

Pleasanton Weekly

History Maker
Award winners

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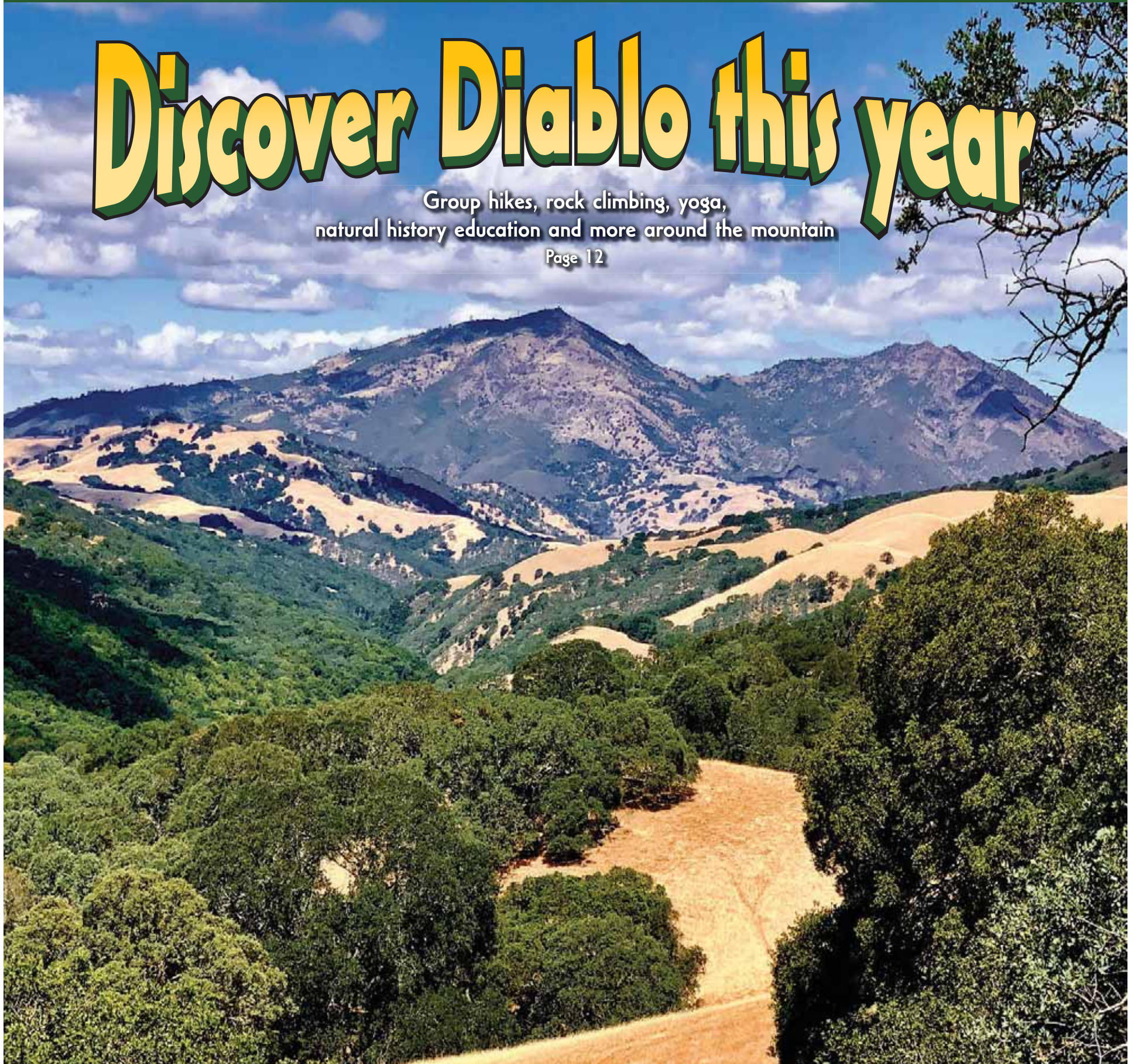
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Group hikes, rock climbing, yoga,
natural history education and more around the mountain

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Holiday Fund



Thank you to our generous donors

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.

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This year's Holiday Fund recipients that will share in fund contributions are:

- Axis Community Health
- CityServe of the Tri-Valley
- Culinary Angels
- Goodness Village
- Hope Hospice
- Open Heart Kitchen
- Pleasanton Partnerships in Education (PPIE)
- Sunflower Hill
- Valley Humane Society
- Tri-Valley REACH

WHAT A WEEK



BY JEREMY WALSH

Goodbye, Chris

The Pleasanton community is mourning the loss of one of its best citizens.

Chris Miller, the co-creator of Pleasanton Military Families and the Yellow Banner Project who touched so many other local causes in addition to his years as a military and civilian pilot, a real estate professional and a devoted family man, died on Dec. 29 at the memory care facility in Folsom where he moved a couple of months before while battling dementia. He was 86.

Chris was among the most active and dedicated Pleasanton residents; I'd seen him countless times at public events throughout the years — not to mention his regular drop-ins to the Weekly offices as he picked up the new edition, offered a story idea or just wanted to say hi.

"Pleasanton had such an impact on my dad, and he had such an impact on Pleasanton," his youngest son Michael Miller told me during a family interview on Tuesday.

"Everybody knew who my dad was; he knew everyone. He was a talker. He loved to talk ... that's one of the things I miss the most, just talking with my dad," Michael added.

Chris Miller III was born and raised in the small town of New Canaan, Conn. "Chris loved having his birthday on July 4th. Very apropos since he was so patriotic," Marty Miller, his wife of 56 years, told me.

After earning his bachelor's degree from the University of Pennsylvania while also participating in the ROTC program, Chris entered the U.S. Army Reserve and soon discovered a love of flying. He would go on to serve 27 years in the military, between regular and reserve service, retiring as a lieutenant colonel in 1987.

Chris spent more than a decade as a commercial pilot with the old SFO Helicopter Airlines in the 1960s and '70s before transitioning into real estate in 1977. "100% effort 100% of the time" was his motto as a Realtor, Marty recalled.

They had moved to Pleasanton in 1971, several years after meeting in San Francisco, and put down roots here. "When he came to Pleasanton, he just felt ... he just knew this is where he wanted to start a family, to open a business and to be involved. He really loved being involved and giving back," Michael said.

He became very active in the Rotary Club of Pleasanton,

including a term as president in 1986-87. Michael recalled dad was so committed that he would find Rotary Clubs on family vacations so he could attend as a visiting member and never miss a weekly meeting.

But Chris' community involvement took an even more personal turn in the early 1990s amid U.S. military operations in the Middle East. Motivated by the disrespect he witnessed himself and other returning service members received during the Vietnam War era, Miller co-founded a support group in Pleasanton for local troops and their families during deployments to Desert Shield/Desert Storm.

"He and Alice Johnston really saw an opportunity ... so that doesn't happen again," Marty recalled. Their original group disbanded after those conflicts ended, but not after organizing a huge parade in Hacienda for returning troops.

And more than a decade later, Chris would help reintroduce a support network at the outset of operations in Iraq and Afghanistan that soon became the Pleasanton Military Families organization we know today for its pack-out and welcome-home efforts. He also committed to the Yellow Banner Project on Main Street.

As humble as Chris was giving back to Pleasanton over five decades-plus, community leaders certainly noticed. His list of accolades stands second to none: Mayor's Award in 2020, Ed Kinney Community Patriot Award in 2020, Pleasanton Weekly's Man of the Year in 2009 and one of our inaugural Tri-Valley Heroes (2012: Community Spirit).

An inspiration for all of his military, public and professional contributions, Michael called out that his father was also a true role model at home. Michael said both of his parents worked tirelessly but remained active in their children's lives while focusing on each other and their marriage as well.

"My dad loved being around my mom, and she loved being with him," Michael said. "I can't thank him enough, and my mom enough."

Chris Miller is survived by his wife Marty, sons Christian IV, Jason and Michael, and his grandchildren. He is set to be interred at a private ceremony at the Sacramento Valley Military Cemetery next month, and public celebration of life is in the works for the spring in Pleasanton, with specifics pending. ■

Gina Piper

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About the Cover

Experience the ins and outs of Mount Diablo throughout 2024 by taking part in one or more of the events in the Discover Diablo series.

Photo by Chuck Deckert. Cover design by Paul Llewellyn. Vol. XXIV, Number 51

Welcome, Wendy!

Connect California Homes is thrilled to announce the newest addition to our collaborative – Wendy Harmon! As a Pleasanton resident for over 16 years, Wendy brings a local perspective to her successful real estate practice.

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Pleasanton Weekly

Streetwise

ASKED AROUND TOWN

Is there anything you're reading or a TV series you're watching these days that you would recommend to others?



Evan Strenk, with Simcoe
Brewery operations

Oh yes! There is a series on Apple TV+ called "Foundation". It's based on the best-selling sci-fi novel series of the same name, written by Isaac Asimov. To any sci-fi buff, it is an incredibly satisfying series to watch. There is so much going on and so much to keep track of and so much to think about. I just love it.



Jenny Lyness
Administrator

I love "The Crown". It's a series based upon the (British) royal family. Even for people like me, who had absolutely no prior interest in the royal family, this series is quite captivating.



Phil Frerich
Between gigs

"The Bear" on Hulu is great because the acting is incredible and the story, which is about working in a restaurant, is something many people can relate to. And, I especially love it because it was while working in a restaurant that I met my beautiful wife.



Emily Scholz, with Woody
Animal shelter adoptions and foster manager

I'm finally watching "Downton Abbey". It's a series I've been meaning to start watching for some time now, and while I thought I would like it based upon the recommendations of others, I find that it's even better than expected!



Ler Winter
Cannabis sales

There's a series on Amazon Prime called "Reacher". It's a crime-solving series and it's incredibly gripping. I binge-watched the entire series in two days. I recommend it highly!

—Compiled by Nancy and Jeff Lewis

Have a Streetwise question? Email editor@PleasantonWeekly.com

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DIGEST

State Senate forum

The three candidates vying for the State Senate seat currently occupied by Susan Eggman (D-Stockton) are set to introduce themselves and their platforms to voters ahead of the March 5 primary in an online forum hosted by Livermore Indivisible this weekend.

After redistricting, Pleasanton, Livermore, Dublin and Sunol will be represented by the same state senator as communities further east in the San Joaquin Valley including Tracy, Manteca and Stockton — as part of the new District 5.

With Eggman terming out this year, the race is wide open and three candidates are on the ballot in the rapidly approaching March 5 primary election: former congressman and Democrat Jerry McNerney, businessman and Republican Jim Shoemaker, and Democratic Assemblymember Carlos Villapudua.

The virtual forum is set for this Sunday (Jan. 21) at 1:30 p.m., moderated by Livermore Indivisible. Learn more at livermoreindivisible.org.

'Making Metaphors'

The Tri-Valley Writers Chapter of the California Writers Club is gearing up for its speaker series next month featuring novelist Michelle "M.M." Chouinard.

During her presentation "Making Metaphors and Other Stylish Moves", Chouinard — who is best known for her Detective Jo Fournier thrillers — "will share insights into the publishing business and the importance of persistence," according to club members.

The talk will take place during the group's monthly meeting on Feb. 17 at 2 p.m. in Room 2470 at Las Positas College, 3000 Campus Hill Drive in Livermore. For tickets or more information, visit trivalleywriters.org.

Ava promotion

Ava Community Energy, the region's community choice energy agency, announced this week the promotion of vice president of marketing and account services Annie Henderson to the newly created role of chief customer officer.

Ava officials cited Henderson's "deep industry acumen and holistic expertise" while noting that her appointment "signifies Ava's ongoing focus on improving the customer experience as it delivers clean, affordable power to residents throughout Alameda and San Joaquin counties."

The new position oversees the local development and programs, account services and marketing teams. ■

PUSD board talks high school boundary adjustment options

Goals include balancing student populations, removing 'choice areas' on current map

By CHRISTIAN TRUJANO

The Pleasanton school board majority provided minimal input while discussing two high school boundary adjustment options during last week's meeting as the trustees gear up for the final vote later this month.

According to staff, the boundary change will help balance

the student population between Foothill and Amador Valley high schools in light of the decline in enrollment over the past few years and will effectively remove two "choice areas" where students had the option to pick between either high school.

"One of the major changes is the current option areas are being removed and the rationale there

is to create greater consistency and greater ability for the district to predict the patterns going into the high schools," Ahmad Sheikholeslami, assistant superintendent of business services, said during the Jan. 11 board meeting.

"We've updated the elementary and the middle school boundaries and so now we have boundaries that neither match the elementary

feeder pattern (nor) match the middle school pattern and continue to create challenges for us in terms of the two option areas. So in both options that we have created, it kind of cleans up and tries to now keep those groupings closer to the new boundary areas," Sheikholeslami said.

See **BOUNDARIES** on Page 10



COURTESY LAVTA

Wheels is expected to implement new bus networks, increase frequency, and resume suspended routes.

Wheels bus service expanding in the Tri-Valley

Changes also include return of suspended routes

By NICOLE GONZALES

Frequent riders of Tri-Valley public transit will be happy to hear the transportation agency, Wheels, has recently announced service expansions and improvements to many of its routes.

In a recent meeting, the Livermore Amador Valley Transit Authority Board of Directors unanimously approved the entity's proposed "Wheels in Motion" network expansion project. Various other service enhancements will be part of the expansion as well.

Services are expected to be implemented in March.

"We are thrilled to introduce our new bus network,

significantly expanding the reach of Wheels services," said Melissa Hernandez, Dublin mayor and LAVTA board chair.

The new bus network was chosen after the agency completed thorough rider surveys and stakeholder feedback in the fall of 2023, LAVTA officials said.

"By listening to rider feedback and coordinating with our Bay Area transit partners, we continually evolve to meet the community's needs and improve public transit in the Tri-Valley," Hernandez added.

LAVTA representatives said the new network provides additional community coverage.

One of the most significant changes expected in the next few

months, is the Wheels Rapid bus frequencies will be aligned with the 20-minute BART train schedules. Other local routes are to be restored after they were suspended during the pandemic.

According to LAVTA, bus maps and times will be available online two weeks before the start date.

The agency has encouraged riders to use Transit App, a free mobile application that aids in booking tickets.

Service enhancements during weekdays will include:

- Rapid Routes 10R and 30R run every 20 minutes aligned with BART service schedules.

See **WHEELS** on Page 7

Recall petition receives green light

Sunol trustees decry effort as proponents seek signatures

By CHRISTIAN TRUJANO

The group of parents and community members working to remove Sunol Glen Unified School District Board President Ryan Jergensen and Trustee Linda Hurley can now begin circulating their recall petition after receiving clearance from the Alameda County Registrar of Voters' Office.

According to a press release last week from the pro-recall group, United for Sunol Glen, members are eager to begin the circulation process and get the 246 signatures from registered Sunol voters needed by Feb. 20 in order to submit the petition with the county and get the recall on a special election ballot.

"The community is steadfast in its pursuit of recall as the trustees continue to demonstrate through their actions and behavior that they are not able to effectively serve our school district and uphold the principles of responsible governance," the press release states. "Respected leadership is paramount for the prosperity of the Sunol and Sunol Glen School communities. This recall is a united effort to restore order, respect and good governance to the school board."

Jergensen has continued to say the recall is a divisive effort by people who live outside the small town.

"While those who want this recall say that they are for all, their actions show they are not looking out for the welfare of all students," Jergensen told

See **RECALL** on Page 9

Danville man sues ex-employer, alleges manager bullied him related to kids' deaths

Bob Pack, known for anti-DUI advocacy after driver killed his children, seeks damages from Orkin's Livermore branch in wrongful termination complaint

By CHRISTIAN TRUJANO

A Danville man who has been lauded for his advocacy against impaired driving after two of his young kids were killed in 2003 sued his now-former employer in Livermore last week alleging discrimination, harassment and wrongful termination in the wake of his manager pestering him about alcohol and drug use.

According to the unverified complaint for damages filed in Alameda County Superior Court on Tuesday, Bob Pack is suing the Livermore branch of Orkin, a pest control

service where Pack worked as a salesperson. Orkin is a subsidiary of the global company Rollins, Inc., which is also named as a defendant in the complaint, as is the branch manager Darren Jerdonek.

