

# Pleasanton Weekly

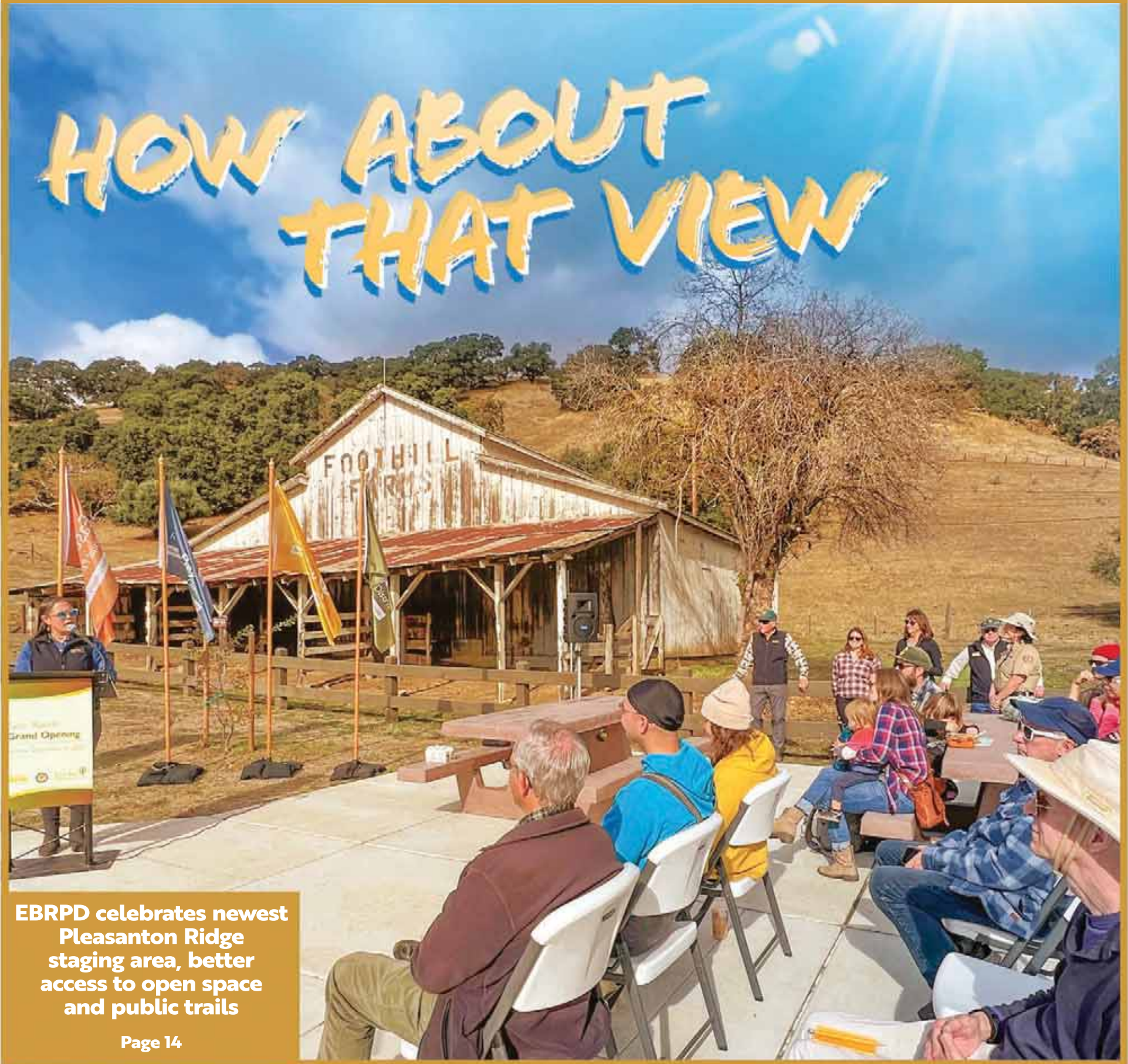
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**EBRPD celebrates newest Pleasanton Ridge staging area, better access to open space and public trails**  
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# WHAT A WEEK



BY JEREMY WALSH

## What I missed

Always listen, watch closely and retain as much as possible. Those traits are vital for journalists because we never know when or how a story may evolve, but we must remain ready.

That's particularly true of potential homicide cases because of how long it can take for the law enforcement investigation and/or criminal court proceedings to play out to completion. As the new year beckons, I have more than a few fatality cases on my mind as I look back over 2023.

Including one that I don't think has been publicly reported until now.

I reported previously about how the Livermore Police Department released a safety advisory video in September stating that every traffic fatality in the city's jurisdiction in 2023 (to that point) involved a decedent who was not wearing a seat belt. That message indirectly confirmed new information about the investigation into winery owner Mitchell Katz's death.

But my ears perked up — and my heart sank a bit too — for another reason watching that video: Sgt. Justin Lash said there had been three fatal crashes investigated by LPD through the summer.

Hmm ... I only remembered us covering two in the city's jurisdiction. While other traffic fatalities occurred in Livermore during 2023, they were either on or adjacent to the freeway or in the unincorporated area (i.e. California Highway Patrol jurisdiction).

Over recent weeks, I have been able to confirm with LPD there was in fact a traffic-related death in Livermore in June that the department investigated but did not report about publicly — and we missed, as did apparently all the other news media in the area.

Our editorial staff wrestled with whether or how to cover this additional case, since it was months old. We certainly don't want to trigger more trauma for the decedent's family or others involved.

Ultimately, I landed with my original gut feeling: Death investigations are probably the most important undertaken by law enforcement, so we have an obligation to report to the community (ethically and empathetically) about every traffic fatality in our coverage area. No matter when we first find out about it.

The two-vehicle collision occurred at around 3:50 p.m. June 13 at First Street and North Mines

Road, the south corner of the Lowe's shopping center and a prominent intersection between the freeway and downtown.

The driver of a red Toyota Corolla was stopped at the traffic light on southbound First Street ready to make a left onto North Mines Road, according to LPD. When the signal turned green for straight lanes in both directions, witnesses said the driver appeared to mistakenly think his arrow switched to green. The Corolla turned into the intersection on a red light and collided with a northbound Ford Focus.

Livermore resident George Medeiros suffered a major head injury when his Corolla crashed that afternoon, and he died at an area hospital the next day, police said. He was 62.

As for why LPD didn't publicly report on the case before the Weekly's inquiry this fall, spokesperson Azenith Smith said, "(He) did not die at the scene and at the conclusion of the investigation, it was determined he was at fault for not wearing a seatbelt and running a red. We wanted to be respectful of his family/loved ones by not publicizing the specific circumstances of his death."

I'm still surprised that LPD didn't put out a traffic advisory that afternoon for a serious crash at a well-traveled intersection, let alone a press release after finding out he died at the hospital or at least a call for prospective witnesses.

Smith told me, "We consider very carefully what information to disseminate to the public. We must balance what information to release weighing the investigation, need to know vs. want to know, care and consideration for the victims and victims' family, and how much the community was impacted."

After getting the incident narrative, I did visit the scene in front of Lowe's last week to get a lay of the land. There was really no evidence a fatal crash had occurred there almost six months earlier.

Being on the ground did give me a tangible sense, though, of just how close this fatal crash was to the city's fourth that occurred in October just over a mile away at North Mines Road and Shirley Way.

It's one thing to look at the distance on Google Maps; it's another to actually drive it. And when you factor in the Katz crash site, that's three fatal collisions in less than a 1.5-mile radius for the city in just over four months. ■

### About the Cover

East Bay Regional Park District GM Sabrina Landreth speaks to the crowd gathered at the opening of the new Tyler Ranch Staging Area at Pleasanton Ridge Regional Park in Sunol on Dec. 3. Photo courtesy EBRPD.

Cover design by Doug Young.

Vol. XXIV, Number 47

*Merry Christmas & Happy Holidays*

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## If you could have one wish granted this holiday season for a gift that is intangible, what would it be?



**Miriam Sittenfeld**  
*IT director*

Honestly, the world is so violent and filled with anxiety right now. My wish is for everyone to find common ground and get along. And the anxiety among us is overwhelming. I wish for everyone to find some happiness in their day, in their families and at work.



**Cristina Rios**  
*Nurse*

I would wish for all of my patients, who I consider my “babies”, to be well enough to go home soon in order to be able to spend the holidays with their families.



**Madison Monahan**  
*Bartender*

I would wish for everyone, everywhere, to have good access to mental health and medical care. I feel that that should be regarded as a basic human right and necessity.



**Bobby Rios**  
*IT professional*

I would wish to be able to spend more time with my nuclear family — my father and my mother, and my brother and his family.



**Leigh and Juan Garcia**  
*Retired*

We wish that everyone in the world could find it in their hearts to pray for peace and solidarity, and that we could all work together toward that goal by respecting each other/one another’s needs and beliefs, and acknowledging that we are all human beings.

—Compiled by Nancy and Jeff Lewis

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

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## DIGEST

### Wreaths for vets

The annual, volunteer-led Wreaths Across Pleasanton effort has been underway ahead of the placement ceremony this Saturday at Pioneer Cemetery in line with Wreaths Across America Day to honor the memories of those who served.

After being assembled at the Pleasanton Senior Center last weekend, the fresh-cut wreaths are set to be placed at the 560-plus gravesites of military veterans interred at the city cemetery on Sunol Boulevard. Following final prep in the morning, the ceremony is set for 12-1 p.m. Saturday (Dec. 16). To learn more, visit [wreathscrosspleasanton.org](http://wreathscrosspleasanton.org).

### 100th Eagle Scout

Pleasanton-based Boy Scouts of America Troop 911 is celebrating a major milestone this month: the ascension of 100th Eagle Scout in troop history.

Amador Valley High School senior Michael Stephens will have the distinction of being No. 100 when he receives his new rank and award during a special court of honor ceremony on Monday evening (Dec. 18) at Harvest Park Middle School.

### DUI enforcement

Police departments in the Tri-Valley are ramping up enforcement for impaired motorists this holiday season, including separate DUI checkpoints scheduled in Livermore and Dublin this Friday night (Dec. 15).

The Livermore Police Department is operating a checkpoint at a yet-undisclosed location in the city from 6 p.m. Friday to 1 a.m. Saturday.

Dublin Police Services' checkpoint, for DUI and proper driver's licenses, will be held from 7 p.m. Friday to 3 a.m. Saturday at a location yet to be announced. The department is also conducting a special operation targeting alcohol- or drug-impaired drivers on Saturday night.

While the Pleasanton Police Department has not announced any formal checkpoints, officials did say PPD is increasing DUI patrols from this week through New Year's Day with the help of state and federal funding.

### Stroll downtown

The Pleasanton Downtown Association is presenting its Spirit and Sweater Stroll this Saturday evening, with 20 businesses on or adjacent to Main Street participating.

Attendees are encouraged to wear holiday sweaters (ugly or otherwise) while sampling the cocktails offered at the businesses with a paid ticket for the event. Visit [pleasantondowntown.net](http://pleasantondowntown.net) for more information. ■

## Lawsuit alleges Pleasanton church covered up assaults by top priest

Depositions underway, with trial date next year, in civil case brought by former parishioner

By **CHRISTIAN TRUJANO**

A priest from the St. Mary and St. John Coptic Orthodox Church in Pleasanton is scheduled to be deposed next week in a lawsuit filed by a former parishioner who alleges he sexually assaulted her on multiple occasions.

While there have been police investigations but no criminal charges involving Father Antonious Baky, a Dublin resident and ordained priest with the Coptic Orthodox Church, the plaintiff and her lawyer hope a civil jury trial set for next year will begin to shed light on what they see as a dangerous and normalized pattern of abuse within the Coptic churches.

"I remember this is the right (thing) for my family ... and also for every

woman who has suffered, but cannot talk because of our culture," Samah Sabri Awadalla told the Weekly. "God chose me to do the right thing. He chose me to speak up."

The Weekly made multiple attempts since last week to contact Baky and the church, which are fighting the lawsuit and internally deemed the allegations unfounded at the time, but have not received a response as of press time Wednesday.

First filed in Alameda County Superior Court by Awadalla and her husband in August 2021, the lawsuit names the priest, the Pleasanton church and the Coptic Orthodox Archdiocese of Northern California and the Western United States of America as defendants. While the Weekly typically does not name

survivors of sexual violence in court cases, Awadalla agreed to be fully identified for this interview and her name is listed openly in the lawsuit documents.

The civil complaint, which demands a jury trial and seeks financial damages, alleges sexual battery; intentional infliction of emotional distress; negligent infliction of emotional distress; negligence; negligent hiring, supervision and retention; negligent failure to warn; and loss of consortium.

