

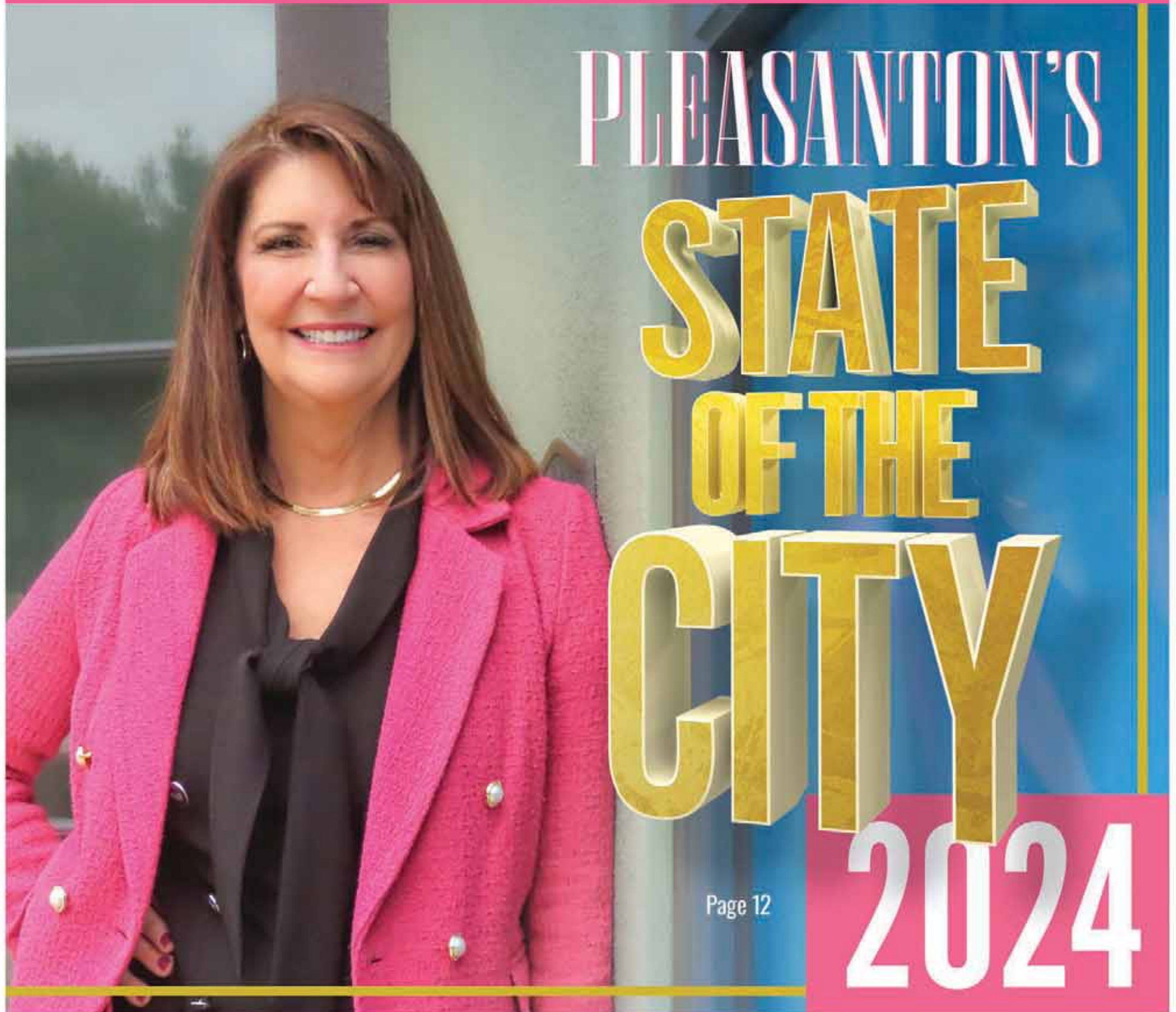
Pleasanton Weekly

Spring has sprung
at the Bankhead

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Mayor Brown reflects on past year's achievements while providing updates on projects and challenges ahead

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WHAT A WEEK



By JEREMY WALSH

For others, for them

April brings two important public events for the Alan Hu Foundation, a Pleasanton-based nonprofit created a handful of years ago from the embers of family grief to help others in their community.

The grassroots foundation has such an important mission: "To promote mental health, raise awareness and remove stigma surrounding psychiatric disorders, and support fundamental research for cures."

The next installment of the organization's recurring Mental Health Lecture Series is set for Tuesday (April 9) from 6:30-7:30 p.m. via webinar, featuring Dr. Leanne Williams, professor of psychiatry and behavioral sciences at Stanford University and the director of the Stanford Center for Precision Mental Health and Wellness.

Her presentation is titled "Precision Treatments for Depression: Are We Getting Closer?"

Then on the ensuing Sunday (April 14), the foundation is holding its "Bridge Over Troubled Water 2" benefit concert, which will see local musicians perform works by Rachmaninoff, Bach and Shostakovich to help raise funds for the nonprofit's lecture series and scholarship program.

The foundation's scholarship was created in the memories of its namesake Alan Hu and Sarah Rahman, two people who lost their battles with mental health disorders and died by suicide.

Our retired Tri-Valley Life editor Dolores Fox Ciardelli wrote a memorable profile of the Alan Hu Foundation in 2019, ahead of its inaugural benefit concert, centered on a striking interview with Alan's mother Xiaofang Chen.

"The journey of growing Alan Hu Foundation and continuously serving our community by providing high quality mental health programs to promote mental health is both gratifying and humbling," Chen, who serves as the foundation's president, told me over the weekend.

In the past five years, the foundation has seen more than 4,800 people attend its webinars, asking more than 600 questions during its Q&A sessions, according to Chen. The videos have generated more than 20,000 views online.

"It is gratifying to be able to provide this much-needed knowledge to our community. At the same time, we continue to learn about the sufferings, even casualties, caused by mental illness first hand and realize

that there is a long way to go to eradicate them," she said. "We are hopeful that a better day will come because more and more people are aware of the importance of mental health and are working towards finding cures."

Through my outreach ahead of the concert, I also learned more from Mark Rahman, the foundation's treasurer, about his late daughter Sarah.

"She was a sweet and creative child, a piano prodigy who taught herself. She cared throughout her life for the homeless. But she was also different," Mark Rahman told me. "She was hounded by her own set of demons but nevertheless kept striving to have something like a normal life."

"We remember her warmth, caring, joy of discovery and how she always made me pay a full 20% tip eating out," he added. "Everyone who met her loved her, and our pain is that she was the only one who could not see that."

It's so inspiring to hear Chen and Rahman talk so openly to us about such tough, deeply personal subjects as they and their supporters work so hard to help others.

Honestly, it's only in recent years that the journalism world has been more open to reporting about mental health. For decades, even as I came out of J-school, the prevailing wisdom was to avoid coverage of suicide at almost all costs — an industry safeguard against the spectrum of glorification to triggering.

But an unintended consequence was generations of near-silence in the news about a topic pervasive in our communities and its indisputable connection to larger societal issues such as prescription drug use, access to firearms and social media.

Let's talk about this. These conversations are so important to have, individually and collectively. I know. Suicide and self-harm ideation has affected my family, people I went to school with, people I've worked with.

Resources are available. Locally, nonprofits like the Alan Hu Foundation, Z-Cares Foundation, NAMI Tri-Valley or Discovery Counseling Center provide support on a range of mental health subjects. Medical care providers and private professionals, even when the systems are daunting to navigate, are avenues as well.

And anyone in need of immediate assistance can contact Crisis Support Services of Alameda County's 24-hour confidential crisis line at 800-309-2131 or the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 800-273-8255 or suicidepreventionlifeline.org. ■

About the Cover

Pleasanton Mayor Karla Brown poses in front of the Firehouse Arts Center on March 29, just days after delivering her State of the City address. Photo by Christian Trujano. Cover design by Doug Young. Vol. XXV, Number 11

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What is the most valuable lesson you ever learned from a teacher in school while growing up?



Stacy Brinkley
Sales/marketing

I had a teacher who taught me to always question the verbiage in advertisements. For example, if an ad said something “tastes better...”, I should ask, “Better than what?” Or if something claims to be “new and improved”, to ask, “How is it new and how is it better?” Or if a product claims to be “Voted No. 1!”, to ask “By whom, and how many?” Such a great teacher.



Clare Smith
Teacher (reading specialist)

In a child development class, my teacher taught us to find a way to connect with every single student in the class and to bring up that connection frequently, as it makes each child feel valued. She reminded us that a student who feels valued and appreciated is more likely to learn and feel positively about school. Forty years later, I still try to connect with each of my students in some way.



Brian Ramkissoo
Lawyer

I learned this from one of my teachers and it has always stuck with me: It is much more valuable to look for the best in others than the worst. You can gain nothing by judging someone at any one specific point in time. Instead, looking ahead at their potential can often help you in your own growth.



Howard Smythe
Retired

I believe it was my kindergarten teacher who taught me to do everything I do as well as I can possibly do it, and to never take shortcuts or the easy way out. She taught us this lesson in conjunction with the story about “The Three Little Pigs”. It has stuck with me to this very day, and I pass it along.



Lisa Kerchman
Retired

In nursery school, where I had two teachers, they told a story of the two of them going up to the moon in a rocket ship. They said that when they had a snack there, the crumbs from the cookies floated around. A few years later I understood that it was not actually a true story, and the lesson I learned from that is the notion that not everything you hear, and/or that people tell you, is true.

—Compiled by Nancy and Jeff Lewis

Have a Streetwise question? Email editor@PleasantonWeekly.com

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We're looking for a few interns

We are seeking local high school or college students with an appetite for news and an interest in learning about print and digital media for internship opportunities. The interns will research stories, do interviews and help with fact checking and rewrites for the award-winning Pleasanton Weekly, LivermoreVine.com and DanvilleSanRamon.com. They will also be introduced to the other aspects of publishing, including advertising and production.

During the internship period, the intern will be an integral part of the team, participating fully in the process of gathering and presenting news.

Candidates must be responsible, have good writing skills, be available 10 to 12 hours a week and have reliable internet access. Internships require an academic sponsor. Applicants should send a resume, a cover letter explaining your interest and links to at least three examples of journalistic work to editor Cierra Bailey at cbailey@embarcaderomedia.org by noon April 22.



DIGEST

Airport input

Livermore city officials are holding their second community open house in recent weeks to give residents and other stakeholders a chance to provide in-person feedback related to the Airport Land Use Analysis and Development Study.

The session next week will allow attendees to “talk directly with the project team, learn about the airport, and provide feedback on key priorities, concerns, and preferences regarding how to utilize the airport into the future,” according to the city website.

Issues related to the Livermore Municipal Airport have been especially front-of-mind for residents in both Livermore and Pleasanton in recent years, particularly around topics like potential expansion, noise, emissions and facility needs.

The open house will be drop-in style from 4-7 p.m. next Tuesday (April 9) at the airport at 680 Terminal Cir. Learn more at www.livermoreca.gov/AirportDevelopment.

Award nominees

The Pleasanton Community of Character Collaborative is collecting nominations through April 15 for its 2024 Juanita Haugen Community of Character Awards.

The award program, named for the late former Pleasanton school board member, is in its 15th year honoring local people and nonprofit organizations that exhibit the key traits of “compassion, honesty, respect, integrity, self-discipline and responsibility.”

Visit the group’s website, communityofcharacter.org, to submit nominations. Recipients will be recognized at the collaborative’s annual luncheon event on May 15 at the Veterans Memorial Building in downtown Pleasanton.

Property taxes due

The second installment of the 2023-24 secured property tax is due to the county by 5 p.m. next Wednesday (April 10), after which any payment will be considered delinquent and subject to a 10% penalty plus a \$10 fee.

Payments can be made by U.S. Postal Service mail if postmarked on or before April 10, in-person at Alameda County Treasurer-Tax Collector’s Office locations in Oakland or Hayward, online by eCheck free of charge, or online or by phone with credit card for a 2.5% service fee.

For more information, go to treasurer.acgov.org.

Another key component of tax season this month, personal income tax returns are due by April 15 to the federal and state governments. California is granting an automatic extension until Oct. 15 to file a return, but the payment is still due by April 15. ■

Livermore Superintendent Van Schaack retiring at end of school year

LVJUSD becomes third Tri-Valley district searching for new leader headed into 2024-25

By JEREMY WALSH

Superintendent Chris Van Schaack, a mainstay in the Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District in various roles across three decades, is stepping down at the end of June after two years at the helm of the district.

Announcing his planned retirement to district staff — whom he called his “a second family for nearly all my adult life” — as well as the public on Friday (March 29), Van Schaack told Livermore Vine that now is the right time in his life to scale back after a

37-year career in education.

“Not to be overly philosophical, but we only get so many trips around the sun, and after dedicating so much of my life to caring for the needs of others, I really want to be able to enjoy some of the things that make me smile and laugh — baseball games and travel and working in the yard and being able to spend time with family,” Van Schaack said by email Friday afternoon.

LVJUSD Board President Emily Prusso praised Van Schaack as “such an integral part of our district for so long that it’s hard to imagine him

not being here,” in a press release by the district earlier Friday that also said the Board of Education plans to work as expeditiously as it can to hopefully have a new leader in place by the start of the 2024-25 academic year in July.

Now trying to find its third superintendent in four years, Livermore is among three districts in the greater Tri-Valley to be recruiting for a new superintendent this spring, joining the San Ramon Valley and Sunol Glen unified school districts.

“I’ll forever cherish the 30 years I’ve spent working alongside so

many amazing educators and simply, good people,” Van Schaack said earlier in a statement released by the district.

“The best part about being here so long has been watching many of my former students return to our community and build amazing families and careers themselves,” Van Schaack added. “Knowing that I may have played some small role in their success is incredibly satisfying. Many now have children in our schools, and support us as parents, which is

See VAN SCHAACK on Page 9



A group of Livermore Police Department officers watch a recent Independence Day fireworks display. The aerial showcase is now a thing of the past for Livermore, with the city announcing the cancellation of nighttime fireworks in favor of a daytime celebration at the airport in 2024.

No July 4 fireworks show

Daytime event at airport replacing longstanding tradition

By CIERRA BAILEY

There will be no fire in the sky this Fourth of July in Livermore as the city announced that the annual fireworks show will be replaced by a reimagined family-friendly celebration.

Citing a need to prioritize public safety, the city and the park district have decided that crowd sizes, parking and traffic impacts and staffing challenges, among other reasons, have led to a need for change.

“Over the years in Livermore, the Independence Day celebration has grown significantly into

a regional event. What was once intended to be a community celebration has attracted visitors from all over the Bay Area. Last year, the city partnered with the Livermore Area Recreation and Park District (LARPD) to host a fireworks event. Over 60 percent of the over 12,000 people who attended the event were not from Livermore,” according to the city’s website.

“The growing popularity of the city’s Fourth of July event has made it clear that neither the city nor LARPD have the resources or infrastructure (such as roadways and parking) to ensure a safe,

family event that the Livermore community can access. Finding additional staffing has been extremely challenging due to the holiday, and regional events that had been held in the past have all been canceled for the same concerns, which has driven more attendees from the region to the City of Livermore event,” officials added.

Livermore Police Chief Jeramy Young and City Manager Marianna Marysheva also collaborated on a joint video posted to social media last week reiterating

See FIREWORKS on Page 10

Miley looks ahead to 7th term

Incumbent’s win over challenger Esteen becomes official

By NICOLE GONZALES

Incumbent Nate Miley has won a seventh term on the Alameda County Board of Supervisors representing part of Pleasanton and the rest of District 4, solidifying his strong lead over lone challenger Jennifer Esteen as the primary election results became finalized this week.

