

Pleasanton Weekly

Seniors
Living Well

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

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SENIORS CHIP AWAY TO KEEP MINDS (AND HANDS) HEALTHY

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WHAT A WEEK



BY JEREMY WALSH

Ray's myeloma story

Cancer changes some things, of that there is no doubt. And, some things it takes away. Yet, at the same time, cancer can give."

That's one of the life lessons former Pleasanton resident Ray Hartjen has learned from his battle with blood cancer — and among the many he is sharing in his new book, "Me, Myself & My Multiple Myeloma."

"First, I want people — patients, caregivers, and allies — to know they're not alone. Knowing I'm not alone makes a difference to me," the writer, musician and marketer told me in a recent email interview. "I also want readers to know that their lives are theirs for the living."

"For me, my cancer diagnosis gave me clarity on the perils of taking too much for granted. For me, personally, I had lived my life taking time for granted, and that led me to taking people and relationships for granted," Hartjen said. "My cancer diagnosis snapped me out of that, awoke me. And while I still have room for improvement, I'm a lot better in being present, living for the moment, and doing the things that matter most to be with the people that matter most to me."

Hartjen first reached out to me in June after coming across the column I wrote back in January about the retirement of Sandra J. Wing and the closing of her namesake nonprofit that provided grants to Tri-Valley patients for complementary therapies to help alleviate side effects of their cancer treatments.

Patients like Hartjen.

As he faced issues like skin rashes, insomnia, fatigue and digestive distress, courtesy of Wing's foundation Hartjen tried therapies like acupuncture and acupressure that just helped him feel better, if even for fleeting moments during the appointment. "And, feeling better goes a long way to a patient's overall health."

But it was the impact of actually meeting Wing, a living, breathing, thriving cancer survivor, that changed Hartjen's life forever.

"That moment opened a window for me, another in my fight against cancer. A cancer diagnosis is not the end. Rather, it's the beginning of a 'new normal,' he told me when we interviewed several weeks ago, leading into Blood Cancer Awareness Month. "That one moment was a sort of litmus test for me. What did I want to do about my cancer diagnosis? Who did I want to be? Sandra and her foundation helped me reframe my approach to fighting cancer and, in turn, living."

That mentality has driven Hartjen for nearly five years and

counting — and was a major reason he decided "to share my story as a cancer patient, particularly a multiple myeloma patient, more broadly, to a bigger audience, hoping to be of service to my newfound community."

"However, I didn't want to write a 'cancer book.' Rather, I wanted to write a book about living and thriving. I wanted to produce a resource that spoke to hope," he said. "I think 'Me, Myself & My Multiple Myeloma' covers that ground, and it's a book of which I'm proud."

Hartjen and wife Lori lived in Pleasanton for nearly 25 years, raising their children Olivia and Raymond here. The couple moved to Mission Viejo in April to be closer to their daughter.

As for his cancer, Hartjen told me, "Earlier this year, my multiple myeloma progressed, which was expected. It's an incurable disease, at least at this moment in time, and I have an aggressive form of it. Following my November 2019 stem cell transplant, I had enjoyed a nice four-plus years of maintenance treatments that included a biweekly infusion and daily pills."

"In March, my blood tests showed that the efficacy of my maintenance treatments was waning and that I need to advance into another line of treatment," he added. "Currently, I'm on a treatment plan that has me getting infusions three out of four weeks. My numbers are trending in the right direction, so it seems it's working. We'll know more later in the year."

During this time, Hartjen also celebrated the release of his book by Morgan James Publishing in July. He has pledged his net writer's proceeds to the Multiple Myeloma Research Foundation and encourages people to consider donating directly to the cause themselves.

More information can be found at rayhartjen.com. The website shares more about Hartjen's life, touts his other book, "Immaculate: How the Steelers Saved Pittsburgh" (co-authored with Tom O'Lenic), and features his musings on cancer, publishing, sports and music — although you'll have to forgive the unfortunate timing of his Aug. 30 blog, "Why I Love Dave Grohl".

His website, his memoir and just his words in conversation really reflect his inspiring mindset to life with cancer:

"The day, today, is a gift. Not everyone received that gift. So, what are we going to do to honor them, to honor the day, and to honor ourselves? Live! If not now, when? #PunchTodayInTheFace." ■

About the Cover

Tri-Valley Woodcarvers member Ed Heskett sits outside of the Pleasanton Senior Center's woodshop and chips away at a small piece of wood to make desired patterns. Photo by Christian Trujano.

Cover design by Paul Llewellyn.

Vol. XXV, Number 35

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Streetwise

ASKED AROUND TOWN

Is there anything you really intended to do this summer that you just never got around to?



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Roberto Cuellar
Server

Oh yes. I was really looking forward to making it to the Goodguys car show where they line the cars up all over Main Street. But I wasn't able to go because I was too busy with other things. Hopefully I'll get to go and enjoy it next summer.



Reva Kasula
College student

Well, over this past summer I was busy getting ready to head off to college for the first time, I turned 18, I traveled to Tahoe, I went skydiving and I spent a lot of great time with my family. It was my best summer ever. I feel like I did everything, and I'm now excited to start my next chapter at UCLA.



Pam Schwendy, with Caramel
Physician

I really wish I had gotten to go paddleboarding at Shadow Cliffs. I really enjoy doing that and find it very relaxing. But the time just got away from me. I'm going to make it my business to get there next summer.



Anthony Aliamus
Dentist

Well, we had a hugely busy summer. We went on our honeymoon, bought and moved into a new house, and did so many other things. I feel like we really covered our bases and missed out on nothing.



Rajini Bompelli
Scientist

I was able to visit my family in India this past summer, and that was wonderful. But I wish I could also have traveled to other places as well. I just couldn't find the time. With any luck, I'll be able to travel quite a bit next summer, to other places around the world.

—Compiled by Nancy and Jeff Lewis

Have a Streetwise question? Email editor@PleasantonWeekly.com

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DIGEST

Candidate forums

The Pleasanton Weekly and community partners are holding a forum next Wednesday (Sept. 25) for candidates running for Pleasanton Unified School District Board of Directors.

Speaking at the event will be PUSD Area 3 candidates Donalyn Harris and incumbent Trustee Kelly Mokashi, and Area 4 opponents Jen Flynn and Charlie Jones, both newcomers. The event will run from 6-7:30 p.m.

Two nights earlier, the Weekly is moderating a forum for candidates for mayor of Dublin and Dublin City Council District 3. The event is set for 6-8:15 p.m. Monday (Sept. 23) at the Chabot-Las Positas Community College District headquarters in Dublin.

For more information or to submit questions for either event, visit pleasantonweekly.com/election-forums.

I-680 closure

A reminder to Tri-Valley residents and would-be travelers that Caltrans is fully closing Interstate 680 southbound from Alcosta Boulevard in San Ramon to the I-580/I-680 connector in Dublin from 9 p.m. this Friday (Sept. 20) through 4 a.m. Monday (Sept. 23).

Caltrans urges motorists to plan accordingly, while noting that the two freeways' connector will itself remain open.

'Rescuing our Sons'

The Global Initiative for Boys & Men, which operates out of Pleasanton and Washington state, is presenting "Rescuing our Sons: A Symposium on Helping Boys Thrive" next Thursday (Sept. 26) from 8-11 a.m. at The Club at Castlewood.

Learn more at gibm.live/event. ■

Corrections

From last week's cover story "Pleasanton candidates debate", the District 2 article incorrectly described the depth of oversight incumbent Valerie Arkin supported for the City Council to have over the Pleasanton Police Department. Arkin said she supported some level of oversight such as semiannual updates from the department to the council. The article also included a typo in a direct quote from Arkin on her "record of proven leadership".

Additionally, the District 4 article inadequately paraphrased Matt Gaidos' comment about his mindset on soliciting votes. His quote during the forum was that he is "not the person who is going to sit here and tell you what I think is going to make you vote for me."

The Pleasanton Weekly regrets the errors.

Sunol candidates talk goals, priorities ahead of school board election

Recalled trustee Jergensen seeks new term while opponent Choin aims to give community a fresh start

By CHRISTIAN TRUJANO

The race for the open seat on the Sunol Glen Unified School District Board of Trustees is shaping up to be a close and personal one for the two candidates, each saying they want to move away from the past year's drama and focus on what really matters — the school and the students.

On one side is former board president Ryan Jergensen, who was just ousted from office after a majority of Sunol voters recalled him and fellow trustee Linda Hurley in July's special election.

Jergensen — who is competing for the seat formerly held by Hurley, whose term was set to end this year — told the Pleasanton Weekly that even though he will be working to regain the trust of the people who voted in favor of recalling him, he believes if they had gotten to know him better they might not have voted him out in the first place.

"The recall campaign and election was fairly even in the votes and results. Just a couple of percentage points off," Jergensen said. "I am confident that if those who had voted against me had known the truth about me they would

have voted otherwise. Because I am on the ballot again, people have the opportunity to learn the truth about me."

According to the outcome confirmed by the Alameda County Registrar of Voters Office, 277 Sunol residents voted in favor of recalling Jergensen — 52.07% of participating voters — while 274 people cast ballots for removing Hurley (51.50%). The margin of each recall was just 22 votes for Jergensen and 16 votes for Hurley.

Choin, who was one of the people to work on the campaign to recall the two trustees, on the other hand told

the Weekly that the Sunol community deserves a fresh face on the Board of Trustees overseeing the single-school, K-8 district.

"I think Sunol voters would be very pleased voting me onto the Sunol Glen School Board. Vote for me and I will work to keep Sunol Glen a distinguished school that offers high quality education to its students," Choin said. "If I can give this community the gift of a calm and productive four years on the school board, then I will consider my time and efforts a success."

See **SUNOL** on Page 10



FILE PHOTO BY JEREMY WALSH

FCI Dublin, which closed abruptly in April amid its sex abuse scandal, remains under investigation. Rep. Mark DeSaulnier recently shared his thoughts with Embarcadero Media about the scandal-plagued federal prison in his district.

Lawmakers, courts continue scrutiny as details emerge in Dublin prison scandal

DeSaulnier calls now-shuttered facility a 'moral cesspool', seeks to prevent future incidents with newly signed law

By JEANITA LYMAN

The fallout from widely reported sex crimes at the now-former federal women's prison in Dublin is persisting despite the facility's closure earlier this year — keeping the Tri-Valley community in regional and national headlines — as new details about conditions at the prison continue to come to light amid ongoing legislative and legal ramifications.

The Federal Correctional Institution (FCI) Dublin closed in April following a series of high-profile reports on sex crimes endured by incarcerated women in the facility that was found to be internally referred to as a "rape club" by staff in reporting from

news media. At least eight former employees have been targeted for criminal prosecution in the scandal.

"Thank God for the Associated Press — and this is a big problem we have culturally is the demise of journalism, and Americans don't realize how much we depend on professional journalists to uncover things like this. It never should have come to this, however," U.S. Rep. Mark DeSaulnier (D-Concord) told DanvilleSanRamon in a recent interview.

The AP's reporting on the low-security women's prison brought Dublin into national headlines as scrutiny of the facility and criminal charges against employees — and the beginnings of additional

federal oversight — ensued after details were made public in early 2022.

The initial reports of abuse at the prison emerged months after the redistricting process in late 2021. One notable change for the Tri-Valley congressional districts was that the site of the prison at 5701 8th St. now falls into DeSaulnier's boundaries after having previously been situated in the district of Rep. Eric Swalwell (D-Livermore).

DeSaulnier said that alarm bells had been sounded over conditions at the prison, and that other lawmakers including his predecessor had sought to look into complaints

See **PRISON** on Page 7

Woman arrested in 2023 homicide

PPD alleges she killed boyfriend, lied about robbers

By CHRISTIAN TRUJANO

The Pleasanton Police Department has announced the arrest of an Oakland woman on suspicion of murder in connection with a fatal stabbing in a Pleasanton apartment last year.

Investigators allege that 27-year-old Oakland resident Kennedy Stith was the victim's girlfriend and lied about the initial story of a robbery gone bad that first led officers to the crime scene.

"The story of the two masked robbers ... we determined was untrue," Pleasanton police Lt. Erik Silacci told the Weekly last Friday. "We believe the suspect fabricated that story."

The Alameda County District Attorney's Office confirmed on Tuesday that Stith has been charged with first-degree murder in the death of Edevion White. She is scheduled to enter a plea in court next week. It was not immediately clear whether she is yet represented by an attorney.

