

# Pleasanton Weekly

Celebrating  
Lunar New Year

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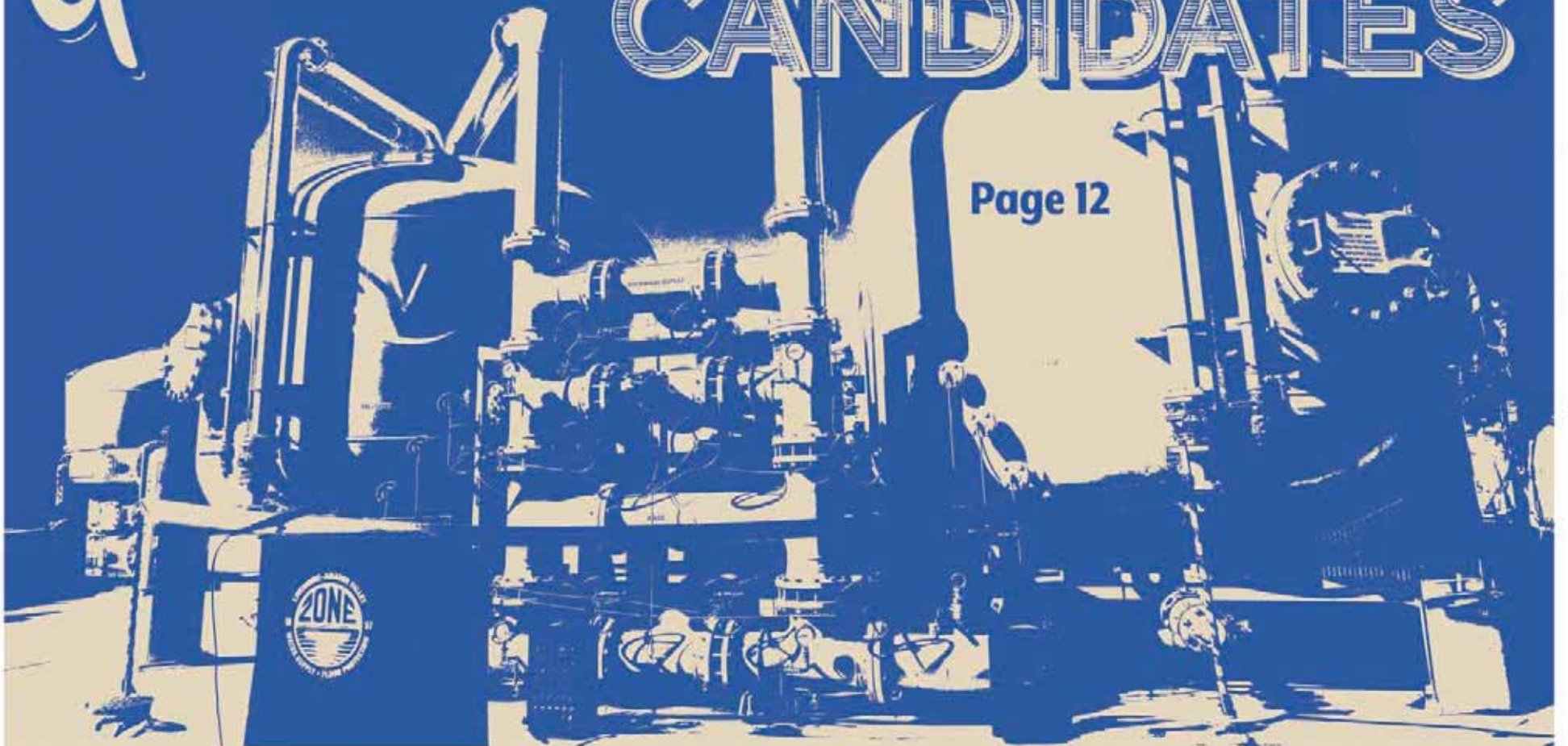
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## Get to know the **ZONE 7** CANDIDATES

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Four people running for full terms, two vying for short term on local water board

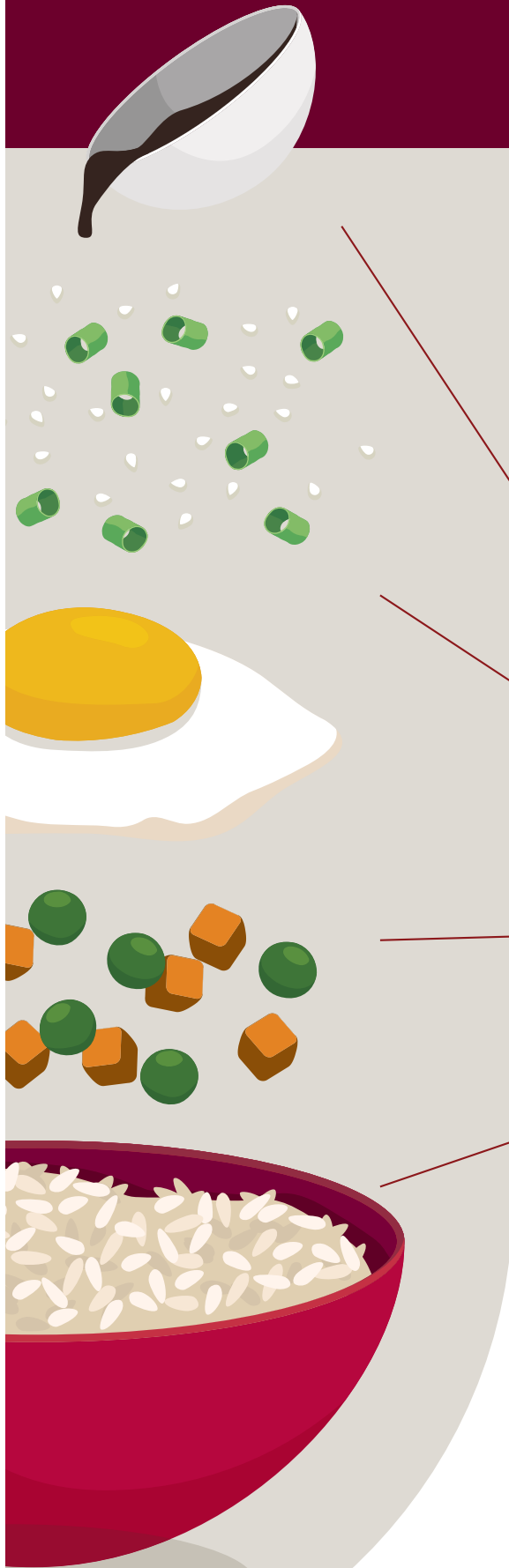
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Health Care

# Food for Heart



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# WHAT A WEEK



BY JEREMY WALSH

## MLK Legacy Awards

Last week I had the privilege of participating in the 24th annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Fellowship Breakfast.

The Pleasanton Community of Character Collaborative asked me to introduce one of the MLK Legacy Award recipients, Tri-Valley REACH. The organizers said my Oct. 13 column "Expanding their REACH" (which highlighted the nonprofit's accomplishments in 2023) is what put REACH on the award committee's radar.

"The entire REACH organization is so deserving of this recognition," I told the audience of local dignitaries in the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel ballroom for the morning presentation on Jan. 22.

"Their founders, leaders and volunteers have identified a societal shortcoming and have galvanized collective energy to spur positive change to help those affected. I can think of no better way to represent the ideals embraced by Dr. King, this Legacy Award and the Pleasanton Community of Character Collaborative."

My words could easily apply to all three of the award winners.

For the past 33 years, Tri-Valley REACH has been uniquely focused on supporting one of the most under-served groups in our community. The nonprofit buys homes within existing neighborhoods to lease at affordable rental rates to adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities — with a current count of 42 residents in 12 homes across Pleasanton and Livermore.

And the number is going up after REACH last year purchased and upgraded a townhouse in Livermore and received approvals and funding to construct accessory dwelling units at two of its existing properties in Pleasanton.

"The common thread is inclusive independence. Residents are able to live and thrive on their own, together," I told the audience before handing the award to REACH board chair Kay King and vice chair Sharon Almeida.

The second MLK Legacy Award recipient was local Dress A Girl Around the World coordinator Suzanne Beck. The organization, with chapters across the U.S. and abroad, prepares and sends new dresses to girls in impoverished areas worldwide.

With Beck at the helm as ambassador, the Bay Area chapter has grown from six people in 2011

to nearly 400 volunteers today — sewing and distributing more than 65,000 dresses in that time, including a whopping 7,200 last year.

"When I first started ... you don't realize when you do things, the ripples that happen. And the stories that we've heard about our girls who get dresses," Beck said, her voice catching.

"And we all know how good it makes us feel when we get a new outfit. And to think about these little girls in poverty-stricken areas and third world countries who don't have ... I mean, they're just in rags. And we give them a dress to show their dignity, that God loves them, that they have worth," Beck added.

The final recipient was Catherine Brown, a teacher at Frederiksen Elementary School in Dublin who was recognized for her long devotion to the Girl Scouts, for creating an annual Veterans' Day ceremony for her school, and for initiating Dublin's annual "One City, One Book" program.

"I've consistently prioritized education and community involvement. However, reaching this point would never have been possible without the unwavering support from incredible individuals and organizations who believed in me and supported me and my ideas, even when they might have sounded a bit crazy at first," Brown said in her acceptance speech.

She also credited the "community-minded changemakers" who have helped drive her initiatives to great success.

The fellowship breakfast, emceed by former Dublin mayor Tim Sbranti, also included a special performance by Pleasanton Unified School District's burgeoning Step program, the Full Force Steppers.

And the keynote address was delivered by Jacqueline D. Brown, senior principal of executive leadership enablement and coaching Workday.

"They exemplify Dr. King's message that life's most persistent question is, what are you doing for others?" Brown said of the Legacy Award recipients.

She added, "The dream of unity that Dr. King spoke of is a work in progress, a baton passed on from one generation to the next. It is up to us to carry it forward with the same courage and conviction and resolve that he did. It is up to us to build bridges where walls once stood, to light torches of knowledge where ignorance prevails and to sow seeds of love where hatred takes root." ■

### About the Cover

Meet the six candidates for Zone 7 Water Agency Board of Directors on the March 5 primary election ballot (from left on cover): Seema Badar, Sandy Figuers, Laurene Green, Alan Burnham, Cathy Brown and Kathy Narum. Contributed photos. Cover design by Doug Young.

Vol. XXV, Number 2

# Gina Piper

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# Streetwise

ASKED AROUND TOWN

## Did you experiment with any non-alcoholic beverages during "Dry January"?



**Vinny Singh**  
Realtor

Actually, yes. I've been drinking flavored sparkling seltzers and I enjoy them. For me, it's more about just drinking something, and having a drink in my hand while I'm socializing. It relaxes me. It's not really about the alcohol at all.



**Adrianna Emory**  
Team leader

I have not really experimented with non-alcoholic beverages because I tried to do Dry January but failed after just a week. But I'm fine with that because I don't really drink much. It's just a social thing for me.



**Stan Bochenek, with Freedom**  
Sales director

I'm not participating in Dry January. However, I really do enjoy drinking beer, whether it's alcoholic or not. So I've been experimenting with many kinds of non-alcoholic beers, just because I enjoy them and they're being offered everywhere this month.



**Jeff Raaker, with River**  
Sales

I have not. I'm not at all opposed to Dry January, and I've heard there are a lot of tasty non-alcoholic beverages being promoted to help people make it through. I just haven't tried any of them yet. Maybe I'll try one tonight!



**Alene Travalini** Tasting room manager

I purchased an overpriced bottle of "gin alternative" and it tasted like peppermint-floral water. I didn't like it all, but the silver lining is I quickly discovered my non-alcoholic drink of choice is a mixture of apple cider vinegar and seltzer, in a fancy glass. It's really refreshing, and I realized that when it comes to enjoying cocktails and socializing with friends, all that really matters to me is the people I'm with.

—Compiled by Nancy and Jeff Lewis

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

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## DIGEST

### Muffins with Bunny

It's never too early to plan for the Easter season. The Livermore Area Recreation and Park District this week announced the return of its "Muffins with Bunny" event at the Robert Livermore Community Center.

Registration is now open for both sessions on the morning of March 23. Designed for the whole family, the event features springtime activities, muffins, snacks, games, crafts and the opportunity to meet the LARPD Bunny, according to the district.

"Muffins with Bunny captures the essence of spring in a fun setting, providing families with a memorable experience and a chance to create lasting memories together," LARPD recreation supervisor Joseph Benjamin said in a statement.

People who want to participate are encouraged to register early as space is limited. For more information, go to [www.larpd.org](http://www.larpd.org) or call 925-373-5700.

### Lemaires in concert

Trinity Lutheran Church on Hopyard Road in downtown Pleasanton is welcoming musicians Mark and Cindy Lemaire this Sunday evening (Feb. 4) as part of the Trinity Concert Series.

The couple are known to be "a pleasure to listen to and fun to just be with," church officials said. Mark Lemaire is a vocalist, composer and guitarist known for his unique playing that includes masterful fingerpicking, slap-and-tap harmonics and "picchiettando" style.

"In addition to Mark's solo guitar pieces, the duo harmonies with Cindy Lemaire are so perfectly matched that they seem like one voice," church reps said. "They sing of the vicissitudes of love and the strange surprise of middle age creeping up on us. This is music for adults, yet with clarity and incisiveness appealing to the part of us that is ageless."

### Navigating business

Dublin's Office of Economic Development is recruiting qualified business consultants to submit proposals for the city's Small Business Navigator Program. The deadline is Feb. 22, with an online informational session set for next Thursday (Feb. 8).

Aiming to connect experienced and specialized consultants with small business owners, the program seeks "to assist business owners in thriving and addressing challenges by offering technical assistance in the following areas: business planning and development, marketing and advertising, architecture and space design, technology consulting, graphic design, legal services and financial guidance," city officials said. ■

## PUSD, teachers still at crossroads in prolonged contract negotiations

More complications arise as district now faces tough budget decisions that could lead to significant cuts

By **CHRISTIAN TRUJANO**

As the Association of Pleasanton Teachers and the Pleasanton Unified School District prepare to enter the fact-finding stage of the contract negotiations process, the district recently presented a budget update at the Jan. 25 school board meeting that outlines even more financial challenges.

Those challenges will not only impact the ongoing contract talks, but will also bring on reductions in staffing across the district and tough decisions the board will have to make in terms of cuts to positions, programs and other expenses.

Back in October, the APT declared an impasse in negotiations with the district. Since then, there have been counter proposals from both sides and multiple failed negotiation sessions between the two sides.

The district originally proposed raising teacher salaries 6.3% but has since increased its offer to 6.5%, while the APT initially asked for a 15% raise and has since lowered it to 14.25%. APT is also fighting for healthcare with premium increases; reduced class sizes and workloads; and changes to the school calendar.

The union also recently announced that its members voted 98.5% in favor of authorizing a strike ahead of a state-mandated mediation session in December in the hopes that both sides would reach an agreement before a strike would take place.

While the teachers have not officially called a strike nor have immediate plans to, the vote does mean that the APT members have given union leadership the clearance to make that decision, if needed, as the two sides remain at impasse while far

apart on salary proposals.

Both sides did not reach an agreement during that meeting in December, which means both parties will now enter what's known as a fact-finding stage in the labor negotiations.

Fact-finding is a process where one neutral party, along with one representative from each side of the negotiations, reviews the proposals, documents and any facts before attempting to reach an agreement. If an agreement is not reached, then the fact-finder releases a report.

According to the PUSD negotiations website, the state-appointed mediator sent a letter to the Public Employees Relation Board (PERB) on Jan. 10 to release the two sides from mediation and to recommend they enter the fact-finding process in order to reach an agreement.