Additionally, the lawsuit alleges that the archdiocese and the Pleasanton church permitted Baky to remain in a position as the highest-ranking priest within their organizations despite knowing him to be a sexual predator and while actively

working to keep his wrongdoing a secret.

"Baky is known by many members of the church community to have sexually assaulted, sexually abused and sexually harassed numerous members of the church, including children," according to the lawsuit filed by attorney Brian Perkins, now of the law firm Peiffer Wolf Carr Kane Conway & Wise.

Perkins said his firm has another client who plans to file a lawsuit anonymously next month alleging sexual assault by Baky during the sacrament of confession when she was 17. Additional details about that prospective civil case have not yet been revealed.

See **LAWSUIT** on Page 6



COURTESY CITY OF DUBLIN

The Five Below store is located in Hacienda Crossings at 4860 Dublin Blvd. The retailer moved into the former Dressbarn location and opened its door to the community on Dec. 1.

## Five Below opens in Dublin

Discount retailer's first Tri-Valley store comes to Hacienda Crossings

By **NICOLE GONZALES**

Local shoppers can now visit the discount retail store Five Below after the chain opened its newest location in Dublin — the first and only one in the Tri-Valley.

Located in Hacienda Crossings, Five Below moved into the former DressBarn location at 4860 Dublin Blvd. The retailer opened its doors to the Dublin community on Dec. 1.

"We're genuinely thrilled about the new businesses that have chosen to call Dublin home," said Hazel Wetherford, deputy city manager and economic development director.

Per its name, the retailer sells most of its products at \$5 or less. The store describes its target demographic as tweens and teens, although anyone is welcome.

The retailer welcomed visitors to the Dublin store through its webpage.

"You'll find extreme \$1-\$5 value, plus some incredible finds that go beyond \$5 at our Hacienda Crossings store," Five Below representatives said online. "Your local Five Below located at 4860 Dublin Blvd is a place with unlimited possibilities where tweens, teens and beyond are free to let go and have fun in a color-popping, music pumping,

super-fun shopping experience."

Five Below operates almost 1,200 stores across the United States, with nearby locations including Fremont, Concord and Antioch.

"With Five Below now part of our community, we anticipate not only increased energy at Hacienda Crossings, but also a heightened level of activity at the shopping center and within its entertainment district," Wetherford added. "This influx of businesses is enriching the City's diverse offerings, providing our residents with an even wider range of shopping and leisure opportunities." ■

## Council backs ban on gas blowers

Pending final vote, local rule would take effect June 1

By **CHRISTIAN TRUJANO**

The Pleasanton City Council has endorsed the first reading of a proposed ordinance that would prohibit gasoline-powered leaf blowers from being used in the city effective June 1.

Brought forward for environmental reasons, the ordinance received initial support in a 4-1 vote by the council on Dec. 5 and will return at an upcoming meeting for a second reading and final adoption.

"I know all of us have gotten a lot of public input over the past few years on this subject," Councilmember Valerie Arkin said during the meeting. "I remember I did bring it up to put on our work plan in 2021 soon after I was elected to the council. So it's taken a little while to get to this point, but I'm glad we did."

Vice Mayor Jack Balch cast the lone dissenting vote, saying he supported the environmental benefits of the ordinance but balked at the financial ramifications for the city and its residents.

According to staff's presentation, the ban was a priority action item

See **BLOWERS** on Page 10

# Sunol recall group preparing to start signature gathering

Jergensen, Hurley respond to ouster effort; proponents must get names from 30% of voters

BY CHRISTIAN TRUJANO

The group of Sunol residents who are working on the effort to remove Sunol Glen Unified School District Board President Ryan Jergensen and Trustee Linda Hurley are gearing up to begin gathering signatures to get the recall on the ballot next year.

Erin Choin, a Sunol parent who is on the official recall committee, said while the exact launch date is still unknown, they are preparing the petition for people to sign this month so that they could get the amount of signatures needed in time to place the recall on the March primary election ballot.

She said that even though it is the holiday season and many on the recall group would rather be enjoying time with family, putting in the extra work to make sure they can get the issue on the ballot as quickly as possible is their top priority.

“Too many of us feel that this is so completely important that we’ll go a year with a few less activities and extracurriculars around the holidays to make sure that we don’t spend



Ryan Jergensen



Linda Hurley

the next year or two fighting the culture wars or putting up with the falsehood and the lies that Trustee Jergensen and Trustee Hurley bring to our school. It is doing damage to our school,” Choin told the Weekly.

Both Hurley and Jergensen put out statements on the town community newsletter, Inform Sunol, on Nov. 24 where they made their arguments on why voters should not support a recall.

“I remain steadfast in my commitment to the betterment of our school. Let us rise above external influences and focus on what truly matters — the success and well-being of our students,” Jergensen said in his answer of recallee statement. “I urge you to

reject this divisive recall and work towards One Sunol — let’s put our focus on our school and students.”

An answer of recallee statement allows an elected official to provide comments on why they disagree with the recall.

“Let’s reject divisiveness, reject the completely false things being said about me, focus on our school, and nurture the bright minds of Sunol Glen,” Hurley said in her statement. “Reject this recall so we can once again unite our community and move forward with the business of education.”

Choin said both of the full statements from Jergensen and Hurley will be printed on the recall petition for the sake of fairness and to comply with the recall codes and regulations.

Jergensen began his four-year term on the three-person Sunol school board after winning the seat in the November 2022 election — he was previously on the board for nearly a year in a temporary appointed capacity. During that same November 2022 election, Hurley claimed a shorter two-year seat on the board.

Since then, there have been several incidents that many critics have pointed to as why the community needs to recall both trustees. Hurley and Jergensen were each officially served with recall notices early last month.

There were times when Hurley weighed in at another school district on a book regarding gender and when she introduced an item on the Sunol board agenda in May to discuss two controversial State Assembly bills; one to out transgender students to their parents and one based in censoring books about gender and sexuality.

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

The decision, which they doubled down on in October, was followed by a contentious public debate that centered largely on acceptance of the LGBTQ+ Pride flag, which had been raised on the school flagpole in June

— although the resolution does not list the LGBTQ+ flag by name and the board majority denied they were targeting that or any other group.

Since then both trustees have been defending that decision, going on public forums such as Inform Sunol to explain how the move wasn’t to alienate any groups and that they only had the best intentions for the school by making it so that the district wouldn’t be privy to litigation if someone wanted to fly a flag but was not allowed to do so.

“Over the course of my time on the school board, I have strived to put our students and parents first, remove politics from our classrooms, and limit our school’s exposure to expensive litigation,” Jergensen said in his recall rebuttal statement. “I believe that our children’s education should be free from external influences and that parents should play a role in shaping the educational experience.”

“I firmly believe that our small school thrives when politics stay out of the classroom,” Hurley said. “My

See **SUNOL** on Page 8

## LAWSUIT

Continued from Page 5

According to her lawsuit, Awadalla — who is of Egyptian descent — moved to the Tri-Valley with her family in 2015 and they immediately went online to look up a Coptic Church that was near them. They then found out about the St. Mary and St. John Coptic Orthodox Church on Mirador Drive in Pleasanton.

After the family was welcomed to the church, Awadalla said she quickly developed a father-daughter type of relationship with Baky.

“I considered him like my dad,” she said, recalling how she became more involved with the church and working closely with the priest.

Then, in 2017, Awadalla alleges she experienced the first of three sexual attacks by the priest. She told the Weekly that it occurred when she stayed for confession — alleging that afterward the priest went in for a hug, grabbed her butt and gave her a kiss on the lips.

“I was shocked, so I moved back. And he said, ‘Oh, it’s by mistake. I don’t mean that, you’re my daughter.’ So I believed him,” Awadalla said.

The situation escalated in 2018 when Awadalla went to drop off food at the priest’s home when his wife was out of town, according to the lawsuit, which states he insisted she come inside while he ate — even though it was against her culture to go into another man’s house when he’s alone.

Awadalla alleges that while she was inside, Baky grabbed her and violently raped her. “I kept screaming and kept telling him no ... but

he never listened to what I was saying and kept continuing with what he did,” she told the Weekly.

The lawsuit alleges the third and final attack happened inside the church in Pleasanton, with the priest approaching her from behind, pinning her to a wall, groping her and attempting to rape her again. Awadalla tried to fight him off but Baky allegedly rubbed his genitals and ejaculated on her before letting her go.

Awadalla said she was afraid to report what happened to authorities, but after learning of other assault allegations against the priest, she decided to come forward and report her attacks to the Coptic Church in July 2020 and to Dublin Police Services and Pleasanton Police Department in August 2020.

PPD Sgt. Marty Billdt told the Weekly that PPD investigated the reports and forwarded the cases to the Alameda County District Attorney’s Office for review. Perkins confirmed there haven’t been any criminal charges locally against Baky.

The attorney also said that the DA’s office at the time declined to charge the case, which he said is not uncommon with these types of cases because there is a higher burden of proof, or the reasonable doubt threshold, and the need to produce large amounts of hard evidence for criminal convictions. However, Perkins said he intends to continue updating prosecutors with new evidence on the case.

Requests for comment to the DA’s office went unanswered this week.

Perkins said that while it has been a couple of years since the lawsuit was filed, mainly because it has been a slow discovery process for



JEREMY WALSH

A view of the St. Mary and St. John Coptic Orthodox Church in Pleasanton.

several reasons, he believes there is a lot of strong evidence to support Awadalla’s case.

“I can tell you, as Samah’s attorney I’m 100% confident in this case,” Perkins said. “For a sexual assault case, I think the evidence here is very strong, for a lot of different reasons ... I’m very confident that we’re going to be successful in the end.”

Both Awadalla and her husband have each sat down for at least 12 hours worth of deposition testimonies over the course of two days. Other witnesses have been deposed too, including a volunteer counselor for the church, two church members and two Bay Area priests, according to Perkins.

Baky’s deposition has been scheduled for two days — next Wednesday and Thursday — because he requested for a translator because English is not his first language.

One of the talking points Perkins said will be crucial in the trial is the investigation committee the church formed to review the allegations of

Awadalla’s first reports. The lawsuit claims the committee consisted of Baky’s friends and subordinates.

At first, Baky had been placed on administrative leave, but that lasted only a few days because Baky is technically the vicar of the archdiocese, which oversees the St. Mary and St. John Church as well as the other Coptic churches in the Western U.S., according to Perkins.

The attorney alleged that the investigation took place some time in 2020 to 2021 and it eventually made its way to Coptic Church Pope H.H. Tawadros II in Egypt who issued an order saying that the investigation determined that the allegations were unfounded. Baky was then fully reinstated in March 2021 without any consequences or penalties.

“That’s a part of what we’re going to be doing in this next phase of discovery is running down exactly what happened, how it happened, who made these decisions and exposing the inherent bias and what we believe is corruption within the church, that

that allowed the church to, to work to find that these (reports) were unfounded,” Perkins said.

Perkins alleges that Baky’s close relationship with the pope, who is also Baky’s cousin, and with the previous pope “played an important role in the church ultimately determining that these allegations were unfounded.” The attorney claims that included various forms of persuasion, intimidation and defamatory statements to silence Awadalla and cover up for the priest.

Awadalla said she stopped going to church in the aftermath because she felt confused and shocked, and she even contemplated suicide because she couldn’t look her family in the eyes after what happened.

Now, after separating from her church community, losing all trust in priests and the institution and suffering three panic attacks that sent her to the hospital, Awadalla said she still hasn’t lost her faith — which is why she is not worried about the future.

And while Awadalla wanted people to know that priests and other religious leaders are not godlike and are also humans who are capable of doing bad things, she also wanted to make sure the world knew that she isn’t letting the assaults define her.

She said she is pursuing a master’s degree to work with people who have special needs, is working with high schoolers who have autism and is continuing to live her life.

She added that while she has had moments throughout these past few years where she was on the brink of collapsing from the pressure and mental stress, her family’s support has kept her going. ■

## Councilmembers point out email issues with new city website

Say updated system doesn't allow them to respond to messages, isn't user-friendly for some residents

BY CHRISTIAN TRUJANO

After Pleasanton city staff gave a presentation on the city's new website during last week's City Council meeting, some members of dais pointed out issues with the email functionality that staff said they would try to address soon.

Those issues were specifically regarding residents' ability to mass email the council regarding an upcoming council meeting item, emails not coming through and the fact councilmembers were not able to respond to resident emails.

"I kept wondering where all our comments were," Councilmember Julie Testa said during the Dec. 5 council meeting. "They were nowhere to be found. I hadn't had a comment from a community member since Nov. 17. I know that's not real."

On Nov. 16, the city launched its new website, which was created with the help of Ogden Costa Creative Group, a Pleasanton-based design company. The company was hired for consulting services from April through November for website development — the total design and implementation cost to create the new website was \$134,000, which was budgeted in the city's general fund.