On May 1, 2023, officers responded to a call at the Park Hacienda Apartments complex on Owens Drive about two people with ski masks running from an apartment. That's where officers found 32-year-old White, a transplant from Tennessee who was living in the Pleasanton apartment, unresponsive and suffering from stab

See **HOMICIDE** on Page 9

PUSD formally asks interim supe to come out of retirement

Trustees will now have to consider revised contract for Ghysels in coming weeks

BY CHRISTIAN TRUJANO

The Pleasanton Unified School District Board of Trustees unanimously agreed last week to ask Interim Superintendent Maurice Ghysels to come out of retirement so he could continue serving in his current position without having to worry about losing his pension benefits.

Following the vote, the board then scheduled a special closed session meeting for this week to discuss the parameters of Ghysels' new full-time contract, which the district will work on drafting before bringing it back to the board during a future open board meeting for final approval.

"If we decide to go for a contract, it will be between the board president and Maurice," Board President Mary Jo Carreon said at the Sept. 12 meeting. "We're not going to be discussing any of (those) financial specifics right here, we're going to talk generalities."

Carreon specified that the district's budget does have a placeholder for the superintendent position so they will not be adding extra costs to the budget, which was one of the main concerns during the last meeting where this topic was first discussed.

During the Aug. 22 board meeting, Carreon explained how because

Ghysels is technically retired, he has a limited amount of days that he can work for the district before he loses his pension benefits. Due to his financial cap — how much money he can make as a retiree — he would have to leave his position in PUSD by no later than Oct. 1.

Carreon said at that meeting the other two options would be hiring a new interim superintendent who isn't a retiree or hiring a permanent superintendent.

But instead, in order to maintain stability as many of the trustees put it, the board decided to ask Ghysels to formally come out of retirement so that he can continue serving the district as PUSD works on surveying residents to find out what they want to see in a new superintendent before actually going out to seek candidates.

The school board picked Ghysels, a former student and teacher at Amador Valley High School and retired Peninsula superintendent, in June to serve as the temporary successor to David Haglund while the



Maurice Ghysels

district works to hire a new permanent leader.

"I think it's very, very important with what the district is facing, with our financial situation ... issues with teachers, classified (employees), parents ... when I think of all the things that are going on, when I think about what is going to be going on, we don't need to start looking out somewhere right now," Trustee Steve Maher said during last week's meeting. "We need to stay the course, keep Maurice and then he will help us move into our next superintendent."

Carreon said one of the benefits of having Ghysels fully come out of retirement is that the district wouldn't have to worry about paying him benefits or things like paid leave — he is actually going to be taking a two-week unpaid leave soon, according to Carreon.

She also said he is being paid at a lower rate, which further shows how bringing Ghysels on board full time won't impact PUSD financially.

She said listening to PUSD's stakeholders on what they would like to see in the next permanent superintendent takes time, which is why the board wants to keep Ghysels rather than having to take up the time to find another interim superintendent.

Trustee Laurie Walker said while she thinks Ghysels is doing a good job, budgetary constraints and the need for fiscal responsibility are key factors for her with decisions such as this one.

Trustee Kelly Mokashi, who brought up concerns at the August meeting regarding financial constraints and how a new contract with Ghysels would affect the budget, further asked on the specifications of asking Ghysels to come out of retirement and as she was told, negotiations for the contract will come further down the road.

First, the district will have to talk about salary and the amount of days Ghysels will work each week.

Currently, his contract states that he shall work three days a week for a base salary of \$1,500 every day and will not exceed \$74,733. The goal is to create a new year-long contract for Ghysels that will include a 45-day exit clause in the case that the district finds and hires its new permanent superintendent before the year is over.

As long as Ghysels doesn't work over two years, he should be able to re-enroll in his retirement plan without seeing any significant changes. ■

PET OF THE WEEK



Woody the kitten

An adorable domestic short-hair kitten, Woody is available to adopt at the East County Animal Shelter in Dublin. He's just a little sprite waiting for his forever family to find him. He is current on vaccines and will be neutered and microchipped before going to his new home. Meet precious Woody today! He is available via Tri-Valley Animal Rescue; go to tvar.org.

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PRISON

Continued from Page 5

previously but were met with the obstacles of a facility and system that he said lacks overall transparency.

“The way they’ve been treating me makes me think this is endemic,” DeSaulnier said.

While DeSaulnier has seen some success in his efforts to hold accountable the employees and overall system that enabled the abuse faced by numerous women in the facility with the passage of the Federal Prison Oversight Act — a bill he co-sponsored — over the summer, he said that as new details continue to emerge, the overall picture of life at the facility grows even more grim.

“It’s unbelievably maddening and depressing,” DeSaulnier said. “FCI Dublin was a moral cesspool, and we’ve got eight people including the warden and chaplain who have been convicted of sexual assault.”

Many of those additional details are revealed in a report prepared by a six-member team that was led by Special Master Wendy Still — the first-ever special master appointed for the Federal Bureau of Prisons — which was unsealed this summer following a judge’s order in a class action lawsuit filed by women who had been incarcerated at FCI Dublin.

“The Special Master’s report, the things I’ve been told by the employees there — it’s both infuriating, but also depressing,” DeSaulnier said. “How could people in positions of responsibility be so awful? And they’ve got to be held accountable.”

While sexual assault and abuse in particular, and related allegations of harassment and retaliation, have been the focus of much of the ongoing revelations and investigations into the now-shuttered prison, Still’s report paints an overall picture of abuse and neglect amplified by understaffing and a lack of services ranging from education and employment rehabilitation programs to basic physical and mental health care.

“Patients at FCI-Dublin were not provided timely access to care,” Still wrote in the findings of the report. “This includes lack of timely access to all components of health care (e.g., medical, mental, dental, vision, diagnostic, and specialty services).”

Still’s report found that there were numerous cases in which women in the facility were not provided treatment for serious health conditions, resulting in “preventable pain and suffering, and demonstrable harm to patients”.

This stemmed, Still said, from a lack of adequate assessment of patients amplified by a lack of oversight and evaluation of medical staff.

“This brings into question the existing policy and procedure used for credentialing and privileging of medical providers, and the ongoing performance evaluation, peer review process, and competency auditing of nursing personnel,” Still wrote.

The report additionally found

“significant problems with the management of chronic disease patients related to the timeliness and/or quality of care” they received. This was particularly true, according to Still’s findings, of access to medication for a range of chronic conditions.

One example Still pointed to in the report was “Patient 2” — who was 81 years old when she came to the facility in 2022, where employees reportedly refused to allow her to keep the orthotics she wore for mobility issues, including severe arthritis.

“Due to the denial of her special shoes and orthotics, she reported trouble walking and had fallen multiples times,” Still wrote. “The patient had her first fall a few months after arriving at the facility. She sustained a lower leg injury to her right calf and stated the wound was open, red and oozing pus.”

“She stated it took two to three weeks to be seen by medical,” Still continued. “The patient stated her initial treatment was ointment and ace wrap. The wound did not heal,

and worsened over time.”

It was close to two months after the fall that “Patient 2” ultimately first got proper care from the facility’s medical provider. She told Still that the wound did not fully heal for more than eight months.

The same patient also reported that she was continuing to suffer side effects from a prolonged COVID-19 infection sustained while incarcerated in the facility.

“The patient states she has a hard time breathing and can only walk a few feet without becoming short of breath,” Still wrote.

The woman had told Still that employees at the prison had threatened to send her to a different facility in Texas if she complained about the incident, causing her to stop “requesting assistance or help from medical and just depended on the other inmates to help her” for fear of being transferred to an area further away from her family, according to Still’s report.

That fear, however, ultimately came true when the facility was closed

earlier this year in what Still called an “unnecessarily rushed” process.

“Methodical, planned, thoughtful practices could not be carried out, leading to mass chaos,” Still wrote. “Communication from leadership changed daily leading to even more confusion.”

Compounding the frantic and stressful nature of the closure, according to Still’s findings, was the use of staff from other facilities not trained in working with the populations at FCI Dublin in order to aid with the move.

“Many of the staff who were brought in from men’s facilities to assist in packing property had never worked with women or transgender (adults in custody), and had no idea how to communicate or deescalate the emotional responses the AICs had during the chaotic closure process associated with their property,” Still wrote.

DeSaulnier said that he was also concerned about the closure process and continues to monitor the situation closely despite the closure of the

prison that had operated in his congressional district.

“We’ve got to hold them accountable, because I don’t think they have a lot of respect for congress or the public,” DeSaulnier said. “They’re going to by the time we get through though.”

Nonetheless, DeSaulnier noted that amid stonewalling from staff and officials within the prison, full oversight and accountability would continue to take a lot more work to even gauge the scale and scope of overall problems with FCI Dublin and the overall prison system.

“My own feeling — just the smell of this is there are more people who should be prosecuted, and they’re blowing me off; they’re fighting the DOJ, they’re blowing off the press, because they’re worried about going to jail themselves,” DeSaulnier said.

The class action case that Still’s report was ordered and unsealed for is set to go to trial next year. The case is one of dozens that have been filed by women formerly incarcerated at FCI Dublin in the past three years. ■

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Dublin Blvd. extension, open space at center of Measure II

Ballot issue tied to development of Crosby property heads to voters while also being challenged in court

By JUDE STRZEMP

Commercial development may spring up on nearly half of the Crosby property between Livermore and Dublin if voters in the latter city pass Measure II, dubbed the “Dublin Traffic Relief, Clean Air/Open Space Preservation Measure”.

The 180 acres of unincorporated land owned by Livbor-Manning LLC has long been eyed as a pass-through for the Dublin Boulevard extension, which is expected to connect the current street with North Canyons Parkway in Livermore. That’s a plan both Dublin and Livermore officials can agree upon.

But as the last buffer between the cities, Livermore leaders want to maintain the land as open space.

In contrast, Dublin supports limited commercial development on land adjacent to the extension as a means to cover a significant portion of the

road construction and maintenance cost, according to a City Council staff report on July 16.

Dublin voters will have a direct say in the matter in the Nov. 5 general election.

Measure II will ask for voter approval to amend the city’s Open Space Initiative of 2014, which currently “restricts development to the east of Dublin’s eastern boundary,” according to an analysis of the measure by Dublin city attorney John Bakker.

It will also ask if the city of Dublin can accept a “land donation to connect Dublin Boulevard 1.5 miles east to North Canyons Parkway” and gain the power to approve “potential limited commercial development on the adjacent 80 acres,” according to the ballot measure.

If passed, commercial development would be limited to the area 1,200 feet north of Interstate 580, except west of

Cottonwood Creek that could exceed 1,200 feet “if the total area of developed land does not exceed 80 acres,” Bakker wrote.

Proponents of the measure say it would improve 911 response times and reduce traffic as well as protect open space, according to their argument linked on the city’s website.

But opponents of the measure call the measure a “land grab” that would oppose every promise in its name. They argue it would actually increase traffic, worsen pollution and reduce open space.

The division has even reached the courts, as the city has been sued for not conducting an environmental review before putting the measure to vote — an issue that won’t be hashed out in the courts until after the election.

Arguments for and against

The argument in favor of the measure contends that an extension to Dublin Boulevard would improve 911 response times, reduce traffic and carbon emissions, help connect Dublin and Livermore, and preserve wildlife and open space.

Measure II “allows this long-awaited road to be built, without the hefty cost to the taxpayers’ bottom line,” the argument reads.

The donated land would be dedicated to road development, including bike lanes and pedestrian access. They also expect the creation of new trails, with 100 acres of open space protection, according to the argument in favor of the measure.

Those who signed the pro-argument include three former mayors of Dublin: Alameda County Supervisor David Haubert, BART Board Director Melissa Hernandez and Chabot-Las Positas Community College Board Trustee Tim Sbranti.

The opposition claims the measure would actually reduce open space, destroy wildlife habitat, worsen traffic, block scenic views, increase air pollution and increase water consumption and sewage treatment loads, according to the formal argument filed

against Measure II.

The warehouses and distribution centers would invite traffic to the new road, according to the opponents. And the development would also reduce wildlife habitat.

“You don’t get traffic relief by adding thousands of semi-trucks to Dublin Road. You don’t get clean air from all that added exhaust. And you don’t get all the space preservation from building on the last open space separator between Dublin and Livermore,” Juan Pablo Galván Martínez, senior land use manager of Save Mount Diablo, told the Pleasanton Weekly.