Among the many allegations, Pack's lawyer Judith Wolff states in the complaint that Jerdonek repeatedly accosted Pack asking if he drinks and accused Pack of drinking and being high on marijuana on the job — all while knowing about Pack's history of having two of his children killed by a driver high on opioids and drunk on a sidewalk in Danville.

Pack claims he was fired last year for retaliatory reasons.

"It is one of the most egregious cases of bullying that I have ever seen in more than 30 years of practicing law, where a 38-year-old manager bullied a 68-year-old employee whom he knew to be emotionally fragile, for the specific purpose of getting a rise out of him," Wolff told the Weekly.

The complaint states that Pack was fired for not submitting sales-related data in the company's tracking system, even though Pack states that other salespeople who did not input their activity into the system were

not penalized.

"Not only did he bully my client. He bullied other older workers," Wolff said. "The fact that Jerdonek told another employee that 'Bob's a total loser' and 'He won't last long,' just shows how unfit for management Jerdonek is. I hope Rollins now does the investigation they were required by law to conduct when they received their first internal complaint about Jerdonek."

Orkin did not directly respond to the allegations due to it being a personnel matter, an Orkin spokesperson told the Weekly. However, the spokesperson said the company takes complaints seriously and is committed to "doing right by both our customers and our employees."

"We aim to create a working environment that is welcoming and supportive for our employees, and we have launched an internal review into the alleged issues," the Orkin spokesperson said. "If we find actions incongruent with our company values, we will take the appropriate actions to rectify the situation."

It is unclear whether the branch manager is represented by Orkin's attorneys or has his own legal counsel.

Pack is a longtime Danville resident whose children Troy, 10, and Alana, 7, died on Oct. 26, 2003 after a woman who was abusing opioids and drunk at the time drove onto the sidewalk where the kids were riding their scooter and bicycle, respectively. Their mother Carmen Pack, who was pregnant with twins, was also hit. She survived, but the twins did not.

The complaint states that the driver had multiple DUIs before killing Pack's two kids and had been obtaining opiates from a number of different doctors. At the time, doctors had no system for finding out their patients' narcotic prescribing history.

After the family tragedy, Pack came up with a system that collects all narcotic prescriptions from a pharmacy and transmits that information to a centralized database so doctors could see the patient's complete narcotic prescription history and avoid over-prescribing those drugs to people. That system has since been adopted by every state in the U.S., except for Missouri, and is now known as the California Cures Program, which is run by the U.S. Department of Justice.

Because of what happened, Wolff states in the complaint that Pack suffered from post-traumatic stress disorder and that even to this day, he and his wife "experience periodic episodes of despair and anxiety that are triggered by stressful events."

Pack's lawyer claims in the complaint that his manager caused a lot of stress since the time Pack was

hired by Orkin in November 2022.

The complaint alleges that Jerdonek, being fully aware of Pack's history, continuously asked Pack if he drank, had been drinking or had been high on marijuana during work. In a YouTube video from the Bay Area Christian Church, Jerdonek is seen talking about his own struggle as a recovering alcoholic and addict.

Pack's lawyer states that the branch manager never reported any of his concerns regarding Pack to Orkin's human resources department.

They argue that because of the incident in 2003, Pack is as anti-drug and anti-alcohol as a person can be and is triggered by these topics, but his manager kept bringing them up during work.

Pack also alleges that Jerdonek doubled or sometimes tripled Pack's proposed client account contracts, which essentially took Pack out of the running for sales. Pack states that at one point, the branch manager greatly adjusted a proposal that the client had already agreed upon and signed, which led to the client backing out of the sale.

Pack alleges the manager did the same thing with a 55-year-old African American employee who had filed a complaint in 2023 stating Jerdonek was bullying and treating her unfairly.

"Pack is informed and believes and alleges that Rollins/Orkin took no steps to investigate her complaint, and that by failing to investigate the complaint the company failed to prevent the harms that had happened and would continue to happen to Pack," the complaint alleges.

According to the complaint, Pack had tried to bring these issues up with the company's regional manager in October but Jerdonek refused to give Pack the regional manager's number citing policy which said that his branch manager had to be a part of that meeting.

Pack did meet with both managers but because of Jerdonek's presence, Pack contends he felt uncomfortable with going into every detail and the regional manager ended up taking the branch manager's side, according to the complaint. Pack was then fired the following month, on Nov. 6, after his third write-up for not entering his sales activity into the company's sales-tracking system.

Pack's 35-page civil complaint seeks an unspecified amount of special, general and punitive damages for his experience, as well as reimbursement for past and future lost wages and bonuses, attorneys fees and court costs.

A case management conference has been set for June 5 at the Rene C. Davidson Courthouse in Oakland. ■

Former Granada High School student killed in Tracy

Teen found shot in car last week in rural part of town

By CIERRA BAILEY

The Tracy Police Department is seeking information about the fatal shooting of a 17-year-old former Granada High School student, according to a statement from the agency on social media.

Last Friday evening, Tracy officers responded to a report of a vehicle collision in a rural area of town on Sugar Road between Tracy Boulevard and Holly Drive. Upon their arrival, police said they found a male inside a vehicle who had been shot several times. He was transported to a local hospital where he later died from his injuries.

The victim was identified as David Cantero Valdez, who was living in Tracy but previously attended school in Livermore.

Tracy PD officials said the investigation into Cantero Valdez's death is ongoing, and anyone




A memorial for David Cantero Valdez is displayed on Sugar Road in Tracy where he was found fatally shot on Jan. 12.

with information about the incident is encouraged to contact the department.

In the days following Cantero Valdez's death, a GoFundMe campaign was launched to support his family. At the time of writing,

the fundraiser had reached nearly \$12,000 of its \$15,000 goal.

Anyone with information about this case may contact Cpl. Ken Steele at Kenneth.Steele@TracyPD.com or 209-831-6660. ■



February 24, 2024


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Embarcadero Media Foundation to launch redesigned websites

New-look sites feature user-friendly platform, all-in-one coverage of news, arts, real estate

WHEELS

Continued from Page 5

By JOCELYN DONG

Embarcadero Media Foundation is set to unveil newly redesigned websites for all seven of its newsrooms in the Tri-Valley and along the Peninsula on Wednesday (Jan. 24).

The dynamic and user-friendly platform is designed to provide news consumers with a better experience through a simple navigation bar, photo-rich layout and at-a-glance presentation of news, lifestyle articles, blogs, event listings and more.

Embarcadero Media Foundation is the nonprofit parent organization of the Pleasanton Weekly, Livermore Vine, DanvilleSanRamon, Mountain View Voice, Palo Alto Weekly, The Almanac and Redwood City Pulse.

The new websites' modern design guides users through a wealth of news, information and resources. Key features include:

Enhanced navigation: A simplified menu structure makes it easier to find information, from reading the latest breaking news in your city to browsing the latest regional lifestyle coverage to contacting customer support.

Rich content: Embarcadero



Screengrab shows design for the desktop version of the new Pleasanton Weekly website homepage. EMF

journalists' award-winning reporting on everything from community and breaking news to in-depth investigations to arts, food and real estate is displayed with a clean design and eye-pleasing visuals.

Mobile-first design: Optimized for all devices, the websites deliver a seamless and enjoyable experience whether you're browsing on your phone, tablet, laptop or desktop.

"The new websites are going to

make reading the news and staying on top of what's happening in your community an even more enjoyable experience," said Adam Dawes, CEO of Embarcadero Media. "We undertook this huge, year-long project in order to better achieve our mission of providing quality journalism that improves and enriches the lives of local residents and organizations."

As part of the migration to the new platform, Embarcadero's

current websites will be closing Town Square, its commenting feature, for two days starting on Monday (Jan. 22). Comments will be moved and the commenting function is set to relaunch as the new websites come online on Jan. 24. Registered users of the current websites will be able to sign in either by using a "magic link" emailed to their email addresses or resetting their passwords for password-based access.

On the day of the launch, various sites will be turned on as the day progresses. As a result, the sending of our daily Express newsletters may be delayed. If you have questions about the new websites, contact info@embarcaderomedia.org.

The launch of the new websites is the latest transformation for Embarcadero Media Foundation. On Jan. 1, the 43-year-old media company became a nonprofit organization, allowing it to accept philanthropic contributions to support its work and further enable it to fulfill its mission of serving the community. Go to EmbarcaderoMedia.org to learn more about the nonprofit. To donate to the foundation, EmbarcaderoMediaFoundation.org/donate. ■

- Rapid Route 10R operates service for one additional hour (until midnight).

- Routes 1, 3, 8 and 14 adjust to run every 40 minutes.

- Route 2 resumes hourly service in East Dublin.

- Route 11 resumes limited peak service to East Livermore.

- Route 15 increases frequency to every 20 minutes during peak hours and hourly during the midday.

- New local services in Central Dublin and Southwest Livermore run every 40 minutes during extended peak hours.

- Route 580X resumes limited service between Downtown Livermore and BART

- Route 70X extends through the Hacienda Business Park.

Expected service enhancements on the weekend include:

- Rapid Route 10R runs every 20 minutes on Saturdays and every 40 minutes on Sundays, aligned with BART service schedules.

- Route 30R runs every 40 minutes on Saturdays and continues to run hourly on Sundays, aligned with BART service schedules.

- New local service to Central Dublin runs every 40 minutes daytime on Saturdays.

To find out more information about Wheels transit service, visit www.wheelsbus.com. ■

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LPC to honor life of late professor emeritus Ken Ross

School's first-ever theater instructor remembered as mentor and advocate for the arts

By CIERRA BAILEY

The Las Positas College community is set to commemorate the life and legacy of late professor emeritus Ken Ross on campus this weekend.

Ross, who was the Livermore community college's first theater professor, died after a rapid 15-day battle with cancer, according to a statement from LPC last week.

"Known for his infectious laughter, genuine love for theater, and dedication to education, Ken's passing leaves an indelible void in our hearts," LPC officials said in the statement.

Ross began his teaching career part-time at LPC's sister campus, Chabot College, in 1975. He later became the first theater professor at LPC in 1978. Over the next 25 years, Ross served as the head of theater arts, leaving a lasting impression on countless students, colleagues and the broader arts community.

"Ken was an incredible person and director. He cast me in the first production I'd ever been a part of and his gentle, warm, enthusiastic guidance stayed my nerves and taught me what it is to be part of a show," said former



LPC
The late Ken Ross, professor emeritus at Las Positas College.

student Kaitlyn Davenport.

She continued, "He made us a family and brought out the best in everyone. Though I knew him for a short time, he made an immense impact on me and I will never forget him, his kind smile, his love for the art, or the lessons he taught."

Another former student, Kevin Clawson, credited Ross with changing his life. "He was an incredibly kind and funny human being. I feel fortunate to have been a student of

his for more years than I deserved to be," Clawson said.

A mentor and advocate for the arts, Ross' passion extended beyond the stage. He directed numerous productions, including the first musical at LPC, "Finian's Rainbow", and later taught the history of American musical theater online during the coronavirus pandemic.

As a lifelong champion of theater, Ross performed his first professional acting role as a 10-year-old singing, dancing, acting munchkin in "The Wizard of Oz" at the world-famous Muny, the nation's largest and oldest outdoor musical theater in his hometown of St Louis, according to his bio on the LPC website.

He later received his Bachelor of Arts from Elmhurst College in Chicago, a Master of Arts from San Francisco State University and an MFA from US International University in San Diego.

Colleagues remember Ross as a mentor who freely shared his insights and thoughts on life through lengthy emails about theater, arts and education, according to LPC's statement. He had a knack for surprising colleagues at their shows and standing in the back during

intermission, ready to celebrate their work.

Ross also showed a love for his students. He cherished each one, remembering their performances and celebrating their successes. His home walls adorned with photos of past productions stood as a testament to the passion and creativity he nurtured.

"Las Positas College mourns the loss of a dear friend, mentor, and an integral part of our community. Ken Ross's legacy will forever resonate in the ethos of the LPC Theater Arts program, which he nurtured and loved every step of the way," LPC officials said.

A family obituary online said Ross died on Oct. 6 at the age of 81. He is survived by a brother, two stepsisters, two nieces, extended family and many friends, colleagues and former students.

The college is inviting friends, family, colleagues and students to join a celebration of life this Sunday (Jan. 21) at 3 p.m. at the Mertes Center for the Arts, Building 4000, on the LPC campus. A light reception will follow.

For those unable to attend in person, the event will be available for online viewing via livestream at <https://livestream.com/lpc/KenRossMemorial>. ■

PET OF THE WEEK



VALLEY HUMANE SOCIETY

Meet Lily

The sweetest flower in the Valley Humane garden, Lily is a loving pup who adores tummy rubs, has mastered "sit" and is working on new tricks. Lily is waiting to bloom in your heart! Visit valleyhumane.org to learn more or email info@valleyhumane.org to start the adoption application process.

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Police probing alleged assassination threat against Swalwell

News comes out days after another man is charged for threatening Tri-Valley congressman, family

BY CHRISTIAN TRUJANO

The United States Capitol Police are formally investigating comments allegedly made by conservative political figure Roger Stone advocating for the assassination of U.S. Rep. Eric Swalwell and a colleague back in 2020, according to reports from multiple national news outlets this week.

In a statement released by his office on Tuesday, Swalwell (D-Livermore) responded to the alleged assassination threats that were first made public in a leaked audio recording published by the website Mediaite on Jan. 12. Stone, a political ally of former President Donald Trump, has denied the allegations. "The Roger Stone assassination

plot recording may seem like the ravings of a wannabe gangster. It's not," Swalwell stated. "This is what Trump and his real-life thugs do: They try to intimidate opponents and will always choose violence over voting."

"Because I'm one of Trump's loudest critics, Stone put a hit out on me," Swalwell added. "This

threat, and other threats of violence by Trump and his supporters, must be taken seriously by not only law enforcement but also by my colleagues. Both parties, not just Democrats, must condemn this violence. Unity will always be the best antidote against further violence."

Mediaite first reported on the alleged threats on Jan. 8 — at the time

the comments targeting Swalwell and U.S. Rep. Jerry Nadler (D-N.Y.) were not shared out in any audio format.

Since then, Mediaite released a 19-second clip that the website says was "lightly edited in order to protect our source, who requested

See **SWALWELL** on Page 10

RECALL

Continued from Page 5

the Weekly. "Some of these people are our neighbors who live in Sunol and are a vocal minority of people who want conformity of thought to their beliefs."

Hurley also claimed those behind the recall campaign have continuously made false accusations of her and Jergensen, and that those citizens who have had the opportunity to be on the board for years but don't want to give others like her and Jergensen the chance to lead.

"They aren't willing to listen or discuss opinions other than their own," Hurley said. "There are remedies for disagreement. The recall is punitive ... This recall team is not putting the kids first; they are putting themselves first."

Matthew Sylvester — one of the parents involved with the recall advocate group — told the Weekly that if they hit their February deadline, they do not have a strict timeframe for holding a special election but floated the idea of having it in April or May. He also said the recall group has not identified any potential replacement candidates yet.

Jergensen began his first full, four-year term on the three-person Sunol school board after winning the seat in the November 2022 election after serving in a temporary capacity. During that same November 2022 election, Hurley claimed a shorter two-year seat on the board — she will be up for reelection this November.

Over the last year, there have been several incidents that critics have



Linda Hurley



Ryan Jergensen

pointed to as why the community needs to recall both trustees.

Most recently, Hurley and Jergensen faced criticism after the Sept. 12 board meeting where they passed a resolution that limits the district and its Sunol Glen School to only fly the U.S. and California state flags.

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

Both have also faced criticism for bad governance such as not transitioning the board president title away from Jergensen upon the new year and not allowing enough time for community members to speak during public comments at past board meetings.

According to the pro-recall group, 84% of the Sunol Glen teachers and support staff union members adopted separate votes of no confidence resolutions where they each expressed their

distrust in both the trustees.

Hurley and Jergensen were officially served with recall intent notices in early November.

Both trustees have continued to defend their decisions on the flag resolution and said that they will keep on trying to better the Sunol community by working on things like saving the school money as it looks at its \$10.9 million Measure J construction costs, despite the recall efforts.

"Without our careful oversight, our citizens are likely to find themselves paying far more for the school's construction costs," Hurley said. "I am asking Sunolians to refuse to sign the petition and save our town the cost and headache that will ensue."

"I hope that the efforts of those standing with me to reject this divisive recall will give all courage to stand for One Sunol, and for everyone to feel welcome and treated with respect and dignity in our community," Jergensen said.

