestone 40th anniversary for the two sister cities.

- The state champion Foothill High We the People competition civics team earns third place at nationals. Amador also places in the top 10 in D.C., finishing in ninth.

- The retrospective book "Cruising Down Memory Lane: Stories of Pleasanton in the 1950s" is released.

- Student behavior and student safety take center stage at joint meeting of the Pleasanton City Council and PUSD Board of Trustees.

- Local conservationists focused on restoring Alameda Creek as a habitat for steelhead trout and other fish species who carry out most of their lives in ocean waters before migrating to inland waterways to spawn are celebrating what they call a milestone after finding a young fish they have been seeking to see accommodated in the local tributary to San Francisco Bay.

- Eric Magana, a 26-year-old transient arrested in Livermore last month, dies at Santa Rita Jail in Dublin, marking the fifth in-custody death for the Dublin facility within the first four months of new Sheriff Yesenia Sanchez's tenure.

- PUSD reaches a tentative agreement with the classified employee union on a contract settlement, including a 5.65% salary increase and improved health benefits.

- Alamo resident Derek Chu, 41, is arrested after a federal grand jury indicted him on wire fraud and money laundering charges for an alleged ticket resale scheme at Chase Center and other venues that authorities believe bilked investors out of nearly \$40 million.

MAY

- Tennessee native Edevion White, 32, is stabbed to death at his Pleasanton apartment in an apparent robbery attempt that escalated to homicide. It is the city's second homicide in two weeks. The case remains unsolved.

- Mike Conklin, founder of San Ramon nonprofit Sentinels of Freedom, opens up about his new podcast series, "Veterans Never Stop Serving".

- Dublin is set this month to welcome a new professional baseball team, the Leprechauns, with a full schedule of games set for the 2023 season. The Pecos League club moved from Santa Rosa to call Fallon Park home.

- Jesus Silva Gallegos, 23, is beaten with a hammer and stabbed to death at an apartment in Dublin. Prosecutors charge his girlfriend Crystal Angelina Espinoza with first-degree murder for his death.

- U.S. Secretary of Energy Jennifer Granholm attends a

special ceremony at LLNL to recognize the lab's accomplishment of the first successful controlled fusion experiment.

- The Roman Catholic Bishop of Oakland, which covers the Tri-Valley, files for bankruptcy protection in the face of 330 child sex abuse claims going back decades.

- For the first time since 2020, the lake at Pleasanton's Shadow Cliffs Regional Recreation Area could soon have enough water for people to swim, fish and drive their boats if all continues to go well with recent water-pumping efforts.

- Dublin poet laureate and author James Morehead reflects on the release of his newest book of poems, "The Plague Doctor".

- Police are investigating after a group of Dublin teens allegedly assaulted a San Ramon high school student during class, an incident captured on video that is circulating on local social media.

- Christian Andres Lopez, 23, of Livermore dies after reportedly speeding through a red light and then hitting two other cars and a traffic pole near an Interstate 580 interchange in his hometown.

- Weekly earns seven awards in the California News Publishers Association's 2022 California Journalism Awards program.

- Pleasanton City Council grants staff authority to use the city's groundwater wells 5 and 6 as deemed necessary during this summer's peak water demands with the caveats that staff must test the wells every month and continue to stress the importance of water conservation locally.

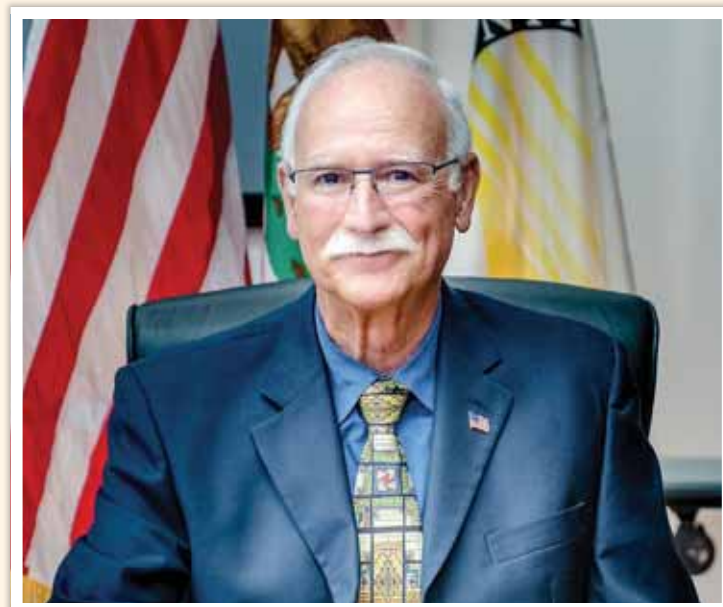
- Pleasanton Downtown Association abruptly parts ways with Executive Director Bridget Karl for unknown reasons, marking the second leader in a row to depart the PDA after seven months on the job. Laura Brooks agrees to return as interim director.

- With Independence Day just around the corner, the Livermore City Council approves

an ordinance amending the city's established municipal code to include additional prohibitions and penalties related to fireworks.

- San Ramon Mayor Dave Hudson returns to the dais after a 3-1/2-month absence following a stroke.

- Tri-Valley's only confidential domestic violence abuse



ALAMEDA COUNTY

Alameda County District 2 Supervisor Richard Valle died on Feb. 8 after battling prostate cancer. He was 73.

OUR TOP 23 STORIES OF 2023

Here were our 23 most-read stories written in 2023, based on data for PleasantonWeekly.com.

1. California considers new rules for property insurance pricing
2. 'The Gems of Ruby Hill' — Pleasanton residents star in new reality TV show
3. Livermore winery owner dies after crash on East Avenue
4. Stoneridge Shopping Center welcoming seven new stores
5. Lucky California in Dublin closing for good next month
6. Pleasanton council approves major components of Stoneridge Mall redevelopment framework
7. Pleasanton: Roadwork delays push Costco store opening deeper into 2024
8. Hobby Lobby in Dublin closing in new year
9. Social media video shows altercation involving Pleasanton Middle School students outside city library
10. Recognizing fake news now a required subject in California schools
11. Southbound I-680 to fully close this weekend between Pleasanton and Sunol
12. What a Week: Search for Sydney West back in spotlight after TV show feature
13. Kaiser to move workers from Oakland to Pleasanton office
14. Pleasanton Middle School principal Nguyen stepping down
15. County reopens one lane of Stanley Boulevard eastbound after major trail erosion
16. Two charged in Pleasanton armed robbery
17. Pleasanton native charged with multiple sexual assaults, other investigations pending
18. Pleasanton police ID victim, suspects in Home Depot fatal shooting
19. Woman sues PUSD alleging negligence after abuse at hands of teacher decades ago
20. Police: Man killed in attempted robbery at apartment complex in Pleasanton
21. Parade time in Pleasanton
22. Work begins to refill Shadow Cliffs Lake
23. Planning Commission to discuss 360-apartment complex proposed for Stoneridge Mall property

Editor's note: The rankings above represent page views on PleasantonWeekly.com articles in the calendar year 2023 through Dec. 15. We decided to focus our list on stories written in 2023, but there were actually two articles from past years that ranked in our Top 23 for page views this year...

- 36 years later: Former classmate confesses to murder of Pleasanton's Tina Faelz at No. 6 (originally published Oct. 23, 2020)
- Castlewood murders: 10 years later at No. 22 (originally published March 8, 2018)

shelter will be looking to demolish its current two-building site in Livermore at the end of the year and rebuild it into a bigger, mold-free facility to better serve more families in need.

- International power alliance GE Hitachi Nuclear Energy publicly announces its intent to transfer ownership of the Vallecitos Nuclear Center in Sunol to NorthStar Group Services, Inc. for further nuclear decontamination, decommissioning and environmental site restoration.

- The House Ethics Committee ends its two-year investigation into U.S. Rep. Eric Swalwell without taking any further action related to a complaint against the congressman after revelations a former campaign volunteer was later pegged as a spy from China.

- Work begins on Iron Horse Regional Trail overcrossing at Bollinger Canyon Road in San Ramon.

- Inaugural 'CabFranc-A-Palooza' puts spotlight on Livermore Valley's wine community and a unique varietal.

- Former Livermore High coach Bob Bronzan is inducted into the California Wrestling Hall of Fame.

- Pleasanton PD has reassigned officers in the special enforcement, crime prevention and traffic units for the time being in order to cover patrol duties due to a shortage in officers.

- Pleasanton Police Officers Association declares an impasse amid its tense contract negotiations with the city, which the union president said has consistently rejected the association's demands for competitive compensation.