"Our next steps in the Impasse Process will be to work with PERB to establish the three-member panel and determine the hearing date, which will be scheduled within 10 days of the panel information," the website states.

Once certified for fact-finding, that process could take up to 50 days as the panelists are appointed, the fact-finding hearing is held and the report is released. Once those steps are complete, the district could then implement a contract based on the findings and the union could be forced to strike, according to the district website.

APT President Cheryl Atkins returned to the school board meeting last week to reiterate what she has been saying for the past few months:

See **CONTRACT** on Page 9



COURTESY FIREHOUSE ARTS

MJ's Brass Boppers are performing at the Firehouse Arts Center in Pleasanton next Friday (Feb. 9), promoted as a funk-filled performance in the style of authentic New Orleans swing with elements of modern pop and jazz.

## Black History Month is in full swing

Art, film screenings, music, education among local events

By **NICOLE GONZALES**

For this year's Black History Month, Tri-Valley organizations have planned dozens of community events, from art shows, movie nights, crafts and more. With offerings for all age groups ranging from entertainment to educational, there will be something for everyone during this culturally significant month.

Throughout February, Black History Month is a time in the United States to honor and acknowledge the history and art of Black Americans.

The Firehouse Arts Center in

Pleasanton is one of the many local venues that has curated a lineup of events for the community to participate in.

The center will welcome Alex Taite this Friday (Feb. 2) at 8 p.m. for "Deep River: The Flow of Negro Spirituals Through Time." In the one-man show, Taite will explore aspects of African and African American culture, according to the event description.

The Firehouse is also currently displaying a solo exhibition of artist Orlonda Uffre titled "Visual Passages" through March 2. Firehouse representatives said

Uffre's work "places emphasis on the African diaspora and her personal connection to it."

"I find inspiration everywhere from nature, to dreams, to the cultural environment of the African diaspora, and the politics of our history. Perhaps this is why my creative output is eclectic," Uffre said in a statement about her exhibit.

"My origins incorporate Brooklyn, New York and the African Caribbean diaspora associated with it. Although very much an American, my mother's

See **BLACK HISTORY** on Page 6

## Feds probing LLNL incident

Contaminated property allegedly discovered on and off site

By **JEANITA LYMAN**

The Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory is under federal investigation as of last week for a reported incident last spring in which radioactive contamination was allegedly not properly controlled.

LLNL Director Kim Budil received a notification from the U.S. Department of Energy dated Jan. 24 that the agency's office of enforcement had decided to launch an investigation into the circumstances surrounding a "loss of contamination control" at the Lab in March 2023, and the subsequent discovery of contaminated property on and off site, including at an LLNL employee's residence on April 8, 2023.

A National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) spokesperson told Embarcadero Media Foundation in a statement that a team composed of 13 workers from multiple laboratories, including Livermore, were exposed to the radioactive material iodine-125

See **LAB** on Page 10

# Vineyard Resource Center opens in Livermore

Also: Open Heart Kitchen matching campaign meets \$75,000 goal for new food bank

By NICOLE GONZALES

Open Heart Kitchen and its community partners reached a significant milestone last week with the soft opening of the Vineyard Resource Center in Livermore.

All services were launched on Jan. 22 at the new supportive housing and services development located at 450 N. Livermore Ave., where OHK is operating the commercial-scale kitchen and dining room to provide fresh and nutritious meals.

Referred to as "Vineyard 2.0" during construction, the facility features about two dozen apartments of permanent housing to help the most vulnerable low-income families, along with other services such as showers, laundry, mailboxes and temporary overnight shelter.

The site was previously occupied by the Vineyard Christian Fellowship. The redevelopment of the space was a collaborative effort between OHK, the cities of Livermore, Dublin and Pleasanton and the Housing Consortium of the East Bay along with other partners.

Though services are already underway and residents have started moving into the apartments, OHK Executive Director John Bost said

an official grand opening and ribbon cutting ceremony won't take place until May to coincide with affordable housing month.

## Food bank fundraising

OHK also recently announced the successful completion of a matching campaign in partnership with the Community Health & Education Foundation for its new food bank, also located in Livermore.

The campaign raised a total of \$75,000 for the project. Gifts were matched up to \$50,000 from 135 individuals who donated toward the campaign, along with the \$25,000 matching funds from CHEF, according to a statement from OHK.

"We are immensely proud to partner with nonprofit organizations like Open Heart Kitchen in their noble endeavors," said CHEF Executive Director Maria Mancini in a statement.

OHK officials said they now have about \$500,000 left to fundraise toward the overall \$3 million goal to complete the food bank.

"The build-out of the Open Heart Food Bank will create an infrastructure for large-scale food distribution in the Tri-Valley," said

Denise Boulter, OHK development director. "If a wildfire occurs or a major earthquake hits right now, we are unprepared for a regional disaster-related emergency that would cut off the Tri-Valley from resources in western Alameda County."

Opening a larger facility capable of handling high quantities of food is also key in expanding OHK's overall outreach, according to the organization.

"The Open Heart Food Bank will function as a redistribution center for Dublin, Pleasanton, and Livermore, providing support to local food pantries with fresh produce and grocery items," said OHK operations director, Shawnda Bost.

"During the pandemic Open Heart Kitchen served over 3 million meals through the emergency food distribution at the Alameda County Fairgrounds and surrounding areas. We realized that our operations could be scaled to provide groceries in addition to our existing meal programs," added Bost. "The



CHUCK DECKERT

Open Heart Kitchen operates the kitchen and dining room services at the new Vineyard Resource Center in Livermore.

Open Heart Food Bank program was simply the logical next step for us to meet the growing demand."

Currently, OHK operates its administrative offices, food donation processing, Mobile Pop Up Pantry and Street Outreach Program out of the 19,000-square-foot warehouse located on Marathon Drive in Livermore which will soon also be home to the food bank.

OHK officials said the food bank is still on track to open this summer.

"We invite supporters to help build this important and necessary food bank by making a gift, touring the facility with our staff, or applying to volunteer," said Boulter.

For more information on OHK and its programs, visit [openheartkitchen.org](http://openheartkitchen.org). ■

## BLACK HISTORY

Continued from Page 5

Caribbean ways have forever permeated my sense of self, my thoughts and my art," she added.

Uffre will speak with visitors during a Meet the Artist event on Saturday (Feb. 3), from 1-3 p.m. at the Firehouse.

The fusion group MJ's Brass Boppers will take the Firehouse stage next Friday (Feb. 9) for a funk-filled performance in the style of authentic New Orleans swing with elements of modern pop and jazz.

Bay Area-based singer Stella Health will appear at the Firehouse venue on Feb. 16 to pay tribute to one of the most influential jazz artists of American history. In "Stella Meets Nat", Heath will embody the musical delivery of Nat King Cole's early career.

The Livermore Public Library has also planned a series of gatherings and activities commemorating Black History Month at its three branches throughout the city.

The Rincon branch library will host an educational crafting event for all ages on Friday (Feb. 2) at 3 p.m. During "Freedom Quilt Craft," participants can learn about the Underground Railroad and create paper patches to honor those who fought for enslaved people's freedom.

For the third consecutive year, the Civic Center branch will display "Black History Month Art Exhibit — Art of the African Diaspora" in partnership with the Richmond Art Center.

The exhibit seeks to highlight Black artists of the Bay Area. Featured artists of the Livermore exhibit include

Arthur Norcome, Joseph Robinson, Asual Kwahuumba, Julie Atkinson, Kevin Lance Daniels, Joanne Johnson, and Ashlie Kego.

Running through Feb. 29 in the library's art gallery, the exhibit will feature an artist reception set for Feb. 10 at noon in the library's Community Rooms A and B.

Also on Feb. 10, the library will host a screening of "Soul", a Disney Pixar film that follows the story of a jazz musician who learns to follow his passion.

For music lovers, the Livermore Public Library has scheduled performances to engage the community and celebrate Black History through song.

House of Samba Kids comes to the Livermore Civic Center branch Saturday (Feb. 3) at 1 p.m. for a live performance of global instruments. The group will live up the room and invite listeners to join in.

Saxophonist Ashley Jemison will be live at the Civic Center branch next Thursday (Feb. 8) at 7 p.m. Library staff said Jemison brings a "new school vibe to smooth jazz by covering the current styles of R&B and pop music, while adding a unique improvisational twist that leaves her audiences wanting more."

The Granada High School Jazz Band will make an appearance in the Civic Center Storytime Room on Feb. 17 at 11 a.m. for a special live performance.

"The students will Present musical sets and pieces composed and performed by African American Jazz musicians and show us how the genre's message of Hope and celebration greatly influenced American culture and history," library representatives said.

The Dublin Library will be celebrating Black History Month as well by hosting teen and family movie nights throughout the month.

Disney's "The Princess and the Frog" will be showing in the library's Virginia Bennett Room on Feb. 24 at 2 p.m. "The Color Purple" will show Feb. 20 at 5:30 p.m.

Thomishia Booker will host an art-based project and poetry lesson for youth in the Dublin Library's Virginia Bennett Room on Feb. 26 at 4 p.m. Library representatives said the event titled "Blooms of History" will take participants on "a journey through Black History with art and poetry honoring Carter G. Woodson and Anne Spencer."

Community group Tri-Valley for Black Lives has also planned events to bring community members together.

TV4BL members are inviting history buffs to test their knowledge of Black History with a trivia night at the Civic Center branch library in Livermore on Feb. 22 at 6 p.m.

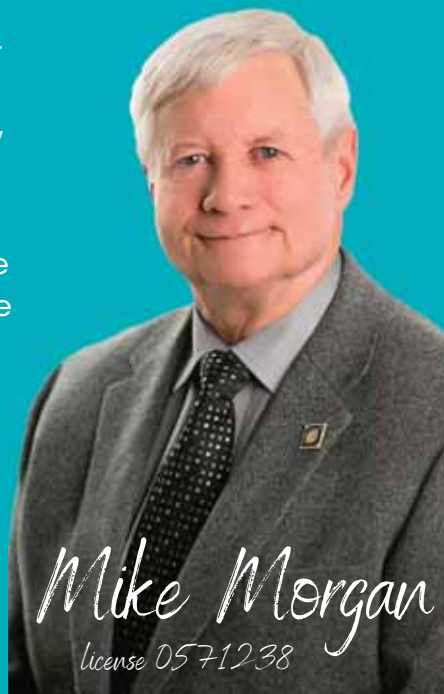
On Feb. 24 at 5 p.m., the group is set to host a public Open Mic Night at Swirl on the Square.

The group has also partnered with the Vine Cinema for a screening of "The Wiz" to round out the month on Feb. 29 at 7 p.m. The musical reimagines the classic children's novel "The Wonderful Wizard of Oz" by L. Frank Baum, starring an African American cast that includes Diana Ross and Michael Jackson.

More information about events at the Firehouse and local libraries can be found on their websites. Additional information about Tri-Valley for Black Lives events can be found on Facebook and Instagram @tv4blacklives. ■

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MULTIPLAN\_MAFLYERGMI\_M

# County supervisors approve review of permit for Livermore pet resort

Recent hearing followed nearly year-long debate about noise from barking dogs at The Ranch

By CIERRA BAILEY

The owners and supporters of The Ranch Pet Resort & Spa in Livermore recently celebrated a victory after the Alameda County Board of Supervisors voted to uphold approval of the facility's conditional use permit.

What started as a standard mandatory review of The Ranch's permit over a year ago escalated to a community debate after neighboring residents urged the county to revise or rescind the pet kennel's permit due to excessive noise — particularly barking from dogs — at the facility located at 4964 Tesla Road.

Despite residents' noise concerns, the East County Board of Zoning Adjustments approved the mandatory review of the existing conditional use permit in February of 2023 with some added conditions of approval, including adding landscaping consisting of drought tolerant trees with spreading habit.

The EBZA's approval resulted in an appeal filed by residents Kimberly Larson and Katharine Erhardt. Larson said in the appeal letter that

the EBZA's conditions of approval did not address the daytime noise impacts experienced by neighbors of The Ranch, among other issues.

The Board of Supervisors initially heard the appeal in May of 2023 and continued the item for six months to provide staff and the involved parties additional time to develop measures that could be implemented to reduce the sound level from barking dogs, according to the county staff report. Originally continued to December 2023, the consideration of the appeal was continued again to Jan. 11 so that the sound consultants for the business and appellant could present a consensus proposal.

The supervisors' decision to uphold The Ranch's existing conditional use permit during the January hearing also denies the residents' appeal. However, after reviewing staff recommendations and hearing extensive public comment from both sides, the supervisors added revised conditions of approval.

The conditions of approval include a requirement for The Ranch to build a 10-foot sound barrier to decrease

noise within 60 days of the meeting to be tested and observed over a 30-day period in an effort to determine its effectiveness. The conditions also include a requirement that all dogs must be brought indoors by 8 p.m. and remain inside kennel buildings until 7 a.m.

Although The Ranch has been operating for more than seven decades at the Tesla Road property, it has grown and expanded over the years and is currently authorized to serve up to 144 dogs and 50 cats. New administrative and kennel buildings, and a new exercise yard for the animals have also been developed at the property in recent years.

The facility is owned by brothers Dan and Michael Gamache. Michael Gamache leads the day-to-day operations of The Ranch while Dan lives on the property and provides after-hours support, according to their website.

Ahead of the Jan. 11 meeting, the Gamaches sought the community's support, asking friends and customers to submit letters and public comment on their behalf.



COURTESY ALAMEDA COUNTY

A view of dogs in the outdoor exercise area at The Ranch Pet Resort & Spa in Livermore.

"The more support we gather to convince these elected officials that The Ranch Pet Resort and Spa presents a benefit to the community, the better our chances are of getting our permit renewed," the owners wrote in an email to their subscribers at the time.

An organizing campaign called "Protect The Ranch" was launched via the platform VoterVoice. Following the Board of Supervisors' decision, the campaign was made inactive.

After the meeting, the owners sent a message of gratitude to their customers and supporters.

"Thank you so much for your efforts to protect The Ranch Pet Resort and Spa. The hearing last Thursday went well. We made some progress with our neighbors and believe

we found a win—win outcome," the email read.

The message continued, "We want to make sure we give a huge Thank You to Supervisors David Haubert, Nate Miley and Elisa Marquez. David Haubert especially played a vital role at the hearing. He took the time to meet with us multiple times over the last 12 months. It sure feels good to know we have him representing our county. Thank you, Supervisor Haubert, and to all of you for your endless correspondence to get us an outcome that will move The Ranch in a forward and positive direction."