In their argument, the opponents remind voters that the measure would overturn the Dublin voter’s decision to create an urban limit line for eastern Dublin in 2014, saying it would take away the residents’ right to vote against commercial development along Dublin Boulevard.

Signers of the argument opposing Measure II include co-author of the Dublin Open Space Initiative of 2014 Dave Bewley, Save Mount Diablo conservation director Seth Adams and CEO of West Dublin Alliance Shirley Lewandowski.

What’s at stake

Adams argues that measure proponents will misplace the attention on the Dublin Boulevard extension.

The real issues at stake are the urban limit line and the green belt between the two cities, according to Adams.

“Our urban limit gave (the green belt) real protection. Now they’re trying to break the urban limit line for some additional development,” Adams said.

The development in question could total up to 1.2 million square feet of industrial/business park development and bring nearly \$16 million in construction-related revenues and \$1.1 million in annual revenue, according to an assessment by city consultant Keyser Marston cited in the council’s July 16 report. Developing the area would also bring more than 2,000 full-time jobs and over 3,700 jobs.

But without an agreement between the developer and the city, any proposed benefits are just speculative, Adams responded.

The development would require voter approval because the Crosby property cannot be developed under Open Space Initiative.

The 2014 ballot measure was meant “to protect the open spaces and agriculture of the Doolan and Collier Canyons area and the Western Extended Planning Area,” according to a staff report by Dublin City Manager Linda Smith on July 16.

But it allowed construction of the Dublin Boulevard extension to North Canyons Parkway in Livermore and proposed the City Council consider commercial development along the Dublin Boulevard extension “up to 1,200 feet north of interstate Highway 580,” as written in the city’s General Plan.

It directed the council to consider if “commercial development is needed to fund the construction or maintenance of the extension, and if water supply and wastewater service is assured for any development.” It also authorized the council to “put a measure on the ballot to authorize development in the designated area.”

The City Council discussed and voted 3-2 to advance the measure — later designated as Measure II — for the ballot on July 16.

Without the measure and the funding it could garner, Councilmember Jean Josey said she was concerned that construction of the Dublin Boulevard extension would be postponed. The 1.5-mile extension is expected to cost more than \$150 million, according to the staff report on July 16.

One mile would exist within Dublin’s current boundaries. The other half mile is expected to run through the Crosby property, which is currently unincorporated Alameda County land owned by Livbor-Manning LLC.

If the Crosby property were to remain unincorporated, the cost of road


See **MEASURE II** on Page 10



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LARPD calls for review of EBRPD spending in area

Directors publicly accuse East Bay Parks of misdirecting \$110M; Sanwong calls 'shocking' allegations false

By JUDE STRZEMP

The Livermore Area Recreation and Park District has requested an investigation of East Bay Regional Park District's tax revenue spending in the Livermore Valley, an area representing shared responsibilities and funding for the park districts.

Amid accusations from LARPD directors that EBRPD is taking over \$110 million of Livermore's money, the local park district's administration maintains that its call for a study is a standard part of reviewing a revenue-sharing agreement.

In addition to financial claims, LARPD directors have also called for annexation of Murray Township, land that Alameda Local Agency Formation Commission considers the Livermore Valley area and LARPD considers the far northeastern part of Alameda County.

LAFCO, an overseeing agency whose duties include studying and making recommendations for local governmental agencies, release a municipal service review (MSR) that includes a response to LARPD's call.

"If you were to walk on first street in downtown Livermore and talk to someone, I'd hope someone would have favorable things about both LARPD and East Bay Regional Park District," said EBRPD Director Olivia Sanwong, whose Ward 5 includes Livermore. "I think we should keep the community in mind and try to work together."

On Aug. 14, LARPD director tensions rose over the question of EBRPD spending.

"Our issue with East Bay: that they're getting money and they're not providing services," LARPD Chair David Furst said. "East Bay is taking our money."

At the LARPD's meeting on Aug. 28, Furst corrected the board's original claim of over \$200 million in

unaccounted funds to over \$110 million since 1992. He argued that interest makes up the difference in these figures.

In a follow-up interview, LARPD General Manager Mathew Fuzie explained that claims by the board are their opinions intermixed with data and they do not express the district's position on the issue.

Instead, Fuzie framed LARPD's request to study EBRPD spending as a normal part of the MSR process.

LARPD has been asking where EBRPD funds are being used within the Murray Township for years, according to Fuzie.

Now that LARPD is struggling to pay for deferred maintenance of their facilities including water systems, equipment and painting, it's time to take stock of the districts' tax-sharing agreement, he said.

"We don't want to go out to voters and ask for more money if the money is there," Fuzie said. "So we want to account for where the money is, how it's being used."

But the board's accusations of unaccounted and owed funds didn't land well with Sanwong.

The claims are inaccurate, she said. And this is the first time EBRPD has heard them.

"It was shocking," she said of the LARPD directors' claims. "I was very surprised. I think that this type of thing probably should have been discussed between our two organizations."

"EBRPD's financial reports are publicly available, and our consistent receipt of the Distinguished Budget Award underscores our commitment to financial responsibility," Sanwong told Livermore Vine, citing recognition from the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada.

But the reports, including EBRPD's "2024 Adopted Operating Budget Book", don't satisfy LARPD's

inquiry into EBRPD's spending in the Livermore Valley area, according to Fuzie.

The disputed funds are those from a 1992 tax-sharing agreement between the two park districts. When EBRPD annexed the eastern portion of Alameda County near Livermore through negotiations with LARPD, the districts agreed to split the responsibility and property tax funding for Murray Township, according to EBRPD's budget book.

EBRPD was to focus on acquiring and developing regional parks, open space areas and trails in the area as well as related maintenance and operations, according to its budget book. LARPD would continue to take primary care of "existing LARPD facilities and programs as well as for all future Murray Township community and local parks and recreation

facilities, and related maintenance and operations."

EBRPD received about \$7.6 million in property tax revenues for the 2023-24 fiscal year and LARPD received about \$12.9 million once about \$12.6 million was deducted for educational revenue augmentation fund (ERAF), according to the LARPD's 2024-25 budget.

EBRPD isn't required to pay into ERAF because it is a multi-county organization, according to Sanwong.

Unadjusted for time, EBRPD has received about \$111 million since fiscal year 1992-93 from property tax revenues and LARPD has received about \$207 million.

The 276-square mile annexation meant EBRPD could expand regional parks and trail services to all of Alameda County.

EBRPD operates parks within the township and in direct service of its

population. The operating budgets for these locations is over \$4 million per year.

The funds go towards "trail grading and paving, maintenance and repairs, mowing, sanitation, police and fire services, lifeguards, utilities, signage, brochures, and similar park expenses," according to the budget book.

LAFCO, which has been in contact with both park districts, will provide a finalized report including an overview of how the property tax exchange agreement came about and the disjointedness of that agreement early next month, said Rachel Jones, executive officer of Alameda LAFCO.

Following LAFCO's report, LARPD plans to send a letter to the agency requesting a study of the EBRPD's spending in Murray Township and the annexation of the area. ■

HOMICIDE

Continued from Page 5

wounds. White was pronounced dead at the scene.

Silacci said in a press release last Friday that the initial report stated that White was stabbed during a robbery by "two male suspects wearing ski masks." But after a year-long investigation, Pleasanton detectives concluded the claim was not true, Silacci said.

Instead, investigators allege Stith was the one who stabbed White in his apartment.

Silacci said PPD believed she had made up the story early on in the investigation after seeing discrepancies and evidence that went against the robbery tale, but that it took time to prove she lied about the circumstances. Police ultimately arrested her

at her home in Oakland on Sept. 12.

Silacci said while they could have charged her in connection with fabricating the initial police report, the crux of the case was the murder, which is what they were most concerned about solving.

Stith remains in custody at Santa Rita Jail in Dublin. She is scheduled to return to the East County Hall of Justice next Tuesday (Sept. 24) for an entry-of-plea hearing in Department 702, according to the DA's office.

"The City of Pleasanton extends its heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of Edevion White, and we are working closely with them during this challenging period," Silacci said in the press release. "We appreciate the community's patience and cooperation during this investigation, and we remain committed to ensuring the safety of our community." ■



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SUNOL

Continued from Page 5

Choin has been very vocal at school board meetings throughout the past year about what she claimed to be examples of bad governance from Jergensen, which is why she joined the recall campaign efforts. She previously stated how happy she was that the Jergensen and Hurley were removed from the board and believes the community deserves a change.

But Jergensen isn't going anywhere for the time being. He said he wanted to run again so that he can represent both the "large segment of the Sunol population" who voted against the recall and even the people who might have voted to recall him.

"I will continue many of my efforts and also take even more time to hear the people of our community and try to make sure every voice and view is heard and respected," Jergensen said.

Jergensen was first appointed to the board in 2021 to replace former trustee Denise Kent-Romo, who resigned one year into her second full term because of health issues. He was then formally elected in 2022 to serve another four years on the board.

But over the past year and a half, Jergensen — along with Hurley — had been under scrutiny by dozens of community members, teachers and local elected officials after the trustees voted in favor of a flag resolution last September that limited the school to only fly the U.S. and state



Erin Choin



Ryan Jergensen

flags on district grounds.

Many parents, students and Sunol Glen School employees spoke out for months — Choin included — calling the two trustees out because certain flags like the LGBTQIA+ Pride flag were now not allowed at the school. They also criticized Jergensen for several instances of bad governance.

There were other situations where the public did not agree with something Jergensen did at the dais, but he said he hopes to move past all of that as he seeks the school board seat once again, even if some community members can't seem to look past the months of fighting.

"Yes there was quite a bit of drama," Jergensen said. "Unfortunately, even if I am not wishing to be a part of the drama and do not attack others in our community, I am sometimes drawn into it simply by people attacking me or my actions."

He said that's where civil discourse comes into play, which is something he wants to prioritize as a trustee because he said it is necessary to hear all opinions, even if it is difficult to do so.

He said diverse opinions and views

are healthy to bring to the table and that they, as a community, should not exclude those with opposing views, which is something that he couldn't say about current Board President Peter (Ted) Romo.

"I would not have any problem serving on a board with those of differing views," Jergensen said. "I never tried to recall Mr. Romo, nor did I attack him or his views, as was the tactic unfortunately used toward me."

Jergensen said instead of being so polarizing, he wants to work toward being able to meet more in the middle so that all voices in the community can be heard — not just the group of people who voted to recall him and Hurley.

"That's what I have been aiming for all along, but feel I've been mislabeled," Jergensen said. "We need diversity, not conformity of thought."

"I look forward to meeting, speaking with and working hard to represent all of the various views in Sunol," he added. "I will not ever tell anyone else to 'wake up' or to 'go away.'"

In addition to thinking he's been mislabeled, Jergensen said people might have misjudged his character during the recall vote and if they spent the time — which they can now that he's running again — to get to know what kind of person he truly is, they might have thought twice before recalling him.

While Jergensen said his priorities and goals center on making sure every voice is heard in the community, Choin said her top priority is the students at Sunol Glen.

She said if she is elected to the board she will "shift the focus back to support their education."

"Supporting our students in the classroom and through hands-on learning like field trips needs to take center stage," Choin said. "I will champion the teachers at Sunol Glen by supporting their continuing education so they can continue to offer the best education in our classrooms."

Choin — a Sunol Glen parent for the past five years who moved to the small town two years ago — said that apart from working on responsibly using the \$10.9 million Measure J general obligation bond to repair the school in a transparent manner, the school board and district need to focus on rebuilding relationships with each other in order to focus on other pressing matters.

Choin said if she is elected, she will start by respecting everyone on the dais and use her experience as a substitute teacher at the school and volunteer over the past year to continue developing those connections with school employees and the current board.

"The way we treat others either paves the way for success or can become a dead end," Choin said. "Communication will be essential to gather information from knowledgeable professionals and then it should be used to make decisions for Sunol Glen that will be the most beneficial."

"Our students and staff deserve a school board trustee that will listen

and give their needs priority," Choin said. "I have worked in the school, therefore, I know the teachers, staff and most of the students and families, making me an obvious choice to be in a leadership role in the school."

She also said, like Jergensen, that hearing out the opinions and thoughts from all Sunol residents and community members alike is important, which is why Choin said she will be out in the community doing some outreach as part of her campaign to hear what the voters care about.