He called attention to the anti-recall campaign, One Sunol, and said that group is made up of many people around the town who support him and Hurley and who are afraid of the tactics the pro-recall group has been using against the two board members.

"One such tactic has been to label me in ways that are shameful," Jergensen said. "I am not anti-LGBTQ+, and none of my efforts have ever been about banning flags or limiting teachers' or anyone's opportunity for free speech. I have stood for uniting our community, and for

nourishing children in the public school."

He also said that the recall effort is actually harmful to the community because the people from outside the community who are contributing to the recall campaign will be putting the burden of having the school pay for the recall itself, which Hurley echoed as well.

"The question Sunol taxpayers need to ask themselves is are you willing to cost the school district approximately \$20,000 for a recall election and approximately \$50,000 for a special election?" Hurley asked. "That is what our school will be required to pay if this recall passes."

According to the pro-recall's website, the Registrar of Voters' Office confirmed that given the number of registered voters in Sunol, the estimated cost of conducting the

recall election is between \$15,618 and \$17,262.

And the campaign maintains that the recall is necessary.

"Sunol Glen and the town of Sunol are already paying a very high cost for keeping Jergensen and Hurley in office both financially — legal fees are up 364% at over \$50,000 under Jergensen's leadership — and with a deep loss of community morale," the campaign stated.

It also continued to state that the recall group is not made up of outsiders and that it is in fact made up of longtime Sunolians, parents and teachers.

"We invite all Sunolians to join their friends, neighbors and the larger school community in support of ensuring the future of Sunol Glen Unified School District," the pro-recall press release states. ■

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SWALWELL

Continued from Page 9

anonymity out of fear of repercussions from Stone, whom they believe to be dangerous.”

The clip allegedly depicts Stone conversing with Sal Greco, a former New York police officer who served as security for Stone, at a public restaurant in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., weeks before the 2020 election, according to Mediaite.



Eric Swalwell

“Let’s go find Swalwell and get this over with. It’s time to do it,” the voice Mediaite reported was Stone’s says in the clip. “Either Swalwell or Nadler has to die before the election. They need to get

the message.”

Stone has repeatedly defended himself on X, formerly known as Twitter. He stated in a post Sunday that the audio clip is a “poorly fabricated AI generated fraud all because I am loyal to (Donald Trump).”

Stone also included a screenshot from AI Voice Detector, a website that tests the probability of pieces of audio being fabricated by artificial intelligence, otherwise known as “deep fakes”; that he claims found the Mediaite audio recording has a 92.63% probability of being a deep fake and a 7.37% probability of it being a human voice.

According to Mediaite, Greco did not deny the claims and wrote in a text, “I don’t think your reader is interested in ancient political fodder.”

Mediaite was among the many national publications to report on

the new Capitol Police investigation into the alleged threats on Tuesday.

“Stone said that I and Trump’s enemies need to ‘get the message.’ Well, I and the voters have a message for Stone and Trump: We are still here, and we are not going away until we bury MAGAism and make sure America’s democracy endures,” Swalwell wrote in Tuesday’s statement.

This isn’t the first time Swalwell has dealt with deadly threats.

Earlier this month, a Florida man was charged with threatening to kill a U.S. congressperson and their children, according to a Jan. 3 press release from the U.S. Department of Justice.

Federal prosecutors did not reveal the victim’s identity, but Swalwell confirmed he was the congressman in question in a post on X the same day.

“No threat is going to stop me from representing my constituents,” Swalwell said. “MAGA Republicans have chosen violence over voting and this is what it looks like. But I’m not going away and neither should you.”

According to authorities, Michael Shapiro, a 72-year-old man from Greenacres, Fla., allegedly left five voicemail messages to a congressperson’s office on Dec. 19 and in one message stated that he was going to “come after you and kill you” and that he was also going to “come and kill your children.”

Shapiro made his first appearance in court on Jan. 3, and the U.S. Capitol Police are still investigating the case.

An old death threat case involving Swalwell also recently resurfaced — but not in the sense one might think.

A man who pleaded guilty in

October 2022 for threatening to kill Swalwell recently filed paperwork to run for a congressional seat in Pennsylvania, according to a LancasterOnline article.

Joshua Hall, 24, was sentenced to 20 months in prison and three years on parole after he pleaded guilty to making the threatening calls in August 2022 — while he was out of custody awaiting sentencing for another case where he admitted to wire fraud for impersonating Trump’s family members online and tricking people into donating money to a fake political organization.

According to Pennsylvania-based reporter Katherine Swartz, who broke the Hall candidacy story on X this month, Hall told her that he deserves “a second chance as anybody does, and I still want to be able to make a positive impact.” ■

BOUNDARIES

Continued from Page 5

Last spring, the Pleasanton Unified School District updated its elementary and middle school boundaries, which adjusted where certain elementary school students would go for middle school.

At the time, the board also committed itself to adjust the high school boundaries for the 2024-25 school year, which is what staff have been working on since then.

The district’s technical and stakeholder committees — which are made up of district officials, trustees, parents, teachers, school administrators and members of the city government — then came together in the fall to review the current boundaries and developed two options to bring to the table.

The first option would evenly split students living in southern Pleasanton between Foothill High School and Amador Valley High School, as opposed to the second option that would send the majority of those students to Foothill.

The first option would also directly feed elementary school students to the high schools in their zones and keep those elementary school groups of friends and classes together.

“In a nutshell, Fairlands, Donlon, Lydiksen and Hearst would feed into Foothill and then the others would all feed into Amador Valley,” said David Kaitz, a consultant from Davis Demographics who presented alongside staff last week.

Kaitz said the capacity numbers for each of the high schools would

be in sync and would each be at about 70% capacity.

On the other hand, he said the second option would be more in line with the current high school boundaries and that even though it would make the capacity percentage a bit more disproportionate, by 2029 both the schools’ enrollment would be closer to identical.

After the boundary options were created, the district held two community meetings in early December and posted a survey on its website for people to share their feedback and provide input.

According to Sheikholeslami, the district’s survey results showed that about 60% of the respondents chose the first boundary adjustment option while 15% chose the second and 24% chose neither.

“There were a lot of comments that supported the options that kept the elementary schools grouped together as a whole, as they move in that kind of cohesion,” he said. “Keeping communities together that had developed relationships early on, was seen as something positive.

However, one issue that was raised during the past community meetings and in the survey was the choice areas being eliminated in both plans.

Choice areas represent neighborhoods in the city located in the Walnut Grove and Fairlands Park areas. Parents who live in those regions currently have the option to choose which of the two high schools they want to send their children to attend.

The argument there was that the parents who bought their homes in those areas did so in order to have the flexibility to make the choice on which high school they wanted their child to attend.

Sheikholeslami said that those families, especially one in the Fairlands community, brought up issues on transportation and getting their students to Foothill,

which would be the case with either of the two new boundary options.

He also said that eliminating the choice areas was necessary in order to avoid imbalance with the two high schools’ capacities.

“The choice area, they’ve had a choice, but the rest of the students have not had a choice. So this is a change and I think going forward, I think it’s a good change,” Board President Mary Jo Carreon said.

Sheikholeslami also said that Wheels still has bus routes that go from that area to Foothill and that even so, the district will be convening with Wheels once the boundary adjustment decision has been made in order to work out any new routes that need to be optimized.

Another main issue, that Trustee Kelly Mokashi touched on during most of the meeting, was the plan for transitioning families to the new boundaries — specifically those who would be mostly impacted by the change.

According to staff, part of the transition plan would be to allow younger siblings to attend the same high school as their older siblings even if they are impacted by the boundary change. New incoming students for the 2024-25 school year, who aren’t affected by the grandfather rules, will have to attend the high school set by the new boundaries.

But the issue during the meeting was that while both of the new boundary adjustment options won’t have much of an impact when it comes to splitting up middle school friend groups to different high schools, it will impact Pleasanton Middle School students — but in different ways.

“Option one ... PMS will be split,” deputy superintendent Ed Diolazo said. “However, option one keeps Valley View and Vintage Hills together to go to Amador and Hearst will go to Foothill. Option

two, it splits ... based on the current boundaries, not the feeder patterns.”

Trustee Justin Brown said that as a parent who will have three kids go through PMS, he worries about splitting up friend groups at a middle school level versus at the elementary level because the middle school friends are more current.

“Option one is very clean. But option two preserves more of the friendship groups that might have happened at the middle school level for the PMS students,” Brown said.

Even though historically, PMS has always had that split in students going to two different high schools, Mokashi said that she wanted there to be more discussion about the transition process and with the district’s “grandfather” transition plan.

The grandfathering clause in the plan would allow middle school students to choose which high school they want to attend. That way they can stay with their friends and continue their current academic plans.

She asked about possibly looking at maintaining that grandfather clause for current kindergarten students and to revisit the transition plan for choice area families, to which Sheikholeslami said would not be possible.

“It would wreak considerable havoc in the predictability and planning of our high school school sizes and stuff,” he said. “You have to at some point draw the line. When individuals buy homes, there is no guarantee that boundaries will remain the same. We just changed the elementary and middle school boundaries and we decided to draw the line at a certain point, so it’s similar to the high schools as well.”

The board will make a final decision on which boundary adjustment option to approve during the regular meeting next Thursday (Jan. 25). ■

THE CITY OF PLEASANTON



HIGHLIGHTS

Bicycle, Pedestrian and Trails Committee Meeting

Monday, January 22, 2024, at 6:45 p.m.
The meeting will be held at the Senior Center – 5353 Sunol Blvd.

- Annual street overlay and striping plans

Planning Commission Meeting

Wednesday, January 24, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.
The meeting will be held at the City Council Chambers – 200 Old Bernal Avenue via video/teleconference and will be broadcast live at <https://www.youtube.com/user/TheCityofPleasanton>

- P24-0023, Stacy Call, Bottoms Up Espresso, 4299 Valley Avenue – Appeal of the Zoning Administrator’s decision denying an application for Zoning Approval for Bottoms Up Espresso at an existing drive-up kiosk located at 4299 Valley Avenue

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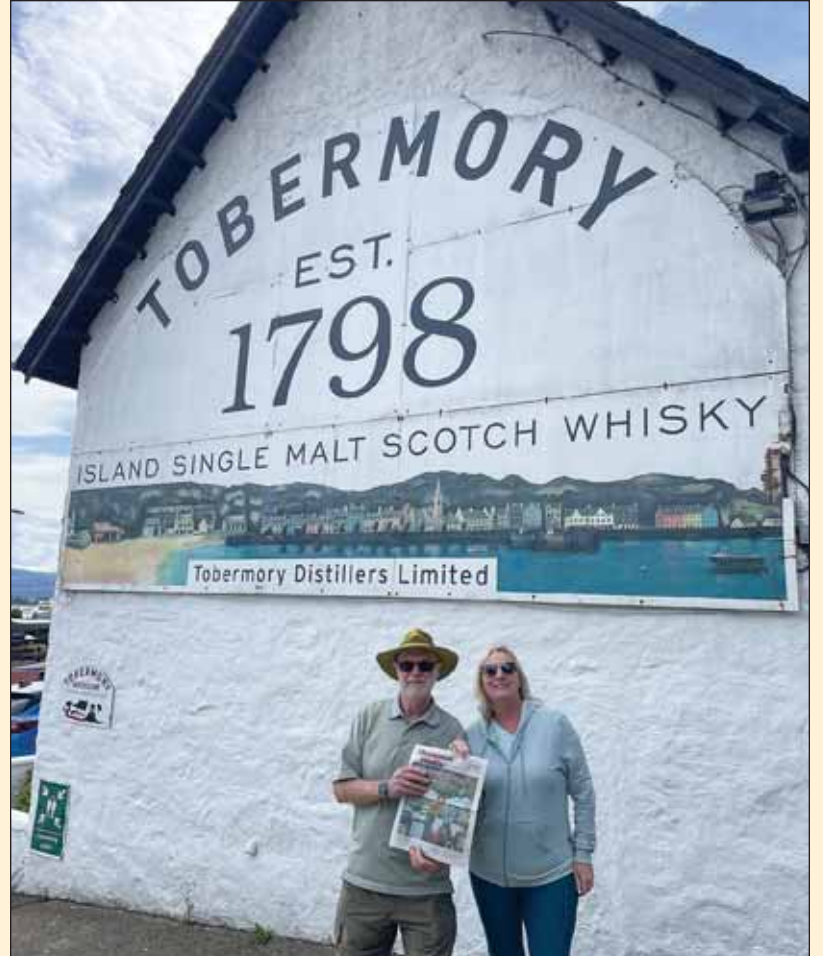
Take Us Along

Send us your “Take Us Along” entry today!

Email your photograph and caption information to editor@pleasantonweekly.com.



Cycling around Taiwan: Kathy and Gary Koos took a cycling trip in Taiwan, sponsored by Giant Bicycles. The group voyage was a total of 900 kilometers over nine days, starting in Taipei and going around the island.



With a glass of scotch: Pleasanton resident Alan Purves and his daughter Kerry visited the Tobermory Distillery on the isle of Mull in Scotland last summer.



Awestruck in Spain: May and Allan Lo had the good fortune to finally see the Sagrada Familia in Barcelona. “We were awed by its beauty, creativity and construction prowess. What a powerful display of human ingenuity! It should be on everyone’s bucket list,” Allan told us.



Leaning just a bit: Alexis Volking, Pleasanton-Tulancingo Sister City Association ambassador, stopped at the Leaning Tower of Pisa this summer with her Weekly in hand. She was able to visit Spain, Italy and France for her birthday/graduation this summer. Alexis is currently a student at UC Davis studying animal science and Spanish.



Cross off North Dakota: Bjorn Jensen sent this past family photo after reading that the Weekly might still be missing a Take Us Along from North Dakota after all of these years. Here was a photo of Bjorn and daughter Sofie Jensen during their family trip to cross off several midwestern states.



One fast ride: (Left) The Smith family of Pleasanton recently traveled to Europe, where they took the TGV Lyria high-speed train from Gare de Lyon in Paris to Zurich, reaching a very comfortable 164 mph. From left are Emily, Lance and Julia Smith on their way to Switzerland.

Brooklyn bound: (Right) Gina Channell Wilcox, president of Embarcadero Media Foundation’s East Bay Division and publisher of the Pleasanton Weekly, took the Weekly with her when she walked across the Brooklyn Bridge during her trip to New York City last year.



DISCOVER DIABLO THIS



GROUP HIKES, ROCK CLIMBING, YOGA, NATURAL HISTORY EDUCATION AND MORE AROUND

CHUCK DECKERT

Get to experience the ins and outs of Mount Diablo throughout 2024 by taking part in one or more of the events in the Discover Diablo series.

By JEANITA LYMAN

Save Mount Diablo has revealed a robust lineup of outings on the mountain and its surrounding area this year for its Discover Diablo program, with the first in the series serving as an annual event aimed at celebrating one of the conservation organization's founders.

Following the cancellation of their first planned hike on Jan. 7 due to wet weather conditions, organizers are crossing their fingers for cooperative weather on Jan. 27 — the day of the next adventure in the series.

It's been two years since organizers and participants took to the Mary Bowerman loop trail near the mountain's peak to celebrate the late Save Mount Diablo founder's 116th birthday on Jan. 25. (Last year was canceled due to wet weather conditions and road erosion throughout the state park.)

"Every year we do the Mary Bowerman loop," said Haley Sutton, land steward associate for Save Mount Diablo and leader of the upcoming hike. "It's a one-mile trail near the summit that's got both paved and unpaved sections, and you get 360-degree views. There's a lot of cool geology that can be featured near the top, a variety of different habitats that you can see as we do this loop, and it's also a way to honor one of our co-founders." Bowerman, who died in 2005, was a key figure in the organization's inception in 1971 and its conservation work for decades to come, with her direction for the organization continuing to be visible on the mountain today.

Several years after the organization was

launched, one of the largest fires in the mountain's recent history burned more than 6,000 acres on its northern slopes between Aug. 1-5 that year, with one of the conservation group's first orders of business early on being a decision about how to allow the area to best recover.

"There's the fire that swept over there in the

'70s that you can see some of the effects of," Sutton said. "I think there was some conversation about how to respond ecologically after the fire, and Mary Bowerman had replied by saying 'let's not plant and let's just let the area be and let the land recover itself.'"

