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# JAZZ IS FOR EVERYONE

HOW LIVERMORE JAZZ SOCIETY  
WORKS TO MAKE LOCAL MUSIC  
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# WHAT A WEEK



By JEREMY WALSH

## Holidays at Firehouse

As if last weekend's parade weren't enough of a sign, the Firehouse Arts Center performance schedule surely solidifies that the holiday season is in full swing in Pleasanton.

And what a slate of shows it is — from a youth theater troupe's rendition of a Christmas classic to local musicians playing on their hometown stage to a returning Vegas-style revue, just to name a few for you.

"It's wonderful to offer such spectacular local talent this holiday season, right here in Pleasanton," said city recreation supervisor Mark Duncanson, who leads the Firehouse scheduling effort.

"Year after year, when we gather in the lobby after a holiday performance like Jeff Bordes & Friends or The Golden Follies, audience members share with us that they start their holiday season by attending a Firehouse Arts Center performance. We love being a part of so many people's holiday traditions," Duncanson told me.

Things will get a less formal start tonight with the city presenting its "Holiday Open Mic Night" from 7-8:30 p.m. in the Firehouse's Harrington Gallery.

"Community members ages 14 and up will have an opportunity to share their talents ... Whether you want to perform or watch, tickets are only \$10 per person. It's wonderful to be able to offer the public a chance to shine as well," according to Duncanson.

Then on Saturday afternoon, the Golden Follies will be back on the Firehouse main stage with their "A Very Follies Holiday", a revue show in the Las Vegas mold with "high-energy senior performers who captivate the audience with their stylish choreography, lavish costumes and unforgettable tunes," according to Firehouse officials.

The next evening, dancer Jenida Yang (who studies at Xiaopei Chinese Dance here in the Tri-Valley) will lead a personal performance spotlighting her growth over the years. "Because I Dance" on Sunday will also feature guest dancers, musicians and singers.

Meanwhile, just blocks away starting tonight and running for two straight weekends, the Firehouse's in-house Pleasanton Youth Theater Company is presenting "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer, JR" at the Amador Theater — an hourlong adaptation with all of the familiar

characters from the famed television special: Santa, Hermey the Elf, Bumble and of course ... Rudolph himself.

The production features two groups of young actors alternating shows, with the "Peppermint" and "Gingerbread" casts. It will be onstage at Amador Valley High School on the next two Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. and the Saturdays and Sundays at 2 p.m. Each Saturday matinee will be a sensory-friendly version.

Coming up at the Firehouse next Thursday (Dec. 14) will be the "Winter Wonderlands" concert by Chorus Eclectic, a group of "individuals from a variety of professions and backgrounds, including physicists, realtors, stay-at-home parents, students, bankers, voice teachers and more" who come together under the direction of Alex Taite to "transport audiences to a magical world of sound," city officials said.

"Taite is an artistic visionary that has curated and arranged a rich set of holiday music from around the world for their Dec. 14 program at the Firehouse," Duncanson told me.

Pleasanton native and master trumpeter Jeff Bordes has been a December staple at the Firehouse over the years, and he is returning again next Saturday (Dec. 16) as Jeff Bordes & Friends present "A New Orleans Christmas" from 8-10 p.m.

Closing out the month's performance calendar will be Jared Freiburg & The Vagabonds' "A Rockin' Holiday Revue" on Dec. 21. "From Chuck Berry to Bing Crosby to Jerry Lee Lewis, they will bring Firehouse audiences many timeless hits and classics like 'Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree,' 'Blue Christmas,' 'Jingle Bell Rock' and more," Firehouse reps said.

Oh, and don't forget to consider ringing in 2024 — a few nights afterward — with Pleasanton native Lauryn Marie in concert on her hometown stage. The singer-songwriter who melds folk, indie rock and bedroom pop is bringing her "Happy New Year!" show on Jan. 6.

For tickets or more information about performances at the Firehouse, visit [firehousearts.org](http://firehousearts.org).

And if you do catch a show there this month, or just happen to pop in during normal hours Wednesdays to Saturdays, remember to check out the Pleasanton Art League's 16th annual "Fall Members' Show" on display inside the Harrington Gallery. ■

## About the Cover

The Livermore Jazz Society, founded by Tom Reynolds in 2021, presents house concerts in the community featuring local jazz musicians. Photos courtesy Livermore Jazz Society. Cover design by Doug Young.

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## Who are you most looking forward to giving a gift to this holiday season?



**Janet Smith**  
*Billing*

Well, we have a special tree at my church where congregants can pick an ornament that contains a gift request from an underprivileged child. I've already selected my ornament and can't wait to give my recipient a lovely Christmas gift that will positively impact his life this season.



**Maria Abreu**  
*Billing*

My sons Hector and Brandon. They are my rocks. They help me to stay grounded and have really stepped up as the men of my house during hard times.



**Christine Smith**  
*Human resources*

My cousin Stacey, who is a brand-new mom again for the second time in a short period of time. I want to give her advice books that will help her to navigate life with two very young children.



**Stephen Mauriello**  
*Paralegal manager*

That's easy. I'm excited to give a Christmas gift to my 7-year-old son Sammy. He still believes in Santa Claus, and all he wants is a stuffed animal. This is probably my last year to get off so cheaply!



**Theresa Reilly**  
*Accounting*

My new rescue cats, Sonny and Smokey. I love them so much, and they add so much liveliness and joy to our already lively household. I'm eager to show them just how appreciated they are by showering them with cat toys and other feline goodies.

—Compiled by Nancy and Jeff Lewis

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

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**COMING DEC. 22**

# Don't miss our special **END OF YEAR DOUBLE EDITION!**

**Just like Santa, we're planning to deliver something special later this month.**

**We will wrap up the year with a special double edition combining the Dec. 22 and 29 issues.**

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

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



*Happy Holidays!*

**Pleasanton  
Weekly**

## DIGEST

### Zone 7 election

The Zone 7 Water Agency Board of Directors has four seats on the March primary election ballot, and at least one will be fully up for grabs as three-term incumbent Director Angela Ramirez Holmes confirmed to the Weekly that she will not run for another term.

Directors Sandy Figuers, Laurene Green and Kathy Narum each said they plan to run, although none had submitted their candidacy paperwork as of Wednesday morning. The initial filing deadline is this Friday (Dec. 8) at 5 p.m., unless an incumbent doesn't file — in which case the window is extended to next Wednesday (Dec. 13).

Zone 7 has three regular four-year terms on the ballot, plus a separate two-year seat to complete the unexpired elected term of former director Olivia Sanwong. Newcomer Robert Seeley has filed to run for one of the four-year seats.

### Wiley files for judge

Retired prosecutor Terry Wiley, who lost the Alameda County district attorney election in November 2022 to Pamela Price, has filed for one of the open Alameda County Superior Court judgeships on the March 5 ballot.

After retiring from the DA's office at some point after Price's victory, Wiley has quietly launched a bid for the bench — he has no apparent campaign website and attempts to reach him have been unsuccessful. He has no opponents for the judgeship designated as No. 5 for the ballot; it is unclear at this point which current judge's position is linked to that ballot number.

### New 'Chowchilla' doc

CNN Films and the streaming platform Max released a new documentary film last Sunday re-examining the Chowchilla kidnappings that culminated in Livermore and shocked the country in 1976.

Three men seized a loaded school bus from the Central Valley town of Chowchilla and then abandoned the bus and kept the victims, taking the 26 children and their adult driver to a quarry in the Livermore Valley and burying them alive in a van while demanding a \$5 million ransom.

The victims managed to dig their way out and escape, and the kidnapers were ultimately caught and convicted. The "Chowchilla" doc features a range of interviews with survivors and law enforcement, plus archival footage and other materials from the case. ■

## City moving forward with more outreach on potential funding ballot measure

Staff say some sort of revenue measure could help address financial issues regarding city services

By CHRISTIAN TRUJANO

The Pleasanton City Council gave city staff the green light Tuesday to continue working with outside consultants to garner public input on the possibility of the city pursuing a revenue measure with voters next year.

While the council did not directly vote on pursuing a specific type of measure, staff said the city's financial status shows the need for additional money in order to continue funding critical city services and projects.

"We need to move this forward. We need to find out what the residents want and expect. We need to lean in and listen," Mayor Karla

Brown said during Tuesday's council meeting. "We cannot continue to maintain the quality of life we have here in Pleasanton without ... a measure like this. So it's time to listen; it's time to go out to the public."

The decision to move forward with efforts to educate the community about the city's financial needs for additional revenue passed with a 4-1 vote, with Vice Mayor Jack Balch in dissent. Balch argued that the initial polling shows it is not a good time to proceed with pursuing such a measure and that instead the city should revisit its budget and find ways to cut unnecessary spending.

"I think the polling and the trust

in the community right now is strained," Balch said. "I do think we are in a challenge — a fiscal challenge — one that I tried to raise from the rooftop in April. I do think there are ways that we could be more fiscally prudent with our dollar today."

Back in March, the dais directed staff to look into possible revenue options so that the city could address infrastructure deficits and support ongoing city services and programs. A ballot measure was one of the many options discussed at that time.

Susan Hsieh, Pleasanton's director of finance, said that despite its balanced budget, the city's

long-term financial forecast indicates the need for additional revenue in order to address the funding needs for the city's parks, aging infrastructure, and repair and replacement projects.

"Like many other communities, we face financial challenges," Hsieh said. "The decline in hotel tax revenue, coupled with rising costs, impacts our fiscal stability. Budget deficits are projected in future years."

"This community's assets are aging and we need funding to repair and replace those assets," she added. "Over the last few years,

See **FUNDING** on Page 9



CHUCK DECKERT

Arts-and-crafts retail company Hobby Lobby plans to close its Dublin store on Jan. 6.

## Dublin's Hobby Lobby is closing

With new store opening in Hayward, crafts company moving out of Dublin Place — as specter of redevelopment looms

By NICOLE GONZALES AND JEREMY WALSH

One of the nation's largest art-and-crafts supply stores is expected to shut down its only Tri-Valley location early in the new year.

Employees at the Hobby Lobby store in Dublin, located at 7050 Amador Plaza Road, confirmed that the location is scheduled to

close its doors on Jan. 6.

Hobby Lobby corporate representatives had not responded to a request for comment about the reasons for the closure as of Friday afternoon. The privately owned Dublin Place shopping center in which the store is located has been eyed for redevelopment as part of the city's Downtown Dublin Preferred Vision.

Hobby Lobby is also in the process of opening a new store at Southland Mall in Hayward, with its corporate website recruiting for temporary worker positions to help with setup at the Hayward location.

Dublin store employees said all of its products would be moved

See **HOBBY LOBBY** on Page 6

## Hope Hospice merger

Goal to transform care through equitable access, reps say

By CHRISTIAN TRUJANO

Hope Hospice, a longtime nonprofit providing end-of-life services for patients and their families in the Tri-Valley, has announced that it plans to merge with two other regional hospice organizations in order to form the largest not-for-profit hospice network in Northern California.

The merger — which is pending regulatory approval — will be with By the Bay Health, a not-for-profit hospice affiliate of the University of California, San Francisco Health, and Mission Hospice & Home Care, a nonprofit hospice organization that serves families in the Peninsula and South Bay.

The goal of the consolidation will be to "transform serious illness and end-of-life care throughout the San Francisco Bay Area and beyond," according to a press release from Hope Hospice on the morning of Nov. 30.

"Merging with these two excellent partners protects our legacy in the East Bay, and it secures access to additional quality resources and services," Hope Hospice CEO Jennifer Hansen said in the press release. "As a stronger combined organization, we can continue to provide compassionate end-of-life

See **MERGER** on Page 7

# Hanukkah 2023 in the Tri-Valley

How local communities are celebrating the global holiday

By NICOLE GONZALES

**C**elebrated around the world, the Jewish holiday Hanukkah has a deep historical significance that dates back to the 2nd century BCE. It is often regarded as a time when families and communities come together to celebrate light overcoming darkness.

Hundreds of Tri-Valley families will be celebrating the holiday — also known as the Festival of Lights — by attending a number of community events across the region. Rabbis of local congregations shared messages with their communities as Hanukkah season commences this week.

“Chanukah is a reminder that miracles happen today, and light will always prevail. Life will always be victorious. Goodness and holiness will always reign supreme,” said Rabbi Raleigh Resnick of Chabad of the Tri-Valley in Pleasanton.

Resnick explained that Chanukah is a very public event for the Jewish community.

“We light the menorah,” Resnick said. “We also publicize the miracle of Chanukah, and the miracle of the oil lasting for eight days. This is a very public holiday for the Jewish people. Other holidays are celebrated in the home and just with the family.”

“We don’t celebrate Passover as openly as Chanukah. Those are more familial holidays, in the home. But we are mandated to spread the miracle of Chanukah and to let everybody see it, that’s the reason that we always have these large gatherings for everyone to come out,” he continued. “It represents a public display of the victory of light over darkness, the victory of spirits over brute force.”

Resnick emphasized his message

to community members in light of recent acts of war between Israel and Hamas.

“This Chanukah, even more than any other year, we need to show the victory of holiness and that goodness reigns supreme. Terror and brute force can and will never succeed,” he said.

Resnick shared that his congregation received calls from worried community members fearful of celebrating the upcoming holiday. He assured families that attending local events would be safe, and urged them to connect with joy, faith and goodness.

“The Jewish community should feel very safe and secure this year to gather,” Resnick said. “Everyone’s calling and wants to know if there’s going to be security or if it is safe to publicly celebrate. We don’t want people to be scared, or for them to not be proud of being Jewish. It’s a wonderful thing to celebrate with your community and not to be scared.”

“This year, we need an extra dose of holiness and Jewish pride,” he added. “We hope that everybody doubles their efforts to add more light into the world because there is a war that’s raging between good and evil.”