One hot topic in the community recently has been commuter parents and where they fit into the equation of the district drama. In the past, some community members have noted how commuter parents don't have a say in voting for their school board trustees, even though commuter students make up the majority of the student population at Sunol Glen.

Jergensen said even though Sunol's small-town charm is what makes the school so special, it also means they need and benefit from those families who bring their kids into the school like they have been for generations.

He said he doesn't understand why some people might say he doesn't value the transfer families because in fact, he believes they play a pivotal role in the school and the community.

"I don't understand why any detractors would try to say I feel any differently," Jergensen said. "It is unfortunate that many are not getting the full story, or the truth without the spin or opinions of some. Their opinions and involvement is crucial for this school, and just as people who live in Sunol they need their voices included and heard."

He said he has even worked with the board in the past to make sure commuter families' opinions were heard for things like choosing the new superintendent and on Measure J construction updates.

"I have always solicited their input. Anyone saying otherwise is incorrect, dishonest, and is not genuinely interested in the good work of this school and this community," Jergensen said.

But Choin instead said commuter families are in fact a large and important part of the school's community. She said as a former commuter parent herself, she understands the "unique position they are in choosing our school."

"They are stakeholders in Sunol Glen," Choin said. "The role of the board trustees is to work to represent the interests of all children and families at the school."

She said her extensive social network of commuter families at Sunol Glen makes her a better candidate for the seat because those parents — many of whom have spoken out against Jergensen and Hurley in the past — are comfortable with reaching out to her.

"I've become familiar with many Sunol residents over the past two years and I continue to offer opportunities for the community to give and receive information regarding the school board," Choin said. ■

MEASURE II

Continued from Page 8

construction on that land would be split between Dublin and Livermore.

In total, Dublin would be on the hook to pay approximately \$124 million and Livermore would be expected to pay \$27.5 million, according to the staff report.

For the portion of the road inside the city limits, "The City anticipates the development will be self-funded through traffic impact fees, which do not rely on taxpayer dollars, along with contributions from property owners for the indirect benefits they receive — again, at no cost to the general public," Dublin city communications analyst Ryan Moran told the Weekly.

He continued, "For the portion of the Extension outside of the city limits, if Measure II passes and when the Council decides on future development in the area, the City would establish traffic impact fees to help fund the Extension and seek grant funding for any remaining costs."

Despite talk of splitting costs within the Crosby property, Dublin Mayor Michael McCorriston revealed the council's inclination to annex the land. "The objective of putting it on the ballot is to be successful, not spin the dice. It's to achieve something, that is, eventually annex this," McCorriston said at the July 16 meeting.

Livermore Mayor John Marchand made the outcome of annexation clear in a letter to McCorriston in July: If Dublin annexes the property, Livermore would not be responsible to pay for any portion of the road.

Going to court

In addition to the cities' conflicting desires for the property and the possibility of Dublin's annexation, Measure II has elicited legal issues.

On Aug. 9, Save Mount Diablo and Friends of Livermore sued the city of Dublin, its City Council and other involved parties for not conducting an environmental review before placing Measure II on the ballot, according to Adams.

Adams alleges the city was required to undergo an environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act.

However, the city of Dublin contends the measure is not a project, arguing it is not required to conduct an environmental review yet.

That argument falls short for Adams, since the city is simultaneously claiming "project" benefits.

Since the court hearing is scheduled for two days after the election, Save Mount Diablo and Friends of Livermore "filed for a temporary restraining order and stay to prevent the City and the Alameda County Registrar of Voters from placing Measure II on the November ballot," according to the Save Mount Diablo website.

Alameda County Superior Court Judge Michael Markman denied the application, so Measure II will be on the ballot. ■

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POLICE BULLETIN

Man accused of scheme to sell stolen vehicles with switched VINs

A Livermore man has been arrested for allegedly running a scam in which he sold stolen vehicles with swapped out identification numbers to further trick unsuspecting buyers.

The California Highway Patrol's Golden Gate Division announced a break in the case on Monday, saying that weeks of surveillance led to a search of the suspect's house in Livermore and the recovery of three stolen cars.

"The sale of used vehicles between private parties is common in California, but the CHP wants to remind buyers to remember that if the deal seems too good to be true, it probably is," CHP officials said in a press release.

"Operations like this will bring stolen vehicles from other states into California, where their identification numbers are switched and sold to unsuspecting buyers," officials added. "When the new owner attempts to register the vehicle, they soon discover the truth. As most of these transactions are cash only, the buyer is left with nothing and the seller cannot be contacted."

According to the CHP, its Northern Foreign Export and Recovery (NoFEAR) team was alerted in July about a recently registered vehicle that presented inconsistencies with the state's registration process. Investigators soon learned that the car's vehicle identification number (VIN) did not match the car and had likely been switched to hide the fact it was stolen.

The NoFEAR team soon identified a prime suspect, placed him

under surveillance and secured search warrants for the man's residence in Livermore, according to the CHP. At the home, investigators allegedly found additional stolen vehicles whose VINs had been swapped out for false ones.

Officers reported taking the man into custody, but they declined to release his name as of Monday, citing the ongoing nature of their investigation.

—Jeremy Walsh

In other news

- The CHP last week announced the arrest of a 47-year-old man in connection with shootings on two East Bay freeways on the same day in August, including one in Pleasanton.

Damien Lamont Harris was identified as the suspect in the two shootings on Aug. 3, the first at about 1:30 p.m. on southbound Interstate 680 near Stoneridge Drive in Pleasanton and the second about 45 minutes later on the Industrial Parkway

on-ramp to northbound I-880 in Hayward, according to the CHP.

Officers responded to the first shooting and found that a victim had been shot in the shoulder while driving in heavy traffic. No one was injured in the second shooting, CHP officials said.

Detectives investigating the cases recognized similarities in the vehicle descriptions for both shootings and used traffic cameras and other investigative tools to identify Harris as the suspect and obtain a warrant for his arrest.

On Aug. 29, authorities served search warrants at homes in Fairfield and Fremont and Harris was located at the Fairfield location and taken into custody on suspicion of attempted murder, assault with a firearm and discharging a firearm from a vehicle, according to the CHP. He was booked into Solano County Jail on suspicion of those offenses as well as others related to items discovered during the serving of the search warrants.

—Bay City News Service

- Home Consignment Center in Danville is recovering from yet another robbery in which police say people ambushed the store during business hours and stole jewelry, leaving shattered display cases in their wake as they drove away.

The Danville Police Department acknowledged the Camino Ramon store has been targeted multiple times by similar crimes in recent months, but the exact number is unclear. DanvilleSanRamon previously reported on three robbery or burglary incidents at the business between December 2023 and February 2024.

"While this incident bears similarities to several robberies at the same location, there is currently no evidence linking these crimes together," Danville police officials said.

The latest case occurred on Sept. 11, with officers responding to Home Consignment Center at around 3:05 p.m. on a report of a strong-arm robbery, police said.

Witnesses at the scene told officers that several masked males entered the store with sledgehammers and

proceeded to smash display cases and steal jewelry before fleeing the area in a vehicle, according to police.

After securing the scene, officers collected evidence, obtained more witness statements and better clarified the circumstances, police said. "It was established that five Black male adults, all wearing dark clothing and masks, were responsible for the robbery," according to the department.

Police hope anyone with information about the fresh case will come forward.

The department also continues to investigate the other recent crimes reported at the consignment center.

The list includes a smash-and-grab involving two male robbers and a get-away driver just before 4 p.m. Dec. 6, an after-hours commercial burglary with five men in ski masks smashing the front door and ransacking the office at around 11:45 p.m. Dec. 13, and a jewelry robbery by five masked culprits wielding hammers at around 5:50 p.m. Feb. 5, according to past reports. ■

—Jeremy Walsh

Charles "Chuck" William Meier

May 18, 1936 – August 27, 2024

Charles was born May 18th, 1936, in Batavia, New York. He graduated from LaSalle High School and earned a degree in Mechanical Engineering from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. While in college, he was a member of Theta Chi fraternity and the ROTC program. After college, he worked briefly for Carborundum Company, until the warm weather of the west beckoned to him. Beginning in 1959, he began working at the Nevada Test Site near Las Vegas, NV. While in Las Vegas, he met and married his wife, Elaine. He continued his commitment to the military and our country by joining the Army Reserves, achieving the rank of Captain.



By 1967, Chuck, Elaine and their two sons, Doug and Dwight, moved to Livermore where he started working at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. While there, he brought his skills of problem-solving and organizing to an array of projects including the Laser Program, Plant Engineering, and an Environmental Impact Report. By 1971, Chuck and Elaine moved their family to Pleasanton and added two daughters, Cara and Catherine, to the clan. Chuck remained at LLNL until he retired in 2001.

Outside of work, Chuck could be found travelling around the world or behind his computer. He particularly enjoyed visiting Italy with his wife and children and camping and motorcycling with his sons. He had a lifelong commitment to staying fit by exercising daily at the local gym, jogging, hiking, playing racquetball and tennis. He also participated in community efforts by getting involved with local issues, especially those concerning new buildings around Pleasanton. Later in life, he became a writer, publishing three thrillers set in and around the Nevada Test Site. He always enjoyed having a glass of Italian wine with his wife on the patio before dinner.

Charles is survived by his wife, Elaine; his two daughters, Cara Hagemester and Catherine Haley; his sons-in-law Grant Hagemester and Drew Haley; and his 4 grandchildren, Jack, Bianca, Charlie, and Caitlin.

A memorial service will be held Saturday, September 21, at 11am at Graham Hitch Mortuary, 4167 1st Street, Pleasanton.

Memorial donations may be made to: Hope Hospice (www.hopehospice.com), Tunnel 2 Towers (www.t2t.org), or a charity of your choice.

PAID OBITUARY

Dixie Lee Johnson

March 24, 1936 – September 8, 2024

Dixie was born in Ft. Wayne, IN to Robert and Vera Hogg where she attended school and an early career with General Electric. In 1961 she ventured to San Jose, California where she met the love of her life, Bob. They were married in Carmel, California, in 1963 and shortly thereafter began their family with twin boys. They made their home in Fremont, CA, before a work transfer took them to Chicago, IL, for three years. In 1974, they relocated back to California and settled in Pleasanton, where they lived for 40 years, building a life rooted in church, community and friendship. Recently, Dixie and Bob moved to Rocklin, CA, to be closer to their beloved family.



Dixie dedicated 22 years to the Pleasanton Unified School District, retiring in 1996 as Director of Classified Personnel. Before that, she served in school districts in Arlington Heights, IL, and Milpitas, CA, leaving a lasting impact on the lives she touched.

A devoted wife, mother, grandmother, and friend, Dixie cherished time spent with her family and friends. She was passionate about travel, an avid reader, and found joy in playing bridge and mahjong. Her heart for service was evident in her years as a volunteer at ValleyCare Memorial Hospital and the Assistance League of Amador Valley. As an active member of Centerpointe Presbyterian Church in Pleasanton, she served faithfully as a deacon, elder, and clerk of session. After moving to Rocklin, she became a member of Granite Springs Church and continued her spirit of giving by volunteering with the Assistance League of Greater Placer. Dixie embraced many activities in her Springfield community, where her warmth and kindness shone through. Dixie will be remembered for her unwavering love, generous spirit, and the legacy of compassion she leaves behind.

She is survived by her devoted husband of 60 years, her twin sons David and Douglas (Sandy) Johnson, stepson Greg (Michelle) Johnson, and stepdaughter Carolyn (Brian) Wheeler. She was a proud grandmother to Alyson (Ryan) Sandoval, Emily (Mark) Mueller, Brianna Wheeler (Weston Haight), and Ross Wheeler, as well as a loving great-grandmother to two. She was predeceased by her parents and her brother, Michael Hogg of Ft. Wayne, IN.

A private celebration of life service will be held in the presence of close family and friends.

PAID OBITUARY



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Seniors Living Well

Inside:

- Purrfect pairs at Valley Humane Society Page 14
- Tips for homeowners who plan never to sell Page 16
- Seniors Calendar Fall 2024 Page 18

Seniors chip away to keep minds (and hands) healthy

Pleasanton Senior Center hosts Tri-Valley woodcarvers who create community in small shop

STORY AND PHOTOS BY CHRISTIAN TRUJANO

It's another typical Tuesday morning at the Pleasanton Senior Center for Ed Heskett — out in the sun with his knife as he slowly makes these surgical incisions on a small piece of wood.