While the land has recovered over the course

of the nearly 50 years since, effects of the fire are still visible from the loop trail, Sutton said, contributing to the diversity of habitats and visible natural history near the mountain's peak.

"You can see areas where there's maybe less overstory growth because there was fire there like 50 years ago, so it's just a really unique way to get a variety of different ecosystems on that walk," Sutton added.

The mountain's summit and surrounding area also showcase a rich geological history going back much further than 50 years, Sutton noted, despite it being intuitive to think of the upper parts of the mountain consisting of newer rock with the bottom slopes consisting of older rock.

"The way the plates pushed together created an uprising of rock that then led to the summit that you have on Mount Diablo," Sutton said. "What's cool is that rock is really old and that rock was formed generally underwater."

The rock near the summit therefore contains a complex geological history dating back more than a million years and including exoskeletons of marine life and other prehistoric species, along with a variety of species that make up its present-day ecosystem and the variety of habitats on the mountain.

"I think it's a unique trail because you get the views and the history and the ecological history of the mountain," Sutton said. "I think this trail is a great place to be able to learn about that or see it firsthand because of the route."

In addition to showcasing the history and ecology of the mountain, the hike showcases its present-day relationship to the surrounding



HALEY SUTTON / SMD

Participants in a past medicinal herb hike, which will be back in the spring for this year's Discover Diablo series.

YEAR

**'IT IS THE GOAL
OF THE DISCOVER
DIABLO PROGRAM
TO BUILD
CONNECTIONS
BETWEEN PEOPLE,
SAVE MOUNT
DIABLO AND
THE LAND.'**

Ted Clement,
Executive Director

of place and a deepened appreciation for our collective backyard," Executive Director Ted Clement said. "Most importantly, we want to cultivate a love of the land in participants, as that is what it will take to ensure the precious Mount Diablo associated natural areas are taken care of for generations to come."

With no programming scheduled for February, the Discover Diablo series will pick back up in March starting with an excursion to the former Concord Naval Weapons Station on March 2, a property dedication for the recently acquired Krane Pond Property on March 14, a rock climbing outing in Pinnacles National Park on March 23 and a wildflower hike at Chaparral Spring on March 25.

Later in the spring, highlights include an additional wildflower hike at Mitchell Canyon on April 20 as well as a medicinal herb walk in the same area on May 4, and a joint venture with Mount Diablo Bird Alliance for a birding hike at Curry Canyon on April 27, with an additional opportunity to explore Curry Canyon for a "Reptile Ramble" on May 6.

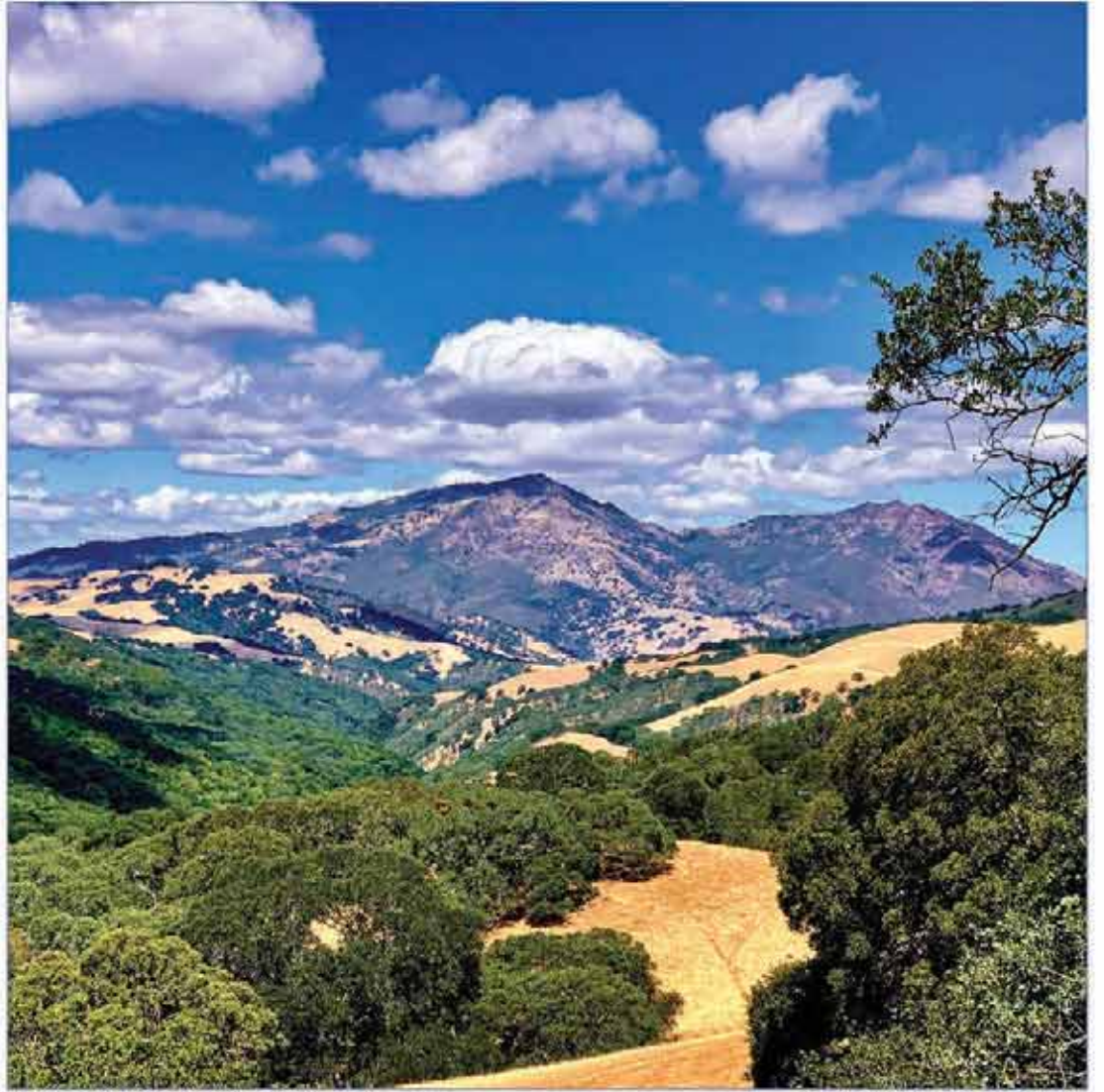
The first mountain biking excursion of the year is set for May 17 for the trails connecting Mangini Ranch and Lime Ridge Open Space in partnership with Walnut Creek Open Space, with a property dedication set for Smith Canyon the following week on May 23.

The warmer months are set to feature an additional rock climbing opportunity with a beginner-friendly climb on the Boy Scout Rocks of Mount Diablo on June 1, followed by the first of three plein air painting hikes in the series on June 7.

Additional relaxing activities are scheduled alongside regular hikes and more physical excursions in the summer months, including yoga at Curry Canyon Ranch on July 14 and a meditation hike at Mangini Ranch on Aug. 3.

As summer transitions to fall and tarantula mating season on the mountain ramps up, two "Tarantula Treks" are on the lineup — a family event on Sept. 1 and an adult event on Sept. 15.

An additional rock climbing excursion is set for Oct. 19 at Pine Canyon, with additional hikes in October that include a Halloween hike at Black Diamond Mines on Oct. 27.



CHUCK DECKERT

The natural beauty of Mount Diablo catches the eye no matter the view.

ND THE MOUNTAIN



TONY MOROSCO / SMD

The late Mary Bowerman, co-founder of Save Mount Diablo.

community via its panoramic views, Sutton noted.

"You can look down and see the properties that Save Mount Diablo has protected, and you can see where there's development and you can also see where there's natural land," Sutton said. "You get to understand that relationship between the urban world and the natural world."

The relationship between the natural world in Mount Diablo State Park and the surrounding developments is one that this year's programming overall seeks to showcase from a variety of angles and perspectives throughout the Discover Diablo series.

"It is the goal of the Discover Diablo program to build connections between people, Save Mount Diablo, and the land, helping our communities develop a strong sense

The series will continue through the transition from fall to winter, with additional hikes scheduled through December and the final plein air hike of the series set for Nov. 15.

While Save Mount Diablo is a conservation rather than a recreation organization, the free opportunities in the Discover Diablo program are aligned with the organization's goals of conservation and community outreach and education, as well as seeking to foster an appreciation and understanding of the region in its surrounding community members.

"We encourage people to look at all these different outings that we have and find something that speaks to them and sign up," Sutton said. "I think the Discover Diablo program comes from a place of wanting to get more people to connect to the outdoors and have a love for the outdoors, because that's how we can have the support of people who are passionate about this work."

Despite being free and open to all, attendance at events in the series is limited and advance registration is required.

Registration and details about each of the 36 events scheduled in this year's series are available via savemountdiablo.org. ■



SEAN BURKE / SMD

Rock climbing at Pinnacles National Park is set to return for this year's Discover Diablo series as the first rock climbing adventure of the year on March 23.



SCOTT HEIN / SMD

View from the Mary Bowerman loop trail near the summit of Mount Diablo, which is set to be the first excursion in this year's Discover Diablo series.

Museum unveils 2024 History Maker Award winners

Pleasanton residents who positively impacted the community will be honored at Wines & Valentines Dinner

BY CHRISTIAN TRUJANO

The Museum on Main recently announced its 2024 History Maker Award winners, four residents who will be honored for making a significant impact in Pleasanton's history through their work and contributions.

This year's award recipients will be educators Neil and Beverly Sweeney, and community contributor Kay Huff and her late husband Charles, who was dubbed the city's unofficial historian.

"When we selected this year's History Maker winners, we focused on the idea of connection and selected people who have made a positive impact on the lives of countless members of our community through human connection," said Sarah Schaefer, executive director for the museum.

"They are engaged community members who are service oriented and dedicated to

making connections for and with members of our community. It is those connections that have made an impact and shaped the history of so many Pleasantonians," added Schaefer, who unveiled the recipients earlier this month.

The museum first introduced the History Maker Award during last year's annual Wines & Valentines fundraiser. According to Schaefer, the award is a way for the museum to honor community members who heavily contributed to Pleasanton's people and history.

Neil Sweeney and his wife Beverly have been a part of the city's fabric for nearly 75 years, according to Schaefer.

A former Amador Valley High School teacher, coach and administrator, Neil Sweeney also contributed to the construction of Foothill High School before becoming Foothill's first-ever principal. Beverly Sweeney worked in the Pleasanton Unified School District as a long-term substitute and also taught families outside of the district's core service area.

Apart from raising eight of their own children, the Sweeneys were also heavily involved in the Catholic community, the 4-H club and helped with the development of Pleasanton's youth sports programs.

As for the Huffs, Charles was largely known as Pleasanton's unofficial historian as he revived the city's past back to life through his



MUSEUM ON MAIN

A photo of Beverly and Neil Sweeney, who were recently announced winners of the 2024 History Maker Award.

walking tours, research and collection of stories, Schaefer said. A professional architect who supported the restoration and preservation of historic buildings like the museum, he also served on the museum's board of directors for over 30 years and was a member of the city's Chamber of Commerce.

Charles Huff, who died last August, was also on the Rotary Club of Pleasanton North and was a member of the Pleasanton Jaycees. Although he is gone, Schaefer said his impact on the community continues through the establishment of the Charles Huff Memorial Fund.

Kay Huff has also been a trailblazer in her own right when it came to community service, Schaefer said.

She also served on the chamber board and volunteered for a wide array of charitable efforts for school and nonprofits in the community. She also earned the Pleasanton Downtown Association's Arch Angel Award for the support she has provided for the city's downtown including her involvement in the First Wednesday Street Parties and Hometown Holiday Parade.

In 1992, she also created the Kay's Ladies'

Day at the Races annual event at the Alameda County Fair, which hundreds of women have attended for more than 30 years.

"Our programs and exhibits touch the lives of over 25,000 people annually," Schaefer said. "Our exhibits and programs inspire visitors and participants, both young and old, to love learning and value creativity, critical thinking, and discovery. We hope the community will join us as we honor the Sweeneys and the Huffs and raise money for the important work we do at the museum."

The winners will be honored at the museum's 17th annual Wines & Valentines Dinner on Feb. 9 at the Palm Event Center. Guests will be provided with a four-course dinner during the evening program, which will include the award ceremony, a silent auction, a wine-pull raffle, a live auction and a Fund-A-Need drive.

"Not only is this event a unique way to celebrate Valentine's Day and honor this year's History Makers, but every dollar raised at the dinner goes to supporting the many impactful programs and exhibits the museum brings to the community each year," Schaefer stated in the press release. ■



MUSEUM ON MAIN

The other recipients will be Kay Huff and her late husband Charles, who was affectionally known as Pleasanton's unofficial historian.

Local artists capture the beauty of flowers

'Flora in Focus' at Firehouse is Mitragotri's dream exhibit brought to life

BY NICOLE GONZALES

Meghana Mitragotri had always dreamed of creating a floral art exhibit featuring her favorite local Tri-Valley artists. Now a reality, the collection highlights the beauty and complexity of delicate flowers.

Already open in the Harrington Gallery at the Firehouse Arts Center, "Flora in Focus" will run until March 9. The Pleasanton exhibit features around 80 works in various mediums by 10 local artists.

"Being a floral watercolor artist myself, I always wanted to organize a floral art show," she said.

"Throughout my art journey, there have been a lot of friends that I've met that have really inspired me. I thought, wouldn't it be nice to gather a group of my friends that are excellent artists for a show like this?"

"Flora in Focus" debuted its first exhibit at the Livermore Public Library last August.

"That was our very first run 'Focus' show. Then this year, the Firehouse Arts Center got in touch with me and asked if we would like to do a show at the Harrington gallery. Now, here we are," said Mitragotri.

"I've always been drawn to flowers," said Mitragotri. "They always

brighten up the area and inspire me. Whether it's walking on trails, in a garden or in nurseries, I feel flowers just lift my mood. Flowers have always been my subject of interest for art."

"They truly are nature's gift; no matter what occasion it is, flowers just make everything feel better," the artist added.

Mitragotri grew up in Southern India where she was surrounded by family members dedicated to science; however, her parents encouraged her to pursue artistic endeavors, fostering her love of art.

See **LOCAL ARTISTS** on Page 15



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Outgoing Pleasanton Art League president Meghana Mitragotri is the organizer behind the "Flora in Focus" exhibit now on display in the Harrington Gallery.

LOCAL ARTISTS

Continued from Page 14

"I grew up in a scientific community. Back in India, focusing on academics was our number one priority at the time," Mitragotri said. "I'm very fortunate to have parents that really encouraged my sister and I to go to classes like art, music and dance."

During this time, Mitragotri tried many different types of art mediums. She quickly found that watercolor painting was her favorite.

"I've done acrylic, oil, color pencil — but I found that my love for watercolor was just unparalleled," Mitragotri said. She pursued a career in talent, learning and development, although she continued to harbor a love of art through her adulthood.

While living in India with her husband and daughter, Mitragotri worked full time until they moved to the United States. The family settled in the Tri-Valley in 2017, and her art career began to take off.

"As soon as I came to the Tri-Valley, I heard about local art organizations

like the Pleasanton Art League and Dublin Arts Collective. I immediately became a member of those organizations. I painted more and more and my public art journey started from then," Mitragotri recalled.

After becoming a significant figure in the local art community, Mitragotri was encouraged to take on a larger leadership role with her organizations.

Mitragotri served as the president of the Pleasanton Art League for two years, 2022 and 2023. It has been one of the most fulfilling experiences of her life, she said, calling it a "labor of love".

She reflected on how the pandemic affected the local art community, essentially bringing things to a standstill.

"During the pandemic everything really slowed down. With the help of the entire board, we really accelerated everything. We came up with new programs, and we've been together thriving as an organization," Mitragotri said. "We focus on bringing in diverse cultures within our

memberships. This has been a very fulfilling and rewarding experience of my life."

"These organizations keep art relevant in our Tri-Valley community," she added.

She hopes "Flora in Focus" will make an appearance at other venues.

The watercolor painter runs a business, DaintlyMade, that she sells her art and crafts through. DaintlyMade attends art and craft events around the Bay Area.

"There are two goals of the art show. One is to bring the community a floral-themed art show because flowers are a great gift to mankind, they can uplift any mood," said Mitragotri. "The second goal is to honor these artists. They are some very talented people."

