



## Alameda County election preview

Sheriff, district attorney, Zone 7 among key contests on June primary ballot

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# AROUND THE VALLEY



BY GINA CHANNELL WILCOX

## A seat at the table

The quest to make nutritious food available to all public school students for free is a laudable idea, but some students say the school-provided food isn't cutting the mustard.

Prior to the pandemic, school breakfasts and lunches were the only times some students ate during the day. During the pandemic, with many parents unable to work, food insecurity among students became a major concern and schools started providing free meals that could be picked up. When students returned to in-person learning, the universal free school meal program continued throughout the country.

"Because the federal government has allowed public school districts like PUSD to provide breakfast and lunch to all students at no charge, we have seen a jump from 2,821 to 7,700 lunches daily from pre-pandemic times to today," said Mary Fell, director of child nutrition services at Pleasanton Unified School District.

Some students, though, would rather go hungry because they can't stomach the food, according to a group of Pleasanton Middle School eighth-graders who formed the Pleasanton School Meals Project (PSMP).

PSMP wants school officials to know how students feel about the food and offer suggestions to help "our friends who have to endure it" because they can't consistently bring a lunch from home, according to Maya Mithani.

Mithani is the founder of PSMP, which also includes Eleanor Chen, Penelope Keenan, Liwon Kim, Natalie Knosp, Nia Lam, Aurora Nicolas, Sumana Srinivasa Raghavan and Evelyn Sun.

PSMP conducted an online survey and in-person interviews, collected photographic evidence, presented nutrition standards and values of a few menu items, provided analysis and made recommendations in a very impressive report, "Students Deserve Better."

The authors made it clear the work was done, "not to vilify school lunches," the report introduction reads, but because they "simply want higher-quality alternatives for students who eat school meals."

PSMP's conclusion was that "not only are the lunches unappetizing, as said by the students, but they also violate the district's own (nutritional) guidelines."

Fell and PUSD's child nutrition services coordinator Maly Pra said

the information about nutritional standards used in the report were incorrect and indicated calorie maximums per student group from the Smart Snack Nutrition Standards/Guidelines and not the National School Lunch Program and National School Breakfast Program.

They explained there is a difference in the way calorie maximums are counted in the Smart Snack and breakfast and lunch programs, with the snack program based on a calorie maximum per item, while the breakfast and lunch programs are calculated as an average of meals for a week.

In addition to calories, school districts have to follow federal regulations to meet requirements for whole grains, protein, fruit, vegetable, dairy, fat, trans fat and sodium.

Let's be honest — foods high in nutrition are often not high in appeal.

"The guidelines we follow require us to have 50% whole grain or more," Pra said. "People who culturally eat white pasta, when they have the 51% brown pasta, it's not palatable. So we have to take that into consideration when students are saying they want appealing food."

"PUSD has a racially and ethnically diverse student population," she said. "This means our students also have diverse palates and enjoy foods with different flavor profiles. Our goal is to develop a menu that appeals to the majority of our students."

Fell also pointed out that the schools have only ovens to heat meals as opposed to being able to prepare meals from scratch, making it more difficult to offer food like most students enjoy at home.

During public comment at the April 28 PUSD board meeting, Mithani, Kim and Chen very professionally presented their findings to the trustees and stated their desire to "work alongside the district to find an efficient and effective solution to this problem for the betterment of our students."

They will get their wish when PSMP members meet with Fell, Pra and PMS principal Joe Nguyen next Thursday.

Fell and Pra said they appreciate the students' feedback and questions.

"We are looking forward to having an open dialogue with students," Fell said, "to share information and find out how we can work collaboratively while continuing to follow the federal guidelines that dictate our child nutrition program." ■

### About the Cover

Learn more about the candidates for Zone 7 Board of Directors and Alameda County district attorney, sheriff-coroner, superintendent of schools and Board of Education Area 7 inside on Pages 12-15. Candidate photos contributed. Cover design by Paul Llewellyn.

Vol. XXIII, Number 17

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## Do you think downtown Pleasanton offers enough pet- and kid-friendly venues?



**Artie Ortega**  
*Retired*

Actually, no. I love being able to walk into town with my dog, but once we arrive, we are often limited to outdoor seating. It's very nice that many businesses offer outdoor water bowls and treats for dogs, but I'd really like to be able to go indoors with my dog, everywhere in town.



**Vanessa Reiter**  
*Director*

I don't think there could ever be too many dog-friendly venues. I would love to be able to go into any restaurant, with my dog, to eat lunch or dinner — or to just enjoy a glass of wine, with my well-behaved husband and dog.



**John Quintanal**  
*Retired*

The downtown businesses do a nice job in terms of catering to children. Most restaurants we dine at have children's menus. However, while we love to walk our dog along Main Street, and there are several businesses that have water bowls for them, I don't see a lot of signage saying that dogs are welcome to come indoors.



**Taylor Cocol**  
*Elementary school teacher*

Yes and no. There are a lot of great places to sit outside, but most restaurants don't allow dogs indoors, even well-behaved dogs like my own. I think that's unfortunate.



**Vadim Cocol**  
*Program manager*

I would really like to see more dog-friendly venues. We come downtown with our dog very regularly and would love to be able to take our dog indoors when it's cold outside. But most of the downtown businesses and restaurants don't allow you to do that.

—Compiled by Nancy and Jeff Lewis

Have a Streetwise question? Email [editor@PleasantonWeekly.com](mailto:editor@PleasantonWeekly.com)

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## DIGEST

### Fire activity

Firefighters were busy with multiple incidents in grasslands last weekend in the Tri-Valley.

Fire crews in Livermore stopped a 132-acre vegetation fire reported on Sunday near eastbound Interstate 580 by North Flynn Road, according to Cal Fire. The fire was called in at approximately 1:40 p.m. and appears to have been started from a vehicle or some sort of machinery, according to Bay City News Service.

The Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department responded to a vegetation fire around 1:45 p.m. last Friday on property east of Chatham Place in Pleasanton. The fire reached 8 acres but was quickly extinguished by crews. There were no injuries reported, and the cause remains under investigation.

The Alameda County and the Camp Parks fire departments conducted prescribed burns for training purposes near the Army Reserves training base in Dublin last Thursday and Friday. Public agencies advertised the controlled burns beforehand, but the smoke still prompted a number of calls to 911 on both days.

### 'Bike to Wherever'

Today is "Bike to Wherever Day" in the Bay Area, marking the return after a two-year hiatus of the event formerly known as Bike to Work Day.

The cities of Pleasanton and Dublin, along with BART, Hacienda and Veeva Systems, are hosting "energizer stations" at both Tri-Valley BART stations to greet cyclists with refreshments and free bike bags filled with giveaways.

Pleasanton is also partnering with Bike East Bay for a family cycling workshop on June 12. To learn more, visit [cityofpleasantonca.gov/bikeevents](http://cityofpleasantonca.gov/bikeevents).

### Convert your lawn

The city of Pleasanton will offer an increased rebate effective June 1 to new sustainable lawn conversion projects "that support multiple environmental benefits beyond water savings alone," officials said.

Under the updated program, \$0.50 per square foot of eligible lawn will be offered to customers whose project qualifies.

In conjunction with Zone 7's rebate program, a resident can raise their rebate value by applying both simultaneously, meaning up to \$2,575 (residential) or \$10,000 (commercial/irrigation).

Funding is limited and offered on a first-come, first-served basis. There are no retroactive rebates. Projects must have received approval and a notice to proceed from either Zone 7 or the city prior to removal of the lawn. ■

## PUSD board endorses \$23.5M purchase of Arroyo Center building in Hacienda

Sets stage for moving district HQ, freeing up Bernal property for future sale

By SHIRI MARWAHA

The Pleasanton school board paved the way last week for the district to purchase the Arroyo Center in Hacienda Business Park for \$23.5 million to become the new home of the district headquarters.

The 4-1 vote in favor of the sales purchase agreement on May 12 that would see the Pleasanton Unified School District acquire the West Las Positas Boulevard property through debt-financing, with the goal of recouping those funds through the sale of part of the current district property on

Bernal Avenue, likely for future residential development.

"There are multiple reasons why this makes sense," Trustee Joan Laursen said at the meeting.

Because of the poor condition of the buildings at the Bernal property, the relocation of the district offices and Village High School is imminent, according to Laursen. Furthermore, the new property would result in better facilities and the selling price of the Bernal land is significantly higher than the cost of Arroyo Center purchase, she said.

Trustee Kelly Mokashi cast the

dissenting vote following the public debate on the need and benefits of buying the property.

"I really feel that I'm concerned about the timeliness and I still have a lot of concerns and there are some questions that haven't been answered," Mokashi said. Student Trustee Saachi Bhayani also opposed the purchase.

The Arroyo Center is located at 5758 and 5794 W. Las Positas Blvd. in Hacienda Business Park. It includes two buildings and stretches across 6.69 acres of land with approximately 113,000 square feet of facility space — the

available area is 67,113 square feet, with 37,628 square feet currently rented.

The financing contingency period under the sales agreement is for 75 days, with a 10-day extension possible, to secure a certificate of participation (COP), which is the borrowing means PUSD would use to fund the purchase. A \$200,000 deposit would be non-refundable once the physical and financing contingency are removed.

Following the purchase, the

See **ARROYO** on Page 8

## The best speller in California

Quarry Lane's Rachamreddy wins state title, earns spot in national Spelling Bee

By SHIRI MARWAHA

Shradha Rachamreddy from Dublin's Quarry Lane School has been crowned champion of the 2022 California State Spelling Bee.

Bacciferous (an adjective defined as bearing or producing berries) was the winning word that bolstered the sixth-grader to victory in the tournament hosted by the San Joaquin Office of Education last weekend. The 12-year-old will now head to the national competition starting next weekend.

For the new state champion, competing is "fun" and began while she was in kindergarten. Bagging a second-place finish back then, she realized her passion for spelling competitions and worked to strengthen her prowess.

"I study words from the online Merriam Webster dictionary every day, for at least one to three hours," Rachamreddy told the Weekly.

Rachamreddy enjoys reading, learning language patterns and word forms. Although spelling words is second nature to her, she is aware of her strengths and weaknesses.

"German words have always been my strength, but my weakness is Middle-English words," she said.

As the adage goes, "it takes a village," according to Rachamreddy, and she said is grateful to her support system including her coach, parents and teachers.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Quarry Lane School student Shradha Rachamreddy (right) celebrates her state title after winning the California Spelling Bee last weekend.

"Shradha is truly a talented and intelligent student, and I am beyond proud of her achievement," English teacher Jaclyn Alagna said.

Alagna said Rachamreddy has been a charismatic and outgoing student since the first day of class.

"Not only did she demonstrate courteous and positive behavior, but her sensitivity to the nuances

within literature, and her passion for reading and writing were evident," Alagna added. "Her dedication to her studies is certainly recognized through this achievement."

Rachamreddy was crowned the Quarry Lane All-School Spelling Bee champion in February

See **SPELLING BEE** on Page 11

## Measure A passes by less than 1%

67.31% Yes votes for LVJUSD parcel tax renewal

By JEREMY WALSH

Voters have renewed the Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District's \$138 parcel tax for another seven years, with Measure A clearing the two-thirds supermajority threshold by less than one percentage point, according to election results certified last week.

The final totals for the special election, which was held vote-by-mail only with ballots due May 3, saw 67.31% of voters cast Yes on Measure A (11,298 votes) and 32.69% No (5,488 voters). As a parcel tax renewal, the ballot measure needed better than 66.67% Yes in order to pass.

The election results were certified on the evening of May 11 by the Alameda County Registrar of Voters' Office.

County election officials reported the final turnout was 16,802 ballots, or just 28.49% of the 58,984 registered voters to reside within the LVJUSD boundaries.

After Measure A's victory was confirmed, LVJUSD Superintendent Kelly Bowers thanked Livermore voters for "once again supporting our local schools and students" in a statement on May 12.

"By renewing local parcel tax funding, you have ensured that we can

See **MEASURE A** on Page 11

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# Dublin council approves East Ranch project as developer amends plans in line with new state law

Outcome serves as cautionary tale for residents pursuing local referendum with Housing Accountability Act looming in background

By JEANITA LYMAN

A large housing development rejected earlier this year after facing a referendum petition is now back on the horizon in Dublin following the City Council's approval of an amendment to the project that will bind it to state housing laws rather than the outcomes of negotiations by local officials.

The Dublin City Council voted unanimously this month to approve an amendment to the conditions of approval for a resolution that charted the course for the development of the long-discussed East Ranch housing project under the state's Housing Accountability Act (HAA).

"I'm a little bit disappointed with the way this is happening but I feel that ... for the best use of our land in our city we have to approve this, because the cost of a lawsuit would be tremendous if we did not," Vice Mayor Jean Josey said at the council's May 3 meeting.

The amendment means that instead of the previous plan, in which applicant Trumark Homes was slated to dedicate a parcel of the property to a private developer for affordable housing, Trumark will deed-restrict a number of units under the East Ranch plan and opt to pay in-lieu fees for 40% of the affordable housing units, in compliance with Dublin's inclusionary zoning requirements.

Under these guidelines, the 573-unit development is required to allot for 12.5%, or 72 units for affordable housing — 40% of which, or 29 total, can be accommodated via an in-lieu payment, which developers Trumark Homes have opted to pay out.

As a result, the fate of Sunflower Hill, a planned affordable housing project aimed at accommodating adults with developmental disabilities, is now uncertain, to the chagrin of council members who had been proud of negotiating with Trumark for the project.

In March, council members warned that Sunflower Hill would likely be a casualty of a referendum brought on by a petition led by the community group Dubliners Against Overdevelopment, and that the applicant would likely bring the item back to the council under the HAA, leading to less discretion and negotiating power from local officials on the project.