The Alameda County Registrar of Voters’ Office certified election totals on Monday, the seventh round of results since Election Night on March 5, confirming Miley finished with 60.71% of the vote (totaling 34,607 votes) while Esteen followed with 39.29% (totaling 22,400 votes).

The candidates shared post-election reflections on their race days earlier, with the vast majority of eligible ballots tabulated and the certification deadline approaching.

“It’s truly humbling to see the ongoing support and confidence from the residents of District 4,” Miley said. “I am deeply grateful for their trust in my ability to represent their interests and address the critical issues facing our community.”

Miley expressed his determination to continue serving the residents of



Nate Miley

See MILEY on Page 7

Sunol plans next steps for finding new superintendent

Consultant vows to identify finalist within three months; residents worry timeline is too quick

By Christian Trujano

The search process for a new Sunol Glen School principal and superintendent is moving forward as the district Board of Trustees met with its search consultant last week and laid out a timeline for recruitment which could have the trustees begin interviewing potential candidates within two weeks.

However, public speakers told the board during its special meeting that they thought the process is being done too quickly and that community input — both from Sunol residents and from commuter parents — needs to be a priority as the school decides who will take the place of longtime Superintendent-Principal Molleen Barnes after this academic year ends.

“The timeline that we have put out is absolutely concerning and that’s what’s talked about on the schoolyard between the teachers, between the families, between everyone,” Erin Choin, a Sunol resident and parent, said at the March 26 meeting.

She said that while she and the community understand there is some sense of urgency to replace Barnes, attempting to do so within a matter of months might not be realistic.

“We think somehow lightning is going to strike and within this very short amount of time, we are going to find some candidate that’s going to come in and wow us,” Choin said.

Barnes, who held the dual position at Sunol for over 16 years, first announced her retirement at the end of January. She previously said mental health and stress were some of the factors for her decision to leave.

After her announcement, the Alameda County Office of Education agreed to help pay about \$13,000 for the hiring of a superintendent search firm, which the Sunol school board unanimously agreed during its March 12 meeting would be Leadership

Associates, an employment firm based in Glendora — located in Los Angeles County.

The board then decided to hold a special meeting last week so that Donald Evans, one of the Leadership Associates partners who will be working on the search, could come back to begin asking the board questions and setting up dates for the three trustees to start interviewing candidates.

Evans asked the trustees things like what kind of a superintendent they wanted for the small school, what the district’s strengths are and what challenges the incoming superintendent would have to face if they are hired.

The three trustees all said that they want the new superintendent to be a good leader who can resolve conflicts, can handle the day-to-day interactions of both the principal and the superintendent, and can be someone who can build those same relationships that Barnes made with the students, parents and school staff.

As for the district’s strengths that might make the job more appealing for the candidates, Board President Ryan Jergensen said that the small rural town makes it so that there is a lot of interaction between the school and the community. But he also said that because the town has been growing, social interaction has been affected.

Trustee Linda Hurley said that the social interaction in the town is being affected because Sunol has “gotten a little bigger than I think a lot of us feel comfortable with.”

Hurley also said it would be nice if the district could find a superintendent that wasn’t as expensive but the only way that would happen is if the school didn’t have as many students as it currently does.

“We have a school that was originally built ... for a smaller number of students,” Hurley said. “I think that it would be nice if we didn’t have to have quite so many people here, we ran a number of years

with a smaller number of children, and it was quite sufficient.”

But Trustee Peter “Ted” Romo and many other public speakers took that as an insult to commuter students who make up about 80% of the nearly 300 students at the school and said that it’s important to keep these students as part of the conversation because without them, the school wouldn’t have any funding.

“The school as a whole is an academic beacon,” Romo said. “It’s one of the best schools in the state. That is its strength and one of its draws. That’s why people want to come here, that’s why 80% of the students here are from outside of the district itself. So to suggest to reduce that seems counterproductive.”

Other parents also said that commuter students are key stakeholders because they make up so much of the school’s population and they should have more of a voice when it comes to getting input from the community on who should be the new superintendent.

Some community members said they were a bit mad when the board announced it was holding last week’s special meeting at the last minute and some said commuters need to be more involved as the search process continues.

“I think that really needs to be conveyed to our new superintendent candidate. They need to understand that yes, there are people who live in the town and yes, there are people who choose to come here and all of those voices are important,” said Kindra Mendall, a former Sunol parent. “Our school wouldn’t exist and survive and have the academic programs we have ... if we didn’t have these outside students.”

Choin added that she felt the board and Leadership Associates need to do better as they move to gather input from parents, residents and other community members because as Evans pointed out, the search firm will be sending out

a survey to the various stakeholders from April 1-15, which Choin said is when a lot of people are out on vacation for spring break.

“Your survey to talk to all the stakeholders in the school ... just really reeks of disenfranchisement,” Choin said. “We do have so many international students in this school. When we have a week off, they leave the country. Paying attention to this survey, when they’re getting ready to do such a large trip out of the country is not feasible, and it’s not practical.”

But while many spoke out during public comment about the fast-tracked timeline to get a new superintendent and about wanting to get someone as qualified and experienced as Barnes, there were some who said that people need to give the possible candidates a chance and that the new candidates need to be people who will be focused on bringing the community together.

“Get over it, guys. You’re not going to find her,” Sunol resident Bob Frillman said regarding finding someone exactly like Barnes. “Don’t worry about who’s going to show up, you’ll get a good candidate. You’ll get a candidate who will grow into Molly Barnes.”

Another challenge that the new superintendent will have to face that was discussed at the meeting was the recall election that is set to take place in July for Jergensen and Hurley. Evans said that the plan is to get a new superintendent approved and hired by June 18 and Romo said that the new hire will have to be aware of the tension between the three board members.

Kelly Goldsmith, a Sunol parent who commutes from Fremont, said that as someone who has been in charge of the recall campaign of the two trustees, she is worried about how the new superintendent will have to deal with the community, teachers and staff who have all lost their confidence in the two trustees.

She said she is also concerned about the fact that if Hurley and Jergensen are recalled and whoever, if anyone, is appointed by the current board in June is deemed not fit by a new board in July, then it could pose more problems.

“It seems there is great financial and perhaps legal liability to the district if the superintendent-principal is removed from their posts, and a contract buyout is necessary,” Goldsmith said.

She finally said that while she hopes the district finds its “unicorn” superintendent who is a perfect fit, she still wants to see some sort of safety plan for what happens if they don’t find anyone throughout the search process.

After further discussion with the board, Evans took Romo’s suggestion of meeting with stakeholders during community forums on April 15 and April 18 so that as many people can be heard. He also said he will make sure to bring in commuter parents to get their voices heard as well.

He also echoed what Frillman said and added that he hopes the community will give the new hire a chance to grow into the next Barnes but either way, Leadership Associates will make sure it does everything it can during its vetting process to find someone who can fill those shoes.

Evans added that while he understood the concern about the fast tracked timeline for the search, he is confident that they can find someone in these next few months and if not, they will not stop until they find the perfect person for the job.

“Usually, we take about three months and we’ve been very successful in getting ... good, qualified candidates,” Evans said. “Sometimes we do find the perfect person, but there are times we don’t. But we will not stop. We will keep trying to find that right person, we will try to include everyone in this process, we will try to be as transparent as we can.” ■

West Point cadet from Pleasanton found dead in Florida

Amador alum dies in apparent accidental drowning while on leave trip

By Christian Trujano

Pleasanton native and U.S. Military Academy cadet died while he was on leave in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., according to a press release from West Point last week.

Casey Liening, a public information specialist with the Fort Lauderdale Police Department, confirmed to the Weekly that it appears Havin Morris drowned accidentally in the New River water channel near downtown

Fort Lauderdale.

The 21-year-old had graduated from Amador Valley High School in 2020.

“Cadet Morris was a valued member of the Corps of Cadets, committed to serving his country as an Army Officer,” West Point Superintendent Lt. Gen. Steve Gilland stated in the press release. “The entire West Point Community offers our heartfelt condolences to the Morris family.”

Liening said Morris had been

reported missing over the weekend and was last seen on March 23 night in downtown Fort Lauderdale. According to a social media post from the police department March 25, Morris was visiting from out of state for spring break.



Havin Morris

The police department’s dive team located his body on the night of March 25.

“The information gathered throughout our investigation led FLPD’s Dive Team to search the New River near the area where he was last seen,” Liening said. “At this time, his death appears to be an accidental drowning and no foul play is suspected.”

According to West Point officials, the police department and the U.S. Army Criminal

Investigation Command are both currently investigating the death.

Morris’ family have been notified by the Army, according to West Point.

“We are saddened by the loss of one of our former Amador Valley High School alumnus,” Patrick Gannon, director of communications for Pleasanton Unified School District, told the Weekly. “Our hearts go out to the Morris family and those who Havin touched the lives of.” ■

Shoemaker, McNerney headed to runoff for State Senate District 5

Top two finishers in primary election to square off on November ballot

By JEANITA LYMAN

The south end of the Tri-Valley is set to have a new representative in the State Senate following this year's general election, with the top two candidates in the March primary race for the seat set to continue their campaigns in the coming months and square off on November's ballot.

Central Valley businessman Jim Shoemaker (R-San Joaquin County) and former congressman Jerry McNerney (D-Pleasanton) emerged as the top two candidates for the seat representing the newly-drawn State Senate District 5 in the March 5 primary election, with Shoemaker at 43.7% of the vote and McNerney at 33.2%, according to results available from the Secretary of State as of Tuesday.

The third candidate in the primary race, Assemblymember Carlos Villapudua (D-Stockton) trailed



Jim Shoemaker

behind in third place with 23.1% of the vote.

While Shoemaker was the clear favorite for voters throughout the new district, verified results from Alameda County that were certified on Monday show him and McNerney nearly neck-and-neck with Alameda County voters at 38.12% and 36.53% of the vote respectively. Villapudua also had a slightly stronger showing with Alameda County voters than he did districtwide, with 25.36% of the vote.

Meanwhile in San Joaquin County, Shoemaker appears to be the clear top contender for the seat, with 46.42% of the vote compared with 31.2% for McNerney and 22.18% for Villapudua, according to the latest results.

The three candidates were vying for a wide-open seat in the new State Senate District 5, which was altered during the most recent redistricting process following the 2020 census to include Pleasanton, Livermore, Dublin and Sunol along with much of the San Joaquin Valley including Stockton, Tracy, and a portion of Modesto under the new district lines.

Under the previous district lines

in effect through the November election, all of the Tri-Valley communities fall under State Senate District 7, represented by Steve Glazer (D-Orinda).

With current District 5 Senator Susan Eggman terming out this year, the race has been wide open for a new face representing the new district in the State Senate.

McNerney, who previously served in the U.S. House of Representatives from 2007 to 2023, was the only candidate to issue a public statement following the March 5 primary, during which he called Shoemaker "an ultraconservative and big Trump supporter."

"I'm thankful for my longtime and recent supporters who entrust me with their vote and confidence," McNerney said on Facebook on March 19. "For those who supported and voted for another candidate, I thank you for participating, and I will do my best to earn your



Jerry McNerney

support as we move forward."

"This primary contest shows how unlimited corporate money can distort issues or influence electioneering. It's a shame we have a system where money and greed plays such an outsized role," he continued. "This just illustrates why campaign finance and other election reforms are so important in today's society, at all levels of government. One thing is clear however, the grassroots came out on top in this election."

Shoemaker and Villapudua did not respond to requests for comments on the primary election outcome as of press time.

Shoemaker, the only Republican and a political newcomer in the race, is campaigning on a platform aimed at "taking back California" according to his Facebook profile, with campaign issues that include family safety and support, parental involvement in education, addressing homelessness throughout the state, and supporting agriculture.

"As a San Joaquin County resident for over three decades, I am proud of our Valley Values of strong faith, loving families and hard work," Shoemaker said on his campaign

page. "As a husband, father and grandfather, I want to ensure our neighborhoods are safe. That means holding criminals accountable and rescinding soft-on-crime initiatives prioritizing lawbreakers over the law-abiding."

"As a business owner, I know the onerous burden Sacramento politicians have saddled us with through sky-high taxes and crippling regulations," he continued. "It is time to get back to commonsense governing. Ensure California students have better educational opportunities while empowering parents to have a greater role in their kid's education."

McNerney's platform has included highlighting his work in congress, including support for veterans, sustainable energy, infrastructure, youth programming, reproductive rights, and local police.

"From protecting the Delta and building a sustainable water future for Californians to combating climate change and closing the digital divide, I've used my platform as a senior member of the House Energy and Commerce Committee to raise awareness around issues affecting our area and to fight for real, lasting solutions," McNerney said on his campaign site. "Now, I'm running for State Senate to keep up the work."

Voters are set to choose between Shoemaker and McNerney in the runoff vote in the Nov. 5 general election. ■

MILEY

Continued from Page 5

District 4, which extends west from Pleasanton into parts of Oakland.

A former Oakland City Council member, Miley is currently in his sixth term on the Board of Supervisors, having first won the seat in 2000. Throughout his campaign

this election season, Miley emphasized priorities such as equality, environmental justice and community safety.

"As we move forward I'm focused on advocating for the needs of our community," he said. "We can continue to drive positive change, and create a brighter future for Alameda County."

His endorsements by local leaders included Pleasanton Mayor Karla Brown, Dublin Mayor Melissa Hernandez and Livermore Mayor John Marchand, as well as several members of the Pleasanton City Council.

Esteen, a registered psychiatric nurse, entered the race with a platform centered on affordable housing, accessible health care and community funding. She previously served as the vice president of the Alameda Health System Board of Trustees.

While her campaign garnered support from progressive local leaders like Livermore City Councilmember Brittini Kiick, Esteen faced an uphill battle for Miley's longstanding position and she trailed as soon as the initial results arrived on Election Night.

When reflecting on the election results, she expressed gratitude toward her supporters and campaign team.

"The people in Alameda County's fourth district are amazing. I express my deepest gratitude to them, to every person who believed in this campaign, who voted for me, donated their hard-earned money, or volunteered their precious time," Esteen said. "That unwavering support has been the bedrock of our pursuit of a just and liberated future."

"Our fight is far from over," she added. "We still need and deserve dignified housing we can afford, healthcare that is preventative and accessible, mental health care and justice for all." ■

TAKE US ALONG



Reaching the mountaintop: Thanks to ideal weather conditions and off-season permits, this group of friends was able to summit the highest mountain in the Lower 48. Despite deep snow, altitude sickness and cold temperatures, they relished the breathtaking views atop Mount Whitney. Posing with the Weekly are (from left): Christopher Lam, Kanoa Markel, Aaron McMillin, Anthony Chen, Alfred Chen and Brayden Ye.

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

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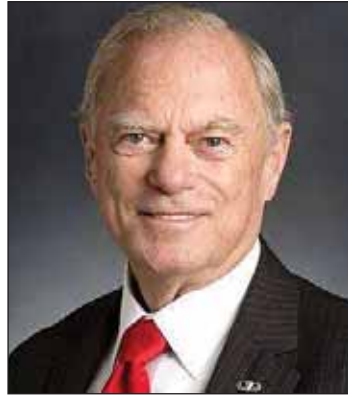
BART board member McPartland resigns

Agency looking to fill District 5 seat representing Tri-Valley

By JEANITA LYMAN

The BART Board of Directors is in the process of finding a temporary successor to represent District 5, which includes a large portion of the Tri-Valley, following the resignation of John McPartland last week.

McPartland announced on March 28 that he was departing his position effective immediately after more than 15 years in the seat, having first been elected in 2008 and most recently



John McPartland

reelected to a term ending on Dec. 6, citing family matters as the reason for his resignation.