A gallery reception for the exhibit will take place Feb. 3 at the Firehouse in downtown Pleasanton, with refreshments, raffles and real floral arrangements — each artist will donate one piece of art to the raffle event. To learn more about "Flora in Focus", go to firehousearts.org/gallery. ■



"Rose of Sharon" by Jenna Hobbs is among the artwork featured in "Flora in Focus" in downtown Pleasanton.

Kevin Pollak, Roy Rogers added to Bankhead schedule

'Thrills from film and music ... sure to bring delights on many levels'

BY JEREMY WALSH

Livermore Valley Arts officials announced two experienced entertainers as additions to the Bankhead Theater's calendar for the back half of the 2023-24 season.

Comedian and actor Kevin Pollak, known for his decades of standup and recognizable roles on screen, will be performing in downtown Livermore in mid-April. And eight-time Grammy Award nominee Roy Rogers, joined by his band The Delta Rhythm Kings, will take to the stage nearly a month later.

"Thrills from film and music ... These spring additions will be sure to bring delights on many levels at the Bankhead as the days become longer," LVA officials said in a press release this month.

Pollak, who grew up in San Francisco and San Jose, first made his mark as a standup comedian in the 1980s and '90s, in particular with razor-sharp impressions of actors such as Jack Nicholson, Christopher Walken, Alan Arkin and William Shatner.

His jump to the big screen as an actor was propelled by a supporting performance in "A Few Good Men" in 1992, which led to other roles in mainstream hits like "The Usual Suspects", "Casino" and "The Whole Nine Yards". In recent years, Pollak appeared in the Amazon series "The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel" as the protagonist's ex-father-in-law. He has also become a noted director, podcaster and author.



Roy Rogers & The Delta Rhythm Kings have been added to the Bankhead Theater schedule for a concert on May 10.

"A talent that has brought smiles and laughter to all of our faces during his illustrious career, the Bankhead is thrilled to be presenting Kevin Pollack in the Tri-Valley on April 19," LVA reps said.

Then on May 10, the Bankhead will now welcome Roy Rogers & The Delta Rhythm Kings.

Led by Rogers, a Northern California native who is known as "one of the world's preeminent master Delta slide guitarists" with eight Grammy nominations to his name, the group has earned a reputation for a "deft ability to bring the house down during live shows,"

according to LVA officials. Rogers previously toured with John Lee Hooker and has collaborated with the likes of Bonnie Raitt, Carlos Santana and Sammy Hagar.

The Delta Rhythm Kings features Steve Ehrmann on bass guitar and the Bay Area's Kevin Hayes, formerly of The Robert Cray Band, on drums — both of whom have had decades-long careers behind their instruments.

General admission tickets for both new shows are now on sale, with LVA members having received early access starting one week earlier. Visit livermorearts.org. ■

Pleasanton Youth Theater Company bringing 'Aladdin' to life

Students star in retelling of classic tale at Amador Theater next weekend

BY NICOLE GONZALES

Become immersed in the magical world of Arabian folklore with an upcoming stage adaptation of the classic Disney animated film "Aladdin" at the Amador Theater.

The Pleasanton Youth Theater Company will be presenting "Aladdin KIDS" at the venue on Santa Rita Road next weekend (Jan. 26-28), with morning, afternoon and evening show times available among the three days.

Based on the folktale and the 1992 animated movie of the same name, the play follows the story of a young street urchin, who tries to capture the attention of the beautiful princess Jasmine.

Aladdin finds a magic lamp that holds a powerful genie, and enlists the help of the genie's sorcery in an attempt to woo the princess. The show features an Academy Award-winning musical score by Alan Menken.

The city launched the Pleasanton Youth Theater Company in 2019 as a way to offer educational theater programs to local youths.

"Students learn the importance of teamwork, collaboration and effective communication," representatives said. "This program emphasizes creativity and self-expression, allowing young performers to explore their artistic potential and discover their unique voices."

The city said the program aims to provide a safe and nurturing

environment for kids to develop and explore their theatrical talents. Students are able to learn from theater professionals about character development, improvisation, vocal projection and various other skills.

"Our youth theater programs provide opportunities for students to showcase their talents in front of supportive audiences, fostering a sense of accomplishment and pride," city officials added.

According to the company, the program is open to students of all skill levels — if they are looking to develop a career in performing arts or not.

"Whether participants aspire to pursue a career in theater, or simply want to explore their creativity, our youth theater programs create a vibrant and inclusive community where young performers can grow, learn and create unforgettable memories," officials said.

Youths participate in workshops, rehearsals and live performances throughout the year. The company has produced shows such as "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer JR", "Annie KIDS", "School of Rock" and "Frozen".

Later this year, the theater company plans to do "Winnie the Pooh" and "High School Musical".

"Aladdin KIDS" opens next Friday evening (Jan. 26), followed by three shows on Jan. 27 and one on Jan. 28. For more information, visit firehousearts.org. ■

Community Pulse

POLICE BULLETIN

Pleasanton man sentenced to prison for insider trading scheme

A Pleasanton man was recently sentenced to prison time for his participation in a scheme to commit insider trading based on material, non-public information, according to the U.S. Department of Justice.

U.S. District Judge Gregory H.

Woods ordered Srinivasa Kakkera, 48, to serve 18 months in prison on Jan. 3, according to a press release from the office of Damian Williams, the U.S. attorney for the Southern District of New York.

According to a 2022 complaint filed by the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, Kakkera worked as the head of engineering and artificial intelligence at a publicly traded computer software company in San Jose and conspired with two other men in the scheme while also

tipping off family and friends.

Federal authorities said Kakkera will have to forfeit just under \$2.5 million for the trading of information about impending corporate transactions by Lumentum Holdings Inc., a telecommunications equipment commercial company based in San Jose.

Kakkera was also sentenced alongside Abbas Saeedi, a 48-year-old man from Fremont who was also involved in the trading scheme. Saeedi was sentenced to five months and will have to forfeit just over \$690,000.

“Srinivasa Kakkera and Abbas Saeedi traded on valuable material, non-public information about Lumentum’s planned acquisitions, knowing that their friend had stolen this information from his employer, Lumentum,” Williams stated in the press release. “Kakkera and Saeedi used their informational advantage to make millions in combined illegal gains in the stock market. But insider trading is not easy money: if you try to illegally profit from material, non-public information, there’s a price to be paid.”

The friend Williams was referring to was Amit Bhardwaj, a third co-defendant from San Ramon who was employed by Lumentum.

Bhardwaj was the one who provided the material, non-public information from the company, according to

authorities. Bhardwaj was previously sentenced to 24 months in prison and was issued a fine of \$975,000.

According to the indictment and the statements made in the public court proceedings, back in December 2020 Bhardwaj learned that Lumentum was considering the acquisition of Santa Clara-based Coherent, Inc., a industrial, communications, electronics and instrumentation manufacturer.

Bhardwaj purchased Coherent stock and call options before tipping off three of his associates, one of whom was Saeedi, according to the DOJ press release.

Then, around October 2021, Bhardwaj learned that Lumentum was engaged in confidential acquisition discussions with Neophotonics Corporation, another company that manufactured and sold electronic devices. Lumentum ended up acquiring Neophotonics in November 2021, but not Coherent.

Bhardwaj provided information on the potential Neophotonics acquisition at the time to Kakkera and Saeedi who both traded in Neophotonics securities. Kakkera’s friends and family also purchased securities because of the information he learned.

As a result of the Neophotonics acquisition in 2021, the company’s stock price substantially increased

and Kakkera along with Saeedi closed their positions in Neophotonics securities, which resulted in Kakkera making over \$2,453,687.99 and Saeedi making \$691,104.73, according to the DOJ.

However, the FBI soon interviewed them and they were all served with federal grand jury subpoenas in March 2022 and were later arrested. Bhardwaj, Kakkera and Saeedi then took steps to “obstruct the federal investigation of their conduct” by meeting in person on several occasions and discussing potential false stories to cover up their insider trading scheme, according to federal prosecutors.

The press release stated that they also created false documents to “but-tress lies regarding payments that were, in reality, related to the insider trading scheme.”

—Christian Trujano

In other news

- Police arrested a 39-year-old Livermore man last week after he was allegedly found trespassing near the football field at Granada High School.

A school resource officer assigned to Granada responded to the area on Jan. 11 at which time the suspect ran off campus, department officials said in a statement about the arrest on social media. Other Livermore police officers located the man — later identified as George Michael Tomlin — in the creek area behind the campus.

A records check revealed Tomlin is a registered sex offender. A preliminary investigation suggests he committed a lewd act on school grounds, according to police. He is also suspected of inappropriately exposing himself to a female student on campus.

Additionally, police allegedly located drugs and drug paraphernalia on him.

At this time, police said they do not believe that the suspect had any physical contact with students.

The man was arrested without incident and taken to Santa Rita Jail. He is facing several charges including unlawful entry onto school grounds by a registered sex offender, indecent exposure and drug possession.

Anyone with information that may help police investigate this case can call LPD’s anonymous tip line at 925-371-4790.

—Cierra Bailey

- A 24-year-old Dublin woman was arrested on suspicion of attempted murder after hitting and injuring a man with her vehicle earlier this month, according to the Mountain View Police Department.

Mountain View dispatchers received a call around 10:30 p.m. on Jan. 2, reporting a two-car collision at San Antonio Road and Central Expressway. When officers arrived

Dorothy Jean Laird

August 5, 1924 – November 8, 2023

Dorothy Jean Laird, 99, died November 8, 2023 in Pleasanton, California — where she had been a resident for fifty-one years. She was born Dorothy Jean Ofstedahl on August 5, 1924 in Platte, South Dakota, the daughter of Carl Ofstedahl and Josephine Nash. She was known to her family and friends as “Dotty.”

Dotty attended public schools in Platte and Geddes, graduating from Geddes High School in 1942. She then moved to California, living in Glendale for two years, until a friend convinced her to return to South Dakota and enroll in the University of South Dakota. There she met fellow student and returning G.I. Ralph Laird Jr., and they were married in July 1946.

The young couple moved to California as Ralph began his teaching career. Dotty and Ralph had three sons and she was a stay at home mother in Vallejo and LaVerne. She was active in Phi Beta Phi sorority, the PTA, and the activities of her family.

Dotty returned to college, graduating from Cal Poly Pomona in 1972, and became a teacher — teaching kindergarten and first grade in the Livermore school system until her retirement. Although she retired, she never stopped teaching after her grandchildren were born as she enjoyed spending time with them and teaching them life’s lessons whenever she had the opportunity. She also participated in reading programs for children, not only her own grandchildren’s at their school but library programs in her community. In retirement, she and Ralph traveled to several countries, enjoyed many visits to their Lake Alpine family cabin, and they were active in community activities. Ralph passed in 2000, three months after celebrating 54 years of marriage.

Dotty was an avid bridge and mahjohngg player, and in later years, she played bingo almost daily. She was an active member of Lynnewood United Methodist Church in Pleasanton and she took pleasure in fellowship with other church members. She continued to travel here and abroad and made new friendships along the way. Dotty loved organizing the use of the family cabin at Lake Alpine and traveling to spend time there whenever she could. She cherished the time she could spend with family and friends as they were so important to her.

Dotty was preceded in death by her parents, and her sister Lois and brother Norval. She is survived by her sons John (John Flores), Jim (Oscar Osorio), Tom (Sandra), grandchildren Jeff (Holly), Anna, and Jessie, and numerous nieces and nephews, as well as many friends in Pleasanton. Days before she passed, Jeff and Holly told her the news that she was going to be a great-grandmother.

She will be missed by all those who knew her. Her ashes will be buried next to her husband Ralph’s in Santa Rosa Memorial Cemetery.



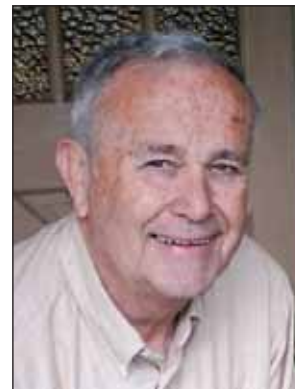
PAID OBITUARY

Jerry Boster

January 15, 1942 – December 18, 2023

Jerry Boster, 81, passed away peacefully in his sleep in the early hours of December 18th, 2023. Born January 15th, 1942 in Columbus, Ohio, he attended the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York and later graduated from The Ohio State University with a degree in physics. His career was spent in the transportation industry in multiple capacities, from overseeing mass transit vehicle manufacturing, to accident reconstruction, to owning a small car repair business. In his retirement, he was a doting “Grampa” to his three granddaughters. He loved to watch sports, especially football, and always had a funny joke or story to tell. He is survived by Carol, his high school sweetheart and loving wife of 58 years; son Rick (Heather); daughter Kathy; granddaughters Julia (fiancé Ryan Burke), Eva, and Anna, and numerous nieces, nephews, and extended family and friends. He was preceded in death by his parents Richard and Dorothy and older brothers Jim and Tom. The family wishes to thank A Gabriela’s Villa in Livermore for the love and care they showed Jerry and our family the last three years. He will be dearly missed.

A Celebration of Life will be held on Saturday, March 9th at 2pm at Valley Community Church (4455 Del Valle Parkway, Pleasanton). In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations in his memory be sent to Hope Hospice & Health Services (hopehospice.com) or the Superintendent’s Annual Fund through the West Point Association of Graduates, which uses donated funds to support the cadets at West Point. (Go to alumni.westpointaog.org/giveonline and under gift details, select that you want to support annual gift funds, and then from the new dropdown menu that appears, select Superintendent’s Annual Fund)



PAID OBITUARY

BULLETIN

Continued from Page 16

on the scene, they found an injured 24-year-old East Palo Alto man, according to the statement.

During their investigation, police learned that the suspect had allegedly deliberately collided into the victim's car while they were driving on the road, causing his car to crash. The woman and man knew each other and had been previously involved in a relationship, police said.

When the man got out of his car to inspect the damage, the woman allegedly accelerated her car and struck him and his vehicle again. She then drove away but returned when officers were investigating the site of the crash, police said.

Police conducted a traffic stop and detained the woman, identified as Alexis McBride. She was arrested on suspicion of attempted murder, hit and run and corporal injury to a spouse or co-inhabitant, police said.

The man was taken to a local hospital to treat his injuries.

McBride was booked into Santa Clara County jail and was being held without bail.

—Emily Margaretten,
Mountain View Voice

• Two East Bay men and one from Elk Grove have been indicted by a federal grand jury for alleged insurance fraud related to the collapse of a Livermore insurance company.

The U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of California announced Dec. 19 it charged Jasbir Thandi, Sandeep Sahota and Jaspreet Padda with insurance fraud crimes related to the collapse of Global Hawk Risk Retention Group.

The indictment says 67-year-old Thandi, of El Sobrante, was the president and treasurer of Global Hawk and, between 2017 and 2019, he allegedly misappropriated over \$19 million in Global Hawk funds. That included sending more than \$1 million to an entity domiciled in the British Virgin Islands, and over \$7 million to other outside entities controlled by Thandi, prosecutors allege.

The indictment also alleges Thandi, 47-year-old Sahota, of Concord, and 40-year-old Padda, of Elk Grove, submitted false and fraudulent financial statements to insurance regulators that overstated Global Hawk's assets by tens of millions of dollars and concealed the misappropriations.

Sahota was Global Hawk's vice president and secretary and Padda was the company's outside investment advisor.

Global Hawk's primary business was providing automobile liability insurance coverage for truck drivers and small trucking companies. In May 2020, after regulators discovered the misappropriation, Global Hawk was declared insolvent and was liquidated by a court order.

The indictment charges Thandi, Sahota, and Padda with conspiracy to commit insurance fraud, and two counts of insurance fraud.

Thandi was also charged with two counts of insurance fraud and two counts of bank fraud.

The indictment alleges in 2016, Thandi obtained a \$6.4 million bank loan based on false representations and in 2017, obtained another \$14.75 million bank loan, also based on false representations.

The conspiracy count has a maximum statutory sentence of five years in prison and a fine of \$250,000. Each insurance fraud count has a maximum statutory sentence of 10 years in prison and a maximum fine of \$250,000. Each bank fraud count has a maximum statutory sentence of 30 years in prison and a maximum fine of \$1 million.

Sahota and Padda were arrested Dec. 18.

Anyone who thinks they may be a victim in this case should contact the United States Attorney's Office for the Northern District of California's victim specialists by email at USACAN.DCVictimAsst@usdoj.gov. ■

—Tony Hicks, BCN

The Pleasanton Police Department made the following information available.