The Gamache family's email names only the supervisors who were present during the hearing. Supervisors Lena Tam and Keith Carson were absent. ■

# 97%

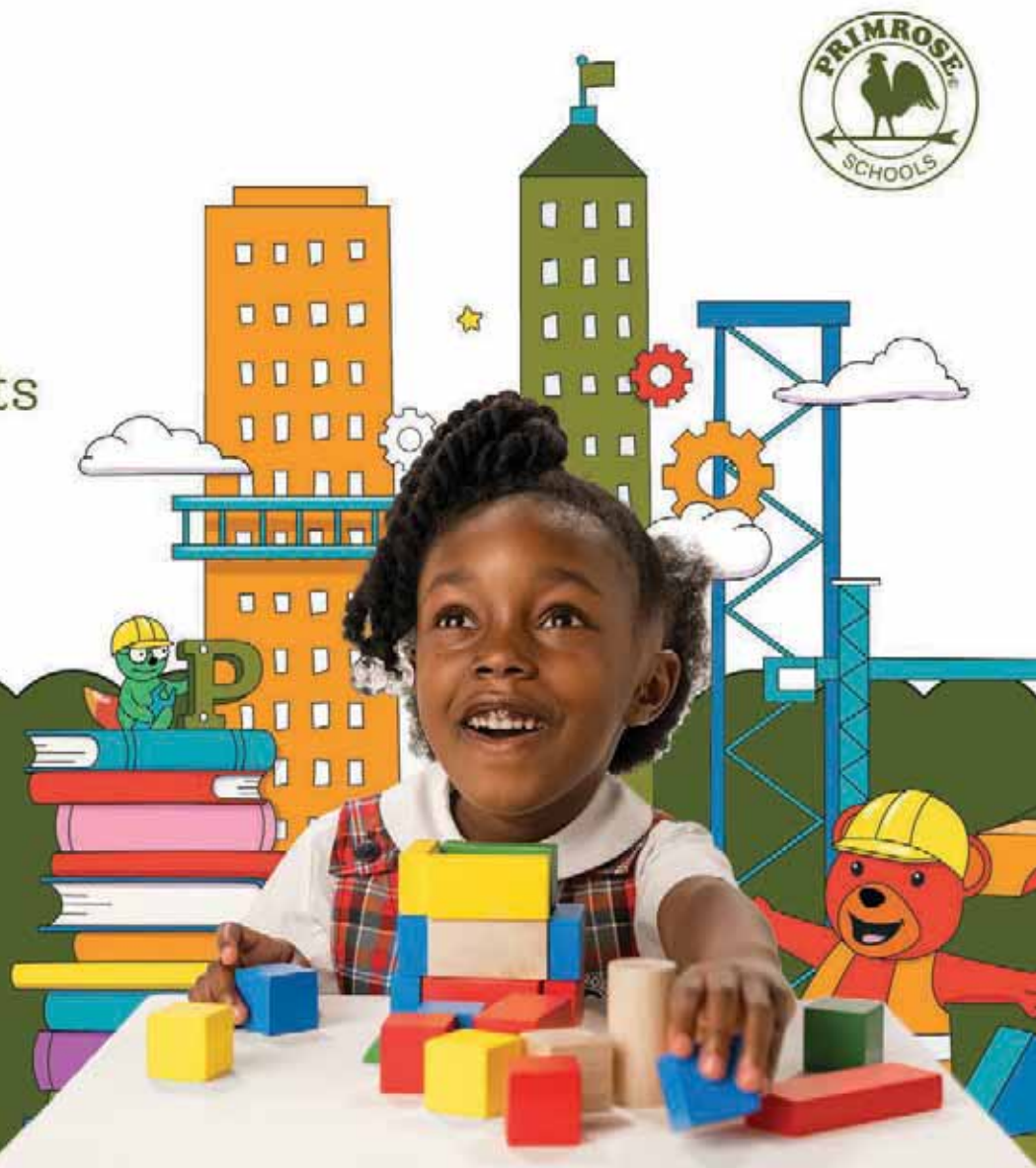
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# Tensions rise during first Sunol school board meeting of year

Public speakers criticize members; trustees engage in heated debates with each other

BY CHRISTIAN TRUJANO

It was another long and contentious Sunol Glen School Board of Trustees meeting last week that included criticisms of the two board members who are facing a potential recall and disagreements over several items on the agenda.

The tension during the Jan. 23 board meeting was heightened during several moments of the meeting. However, things particularly escalated when Sunol parent James Lowder said disparaging remarks about Superintendent Molleen Barnes and Trustee Peter (Ted) Romo.

“As a self-absorbed jerk, you failed to earn the respect of your colleagues,” Lowder said of Romo.

Lowder’s insult to Romo came after he mentioned the previous meeting where the board voted 2-1, with Romo dissenting, to reappoint Trustee Ryan Jergensen as the board president.

Lowder also called Sunol teacher Chris Wheeler a “self-promoting political hack” for talking negatively about Jergensen even though Wheeler has two of Jergensen’s kids in his class. He also called out Barnes for allowing the teacher and staff unions to hold meetings for “political activities,” which he said was not allowed per the district policies.

After his comments about Romo, Jergensen interrupted Lowder for his language even though he still had time on the clock. Many in the audience were heard protesting Lowder’s comments and one woman was heard saying “that was awful.”

Prior to being cut off, Lowder kicked off the meeting by calling out Barnes during the public comment period for the overall agenda.

“I am requesting that investigation and potential disciplinary action be taken and request the resignation of our superintendent Ms. Barnes for her continued pattern of disregard for district policies and California (educational) code,” Lowder said. “Mrs. Barnes has blatantly ignored the law in an attempt to further her personal agenda.”

Lowder cited several district policies that Barnes allegedly broke like not respecting differing opinions, creating uncomfortable situations — like when several teachers spoke out during the Sept. 12 meeting where the board voted on a controversial flag resolution — and not working with the board to create unity at the school.

Lowder’s two public comments during the meeting were among many moments that showed how divided the crowd was on several issues.

While Lowder spoke out to defend Jergensen and Trustee Linda Hurley, others did the opposite and spoke in favor of the recall effort.

“Please consider, if you don’t owe it to yourself and this community, to take a hard look in the mirror and reconsider whether it may be best to resign so you can stop tearing this school down and let Sunolians step in to build it back up so we can all get the community we love back on track and put this mess you’ve made behind us,” Sunol parent Kelly Goldsmith said. “Or at the very least please stop spreading lies and do your jobs while we wait for the voters to remove you at the ballot box,” she added.

Goldsmith, who is on the recall campaign, was referring to what she said was misinformation being spread by the two trustees on the confidentiality of recall signatures and the cost of a recall election.

She said that the information on the anti-recall campaign website stating that the recall petitions will be available for the public to view is false and that the two trustees are falsely telling those who are sharing the petition that their information will be made public.

“The truth provided directly to me by the Registrar of Voters and the California Secretary of State, per state election code and outlined in the official record procedures guide is that the right of examination is not available to the public,” Goldsmith said.

“Why are you lying to and threatening Sunolians in an attempt to prevent them from participating in democracy by exercising their right to recall you from office?” she added. “Sunolians have shared that they are concerned about the privacy of their signatures and votes specifically because they are afraid of you and your supporters, both here in town and the outside hate groups you attract to Sunol.”

Wheeler, along with the president of the Sunol school staff union, spoke during the public comment section to also voice their concerns and distrust of Jergensen and Hurley. Both the teachers and the staff unions have previously issued votes of no confidence in the two trustees.

“Linda and Ryan are using the Sunol Glen School as a platform to crap political theater,” Wheeler said. “As a parent, and a teacher, that seems inappropriate, unethical. As a human being, if you use a school full of kids and young parents to jumpstart your political career, (it’s) unconscionable, kind of sad.”

After the nearly half hour of speakers who gave dozens of reasons why they wanted to remove Jergensen and Hurley from the board, two other speakers jumped in to support the trustees by shaming the people leading the recall.

“I find that recall leaders to be closed-minded, exclusionary ... self centered, vicious, bullies and rude,” Sunol resident Debbie Ferrari said. “I took the time to talk to Linda and Ryan, and of course I’m not saying they’re perfect and nobody on the board or anywhere is perfect, but they’ve proven to be earnest and honest in their efforts and most people have not taken the time to talk it through. They never wanted to talk this through,” she added.

Longtime resident Margie Quarry even went as far as saying she was “disgusted by the way all of you here are behaving” and went on to call people in the room rude before she defended Hurley and Jergensen and said that the community has never been as divided as it is now. “The division in this community is so sad,” she said.

Other portions of the meeting also sparked spirited discussions.

The first issue was brought up by former Sunol school board trustee Victoria Cloutier who called Jergensen out for failing to attend over 60% of the Tri-Valley Special Education Local Plan Area (SELPA) meetings.

SELPA is a regional office that provides special education support and services and is made up of a consortium of five districts across the Tri-Valley. Board members, like Jergensen, volunteer to attend SELPA meetings.

“The Tri-Valley SELPA have also

claimed that you have missed critical meetings about budget, resources, structure and program support,” Cloutier said. “At this point, it appears you have the highest absenteeism rate of any elected official from either Dublin, Pleasanton, Livermore or Mountain House at these meetings.”

Cloutier also ended her comments by calling Lowder’s opening remarks about Barnes “truly vile” and said that the community stands with Barnes.

Moving forward, Jergensen said he will do better to let other trustees know when he can’t make the SELPA meetings, even though he said he does notify Barnes.

Toward the end of the meeting, there were other agenda items where Jergensen and Romo went back and forth, adding to the existing tension.

One moment was during the discussion to have the district bring on a third party consultant to help repair the working relations between the board members and Romo asked if Jergensen was apologizing for filing a temporary restraining order against his wife, former trustee Denise Kent Romo. Jergensen said that was not the item they were discussing and shifted the focus back to the consulting service, which would cost the district about \$3,000, so that they can unify the board and move forward.

Romo said that he thought it was too little too late and that if they were to discuss bringing on such a service, he wants to wait until the community sees the results of the possible recall election before having that discussion, which is what the board agreed upon.

Romo and Jergensen again butted heads during the discussion of bringing on an additional member

to the Citizens Bond Oversight Committee, which oversees expenditures for the \$10.9 million general obligation bond to repair the school. Jergensen wanted to bring in three people rather than just the one, which was what was on the agenda.

The board eventually voted to unanimously bring in one person but had to vote on Jergensen’s motion to bring in the other two, which passed 2-1 with Romo dissenting.

Jergensen said that if there were any issues with the board not being able to do that because it wasn’t outlined in the agenda, as Romo had said, that he would address it after speaking with the district’s attorney.

Romo then brought up other issues on public records requests and on past meeting minutes that he said were altered and Hurley challenged Romo for going after her while Jergensen repeatedly told Romo that he didn’t want to answer questions as he felt he was being interrogated. The questions referred to Romo’s assertion that Jergensen had taken too long to respond to public records requests.

Hurley ended the meeting with two items that had to do with the deletion of the meetings and extending the amount of years the district held on to meeting recordings. She also brought up that she wanted to begin a discussion about how the board handles public meetings.

She said she wanted to look at the policies of how long people are allowed to speak and how long the public comment section should be, which she said should be a balance between allowing as many people to speak while also being conscious about the time.

Hurley will be bringing this item back at a later board meeting. ■



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**CONTRACT**

Continued from Page 5

teachers do not want to strike, but they will if they have to in order to make sure they get the compensation that they deserve.

“Our Pleasanton students, the heart and soul of our district, deserve nothing but the best,” Atkins told the board. “It is with this commitment to their well-being and academic success, that I stand up here to tell you, the current offer on the table does not align with the best interest of our students.”

“We are preparing for fact finding when we would rather be focused on our students,” she added. “We don’t want to strike, but we will for our students.”

Atkins also told the board about a press conference she attended on Jan. 24 that was organized by the East Bay Coalition for Student Success, which is made up of 18 California Teachers Association chapters across the East Bay including the Tri-Valley.

The press conference was a Q&A formatted meeting that featured union leaders, educators and parents across the East Bay who spoke about the challenges various districts are facing in regards to contract talks with their unions and how multiple unions, like Pleasanton, have authorized strikes.

The meeting was a way to emphasize the impact a multi-city teachers strike could have on students

across the East Bay.

But as the district has continued to say over the last year, going above 10% in salary increases would mean making difficult decisions across the board. And those decisions could now be coupled with even bigger challenges the district is facing now that Gov. Gavin Newsom’s office released its proposed 2024-25 state budget.

Assistant superintendent of business services Ahmad Sheikholeslami broke it down simply in his budget presentation to the meeting: cuts are going to have to be made across the district.

That means teachers, staff and management positions will face reductions along with programs and other expenses.

Earlier this month, the governor released his state budget for the next fiscal year and one of the key takeaways from it is that there’s about a \$38 billion deficit over a three year period, Sheikholeslami said.

More specifically, there is a \$14.3 billion deficit for education.

Another big takeaway is that the state’s cost-of-living adjustment (COLA), which was previously projected to be almost 4%, has now gone down to 0.76%.

“We have a revenue impact of about \$4.75 million in 2024-25 because of the COLA change, we have ongoing expenditure increases ... it’s about \$4.85 million, and then we have projected cost increases as our

one time grants are ending and we have the natural cost increases that occurred into our budget on an annual basis,” Sheikholeslami said.

Because of this newly released information — along with other issues such as declining enrollment, the depletion of one-time pandemic funds and even more uncertainty on the state’s budget given that it has not been finalized — what that means for PUSD is that the district will have to make roughly \$9.5 million in reductions to maintain the state-mandated minimum 3% reserve on the unrestricted general fund.

If the district doesn’t do anything, Sheikholeslami said that the district would continue to deficit spend and fully deplete its reserves leaving it in the negatives by the next fiscal year.

Sheikholeslami said that the district had built in the assumption of the 6.5% salary increase proposition to the APT into its budget but with other increased costs of business such as salary raises, health benefits and pension costs, the district is going to have to start looking at where it can make certain cuts.

One of the main areas Sheikholeslami proposed to reduce, which held the highest dollar amount in savings, was reductions on the district level which includes management, district office positions and high level support services, which in itself would net about \$1.2 million in savings. He also said the district

could implement a compensation adjustment for management not to exceed 5%.

But while he said the district executive cabinet worked on these potential cut recommendations through the lens of not affecting students, some of the potential cuts would directly affect the classrooms.

He said the district would be recommending layoffs to about five to 10 full-time equivalent elementary school positions and about 11 full-time equivalent positions in the high schools.

He also said staff would be recommending reductions in district-wide programs and supports; expenses like books and materials; and site and departmental discretionary budgets.

Apart from that, positions like vice principals and counselors could be reduced to the numbers the district had back in 2017.

Other solutions the district has come up with include moving around grant money to cover costs, having teachers teach combination classes — which Sheikholeslami said would be unavoidable — eliminating under-enrolled course selections and having students enroll in virtual classes.

Sheikholeslami said this would all help align classroom staffing with the current enrollment.

While the presentation was mostly informational, some board members did offer input on some of the suggestions.

Trustee Justin Brown was adamant about looking at reducing costs for contracted services while Trustee Kelly Mokashi and Student Trustee Valentina Avalos said they were worried about the reduction of counselors.

But as Sheikholeslami said, reductions are unavoidable. He said that staff will take the input from the board to come back for further approval of what positions the board will have to consider cutting in late February.

Once those decisions have been made, the district will begin the process of letting employees know if they are getting laid off.

Atkins, however, said even before the budget discussion that while she knows about the budget discussions and deficit spending, she thinks it is on the district to correct its wrongs and work out a contract that will still help retain and recruit teachers that the district desperately needs.

“We’ve been at this negotiation for over a year and yet you have continued to spend, spend, spend, and now say there’s no money left,” Atkins said. “The challenges we face as educators are intensified when we have revolving doors at our sites, and even worse positions remaining unfilled, putting additional strain on those who remain. The situation is not sustainable, and it jeopardizes the quality of education that we can provide for our students.” ■

# Woohoo!

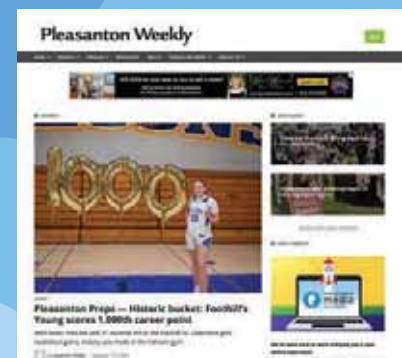
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# Fickes, Johnson vie for seat on Alameda County Superior Court

Candidates hope to foster fairness and confidence in local judicial system

BY NICOLE GONZALES

Tri-Valley and East Bay voters will decide between two longtime law professionals competing to join the judicial bench of the Alameda County Superior Court.