Other Jewish leaders in the Tri-Valley echoed this sentiment.

“Everything right now seems filtered through the lens of events in Israel and Gaza,” said Rabbi Larry Milder of Congregation Beth Emek in Pleasanton. “Even Hanukkah, which we are accustomed to celebrate as a time of joy, looks different this year.”

Milder said this year he encourages his congregation to stay faithful during uncertain times.

“With each night, let’s pray that there will be redemption and an end to fear and terror. That isn’t easy in a time of war. We are divided: a divided country, divided in our allegiances, and, at times, even divided within our own hearts,” he continued. “I will light our Hanukkah candles this year with a deeper hope, a deeper prayer. The light we need, the victory, is not abstract. It is a real-world battle that tears our hearts out every day.”

Traditionally, Hanukkah is a festival celebrated by Jewish people that commemorates the recovery of Jerusalem and the rededication of the Second Temple in the 2nd century BCE.

It unfolds over the span of eight



COURTESY CHABAD

Chabad of the Tri-Valley members are shown celebrating Hanukkah by lighting menorah candles.



COURTESY BETH EMEK

This year, Congregation Beth Emek plans to honor Hanukkah with several public events.

nights and days. This year, Hanukkah spans from this Thursday (Dec. 7) through next Friday (Dec. 15).

Local Jewish congregations will have activities for residents to take part in this Hanukkah.

Congregation Beth Emek will have Shabbat Hanukkah this Friday (Dec. 8) at 8 p.m.

“We’ll celebrate the 2nd night of Hanukkah with a joyous, song-filled service,” Milder said. The event will be open to the public in-person or through Zoom.

On Saturday (Dec. 9) at 4 p.m., Congregation Beth Emek is set to host their Hanukkah Mitzvah Celebration.

“During Hanukkah, Beth Emek families with young children make the Festival of Light about giving. We will get together to sing Hanukkah songs with a concert by Melita, enjoy a Hanukkah meal together, and complete a mitzvah project,” Milder said.

Chabad will host its Community Chanukah Dinner on Friday (Dec.

8) at 6 p.m. Advanced registration is required to attend.

“There will be a gourmet three-course celebratory Chanukah dinner menu with song, spirit, and joy,” Resnick said of this event.

The Bankhead Theater in Livermore will hold Chanukah Under the Stars on Saturday (Dec. 9) from 7:30-8:30 p.m. The celebration is open to the public and will take place outside of the theater. This event will feature live music and traditional food.

On Tuesday (Dec. 12) from 5:30-7 p.m., families can enjoy Chanukah Wonderland at the Stoneridge Shopping Center. The festival will be filled with Chanukah games, crafts, activities and live music, said Resnick. 2023 marks the 19th year of Chanukah Wonderland at the mall in Pleasanton.

And new this year, Chabad is holding the inaugural menorah lighting in Sunol Community Park, next Wednesday (Dec. 13) at 5:30 p.m. ■

# CANNABIS

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## HOBBY LOBBY

Continued from Page 5

to the Southland Mall location and they are not anticipating any closing sales at the Dublin store — which as of Friday afternoon did not have any visible signage outside or inside alerting customers to the pending closure.

When asked about the status of downtown redevelopment, Dublin deputy city manager Hazel

Wetherford told the Weekly on Saturday morning, “Over the last seven years the city of Dublin has engaged the public, property owners and stakeholders to design a long-desired, vibrant, pedestrian-friendly downtown in the heart of Dublin. Those efforts culminated in the adoption of the Downtown Preferred Vision by City Council in November of 2019.”

“That preferred vision calls for the redevelopment of portions of

the existing properties that comprise the downtown area,” she added. “The city is aware of ongoing discussions between the property owner and their tenants intended to facilitate bringing to fruition the highly anticipated downtown vision.”

Offering a selection of crafts, art supplies and home decor products, Hobby Lobby operates other Bay Area chain locations in San Mateo, Tracy and Concord. ■

# Bank of America shuttering branch on Main Street

Officials cite lack of customer traffic after end of temporary COVID-19 closure

By JEANITA LYMAN

Bank of America customers in Pleasanton are set to have one fewer location available to them next year, with the downtown financial center being one of the more than 20 branches and ATM locations in the Bay Area slated for closure in the near future.

The Bank of America branch at 337 Main St. is set to close its doors on Aug. 20 and consolidate to a single Pleasanton location on Stoneridge Drive.

"The Main Street center was closed from the beginning of the pandemic in March of 2020 through December of 2022, but while we reopened it 11 months ago we have not seen the return customer traffic there," Bank of America spokesperson Colleen

Haggerty told the Weekly.

The downtown location is set to close at the end of its current lease, according to Haggerty. The bank ceded some of its tenant space in the building in recent years as part of an expansion at the property that brought Zachary's Chicago Pizza in as a next-door neighbor.

Haggerty emphasized that customers will continue to have access to the same services via the remaining branches, including Stoneridge Drive. "We will still have four other full service financial centers within a few miles, and feel that this mix of retail presence and digital capabilities supports our clients' banking needs," she said.

Staff at the downtown location are set to remain with the company, with no layoffs planned,

according to Haggerty.

"There will be no impact to employees as they will be able to transfer to roles at one of our many other financial centers in the East and North bays," Haggerty said.

Haggerty said that the company's decision is part of an effort to adjust to current customer needs and banking practices, including the increased popularity and accessibility of online options.

"Today, people use digital banking more than ever for their everyday financial needs, and come into financial centers for more complex transactions or discussions about their finances," Haggerty said. "So we have been adjusting our retail network where centers are located in close proximity to one another, or where client traffic has



CHUCK DECKERT

The Bank of America branch in downtown Pleasanton is set to close in 2024.

diminished significantly."

The downtown Pleasanton closure is the only one in the move nationwide by Bank of America

to impact the Tri-Valley, with locations in Dublin and Livermore remaining open for the foreseeable future. ■

## MERGER

Continued from Page 5

care that prioritizes the needs of patients and their families."

By the Bay Health and Mission Hospice & Home Care signed a letter of intent to merge back on Sept. 21, but the newly announced addition of Dublin-based Hope Hospice will aim to increase the overall quality and range of services throughout the region.

"Today is an incredibly proud day and a win for independent not-for-profit hospice organizations who put quality care and compassion over profit, working collaboratively through partnerships to ensure that all patients and families receive access to high quality, equitable care," By the Bay Health CEO Skelly Wingard said in the press release.

"We are excited to partner with two respected and trusted mission-driven hospice organizations who deeply invest in, and care deeply about the local communities they serve," Wingard added. "Together, we share a vision to transform care for our most vulnerable populations during one of life's most important and honored moments."

All three organizations will continue to operate under their current names and branding, but both Mission Hospice & Home Care and Hope Hospice will soon add the designation, "an affiliate of By the Bay Health" to their brands, according to Kendra Strey, director of communications for Hope Hospice.

"Hope and Mission are both fixtures in our respective service areas. We believe there is a need to examine how we strategically present ourselves to the community," Strey told the Weekly. "Once the merger is closed, our leadership teams will develop a comprehensive plan that minimizes confusion in the community and allows patients and families to receive care from a brand they can

recognize and trust."

As far as any changes to Hope Hospice's services for those in the Tri-Valley, Strey said that in the short-term, business will continue to run as usual with office locations and support phone numbers staying the same.

However, when the three organizations begin the integration process, Strey said that Hope Hospice will develop plans to "standardize the best practices and align services."

"For the Tri-Valley, this means greater access to in-home care provided by a network of 600 interdisciplinary staff," Strey said. "Last year we added a small palliative care program, which will be bolstered by By the Bay's experience in this field. The Tri-Valley community also will have access to our combined organization's skilled home health services and pediatric care for children with chronic and serious illness."

According to the press release, the merger would give the most vulnerable populations in the entire Bay Area equitable access to services for serious illness and end-of-life care such as hospice, home health, palliative care and transitional care.

Other services include pediatric care for children with chronic and serious illness; bereavement counseling; dementia support; and access to the Mission House — the only residential hospice house on the Peninsula — that is run by the Mission Hospice & Home Care organization.

These services come at a crucial time given that the California Department of Finance is projecting a 120% increase in the number of adults who are 65 years old or older living in the Bay Area by 2060, according to the press release.

The new joint network would be poised to serve more than 1,100 patients per day thanks to the more than 500 community volunteers

and 600 multidisciplinary staff, the press release states.

"Mission Hospice, By the Bay Health and Hope Hospice share a rich history and commitment to serving the Bay Area community with comprehensive end-of-life care, education and grief support," Mission Hospice CEO Dolores Miller said in the press release. "Together, we can provide even more families the compassionate

care and comfort they deserve at one of the most vulnerable times of life."

Each organization will continue to operate as usual for the foreseeable future as the timeline on the merger is still up in the air. Strey said that more details about the merger will be shared when made available.

"Mergers like this take time and focus, and we commit to investing the effort needed to get it right and

complete it in a way that honors all three organizations' commitments to patient care, and ultimately causes the smallest possible disruption to the services we provide in the community," she said.

Strey also said that the merger will be submitted for regulatory review but that the organizations will not be disclosing the timeline of completion for that regulatory agency review at this time. ■

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# Dublin teachers union declares impasse in negotiations

DUSD disagrees with deadlock conclusion; DTA plans to file with labor board soon

By NICOLE GONZALES

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

The latest bargaining session took place last week, with both parties failing to reach an agreement on salary increases, benefits and other provisions at issue for Dublin educators.

“DTA is extremely disappointed by DUSD management’s refusal to make proposals that allow them to retain and recruit the best educators for Dublin students,” said DTA President Allison Malone, a math teacher at Dublin High School. “We have continuously emphasized our desire to partner with DUSD management to secure the best for Dublin students, yet management made no changes to the salary proposal they provided over a month ago.”

“Our DTA members are frustrated and disappointed with the state of negotiations, especially in light of our most recent bargaining session on Nov. 28,” Malone added.

Shortly after the negotiations ended, DUSD Superintendent Chris Funk sent out an email message addressing the anticipated impasse.

“At the conclusion of our November 28th meeting, DTA informed the district that they believe the parties have reached an impasse in these negotiations,” Funk said. “An impasse means that two parties are unable to reach an agreement through the negotiation process and further negotiations would be futile.”

The union will be requesting an impasse determination from the Public Employment Relations Board (PERB).

According to negotiation records, DTA asked for a 9% salary increase for all of its members “in order to ensure that DUSD students have the

best educators.” DUSD then countered with a 2% salary increase, 0.5% salary increase for five additional collaboration meetings and 0.31% for other adjustments suggested by DTA.

“The salary increase a district agrees to during negotiations reflects the most generous offer possible given the district’s fiscal realities at that time,” Funk told the Weekly when asked about the district’s counteroffer. “Our offer allows the district to remain fiscally solvent while continuing to provide one of the best total compensation packages — pay plus benefits — for educators in Alameda County.”

Funk described what the next steps look like for both sides.

“DTA informed the district that they will be requesting an impasse determination from the Public Employment Relations Board,” explained Funk. “While the district does not agree that the negotiations have reached an impasse, we

will respond to DTA’s request for impasse when it is filed with PERB. PERB must determine that further bargaining efforts between the two parties would be futile for an ‘impasse’ to exist.”

“If PERB determines that an impasse exists, a mediator will be assigned to work with both parties to seek a mutually agreed upon contract settlement,” he added.

In situations where a district and teachers union have reached an impasse, a contract settlement is reached through mediation, according to Funk. He emphasized that there is “typically no impact on schools or classes.”

If PERB determines that DUSD and DTA have not reached an impasse, they will be directed back to the bargaining table.

“Despite Dublin Unified having received an additional 8.22% per pupil in funding this year, they have only offered (again) a 2% increase for their employees,” Malone said.

“Management was also unwilling to increase the district contribution toward employee healthcare premiums, despite those premiums increasing by over 11% for 2024.”

“They also refuse to correctly place current employees on the salary schedule based on the many combined years of service our educators had completed prior to accepting positions in Dublin, despite offering to give credit for all prior years for new hires moving forward,” she added. “DTA members are being sent into the holiday season with an offer of an effective pay cut, despite our efforts to secure the best for Dublin students.”

More updates are expected to come out from both parties as the bargaining process continues to unfold.

“We are committed to working with our labor partners to reach a new contract that both parties can proudly support,” Funk said of the current state of negotiations. ■

# Local patients among 8M+ impacted by data breach

Stanford one of the health care systems hit by massive hack this year

By JEANITA LYMAN

Stanford Health Care Tri-Valley was among a number of hospitals nationwide impacted by a data breach at a cloud-based software company providing services for health care facilities, with federal officials currently investigating the incident.

Welltok, a cloud-based software company based in Colorado that provides database and file transferring services for health care providers, was reportedly the target of a hacking effort earlier this year that compromised the security of personal information for 8,493,379 patients nationwide, according to a report submitted to the U.S. Department

of Health and Human Services on Nov. 6.

The breach is among the largest currently under investigation by the department as of Dec. 1, with just three other breaches impacting more patients out of hundreds being investigated nationwide.

The company had previously issued a “notice of data privacy event” in October, naming Stanford Health Care hospitals including the Tri-Valley location as among the facilities that saw patients’ data hacked. The exact number of patients impacted wasn’t made public until after the breach was announced to federal authorities, and the number of Tri-Valley

patients affected remains unclear.

“While we have no evidence that any of your information has been misused, we are notifying you and providing information and resources to help protect your personal information,” Welltok officials said in the notice on Oct. 24.

They added that the types of information that may have been obtained in the breach were patients’ names, addresses, phone numbers and email addresses, as well as health information including provider and prescription names.