Jan. 12

DUI

■ 1:26 a.m. on the 5600 block of Gibraltar Drive

Theft

■ 6 a.m., 7000 block of Johnson Drive; theft from auto

■ 8:02 a.m., 4100 block of Graham Street; bicycle theft

Vandalism

■ 1:26 p.m. on the 7000 block of Pleasanton Avenue

Jan. 11

Theft

■ 8:38 a.m., 700 block of Kottinger Drive; auto theft

■ 10:44 a.m. on the 000 block of Stoneridge Drive

■ 9:24 p.m. on the 1500 block of Laguna Hills Lane

Fraud

■ 11:42 a.m. on the 1200 block of Quarry Lane

Jan. 10

Drug violation

■ 12:45 a.m. on the 5800 block of Pleasanton Avenue

POLICE REPORT

■ 8:05 p.m. on the 6700 block of Santa Rita Road

Criminal threats

■ 10:46 a.m. on the 7600 block of Flagstone Drive

Drug violation

■ 3:29 p.m. at Hopyard Road and Gibraltar Drive

Theft

■ 5:11 p.m. on the 4100 block of Rennellwood Way

Jan. 9

Vandalism

■ 9:39 a.m. on the 7000 block of Pleasanton Avenue

Fraud

■ 11:54 a.m. on the 4500 block of Chabot Drive

Graffiti offense

■ 2 p.m. at Sunol Boulevard and I-680 northbound

Theft

■ 2:10 p.m., 000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting

■ 5:41 p.m., 6000 block of Gibraltar Drive; auto theft

Drug violation

■ 10:30 p.m. on the 5800 block of Owens Drive

Jan. 8

Robbery

■ 1:42 p.m. on the 3500 block of Old Santa Rita Road

Graffiti offense

■ 1:56 p.m. on the 2300 block of Greenwood Road

Theft

■ 2:03 p.m., 1100 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting

■ 4:02 p.m. on the 1400 block of Brookline Loop

Burglary

■ 11:32 p.m. on the 4500 block of Chabot Drive

Jan. 7

Theft

■ 9:46 a.m. on the 1300 block of Brookline Loop

■ 1:04 p.m., 5300 block of Hopyard Road; bicycle theft

Vehicle tampering

■ 1:04 p.m. on the 6300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

DUI

■ 10:05 p.m. at Hopyard Road and Valley Avenue

Joyce Schnars Freeman

September 1, 1942 – December 26, 2023

Joyce Schnars Freeman passed away at the age of 81 in Pleasanton, California the morning of December 26, 2023 after a battle with Alzheimer's. She was born on September 1, 1942 the third of three children in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania to the Reverend Clarence and Mrs. Gladys Schnars. Her father was pastor of the Mount Lebanon Christian Church in Mount Lebanon, Pennsylvania. She graduated from Mount Lebanon High School in 1960.



She converted to Catholicism in 1963 and completed her formal education graduating from California State University, East Bay June 15, 1985 with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Social Services.

She married Ernest Freeman from San Antonio, Texas in 1983 who was serving with the Navy in San Francisco, California. After his retirement from the Navy, Joyce and Ernest settled in Pleasanton, California. Joyce had an eleven year career as a property claims adjuster with Farmers Insurance in Pleasanton.

Joyce joined Ernest in participating in the Diocese of Oakland Diaconal Formation Program in 1989. With the support and encouragement of Joyce, Ernest completed the program and was ordained as a deacon in 1995. Ernest was assigned to the Catholic Community of Pleasanton for his ministerial duties. Joyce joined him by working in music ministry, hospital ministry, and other tasks in the parish.

In her younger days, Joyce enjoyed playing tennis, and skiing at the Lake Tahoe resorts. She also enjoyed hiking the numerous hiking trails of the state and national parks. She and Ernest enjoyed the Performing Arts. They were subscribers to the stage productions of the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, San Francisco Symphony, and the San Francisco Ballet. Joyce also enjoyed the weekly organ concerts at the Cathedral of Saint Mary of the Assumption in San Francisco.

Joyce is survived by her husband Ernest; granddaughter Lorae Simpson Ph.D. of Fort Pierce, Florida; granddaughter Taren Maroun of Sacramento, California; sister Ruth Gump of Granbury, Texas; and, sister Jean McLaughlin of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

A funeral Mass will be held at St. Augustine Church, 3999 Bernal Ave., Pleasanton at 11 AM on 3 February 2024. Inurnment of Joyce's ashes will be held at 11 AM, 5 February 2024 at St. Michael Cemetery, 3885 East Ave., Livermore. Friends and family are invited.

PAID OBITUARY

Melissa Jane Cox

February 12, 1967 – December 26, 2023

On the morning of December 26, 2023 Melissa "Missy" Jane Cox passed away peacefully at Stanford Health Care Tri-Valley Hospital in Pleasanton, California and was surrounded by her loving family. Missy was 56 years old and although she left us far too soon, she has enriched our lives forever with love and wonderful memories.



Missy was born on February 12, 1967 in Merced, California to parents David and Dolores Cox. She was the fifth born of seven children and lived in Pleasanton, California attending Walnut Grove, Harvest Park and Amador Valley High School. Missy enjoyed playing sports including roller skating, ice skating and competitive soccer for the Pleasanton United Girls Al Caffodio soccer team. After high school Missy discovered her passion for working with people. Her strong work ethic and dedication helped build strong customer relationships earning her a professional achievement award with Clinique as a top sales woman. Missy's continued ambition and entrepreneurial skills empowered her to become a successful business owner as she opened her own business in Dublin, California called Ra Tanning.

Missy's favorite things included cleaning, decorating and organizing. She loved spending time with her family and friends whether it be for a special occasion or just to be with those she loved. She enjoyed various types of music, going to concerts in the park and spending time outdoors at the beach, boating, biking or simply in her yard with her beloved pets. But her greatest love of all was her faithful dog and companion Cooper.

Missy is preceded in death by her grandparents Joseph and Dollie, mother Dolores, siblings Michael and Jeff, and nephew Matthew. She is survived by her father David, siblings Michele, Crissy, Curt and Caryn, nephews Nicholas, Christopher, Dennis Jr., Jonathan, Jameson, Alec and Taylor, niece Halie, aunt and uncle Sherry and Bob, several cousins, and brother in law David.

The family will be having a Celebration of Life which will be held at the Veterans Memorial Building located at 301 Main St. Pleasanton, California 94566 on Saturday January 27, 2023 at 2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. In lieu of flowers the family has requested that donations be made to the East Bay SPCA since Missy was an incredible animal lover. Donations can be made by visiting the website: eastbayspca.org/how-to-help/ways-to-give/make-a-tribute-gift or a check can be mailed to East Bay SPCA 8323 Baldwin St, Oakland, CA 94621.

PAID OBITUARY

Freddie Leon Houston

November 23, 1932 – November 30, 2023

Freddie Leon Houston, head football coach at Los Banos and San Ramon High Schools and later co-founder of Mission Hope Day Program passed away at the age of 91 on November 30, 2023 in Pleasanton surrounded by his family. We are grateful for the thoughts and prayers and will continue to celebrate his life and remember him, today and forever as a beloved Husband, Father, Coach and Friend.

Fred Houston was born in Red Rock, Oklahoma on November 23, 1932 and spent his youth in Texas prior to his family moving to the Central Valley, California. Fred was a three-year letterman in football, basketball, and baseball at Shafter High School '51 and won all-conference honors in football and basketball. He attended Fresno State on an athletic scholarship and after graduation played football for the Special



Services team of the United States Army. Stationed at Fort Dix, New Jersey he met the love of his life, Dorothy McMinn, at a USO Dance in New York City. Fred was Honorably Discharged from the United States Army.

Fred and Dorothy married in 1957 and settled in California. In 1958, Fred received his first teaching and coaching position at Los Banos High School. In his second year he led the Tigers to an undefeated championship season. He then accepted the head coaching position at San Ramon High School in Danville where he took over a program that had not won a league game in four years. Teaching PE, health, and drivers' education, in his 16 years, Fred's football teams compiled a 91-51-2 record which included four league championships. He was most proud that forty-two of his players went to college on football scholarships. He was also coach of the San Ramon wrestling team which was North State Champions in 1965 and the golf team which was North Coast Champion in 1975. To hundreds of former San Ramon High athletes and students, Fred's name is still "Coach".

When his coaching career ended, Fred went into real estate, transitioning to helping adults with developmental disabilities. Fred co-founded the Mission Hope Day Program, which annually serves over 450 clients supporting Adults with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities in their communities and remained active in the business until retirement.

Business interests took second place to being a very active grandparent to Bartlett, Sumner and Glynnis. His focus was on all their activities with special "Grandpa Day" trips, education of all three, teaching them how to drive and enjoyed traveling all over



the state and country for football games. Fred was an avid golfer and member of Castlewood Country Club for many years, was a member of the SIRS (Sons in Retirement) and participated in countless golf outings. Fred was honored to be inducted into two sports Hall of Fame: the Shafter High School Athletic Hall of Fame and the Tri-Valley Sports Hall of Fame.

He is survived by his loving wife of 66 years- Dorothy, his two children, The Honorable Guy Houston (Ingeborg) and Eric Houston (Christine), both of San Ramon, Ca. and three grandchildren, Bartlett (Caitlyn) Houston, Sumner Houston and Glynnis Rose Houston and also his great-granddaughter Parker Jean (Houston).

Funeral Services will be held at 10AM on January 27th at St Augustine's Catholic Church in Pleasanton, followed by a graveside service then a reception and celebration of Fred's life at Castlewood Country Club, Pleasanton.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a gift to the Fred Houston Memorial Scholarship, 526 Mannel Avenue, Shafter, Ca. 93263 Attn: Esther De La Cruz.

PAID OBITUARY

Sports

Pleasanton Preps sponsored by



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PLEASANTON PREPS

By DENNIS MILLER



JEFF SILVERSMITH

Riley Young of Foothill celebrates following the game against Livermore where she scored her 1,000th career point.

Historic bucket: Foothill's Young scores 1,000th career point

With seven minutes and 31 seconds left in the Foothill vs. Livermore girls' basketball game, history was made in the Falcons' gym.

It wasn't a close game — Foothill was up handily at the time — but when Falcons' senior Riley Young put back a short follow, she surpassed 1,000 career points.

Young started all four years for the Falcons, and by going over the lofty 1,000-point level, she joined what is believed to be a very exclusive list of two or three others that have accomplished the feat at Foothill.

Overshadowed by the enormity of the scoring of the 1,000th point in a high school career was a pretty cool moment that took place before the game.

Just before the two teams were to be announced, there was a glitch in the recording of "The Star-Spangled Banner" and it would not play.

Undaunted, a pair of Foothill students jumped out of the stands, crossed the court, took the microphone and performed the national anthem.

Rylan Silversmith — whose sister Peyton is a senior for the Falcons — and Ryan Mayer were the two students. It might not go down as a Whitney Houston-type performance, but I will remember it as one the coolest — and gutsiest — performances I have ever seen. Many people in the crowd at the game joined in singing as well.

Well done young men!

Amador girls' soccer

The Dons played all of one non-league game this year, but it didn't

stop the team from being ready for the opening week of East Bay Athletic League play as they rolled to a pair of wins.

The league opener came when they hosted California, and the Dons walked away with a 2-1 win.

Amador took an early lead when Keira Barker knocked in a goal off an assist from Angel Akanyirige. The play started with a strong cross from Aldan Hostede to Akanyirige.

Cal drew even midway through the second half, and Amador goalie Sydney Head made a huge save a short time later to keep Cal from taking the lead.

Finally, in the game's final moments, Maylen Montoya knocked one in to give the Dons the lead and the win.

Two days later the Dons made the trip to Carondelet and pulled out a 1-0 win.

Amador got the lone goal of the game midway through the second half. Sydney Stimson launched a corner kick that the Carondelet goalie was forced to punch out. The ball hit a Cougars defender in the back of the head and the ball deflected back into the Carondelet goal.

Midfielder Karson Knuth played fast and strong to win balls and tackles all over the field.

Amador boys' basketball

The Dons opened league play with a 51-47 loss at California. Jaylen Smith had 17 points and Cade Krueger added 14 in the loss.

Later in the week the Dons fell again, this time by a 70-39 final to De

La Salle. Cade Krueger had 10 points for the Dons, with Kasen Kruger and Nate Jetter scoring nine each.

'Let's Play Ball' a success at Amador!

The "Let's Play Ball!" free community basketball clinic, sponsored by CityServe of the Tri-Valley and hosted by the Amador Valley High School basketball teams, took place at Amador on Jan. 14

Amador coaches Isaiah Moore and Pete Oriarte guided 15 members of the boys' varsity, junior varsity and freshman team, and one player from the girls' varsity team, as the high school players led 30 participants in two hours of fun, skill-building drills.

Tri-Valley participants between the ages of 8-12 went through warm-ups, shooting, passing, dribbling and defensive skills.

The players managed to instruct the participants in how to complete each skill before they broke into four teams, led by the Amador players.

CityServe's mission is to care for people in crisis, coordinate resources and between the faith-based community, nonprofits, schools, businesses and government agencies and connect volunteers to nonprofits in the Tri-Valley.

It was another great case of local high school athletes helping the youth of the community. Well done Dons! ■

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

Calendar

Pleasanton Weekly

PUBLISHER

Gina Channell Wilcox, Ext. 1171, gchannell@PleasantonWeekly.com

EDITORIAL

Editorial Director

Jeremy Walsh, Ext. 1172, jwalsh@PleasantonWeekly.com

Editor

Cierra Bailey, (650) 223-6528 cbailey@LivermoreVine.com

Editor Emeritus

Job Bing

Staff Reporters

Nicole Gonzales, Ext. 1175, ngonzales@PleasantonWeekly.com

Jeanita Lyman, Ext. 1179,

jlyman@PleasantonWeekly.com

Christian Trujano, Ext. 1176,

ctrujano@PleasantonWeekly.com

Contributors

Chuck Deckert, Tim Hunt, Nancy Lewis, Dennis Miller, Jude Strzemp

ART & PRODUCTION

Design and Production Manager

Kristin Brown

Designers

Linda Atilano, Paul Llewellyn, Mary Watanabe, Doug Young

ADVERTISING

Account Executive

Karen Klein, Ext. 1177, kklein@PleasantonWeekly.com

Real Estate Sales

Carol Cano, Ext. 1173, ccano@PleasantonWeekly.com

BUSINESS

Business Associate

Lisa Oefelein, Ext. 1178

Administrative Associate

Carolyn Chan, Ext. 1174, cchan@PleasantonWeekly.com

HOW TO REACH THE WEEKLY

Phone: (925) 600-0840

Fax: (925) 600-9559

Editorial email:

editor@PleasantonWeekly.com

calendar@PleasantonWeekly.com

Display Sales email:

sales@PleasantonWeekly.com

Classifieds Sales email:

ads@PleasantonWeekly.com

Circulation email: circulation@

PleasantonWeekly.com

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Entertainment

80s DANCE PARTY WITH DJ JESSICA PLATT

Throw on your best 80s threads and walk this way to get funky and fresh on the dance floor with DJ Jessica Platt on the wheels of steel. 8 p.m., Jan. 19. Tickets \$20. Visit firehousearts.org.

LEGALLY BLONDE: THE MUSICAL

Experience the ultimate blend of pink power, brains and fabulousness in Legally Blonde: The Musical. Join Elle Woods on her unforgettable journey from sorority sweetheart to Harvard Law's most dazzling star. 8 p.m., Jan. 20, 27; 2 p.m., Jan. 21, 27/28. Tickets \$45. Visit livermorearts.org.

MOVING PARTS AT THE FIREHOUSE

Tri-Valley based Moving Parts takes the stage, bringing the jazz elements to blend perfectly with funky R&B and New Orleans second line grooves. 8 p.m., Jan. 20. Tickets \$15-\$25. Visit firehousearts.org.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY ELVIS

Jim Anderson & The Rebels return to the Firehouse Arts Center to celebrate Elvis Presley's birthday with the hits and songs that made him a legend. 2 p.m., Jan. 21. Tickets \$20-\$25. Visit firehousearts.org.