"This has taken the discretion out of our hands to be able to have the land dedication for Sunflower Hill, which was a project that was very important to us and is now in

jeopardy," Josey said on May 3.

The HAA accommodates projects that meet the bare minimum of compliance with a general plan and specific plan generally must be allowed to go forward, with developers having the right to sue under the act otherwise.

"Under the Housing Accountability Act, the city can only deny a housing project that complies with applicable objective general plan zoning and subdivision standards and criteria if the project would have a specific adverse impact on public health and safety that cannot be mitigated except by disapproving the project," Dublin City Attorney John Bakker said at the May 3 meeting.

**'Unfortunately ... we've lost the discretion to negotiate the affordable housing package that we felt was better.'**

Jean Josey,  
Dublin vice mayor

Bakker added that city staff were not aware of any such adverse impacts associated with East Ranch plans, giving applicants the right to move forward with the project with even more limited discretion from the council.

During the public hearing on the item, Arunabha Chakma, a lead organizer for Dubliners Against Overdevelopment, said that the group understood councilmembers' previous warning that this was how events would unfold, following the passage of the referendum brought on by the petition he'd organized.

However, the group is continuing to push back against the development, with city officials having received a letter from their legal counsel calling the city's reconsideration of the project an effective reenactment of the same item the referendum had rescinded. Chakma and other supporters of the group are also calling for additional environmental review of the project.

"We all live here, including yourself, so we basically wanted to do the right thing for everybody," Chakma said. "But today, only two months later, you are in a sense reenacting the same referendum so that based on the legal opinion we have received from our counsel, you received that letter ... these actions of

yours — according to counsel; I'm not a lawyer — violates election code section 9241."

Bakker had addressed the letter, saying that the amended project, and lack of significant impacts identified or discovered in the surrounding area, make it exempt under the California Environmental Quality Act.

He also noted that without the requirement for a stage two development plan under the amended project, which was the measure repealed by the March referendum, the council's move was not in violation of the election code cited by Chakma and his legal counsel.

However, another member of Dubliners Against Overdevelopment emphasized that the group had a contradictory legal opinion.

"Mr. Bakker always sides on the side of the developers and his interpretation of the laws," Norm Lewandowski said during the public hearing. "We have a full legal firm that's involved in this heavily and they differ drastically from what he's saying. So the only way to really tell what is the right direction is the judge is gonna have to make a decision on this. Just because Mr. Bakker said so doesn't mean it's correct."

Despite legal threats on either side, Bakker advised the council that the HAA gives Trumark significant leverage and limits the choices of local officials.

"One potential outcome is that the applicant, Trumark, would assert their rights under the Housing Accountability Act," Bakker said. "They may bring a lawsuit immediately, they may choose to take some other action, but I'm nearly certain they will assert their rights under the Housing Accountability Act in some way. And eventually it will lead to this project being back in front of you, or you'll maybe get a court order directing you to reconsider the project."

Josey said that while she believed the petitioners were well-intentioned, the referendum process had not played out in the way she suspected some who signed onto it had expected.

"I do believe some of the people that were gathering signatures, and in particular some of the people who were promoting your efforts on social media, did not necessarily understand your intention, felt that their intention was to completely stop homes from being built," Josey said.

"And we know that maybe that was not doable because we anticipated that an HAA project was probably going to come back to

us,” she added. “And unfortunately what’s happened is we’ve lost the discretion to negotiate the affordable housing package that we felt was better on this particular parcel than what’s strictly compliant with our zoning ordinance.”

Mayor Melissa Hernandez also expressed frustration with how the project was unfolding in the wake of the previous petition.

“Every single one of you always come forward and say you’re not against affordable housing and that you want more affordable housing, but the way we’re heading right now, the plan for being able to

bring in Sunflower Hill — this is an affordable housing unit for IDD individuals, you know, for people that when their parents pass away, that their parents know that they have a place to go,” Hernandez said.

“And we do have residents just like that here in our city of Dublin,” Hernandez continued. “So I keep hearing that you guys are not against affordable housing ... it just leaves me with a sense that you’re against all housing.”

Councilmember Michael McCorriston said Trumark’s move to pay in-lieu fees for the maximum number of units allowed by the city

pointed to an issue that should be addressed further down the road.

“The in-lieu of fees, given the fact that they’re very important in this city, I just thought it was kind of interesting how the developer said ‘40% boom, here’s your money, let’s move on,’” McCorriston said. “We need to seriously look at the percentages and the amounts for in-lieu, and again this is more of an outcome as a result of this next iteration of what we’re going through here.”

Councilmember Shawn Kumagai emphasized the project’s compliance with requirements approved by the council, in its present and

past iterations, and the need for affordable housing in the state that the HAA is meant to address, as well as expressing frustration with the referendum process.

“If you’re going to continue with litigation on this, you are just going to waste our tax dollars,” Kumagai said. “That’s all you’re going to do, and we’re going to get to the same outcome.”

Even though the council’s hands were being tied on the item, Kumagai also highlighted his support for the project, and for the goals of the HAA.

“We have no other choice, but

even if we did, I would still approve this project because this is a good project and we need more housing, and that’s what the Housing Accountability Act intends to do.”

Despite overall frustration and tensions between the council and community organization, Josey said that officials still wanted to hear from their constituents, and emphasized their commitment to addressing community concerns.

“There are things we can do to make projects, even housing projects we can’t say no to. We can make them better, and we need resident input in order to do that,” Josey said. ■

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# Stratford's Graham wins Teacher of the Year award

'I feel that it reflects the shine that so many of our students exhibited'

By SHIRI MARWAHA

Jason Graham, a science teacher at Stratford Middle School in Pleasanton, recently earned the Teacher of the Year award from the Synopsys Outreach Foundation Alameda County Science and Engineering Fair.

Graham expressed gratitude for receiving the award and credited it to school students and community for their support.

"I feel that it reflects the shine that so many of our students exhibited with their participation in the science fair this year," Graham said in an interview.

Graham said the director and staff at Stratford went above and beyond to support students preparing for the science fair.

"Our director helped to ensure that we had the materials and equipment that students needed to complete their projects. Math teachers helped guide the students to effectively analyze and present their data, while ELA teachers provided time for peer-editing

which helped the students refine their reports and presentations," he said.

"The students themselves were brilliant and were all very supportive of each other, providing suggestions for improvements along the way," he added.

In all, 24 students from Stratford Pleasanton Middle School participated in the science fair and received awards ranging from first to fourth place for various projects like the carotenoid transplants, electromagnetism and Venus fly trap propagation among other great projects, according to Graham.

"It was a truly amazing experience to see so many of our students recognized for their efforts."

Graham said as a teacher, he strives to establish a learning



Jason Graham

community early in the school year to help each student realize their potential through the encouragement and support from their peers and himself.

Furthermore the students practice elevator pitches, presentations and are encouraged to express their thoughts in group discussion.

"This helps them to develop confidence in themselves and their abilities while reducing the fear of challenges and obstacles that they face along the way," Graham said. "When challenges surface, the students are more comfortable asking for help and more open to suggestions from their peers and mentors."

He also mentioned the work students do at their new science lab that helps support future research.

Many of our students have been writing articles to submit for publication to peer-reviewed scientific journals. Our students have been caring for Venus fly traps,

crayfish, tadpoles, frogs, fish and quail chicks that we hatched from eggs in our school incubator.

Graham said the best outcome as a teacher is to see students succeed, and it is wonderful to encourage their excitement.

"Seeing my students find their spark in science that will inspire them to overcome their challenges and achieve their goals" is satisfying, Graham said. "My hope is that they continue to find wonder in this world throughout their lives."

In the future, he hopes to continue to build new science programs to encourage and inspire students to pursue their dreams.

"We have started an outdoor teaching lab in our school garden and I would like to continue building and growing that program to help the students connect with science through outdoor education and experiential learning," he said.

It was not always easy for Graham and personal struggles as a

student compelled him to drop out of high school. He said it was challenging as it took him 10 years to build up the confidence to go back to college.

But supportive and encouraging teachers guided him well and inspired to choose teaching as a profession and spread that kindness.

"Teachers who served as mentors for me and helped me to find my inner strength and cultivate the determination to succeed, helped inspire me to teach and pay forward their kindness and support," he said.

His hope is that his students continue to pursue their dreams and succeed, and he wants them to know that they have it within themselves to overcome their challenges.

"I hope that they continue to develop the skills they will need to find solutions to the many issues facing our planet so they can make this world a better place for generations to come," Graham said. ■

## ARROYO

Continued from Page 5

district plans to place about 7 acres of the district offices and Village High property on the market for sale, likely to draw interest from residential developers. Located on the edge of downtown Pleasanton, the property is estimated to be worth between \$31 million and \$34 million, district staff said.

Board President Mark Miller supported the acquisition plan, saying that the district holding onto the Bernal property wouldn't be beneficial to anyone.

"We've been sweating these assets for a long, long time," Miller said. "Holding on to this doesn't do anything, honestly."

"I think that we need to move forward with this," added Trustee Mary Jo Carreon.

Following the meeting,

Mokashi reached out to the Weekly to reiterate her concerns about the purchase of the Arroyo Center property.

"(It) appears to have been accelerated despite multiple unknown factors and contingencies, including the potential sale of the PUSD's downtown property," she said.

Mokashi said addressing accessibility issues for both district offices and the Village High School

is important and she supports promoting a conducive, positive work and school learning environment, but reconsidering options is crucial.

"However, I feel that the board needs to consider additional options to determine the best long-term solutions," she said.

Even though time and resources are limited, timeliness is required, according to Mokashi.

"We need to demonstrate the ability to address district issues in a timely fashion and to show that we are aware of the impact our decisions have on all of our students," she said.

Under the plan staff suggest that all district functions including office spaces like the superintendent's office, business services, student support, teaching,

learning and human resources move to the Arroyo Center.

Other operations that will also relocate to the available space in the office building include the boardroom, training and adult classroom spaces, adult education and career technical education program, graphics, technology, maintenance and warehouse, special education and Tri-Valley Special Education Local Plan area.

The goals for the move is to strengthen intervention and support structures to effectively improve the physical, mental and social wellness of students, families and staff, along with the goal to sustain effective customer service, communication, and stakeholder engagement, according to district staff. ■

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PUSD

The Pleasanton school board has approved a purchase agreement for the district to acquire the Arroyo Center (shown) for \$23.5 million.

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## Danville mayor condemns racist display near Blackhawk

‘This was clearly an abhorrent gesture towards people of color’

Danville Mayor Newell Arnerich released a statement Monday, condemning the group of masked people who on Saturday held up signs at the corner of Blackhawk Road and Camino Tassajara, saying things like “White Lives Matter” and “Watch Europa the Last Battle.”

The latter is a 2017 film that many have called Nazi propaganda.

Saturday was also the day an 18-year-old man allegedly drove 200 miles to a grocery store in a mostly Black neighborhood in Buffalo, N.Y., shooting 13 and killing 10. Almost all were Black.

Investigators found a 180-page racist manifesto the shooter reportedly wrote.

“As most reasonable people do, I share the visceral reactions of many in our community to hate speech groups and hate in general,” Arnerich wrote. “This past Saturday, a small group of people stood at the corner of Blackhawk Road and Camino Tassajara Road,

displaying banners, one of which read ‘White Lives Matter’. Although this took place on private property, just outside of our town boundaries, the incident was reported and town officials were made aware of it as well.

“Those responsible made sure to cowardly cover their faces and hide behind their signs,” Arnerich wrote. “These people were acting out hate speech. Though not a crime, this was clearly an abhorrent gesture towards people of color. People and groups like these are looking for confrontation and publicity, and we will not condone them nor give them any credibility, attention, or the publicity they are seeking.

“Our town stands united against racism in any form and any acts that direct harm or hatred toward people based upon race, culture, religion, sexual orientation, gender or disability,” the mayor said.

“Free speech is very painful and hurtful at times,” Arnerich wrote. “We do not have to listen or give

them any credibility. The horrific mass shooting that took place this past weekend in Buffalo, New York, demonstrates the incredible division that exists in our country.

“The shooter, who is now in custody, posted a document prior to the mass shooting, centered on a far-right conspiracy theory that baselessly posits that the white population in western countries is being reduced or replaced by immigrants in a deliberate plot,” the mayor said.

“The shooter, in this case, will be taken out of society and imprisoned for life at the expense of 10 innocent people. This price is too much to pay for simple justice for one prejudiced person’s actions,” he said.

“Danville Town Council, our police department and town staff continue to work to make Danville a safe place for everyone where we can celebrate our diversity and strive for equality for all members of our community,” Arnerich said. ■

—Tony Hicks, BCN Foundation

## Bay Area health officers urge return to masking

Departments concerned about rising numbers from omicron subvariant BA.2

Health officials in 11 counties urged residents across the greater Bay Area last Friday to once again take COVID-19 precautions like masking as cases and hospitalizations rise across the region.

Officials in Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Monterey, Napa, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara,

Santa Cruz and Sonoma counties said in a joint statement that the Bay Area now has one of the state’s highest infection rates.

The current surge has been spurred by an extremely contagious subvariant, known as BA.2, of the already highly contagious omicron variant.

“If you’ve chosen not to wear a mask in indoor public places recently, now is a good time to start again,” said Santa Clara County deputy health officer Dr. George Han said in a statement.

The health officials also called on those who have not yet gotten vaccinated to do so and urged people who test positive for the virus to seek over-the-counter medications like Paxlovid that reduce the risk of developing serious complications from the infection.