Candidates Mark Fickes and Michael Johnson appear on the March 5 primary ballot for “Seat 12” as incumbent Judge Evelio Grillo is not seeking reelection.

Both candidates have received endorsements from regional leaders and shared their main campaign goals with the public. In the role, the winner would be among more than 30 Alameda County Superior Court judges and commissioners overseeing cases from within the county limits.

Fickes, who has been practicing

law for almost three decades, currently serves as an Alameda County Superior Court commissioner at the Fremont Hall of Justice. He ran for a judicial seat in 2020 but lost to Elena Condes.

“While the role of a commissioner and a judge is largely to uphold the law, it is about so much more,” Fickes said in a statement on his campaign website. “It is about treating everyone with dignity, actively listening to the people who come before me, and making sure everyone is given due process and equal justice under the law.”

“I try to further these goals every day and hope to do so even more when elected as a judge, not by sweeping generalizations about the justice system, but in the daily work that judges do on a case-by-case

basis,” Fickes added.

With the tagline, “fairness, justice and equality,” Fickes has been endorsed by the Alameda County Democratic Party, the Tri-Valley Democratic Club and the East Bay Stonewall Democratic Club. Tri-Valley leaders Valerie Arkin of the Pleasanton City Council and Elizabeth Echold, president of the East Bay Regional Park District Board of Directors, are among those who have both shared public support for Fickes’ campaign.

A Mississippi native, Johnson has been a resident of Alameda County for more than 30 years. He has said his primary goal will be to facilitate “fairness and Justice for all.”



Mark Fickes



Michael Johnson

He is a current temporary judge appointed by the Alameda County Superior Court, which he has done for the past four years. Previously Johnson worked as senior counsel for entertainment companies AT&T and Warner Media.

“I believe in the importance of a fair and impartial judiciary system. I’m committed to applying the law fairly with integrity and without bias,” Johnson told Embarcadero Media Foundation.

“I’ve been a temporary judge in Alameda County Superior Court for the past few years now hearing

traffic, small claims, family law, etc. As an attorney and also as a temporary judge, I really found that I had a passion for doing this particular job,” Johnson added.

Candidate Johnson has received endorsements from Dublin Mayor Melissa Hernandez and Pleasanton City Councilmember Jack Balch, among others.

“From the public’s perception, if you have a case that’s going to go in front of Judge Johnson I want them to feel they were treated with respect and dignity. That I heard what they had to say. That’s a priority because public confidence in the judiciary is extremely important,” Johnson said.

“I want to do my part to elevate the profile of the court in any way I can. I’d like to perhaps be an example to communities that have not historically served in the system so that they may be inspired to pursue that path as well,” he added. ■

## Pleasanton Unified temporarily hires retired SRVUSD administrator

Rogenski will work in supportive role for HR team amid district’s search for permanent assistant superintendent

BY CHRISTIAN TRUJANO

The Pleasanton Unified School District recently brought in a former high-level San Ramon Valley administrator to temporarily fill a gap left in the human resources department following the departure of former assistant superintendent Julio Hernandez.

Keith Rogenski — who served as the assistant superintendent of human resources at the San Ramon Valley Unified School District for nearly a decade before retiring last school year — will be serving as senior director of human resources for the time-being, according to PUSD director of communications Patrick Gannon.

The senior director position was previously held by Nimarta Grewal, who has now stepped up to take the role of acting assistant

superintendent of human resources after Hernandez left PUSD at the end of December to become chief personnel officer at Torrance Unified School District in Los Angeles County.

“Rogenski will be filling the responsibilities of the senior director of human resources while Ms. Grewal shifts focus to her new role,” Gannon told Embarcadero Media Foundation. “Mr. Rogenski will be working part time as is standard for substitute positions.”

Rogenski’s official start date was on Jan. 2, and his pay will be coming out of the district’s general fund.

Gannon said that Rogenski will be helping the district and its human resources division continue to provide the same level of service until it finds its permanent replacement for Hernandez — he said the next steps for that process will be

something PUSD looks at as the school year comes to an end.

“We are grateful to Ms. Grewal for stepping up to serve as acting assistant superintendent of human resources and pleased to welcome Mr. Rogenski in his substitute role to ensure that we continue to support our staff, students and community through our Human Resources division,” Gannon said.

Rogenski was hired as the assistant superintendent of human resources at SRVUSD back in 2015 after the district went through three other people before he took the helm. He retired from that position back in early 2023.

He also has a long history of holding that same title in other districts. He previously served as the assistant HR superintendent in Benicia (2007-11), Antioch (2011-14) and Dublin (2014-15). ■

## LAB

Continued from Page 5

during a trip to an international site in March 2023, with concerns about the exposure being raised upon their return to the United States.

“All team members were tested for exposure,” the NNSA statement said. “Results for some of them showed a detectable uptake of I-125, but at levels well below regulatory and administrative limits, and well below levels of any clinical concern.”

As a cautionary step, officials said that experts from the NNSA Nuclear Emergency Support Team visited the homes of some of the impacted workers to conduct testing and issue recommendations related to the

individuals involved and laboratory management.

“NNSA is committed to the health and safety of our employees as well as the general public. Immediate and proactive testing, informed by strong communications across the inter-agency, supported timely risk mitigation,” the agency’s statement said. “We continue to review and improve safety processes to prevent similar incidents in the future.”

While the DOE investigation is primarily aimed at learning more about the cause and impact of the incident itself, it could include inquiries into the lab’s compliance with federal requirements if authorities find reason to do so as the investigation unfolds.

“Although investigating the loss of contamination control and offsite discovery of contaminated property will be the general purpose of this investigation, additional issues relating to the scope, nature, and extent of compliance with DOE’s nuclear safety requirements ... may be pursued as issues arise during the course of the investigation,” wrote Anthony Pierpoint, director of the DOE’s offices of enforcement and enterprise assessments.

Pierpoint noted that the investigation would include an onsite visit to the Livermore Lab and interviews with contractors.

DOE officials did not respond to a request for comment as of Tuesday afternoon. ■

### THE CITY OF PLEASANTON



#### HIGHLIGHTS

##### Civic Arts Commission Meeting

Monday, February 5, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.

The meeting will be held at the City of Pleasanton Council Chamber – 200 Old Bernal Ave.

- Review Fiscal Year 2023/24 Civic Arts Community Grant Midterm Reports
- Receive Civic Arts Status Report

##### City Council Meeting

Tuesday, February 6, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.

The meeting will be held at the City of Pleasanton Council Chamber – 200 Old Bernal Ave.

- Receive a presentation of the Eastern Alameda County Human Services Needs Assessment and accept the final report
- Accept the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) and other related audits for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023

##### Human Services Commission Meeting

Wednesday, February 7, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.

The meeting will be held at the City of Pleasanton Council Chamber – 200 Old Bernal Ave.

- Discuss Evaluation Process and Meeting Format for Fiscal Year 2024/25 Housing and Human Services Grant Program Review
- Select Commission Representatives for Various Subcommittees

##### Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting

Thursday, February 8, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.

The meeting will be held at the City of Pleasanton Council Chamber – 200 Old Bernal Ave.

- Bocce Programs and Services
- Pilot Park Ambassador Program

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

# Remembering Heinz Gewing, Dublin Unified's first superintendent

Career educator guided old Murray School District through its final year

By JEREMY WALSH

**H**einz Gewing, who served as Dublin's first schools superintendent after local districts unified 35 years ago, died last week. He was 91.

A Jewish refugee from Europe in the World War II era, Gewing was a career educator in the Bay Area who went on to rise through the ranks in Dublin's old Murray School District and ultimately worked as its final superintendent before becoming the inaugural leader of the newly combined Dublin Unified School District in 1988.

"Heinz Gewing played a critical role in developing the Dublin Unified School District by serving as our first superintendent. He laid the foundation for what was to become one of the most respected districts in the area. We are thankful for the role he played in making Dublin Unified what it is today and hope the memory of a life well-lived brings comfort to his family at this time," current DUSD Superintendent Chris Funk

told Embarcadero Media Foundation.

City historian Steve Minniear called Gewing "an early education pioneer in Dublin's history."

"Heinz was promoted to superintendent of the Murray School District and worked to represent the Murray School District's board position that unification was not in their students' interest during the 1987 discussions and election. That appears to be why the previous superintendent was let go," Minniear told Embarcadero Media Foundation. "However, it's obvious from newspaper accounts that he fully supported the Dublin Unified School District as it came into being and that he was instrumental in making it work so well."

Minniear added, "I only spoke



Heinz Gewing

with Heinz a few times, mainly while I was doing work on the Parks Job Corps Center history. But it was obvious to me that he was committed to improving students' education throughout his career."

Gewing was born in Austria in 1932 but spent much of his childhood in Shanghai as China was one of the few countries to accept Jewish refugees in the World War II era, according to an obituary his family posted on the Pleasanton Weekly website.

"Heinz and his family lived in a small apartment above his father's store, in an area known as the Shanghai Ghetto. It was not an easy life, but hard work, resilience and a sense of humor helped sustain them," his family wrote.

Gewing moved to San Francisco

in 1948 and earned a bachelor's degree from the University of California, Berkeley and a master's degree from Pennsylvania State University, according to his obituary. He began teaching at Oakland High School and then worked at the Parks Job Corps Center in the 1960s.

After teaching and administrating in Berkeley, Gewing started his tenure in the Murray School District as principal of the former Cronin Elementary School in the 1971-72 school year, according to DUSD. Holding various upper positions with Murray, Gewing was promoted to superintendent in its final year and guided the district through the unification process.

He then worked as the first-ever superintendent of Dublin Unified

School District from July 1, 1988 until retiring after the 1991-92 academic year.

"Heinz was a kind man, known for his generosity, wit and common sense. A close friend once described him as the only person he knew who could turn a mountain into a molehill. How lucky we all were to have had him in our lives and how we will miss him," his obituary stated.

Gewing died on Jan. 21. A cause of death was not revealed, but his family said he was under the care of Hope Hospice. A private memorial service is pending.

He is survived by two daughters, two grandchildren and his partner of 17 years, Eileen Barr. He was preceded in death by his wife of over 50 years, Lisa Gewing. ■

## Homebuilder Taylor Morrison acquires piece of Dublin's Francis Ranch site

85 homes expected from purchased lots on city's east side

By NICOLE GONZALES

**N**ational homebuilder Taylor Morrison has recently acquired a number of plots in Dublin's Francis Ranch area. The firm hopes to break ground on construction as early as this summer to begin welcoming buyers as soon as possible, representatives said.

The Arizona-based company purchased "Neighborhood 4" (out of six) located on the west side of the development. Once the project is complete, the developer expects it will contribute 85 homes to the Francis Ranch master-planned community.

"Dublin has become one of the fastest-growing markets and a highly desirable area for buyers looking for reasonable commutes, high-ranking schools, convenient transportation access and nearby dining, shopping and entertainment options," said Erin Kristick, Taylor Morrison communications director. "We are thrilled to grow our footprint in the East Bay while sharing our trusted brand, high-quality

product and exceptional customer service with residents in the area."

The Francis Ranch development at 4038 Croak Road, originally approved in 2021, will feature six separate neighborhoods.

"Planned amenities will include open space, parks and trails, and upon completion, the master-plan community will have more than 570 homes. Taylor Morrison sales are expected to begin in late 2024," Kristick added.

The entire site is expected to include 573 homes and two public parks.

San Ramon-based developer Trumark Homes initially bought the property for \$164 million with a plan to construct the over 550 homes. Trumark then sold the 85 lots in question to Taylor Morrison in a recent deal whose terms were undisclosed.

"As a publicly traded homebuilder, we do not provide specific pricing details on community transactions," Kristick said on this matter.

The site is part of the Croak

property, named after its previous owner.

Kristick said Taylor Morrison became interested in the Francis Ranch lots due to Dublin's many advantageous elements.

"Located in a highly desirable area for buyers seeking homes within reasonable commuting distance to major employment centers, this new community will be accessible to Interstate 580 and 680 as well as the Dublin-Pleasanton BART Station," she said.

The homebuilder has overseen a number of noteworthy developments across the globe, including Main Street U.S.A. at Disneyland Paris and projects at London Heathrow Airport.

Taylor Morrison said it plans to break ground on Francis Ranch as early as summer 2024 and expects its portion of the site to be the first of the six Francis Ranch neighborhoods to be completed.

Trumark expects its remaining neighborhoods to open in early 2025. ■



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# GET TO ZONE 7 CA

## Four people running for full terms, two v

By CHRISTIA

**W**ater quality and supply is arguably one of the most important topics for many Tri-Valley residents, which is why all of the candidates for the upcoming Zone 7 Water Agency Board of Directors election said it's important to have the appropriate representation those locals deserve.

This March, voters in Pleasanton, Dublin and Livermore will be choosing three candidates for full four-year seats and one new director for a two-year term on the board overseeing the agency that provides flood control and serves as the potable water wholesaler for the area.

There are four candidates running for the full positions and two newcomers competing for the short term.

Vying for the three full terms are incumbents Laurene Green, Kathy Narum and Sandy Figuers as well as Alan Burnham, a longtime Livermore resident and chemist who worked at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory for 35 years. Running in the short-term race are Pleasanton resident Cathy Brown and Dublin resident Seema Badar.

Current Zone 7 Director Angela Ramirez Holmes, whose term is also up on June 30, is not seeking reelection. The two-year term on the ballot is to complete the unexpired elected term of former director Olivia Sanwong, who resigned to join the East Bay Regional Park District Board of Directors — Narum has been filling the vacancy temporarily by appointment.

### Full-term candidates

The lone challenger on the ballot, Burnham previously worked as an undergraduate chemist, developing a method for analyzing groundwater for traced organic chemicals.

He told the Weekly that along with his technical background at

the laboratory and his teaching experience as an adjunct professor at Stanford University for eight years, he hopes to bring a fundamental discipline of decision making skills that benefit the water agency as a whole if he is elected.

"I'm a strong supporter of doing what I can do for the community," Burnham said. "I have the technical background that I think is appropriate for contributing a lot to the reliable water systems that we would like to have."

He said that with his experience he will be able to easily adapt to the Zone 7 position and responsibilities that come with it. He added that he is a person who asks questions first and makes decisions based on extensive research into those questions.

As far as his priorities, Burnham said that PFAS, otherwise known as forever chemicals, is an important one and that the bottom line is that it needs to be cleaned out of the local water supply.

"The only question is the details of exactly how you do that," Burnham said. "We need to work on it expeditiously."

PFAS chemicals have been found in the Livermore groundwater basin and in groundwater wells throughout Pleasanton, meaning that water is considered contaminated and unusable.

"Sometimes I hear people say things like ... 'It's all hopeless, we just can't have good water or enough water.' I don't believe that's true," Burnham said. "I believe it's just a matter of doing good analysis and engineering to provide adequate supplies of clean water that is not contaminated with things we should not have in our drinking water."



**Alan Burnham**

He said working out the details and addressing that issue is important to him, but he also recognized that it will be a long-term effort in treating that contaminated water and that it is something that probably won't be fixed within the next few years.

He also said addressing things like the shut down wells in Pleasanton is another one of his priorities that has to be done as soon as possible.

"We have to look at how is Pleasanton going to get its water?" Burnham said. "Are we going to use water from the State Water Project only? Are we going to look at drilling new wells, either independently or in collaboration with Pleasanton? Those are the things that have to be worked out."

One of the incumbents running to retain a four-year seat is longtime Zone 7 Director Figuers.

He has been a returning figure on the board since 1988. After 12 years of service, he took a break in the early 2000s and returned in 2008, where he has been ever since.

A Livermore resident and groundwater geologist, Figuers told the Weekly that if elected again, he plans on continuing to do what he has been doing for so long, which is finding ways to ensure clean water is available for the Tri-Valley.