Sharon Petrehn, management analyst for the city, told the council during her presentation that since its launch, the new website has already been generating a lot of positive feedback from several cities who have reached out to Pleasanton for advice on creating a new website.

She also went over how the update to the website at [www.cityofpleasantonca.gov](http://www.cityofpleasantonca.gov) was an effort aligned with the ONE Pleasanton (the city's five-year strategic plan) goal of organizational effectiveness and that updating the website was previously identified as a priority in the City Council's work plan.

Apart from making it easier for residents to search for things related to the city, Petrehn said other additional key features of the website update includes a better search feature; a quick link bar; a "How Do I" feature meant to improve navigation within the website; and an integrated agenda management system to make it easier for residents to access council meeting information.

She also said the website is mobile- and tablet-friendly and that there are a number of accessibility features for residents who speak multiple languages or have any other impairment.

"We really want this information to be easy for people (to access) ... We feel like that's been delivered," Petrehn said.

However, while all the councilmembers had mostly positive feedback on the look and overall functionality of the new website, Testa and Mayor Karla Brown made the initial remarks on the new change in the email system that has been causing some issues.

"I got a text first from one resident that said 'Julie, I tried to send an email to the council. Could you tell me if you received it ... I don't think it went through' and sure enough, it had not gone through," Testa said.

In the past, residents were able to email all the members of the council and the city by using the email address [citycouncil@cityofpleasantonca.gov](mailto:citycouncil@cityofpleasantonca.gov), which is now not operational. Instead, the new website separates every council member's email addresses, meaning each resident now has to copy and paste into one email or they have to send their emails to each address separately.

Testa added that apart from older residents telling her they were confused on the new email system, she said another resident tried sending Testa a direct email and when she tried responding to that resident, her response never got sent.

"Days passed, I thought that person would be pleased they got that reply. Then I got a notice from our IT department that you can't reply to emails. So it isn't user-friendly," Testa said regarding the new email system.

Mayor Karla Brown also said that just a couple of hours before that night's meeting, she had 33 pages worth of emails that she didn't have the ability to respond back to, which Testa said she experienced as well.

"We got I would say 25 or 30 emails at ... 1:30 p.m. today," Testa added. "We're pretty busy before meeting and reading all those makes it tough."

City Manager Gerry Beaudin

said that while staff would work on a follow-up by the end of the week on how the city will "continue to offer easy accessible contact with the City Council," he also said there was a good reason why the new email system was set up that way.

Beaudin said that when residents used the mass email address to bring up issues like water leaks and downed tree branches, it made it harder for staff to separate those from comments regarding agenda council meeting items in order to enter those into the public record.

That's why he said the new website helps in directing residents on where to send those specific requests unrelated to the council meetings.

"When those requests come in, the way that the new website is designed, you can either use a mobile app, or you can be on the website and you can go directly to the department and send that request, so that it's not a game of telephone around solving problems in our community," Beaudin said.

He also said that while the mass email address is not operational, people who email it do get an automated response telling residents different ways to engage the council and pointing them to departments where they can voice their concerns.

Regardless, other council members reiterated that the city needs to make the emailing process more user friendly and ensure they receive residents' emails and are able to respond to those emails.

"We do need to make it as easy as possible for the public to email us and we need the ability to respond and the timely manner in which we get the emails is important," Councilmember Valerie Arkin said. "I hope we can work on that and make some adjustments so that that will work out for us." ■

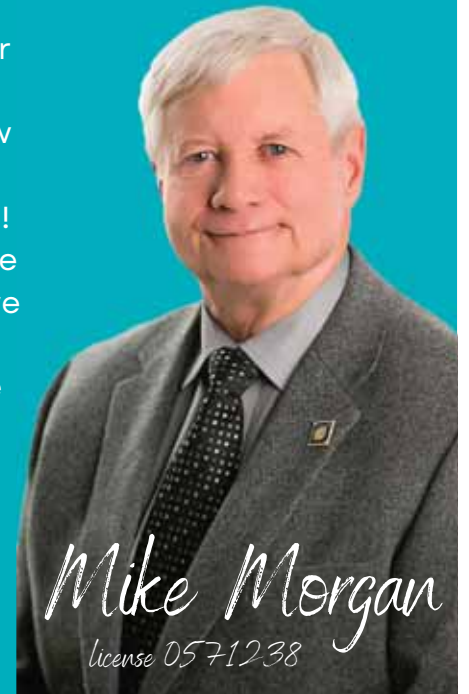
### TAKE US ALONG



Happy Holidays, from us to you! Our team at the Pleasanton Weekly gathered with some of our Embarcadero Media colleagues from the Peninsula for our annual holiday luncheon last week at Sunshine Saloon in Pleasanton. A great meal, fun times and a Take Us Along to boot!

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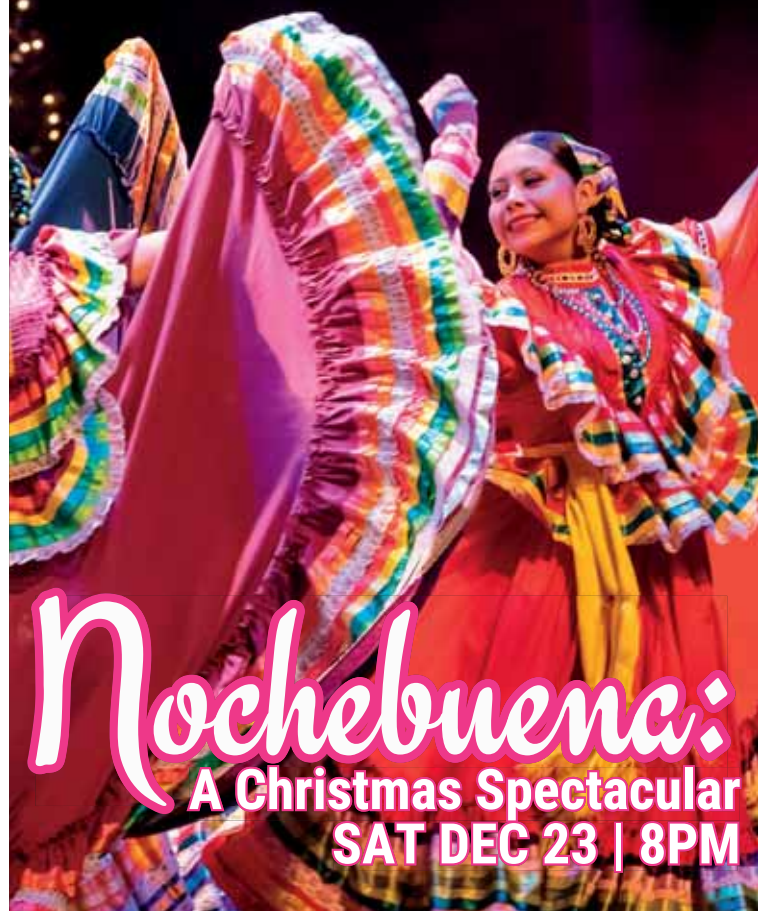
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# Stanford Blood Center opens new facility in Tri-Valley

City officials donate blood during ribbon-cutting ceremony

By NICOLE GONZALES

Dublin's newest blood donation facility, Stanford Blood Center, opened earlier this fall with a commitment to community engagement and saving lives — one donation at a time.

SBC regards itself as an independent and community blood center. The new Dublin location in Fallon Plaza will offer medical aid to regional hospitals such as Stanford Hospitals and Clinics, the Palo Alto VA and others.

"We're thrilled to open a location in the Tri-Valley, bringing convenience and a sense of community to our East Bay blood donors," SBC Executive Director Harpreet Sandhu said in a press statement. "This location provides an easy way for Tri-Valley community members to make consistent

donations of this life-saving gift at a day and time that works for them, while bringing a more diverse pool of blood types to our reserves."

Community leaders appeared at the facility's ribbon-cutting ceremony on Oct. 26 to help welcome the new center to Dublin. Dublin Mayor Melissa Hernandez, Dublin Vice Mayor Michael McCorrison and Councilmember Jean Josey were present. SBC leadership and Pleasanton Vice Mayor Jack Balch were also in attendance.

SBC has previously held various mobile blood drives that saw great success, which was a big factor in opening a permanent location in Dublin, representatives said.

"We've had many mobile blood drives in the Dublin and Tri-Valley area, and they've always done really

well. So we thought that we could open up a fixed site center so that people would have a place to come to at any time and not have to wait for local blood drives to come to the area," said Julie Peachey, SBC public relations officer.

Peachey explained how important a blood center facility is to a community, and why folks should donate if they are able to. Josey and McCorrison were among those to give blood during the grand-opening event.

"Donating blood saves lives," Peachey said. "Even just one donor can save several lives with one blood donation. They can pull platelets out of the blood, plasma and of course the red cells."

"It's especially important during this time of year. We see a lot of blood donation appointments get canceled because people are getting sick. When we are able to call our local community to come out and donate, it helps bolster the blood supply. This time of year, especially, tends to be pretty tough," Peachey.



Dublin City Councilmember Jean Josey donated blood on opening day of the new Stanford Blood Center in Dublin.

Located at 3738 Fallon Road in Dublin, the building is accessible from Interstate 580 and BART. The new SBC center offers 1,000 square feet of donation space and four blood donation chairs.

"When patients in hospitals need blood, it's especially important to have extra. Sometimes we have unforeseen circumstances where we need blood immediately," continued Peachey.

SBC says that while it's extremely helpful for all blood types to donate, those with universal blood are particularly encouraged to give.

"It's especially important for people

who have university universal blood type, like type O. We're pretty much calling on them all the time because no matter what your blood type is, you can receive O-negative blood," Peachey said. "Often if there is an accident and there isn't any time to type a patient, you can use type O blood because it is universal. Just to have blood on the shelves so that it's ready to go even for scheduled surgeries or unforeseen use saves so many lives."

SBC operates other blood donation facilities in Menlo Park, Mountain View and Campbell. To find out more about Dublin's SBC, visit <https://stanfordbloodcenter.org>. ■

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## SUNOL

Continued from Page 6

commitment is unwavering, shaped by a belief that our focus should be solely on our children's education."

However, Choin said that as much as both trustees say they want to keep politics out of the school, their actions over the last couple of months have proved otherwise.

She said that even though the atmosphere in the small town has shifted to try and go back to how it was before all the controversy, many parents who she has spoken to have told her the division in Sunol have made them feel "a little bit more nervous and more careful on campus."

She also said that there has been a lot more discussion about the recall within the community and with the news of 84% of the Sunol Glen teachers and support staff unions showing their support of the recall by adopting separate votes of no confidence resolution, it shows how a large majority of the stakeholders in the school's community want Jergensen and Hurley gone.

The teachers of CFT Local 1494 at Sunol Glen School adopted their resolution on Oct. 11 while the support staff of CSEA Chapter 862 at Sunol Glen School adopted theirs on Oct. 9, according to the United for Sunol Glen website.

"The actions of Linda Hurley and Ryan Jergensen have created an extremely challenging work environment," the teachers' union resolution reads. "Their brief tenure has brought distrust, uncertainty and

fear to both the Sunol Glen School and the surrounding community."

"The actions of Linda Hurley and Ryan Jergensen have created an extremely challenging work environment. We all believe that these problems directly stem from an unwillingness of these two board members to provide effective, competent, compassionate and trustworthy leadership to the school," according to the support staff resolution. "We believe that these problems have had a corrosive effect on staff morale and have fostered a climate of fear, anxiety, and uncertainty."

That support from not just the school's staff but also from the list of longtime Sunol residents, former board members and teachers, local parents and parents who live outside of the community, seemingly contradicts what Jergensen previously said in a statement to the Weekly that it was a "very small number of activist" who were not from the community supporting this recall.

Choin added that while parents who bring their children to the school but don't live in Sunol can't contribute to the recall vote, there are as of now 77 such parents who are showing their support for the recall effort — which she argues shows again how many people who are still stakeholders in the school don't agree with the two board members' leadership.

Choin finally pointed to a comment from Jergensen in a letter to the editor he sent to Inform Sunol on Nov. 30 where he called the recall "undemocratic." She said in fact, the recall is the most democratic way

for the large majority of Sunolians to voice their discontent.

"There are so many hurdles and checks in place and guidelines to make sure that if someone is going to be removed from office, that it truly was done correctly," Choin said. "It's not surprising, but it is insulting, that he would insinuate somehow that the authenticity of this recall is not democratic ... This is the most democratic way that the disenfranchised people of Sunol can show that their leadership is not taking them into account and they want to replace their leadership."

According to the 2023 procedures for recalling state and local officials guide that was prepared by the California Secretary of State's Office, United for Sunol Glen must get signatures from 30% of those who are registered to vote in Sunol. After that, the proponents could then submit those signatures so that an official ballot can be developed and sent to Sunolians to vote either yes or no to the recall.