While a special election is a possibility for filling partial term vacancies, BART officials noted that the timing of McPartland's departure and the upcoming general election in November made that impractical.

Instead, the board has the option of appointing a temporary successor to carry out the remainder of McPartland's term with a majority vote by May 27,

or failing that, to have an appointment made by the Alameda County Board of Supervisors by June 27.

McPartland's departure also means that his seat will be up for grabs in November, with the winner of the upcoming election set to begin their term at the end of McPartland's current term in December.

If the temporary successor chooses to seek a full-term in the position, they would be required to run for election in November.

The new director appointed to fill McPartland's remaining term, as well as candidates for the successive term in November's election, are required to be residents of District 5, which consists of the Tri-Valley communities of Dublin, Pleasanton and Livermore and portions of Hayward and unincorporated Alameda County.

The board is set to discuss filling the District 5 vacancy at its meeting next Thursday (April 11). ■

DUSD trustees approve deal with teachers union

Board also passes 5.5% pay raise for unrepresented employees

By NICOLE GONZALES

At the most recent Dublin Unified School Board meeting, district leaders reviewed and ultimately approved a tentative agreement reached between the district and the Dublin Teachers Association.

The deal, estimated to cost the district \$4.2 million for the upcoming school year, signified a pivotal moment in the ongoing negotiations between the two parties. Key terms included a 6% salary increase for teachers, a guaranteed duty-free lunch and

additional preparation time for elementary educators.

Covers the 2023-24 school year, the agreement was reached on March 15 after months of bargaining and negotiation sessions that were almost on the precipice of a strike. DTA membership officially ratified the contract on March 21.

Heather Campos, assistant superintendent of human resources, presented the item to the school board and attendees on March 26, emphasizing the dedication and time that went into reaching the agreement.

"The tentative agreement that we've reached with DTA is something that took a lot of hard work on a lot of people's parts. I'm really proud of what we were able to achieve in reaching this agreement," Campos said during the meeting.

As part of the agreement, staff will be required to engage in a series of 25 additional collaboration meetings, aimed at fostering a more cohesive and supportive educational environment. Campos elaborated on this aspect of the deal, saying the district leaders

plan to work with the staff to implement the meetings as smoothly as possible.

"The bulk of the work we did was around the salary percentage," Campos said. "On the collaboration meetings, we plan to generate a calendar for when all the staff meetings are so staff can then collaborate."

The approval of this deal comes after a period of tense negotiations and a strike threat from Dublin educators that has now been averted.

District leaders released a

corresponding salary schedule reflecting adjustments for DTA members.

In a related agenda item, the board also reviewed and unanimously passed a motion for a pay increase for unrepresented employees within the district. This includes a 4.5% increase to hourly rates, retroactive to July 1, 2023, and a 1% salary increase effective May 1.

Unrepresented staff members such as AVID tutors, proctors, lunch supervisors and Gael tutors will benefit from this pay raise. ■

Second woman joins sex abuse lawsuit against SRVUSD

Plaintiffs alleging grooming, assault by former teacher and negligence by district

By JEANITA LYMAN

The San Ramon Valley Unified School District is now facing accusations from a second former student who alleges that she was sexually assaulted by a high school theater teacher after he remained employed by the district following abuse complaints from another student who graduated a year prior.

The law firm Cerri, Boskovich & Allard announced last week that they had amended a complaint against the district and former teacher Ryan Weible to include allegations from a second anonymous plaintiff who says that she suffered grooming and sexual assault by Weible after the district failed to act on allegations from "Jane Doe 1", who graduated a year before the newly announced alleged victim.

According to the initial complaint filed Feb. 20, "Jane Doe 1", a former San Ramon Valley High School student, alleges she was groomed by Weible for much of her time in high school and ultimately sexually assaulted by him multiple times — including on school premises and

a district-sponsored trip across the country — during her senior year from 2010 to 2011.

After "Jane Doe 1" graduated in 2011, and amid complaints brought forth by adults on her behalf according to attorneys, Weible reportedly continued to work as a theater arts teacher at San Ramon Valley High School and allegedly turned his attention toward the second plaintiff, "Jane Doe 2", during her senior year from 2011 to 2012.

"He told her that he was in love with her and wanted to marry her and have her bypass college so that she could be with him," attorneys for the plaintiffs said in a press release March 21. "He also showered her with numerous gifts including jewelry. This grooming led to Weible touching Jane Doe 2 in a sexual manner without her consent."

Weible allegedly proceeded to confess to "Jane Doe 2" that he had previously been sexually involved with "Jane Doe 1" and that he "knew police were coming for him," according to the plaintiffs' attorneys.

An SRVUSD spokesperson said

that it was district policy not to comment on active litigation, other than to emphasize that the district take's allegations of this nature "very seriously." She noted that Weible left the district in 2012.

Attempts to contact Weible and his most recent school of employment in the Bay Area have not been successful.

The lawsuit also alleges Weible drove alongside "Jane Doe 2" while she walked home from school, saying it was to ensure her safety, and said he would convert to Mormonism in order to be with her, as well as buying her gifts and touching her inappropriately on school grounds.

Prior to and during the time of accusations by both plaintiffs, their attorneys allege Weible was known for inappropriate behavior toward minor female students in his classes, including hugs, massages, having them sit on his lap and directing sexual comments toward them, as well as singling students out for "special attention."

Despite this, and despite complaints from adults about Weible's behavior toward "Jane Doe 1" ahead

of her graduation, the district failed to take action until police arrived on campus amid reports against Weible near the end of "Jane Doe 2's" senior year, launching an investigation into the allegations in 2012, according to the attorneys.

In addition to the damage that was already allegedly done to the two plaintiffs in their senior years prior to the teacher's departure from the position, their attorneys argue that SRVUSD failed to report Weible to appropriate state authorities, enabling him to keep his teaching credential and continue working at schools.

"In a review of records obtained under the California Public Records Act, the law firm of Cerri, Boskovich & Allard found no evidence that the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC), as required by law, was notified by the District," attorneys said in their press release. "The failure to notify CTC of suspected sexual misconduct resulted in Weible maintaining his teaching credential and obtaining a job as Assistant Head of School at a prestigious Bay Area K-12 private school."

At the time of the initial complaint filed last month, Weible was working as assistant head of school at the private Bentley School, which consists of a kindergarten through eighth grade campus in Oakland and a high school campus in Lafayette.

Weible and Bentley Head of School Christie Moncharmont did not respond to a request for comment on the initial complaint filed last month. Since then, Weible's email address with the school has been deactivated and he is no longer listed among administrators on the school's website.

In addition to sexual assault allegations against Weible, the case includes allegations that the district was negligent in its hiring, supervision, and retention of Weible during the time of the allegations from both plaintiffs, as well as alleging that the district was negligent in its supervision of both plaintiffs during their time as students.

No trial date is set so far for the civil case filed in Contra Costa County Superior Court. A case management conference is scheduled for July 11 at 8:30 a.m. ■

Trinity Lutheran Church welcomes new senior pastor

Jeske's ordination set for next weekend in Pleasanton

By NICOLE GONZALES

After a six-month search, Trinity Lutheran Church in Pleasanton has announced the arrival of its new Senior Pastor Kendall Jeske, whose ordination is scheduled to take place next Saturday (April 13) at the church on Hopyard Road.

Church officials said Jeske's leadership is expected to inspire the congregation and foster spiritual growth and engagement at the church that has been a cornerstone of the Christian-based faith community in Pleasanton for over half a century.

The incoming pastor reflected on his new role in the community.

"I am new to the role of pastor, though no stranger to working in churches," Jeske told the Pleasanton Weekly. "I've either been working in churches or supporting the work of church leaders since 2009 and I'm absolutely thrilled to enter into this expression of ministry, in this time, in this place."

"My wife and I grew up at other Lutheran churches named Trinity, at opposite ends of the time zone, so coming to Trinity in Pleasanton already feels like a homecoming,"

Jeske added.

The Trinity Lutheran Church of Pleasanton belongs to the congregation of the Sierra Pacific Synod within the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America. The affiliation connects the church with various other worship communities, camps, universities and more.

The pastor shared his excitement on the local community and culture in the Tri-Valley.

"What are the things you look for when you move to a new area? Friendly people, good food and a welcoming environment? I found

early on that those things are all here at Trinity. Plus, these people know and love the Tri-Valley, and they aren't afraid to show it," he stated.

Ken Morgan, community outreach director of the Pleasanton church, said the ordination is a momentous occasion eagerly anticipated by the congregation and its members.

"Ordination is the final step to becoming a pastor," Morgan said. "It only happens once in a pastor's ministry."

Morgan explained the search for a pastor began last year after a former leader announced their departure.



Kendall Jeske

"Last year a call committee was formed to choose a new pastor for our church after our prior pastor moved to Bozeman, Montana to lead a congregation and to be close to her parents," Morgan told the Weekly.

Morgan said next weekend's event not only marks the official beginning of Jeske's tenure but also symbolizes a new chapter in the church's journey.

"In this congregation you'll find longtime members, even from when Trinity Lutheran began in 1965, new Lutherans, transplants and California natives, retirees and working families," Jeske said. "It's this kind of community that helps drive human connection while also exploring and expressing a shared faith."

"I am thrilled and honored to join this congregation," he added. ■

Board president ordered to pay ex-trustee's attorneys fees

Stems from outcome of restraining order case in Sunol

By CHRISTIAN TRUJANO

Court judge decided that Ryan Jergensen, president of the Sunol Glen Unified School District Board of Trustees, will have to pay former board trustee Denise Kent Romo over \$8,000 in attorney fees after he filed and later dropped a temporary restraining order against her.

While Kent Romo told the Weekly she was pleased with the outcome from the March 27 court hearing, she said that ultimately the situation was about more than money.

"The fees that my attorneys and I asked for are fairly nominal," Kent Romo said. "I actually asked my attorneys to simply request a public apology from Ryan and for him to own the terrible untruthful headlines. That is all I wanted. But, he declined."



Ryan Jergensen

At the time of publication, Jergensen had not responded to requests for comment.

In October 2023, a judge granted Jergensen a temporary restraining order against Kent Romo — who is also the wife of current Trustee Peter "Ted" Romo — because he alleged that certain social media posts she made influenced people to send him threatening messages.

He said the messages referenced Kent Romo's claims that Jergensen was allegedly a part of certain hate groups after he and Trustee Linda Hurley voted to approve a controversial flag resolution in September that limits the school and district to only display the state and U.S. flags, effectively banning flags like the LGBTQ Pride flag from school grounds.

"She didn't actually threaten any harm," Kent Romo's attorney Erin Bernstein told the Weekly, noting that her client was protected by the First Amendment.

"We made our points to the court that people are free to advocate for the policies that they want, and they

don't have to use perfect language to do it," Bernstein added. "An elected official can't take out a restraining order against someone for saying that they think your policies are wrong or bad."

Bernstein — who is an attorney at Bradley, Bernstein, Sands LLP, a small, woman-owned law firm based in Oakland — said she showed up at the first hearing for the restraining order with the intent to not file any paperwork and have Jergensen drop the order.

But when he didn't, Bernstein said she had to go through filing the paperwork to get the whole thing dismissed — which cost Kent Romo in attorney fees.

Then in a November court hearing Jergensen decided to drop the restraining order and not pursue a permanent order because Bernstein's



Denise Kent Romo

firm was threatening him with lawsuits that would pose "extreme financial pressure" on his family.

Since then, Kent Romo's legal team has been working on getting her attorney fees reimbursed by Jergensen, which Bernstein said is common in these types of cases under California law so long as it's reasonable.

Kent Romo said that when the judge sided with her, she felt an "enormous sense of relief and confidence in the legal system."

She also said that beyond winning the legal fight, her goal was to defend her character.

"(Jergensen) and CM Affairs ran a successful smear campaign against me for a short while," Kent Romo said. "Untruthful headlines and Ryan's interviews left me and

my family reeling from grim targeted voicemails, messages and social media comment trolls."

She continued, "Ryan underestimated me as I believe he has underestimated others with whom he has attempted to silence with similar bullying tactics. I was resolved to fight back and challenge Ryan's disinformation, intimidation and the hurt that he caused me and my family. I also wanted the community to feel empowered to speak out without fear of retribution by an elected official."

Bernstein said they are waiting for the official court order to be mailed to them this week so that they can then send it to Jergensen. She said she has no reason to believe Jergensen won't pay the fees and that she hopes it doesn't get to that point. ■

VAN SCHAACK

Continued from Page 5

part of what makes Livermore so special."

Prusso spoke highly about Van Schaack's long career in Livermore, noting he "navigated us through so much, including challenges like the pandemic and state budget shortfalls, and has put us on a great path for continued success. We will greatly miss his wisdom and steady leadership, but respect and support his desire to enjoy other aspects of his life in retirement."



Chris Van Schaack

Starting with LVJUSD as a high school teacher and baseball coach in 1994, Van Schaack would go on to rise through the administrative ranks, working as an elementary school principal and high school principal before moving to the district office as director of student services and special education.

He was promoted to assistant superintendent of administrative services in 2011 and then to deputy superintendent in 2017. The school board picked Van Schaack as the new superintendent in the summer of 2022 to succeed Kelly Bowers, who stepped down after 12 years in the top post.


"Chris takes a data-driven approach to decision making and has led our district with a clear, steady hand," LVJUSD Board Clerk Kristie

Wang stated. "We have truly benefited from his leadership and have been fortunate to have him hold so many important roles in our district. We wish him all the best."

Looking ahead to filling the upcoming superintendent vacancy, district officials said the board would begin the search planning process soon.

"Once determined, a timeline of next steps will be made available on the LVJUSD website and will include an opportunity for parents, staff, students, and community members to share their thoughts on the characteristics and vision they want to see considered when selecting a new superintendent," district officials said in Friday's statement. "The Board hopes to have new leadership in place on or around July 1." ■

THE CITY OF PLEASANTON



HIGHLIGHTS

Planning Commission Meeting

Wednesday, April 10, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.

The meeting will be held at the City of Pleasanton Council Chamber – 200 Old Bernal Ave. and streamed live at <https://www.youtube.com/user/TheCityofPleasanton>.

- P23-0599, Kelley Rutchena, 5976 & 5994 West Las Positas Boulevard - Application for Design Review and a Vesting Tentative Map for a housing development that includes the demolition of two existing commercial buildings and construction of 146 multi-family residential units with 38 accessory dwelling units with associated site improvements located at 5976 & 5994 West Las Positas Boulevard

Youth Commission Meeting

Wednesday, April 10, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.

The meeting will be held at the Remillard Conference Room, Public Works Center – 3333 Busch Road

- Review and Comment on the New Ptownlife.org Website
- Review and Discuss Youth in Government Day 2024

To explore more about Pleasanton, visit us at www.cityofpleasantonca.gov

Livermore city clerk elevated to deputy city manager

Weber appointed to new role in city's executive team

By CIERRA BAILEY

The city of Livermore is set to kick off recruitment for a new city clerk, following Marie Weber's ascension to deputy city manager.

"Over the last year, Marie Weber has been transitioning into her role as Deputy City Manager. Debbie Elam recently became the Acting City Clerk to take on the duties of City Clerk while the city is in the process of completing a recruitment for a new City Clerk. The recruitment process has not started," officials said in an email to Livermore Vine.

In her new role, Weber is responsible for oversight of the communications division, the

city clerk division and administrative support in the city manager's office.

Additionally, she oversees legislative affairs, grant management, and other large projects and programs as needed by the city. The deputy city manager is a member of the city of Livermore executive team and represents the city manager's office in interdepartmental, community and professional matters as required.

According to the online job description, the



Marie Weber

position carries a monthly salary of between \$13,684.77 and \$17,105.96.