Even with one of the highest case rates in the state, the pure number of COVID-positive residents across the Bay Area is likely much higher than currently measured, according to the health officials, since rapid at-home tests are widely available and their results are generally not reported to local health departments and the state.

“There’s a lot of COVID out there right now, so it’s time to take more precautionary measures to protect yourself and your loved ones,” Contra Costa County Health Officer Dr. Ori Tzvieli said.

Bay Area residents are encouraged to contact their health care provider or visit the website for their local public health department for information about the virus. ■

—Eli Walsh, BCN Foundation

## TAKE US ALONG



**Quite a hike:** Pleasanton residents Ashley Young and Dawne Kittredge trekked through a snowstorm to the Everest Base Camp in Nepal to a height of over 17,000 feet with their Pleasanton Weekly.

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

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# Leaders call for more housing as county homelessness rises 22%

‘Homes solve homelessness — so let’s keep investing in housing solutions’

Alameda County’s 2022 Point in Time count numbers have been released, and some cities like Oakland are seeing a jump in homelessness, the biennial data released Monday shows.

A point in time (PIT) count is done on a single day, capturing what the homeless population looks like at a moment in time. The project gets funding from the Federal Housing and Urban Development grants.

According to the numbers, homelessness in Alameda County is up 22% since 2019.

Though the numbers are discouraging to advocates for the homeless, some say the PIT count is still better than what could have been, according to EveryOne Home, a nonprofit that conducted the PIT in February and works to end homelessness.

Alameda County had been experiencing increases in homelessness of 20% per year before the

pandemic, homelessness experts said.

The data released Monday shows an estimated 9,750 homeless people in the county. About 7,100 are unsheltered and about 2,600 are sheltered. More than half of the homeless people in Alameda County are in Oakland. That estimate is 5,055, up about 1,000 from 2019.

Oakland Mayor Libby Schaaf calls homelessness a “moral outrage” and in a statement she chose to reflect somewhat on her city’s progress.

“Oakland made clear progress in reducing outdoor street homelessness and doubling our shelter capacity since the last PIT count,” she said on Monday.

The number of homeless people who are sheltered in Oakland rose from 861 to 1,718 between 2019 and 2022.

But, Schaff added, “We know more investments are needed.”

Oakland has recently established cabin communities for homeless people and tiny homes, but the data show more needs to be done.

Countywide, the increase in homelessness is due to two things, according to EveryOne Home.

One is a 39% rise in the number of people living in vehicles such as cars and recreational vehicles. Nearly 4,000 people were estimated to be living in vehicles in February. About 2,300 hundred were in cars or vans and about 1,600 were in RVs.

A 53% jump in the number of people enrolled in shelter programs also contributed to the increase in the county’s homeless population.

Shelter programs to protect homeless people from COVID-19 blossomed in California following the start of the pandemic. Other accommodations also contributed to the rise in shelter, while traditional congregate shelters operated at a

reduced capacity to protect homeless people from the coronavirus.

Moe Wright, chair of the leadership board of EveryOne Home said the number of homeless people in the county “reflects the effects of the pandemic.”

“A lot of measures and one-time funding came in from the Federal and State governments that focused on keeping people housed,” he said, “but still both sheltered and unsheltered populations have increased.”

A state-run program called Project Roomkey alleviated some homelessness. Project Roomkey provided shelter in motels for homeless people at risk of contracting COVID-19.

Another state-run homeless housing program was Project Homekey, which provided money to city’s like Oakland to buy properties to house homeless people on a temporary or permanent basis.

Wright said the county has a plan

to reduce homelessness and it is “time to provide resources for” it.

He called for a long-term “investment in housing” for the county’s “very low-income citizens.”

In a statement, Gloria Bruce, executive director of East Bay Housing Organizations, which advocates for affordable housing, said, the Point in Time count “will help us address homelessness.”

She echoed Wright’s call for more housing.

“Homes solve homelessness — so let’s keep investing in housing solutions,” she said.

Taking bold action and working together can provide homes for people like it did in the pandemic, she said.

She lauded Project Homekey and Alameda County’s Measure A1, which provided homes for nearly 1,000 homeless people. ■

—Keith Burbank, Bay City News

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## BART to launch pilot program for rider pass compatible with all Bay Area transit agencies

BART plans to launch a pilot program later this year to test the viability of a global transit pass compatible with every public transit agency in the nine-county Bay Area.

The first phase of the pilot program could begin as early as August and would offer up to 50,000 transit passes to students at San Francisco State University, San Jose State University, the University of California at Berkeley and Santa Rosa Junior College as well as residents of at least three housing developments run by MidPen Housing.

The four schools and MidPen Housing were chosen in part because they each offer an existing transit

pass that reduces fare costs or makes them free for at least one public transit system.

Transit fares would be free for those using the passes during the pilot program, according to BART financial planning director Michael Eiseman.

“The objective will be to demonstrate the degree to which a product like this can promote greater ridership and meet the needs of riders, institutions and agencies,” Eiseman told the BART Board of Directors last week. “We’ll evaluate program performance and collect data that could be used as the basis of a revenue model for a permanent program.”

## MEASURE A

Continued from Page 5

continue to keep great teachers in our classrooms, maintain strong STEM academic programs and keep classroom technology and curriculum up-to-date,” Bowers said.

“The outstanding quality of Livermore schools is no accident,” she added. “It’s the result of a strong partnership between our schools and our

community. We never take for granted your ongoing support and trust and we will continue to live up to our promises and your expectations.”

LVJUSD Board of Education President Craig Bueno said, “We are all so fortunate to live in a community that embraces education as a cornerstone and makes children our priority. The continued support of our residents will provide vital funding for the transformation that is underway in

The two-year program is expected to cost roughly \$6 million, according to Eiseman, \$4.5 million of which will reimburse transit agencies for fares that are waived by using the pass during phase one.

The second phase, planned for early next year, would make transit passes available at up to 10 employers across the Bay Area, with a focus on employers in parts of the region with several transit options.

The start of the first phase of the program, and the program as a whole, could also be pushed back, Eiseman said, if Gov. Gavin Newsom’s proposal to make public transit free statewide for three months is

adopted as part of the state’s fiscal year 2023 budget.

Eiseman estimated that on the program’s current timeline and if the pilot program is successful, a potential permanent region transit pass could be made available when the next generation Clipper Card system launches, tentatively scheduled for the second half of 2023.

Board President Rebecca Saltzman said she was glad the pilot first phase will involve public universities as students at schools like UC Berkeley have previously sought a similar global transit pass but have often graduated before making much progress. ■

—Eli Walsh, BCN Foundation

## SPELLING BEE

Continued from Page 5

and moved on to win the Alameda County Spelling Bee in March to earn a spot in the state competition.

Preparation for the championship is an annual tradition in which all students grades 1-8 participate in their classroom. As a teacher, it is rewarding to see the camaraderie

and support the students share, according to Alagna.

“Shradha’s peers helped to inspire, encourage and support her each step of the way. When we learned of her accomplishment, the whole class erupted in applause,” she said.

To encourage and nurture their daughter’s dreams, Shradha Rachamreddy’s parents used multiple resources like personal tutors,

online spelling tools and provided unabridged access to Merriam Webster dictionary. They hope her success inspires other aspiring Spelling Bee enthusiasts, according to father Karunakar Rachamreddy.

“We are proud of our daughter,” Karunakar Rachamreddy said. “She was an avid reader from a very young age and showed interest in spelling, so we enrolled her in many

academics in math, science, reading, writing, engineering and technology; attract and retain qualified teachers; preserve TK-12 technology and elementary science specialists; (and) keep classroom technology and curriculum up-to-date.”

Raising approximately \$4 million each year, the parcel tax question also cited “senior exemptions, independent citizen oversight and all funds benefitting Livermore students.” ■

local Spelling Bee competitions.”

“We want her to be a role model during this spelling journey,” he added.

Shradha Rachamreddy will be one of two students to represent California at nationals in Washington, D.C.

“I am looking forward to participating in the Scripps National Spelling Bee during May 29 to June 4,” Shradha Rachamreddy said. ■

# Alameda County election preview

## Sheriff, district attorney, Zone 7 among key contests on June primary ballot

By JEREMY WALSH

Voters in the Tri-Valley, and the rest of Alameda County, should have their ballots in hand at home for the June 7 primary election.

For those residents poring over the voter information guide, five local elections will stand out: Zone 7 Board of Directors, Alameda County Board of Education Trustee Area 7, county sheriff-coroner, county district attorney and county superintendent of schools.

Each is contested, although there's no guarantee that each will

be decided for sure next month.

The four Zone 7 board positions and the Tri-Valley's seat on the county education board will have winners based on the candidate or candidates who receive the most votes. As would county superintendent, which has only two candidates.

The other countywide positions, however, would require a single candidate to receive better than 50% of all votes cast to win outright in the primary election. Otherwise, the top two finishers in

June will advance to a runoff ballot in the November general election.

There is a distinct possibility for district attorney (with four candidates) and sheriff (with three candidates), but the chance remains that a single candidate could win via the primary.

Local voters will also notice county incumbents Phong La, assessor; Henry "Hank" Levy, treasurer-tax collector; and Melissa Wilk, auditor-controller/clerk-recorder, on the ballot unchallenged as required by law. There are also

three county court commissioners running uncontested for full judgeships on the Alameda County Superior Court — Tamiza Hocken-hull (Department 1), Pelayo O. Llamas (Department 12) and Michael Bishay (Department 21).

Election Day is June 7, which is the day to cast your ballot in-person at a precinct or the final opportunity to turn in your completed vote-by-mail ballot. Voters could choose to participate in early voting at specified locations, or they can submit their home bal-

lot sooner via the mail or at designated ballot drop-boxes across the county.

The deadline to register to vote in the election is Monday (May 23), and the last day to request a vote-by-mail ballot is May 31. Visit [acvote.org](http://acvote.org) for more information.

Learn more about the candidates in the five contested local elections below. And be sure to study up on the state and federal candidates, either in upcoming Weekly coverage or in your own online research.

## Zone 7 Water Agency

As the drought continues to squeeze the water supply, Tri-Valley voters will cast important votes for the future of local water reliability with four seats up for grabs on the Zone 7 Water Agency Board of Directors.

Flood protection should be front-of-mind for voters too, as that's the other main responsibility for the Livermore-based public agency.

Three incumbents and two newcomers are on the June 7 primary ballot for Zone 7, whose directors are elected at-large among residents in Pleasanton, Livermore and Dublin.

Director Sarah Palmer is seeking a fifth term on Zone 7 while fellow incumbents Dennis Gambbs and Olivia Sanwong are each pursuing a second term. One challenger has local elected experience, as Dawn Benson served on the Dublin San Ramon Services District Board of Directors. The fifth candidate is Todd Shinohara, a pharmacist.

The top four finishers in the primary will earn election to Zone 7, representing a majority of the seven-member board.

And at least one seat is guaranteed to change hands as current Director Michelle Smith McDonald of Dublin opted not to run for election. Smith McDonald, who has been on the board since being appointed in May 2019 following a resignation, said her professional demands in communications for the Alameda County Office of Education have proven too great amid the pandemic.

The Zone 7 ballot was poised to have one more name — and a very familiar one at that — but John Marchand, the former Livermore



With four seats available on the Zone 7 Water Agency Board of Directors, the candidates include (from left) Dawn Benson, Dennis Gambbs, Sarah Palmer and Olivia Sanwong. Not pictured: The fifth candidate, Todd Shinohara, who does not appear to be running an active campaign.

mayor who also previously served on the Zone 7 board, pulled out after qualifying because he plans to run again for his city's mayoral seat in November.

Like many other times in the 21st century, the Zone 7 election in 2022 centers primarily on issues related to drought.

Zone 7 is the wholesale water retailer for the cities of Pleasanton and Livermore, Cal Water's Livermore division, and DSRSD serving Dublin and San Ramon's Dougherty Valley — although San Ramon voters do not participate in the election because Zone 7 is technically an Alameda County special district.

The agency's board makes decisions that affect the four communities' water costs, as Zone 7 prices largely determine the rates local water service providers charge customers in their jurisdiction.

Formally known as the Alameda County Flood Control and Water Conservation District, Zone 7 is also tasked with providing flood protection in the Livermore and

Amador valleys, a topic that is impacted by long-lasting drought conditions as well.

Both main responsibilities of the agency are at the core of Sanwong's Zone 7 service, saying she aims to be "a responsible fiduciary dedicated to water supply and flood management planning," but like the other active candidates in the race she is particular focused on water reliability over the four-year term ahead.

"I bring to the board real-world knowledge that is critical when evaluating construction projects and water quality testing processes, including PFAS. This experience is essential when analyzing extreme weather impacts on our water supply and flood management system," Sanwong said, citing her professional experience in the science and technology fields.

Among water supply projects she endorses, Sanwong listed Los Vaqueros Reservoir expansion, Sites Reservoir and Bay Area regional desalination, but she added that she is still "cautious regarding the

Delta Conveyance Project because the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta is one of our most unique natural resources."

Sanwong also voiced support for a Tri-Valley groundwater basin study to analyze the viability of indirect potable reuse water.

"I continue to question the decision by the Pleasanton City Council majority to vote against funding this study, particularly in light of the severe drought we are in," she told the Weekly.

"Potable reuse treats wastewater to the highest standard using proven reverse osmosis technology," Sanwong said. "Storing this water in our groundwater basin is considered indirect because the basin acts as an environmental buffer. Indirect potable reuse would expand our water supply options during prolonged droughts."

She said she would continue looking hard at Zone 7's water rates and overall budget if re-elected to a second term.

I delivered on my promise when I voted No to increasing residential

and commercial rates. I also reworked agricultural rates in a transparent, public process," Sanwong added.