GET IT? JOE KLOCEK

Be a part of a Stand-Up Comedy Game Show with Joe Klocek and test how well you understood a stand-up-comic's set in real time. 8 p.m., Jan. 26. Tickets \$20. Visit firehousearts.org.

KEVIN NEALON AT THE BANKHEAD

With his unique brand of humor and wit, Nealon is sure to leave you in stitches and wanting more. Don't miss out on the chance to see this comedy legend live up close and personal. 8 p.m., Jan. 26. Tickets \$35-\$45. Visit livermorearts.org.

THE COOLTONES

The CoolTones Big Band is Pleasanton-based with vocalist Kathy Blackburn. Expect uniquely inspired arrangements of big band, jazz, swing and blues music with a little rock, funk and fusion mixed in. 8 p.m., Jan. 27. Tickets \$15-\$25. Visit firehousearts.org.

LES BALLETS TROCKADERO DE MONTE CARLO

With their unique blend of humor and exceptional ballet skills, this all male ballet will leave you entertained and amazed. Join for an evening of world-class ballet and non-stop laughs. 7:30 p.m., Jan. 29. Tickets \$90-\$120. Visit livermorearts.org.

DEEP RIVER WITH ALEX TAITE

Experience this one-man show exploring an often neglected part of American society, the Negro Spiritual. Take a journey with Alex through this lecture recital to deepen your knowledge and your humanity. 8 p.m., Feb. 2. Tickets \$15-\$25. Visit firehousearts.org.

STICKY FINGERS BY THE ROLLING STONES

With meticulous attention to detail, Classic Albums Live brings this classic album to life like

never before, making it a must-see event for any Rolling Stones fan. 8 p.m., Feb. 2. Tickets \$45-\$75. Visit livermorearts.org.

Auditions

AUDITIONS FOR VALLEY CONCERT CHORALE

The Chorale is seeking experienced singers with sight-reading skills who enjoy singing exciting and challenging music. Rehearsals are Monday evenings at First Presbyterian Church of Livermore. Auditions by appointment Jan. 22. Call 925-866-4003.

Talks

SCOTT FREIMAN, DECONSTRUCTING THE BEATLES

Join for an enlightening evening with Scott Freiman as he deconstructs the Beatles iconic White Album, revealing the creative processes that led to some of their greatest hits. A must-see for any music lover. 7:30 p.m., Jan. 25. Tickets \$25-\$45. Visit livermorearts.org.

HOW TO AGE IN PLACE

This free presentation from Legal Assistance for Seniors "How to Age in Place: Hiring and Working with a Caregiver" reviews definitions of skilled care and personal care and explains available payment sources. 1-2:30 p.m., Jan. 25. Robert Livermore Community Center. Call 925-373-5700.

THEN & NOW: LIVERMORE

Physicist Tom Ramos will explore the events portrayed in Oppenheimer and explain how Livermore ended up being the site of a nuclear weapons laboratory. 7 p.m., Jan. 31. Livermore Civic Center Library Storytime Room 1188 S. Livermore Ave.

Exhibits

BLACK HISTORY MONTH ART EXHIBIT

Visit the Livermore Civic Center Library Art Gallery to view the artwork of talented Bay Area artists. Art Of The African Diaspora, in partnership with Richmond Art Center, supports artists of African descent in the Bay Area. Feb. 1-29.

FLORA IN FOCUS

The Harrington Gallery hosts the Flora in Focus group exhibition featuring approximately 80 works of various mediums, with 10 local artists taking part in this floral-themed show. Wednesdays to Saturdays through March 9.

POETIC WORLD: EAST ASIAN ART

This captivating showcase transports visitors into a realm where traditional techniques harmonize with modern interpretations. Thursdays to Sunday, 1-5 p.m. Through March 3. UNCLE Credit Union Art Gallery. Bankhead Theater.

Government

PLEASANTON UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Regular Board of Trustees

POST CALENDAR ITEMS AT PLEASANTONWEEKLY.COM

meetings of the Pleasanton Unified School District are scheduled the second and fourth Thursday of each month and are open to the public. The next meeting is 6 p.m., Jan. 25. Visit pleasantonUSD.net.

Farmers' Markets

PLEASANTON FARMERS' MARKET

The Pleasanton Farmers' Market is Saturday year round featuring vendors with seasonal fruits and vegetables, plus artisanal goods. 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 Street and L Street.

Support

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

HOT MEALS FREE OF CHARGE

Open Heart Kitchen serves free hot meals to anyone who is struggling to make ends meet. Monday-Friday, 1:15-3 p.m. at the Robert

Livermore Community Center, 4444 East Ave.

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-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.

FAMILY/CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP

The Nami-Tri-Valley Family/Caregiver Support Group is 7-9 p.m., Jan. 22. For more information contact 925-344-4480 or visit namitrivalley.org.

VA MOBILE OUTREACH

Pleasanton Library will host the VA Palo Alto Mobile Medical Outreach team to provide veteran benefits review, enroll veterans for care with the VA Palo Alto Health System, answer questions about VA services and provide medical care and referrals for enrolled veterans. 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Jan. 22.

Employment

Safeway Inc. hiring Sr. Computer Systems Product Manager Analyst / Data Products in Pleasanton, CA. May telecommute reports to Pleasanton. Must have legal right to work in US. EOE. Subj. to bckgrnd check. \$170,955 - \$211K/yr. Email resume TA.Applications@albertsons.com. Attn: M. Ferreira. Ref # 1030IM.

CooperVision, Inc. seeks a Senior Engineer in Pleasanton, CA to develop contact lens manufacturing processes for the design and execution of new soft contact lens. Develop new contact lens manufacturing processes, in support of R&D new product initiatives. Design and execute experimental protocols to support various projects' needs and effectively communicate within, and outside, the project teams to contribute to the projects' commitments. Identify and lead continuous engineering improvement initiatives to support experimental concepts. Interact with the Quality Department team to ensure development activities comply and compliment project expectations. Work effectively in a team environment, interface effectively with cross-functional teams and mentors junior team members. Work on multiple cross functional assignments simultaneously, including management of projects with external partners where needed. Plan and design experiments in developing new contact lens manufacturing processes. Utilize statistics to perform calculations and to explain test results and impact on product performance and development. Analyze and interpret data and drawing well-reasoned conclusions. Remote work permitted 2 days per week. Requirements: Master's degree in Plastics Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, or a related technical field, plus 4 years of experience in R&D Manufacturing and the design and development for processes, devices, or equipment. 4 years of experience with data analysis, advanced statistical techniques, utilizing computer skills such as MS word, PowerPoint, MS Excel and graph plotting software to develop and produce reports and presentations, and using statistical methods and tools using root cause analysis, failure mode experimental analysis, and statistical process control. The expected wage range for the position is \$155,958 - \$183,854. Please respond online to <http://coopervision.com/careers>, position # 2835.

Healthcare Triangle, Inc Pleasanton, CA seeks Computer Systems Analysts to analyze sys reqs, dsgrn, test, devlp s/w, rcmdnd upgrds for prgms, sys, apps, charts to write s/w code, s/w mnntnce, tstng, collbrte. MS/BS or frgn equiv in Comp Sci, Info Sys, Tech or any Engg and 0-5 yrs of prgsv exp in rldt fld. Trvl rqd. Salary Range: \$121,550.00 - \$121,650.00 Apply at htiimmigration@healthcaretriangle.com - Job ID CSE-202301

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

Public Notices

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME

File No. 588783

The following person(s)/registrant(s) have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name(s). The information given below is as it appeared on the fictitious business statement that was filed at the County Clerk-Recorder's Office. FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME(S): HOPE FOR HEALING 1552 E Gate Way Apt #227 Pleasanton, CA 94566 FILED IN ALAMEDA COUNTY ON: 05/03/22 UNDER FILE NO. 588783 REGISTRANT'S NAME(S): CRISTINA MOIDEL 1552 E. Gate Way Apt. #227 Pleasanton, CA 94566 THIS BUSINESS WAS CONDUCTED BY AN Individual. This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Alameda County on January 02 2024. (PLW Jan 19, 26, Feb 2 and 9, 2024)

GOLDEN STATE DOCUMENT SERVICES INC FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No.: 603352

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: 1.) Golden State Document Services Inc., located at 874 Chateau Heights Ct, Pleasanton, CA 94566, Alameda. Mailing Address: 1807 Santa Rita Road H227 Pleasanton, CA 94566 This business is conducted by: a Corporation. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are): Golden State Document Services Inc. 1807 Santa Rita Road H227 Pleasanton, CA 94566 California Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 06/03/2013 This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on January 12 2024. (PLW Jan 19, 26, Feb 2 and 9, 2024)

BAY EAST BROKERS INC FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No.: 603353

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: 1.) Bay East Brokers Inc, located at 874 Chateau Heights Ct, Pleasanton, CA 94566, Alameda. Mailing Address: 1807 Santa Rita Rd H227, Pleasanton, CA 94566. This business is conducted by: a Corporation. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are): Bay East Brokers Inc. 1807 Santa Rita Rd H227 Pleasanton, CA 94566 California Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 04/16/2015 This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on January 11 2024. (PLW Jan 19, 26, Feb 2 and 9, 2024)

LONG POINT CONSTRUCTION FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No.: 603076

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: 1.) Long Point Construction, located at 3939 Vineyard Ave Pleasanton, CA 94566, Alameda. This business is conducted by: a Limited Liability Company. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are): WEST OF MERCURY, LLC 3939 Vineyard Ave 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 28 2023. (PLW Jan 12, 19, 26 and Feb 2, 2024)

TRI VALLEY HOME DRAFTING FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No.: 603265

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: 1.) Tri Valley Home Drafting, located at 1018 Via Madrid Livermore, CA 94550, Alameda

County.

This business is conducted by: an Individual. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are): JOSEPH YELAVICH 1018 Via Madrid 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 January 09 2024. (PLW Jan 19, 26, Feb 2 and 9, 2024)

THE CHEF'S FARMER FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No.: 603157

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: 1.) The Chef's Farmer, located at 5050 Arroyo Road, Livermore, CA 94550, Alameda. Mailing Address: PO BOX 346, Sunol, CA 94586 This business is conducted by: an Individual. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are): DIANE DOVHOLUK PO BOX 346 Sunol, CA 94586 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 January 03 2024. (PLW Jan 12, 19, 26 and Feb 2, 2024)

INNER RESONANCE HEALING FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No.: 603127

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: 1.) Inner Resonance Healing, located at 2076 Cotterell Court Pleasanton, CA 94566, Alameda County. This business is conducted by: an Individual. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are): CRISTINA MOIDEL 2076 Cotterell Court Pleasanton, CA 94566 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 January 02 2024. (PLW Jan 19, 26, Feb 2 and 9, 2024)

DEDICARE PLACEMENT AGENCY FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No.: 602855

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: 1.) DediCare Placement Agency, located at 6231 Camino del Lago, Pleasanton CA 94566, Alameda County. This business is conducted by: a Limited Liability Company. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are): DEDICARE PLACEMENT AGENCY LLC. 6231 Camino del Lago Pleasanton, CA 94566 California Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 12/14/2023 This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on December 15 2023. (PLW Jan 19, 26, Feb 2 and 9, 2024)

GRAND BAKERY FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No.: 603067

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: 1.) Grand Bakery, located at 269 Wayne Avenue, Oakland, CA 94606, Alameda. This business is conducted by: a Limited Liability Company. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are): SUGAR CEREAL LABS LLC 269 Wayne Avenue Oakland, CA 94606 Delaware 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 28 2023. (PLW Jan 5, 12, 19 and 26, 2024)

ALCAMEE FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No.: 602563

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: 1.) ALCAMEE, located at 4314 Valley Avenue, Apt. G, Pleasanton, CA, 94566, ALAMEDA. This business is conducted by: an Individual. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are): CAMELIA DOBRICA 4314 Valley Avenue, Apt. G Pleasanton, CA, 94566 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 07 2023. (PLW Jan 12, 19, 26 and Feb 2, 2024)

GUDESTHETICS LASHGORL FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No.: 603054

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: 1.) GUDESTHETICS, 2.) LASHGORL, located at 39111 Paseo Padre Pkwy Unit 115 Fremont, CA 94538, Alameda County. Mailing Address: 170 Willowrun Way, Oakley, CA 94561 This business is conducted by: a Limited Liability Company. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are): GUDESTHETICS 39111 Paseo Padre Pkwy Unit 115 Fremont, CA 94538 California Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 04/22/2022 This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on December 28 2023. (PLW Jan 19, 26, Feb 2 and 9, 2024)

LEVEL UP LEGAL SERVICES FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No.: 603100

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: 1.) Level Up Legal Services, located at 22281 Center Street, # 47, Castro Valley, CA 94546, Alameda. This business is conducted by: an Individual. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are): THERESA WILLIAMS 22281 Center Street, # 47 Castro Valley, CA 94546 Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 02/01/2023 This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on December 29 2023. (PLW Jan 12, 19, 26 and Feb 2, 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)

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 28 2023. (PLW Dec 22, 2023, Jan 5, 12 and 19, 2024)

WORDAUTOMATION FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No.: 602674

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: 1.) WordAutomation, located at 5691 San Luis Ct. Pleasanton, CA 94566, Alameda County. This business is conducted by: an Individual. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are): GLYNNIS ELLIOTT 5691 San Luis Ct Pleasanton, CA 94566 Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 12/04/2023 This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on December 11 2023. (PLW Jan 5, 12, 19 and 26, 2024)

CLOCKWISE ESCAPE ROOM FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No.: 603011

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: 1.) Clockwise Escape Room, located at 4713 First St., ste #100, Pleasanton, CA, 94566, Alameda county. This business is conducted by: a Limited Liability Company. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are): LOCKBOX ESCAPES LLC 522 7th Street, Oakland, CA, 94607 California Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 12/01/2023 This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on December 26 2023. (PLW Jan 5, 12, 19 and 26, 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)

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

Case No.: 23CV055387

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner: Emran Mahbub filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: AISHA BASHAR MAHBUB to AISHA HANA MAHBUB THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing. NOTICE OF HEARING: 01/30/2024, 9:30 a.m., Dept. 14 of the Superior Court of California, County of Alameda located at 1221 Oak Street, Oakland, CA, 94612. A copy of this ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: PLEASANTON WEEKLY Date: 12/15/2023 Charles A. Smiley JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT (PLW Jan 12, 19, 26 and Feb 2, 2024)

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

Case No.: 23CV056680

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner: Stephanie Ann Nail Kwak filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: STEPHANIE (First) ANN (Middle) NAIL (Last) KWAK (Last) to STEPHANIE (First) ANN (Middle) NAIL (Middle) KWAK (Last) THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing. NOTICE OF HEARING: 02/13/2024, 9:30 a.m., Dept. 14 of the Superior Court of California, County of Alameda located at 1221 Oak Street, Oakland, CA 94612. A copy of this ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: PLEASANTON WEEKLY Date: 12/22/2023 Charles A. Smiley JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT (PLW Jan 5, 12, 19 and 26, 2024)

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

Case No.: 23CV045503

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner: Amanda Lee Silver filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: AMANDA LEE SILVER to AHN LEE THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing. NOTICE OF HEARING: 01/16/2024, 9:30am, Dept 14 of the Superior Court of California, County of Alameda located at 1225 Fallon St, Oakland, CA 94612. A copy of this ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: PLEASANTON WEEKLY Date: 11/22/2023 Jenna Whitman JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT (PLW Jan 5, 12, 19 and 26, 2024)

Continued on next page

The Pleasanton Weekly is adjudicated to publish in Alameda County.

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

The deadline is Sunday at 11:59 pm. Visit PleasantonWeekly.com/legal_notices/

For assistance email LegalNotices@PleasantonWeekly.com.

Public Notices

Continued from previous page

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF:

GARY JAMES KESTER
Case No.: RP23147042

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of GARY JAMES KESTER.

A Petition for Probate has been filed by: KENNETH KESTER in the Superior Court of California, County of Alameda. The Petition for Probate requests that: KENNETH KESTER be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.

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 9:45 A.M. 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.

Attorney for Petitioner:
MATTHEW D. SCOTT, ESQ
LAW OFFICE OF MATTHEW D. SCOTT
1013 GALLERIA BLVD., SUITE 290
ROSEVILLE, CA 95678
916-953-5517
(PLW Jan 5, 12 and 19, 2024)

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF:

JOHN GOMEZ, JR
Case No.: 23PR055098

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of JOHN GOMEZ, JR.