In her role as city clerk, Weber recently faced criticism from some community members after she did not process Move Eden Housing's referendum petition regarding the 130-unit affordable housing complex planned for downtown Livermore two years ago.

The referendum challenges the Livermore City Council's approval of an amended disposition, development and loan agreement with the developer Eden Housing, Inc. In July 2022, when the referendum petition was submitted to Weber, she determined the council's action approving the DDLA as administrative, not

legislative, and therefore not eligible for a challenge by referendum based on the advice of city attorney Jason Alcala and special counsel.

Move Eden Housing deemed Weber's actions unlawful and filed a lawsuit against the city. Although the group's case was denied in Alameda County Superior Court, the issue resurfaced last month after the state appellate court reversed the trial court's decision.

Currently, the position Weber holds is listed as "Deputy City Manager/City Clerk" and Weber is still listed as city clerk on the city's website; however, officials said that the city clerk duties will be removed once the transition is complete with the human resources department. ■

Department rebrands to AC Health

New shortened name aims to improve messaging, accessibility

By NICOLE GONZALES

In an effort to streamline communication and better serve its diverse community, the Alameda County Health Care Services Agency has announced a name change to Alameda County Health.

This announcement marks a pivotal rebranding initiative for the agency, which serves over 1.7 million residents in the county.

"AC Health plays a vital role in supporting and protecting the health of Alameda County residents, and this is about making sure our residents clearly understand where

to go for the services and resources that can literally save their lives," said Keith Carson, Alameda County District 5 supervisor and Health Committee chair.

With headquarters located in San Leandro, Alameda County Health has long been a cornerstone of public health initiatives in the region.

The agency offers resources for public health, behavioral health, environmental health, emergency medical services and housing. Its network spans over 300 local organizations throughout the county.

"The new brand will make it easier to share information and messaging with our communities, and ultimately make it easier for people to understand all that the County offers through AC Health," Carson added.

The decision to rebrand stems from a commitment to provide accessible and clear information to the public, AC Health said in the announcement.

Over the next year, the agency will gradually transition its communications, building signage, and official documents to reflect the new name. Additionally, a new website is slated to launch this summer outlining AC Health's accessibility goals and other vital information.

"While our name and logos are changing, the structure and strength of our agency and our commitment to everyone we serve remains the same," AC Health Director Colleen Chawla said in the announcement.

"A lot of coordination happens across our departments and programs to deliver high quality services and improve health outcomes

for Alameda County residents. This new brand will help highlight those connections more clearly and for our clients and communities," she added.

Several departments within Alameda County Health have also updated their names to align with the overarching rebranding effort. The following changes began March 27:

AC Health, Behavioral Health Department, formerly Alameda County Behavioral Health Care Services.

AC Health, Environmental Health Department, formerly Alameda County Department of Environmental Health.

AC Health Public Health Department, formerly Alameda County Public Health Department.

AC Health, Housing and Homelessness Services, formerly Office of Homeless Care and Coordination.

AC Health, Healthy Schools and Communities, formerly Center for Healthy Schools and Communities.

Alameda County EMS Agency and HealthPAC will retain their current names.

To find out more about AC Health and its services, visit <https://health.alameda-countyca.gov/>. ■

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FIREWORKS

Continued from Page 5

the points made on the city's website.

In his own effort to help clear up some misinformation on social media, City Councilmember Evan Branning shared a post on Facebook further elaborating on the safety concerns that led to the difficult decision to end the fireworks. He noted that the event was moved from downtown last year to Robertson Park for similar reasons.

Last year, the city told Livermore Vine that they expected the venue change to "offer better crowd management and safety."

According to Branning's post, however, some issues still surfaced.

"We had high hopes for the Robertson Park as it used to be there. Unfortunately, the number of attendees far outstripped the capacity of our roads and parking," Branning said. "There were a number of minor incidents which raised red flags, if they had been major incidents police or paramedics would have been unable to respond. Because of that we needed to look to an alternative. I'm a big fan of fireworks and the 4th, but we couldn't find a working solution for fireworks that did not present a major safety risk," he added.

While the city has not yet announced details of the reimagined celebration and what it will entail, the statement on their website said it will be "a daytime celebration for the Livermore community at the Livermore Municipal Airport, potentially with additional opportunities in various city neighborhoods." Additional information will follow "in the coming weeks," officials said.

The decision for the city to no longer host a fireworks display also follows the council's vote last year to adopt an ordinance that added prohibitions and penalties for residents using fireworks to the existing municipal code.

The amended ordinance, which went into effect last June, includes a social hosting provision that makes hosts liable for the actions of their guests on their property — or within the public right-of-way adjacent to their property — when an individual violator cannot be identified. Officers can then issue an administrative citation not to exceed \$500 to the homeowner or person in charge of the gathering. Additional penalties could also include cost recovery fees related to the law enforcement response.

Officials said they will share updates about this year's July 4 festivities on social media and a webpage available at livermoreca.gov. ■

Community Pulse

POLICE BULLETIN

Police: Resident finds live hand grenades while cleaning garage

Pleasanton police said Monday a resident stopped by the police station last week to turn in three live hand grenades.

On March 27, a man walked into the station's front lobby with a box containing the hand grenades. The man was cleaning out his garage and discovered the grenades and some ammunition, police said.

Police said the grenades were live. Officers called the Alameda County Sheriff's Office's Bomb Squad to come and take the grenades for destruction. A police spokesperson said it wasn't clear how the grenades got into the garage.

Pleasanton police say any residents finding dangerous explosives shouldn't touch them, but instead should call them at 925-931-5100.

—Tony Hicks, BCN



COURTESY PPD

Pleasanton police said anyone who finds dangerous explosives should avoid touching them and call the department at 925-931-5100.

In other news

• A seventh staff member at the federal women's prison in Dublin has been sentenced after being convicted of sexual abuse, the U.S. Attorney's Office said last week.

Nakie Nunley, 48, of Fairfield, has been given six years in federal prison after being convicted of four counts of sexual abuse of a ward, five counts of abusive sexual contact and one count of making false statements in connection to an investigation into wide-spread sexual abuse that occurred at the Federal Correctional Institution in Dublin.

Nunley, who pleaded guilty, abused five women when he was assigned to supervise prisoners who worked for UNICOR, a trade name for federal prison industries, prosecutors said on March 27. He admitted that between March 2020 and November 2021, he engaged in sex acts with two prisoners, including having oral and vaginal sex with one victim and digitally penetrating another victim on multiple occasions. He also had sexual contact

with three other prisoners.

In addition to taking advantage of prisoners under his watch, he retaliated against any that complained about his conduct, prosecutors said. One victim approached Nunley about his conduct with another prisoner, and he threatened to have her transferred to another facility, where she would lose her job.

"Similarly, Nunley admitted that he told another victim that if she wanted to keep her job at UNICOR, she needed to pull down her underwear and bend over," prosecutors said. "When she complied, Nunley slapped her buttocks several times."

Nunley also lied to federal investigators about his crimes, according to prosecutors.

The sex abuse scandal has unleashed indictments, convictions, plea agreements and sentences involving employees at the low-security prison, which one federal judge called a "cesspool."

Multiple ex-employees of the prison have now been sentenced, including former warden Ray Garcia, who was convicted in 2022 and sentenced to nearly six years in prison for sexually abusing three inmates and lying about it, and the prison's former chaplain, James Highhouse, who pleaded guilty in February 2022 and was sentenced to seven years in prison for sexually abusing an inmate from May 2018 to February 2019.

On March 15, a U.S. district judge ordered the appointment of a special master to oversee the federal prison, declaring it a "dysfunctional mess." The order came just four days after the appointment of a new warden and a sweep of the facility by FBI agents.

—Katy St. Clair, BCN

• Deploying more officers on BART trains resulted in increased felony arrests over the past year, according to the transit agency.

BART saw a 62% increase in arrests last year compared to 2022. The jump coincides with recruitment efforts of new officers and a strategic increase in the presence of safety personnel aboard trains, according to a statement from the agency on March 28.

Officers logged a total of 726 felony arrests in 2023, a sharp rise from the 448 recorded in the preceding year. They confiscated 49 illegal firearms, the highest number recovered by BART police in a single year since at least 2003.

BART Police Chief Kevin Franklin said the impact is the result of deploying more patrol officers on trains, noting that riders have reported noticing a palpable difference in safety. The latest quarterly performance review revealed that 20% of riders reported seeing BART police during their trips, an increase from the previous record of 17% in the preceding quarter.

The most frequent crime on BART is disturbing others and other code of conduct violations, according to a BART spokesperson.

BART employs around 214 police officers, around the same number they have had for years, the spokesperson said, but the arrests are due to the increased presence on trains.

In a bid to address staffing shortages, they have implemented a 22% salary increase for officers to be competitive with other law enforcement agencies in the Bay Area.

—Ruth Dusseault, BCN

• Nine men and women with ties to the Bay Area have been granted executive clemency by Gov. Gavin

Newsom in cases throughout the state.

Eight received pardons, part of 37 given statewide, the governor's office said last Friday. Newsom also approved 18 commutations, including one linked to the Bay Area.

While clemency recognizes an individual's self-development and accountability after conviction, it doesn't forgive or minimize the harm they caused, the governor's office said in a statement.

The nine grants of clemency were each based on evidence that the individuals have "been living an upright life," according to the governor's office. They arose from cases including one in Alameda County and another in Contra Costa County, as described by the governor's office:

Norma Stoker-Mtume was sentenced in Alameda County in 1978 to two years in prison for possession of an illegal weapon. In 2007, a Los Angeles County court granted a petition for a Certificate of Rehabilitation in recognition of "substantial contributions that she has made through service to her community and internationally."

Steven Conway was 22 when he was sentenced in 1988 by a Contra Costa County court to three years of probation for burglary and attempted burglary. The act of clemency recognizes "the work he has done since to transform himself" and his service in the U.S. Army.

A pardon does not expunge or erase a conviction. A commutation modifies a sentence, making an incarcerated person eligible to go before the Board of Parole Hearings for a hearing. ■

—Bay City News Service

POLICE REPORT

The Pleasanton Police Department made the following information available.

March 31

Theft

- 11:18 a.m., 5500 block of Johnson Drive; auto theft
- 11:36 a.m., 7000 block of Johnson Drive; auto theft
- 1:23 p.m., 5800 block of Gibraltar Drive; auto theft
- 3 p.m., 5800 block of Owens Drive; bicycle theft

Vehicle tampering

- 11:26 a.m. on the 11900 block of Dublin Canyon Road

Warrant arrest

- 2:17 p.m. on the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive

DUI

- 7:22 p.m. at First and Ray streets

March 30

Shoplifting

- 1:20 p.m. on the 000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road
- 2:23 p.m. on the 000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road
- 8:41 p.m. on the 1400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

March 29

Theft

- 11:38 a.m. on the 6700 block of Bernal Avenue
- 5:02 p.m., 4400 block of Black Avenue; theft from auto

Alcohol violation

- 1:07 p.m. on the 5700 block of Valley Avenue

Assault/battery

- 5:46 p.m. at Main Street and Rose Avenue

March 28

Fraud

- 9:59 a.m. on the 3200 block of Vineyard Avenue

Warrant arrest

- 4:17 p.m. on the 3400 block of Andrews Drive

March 27

Auto theft

- 5:50 a.m. on the 5100 block of Hopyard Road

Vandalism

- 7:19 a.m. on the 5100 block of Hopyard Road

Domestic battery

- 8:34 a.m. on Bernal Avenue

Alcohol violation

- 7:33 p.m. on the 5300 block of Case Avenue

Assault/battery

- 10:40 p.m. on the 5500 block of West Las Positas Boulevard

March 26

Burglary

- 6:24 a.m. on the 5600 block of West Las Positas Boulevard

Theft

- 11:37 a.m., 2700 block of Stoneridge Drive; auto theft
- 1:14 p.m., 6000 block of Johnson Drive; theft from auto
- 2:13 p.m., 1000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; theft from auto
- 7:36 p.m., 1400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting

Assault/battery

- 6:34 p.m. at Main and Neal streets

March 25

Burglary

- 12:23 p.m. on the 5700 block of Johnson Drive

Trespassing/prowling

- 1:23 p.m. on the 5500 block of West Las Positas Boulevard

Auto theft

- 1:58 p.m. on the 2700 block of Stoneridge Drive

Vandalism

- 4:01 p.m. on the 900 block of Sunny Brook Way

Robbery

- 5:57 p.m. on the 2400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

March 24

Drug violation

- 4:03 a.m. on the 2000 block of Santa Rita Road

Theft

- 10:29 a.m., 7000 block of Johnson Drive; theft from auto
- 1:05 p.m. on the 1300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road
- 1:35 p.m., 7000 block of Pleasanton Avenue; theft from auto
- 5:53 p.m., 1400 block of Stoneridge Road; shoplifting

DUI

- 5:31 p.m. at Apache Drive and West Las Positas Boulevard



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PLEASANTON'S

STATE OF THE CITY

Mayor Brown reflects on past year's achievements while providing updates on projects and ch

STORY AND PHOTOS BY CHRISTIAN TRUJANO

Mayor Karla Brown delivered the annual State of the City speech last week at the Palm Event Center, where she went over Pleasanton's various achievements from last year such as the implementation of a new comprehensive strategic plan as well as addressed upcoming financial challenges related to water and the city's budget.

The Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce hosted the March 26 event as it does every year and had hundreds of city employees, sponsors and Pleasanton residents listen to Brown's various updates both locally and regionally.

Brown kicked off her speech by talking about the ONE Pleasanton five-year strategic plan that the City Council approved last October. Among other goals, the citywide plan mainly aimed to replace the old two-year process for identifying and prioritizing public projects, programs and policy initiatives.

Some of the other goals defined in the strategic plan, Brown said, were to help better fund the city's future, optimize the city government at an organizational level, invest more in the environment, better safeguard the city and help build a community "where everyone belongs".

"ONE Pleasanton represents our commitment to safety, progress and a thriving community," Brown said.

Another big-ticket item that the mayor touched on in her speech was housing.

One of the first main council decisions in 2023 was the adoption of the sixth Housing Element, which is where

the city looked at zoning properties for housing developments in order to meet the state-mandated Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) of 5,965 new units — 2,758 of which are targeted toward lower-income households.

This is a process that takes place every eight years and Brown said it is designed to address fair housing for the needs of all Pleasanton residents and to keep making Pleasanton a desirable place for everyone to live.

She also said that the city is helping to meet the housing needs in other ways such as financially supporting first-time homebuyers through partnerships with regional nonprofits Echo Housing and the Bay Area Affordable Homeownership Alliance.

She also talked about how the city has contributed funds to Tri-Valley REACH, which helps create safe, affordable housing specifically for adults with developmental disabilities, so the nonprofit can create accessory dwelling units in Pleasanton.

Brown made sure to also not leave out other nonprofits that the city helped through various grant funding programs.

"I am so proud that the City Council approved more than \$1.2 million to organizations including ... Axis Community Health, CityServe of the Tri-Valley, Hively, Goodness Village, Open Heart Kitchen, and let's not forget Sunflower Hill to name a few," Brown said. "These nonprofits focus on activities that benefit the community's most vulnerable."

The last nonprofit that Brown

highlighted was Tri-Valley Haven and how the city had joined with other neighboring cities to support the organization's plans to rebuild its domestic violence shelter and increase its capacity to house people by 50%.

Staying on the topic of housing people, Brown mentioned the Pleasanton Police Department's efforts to reduce homelessness and how the department created its award-winning alternate response unit, which was fully implemented last year.

The unit pairs police officers with licensed clinicians to respond to mental health crisis calls.