“The type of information at issue varies for each person,” Welltok officials said. For a small group of patients they said, this could include

Social Security numbers and health insurance information.

Welltok officials said that they were first notified that data was at risk on July 26, when vulnerabilities on a transfer server connected to their cloud-based software were made public by the developer of the transfer tool in use, but that they determined that there was no sign that data was compromised at the time upon examination of their systems and networks.


However, further investigation aided by third-party cybersecurity consultants determined on Aug. 11 that vulnerabilities in the software system had been exploited, with their server being accessed on May 30, with some data being stolen

during that time, according to the company. They learned on Aug. 26 that personal data had been on the server during the hacking incident.

Patients impacted by the breach were notified by Welltok on behalf of Stanford Health Care as well as the 20 other health care systems affected.

A spokesperson for Stanford Health Care Tri-Valley said that all media inquiries were being handled by Welltok. As of Friday, Welltok’s website contained only a brief description of the company’s services and a link to the data breach notification issued in October. A spokesperson for Virgin Pulse, which acquired Welltok in 2021, did not respond to questions as of Friday evening. ■

THE CITY OF PLEASANTON



HIGHLIGHTS

Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting

Thursday, December 14, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.  
The meeting will be held at the Remillard Conference Room, Public Works Center – 3333 Busch Road

- Recommend City Council Approve a Multi-Year Agreement with Lifetime Tennis, Inc. for Bocce Operations and Maintenance at the Centennial Park for a Minimum of Three Years and up to Five Years for an Amount Not to Exceed \$294,803.07
- Review and Approve Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting Schedule for 2024
- Review and Select Committee Assignments for 2024
- Select Commission Chairperson and Vice Chairperson for 2024

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# California’s water year is off to another dry start

State Water Project anticipates only 10% allocation for retailers including Zone 7 in 2024

By BAY CITY NEWS SERVICE

California’s State Water Project expects to provide only 10% of requested water supplies for 2024, the Department of Water Resources said Friday. However, that figure could change by the time final allocations are determined in May or June.

Each year, the state provides an initial allocation by Dec. 1 based on available water storage, projected water supply and water demands. The figures are updated monthly as snowpack, rainfall and runoff is assessed.

The initial water supply forecast is the first allocation of the new “water year,” which began on Oct. 1. The forecast is calculated based on October and November precipitation, dry soils, runoff, and storage in Lake Oroville, the largest reservoir of the system. So far in October and November, storms have not brought as much rain and snow.

“California’s water year is off to a relatively dry start,” DWR Director Karla Nemeth said in a statement. “While we are hopeful that this El Niño pattern will generate wet weather, this early in the season, we have to

plan with drier conditions in mind.”

It’s not uncommon for the initial allocation forecast to be low following very wet years, the state agency said in a press release.

The SWP provides water to 29 public water agencies that serve 27 million Californians. In the San Francisco Bay Area, they include the Alameda County Water District, the Zone 7 Water Agency that supplies Tri-Valley, Napa County Flood Control and Water Conservation District, Santa Clara Valley Water District and Solano County Water Agency. ■

# Kottinger Barn transforms into North Pole for charity

Owner to also celebrate historic building's reopening at ceremony this Friday

BY CHRISTIAN TRUJANO

The North Pole has returned to Pleasanton for a second year in a row, and while the holiday-themed transformation of the Kottinger Barn on Ray Street features new things like a movie-grade snow machine, flying Tinkerbell and plenty of holiday decorations, the intent of the month-long event remains the same as last year's — raise money for charity.

The money raised through parking fees and raffle tickets will be donated to the Pleasanton Police Officers' Association Charitable Foundation and Pleasanton-based nonprofit Little Miracles, which provides free baby essentials to Tri-Valley parents in need.

"The interest was to raise money for charity, have a place for families to go to that's a lot of fun," Bruce Torquemada, owner of the Kottinger Barn and lead organizer of the charity event, told the Weekly.

Inside the barn is a makeshift Santa's workshop, a baby pony, a 20-foot yeti and Santa Claus himself so that families can visit and take photos. There will also be a raffle for prizes — which were gifts



A photo of the Kottinger Barn getting transformed into the North Pole for a month-long charity event that started last weekend.

by the surrounding businesses in the Adobe Plaza — food vendors and warm drinks like hot chocolate and coffee.

The charity event, along with the lights and full setup, began last Saturday and will run until Jan. 2. Parking will cost \$10, which includes 10 raffle tickets. Additional \$1 raffle tickets will also be sold.

There will also be a separate \$10 raffle ticket that will grant you access to an area inside of the barn where there will be wine, cheese and appetizers available. Torquemada will then announce the raffle winner sometime in early January.

After initially purchasing the historic Kottinger Barn — one of the oldest standing buildings in downtown Pleasanton — in 2020, Torquemada worked day and night on restoring the barn.

He had just finished putting in the pavers around the barn in October 2022 when he spoke with a representative from the PPOA who told him the association was in need of money to help fund Shop with a Cop.

That's when Torquemada decided he wanted to help by decorating the plaza and setting it up as a Christmas experience, where

residents bought raffle tickets that were used for prizes and services like food and drinks.

After that first event, Torquemada was able to write a \$5,200 check to the PPOA Foundation and donated six boxes of toys to the Toys for Tots program, which is why he wanted to do it again this year.

"We think it's a great event," PPOA president Brian Jewell told the Weekly. "We're definitely grateful for this fundraiser at the barn."

He said the money will go toward the Shop with a Cop event where officers take some Pleasanton kids on a shopping spree. The money will also go toward helping students with scholarships.

Little Miracles will be the other organization splitting the charity money.

"Their generous gesture to give proceeds from the North Pole Kottinger Farm celebration to Little Miracles is both humbling and gratefully accepted," Melissa Dantzig, one of the co-founders of the volunteer-driven nonprofit, told the Weekly. "They approached us ... and we're just so grateful because of what it can mean to our important work and what it can mean to helping more families."

Dantzig said that apart from getting publicity and raising awareness for their services, which could mean more people donating items to her second-year organization, the fundraising money from the month-long event would help Little Miracles purchase items that families might need but that are out of stock.

While the holiday-themed transformation officially opened to the public on Saturday, Torquemada said he is also excited for the ribbon-cutting ceremony on Friday (Dec. 8) commemorating the official reopening of the Kottinger Barn.

This will mark the end of all the years of hard work Torquemada has put into renovating and restoring the historic building.

Torquemada said the reopening is special to him as a longtime Pleasanton resident because he had always wanted to create a community gathering space.

"I wanted a place where people can gather, like in the old days," he said. "We used to be able to go somewhere and just congregate. That's what the vision was and for the last two years, that's what I've been trying to develop." ■

## FUNDING

Continued from Page 5

inflation and a tight labor market have pushed up personnel costs and contract service costs in addition to increases in other costs, such as supplies and materials."

That's when representatives from FM3 Research, a research and data-analytics consultant, and Clifford Moss, the city's revenue strategy consultant, took over the presentation and told the council that after polling Pleasanton voters, the city could look to place some sort of measure on next year's ballot — although to get voters to pass it would take a lot of time, effort and public support.

About 650 Pleasanton voters were recently interviewed to ask what were their top concerns, funding priorities and whether they would support any of the potential tax measures, FM3 partner Curtis Below told the council.

He said that the highest-ranking priorities were first responder services followed by library services. He said voters were also most concerned with cost-of-living issues, drinking water quality, freeway traffic and local taxes.

Infrastructure concerns, on the other hand, were not too high.

Below said that the interviews mostly focused on a sales tax measure and that while half of the voters said they would be open to voting yes on such a measure, the

ones who would vote no showed more intensity.

He did, however, say that support dropped once FM3 presented voters with additional information and cons of such a measure. The other two measures that FM3 discussed with voters were a general obligation bond and a hotel tax measure, however both did not get as much support as the sales tax did.

But he added that there is a disconnect between what the city needs and what residents feel the city needs given that most think that the city is doing well when it comes to financial stability.

"What these results show to me ... is that the sales tax measure is potentially possible next year," Below said. "But really one of the big challenges there is the perceived need for additional funding doesn't seem to match the budget numbers and forecasts. A lot of the voters feel like you're kind of a victim of your own success, they feel like things are going pretty well in the city."

Bonnie Moss, principal at Clifford Moss, told the council that in order to continue pushing the conversation of seeking to place some sort of measure on the ballot forward, the city is going to need to elevate voters' understanding of the city's needs.

She said the trick will be finding the sweet spot of what the city needs are and what the voters want to support — and the only way to do that is to have honest

conversations about what the needs are and how a revenue measure will benefit Pleasanton.

And while Balch said he would have preferred if the city had instead gone back and tightened the belt on the city's budget, the rest of the council majority felt it was time to continue the process

— especially given that Pleasanton has gone almost 130 years without seeking such a revenue measure.

"Whether it's public safety, the parks, recreation programs and library ... there's a lot of needs we have and the forecast is kind of dismal," Councilmember Valerie Arkin said. "If we did decide to

put something on the ballot, if the community would support that, that's what the process would show. We're ultimately letting the voters decide here what's important, and giving them that power to keep a lot of vital services and amenities we have here. So I'm all in favor of that." ■

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COURTESY JMC CELLARS

Left: JMC Cellars owner Jessica Carroll has taken over the property formerly occupied by Big White House Winery and John Evan Cellars. Above: The new winery held a soft opening for family and friends in early November before officially welcoming the public on Nov. 19.

## JMC Cellars joins Livermore Valley Wine Community

New winery takes over former Big White House tasting room

BY CIERRA BAILEY

JMC Cellars may be the newest winery on the block in Livermore, but its owner and location are very familiar to the community.

Winemaker Jessica Carroll has opened her own venture in the same exact location where she worked for several years as assistant winemaker at Big White House Winery and John Evan Cellars.

After more than two decades in business, Big White House closed earlier this year after announcing that owner and winemaker John Evan Marion was experiencing health struggles that made

winemaking increasingly difficult.

“When John’s health kind of took a hit last year, it was a really rough decision for the family but they decided to close — and out of that came an opportunity for me to get some support and investors and open up my own doors, which is incredible and I am floored that my dream became a reality,” Carroll told the Weekly in an interview.

The new winery welcomed mostly family and friends for its soft opening a few days before officially inviting the public in on Nov. 19.

Although she has taken over the Big White House property, Carroll said she’s added her own

‘The state average on female winemakers is 15%-ish and Livermore has not quite double that, which is really incredible.’

**Jessica Carroll,**  
JMC Cellars owner

personal touches and a splash of paint to make it her own. She also said the space is welcome to dogs and children.

Carroll, who has worked in the wine industry for more than a decade after transitioning from a

civil engineering career, said that she has found tremendous support in Livermore through her fellow winemakers and the community at large.

“I really, really like it here and not to mention the fact that the state average on female winemakers is 15%-ish and Livermore has not quite double that, which is really incredible and we foster an environment that is open and welcome and has the opportunity for me to do what I did,” she said.

As a self-proclaimed “utter and complete wine geek,” Carroll said she loves to seek out lesser-known varieties for her collection, one of which is a Nebbiolo from

Livermore Valley and a Grignolino grown in Lodi.

“I love the wine industry and the more I learn about it, the more I want to know and the greater appreciation I have for this industry,” she said.

The JMC Cellars tasting room is open Fridays to Sundays from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and is located at 6800 Greenville Road.

With the holidays approaching, Carroll said they will be closed on Christmas Eve and other days this month to allow staff time with their families. She advises visitors to check their website and Instagram (@jmccellars) for the most current updates. ■

## Rite Aid closing nearly 200 stores, including one in Livermore

Part of financial restructuring plan amid bankruptcy

BY CIERRA BAILEY

There is little time left to shop or pick up prescriptions at the Vasco Plaza Rite Aid as the drugstore is set to shutter its doors for good next week.

The location at 1350 N. Vasco Road in Livermore is among nearly 200 stores across the country that are closing as part of the company’s restructuring process in the face of financial strain. The store’s last day

of business is set for next Thursday (Dec. 14).

“Rite Aid regularly assesses its retail footprint to ensure we are operating efficiently while meeting the needs of our customers, communities, associates and overall business,” company officials said in a statement to the Weekly.

Rite Aid previously filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy in October.

“Rite Aid is utilizing a voluntary Chapter 11 process to strengthen its financial position and accelerate its business transformation,” the company said on its webpage dedicated to providing information about the restructuring process.

The webpage also clarifies that the company itself is not going out of business. Approximately 2,000 stores will remain after all of the currently planned closures are complete.

At the same time the company filed for bankruptcy, officials

announced that it received a commitment for \$3.45 billion in new financing from some of its lenders to support business operations throughout the process.

In court documents filed in November, the company included a list of 154 initial store closures that involved several locations throughout the state — most of which were in Southern California. The two Bay Area stores named at that time were in Santa Clara and Cupertino.

“In connection with the court-supervised process, we notified the Court of certain underperforming stores we are closing to further reduce rent expense and strengthen overall financial performance,” Rite Aid officials said.

While the Vasco Plaza store was not included in the initial wave, an additional 31 closures were listed in another court document last week. Locations in Capitola, Sacramento and South Lake Tahoe

were also named in the second wave, among others.

In addition to customers losing their neighborhood drugstore, employees will also inevitably be affected by the closures.

Rite Aid acknowledged it would strive to minimize the inconvenience in a statement back in October saying, “The Company is making every effort to ensure customers of impacted stores have access to health services, whether at another Rite Aid or a nearby pharmacy, and will work to transfer prescriptions accordingly so that there is no disruption of services. The Company will also transfer associates at impacted stores to other Rite Aid locations where possible.”