- San Ramon Valley students Shradha Rachamreddy, Dhruv Subramanian and Vikrant Chintanaboina reach the final round of the Scripps National Spelling Bee, with Rachamreddy finishing third and the other two tying for fifth place.

- Livermore police confirm Jorge Luis Tellez, a 25-year-old man who has been on the lam for nearly four years, has been arrested in Mexico and is being extradited to Alameda County to face charges related to the 2019 murder of Livermore High student Emanuel Moseby.

- San Ramon accounting firm Armanino LLP implicated in lawsuit over FTX crypto fraud.

See **YEAR IN REVIEW** on Page 18

YEAR IN REVIEW

Continued from Page 17

- Daniel Cullison, 26, of San Jose drowns in Lake Del Valle after entering the water to retrieve an oar that fell from his family's boat and being unable to resurface.
- Contra Costa County homelessness up 4% in 2023 compared to prior year, according to results from annual point-in-time count.
- Granada alumnus Jonathan "Jonny" Nguyen, 21, drowns during an outing on the Feather River in the Chico area where he had just graduated from college.
- The Isabel Neighborhood Specific Plan reaches another milestone in its implementation with the Livermore City Council's recent approval of a 172-unit condo complex planned for the northeast corner of North Canyons Parkway and Triad Place.
- Livermore native Maci Hachmann is crowned as the queen of the 2023 Livermore Rodeo.

JUNE

- Eddie Papa's American Hang-out is closing after 15 years as a staple restaurant in Hacienda, with the owners ready for a change amid a serious health scare and a career change.
- Pleasanton City Council calls on the city of Livermore to address noise concerns coming from the Livermore Municipal Airport, transition away from lead-based fuel and find ways to better enforce its voluntary night flying curfew.
- Graduates rejoice as high school seniors across the Tri-Valley celebrate their commencement ceremonies.
- Pleasanton City Council adopts two-year operating budget and four-year capital improvement program following months of budget workshops and deliberations. The final public debate again pit amenities like skate park and Century House against water infrastructure.
- After Granada families and community members rallied together to save the International Baccalaureate (IB) diploma program, the school district decides to reinstate a streamlined version of it for the 2023-24 school year and beyond at a reduced cost.
- Pleasanton City Council votes 3-2 to adopt a resolution stating that the city supports a draft initiative written by Our Neighborhood Voices, a grassroots group fighting for local control rights by placing a measure on the 2024 ballot statewide.
- Demonstrators protest funding for the proposed expansion of Santa Rita Jail.
- Dublin Unified's Sean Adams and Laura Larsen, along with LVJUSD's Carmen Perea-Tellez,



WENTE VINEYARDS

The Wentes gather to toast the 140th anniversary of the longtime family business.

win Alameda County Classified Employee of the Year awards.

- The Alameda County Fair kicks off its 20-day run of summer fun in Pleasanton.
- Court records reveal Jianna Coppedge, 19, of Dublin has become the second Tri-Valley teenager charged in connection to a fentanyl overdose death in Dublin one year ago.
- With its building permits under review by the city, Costco is getting ready to break ground on constructing its first-ever store in Pleasanton soon. However, due to delays with associated street improvements in the area, shoppers will have to wait more into next year to see the store officially open.
- Rebel Kitchen & Libations in Livermore holds its latest drag brunch to a sell-out crowd as

supporters turn out amid boycott threats.

- Livermore resident George Medeiros dies at a hospital one day after a car crash at First Street and North Mines Road in his hometown. Livermore PD doesn't reveal details about the fatal collision until the fall when prompted by the Weekly.
- Dublin City Council discusses the future of term limit policies for city elected positions that, as currently set, are the most restrictive in the Tri-Valley.
- The San Ramon City Council appoints Steven Spedowski, a longtime San Ramon city staffer and former Livermore city councilman, as the next permanent city manager.
- Former Foothill band director Efrain Hinojosa pleads no contest to a charge of sexually abusing a

teenager nearly a decade before while employed at a high school just outside Modesto.

- The sheriff's office continues to investigate after a group of burglars armed with assault weapons hits the Garden of Eden dispensary after-hours in unincorporated Livermore.
- East Bay Municipal Utility District will raise service rates and charges over the next two years to support a \$2.8 billion improvement program.
- Foothill volleyball coach Dusty Collins is named 2022-23 Coach of the Year by TV30. More than three dozen students are also honored at the Outstanding High School Athletic Awards.
- Pleasanton City Council decides to rezone the Boulder Street site for potential housing development as part of the city's 2023-31

Housing Element document following the news of a Kaiser Permanente site not being an option anymore.

- Pleasanton is settling a lawsuit against 3M Co., a chemical manufacturing company, related to PFAS contamination of the city's drinking water after the company announced a nationwide resolution agreement with hundreds of other water providers.
- San Ramon brothers Adam (25) and Khaleed Rasheed (23) are killed after their vehicle crashes into a light pole at Dougherty and Fall Creek roads in Dublin.
- Livermore City Council upholds a previously approved ordinance banning temporary signs in the public right-of-way that is set to go into effect July 1.
- PUSD settles a labor dispute with its classified employees after failing to follow an overtime policy that will now cost the district \$115,000, which will be paid out to a group of 33 employees.

• The Dublin school board discusses updating current grading practices in favor of policies that Superintendent Chris Funk says would be more equitable and impartial to help create a bias-free learning environment.

JULY

- Dublin councilmembers Jean Josey and Sherry Hu announce campaigns to run for mayor in November 2024 with current Mayor Melissa Hernandez being termed out.
- Museum on Main opens "Falcons at Fifty: Foothill High School from 1973 to Today" exhibit.
- Sideshow spectators in unincorporated Alameda County could go to jail and be fined as the county Board of Supervisors approves the second reading of a sideshow ordinance.
- Elaine Olson and her adult daughters reflect on the 25th anniversary of the crash in Nevada that killed their father Jim and galvanized their Pleasanton community to provide far-reaching support in the aftermath.
- Despite several requests to further delay its final decision on the airport's new development policy, the Livermore City Council votes to approve the document that has been a source of heated debate throughout the southern Tri-Valley for months.
- Local nonprofit Sunflower Hill celebrates its 10th anniversary.
- 2023 Pleasanton Mile could be a seminal moment in fair racing history, writes columnist Dennis Miller, as the county fair's closing day competition was the richest horse race in all of the U.S. that day.
- Pleasanton City Council greenlights the first step in the process to raise water service



CPICS.TV

The cast of the new reality show pose for a promotional photo at one of their homes in the Ruby Hill community in Pleasanton. "The Gems of Ruby Hill" debuted on July 29 and can be streamed via Cpics.tv.

rates, starting at a proposed 30% increase effective in November — a move city officials say is necessary to rebuild the city's nearly depleted water enterprise fund.

- Remains of long-identified American soldier and prisoner of war U.S. Army Pvt. Leroy M. Slenker, who died after being captured by the Japanese military in the Philippines during World War II, are escorted from Graham Hitch Mortuary in Pleasanton to his final resting place in Dixon after scientists were able to positively identify him 80 years after his death.

- An effort underway to recall Alameda County District Attorney Pamela Price maintains she has been too lenient on criminals.

- Axis Community Health, a nonprofit medical provider offering affordable health care services for uninsured and low-income residents in the Tri-Valley, will soon open up another clinic on the edge of downtown Livermore.

- Retired Army Brig. Gen. James H. Doty Jr., who served as commander of Camp Parks in Dublin from 2003-05, dies after slipping into a coma in the wake of being attacked in a bank jugging robbery in his hometown of Cibolo, Texas.

- Yelp names its Top 100 ice cream shops in the nation for 2023 — and downtown Pleasanton's Meadowlark Dairy secured a spot in the list's top 10, coming in at No. 8.

- Tri-Valley Babe Ruth 13-year-old all-star team heads to regionals to compete for a berth in the World Series. Their run would end with two losses to Lone Peak, Utah — coached by former Foothill athletic legend Gary Daniels.

- Golden Gate Fields horse racing track near Berkeley is shutting down after its current 2023 season, the company that owns the track announces. The move's impact on the Northern California racing circuit, including the Alameda County Fair in Pleasanton, is unknown.

- DUSD trustees vote to halt further discussions of standards-based grading policies, removing the possibility of implementing the new system in local schools for the foreseeable future.