Brown said that in its first year of operation, the unit responded to more than 360 calls for service, which freed up police resources and helped reduce the number of emergency psychiatric holds by nearly 50%

'OUR CITY IS FACING TOUGH DECISIONS IN THE NEAR FUTURE AS COSTS CONTINUE TO RISE, AND CITY REVENUES HAVE NOT KEPT UP.'

Karla Brown,
Mayor of Pleasanton

She also said the unit helped place more than 50% of unhoused people in Pleasanton into permanent or long-term housing, which is why the League of California Cities awarded the city the Helen Putnam Award for Excellence back in September.

In regard to businesses in Pleasanton, Brown updated the room about the Economic Development Strategic Plan that the council approved back in August.

The plan aims to increase the city's fiscal strength and help support local businesses by outlining key initiatives, priorities and benchmark goals over the course of the 2024-28 fiscal years to help attract more business development interest and ensure the businesses that are already in Pleasanton stay.

Additionally, Brown provided an update on the Johnson Drive Economic Development Zone project, which includes the recent opening of the two new SpringHill Suites and TownePlace Suites hotels on Johnson Drive.

Another major part of the project is the construction of Pleasanton's first-ever Costco, which Brown said that



Hundreds of city staff, business representatives, company sponsors and residents taste the food that was provided at Pleasanton's State of the City event on March 26, which was highlighted by Mayor Karla Brown's speech.



Left: Mayor Karla Brown and City Manager Gerry Beaudin stand onstage as Pleasanton is awarded the Helen Putnam Award for Excellence on Sept. 21. Below: Brown poses in the mayor's office at city hall last week.

'ONE PLEASANTON REPRESENTS OUR COMMITMENT TO SAFETY, PROGRESS AND A THRIVING COMMUNITY.'

Karla Brown,
Mayor of Pleasanton



2024

challenges ahead

while the city has dealt with weather and infrastructure challenges, construction has begun and the city is anticipating it will open later this year.

"While there have been delays for the installation of power and electric utilities, they are scheduled to open this year," Brown said.

Another highlight Brown touched on was how the city will be sponsoring a concert on June 21 to celebrate the city turning 130 this year and how she is glad the Pleasanton Downtown Association continued to bring back its Concert in the Park series this summer. One major aspect of that was also how the city is in the design phase to build a brand new bandstand at the Lions Wayside Park.

Some of the other positive highlights Brown included in her speech were how Meadowlark Dairy was recently named one of the top 10 ice cream shops in the country; how the Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department managed a wide array of emergencies from last January's winter storms to rescuing a 1-month-old baby who was found unresponsive back in July; and how the city is continuing to optimize its organization by adopting a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Action Plan.

But it wasn't until near the end of the speech that Brown began talking about some of the difficulties that the city had to face in 2023 and the challenges it will have to overcome in the future.

Brown talked about how the city had to implement water conservation measures and had to make emergency improvements to the water system in response to the ongoing PFAS

issue that has been plaguing the city for the past few years.

PFAS, otherwise known as forever chemicals, were detected in the city's groundwater supply several years ago and had forced the city to shut down three of its wells, which typically make up about 20% of the city's water supply.

The emergency actions that the city took has allowed staff to begin work on the construction of two new groundwater wells that will be free of PFAS chemicals, which Brown said the city is in talks with the Zone 7 Water Agency to be a possible partner in that project.

"These are large projects and can take up to three or four years to complete, and at a hefty cost, estimated at \$25 million," Brown said. "I have personally worked with our state and federal legislators to secure supplemental grants for our new wells, but we will need more funding."

Apart from funding those two new wells, Brown also talked about how the city is also facing financial challenges in the city's budget and how staff will be looking at reducing expenses while increasing revenue.

She talked about how the city finalized its two-year budget last year and developed a 10-year infrastructure and facilities replacement plan, which will help the city save money in order to fund large capital purchases like an underground pipe replacement, a \$1.2 million fire engine, new playground equipment and an updated police training facility.

But even with that balanced budget, Brown said that the city's top three sources of funding — which are

property, sales and hotel taxes — are not increasing while its expenses have continued to grow due to things like inflation, increased pension liability and labor agreements, and the need for infrastructure maintenance and replacement.

"Our city is facing tough decisions in the near future as costs continue to rise, and city revenues have not kept up," Brown said. "Without significant revenue increases, we will not be able to address a severe and increasing budget deficit."

She also said that the PFAS issues forcing the city to buy 100% of its water supply from Zone 7 hasn't helped.

That, coupled with the need to modify, repair and replace old infrastructure in its water system, also forced the city to increase its water rates last year, which was one of the more contentious items the council had to discuss over the last half of 2023.

She added that even with the increase, which was supposed to help

balance out the city's water enterprise fund, securing a reliable water supply like the city is doing with the proposed two new wells will still require a lot more money.

As for the overall budget shortfalls the city is facing, Brown said that they are gathering community input on placing a half-cent sales tax increase measure on the Nov. 5 election ballot in order to address those shortfalls.

She said that the tax increase, which would be the first time the city has ever considered a local revenue measure, could provide about \$10 million of additional funding to the city every year.

She pointed out that items like groceries, prescription medicine and medical devices — among other things — would be exempt from the sales tax.

"If a half-a-cent sales tax increase is approved by voters, a \$100 purchase would increase by 50 cents," Brown said. "Would you pay 50 cents to ensure the city is well maintained now and into the future?"

She said that while a decision hasn't been made yet on actually placing the revenue measure on the ballot, the city wants to hear more from the community, which is why everyone at the event was given a card with a QR code to scan that led them to a survey regarding the sales tax measure.

Brown's full 2024 State of the City address will be viewable every day for a month at via TV30 on cable television and streaming online. For the full viewing schedule, visit TV30's website at tv30.org. ■



Brown poses with Larry the Cow, the official mascot of the Meadowlark Dairy, which was recently named one of the Top 10 ice cream shops in the nation.

Spring Has Sprung at the Bankhead

The Byrds' Roger McGuinn, Grammy winner Paula Cole, hometown hero Jason Lyle Black and more on the schedule

BY NICOLE GONZALES

As spring comes into bloom, Livermore Valley Arts is set to captivate audiences with an array of scheduled performances at the Bankhead Theater. From country classics to a folk-rock legend to Grammy-recognized artists and a local favorite, the upcoming schedule aims to cater to a wide range of tastes and preferences.

Kicking off the series next Wednesday (April 10) is Pam Tillis and her acoustic trio. The daughter of famed country music artist Mel Tillis, she inherited her father's talent and passion for music. Raised in Nashville, Tillis honed her craft through various avenues, from talent shows to church performances.

She has written for a number of large names in the music industry, including for Chaka Khan, Gloria Gaynor and Conway Twitty. With three Country Music Awards under her belt, she promises an evening of soul-stirring melodies and heartfelt lyrics.

Following closely next Friday (April 12) is "Songs and Stories" with Roger McGuinn, frontman of

the legendary band the Byrds.

McGuinn has been regarded as one of the most influential artists in modern music history, as he pioneered the fusion of rock and folk with the Byrds in the 1960s.

"McGuinn didn't just make music — he made history. He was on the leading edge, combining the rock beat of the Beatles with the folk sensibilities of Bob Dylan to create the genre known as folk-rock," LVA officials said. "We are honored to get to present an enduring music legend."

Then on April 20, "An Evening with Paula Cole" brings a blend of blues, jazz, folk and pop to the Bankhead stage. A Grammy-winning artist, Cole's music often dives into complex topics of social justice and revolution.

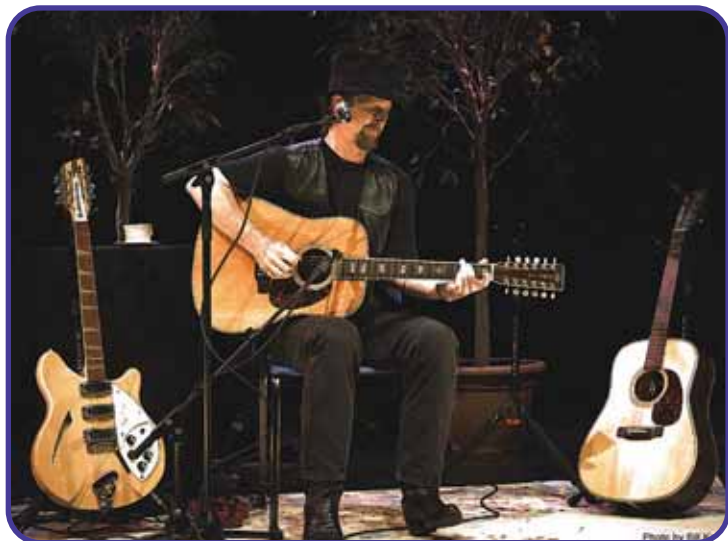
LVA representatives said Cole's latest album "Lo" is a testament to her talent and unapologetic honesty.

On May 10, Roy Rogers and The Delta Rhythm Kings take the stage with their blend of blues and rock.

Described as smooth yet powerful, Rogers' mastery of the slide



Above: Pam Tillis and her acoustic trio will take to the Bankhead Theater stage on April 10. (Contributed photo). Below: Hometown hero Jason Lyle Black will be back in Livermore on May 12. (Contributed photo).



Roger McGuinn, former frontman of the Byrds, is performing in Livermore on April 12.

BILL KOLLAR / COURTESY LVA

guitar and his band's performances have earned them eight Grammy nominations. From studio recordings to live shows, Rogers and his band promise an unforgettable experience for fans of blues-infused music.

Closing out the season on May 12 is Livermore's own Jason Lyle Black with "From Blockbusters to Broadway 100 Hits."

LVA described him as a hometown hero.

"In his live shows, Black takes audiences on a journey through numerous musical styles, from Broadway classics to iconic movies and classical masterpieces, all interwoven with Black's comedic stories," LVA reps said. "Jason Lyle Black is an award-winning piano entertainer whose clever arrangements, fun stories, and onstage charm have won countless fans throughout the world."

For tickets and more information about upcoming shows, visit livermorearts.org or call 925-373-6800. ■



‘Animaniacs in Concert’ to bring laughter, nostalgia

Performers behind original show and reboot, plus other 1990s animated hits, coming to Bankhead

By JEANITA LYMAN

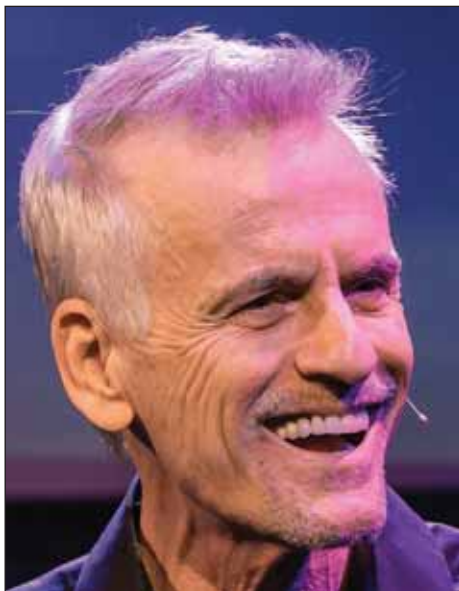
Livermore is among the next stops for the cast of the international “Animaniacs in Concert” tour, with one of the beloved animated show’s main voice actors and its composer stepping out from behind the scenes to take to the stage at the Bankhead Theater.

Rob Paulsen — voice of the “Animaniacs” characters Yakko and Pinky — and the show’s composer Randy Rogel are set to give Tri-Valley audiences a chance to look behind the curtain of the show and others in their extensive repertoires with their upcoming stop in Livermore on Friday (April 5).

“I notice wherever we go there’s always tribute bands, but we’re not that,” Rogel told Embarcadero Media Foundation. “We’re the guys who actually did it.”

What they did goes beyond their roles in the production of the hit 1990s cartoon “Animaniacs” and reprising those positions in the 2020 reboot of the show, with extensive careers that include working on “Batman: The Animated Series” on Rogel’s part and the original “Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles” cartoon on Paulsen’s part.

“I started working with Warner Brothers on ‘Batman,’” Rogel said. “I was the first writer on that staff for their new series and it grew quite rapidly. So I was working on that and then I saw the guys across the hall — they were developing a new show called ‘Animaniacs’ and I said I should work on that.”



Rob Paulsen

The two Emmy winners got their start in animation during the height of the resurgence of children’s animation in the late 1980s and early 1990s, a period in the genre widely regarded, Paulsen noted, as essentially serving as a series of 30-minute toy commercials, with major titles such as “Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles,” “Batman” and “Animaniacs” generating a majority of their revenue from associated merchandise, he emphasized that the value of the shows were far more than commercial to many who grew up with them.



Randy Rogel

“It’s quite remarkable to see men and women get tearful when they hear these characters, and it’s a pure expression of joy that has nothing to do with ratings or merchandise,” Paulsen said. “It’s really cool to see it.”

“Irrespective of venue or how many people are there or aren’t there, we will inevitably meet someone who will — through tears, or sometimes a little shaky or a little wistful, will tell us highly personal stories,” he continued.

Examples of these stories include the popular shows and characters servings as a source

of stability, comfort and hope for children during periods where other sources of those feelings might be missing, such as in the foster system or in tumultuous family systems.

“This person would say ‘as long as there was a television, this show gave me joy that I was able to share with my family,’ and they know that it means way more than a T-shirt,” Paulsen said. “How on earth can we quantify that kind of a compliment?”

Paulsen and Rogel said that a large portion of the tour’s attendees consist of people who grew up during the early 1990s when the original “Animaniacs” was airing — many of whom are now in their 40s. The other major demographic at their live shows and focus of their work continues to be children though, who are familiar with “Animaniacs” after being introduced to the original series by their parents, watching the 2020 reprise, or both.

“It’s really hip, and so that genius was absolutely brought to bear on a whole bunch of kids who now are 40 and they get to see the same love of this goofy humor and really brilliant script writing through their children’s eyes,” Paulsen said. “But they get it in a different context now.”

Tri-Valley audiences can see Paulsen on vocals and Rogel on piano for the upcoming Livermore stop on “Animaniacs in Concert” at 8 p.m. on Friday (April 5) in the Bankhead Theater at 2400 First St. in Livermore. Tickets and more information are available at livermorearts.org. ■

Arts Council to present Paris in Pleasanton

Nonprofit hosting fundraiser where residents can get taste of France for one night

By CHRISTIAN TRUJANO

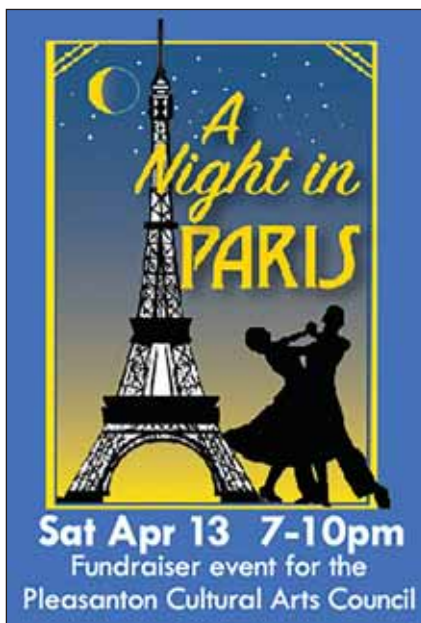
The romantic sounds of the accordion and salivating smells of classic French cuisine will be filling the air of the Veterans Memorial Building on April 13 as the Pleasanton Cultural Arts Council gets set to host its first-ever “A Night in Paris” fundraiser.

The event will feature live entertainment, classic French cooking, vendors, art displays and a silent auction, according to a press release from the council.