There is only one other Rite Aid store in Livermore located at 968 Murrieta Blvd. However, there are a number of other drugstores and pharmacies in the city, including CVS and Walgreens. ■



CIERRA BAILEY

The Rite Aid in Vasco Plaza in Livermore is set to close for good on Dec. 14 following the company’s announcement of nearly 200 store closures across the country.

# DA's Office changes course after excluding some journalists from briefings

First Amendment Coalition, other groups blast Price for targeting Berkeley Scanner reporter

By DAN McMENAMIN / BCN

The Alameda County District Attorney's Office on Saturday reversed course after excluding some journalists from a media briefing in recent days.

The action was roundly criticized by First Amendment advocates as being unconstitutional and inappropriate.

The Berkeley Scanner founder Emilie Raguso was not allowed to enter a news conference held Nov. 29 by District Attorney Pamela Price's office, which cited a requirement for media members to have an official press credential "issued by a bonified (sic) national news network, local news affiliate, or a long-standing independent news journal."

Raguso, an experienced local journalist, did present official credentials but was nevertheless turned away. The District Attorney's Office claimed that the criteria were part of policies that were "long-standing and predate the election of District Attorney Pamela Price."

On Saturday, the District Attorney's Office released a

statement changing its reasoning for not allowing Raguso in, saying a media list had been "modified and reduced to a limited number of news outlets" during a transition of Price's communications staff over the summer. Bay City News was among the outlets removed from the list as well.

"Miss Raguso, among others, including the Bay City News Service, was not included in the updated media list, an oversight now being corrected," the District Attorney's Office said in its statement.

After Price's office's initial decision earlier in the week week not to admit Raguso to the briefing, groups including the First Amendment Coalition, Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press, and the Northern California chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists sent letters to the District Attorney's Office, saying its policy "violates the First Amendment because it unconstitutionally discriminates against segments of the press and interferes with editorial discretion."

Following the uproar over the decision to exclude Raguso, Bay City News inquired why it was

not receiving emails about upcoming news conferences despite its Datebook calendar being used for decades by most media outlets in the Bay Area to help plan coverage of such events.

A spokesperson for the District Attorney's Office said Friday they had an incorrect — and non-existent — Bay City News email address on their list for such events, though the statement Saturday then clarified that Bay City News had been removed from the list.

Raguso said in a statement Saturday, "I'm glad this issue was corrected because the DA's prior position was clearly indefensible. The Berkeley Scanner will continue reporting on this issue and pushing to ensure that other members of the media have fair and equal access to our elected district attorney."

Price, who is facing an effort to recall her from office by critics who say she is too soft on crime in her decisions on prosecuting cases, in her office's statement Saturday cited her "long and distinguished career that includes defending the First Amendment ... along with a proven



CIERRA BAILEY

Alameda County District Attorney Pamela Price speaks at a press conference in Livermore earlier this year.

track record of being committed to transparency."

The statement ended, "Now, DA Price is taking the lead on an effort to work with renowned First Amendment and media ethics experts in developing clear and transparent media credentials guidelines that balance the need for public safety alongside accommodating today's journalists. This critical work is long overdue at the Alameda County District Attorney's office."

The letter earlier in the week from First Amendment Coalition legal director David Loy ended, "Whatever your office's intent may have been, its actions suggest that reporters will be punished for critical coverage. The First Amendment does not tolerate such interference with a free press, intentional or otherwise." ■

*Editor's note: Bay City News publisher Katherine Ann Rowlands is president of the First Amendment Coalition Board of Directors.*

## UC scientists close to cracking red wine headache code

Looking at plant pigment quercetin as main culprit

By KILEY RUSSELL / BCN

University of California researchers think they're close to solving one of civilization's most enduring mysteries — the cause and prevention of those nasty red wine headaches.

Dr. Morris Levin, a neurologist and head of the UCSF Headache Center, teamed up with Apramita Devi and Andrew Waterhouse from the UC Davis Department of Viticulture and Enology to crack the red wine headache code.

Although more research is needed to say definitively, the culprit appears to be linked to a plant pigment, quercetin, which is found in greater quantities in red wine than in white.

Quercetin can block the body's ability to metabolize alcohol, which then leads to the buildup of a toxin called acetaldehyde, which in high levels causes headache, flushing and nausea, according to the research.

Quercetin is also the pigment that gives skin, eyes, hair and plants their color.

"People of East Asian origin, primarily from Japan, China and Korea,

are among those at higher risk for red wine headaches," according to the study. "Approximately 40% of this population have an enzyme variant that fails to eliminate acetaldehyde. Not surprisingly, people with this variant have a lower rate of alcoholism."

It also appears that the sun plays a role in people's post-imbibing headaches since the level of quercetin is up to eight times higher in grapes that get a lot of sun, like Napa Valley cabernets and some Australian red wine varieties.

"Practices in premium wine-producing vineyards, like trellised vines, crop-thinning and leaf clearance create more sun exposure, which facilitates higher production of quercetin," according to the study. "Mass-produced wines were found to have lower levels of quercetin." Fermentation, aging and filtration techniques may also play a role.

The researchers say that in the future they should be able to help red wine drinkers make less headache-inducing choices and maybe also help vintners make wines that are less likely to inflict pain. ■

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# HOW LIVERMORE JAZZ SOCIETY LOCAL MUSIC ACCESSIBLE AND

# JAZZ IS FOR EVERYONE

BY NICOLE GONZALES

**T**he nonprofit Livermore Jazz Society was created with two primary beliefs — that musicians should be paid a fair, livable wage, and that jazz music deserves to be documented.

Founder Tom Reynolds sought to implement these ideas locally with the intention that quality live music should never be difficult to find. So his organization, established in 2021, hosts a diverse calendar of house shows year-round, with a primary focus on jazz.

“One of the main goals was to create a place where the local community could grow an appreciation for jazz and other under-served genres of music,” Reynolds told the Weekly. “We wanted a place where people could come and have a positive experience.”

A native of Berkeley, Reynolds had a strong interest in music from a young age. Throughout high school and college, he was involved in various music groups and was able to travel abroad

with some fellow musicians.

“I had a really, really great music teacher that was very enthusiastic and had us all playing in the jazz band. I played the trumpet,” Reynolds said. “He had us go to various festivals and stuff. He had really good connections.”

“Fast forward, I got a degree in music at U.C. Berkeley. I played in the jazz band there, and we got to go to Japan.

That was a lot of fun,” he added.

A few years after graduating from university, Reynolds relocated to Portland for 21 years to work in engineering. He came back to the Bay Area in 2010 after being offered a job at a startup solar company in Livermore. He later

retired and decided to reignite his dedication to the local music scene.

After experiencing a lack of musical opportunities in the area, Reynolds thought of organizing a group that addressed the problem right at home.

“I retired in 2021 from doing engineering work and started to get more serious about playing music. I

started thinking deeply about how to revitalize the local scene because there really isn’t a lot close to home. We had to go into Oakland, Berkeley or San Francisco for a lot of the opportunities,” Reynolds said. “I thought, how about starting your own venue and doing house concerts?”

Reynolds and several other founding members began searching for an optimal venue. Once the perfect location was found, they hit the ground running.

“We found this house in North Livermore that had a dining room, a raised floor and a wide entrance — and then, the Livermore Jazz Society was founded in June of 2021,” he said.

“The Livermore Jazz Society deserves renown — it’s a real treasure for audiences and performers alike. It’s a special place for music,” said Kurt Ribak of the Kurt Ribak Band.

Ribak and his band have performed with LJS twice before. He recalled his experience with the organization during the intimate house shows.

“I am really impressed with LJS,” Ribak said. “As the founder of LJS, you can really see Tom Reynolds’ background both as a musician and as an engineer. The piano is meticulously maintained — on a level that puts almost every other venue in the greater

Bay Area to shame. The sound system is excellent and all the equipment is high-quality and well-maintained.”

“It’s such a pleasure to play in a room where you can really hear each other well. Where you’re not having a lot of frustrations or distractions — where you are respected and valued,” added Ribak.

As to why the focus on jazz, besides a deep personal connection and history with the style of music, Reynolds said he wanted to help preserve the significance of the genre.

“The problem is that things disappear or are not remembered or preserved in some way. We don’t want this with jazz; I don’t want that richness to go away,” he said. “It must be respected and preserved because it too will be forgotten if it’s not.”

The organization also showcases other music genres in which it deems “underserved.”

According to LJS, jazz is among the least-played musical genres in the

U.S., with hip-hop taking up 21.7% and pop at 20.1% of playtime. Genres like jazz and reggae take up just 1.1% and 1%, respectively.

By highlighting these underrepresented styles, LJS hopes to preserve the lesser-circulated genres of music and keep them alive.

“Another really important aspect for us is that we have a guaranteed fair wage policy. We make no exceptions and pay

every musician a dignified minimum rate,” Reynolds said. “That’s something that we didn’t want to scrimp on because it’s really about respect and dignity and being paid for professional service.”

The house show venue is built to best serve musicians, as Reynolds keeps important — and heavy — gear on hand for each performer to use. He said by offering the tools to musicians at the venue, it makes their job a little bit easier.

“Things are set up and when groups get here, they don’t have to change

**‘IT’S A REAL TREASURE FOR AUDIENCES AND PERFORMERS ALIKE. IT’S A SPECIAL PLACE FOR MUSIC.’**

**Kurt Ribak,**  
Musician

**‘WE WANTED A PLACE WHERE PEOPLE COULD COME AND HAVE A POSITIVE EXPERIENCE.’**

**Tom Reynolds,**  
Founder





too much. It's pretty easy. It's not like when you play in an outside venue and you have to set everything up from the ground up then tear everything down," Reynolds said. "I offer a house drum kit, a bass amp, monitors and things like that."

Accommodation — for performers and audience members — is a priority to LJS, according to Reynolds.

"The performers all love playing here, and the community members that come here really enjoy it. It's very intimate. It's the best chance to form connections with live local music," he said. "We have an air filter and we keep the doors open so there's really good airflow — that keeps people happy."

As for the future, the organization hopes to continue expanding and welcome more audience members.

"We've almost completed our second year. This year things have really started rolling, we received our first grant in June of this year from Alameda County Arts Commission. We're set for a really spectacular year next year too,"

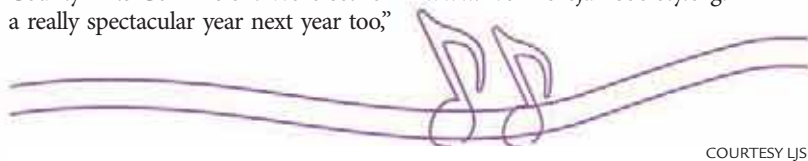
Reynolds said. "We're certainly hoping we have more success stories of local community members bonding with the music through these concerts."

While the venue welcomes artists from across the wider Bay Area, they try to focus on hyper-local acts first.

"Generally, it's for the Bay Area local groups. It's not for international national touring groups because they don't really ... they're not underserved in the same way," Reynolds said. "Our calendar tends to be a little biased more towards artists in Livermore and the Tri-Valley area."

"We hope to keep on improving our attendance and grow our visibility," he added. "We're looking at partnering with other local arts groups and ways to get corporate sponsorship. There are a lot of avenues to explore."

The organization's next concert takes place this Sunday (Dec. 10) with Shanna Carlson, Larry Smith and Friends. To learn more, visit [www.livermorejazzsociety.org](http://www.livermorejazzsociety.org). ■



COURTESY LJS

The Livermore Jazz Society, founded by Tom Reynolds (shown in bottom two center photos), presents house concerts in the community featuring local musicians like Kurt Ribak (bottom left) and Matt Finders (bottom right).



NONPROFIT STATUS  
COMING JANUARY  
2024



# FOLLOW OUR JOURNEY AS WE BECOME A NONPROFIT NEWS ORGANIZATION

Listen to Adam Dawes, CEO  
Embarcadero Media Foundation,  
talk about the benefits of  
becoming a nonprofit newsroom



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# Holiday Fund



Each year, the Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund raises money to support programs and services that care for local families and children in our community. The Holiday Fund partners with the Embarcadero Media Foundation, which handles all finances, so every dollar of your tax-deductible donation goes directly to local nonprofits with no administrative expenses.

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

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

## Holiday Fund

Please consider donating online, which enables your gift to be processed immediately. The secure website is:  
**[PleasantonWeekly.com/holiday\\_fund](https://PleasantonWeekly.com/holiday_fund)**

Enclosed is a check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Business Name: \_\_\_\_\_

(Only required if business name is to be listed as donor in the paper)

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I wish to designate my contribution as follows (select one):

In my name as shown above       In the name of business above

– OR –

In honor of:     In memory of:     As a gift for:

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Name of Person)

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

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

I wish to contribute anonymously.

Please withhold the amount of my contribution.

Make checks payable to Embarcadero Media Foundation and send to:

Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund  
450 Cambridge Avenue  
Palo Alto, CA 94306

## 2023-24 Holiday Fund Donors

As of December 6th, 77 donors have contributed \$18,601 to the Holiday Fund.

3 Anonymous.....\$700	CINDY & BOB GEE & FAMILY.....250
A & A Lipski .....*	The Morgenstern Family.....*
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	Sue Evans Photography.....100

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

# Tri-Valley Life

What's happening around the Valley in music, theater, art, literature and more

## A FESTIVE EVENING

2023 Hometown Holiday Celebration a hit in downtown Pleasanton

PHOTOS BY CHUCK DECKERT

Thousands of people descended upon downtown Pleasanton for the annual Hometown Holiday Celebration last Saturday for the first parade and tree lighting under the city's new "rain or shine" policy — and the weather fully cooperated that night. ■



# Valley Dance Theatre celebrates 43 years of 'The Nutcracker'

Production in memory of founder's late father set for next two weekends in Livermore

BY NICOLE GONZALES

It's that time of year again: Valley Dance Theatre is presenting its annual production of "The Nutcracker". For 2023, every show will feature a special dedication in memory of one of the theater's most prominent members through the years.