Heskett has been a woodcarver for the past 18 years, and is one of many who fill up the woodshop inside the senior center every Tuesday and Friday.

The tight-knit group of seniors make everything from geographical patterns on pieces of wood like Heskett to larger-scale models like hilarious opening scenes from the 2017 movie "Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2" with Rocket telling baby Groot not to push the button.

"With woodcarving, you sort of sneak up on it," Ken Morgan, a Pleasanton resident and vice president of the Tri-Valley Woodcarvers, told the Weekly.

Morgan, who was the artist behind the "Guardians" model, said the club has been meeting at the senior center ever since 1997 and that as someone who has personally been with the club for 24 years, he has seen the direct benefit it has on seniors.

"A lot of what people are doing is keeping in touch with each other," Morgan said.

Zack Silva, city recreation supervisor, told the Weekly that he also believes the main benefit the program

has for seniors is socializing.

"These folks come in here every Tuesday, and it's the same folks and they're sharing what they're working on, they're getting tips ... and I think that social benefit is huge," he said. "It's a tight space so they're sitting next to each other. It's pretty close, and so they're able to learn from each other."

Morgan said the camaraderie and having that space at the senior center where they can meet every week and catch up really means a lot to them.

But it's not just the social benefits that draw in seniors from all across the Tri-Valley, and even across the East Bay, to the woodcarver program at the center.

Rob Motal, a 74-year-old from San Ramon, said he's been retired for 10 years and making little wooden badges for Boy Scouts in the area is a way for him to have a sense of purpose in life.

He said for him, it also brings him a sense of peace.

"When you're woodcarving, the rest of the world evaporates," Motal said. "There's no worries. There's nothing that's bothering you. So it just gives me that real special inner space that I value."

But apart from the community that the various Tri-Valley Woodcarvers club members have created inside the senior center, many of the



Above: Tri-Valley Woodcarvers vice president Ken Morgan shows off the wooden eagle dancer model that he is currently working on. Far left: An image of a wood burning project by Ngam Worley. Left: Club members make anything from small pins to large pieces such as this flower.

people simply like the physical benefits woodcarving have for them.

"I think seniors can enjoy this because it's something that doesn't require a lot of tools, you can carry it with you, you can go and do it wherever you want," Motal said. "It's a way of enjoying your hands, helping with your hand-eye coordination ... it does all of that."

Morgan said one of the main benefits for people, specifically for seniors, is being able to stay busy with their hands.

"First couple of weeks ... your hands might be sore," he said. "But then once you start doing it more and more, you're keeping the muscles there."

Morgan also said the precision it takes to stay focused keeps their minds sharp as well.

"You can't worry about world politics or other stuff because if you do, your hand will pay the price," he said. "You need to stay focused and in the moment."

And the best part, Morgan said, is

that anyone at any age can do it.

"All they need is a desire to try it and we sit them down and get them carving," Morgan said.

Gary Eaves, a Fremont resident who has been with the club for seven years, explained how he first got started with making a simple sea otter out of a block of wood.

Eaves, who had chances to get into woodcarving in the past but didn't do so until recently, said he was a bit nervous until he found the program at the Pleasanton center and the club members who gave him all the tools and instruction he needed to get the fundamentals down.

"By the time you finish (the otter), you've developed some skills," he said. "You're not an expert ... (but) it's the fundamentals."

Darlene Mellquist, a Walnut Creek resident who recently moved to the area, also said that once someone learns how to carve wood, it's one of those things they can do in the backyard or the porch.

She picked the skill up four years ago. When she moved to the area last year, she attended the Tri-Valley Woodcarvers' annual show — which took place this past weekend — where she met others from the club and began joining them at the center.

Mellquist just learned a new technique where she makes deeper cuts into the wood that create intricate patterns and shapes on a walking stick that she recently completed.

"It's all practice," she said. "If you're not having fun, don't do it."

In order to practice, or even pick it up as a beginner, seniors can drop in to one of the time slots on Tuesday or Friday at the center on Sunol Boulevard. For Pleasanton residents, there is a \$3 drop in fee; for non-residents, it's \$3.50.

Silva said the center collaborates with the woodcarver club volunteers to offer beginner training sessions and other programs like soap carving — which shows the same techniques just on a different material — and wood-burning.

Eaves added that once beginners get through that first fundamental project, the sky's the limit for whatever folks want to work on next.

"Show us what you want to do and we will help you do it," he said. ■

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Valley Humane aims for purrfect pairs

Nonprofit's work includes matching seniors with animal companions

By JUDÉ STRZEMP

It was love at first sight for 82-year-old Pleasanton resident Ray Brandon and Lady, a small dog with an underbite from Valley Humane Society.

"As soon as I saw her, I knew I wanted her," Brandon said of meeting the 4-year old pup in August. "She came home and fit right in, used the dog door and walks on a leash. She's cuddly and she's happy and doesn't bark every time somebody comes to the door. If you put an order in, she's the dog."

Brandon is one of many senior Tri-Valley residents who has found their furr-ever friend at VHS, a nonprofit organization in Pleasanton that saves and improves the lives of companion animals in the area. Their work spans pet adoptions, low-rate spay and neuter services, animal food distribution to the community and more.

"Seniors considering adding an animal to their home can work with the Valley Humane team to help make the best match," VHS President Melanie Sadek told the Weekly.

One VHS program, called Seniors for Seniors, is specifically meant to connect people over 65 years old

with dogs and cats 7 years and older.

These senior animals often come from homes where the owner has passed away or the family can't afford to care for their pet anymore.

Now, they can become part of a new family at half off the adoption fee.

"Animal shelters are no place for senior animals, and unfortunately, we don't see a lot of adopter interest in seniors," Sadek said.

It can be hard for some people knowing they'd have less time with an older animal, she explained.

But they are the perfect companions, as they might not require much activity and are typically potty-trained, according to Sadek.

They also tend to be fond of quieter environments, and they may have health conditions that need special attention.

"It is well-known that people thrive when given the opportunity to care for an animal," Sadek said. "You are also providing an opportunity for a senior animal to have a wonderful ending to their story."

All the adoptions at VHS, including those in the Seniors for Seniors program, are carefully considered matches.

For example, if someone is not willing to house-train, then VHS won't pair them with an animal that needs that kind of training.

Or in the case of adoption by a senior with limited mobility, VHS doesn't typically match them with a dog that needs five-mile walks every day.

"We're transparent about what we know and what we don't know about the animal," said Emily Scholz, adoption and foster manager at VHS.

That's a vital part of making sure the adopters and the adoptees are suited for each other, she explained.

The attention to matchmaking is still important amid a general decline in adoption rates.

Since a lot of people adopted during the pandemic, they aren't looking to adopt another animal, Scholz explained. It's not an issue of more animals at VHS, it's just a drop in demand.

On top of that, the number of adopters of senior animals is low, so VHS tries to keep only two or three senior dogs at a time and about the same number of senior cats.

"Our ability to make a significant

See **VALLEY HUMANE** on Page 15



COURTESY VHS

82-year old Pleasanton resident Ray Brandon adopted Lady, formerly known as Butters, at Valley Humane Society last month. She is everything he'd hoped for in a dog.

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Valley Humane Society provides adoption services, dog and cat food distribution to low-income families and public education.



COURTESY VHS

The nonprofit also offers low-cost spay and neuter services at its Phil Scholz Veterinary Surgery Center in Pleasanton.

VALLEY HUMANE

Continued from Page 14

impact for all animals requires us to move animals through our system into new homes quickly. Holding animals for three to six months significantly reduces our ability to help multiple animals," Sadek explained.

But even if VHS can't intake a senior animal or younger animal, owners can use the organization's social platform to find their pet a new home, as part of VHS's Home to Home program.

In addition to its adoption services, VHS also supports the community

through animal food distribution and affordable vet care to help families keep their pets.

Through the AniMeals program, the organization distributes about 250,000 animal meals every year to help families keep pets. And through the Phil Scholz Veterinary Surgery Center in Pleasanton, which celebrated its grand opening last May, they offer low-cost spay and neuter services.

VHS will also start its first Field Vet Program to provide veterinary care to clients at Open Heart Kitchen and neighbors at Goodness Village this year. They expect to expand

the program to CityServe of the Tri-Valley in the coming months too.

Their work relies on a team of 25 employees, about 500 active volunteers and funding by private donors and grants, Scholz said.

Though they receive no government funds, tax dollars, or money from national humane organizations, according to their website, "We are very fortunate to have long-term donors and support from a community that supports animal welfare," Scholz said.

The public is welcome to meet adoptable animals at VHS from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesdays through

Saturdays at 3670 Nevada St. in Pleasanton. Additional opportunities to meet a furry friend also come up throughout the year, as VHS holds adoption events at pet stores, corporate events and sometimes wineries.

For just this year, senior cat adoption fees are waived for adopters of all ages because of a gift to VHS in honor of Patrick Phelan.

Potential adopters of any age should create a plan for animal care including cleaning, exercising, and veterinary costs before adoption.

For more information about Valley Humane Society, visit its website at valleyhumane.org. ■



JUDE STRZEMP

Sheldon, an affectionate 6-year old lap cat, is available at VHS.

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Tips for homeowners who plan to never sell

Keeping house in top condition makes it safer, more comfortable — and ready when life changes quickly

BY DAVID STARK

What should you do if you plan on never selling your home? Get it — and keep it — in ready-to-sell condition.

“We all think we’re going to live in our houses for the rest of our lives. The reality is you’ve got to be prepared for what tomorrow looks like,” said Tracey Esling, 2024 president-elect for Bay East Association of Realtors.

Russ and Doris Slater, 53-year Pleasanton residents, weren’t planning on ever moving. This changed when they needed to move closer to their grandchildren.

They experienced some surprises while getting their home ready to sell. “The home inspections revealed things that you wouldn’t really think about,” Russ Slater said. “We had foundation and pest repairs that were expensive.”

Esling, a Tri-Valley resident and Realtor, said preventative and ongoing maintenance sooner rather than later will make a home safer and more comfortable to live in. And if needed, easier to sell in the future — planned or otherwise.

“There’s less to do,” Esling said.

“Because our lives can change rather quickly, if you need to get your home on the market quickly, if you have to go backwards and get a lot of maintenance done, it could make preparing your home for sale more complicated.”

Esling said homeowners can start from the outside in: “You need to make sure the gutters are intact and clean because there are lots of trees in Pleasanton. Paint it and watch if there are cracks in the stucco. Is there wood rot? Are there shrubs and bushes growing up against your home? You need to make sure those items are maintained.”

Plumbing problems can creep up on homeowners particularly in Pleasanton where many homes were built more than 50 years ago. Esling said to be on the lookout for leaks under sinks, bathtubs and showers.

“Any type of leaks, even running toilets, if you see a leak, you need to check it,” Esling said. “Windows can leak and they can crack, all kinds of things can happen and you need to maintain those windows.”

Preparing their home for sale taught the Slaters several lessons that are valuable to all homeowners,

even if they aren’t planning to sell. Russ Slater said, “We pulled up the carpet and discovered pristine hardwood floors,” another lesson for homeowners not planning to sell but still wanting to improve their home: regular maintenance can uncover a pleasant surprise.

Both Slater and Esling agree that professionals can help homeowners stay ahead of keeping a home in shape either for the long haul or for getting it ready to sell.

Esling said, “You need to reach out to a real estate agent because they have contacts. That’s what every one of my clients have said. Agents have painters, landscape people, roofers, gutter people, tree trimmers, we have the people that you need to make sure that your maintenance is done.”

Moving inside, Esling had more suggestions for homeowners who want to stay put: “They need to keep their homes decluttered, they need to paint the interiors, check the plumbing, keep the home up-to-date.”

Esling said homeowners don’t necessarily need to take on a large-scale remodeling project, adding, “Paint and flooring are probably the

two most important things that you need to keep in good shape. You need to maintain the interior just like you maintain the exterior.”

Maintaining a home is easier if there’s less clutter and minimizing now can help later when a home is sold.

The Slaters had to tackle the declutter challenge. “We had three kids and once they left home, all of our closets were filled,” Russ Slater said. His advice for anyone planning on staying or moving is to “resist the temptation to fill empty space. If you’re willing to get rid of stuff, you’re well ahead of the game.”