He said that apart from being on the board for so long and knowing how the agency works, what makes him different is his love for geology and his desire to study the Livermore basin.

"Our main supply and our main reservoir is groundwater basin," Figuers said. "Over the decades, we've drilled lots of holes in the

basin, but there's still lots of things about the geology ... that we don't know, that is important to know."

He said that while other directors on the board might be more into the politics that come with the positions such as lobbying on a state or federal level, he likes to think of himself as the technical person on the board who focuses on the details of the job.

"I'm filling in the hole in the board to actually deal with the water, where it is and how we can get it," he said.

If elected, Figuers said he wants to continue working on researching the east side of the Livermore Basin and looking at the history of the region to get more ideas on how to get more clean water out of the ground.

He said one way he plans on doing that is by putting together all of the historical geological data he can find and use all of that to create a sort of quasi-technical geological guidebook that will help the water agency.

He also said that water supply is critical and that while there have been some complaints from the board and from the public who say Zone 7 is spending too much money getting water from other areas in the region, it is a necessary thing to do.

"It's very expensive and very long-term, but with the expanding population we are going to need water and what we're trying to do is not put all our eggs in one basket," he said. "Water districts have to look out 40, 50 years. That's how long it takes to develop the water supplies."

Narum, who had previously served on the Pleasanton City Council for over nine years, is the second director looking to return to the board.

"I bring the perspective of the retailer from my experience on City Council, combined with a

technical background," Narum told the Weekly.

Back in early 2023, after she retired from her City Council seat, Narum was appointed through a special Zone 7 recruitment process to serve in Sanwong's seat until the agency's next regular election. Narum is running for a full term rather than to complete the final two years of Sanwong's original term.

A longtime Pleasanton resident with a chemical engineering background, Narum said she has always been a big proponent of reliable water in the



**Kathy Narum**

Tri-Valley. When she was in the City Council, she served on the Water Liaison Committee — and when the city was facing issues with its groundwater wells being contaminated with PFAS, she was adamant about staff making water safety one of the city's number one priorities.

She also represented Pleasanton on the Tri-Water Round table and the water rates subcommittee, which is why joining Zone 7 was the next obvious choice for her, according to her campaign website.

As far as her priorities going into the election, Narum said that she wants to continue focusing on delivering clean, safe water in a reliable way and with an "eye toward good fiscal management."

She also said she wants to develop water supply and storage capacity and that she wants to continue focusing on flood management, "which is important because of the extremes between drought and major storms we have seen recently."

"Experience in local and regional government matters, and to date

# KNOW CANDIDATES



CHRISTIAN TRUJANO

Zone 7 Water Agency opened its new Ion Exchange PFAS Treatment Facility at the Stoneridge groundwater well last September.

## Whying for short term on local water board

AN TRUJANO

I have over two decades of experience both at the local and regional level on a range of issues including water, transportation, regional development, schools and the environment," Narum said on her campaign website. "Communication, transparency and accessibility are key for good governance; all very important to me."

The final incumbent on the ballot is Green, who is seeking a second four-year term after having first joined the board in 2020. Green is a Pleasanton resident with a background of working in the environmental and energy fields in the U.S. and abroad. Green said that during her time on the board, she has done a lot of work regarding PFAS and plans on continuing her work to assure clean, safe and reliable drinking water.



**Laurene Green**

"This term I successfully applied my education and experience in water resources to protect our aquifer from PFAS, address water supply and storage, flood protection and advocate for state/federal funding assistance," Green told the Weekly in a statement. "A second term would allow me to finish this work."

What Green was referring to was her early work in advocating for PFAS treatment systems like the Ion Exchange PFAS Treatment Facility, located at the Stoneridge groundwater well in Pleasanton.

She said that while it was an agency-wide group effort, her advocacy work helped move that project forward and she is looking forward to the opening of the second similar facility this year for the Zone 7 Chain of Lakes wells, which is located just east of the Stoneridge well.

"My early and continuous advocacy for PFAS Treatment Systems has helped to realize the first system in 2023, the second coming in 2024 and a possible third a year or so later," Green said.

She pointed to the work the agency has done in securing a \$16 million grant from the California Department of Water Resources' sustainable groundwater management grant program to cover the cost of the Stoneridge facility and to the work the agency has done in preferred bond financing to cover the second facility in Livermore.

She also lauded the work she and the agency have done with getting congressional support for future federal funding.

If elected again, Green said that she plans on continuing her PFAS-specific work and will continue to "safeguard our groundwater from contamination, advocate for funding assistance, support future water supply projects, and help finish the Flood Management Plan."

Along with her campaigning, Green also told the Weekly that she was happy to announce a three-way endorsement with two of the other candidates: Burnham and short-term candidate Brown. She said they decided to do this because of the technical experience all three bring to the table.

"Both are highly experienced technical professionals that know how to study and understand water problems and find appropriate solutions in a timely and cost-effective manner," Green said.

### Short-term candidates

Brown is a Pleasanton resident of more than 20 years who, up until the last few years, had worked as an environmental scientist for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency at the San Francisco office.

Brown said much of the work she was involved in was based around environmental cleanup for groundwater, surface water, soils and air. She said that cleanup included a wide, wide array of environmental pollutants, one of which was actually PFAS.

"I had a military base with contaminated groundwater that we had to design a cleanup program for, so I have a lot of technical experience with environmental pollution," Brown told the Weekly.

"My technical background — my entire career spent dealing with environmental contamination — speaks to my ability to review and oversee much of the work that Zone 7 is going to be faced with relative to treatment for contaminated wells or identifying and monitoring the possible sources of this and any future contamination," she added.

Brown, who first heard about the PFAS issues in Pleasanton and in Zone 7 during her time on the city of Pleasanton's Energy and Environment Committee, said if she gets the seat, she looks forward to bringing that experience to the board as Zone 7 and Pleasanton look to clean up the PFAS contamination in the area.

"I think we need to have a really good technical understanding of both the expense of that contamination and then also how to treat it or how to deal with it," Brown said. "This particular race drew me in because of the importance of understanding that problem in particular and I feel like I have experience and background to address those issues."

Apart from the PFAS issues, she said she also understands there are other priorities residents



**Cathy Brown**

might have, which is why if she is elected, she wants to focus on the management of groundwater and surface water supplies, as well as the management of flood control.

Brown said that in the process of campaigning for the board seat, she has been learning more about what the public is interested in and what their concerns are regarding water.

Some of the public's points of interest that she has been learning about are fair distribution of water rates, water supply and quality, and new sources of water supply that Zone 7 can potentially tap into.

"There's a lot of balls in the air, actually, for Zone 7 and I'm looking forward to delving deeper into some of the issues in front of the agency," Brown said.

Badar is the final candidate who, like her opponent would also be completely new to the water agency, is no stranger to community service work.

Coming from a background in sociology, Badar has been involved in multiple non-profit leadership roles with a focus on business development and strategic partnerships in the community.

"I want to make it a priority and a commitment to be forward thinking for a safe and reliable water supply to meet the needs of our residents or business or agricultural customers," Badar told the Weekly. "I'll be committed to keeping flood control a priority, bringing solid strong fiscal oversight and being an advocate for the Tri-Valley community."

She said she first took interest in the Zone 7 position last year when she attended a citizens water

academy through the Dublin San Ramon Services District.

She said that's where she learned more about water policies, critical issues surrounding water and the importance of investing in vital water infrastructure, which are all things she hopes will help her in the Zone 7 position if she is elected.

"With my background ... knowledge of water policies and being a community advocate, I would do my best to be an advocate for the Tri-Valley community and I think this makes me an asset to the Zone 7 board," Badar said.

"I have a deep concern for providing water that is safe, clean, affordable to all; keeping our flood control a priority given the recent rains and climate changes; (and) being forward thinking for drought, water supply and reliability," she added.

While she would be a newcomer if elected, Badar said she has been heavily researching the position by attending meetings and reaching out to former and current board members like Director Dawn Benson, who not only has endorsed Badar but has been helpful with teaching Badar how the agency works and the ins and outs of what comes with the role.

If elected, she plans on continuing to lean on industry experts to further that work to address PFAS contamination and really learn as much as she can from them in order to find the root causes of the contamination and find more solutions to treat it.

Apart from the Zone 7 short-term position, Badar is also running for a seat on the Alameda County Democratic Central Committee 16th Assembly District, however, she said as someone who is not working full-time right now, she strongly believes she will have the capacity to perform the duties of both positions. ■



**Seema Badar**

## Celebrating Lunar New Year in the Tri-Valley



Events throughout region to feature music, dance, art, among other activities

BY CHRISTIAN TRUJANO

The year of the dragon is upon us and with that comes weekends filled with dance, music and balloon dragons during the several Lunar New Year celebrations planned in the Tri-Valley.

Lunar New Year is a time of celebration and looking forward in Asian cultures. It marks the arrival of spring and the beginning of a new calendar year based on the moon cycles, or lunar calendar.

On Feb. 11, Livermore Valley Arts will be hosting its annual Lunar New Year celebration event at the Bankhead Theater.

The free event will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the plaza outside of the theater and will feature

demonstrations, performances and arts for the entire family to enjoy.

"It's great to be part of the Tri-Valley and in the ecosystem of Lunar New Year celebrations, and also great to celebrate the local community in a very kind of different way where it's like a blend of performance, education, youth and just an amalgamation of all of that all in one place," Arthur Barinque told Embarcadero Media Foundation.

Barinque is an event organizer who is contracted by the Bankhead as a consultant to produce their season of multicultural festivals ranging from Lunar New Year to Juneteenth and Native American Day.

He used to work for LVA in a

similar position and was actually the person to start the first Lunar New Year celebration at the Bankhead back in 2017. Though the status of his position has changed since the pandemic, his longstanding connection with the organization and his history with planning cultural events is why LVA keeps bringing him back as a contractor.

This year, Barinque said that the event will feature a Tai Chi demonstration by a father and son duo, a traditional Chinese dance performance, dragon balloon art, vendors and booths where people can make their own lanterns.

He also said he wants to really focus on youth and education this year, which is why apart from the art and entertainment aspect of the event, there will also be youth-focused nonprofits on site along with community based organizations like the Las Positas College Asian American group and the Granada High School Asian American club.

He also said there will be an East Asian art exhibit inside the theater's gallery space, which will be free. The exhibit opens around 1 p.m.

Barinque also said that one thing that he wanted to do differently this year was introduce more of the Vietnamese culture and their Lunar New Year celebrations. He said there will be a singer with her band performing and a guest speaker who will talk about the Vietnamese American



COURTESY CITY CENTER

The 2024 Lunar New Year festivities at City Center Bishop Ranch in San Ramon are set for Feb. 18.

experience of Lunar New Year.

Barinque said that the Lunar New Year celebration has been very near and dear to his heart since the beginning. He said that seeing how it has grown over the years to become part of the Tri-Valley and overall Bay Area ecosystem of Lunar New Year celebrations has been great to see.

"Lunar New Year is one of our more intimate celebrations," he said. "I feel like it's bigger and it's expanding ... and more people are looking forward to it."

"It's cool to see that happen, see that grow in that way, and still hold true to the event itself as it's very deeply rooted in the community here in Livermore," Barinque added.

The broader ecosystem of Lunar New Year celebrations in the Tri-Valley includes a celebration taking place at Alexander Square, located at the City Center Bishop Ranch in San Ramon on Feb. 18 from 2-4 p.m.

The free event will feature traditional dances; performances by Chinese, Korean and Vietnamese dancers; kung fu demonstrations; traditional instrumental performances; and lion dancing.

"The cultural events like Lunar New Year at City Center contribute to the vibrancy and diversity of the community and provide great opportunities for us to come together, celebrate different heritages and appreciate the various forms of art and expression," Jeff Dodd, senior vice president of retail, said in a statement.

There is no sign-up or registration required to attend the event.

In Pleasanton, residents will also be able to see LionDanceMe, a company that puts on Lion Dance performances, inside the Stoneridge Shopping Center.

According to a press release from the center, the performance will take place on Saturday (Feb. 3) from 2-3 p.m.

"As one of the Tri-Valley's premier shopping destinations, Stoneridge Shopping Center is proud to celebrate the diverse cultural heritage of the Asian-American community in the area," organizers said in the press release.

The Firehouse Arts Center with the help of CityServe of the Tri-Valley, is hosting its Lunar New Year celebration at the Amador Theater. The event is set for Saturday (Feb. 3) from 1-3 p.m., but according to Nick Binzoni, a representative from the city of Pleasanton, the theater at Amador Valley High School had only 370 tickets available, which have all been accounted for due to high demand.

The event will feature a lion dance from Kung Fu Dragon USA and traditional dance performances from two groups that Binzoni said were brought on by CityServe.

"This year's performance is very special," said Sui-Chen (Cheryl) Lin, health educator at CityServe. "It is composed of three generations. We invited two performance groups to perform together (Xin Yi Dance Team and Xiao Pei Dance Team), including traditional dances and modern dances, songs and music."

Last year, CityServe hosted its first Lunar New Year celebration at its Pleasanton office where over 80 people attended, which is why the organization decided to join forces with the city to host this year's event at the Amador Theater, CityServe CEO Christine Beitsch-Bahmani said.

"CityServe's Lunar New Year celebrations play a crucial role in promoting community unity," Beitsch-Bahmani said. "These events provide an avenue for residents to come together, celebrate diverse cultures, and foster cross-cultural understanding. Highlighting these gatherings contributes to showcasing the positive impact of cultural celebrations on community integration and inclusivity." ■



COURTESY CITY CENTER

Traditional Chinese dance performers take over the state during the 2023 City Center Bishop Ranch Lunar New Year Celebration event.



COURTESY ARTHUR BARINQUE

Performers pose for a photo during the 2023 Lunar New Year celebration event at the Bankhead Theater in Livermore.

# Bankhead to host live adaptation of 'History That Doesn't Suck' podcast

'The Unlikely Union' show offers educational and entertaining immersion into early U.S. history

By JUDE STRZEMP

The popular history podcast "History That Doesn't Suck" (HTDS) is set for a live adaptation show called "The Unlikely Union" at the Bankhead Theater this weekend.

In this multimedia storytelling event, Greg Jackson, creator and host of HTDS and associate professor at Utah Valley University, will narrate a factual account of the nation's history from 1754 to 1865.

He will be accompanied by live music, musical soundtracks and visual projections. The nation, playing the story's protagonist, will be seen struggling and eventually succeeding in forming and unifying, from pre-Revolution through the Civil War.

Jackson said he intends the show as informative, apolitical and entertaining, with the potential to inspire hope in present day national unity.

"In the current age — the technol-

ogy age — where we need to consume information quickly, I think that this is a gem of a show because you're both being entertained, but you're also going to learn a lot in a very short amount of time," said Andrew Kracht, marketing manager at Livermore Valley Arts, which is presenting the performance.

The French and Indian War will be featured as one entry point into the nation's story. To enliven his account of the war, Jackson will guide the audience through an intimate moment where 22-year-old Lt. Col. George Washington lost his first battle in the war.

"We're going to spend several minutes where you feel like you are with George standing in the rain, musket balls flying at you," Jackson said. "You're gonna feel that confusion and terror that he feels as he looks around and realizes half of his men are drunk because they cracked

open the rum, terrified and figuring they're as good as dead anyhow, as the French and Native allies are closing in on their little fort."

Jackson aims to encapsulate immersive narratives, like this one, with "professor-mode" explanations of the event.

In addition to war, the show will feature subjects like slavery, to which Jackson strives for sensitivity and directness.

"I am not one to tiptoe and yet at the same time, I try to take a very delicate approach, realizing that we're talking about painful aspects for various cultures," Jackson said.