Ensuring public transparency is a top priority Gambbs points to as well in his campaign for a second term on the board.

"I have a lifelong interest in water supply, flood control and community service," said Gambbs, who is a civil engineer by trade who worked for Zone 7 for 34 years until retiring in 2015.

Zone 7 must improve water supply reliability to Tri-Valley residents and agricultural customers. The current drought is a stark reminder of just how precious water is," Gambbs told the Weekly. "Climate change is reducing the Sierra snowpack storage and causing more extreme storm events — intensity and frequency. Additional storage is needed to capture storm events and offset snowpack storage lost due to climate change."

He noted the Sites Reservoir

## County Board of Education, Area 7

**T**ri-Valley voters will decide their representative on the Alameda County Board of Education for Trustee Area 7, an open contest for three new candidates with longtime incumbent Trustee Yvonne Cerrato not running.

The ballot features Cheryl Cook-Kallio, a former Pleasanton City Council member and retired teacher; DiemHa “Kate” Dao, a Pleasanton resident and founder of Action Academy East Bay; and Eric Dillie, formerly principal of the now-closed Livermore Valley Charter Preparatory school.

A winner will be declared outright in the primary, regardless of whether the top finisher receives better than 50% of the overall vote. Unlike countywide elections, which can advance to a runoff, the local Area 7 seat will be determined based on whoever earns the highest percentage of the vote in June.

The Area 7 position on the county board has been embroiled in some controversy in the past year.

Cerrato, who has served on the board since 2002, was investigated and ultimately cleared by her colleagues on the dais on allegations that she was no longer a permanent resident in her trustee area and actually resided in Oregon, where she operates a 40-acre farm in honor of her late son.

She denied wrongdoing. As the investigation and public deliberations were winding down, Cerrato confirmed she would not be seeking re-election. “I am not going to run again because it’s time for me to move on and do different things,” she said at the time.

One of the candidates is no stranger to controversy as well.

Dillie, who is listed on the ballot as a public school teacher, is best known in local education circles as the former principal of Livermore



To represent the Tri-Valley on the Alameda County Board of Education, voters will choose among (from left) Cheryl Cook-Kallio, Kate Dao and Eric Dillie.

Valley Charter Prep, which folded in early 2017 after its parent company filed for bankruptcy.

While working at the school, Dillie was charged with misdemeanor failure to report child abuse in 2016, stemming from a tutor at the campus aggressively grabbing and picking up a teen student. The criminal case resolved with no conviction on Dillie’s record after he initially pleaded no contest to the charge and then a judge dismissed the misdemeanor conviction after he completed 30 hours of volunteer work and mandatory reporter training, according to the DA’s office.

Dillie did not respond to questions from the Weekly about his charter school tenure, the criminal case and his election campaign.

Cook-Kallio did offer thoughts on the Livermore charter school dissolution when asked.

“The county board is one of oversight,” she told the Weekly. “It is of the greatest importance that board members are well informed and use this oversight function to ensure the best use of tax dollars. A prime example of what happens when this is not done well is the now defunct charter in Livermore.”

“It is the county board’s responsibility to be transparent, accountable and fiscally responsible. That debacle left the county, city of Livermore, IVJUSD, the Community College District and investors with an estimated \$68 million of debt,” Cook-Kallio added.

A familiar voice in Pleasanton, Cook-Kallio served on the City Council from 2006 to 2014 before reaching the city’s temporary term limit. She later ran for State Assembly as a Democratic challenger but lost to Republican incumbent Catharine Baker in 2016.

A retired public school teacher at Fremont Unified for 40 years, Cook-Kallio told the Weekly, “I have the experience and the education necessary to do the job well. I have spent my career as a leader advocating for good schools that serve students well. I understand good ethical government and how to achieve that end.”

“I am a fierce advocate for all children, from all backgrounds and want to make sure that our children get the best opportunities we can offer them,” she said. “I understand the interaction between the county office and their oversight duties

with local school districts and public charter schools. This is my home and where I have chosen to serve.”

“I believe in a well-educated citizenry,” Cook-Kallio added. “That is what I tried to teach the thousands of students who passed through my classroom. Please do the research and look at all the candidates. My record speaks for itself.”

Vying for his first elected office, Dillie cites priorities on his campaign website including putting families and students first, addressing parent frustrations with public education, early childhood and elementary education, a focus on leadership and declining enrollment.

“I am a first-generation college graduate, raised in a blue-collar labor union home, by parents who earned their GED. My parents instilled in me the importance of education, and the attention, care and love shown to me by public school teachers are what influenced me to become a public school educator, administrator, nonprofit leader and Rotarian,” he said in his campaign statement.

“My career experience includes a variety of educational communities, which has allowed me to un-

derstand the myriad of challenges faced by schools and the families they serve. My knowledge and understanding of the issues will prove invaluable as a Board Trustee,” he added.

“I love serving my community,” Dillie said. “Allow me to use my experience to faithfully serve and support educational services for the people of Livermore, Dublin, Pleasanton and Sunol as the Area 7 Trustee.”

Also a new candidate, Dao describes on her website a 16-year career in education focused on “developing individualized programs for K-12 students that emphasize critical-thinking and problem-solving” in which she “has helped countless students succeed academically and realize their full potential.”

Her campaign priorities include “a focus on high-quality instruction and individualized learning, redirecting funding back into the classroom, educational equality and preparing students for the workforce, standing behind our teachers, and supporting our parents and keeping them engaged in our schools.”

“As an immigrant, educator, entrepreneur and mother, I understand the importance of hard work and a good education,” Dao, who did not respond to the Weekly’s request for an interview, said in her candidate statement. “My life mission is to advocate for children and give them opportunities for equitable education, regardless of where they come from.”

“Our children deserve, and can, receive a quality education with taxpayer dollars spent right,” she added. “My leadership in education and in business has proven to be ethical, effective, inclusive and productive.”

## Superintendent of Schools

**T**he top education position in Alameda County is being contested on the ballot for the first time in eight years, as two-term incumbent Superintendent of Schools L.K. Monroe faces off against Alysse Castro, an Alameda resident who works in a leadership position with the San Francisco Unified School District.

Unlike local school districts where superintendents are hired by elected board members, the county superintendent is selected directly by the voters.

The role has been cast into the spotlight for residents perhaps more than ever as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, as decisions and guidance from the Alameda County Office of Education has often impacted actions in local districts.

One set of decisions made by Monroe and her administration



In a contentious battle for Alameda County superintendent of schools, incumbent L.K. Monroe (right) faces challenger Alysse Castro.

during the pandemic has been thrust into the campaign discourse in recent weeks.

Critics have called into question the distribution of stipends for COVID-19 response duties to certain county education employ-

ees, including managers who have received between \$15,000 and \$22,500 in the pandemic through April. Monroe did not take home a stipend, but some have alleged favoritism and politics were motivations at play.

The Alameda County Board of Education discussed the matter in an informational report at last week’s public meeting, where Monroe addressed the process head-on.

“Managers were tasked, including our associate superintendents, with identifying those that had done work that was deemed above and beyond, and put forth those names for receiving stipend funds that needed to be spent in very short order. So that’s how that happened,” Monroe said during the May 10 board meeting.

“Folks kept a record of the tasks that they did, but there was not an hourly time accounting or any of that,” she added. “But we know what the tasks that were performed, and we also know what the criteria were, in very broad strokes.”

Castro, who boasts union endorsements including the California Teachers Association, local

teachers unions including Pleasanton and Dublin, and the California School Employees Association, released a statement late last month denouncing the stipend payout process.

“It is unacceptable that classified employees were an afterthought when distributing the COVID mitigation funds. CSEA members consistently show up for our students and for far too long, employees have felt left behind and unseen by current leadership,” Castro said, while vowing to “always work transparently and fairly with workers and staff.”

As for overall campaign goals, Castro cites six top themes on her website: “break the school-to-prison pipeline; embed systems of care in schools; our kids deserve guarantees, not choices; teachers

See **SUPERINTENDENT** on Page 15

## Sheriff-Coroner

Voters have the rare opportunity to decide a competitive race for Alameda County sheriff-coroner as incumbent Greg Ahern is being challenged by two candidates, sheriff's office Division Commander Yesenia Sanchez and San Francisco Police Department Officer JoAnn Walker.

The Alameda County Sheriff's Office impacts many aspects of law enforcement and criminal justice in the Tri-Valley and across the rest of the county, including policing in the unincorporated communities as well as select cities via contract such as Dublin, custodial oversight of detained defendants at county facilities like Santa Rita Jail, bailiff duties at the courthouses, coroner responses and investigations after deaths in the county, and regional support in emergencies and other cases.

Although the candidates have a range of public endorsements, especially Ahern and Sanchez, with three names on the ballot and a 50%-plus-one majority required to win the four-year term outright in the June 7 election, it's a possibility the sheriff's seat could be decided in a November runoff in the end.

Experience — or whether a change of leadership perspective is needed — has emerged among the key themes of the campaign so far, along with public safety, racial justice reform, reducing recidivism and transparency.

"It's very clear that I have the qualifications and experience needed to continue on as sheriff," Ahern told the Weekly in a recent interview. "Compare that to the other candidates, and I think (voters) would see that I'd be the best choice to be sheriff for the next four years."

Ahern, who rose through the ranks of the sheriff's office since being hired as a deputy-sheriff in 1980, including a long stint with Dublin Police Services under the



The candidates for county sheriff-coroner are (from left) incumbent Greg Ahern and challengers Yesenia Sanchez and JoAnn Walker.

city-county contract, has been the county's sheriff since January 2007 after winning election in 2006.

The incumbent's campaign website describes his mission as to "protect the public, build strong relationships with the community, and prevent people from turning to crime through prevention, enforcement, programs, and service. Greg knows this strategy reduces crime, provides opportunities, and ultimately keeps our communities safer."

He lists out a range of programs and initiatives on both the criminal investigation and detention sides of the operation, including new investigative units to combat street crimes, gang activity and DUIs, a cold case division for homicides and sexual assaults, crisis response such as wildfires, the COVID-19 pandemic and the Ghost Ship fire, and starting a youth and family services bureau.

Ahern also points to his support of re-entry programs to reduce incarceration and recidivism, including expanding vocational training opportunities for inmates.

Public safety remains at the top of the list for Ahern, who last week

received funding support from Gov. Gavin Newsom for cameras to aid in quick response and investigations into freeway shootings.

On the issue of accountability, Ahern said he is "firmly committed to transparency, de-escalation, and advanced training so that public interactions with law enforcement are always fair, safe, and professional.

He added, "There has never been a more critical time to have a proven and effective leadership."

Looking to unseat the sheriff from within, Sanchez has worked for the sheriff's office since 1997 and has elevated to become commander of the Detention and Corrections Division in 2020.

Among her key campaign visions, Sanchez lists out rehabilitation of and job training for the jail population, racial justice in law enforcement, community engagement and accountability.

"The reality is the sheriff's approach to law enforcement needs to change. We need more community input and engagement, and transparency and accountability need to be priorities," Sanchez, a Livermore resident, told the Weekly.

Re-entry support for county jail inmates is vital toward helping avert recidivism and reduce crime overall, according to Sanchez. She noted that before her leadership tenure, Santa Rita Jail had come "under federal oversight for its historic poor treatment of incarcerated people, inmate deaths, and low accountability."

Sanchez said she would also look to engage the community to improve crime prevention and safety efforts by the sheriff's office.

"This includes appropriate responses to mental health incidents, crisis intervention training and a focus on de-escalation," Sanchez said. "I will work to repair and build trust with marginalized communities, including immigrant and undocumented communities, to ensure they are provided with equitable services regardless of citizenship status.

"I am committed to leading the Alameda County Sheriff's Office with the utmost integrity, serving the community equitably and inclusively, and making sure the Agency ensures safety in the community by investing in it," she added, on her campaign website.

The other challenger is Walker, a longtime county resident whose law enforcement experience has been across the Bay as an officer with the San Francisco Police Department.

"The fundamental basis of my platform is: Accountability. Reform. Community. With introspection, hard work and cooperation, we can make the needed changes at the Alameda County Sheriffs Department," she states on her campaign website.

"Establishing a community-centered culture that aligns with 21st-century policing practices and values" will be key toward achieving those goals, according to Walker, who did not respond to the Weekly's request for an interview.

She calls on her range of assignments while with the SFPD on topics such as terrorism, community relations, field training, peer support counseling, academy instruction, hate crimes, tactical communications, and crisis support and suicide prevention.

"A great deal of work needs to be done to reduce crime while also building public trust effectively," Walker stated. "As a 26-year law enforcement veteran, my career has given me keen insight into strategies that work, versus strategies that look good on paper."

"The Alameda County Sheriffs Department is charged with a complex balance of responsibility interwoven into the fabric of our communities' daily lives," she said, adding:

"It is not lost on me how momentous it is that I — a Black woman — have taken on the charge to fix and reform how law enforcement services are delivered in Alameda County. I am taking a big step of faith by entering this race that typically is uncontested. I have faith that voters in Alameda County are ready for a change in how our community is policed."

## ZONE 7

Continued from Page 12

project and Los Vaqueros expansion as two key projects in Zone 7's quest for access to increased water storage.

Gambs also touched on the Delta Conveyance Project, which is in the environmental review stage with Zone 7 participation to date.

The project "is intended to maintain water deliveries, which would otherwise be reduced 25%. Zone 7 can consider participation in this project after the Department of Water Resources completes the environmental work," he said.

Summarizing his priorities if re-elected, Gambs said he would focus on promoting "drought water supply reliability, safe drinking water that tastes good, cost-effective water and flood programs. I am

a strong advocate for community input and decision making that is readily transparent to the public."