- City survey shows 91% of respondents praise quality of life in Pleasanton. While posting mostly high marks, results tick slightly downward compared to previous years

- Longtime Livermore vintner Mitchell Katz dies in a two-vehicle collision on East Avenue. It marks the first of four fatal crashes in Tri-Valley in a 30-hour span, also including the deaths of Jahangir Bozorgmanesh on Camino Tassajara in Danville, Justin Hayman on Pleasanton Sunol Road near Sunol and Timmy Anderson on Mountain



LPD

Livermore police officer Taylor Burruss and LPC's Automotive Technology Program coordinator Brian Hagopian help organize and direct the collaborative "Etch and Catch" events in Livermore.

House Road in far-east unincorporated Livermore.

- Dublin promotes Hazel Wetherford to deputy city manager.

- Regal Hacienda Crossings is one of only 30 movie theaters worldwide playing the blockbuster film "Oppenheimer" in the 70mm large-screen format.

- Goats in the zone: Animals help prevent fires by eating their way through the Tri-Valley on Zone 7 Water Agency properties and protection areas.

- A colorful impact: The Crayon Institute, a nonprofit based in Danville, marks 10 years.

- The Weekly learns Pleasanton native Austin Nguyen, 26, is facing felony charges in two sexual assault cases from multiple counties and has been the target of at least two rape investigations reported to Tri-Valley police departments.

- Sunset Development presents proposal for redevelopment of Chevron Park in San Ramon. "The Orchards" is the latest large-scale project seeking to bring more housing and retail to Bishop Ranch.

- Tensions continue to rise in stalled negotiations between the city of Pleasanton and its police union. After mediation fails, the two sides are moving to the next step in the labor process: fact-finding.

- Ashland nurse and former State Assembly candidate Jennifer Esteen announces her bid to unseat longtime Alameda County District 4 Supervisor Nate Miley, who is seeking reelection to a seventh term in 2024.

- "The Gems of Ruby Hill", a reality show filmed in the same-name affluent Pleasanton neighborhood, debuts on the streaming platform Cpics.tv.

- LLNL scientists achieve fusion ignition for the second time.

AUGUST

- Alameda County District 1 Supervisor David Haubert confirms his intent to run for reelection to a second term.

- PUSD Superintendent David Haglund talks bond projects, classroom curriculum, staff turnover and more in a wide-ranging interview with the Weekly at the dawn of the new school year.

- Pleasanton-based team of Dario, Joey and Navina Bernardi, along with their longtime family friend Paolo Pro, reflect after winning the Highwood Bocce Club's 2023 United States Bocce Federation National Championships in Chicago.

- Danville's role in the history of modern theater is celebrated again this year through the annual Eugene O'Neill Festival.

- Four defendants are booked into Santa Rita Jail, with another still at-large, following an investigation into a \$1.1 million armed robbery at Heller Jewelers in San Ramon earlier this year that has now resulted in federal charges. The fifth suspect is apprehended weeks later in a joint operation.

- West Seoul Little League (South Korea) wins Little League Intermediate World Series played in Livermore.

- Bay Area cities have experienced some of the biggest drops in home prices across the country, including Dublin at the top of the list, according to a new study evaluating typical home values from May 2022 to May 2023. Pleasanton and Livermore also rank in the top 20.

- Community crowds Pleasanton City Council meeting to demand better contract for police union.

- Opponents of Alameda County DA Pamela Price have given formal notification that they intend to remove her from office via a recall petition.

- Among the principal changes in the new academic year at LVJUSD is Roxana Mohammed at Livermore High School, taking over for Helen Gladden who moved back to East Avenue Middle School.

- Pleasanton residents Susan and Tom Fox reflect on being in Maui amid the devastating wildfires.

- Alameda County Board of Supervisors approves the new 47-acre Monte Vista Memorial cemetery planned for unincorporated north Livermore.

- Manteca resident Ryan Wood, 61, dies at a local hospital from injuries sustained one week earlier in a shooting that was apparently precipitated by a road-rage exchange beginning on the freeway near Pleasanton and continuing east all the way into Tracy. Two young men from Lodi are charged in the case.

- Sheriff's deputies in Danville are investigating the circumstances surrounding an apparent double murder-suicide on Larkwood Circle.

- Two sommeliers and a gym owner walk into a recording studio ... There's no punchline, they are the actual voices behind the locally produced podcast, "Through The Grapevine".

- 100-year-old Holocaust survivor Joseph Alexander speaks at the Bankhead Theater.

- Pleasanton City Council is moving forward with conducting a poll to see what city infrastructure and capital needs residents would prioritize and whether they would support funding those projects through a potential revenue bond measure on the ballot next year.

See **YEAR IN REVIEW** on Page 20



CHRISTIAN TRUJANO

The remains of Leroy Slenker, a WWII soldier who died as a prisoner of war, are escorted from Pleasanton by a group of motorcyclists as they begin their long drive to bury the remains at the Sacramento Valley National Cemetery in Dixon.

YEAR IN REVIEW

Continued from Page 19

- State Senator Steve Glazer announces he will not seek reelection.

- SteelWave LLC submits an application to the city of Pleasanton to annex and rezone about 20 acres of land just east of the city's border so that the developers can construct three commercial buildings.

- Alameda County Civil Grand Jury is in turmoil after DA's Office pulls support.

- A class action lawsuit has been filed on behalf of inmates at the low-security federal women's prison in Dublin that alleges sexual assault and abuse at the hands of prison staff.

- Museum on Main opens "The Don Century: Amador Valley High School 1923-2023" exhibit.

- The Behring estate hits the market in Blackhawk for nearly \$25 million.

- Pleasanton City Council adopts the updated Economic Development Strategic Plan, which staff say will aim to increase the city's fiscal strength and help support local businesses.

- Foothill High vice principal Malcolm Norrington resigns to become principal of El Cerrito High School.

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

- The search for Sydney West, a former Pleasanton resident who disappeared at 19 years old from San Francisco in 2020, is back in the spotlight after the case is featured on "Disappeared" on the Investigation Discovery network.

- Alameda County Superior Court Judge Barbara Dickinson rejects a proposed plea bargain between prosecutors and defendant Sekou Brandon in the vehicular homicide case that killed long-time Livermore resident Linda Woodward last year. Woodward's family opposed the deal.

- Bargaining teams for the city and the PPOA reach a tentative agreement to end months of tense contract negotiations.

- The Bay Club acquires Crow Canyon Country Club in Danville.

SEPTEMBER

- Danville Town Council hosts a public discussion with PG&E executives over the spate of lengthy power outages across Danville over the past year.

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

- Dublin's Brian Guan is named Alameda County's youth poet laureate.

- Valley Community Church holds a grand-opening and ribbon-cutting event for its new Families Building, a fresh addition to Pleasanton congregation's kids and disability ministry.

- Stable Cafe closes its doors after a 32-year run at the Alameda County Fairgrounds.

- Pleasanton resident Joseph C. Roberts, 42, is arrested for allegedly killing girlfriend Rachel Elizabeth Imani Buckner, 27, dismembering her body and dumping her remains on the Alameda shoreline in July. Alameda Police Chief Nishant Joshi calls it "a very disturbing case."

- Pleasanton City Council unanimously agrees to support the Pleasanton Police Department's interest in installing situational awareness cameras at city intersections.

- The inaugural "Tri-Valley 20 Under 40ish" is unveiled, a list that includes Embarcadero Media East Bay editor Cierra Bailey.

- The Alameda County DA's Office files a lawsuit against Livermore-based Apollo E-cigs for allegedly selling illegal flavored tobacco and synthetic cannabis products to people under the age of 21.

- Pleasanton City Council votes to delay the decision about increasing the city's water rates by 62% over three years after dozens of residents pack the meeting room to ask the council to slow down so that staff can conduct more analysis on the topic.

- Current and former members of the Sunol Glen School community are calling out the school board saying its decision to approve a resolution that limits the school to only display the U.S. and state flags is not only wrong,



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Dublin Police Chief Garrett Holmes (center) announced his retirement from law enforcement effective March 17.

but the way it was passed was undemocratic. Though not named specifically in the resolution nor cited by the 2-1 board majority, the tense public debate focused on the LGBTQ+ pride flag.

- The Pleasanton community celebrates the 100th anniversary of Amador Valley High School with a weekend of activities.

- The DUSD board rejects a proposal to investigate if staff ignored its direction on grading practices. Trustee Dan Cherrier walks out of the meeting after a 3-2 vote defeats a possible six-figure internal probe.

- The Weekly reports San Ramon Regional Medical Center has a new interim CEO for the second time in less than a year, all while federal regulators continue to review the proposal for John Muir Health to fully acquire the

local hospital from its current majority owner.

- Pleasanton Senior Center marks its 30th anniversary.

- The Amador Valley Sports Hall of Fame inducts its next class: Rick Sira, Greg Kragen, Jean Zedlitz, the 2010 baseball team, Art Morley and Neil Sweeney.