Overall, HTDS is meant to bridge the gap between professional historians and the public, making history accessible to new audience members and podcast listeners, according to Jackson. As for the "Unlikely Union," show, Jackson hopes that the audience can see the unifying



COURTESY HTDS

Greg Jackson, creator and host of "History That Doesn't Suck", is set to bring a live adaptation of the podcast to the Bankhead in a show called, "The Unlikely Union."

power of the United States.

"I mean it ultimately as a hopeful message to realize that we have been through worse. We've been through equally bad times. And yet, to go with Lincoln's words, we've managed to appeal to our 'better angels' and find common ground, stick together and come back together," Jackson said.

"The Unlikely Union" is recommended for ages 12 years old and up, with parental guidance due to content including war, conflict,

slavery and historical quotes containing strong language. It is set for this Sunday (Feb. 4) at 3 p.m.

The following day, the Bankhead is hosting HTDS for a private, abridged show for students from Marilyn Avenue STEAM Academy and Arroyo Seco Elementary School, according to Chris Carter, LVA executive director. Though tickets are sold out for Feb. 4, more information about the show is available at [livermorearts.org](http://livermorearts.org). ■

# Talent of the Tri-Valley on display in upcoming 'Musical Mash-Up'

Collaborative showcase in Dublin to highlight new and seasoned performers

By NICOLE GONZALES

The Tri-Valley is known for being a culturally rich, creative and expressive region. One upcoming live event aims to highlight the talents of local performing artists, young and old, through a collaborative and lively showcase.

Royal Theater Academy and the city of Dublin have partnered together to present the first-ever "Musical Mash-Up" fundraising event. Set for this Saturday (Feb. 3) at 2 p.m. in the Dublin High School Theater, the show will include various segments.

RTA reps said the showcase will explore the theater company's "past, present and future" in its musical

numbers. Funds raised from the show will go towards RTA's mission and to local youth organizations of Dublin.

"RTA is happy to be partnering with the city of Dublin," said David Wong, RTA director of marketing. "This show puts a spotlight on the talent that RTA and Dublin performers have. It's a way for us, the city and the community to come together and support performing arts."

The performing arts group said it prioritizes a "unique way of including everyone that has a love for theater, family, community connection and a desire to take the stage."

RTA reps emphasized the fact that anyone who registers for a production will automatically have a

role in the performance ensemble. They said they pride themselves in being a "life-changing" arts program and community.

"With the past, present and future theme, we'll be calling back some former RTA members. They will share the stage with new talents, combining a wide array of ages and skills," Wong said.

RTA said members plan to share an important announcement during the show that will "benefit Dublin and the Tri-Valley's youth and arts community."

"The first inaugural 'Musical Mash-Up' event will support RTA's future programs and help our participants continue their theater education and development," Wong



COURTESY RTA

Talents of the Royal Theater Academy, whose past shows include "Seussical" (shown), will be featured in Dublin at the "Musical Mash-Up" on Feb. 3.

added. "We hope to host this fundraising event again next year."

In past years, RTA has produced classical musicals such as "Peter Pan", "Beauty and the Beast" and "Mary Poppins."

"I'm overwhelmed by the city's support and their efforts to grow the performing arts presence in

Dublin," said Trenton Torrain, owner and creative director of RTA. "The opportunity to work directly with the city where I live and grew up in, and to share my love of musical theater is an incredible honor."

To find out more about RTA or to purchase showcase tickets, visit [royaltheateracademy.com](http://royaltheateracademy.com). ■

# 'Romance & Juliet' for Valentine's Day in Livermore

SPARC presents three-actor retelling of Shakespeare classic

By JEREMY WALSH

Livermore-based SPARC Theater is getting intimately close to its Shakespeare roots with a special adapted version of a Bard classic around Valentine's Day.

"Romance & Juliet" will be a three-actor retelling of "Romeo and Juliet" at the troupe's studio in downtown on Feb. 14 and the following weekend. The script-in-hand performances

will be directed by Molly Noble and feature three rising talents, including a Livermore actress who studied at Las Positas College.

"I especially love working with young artists, just starting out on their professional



Sierra Bolar

careers. It's such an exciting time. They give it their all and bring real joy to the work," said Noble, who may be familiar to SPARC audiences after playing Mrs. Jennings in a prior production of "Sense and Sensibility."

With three shows set this month, "Romance & Juliet" will star Livermore's Sierra Bolar as Juliet, Nic Moore as Romeo and Karen

Offereins as the narrator with several roles.

"I can't say enough good things about my experience at Las Positas; especially its theatre department. It was educational being under the direction of someone with as much experience as the late Ken Ross, and then having the opportunity to pursue advanced training at (CSU) Long Beach," Bolar said in a press release. "We delved into things like clown and mask work. It prepared us for the real world where each show requires different skills."

Bolar has a particular interest in theater, both musical and drama, but her most-recent acting jobs have

been at theme parks like California's Great America and Knott's Berry Farm.

"Working in theme parks really taught me how to make choices and commit to them in-the-moment. You can hone improv skills when you work live, interacting with patrons," she said. "I do tend to prefer live theater over film or television though. Not that I'd turn down a TV role!"

"Romance & Juliet" will be staged at the SPARC Studio at 2172 Railroad Ave. in Livermore at 7:30 p.m. Feb. 14 and 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. on Feb. 17. For tickets and more information, go to [SPARCtheater.org](http://SPARCtheater.org) or 925-443-2273. ■

# POLICE BULLETIN

## CHP-Dublin welcomes new commander

There is a new commander of the California Highway Patrol's Dublin office, with Capt. Gerardo Serrato taking the reins at the beginning of the year.

Serrato, who has more than 15 years of experience with the CHP, succeeds Capt. Christopher Sherry who retired on Dec. 31 after 27 years with the agency, including seven years as commander of the Dublin division.

"To make the Tri-Valley region a safe place to live, work and travel, I look forward to building upon our strong relationships with our allied agencies, traffic safety stakeholders and community groups," Serrato said in a statement.

Serrato has risen through the ranks of the CHP after starting as an officer nearly 17 years ago. He has worked in a range of CHP regional



Gerardo Serrato

areas, including Oakland, Merced, Modesto, Redwood City, Nimitz and Mission Grade Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Facilities. His most recent role was with the Golden Gate Communications Center, CHP's 911 Bay Area dispatch center.

"Capt. Serrato recognizes he is inheriting a great office, thanks to the strong contributions of retired Capt. Chris Sherry who was a staple in the community and a strong advocate for police/community relations. Additionally, the men and women

who work in the Dublin Area work tirelessly to provide the highest level of safety, service and security to the public," Officer Tyler Hahn told Embarcadero Media Foundation.

Serrato earned a bachelor's degree in criminal justice in 2006 from California State University, Fresno and completed a master's degree in security studies in 2022 at the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey.

—Jeremy Walsh

### In other news

- The Pleasanton Police Department arrested two juveniles at Pleasanton Middle School last week after an altercation took place where one of them allegedly assaulted a parent who tried breaking up a fight in front of the school.

PPD Lt. Erik Silacci told the Weekly that police initially were responding to a reported battery involving two individuals who were in the dropoff/pickup area of PMS on Jan. 25. He said that things escalated when the mother of one of them drove up to pick up her child.

"The mom was picking up the daughter, saw her involved in this altercation outside, so she tried to intervene and she started getting hit by a friend of one of the other parties," Silacci said. "After people kind of broke them up ... the two juveniles fled on foot."

After making contact with the mother and daughter, Silacci said that officers found the two juveniles who fled on foot at a nearby residence. One was arrested on suspicion of felony assault and the other was arrested on suspicion of misdemeanor battery.

Patrick Gannon, director of communications for the Pleasanton Unified School District, confirmed with the Weekly that the individual who was arrested for felony assault is not a PUSD student. He said the one who was arrested on misdemeanor battery was a PUSD student but did not attend PMS.

That PUSD student was the one who was involved in the initial altercation with the female PMS student, Gannon said.

"Principal (Marco) Lopez and his team are following up to provide

support and create a safety plan for the Pleasanton Middle School student and family involved," Gannon said. "School administration was present and worked to break up the altercation."

The mom and the daughter both did not end up going to the hospital and said they could take care of any medical issues on their own, Silacci said.

Silacci added that PPD and PUSD are still in the early stages of investigating the incident and that both entities are working on figuring out everything that led up to the altercation.

Aside from everything that happened at PMS, Silacci provided clarification on a separate incident that happened at Harvest Park Middle School around the same time as the PMS incident on Jan. 25 where PPD arrested a theft suspect. He said both cases were unrelated but did not have any more information on the theft suspect arrested at HPMS at the moment.

—Christian Trujano

- A Livermore man who worked in information technology pleaded guilty Monday to selling laptops that he ordered for his company and then stole that were worth over a half-million dollars, the U.S. Department of Justice said.

Andrew Halvorsen, 49, pleaded guilty to conspiracy to transport stolen property.

Halvorsen worked as the senior director of information technology for a cloud-based machine data analytics company in Redwood City, according to prosecutors.

He was responsible for ordering Apple MacBooks for employees, but in 2019 he began stealing them from the company. Halvorsen would sell the MacBooks for cash to a person who then resold and shipped them outside of the state.

In total, Halvorsen sold at least 141 laptops at a cost to his employer of over \$535,000.

Halvorsen is scheduled to be sentenced on April 15 and he is facing a maximum sentence of five years in federal prison and a fine of up to \$250,000. ■

—Bay City News Service

# POLICE REPORT

The Pleasanton Police Department made the following information available.

## Jan. 26

### Warrant arrest

■ 2:14 a.m. at Owens Drive and Willow Road

■ 3:01 p.m. on the 4800 block of Bernal Avenue

### DUI

■ 11:25 p.m. at Stoneridge Mall Road and Laurel Creek Way

## Jan. 25

### Theft

■ 11:07 a.m. on the 2400 block of Bay Meadows Circle

### Assault/battery

■ 3:18 p.m. on the 5000 block of Case Avenue

### Fraud

■ 3:27 p.m. on the 4500 block of Sierrawood Lane

■ 4:03 p.m. on the 300 block of Main Street

### Domestic battery

■ 3:43 p.m. on Stanley Boulevard

## Jan. 24

### Theft

■ 10:20 a.m., 4800 block of Owens Drive; bicycle theft

■ 2:39 p.m., 000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting

## Jan. 23

### Vandalism

■ 8:44 a.m. on the 5800 block of Parkside Drive

### Theft

■ 10:42 a.m., 1400 block of Oak Vista Way; theft from auto

■ 11:46 a.m., 5300 block of Prato Court; theft from auto

■ 12:13 p.m., 6400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

### Robbery

■ 12:38 p.m. on the 1300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

## Jan. 22

### Alcohol violation

■ 12:51 p.m. on the 2800 block of Hopyard Road

### Catalytic converter theft

■ 12:54 p.m. on the 4700 block of First Street

### Warrant arrest

■ 3:42 p.m. on the 3000 block of Bernal Avenue

### Vandalism

■ 4:09 p.m. on the 4400 block of Willow Road

### Burglary

■ 5:21 p.m. on the 3700 block of Stanley Boulevard

### Domestic battery

■ 10:16 p.m. on Harrison Street

## Jan. 21

### Alcohol violation

■ 8:10 a.m. on the 5000 block of Black Avenue

■ 8:54 p.m. on the 600 block of Palomino Drive

### Theft

■ 1:01 p.m., 3800 block of Vineyard Avenue; auto theft

■ 7:42 p.m. on the 4200 block of First Street

### Burglary

■ 8:59 p.m. on the 5100 block of Independence Drive

## Heinz Gewing

October 10, 1932 – January 21, 2024



Heinz Gewing passed away at the age of 91 in Dublin, California on January 21, 2024. Born on October 10, 1932 in Leoben, Austria, he spent his childhood in Shanghai, China, one of the only countries in the world that would accept Jewish refugees. Heinz and his family lived in a small apartment above his father's store, in an area known as the Shanghai Ghetto. It was not an easy life, but hard work, resilience and a sense of humor helped sustain them.

After arriving in San Francisco in 1948, Heinz attended Lowell High School, graduated from UC Berkeley, and received his master's degree in educational counseling from Penn State. He and his late wife Lisa Gewing were married for over 50 happy years, raising their two daughters in Oakland, before moving up the California coast.

Heinz started out as a teacher at Oakland High School. He later worked at the Job Corps, a program created during the Lyndon Johnson Administration as part of the War on Poverty. He went on to become the last Superintendent of the Murray School District and the first Superintendent of the newly created Dublin Unified School District.

It was in Dublin that Heinz first met PTA president and parent volunteer Eileen Barr. A friendship developed that years later, after Lisa's death, turned into something much more. The couple spent 17 wonderful years together, sharing a passion for politics and social activism. When they weren't out protesting, they were traveling the world or welcoming a constant stream of visitors into their home.

Heinz was a kind man, known for his generosity, wit, and common sense. A close friend once described him as the only person he knew who could turn a mountain into a molehill. How lucky we all were to have had him in our lives and how we will miss him.

Heinz is survived by his cherished partner Eileen Barr, daughters Jenny Andrus (Alex) and Dina Gewing (Tim); granddaughter Sasha Andrus and grandson Nick Andrus (Ashley); older brother Walter and twin brother Ehud, as well as his beloved nieces and nephews.

Special thanks to Hope Hospice and to Maribel Macias, who provided such loving care to Heinz. Services will be held privately by his family. In lieu of flowers, they suggest contributions to Hope Hospice ([hopehospice.com](http://hopehospice.com)) or to HIAS (<https://hias.org>), an organization that assisted Heinz's family over 70 years ago and continues to support refugees around the world today.

PAID OBITUARY

## Jaydene V. Koberle

December 3, 1935 – January 5, 2024

Watercolorist, world traveler and prolific gardener. Jaydene Koberle died peacefully, surrounded by her family on January 5th. She is now re-united with her beloved husband Herman, of 41 years. Jaydene and her husband were active members of the Lynnewood United Methodist Church in Pleasanton. She loved her community that included the weekly farmer's market and senior center lunches and activities. She is survived by her four children, Anne, Jill, Scott and Kevin and her three grandchildren, Keenan, Cameron and Carson.



PAID OBITUARY



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# Opinion

## TIM TALK

BY TIM HUNT

### Sharing first-hand Oct. 7 in Israel

Yadin Gellman enjoyed his 30th birthday party with buddies and his girlfriend at a glamping site she'd reserved for the event. It was his best day ever.

When she woke up Gellman on Oct. 7, 2023, their lives changed when she told him that Hamas had invaded Israeli. Gellman, a lieutenant colonel in the Israeli Defense Force reserves, headed for his base in his car, while TV anchor Adva Dadon headed toward the fighting.

Gellman set this scene during a compelling 90-minute presentation, "The Longest 12 Hours of My Life" that he shared on Jan. 21 at Chabad of the Tri-Valley in Pleasanton. He's been bringing his first-hand account of the Hamas terror attack to a variety of audiences across the United States including senior military leaders in Washington D.C.

His girlfriend, a well-known news anchor and television reporter, was the first on the scene at the music festival that Hamas brutalized, murdering men and women alike and torturing and raping women. Dadon drove her car through the festival site and gathered up children and took them to safety.

Meanwhile Gellman and his teammates had grabbed their gear and

headed south to the fight. They literally were driving around shot-up, wrecked vehicles and Israeli bodies once they reached the invasion zone. After helping get victims to medical care, they were ordered to clear Hamas from Be'eri, a kibbutz near the unguarded border fence.

That meant going home-by-home to ensure they were not attacked from behind by terrorists they missed. They found horrible scenes of families burned in their safe rooms or tortured before they were killed. Because of hostages, they had to break down the door and could not fire until they could see a terrorist inside. They found themselves battling the terrorists who were hiding in a playground. There were two Israeli teams of 20 fighting an estimated 500 terrorist. Only two members of his squad survived.