Esling also had advice for taming clutter, “If a homeowner has a family, start there. The reason I say that is we all think our children want everything and the children are the ones who end up dealing with your things. Ask your kids, ‘What do you want, what don’t you want?’” For those who may not have children, Esling said someone will still eventually have to deal with their belongings and suggested everyone minimize sooner rather than later.

Getting a home ready for sale



David Stark

now, even if that sale may be many years in the future, could decrease the impact on a homeowner’s life when the home is eventually put on the market.

Esling agreed

that a homeowner can either keep their home in good shape now or be faced with having to move out while extensive maintenance and repair work is done when they are preparing to sell the house. Having to replace carpet and repaint at the same time can be disruptive versus completing that work as separate projects.

“You have to be prepared for what’s going to happen in life, and what may lead to having to sell your home. If you can be prepared, it helps when those moments come,” Esling said.

Editor’s note: David Stark is chief public affairs and communications officer for the Bay East Association of Realtors, based in Pleasanton. ■



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Seniors Calendar Fall 2024

Hobbies

FALL CRAFTING SOCIAL Join this Fall Crafting Social (50+) and enjoy time with new friends, creating fun and imaginative crafts and decor for home or as gifts for friends and loved ones. 1-2:30 p.m., Sept. 26. \$22R/\$24NR. Robert Livermore Community Center. To register, call 925-373-5700.

ARTS AND CRAFTS SOCIAL Join this Arts and Crafts Social at the Pleasanton Senior Center. 1:30 p.m., Sept. 27. \$5.00. To register call 925-931-5365.

WOODCARVING AT PLEASANTON SENIOR CENTER This drop-in program is 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Tuesdays. All experience levels are welcome. The club provides a knife, safety equipment, gloves and leather thumb guard. Drop-in fees apply \$3 resident/\$3.50 non-resident.

POKER AT THE PLEASANTON SENIOR CENTER 1-4 p.m., Tuesdays and Thursdays. Drop-in fees apply \$3R/\$3.50NR. Must be familiar with the game of poker.

KNITTING AT THE PLEASANTON SENIOR CENTER Refresh skills, pick up some new tips, share techniques, get help or just sit and knit. 9-11:30 a.m., Fridays. Drop-in fees apply \$3R/\$3.50NR.

PLEASANTON VIP TRAVEL Visit the VIP Travel Desk at the Pleasanton Senior Center to pick up flyers or register for a local day trip or an extended trip. Open 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays.

DROP-IN CRAFTS AT RLCC The Golden Circle Craft group meets at 12:30 p.m., Mondays. Bring a craft project to work on. Robert Livermore Community Center. 4444 East Ave., Livermore.

DROP-IN MAHJONG AT RLCC American Version Mahjong meets 1-4 p.m., Wednesdays in the Sycamore Room. Free lessons are available if new to the game. Robert Livermore Community Center, 4444 East Ave.

Talks

FREE WALKING TOURS Join the Museum on Main staff and learn about Pleasanton's long and varied history in this free walking tour named in remembrance of local architect Charles Huff. Learn about the architecture and back stories of some of the town's most notable buildings. 9 a.m., Sept. 21. Rain or shine. 603 Main St.

AUTHORS AND THE FREEDOM TO READ This is an evening of understanding book bans and challenges and celebrating the freedom to read where authors will speak on their recent personal experiences with book challenges. Special guests include Assemblywoman Rebecca Bauer-Kahan. 7 p.m., Sept. 23. Firehouse Arts Center. Free tickets at bit.ly/PleasantonFreetoRead.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS WORKSHOP Join for a comprehensive Emergency Preparedness Workshop and learn essential steps on how to safeguard family and home in case of an emergency. Whether it's a natural disaster, power outage, or other emergencies, being prepared can make all the difference. 6:30-8 p.m., Sept. 24. Pleasanton Library.

HAPPY HOUR WITH AUTHOR CAM INMAN Meet Cam Inman, author of "The Franchise: San Francisco 49ers", and take a more profound and unique journey into the history of an

iconic team. 5-6 p.m., Sept. 28. Towne Center Books, 555 Main St., Pleasanton.

RETHINK YOUR RETIREMENT Join this free talk from LARPD which will discuss how to protect savings and investment balance while generating income that lasts for retirement. 1-2 p.m., Oct. 9. To register, call 925-373-5700.

ARMCHAIR TRAVELERS AT LIVERMORE LIBRARY Dan Moore presents "Biking around Livermore with Dan Moore" where he will show photographs he's taken over the past 15 years and will highlight bike-accessible sights within 12 miles of Livermore. 1:30 p.m., Oct. 10. Civic Center Library Storytime Room.

TREVARNO ROAD HISTORY WALK Take a nostalgic walk along this shady lane reminiscent of an earlier era complete with old-fashioned street lamps and learn from Heritage Guild docent, Susan Canfield, about the local history of the Craftsman-style bungalows nestled on generous, grassy lots. Free. 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., Oct. 29. Register at 925-373-5700.

Exercise

PLEASANTON PEDALERS Pleasanton Pedalers Cycling is 8:30 a.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays at the Pleasanton Senior Center. The Tuesday ride is 30-45 miles and the Thursday ride is 25-30 miles, for cyclists who want a slower pace. For more information contact pleasantonpedalers@outlook.com.

SOLE MATES WALKING GROUP Sole Mates Walking Group is Wednesdays, 8:45-10 a.m., at the Pleasanton Senior Center. Participants must be able to walk 2.5 miles and keep a moderate pace with the group.

WALKING WITH A PURPOSE Walk at a comfortable pace, designed for all levels of walkers. Group leaves from the RLCC Courtyard to walk the perimeter of Robert Livermore Community Park. 9:30 a.m., Thursdays.

Support

GENERAL LOSS SUPPORT GROUP This Hope Hospice virtual eight-week support group for adults is intended for anyone experiencing the loss of a loved one. Mondays, 6-7:30 p.m., Sept. 23-Nov. 11. For more information, visit hopehospice.com/services/grief or call 925-829-8770.

LEGAL ASSISTANCE FOR SENIORS This LARPD free presentation from Legal Assistance for Seniors will discuss how to create a secure future by explaining Advance Health Care Directives and how to complete them, end-of-life decision-making and referrals for other planning tools. 1-2 p.m., Sept. 26. Call 925-373-5700.

CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP Join a free support group for unpaid caregivers of an individual(s) over the age of 60. Meetings are in person every Wednesday at the Pleasanton Senior Center. 2-3 p.m., Arts and Crafts Room.

LIVE & LEARN PRESENTATIONS This free Caregiver Support Group from City Serve of the Tri-Valley meets at 10:30-11:30 a.m. every 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month

CALENDAR

Continued from Page 18

through Dec. 19. Participants should be unpaid caregivers of individual(s) over age 60. Robert Livermore Community Center, 4444 East Ave.

LUNCHES AT THE SENIOR CENTER Senior Lunches (60+) are served in the Main Hall 11:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. Mondays to Fridays. Call Open Heart Kitchen at 925-500-8241 for more information.

SPECTRUM MEALS ON WHEELS Spectrum Meals on Wheels provides home delivered meals (60+). For more information call 510-881-0305.

COMMUNITY MEAL PROGRAM Open Heart Kitchen serves free meals, first come, first served, that are nutritious and freshly prepared. 12-5 p.m. weekdays, Vineyard Resource Center, 450 N Livermore Ave.

OPEN HEART REFUGE Open Heart Refuge is a 20-bed overnight shelter in Livermore for adults who are in crisis or experiencing homelessness, operating seven days a week from 6 p.m. to 8 a.m. Includes both a hot dinner and hot breakfast. For more information, visit openheartkitchen.org/refuge.

PLEASANTON RIDES Pleasanton Rides is a door-to-door, shared-ride transportation service for Pleasanton Seniors, Mondays to Fridays, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Call 925-398-1045.

SIT FIT FALL PREVENTION This free class by CityServe is 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Thursdays at the Pleasanton Senior Center.

FREE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM The City of Pleasanton Recreation Department provides a Fee Assistance Program for residents who would like to participate in recreation programs but may not have the financial means. For more information contact Recreation Services at 925-931-5340.

FREE LEGAL ASSISTANCE FOR SENIORS 60+ Receive legal advice and consultation from a professional lawyer over the phone, designed for adults 60+ and persons assisting individuals 60+. No wills. Call 510-832-3040 for more information.

VETERANS CONNECT AT THE LIBRARY The Pleasanton library can help veterans connect with earned benefits from the VA and CalVet including education, employment, housing, health and disability. See the online Veterans Resource page at pleasantonlibrary.org or contact 925-931-3400, ext. 4.

Entertainment

FOREVER MOTOWN Experience the ultimate Motown reunion with Forever Motown and celebrate the timeless classics of Berry Gordy's legendary hit factory. 8 p.m., Sept. 20. Tickets \$55. Visit livermorearts.org.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLE'S CELEBRATION Join this free celebration of story, song and dance, appreciating

the long history of culture and traditions that Native Americans and Hispanic Americans have preserved through the centuries. 11 a.m., Sept. 21. Bankhead Theater. Visit livermorearts.org.

CARNAVAL SANTANA TRIBUTE Carnival faithfully recreates the drive and the sound that has made Santana's music a mainstay in rock music history for the past five decades. 8 p.m., Sept. 28. Tickets \$25-\$35. Visit firehousearts.org.

JAZZ AT INKLINGS The next free Jazz at Inklings features vocalist Nicolas Bearde and Matt Finders Trio. 6 p.m., Sept. 28. Seating is limited. 533 Main St., Pleasanton. For reservations, visit meetup.com/pleasanton-jazz-society.

LIVERMORE VALLEY OPERA Livermore Valley Opera presents "Daughter of the Regiment", the charming tale of Marie found on a battlefield and raised by a French Regiment. 7:30 p.m., Sept. 28; 2 p.m., Sept. 29, Oct. 5-6. Tickets \$25-\$110. Visit livermorearts.org.

PLEASANTON COMMUNITY BAND The Pleasanton Community Band will perform at the Pleasanton Farmers' Market 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., Sept. 28.

MINNA FU PIANO RECITAL Enjoy the music of great composers including Beethoven, Chopin, Price and Stravinsky performed by Minna Fu. Minna received the performance diploma of the Fellowship of the Royal Schools of Music with distinction in Piano Performance. Free. 3 p.m., Sept. 29. Firehouse Arts Center.

THE SHE GEES This electrifying female-fronted tribute to the Bee Gees will have the audience dancing and singing along to all of the hits. 7:30 p.m., Oct. 2. Tickets \$55-\$75. Visit livermorearts.org.

JOAN OSBORNE AT THE BANKHEAD Joan Osborne is known for her gritty, blues-based rock sound, passionate performance and emotionally evocative songwriting. 8 p.m., Oct. 4. Tickets \$25-\$220. Visit livermorearts.org.

LHS MUSIC DEPARTMENT FALL CONCERT Join Livermore High School's Instrumental Music Department band and orchestra as they play to the theme of "When Light turns to Dark". Free admission though donations to Livermore Music boosters' organization accepted. 6 p.m., Oct. 16. Livermore High School Theater.

Exhibitions

ALAMEDA FALL HOME SHOW The 38th Annual Fall Home Show is back at the Alameda County Fairgrounds. Meet experts and visit exhibits and displays to help turn a house into the home of your dreams. 12-5 p.m., Oct. 4, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Oct. 5-6. Visit alamedacountyfair.com.

TEXTURES OF REMEMBRANCE This exhibit explores a date that impacts many Vietnamese Americans: April 30, 1975, the end of the Vietnam War, featuring works by 25 Vietnamese artists and

writers. Through Sept. 28. Visit museumonmain.org.

LOCOMOTIVE EXHIBIT The exhibit "Rails Connect: A Livermore-Pleasanton Railroad Journey through Art & History", is on display at the UNCLE Credit Union Art Gallery, Bankhead Theater lobby. 1-5 p.m., through Oct. 6.

Movies

FILM CLUB MOVIE & DISCUSSION Join for a free movie, "The Thomas Crown Affair", showing on the big screen and stay for an engaging group discussion about the movie. Bring your own snacks and drinks. 1:30-4 p.m., Sept. 21. Pleasanton Library.

MOVIE MADNESS IN THE VINTAGE LOUNGE Join the Senior Services crew for a movie in the Vintage Lounge at the Robert Livermore Community Center the 1st and 3rd Monday of each month. Movies begin at 1 p.m.