Choin said that with Sunol's population being around 800, the minimum number of signatures they expect to need is roughly 300. She also said that they are, however, aiming for at least 400 with the goal being to get more than that so when it comes time to vote on the ballot, they can show without a doubt that there is a demand for the recall.

The recall group will have 40 days after they officially begin gathering signatures to meet their goal before they can file the petition with the Alameda County Registrar of Voters' Office. ■



CIERRA BAILEY

JOANN Fabrics and Crafts in Livermore is set to close in the new year.

## JOANN Fabrics and Crafts to shutter Livermore store

Impacted employees have option to transfer to other locations

By JEANITA LYMAN

A number of empty aisles can be spotted at JOANN Fabrics and Crafts in Livermore amid a closing sale that is set to last throughout the store's remaining weeks before it shuts its doors for good in January.

Employees confirmed that the Livermore store — located at 4650 Arroyo Vista — is a casualty of the company's latest rounds of closures.

With the Livermore location's departure, stores in Dublin and Manteca will be the closest options for Tri-Valley crafters. Impacted employees have the option to

transfer their positions elsewhere, including Dublin, if they choose.

While the exact closing date remains up in the air, the store is set to close in the new year. According to employees, their final day in business depends on how quickly they sell out of merchandise. A storewide liquidation sale is currently underway with major mark-downs on items.

Despite some storefront closures, the company itself is not going out of business. A spokesperson for the company did not respond to a request for comment from the Weekly. ■

## Livermore council mandates unleaded fuel option at airport

Fixed-base operator given two years to comply

By CIERRA BAILEY

In a step toward eliminating the use of leaded fuel at the Livermore Municipal Airport, the City Council approved a resolution Monday amending the minimum standards for commercial aeronautical activities to require the provision of unleaded aviation fuel.

The update to the minimum standards requires the airport's fixed-base operator, Five Rivers Aviation, to provide the option for unleaded aviation fuel on the airfield within 24 months. However, the resolution does allow some flexibility so that in the event the FBO cannot comply within the established timeframe, the city may grant extensions as deemed appropriate.

According to the city staff report, the availability and ability to provide unleaded aviation fuel that

could safely and reliably replace the use of leaded fuel at the airport may necessitate the extension of the timeline identified in the resolution.

The resolution was passed with a 4-0 vote, as Councilmember Ben Barrientos was absent.

"The goal is to transition to a fully unleaded gas at the airport as quickly as possible. I understand that's not an easy process, but I believe everyone here is committed to that as fast as we possibly can do it," Councilmember Evan Branning said.

The approved version of the document also includes a slight change of language proposed by Branning to be more general about the unleaded fuel alternatives that would be allowed to account for future innovations in fuel types such as

See **FUEL** on Page 11

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# California budget rollercoaster: Analyst predicts \$68 billion deficit

‘A serious budget problem ... I would stop short of calling it a crisis’

BY ALEXEI KOSEFF / CALMATTERS

With tax revenues in a free fall comparable to the Great Recession and the dot-com bust, California faces a projected \$68 billion budget deficit next year that will require spending cuts and reserve funds to close, state finance officials said last week.

The new estimate from the nonpartisan Legislative Analyst's Office, released as Gov. Gavin Newsom finalizes his January budget proposal, reflects a substantially delayed tax-filing period this fall where collections came in far below what lawmakers expected when they adopted a spending plan over the summer.

This projected deficit would be a record for California. But officials noted that it is partly because the budget has grown so much in recent years — the most recent was more than \$300 billion — and that the state has closed similar or worse spending gaps, by percentage, in the past.

Legislative analyst Gabriel Petek cautioned that California is better prepared to respond to the situation than during the economic

recession 15 years ago, because it has since built several multibillion-dollar rainy-day funds, though the state is also looking at a structural deficit of about \$30 billion annually going forward.

“I go with the word ‘serious.’ A serious budget problem,” Petek said during a briefing with journalists. “I would stop short of calling it a crisis.”

H.D. Palmer, a spokesperson for Newsom's Department of Finance, said the administration will have different numbers when the governor presents his 2024-25 spending plan next month, but Newsom is preparing to address a significant deficit.

“Both the Governor and the Legislature have a substantial challenge before them in closing a very large revenue gap in this budget,” Palmer told CalMatters. “The IRS, with the best of intentions, created a situation this year that is entirely new territory.”

Severe winter storms prompted the federal government to delay the income tax filing deadline for most Californians from April until November, and the state followed suit, giving an incomplete picture

when legislators and the governor crafted the budget this summer.

It already accounted for a \$30 billion deficit, after two years of record surpluses driven by economic recovery and federal aid related to the coronavirus pandemic. But those collections were ultimately another \$26 billion below estimates — a drop of 25% from the prior year — digging a financial hole based on money the state committed in its spending plan.

This year looks weak as well, according to finance officials. California has been hit particularly hard by inflation, which pinched the housing market; a stock market downturn, affecting capital gains; and a drop in investments in the tech industry, which has pulled back on initial public offerings. Overall tax revenues are projected to be \$58 billion below assumptions in the multi-year budget window.

Though the Legislative Analyst's Office estimates that tax revenues will begin growing again next year, the recovery is likely to be slow, opening up long-term funding shortfalls that could affect essential programs in future years.

“There are enough options available to address this immediate problem,” Petek said. “Our high-level suggestion to the Legislature is just to be judicious about reserves because there's a lot of uncertainty ahead, so preserving some of that resilience would be helpful.”

His office recommended that Newsom declare a fiscal emergency, allowing the state to dip into as much as \$24 billion of its rainy-day funds, and that legislators pull back on one-time spending allocations that have not yet been distributed, potentially saving \$10 billion or more that had previously been set aside for transportation, environmental and education programs.

Petek also suggested that California could cut the deficit by nearly \$17 billion over the next three years by recalculating its constitutionally-mandated funding obligation to schools and community colleges, known as Proposition 98, based on the lower revenues. Though this would decrease the state's base education funding over the long term, Petek said the immediate effects could be offset with reserves.

That option, in particular, could encounter stiff resistance in the Legislature. Assembly Speaker Robert Rivas, a Hollister Democrat, released a statement one week earlier, when it became clear that tax revenues would be substantially below estimates, committing to a budget that “protects classroom funding.”

Newsom and lawmakers are also likely to confront months of tremendous pressure from advocates arguing that their priorities should be protected in any budget solutions. Statements started rolling out mere minutes after the Legislative Analyst's Office published its report.

“California leaders have stepped up before to prioritize Californians who are struggling to get by and they must continue this in 2024,” said Pete Manzo, president & CEO of United Ways of California.

Republican legislators chastised their Democratic colleagues for continuing to make new spending commitments in recent budget cycles even as it became clear that the economy was increasingly shaky.

“Hopefully, the supermajority will see it is time for a more realistic budget strategy,” Senate Republican Leader Brian Jones of San Diego said in a statement, “instead of throwing money at a laundry list of projects that sounds nice on the national television debate stage.” ■

## BLOWERS

Continued from Page 5

included in the city's 2021-23 work plan. The city will have to spend about \$180,000 in order to transition its own fleet of 35 gas-powered leaf blowers to all-electric models. That money would go toward purchasing new equipment and other components such as battery packs and charging equipment.

“The leaf blower restrictions that are being proposed this evening have been a longstanding City Council work plan item,” City Manager Gerry Beaudin said. “They carried themselves into our Climate Action Plan and then ultimately into our Strategic Plan, which involves implementing the Climate Action Plan.”

Diego Mora, assistant planner for the city, went over some of the key reasons for the ban, including a prevalent one being that under Assembly Bill 1346, which the state adopted in 2021, gas-powered leaf blowers can no longer be sold in California beginning Jan. 1.

“This Assembly Bill was passed as a strategy to carry through with the state's objective to achieve 100% zero emissions from off-road equipment in California by 2035,” Mora said. One thing to note is that while the state law will not prohibit the use of existing gas-powered leaf blowers, city staff said that the

complete ban of these blowers in Pleasanton will better align with the city's overall reduced emissions goals.

Mora also explained that after several community outreach efforts and meetings, some of the key points that the public made in support of the ban were that it would address the odor and noise made by the instruments and improve the overall air quality.

“The proposed ordinance would assist in mitigating the negative impacts on health and the environment by reducing the amounts of carbon dioxide, hydrocarbons, fine particulate matter and the exposure of harmful noise levels,” he said.

There were some concerns in the community, Mora said, regarding the performance of electric-powered blowers, the impact the ban would have on landscaping businesses and comparative statistics of gas and electric leaf blowers.

However, one of the more pertinent questions that came up during the meeting was how the city would enforce the ban. Councilmember Julie Testa first brought up the issue when she mentioned that she had heard about landscapers putting a gas-powered generator to recharge their electric leaf blowers.

Community development director Ellen Clark, however, said the ban will inherently be a difficult thing to enforce.

“People come and go, yard work

begins and ends and our single code enforcement officer cannot be everywhere observing violations in action,” Clark said.

Pleasanton's senior code enforcement officer, Mark Dennis, further explained how enforcement action for the ban would be similar to a noise complaint and that, as Beaudin put it, the “cavalry is not coming for a leaf blower.”

“Typical enforcement is voluntary compliance,” Dennis said. “We don't typically cite somebody right away for violations. We would reach out to either the property owner or the landscape company, if we have that information, to let them know they're in violation or it was reported to us that they were in violation and hope that they would come into compliance.”

He said that if it continues to be a problem, then they would ramp up enforcement in the form of a notice to abate and, possibly, an administrative citation, which starts at \$100 and by the fourth citation could go up to as much as \$750.

The other main topic that came up during the discussion was whether the city could obtain any state grants that would help with the transitioning costs or with any buybacks or rebates for residents who already own gas-powered leaf blowers.

Mora said that most of the grants that would have been available for the public before have

unfortunately run out.

“Status as to whether those funds will be renewed is not known at this time,” he said. “We encourage the public to continue to check those sources along with possible rebate programs from local big-box stores as well.”

That lack of economic help for residents to transition was one of the reasons Balch opposed the ordinance. He said that while he agreed with the rest of the council's comments on how great the ban would be for the environment, he just wished the community would have had more help with the transition to electric-powered leaf blowers through rebates and buybacks.

“Global planet, we've got to clean it up ... but the ‘how’ matters when individuals' lives are dealing with these problems, who may not have the resources to transition as quickly as we would like them to,” Balch said.

“Frankly, the city received its rebate, the city received its \$9,000, but our residents are not receiving a rebate. That's an unfunded mandate to me,” Balch added. “If we're going to produce an unfunded mandate at the local level, I want us to be very frank about it. We talk about grants or buybacks; we're not allocating dollars in this motion to do that.”

The money Balch was referring to was about \$9,500 that Mayor Karla Brown said the Tri-Valley Air Quality Climate Alliance — an

organization that informs and engages with communities about local air quality problems and their health impacts — offered to everyone, including small businesses.

And while Brown agreed with Balch's idea to revisit the idea of seeing how much money it would be to offer some type of program to help with the transition during the next budget update, Arkin — who also agreed with the idea of finding ways to help the community with the transition — said that it was crucial to pass the ban ordinance for the sake of the public's health and the well-being of the community.

Beaudin added on by saying that while it is under the council's purview to use general fund money to subsidize such a program and that he understands the desire to want to help with the transition, the fact is the state will not be selling these tools in a month and residents are going to have to adjust one way or another.

“It's going to sound cold, but I'm going to say it ... brooms and rakes still exist,” Beaudin said. “So for folks who are having a hard time imagining life without their gas-powered leaf blower, there is an alternative to buying even a new, more expensive tool.”

“I'm not suggesting that is what everyone needs to do,” he added. “But certainly, there are other ways to do the work that folks are doing with these tools currently.” ■

# PG&E shows off new drones that inspect and help replace power lines

‘These make things clear, a little bit safer and add an additional level of situational awareness’

By TONY HICKS / BCN

PG&E is going to have its own air force pretty soon.

It might already. The utility publicly unveiled some of its drone capabilities last week at its San Ramon headquarters, with drone pilots, industry professionals, contractors and media talking about drone capabilities and new technology making PG&E's job easier.

But clearly, the star of the show was the Infravision TX UAV Stringing System.

The large drone, which stayed in its own transport truck in the parking lot, carries line between power poles in areas where lines are down.

That's become a particular issue for PG&E over the past decade, as climate change-fueled extreme weather knocks down more power lines, which causes more outages.

Instead of workers hauling lines in dangerous terrain and bad weather, or requiring areas and weather clear enough for helicopters to help, the TX UAV pulls line that can weigh a couple hundred pounds from pole to pole.