Gellman and his right-hand man, approached another building and an AK-47 went off as they got near the stairs. Both were badly wounded. When their teammates tried to rescue them, terrorists gunfire drove them back. Gellman and his buddy crawled under the building where he gripped his gun tightly in case he had to fight more.

An IDF officer had commandeered

a tank and they were finally rescued. Gellman's left arm was hanging by skin and a few nerves and teammate strapped it into his vest. Gellman knew his left lung was filling with blood and would take his life. A battlefield doc examined him that Gellman recognized as a famous doctor who had saved his own life by draining his lung. He distracted Gellman and plunged the drain into his lung, saving his life.

He was evacuated by helicopter and it was a touch-and-go for several days before he was out-of-the woods. Several surgeries were required to reattach his left arm. He's still wearing it in a sling and hoping to regain more use of it.

The bullet that pierced his lung would have been expected to exit his back, instead it took a U-turn, what he describes as a miracle.

As he watched television, he became convinced his voice was needed. When CNN International reached out, he was able to convince his superiors to let him be interviewed. The two anchors were fair and have been helpful to him, he said.

Setting the scene for his talk, Gellman talked about two events that shaped his childhood and resulted in him focusing on serving in the



COURTESY RABBI RALEIGH RESNICK

Yadin Gellman presents "The Longest 12 Hours of My Life" at Chabad of the Tri-Valley in Pleasanton on Jan. 21.

military. The Second Intifada started in 2000. He was running to catch a bus to school when a suicide bomber blew himself and the bus up.

Two years later, when Gellman was 12 years old, terrorists exploded his vest inside a coffee shop killing a father and his daughter who were celebrating before her wedding the next day. Gellman's family was planning to attend the wedding. He said he changed his diet, his workout and became focused on serving with the IDF. When he entered, he eventually qualified for the elite Sayeret Matkal, the Israeli special forces tasked with the most difficult missions.

He served seven years and then was led to think about becoming an actor. He convinced his leadership to allow him one day a week for acting classes so he left when his term was up and pursued acting while serving in the reserves.

He acted in a play as a soldier with four bullet wounds in his left arm

and in a movie as a commander in a house-to-house fight. He said it eerily foreshadowed the events of Oct. 7. The acting prepared him for his current speaking gigs to share the first-hand truth.

Incidentally, he mentioned that he should have married his girlfriend as his life played before him while he was lying under the house badly wounded. To date he hasn't popped the question.

He's limiting his social media activity, but you can watch a long interview on YouTube. ■

*Editor's note: Journalist Tim Hunt has written columns on the Tri-Valley community for more than 40 years. He grew up in the valley and lives in Pleasanton. His "Tim Talk" blog appears online at PleasantonWeekly.com.*

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## LETTERS

### Sandra J. Wing

Thank you to Jeremy Walsh for sharing a wonderful tribute to Sandra J. Wing in his "What a Week" column. Having missed the October article about the foundation, I first learned about Sandra J. Wing's retirement in Jeremy's "Year in Review".

I was one of the recipients of the grant, and I can say it changed my life. I was diagnosed with non-small cell lung cancer in December 2018. One of the complementary therapies offered was with a nurse certified as a guided and integrative imagery provider, Kathryn Darlington.

I was never one to keep a journal or practice meditation, and Kathryn set me on this path. I went on to participate in a mindfulness retreat and took a course on stress reduction and mindfulness meditation. I do believe that this education and these practices set me on a course to help beat cancer.

I took advantage of other services as well. This included acupuncture and massage. Providers were knowledgeable about the effects of cancer treatments and therefore sensitive to

cancer patients' needs.

I'm sad to hear of the dissolution of the foundation and wish the best to Sandra and wife Gracie as they enjoy retirement. Kudos also to Culinary Angels! My husband and I appreciated many a meal they provided. It's been five years since my first cancer diagnosis, and I am happy to be here to write this letter. I hope one day I can serve to help from the other side, as a volunteer.

—Janice Flanzbaum

### Must ban 'steer tailing'

Back in 1994, the California Legislature passed a bill banning the Mexican charreadas' brutal "horse tripping" event. Almost immediately the U.S. Charro Federation changed their rules for the entire country. Progress!

Charreadas feature an even more brutal event, "steer tailing," (aka "colas" or "coleadero"), wherein a mounted charro grabs a running steer by the tail, wraps the tail around his leg, then rides off at an angle, slamming the hapless animal to the ground. Tails may be broken, stripped to the bone ("degloved"), even torn off.

"Steer tailing" is not a standard ranching practice anywhere in

the U.S., and banned in Alameda and Contra Costa counties (1993) and the state of Nebraska (2008). Hundreds of these events are held in California annually.

It's likely that passage of a California ban would result in a U.S. Charro Federation rule change banning "steer tailing" nationwide. Sen. Liz Figueroa (D-Fremont) authored such a bill back in 2002. SB 1306 reached the Senate floor but was abruptly and inexplicably dropped, despite major support, including that of Cesar Chavez.

Time to try again. Bill introduction deadline is Feb. 16. Let your representatives hear from you!

—Eric Mills, coordinator,  
Action for Animals

### Concerned about school finances

I am a citizen of Pleasanton, currently a ninth grader at Amador Valley High School. Recently I went to a school board meeting where many things were discussed. Among those were a \$10 million budget deficit. I am concerned about school facilities being cut, and teacher pay being reduced if the financial situation worsens.

I also heard at the meeting that

# Sports



## PLEASANTON PREPS

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BY DENNIS MILLER

### Hilton scores winning goal as Amador boys beat Dublin

The Amador Valley varsity boys' soccer team finished with a 1-2 mark last week, beating Dublin, but losing to Dougherty Valley and Monte Vista.

The loss to Dougherty Valley was a 4-0 final, with Gus Shibliq turning in a strong performance.

In the 2-1 win over Dublin, Ramsey Hanna got the first goal off an assist by Max Couper. The game-winner came with eight minutes left when Isaac Hilton found the net off a set piece from outside the box.

The week concluded with a 1-0 loss to Monte Vista. Sophomore goalie Elliot de la Torre kept the Dons in the game with several big saves.

The Amador junior varsity team went 1-1-1 last week.

It started with a 0-0 draw with Dougherty Valley. Goalie Zander Horberg came back from injury to

record seven saves along the way to post the shutout.

In the middle of the week, the Dons beat Dublin 2-1, getting goals from Frankie McBain and Mateo Eichler. Clayton Kahl had an assist on the first goal. Nikhil Bhargava made decisive runs and was an attacking threat all day, earning him player of the game.

On Saturday, the Dons lost 4-1 to Monte Vista. Eichler was player of the game for his efforts getting the lone goal from the mark.

The freshmen had a tough week, suffering three one-goal losses.

Dougherty Valley took a 1-0 win holding off Amador's offense that produced 20 shots on goal. Two days later the Dons gave up a late goal and fell 3-2 to Dublin. Less than 24 hours later, the Dons were at Monte Vista. With injuries stacking up, the short-handed Dons played with only one sub and lost 2-1.

#### Foothill boys' soccer

Ryan Bongiorno scored his first goal of the season off an assist by Matthew Tahir and the Falcons pulled out the 1-0 win against California. The defense was great behind the play of Tyler Walsh, Thorben Gross-Perez, Adam Bernhard and goalie Aiden Ahmad.

The rest of the week did not go as well as the Falcons fell 4-0 to De La Salle and then 2-0 to San Ramon Valley.

In JV play, the Falcons tied Cal 0-0 to open the week, then lost for the first time this season 1-0 to De La Salle. Finally, Tyler Russo assisted Atlas Kading for the lone goal as Foothill beat San Ramon Valley 1-0.

#### Amador girls' soccer

The Dons went 2-0-1 last week, not allowing any goals. They beat Dougherty Valley 4-0 as Maylen Montoya scored twice, with Hailey Morec and Hailey Cooper getting one each.

The middle game of the week saw a 0-0 tie with Dublin.

In the last game of the week, the Dons got a big 2-0 win over Monte Vista. Amador's two goals came from Ava Haviley and Julia Wanis.



DANIEL CRUZ

Amador Valley's Isaac Hilton (4) and Max Couper (8) celebrate after the Dons' win over Dublin.

#### Girls' basketball

The Amador Valley girls' basketball team grabbed a 49-48 win over Dublin last week. Addison Leomiti had 14 points to lead the way, with Megan Hoang adding 11 and Avalon Kenitzer scoring six points.

Earlier in the week, the Dons fell 46-40 to Dougherty Valley. Kenitzer had 15 points, with Leomiti adding five.

Amador ended the three-game week falling 58-35 to Monte Vista. Hoang had five and Leomiti four.

Across town, the Foothill Falcons dropped a 51-32 game to California on the girls' Senior Night. Riley Young had 15 points, and Beti Terpstra (who had 38 earlier this year in a win over Ygnacio Valley) finished with nine.

#### Amador boys' basketball

The Dons dropped three tough games last week, losing to Dougherty Valley, Dublin and Monte Vista.

In the 59-52 loss to Dougherty Valley, Kasen Krueger had 19 and Jaylen Smith 12 points.

Next up was a 67-57 loss to Dublin. Cade Krueger had 23 points, with his brother Kasen adding 15. Brady McMillin had nine points and was solid on defense along with Nate Jetter.

Finally in the 64-45 loss to Monte Vista, Smith had 10 points as the lone Amador player in double figures. ■

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

## Employment

Safeway Inc. hiring Software Engineer V (backend developer) / Customer Service Group-Tech & Engineering in Pleasanton, CA. May telecommute reports to Pleasanton. Must have legal right to work in US. EOE. Subj. to bckgrnd check. \$151,261- \$204,506.50. Email resume TA.Applications@albertsons.com. Attn: M. Ferreira. Ref # 1206ML

Safeway Inc. hiring Senior Software Engineer (Java) / SC Master Data in Pleasanton, CA. May telecommute. Reports to Pleasanton. Must have legal right to work in US. EOE. Subj. to bckgrnd check. \$151,261-180,950/yr. Email resume: TA.Applications@albertsons.com. Attn: H. Macasieb. Ref # 1206KSN

Safeway Inc. hiring Senior Quality Assurance Manager / Development Support in Pleasanton, CA. May telecommute. Reports to Pleasanton. Must have legal right to work in US. EOE. Subj. to bckgrnd check. \$131,093 - \$183,750/yr. Email resume to TA.Applications@albertsons.com. Attn: M. Ferreira. Ref # 1212RB.

10x Genomics in Pleasanton, CA seeks multiple positions: SCM Systems Specialist, salary \$175k-\$215k (SCM23); Microfluidics Eng. III, salary \$130k-\$160k (ME2023); Field Appl. Scientist, salary \$115k-\$140k, Domestic & Intl travel required 80% of time & may be stationed anywhere in continental U.S. reporting to 10x's headquarters in Pleasanton, CA (FAS23); and Scientist 2, salary \$130k-\$150k (S223). Qualified applicants must mail resume to 10x Genomics, Attn: Jana Jensen, 6230 Stoneridge Mall Rd, Pleasanton, CA 94588 quoting job #.

10x Genomics in Pleasanton, CA seeks multiple positions: Software Eng. in Test, Embedded, salary \$133k-\$150k (SETE23). Qualified applicants must mail resume to 10x Genomics, Attn: Jana Jensen, 6230 Stoneridge Mall Rd, Pleasanton, CA 94588 quoting job #.

10x Genomics in Pleasanton, CA seeks multiple positions: Assoc. Dir., Global Sales Analytics & Insights, salary \$195k-\$225k, may be stationed anywhere in continental U.S. reporting to 10x's headquarters in Pleasanton, CA (AD2023); and Comm. Reporting & Analysis Sr. Mgr., salary \$185k-\$215k (CRA23). Qualified applicants must mail resume to 10x Genomics, Attn: Jana Jensen, 6230 Stoneridge Mall Rd, Pleasanton, CA 94588 quoting job #.

Safeway Inc. hiring Technical Program Manager / Loyalty & Digital Marketing in Pleasanton, CA. May telecommute reports to Pleasanton. Must have legal right to work in US. EOE. Subj. to bckgrnd check. \$173,690 - \$260,590/yr. Email resume TA.Applications@albertsons.com. Attn: L. Mogannam. Ref # 1201SKG.

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Pleasanton Weekly

## Entertainment

### DEEP RIVER WITH ALEX TAITE

Experience this one-man show exploring an often neglected part of American society, the Negro Spiritual. Take a journey with Alex through this lecture recital to deepen your knowledge and your humanity. 8 p.m., Feb. 2. Tickets \$15-\$25. Visit [firehousearts.org](http://firehousearts.org).

### STICKY FINGERS BY THE ROLLING STONES

Classic Albums Live brings this classic album to life like never before, making it a must-see event for any Rolling Stones fan. 8 p.m., Feb. 2. Tickets \$45-\$75. Visit [livermorearts.org](http://livermorearts.org).

### THE CALIFORNIA FEETWARMERS

Lovers of ragtime, stompy blues and hot jazz rejoice, The California Feetwarmers bring their boisterous stage presence to the Firehouse so bring your dancing shoes to this unique Dance Hall event. 8 p.m., Feb. 3. Tickets \$30. Visit [firehousearts.org](http://firehousearts.org).

### GUITARIST: PAUL GALBRAITH

Internationally renowned Grammy-nominated guitarist Paul Galbraith, famed both for his sensitive musical interpretations and for his unique instrument has performed with top orchestras and as a recitalist throughout Europe and North America. 7:30 p.m., Feb. 3. Tickets \$55. Visit [livermorearts.org](http://livermorearts.org).

### LUNAR NEW YEAR CELEBRATION

Celebrate the Year of the Dragon and enjoy live musical performances including traditional dances and songs. Free event but attendees must have a ticket. 1-3 p.m., Feb. 3. Amador Theater. Visit [firehousearts.org](http://firehousearts.org).

### RENEGADE ORCHESTRA

The Renegade Orchestra embraces the virtuosic skills of top bay area musicians and turns them loose on songs orchestras have never or maybe shouldn't do. The Beauty of a Symphony, the Soul of a Rock Band. 2 p.m., Feb. 4. Tickets \$20-\$30. Visit [firehousearts.org](http://firehousearts.org).

### ASHLEY JEMISON SAXOPHONE CONCERT

Join for a live saxophone concert by Ashley Jemison who brings a new school vibe to smooth jazz by covering the current styles of R&B and pop music, while adding a unique improvisational twist that leaves audiences wanting more. 7 p.m., Feb. 8. Livermore Civic Center Library Storytime Room.

### FOLSOM '68-THE JOHNNY CASH TRIBUTE

Experience the legendary music of Johnny Cash like never before with Folsom '68, the premier Johnny Cash tribute band. 8 p.m., Feb. 9. Tickets \$35-\$65. Visit [livermorearts.org](http://livermorearts.org).

### MJ'S BRASS BOPPERS

MJ's Brass Boppers Brass Band is an authentic New Orleans singing and swinging Second Line brass band fusing traditional NOLA standards, funk, jazz, modern pop and more with a second line twist. 8 p.m., Feb. 9. Tickets \$20-\$35. Visit [firehousearts.org](http://firehousearts.org).

### FLAMENCO AT THE FIREHOUSE

Join Pleasanton native Jesse Torre and his guests as they present an evening of emotionally charged Flamenco complete with traditional guitar, vocals and dance. 8 p.m., Feb. 10. Tickets \$15-\$20. Visit [firehousearts.org](http://firehousearts.org).