- Sunol parents, teachers and community members pack a special school board meeting on personnel topics — which many criticized for being called at the last minute — to once again question the board majority's leadership in the wake of the recently passed and highly debated flag resolution.

- Zone 7 unveils its new state-of-the-art water treatment facility, which will use an ion exchange treatment process to remove PFAS

chemicals from the Stoneridge groundwater well in Pleasanton.

- Newsroom employees at Embarcadero Media announce that they are forming a union. The Embarcadero Community News Guild, which the company would voluntarily recognize, includes reporters, editors, visual journalists and designers across the Peninsula and East Bay publications.

- Livermore city officials will resume its search for a new manager of the Livermore Municipal Airport after selecting a candidate who pulled out of the job at the last minute to take another position.

- Construction of the new Emerald High School is delayed three months, but the project saves \$49 million in costs, according to DUSD.

- Alameda County Board of Supervisors unanimously authorize a countywide homelessness state of emergency.

- Weekly reporter team publishes investigative story, "Paying public educators: Analyzing teacher compensation packages across Tri-Valley school districts".

- County officials recognize Livermore Valley Arts Executive Director Chris Carter among the winners of the 2023 Arts Leadership Awards.

- Underdog Foothill Falcons upset the Amador Valley Dons 12-7 in Pleasanton's football rivalry game.

- Pleasanton's two-year process for identifying and prioritizing public projects, programs and policy initiatives will officially be a thing of the past after the City Council votes unanimously to adopt a new five-year Citywide Strategic Plan.

- The Alameda County Registrar of Voters' Office has approved a petition to collect signatures to



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

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

recall DA Pamela Price, who has faced a backlash against her progressive policies from opponents concerned about an increase in crime.

- After 30 years of providing Pleasanton residents with unique gifts and home furnishings, Clover Creek will be closing its popular store on Main Street in December.

- Livermore grapples with shock and dismay after hate speech from virtual participants during a City Council meeting led to its abrupt adjournment.

- Livermore's Robertson Park now features an upgrade to its playground equipment thanks to a 9-year-old community member named Avery Kohn.

OCTOBER

- Details continue to emerge from authorities about how a man found hiding inside a room at Fairlands Elementary School one morning had hopped over a fence and entered the campus through an open door the night before.

- Amador's Kevin Kiyoi is named as one of the two Alameda County Teachers of the Year.

- The Lucky California store in Dublin is closing for good next month.

- PUSD has mostly completed its transition to its new headquarters at West Las Positas Boulevard, with the exception of a few departments.

- Dr. Steven Williams, a Pleasanton resident and plastic surgeon with a longstanding practice in Dublin, becomes the American Society of Plastic Surgeons' first Black president.

- Livermore's Altamont Creek Elementary School is among the Bay Area campuses visited by top officials in school sustainability, environmental infrastructure, nutrition and school facilities from the U.S. and California departments of education.

- Conversation Banners: More than 250 local students participate

STAFF PICKS: MY FAVORITE STORY AND MY BEST STORY OF 2023

We asked our editorial team to reflect on their coverage from 2023 and select what they felt was their favorite story and their best story of the year. Here are their picks...

Jeremy Walsh, editorial director

Best: Search for Sydney West back in spotlight after TV show feature

Favorite: In their time of need — 25 years since Pleasanton came together to support Olson family

Cierra Bailey, editor

Best: Driving out catalytic converter theft

Favorite: Beware! Surviving Pirates of Emerson

Jeanita Lyman, staff reporter

Best: Putting Narcan onto Tri-Valley school campuses

Favorite: Watching the wheels of progress in Tri-Valley transit

Christian Trujano, staff reporter

Best: Paying public educators

Favorite: An appropriate education

Nicole Gonzales, staff reporter

Best: Being funny never gets old

Favorite: An operatic take on an American classic

Dennis Miller, sports columnist

Best: Thinking back on my mistake raising a standout youth athlete

Favorite: 2023 Pleasanton Mile could be seminal moment in fair racing history

Chuck Deckert, freelance photographer

Best: Carrying on the legacy (cover photo)

Favorite: Fighting hunger (inside lead photo)

Tim Hunt, blogger

Best: Pro wrestler at 32

Favorite: New hearts, new actions show lives transformed by Jesus

Deborah Grossman, blogger

Best: Eating retro with TV dinners

Favorite: Food adventures at the Livermore Downtown Farmers' Market

Monith Ilavarasan, blogger

Best: Cities should not subsidize sports teams

Favorite: A trip back east

Chandrama Anderson, blogger

Best: I Do, I Don't — One reason feelings matter

Favorite: Are you under-involved in your relationship?

Sherry Listgarten, blogger

Best: Bay Area to begin phasing out gas heaters this decade

Favorite: Hoover panelists denounce climate misinformation while spreading it

in a banner-making project curated by the Pleasanton Cultural Arts Council to help the kids and teens regain a sense of community after the pandemic years' impact on their mental health.

- Where Brandon Crawford ends up next year is still up in the air, but it does appear the Pleasanton native and legendary San Francisco Giants shortstop has played his last game for his hometown team.

- Pleasanton teachers rally in front of their respective schools across the city and pack the Board of Trustees meeting that same night as a way to show their support for their union's ongoing negotiation efforts for a higher raise, fully paid health benefits and smaller class sizes.

- Livermore resident Justin "JT" Thomas is killed when his motorcycle is struck by a vehicle turning across North Mines Road.

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

- The Association of Pleasanton Teachers declares an impasse in negotiations with the district after the two sides remain nearly 10% apart on proposed salary

increases, among other disputed contract stipulations.

- Legendary civil rights activist and educator Harry Edwards delivers a keynote speech, "Views of America's Future", at a Dublin Chamber of Commerce event.

- Dan Repp, who worked as managing director of utilities and environmental services for the city of Pleasanton, is seeking \$1.65 million in damages after

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CHRISTIAN TRUJANO

Zone 7 General Manager Valerie Pryor takes a moment to thank all the staff who have been working hard over the past 13 months to get the Ion Exchange PFAS Treatment Facility up and running.



LPD

The aftermath of the crash on East Avenue in Livermore on July 21 that ultimately claimed the life of local winery owner Mitchell Katz.

YEAR IN REVIEW

Continued from Page 21

getting fired this summer primarily for the use of profanity toward a subordinate, even though Repp argues that cursing is common in the city government's workplace and the actual motivation was City Manager Gerry Beaudin wanting to avoid fallout from Repp's departmental revelations. The claim would be denied and Repp would file a lawsuit.

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

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

- Pleasanton residents will no longer be able to call in virtually during City Council meetings to make comments over Zoom or by phone following a 3-2 decision vote by the councilmembers.

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

- 28-year-old Freddy Mendoza, of Redwood City, is fatally shot by the owner of East Bay Firearms in what police say was a case of justifiable self-defense during an armed robbery attempt at the Livermore gun store.

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

- Police arrest 32-year-old San Leandro resident Natasha Jimenez-Pazo in Dublin after she is charged in connection with a fatal hit-and-run crash in Tracy.

- Sunflower Hill unveils a new 60-unit affordable housing project in Dublin: Sunflower Hill at Grace Pointe.

- Injury-riddled Foothill forfeits a game to De La Salle, with a culmination of factors contributing to a tough year for Falcons' football program.

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

- Pleasanton's zoning administrator approves the design plans for City Venture's proposed Harmony Condominiums project that would demolish the



CHUCK DECKERT

About 60 people rallied before a Pleasanton City Council meeting in August to show support for the Pleasanton Police Officers Association during tense negotiations with the city administration. A deal between the two sides would be reached by the end of the month.

Tri-Valley Inn & Suites on Santa Rita Road in order to construct a 42-unit residential development.

- The Pleasanton City Council unanimously agrees to amend City Manager Gerry Beaudin's employment contract to give him a 6.25% salary increase this year and another raise at the same rate early next year.

- The cities of Livermore and Yotsukaido, Japan, will resume their sister city cultural exchange program for youth next fall, following a hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

- Joseph McBee, 28, who was wanted in a homicide case and allegedly involved in three car thefts, is arrested by police after a pursuit on Halloween from San Francisco to Pleasanton.

NOVEMBER

- Bob Williams hands off the baton: Longtime conductor of Pleasanton Community Concert Band retires after the Tri-Valley Veterans Day Parade performance.

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

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

- SpringHill Suites, the first of the two hotels that are part of the Johnson Drive Economic Development Zone, is scheduled to open in Pleasanton next month.

- The Foothill Falcons win the North Coast Section Division I girls' volleyball championship.