“Attendees of the event will be able to take a trip to Paris without leaving Pleasanton enjoying an April evening immersed in a Parisian Street Scene filled with artists, shops for souvenirs, the sounds of the accordion playing traditional French tunes and the dance music of The CoolTones Big Band,” PCAC board president Kelly Cousins told the Weekly.

The goal will be to transport guests to a romantic street scene in Paris where they can take in the art, dance to the music and sample the French cuisine that will be prepared by On the Vine — a catering company based in Livermore.

Attendees will start off with an international cheese charcuterie and then move on to the main dishes,



which include coq au vin, ratatouille spring vegetable stew and cassoulet. Desserts, wine and beer will also be made available.

“Whether a Francophile or simply looking for a memorable night out, this event promises to be an unforgettable experience,” the press release states. Attendees are encouraged to come dressed in their chicest attire and embrace the spirit of Paris.

All of the proceeds from the event will go toward funding the council’s free youth and family oriented arts

events and programs, as well as all the other work the PCAC does to keep the arts alive in Pleasanton, Cousins said.

One example of how the PCAC’s works toward supporting youth in the arts is the annual Youth Excellence in the Arts (YEA!) Awards.

The YEA! Awards feature several Pleasanton high school students who show off their visual, literary and music skills for cash prizes ranging from \$100 to \$500.

According to a past PCAC press release, the awards were created in 1997 to “honor the artistic accomplishments and talents of Pleasanton High School students in the field of music, literary and visual arts categories.”

This year’s top three students were chosen from each category and the PCAC presented their awards on March 17 at the Valley Community Church.

That’s why in order to keep these awards and other art-centered programs alive in Pleasanton, the PCAC continues to rely on fundraising events like the “A Night in Paris” event.

“These programs and other events help us recognize how vital the arts are as an expression of the human spirit especially for our youth,”



Leyuan Zhang, a cellist who earned third place in the Youth Excellence in the Arts (YEA!) Awards, performs during the award reception ceremony on March 17 at the Valley Community Church.

Cousins said.

The event will take place from 7-10 p.m. next Saturday (April 13) at the Veterans Memorial Building,

located at 301 Main St. in Pleasanton. Tickets are limited and can be found at the PCAC’s website at pleasantonarts.org. ■

Holiday Fund raises \$51,710 for local nonprofits

The Pleasanton Weekly and our entire Embarcadero Media East Bay Division are delighted to confirm that our 2023-24 Holiday Fund raised \$51,710 last fall and winter to benefit 10 crucial nonprofits in the Tri-Valley.

A heartfelt thank you to all of the readers, businesses and community organizations who donated to our annual giving campaign that supports core safety-net services like food, health care, housing and education.

The funds, split evenly among our beneficiaries, were distributed to the nonprofits in recent weeks, and our editorial director Jeremy Walsh and editor Cierra Bailey joined representatives from each group for a ceremonial check presentation last week at the Tri-Valley Nonprofit Alliance's CommonPoint Nonprofit Center in Livermore.

"We are so proud and humbled to be able to galvanize community support and awareness for your important causes through our Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund," Walsh said. "As we begin our journey as a new journalism nonprofit, the Embarcadero Media Foundation, we are inspired by what you all do each and every day to impact the residents of the Tri-Valley in such tangible ways."

The 2023-24 Holiday Fund beneficiaries were Axis Community Health, CityServe of the Tri-Valley, Culinary Angels, Goodness Village, Hope Hospice, Open Heart Kitchen, Pleasanton Partnerships in Education (PPIE), Sunflower Hill, Tri-Valley REACH and Valley Humane Society.

Because of the 501(c)(3) status of our own foundation, which managed the fundraising campaign, every single dollar donated went directly to the recipient organizations with all contributions fully tax deductible as well as eligible for corporate matching where applicable.

At CityServe, the donation of



CHUCK DECKERT

Representatives of the Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund beneficiary nonprofits and Embarcadero Media Foundation celebrate the distribution of this year's donations.

\$5,171 will directly help subsidize 360 podiatry appointments for seniors through the nonprofit's BeWell initiative, according to CEO Christine Beitsch-Bahmani.

"I am deeply grateful to the generous donors for their invaluable support in funding our upcoming foot care initiatives," she said. "Your commitment to ensuring that seniors with fixed or low incomes have access to these vital services is truly commendable."

Tri-Valley REACH, which provides affordable rental housing for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities, is using its Holiday Fund money for the ongoing construction of accessory dwelling units (ADUs) at two properties in Pleasanton.

"For a small nonprofit such as REACH, the social awareness the Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund creates in our community is significant and impactful," said Kay King, REACH board chair. "The exposure we receive from this program and the articles you have published on our behalf, are priceless. We are humbled

by your support."

At Axis, the unrestricted funds will go toward addressing mental health care, particularly among medically underserved populations in the Tri-Valley. A first-time Holiday Fund recipient, Culinary Angels will use the money toward its overall mission of offering organic and nutritious meals to local cancer patients and their caregivers.

Executive Director Kim Curtis of Goodness Village, the other new

beneficiary from this year's campaign, told us, "Your contributions mean the world to us and make a tangible difference in the lives of those experiencing chronic homelessness. With your financial support, Goodness Village can continue its mission to provide supportive housing and end the cycle of homelessness in our community."

For Hope Hospice, the donation will help defray expenses from running its critical grief support and family caregiver programs. Sunflower Hill's hands-on garden program, produce and floral efforts — which provides educational, therapeutic and skills training for adults with special needs — has gotten an important infusion thanks to our readers.

Executive Director John Bost said the funds will help Open Heart Kitchen fulfill its overall goals "to empower more and more people to embrace and build better and healthier futures for themselves and their families."

"We are thrilled to be able to use the fund to support our student and teacher grants, which foster innovative thinking and enrich their educational experiences," PPIE Executive Director Andrea Wilson told us.

And at Valley Humane Society, the

Holiday Fund contribution will go toward food, vaccinations and other necessary supplies to care for homeless cats and dogs in its facility.

"Valley Humane Society is incredibly grateful to serve such a supportive community. We also recognize how special it is to have a local paper that recognizes the need and opportunity to bring people together to impact change," President Melanie Sadek said, adding:

"With adoptions lower than normal, I'll extend a special invitation to our community — please come visit the animals at Valley Humane who are just waiting to be added to your family."

These invaluable services and programs in the Tri-Valley are being bolstered this year because of you, our Holiday Fund donors. Thank you all. ■

Pleasanton Weekly

PUBLISHER

Gina Channell Wilcox, Ext. 1171

EDITORIAL

Editorial Director

Jeremy Walsh, Ext. 1172

Editor

Cierra Bailey, (650) 223-6528

Editor Emeritus

Jeb Bing

Staff Reporters

Nicole Gonzales, Ext. 1175

Jeanita Lyman, Ext. 1179

Christian Trujano, Ext. 1176

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

Real Estate Sales

Carol Cano, Ext. 1173

BUSINESS

Business Associate

Lisa Oefelein, Ext. 1178

Administrative Associate

Carolyn Chan, Ext. 1174

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

LETTERS

What does July 4th really mean?

This past week the news dropped that Livermore will no longer hold the long-running July 4th fireworks displays.

The reasons for those changes are explained on the city website and they are compelling. Nevertheless, it is sad when a long-running tradition ends and worth a moment to remember the past.

The fireworks displays have taken place at Robertson Park, the Sunken Gardens, downtown Livermore and even — that one time — at Las Positas College. Some of us remember bringing toddlers who grew into teens and then adults with their own children to ooh and aah at the colors and creativity in the sky.

Yet, in recent years, fire in the sky — no matter how controlled and beautiful — evokes memories of other uncontrolled fires, of skies a strange and terrible orange. And so maybe it is time to reimagine the meaning of July 4th.

On July 4, 1776, the Second Continental Congress unanimously adopted the Declaration of Independence, making the Fourth of July the birthday of the United States.

How do we celebrate birthdays? Taking stock of what we have done in the past year and how we have (or have not) lived up to our values, giving or receiving gifts from loved ones, and celebrating together with a party.

Translating an individual's birthday celebration to celebrating a country's birthday could look like:

- Competitions or performances that focus on the values and themes expressed in the Declaration of Independence, either as aspirations for the future or reflections on the past.
- Giving back to the US through service of some kind.

• And the all-important party with music, food and dance that represents the full range of the American experience.

• Finally, having a place to tell each other individual American stories and, perhaps, keep those tales as a record for the future.

None of the above has the (literal) bang of the fireworks. But perhaps being together to work, play and learn together is a truer way to celebrate the birthday of the United States.

— Trish Munro, former Livermore City Council member (2018-22)

Employment

The Pleasanton Weekly offers employment advertising.

The deadline is Sunday at 11:59 pm.

Visit PleasantonWeekly.com/employment_ads/.

For assistance email LegalNotices@PleasantonWeekly.com.



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By DENNIS MILLER

Foothill swimming sweeps meets against Granada

Also: Falcons boys' volleyball heads into spring break undefeated in league

The Foothill swim team pulled off wins in all four meets against a tough Granada team last week.

The Falcons swept the two varsity meets as well as the boys' and girls' junior varsity meets, getting some great swims in the process.

In the varsity boys' meet, Luka Mijatovic won the 200 freestyle, the 100 free and swam the last leg for the winning 200 free and 400 free relays.

In the 200 free, Mijatovic was followed by Connor Kann and Kaden Wong for the Foothill sweep. The 500 free saw the Falcons finish in the top two spots with Ethan Wang and Phil Lin getting the job done.

Lin also won the 100 butterfly for the Falcons.

Kann, Wang, Lin and Liam Alexander started the meet off right for Foothill, teaming up to win the 200 medley relay.

Alexander, Wong and Cameron

Jones also swam legs in the 200 free. Lin, Wang and Kang swam the other legs of the 400 free.

On the girls' side, Clare Alexander won the 50 free and the 100 free to lead the way.

Chloe Xu was first and Mckinley Scobie was second in the 100 fly. In the 100 backstroke, Kristen Der was the winner, and Scobie was second for Foothill.

The Foothill girls started the meet off strong with the team of Kristen Der, Emerson Muise, Xu and Scobie winning the 200 medley relay.

Xu, Addison Southern, Der and Scobie won the 400 free relay.

In the JV meets, the Falcons also got several great performances.

On the boys' side, the Falcons started things off with a win in the 200 medley relay from the team of Mohamed Aboutaleb, Jason Gadd, James Shirk and Robert Begley.

The Falcons also ended the meet

with a win in the 400 free relay. This time it was Mohamed Aboutaleb, Khaled Aboutaleb, Jared Burnes and Charlie Orr.

Burnes won the 200 free and the 500 free, and Drake Alexander the 100 individual medley. Gadd was the winner in the 100 free. Mohamed Aboutaleb won the 100 back, and Khaled Aboutaleb took the 100 breaststroke.

On the girls' side, Olivia Liu won the 100 IM and later in the meet Jessica Dowling won the 50 free. Sarah Overton took the 500 free, Lauren DuBos the 100 back and Liu the 100 breast.

The team of Liu, DuBos, Lauren Eaton and Dowling took the 200 free relay.

Amador Valley swimming

The Dons took all four meets against Dublin, with the varsity boys winning 123.5-45.5 and the girls



The Foothill Falcons and Amador Valley Dons each had solid weeks in the pool, winning meets ahead of spring break.

winning 115-53.

On the JV side, Amador won 113-57 on the girls' side and 90-80 in the boys' meet.

In the boys' JV meet it all came down to the 400 free relay. Dublin had the first two spots at the end of the third leg, but the Dons Jac Jorgenson turned in a thrilling anchor leg, leading the Dons to a win by six-tenths of a second.

Landon Kenney, Evan Crandall and Gavin Heilig swam the other legs.

Jorgenson also won the 200 free and the 100 breast, and swam a leg on the winning 200 medley relay.

Francesca Lin was a double winner for the varsity girls, winning both the 200 free in 1:58.95 (North Coast Section consideration time) and 100 free in 56.45 (also NCS consideration time).

Cade Vieler was a double winner on the varsity boys' side, winning the 100 fly in 54.38 (NCS consideration time) and 100 back in 54.38 (also NCS consideration time).

Addi Drain (28.04) led the JV girls to a strong 1-2-3 sweep in the 50 free with Dori Selway getting

second (28.57) and Avery Shea getting third (28.79).

Foothill volleyball

The Falcons took two more matches, staying unbeaten in EBAL play with an 8-0 mark heading into spring break.

The week started with a 25-15, 25-12, 25-20 win over Monte Vista.

The highlights came from sophomore Jeremy Sun (12 receptions, 10 kills, 6 digs), senior Noah Mitzenmacher (11 service points, 10 receptions, 5 digs), senior Caden Stedman (8 kills, 1 block) and senior Jason Choi (13 service points).

Foothill into the break with a 25-10, 25-6, 25-12 win at Cal.

This time the highlights came from Josh Salonga (17 assists, 15 service points), Mitzenmacher (18 service points/4 aces), Yun Bae (8 service points/5 aces) and junior Cameron Hitchan (6 kills). ■

Editor's note: Dennis Miller is a contributing sports writer for Embarcadero Media Foundation's East Bay Division. To contact him about his Pleasanton Preps column, email acemag@aol.com.

Local RADD athletes bring home Special Olympics medals

Basketball tournament held in Pleasanton features some 300 players

By JEREMY WALSH

Athletes from the Pleasanton-based T-RADD program earned a slew of medals during the Special Olympics regional basketball tournament played at local schools last month.

With 300 athletes from across Alameda, Contra Costa, Solano and Stanislaus counties competing in Pleasanton on March 23, the T-RADD A team received a silver medal, the B team took bronze in its division and in the

individual skills competition, RADD players won six gold medals, two silvers and one bronze.

"The culmination was a day full of glorious moments with athletes taking what they had learned and demonstrating not only how to play basketball, but also their incredible sportsmanship, energy and respect for the game and every volunteer," T-RADD coach Kay King told the Pleasanton Weekly.

"There is a saying on the back of our coaches' shirts and it says, 'Playing today for an inclusive tomorrow,'" King added. "T-RADD

coaches are beyond proud of this remarkable group of athletes."

The daylong competition featured more than 15 teams playing at Hart Middle School, Harvest Park Middle School and Amador Valley High School, with each team playing three games apiece. The skills events included ball-handling, timed dribbling, bounce and chest passing, and shot-making around the basket.

The event also drew more than 300 local volunteers lending a hand for tasks across the board such as scorekeeping, refereeing, serving

lunch and helping as team escorts, as well as several paramedics and nurses donating their time for as-needed medical services, according to local Special Olympics coordinator Ken Mano.

The next major Special Olympics regional event in Pleasanton will be the annual track-and-field meet on May 18, which has been newly expanded to include swimming and tennis, according to Mano.

For more information about the local program or volunteer opportunities, contact Mano at kenmano@comcast.net. ■



KAY KING

The T-RADD A team celebrates its silver medal at the Special Olympics regional basketball tournament in Pleasanton on March 23.



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Entertainment

ANIMANIACS IN CONCERT Join the voices of the iconic animated Warner Bros. series for the evening as they perform the world-famous songs from the beloved cartoon series backed by the original projected animation. 8 p.m., April 5. Tickets \$45-\$75. Visit livermorearts.org.

DECEMBER '63 This re-creation of a Frankie Valli and The Four Seasons concert will have you reaching for the high notes as the cast and band take you on a musical journey in this one-of-a-kind concert experience. 8 p.m., April 6. Tickets \$45-\$65. Visit livermorearts.org.

NAVA DANCE THEATRE Experience the breathtaking fusion of movement and storytelling in Nava Dance's performance of Rogue Gestures/Foreign Bodies. 3 p.m., April 7. Tickets \$35-\$65. Visit livermorearts.org.