The most-tenured incumbent on the ballot, Palmer also has a professional background in science to supplement her Zone 7 board experience — she is near the end of her 16th year as a director.

"My background in scientific research, teaching, and public service help give me the ability to communicate to the public and to those directly in water issues. My goal is to make our water resources able to meet our urban and agricultural needs into the future," said Palmer, who is a biochemist by training who has also worked as an environmental science teacher in the Tri-Valley.

"Experience and knowledge in water issues matter," she added.

Palmer pointed to her three

turns as Zone 7 board president over the years as well as serving on the board for the Association of California Water Agencies Region 5 and the Delta Conveyance Stakeholders Engagement Committee.

"It is my priority and passion to be on the front lines as we face increased demands and unique challenges to ensure a safe and reliable water resource," she said. "With climate change and decreasing water resources, it is important to develop a diversified portfolio of water resources and updated infrastructure."

"I am passionate about my work on the issues of safe and affordable drinking water for disadvantaged communities," Palmer added.

Benson is another candidate with elected service experience, sitting on the DSRSD board from 2010 until August 2015, when she re-

signed to apply for an employment position within the agency — a job she ultimately did not get. She is also a former Dublin planning commissioner.

Benson, who did not respond to the Weekly's request for an interview, cites on her partially complete campaign website that she is "committed to collaboration and forward thinking for a safe and reliable water supply for the Tri-Valley."

"In this time of drought, Zone 7 needs a thoughtful board member that can lead from experience. You want a board member with the experience to make decisions that benefit our Tri-Valley community," she said.

Benson describes having more than 29 years of professional experience in public water districts, as well as being a small business

owner in the equestrian industry.

"I share your concerns about double digit water rate increases and rising budgets being the norm and as your Director, I will ask the tough questions and ensure the public is included in those decisions," she wrote in her candidate statement in the voter guide.

Therein she also said she would make decisions "for a safe and reliable water supply to meet the needs of residents, businesses, and our agricultural customers, strong fiscal oversight, keeping flood control a priority, and increasing communication with the public."

The other challenger, Shinohara, did not submit a candidate statement for the voter guide and does not appear to have a campaign website. Multiple attempts to contact him for an interview went unanswered this month.

## District Attorney

Alameda County has a wide-open field — for the first time in recent memory — to elect its next district attorney, with two current county prosecutors, one former prosecutor and one private civil rights attorney on the June 7 ballot.

Incumbent District Attorney Nancy O'Malley is retiring, but she opted to serve out the remainder of her current term in office rather than the process followed by many of her predecessors to step down midterm and allow an initial successor to be appointed by the Board of Supervisors, which many see as creating a distinct advantage for the candidate when the next election rolls around.

The ballot features two internal candidates from the Alameda County District Attorney's Office, current chief assistant district attorney Terry Wiley and deputy district attorney Jimmie Wilson; Oakland civil rights attorney Pamela Price, a progressive candidate who ran against O'Malley four years ago; and Seth Steward, a former San Francisco prosecutor who now works as chief-of-staff for Oakland City Councilman Dan Kalb.

In order to win outright in June, one candidate would have to earn more votes than the other three combined; otherwise, the stage will be set for the top two finishers in the primary to square off in a runoff election this November.

The DA's office makes charging decisions after arrests, prosecutes criminal cases, investigates fatalities and other serious incidents involving law enforcement, and provides support to victims and witnesses of crimes, among its functions across Alameda County.

Price, a civil rights attorney in private practice, thinks her progressive campaign platform from the 2018 election continues to resonate with many voters.

"In 2018, many members of our community stood with me and embraced our platform for change. We are still seeking that change," Price told the Weekly. "While there have been forward steps in reforms at the state level, the Alameda



No incumbent on the ballot promises a competitive contest for district attorney. The four candidates (from left) are Pamela Price, Seth Steward, Terry Wiley and Jimmie Wilson.

County DA's office has been slow to embrace the change and, in some cases, has resisted reform. This is why I am running again."

Price promotes "Pamela's 10-Point Platform" in her primary campaign.

It outlines goals and strategies she would enact if elected in the areas of "restore public trust in our criminal justice system, reduce gun violence, implement fair justice measures, stop over-criminalizing youth, end the death penalty, protect immigrant communities, hold police accountable for misconduct, establish prosecutorial accountability, effective re-entry strategies, and invest in public health and social services."

"We will refocus the DA's office and restore public trust in the criminal justice system by increasing transparency and rooting out racial, gender and economic disparities," she told the Weekly. "I want to hire prosecutors who want to change lives and not ruin them. Public safety calls for compassionate justice for the whole community, including victims, families and those who find themselves on the wrong side of the law."

The other external candidate is Steward, who does have prosecutorial experience from his prior years working for the San Francisco District Attorney's Office. He currently works in Oakland city politics, and

serves in the California Air National Guard.

"As a proven prosecutor, veteran, and public school teacher, it's essential that the District Attorney's Office policies keep families safe, build trust and restore fairness in the system," Steward told the Weekly.

"I'd also note that as a hate crimes prosecutor, I will fight to make sure that hate has no place in Alameda County. We must #StopAsianHate, fight racism and bias, and protect the rights of women, particularly reproductive freedoms," he added.

On his campaign website, Steward states his platform focuses on the areas of "be smarter on crime and follow the science, focus on violent crime, lead outside of the courtroom, prosecute officers who abuse their authority, reform youth justice, fight racism and bias, protect the rights of immigrants, expand victims' rights, expand access to alternative courts and diversion programs, end the death penalty, eliminate cash bail and create a resentencing unit."

"We need to be smarter on crime," he stated. "By understanding what we are doing we can eliminate bias, understand the effect of our policies on public safety and make sure we are accountable to the public."

Wiley, currently chief assistant district attorney, has worked for the

Alameda County DA's Office since 1990, rising through the ranks and serving in many prosecuting units. He is also the director of the office's new Division of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.

Wiley, who did not respond to the Weekly's interview request, will focus on tackling crime "from every direction," according to his campaign website.

"Terry has taken on the toughest prosecutions and he knows that we can make progress on safety — quickly — by focusing on repeat and violent offenders. Just 2,000 offenders commit the majority of crimes in Alameda County. As DA, Terry will start by focusing on these offenders," his website states.

"But he won't stop there. He will make sure we focus on drug treatment, mental health, job training and excellent schools to keep kids out of the criminal justice system," the website adds.

His mindset in office will be driven by his belief that "the way we bring peace back to our streets is to make sure we have one system of justice for everyone. Not one for people of color and another for white people. Not one for the rich and one for the poor. One system — fair to everyone and protecting everyone," according to his website.

The other internal candidate is Wilson, who joined the DA's office

in 2004 after transitioning to a legal career later in adulthood after working years as a union plumber. His prosecutorial history includes a range of case types, including many in the homicide, gang and sexual assault felony categories.

"Prosecutors' daily decisions drive the culture of law enforcement and overwhelmingly impact the faith our community has in the criminal justice system," Wilson said on his campaign website. "I believe that all prosecutors, including and especially the elected district attorney, must have uncompromising ethical standards and steadfast devotion to the people we serve."

His campaign vision centers on the themes of "the right experience, targeting violent crime, building trust and transparency, community policing reform, empowering our community, give all victims a voice and community re-entry."

"The status quo is not keeping our communities safe," Wilson said on his website. "We need new leadership in the Alameda County District Attorney's Office that is willing to work with our community and law enforcement to tackle the crises we are facing — a historic rise in public safety issues across the county, and a distrust in the ability of the criminal justice system to fairly and effectively solve them. I am the right person for the job."

## SUPERINTENDENT

Continued from Page 13

from our community for our community; safety comes from support; and personalized learning for equity and agency."

"I am the best candidate because of I have a long history of doing more with less, getting better than average results for kids and teachers, and I am supported by educators because I support educators — including financially," Castro said in brief comments to the Weekly.

She also described how her experiences as a high school principal

and a resident of Alameda, a community she said "has a great deal in common with the cities of the Tri-Valley," have prepared her for the superintendent role.

"I understand what it is like to lead schools where everything is done on a shoestring budget and we have to make sure our schools really can serve the incredibly diverse needs of every kid across an incredible range of gifts and challenges," Castro said.

"Often our small and mid-sized districts get little in the way of county services because their needs are overshadowed by the big urban districts, but there are still ways

that the County Office of Ed can lighten the load for smaller districts by providing economies of scale that help our local districts focus their resources in their own classrooms," she added.

For Monroe, who has led the county office since winning a runoff election in 2014 and then an uncontested ballot in 2018, her campaign theme is "leadership and advocacy in service of all students."

"As a second generation teacher and principal, and now Superintendent of Schools, student learning is core to my policy decisions," she told the Weekly. "Students

must have the academic opportunities and support services needed to thrive at school and in life — not just academically, but socially and emotionally."

Monroe has earned endorsements from education leaders such as State Superintendent Tony Thurmond and five of the seven county board members, as well as other fellow elected leaders.

"From our youngest learners to our young adults, my focus is on increasing high quality early learning experiences for our preschoolers; providing work-based learning, including internships in STEAM and education, in addi-

tion to challenging curriculum to ensure students have what they need to be career and college ready; increasing the pipeline of diverse teachers and giving them the training and mentorship they need to be successful educators; and providing peer leadership and social emotional learning," she said.

"For me, student learning and well-being are paramount to keep at the forefront of everything we do at the Alameda County Office of Education," Monroe added. "I will never back down when it comes to fighting for all that is possible for every student in Alameda County and beyond." ■

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# POLICE BULLETIN

## Intuit agrees to pay \$141M for upselling TurboTax to low-income taxpayers

Santa Clara County Counsel James Williams and California Attorney General Rob Bonta announced this month a \$141 million nationwide settlement of litigation with Intuit Inc. over the company's TurboTax Free File online service.

The settlement, negotiated by a coalition of more than 30 attorneys general, resolves allegations that Intuit steered consumers eligible for free online tax preparation and filing services into the company's paid products.

Bonta said, "For more than a decade, Intuit used underhanded tricks and deceptive tactics to steer low-income and military taxpayers into paid products despite knowing that they qualified for free help."

Intuit is a financial software company based in Mountain View known for its flagship products: QuickBooks, Mailchimp, Mint and Credit Karma as well as its tax preparation software TurboTax.

The company was founded in 1983 when businessperson Scott Cook hired Stanford computer science student Tom Proulx to design the computer-based personal accounting software that became Quicken. The company now has 14,000 employees in nine countries and in 2021 generated \$9.6 billion in revenue.

More than 100 million people worldwide use Intuit's services, according to the company's website.

The company's TurboTax online tax preparation and filing service is

used by 40 million taxpayers annually in the United States.

Officials with Intuit were not immediately available to comment on the settlement.

The dispute has its roots in a deal made in 2002 between the IRS and Intuit and other tax preparation companies. Under the arrangement, Intuit would provide free tax filing services to low-income taxpayers and in return the IRS would not itself provide tax preparation and e-filing services.

In fulfillment of that pledge, Intuit's "Freedom Edition" provided free tax preparation and filing for active duty military personnel and individuals with income below certain levels.

However, Intuit later added another service, this one confusingly called "Free Edition," that was free in theory but not in practice.

The new service was only free for "simple returns," a concept defined by Intuit to exclude any minor deviation from the standard return, no matter how common. According to the state attorney general, "a large portion of taxpayers who begin the filing process using the Free Edition are informed later in the process, after spending hours filling out their information, that they need to pay \$59.99, and in some cases over \$200, because their returns are not considered 'simple.'"

The state attorney general said that "investigation of these products found that Intuit steered users away from its IRS Free File product and towards its 'free' commercial product using deceptive techniques."

Lawsuits challenging Intuit's conduct were initiated in 2019 by Williams, county counsel of Santa Clara County, as well as by the city of Los Angeles. The suits were ultimately jointly administered in Los Angeles

County Superior Court.

The suits alleged that, among other things, the company violated California laws prohibiting false advertising and unfair and deceptive trade practices. A release following the filing of the Santa Clara suit said, "Intuit intentionally and deceptively steered taxpayers to TurboTax and away from free alternatives, promising consumers they could file their taxes using TurboTax "for \$0" or "free free free." But the promises of free filing were a sham for most people."

The settlement agreement provides for a \$141 million payment to a fund to provide redress to individual consumers. In addition, the settlement enjoins Intuit and its affiliates from violations of California's Unfair Competition Law and prohibits the company from making false representations to consumers such as, for example, that the consumer must use TurboTax paid services to obtain a tax credit or tax deduction.

Intuit must also make affirmative disclosure about eligibility for free services in its advertising materials.

According to the settlement agreement, 371,403 California consumers are "Covered Consumers," a term used to describe consumers who were eligible for free tax services in 2016, 2017 or 2018, who started to use Free Edition but were told that that they were ineligible, and who thereafter used a paid product of TurboTax.

California has 8.3% of all Covered Customers, a higher percentage than any state other than Texas.

California is expected to receive \$11.4 million from the settlement to be used for restitution.

The settlement agreement is subject to court approval.

One provision states that Intuit



PPD

A look on graduation day for the 2021 Pleasanton Police Department Teen Academy. The application window is now open for the 2022 program.

does not admit "any liability regarding allegations of violations that occurred prior to entry of this Judgment."

While the settlement, if approved, will settle the claims of the coalition of attorneys general, it will not resolve all the legal issues relating to Intuit's Free Edition software.

According to attorney Benjamin Whiting of Chicago's Keller Lenkner LLC, that firm represents tens of thousands of consumers who have initiated arbitration proceedings against Intuit seeking damages for paying for "free" services. In addition, on March 28, the Federal Trade Commission instituted an action on the United States District Court for the Northern District of California challenging the company's marketing practices.