It was commissioned in 2022 and has been used 20 times so far, a number the utility expects to go up as it expands the program.

“The technology amazes me,” said Joshua Hill, an unmanned aerial system operations



RAY SAINT GERMAIN / BCN

A Skydio drone is demonstrated at the PG&E drone conference in San Ramon on Dec. 5. The power company is the first utility in North America to string powerlines with drones.

manager. “You know, every day we're reading about new technologies and we're trying to get those technologies and see what's the best.”

“We utilize this system for locations that are difficult to access by foot or by boat or by helicopter,” Hill said. “If we can't use those other options, this is a great option to get us to replace our power lines or repair our power lines over those areas. That way we can reduce the outage minutes to our

customers and get them turned on faster and ultimately that results in cost savings as well as just getting power on faster.”

PG&E says it's the first utility in North America to use this technology from Australian company Infravision. Hill said it was a big help last winter, which was one of California's stormiest ever.

“Last winter was a big challenge for our system and in certain areas, like in the Santa Cruz Mountains and on the North Coast,”

Hill said. “We were able to utilize the system and replace a lot of power lines. And we were able to keep our crews safe by utilizing the technology to go over extreme conditions that would normally have resulted in longer outages and more hardship on the crews on the ground.”

PG&E spokesperson Paul Doherty said 18 of the 20 times the TX UAV has been used so far was for storm damage.

PG&E also displayed smaller drones it frequently uses to examine equipment, a program that started in 2015 and was significantly ramped up in 2020. Two of them buzzed over the utility headquarters' parking lot on Dec. 5. PG&E has more than 60 in service all around the state.

Unlike the TX UAV, which requires a line-of-sight operator within about a mile of the device, most of the smaller observation drones are operated by pilots in a centralized control center in Concord.

“These make things clear, a little bit safer and add an additional level of situational awareness,” said Jon Teach, a UAS operations program manager working with the observation drones. “They're thorough. That's, you know, our main purpose.”

Eli Thomas is a pilot who flies inspection drones for PG&E contractor Cyberhawk. He said drones allow pilots to find problems line inspectors and helicopter pilots just can't physically get to.

“I found a lot of issues, dozens that could have failed within 12 hours,” Thomas said. “Just during routine inspections. That's just throughout my career. I can't even imagine how many other pilots have found. It's really useful.” ■

## FUEL

Continued from Page 9

hydrogen or other options.

Following community requests for the airport to make a switch to unleaded gas, the City Council directed staff on Oct. 23 to update the commercial minimum standards. Prior to Monday night's council meeting, the minimum standards were last adopted by the council on March 25, 2019.

Acting airport manager Benny Stuth delivered a presentation to the council Monday outlining background information about the current fuel options available at the Livermore airport as well as the plans and process for phasing out the use of leaded gas altogether.

The two types of fuel sold at the airport now are 100-octane Low Lead — also known as 100LL — and Jet A, a kerosene-based fuel.

Concerns raised by the community over the course of many years about the use of leaded fuel were bolstered by the Environmental Protection Agency's recent declaration that leaded fuel emissions are an endangerment to public health as well as the Federal Aviation Administration's mandate that leaded fuel must be eventually discontinued altogether and replaced by unleaded alternatives.

To achieve its goal, the FAA has been working with industry partners to formulate unleaded alternatives by 2030 as part of the “Eliminate Aviation Gasoline Lead Emissions” (EAGLE) initiative. However, in the meantime, the agency has determined that federally obligated airports — like Livermore — must continue to offer leaded aviation fuel until a viable alternative is available.

Stuth noted in his presentation that although a 100LL alternative has been approved by the FAA for general use under a separate

effort outside of EAGLE, it is not yet available in the marketplace.

Additionally, Stuth said a 94-octane alternative — UL94 — is also currently available but only to a limited number of aircraft with a certain type of engine.

The UL94 fuel is offered at several airports including San Martin, Reid Hillview, Hayward, San Carlos, Watsonville, Oxnard, Van Nuys, Burbank, Santa Monica and Long Beach alongside the 100LL leaded fuel. The airports must continue offering the leaded option in addition to the UL94 to comply with current FAA regulations.

Santa Clara County is the only one to outright ban leaded fuel, however, that move is currently under investigation by the FAA.

A handful of public commenters spoke during the meeting, mostly expressing support for the resolution overall but also addressing concerns about the timeline. Majority of the speakers deemed two years too long of a stretch and urged the city to consider shortening it to one year.

According to the staff report, the two years are broken up into six months to have an approvable plan in place, one year for environmental documentation, entitlement, design and permitting; and six months thereafter for the addition/provision of unleaded fuel at the airport including construction if required.

Staff noted that there is a chance the airport could become compliant with the minimum standard change much quicker. The city is currently working with the Bay Area Air Management Quality District to recertify a spare fuel tank that is already at the airfield to allow for unleaded fuel. This would eliminate the need for the city to purchase and install a new tank and instead be able to utilize an existing resource. ■

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DWR VIA BCN

Left: An aerial view of the Vogel Cache/Hass Levee on the southwestern side of the Lookout Slough Tidal Restoration Project in unincorporated Solano County. Above: Construction crews work on removing this Emergency Drought Salinity Barrier on the West False River near Oakley.

## State releases final environmental impact report for Delta Tunnel project

‘Essential to updating our water system for millions of Californians,’ Newsom says

By ALY BROWN / BCN

The California Department of Water Resources on Friday released its final environmental impact report for the proposed Delta Conveyance Project, signifying the last step mandated by the state before the report’s certification and the controversial project’s possible approval.

Also known as the Delta Tunnel, among other various names over the decades, the current version of the project would construct two water intakes in the North Delta and one underground tunnel. The system — with an estimated price tag of somewhere between \$16 billion to \$40 billion — would pull water from the Delta and connect it to the Bethany Reservoir on the California Aqueduct, before delivering it to homes and farms in Central and Southern California.

Proponents say the Delta Conveyance Project will modernize the state’s aging system, which is not equipped to capture water amid climate change conditions and is currently at the mercy of possible earthquakes.

“Climate change is threatening our access to clean drinking water, diminishing future supplies for millions of Californians — doing nothing is not an option,” Gov. Gavin Newsom said. “This project is essential to updating our water system for millions of Californians.”

But opponents, including tribal nations and environmentalists, have raised numerous issues with its design, such as the impact to the Delta’s ecosystem, businesses, and urban and cultural communities.

During a press conference Friday that coincided with the final EIR’s release, California Natural Resources Secretary Wade Crowfoot explained that since 2020, when Newsom called for the

development of a comprehensive water plan, the state has experienced the driest three-year period due to accelerating climate impacts.

“Scientists have told us that we will likely lose about 10% of California’s water supply by 2040 as a result of hotter temperatures,” Crowfoot said. “And so, for that reason last summer, last August, we released, on behalf of the governor, the water supply strategy for a hotter, drier future. And that took this broad water resilience portfolio and distilled it to specifically what actions — what targets — we need to meet to actually supplant this 10% loss of water and adapt to these accelerating climate, intense weather swings.”

Crowfoot went on to explain that the current water system largely depends on snowpack from the Sierra Nevada melting into the Sacramento and San Joaquin water systems, whose rivers push water through the Delta. Some of the water goes out the Golden Gate and into the ocean, but some is collected for the State Water Project, which includes the Oroville Reservoir, the California Aqueduct and a system of decades-old levees and pumps in the Delta.

“This system is responsible for a significant portion of water supplies for communities in the Bay Area, in the Central Valley, and throughout Southern California,” Crowfoot continued. “Now very clearly, we need to diversify our water supplies.”

Due to climate change, Crowfoot said the state will get more and more of its water from winter storms and atmospheric rivers, and the current system is not built to capture water in that way.

“We lost the opportunity to capture hundreds of thousands of acre feet of water over the last couple of years, because this dated system of

levees and pumps doesn’t allow us to capture the swell of water when we need it,” he said.

He also said it’s important to note that the Delta is under earthquake risk — the U.S. Geological Survey identified a 76% chance that over the next 30 years, there will be an earthquake of at least 6.9 on the Richter scale, impacting the Delta and possibly disrupting water supply for 27 million Californians.

“I’m not speaking hyperbole when I say if that happens, that will be the largest catastrophe in any water system in America,” Crowfoot said.

Graham Bradner, executive director for the Delta Conveyance Design and Construction Authority — a joint powers authority formed by the 16 participating public water agencies — said the new tunnel is a modern design that takes into account the current understanding of seismicity in the Delta. In addition, he said the tunnel’s depth of about 140 to 170 feet below ground would be deeper than any anticipated liquefaction, which occurs when sediments near the ground surface lose their strength in response to shaking.

While a press release from the DWR stated that the final EIR responds to the substantive comments on the draft EIR during a 142-day period — during which the agency received more than 700 letters and 7,000 individual comments — many opponents say the updated plan still falls flat.

San Francisco Baykeeper science director Jon Rosenfield said the current diversion of water has already had a significant impact on the fish native to the San Francisco Bay and its watershed, with the list of species on the verge of extinction continuing to grow.

“Gov. Newsom’s multi-billion-dollar Delta tunnel will divert

excessive amounts of water from the Bay and make matters worse for the fish and communities that depend on this ecosystem. The science clearly demonstrates that fish need increased river flows to survive, but state agencies are ignoring it,” Rosenfield said.

“California can protect San Francisco Bay and its watershed, while still providing enough water for agriculture and cities to thrive. Instead, Newsom is continuing his campaign to divert yet more water, needlessly sacrificing California’s native fish, valuable fisheries, water quality, and the communities that depend on them,” he said.

Golden State Salmon Association executive director Scott Artis said Newsom further mismanaged river systems during the drought, negatively impacting the salmon industry.

“Having spent five years blocking new state flow protections for salmon, he’s now dancing hand-in-hand with water districts on the aching backs of the fishing industry, California residents, and the environment by trying to build one of the biggest salmon-killing projects in state history,” Artis said. “We don’t need a 1950s-style water project to help California meet 21st century water needs — especially one that looks like an extinction plan for salmon.”

Barbara Barrigan-Parrilla, executive director of the group Restore the Delta, said the state agencies’ argument that the tunnel is a climate project was built on incomplete data and faulty analysis. She also raised social justice issues associated with its construction near urban communities and called for an investment in resilience projects that reduce reliance on water exports from the Delta.

“The big pipe engineering solutions of the last century are no longer the way forward in California

water’s climate-changed reality,” Barrigan-Parrilla said. “We need more underground storage in agricultural regions and more regional stormwater collection and water recycling in our cities. ... The plan still largely ignores the project’s impacts on Delta urban environmental justice communities and how construction will ruin small Delta farming towns.”

In regard to underground storage, Crowfoot said it’s an “and not an or” situation, saying this project will help diversify the state’s water supplies, which includes recharging groundwater during wet years. He further noted that the redesign of the project includes investments to address impacts to urban communities like Stockton to protect their drinking water.

DWR director Karla Nemeth offered the example of the DWR providing an \$80 million grant, irrespective of the project, to help the city of Antioch address issues with sea level rising on the western edge of the Delta, adding that they are also working with water colleagues in Contra Costa County to mitigate water quality effects.

“I don’t want to give it short shrift. I do empathize with the intensity of the opposition to this project for many, many years and many iterations. I believe that this project is the right size given all of California’s concerns. I think it stimulates ongoing investment and the necessity to continue to reduce reliance on the Delta over time,” Nemeth said.

“But opposition to it seems to be kind of the one thing that is uniting communities, urban and agricultural, in the Delta. And there’s a lot of work we need to do together, separate from the project to secure those water supplies to address long-term water quality concerns that folks have,” she said. ■

## How about that view

EBRPD celebrates newest Pleasanton Ridge staging area, better access to open space and public trails

By NICOLE GONZALES

The East Bay Regional Park District marked the completion of its most-recent community improvement and open space project in the Tri-Valley earlier this month — the Tyler Ranch Staging Area at Pleasanton Ridge Regional Park. Representatives noted the new area offers “amazing panoramic views of the Bay Area.”

The new staging area, located in Sunol, provides new pedestrian, equestrian and bicycle access on over 18 miles of trails spanning 2,800 acres. The grand-opening event on Dec. 3 saw several local leaders speak on the recently completed project.

“With this opening, we’re really proud as a park district that we get to provide yet another public access improvement project for the community,” EBRPD General Manager Sabrina Landreth said at the ceremony. “This really was an all-hands-on-deck effort with our design group and all of our operations.”

“The opening of this new staging area is going to increase access to over 2,800 acres of open space, including 18 miles of trails here,” Landreth said.

EBRPD Board President Dennis Waespi shared his remarks on the completed project.