- Emotions run high during a neighborhood meeting to discuss the resurgence of the proposed 44-unit Garaventa Hills housing development planned for North Livermore.

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

- The city of Pleasanton merges its Operations Services and Engineering departments into a unified Public Works Department.

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

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

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

- Dublin San Ramon Services District promotes Jan Lee to general manager effective upon the retirement of Dan McIntyre next month.

- Regional public power agency East Bay Community Energy has renamed itself Ava Community Energy.

- Amador's Montana Parkinson-Lubold wins her fourth straight EBAL tennis singles title. She would go on to win the NCS Division I championship too, for the second year in a row.

- Thanksgiving week marks the nine years since David Ruenzel, a popular journalism and literature teacher at The Athenian School in Danville, was gunned down in broad daylight on a public trail in the Oakland hills. The Weekly spotlights the unsolved homicide case.



APT

Over 300 members from the Association of Pleasanton Teachers gather outside of the Pleasanton Unified School District offices on Feb. 9 to demonstrate solidarity with the union. Negotiations in the new school year would ultimately stagnate, with the union declaring an impasse that was still in effect.

- Sunol Glen School Board President Ryan Jergensen and Trustee Linda Hurley receive official recall intent notices, 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.

- 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 but remain at odds on potential development of the Crosby property so far.

- 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.

- A divided Dublin City Council advances a term limit expansion measure, with voters to decide increasing the max tenure to 12 years on the November 2024 ballot.

- 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.

- Pleasanton Weekly launches the 2023-24 Holiday Fund benefiting 10 nonprofits in the Tri-Valley.

- The Alameda County Coroner's Bureau is currently conducting an investigation into the death of a student at the Las Positas College campus.

- Following another round of negotiations this fall, DUSD and Dublin Teachers Association remain without a deal — and the union is declaring that the two sides are at an impasse.

DECEMBER

- Pleasanton ushers in the celebratory season with its Hometown Holiday Parade and Tree Lighting,

which for the first time was scheduled to occur rain or shine (the weather cooperated, regardless). Livermore also holds its annual downtown parade the same night.

- A new Pleasanton nonprofit, the Neev Kolte and Brave Ronil Foundation, presents its inaugural fundraiser to raise funds for pediatric brain tumor research.

- Pleasanton City Council tells staff to continue working with outside consultants to garner public input on the possibility of the city pursuing a revenue measure with voters next year.

- Hope Hospice reveals plans to merge with two other regional hospice organizations in order to form the largest not-for-profit hospice network in Northern California.

- Dublin's Hobby Lobby is closing: With new store opening in Hayward, crafts company moving out of Dublin Place — as specter of redevelopment looms

- Bank of America is shuttering its branch on Main Street in Pleasanton.

- JMC Cellars joins Livermore Valley Wine Community as the new winery takes over the former Big White House tasting room.

- Rite Aid closes its store in Vasco Plaza in Livermore.

- Former prison guard John Bellhouse, 40, who used to live in Pleasanton, becomes the fifth man sentenced for sexually abusing female inmates at the Federal Correctional Institute, Dublin. It's the eighth criminal case to date in the FCI-Dublin scandal.

- Dublin Police Services marks 25 years since deputy John Monego was gunned down in the line of duty while responding to a robbery in progress at a restaurant in Dublin.

- A top priest from the St. Mary and St. John Coptic Orthodox Church in Pleasanton is scheduled to be deposed in a lawsuit filed against the priest, church and archdiocese two years ago by a former parishioner who alleges he sexually assaulted her on multiple



CHUCK DECKERT

Representatives from nonprofits that received checks from the 2022-23 Holiday Fund and a few Rotary of Pleasanton members stand with (center, left to right) the Weekly's editorial director Jeremy Walsh and publisher Gina Channell Wilcox and 3VCF's executive director Kelly Bowers and board president John Sensiba.

occasions. Father Antonious Baky and the church "vehemently deny" the allegations.

- Discount retailer Five Below opens its first Tri-Valley store at Hacienda Crossings in Dublin.

- Pleasanton City Council endorses the first reading of a proposed ordinance that would prohibit gasoline-powered leaf blowers from being used in the city effective June 1.

- Pleasanton-based Boy Scouts of America Troop 911 is celebrating a major milestone this month: the ascension of 100th Eagle Scout in troop history.

- JOANN Fabrics and Crafts is in the process of closing its store on Arroyo Vista in Livermore.

- In a step toward eliminating the use of leaded fuel at the Livermore Municipal Airport, the City Council approves a resolution amending the minimum standards for commercial aeronautical activities to require the provision of unleaded aviation fuel.

- EBRPD marks the completion of its most-recent community improvement and open space project in the Tri-Valley — the Tyler Ranch Staging Area at Pleasanton Ridge Regional Park in Sunol.

- Dublin school board votes to name the district's new TK-8 campus as Shamrock Hills and the new theater at Emerald High as the Catherine Kuo Performing Arts Center.

- An SUV carrying eight people goes airborne and broadsides a

tree as it crashes down an embankment off I-680 between Sunol and Pleasanton, killing three adults and injuring the other occupants including two babies, according to authorities.

- PUSD and APT once again fail to reach a labor settlement agreement after a state-mandated mediation session — even after the union told district leaders that members voted 98.5% in favor of authorizing a strike.

- PUSD trustees agree to sell the district's Neal property to a housing developer for \$34.7 million.

- The stage is set for the March 5 primary election with contested races for Zone 7 Board of Directors, Alameda County Supervisorial District 4, State Assembly and State Senate. ■



MOHS FAMILY GOFUNDME PAGE

Blake Mohs, 26, was fatally shot while attempting to stop a theft while working at the Home Depot on Johnson Drive on April 18.



EBRPD

East Bay Parks GM Sabrina Landreth speaks at the Tyler Ranch Staging Area at Pleasanton Ridge grand opening on Dec. 3.

THE FOUR FRESHMEN RING IN THE NEW YEAR

Group who performed first-ever show at Bankhead in 2007 returning for final performance of 2023

BY NICOLE GONZALES

The Four Freshmen have entertained audiences for the past 75 years, with their songs both classic and contemporary. Over the years, the group has evolved and reinvented itself all while touring and recording new music.

This year, the current lineup of the group returns to the Bankhead Theater in Livermore to help audience members ring in the new year. The Four Freshmen will take the stage next Sunday (Dec. 31) at 8 p.m.

Bob Ferreira, drummer and vocalist, reflected on the significance of this performance and shared reflections on his time with The Four Freshmen.

"Some people try to say that we're a memory group. The group has always made new recordings, and we're not a tribute band either — it's still the same group from 1948," he said. "It's like a sports team, the players change but the organization is the same. We're just a continuation of the original group, just with different members."

"Our main goal is really to have people enjoy what we do and enjoy themselves at our shows. Whether it's people who remember the group from back in the day and they're reliving old memories by hearing these songs, or if it's people who had never heard of us before and they just love that style," he added.

The original four members of the band formed in 1948. The Four

Freshmen captivated young audiences with their jazz vocal harmonies. During the late 1940s and early 1950s, their music would inspire acts like The Beach Boys, The Mamas & the Papas and Kenny Rogers.

This past September marked their 75th anniversary.

"We don't take it lightly. This is a huge legacy, the impact the group's had on the music industry and on people in general," Ferreira said. "There are a lot of people who were influenced by this group that went on to be successful, but it was because of the innovative sound of The Four Freshmen and how they created this back in the '50s."

Ferreira joined The Four Freshmen in 1992 at the age of 20. At the time, he was pursuing music education for his undergraduate studies and had planned to become a teacher.

"It was a very real crossroads for me because I was going for a music degree. I was geared more towards classical and opera performance through education," he recalled. "The opportunity to be able to do this and to have that experience of being in a professional group and touring was something I wanted to try."

After being part of the group for over 30 years, Ferreira still feels the inspiration and drive to keep performing, recording and traveling.

"At the start, all these experiences were so new and so exciting. There



RACHEL LAHLUM / COURTESY LVA

The Four Freshmen are set to return to the Bankhead Theater in Livermore on next Sunday at 8 p.m. for a New Year's Eve performance.

was the energy of being able to travel around the world, seeing these places and meeting wonderful people. It's something I fell in love with," he said. "People ask me, 'Don't you ever get tired of it?' I always say — I wish I could get more of it."

Much of the group's current success and fulfillment comes from their bond and ability to work well together, according to Ferreira.

"We just enjoy ourselves," he continued. "We've enjoyed traveling with each other and hanging out and being able to play music on and off the stage. It's all part of the experience. I still appreciate the joy in the little things that we're able to do."