—Joe Dworetzky, BCN Foundation

### In other news

- The Pleasanton Police Department is recruiting local high school students interested in participating in its three-week Teen Academy program this summer.

With the goal of strengthening relationships between the department

and youth in Pleasanton, the program gives participants the chance to learn about law enforcement procedures, including topics such as patrol, dispatch communications, SWAT, investigations, juvenile traffic issues, K-9, evidence collection and animal services, according to PPD.

"The Teen Academy is an educational program that's been around for almost 20 years," Sgt. Marty Billdt said in a statement. "It's an exciting opportunity for students to learn more about their police department and to engage with our members."

The academy is offered free-of-charge to students in Pleasanton between the ages of 14 and 18.

It runs from July 12-28 on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays generally from 2-5 p.m. The program includes a tour of Santa Rita Jail and a graduation dinner.

Applications are available at [www.pleasantonpd.org](http://www.pleasantonpd.org) or in the front lobby of the police department at 4833 Bernal Ave. They are due by June 1. For more information, contact school resource officer Rich Trovao at 925-931-5231. ■

—Jeremy Walsh

## POLICE REPORT

The Pleasanton Police Department made the following information available.

### May 11

#### Theft

- 4:41 p.m. on the 5600 block of Owens Drive
- 5:30 p.m., 1400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; theft from structure

### May 10

#### Theft

- 6:08 a.m. on the 5300 block of Case Avenue

#### Burglary

- 6:39 a.m. on the 7400 block of Pecan Court

- 1:11 p.m. on the 7000 block of Johnson Drive

#### Fraud

- 9:13 a.m. on the 5700 block of Hansen Drive

#### Domestic battery

- 9:13 a.m. on Stoneridge Mall Road

### May 9

#### Fraud

- 9:46 a.m. on the 800 block of Sylvaner Drive

#### Theft

- 11:28 a.m., 1300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting

- 12:12 p.m., 3400 block of Cornerstone Court; catalytic converter theft

- 3:30 p.m., 1300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting

- 3:58 p.m., 6000 block of Johnson Drive; shoplifting

- 8:47 p.m., 1300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting

#### Assault/battery

- 7:11 p.m. on the 4400 block of Mohr Avenue

#### Drug violation

- 11:43 p.m. at Stoneridge and Franklin drives

### May 8

#### DUI

- 1:53 a.m. on the 5200 block of Hopyard Road

#### Theft

- 7:28 a.m., 5600 block of Owens Drive; catalytic converter theft

- 8:03 a.m., 5600 block of Owens Drive; catalytic converter theft

- 11:16 a.m., 5400 block of Cameo Court; theft from auto

- 1:38 p.m., 5700 block of Owens Drive; catalytic converter theft

- 6:05 p.m., 1300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; theft from structure

- 6:24 p.m., 1400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting

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## HIGHLIGHTS

### Planning Commission

Wednesday, May 25 at 7:00 p.m.

Consistent with State and County Orders regarding the COVID-19 pandemic this will be a virtual meeting. Instructions on how to participate and offer comments will be available after May 18, when the agenda is posted on the City's website at: [cityofpleasantonca.gov/gov/depts/cd/planning/commission/planning\\_agenda.asp](http://cityofpleasantonca.gov/gov/depts/cd/planning/commission/planning_agenda.asp)

- On-Site Public Notification Policy Review and provide comments on the draft on-site public notification policy for certain development projects

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## Concert celebrates '30 Years of Miracles'

Cantabella Children's Chorus also bidding fond farewell to artistic director Chang

By SHIRI MARWAHA

Cantabella Children's Chorus turns 30 years old and commemorates the past three decades of "miracles" onstage at its spring concert this Saturday.

As part of the celebration, a variety of favorite highlights from years past will be performed in its "30 Years of Miracles" show from 1-4 p.m. at the Bankhead Theater in Livermore.

For artistic director Eileen Chang, who has worked with the youth group for over 12 years, this will be her last performance before stepping into an early retirement. Chang coached the group as a guest conductor a few times but joined them as the artistic director in 2017.

"The founder, Bee Chow, invited

me to conduct when they entered the Golden Gate international choral competition and that's how I got to know this group," Chang said. "I didn't know I was going to stay this long, but Bee kept calling, and then I started working here. And ever since then, I am with this group."

As an artistic director, Chang led Cantabella Children's Chorus to international competitions and won the Grand Prix Award at the July 2019 World Youth Choral Festival and Competition in South Korea.

Chang lived in the South Bay, which required long hours of commute, but her love for music motivated her to travel from San Jose to Livermore.

"It took more than an hour with the traffic, but I did that for five to six years," Chang said. "But then I moved to the Tri-Valley area in 2016, so that's when I was more involved with this group as an artistic director."

She said it did not take long for her to fall in love with the group of children.

"That's why I commute from San Jose. I like teaching children music a lot and it is something very rewarding, so I think that's why I stayed until now," Chang said.

She said it is difficult to say goodbye to the job but it has become too demanding and leaves very little time to pursue other ventures.

"It involves a lot of work 24/7.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Cantabella Children's Chorus is performing its "30 Years of Miracles" concert on Saturday at the Bankhead Theater. The show will mark the final one as artistic director for Eileen Chang.

I enjoyed that but I want to have some free time to do something that I would not be able to do if I retire in six or seven years, so I'm retiring very early," Chang added.

Looking ahead to retired life, she said she hopes to travel taking music to underprivileged areas all over the world and work with the adult choir she founded.

"I have my own adult choir that

I founded five years ago, so I will keep doing that," Chang said. However, I want to travel and I want to travel to some unprivileged area and if I can I want to probably bring music to the kids there too."

Chang, who cherished her time here, said she will miss the kids and their innocent charm.

"Making music with kids is just, it's something that I'm going to miss

very much because kids are very acceptable," she said. "They have no second thoughts. When you teach well, they sing well, when you are lazy, they become lazy so I become their mirror and I took this job very seriously in that regard."

Tickets for "30 Years of Miracles" are available online via LivermoreArts.org or cantabella.org/tickets. ■



Eileen Chang

## Spring Rep leaps into Livermore

Valley Dance Theatre continues 40th anniversary celebration with two performances at Bankhead

By MELISSA MCKENZIE

Valley Dance Theatre is coming to the Bankhead Theater next weekend for its Spring Rep performance celebrating a big milestone.

"Here we are, 41 years later and stronger than ever, inviting our Bay Area community to experience the magic of dance at Spring Rep 2022," founder and artistic director Betsy Hausburg said. "Our amazingly talented male and female dancers, accompanied by our own Valley Dance Theatre Pit Orchestra in the gorgeous Bankhead Theater will entertain with a diverse and delightful program, fitting for every age and liking."

The performance, part of Valley Dance Theatre's 40th anniversary season, presents new costumes and sets to accompany choreographed pieces and timeless ballet favorites.

Included in the production are excerpt from four ballet works: classical favorite "Pas de Quatre," "Dolores," a story tribute to a special woman; "Paquita," a 19th Century piece named for a Spanish gypsy who saves the life of a French aristocrat; and "La Fille Mal Gardée," a comic ballet, which closes the show with selections featuring cloggers, a pas de deux in which be-ribboned dancers tie a love knot and a Maypole Dance.

Shows, accompanied by the VDT Pit Orchestra, are scheduled for next Saturday (May 28) at 7 p.m. and next Sunday (May 29) at 2 p.m. at the Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St. in Livermore. Tickets are available at www.



JERWIN CHUA

Jessica Seu and Maxwell Simoes perform romantic pas de deux from "La Fille Mal Gardée" in previous Valley Dance Theatre Spring Rep production

lvpac.org or in person at the box office. Visit www.valleydancetheatre.com for more information. ■

## Fair announces winners of wine competitions

10 Best of Show honors handed out this spring

Winners of the Alameda County Fair commercial and amateur wine competitions have been revealed and include several local wineries.

There were 267 commercial entries received. Following are the top medal winners for each of this year's competitions:

- Best of Show Red: Concannon Vineyards, Cabernet Sauvignon Cabernet Franc, 2018.
- Best of Show White: Las Positas Vineyards, Verdelho, 2021.
- Best of Show Dessert: Rodrigue Molyneux Estate Winery and Vineyard, Envie, 2017.
- Best of Show Sauvignon Blanc: Francis Ford Coppola Diamond Collection, Sonoma County Sauvignon Blanc, 2021.
- Best of Show Zinfandel: Almost Famous Wine Company, Wine Without Borders Primitivo, 2019.
- Best of Show Zin Dessert: Carol Shelton Wines, Black Magic Late Harvest Zin, 2021.
- Best of Show Rose: Wood Family

Vineyards, Pink Pearl Rose, 2021.

The winners were evaluated by some of the wine industry's most notable judges, including Barry Herbst, Pat Henderson, Susan Reiner-Lyon, Jamie Knee, Joel Green, Wilfred Wong, Meredith Sarboraria, Laura Ness, Brent Amos and Jorge Tinoco.

The Amateur Winemaking contest, which was open to California residents age 21 and over, received 81 entries. Following are the top medal winners for each of this year's competitions:

- Best of Show Red: 3579 Wines, Der Wanderer Cabernet, 2019.
- Best of Show White: Tiffany Hills Estates Wines, Semillion, Viognier Blend, 2021.
- Best of Show Rose: DB&J Cellar, Rose, 2020.

The Alameda County Fair is scheduled to run Wednesdays through Sundays from June 17 through July 10, as well as July 4. For more information, visit alamedacountyfair.com. ■

—Pleasanton Weekly staff

# Creatures of Impulse 'Assemble'

Improv troupe to perform holiday weekend, say goodbye to graduating seniors

By MELISSA MCKENZIE

Bringing all the impulsive creativity that comes with improvisational comedy, Pleasanton's teen troupe, Creatures of Impulse, is set to perform "Assemble: A Heroes and Villains Saga" next Thursday through Saturday at the Firehouse Arts Center.

"Our Spring Show is themed every year, and this year one of the members was inspired by the Marvel Cinematic Universe and we ran with it," city library and recreation coordinator Jeff Zavattero told the Weekly.

"I think this is a great opportunity for our performers to explore what people would do if presented with these gifts — would they see it as a curse? A way to get ahead in life? Or would they use their great power in a responsible way, to make the world a better place?" he added.

According to Zavattero, "Assemble:

A Heroes and Villains Saga" is a series of full-length improvised plays telling the stories of high schoolers with powers who must decide if they would like to use them for good or evil. Each show, he said, will build off the stories told the previous nights, culminating in a battle of good-versus-evil on Saturday night.

"In our first few shows, we will see new characters and heroes introduced each day," Zavattero said. "This will all lead to our culminating performance on Saturday, May 28 at 7:30 p.m. in a MCU-like clash between the characters in the previous nights, much like Marvel's 'Infinity War' and 'Endgame.' The final performance will wrap up ongoing arcs and see different heroes team up to face a final threat."

"Through this genre we've been telling really teenage coming-of-age stories with the added bonus of



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Creatures of Impulse performs "Assemble: A Heroes and Villains Saga" May 26-28 at the Firehouse Arts Center.

super-powers," Zavattero continued. "The stories have been unique, but relatable, and I cannot wait to see what audience suggestions inspire new stories when we get to the Firehouse stage."

The performance, Zavattero said, will double as the group's Senior Night and serve as a farewell to graduating seniors.

A preview performance, with \$2 tickets, will be on Tuesday (May 24)

at 7:30 p.m. Regular performances are May 26-27 at 7:30 p.m. Two performances, 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. are scheduled for May 28. Tickets, \$10, are available at [www.firehousearts.org](http://www.firehousearts.org). ■

# Las Positas College earns All-Steinway status

Music department now part of exclusive group of schools

By MELISSA MCKENZIE

Las Positas College is now one of approximately 200 schools worldwide that has achieved the designation of All-Steinway School.

The status, which requires Steinway and Steinway-designed pianos to be used in all performance spaces, piano teaching studios and practice rooms, positions the Livermore community college among the most elite music schools and conservatories across the globe.

"I am thrilled that Las Positas College has become an All-Steinway School after many years of hard work," said LPC music department co-coordinator Dan Marschak, who is also the college's director of piano pedagogy, composition, music theory and piano. "This designation has been a major goal of the LPC Music Department and the LPC Foundation, and we couldn't be more excited for our students to learn, rehearse and perform on a brand-new Steinway Model B Spirio | r."

The Steinway Spirio | r is described on the Steinway website as "the world's finest high-resolution player piano capable of live performance capture and playback" and "a revolutionary blend of artistry, craftsmanship and technology (providing) powerful new tools of expression and new ways to access, share and experience performance."

Students using the piano will have the ability to record themselves playing and immediately listen to



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The All-Steinway School designation demonstrates LPC's commitment to bringing the Steinway experience to students, faculty, visiting artists and the community.

the recording, as well as play accurate historical recordings and participate in live masterclass in real time.

"Steinway has successfully combined unparalleled craftsmanship with cutting-edge technology to produce an instrument for performance, recording and music education at the highest level," said Julie Homi, part-time music faculty member at LPC. "I am very excited that my students will be able to work with a Model B Spirio | r, and I look forward to exploring the extensive performance library and masterclasses with them."

The All-Steinway School designation additionally demonstrates LPC's dedication to providing students

with high quality instruments for music education and marks LPC's commitment to bringing the Steinway experience to students, faculty, visiting artists and the community.