“The vision for this staging area here was part of the Pleasanton Ridge Master Plan. We started in 2012, which sounds like a long time

(but) in park district time to have something that you dream of come to fruition in less than 20 years is a miracle,” Waespi said.

Waespi has been on the Board of Directors since 2014. Prior to his service on the board, he was a district employee for over 38 years.

“This is a beautiful place; we’re very happy to be welcoming the public,” added Waespi. “It’s wonderful to be able to get out on a trail and experience the scenery that our area has to offer.”

“We have our 78 parking spaces, as well as equestrian staging, trailer parking, accessible restrooms and picnic areas,” said EBRPD Board Member Olivia Sanwong, whose district includes Pleasanton.

“There’s certainly a lot of effort still remaining in regards to connecting trails and increasing access and open space,” added Sanwong, who was elected to the board in November 2022 after previously serving on the district’s advisory committee as well as Zone 7 Water Agency Board of Directors.

Pleasanton Mayor Karla Brown appeared at the event on behalf of her city and emphasized the importance of collaborating with the park district.

“It’s such an honor to be here and work in conjunction with EBRPD,” Brown said. “Once you open these beautiful staging areas, they will be here for generations to come. So they do take a lot of time but they are well planned and well executed.”

“The Tyler Ranch provides an-



COURTESY EBRPD

Local leaders unveil the new Tyler Ranch Staging Area at Pleasanton Ridge Regional Park in Sunol on Dec. 3.

other access point to this wonderful ridge; we’re going to enjoy it for years to come. We’re pleased to be working together. The city of Pleasanton and the EBRPD have a partnership, one that’s incredibly valuable to all of us,” the mayor added.

Known as the largest regional park system in the United States, EBRPD oversees 73 parks, 55 miles of shoreline and more than 1,300 miles of trails fit for hiking, walking, horseback riding and other forms of recreation in Alameda and Contra Costa counties.

Funding for the staging area was made possible by California State Parks and Measure WW.

To learn more about Tyler Ranch or other EBRPD amenities, visit [ebparks.org](http://ebparks.org). ■



COURTESY EBRPD

The new staging area provides an opportunity for people to gather before or after a hike on the Pleasanton Ridge.



COURTESY EBRPD

The Tyler Ranch Staging Area offers panoramic views of the Bay Area while providing new access to 18 new miles of public trails.



COURTESY EBRPD

EBRPD General Manager Sabrina Landreth speaks at the grand-opening event.

# Tao House tours offer insight into life of Eugene O'Neill

Spotlighting Tri-Valley national park at former home of famed playwright, wife Carlotta

By LARRY SOKOLOFF / BCN

Playwright Eugene O'Neill is most often associated with New York City and Broadway, where his works were performed, or New England, where he set many of his dramas. But he also has a strong connection to the Bay Area, through his former home in the hills of Danville.

National Park Service rangers give free guided tours of the two-story home where O'Neill and his third wife, Carlotta, lived from 1937 to 1944. The Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site offers a fascinating glimpse into their lives and into a place where many of his most famous plays were written.

The O'Neills built their Danville home after Eugene won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1936 and was awarded \$40,000. "They wanted to be isolated," said ranger Geraldine Finton. The custom-built house was on 158 acres, far away from friends and distractions, but with some fantastic views of Mount Diablo.

The country estate was named Tao House, in recognition of the years the couple spent traveling in Asia. Many of its furnishings were purchased in San Francisco's Chinatown and at Gump's department store. The National Park Service has recreated how the house looked when the couple lived there. There are colored mirrors in many of the rooms in the 5,000-square-foot building.

According to Finton, Carlotta worked to keep her husband from drinking alcohol, so he could write plays without interruption. The couple doted on their dalmatian Blemie, and Carlotta oversaw a staff of a half-dozen employees. Famous plays that the playwright wrote here included "The Iceman Cometh," "A Moon for the Misbegotten" and "Long Day's Journey into Night."

Eugene O'Neill died in Boston in 1953. Perhaps because he wrote about dark topics like alcohol abuse, death and family dysfunction, he isn't as well known today.

"Nobody thinks about him," said

supervisory park ranger Hilary Grabowska. "He's not a part of the curriculum."

One group that doesn't want O'Neill to be forgotten is the Eugene O'Neill Foundation, a nonprofit located at Tao House. It sponsors an annual festival of O'Neill's plays over three weekends in September. Plays are performed in a barn on the property.

After touring the house, visitors can see the barn and wander around the grounds.

Danville has grown considerably since the O'Neills lived there. Today there are neighbors nearby, so visitors are not allowed to drive to the property. Instead, visitors arrive from downtown Danville via a National Park Service van.

Visitors can park for free at 205 Railroad Ave., near an old railroad depot which houses the Museum of the San Ramon Valley. It's easy to combine a visit to Tao House with a meal or a walk around downtown Danville.



ALISON SOKOLOFF

Eugene O'Neill wrote several of his famous plays in Danville. His office is a stop on the tour of Tao House.

Tao House also is adjacent to the Las Trampas Wilderness Regional Preserve, and hikers from the 5,600-acre park frequently show up at the property.

"We get a lot of Chinese visitors," Grabowska said, "who know him as Charlie Chaplin's father-in-law." O'Neill's daughter, Oona, was married to Chaplin from 1943 to 1977. Oona O'Neill Chaplin is mentioned on the tour, along with lots of other famous names, including Katharine

Hepburn, Andy Warhol and Ingrid Bergman.

Visitors to Tao House must take a shuttle from the Museum of the San Ramon Valley, 205 Railroad Ave., Danville. Free tours are at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Wednesdays to Sundays. For reservations, visit [nps.gov](http://nps.gov) or call 925-228-8860, ext. 6422. (On Saturdays, reservations are not needed; vans take the first 12 people who show up for each tour at the museum in Danville.) ■

# LVO benefit concert in new year

3 Redneck Tenors booked as featured artist

By NICOLE GONZALES

The 3 Redneck Tenors have been captivating audiences since 2006 with their classically trained vocals and striking comedy. The trio's unique mix of musical and stand-up talents is exactly why the Livermore Valley Opera chose them as the featured artist for its benefit concert in February.

Proceeds from the gala will go toward LVO's mission of providing quality, live opera to local audiences. The benefit gala will be held on Feb. 17 at 7 p.m. at the Bankhead Theater in downtown Livermore.

Material for the 3 Redneck Tenors is written by opera veteran Matthew Lord and music is arranged by composer Craig Bohmler.

"We thought we'd try something a bit different from our usual biennial Ruby Hill dinner and auction," LVO artistic director Erie Mills told the Weekly. "I had seen them perform in Branson, Mo., and I met them through their music director Craig Bohmler."

"They were wonderful, very funny and extremely talented," Mills said.

The group features Matthew Lord, Blake Davidson and now Lord's 23-year-old daughter, Grace Lord. The original lineup of the 3 Redneck Tenors competed on "America's Got Talent" in 2007.



COURTESY LVA

3 Redneck Tenors, who will perform at the Livermore Valley Opera benefit in February, consist of (from left) Bruce Davidson, Grace Lord and Matthew Lord.

"Matt Lord is trying to help opera companies with fundraising, and he offered their services at a reduced rate. We were thrilled and now here we are," Mills said.

LVO describes the group as "three singing songbirds of the trailer park" as they promise big laughs and surprises to audience members. The classically trained opera vocalists add a mix of stand-up comedy to their set.

"There is something for everyone in this show. If you love standard operatic literature, you will certainly hear it well sung. If you like

musical theater, you will hear that, too. If you don't like opera at all or you don't think you do, you will laugh your head off," Mills said. "A good time is had by all. When they say, 'down home laughs with big city music,' they mean it."

LVO said audience members can expect "charismatic characters" that are sure to entertain.

"With this new format of holding a benefit concert at the Bankhead Theater, we also have the ability to host a pre-event VIP guest reception two hours prior to the show at 5 p.m.," LVO spokes-



MELANIE LACKI

## 'A Touch of Scarlet' at the de Young

Pleasanton artist Melanie Lacki's painting "A Touch of Scarlet" has been among the hundreds of Bay Area pieces on display in San Francisco this fall as part of the "de Young Open 2023" exhibition. Celebrating artists from the greater nine Bay Area counties, the exhibit includes works from 264 artists in Alameda and Contra Costa counties hung "salon style" from floor to ceiling. The showing remains open now through Jan. 7. To learn more, go to the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco website at [famsf.org](http://famsf.org).

person Leslie Silberman said.

"(At the VIP reception) attendees can kick off their evening by indulging in tasty down-home favorites, sipping some rustic libations and entering to win some fantastic raffle prizes," she added.

The benefit event comes before the organization's first show of 2024, "The Magic Flute," which will be staged in March.

To find out more about the benefit event or purchase tickets, visit [livermorevalleyopera.com](http://livermorevalleyopera.com). ■

# 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

# Community Pulse

## POLICE BULLETIN

### Investigation continues into motorcyclist's death in Livermore

The traffic collision that killed a Livermore motorcyclist along a residential stretch of North Mines Road earlier this fall remains under investigation by Livermore police, a department spokesperson recently confirmed to the Weekly.

The Alameda County Coroner's Bureau identified the victim in the Oct. 17 fatal crash as 38-year-old Justin Thomas.

Known to many by the nickname "JT", Thomas was remembered as a hardworking family man who enjoyed playing music among his hobbies, according to an Ever Loved memorial webpage set up in his honor and to support his fiancée, son and stepchildren. It had raised more than \$29,000 as of Sunday afternoon.

"As we all know, JT was heavily involved in his community in

regards to all things music, his amazing bandmates, his love of performance cars, motorcycles, car shows, planes, his work family, and all of his friendships and chosen family members that he has cultivated over the years. He loved each and every one of you so much. I know he will be missed dearly by so many," family wrote on the memorial page.

The Livermore Police Department's traffic unit continues to investigate the circumstances of Thomas' death, and no determination has been made yet as to fault or potential criminal charges, according to the department.

Thomas was riding his motorcycle northbound on North Mines Road when an SUV in the southbound direction attempted to make a left turn onto Shirley Way around 4:50 p.m. Oct. 17, police reported at the time. The T-intersection does not have a stop sign for either direction of North Mines Road.

The SUV and motorcycle collided, and Thomas sustained fatal injuries, dying at the scene,

according to police. The driver of the SUV, a Livermore woman in her early 60s whose name has not been released, remained at the scene and cooperated with officers, police said.

"The initial investigation suggests the driver did not see the motorcyclist and failed to yield to the motorcyclist. Police do not believe drugs nor alcohol played a role," police reported on Oct. 18.

Thomas' death marked the fourth fatal crash within the Livermore city limits in 2023, according to LPD.

—Jeremy Walsh

### In other news

- Police arrested a San Ramon man on suspicion of breaking into a wig store in Dublin late last month while saying they think he may also be responsible for a handful of similar crimes at the same store during the past year.

Dublin Police Services arrested 44-year-old Robert Butler on

See BULLETIN on Page 17

## POLICE REPORT

The Pleasanton Police Department made the following information available.