The dance company will perform Tchaikovsky's iconic "The Nutcracker" during the next two weekends at the Bankhead Theater in Livermore. VDT officials said this year — its 43rd producing the classic family-friendly holiday ballet — the performances will pay tribute to Rudolph John Fruscella (better known as "Rudy"), the father of VDT founder and artistic director Betsy Hausburg.

"I was really surprised by it," Hausburg said. "I thought maybe they might just mention him in the program, but they said they wanted to do more and dedicate every show to him, which I thought was very, very sweet."

Fruscella was known to be an active supporter of his daughter and VDT shows. Over the years he attended 41 "Nutcracker" performances and was often known to bring a large number of friends to show off the work his child had accomplished. He died on Oct. 6 at the age of 101.

Hausburg recalled that during last year's production of "The Nutcracker", her father brought a number of folks to watch the show

with him including his caregiver, his neighbors, friends and family.

The artistic director reminisced in previous years when her father would walk around the lobby and meet every dancer in the program.

"He would just tell them how impressed he was with them," Hausburg said.

Due to his unwavering support and dedication, the VDT board chose to honor Fruscella with this year's shows. Hausburg explained that an important part of the production is the immersive and family-friendly atmosphere.

"(After) the dancers go out in the lobby and audience members can have pictures taken with them or meet them. We try to make it immersive," she said. "When you see the costumes up close and all the people are dressed up, you get a whole different feel. It becomes more real."

"We try to make it more of a fun experience and not worry about if children make noise or cry or anything. It should be enjoyable and we always find that the children enjoy the shows so much. We have a fog machine so when the angels come out the stage gets covered in fog and they love it," Hausburg added.

Hausburg, having co-founded VDT in 1980, feels an immense feeling of pride in her students and their work.

"They do all their rehearsing, they come in and warm up and



ROCHELLE ABRANTES / VDT

Valley Dance Theatre founder and artistic director Betsy Hausburg (left) and assistant director and instructor Madison Burgess Adkins pose with Hausburg's then-100-year-old father and lifelong VDT supporter Rudy Fruscella.

work so hard for these shows," Hausburg said. "I don't know how we've had the dancers that we've had. I'm proud of every single one of them."

The theater group tries to improve their production each time.

"Every year we try to add something different," Hausburg told the Weekly. "Over the last two years, before COVID-19 and since, we have replaced or fixed a lot of things. We had new sets made, we had new backdrops made. We're pretty happy with the way our production looks."

"It's very, very colorful by the end when all the set pieces have been out," she added.

In addition to the quality performances guests will find at "The Nutcracker" shows, they will also be charmed by the Bankhead Theater and its surrounding area, according to Hausburg.

"The nice thing about downtown Livermore is they've done so much with the plaza in front of the Bankhead and nearby restaurants, it's very nice. It's beautiful even just to walk around either before or after the show," she said. "And of course the caliber of dancing you're going to see here — the music you're going to see, the lighting and the costumes — are great."

"We're very lucky for this venue. The acoustics are very good, there's really not a bad seat at the Bankhead," Hausburg added.

Evening performances are 7 p.m. this Saturday (Dec. 9) and next Friday through Sunday (Dec. 15-17), while afternoon shows are 2 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays (Dec. 9-10, 16-17). Optional "Nutcracker VIP Tours" are offered at 12:45 p.m. ahead of each afternoon show. For tickets and other information, go to [www.valleydancetheatre.com](http://www.valleydancetheatre.com). ■

## BECAUSE I Dance

### Jenida Yang

Principal dancer at Xiaopei Chinese Dance  
Soloist at Chinatown Dragon Show  
Winner of multiple competition titles

**Sunday 12/10/2023**  
**4 - 5:30 p.m.**  
**Firehouse Arts Center**

**4444 Railroad Avenue,**  
**Pleasanton**

**Scan for Tickets**

## Bankhead adds an eclectic mix

Henry Winkler, 'Animaniacs' live, gospel choir and more

BY JEREMY WALSH

Livermore Valley Arts on Friday revealed a handful of new performances now on the schedule for the Bankhead Theater in the new year.

The list of additions includes a multi-Emy winner who also played one of the most iconic characters in TV history, tributes to three legendary ladies of country music, a live performance featuring two of the brains behind a wacky animated classic and a spiritual concert with Bay Area roots.

Leading the way will be actor, director, producer and author Henry Winkler, best known for playing "The Fonz" on "Happy Days", a role that launched a decades-long career that included his Emmy-winning supporting turn on "Barry" in recent years.

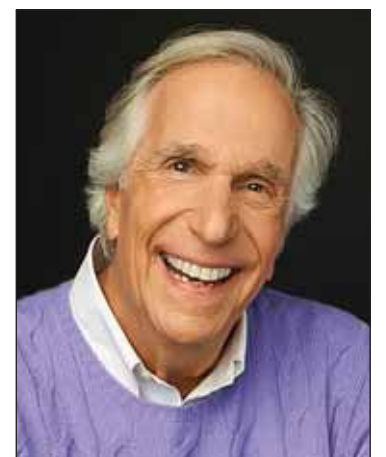
As part of the Rae Dorough Speaker Series, Winkler will appear on the Livermore stage on March 14 and "share humorous stories and inspirational lessons from his

career, craft and life," LVA officials said.

On the next night, the Bankhead will host "Trailblazing Women of Country", a tribute to the music of Patsy Cline, Loretta Lynn and Dolly Parton. The concert on March 15 will feature soloist Miko Marks and Nashville-based singer Kristina Train, each supported by a five-member, all-female band.

"Animaniacs in Concert" follows on April 5, a live stage show featuring tunes from the zany cartoon series that first arrived in the 1990s — a three-season reboot just wrapped this year. "Animaniacs" original composer Randy Rogel will perform on the piano joined by voice actor Rob Paulsen ("Yakko" and "Pinky").

Finally, the Oakland Interfaith Gospel Choir, under the direction of Terrance Kelly, will be back at the Bankhead on June 21 to "celebrate Juneteenth with experience and music that brings and shares the African-American community's resiliency, joy and strength," LVA



COURTESY LVA

Actor Henry Winkler will be at the Bankhead on March 14.

officials said. "As proven with last season's show, this will be a moving and inclusive performance, perfect for the entire community."

Tickets are now on sale for LVA members, who get priority access. The general public can begin purchasing this Friday (Dec. 8). Visit [livermorearts.org](http://livermorearts.org). ■

# Community Pulse

## POLICE BULLETIN

### Pleasanton man among company execs sentenced for fraud

Two Tri-Valley men received over two and a half years in federal prison last week for fraud and tax evasion, the U.S. Department of Justice Northern District of California said.

Danville resident Joseph Nubla, 45, is the president of Brisbane Recycling Company, Inc., which is a rock-crushing business located in that city. Henry Ku, 56, of Pleasanton served as counsel for the company and Nubla, but also owns several businesses.

Both men were convicted by a jury in April of conspiring to defraud the United States from 2008 to 2016. Nubla was also convicted of tax evasion for failing to report more than \$5.8 million in income on his 2014 federal tax return.

According to prosecutors, Nubla ran the daily operations at his recycling company and Ku owned and controlled several other businesses. Ku and his entities deposited checks written by Nubla from the Brisbane company that totaled more than \$18 million. To avoid paying taxes for Brisbane, Nubla expensed Brisbane's payments to Ku as royalties for the use of heavy equipment purportedly owned by Ku's entities. However, Ku actually used the money from Brisbane to buy that equipment.

Ku would return the funds he got from Brisbane to Nubla through money transfers, buying homes for Nubla, and by writing cashier's checks totaling \$7 million pursuant to a fake loan, the U.S. Attorney's Office said.

Nubla in turn did not declare the funds given to him by Ku as personal income, even though they were taxable dividends.

"These defendants skirted paying their taxes out of pure greed," U.S. Attorney Ismail Ramsey in said a statement released by the DOJ after the sentencing on Nov. 28.

Nubla was given a sentence of 36 months in federal prison and Ku received 30 months. They also must pay fines of \$15,000 and \$10,000 respectively, and over \$9 million in restitution.

—Bay City News Service

### In other news

- A former guard at the federal prison for women in Dublin was sentenced to more than five years behind bars himself for sexually abusing two inmates.

John Bellhouse, 40, will be imprisoned for 63 months and pay a \$25,500 fine for abusing two women at Federal Correctional Institution, Dublin. The sentence was handed down last Friday by U.S. District Judge Yvonne Gonzalez Rogers



JEREMY WALSH

The entrance to the Federal Correctional Institution in Dublin, which has been the epicenter of a sexual abuse scandal.

following a jury's conviction earlier this year.

Bellhouse, who formerly lived in Pleasanton, had repeated oral sex with an inmate and touched her vagina and breasts in 2019 and 2020, prosecutors said.

In 2020 and 2021, Bellhouse grabbed the breast of another inmate through a window in her cell and put his finger in her vagina while she was in her cell after showering, according to the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of California.

The case against Bellhouse was the eighth against an FCI Dublin correctional officer for sexual abuse related crimes, prosecutors said in a statement.

"Our investigation of sexual abuse at FCI Dublin remains ongoing, and we will continue to aggressively pursue justice for victims of sexual abuse at the hands of BOP employees," said Department of Justice Inspector General Michael E. Horowitz. The Federal Bureau of Prisons is responsible for the care and custody of federal inmates.

Prosecutors said Bellhouse used his access to everyday items such as Starbucks coffee, yarn, jewelry and cleaning supplies to coax his victims to go along with the abuse and to keep them quiet.

Simply being in possession of such items was considered contraband that exposed inmates to potential punishments such as solitary confinement and loss of good time credits, prosecutors said.

Bellhouse, who pleaded not guilty to the charges, asked for between 21 and 27 months in prison, according to a request for leniency submitted to the court by his attorney Shaffy Moeel, a copy of which was obtained by the Weekly. The filing also reveals that Bellhouse, who was convicted of sexual acts against female inmates, is actually gay.

The defense conceded that Bellhouse acted inappropriately with the women but argued it wasn't violent criminal conduct — while acknowledging that consent is not a defense for the charges by law, given the power dynamic between a prison guard and inmates.

The attorney argued for a lighter sentence given his lack of prior criminal record, his history in the

community and the nature of the acts involved compared to more egregious behavior by other peers and superiors caught in the FCI Dublin sex abuse scandal.

Bellhouse, through his attorney, also referenced the emotional effects of family — and even himself — not accepting his homosexuality. The defense filing included support letters from both of his parents, former inmates and prior colleagues.

The judge ultimately went with a prison sentence of nearly triple the range requested by the defense.

—Story by Bay City News Service and Weekly editorial director Jeremy Walsh

- A San Francisco man has been arrested for allegedly trespassing in BART's Transbay Tube, disrupting the evening commute on Nov. 29, BART officials said on social media.

Jerry Howard is suspected of entering the tube by pulling the emergency door release of a train moving through the tube, BART said the next day on X.

Alarms were triggered and train service was halted while police searched the tube and reviewed surveillance cameras.

The disruption came about 4:45 p.m. and caused major delays in both directions as the tunnel between San Francisco and the East Bay was closed.

"Once we confirmed via surveillance and search that he exited using an emergency pathway and was no longer in the tube, service resumed," according to a statement by BART on X. BART service through the Transbay Tube resumed shortly after 6 p.m. that night.

—Bay City News Service

- Next week will mark 25 years since Alameda County Sheriff's deputy John Monego was gunned down in the line of duty while responding to a robbery in progress at a restaurant in Dublin.

Dublin Police Services is holding the annual tree lighting that honors Monego at department headquarters on Clark Avenue this Saturday (Dec. 9) at 6 p.m., with light refreshments to follow the ceremony.

Monego, a 33-year-old married father of one, was a deputy assigned

## Freddie Leon Houston

November 23, 1932 – November 30, 2023

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

Fred Houston was born in Red Rock, Oklahoma on November 23, 1932 and spent his youth in Texas prior to his family moving to the Central Valley, California. Fred was a three-year letterman in football, basketball, and baseball at Shafter High School '51 and won all-conference honors in football and basketball. He attended Fresno State on an athletic scholarship and after graduation played football for the Special Services team of the United States Army. Stationed at Fort Dix, New Jersey he met the love of his life, Dorothy McMinn, at a USO Dance in New York City. Fred was Honorably Discharged from the United States Army.



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

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

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



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

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

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

In lieu of flowers, please consider a gift to the Fred Houston Memorial Scholarship, Shafter High School., c/o Shafter High School Athletic Department, 526 Mannel Avenue, Shafter, Ca. 93263

PAID OBITUARY

**BULLETIN**

Continued from Page 17

to DPS under the city-county contract at the time of his death.

He was the second officer to respond to the Outback Steakhouse on Regional Street that fateful night, investigating a 911 hangup that had actually occurred during a strong-arm robbery with hostages late at night on Dec. 11, 1998. The first deputy who arrived ahead of Monego went inside the restaurant to investigate but was overpowered by the robbers.

As Monego approached the front door, one robber opened fire through a glass window, striking the deputy in the chest just above his protective vest, according to the "Officer Down Memorial Page", which honors and remembers law enforcement personnel killed in the line of duty. As Monego fell to the ground, the shooter walked outside and shot the deputy five more times at point-blank range.

Monego died at an area hospital



COURTESY DPS

Dublin Police Services each year honors the memory of John Monego, an Alameda County sheriff's deputy who was killed in the line of duty in Dublin in 1998.

just after midnight on Dec. 12, 1998.

The three culprits fled the scene but were later caught and ultimately convicted at trial.