"The addition of this piano will also allow us to open a brand-new intimate performance space for all our performing arts programs: music, theater and dance," Marschak said. "We look forward to celebrating in the near future with a fundraising event that will establish a Steinway Endowment, allowing us to maintain our fleet of Steinways and Steinway-designed Bostons, and bring in Steinway guest artists to work with our students."

For more information, visit [www.laspositascollege.edu/music](http://www.laspositascollege.edu/music). ■

# Wine Down in the Grove

Inaugural LARPD Foundation fundraiser sets goal of raising \$50,000

By MELISSA MCKENZIE

Community support helps keep nonprofit foundations alive.

For the Livermore Area Recreation and Park District Foundation, community support is vital to the success of the organization and its mission to improve the quality of life throughout the district through advocacy, collaboration and financial assistance.

To further its mission and engage with the Livermore community, the LARPD Foundation has organized an inaugural "Wine Down in the Grove" fundraiser as an afternoon of food and fun to support the foundation's financial goals.

According to foundation trustee and event organizer Evan Banning, the fundraiser will pair wine and beer tastings from local vineyards and breweries with snacks and desserts, while giving ticket holders the opportunity to participate in a silent auction, meet with LARPD rangers to learn about the history of the area and take a walking tour of nearby winery ruins.

"I am so excited about Wine Down in the Grove," Banning said. "To have this amazing opportunity to support a great cause while enjoying wine, beer and food in the park is something that has never been done before."

Event proceeds go toward scholarships providing local youth, adults and seniors the funding necessary to participate in the programs offered through LARPD. On average, the LARPD Foundation serves 80 residents per year, but the need for



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The open space program is supported by the LARPD Foundation.

scholarships is growing and the foundation hopes to meet the challenge of providing assistance to the residents in need.

"This event provides a unique opportunity to have a great time and give back to the community," Banning said. "Scholarships have previously gone to children for swimming lessons or summer camps and for seniors to attend events that connect them to other seniors. We are setting out with the lofty goal of raising \$50,000 and hope the community will consider coming out to Wine Down in the Grove to support that effort."

Wine Down in the Grove will be at Livermore's Sycamore Grove Park, 1051 Wetmore Road, from 3-6 p.m. this Saturday (May 21). Tickets, \$100, can be purchased at [bit.ly/winedowninthegrove](http://bit.ly/winedowninthegrove). Guests must be at least 21 years old to attend. Visit [www.larpd.org/foundation](http://www.larpd.org/foundation) for more information. ■



## PLEASANTON PREPS

BY DENNIS MILLER

# Remembering 'Dr. B' George Baljevich, a legend in Tri-Valley local sports

Former TV30 commentator was a friend, mentor, teacher and colleague to so many

As I sat down to write this Saturday morning, I stared at my computer screen not knowing where to start.

George "Dr. B" Baljevich was such an iconic figure in Pleasanton that locally he was every bit as well-known as John Madden. So, writing about Dr. B, who passed away at the age of 84 on Thursday (May 12) was a daunting task.

Then it came to me — head to downtown Pleasanton, where Baljevich was often seen. And the location to start was obvious: Vic's All Star Kitchen, a well-known breakfast and lunch spot where he had a menu item named after him.

As I enjoyed my "Dr. B" omelet — Linguisa and cheese — thoughts and

memories came flooding back to me. I started telling stories to my wife, then to Vic's owner Laura Castro, who stopped by to talk about Dr. B.

In so many ways, Dr. B, who used the nickname because his last name was too tough to pronounce for some, was Pleasanton. He was always around town and was quick to visit with anyone that approached, treating each person as a longtime friend.

You recognized George instantly when you walked into a local dining establishment or coffee shop. You also saw George driving that red Volkswagen around town.

He was so many different things to people (friend, mentor, former teacher and colleague) that if you

talk to 10 people, and you'll likely get 10 different stories relating to 10 different topics.

Dr. B wasn't just a sports personality. He was there to help others with life issues as well. There are many stories as to how he helped people through tough times. George was instrumental in so many people's lives, and it has been awesome to hear some of these stories.

For me, it was friend, mentor and colleague, and being friends with George was easily the most important.

Here is one example of the type of person George was. When my dad was sick — he passed away in August 2021 — he spent some time in the Pleasanton Nursing and Rehabilitation Center. George would regularly stop by to say hi. He didn't know my dad, but they both knew of each other and when George was visiting other residents of the center, he would make a point of stopping by to check on my dad.

It meant a lot to both my parents and me.

I challenge anyone to find someone that has a bad opinion of George. You won't. It's impossible.

You couldn't run into George without getting a smile on your face.

Since his passing I have been thinking of all the great memories but have also cherished reading all the posts on social media recounting the memories of others.

There were stories about his teaching days, coaching and media personality, but mostly it was just about how great a person George was.

Outside of being a friend, my memories were founded by the time we spent as colleagues.

For a few years it was an honor to sit alongside George and Ian Bartholomew on Tri-Valley Sports Final on local TV 30. The fun we had filming the series about local sports — largely high school, with youth sports thrown in during the summer months — is something I will never forget.

If the outtakes ever surfaced from all the shows we taped, it would sell enough copies to finance the current version of the show. Every show drove us to tears while filming from laughing so hard.



DENNIS MILLER

George "Dr. B" Baljevich (center) was a mainstay for years on Tri-Valley Community Television's local sports coverage. Here he's shown at a past game several years ago with co-host Ian Bartholomew (right) and late former Pleasanton mayor Jerry Thorne.

Many a Friday afternoon I would walk out to my car with pains from laughing and I couldn't wait to get back to the newspaper office to share the stories with my co-workers.

Every show we would try to intentionally make each other laugh while filming, and we would usually come up with a word we had to find a way to get into the show.

When that word was uttered, "cut" was usually called out by the director as the laughing got to be too much.

Several times my family and friends had viewing parties to watch the show so I could tell the behind the scenes stories of the taping.

It was the beginning of Sports Final and was easily the glory years of the program. Along with George's baby, "Let's Talk Sports," those were the two go to shows for the local sports community. We started getting visitors that would show up just to watch the taping. I know the staff in the control room looked forward to the entertainment each week.

At times my kids would come down and each time they did, George would give them a sports trading card — one of his trademarks - along with a story about the athlete.

Initially I thought my kids came down to see their dad tape a TV show, but then realized they wanted to see George and get a card.

He meant that much to people, young and old.

I departed from the show a year after I left the daily newspaper business and much the same as newspaper coverage, local sports coverage took a hit.

After George was unbelievably shown the door by the station and "Let's Talk Sports" was taken off the air, the personality of the station went with him.

That's because George was the personality of Tri-Valley Community Television.

Those close to George knew how much losing the show meant. It devastated him.

While Bartholomew is probably the hardest working man I have known and has fought to keep high school and local sports in the news, you lose an asset like Dr. B, and you are going to lose a lot of

life from the station.

Other than an occasional local high school football game, brilliantly announced by Bartholomew, I never watch Channel 30 anymore.

You can't replace a personality like Dr. B.

People have mentioned to me several times that George's legacy needs to be remembered by cementing a tribute to the man.

Some have suggested naming a street or a sports facility after him. I am working with the Alameda County Fair to have a race named in honor of George, as he often interviewed me at the track each year when the fair came to town.

But the one thought I had is one that will likely never come to fruition. I told my wife that they should name the Museum on Main after George. Simply, George was a museum when it came to sports knowledge, and he was regularly seen on Main Street. And he certainly is a treasured memory of Pleasanton.

A perfect match, but one that will never happen.

I would love to see one of the First Saturdays on Main Street declared "Dr. B Day," including a banner hanging from the Pleasanton arch.

For those who had the privilege to have our lives enriched by knowing George, we don't need a monument to remember Dr. B — our memories will stay with us for the rest of our lives.

But he deserves, and honestly is owed by the city of Pleasanton, a tribute.

And when our time on Earth ends, we will look forward to reconnecting with Dr. B and the regular laughs will return, instead of just the memories.

Godspeed George and until we meet again.

Services for Dr. B are set for Saturday, May 28 at 10 a.m. at St. Augustine Catholic Church in Pleasanton. For those that attend the service, there will be a celebration of life immediately following. Details will be released at the service. ■

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

## Public Notices

### 995 Fictitious Name Statement

Moondogs  
File No. 565490;565491  
The following person(s) have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name. The information given below is as it appeared on the fictitious business statement that was filed at the County Clerk-Recorder's Office. FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME(S): Moondogs, 126 Killkare Road, Sunol, CA 94586, County of Alameda, November 18, 2019, UNDER FILE NO. 565490;565491. REGISTRANT'S NAME(S): Corey Eaton, 126 Killkare Road, Sunol, CA 94586; Corin Cartagena Grillo, 126 Killkare Road, Sunol, CA 94586. THIS BUSINESS WAS CONDUCTED BY Corey Eaton; Corin Cartagena Grillo, a General Partnership. Registrant: Corey Eaton, General Partner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Alameda County on April 20, 2022. (Pleasanton Weekly, April 29, May 6, 13, 20, 2022.)

John Madden Foundation  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: 588353  
The following person doing business as: John Madden Foundation, 5955 Coronado Lane, Pleasanton, CA 94588, County of Alameda, is hereby registered by the following owner: Madden Charities Inc., 5955 Coronado Lane, Pleasanton, CA 94588, CALIFORNIA. This business is conducted by Madden Charities Inc., a Corporation. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name listed herein March 10, 2022. Signature of Registrant: Virginia Madden, Secretary. This statement

was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 19, 2022. (Pleasanton Weekly, April 29, May 6, 13, 20, 2022.)

Main St. Home Inspections  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: 588322  
The following person doing business as: Main St. Home Inspections, 830 Main St., Suite B, Pleasanton, CA 94566, County of Alameda, is hereby registered by the following owner: PYT Construction Corp, 830 Main Street, Suite B, Pleasanton, CA 94566, CALIFORNIA. This business is conducted by PYT Construction Corp, a Corporation. Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name listed herein. Signature of Registrant: Peter Theodorou, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 18, 2022. (Pleasanton Weekly, May 6, 13, 20, 27, 2022.)

Healthy Necessity  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: 588415  
The following person doing business as: Healthy Necessity, 610 Main Street, Suite E, Pleasanton, CA 94566, County of Alameda, is hereby registered by the following owner: Michelle Pena, 301 Joyce Street, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by Michelle Pena, an Individual. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name listed herein March 15, 2017. Signature of Registrant: Michelle Pena, Owner/CACMT. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 21, 2022. (Pleasanton Weekly, May 20, 27, June 3, 10, 2022.)

**Call (925) 600-0840 for assistance  
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E-mail: [gchannell@pleasantonweekly.com](mailto:gchannell@pleasantonweekly.com)**

## Entertainment

### HIGH SCHOOL MUSIC

**COLLABORATIVE-GRAD NIGHT** The High School Music Collaborative says goodbye to the members moving on to college as they put on a show full of originals and some you may recognize. 7:30 p.m., May 20. Tickets \$10. Visit [firehousearts.org](http://firehousearts.org). Firehouse Arts Center.

### CANTABELLA CHILDREN'S CHORUS

Celebrating 30 successful years, the international award-winning Cantabella Children's Chorus will be singing favorite selections from years past. Every concert has a sing-along for audience participation. 1 and 4 p.m., May 21. Tickets \$35. Visit [livermorearts.org](http://livermorearts.org). Bankhead Theater.

### SUNOL REPERTORY THEATRE

The Sunol Repertory Theatre is back and presents "The Treasure of Shriver River". Bring a blanket and chairs to this outdoor event. May 21-22. Tickets \$15. Visit [sunol.net/srt](http://sunol.net/srt). Sunol Depot Gardens, 1 Kilkare Road.

### EID BASH AT THE FAIRGROUNDS

The mission of EID Bash has been to help communities better integrate with each other and unify for the greater purpose of the common good through a dazzling array of events around music, comedy and artists. 11 a.m.-9 p.m., May 22. Visit [alamedacountyfair.com](http://alamedacountyfair.com).

### CELTIC REVIVAL

San Francisco Scottish Fiddlers Presents Celtic Revival, a musical journey across the world. 3 p.m., May 22. Tickets \$12-\$42. Visit [livermorearts.org](http://livermorearts.org). Bankhead Theater.

### CHORUS ECLECTIC - YOU & I

Chorus Eclectic is back with an in-person concert and will sing an exciting collection of songs about love, friendship and community. 5 p.m., May 22. Tickets \$15-\$25. Visit [firehousearts.org](http://firehousearts.org).

### SPRING BAND CONCERT

Amador Valley High School presents Spring Band Concert, celebrating the 20th anniversary of director Jonathan Grantham. 7 p.m., May 24. Tickets \$6-\$16. Visit [livermorearts.org](http://livermorearts.org). Bankhead Theater.

### CREATURES OF IMPULSE

Creatures of Impulse, Pleasanton's own talented teen improv troupe, presents improvised stories of people with superpowers. Meet new heroes and see new stories every night before the explosive finale where all past heroes and villains collide. May 26-28. Tickets \$10. Visit [firehousearts.org](http://firehousearts.org).

### 626 NIGHT MARKET

The iconic California festival features 200+ local food, merchandise, crafts, arts vendors, games, music and entertainment attractions in an epic event that appeals to all ages. May 27-29. Admission \$5-\$10. Visit [alamedacountyfair.com](http://alamedacountyfair.com).

### SPENCER SUSSMAN COMBO ON

**THE COURTYARD** Kick off the weekend enjoying live music and libations under the setting sun. 5:30 p.m., May 27. Tickets \$20. Visit [livermorearts.org](http://livermorearts.org). Bankhead Theater.