PAM TILLIS ACOUSTIC TRIO Get lost in the intimate setting and immerse yourself in the sweet harmonies of the legendary Pam Tillis and her talented companions for this unforgettable evening of music that will leave you feeling inspired and moved. 7:30 p.m., April 10. Tickets \$40-\$70. Visit livermorearts.org.

HSMC CABARET-PUT ANOTHER DIME IN High School Music Collaborative is here with a selection of Broadway favorites. Put Another Dime In features favorite songs in a musical theater setting. 7:30 p.m., April 12. Tickets \$10. Visit firehousearts.org.

SONGS AND STORIES WITH ROGER MCGUINN Get up close & personal with the magic of Roger McGuinn's live performance of songs and stories and be transported by his legendary songs. With his iconic voice and unparalleled guitar skills, McGuinn is sure to deliver a night you won't forget. 8 p.m., April 12. Tickets \$30-\$40. Visit livermorearts.org.

BUTTERFLIES AND BRAHMS Springtime is for lovers and romantics as Livermore-Amador Symphony presents Butterflies and Brahms. Celebrate springtime with the Symphony. 7:30 p.m., April 13. Tickets \$28-\$42. Visit livermorearts.org.

BRIDGE OVER TROUBLED WATER 2 The Alan Hu Foundation presents a benefit concert of works by Rachmaninoff, Bach and Shostakovich to raise mental health awareness and funds for the Alan Hu Scholarship, 7 p.m., April 14. Tickets \$20 for adults, \$15.00 for Seniors and free for students and children. Trinity Lutheran Church, 1225 Hopyard Road in Pleasanton. Visit alanhufoundation.org.

AN AFTERNOON OR EVENING WITH CLARA BARTON Clara Barton is one of the most famous women in the Civil War era. As a teacher, battlefield nurse, lecturer and president of the American Red Cross, Barton served her nation and her community, tirelessly

dedicating her life to voluntary service. 2 p.m. and 7 p.m., April 16. Firehouse Arts Center. Visit museumonmain.org.

AN EVENING WITH DAVE STAMEY Dave Stamey has been voted seven times Entertainer of the Year, seven times Male Performer of the Year and Five times Songwriter of the Year by the Western Music Association. 7 p.m., April 18. Tickets \$75-\$88. Visit livermorearts.org.

THE SPONGEBOB MUSICAL YOUTH EDITION A one-hour edition of the hit musical, specially tailored for young actors featuring irresistible characters this deep-sea pearl of a show is set to make a splash with audiences young and old. April 19-21; 25-28. Tickets \$10. Amador Theater. Visit firehousearts.org.

MIMI FOX B3 TRIO Honoring the 100th anniversary of Wes Montgomery's birth, guitarist Mimi Fox presents a new project featuring original pieces and finely crafted arrangements of Montgomery's famous compositions. Joining Mimi are Brian Ho on Hammond B3 organ and Lorca Hart on drums. 8 p.m., April 20. Tickets \$20-\$30. Visit firehousearts.org.

Exhibits

AMADOR VALLEY QUILTERS AT ALDEN LANE Out of the Boxers, a friendship group of the Amador Valley Quilters, will host a display of their unique art and challenge quilts at Alden Lane Nursery in Livermore. 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., April 6 and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., April 7. Visit amadorvalleyquilters.org.

TEEN ART EXPO RECEPTION The Livermore community is invited to celebrate the artistic talent of local middle school and high school students who have art on display in the Teen Art Expo exhibit. A prize drawing will be held in which artists will be randomly selected. 7 p.m., April 15. Livermore Civic Center Library.

LIMITED EDITION CHAGALL PRINTS & SYMBOLIC ART On display this spring at the UNCLE Credit Union Art Gallery, this exhibit significantly features twelve lithographs created by artist Marc Chagall (1887-1985), a stunning tribute to a dream of love, friendship and peace among all people. Free and open to the public. Thursdays through Sundays, 1-5 p.m. Through May 19. Bankhead Theater.

IMAGINATION EXPRESSED 2024 The Pleasanton Art League annual showcase of recent works by artists of Pleasanton and the Tri-Valley is on display at the Museum on Main. Visitors can enjoy works produced in a wide variety of media including painting, watercolor, colored pencil, photography, printing, ceramics and more. Through May 11. Visit museumonmain.org.

FRESH WORKS XII ANNUAL JURIED EXHIBITION The Harrington Gallery presents Fresh Works XII Annual Juried Exhibition. An incredible

celebration of different artistic practices, this mixed media group show includes approximately 80 works. Through May 18. Visit firehousearts.org.

Talks

LIVERMORE-AMADOR GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY Jennifer Holik, genealogical & military research expert, discusses Research a Veteran. In this part 2 of 2 she uses storytelling along with the records to help understand the deeper impacts of service. 7-8:30, April 8. Congregation Beth Emek, 3400 Nevada Court, Pleasanton. Visit l-ags.org.

MENTAL HEALTH LECTURE SERIES Dr. Leanne Williams, the Vincent V.C. Woo professor of psychiatry and behavioral sciences at Stanford University, will present "Precision Treatments for Depression: Are We Getting Closer?" at the next Alan Hu Foundation lecture series. 6:30-7:30 p.m., April 9. This free webinar will be held via Zoom. RSVP by April 8 at alanhufoundation.org.

LIVERMORE-AMADOR VALLEY GARDEN CLUB Jennifer de Graaf returns in April to talk about the naming of plants. She will discuss the origins and parts of scientific names, when they are important, and share how she puts these names to use. 6-8 p.m., April 11. Crosswinds Church. Visit lavgc.org.

DEMENTIA CAREGIVING: A FAMILY MATTER In this webinar, the importance of open communication, empathy and seeking external support will be discussed along with strategies to decrease tension and strengthen relationship all with a focus on prioritizing the needs and wishes of the care recipient. 10-11 a.m., April 11. Register at HopeHospice.com/family.

AMADOR VALLEY QUILTERS Rhondi Reeves, speaker at the next Amador Valley Quilters meeting, has been published in Quilter's Newsletter, Quilt Magazine, Christmas Traditions from the Heart, by Margaret Peters and books by Mary Coyne Penders. 1:30-3:30 p.m., April 13. Pleasanton Middle School. Visit amadorvalleyquilters.org.

TRI-VALLEY WRITERS Gillian Wegener, published poet, and president of the Modesto-Stanislaus Poetry Center, is the speaker at the April Tri-Valley Writers meetings. 2 p.m., April 20. Las Positas College. Register by April 18 at trivalleywriters.org.

HACIENDA PARK TOASTMASTERS Hacienda Park Toastmasters Club meets in-person and virtually via Zoom. Overcome fear of speaking in a friendly, supportive atmosphere. Visit haciendapark.toastmastersclubs.org.

Veterans

VA MEDICAL OUTREACH Medical provider(s) will be on-site to provide examinations,

PET OF THE WEEK



TVAR

Easygoing Garth

Garth would like to have a special person to snuggle with and to spend leisurely days exploring the yard and going for walks. He's an easygoing kind of guy with medium energy. He plays with toys, loves treats, and is house- and crate-trained. Garth is a miniature Schnauzer/Terrier mix with a nice, soft coat that will need regular grooming. He weighs 16 pounds and is 2-3 years old. Contact Tri-Valley Animal Rescue via tvar.org.

consultations and referrals to veterans enrolled in the VA Palo Alto Health Care System. No appointment needed. Veterans uncertain about their eligibility are encouraged to visit the outreach team as they can help answer questions. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., April 18, Livermore Civic Center Library. 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., April 22, Pleasanton Library.

CALIFORNIA POPPY DAY The state flower has an official day dedicated to it. Join a naturalist to create some poppy wildflower seed balls to take home. 1-4 p.m., April 6. Del Valle Regional Park, Livermore.

RANGER PROGRAM AT LARPD See what's blooming in Spring in this 3 mile hike to Cattail Pond. Children six and older are welcome to attend. 1 p.m., April 14. Sycamore Grove Park. Visit larpd.org.

VOLUNTEER FOR EARTH DAY Join by removing plastics from shorelines and parks and various other Earth Day projects. 9 a.m.-12 p.m. April 20. Find a park near you by visiting ebparks.org/volunteer.

Scholarships

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN SCHOLARSHIPS The Livermore-Pleasanton-Dublin American Association of University Women award scholarships to qualified applicants each year who will be either 2nd or 3rd year college students during the upcoming academic year. The deadline to apply is May 1. Visit lpd-ca.aauw.net.

Farmers' Markets

PLEASANTON FARMERS' MARKET The Pleasanton Farmers' Market is Saturday year round featuring vendors with seasonal fruits and vegetables, plus artisan 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 St. and L St.

DUBLIN FARMERS' MARKET The seasonal Dublin Farmers' Market runs rain or shine with locally grown fresh produce, baked goods, honey, nuts, pasta and more. Thursdays, 4-8 p.m., through Sept. 26. Emerald Glen Park.

Outdoors

LARPD RANGER PROGRAM Learn about the Great Blue Heron in this free program open to all ages. After a short talk, take a walk up to their rookery and see where they nest. 2 p.m., April 6. Sycamore Grove Park, 5035 Arroyo Rd. Visit www.larpd.org.

Fundraiser

COURAGEOUS CANCER FUN RUN The Culinary Angels Courageous Cancer Fun Run is the week of April 7-13 honoring those who are experiencing a cancer challenge. The virtual 20-mile run can be done from anywhere and any type of exercise can be counted. Registration fee is \$22.00. Visit culinaryangels.org/events.

A NIGHT IN PARIS FUNDRAISER Join for a spectacular evening with dancing, live music, French food and fabulous art with A Night in Paris: Fundraiser for the Pleasanton Cultural Arts Council. Get ready to immerse yourself in the enchanting ambiance of Paris, right here in Pleasanton. 7-10 p.m., April 13. Tickets \$80. Veterans Memorial Building. Visit pleasantonarts.org.

BUILDING TOGETHER DINNER GALA Tri-Valley Haven's Building Together Dinner Gala features live music from local artists, dinner, wine, games and a live and silent auction. 5:30- 8:30 p.m., April 13. Tickets \$100. Robert Livermore Community Center. Visit trivalleyhaven.org.

Shows

SAN FRANCISCO BAY FLOWER & GARDEN SHOW Alameda County Fairgrounds will be in full bloom, both inside and out, with spectacular display gardens, 75-plus free seminars with top garden and floral experts, and

CALENDAR

more. 10 a.m.-6 p.m., April 4-7. Visit alamedacountyfair.com.

AHA ARABIAN & HALF ARABIAN ANNUAL HORSE SHOW Join this free two-day event featuring beautiful and diverse Arabian and Half Arabian horses and observe a variety of classes and disciplines from English to Western, specialty classes like Side Saddle, Native Costume, Driving and Trail. 8 a.m.-5 p.m., April 6-7. Visit alamedacountyfair.com.

ALAMEDA SPRING HOME SHOW The 38th Annual Spring Home Show is back. Meet and interact with hundreds of home experts, exhibits and displays to help turn your house into the home of your dreams. April 12-14. Visit alamedacountyfair.com.

Festivals

KOREAN CULTURAL FESTIVAL Join the Livermore Public Library and Korean American Parent Association for a fun and entertaining Korean Cultural Festival with performances by the TVOC Orchestra, Mach Martial Arts Taekwondo Team and a Hanbok Fashion Show and more. 1-3 p.m., April 13. Civic Center Library.

EARTH DAY CELEBRATION AT PLEASANTON LIBRARY Join at the Pleasanton Library for Earth Day celebrations filled with a variety of eco-friendly activities and topics for all ages including a master gardener presentation, plant exchange, seed share, exhibitor booths and more. All day, April 20.

Language

AMERICAN LIFE & VOCABULARY WITH GARY RICHTER This Intermediate English conversation group led by Gary Richter meets Tuesday and Thursday afternoons 1:30-3 p.m. at the Pleasanton Library's conversation table.

ENGLISH CONVERSATION GROUP Attend a free English Conversation Group, facilitated by a friendly volunteer, to help build confidence and skills. All skill levels welcome. 11 a.m., Wednesdays. Livermore Civic Center Library.

Volunteer

BECOME A LITERACY VOLUNTEER Become a literacy volunteer and help adults become more confident and better able to navigate everyday situations. The next three-part volunteer training is 6-8:30 p.m., April 22, 24, 29 at the Livermore Civic Center Library. To sign up to become a volunteer, email literacy@livermoreca.gov or call 925-373-5507.

VOLUNTEER AT OPEN HEART KITCHEN Open Heart Kitchen offers individual and group volunteer opportunities at a variety of sites Monday-Friday in Dublin, Pleasanton and Livermore. Volunteers at Open Heart Kitchen help create a more food secure future in the Tri-Valley. Visit openheartkitchen.org/volunteer.

Public Notices

KLASSY THOUGHTS LLC
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 604236
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) Klassy Thoughts LLC, located at 6200 Stoneridge Mall Road, Suite 307, Pleasanton, CA 94588, Alameda County. Mailing Address: 3819 Vineyard Ave Apt 86, Pleasanton, CA 94566.
This business is conducted by: a Limited Liability Company.
The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):
KLASSY THOUGHTS LLC
6200 Stoneridge Mall Road, Suite 307 Pleasanton, CA 94588
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 February 26 2024.
(PLW Apr 5, 12, 19 and 26, 2024)

FINCOP FINANCIAL PLANNING
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 604247
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) FinCop Financial Planning, located at 4513 Pietro PI Dublin, CA 94568, Alameda County. This business is conducted by: an Individual.
The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):
ANDREW WONG
4513 Pietro PI
Dublin, CA 94568
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 February 26 2024.
(PLW Mar 15, 22, 29 and Apr 5, 2024)

JUNBI LIVERMORE
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 604992
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) JUNBI LIVERMORE, located at 3046 W JACK LONDON BLVD, LIVERMORE, CA 94551, ALAMEDA County. Mailing Address: 11040 BOLLINGER CANYON RD STE E#450, SAN RAMON, CA 94582.
This business is conducted by: a Limited Liability Company.
The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):
HAPPY DRAGONS, LLC
11040 BOLLINGER CANYON RD STE E#450 SAN RAMON, CA 94582
State of Incorporation/Organization: CA
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 March 21 2024.
(PLW Apr 5, 12, 19 and 26, 2024)

10XCAREER LLC
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 605027
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) 10xCareer LLC , located at 1060 Bartlett Place, 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):
10XCAREER LLC
1060 Bartlett Place
Pleasanton, CA 94566
State of Incorporation/Organization: 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 March 22 2024.
(PLW Mar 29, Apr 5, 12 and 19, 2024)

ODYSSEY TABLETOP
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 604779
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) Odyssey Tabletop , located at 2445 8th Avenue Apt #1 Oakland, CA 94606, Alameda County.
This business is conducted by: an Individual.
The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):
CHRISTOPHER PIRKLE
2445 8th Avenue Apt #1
Oakland, CA, 94606
Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above

on 02/21/2024
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on March 13 2024.
(PLW Mar 29, Apr 5, 12 and 19, 2024)

SMALL BUSINESS SOLUTIONS
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 604610
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) Small Business Solutions, located at 4441 Valley Ave, Suite F Pleasanton, CA 94566, Alameda County.
This business is conducted by: an Individual.
The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):
JOSEPH SILVA
4441 Valley Ave, Suite F
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 March 07 2024.
(PLW Mar 15, 22, 29 and Apr 5, 2024)

SPOILED BEAUTY GLAM LLC
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 604235
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) Spoiled Beauty Glam LLC, located at 6200 Stoneridge Mall Road, Suite 307, Pleasanton, CA 94588 Alameda County. Mailing Address: 3819 Vineyard Ave., Apt 86, Pleasanton, CA 94566
This business is conducted by: a Limited Liability Company.
The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):
SPOILED BEAUTY GLAM LLC
6200 Stoneridge Mall Road, Suite 307 Pleasanton, CA 94588
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 February 26 2024.
(PLW Apr 5, 12, 19 and 26, 2024)