"A lot of it is due to the chemistry me and the three other guys have and how we make it sound. We just have a lot of fun on stage. We try to give the best performance and most energetic and intense and emotional performances we can," Ferreira said.

The group holds a special connection to the Livermore venue, being the first-ever act to perform on the Bankhead stage when it opened in 2007.

Ferreira spoke to the significance of the theater for him and his bandmates, saying it is one of his favorites to play at.

"One of the things I really loved about the theater is the fact that it has this real intimate feel, you don't feel disconnected from the audience — and I can only imagine the audience feels the same way," Ferreira told the Weekly. "It's such a beautiful theater and it's nice to be back there again. It does feel like this warm little place, a home away from home."

After visiting venues across the globe, the Bankhead continues to be a standout theater, Ferreira said.

"The Bankhead really captures a human element to performance. Being able to catch the subtle nuances of what a performer does, whether it's in dance or theater or music, it's really incredible. This makes it stand out amongst other performing arts centers," he added. "It's nice to be able to have that kind of closeness, and yet you can still fit a lot of people in there. It was very well designed and acoustically just wonderful."

Ferreira and his bandmates have taken to the Bankhead stage several times for New Year's celebrations. Due to the anticipation of the new year, these shows are special to him and his fellow musicians.

"The New Year's Eve show does kind of set it apart a little. There's this excitement in the crowd," Ferreira said. "It's kind of an underlying feeling where we're all ready to start the year fresh and hope that the new year is going to bring us all more happiness. We want to make their last show of the year something memorable as well."

Ferreira said he and his bandmates hope to return to the Bankhead many times in the future.

"It's nice to be able to see and know that we are either bringing back memories or creating new ones for audience members," he said. "Hopefully we are sharing a little bit of happiness along the way. That's what the power of music does."

To find tickets to The Four Freshmen show this New Year's Eve at the Bankhead, visit livermorearts.org. ■



COURTESY THE FOUR FRESHMEN

The Four Freshmen originally formed in 1948. The group has continued to entertain audiences while undergoing many lineup changes over the decades.

Pleasanton Preps sponsored by



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PLEASANTON PREPS

By DENNIS MILLER

Amador boys' basketball wins Arroyo tournament

Also: Harvest Park girls reach finals of TVAL playoffs

The Amador Valley boys' basketball team won two straight and took the title in the Arroyo Dons City Tournament championship.

In the finals the Amador Dons exploded for 34 points in the first quarter on the way to an 89-63 win over Irvington.

Kasen Krueger had 18 of his game-high 23 points in the first quarter, as Amador got a 20-point lead in the frame.

Amador added 22 more points in the second quarter and led 56-33 at the half.

Jaylen Smith finished with 17 points, Cade Krueger 13 and Nate Jetter 10 for the Dons.

In the first game, Amador knocked off Deer Valley 51-38 to advance to the finals. Smith had 13, Jetter 12 and Kasen Krueger eight to lead the way.

Kasen Krueger was named the Most Valuable Player of the tournament, with Jetter being named to the All-Tournament team.

Amador girls' soccer

The Dons were the last team in the East Bay Athletic League to start their season, but they made their debut a winning one, beating Heritage 5-1.

Last year Amador had its season ended by Heritage in a 2-1 loss in the first round of the North Coast Section playoffs.

This time the Dons dominated from the start, controlling the flow of play, with the players sending multiple crosses into the penalty area.

Maylen Montoya had seven shots in the game, scoring twice from her midfield spot. Her first goal came off a nifty run through the Heritage defense. The second goal came off a Claire Morgan assist.

Alden Hofstedt also used a nice

dribbling run to get a goal for Amador. Angel Akanyirige had a wonderful game setting up numerous scoring chances off crosses and was rewarded with a goal of her own off an assist from Hofstedt.

Julia Wanis, a freshman playing in her first varsity game, added a goal off a corner kick. Ava Haviley played well for the Dons on both offense and defense.

Sydney Head went the distance in the goal, yielding only one goal.

HPMS girls' basketball

The Harvest Park Middle School eighth grade girls' basketball team advanced to the finals of the Tri-Valley Athletic League playoffs before falling to Fallon in the championship.

The team beat Hart to advance to the title game.

The members of the team were: Penny Brown, Riley Sarno, Tanvi Gundapi, Sydney Lo, Elena Eichler, Avery Butler, Nitika Padalkar, Mariajose Perez, Lea Cullen, Kaylin Causey, Shreeya Hule and Sanvi Nepal.

Last column of the year

There will be no Pleasanton Weekly on Dec. 29, which means this is the last Weekly local sports column for 2023.

With this year winding down, I wanted to take this time to wish everyone a Happy Holiday Season and hope everyone enjoys the time spent with family and loved ones.

Also, I want to wish everyone a Happy New Year and hope for the best for everyone in 2024.

When we return from the holiday break, we will welcome the beginning of the EBAL basketball and soccer seasons.

I'd also like to thank the efforts of

Scott McMillin, who sends in the Amador boys' basketball results after the conclusion of each game.

Great to see Sam Head back to send in the Amador girls' soccer results, as well as Jamil Tahir for the Foothill boys' soccer season.

As we move to the new year, I'd love to get a volunteer to step up for Amador girls' basketball, as well as for the Amador boys' soccer team.

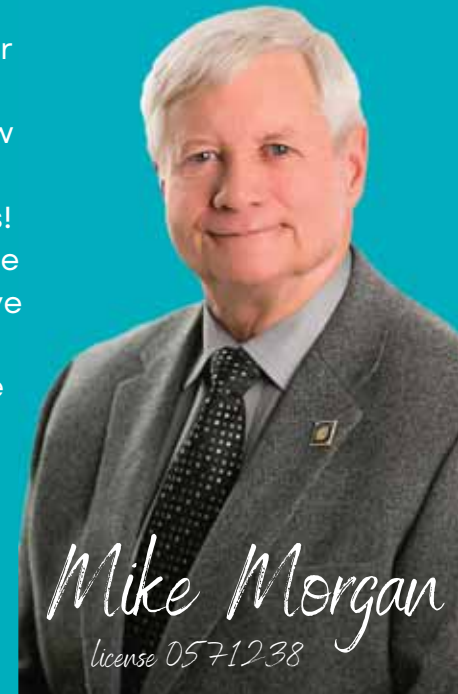
On the Foothill side of the ledger, we are still searching for results for the boys' and girls' basketball, as well as the girls' soccer team.

The more results we get, the more student athletes we can recognize for all the hard work they put into their craft.

We will be back in this space on Jan. 5 and looking forward to a slew of results to share with our readers. Cheers! ■

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MULTIPLAN_MAFLYERGMLM

END OF YEAR DOUBLE EDITION!

We're wrapping up the year with a special double edition combining the Dec. 22 and 29 issues.

The Dec. 22 Pleasanton Weekly will be the final newspaper delivered in 2023. We'll be back in print on Jan. 5.

Unlike Santa, though, our journalists will not rest for long after the big day. Just because there will be no paper delivered Dec. 29, our staff will still be working and you can keep up with the local news on PleasantonWeekly.com.

Pleasanton Weekly Happy Holidays!



PET OF THE WEEK

A holiday pair

Little Miss Sunshine and Mr. Cheerful are on a mission to spread holiday cheer and make these chilly days shine. This adorable pair is the perfect addition to make your holidays even brighter — let them warm your heart and home. Their adoption fees are waived through Dec. 30, so visit valleyhumane.org to learn more or email info@valleyhumane.org to begin the adoption process.



VALLEY HUMANE SOCIETY

Entertainment

NOCHEBUENA: A CHRISTMAS SPECTACULAR This breathtaking and traditional show featuring a talented cast of dancers, singers and musicians take you on a journey through the joy and wonder of the holiday season with stunning choreography, dazzling costumes, and unforgettable music. 8 p.m., Dec. 23. Tickets \$100-\$130. Visit livermorearts.org.

NEW YEAR'S EVE WITH THE FOUR FRESHMEN Ring in New Year's Eve with The Four Freshmen, the legendary vocal group known for their impeccable harmonies and timeless classics. Bid farewell to the old year and welcome the new with an evening of incredible music and entertainment. 8 p.m., Dec. 31. Tickets \$60-\$90. Visit livermorearts.org.

Exhibits

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

LANDSCAPES FROM WILLIAM KEITH TO TODAY This art exhibit showcases the beauty of California's landscapes over the past 150 years, featuring works from William Keith to contemporary artists. Through Jan. 7. The UNCLE Credit Union Art Gallery at the Bankhead Theater.

Holiday

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.