—Jeremy Walsh

• Lawyers for the family of a man who died at Alameda County's Santa Rita Jail in 2021 that settled with the county for \$7 million released more information last week about the case, including changes that are now mandated to be made at the jail.

The death of 45-year-old Maurice Monk, who was found dead in his cell at Santa Rita Jail in Dublin on Nov. 5, 2021, prompted an investigation after it was alleged that he had lain dead in his cell for up to 72 hours before anyone noticed.

"We know multiple jail guards and medical staff from Wellpath — which has a \$250 million contract for medical services at the jail — saw him lying face-down, unmoving, in a growing puddle of bodily fluids, for days," said Adante Pointer, attorney for the family. "This goes beyond negligence. It was criminal."

Tya Modeste, spokesperson for the county Sheriff's Office, said that the case is actually not over yet.

"While other outlets have reported the settlement, we have not fully

completed the case. The Sheriff's Office will comment once the case has been finalized," Modeste wrote in an email.

Earlier this fall, Alameda County District Attorney Pamela Price said Sheriff Yesenia Sanchez had agreed to provide information to investigators from Price's office regarding Monk's death.

Monk had been arrested about a month earlier on suspicion of disorderly conduct for allegedly refusing to get off an Alameda-Contra Costa Transit bus and failing to appear on a misdemeanor warrant for another alleged altercation on a bus, according to prosecutors. His public defender said that he missed his court date because he was turned away at the door and was unable to pay the \$2,500 cash bail once he was arrested.

Pointer's office said that Monk struggled with mental health issues such as schizoaffective disorder.

"Mr. Monk, I am told, had a mental illness — a diagnosis," Price, the district attorney, said in a statement earlier this month. "He had medical issues. We all know that mental illness is not a crime, and it should not be a death sentence in Alameda County."

The settlement doesn't just come with millions of dollars, it also stipulates that the jail step up its monitoring of inmates' wellbeing during observation checks. Guards must now complete a yearly training on how to assess "emergent issues related to the physical and mental health of incarcerated persons, including deterioration in quality of life."

Sheriff's deputies' bodycam footage was released in October that showed the condition of Monk and his cell, including untouched meals, paper cups of medication tossed into his cell, and showed him lying face down in his bunk "above a growing pool of urine and body fluids," according to Pointer.

Pointer also said that an Alameda County Sheriff's Office investigation showed that guards had forged wellness check timelines for Monk and ignored "obvious" signs of his deterioration.

By mid-March of this year, just months into Sanchez's tenure as sheriff after being elected last year, four inmates had died in Santa Rita Jail within six weeks.

Santa Rita has one of the highest rates of in-custody deaths in the state, according to California Department of Justice data, and in 2021, the U.S. Department of Justice declared the jail to be the largest mental health provider in the county, but said the services were inadequate and violated the civil rights of inmates.

In February 2022, a settlement in a 2018 lawsuit on behalf of several inmates resulted in a consent decree that the jail would improve its mental health services and increase staffing. The DOJ also agreed to monitor the settlement for five years and implement inspections of the jail twice a year.

In the decision, U.S. Magistrate Judge Nathanael Cousins said that the treatment of inmates at the jail was unconstitutional.

"Many spoke about inhumane conditions at the jail," wrote Cousins, "citing minimal out-of-cell time, lack of access to mental health resources, and unresponsive grievance process, and unchecked uses of force."

In May of this year, several inmates went on a hunger strike to protest the alleged lack of mental health care at Santa Rita, along with poor food quality and what one inmate said was retaliation from jail staff.

Monk's family is also pursuing a civil rights lawsuit against Wellpath nurses and other medical staff. ■

—Katy St. Clair, BCN

**Judith Ann Hilger**

August 22, 1939 – November 5, 2023

Judith Ann Hilger, known to her loved ones as Judy, peacefully passed away from metastatic breast cancer on November 5, 2023, in Roseville, CA, at the age of 84. She was born on August 22, 1939, in San Francisco, CA, to her late parents, Viva and Edmund Niederhaus. Judy was a loving, supportive, and encouraging wife, mother, grandmother and friend. She had a remarkable ability to listen and provide wise advice.



Judy dedicated over 35 years of her life joyfully and masterfully teaching mostly first grade. Her passion and dedication to education were recognized when she was honored as Teacher of the Year. She received her higher education from UC Davis and San Jose State, shaping her into the exceptional educator she became.

Beyond her career, Judy had a multitude of hobbies that brought her great joy. She found fulfillment in philanthropy, actively participating in The Assistance League and PEO, always seeking opportunities to serve her community. Judy possessed a talent for gardening, creating a tranquil oasis in both her front and backyards. Her keen eye for interior design allowed her to create a haven within her home, beautifully decorated for every holiday and season. It was a place of warmth, happiness, and hospitality.

Judy is survived by her loving family: her husband, Marvin Hilger, her son and daughter in law, John and Laurie Hilger, and granddaughter, Ella Trout, and her daughter and son in law, Jennifer and Jim Wickenhiser and granddaughters, Anna and Sara Wickenhiser. She was preceded in death by her parents, Viva and Edmund Niederhaus, as well as her brothers, Kenneth and Donald Niederhaus and her beloved dog, Jackie.

A Celebration of Life will be held on Saturday, January 6, at 1:00 p.m. at Lincoln Community Church in Lincoln, CA.

In honor of Judy's memory and her passion for making a difference, contributions can be made to Make A Wish, an organization she held close to her heart.

Judy will forever be remembered for her unwavering love, support, and her ability to create beauty in all aspects of life. Her legacy will continue to inspire those who were fortunate enough to know her. She will forever be missed, forever cherished, forever loved.

Make A Wish: <https://tinyurl.com/32vjvdpp>

PAID OBITUARY

**POLICE REPORT**

The Pleasanton Police Department made the following information available.

**Nov. 30**

**Drug violation**

■ 4:23 a.m. on the 7200 block of Johnson Drive

**Domestic battery**

■ 6:27 a.m. on Andrews Drive

**Theft**

■ 11:16 a.m. on the 6100 block of Stoneridge Drive

**Nov. 29**

**Domestic battery**

■ 2:08 a.m. on Owens Drive

**Drug violation**

■ 2:44 a.m. on the 5100 block of Hopyard Road

**Fraud**

■ 8:45 a.m. on the 900 block of Clinton Place

**Theft**

■ 2:39 p.m. on the 5300 block of Case Avenue

■ 5:42 p.m. on the 1400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

■ 5:42 p.m. at Old Santa Rita and Santa Rita roads; theft from auto

■ 6:09 p.m. on the 1000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

**Nov. 28**

**Fraud**

■ 9:01 a.m. on the 3000 block of Ferndale Court

**Assault/battery**

■ 9:22 a.m. on the 2400 block of Via Espada

**Fraud**

■ 2:11 p.m. on the 4300 block of Rosewood Drive

■ 4:16 p.m. on the 3900 block of Stoneridge Drive

**Bicycle theft**

■ 6:14 p.m. on the 400 block of Old Bernal Avenue

**Nov. 27**

**Vandalism**

■ 6:09 a.m. on the 1200 block of Quarry Lane

**Theft**

■ 8:07 a.m., 4400 block of Rosewood Drive; auto theft

■ 5:31 p.m. on the 6700 block of Rancho Court

**Graffiti offense**

■ 8:25 a.m. on the 7300 block of Johnson Drive

**Assault/battery**

■ 9:05 a.m. on the 1200 block of Quarry Lane

■ 10:02 p.m. on the 3100 block of Santa Rita Road

**Burglary**

■ 3:47 p.m. on the 3700 block of Stanley Boulevard

**Nov. 26**

**DUI**

■ 2:02 a.m. on the 4100 block of Francisco Street

**Robbery**

■ 5:55 a.m. on the 6800 block of Santa Rita Road

**Theft**

■ 9:34 a.m. on the 4800 block of Willow Road

■ 1:29 p.m. on the 1300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

■ 4:44 p.m. on the 6100 block of West Las Positas Boulevard

■ 7:01 p.m., 1300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting

**Trespassing/prowling**

■ 3:23 p.m. on the 5500 block of West Las Positas Boulevard

**Vandalism**

■ 7:26 p.m. on the 5500 block of Springhouse Drive

### On Israel and Gaza

Since the barbaric attacks on Israel by Hamas, the terrorist government of Gaza, the world — including Livermore and the Bay Area — have been singularly focused on the resulting war and its terrible cost to Gaza and the Palestinians.

The resulting anger and division, anti-Semitism and Islamophobia is tearing communities apart. It doesn't have to be that way.

We can, together, mourn for all those who have died in this terrible war. They were parents, children,



brothers, sisters, friends, community members. No matter who they were, how old they were, how they lived, or how they died, every absence leaves a hole where there was once someone to hold, someone to live life with. That grief is something our community can share.

The solutions to the war between Israel and Hamas will happen there, not here. Arguing over the rights and wrongs of the situation will not change anything. But we can learn from each other. We can listen and hear each other's reality, even when it is not our own. We can share knowledge and context, even when we disagree. We can tell our personal stories and listen to those of others.

This is no easy thing to do. For me, these past weeks have been agonizing. Israel and Jewish history writ large are personal, part of my identity. I believe that Israel has the right to exist. This past March, I celebrated Purim in Israel. It was the only time in my life that I did not need to explain the holiday to others; celebrating the holiday was the norm.

Yet during that trip, I also demonstrated against the government and visited the West Bank, including a refugee camp. Believing that Israel has the right to exist does not mean supporting bad political actors there any more than it does here in the U.S.

All of that is part of my personal truth and my story.

Over the past weeks, I have been struck by how little people know about Jews, Judaism and the Jewish

place in world history. I have been struck by the lack of knowledge of how the European colonial powers shaped the entire Middle East. I have been struck by how some words have been flipped on their heads in order to delegitimize Israel's existence — as opposed to supporting a two-state solution in the region.

When people lack knowledge, past cultural assumptions and implicit biases take hold. The remedy is knowledge — facts and context, as opposed to personal experience.

Over the past quarter-century, as part of two graduate programs, I have formally studied Jews, Judaism, Jewish history, and the historical and geographical context of Israel and the Middle East. (During that time, I also studied Islam and the larger history of the Middle East to a lesser degree. However, out of respect, I would

defer to others speak about those subjects and to the Palestinian lived experience.) I would welcome the opportunity to have those conversations and to build bridges, whether that be tomorrow, next week or next year.

Regardless, I invite anyone who wants some basic knowledge about Jews to look at my Substack page (<https://questionassumptions.substack.com>) to discuss these issues online. In one forum or another, let's build understanding among each other. ■

*Editor's note: Trish Munro is a former member of the Livermore City Council (2018-22). She holds a Ph.D. in sociology from U.C. Berkeley, is the author of "Coming of Age in Jewish America" (Rutgers University Press) and has been a member of Congregation Beth Emek for more than 40 years.*

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## LETTERS

### Your column on David Ruenzel

Thank you for your excellent story, "What a Week: Checking on a cold case" (Nov. 24). I knew David for about a year. We were both born in Milwaukee, both had journalism in our background, similar ages and played tennis at the same club — Chabot. We played as tennis partners in a USTA match in July.

Anyway, the Monday before his death on Tuesday, he was playing doubles Court 1. I arrived a bit later with my doubles group on Court 2. That was the last time I ever saw him. It is scary to think how quickly your life can be taken away from you.

It also scarred me on continuing to live in the Bay Area. I owned a house in Berkeley for 18 years and moved to a small town in Orange County seven years ago. For some reason, the East Bay never felt the same to me after his murder.

—Jeffrey Hawley

### Esteen for supervisor

Jennifer Esteen is running for the Alameda County Board of Supervisors in District 4.

Jennifer is a nurse, mom, and community activist, who moved to the East Bay from New Orleans seeking a better future. During the Great Recession of 2008, she became an unemployed single mother of two facing foreclosure. She filed for bankruptcy, put herself through nursing school, and became a psychiatric nurse in the San Francisco General Hospital Psychiatric Emergency Room.

It was in Psych Emergency Services that she saw first-hand the vicious cycle that patients experience from

diminished health care funding. Now, as vice president of the Alameda Health System Board of Trustees, Jennifer manages a \$1.4 billion budget for the county's healthcare system. The board has passed balanced and timely budgets during her tenure. She serves on the Eden Area Municipal Advisory Council, giving her insight into the housing needs of the 150,000 residents who live in urban unincorporated Alameda County.

Jennifer will use her nursing experience and leading the health system to inform budgetary allocations and policy changes to shift more resources into community based preventative healthcare and mental health care. She'll employ people through jobs programs and by using housing subsidies as recruitment and retention incentives to ensure people who live here can work here and earn a dignified living wage.

Find out more about Jennifer. Go to one of Jennifer's events. Talk to Jennifer. She will listen.

—Ward Kanowsky

### Gavin steals from kids, churches, farms and you

Gov. Gavin Newsom's energy commission (CPUC) made a ruling that is both harmful and outrageous. They declared that power produced by rooftop solar installed by schools, churches and farms belongs not to the people who paid for it but to PG&E. You then have to pay a cut to the corporation.

This seizure of property built after 2023 will discourage many from installing rooftop solar in the first place, during a climate crisis and crushes small businesses. It helps no one and nothing except for PG&E's bottom line.

I wish to list by name the corrupt commissioners responsible for this

betrayal: Alice Busching Reynolds, Genevieve Shiroma, Darcie L. Houck, John Reynolds, Karen Douglas.

These commissioners are all appointed by Gov. Newsom. Directly and indirectly he has accepted over \$700,000 from PG&E, according to a 2019 Washington Post article. By now it's likely over a million.