### Dec. 8

#### Vandalism

■ 5:01 a.m. on the 6700 block of Bernal Avenue

#### Fraud

■ 9:18 a.m. on the 5800 block of Owens Drive

#### Burglary

■ 11:55 a.m. on the 5000 block of Foothill Road

#### Drug violation

■ 1:35 p.m. at Stoneridge Drive and I-680 southbound

### Dec. 7

#### Domestic battery

■ 12:15 a.m. on Springhouse Drive

#### Theft

■ 8:31 a.m., 6600 block of Owens Drive; theft from auto

■ 10:25 a.m., 5500 block of Sunol Boulevard; theft from structure

■ 1 p.m., 4300 block of Rosewood Drive; auto theft

■ 3 p.m. on the 1500 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

#### Fraud

■ 12:55 p.m. on the 3500 block of Stanley Boulevard

### Dec. 6

#### Burglary

■ 4:31 a.m. on the 6700 block of Santa Rita Road

#### Assault/battery

■ 9:28 a.m. on the 400 block of Old Bernal Avenue

#### Bicycle theft

■ 11:04 a.m. on the 3400 block of Andrews Drive

#### Fraud

■ 11:28 a.m. on the 5800 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

#### DUI

■ 3:25 p.m. on the 400 block of Old Bernal Avenue

#### Robbery

■ 5:04 p.m. on the 1300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

### Dec. 5

#### Vandalism

■ 10 a.m. on the 7000 block of Pleasanton Avenue

#### Theft

■ 4:15 p.m. on the 3900 block of Santa Rita Road

#### Warrant arrest

■ 6 p.m. at Hacienda and Owens drives

#### Burglary

■ 7:30 p.m. on the 1000 block of Harvest Circle

#### Drug violation

■ 9:07 p.m. on the 1000 block of Harvest Circle

### Dec. 4

#### Burglary

■ 6:44 a.m. on the 3700 block of Stanley Boulevard

■ 8:12 p.m. on the 00 block of Sycamore Creek Way

#### Theft

■ 2:13 p.m. on the 3400 block of Old Foothill Road

■ 4:01 p.m. on the 5700 block of Johnson Drive

■ 4:37 p.m. on the 2500 block of Secretariat Drive

■ 4:49 p.m., 6600 block of Owens Drive; auto theft

### Dec. 3

#### Drug violation

■ 8:10 a.m. on the 5200 block of Hopyard Road

#### Drug violation

■ 12:20 p.m. on the 3200 block of Marilyn Court

#### Alcohol violation

■ 6:55 p.m. on the 000 block of West Angela Street

### Dec. 2

#### Drug violation

■ 12:33 a.m. on the 6800 block of Santa Rita Road

■ 4:10 a.m. at Main and Ray streets

#### Warrant arrest

■ 10:44 a.m. at Owens Drive and BART Station

#### Domestic battery

■ 11:25 a.m. on Longspur Way

#### Theft

■ 11:33 a.m. on the 3900 block of Empire Court

■ 5:15 p.m., 1300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting

■ 5:48 p.m. on the 1200 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

■ 8:29 p.m., 1500 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting

### Dec. 1

#### Burglary

■ 5:16 a.m. on the 6100 block of Stoneridge Drive

#### Theft

■ 7:57 a.m. on the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive

■ 9:02 p.m., 1400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting

#### Graffiti offense

■ 1:51 p.m. on the 7300 block of Johnson Drive

#### Vandalism

■ 3:13 p.m. on the 1300 block of Brookline Loop

#### Fraud

■ 5:58 p.m. on the 8200 block of Moller Drive

#### Drug violation

■ 7:54 p.m. on the 8000 block of Mountain View Drive

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## BULLETIN

Continued from Page 16

Nov. 30 pursuit to a warrant alleging burglary and vandalism, according to Capt. Gurvinder Gosal. He posted bail soon after being booked into Santa Rita Jail.

The latest investigation began after DPS officers responded to Valley Rags and Wigs Shop at around 2:45 a.m. Nov. 29 for an audible alarm, Gosal said. Officers found the front glass door smashed and pry marks on the door frame and lock, but it looked like the would-be burglar was unable to get inside.

According to police, this was the fifth time the wig store on San Ramon Road was targeted in an attempted or successful burglary this year.

Gosal said investigators probing the Nov. 29 incident soon developed information to lead them to identify Butler as the possible suspect. The captain noted their suspect had a prior history of being arrested for burglary.

Gosal further alleged that “Dublin Police believes Robert Butler may have also been responsible for these prior incidents” at Valley Rags and Wigs Shop in 2023.

That list includes a January incident in which someone shattered an exterior glass wall, reached inside and stole an estimated \$2,300 in merchandise, as well as one incident in September and two others in November when someone broke the glass door but couldn’t get inside and fled the scene, according to Gosal.

The DPS investigations team authored an arrest warrant on Nov. 30 and detained Butler later that evening, according to Gosal. A subsequent search of the man’s residence allegedly yielded other items from a burglary in a neighboring jurisdiction including illegal drugs and multiple wigs — although, according to Gosal, the owner of Valley Rags and Wigs Shop could not confirm those wigs came from their shop.

Butler was placed under arrest on suspicion of burglary, vandalism, possession of stolen property and narcotics possession, Gosal said. The suspect remains out of custody after posting bail.

It is unclear whether the Alameda County District Attorney’s Office has filed charges in the case yet. The Alameda County Superior Court online search page lists no new felony cases against Butler as of Sunday afternoon.

Anyone with information potentially relevant to the wig shop burglary investigation can contact DPS at 925-833-6626.

—Jeremy Walsh

• The Alameda County DA’s Office has decided not to go forward with any charges against a

Fremont police officer that fatally shot a suspect in 2021, the office said last Friday.

Oakland man Joshua Gloria, 34, was shot and killed by Fremont officer Brian Burch on March 24, 2021 near Highway 84 and Ardenwood Boulevard.

Police alleged that Gloria was driving a stolen car associated with an armed robbery and was also carrying a firearm.

“We believe that Fremont Police Officer Brian Burch ‘had valid reasons to believe that Mr. Gloria represented a substantial risk of causing severe harm or even death to both himself and those in the vicinity and further that he reasonably believed that he needed to use deadly force to stop Mr. Gloria from fleeing,’” reads a statement released by the district attorney’s office.

Alameda County District Attorney Pamela Price in January announced that her office would be reviewing in-custody deaths and police shootings in her area, and she formed a Public Accountability Unit to do so, or PAU. Gloria’s case was one of eight examined by her office.

According to Price, so far, charges have been filed against two sheriff’s deputies in the Vinetta Martin case, who took her own life at Santa Rita Jail in April 2021. At the time, there were accusations of inadequate cell checks and that guards had improperly cataloged cell checks.

In May, deputies Sheri Baughman and Amanda Bracamontes were charged with falsifying records pertaining to Martin’s suicide.

—Bay City News Service

• Dublin police recently arrested a local man who was employed as a youth counselor for allegedly having sexually explicit content of children in his possession.

DPS officers served an arrest warrant on Nobumasa Masubuchi, a 23-year-old Dublin resident, at approximately 3:15 p.m. Nov. 24, according to Capt. Gosal. Investigators have reportedly been looking into the suspect for the last four months, including hours of surveillance and authoring search warrants.

“During the course of the investigation, it was discovered Masubuchi possessed a multitude of (child sexual abuse material) depicting victims of sexual assaults possibly as young as 4 years of age,” Gosal said in a press release.

Masubuchi worked as a counselor in a Sacramento facility for special needs youth, and he often assisted clients and regularly conducted home visits of at-risk minors, according to Gosal.

The suspect was placed under arrest on suspicion of possessing child pornography. “Sacramento County officials have been notified and no additional crimes have been confirmed at this time,” Gosal said.

“He bailed out of custody not too long after we arrested and booked him into Santa Rita Jail,” Gosal added. Masubuchi had no previous criminal record,

according to the captain.

Gosal told the Weekly prosecutors have not yet pressed formal charges in the case.

—Nicole Gonzales

• The Danville Police Department is investigating a robbery at a consignment store in town last week in which all three suspects remain at-large.

Police responded to the scene at Home Consignment Center at 1901 Camino Ramon at 3:53 p.m. Dec. 6, after two people entered the store and took several pieces of jewelry from a case they shattered before fleeing with an accomplice who was waiting for them in the parking lot.

No injuries were reported and there were no weapons present, according to police.

Officers believe that three men drove to the store, with two entering the store to steal merchandise from the case as the third stayed in the parking lot before all three left the scene. Police said there were no further descriptions of the suspects.

No other information was available this week, with the case continuing to be under investigation, according to police. Anyone with additional information is asked to contact Sgt. Veronique Balea at 925-314-3703 or at vbalea@danville.ca.gov. ■

—Jeanita Lyman

## Marilyn Foreman

October 27, 1936 – December 5, 2023

Marilyn Porter Foreman was born in Berkeley October 27 1936. She graduated from Berkeley High in 1954 then UC Berkeley in 1958. She married Berkeley native Don Foreman June 28 1958 who was in the US Navy and stationed in San Diego. She obtained her teaching credentials from San Diego State then taught in San Diego and San Jose before moving to Pleasanton in 1966 where she taught 3rd grade until her retirement in 1993. She is survived by sons Steve & Jim, sister in law Wendy, siblings Glen, Paul, Lee and grandchildren Kyle & Korrynn. However because of her matriarchal love her extended family were dozens. Marilyn was a thoughtful and generous soul never forgetting a birthday with cards of kind supportive words with gifts and cash given to a network of loved ones. Marilyn was blessed with an infectious smile and presence that would brighten a room forging life long friendships with quality women groups fondly known as “The God Squad” and “Big Hearted Sisters”. After Dons passing in 2002 she re-discovered love with Frank Williams and went to concerts and travelled the World. Upon Franks death in 2016 she found love again with loyal teenage friend Dick Schulze until her passing with dignity at his home after a battle with cancer and dementia. Marilyn was also involved in the Amador Valley Scholarship selection committee and will forever join Dons name now: The Don and Marilyn Foreman Memorial Scholarship. Vacations at Donner, snow skiing, Shakespearean Plays, walks with neighbors, reading, weddings, baby showers, golf, traveling, are just a few activities she enjoyed during a GREAT life! A life well lived during the best era ever she will be dearly missed by many.



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## PLEASANTON PREPS

By DENNIS MILLER

### Dublin tops Amador in Washington Tournament finals

Also: Amador boys' freshman soccer opens season with 6-0 win

The Amador Valley boys' basketball team had a great run last week, advancing to the finals of the Washington Tournament before falling to Dublin in the championship game.

In the finals, the Dons fell 71-55 but got great efforts on offense from Kasen Krueger with 17 points and Cade Krueger with 13 points. Ori Khasin finished with nine points. Amador opened the tournament

with a 76-49 win over Newark Memorial.

The Kruegers had good games with Kasen scoring 14 and Cade adding 13. Freshman Jaylen Smith had 15, with Khasin adding 11 and Jake Goldsworthy chipping in with seven points.

In the second game, a 68-65 win over Washington, Smith had 19 to lead the scoring. Cade Krueger had 15 points, Brady McMillin added 11 and Nate Jetter finished with eight.

Earlier in the week the Dons beat Heritage 62-51 and were paced by 26 points from Kasen Krueger. Eli Pace had seven points and Smith added seven.

#### Foothill varsity boys' soccer

The Falcons opened their play the week of Dec. 4 with a 2-0 win over Freedom.

Freedom committed an own goal to open the scoring when a cross from Matthew Tahir was knocked into the goal by a Freedom defender. The Falcons made it 2-0 when Vendant Shrivastava scored off an assist by Jaden Singh.

Three days later Foothill dropped a tough 1-0 final to Newark Memorial, conceding an early goal. Despite several great chances, the Falcons couldn't get the equalizer. Goalie Aidan Ahmad had several saves to keep Foothill in the game.

#### Foothill JV boys' soccer

The Falcons had a strong week, beating Freedom 4-0 and then topping Newark Memorial 2-0.

In the win over Freedom, Landon Yamashita scored with an assist from Ashrith Gandluru to get the scoring going. Carlos Vincente then added a pair of goals — one off a corner from Adnan Rousta and the other off a deflection off an opponent. Gandluru also had a score off

### PET OF THE WEEK



EAST BAY SPCA

#### Meet Tarmac

An 8-year-old American pit bull terrier, Tarmac is a distinguished senior gentleman with a zest for life. Whether it's treats, toys or good company, he's all in. Despite his senior status, his goofy side comes out, especially when food is involved. While he prefers a home without kids, offer him a delicious meal and you'll have a devoted companion. Adoption fee is waived as part of the "Cozy Home for the Holidays" promotion on select big dogs through Dec. 31. Meet him at East Bay SPCA's Dublin Adoption Center today or go to [eastbayspca.org](http://eastbayspca.org).

an assist by Tyler Russo.

In the win over Newark, Atlas Kading scored a shot from outside the box. Jayden Sood added a penalty kick in the second half for the other goal.

#### Amador boys' varsity soccer

The Dons suffered a 5-2 loss to Clayton Valley to open last week on Dec. 5.

Henry Beatty scored early at the six-minute mark with an assist from Ryan Bell, who played a great game.

Clayton Valley ran off the next three goals until Amador cut it to 3-2 with four minutes left on a free kick score off the foot of Anish Dhakal. Amador pressed high for an equalizer but were unsuccessful and gave up two fast-break goals in the last four minutes of play.

The Dons found their winning way later in the week topping Antioch 4-1.

Goals came from Beatty, Riley Borges, Elliott de la Torre, and Bell, all in the first half. Isaac Hilton was recognized as player of the match for his solid performance throughout.

#### Amador JV boys' soccer

On Dec. 5, the side finished with a 0-0 draw against Clayton Valley.

The defense was led by Atishay Sati, Riley Luevano, Eoin Stapleton

filling in at right back, and Tate Hess. Goalkeeper Anon Prathnadi orchestrated the defense and earned the shutout.

Later in the week, the Dons beat Antioch 2-1.

The game-winner came from Frankie McBean off a top-notch assist by Avi Gorrepati. The first Amador goal came when Santiago Rodriguez Torres ripped home a free kick from outside the box.

#### Amador freshman soccer

The freshmen played their first game of the season, beating Antioch 6-0 last Saturday.

Matthew Sun scored three goals, and Muhriz Munir added a pair of goals. Team captains and midfielders Leo Wiedemeyer and Andrew Ku played key roles.