ATOMIC GLASS ART
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 604713
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) Atomic Glass Art, located at 3615 Olympic Ct. N. Pleasanton, CA 94588, Alameda County.
This business is conducted by: a Married Couple.
The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):
JENNIFER TOMIC
3615 Olympic Ct. N.
Pleasanton, CA 94588
MILAN TOMIC
3615 Olympic Ct. N.
Pleasanton, CA 94588
Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 09/23/2023
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on March 11 2024.
(PLW Mar 22, 29, Apr 5 and 12, 2024)

COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION MANAGEMENT
COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION FINANCIAL
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 604988
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) Community Association Management, 2.) Community Association Financial , located at 6088 Sunol Blvd, Suite 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):
ALVAND CAM LLC
6088 Sunol Blvd Suite 100
Pleasanton, CA 94566
State of Incorporation/Organization: CA
Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 06/14/1999
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on March 21 2024.
(PLW Mar 29, Apr 5, 12 and 19, 2024)

TITAN ELECTRICAL SERVICES
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 605044
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) Titan Electrical Services , located at 4207 Mirador Drive Pleasanton, CA 94566, Alameda County.
This business is conducted by: a Corporation.
The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):

TITAN ELECTRICAL SERVICES
4207 Mirador Drive
Pleasanton, CA 94566
State of Incorporation/Organization: California
Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 03/22/2024
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on March 22 2024.
(PLW Mar 29, Apr 5, 12 and 19, 2024)

LAVENDER LEMON DROP VINTAGE
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 604793
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) Lavender Lemon Drop Vintage , located at 7550 St Patrick Way Apt #607, Dublin, CA 94568, Alameda County.
This business is conducted by: an Individual.
The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):
KIRSTEN LOWN
7550 St Patrick Way Apt #607
Dublin CA, 94568
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 March 13 2024.
(PLW Mar 29, Apr 5, 12 and 19, 2024)

TRI VALLEY CONSTRUCTION AND DESIGN
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 605046
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) TRI VALLEY CONSTRUCTION AND DESIGN , located at 4207 Mirador Drive Pleasanton, CA 94566, Alameda County.
This business is conducted by: a Corporation.
The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):
TRI VALLEY CONSTRUCTION AND DESIGN
4207 Mirador Drive
Pleasanton, CA 94566
State of Incorporation/Organization: California
Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 03/22/24
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on March 22 2024.
(PLW Mar 29, Apr 5, 12 and 19, 2024)

E-Z CARE
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 604265
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) E-Z CARE , located at 2891 Diavila Court Pleasanton, CA 94588, Alameda County.
This business is conducted by: a Limited Liability Company.
The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):
HARMONY SUPPORT SERVICES LLC
2891 Diavila Court
Pleasanton, CA 94588
State of Incorporation/Organization: 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 February 26 2024.
(PLW Apr 5, 12, 19 and 26, 2024)

SUMMONS Case No. 23CV051197
(CITACION JUDICIAL)
NOTICE TO DEFENDANT (A VISO AL DEMANDADO):
MORTGAGE ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION SYSTEMS, INC. AS NOMINEE FOR UNCLE CREDIT UNION; JAMES MILES GOTTFORCHT; SUSAN GAIL GOTTFURCHT; GEORGE G. PITARRA JR. AKA GEORGE G. PITARRA; ROBYN ELAINE ASHLEY AND DOES 1 THROUGH 40 INCLUSIVE
YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF: (LO ESTÁ DEMANDANDO EL DEMANDANTE):
Matadors Community Credit Union
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 version. 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): Alameda County Superior Court 1220 Fallon Street Oakland, CA 94612 The name, address, and telephone number of plaintiff's attorney, or plaintiff without an attorney, is (El nombre, la dirección y el numero de teléfono del abogado del demandante, o del demandante que no tiene abogado, es): Alana B. Anaya 195758 Anaya Law Grou 2629 Townsgate Rd. Suite 140 (805) 250-9222 Westlake Village, CA 91361 DATE (Fecha): **11/14/2023** Clerk, by **D. Franklin**, Deputy (Secretario) (Adjunto) (PLW Apr 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.: 24CV067067
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:
Petitioner: Maryna Daniliuk filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:
MARYNA DANILIUK to MARINA DANILIUK
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: 04/25/2024, 10:00am, 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: 03/11/2024
THOMAS I. NIXON
JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT
(PLW Mar 22, 29, Apr 5 and 12, 2024)

Place a legal notice at
PleasantonWeekly.com/legal_notices/

California insurance market 'in chaos'. Can commissioner fix it?

Insurance non-renewals continue even as Lara introduces regulations favored by industry

BY LEVI SUMAGAYSAY / CALMATTERS

With more California homeowners just discovering their insurance policies are getting canceled — and hundreds of thousands of others stuck with a pricey option of last resort — state Insurance Commissioner Ricardo Lara's efforts to fix the home insurance market can't come quickly enough.

Lara has introduced two main regulations, with more to come. The first, unveiled last month, aims to streamline rate reviews. State law gives the Insurance Department the power to approve or deny insurers' requests to raise premiums. Insurance companies complain the process has been holding up the increases they seek as a result of what they say are increased costs due to rising climate-change risks and inflation.

The second regulation will let insurers use catastrophe modeling — which combines historical data with projected risk and losses — along with other factors when setting their premiums. California is the last state to allow for catastrophe modeling.

"We're undertaking the state's largest insurance reform," Lara said during a press conference earlier this month. "We can no longer look solely to the past to guide us to the future."

He said catastrophe modeling will lead to "more reliable rates," "greater insurance availability" and "safer communities," because he said it would further encourage and reward wildfire mitigation by homeowners and communities. Insurance Department spokesperson Michael Soller said success will mean fewer

homeowners needing to turn to the FAIR Plan, the state-mandated insurer of last resort.

Insurance trade groups, which stand to benefit most from the new regulations, agree with Lara's support for catastrophe modeling and support his so-called sustainable insurance strategy. So do fire chiefs, to an extent. But almost everyone else — homeowners, consumer groups and former insurance commissioners — has lingering concerns.

U.S. Rep. John Garamendi, a Democrat representing parts of Solano and Contra Costa counties, had two stints as state insurance commissioner in the mid-1990s and early 2000s. He says the insurance market is "in chaos" — and that Lara should be holding public hearings and demanding insurance company executives testify to explain to Californians why their premiums are rising.

"One of the critical things a commissioner does is to analyze the market and provide the public with information," Garamendi said in an interview with CalMatters. "(Lara) didn't use his power to control the industry and second, to inform Californians."

The criticism drew a retort from Soller: "Commissioner Lara is fixing decades-long neglected issues that have led to this crisis. He is focused on safeguarding the integrity of the state's insurance market, not second-guessing from predecessors who had their chance and failed to act."

Dave Winnacker, chief of the East Bay's Moraga-Orinda Fire District, said the upsides of catastrophe modeling include being able to

credit what homeowners, communities and governments do to lessen wildfire risk. That includes being able to account for the numbers and proximity of firefighters in certain areas, Winnacker said.

"Depending on where you are in a state, and that's tied to population density, the number of firefighters available could affect the outcome (of a wildfire)," he said, adding that catastrophe models should reflect that.

He also said he and other fire chiefs are working to make sure the interests of consumers, fire professionals, insurers and the state are aligned. Insurers may not know what homeowners, communities and local fire departments are doing to reduce wildfire risk. One idea: a database to share that information.

"There is no future in which we can price our way out of this crisis with just premiums," Winnacker said, adding that everyone needs to work together.

Dave Jones, the state insurance commissioner for eight years before Lara took over in 2019, said he is "trying to avoid looking over the shoulder of my successor."

Jones is now director of the Climate Risk Initiative Center for Law, Energy & the Environment at UC Berkeley School of Law. He said it is good for consumers that the catastrophe-modeling regulation could take forest management into consideration. But he said he's not sure Lara's actions will be sufficient.

Before the end of the year, Lara is also expected to issue a regulation that will allow insurers to factor reinsurance costs into their rates. Reinsurance is insurance for insurance companies in the event of large payouts. That plus the other new regulations may "help in the short to mid term," giving insurance companies the ability to raise premiums, Jones told CalMatters.

But he said those actions may "ultimately be overwhelmed by our failure to stop the fossil fuel industry, which is contributing to rising temperatures" and therefore insurance losses.

Jones also pointed out that Florida has long allowed insurers to use catastrophe modeling and has let them factor in reinsurance costs in their rates — yet its insurance market is in worse shape than California's.

"Florida has done what insurers are asking for," Jones said. Yet "Florida's rates are three or four times the national average."

Mark Friedlander, spokesperson for the Insurance Information Institute, an industry group, confirmed that the group estimates that Florida's average home insurance premium was \$6,000, or three-and-a-half times the national average, in 2023.

In addition, Jones said Florida's version of California's last-resort FAIR Plan — called the Citizens Property Insurance Corp. because it's funded with a surcharge on policyholders — has more than 1 million policies. California's growing FAIR Plan, run by a pool of insurers, has 373,000 policies, its president told state lawmakers recently.

"That raises the question," Jones said. "Giving insurers (higher rates) and shifting the burden to all Californians... whether that's going to be enough in the face of growing background risk associated with climate change."

Meanwhile, last week State Farm said that it is not renewing policies for 30,000 California homeowners, as well as refusing to cover all commercial apartments by not renewing 42,000 of those policies.

This is happening despite California approving State Farm's requests to levy double-digit

premium increases last year.

"One of our roles as the insurance regulator is to hold insurance companies accountable for their words and deeds," said Soller, the Insurance Department spokesperson. "State Farm General's decision... raises serious questions about its financial situation — questions the company must answer to regulators."

State Farm spokesperson Sevag Sarkissian would not comment beyond the statement the company put on its website last week, which read in part: "This decision was not made lightly and only after careful analysis of State Farm General's financial health, which continues to be impacted by inflation, catastrophe exposure, reinsurance costs, and the limitations of working within decades-old insurance regulations."

Sarkissian also referred CalMatters to the Personal Insurance Federation of California, which counts State Farm as a member. The industry group's spokesperson, Rex Frazier, said in an email last week that allowing insurers to use catastrophe modeling would help with insurance availability. Yet in its statement, State Farm acknowledged the actions Lara is taking to try to fix the insurance availability and affordability crisis in California, even as it announced its decision not to renew tens of thousands of homeowners.

Joyce Kaufman, a retiree in June Lake in Mono County, recently got a notice of non-renewal for her homeowners insurance with Farmers, which she said she and her husband were dreading but expecting.

"I'm not really sure what the state's trying to do, both at the commissioner and legislative level," Kaufman said. And losing the ability to renew her policy is affecting her other insurance needs, she said. As her broker helps look for an alternative, her auto premium is now going up about \$300 a year because it will no longer be bundled with home insurance.

As the new regulations give insurance companies what they had asked for, one part of Lara's strategy — which he first laid out last year after an executive order by the governor — is conspicuously missing. Lara had said insurance companies would be required "to commit to writing at least 85 percent of their statewide market share in wildfire-distressed underserved areas."

That provision is nowhere in the text of Lara's unveiled regulations so far — an omission not lost on consumer groups or former commissioner Jones.

"Where is that 85 percent?" asked Carmen Balber, executive director of Consumer Watchdog. Soller, the Insurance Department's spokesperson, said that part of the commissioner's strategy is coming.

Balber also said she is concerned that the catastrophe-modeling regulation "appears to not comply with the transparency requirements of Prop. 103," the voter-approved law that regulates the insurance industry.

According to the text of the regulation on catastrophe modeling, the public will be able to take part in reviewing catastrophe models before they're deemed acceptable. But anyone who helps review the models will be required to sign a nondisclosure agreement.

"If a big chunk of your insurance rate is behind a 'black box,' then that's not what the voters passed," when they passed Proposition 103 in 1988, Balber said. "At the end of the day, if the commissioner passes something that hides something behind closed doors, we'll have to consider challenging it." ■




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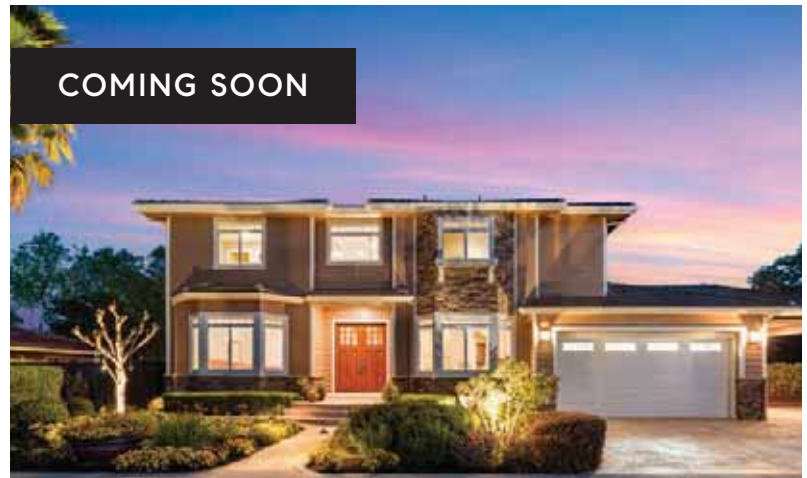
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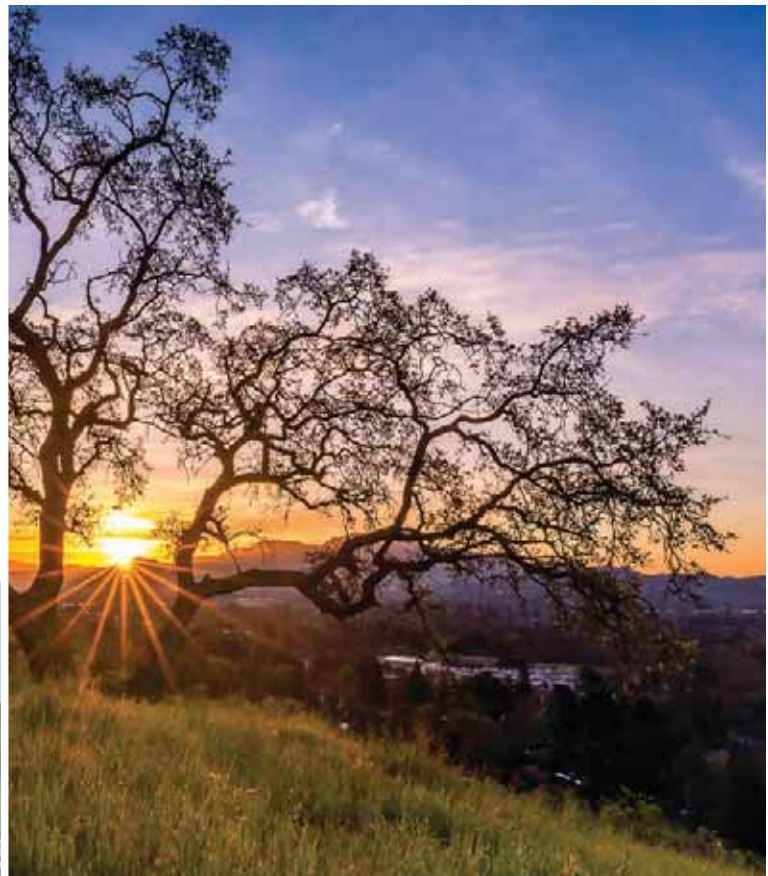
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