At the same Nov. 16 meeting, the CPUC unanimously approved a 13% rate hike to PG&E, a criminal and negligent company that burns Californians every way it can.

—Alan Marling

### California's 'Outdoors for All' initiative

Bad idea! Nature for all (humans) means that there will be no place left for native wildlife to live. All humans should have access to nature, of course, but humans also have to stay out of nature, in order that it can survive.

1. Stop building trails: Trail construction destroys wildlife habitat.

2. Stop trying to fill up all of our parks with humans.

3. In order to permit human access but minimize the harm that it does, ban all machines (except wheelchairs) from all unpaved trails. Mountain bikers, for example, can all walk. They don't need to bring their bicycles with them.

—Mike Vandeman

### Parade letdown

It was a big letdown when I went to the annual Pleasanton parade. The street was not well-lighted. It was hard to see the paraders' faces, musical instruments or uniforms.

Many people in the parade were wearing ordinary street clothes.

Many people around me stopped taking pictures/movies and sat down or left halfway through the parade, including me.

This was a far cry from what I used to see and hear at Pleasanton's annual parade.

—Jimmy Uy

## Employment

GroceryWorks.com Operating Company LLC hiring Digital Product Manager II/Ecommerce in Pleasanton, CA. May telecommute reports to Pleasanton. 5% dom. trvl for meetings. Must have legal right to work in US. EOE. Subj. to bckgrnd check. \$121,597-190,100/yr. Email resume: TA.Applications@albertsons.com. Attn: A. Lee. Ref # 1020SV

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## PLEASANTON PREPS

By DENNIS MILLER

### Amador JV soccer team rolls en route to Yes Tournament title

Also: Pleasanton hosting International Racquetball Tour finale

The Amador Valley boys' soccer program was active with both the varsity and junior varsity playing games over the past week, including earning one tournament title.

On Nov. 27, the Dons varsity and JV played at home against Mission San Jose, each winning their game 8-0.

Riley Borges and Anish Dhakal scored twice for the varsity. Single goals from Henry Beatty, Max Couper, Nadar Hanna and Colin Braga rounded out the scoring. Assists came from Hanna, Dhakal, Issac Hilton, Coleson Franklin and Lucas Cimas.

For the junior varsity, leading scorers Guillermo Galvan and

Ryan Smiley with two goals each.

Two days later, the Dons dropped a 1-0 varsity game to Montgomery. Franklin turned in a strong performance for the Dons on both offense and defense.

The JV game against Montgomery finished in a 0-0 tie. Amador goalies Anon Prathidi and Zander Holberg combined for the shutout.

On the weekend both teams were tourney-bound at the Yes Tournament in Fremont.

Amador varsity beat American (6-1), but it turned out to be the lone game for the varsity as the tournament could not schedule other games.

On the JV side, the Dons rolled

to the tournament title beating American 6-1, Millenium of Tracy 8-0 and Arroyo 4-3 to win the title.

Clayton Kahl and Riley Luevano got their first goals from defensive positions. Timi Titiloye, Xander Poullos and Smiley scored goals during the run to secure the title.

#### Foothill boys' soccer

The Falcons opened varsity play with a 4-1 win over James Logan on Nov. 27. Leo Boss scored in the first half for Foothill, and then Matthew Tahir had a hat trick in the second half, with assists from Aditya Gundimeda, Boss and Jack Golden.

In the JV game, the Falcons won 5-0. Landon Yamashita (2), Devin Turkhan and Carlos Vicente had goals.

On Nov. 29, the varsity beat Campolindo 1-0 with Gundimeda assisting Tahir for the game-winner with 12 minutes left in the match.

On Dec. 1, JV scored a 3-0 win over Benicia with Eshan Abdul Salam, Carlos Vicente and an own goal counting for the scores.

On Dec. 2 both teams had



SURADECH PRATHNADI

Amador Valley's junior varsity soccer team celebrates following their win in the title game of the Yes Tournament.

games. The varsity fell 2-1 to Alameda with Boss getting the lone goal for Foothill.

In the junior varsity game, the Falcons beat Analy 2-0. Ishan Abdul Salam assisted Fernando Delgado with a cross, putting the Falcons up 1-0. Kein Tippit stole a pass, took it down the field and put it away for the 2-0 final.

Finally, the Falcons beat Albion 5-0 in JV action. Yamashita and Atlas Kading each had a pair of goals with Ashrith Gandluru adding the final goal. Vincente and Yamashita added assists for Foothill.

#### Amador girls' basketball

The Amador girls' basketball team went 2-1 last week in the Washington High tournament,

topped off by an All-Tournament selection from sophomore Addison Leomiti.

The one loss was a 59-53 game to Monte Vista, a contest where Leomiti finished with 29 points. Avalon Kenitzer added nine points for the Dons.

In a 61-40 win over Arroyo, Leomiti had 24 points to lead the way. Morgan Adams had nine points and Ellie White added eight.

In a 38-32 win over Milpitas, it was Kenitzer leading the way with 18 points, with White having seven points.

#### Amador boys' basketball

The Dons knocked off Antioch 66-36 in a non-league contest.

Kasen Kruger had 20 points to lead the way for Amador. Three other players were in double-digit points: Jaylen Smith — just a freshman — had 12 points, with Ori Khasin adding 11 and Brady McMillin 10 points.

#### Racquetball event at Bay Club

The Golden State Open racquetball tournament is taking place at the Bay Club in Pleasanton through Sunday.

The top 30 International Racquetball Tour (IRT) professional players from throughout the world are competing in the season final event for the IRT.

The main draw for the professionals is taking place Friday through Sunday, with the finals taking place at 11 a.m. Sunday.

The tournament will also be streamed on the IRT's YouTube page. For more information, visit the tournament website at [www.gsracquetball.com](http://www.gsracquetball.com). ■

*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).*

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MULTIPLAN\_MAFLYERGMI\_M



**Bringing along a memento:** Sanjit Mandal, an instructor at Tri-Valley Karate in Pleasanton, traveled to Japan earlier this year and posed with a very special copy of the Weekly: the 2015 holiday paper with his daughters and Santa Claus on the cover.

To submit your "Take Us Along" entry, email your photograph to [editor@pleasantonweekly.com](mailto: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.

## Entertainment

**CANTABELLA CHILDREN'S CHORUS PRESENTS OMNIS TERRA** Cantabella's youngest training choir singers dressed in their holiday best will perform at 1 p.m., Dec. 9. Cantabella's performing choir featuring teenage singers will perform holiday favorites at 4 p.m., Dec. 9. Valley Community Church, Pleasanton. Children are free. Visit [cantabella.org/concert](http://cantabella.org/concert).

**FRET AND FRIENDS** A fundraiser for the Livermore Rotary Music Scholarship Fund, two guitar virtuosos, Richard Smith and Taja Gerken, are the featured performers. 7 p.m. and 10 p.m., Dec. 9. Tickets \$25-\$35. Bothwell Arts Center, 2466 8th St., Livermore. For more information contact [frettedfriends@gmail.com](mailto:frettedfriends@gmail.com).

**THE NUTCRACKER** Valley Dance Theatre's full production of The Nutcracker at the Bankhead Theater is accompanied by the Valley Dance Theatre Pit Orchestra and entertains with elaborate sets, skilled dancers and beautiful costumes. Performances are Dec. 9-10 and Dec. 15-17. Tickets \$49. Visit [livermorearts.org](http://livermorearts.org).

**PINK MARTINI FEATURING CHINA FORBES** Returning to the Bankhead with their unique blend of jazz, classical and world music, Pink Martini promises an evening of musical diversity and cultural fusion that will leave you mesmerized. 7:30 p.m., Dec. 11. Tickets \$80-\$90. Visit [livermorearts.org](http://livermorearts.org).

## Hanukkah

**CONGREGATION BETH EMEK SHABBAT HANUKKAH SERVICE** Join in person or online for the annual Shabbat Hanukkah service celebrating the second night of Hanukkah with a joyous, song-filled service. 8 p.m., Dec. 8. 3400 Nevada Court, Pleasanton. Visit [bethemek.org](http://bethemek.org).

**CHANUKAH UNDER THE STARS** Join to light up Livermore's menorah while enjoying hot latkes and Chanukah doughnuts with a Chanukah music contest, city dignitaries and glow in the dark fun. 7:30 p.m., Dec. 9, in front of the Bankhead Theater.

### FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS CELEBRATION

During Hanukkah, Beth Emek families with young children will make the Festival of Lights a celebration about giving and gathering to sing Hanukkah songs with a concert by Melita. Enjoy a Hanukkah meal together and complete a mitzvah project. Free with advance registration requested at [eventbrite.com](http://eventbrite.com). 4-6:30 p.m., Dec. 9. 3400 Nevada Court, Pleasanton.

### CHANUKAH WONDERLAND AT STONERIDGE SHOPPING CENTER

Celebrate the festival of lights with live music, holiday crafts and games, Chanukah photo-ops and face painting while kindling the 9-foot menorah in the mall's grand court from 5:30-7 p.m. on Dec. 12. Visit [jewishtrivalley.com](http://jewishtrivalley.com).

**SUNOL MENORAH LIGHTING** The quaint town of Sunol is getting its very own menorah. Join to inaugurate and celebrate this new addition to the Tri-Valley's Chanukah fixtures. 5:30 p.m., Dec. 13. Sunol Community Park.

**CHANUKAH ON ICE** Glide across the ice to Chanukah, Israeli and Jewish music with a mega Fire on Ice menorah lighting on the ice. 7:30 p.m., Dec. 14. Tri-Valley Ice Dublin.

## Santa

**PET PHOTOS WITH SANTA** Bring your pets to pose with Santa at Stoneridge Shopping Center, located on the lower level. All pets must be on leash. Dec. 10. Visit [simon.com](http://simon.com).

**SANTA'S MAILBOX AT LARPD** Write a letter to Santa and he will write a letter back. Bring your letter to the Robert Livermore Community Center and drop it in the big red mailbox located in the lobby. Through Dec. 15. Recreation Building, located at 4446 East Ave., Livermore. Visit [larpd.org](http://larpd.org).

**PHOTOS WITH SANTA AT STONERIDGE** The ultimate holiday tradition, pictures with Santa Claus, awaits at Stoneridge Shopping Center in Pleasanton through Dec. 24. For available dates and times, visit [simon.com](http://simon.com).

## Support

### HOT MEALS FREE OF CHARGE

Open Heart Kitchen serves free hot meals to anyone who is struggling to make ends meet. Mondays to Fridays, 1:15-3 p.m. at the Robert Livermore Community Center, 4444 East Ave. Closed Christmas Day and New Year's Day.

### FREE SHOWER & LAUNDRY SERVICES

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

### TOYS FOR TOTS AT LARPD

LARPD is partnering with Toys for Tots this holiday season to help children in need. Drop off new/unwrapped toys at Robert Livermore Community Center through Dec. 15. 4444 East Ave.

### HOLIDAY STOCKING AND GIFT CARD DRIVE

Tri-Valley Haven is requesting filled stockings for local children and adults in need. Suggested items and drop off information can be found at [trivalleyhaven.org](http://trivalleyhaven.org). Drop off by Dec. 12. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., TVH Community Building, 3663 Pacific Ave., Livermore.

## Government

### PLEASANTON PLANNING COMMISSION

The Pleasanton Planning Commission meets the second and fourth Wednesday of the month. The next meeting is 7 p.m., Dec. 13. Visit [cityofpleasantonca.gov](http://cityofpleasantonca.gov).

### PLEASANTON UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Regular Board meetings of PUSD are scheduled the second and fourth Thursday of each month and are open to the public. The next meeting is 6 p.m., Dec. 14.

## Public Notices

BROOKE CONTRACT DESIGN  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: 601700

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:

1.) Brooke Contract Design, located at 7468 Oxford Circle, Dublin, CA 94568, Alameda.

This business is conducted by: an Individual.

The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):

SANDRA BROOKE  
7468 Oxford Circle  
Dublin, CA 94568

Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 10/02/2023

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on October 27 2023.

(PLW Dec 8, 15, 22, 2023 and Jan 5, 2024)

HOW TO BUILD A HOME  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: 601677

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:

1.) How to Build a Home, located at 3819 Coolidge Ave. Oakland, CA 94602, Alameda County.

This business is conducted by: a Married Couple.

The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):

ANGELA FRYER  
3819 Coolidge Ave.  
Oakland, CA 94602

JOHN FRYER  
3819 Coolidge Ave  
Oakland, CA 94602

Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on October 27 2023.

(PLW Dec 8, 15, 22, 2023 and Jan 5, 2024)

E-Z TOWING  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: 601613

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:

1.) E-Z Towing, located at 2891 Diavila CT, Pleasanton CA 94588, Alameda.

This business is conducted by: an Individual.

The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):

GEORGE BADER  
2891 Diavila CT  
Pleasanton, CA 94588

Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 03/01/2015

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on October 25 2023.

(PLW Dec 8, 15, 22, 2023 and Jan 5, 2024)

BLISSFUL FIRES  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: 602032

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:

1.) BLISSFUL FIRES, located at 6200 STONERIDGE MALL RD SUITE 300, PLEASANTON, CA 94588, ALAMEDA COUNTY.

This business is conducted by: a Limited Liability Company.

The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):

FAME VENTURES LLC  
6200 STONERIDGE MALL RD SUITE 300  
PLEASANTON, CA 94588  
CALIFORNIA

Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 10/30/2023.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on November 13 2023.

(PLW Nov 24, Dec 1, 8 and 15, 2023)

SOHUM DENTAL OF PLEASANTON  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: #602054

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:

1.) Sohum Dental Of Pleasanton, located at 5460 Sunol Blvd, Suite 5, Pleasanton, CA 94566, Alameda.

This business is conducted by: a Corporation.