Fundraisers

ENCHANTED GARDEN GALA Join Sunflower Hill for their biggest fundraiser of the year and experience an unforgettable evening filled with magic and wonder. Step into the beauty of an Enchanted Garden where dreams blossom and possibilities are endless. 6-10 p.m., Sept. 21. Tickets \$175. Blackhawk Museum. Visit paybee.io/in-person-event/sunflowerhil/5.

BEER, BRATS & BINGO Join this Pleasanton Military event at the Veterans Memorial Building. Doors open 5 p.m., Sept. 21. Bingo Cards \$15. 301 Main St.

Festivities

CULTURA POETRY & ART FEST Write poetry, share your own poetry, listen to bilingual poetry and enjoy art from various artists in this family friendly event which encourages literacy, community engagement, and art appreciation. 1 p.m., Sept. 21. Livermore Civic Center Library.

SIP WITH US LIVERMORE Celebrate California Wine Month in Downtown Livermore with No Corkage Fees. Bring a favorite bottle of Livermore produced wine and have the first bottle's corkage fee waived per party. Sept. 1-30. Visit livermoredowntown.com.

TASTE OF AFRICA FESTIVAL Taste of Africa is a free, outdoor festival showcasing musical and dance performances by local African and African diaspora artists, art exhibits, food, African marketplace, a community art project and a kidzone. 10 a.m., Oct. 5. Visit livermorearts.org. Free Bankhead Theater Plaza.

FILIPINO BARRIO FIESTA October officially marks Filipino American History Month in the United States. Celebrate Filipino American History Month through art, food, music,


dance, history and culture. 10 a.m., Oct. 6. Free. Visit livermorearts.org.

QUILT, CRAFT & SEWING FESTIVAL Don't miss this colorful quilting and craft show and interact with nearly 150 booths of the very best vendors from across the country. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Oct. 10-12. Admission is free. Visit alamedacountyfair.com.

GHOST WALK TICKETS ON SALE This family-friendly tour is led by a team of ghost hosts to visit nine haunted locations around downtown. Tours begin at Museum on Main and leave every thirty minutes from 6-8 p.m. Oct. 11, 12, 18, 19. Visit museumonmain.org.

DIWALI-FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS Celebrate Diwali with a fireworks display, vendor booths featuring arts, crafts, jewelry and clothing from India, food booths and a cultural program featuring Bollywood dances and performances. 12 p.m. to 11 p.m. Oct. 19. Tickets \$15. Children under 5 free. Visit alamedacountyfair.com.

HULA FESTIVAL & COMPETITION Hula schools from all over the world will perform with distinguished judges flown in from Hawaii to judge this competition. Experience an assortment of cultural dance, music, food and arts & crafts. Nov. 1-3. Tickets \$16-\$26. Visit alamedacountyfair.com.



ELECTION
2024
LOCAL EVENT

PLEASANTON UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board of Trustees Candidates' Forum

JOIN US

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 25

6 to 7:30 p.m.

Pleasanton Unified School District Boardroom

5758 W. Las Positas Blvd., Pleasanton

HOSTED BY



Pleasanton Weekly

Pleasanton Council
PTA
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PPIE PLEASANTON PARTNERSHIPS IN EDUCATION FOUNDATION

AREA 3 CANDIDATES

Donalyn Harris **Kelly Mokashi**


AREA 4 CANDIDATES

Jen Flynn **Charlie Jones**

LEARN MORE: PleasantonWeekly.com/election-forums/

To submit questions for consideration, scan code or visit tinyurl.com/PUSD-board



Public Notices

FRERICH CONSULTING
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 608961
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) Frerich Consulting , located at 3650 Touriga Drive, Pleasanton, CA 94566, Alameda County. This business is conducted by: an Individual. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):
PHILIP FRERICH
3650 Touriga Drive
Pleasanton, CA 94566
Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on August 1 2024
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on August 28 2024. (PLW Sep 20, 27, Oct 4 and 11, 2024)

TECH BASIC
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 609239
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) Tech Basic , located at 1446 Chateau Common #108 Livermore, CA 94550, Alameda County. This business is conducted by: an Individual. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):
TIM DRAIN
1446 Chateau Common #108
Livermore, CA 94550
Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on September 11 2024. (PLW Sep 20, 27, Oct 4 and 11, 2024)

FOREVER FARMS
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 608926
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) Forever Farms , located at 13575 Lake Chabot Rd. San Leandro, CA 94577, Alameda County. Mailing Address: 205 Downey St., San Francisco, CA 94117
This business is conducted by: an Individual. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):
DILLON GRUBER
205 Downey St
San Francisco, CA 94117
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 August 27 2024. (PLW Sep 13, 20, 27 and Oct 4, 2024)

HOME PROS CONSTRUCTION INC
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 609017
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) HOME PROS CONSTRUCTION INC , located at 2583 Orvieto Ct. Livermore, CA 94550 , Alameda County. This business is conducted by: a Corporation. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):
HOME PROS KITCHEN BATH INC.
2583 Orvieto Ct.
Livermore, CA 94550
State of Incorporation/Organization: Delaware
Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 1978
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on August 30 2024. (PLW Sep 13, 20, 27 and Oct 4, 2024)

DAANISH TECHNOLOGIES
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 606321
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) DAANISH TECHNOLOGIES , located at 6200 STONERIDGE MALL RD STE 300, PLEASANTON, CA 94588, ALAMEDA County. This business is conducted by: a Limited Liability Company. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):
DAANISH LLC
6200 STONERIDGE MALL RD STE 300
PLEASANTON, CA 94588
State of Incorporation/Organization: CA
Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 01/18/2021
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on May 13 2024. (PLW Sep 13, 20, 27 and Oct 4, 2024)

JELLYFLAVOR
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 608904
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) Jellyflavor , located at 4571 Maureen Circle, Livermore, CA 94550, Alameda County. This business is conducted by: an Individual. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):
TANVI MURUGESH
4571 Maureen Circle
Livermore, CA 94550
Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on August 26 2024. (PLW Sep 6, 13, 20 and 27, 2024)

MALHOTRA CONSULTANCY
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 609037
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) MALHOTRA CONSULTANCY , located at 7015 Locust Ct, Dublin, CA 94568 , Alameda County. This business is conducted by: an Individual. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):
SAMIR MALHOTRA
7015 Locust Ct
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 September 03 2024. (PLW Sep 20, 27, Oct 4 and 11, 2024)

RRREALTY
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 609186
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) RRREALTY , located at 6286 Ruxton Ct Pleasanton, CA 94588, Alameda County. This business is conducted by: an Individual. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):
ANURADHA KADIVETI
6286 Ruxton Ct
Pleasanton, CA 94588
Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 09/09/2024
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on September 09 2024. (PLW Sep 20, 27, Oct 4 and 11, 2024)

HLW WINES
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 608709
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) HLW WINES , located at 44400 Parkmeadow Dr., Fremont, CA 94539, Alameda County. Mailing Address: PO BOX 15193, Fremont, CA 94539. This business is conducted by: a Limited Liability Company. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):
HLW WINERY, LLC
PO BOX 15193
Fremont, CA 94539
State of Incorporation/Organization: California
Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 10/27/2015
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on August 19 2024. (PLW Aug 30, Sep 6, 13 and 20, 2024)

HLW VINEYARDS
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 608711
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) HLW VINEYARDS , located at 44400 Parkmeadow Dr, Fremont, CA 94539, Alameda County. Mailing Address: PO BOX 15193, Fremont, CA 94539. This business is conducted by: a Limited Liability Company. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):
HLW LLC
PO BOX 15193
Fremont, CA 94539
State of Incorporation/Organization: California
Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 7/6/2005
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on August 19 2024. (PLW Aug 30, Sep 6, 13 and 20, 2024)

WARM SPRINGS CHIROPRACTIC
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 609214
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) Warm Springs Chiropractic , located at 194 Francisco Lane 104 Fremont, CA 94539, Alameda County. This business is conducted by: a Married Couple. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):
PAUL IATTONI
194 Francisco Lane 104
Fremont, CA 94539
EVANGELINE LAU
194 Francisco Lane 104
Fremont, CA 94539
Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 7/1/24
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on September 10 2024. (PLW Sep 20, 27, Oct 4 and 11, 2024)

DECKED OUT
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 608726
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) DECKED OUT , located at 3263 Vineyard Ave. Spc 99, Pleasanton, CA 94566-6342, Alameda County. This business is conducted by: an Individual. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):
EMILY WARREN
3263 Vineyard Ave. Spc 99
Pleasanton, CA 94566-6342
Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on August 15 2024
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on August 19 2024. (PLW Aug 30, Sep 6, 13 and 20, 2024)

NANABLUEBERRY
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 608809
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) NANABLUEBERRY , located at 34340 Platinum Terrace, Fremont, CA 94555, Alameda County. This business is conducted by: an Individual. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):
LI JIN
34340 Platinum Terrace
Fremont, CA 94555
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 August 21 2024. (PLW Sep 6, 13, 20 and 27, 2024)

VELVET HEAD SPA LIVERMORE
VELVET LIVERMORE
VELVET HEAD SPA
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 608932
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) VELVET HEAD SPA LIVERMORE , 2.) VELVET LIVERMORE , 3.) VELVET HEAD SPA , located at 2133 LAS POSITAS CT., STE. A, LIVERMORE, CA 94551, ALAMEDA County. Mailing Address: 741 TARROGANA DRIVE TRACY, CA 95376
This business is conducted by: a Corporation. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):
TGS MASSAGE INC.
741 TARROGANA DRIVE
TRACY, CA 95376
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 August 27 2024. (PLW Sep 6, 13, 20 and 27, 2024)

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA FOR THE COUNTY OF ALAMEDA
Case No.: 24CV089422
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:
Petitioner: Sean Kendall Robbins filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:
SEAN KENDALL ROBBINS to SEAN CALVIN KENDALL
ALEXANDRA LAUREN BRESLIN to ALEXANDRA LAUREN KENDALL
THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the

name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.
NOTICE OF HEARING: 12/27/2024, 9:30 AM, Civil Branch of the Superior Court of California, County of Alameda located at 661 Washington St., Oakland CA 94607.
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: Aug 30, 2024
Thomas J. Nixon
JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT
(PLW Sep 13, 20, 27 and Oct 4, 2024)

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA FOR THE COUNTY OF ALAMEDA
Case No.: 24CV090833
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:
Petitioner: Anne Wong filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:
ANNE WONG to ANNE YING
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: 1/31/2025, 9:30 AM, Wiley W Manuel of the Superior Court of California, County of Alameda located at 661 Washington Street, Oakland, CA 94607.
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: 9/10/2024
Thomas Nixon
JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT
(PLW Sep 20, 27, Oct 4 and 11, 2024)

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA FOR THE COUNTY OF ALAMEDA
Case No.: 24CV091131
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:
Petitioner: Materdo Rodrigues Maria Selvam and Saicharanya Sivakumar filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:
PRAJITH RODRIGUES MATERDO to PRAJITH MATERDO
THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.
NOTICE OF HEARING: 01/31/2025, 09:30 AM, Wiley W. Manuel Courthouse of the Superior Court of California, County of Alameda located at 661 Washington St, Oakland, CA 94607.
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: 09/12/2024
Thomas Nixon
JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT
(PLW Sep 20, 27, Oct 4 and 11, 2024)

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA FOR THE COUNTY OF ALAMEDA
Case No.: 24CV087499
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:
Petitioner: Kristina Joy Constantino Budnik filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:
KRISTINA JOY CONSTANTINO BUDNIK to KRISTINA JOY TORREALBA
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: DECEMBER 20, 2024, 9:30 am, WILEY W MANUEL COURTHOUSE of the Superior Court of California, County of ALAMEDA located at 661 WASHINGTON STREET, OAKLAND, CA 94607.
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: AUGUST 16, 2024
THOMAS I NIXON
JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT
(PLW Aug 30, Sep 6, 13 and 20, 2024)

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA FOR THE COUNTY OF ALAMEDA
Case No.: 24CV084587
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:
Petitioner: Sagar Sadanand Kangutkar and Namrata Niteen Dhuru filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:
NEIL KANGUTKAR DHURU to NEIL DHURU KANGUTKAR
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: 10/11/2024, 9:30 am, Oakland Branch of the Superior Court of California, County of Alameda located at 1225 Fallon 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: 07/24/2024
Thomas Nixon
JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT
(PLW Sep 20, 27, Oct 4 and 11, 2024)

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA FOR THE COUNTY OF ALAMEDA
Case No.: 24CV087659
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:
Petitioner: Kalena Ramos filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:
KALENA RAMOS to KALENA NICOLE LUTHER
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: 11-08-2024, 9:30AM, Alameda of the Superior Court of California, County of Alameda located at 661 Washington St, Oakland, CA 94607.
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: Aug 19 2024
Thomas J Nixon
JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT
(PLW Aug 30, Sep 6, 13 and 20, 2024)

Place a legal notice at
PleasantonWeekly.com/legal_notices/

The importance of establishing Black-Serving Institutions in California

The California Community College system is the largest in the nation, serving nearly two million students at 116 campuses. The system enrolls one out of every 14 Black students who attend a college or university in the nation.