A Petition for Probate has been filed by: Mark Gomez in the Superior Court of California, County of Alameda.

The Petition for Probate requests that: Mark Gomez be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.

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 26 2024 at 09:45AM in Dept. 201 of the Superior Court of California, County of Alameda, located at 201 N First Street, San Jose, CA 95113.

If you object to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.

If you are a creditor or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58 (b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law. You may examine the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.

Attorney for Petitioner:
Christopher Hirz, Esquire
Hirz Law Group, Inc
75 E Santa Clara Street
San Jose, CA 95113
408-294-4525
(PLW Jan 12, 19 and 26, 2024)

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF:

IGOR KHALFIN
Case No.: 23PR055287

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of IGOR KHALFIN.

A Petition for Probate has been filed by: INGO BRAUER AND ALEKSANDR TELLY in the Superior Court of California, County of Alameda.

The Petition for Probate requests that: INGO BRAUER AND ALEKSANDR TELLY 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 31 2024 at 9:45 A.M. in DEPARTMENT 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.

Attorney for Petitioner:
GEORGE C. KASOLAS
LAW OFFICE OF GEORGE C. KASOLAS
1190 SOUTH BASCOM AVENUE, SUITE 213
SAN JOSE CA 95128
408-410-6082
(PLW Jan 12, 19 and 26, 2024)

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF:

DAVID RAMSAY
Case No.: 23PR057606

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of DAVID RAMSAY.

A Petition for Probate has been filed by: Victoria Lekov in the Superior Court of California, County of Alameda.

The Petition for Probate requests that: Victoria Lekov be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.

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 February 07 2024 at 9:45 AM in Dept. 202 of the Superior Court of California, County of Alameda, located at 2120 Martin Luther King 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.

Attorney for Petitioner:
Stephen S. Picone, Esq.
Picone & Defilippis, A P.L.C.
625 North First Street
San Jose, CA 95112
408-292-0441
(PLW Jan 12, 19 and 26, 2024)

SUMMONS Case No. CV-22-002295 (CITACION JUDICIAL)

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT (A VISO AL DEMANDADO): Ryan Espina, Safeway Sucs, LLC; Genard Garcia; Bryce Disbrow; and Does 1 through 100, Inclusive, YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF: (LO ESTÁ DEMANDANDO EL DEMANDANTE): Dylan Taylor Roehm

NOTICE! You have been sued. The court may decide against you without your being heard unless you respond Within 30 days. Read the information below. You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons and legal papers are served on you to file a written response at this court and have a copy served on the plaintiff. A letter or phone call will not protect you. Your written response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case. There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and

more information at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the court clerk for a fee waiver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and your wages, money, and property may be taken without further warning from the court. There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may want to call an attorney referral service. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may be eligible for free legal services from a nonprofit legal services program. You can locate these nonprofit groups at the California Legal Services Web site (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), or by contacting your local court or county bar association. NOTE: The court has a statutory lien for waived fees and costs on any settlement or arbitration award of \$10,000 or more in a civil case. The court's lien must be paid before the court will dismiss the case. ¡AVISO! Lo han demandado. Si no responde dentro de 30 días, la corte puede decidir en su contra sin escuchar su versión. Lea la información a continuación. Tiene 30 DIAS DE CALENDARIO después de que le entreguen esta citación y papeles legales para presentar una respuesta por escrito en esta corte y hacer que se entregue una copia al demandante. Una carta o una llamada telefónica no lo protegen. Su respuesta por escrito tiene que estar en formato legal correcto si desea que procesen su caso en la corte. Es posible que haya un formulario que usted pueda usar para su respuesta. Puede encontrar estos formularios de la corte y mas información en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California (www.sucorte.ca.gov), en la biblioteca de leyes de su condado o en la corte que le quede mas cerca. Si no puede pagar la cuota de presentación, pida al secretario de la corte que le dé un formulario de exención de pago de cuotas. Si no presenta su respuesta a tiempo, puede perder el caso por incumplimiento y la corte le podrá quitar su sueldo, dinero y bienes sin mas advertencia. Hay otros requisitos legales. Es recomendable que llame a un abogado inmediatamente. Si no conoce a un abogado, puede llamar a un servicio de remisión a abogados. Si no puede pagar a un abogado, es posible que cumpla con los requisitos para obtener servicios legales gratuitos de un programa de servicios legales sin fines de lucro. Puede encontrar estos grupos sin fines de lucro en el sitio web de California Legal Services, (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California, (www.sucorte.ca.gov) o poniéndose en contacto con la corte o el colegio de abogados locales. AVISO: Por ley, la corte tiene derecho a reclamar las cuotas y los costos exentos por imponer un gravamen sobre cualquier recuperación de \$10,000 mas de valor recibida mediante un acuerdo o una concesión de arbitraje en un caso de derecho civil. Tiene que pagar el gravamen de la corte antes de que la corte pueda desechar el caso.

The name and address of the court is (El nombre y dirección de la corte es): CITY TOWERS COURTHOUSE (CIVIL) 801 10th St, Modesto, CA 95354 The name, address, and telephone number of plaintiff's attorney, or plaintiff without an attorney, is (El nombre, la dirección y el número de teléfono del abogado del demandante, o del demandante que no tiene abogado, es): Anthony J. Perez, Esq., Avrek Law Firm 2350 SE Bristol St, Newport Beach, CA 92660 DATE (Fecha): 05/26/2022, 1:28 PM Clerk, by Juliette Bingham, Deputy (Secretario) (Adjunto) (PLW Jan 5, 12, 19 and 26, 2024)

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT: (AVISO AL DEMANDADO): DANIEL DELAN WILKINSON; SHANE WIHLIDAL; AND DOES 1 TO 20

YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF: (LO ESTÁ DEMANDANDO EL DEMANDANTE): YIZHOU LI CASE NUMBER: 22CV013152 NOTICE! You have been sued. The court may decide against you without your being heard unless you respond within 30 days. Read the information below. You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons and legal papers are served on you to file a written response at this court and have a copy served on the plaintiff. A letter or phone call will not protect you. Your written response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case. There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT:

(AVISO AL DEMANDADO):

DANIEL DELAN WILKINSON; SHANE WIHLIDAL; AND DOES 1 TO 20

YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF:

(LO ESTÁ DEMANDANDO EL DEMANDANTE): YIZHOU LI CASE NUMBER: 22CV013152 NOTICE! You have been sued. The court may decide against you without your being heard unless you respond within 30 days. Read the information below.

You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons and legal papers are served on you to file a written response at this court and have a copy served on the plaintiff. A letter or phone call will not protect you. Your written

response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case. There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and more information at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the court clerk for a fee waiver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and your wages, money, and property may be taken without further warning from the court.

There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may want to call an attorney referral service. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may be eligible for free legal services from a nonprofit legal services program. You can locate these nonprofit groups at the California Legal Services Web site (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), or by contacting your local court or county bar association. NOTE: The court has a statutory lien for waived fees and costs on any settlement or arbitration award of \$10,000 or more in a civil case. The court's lien must be paid before the court will dismiss the case.

¡AVISO! Lo han demandado. Si no responde dentro de 30 días, la corte puede decidir en su contra sin escuchar su versión. Lea la información a continuación.

Tiene 30 DÍAS DE CALENDARIO después de que le entreguen esta citación y papeles legales para presentar una respuesta por escrito en esta corte y hacer que se entregue una copia al demandante. Una carta o una llamada telefónica no lo protegen. Su respuesta por escrito tiene que estar en formato legal correcto si desea que procesen su caso en la corte. Es posible que haya un formulario que usted pueda usar para su respuesta. Puede encontrar estos formularios de la corte y más información en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California (www.sucorte.ca.gov), en la biblioteca de leyes de su condado o en la corte que le quede mas cerca. Si no puede pagar la cuota de presentación, pida al secretario de la corte que le dé un formulario de exención de pago de cuotas. Si no presenta su respuesta a tiempo, puede perder el caso por incumplimiento y la corte le podrá quitar su sueldo, dinero y bienes sin más advertencia.

Hay otros requisitos legales. Es recomendable que llame a un abogado inmediatamente. Si no conoce a un abogado, puede llamar a un servicio de remisión a abogados. Si no puede pagar a un abogado, es posible que cumpla con los requisitos para obtener servicios legales gratuitos de un programa de servicios legales sin fines de lucro. Puede encontrar estos grupos sin fines de lucro en el sitio web de California Legal Services, (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California, (www.sucorte.ca.gov) o poniéndose en contacto con la corte o el colegio de abogados locales. AVISO: Por ley, la corte tiene derecho a reclamar las cuotas y los costos exentos por imponer un gravamen sobre cualquier recuperación de \$10,000 ó más de valor recibida mediante un acuerdo o una concesión de arbitraje en un caso de derecho civil. Tiene que pagar el gravamen de la corte antes de que la corte pueda desechar el caso.

The name and address of the court is: (El nombre y dirección de la corte es):

Superior Court of California, County of Alameda, 2233 Shoreline Drive, Alameda, CA 94501

The name, address, and telephone number of plaintiff's attorney, or plaintiff without an attorney, is: (El nombre, la dirección y el número de teléfono del abogado del demandante, o del demandante que no tiene abogado, es):

Yizhou Li, in pro-per

588 El Camino Real, Apt. 327

Santa Clara, CA 95050

DATE: (Fecha) 06/22/2022 Clerk, by/s/ Chad Finkel, Executive Officer/ Clerk of the Court, Deputy X. Bowie

(Secretario) (Adjunto) (PLW Jan 5, 12, 19 and 26, 2024)

Supreme Court case about impact fees could have huge consequences for housing in California

By BEN CHRISTOPHER/CALMATTERS

A dispute between a 72-year-old retiree in Placerville and El Dorado County over a \$23,420 building fee got its day before the country's highest court last week in a case with potentially seismic consequences for local government budgets and housing markets across California and the country.

At issue is just how far cities and counties have to go to justify "impact fees": fees slapped on new construction projects in order to offset the toll new developments take on local infrastructure. The stakes are especially high in California, where impact fees can tack on hundreds of thousands of dollars to new housing projects that are already among the most expensive to build in the nation.

The plaintiff in this case wants to put new guardrails on those fees. But that would come at a sharp cost: Local governments, restricted by California law from raising property taxes and borrowing funds, disproportionately rely on impact fees to pay for infrastructure like roads and sewer lines.

The justices waded deep into the legal weeds of the case during oral arguments on Jan. 9 and seemed alternately frustrated and bemused as they grappled with whether El Dorado County's fee should be treated like the government were seizing a homeowner's property, a simple tax or

something in between.

The legal saga began in 2016 when George Sheetz, a retired engineering consultant, built a small manufactured home on a vacant tract in the Sierra foothill city of Placerville. The county stuck Sheetz with the five-figure "impact fee" to fund local roads, highways and bridges. Sheetz paid up, but then sued.

With the backing of a conservative legal nonprofit, the Pacific Legal Foundation, he argued that, contrary to a four-decade-old Supreme Court precedent, the county had failed to prove that the fee accurately reflected the wear and tear his small project would likely leave on local roads.

"Everyone loves good roads and schools and public infrastructure, so the government certainly has many tools at its disposal, including taxes to pay for those," said Paul Beard, Sheetz's attorney, in presenting his case before the court. "What we're saying is that the government can't select a few...property owners who happen to need a permit at any given time — to select them to bear the burdens of paying for that public infrastructure."

The lawyer representing the county countered that officials had done the legally required due diligence to justify the fee. But even if they hadn't, they added, fees passed by local elected bodies that apply equally to all applicants — as



An excavator maneuvers past a tree during construction on a property.

COURTESY GETTY IMAGES

opposed to one-off exactions levied on a specific development — don't warrant such close judicial scrutiny.

Requiring cities and counties to enact fees only after they've done a thorough, property-specific analysis of the impact a proposed development would have on local roads, for example, "would disrupt if not destroy their ability to fund capital intensive infrastructure necessary to serve new development, bringing such development to a grinding halt," said Aileen Marie McGrath, the attorney for El Dorado.

With so much potentially at stake, the case has drawn the attention of a wide array of competing interests. Building industry groups, conservative property right defenders and Yes In My Backyard advocates have all filed briefs pleading with the court to force local governments to clear a higher bar before charging for the right to build.

A decision against Sheetz would only encourage "unconstrained exactions on new development, further adding to the crushing costs of housing in California and other jurisdictions that refuse to require governments to show any proportionality between the amount of fees demanded and the alleged impacts of new development," the California Building Industry Association wrote in its brief from June.

City and county government groups, along with the governments of both the state of California and the United States, have come to El Dorado County's defense.

Many court watchers expect the court's conservative majority to side with the burdened property owner and require the cities and counties to work a bit harder to justify the fees they impose on new home construction. It remains unclear for now just how far such a ruling could go and whether it might place fresh limits on other widely used housing and revenue-raising policies.

"It seems kind of like a nightmare to figure out where the line should be drawn," Justice Amy Coney Barrett said.

A uniquely California case

Though last week's debate took place in the ethereal clouds of abstract constitutional consideration, for California developers, the issue at hand is plenty concrete. As a group, they've spent a generation griping about impact fees.

As of 2015, the average impact fee on a single family home in California was more than quadruple what it was in other states, according to

a survey. While such fees were found in a "minority" of jurisdictions outside of California, they were "virtually universal" here.

In a 2018 study from UC Berkeley's Terner Center, impact fees in a survey of California cities ranged from between 6% to 18% of the local median home price.

It's not especially surprising that California cities and counties have come to rely so heavily upon this particular form of financing.

During the high-growth decades of the 1950s and '60s, local governments could easily assume that new development would pay for its own added toll on publicly funded roads and pipes through increased property tax revenue. That changed in 1978, when voters passed Proposition 13, capping local property taxes and muzzling the ability of local governments to borrow or raise new taxes.

That's led to some frustration from El Dorado County and its defenders. If impact fees are intolerable, some have asked, what are the alternatives?

"Unless you want a dirt road and like, you know, bandits out there because we don't have a sheriff, we need to have some level of an assessment done," said Mark Neuberger, a legislative advocate for the California State Association of Counties. "It's unfortunate when it's a noticeable size of your project, but we live in a modern society and this is just part of the expense of paying for it."

Sheetz and his supporters contend that these fees aren't justified solely on meeting specific, related infrastructure costs and point to the wide variability in fees from one city to the next — even between neighboring jurisdictions.

As the city of Oakland noted in a recent report, its typical fee on large apartment projects comes out to \$39,264 per unit. The neighboring city of Berkeley, sets the tab at \$66,594. Across the Bay in San Francisco, the fee is \$74,597.

At the more extreme end, the 2018 Terner Center study found that the city of Fremont imposed a single-family home impact fee of \$157,000.

"You look at places like Fremont and they have these immaculate parks that are funded very significantly by impact fees," said David Garcia, the center's policy director. "There's a question whether it's reasonable to want to have top notch services and infrastructure, but for that to come on the backs of new residents." ■

Editor's note: To read the full version of this story, visit PleasantonWeekly.com or CalMatters.org.



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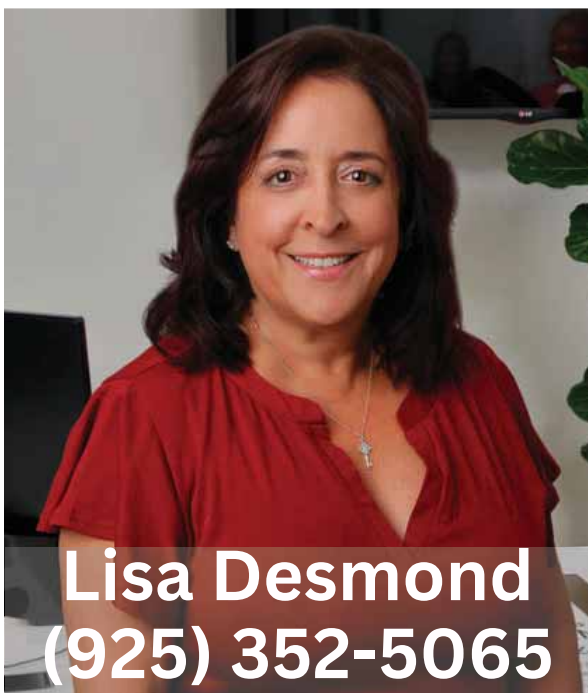
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