DEACON DAVE'S CHRISTMAS DISPLAY The 40th annual Deacon Dave's Christmas Display is now through Jan. 1. Visit casadelpomba.com.

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

Support

SPONSOR A FAMILY FOR CHRISTMAS CityServe of the Tri-Valley has families in their care who need presents and a meal delivered. They can match you or your group with a family that is working directly with one of their care coordinators. For more information, contact Jenne at serve@cityservecares.org.

PLEASANTON LIBRARY AND RECREATION FEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM The city of Pleasanton believes that economic barriers should not prevent any member of the community from engaging in the enriching experiences and social connections provided by library and recreation programs. A fee assistance program is available to

offset these costs. Learn more at cityofpleasantonca.gov or call 925-931-5340.

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.

SOUP-ER TUESDAYS Volunteers will serve warm soup during the chilly months for all unhoused individuals in the Tri-Valley. Every Tuesday individuals can "grab n' go" or stay inside to connect with others, stay warm and/or learn about local resources. 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. CityServe Care Center 3311 Pacific Ave., Livermore. Through Feb. 27.

FREE SHOWER & LAUNDRY SERVICES Monday-Wednesday, 12-3:30 p.m., Asbury United Methodist Church, 4743 East Ave, Livermore. Closed Christmas Day.

Farmers' Market

PLEASANTON FARMERS' MARKET The Pleasanton Farmers' Market is Saturday year round, 9 a.m. to 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. to

1 p.m., Sundays. Between J St. and L St.

Scholarship

ALAN HU FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP Scholarships for up to \$1,000 will be awarded to high school seniors from Dublin, Livermore and Pleasanton Unified school districts whose college majors and career aspirations support mental health. The deadline is March 10. For more information, visit alanhufoundation.org.

Seniors

PLEASANTON RIDES Providing safe, comfortable, reliable, on-time, affordable rides for Pleasanton

seniors 70 years and older. Call 925-398-1045 for more information or to schedule a ride.

TECH TUTORING AT THE PLEASANTON SENIOR CENTER Mondays, 12 p.m., Wednesdays, 9 a.m. and 10 a.m. \$3.00R/\$3.50NR. Bring own device and call 925-931-5365 for appointment.

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

Employment

ICE Mortgage Technology, Inc. seeks an Engineer II, DevOps in Pleasanton, CA to employ deep troubleshooting & scripting skills to improve the availability, performance, & security of services. 100% telecomm permitted w/in US. \$84,240 to \$155,000 per year. Apply at jobpostingtoday.com Ref #87873

Safeway Inc. hiring Business Intelligence Analyst in Pleasanton, CA. May telecommute reports to Pleasanton. Must have legal right to work in US. EOE. Subj. to bckgrnd check. \$99,611 – \$138,200/yr. Email resume TA.Applications@albertsons.com. Attn: S.Talib. Ref # 1011HK

Legal Systems Analysts sought by Charlee.AI, Pleasanton, CA to rsch & defn rqmnts for tchncl staff to convert into AI models, etc. May telecommute. \$89,128/yr. Deg'd applicants exp'd wrkg w/ legal insurance to dvlp NLP models, etc. Send resume to sri.ramaswamy@charlee.ai.

Product Innovation & Global Operations Rep. (Taimei Technology, Inc.; Pleasanton, CA*): Sustain, nurture & grow relationships w/ identified strategic accounts, becoming a trusted advisor to clients for our clinical research product lines. *Telecommuting permitted from anywhere in U.S. \$96,221-207,600/year. Send resumes to recruitment@itaimei.com

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

Public Notices

BROOKE CONTRACT DESIGN
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 601700
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) Brooke Contract Design, located at 7468 Oxford Circle, Dublin, CA 94568, Alameda. This business is conducted by: an Individual. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):
SANDRA BROOKE
7468 Oxford Circle
Dublin, CA 94568
Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 10/02/2023
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on October 27 2023. (PLW Dec 8, 15, 22, 2023 and Jan 5, 2024)

HOW TO BUILD A HOME
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 601677
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) How to Build a Home, located at 3819 Coolidge Ave. Oakland, CA 94602, Alameda County. This business is conducted by: a Married Couple. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):
ANGELA FRYER
3819 Coolidge Ave.
Oakland, CA 94602
JOHN FRYER
3819 Coolidge Ave
Oakland, CA 94602
Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on October 27 2023. (PLW Dec 8, 15, 22, 2023 and Jan 5, 2024)

BELL SPORTS MEDICINE INSTITUTE
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 602818
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) BELL SPORTS MEDICINE INSTITUTE, located at 5924 STONERIDGE DRIVE SUITE 202 PLEASANTON CA 94588, ALAMEDA COUNTY. This business is conducted by: a Corporation. The name and residence address of the

registrant(s) is(are):
DAVID M BELL MD INC
7943 PARAGON CIRCLE PLEASANTON CA 94588 CALIFORNIA
Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 01/01/2006
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on December 14 2023. (PLW Dec 22, 2023, Jan 5, 12 and 19, 2024)

SOHUM DENTAL OF PLEASANTON
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: #602054
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) Sohum Dental Of Pleasanton, located at 5460 Sunol Blvd, Suite 5, Pleasanton, CA 94566, Alameda. This business is conducted by: a Corporation. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):
MADHAVI DURVASULA, DDS. INC.
5460 Sunol Blvd, Suite 5
Pleasanton, CA 94566
California
Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on November 13 2023. (PLW Dec 8, 15, 22, 2023 and Jan 5, 2024)

ELAICHI CO.
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 602679
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) Elaichi Co., located at 2161 Allston Way Suite C Berkeley CA 94704, Alameda. Mailing Address: 677 Crystal Court, Pleasanton, CA 94566
This business is conducted by: a Limited Liability Company. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):
ELAICHI CO. LLC
677 Crystal Court
Pleasanton CA 94566
California
Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on December 11 2023. (PLW Dec 22, 2023, Jan 5, 12 and 19, 2024)

GRICQUEST
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 602614
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) GRICQUEST, located at 3430 Andrews Dr APT 204 Pleasanton CA 94588, Alameda. This business is conducted by: an Individual. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):
KALYANI SIVAGURUNATHAN
3430 Andrews Dr Apt 204
Pleasanton, CA 94588
Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on December 08 2023. (PLW Dec 22, 2023, Jan 5, 12 and 19, 2024)

THE EMPANADA STAND
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 602395
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) The Empanada Stand, located at 61 RICKENBACKER CIRCLE, Livermore, CA 94551, Alameda County. This business is conducted by: an Individual. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):
MARK SCHWERIN
1085 Murrieta Blvd
Livermore, CA 94550
Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on December 01 2023. (PLW Dec 8, 15, 22, 2023 and Jan 5, 2024)

E-Z TOWING
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 601613
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) E-Z Towing, located at 2891 Diavila CT, Pleasanton CA 94588, Alameda. This business is conducted by: an Individual. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):
GEORGE BADER
2891 Diavila CT
Pleasanton, CA 94588
Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 03/01/2015
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on October 25 2023. (PLW Dec 8, 15, 22, 2023 and Jan 5, 2024)

LAWTON-CLAREMENT
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 602243
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) Lawton-Clarement, located at 676 Alcatraz Avenue, Oakland, CA 94609, Alameda. This business is conducted by: a Limited Liability Company. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):
LAWTON-CLAREMONT LLC
676 Alcatraz Avenue
Oakland, CA 94609
California
Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 02/13/2023
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on November 21 2023. (PLW Dec 1, 8, 15 and 22, 2023)

X Y AND Z COORDINATED
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 601651
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) X Y and Z Coordinated, located at 2108 41st Ave Oakland, CA 94601, Alameda. This business is conducted by: an Individual. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):
LEVI WESLEY WILLIAMS
2108 41st Ave
Oakland, CA 94601
Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 10/21/2023
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on October 26 2023. (PLW Dec 1, 8, 15 and 22, 2023)

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF:
STEPHEN VINCENT SOVIERO, STEPHEN V. SOVIERO, STEPHEN SOVIERO, STEVE SOVIERO
Case No.: 23PR043171
To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of STEPHEN VINCENT SOVIERO, STEPHEN V. SOVIERO, STEPHEN SOVIERO, STEVE SOVIERO. A Petition for Probate has been filed by: WEI SOVIERO in the Superior Court of California, County of Alameda.
The Petition for Probate requests that: WEI SOVIERO be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.