The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):

MADHAVI DURVASULA, DDS. INC.  
5460 Sunol Blvd, Suite 5  
Pleasanton, CA 94566  
California

Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on November 13 2023.

(PLW Dec 8, 15, 22, 2023 and Jan 5, 2024)

TRI VALLEY CONSTRUCTION  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: 601923

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:

1.) Tri Valley Construction, located at 4207 Mirador Dr. Pleasanton, CA 94566, Alameda.

This business is conducted by: an Individual.

The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):

STEPHEN DICKINSON  
4207 Mirador Dr.  
Pleasanton, CA 94566

Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 10/18/2018

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on November 06 2023.

(PLW Nov 17, 24, Dec 1 and 8, 2023)

LAWTON-CLAREMONT  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: 602243

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:

1.) Lawton-Claremont, located at 676 Alcatraz Avenue, Oakland, CA 94609, Alameda.

This business is conducted by: a Limited Liability Company.

The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):

LAWTON-CLAREMONT LLC  
676 Alcatraz Avenue  
Oakland, CA 94609  
California

Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 02/13/2023

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on November 21 2023.

(PLW Dec 1, 8, 15 and 22, 2023)

X Y AND Z COORDINATED  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: 601651

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:

1.) X Y and Z Coordinated, located at 2108 41st Ave Oakland, CA 94601, Alameda.

This business is conducted by: an Individual.

The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):

LEVI WESLEY WILLIAMS  
2108 41st Ave  
Oakland, CA 94601

Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 10/21/2023

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on October 26 2023.

(PLW Dec 1, 8, 15 and 22, 2023)

STUDIO WHITESPACE  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: 601755

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:

1.) Studio Whitespace, located at 2024 Olivia Court, Pleasanton, CA 94588, Alameda County.

This business is conducted by: an Individual.

The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):

AMY Y. CRANDALL  
2024 Olivia Court  
Pleasanton, CA 94588

Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 05/01/2003

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on October 31 2023.

(PLW Nov 17, 24, Dec 1 and 8, 2023)

THE EMPANADA STAND  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: 602395

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:

1.) The Empanada Stand, located at 61 RICKENBACKER CIRCLE, Livermore, CA 94551, Alameda County.

This business is conducted by: an Individual.

The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):

MARK SCHWERIN  
1085 Murrieta Blvd  
Livermore, CA 94550

Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on December 01 2023.

(PLW Dec 8, 15, 22, 2023 and Jan 5, 2024)

510 CLEER  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: 601866

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:

1.) 510 CLEER, located at 2109 LINCOLN AVE. APT. A ALAMEDA, CA 94501, Alameda County.

This business is conducted by: an Individual.

The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):

HERNAN DE LA CRUZ  
2109 LINCOLN AVE. APT. A  
ALAMEDA, CA 94501

Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 10/17/2023

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on November 03 2023.

(PLW Nov 17, 24, Dec 1 and 8, 2023)

Place a legal notice at  
[PleasantonWeekly.com/legal\\_notices/](http://PleasantonWeekly.com/legal_notices/)

## PET OF THE WEEK



VALLEY HUMANE SOCIETY

### That's so Raven

Bring Raven home for the holidays! She's a playful pup with a heart full of cheer. Despite being the smallest in her litter, she fearlessly leads the way, inviting everyone to join the festive fun. With a spirited personality, Raven is ready to light up your home this holiday season. Visit [valleyhumane.org](http://valleyhumane.org) to learn more.

# Real Estate

## Movie theater among new tenants coming to Blackhawk Plaza

Combat sports gym, OsteoStrong training facility also on tap for shopping center in 2024

By JEANITA LYMAN

Blackhawk Plaza is set to once again be home to a movie theater — following the closure of Century Theater last year — with the upcoming arrival of Apple Cinemas, according to an announcement from property managers last month that also revealed two other new tenants.

Commercial real estate and property investment firm JLL announced three new leases at the shopping center on Nov. 14, consisting

of Apple Cinemas' first California location along with Combat Sports Academy and OsteoStrong. All three businesses are expected to open some time next year.

"Apple Cinemas, Combat Sports Academy and OsteoStrong are great compliments to the existing retail mix at Blackhawk Plaza, which includes a strong grocer-anchor, Draeger's, and more than 40 other shops and businesses," Jeff Badstuber, managing director of retail advisory for JLL, said in the

press announcement.

Apple Cinemas has operated theaters throughout the East Coast, ranging from Rhode Island to Maine, offering blockbuster movie screenings, luxury seating, and in-seat delivery of pub-style food.

Combat Sports Academy is set to offer training in martial arts including Krav Maga, Muay Thai and Brazilian Jiu Jitsu along with wrestling and CrossFit plus children's activities and programming.

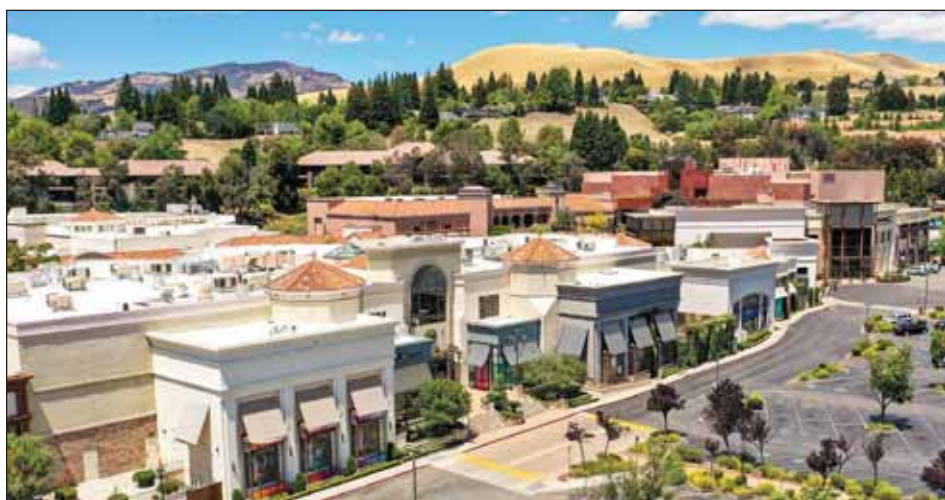
OsteoStrong focuses on physical training and treatment aimed at contending with osteoporosis.

All in all, the three new leases are set to fill more than 53,000 square feet of the

shopping center's 250,000-square-foot space, with Combat Sports Academy's lease consisting of 26,600 square feet, Apple Cinemas filling 26,200 square feet and OsteoStrong taking 1,530 square feet.

JLL officials said they were interested in facilitating additional leases at Blackhawk Plaza.

"We have a variety of spaces available at Blackhawk Plaza including food and beverage formats or other standard retail spaces," JLL retail adviser Justin Choi told the Weekly. "Highly desired uses include ethnic restaurants, boutique clothing stores, and ice cream and dessert users. We are also actively targeting new and unique concepts for the shopping center." ■



Overhead view of Blackhawk Plaza.

COURTESY JLL

### SALES AT A GLANCE

#### Pleasanton (Oct. 16-19)

**Total sales reported:** 5  
**Lowest sale reported:** \$1,053,000  
**Highest sale reported:** \$2,055,000  
**Average sales reported:** \$1,568,599

#### Livermore (Oct. 16-19)

**Total sales reported:** 12  
**Lowest sale reported:** \$845,000  
**Highest sale reported:** \$2,800,000  
**Average sales reported:** \$1,224,583

#### Dublin (Oct. 16-19)

**Total sales reported:** 8  
**Lowest sale reported:** \$828,000  
**Highest sale reported:** \$2,970,000  
**Average sales reported:** \$1,534,374

#### San Ramon (Oct. 30-Nov. 9)

**Total sales reported:** 20  
**Lowest sale reported:** \$750,000  
**Highest sale reported:** \$3,900,000  
**Average sales reported:** \$1,536,000

Source: California REsource

### HOME SALES

This week's data represents homes sold during Oct. 16-19 for Pleasanton, Livermore and Dublin, and Oct. 30 to Nov. 9 for San Ramon.

#### Pleasanton

**3632 Gettysburg Court** McKay Trust to J. Cheema for \$1,053,000  
**7471 Hillsdale Drive** Condon Trust to L. & S. Singh for \$1,325,000  
**1031 Kottinger Drive** Mincks Survivors Trust to Yang Trust for \$1,910,000  
**7850 Meadowbrook Court** Tidd Living Trust to S. & K. Yadhati for \$1,500,000  
**3484 Windsor Court** M. Ross to A. & S. Jagadeesan for \$2,055,000

#### Livermore

**1220 Hillcrest Avenue** G. Gorel to L. & B. Kalla for \$1,074,000  
**2792 Patcham Common** N. & S. Johal to S. & T. Antony for \$970,000  
**590 South Q Street** L. & J. Gomez to S. & S. Dasika for \$1,540,000  
**3855 Yale Way** L. Ellis to P & T Properties LLC for \$1,000,000  
**5482 Martingale Court** J. & P. Postolaki to Konchuba Family Trust for \$1,250,000  
**3949 Portola Common #3** J. Potter to E. & C. Guzman for \$845,000  
**3959 Purdue Way** Stahowski-Rose Trust to S. & A. Kulkarni for \$1,025,000  
**137 Rincon Avenue** D. & E. Bay to Revitalize R/E Solutions LLC for \$915,000  
**552 Ruby Road** Laplante Living Trust to Y. & I. Yaramis for \$1,176,000  
**2451 Sevillano Circle** Demayo Family Trust to H. Kaur for \$2,800,000  
**3001 Worthing Common** L. Butterweck to M. & K. Zylstra for \$1,000,000  
**1165 Xavier Way** Oliver Family Trust to V. & B. Brownell for \$1,100,000

#### Dublin

**11599 Alegre Drive** M. Chen to H. & N. Pham for \$1,305,000

**5485 Melissa Lane** Shruti Trust to X. & J. Li for \$1,280,000  
**10773 Ruthven Lane** S. Shajjee to Y. Huang for \$930,000  
**4815 Boxwood Way #121** Wiedel Family Trust to N. & K. Javangula for \$828,000  
**4067 Dobbins Loop** D. Tan to Sinha Family Trust for \$1,220,000  
**5703 El Dorado Lane** A. & I. Duffy to P. & J. Patel for \$1,215,000  
**7390 Lambert Hills Court** C. Vantran to Khan Family Trust for \$2,970,000  
**7125 Mei Fong Court** Khan Family Trust to M. & K. Sandhu for \$2,500,000

#### San Ramon

**1297 Bayberry View Lane** Mallikharjuna Family Trust to P. & A. Nalluri for \$2,000,000  
**164 Berkshire Court** Tempest Living Trust to H. & M. Maqbool for \$1,900,000  
**163 Berkshire Court** L. & R. Werne to A. & J. Chen for \$2,050,000  
**5355 Cypress Hawk Court** Gdh 1996 Trust to A. & B. Volore for \$3,900,000  
**2694 Deerwood Drive** D. Hartanto to Alhamadsheh Trust for \$1,350,000  
**1226 Mateo Miller Circle** Toll West Coast LLC to M. & Y. Liu for \$1,908,500  
**4716 Norris Canyon Road #202** Undo Trust to R. & S. Lanka for \$750,000  
**15 Poppy Hills Lane** T. & P. Nguyen to T. & A. Sahota for \$1,285,000  
**340 Ryan Terrace** Larsen Family Trust to B. & M. Kazemi for \$1,215,000  
**2915 Saint Denis Drive** Sunder Living Trust to A. & J. Heckscher for \$1,628,000  
**154 Winged Foot Place** S. & D. Hill to Durvasula Family Trust for \$1,450,000  
**376 Bellflower Court** Wong Family Trust to G. & P. Durgani for \$1,250,000  
**3855 Crow Canyon Road** M. Huey to S. Amadeh for \$760,000  
**3238 Ensenada Drive** Dolan Trust to U. & J. Khera for \$1,425,000

Source: California REsource

*Thankful*

*Think thankful*

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5201 BLACKHAWK DRIVE, DANVILLE  
LISTED AT \$3,495,000



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REPRESENTED BUYER & SELLER OFF MARKET  
SOLD AT \$3,475,000  
1034 VIA DI SALERNO, RUBY HILL



**NOW PENDING ABOVE ASKING!**  
5139 CORONA COURT, PLEASANTON  
LISTED AT \$1,499,000



**SOLD ABOVE LIST PRICE!**  
• PRODUCED MULTIPLE OFFERS  
• PENDING IN 7 DAYS!  
SOLD AT \$3,300,000  
2347 SILVER OAKS LANE, PLEASANTON



**SOLD \$118K ABOVE LIST PRICE!**  
• PENDING OVER LIST PRICE!  
• PRODUCED MULTIPLE OFFERS  
• PENDING IN 6 DAYS!  
SOLD \$2,217,000  
902 OLD OAK ROAD, LIVERMORE

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## Home For The Holidays



**PENDING**  
Off Market Sale  
Representing Sellers & Buyers  
Listed at \$4,500,000

**4203 W. Ruby Hill Drive, Ruby Hill**  
5 Bedrooms | 4.5 Bathrooms | 6,121 Sq. Ft.



**PENDING**  
Off Market Sale  
Representing Sellers & Buyers  
Listed at \$4,588,000

**632 Varese Court, Ruby Hill**  
5 Bedrooms | 6.5 Bathrooms | 7,030 Sq. Ft.



**PENDING**  
Listed at \$1,869,000

**1533 Loganberry Way, Pleasanton**  
4 Bedrooms | 3 Bathrooms | 2,353 Sq. Ft.



**PENDING**  
Listed at \$3,489,000

**42 Golf Road, Castlewood**  
5 Bedrooms | 5 Bathrooms | 4,233 Sq. Ft.



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