Unfortunately, 63% of Black community college students do not earn a degree, certificate or transfer within six years. California Senate Bill 1348, authored by Sen. Steven Bradford (D-Gardena), aims to address this challenge by designating California colleges that meet certain criteria as Black-Serving Institutions (BSIs).

The Chabot-Las Positas Community College District is a microcosm of diversity in California.

Founded in 1961, CLPCCD serves over 25,000 students annually in the East Bay through its two colleges: Chabot College in Hayward and Las Positas College in Livermore. The district's diverse demographics have helped CLPCCD earn designations like Hispanic-Serving Institution (HSI) and Asian American Native Hawaiian Pacific Islander-Serving Institution (AAHPISI).

In addition to being a source of pride, these designations have unlocked resources intended to support underserved students. It is time for California to provide similar recognition and support for Black students.

SB 1348 seeks to recognize the state's public and private colleges and universities that make significant commitments in support of Black student success. Among the proposed criteria, applicants eligible for designation would have at least 10% of the institution's enrolled student population, or 1,500 enrolled students, identifying as Black or African American.

The bill is currently on Gov. Gavin Newsom's desk.

A recent report shows that Black students participating in Umoja programs — statewide programs that address student needs through academic support services and curriculum focused on African American history, literature and culture — pass college-level math and English within the first year and are propelled to academic success.

The report also notes that there are a number of barriers to successfully transferring to a four-year college such as access to counseling, lack of technology off campus and mental health issues, among others. We believe it is vital to understand the Black student experience, elevate strategies to address these issues as a system, and to create pathways for improved student outcomes.

Four years ago, Chabot College created the Black Excellence Collective (BEC) 10x10, which emerged as a response to bleak data regarding Black student outcomes and the murder

of George Floyd. The BEC task force enlisted over 100 volunteer members from across our campus community to support the approximately 2,000 Black students at Chabot College. Ten "villages" were created to connect and refer students to campus services and resources.

Additionally, both Las Positas College and Chabot College have established Black Cultural Resource Centers and have maintained Umoja Learning Communities on their respective campuses to further support Black student success.

SB 1348 highlights the need to support Black and African American students attending all postsecondary educational institutions throughout the state with the goal of closing academic equity gaps. The bill would require the creation of Black student success programs and robust African American studies programs.

We believe that Black students will experience the same positive outcomes seen by those students benefiting from HSI and AAHPISI

programs. If the bill becomes law, the CLPCCD would move quickly to seek the designation.

The Chabot-Las Positas Community College District stands firmly in support of SB 1348 and the movement to create more equitable outcomes for Black students across California.

As a district, we have long prioritized diversity, inclusion and equity in our practices. The designation of Black-Serving Institutions would be a critical step forward in addressing the longstanding challenges faced by Black students in higher education.

The time for action is now, and we are committed to leading this effort to ensure that every student in California, regardless of background, has the opportunity to succeed. ■

Editor's note: This Guest Opinion was jointly authored by Las Positas College President Dyrell Foster, Ed.D., Chabot College President Jamal Cooks, Ph.D., and Ronald Gerhard, chancellor of the Chabot-Las Positas Community College District.

Pleasanton Weekly

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LETTERS

Thank you for all you do!

Jeremy and everyone at The Pleasanton Weekly and Embarcadero Media, thank you for all you do! This month we attended the Pleasanton Mayoral/City Council Forum on Sept. 5, "Stripped for Parts" on Sept. 6 and saw Katharine McPhee on Sept. 7 — all compliments of The Pleasanton Weekly. We would be so lost without The Weekly keeping us up-to-date on the latest happenings!

However, it seems there has to be a more sustainable option other than relying on donations to keep you going. Although I don't support Measure PP, I would support something where the entire community paid for independent, local journalism.

Thanks to the Weekly's partnership with the Bankhead Theater, we were able to see Katharine McPhee who was accompanied by the Livermore-Amador Symphony. Both were outstanding and at dinner we happened to sit beside the husband of one of the cello players and learned quite a bit about the all-volunteer, highly professional symphony.

They held a live auction before the concert and it was impressive to see how enthusiastically the attendees bid on the auction items, and others

who simply pledged money with two people donating \$25,000 each, to the surprise and delight of the audience and the auctioneer!

We wish there was a way to get more of this type of financial generosity directed toward The Weekly. It is apparent that you're an incredibly hard-working, passionate team, that you hold yourselves to the highest standards of journalism, and that you provide an essential service, and yet are having a difficult time staying afloat.

Although we made donations to The Weekly and The Bankhead, we know it is a drop in the bucket compared to what your organization needs. We may not have deep pockets, but we are willing to donate our time or help in other ways, so please let us know if there is some way we can be of help beyond raving about The Weekly and asking people if they are subscribers.

—Kathleen Hall and Rick Schneider

Tennis fundraiser to honor my dad

I am a junior in high school. My dad, Girish, passed away this year on Jan. 26 from cancer, specifically liposarcoma. He was very passionate about sports, especially tennis, which held an extraordinary place in his heart.

Because of him, tennis has become

essential to my life, and I am so grateful for it.

So, in his memory, I organized a doubles tennis tournament on Aug. 3-4. We live in Pleasanton and decided to conduct the tournament at Dougherty Valley High School as my dad played a men's tennis league for the team that practiced at DVHS, and he used to play there a lot.

From the registration fees and other contributions, we were hoping to raise \$10,000, which will all be going toward the Sarcoma Foundation of America.

We surpassed our goal of \$10,000 and raised \$13,200, which has all been donated to the Sarcoma Foundation of America. None of this would have been made possible without the donors, and others who helped make this event successful. I am so grateful for all the players who came out this weekend, especially in this heat, to celebrate my dad's memory.

I hope my dad is watching from above and is proud to see our community coming together to celebrate his memory.

—Sagarika Kashyap

On homeschooling

I am a Boy Scout. I am sending you this message because I have to inform you of a random topic for a requirement in the Communication Merit Badge.

Pros of homeschooling: The curriculum is very flexible because you don't have to just do math, or science, or english. You can learn how to cook or sew, and do extraordinary things that you might not have the opportunity of doing in school.

You won't get bullied at home, unlike school, where it can happen regularly but might not happen often. So it is a really effective way to learn in a safe environment.

Since you can design and shape your own curriculum, you can choose where you spend your time, which could lead to stronger family bonds and more family time, which you can never have enough of.

Cons: Finance is an extremely large con of homeschooling, in fact, it can deter you so much that you might be better off not homeschooling. Most schools are government-funded (at least in the Bay Area) and that means that they are generally free of any cost, but for homeschooling, you have to buy equipment, books, and countless other items that could give your budget a hard time.

If your parents plan on teaching you, then they put a big burden on themselves as well, because they have to prepare lessons for you, and teach you as well, which, again, is a big burden, but they have to be aware of the topic.

—Namish Gohil



PLEASANTON PREPS

BY DENNIS MILLER

Foothill girls' volleyball wins Bay Area Classic

Also: Meet Amador Valley's Hall of Fame Class of 2024

The Foothill girls' volleyball team rebounded from a loss in the first week of East Bay Athletic League to roll to the title of the Bay Area Classic that took place at Menlo Atherton High School.

In the tournament, the Falcons beat Notre Dame SJ (25-15, 25-12), Marin Academy (25-18, 25-19), Palo Alto (25-15, 25-7), and in the title match Rocklin (25-22, 25-20).

During the week, the Falcons started EBAL play beating Granada 25-19, 25-9, 25-16. Highlights came from Kaycie Burdick (17 kills, .610 hitting percentage), Brooke Stedman (18 assists, 6 digs), Sophia Zhang (10 digs, 3 aces) and Sophia Burdick (4 kills, 4 digs, 1 block).

Later in the week Foothill fell to San Ramon Valley 25-12, 20-25, 19-25, 25-20, 9-15. Highlights were from Kaycie Burdick (25 kills, 16 digs), Kait Vogel (17 service points, 16 digs, 11 kills), Paige Nelson (29 assists, 11 digs, 8 kills), Lulu Hoenninger (7 kills, 4 blocks) and Olivia So (21 digs).

Amador Hall of Fame

The Amador Valley High School Boosters will be celebrating their 2024 Athletic League Hall of Fame inductees this week.

This year's quartet is made up of former volleyball coach Rich Cortez, Natalie Griffen (soccer/track and field), Bob Hall (basketball) and



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Foothill girls' volleyball team celebrates winning the Bay Area Classic.

Legacy pick Kelly French.

Rich Cortez: Cortez spent 17 seasons guiding the Amador program with an overall record of 368-197. In that span his teams won seven EBAL titles and claimed three North Coast Section championships out of 13 appearances in the tournament.

Natalie Griffen: Griffen was a 2010 graduate, lettering all four years in soccer and track and field. She was the captain of the Dons' soccer team as a senior and helped the team to three NCS appearances. In track she

won EBAL titles in the 400 meters and the 1,600-meter relay.

After high school, Griffen played a major role for four years at Stanford, helping the Cardinal to win the 2011 National Championship. She was also an Academic All-American at Stanford.

Bobby Hall: Hall is a 1993 graduate and was a three-year letter winner for the basketball team. He capped his senior year by leading the Dons to a NCS championship and a CIF Nor-Cal championship, giving the team a spot in the CIF State Championship game.

There the team fell 68-66 in overtime to multiple time state champion Artesia of Lakewood.

Hall went on to star at Hiwassee College in Tennessee — where he was named National Junior College Big Man Of the Year — before finishing off his hoop career playing two years at Louisiana State University.

Kelly French: The 1993 graduate played both softball and basketball for the Dons.

She was part of the legendary 26-inning, NCS playoff game that took three days to complete. She was also the coach of the inaugural girls' lacrosse team at Amador Valley in 2002. She went on to be the team manager of girls' lacrosse for 10 years.

She is also the parent of two Amador graduates in Grace and Maggie French and was a member of the Amador boosters board for five years.

As a Pleasanton Partnerships in Education Foundation board member, French started the PPIE Run for Education in 2013, which has brought in close to \$1 million for all Pleasanton Unified School District schools.

Amador girls' water polo

The Dons dropped California 14-9 behind four goals each from Susan Swyers and Kate Hopkins.

Regan Braga added three goals, with Zahra Alami, Abigail Jones, Olivia Ritter adding one goal each. Deepika Suresh had 11 saves for the Dons.

Amador boys' water polo

The Dons led 7-2 at the end of the first period and cruised home with a 17-8 win over California. Landon Kenney had five goals, with Bryce O'Nesky and Tyler Kaste adding three each.

Anthony Sowul had two goals, with TJ Chandler, Jake DeMichiel, Eli Morris and Evan Shackford getting one each to round out the scoring. Morris added four assists. ■



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COUNCIL CANDIDATES 7:30 to 8:15 p.m.

HOSTED BY Pleasanton Weekly

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Shawn Costello



Tom Evans



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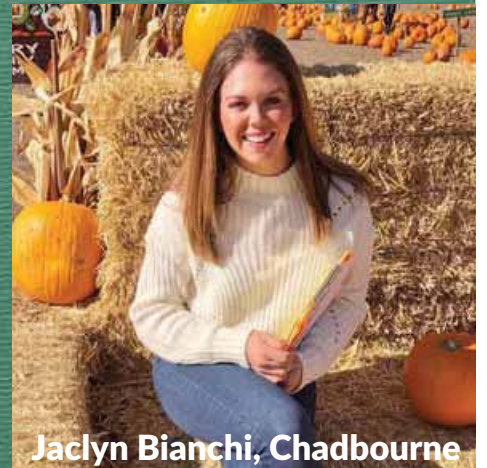
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