Wiedemeyer scored the sixth goal and Ku had two assists.

Joseph Prunty and Oliver Heid split halves at goalie, teaming up to get the shutout. The Amador offense took 20 shots with Taru Aware, Nico Baylosis, Yusef Awad and Cole Kikuchi also in the mix. ■

*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).*

## Employment

Safeway Inc. hiring IT Manager/Data Engineering in Pleasanton, CA. May telecommute reports to Pleasanton. Must have legal right to work in US. EOE. Subj. to bckgrnd check. \$167,040-207k/yr. Email resume: [TA.Applications@albertsons.com](mailto:TA.Applications@albertsons.com) Attn: M. Gutierrez. Ref# 1023SM

Safeway Inc. hiring Senior Technical Project Manager/ IT Digital Marketing in Pleasanton, CA. May telecommute reports to Pleasanton. Must have legal right to work in US. EOE. Subj. to bckgrnd check. \$163,571-\$196,237.60/yr. Email resume [TA.Applications@albertsons.com](mailto:TA.Applications@albertsons.com). Attn: M. Gutierrez. Ref # 1023NG

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### THE CITY OF PLEASANTON



#### HIGHLIGHTS

##### City Council Meeting

Tuesday, December 19, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.

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

- Continued from December 5, 2023 - Receive an update on the development of a Water System Management Plan
- Adopt a resolution to accept the Fiscal Year 2022/23 year-end Financial Report for the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) budget
- Adopt a resolution to accept the FY 2022/23 year-end operating budget report, approve budget amendments in multiple funds, and designate the General Fund balance
- Introduce ordinance amending Chapter 17.16 of the municipal code regarding tree preservation, waive first reading, and receive an update on the Urban Forest Master Plan and outreach results

To explore more about Pleasanton, visit us at [www.cityofpleasantonca.gov](http://www.cityofpleasantonca.gov)



CHEHANG SUN

The Amador freshman soccer team made their debut a winning one last weekend.

## Entertainment

**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. Dec. 15-17. Tickets \$49. Visit [livermorearts.org](http://livermorearts.org).

**JEFF BORDES AND FRIENDS** Jeff Bordes and Friends return to the Firehouse Arts Center to present a New Orleans Christmas. 8 p.m. Dec. 16. Tickets \$20-\$30. Visit [firehousearts.org](http://firehousearts.org)

**A ROCKIN' HOLIDAY REVIEW** Jared Freiburg & The Vagabonds return to The Firehouse stage this Holiday Season for another memorable high energy performance filled with joy and fun as they celebrate the golden age of American music. 7:30 p.m., Dec. 21. Tickets \$20-\$30. Visit [firehousearts.org](http://firehousearts.org).

**NOCHEBUENA: A CHRISTMAS SPECTACULAR** This breathtaking and traditional show featuring a talented cast of dancers, singers and musicians take you on a journey through the joy and wonder of the holiday season with stunning choreography, dazzling costumes and unforgettable music. 8 p.m., Dec. 23. Tickets \$100-\$130. Visit [livermorearts.org](http://livermorearts.org).

## Exhibits

**THE DON CENTURY EXHIBIT** Featuring memorabilia and artifacts from throughout the school's history with clips from interviews with alumni and current and former faculty and staff. Open now through Dec. 31. 603 Main St. Visit [museumonmain.org](http://museumonmain.org).

**LANDSCAPES FROM WILLIAM KEITH TO TODAY** This art exhibit showcases the beauty of California's landscapes over the past 150 years, featuring works from William Keith to contemporary artists. Thursdays through Sundays 1-5 p.m. Through Jan. 7. The UNCLE Credit Union Art Gallery at the Bankhead Theater.

## Holiday

**LETTERS TO SANTA** Write a letter to Santa and he'll write back. Drop off at Robert Livermore Community Center and write the child's name and address clearly so Santa knows where to mail his letter. 4446 East Ave. Now through Dec. 15.

**SPIRIT & SWEATER STROLL** Stroll, visit, sip and shop in your ugliest holiday sweater while strolling through downtown Pleasanton where guests will enjoy spirits and craft cocktails at a number of

downtown locations. 5-8 p.m., Dec. 16. Visit [pleasantondowntown.net](http://pleasantondowntown.net).

**PACIFIC PEARL HOLIDAY CELEBRATION** Pacific Pearl invites the community to its festive Holiday Celebration where children and their families can take selfies with Santa and The Grinch. 2-4 p.m., Dec. 17. 2693-2733 Stoneridge Drive in Pleasanton.

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

**DEACON DAVE'S CHRISTMAS DISPLAY** The 40th annual Deacon Dave's Christmas Display is through Jan. 1. Visit [casadelpomba.com](http://casadelpomba.com).

**HOLIDAY ICE RINK** The Kristi Yamaguchi Holiday Ice Rink at City Center Bishop Ranch is open now through Jan. 7. 10 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. Tickets are purchased per 90 minute sessions. Visit [citycenterbishopranch.com](http://citycenterbishopranch.com).

## Support

**TOYS FOR TOTS** Drop off new/unwrapped toys at Robert Livermore Community Center now through Dec. 15. 4444 East Ave.

### HOT MEALS FREE-OF-CHARGE

Open Heart Kitchen serves free hot meals to anyone who is struggling to make ends meet. Monday-Friday, 1:15-3 p.m. at the Robert Livermore Community Center, 4444 East Ave. Closed Dec. 25, Jan. 1.

**SOUP-ER TUESDAYS** Volunteers will serve warm soup during the chilly months for all unhoused individuals in the Tri-Valley. Every Tuesday individuals can "grab-n'-go" or stay inside to connect with others, stay warm and learn about local resources. 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. CityServe Care Center 3311 Pacific Ave., Livermore.

**FREE SHOWER & LAUNDRY SERVICES** Monday-Wednesday, 12-3:30 p.m., Asbury United Methodist Church, 4743 East Ave., Livermore. Closed Christmas Day.

## Veterans

**VETERANS EVENT** Pleasanton Library will host the VA Palo Alto Mobile Medical Outreach team to provide veteran benefits review, enroll veterans for care with the VA Palo Alto Health System, answer questions about VA services and provide medical care including flu shots for enrolled veterans. 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Dec. 18. 400 Old Bernal Ave.

## Seniors

**PLEASANTON RIDES** Pleasanton Rides is a door-to-door, shared-ride transportation service for Pleasanton Seniors. Mondays to Fridays, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Call 925-398-1045 or visit [blacktietrans.com/more-info](http://blacktietrans.com/more-info).

**TECH TUTORING AT THE PLEASANTON SENIOR CENTER** Monday, 12:00 p.m., Wednesdays, 9-10 a.m. \$3.00R / \$3.50NR. Bring your own device and call 925-931-5365 for appointment.

**WOODSHOP AT THE PLEASANTON SENIOR CENTER** Use their tools and equipment to complete a project while an experienced woodshop monitor is there to help and guide. Must bring your own wood and pass a safety test before using equipment. 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays. \$5.75R / \$6.75NR.

## Government

**PLEASANTON CITY COUNCIL** The next Pleasanton City Council Meeting is 7 p.m., Dec. 19. Visit [cityofpleasantonca.gov](http://cityofpleasantonca.gov).

**LIVERMORE PLANNING COMMISSION** The Livermore Planning Commission meets the first and third Tuesday of the month. The next meeting is 7 p.m., Dec. 19. Visit [cityoflivermore.net](http://cityoflivermore.net).

## 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)

### LAWTON-CLAREMENT

#### FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No.: 602243

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

1.) Lawton-Clarement, 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)

### XY 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)

### 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 Murrrieta 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)

### NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF:

STEPHEN VINCENT SOVIERO, STEPHEN V. SOVIERO, STEPHEN SOVIERO, STEVE SOVIERO

Case No.: 23PR043171

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of STEPHEN VINCENT SOVIERO, STEPHEN V. SOVIERO, STEPHEN SOVIERO, STEVE SOVIERO.

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

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

THE PETITION requests the decedent's will and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. The will and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court. THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking

certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority. A HEARING on the petition will be held on January 19 2024 at 10:15 AM in Dept. 202 of the Superior Court of California, County of Alameda, located at 2120 Martin Luther King, Jr. Way, Berkeley, CA 94704.

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

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

Petitioner in Pro Per:

Wei Soviero

3471 Dennis Dr.

Pleasanton, CA 94588

510-427-8152

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



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# Real Estate

## Danville Brewing announces expansion into Pleasanton

Owner aims to open location on Utah Street within two years

By JEANITA LYMAN

Danville Brewing Company is set to make a foray further into the Tri-Valley after years of operating only in its namesake hometown, with a second location in Pleasanton now on the horizon.

Company officials announced on social media Nov. 30 they had closed a deal on a lot in the nearby Tri-Valley community that is set to be the site of a second taproom, biergarten and production brewery — on Utah Street near Stanley Boulevard, a little more than a mile from downtown Pleasanton.

“Next steps are working with our architect and contractor to design the space and figure out the best way to execute our vision,” Danville Brewing owner Marcus Maita told the Weekly. “We have a great opportunity with a nice-sized lot to start from scratch, so we definitely want to capitalize on that.”

Maita added that while the plans are in their early stages with an uncertain timeline, the company’s goal was to have the new location open for business in less than two years.

Pleasanton was a natural location for the brewery to expand to, Maita said, pointing to its similar characteristics to Danville, including a well-trafficked downtown area valued



COURTESY GETTY IMAGES

and trafficked by local residents and visitors from throughout the region.

“Pleasanton has always been on our radar,” Maita said. “It’s obviously super close to our first location, but it’s also an area with a great downtown, incredible community and a place that so many including myself and family have always enjoyed to visit.”

Maita said that although the Pleasanton expansion is the only one on the company’s agenda so far, the additional production space would allow the brewery to broaden its retail market. ■

**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.**



*Happy Holidays!*

**Pleasanton  
Weekly**



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Katie Moe | 925.216.9083 | DRE #01507863 | [connectcahomes.com](http://connectcahomes.com)

## Santa's Favorite Realtors

In heartfelt appreciation brimming with gratitude, thank you for hiring Venema Homes! Your continued support truly means the world to us! We are humbled by your referrals, your repeat business, your kind words and actions. It is our intention to be a deeply enriching resource for your real estate needs, and your journey HOME. We wish for you the magic of the holiday season, may your lives and homes sparkle with anticipation, love and miracles. ❤️🎁



"Liz and her team are absolutely amazing, the best in Pleasanton. They worked so closely and patiently with my family. With Liz we had no problem finding our dream home. She showed us countless properties, due to her friendly and genuine personality we felt we could count on her honest advice."

-Jason D.

"THREE THUMBS UP for Liz Venema and her wonderful team! We interviewed several agents before choosing Liz and are so glad we did. If we had to do it over again, we'd go with Liz and her team every time. We couldn't be happier with our decision to select Venema Homes!"

-Rob S.

"When faced with major transitions like selling a home and moving, it is a blessing to have agents who know that this process is more than a transaction; it's a process of letting go and preparing a home for the next buyers. Having a smart, professional, and compassionate team made all the difference."

-Candance C.

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**SOLD \$300K OVER ASKING WITH MULTIPLE OFFERS**

**3622 Diablo Court  
Pleasanton  
4bd/3ba, 3,065+/-sq.ft  
21,490+/-sq.ft lot  
SOLD FOR \$2,829,000**



**SOLD \$145K OVER ASKING WITH MULTIPLE OFFERS**

**36055 Asquith Place  
Fremont  
4bd/2ba, 1,797+/-sq.ft  
6,186+/-sq.ft lot  
SOLD FOR \$1,695,000**



**SOLD BEFORE GOING ON THE MLS**

**4877 Black Avenue  
Pleasanton  
4bd/2ba, 2,208+/-sq.ft  
8,856+/-sq.ft lot  
SOLD FOR \$1,750,000**



**PENDING WITH MULTIPLE OFFERS**

**2234 Via Espada  
Pleasanton  
3bd/2.5ba, 1,950+/-sq.ft  
6,700+/-sq/ft lot  
OFFERED AT \$1,679,000**

**Zillow 283 ★★★★★ Reviews**

My wife and I recently sold our home in Pleasanton. This was a difficult process for us since we had owned the home for over 36 years. Tim McGuire and the Compass team were outstanding partners throughout the process! They thoughtfully advised us, anticipated our needs on multiple occasions, and were excellent communicators at all times. Their team could literally help us with anything we needed, while maintaining a professional, friendly and supportive demeanor throughout. When questions came up, they were always collaborative partners focused on problem-solving and getting us through it. We got an excellent result utilizing their proven processes, and keen awareness of the market. We highly recommend Tim and his team!  
**Jim Wiggett, Pleasanton**



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