### VALLEY DANCE THEATRE AT THE

**BANKHEAD** Valley Dance Theatre Presents Spring Rep 2022, showcasing exciting live music and dance. 7 p.m., May 28; 2 p.m., May 29. Tickets \$15-\$30. Visit [livermorearts.org](http://livermorearts.org).

## Festivals & Exhibits

### HARRINGTON GALLERY:

#### HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL EXHIBIT

The Harrington gallery in partnership with the East Bay Holocaust Education Center presents an audio/visual exhibit depicting the tragedy of the European Jewish people from 1939-1945. Through May 28. Visit [firehousearts.org/gallery](http://firehousearts.org/gallery). Firehouse Arts Center.

### VISIONS OF SPRING AT THE

**BANKHEAD** This free exhibit from the Diablo/Alameda branch of the National League of American Pen Women runs Thursdays to Sundays, 1-5 p.m., through May 29.

## Family

### SCIENCE AT STOCKMEN'S PARK

Explore everyday science at [Science@Stockmen's Park](mailto:Science@Stockmen'sPark), a free, accessible monthly outdoor event for children, teens and adults. "The Science of Plants" is the next topic. 11 a.m.-2 p.m., May 21, at 29 S. Livermore Ave., Livermore.

### MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND BOOK

**SALE** Friends of the Pleasanton Library will host a book/media sale with books for all ages in nearly new condition. Bring your own bag. May 26-29.

### RANGER-LED PARK DOG WALK

In this hike for dog lovers at Sycamore Grove Park, explore different methods and practices for taking your best furry friend into the great outdoors. 10 a.m., May 28. RSVP to [lsalcedo@larpd.org](mailto:lsalcedo@larpd.org) or call 925-960-2400.

## Talks

### POET LAUREATE AT THE LIBRARY

Livermore Poet Laureate Cynthia J. Patton hosts a poetry event and will share her writings and announce the winners of Livermore's 6th annual Poetry in a Test Tube Science Poetry Contest. 2 p.m., May 21. 1188 S. Livermore Ave.

### WRITING CONTEST AWARDS

Tri-Valley Writers hosts its 11th Annual High School Writing Contest awards ceremony where student winners from the literary nonfiction, poetry, and short story fiction categories will receive their awards and share their work via readings. The meeting is

free to members and guests, but reservations are required. RSVP to [reservations@trivalleywriters.org](mailto:reservations@trivalleywriters.org). 2 p.m., May 21. Four Points by Sheraton.

### EDUCATIONAL PRESENTATION

**- ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE** Join Stanford Health Care-ValleyCare for this free educational presentation on access to healthcare in partnership with the Chambers of Commerce of Danville, Dublin, Livermore, Pleasanton and San Ramon. 2 p.m., June 2. Visit [pleasanton.org](http://pleasanton.org).

## Support

### DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SUPPORT

**GROUP** Tri-Valley Haven will hold an in-person support group for survivors of domestic violence. This 8 week program begins 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m., May 23. Email [olga@trivalleyhaven.org](mailto:olga@trivalleyhaven.org) or call Sharon at 925-449-5847 ext. 2607. 3663 Pacific Ave., Livermore.

### POP-UP CARE TENT AT THE

**PLEASANTON LIBRARY** Weekly CityServe Pop-Up Tents meet with those in need to coordinate care and connect to local resources. Tuesdays, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. 400 Old Bernal Ave.

### HOT MEALS & GROCERIES FREE OF

**CHARGE** Prepared by Open Heart Kitchen, 1-3 p.m., Monday-Friday. 911 Loyola Way, Livermore.

### FREE SHOWER & LAUNDRY SERVICES

Monday-Wednesday, 12-4 p.m., Asbury United Methodist Church, 4743 East Ave., Livermore.

## Fundraisers

### SHEPHERD'S GATE TEA EVENT

Join the Shepherd's Gate community for afternoon of tea to benefit the Learning and Career Center, a vital program that helps women become financially stable, self-sufficient and overcome poverty. 1-3 p.m., May 21. Community Presbyterian Church, 222 W El Pintado Road., Danville. Visit [shepherds gate.org/tea](http://shepherds gate.org/tea).

## Veterans

### VA PALO ALTO MOBILE MEDICAL

**OUTREACH** Pleasanton Library will host the VA Palo Alto Mobile Medical Outreach team to facilitate examinations, consultations and referrals for enrolled veterans. The drop-in event will run from 10 a.m.-1 p.m., May 23. 400 Old Bernal Ave.

## Seniors

### PERSONAL TECHNOLOGY USERS

**GROUP** This virtual program for seniors is for computer enthusiasts and includes discussions, lectures, demonstrations and a question/answer period. 10 a.m., May 26. To sign up, email [pleaseniorgmail.com](mailto:pleaseniorgmail.com).

### PLEASANTON SOLE MATES

Join the Pleasanton Senior Center weekly walking group. Participants must be able to walk 2.5 miles and keep a moderate pace with the group. 8:45-10 a.m., Wednesdays.

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

### LEGAL ASSISTANCE FOR SENIORS

Free remote legal services are available. Call 510-839-0393 or visit [lashicap.org/programs/hicap](http://lashicap.org/programs/hicap).

## Government

### PLEASANTON PLANNING COMMISSION

The Pleasanton Planning Commission meets the second and fourth Wednesday of the month. The next meeting is 7 p.m., May 25. Visit [cityofpleasantonca.gov](http://cityofpleasantonca.gov).

### PLEASANTON UNIFIED SCHOOL

**DISTRICT** Regular Board meetings of the Pleasanton Unified School District are scheduled the second and fourth Thursday of each month and are open to the public. Meetings of the Board are hybrid, in person and zoom. The next meeting is 6 p.m., May 26. Visit [pleasantonusd.net](http://pleasantonusd.net).

### LIVERMORE CITY COUNCIL

The Livermore City Council meets the second and fourth Monday of the month. The next meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m., May 23. For more information, visit [cityoflivermore.net](http://cityoflivermore.net).

## PET OF THE WEEK



VALLEY HUMANE SOCIETY

### Meet Rocky

Rocky is reasonably quiet — though he has some renal issues, he's receptive to your ready lap and loves to read with Robin (foster). At age 15, he is a rewarding choice and is looking for his last retirement home. Learn more about Rocky and other cats and dogs at [valleyhumane.org](http://valleyhumane.org). Email [info@valleyhumane.org](mailto:info@valleyhumane.org) to start the adoption application process.

## Employment

### Sr. Engineer, Software

ICE Mortgage Technology Inc. seeks Sr. Engineer, Software in Pleasanton, CA to analyze the needs & req. of existing systems. Telecommuting permitted. Apply at [jobpostingtoday.com](http://jobpostingtoday.com) Ref: 44609.

To place an ad or get a quote, contact **Kevin Legarda** at **650.223.6597** or email **digitalads@pawebly.com**.

# VERY REAL LOCAL NEWS

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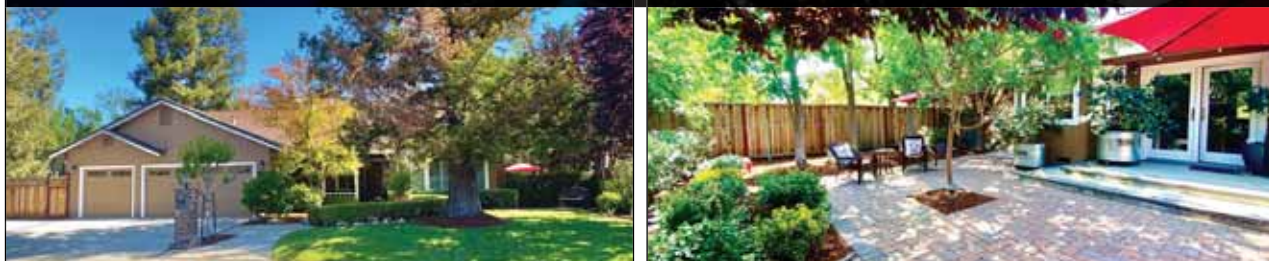
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**JUST LISTED**



**2570 Chateau Way, Livermore**

Located in one of Livermore's premier locations with its sought after downtown area & the Rodeo grounds. The 2,125 Sq. Ft. of living space offers 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, indoor laundry with a spacious lot of 11,767 Sq. Ft. Features include side yard & RV/boat access, a 3 car garage and a detached shed/workshop. Updates throughout the home offers ease of enjoyment. A community pool is close by for that summer fun.

**Listed at \$1,849,000**

**COMING SOON**



**10405 Ager Rd., Montague, CA**

A rancher's dream – this 100 Acre ranch boasts a 2,600 Sq. Ft. hand hewn log home, a steel sided 40' X 60' Pole Barn with a workshop & an attached guest suite, fenced and cross fenced for livestock, 2 ponds, a well producing about 45 gal./min., enhanced with amazing panoramic views of Mt. Shasta & Black Mtn.

**Price upon request**

**SOLD**



**500 Happy Valley Rd., Pleasanton**

Located in one of Pleasanton's sought after areas. This home offers an expansive remodel with 3 bedrooms, 3.5 baths and views of its **1 Acre** private space. Features a 4 car garage with a workshop, an attached bonus room, and a pool.

**Listed at \$1,900,000 | Selling at \$3,050,000**

**PENDING/MULTIPLE OFFERS**



**5165 Oakview Ct., Pleasanton**

Nestled in a court this 4 bedroom, 2 bath home offers an amazingly large lot of 10,025 Sq. Ft. An open floor plan offers ease of living space and generous natural light. The home offers owned solar, original hardwood floors, spacious rear yard and 2 raised bed gardens.

**Listed at \$1,600,000**



*A Note from my Sellers:*

*"We love Kris Moxley! She helped us through our home purchase with a very difficult seller after months of patiently showing us around town to find the right house for us. She stayed current on the right fit for our family and price range and provided the best experience for us. I have purchased 3 homes and she was the best agent I have ever dealt with. She also has extensive knowledge of all the properties in the Tri-Valley area, as well as the schools, and ins and outs of the area. You can't beat that! I highly recommend using Kris to buy or sell your home."*

*~ Jamison & Betsy ~*

**Kris Moxley**

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**Pleasanton**

- 3 bedrooms
- 2 bathrooms
- 1,200 Sq. Ft.
- 6,200 Sq. Ft. Lot
- Downtown location
- One story home

*I would enjoy advertising your home in my next ad. Just call Kris.*

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# CONNECT *California* HOMES

**JUST LISTED**



**OPEN SAT/SUN 1-4PM**

## 3298 Monmouth Court Pleasanton Meadows

Imagine a home where your backyard truly is an extension of your living!

This incredibly updated and maintained Pleasanton Meadows home is not to be missed!

Connect with Katie Moe to learn more!



**OPEN SAT/SUN**

## 3575 Ballantyne Drive Pleasanton

Stunning single story located in Pleasanton Meadows with upgraded kitchen/bath and amazing native California landscaping.  
Asking \$1,699,000



**PENDING SALE**

## 1171 Hillcrest Court Livermore

A home that will impress and delight you around every corner! From the amazing hardwood floors, stunning primary bath updates and the detached space perfect for work or play!  
Asking \$1,299,000



**PENDING SALE**

**MULTIPLE OFFERS**

## 1065 Westridge Avenue Danville

Over an acre in Westside Danville with centuries old Oak Trees ... this amazing home and property are the perfect place for your forever.  
Asking \$2,995,000

## Changing Market?

What is happening in this market? This question is certainly top of mind. It is too soon for the data to tell us what is actually happening, but something is certainly happening. If you have questions and want to talk market trends, connect with us today!

**CONTACT OUR TEAM TODAY TO LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR FULL SERVICE AND CONNECTED APPROACH TO REAL ESTATE. IT IS MORE THAN JUST A TRANSACTION!**

**WWW.CONNECTCAHOMES.COM**

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# VENEMA HOMES

EXPERIENCE  EXCELLENCE

## #1 For A Reason



**OPEN HOUSE**  
5/20 10am-1pm  
5/21 & 5/22 1-4pm

**3422 Torlano Place, Ruby Hill**  
5 Bedrooms | 3.5 Bathrooms | 4,450 Square Feet



**FOR SALE**  
Listed at \$2,995,000

**5920 Old School Road, San Ramon**  
5 Bedrooms | 2 Full/4 Half Bathrooms | 5,060 Square Feet



**FOR SALE**  
Listed at \$8,000,000

**51 Vallecitos Road, Livermore**  
Amazing Luxury Property Includes Home, Winery, and Event Center.



**COMING SOON**  
Listed at \$6,500,000

**1012 Shotwell Court, Pleasanton**  
6 Bedrooms | 6.5 Bathrooms | 7,129 Square Feet



**COMING SOON**  
Listed at \$2,289,000

**690 Marsala Court, Pleasanton**  
4 Bedrooms | 2.5 Bathrooms | 2,251 Square Feet



**COMING SOON**  
Listed at \$2,195,000

**1144 Mataro Court, Pleasanton**  
3 Bedrooms | 2 Bathrooms | 2,066 Square Feet



**COMING SOON**  
Listed at \$1,995,000

**3665 Huff Court, Pleasanton**  
4 Bedrooms | 3 Bathrooms | 2,437 Square Feet



**COMING SOON**  
Listed at \$1,650,000

**5980 Corte Cerritos, Pleasanton**  
3 Bedrooms | 2.5 Bathrooms | 1,745 Square Feet



**COMING SOON**  
Listed at \$1,895,000

**3607 Bernal Ave, Pleasanton**  
4 Bedrooms | 2.5 Bathrooms | 2,562 Square Feet

### We'd your vote for best Real Estate Team & Agent



VENEMA HOMES TEAM



Liz Venema



Scan To Vote For Pleasanton Weekly Readers Choice!