THE PETITION requests the decedent's will and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. The will and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court. THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority. A HEARING on the petition will be held on January 19 2024 at 10:15 AM in Dept. 202 of the Superior Court of California, County of Alameda, located at 2120 Martin Luther King, Jr. Way, Berkeley, CA 94704.
If you object to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney. If you are a creditor or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58 (b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law. You may examine the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.
Petitioner in Pro Per:
Wei Soviero
3471 Dennis Dr.
Pleasanton, CA 94588
510-427-8152
(PLW Dec 15, 22, 2023 and Jan 5, 2024)

Place a legal notice at
PleasantonWeekly.com/legal_notices/

HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM OUR FAMILIES TO YOURS!



May your homes be filled with laughter, love, and cherished moments this holiday season. Wishing you all happy holidays filled with prosperity and togetherness.

- The Murtagh Team



434 ROSE AVENUE, PLEASANTON
8 BED | 8.5 BATH | NOW LISTED AT \$2,749,000



750 SHADY TREE COURT, DANVILLE
4 BED | 2.5 BATH | SOLD | REPRESENTED BUYERS



DOWNTOWN PLEASANTON HOMEOWNERS:
WE HAVE CASH BUYERS THAT WOULD LOVE TO MOVE INTO DOWNTOWN PLEASANTON. PLEASE REACH OUT TODAY IF YOU ARE CONSIDERING SELLING YOUR HOME IN 2024!

JULIA MURTAGH
925.997.2411
DRE# 01751854

\$65M
2022 SALES
VOLUME

\$515M+
HISTORICAL
VOLUME

murtaghrealestate.com

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**TIM
MCGUIRE
TEAM**



*Happy Holidays and a Joyous New Year
from our family to yours!*

400+ ★★★★★ Online Reviews

My wife and I recently sold our home in Pleasanton. This was a difficult process for us since we had owned the home for over 36 years. Tim McGuire and the Compass team were outstanding partners throughout the process! They thoughtfully advised us, anticipated our needs on multiple occasions, and were excellent communicators at all times. Their team could literally help us with anything we needed, while maintaining a professional, friendly and supportive demeanor throughout. When questions came up, they were always collaborative partners focused on problem-solving and getting us through it. We got an excellent result utilizing their proven processes, and keen awareness of the market. We highly recommend Tim and his team!

— Jim Wiggett, Pleasanton



View our website
Scan with your smartphone camera

www.timmcguireteam.com

925.895.9950 DRE #01349446

 /timmcguireteam
  tmcguire1
  @owntrivalley
  /in/owntrivalley

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COMPASS



#1 TEAM*
COMPASS,
PLEASANTON
 (*Transactions)

TOP 50
CALIFORNIA
WSJ/REAL TRENDS
2022-2023

27+
YEARS' SELLING
REAL ESTATE

\$600M+
HOMES SOLD

720 Timberline Terrace, Brentwood	\$540,121
891 Dolores Avenue, San Leandro	\$850,000
309 Lone Oak Drive, Pleasanton	\$1,328,000
2417 Sevillano Circle, Livermore	\$3,250,000
7786 Bloomfield Terrace, Dublin	\$2,300,000
470 Bollinger Canyon Lane, San Ramon	\$495,000
1358 Legend Lane, San Jose	\$1,910,121
4112 Moller Drive, Pleasanton	\$1,330,000
774 King Palm Lane, Brentwood	\$605,000
34405 Anzio Terrace #19, Fremont	\$1,421,000
2776 Alliston Loop, Dublin	\$1,500,000
5097 Jarvis Avenue, San Jose	\$1,400,000
720 Polaris Way, Livermore	\$1,650,000
201 E. Angeleno Avenue #406, Burbank	\$650,000
135 Birchbark Place, Danville	\$2,185,000
1530 Sunnyvale Avenue #10, Walnut Creek	\$575,000
828 Olivina Avenue #17, Livermore	\$140,000
2485 Raven Road, Pleasanton	\$1,618,000
Listed and Sold!	
5 Grey Eagle Court, Pleasanton	\$4,250,000
772 St. John Circle, Pleasanton	\$1,831,000
4516 Fabriano Place, Dublin	\$1,800,000
1071 Lexington Way, Livermore	\$2,000,000
Listed and Sold!	
2427 Raven Rd., Pleasanton	\$1,803,000
4931 Monaco Dr., Pleasanton	\$2,600,000
5279 Crestline Way, Pleasanton	\$1,971,888
37056 St. Christopher St., Newark	\$1,400,000
2363 Woodthrush Way, Pleasanton	\$2,125,000
Listed and Sold!	
11927 Rhonda Ct., Dublin	\$1,456,000
3788 Branding Iron Pl., Dublin	\$812,000

4435 Arbutus Ct., Pleasanton	\$1,420,000
Listed and Sold!	
4139 Norton Ave., Oakland	\$900,000
Listed and Sold!	
1549 Darwin Ave., Livermore	\$1,260,000
7687 Glenbrook Ct., Pleasanton	\$1,525,000
786 Selby Lane, Livermore	\$1,128,000
2436 Via de los Milagros, Pleasanton	\$2,775,000
295 Mission Dr., Pleasanton	\$1,835,000
434 S. 15th St., San Jose	\$1,368,000
5140 San Viciente Terrace, Dublin	\$1,430,000
1898 Meridian Ave. #40, San Jose	\$750,000
1459 Windsor Way, Livermore	\$1,450,000
2133 Presidio Ct., Danville	\$1,375,000
923 Ventura Ave. Livermore	\$805,500
40 Via Robles Ct., Alamo	\$1,585,000
5514 Black Ave., Pleasanton	\$1,679,000
7793 Peppertree Rd., Dublin	\$1,700,000
3622 Diablo Ct., Pleasanton	\$2,829,000
Listed and Sold!	
559 Gettysburg Dr., San Jose	\$1,870,000
2451 Sevillano Cir, Livermore	\$2,800,000
2550 Hillcrest Ave, Hayward	\$750,000
Listed and Sold!	
4877 Black Ave., Pleasanton	\$1,750,000
Listed and Sold!	
471 S. Tradition Ave., Mountain House	\$940,000
36055 Asquith Pl., Fremont	\$1,550,000
1149 87th Ave, Oakland	\$455,000
Listed and Sold!	
2234 Via Espada, Pleasanton	\$1,750,000
1534 57th Avenue, Oakland	\$470,000

66 Sold Transactions In 2023

Call Me Today For A Private Valuation

Celebrating 2023

189 CHAMPAGNE BOTTLES POPPED

50+ FIVE STAR REVIEWS

100% COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY

CONNECTION TO COMMUNITY

At Connect California Homes, we're dedicated to making a meaningful difference right here in our community. We are proud to share some highlights of the incredible initiatives that have shaped our year:

- Annual Warm Coat Drive in partnership with Hively
- Heart Health Awareness Campaign with American Red Cross
- Annual Shred Event promoting community sustainability
- 2nd Annual Connect to a Cause supporting HERS Breast Cancer Foundation



Learn more at connectcahomes.com/give-back

CONSIDERING SELLING IN 2024? RESERVE YOUR SEAT AT OUR

FREE HOME SELLER'S SEMINAR

TOPICS WILL INCLUDE:

- ✓ What Buyers Look For
- ✓ How to Use Proposition 19
- ✓ Selling "As Is" vs. Fixed Up
- ✓ Costs Associated with Selling

We're excited to continue our FREE Home Seller's Seminars in 2024! Join us to learn the answers to common questions homeowners ask about the home selling process. **Scan our QR code for more details.**



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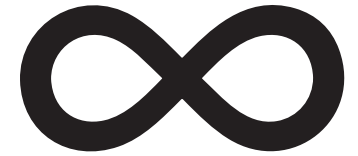
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VENEMA HOMES

EXPERIENCE EXCELLENCE

Thank You For An Amazing 2023!



GRATITUDE FOR OUR CLIENTS!

LOWEST

INTEREST RATES IN 6 MONTHS!

\$24M

CLOSED IN DECEMBER



Wishing You Love, Light, & Happiness In 2024!



The market usually begins to wake up in mid-January and then accelerates in early spring. The single, most watched factor will be the interest rates, as well as the stock market.

Let me guide you into 2024 with confidence in your housing choices.



1776 Harvest Rd, Pleasanton
Representing sellers



500 Happy Valley Rd., Pleasanton
Representing buyers and sellers



3591 Crespi Ct, Pleasanton
Representing sellers



2530 Regent Rd, Livermore
Representing buyers



A Message from Kris

I'm delighted to share this holiday season with you. Wishing you and your family a season of light and laughter. Merry Christmas.

Serving the Tri-Valley area for over 43 years

Visit my website at moxleyrealestate.com



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A warm Christmas wish for peace, cheer, happiness and the best of the coming new year.



COMPASS