### LIVERMORE-AMADOR SYMPHONY PRESENTS VIBRANT VARIATIONS

Featuring solo concertos by the winners of the annual Competition for Young Musicians, a community event not to be missed. 7:30 p.m., Feb. 10. tickets \$42. Visit [livermorearts.org](http://livermorearts.org).

### ROMANCE & JULIET

Join for a script-in-hand reading of Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet with only three actors and sip on award-winning wine or delight in a chocolate dessert while hearing these two star-crossed lovers classic tale. 7:30 p.m., Feb. 14; 2 p.m., & 7:30 p.m., Feb. 17. Tickets \$25-\$35. Visit [sparctheater.org](http://sparctheater.org).

### CONCERT PIANIST DANIEL GLOVER

Concert pianist Daniel Glover performs his program "Reimagined", a collection of piano works originally created in other instrumentations or forms. 7:30 p.m., Feb. 17. Tickets \$30, free for children, high school and college students. First Presbyterian Church, 2020 Fifth St., Livermore. Visit [valleyconcertchorale.org](http://valleyconcertchorale.org).

### GRANADA HIGH SCHOOL JAZZ BAND

Join for a morning of smooth jazz music featuring the talented and skilled musicians of the Granada High School Jazz Band presenting musical sets and pieces composed and performed by African American Jazz musicians. 11 a.m., Feb. 17. Livermore Civic Center Library Storytime Room.

## Festivals & Exhibits

### BLACK HISTORY MONTH ART EXHIBIT

Visit the Livermore Civic Center Library Art Gallery to view the artwork of talented Bay Area artists. Art Of The African Diaspora, in partnership with Richmond Art Center, supports artists of African descent in the Bay Area. Feb. 1-29.

### MANUFACTURERS' RV SHOW

RVs for every lifestyle at the 35th Annual Manufacturers RV Show & Sale which brings together top dealers to display the very latest models. Feb. 3-4. Visit [alamedacountyfair.com](http://alamedacountyfair.com).

### PLEASANTON WEDDING FESTIVAL

Find everything needed at this wedding expo. This one-stop shop features an array of top professionals plus fun ideas, products and services. 11 a.m.-3 p.m., Feb. 18. Admission \$20. Visit [alamedacountyfair.com](http://alamedacountyfair.com).

### FLORA IN FOCUS AT THE HARRINGTON ART GALLERY

The Harrington Gallery hosts the Floral in Focus group exhibition featuring approximately 80 works of various mediums, with 10 local artists

taking part in this floral-themed show. Now through March 9. 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton.

### POETIC WORLD: EAST ASIAN ART

This free exhibit will celebrate the fusion of contemporary art with rich East Asian heritage. This captivating showcase transports visitors into a realm where traditional techniques harmonize with modern interpretations. Thursdays to Sunday, 1-5 p.m. through March 3. UNCLE Credit Union Art Gallery, Bankhead Theater.

## Talks

### BANKHEAD PRESENTS: HISTORY THAT DOESN'T SUCK

From the Civil War to the Gilded Age to the present day, History That Doesn't Suck is a history fan's dream show where Professor Greg Jackson guides through some of the greatest points in American history. Laced with sarcasm and humor, this show is the perfect way to learn and have fun at the same time. 3 p.m., Feb. 4. Tickets \$30-\$60. Visit [livermorearts.org](http://livermorearts.org).

### MEET AUTHOR KEELY PARRACK

Local author Keely Parrack will be at the Dublin Library to talk about writing and to kick off the release of her newest novel for teens, 10 Hours to Go. 4:30 p.m., Feb. 6.

### WEBINAR: CAN DEMENTIA BE PREVENTED?

Attendees will gain an understanding of the role that genetics play in developing dementia and learn about the lifestyle choices that may have a positive impact on brain health. The latest information about approved medications for managing symptoms and possibly slowing cognitive decline will also be discussed. 10-11 a.m., Feb. 8. Visit [hopehospice.com](http://hopehospice.com).

### MEET AUTHOR LISA GRAY

Join author Lisa Gray for this free, lively discussion about Healthy Conflict/Happy Couple. Stop fighting with each other and start fighting for your relationship. 7 p.m., Feb. 8. Towne Center Books, 555 Main St., Pleasanton.

### ARMCHAIR TRAVELERS: SAILING THE DODECANESE

Susan Gerber will present a slideshow entitled "Sailing the Dodecanese: Lesser-Known Greek Islands by Private Sailboat" where she will share photographs and stories of her adventures sailing with a Turkish captain on a sailboat to Greek Islands off the Turkey coast in the Dodecanese. 1:30 p.m., Feb. 8. Livermore Civic Center Library.

### KEELY PARRACK AT TOWNE CENTER BOOKS

Keely Parrack will discuss writing and her two new books which launched earlier this week. 6:30 p.m., Feb. 9. 555 Main St., Pleasanton.

### RAVENSWOOD DOCENT TOURS

Ravenswood Historical House will be open to the public on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month, 12-4 p.m. for docent-led tours. Feb. 11. 2647 Arroyo Road, Livermore.

## PET OF THE WEEK



TVAR

### Sassy is a sweetheart

Sassy is affectionate, likes belly rubs and adores her foster mom and special volunteer friends. She has a puppy-like playfulness about her and it's so cute to see her entertain herself with toys. She's smart too! Sassy knows basic commands, she walks on leash and is interested in other calm, respectful dogs. She is available for adoption through Tri-Valley Animal Rescue; go to [tvar.org](http://tvar.org).

### INTERFAITH INTERCONNECT RELIGION CHAT

Nearly all religions have a version of thou shalt not kill. How does your religion/congregation deal with the reality of war? Speakers: Rabbi Dr. Laurence Milder, Congregations Beth Emek and Omar Naisan, Muslim Community Center East Bay. More information at [facebook.com/InterfaithInterconnect](http://facebook.com/InterfaithInterconnect). 5 p.m., Feb. 14.

### TRI-VALLEY WRITERS

Michelle Chouinard will present Making Metaphors and Other Stylish Moves at the next Tri-Valley Writers meeting where she will share insights into the publishing business and the importance of persistence. 2 p.m., Feb. 17. Las Positas College. Register by Feb. 15 at [trivalleywriters.org](http://trivalleywriters.org).

### LIVERMORE-AMADOR GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Melinda Kashuba, PhD presents, "Using Maps in Genealogical Research, Part 2: Digital Mapping with Google Earth and Google Maps". 7-8:30, Feb. 12. Congregation Beth Emek, 3400 Nevada Ct., Pleasanton. Visit [l-ags.org](http://l-ags.org).

### HACIENDA PARK TOASTMASTERS

Hacienda Park Toastmasters Club meets in-person and virtually via Zoom. Overcome fear of speaking in a friendly, supportive atmosphere. Visit [haciendapark.toastmastersclubs.org](http://haciendapark.toastmastersclubs.org).

## Farmers' Markets

### PLEASANTON FARMERS' MARKET

The Pleasanton Farmers' Market is Saturday year round featuring vendors with seasonal fruits & vegetables, plus artisanal goods. 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. W. Angela St.

### LIVERMORE SUNDAY FARMERS' MARKET

Gather for music, food and fresh local and organic products directly from producers. Support small businesses and local sustainable agriculture. 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Sundays. Between J St. and L St.

## Outdoors

**BIRDING BY EAR** In this unique bird listening hike learn how to utilize

the sense of hearing to experience and identify local birds. From tweets to trills and songs to calls, birds have an amazing language all their own. 9 a.m., Feb. 3. Visit [larpd.org](http://larpd.org).

### RANGER PROGRAM: BIRD PUPPET

Drop by the Native Garden at Sycamore Grove Park and see Ranger Lauren for a hands-on avian-inspired crafting opportunity with all supplies provided. 3 p.m., Feb. 10. Visit [larpd.org](http://larpd.org).

### GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT

Join a morning hike through Sycamore Grove Park during the Great Backyard Bird Count. This will be an easy hike along uneven trails, about 3 miles. Binoculars are encouraged. 8:30 a.m., Feb. 17. Visit [larpd.org](http://larpd.org).

## Fundraiser

**WINES AND VALENTINES** The 17th Annual Wines & Valentines Dinner helps raise money for the Museum on Main. The event includes a 4-course meal, history maker's award, silent auction, live auction, music and dancing. Tickets \$175. 5-10 p.m., Feb. 9. Palm Event Center on the Rubino Winery Estate. Visit [museumonmain.org](http://museumonmain.org).

## Scholarships

### ALAN HU FOUNDATION

**SCHOLARSHIP** Scholarships for up to \$1,000 will be awarded to high school seniors from Dublin, Livermore and Pleasanton Unified School Districts whose college majors and career aspirations support mental health. The deadline is March 10. For more information visit [alanhufoundation.org/scholarship](http://alanhufoundation.org/scholarship).

### TRI-VALLEY RETIRED EDUCATORS' SCHOLARSHIP

The Tri-Valley Retired Educators' Scholarship is for students planning to enter the field of education as a teacher or counselor and a graduate of a public high school in Livermore, Pleasanton, Dublin or San Ramon. Applicants must submit a completed application by mail or by hand by March 15. Visit [div85.caltra.org](http://div85.caltra.org).

# Public Notices

## STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME

File No. 588783  
The following person(s)/registrant(s) has/ have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name(s). The information given below is as it appeared on the fictitious business statement that was filed at the County Clerk-Recorder's Office. FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME(S): HOPE FOR HEALING  
1552 E Gate Way Apt #227  
Pleasanton, CA 94566  
FILED IN ALAMEDA COUNTY ON: 05/03/22  
UNDER FILE NO. 588783  
REGISTRANT'S NAME(S): CRISTINA MOIDEL  
1552 E. Gate Way Apt. #227  
Pleasanton, CA 94566  
THIS BUSINESS WAS CONDUCTED BY An Individual.  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Alameda County on January 02 2024.  
(PLW Jan 19, 26, Feb 2 and 9, 2024)

## ALCAMEE FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No.: 602563  
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
1.) ALCAMEE, located at 4314 Valley Avenue, Apt. G, Pleasanton, CA, 94566, ALAMEDA. This business is conducted by: an Individual. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are): CAMELIA DOBRICA  
4314 Valley Avenue, Apt. G  
Pleasanton, CA, 94566  
Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above.  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on December 07 2023.  
(PLW Jan 12, 19, 26 and Feb 2, 2024)

## AMI CONTRACTING FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No.: 603369  
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
1.) AMI Contracting, located at 6318 Hansen Dr. Pleasanton, CA, 94566 Alameda County. This business is conducted by: an Individual. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are): ANGEL IRIZARRY  
6318 Hansen Dr  
Pleasanton, CA 94566  
Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above.  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on January 16 2024.  
(PLW Jan 26, Feb 2, 9 and 16, 2024)

## GOLDEN STATE DOCUMENT SERVICES INC FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No.: 603352  
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
1.) Golden State Document Services Inc., located at 874 Chateau Heights Ct, Pleasanton, CA 94566, Alameda. Mailing Address: 1807 Santa Rita Road H227 Pleasanton, CA 94566  
This business is conducted by: a Corporation. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are): Golden State Document Services Inc.  
1807 Santa Rita Road H227  
Pleasanton, CA 94566  
California  
Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 06/03/2013  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on January 12 2024.  
(PLW Jan 19, 26, Feb 2 and 9, 2024)

## BAY EAST BROKERS INC FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No.: 603353  
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
1.) Bay East Brokers Inc, located at 874 Chateau Heights Ct, Pleasanton, CA 94566, Alameda. Mailing Address: 1807 Santa Rita Rd H227, Pleasanton, CA 94566.  
This business is conducted by: a Corporation. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are): Bay East Brokers Inc.  
1807 Santa Rita Rd H227  
Pleasanton, CA 94566  
California  
Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 04/16/2015  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on January 11 2024.  
(PLW Jan 19, 26, Feb 2 and 9, 2024)

## LONG POINT CONSTRUCTION FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No.: 603076  
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
1.) Long Point Construction, located at 3939 Vineyard Ave Pleasanton, CA 94566, Alameda. This business is conducted by: a Limited Liability Company. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are): WEST OF MERCURY, LLC  
3939 Vineyard Ave  
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 December 28 2023.  
(PLW Jan 12, 19, 26 and Feb 2, 2024)

## THE CHEF'S FARMER FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No.: 603157  
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
1.) The Chef's Farmer, located at 5050 Arroyo Road, Livermore, CA 94550, Alameda. Mailing Address: PO BOX 346, Sunol, CA 94586  
This business is conducted by: an Individual. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are): DIANE DOVHOLUK  
PO BOX 346  
Sunol, CA 94586  
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 January 03 2024.  
(PLW Jan 12, 19, 26 and Feb 2, 2024)

## EVITAMINLAND FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No.: 602943  
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
1.) Evitaminland, located at 653 Catron Drive Oakland, CA 94603, Alameda County. This business is conducted by: an Individual. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are): RHONDA BURNS  
653 Catron Dr  
Oakland, CA 94603  
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 20 2023.  
(PLW Jan 26, Feb 2, 9 and 16, 2024)

## THE TODD TEAM THE TODD TEAM HOMES FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No.: 603574  
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
1.) The Todd Team, 2.) The Todd Team Homes, located at 450 Main St Ste 207 Pleasanton CA, 94566, Alameda.  
This business is conducted by: an Individual. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are): TODD MARTINEZ  
450 Main St Ste 207  
Pleasanton CA 94566  
Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above.  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on January 24 2024.  
(PLW Feb 2, 9, 16 and 23, 2024)

## SGLA TECHNICAL TRAINING FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No.: 603044  
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
1.) SGLA Technical Training, located at 825 Delaware Street Berkeley, CA 94710, Alameda. This business is conducted by: an Individual. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are): SARAH GRONQUIST  
825 Delaware Street  
Berkeley, CA 94710  
Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 08/01/2023  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on December 27 2023.  
(PLW Jan 26, Feb 2, 9 and 16, 2024)

## TRI VALLEY HOME DRAFTING FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No.: 603265  
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:

1.) Tri Valley Home Drafting, located at 1018 Via Madrid Livermore, CA 94550, Alameda County. This business is conducted by: an Individual. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are): JOSEPH YELAVICH  
1018 Via Madrid  
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 January 09 2024.  
(PLW Jan 19, 26, Feb 2 and 9, 2024)

## INNER RESONANCE HEALING FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No.: 603127  
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
1.) Inner Resonance Healing, located at 2076 Cotterell Court Pleasanton, CA 94566, Alameda County.  
This business is conducted by: an Individual. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are): CRISTINA MOIDEL  
2076 Cotterell Court  
Pleasanton, CA 94566  
Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above.  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on January 02 2024.  
(PLW Jan 19, 26, Feb 2 and 9, 2024)

## DEDICARE PLACEMENT AGENCY FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No.: 602855  
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
1.) DediCare Placement Agency, located at 6231 Camino del Lago, Pleasanton CA 94566, Alameda County.  
This business is conducted by: a Limited Liability Company. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are): DEDICARE PLACEMENT AGENCY LLC.  
6231 Camino del Lago  
Pleasanton, CA 94566  
California  
Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 12/14/2023  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on December 15 2023.  
(PLW Jan 19, 26, Feb 2 and 9, 2024)

## CTKEMPANADAS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No.: 603422  
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
1.) CTKempanadas, located at 5501 De Marcus Blvd Apt 604, Dublin, CA 94568, Alameda County.  
This business is conducted by: an Individual. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are): TETIANA KOVALENKO  
5501 De Marcus Blvd Apt 604 Dublin, CA 94568  
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 January 17 2024.  
(PLW Jan 26, Feb 2, 9 and 16, 2024)

## LEVEL UP LEGAL SERVICES FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No.: 603100  
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
1.) Level Up Legal Services, located at 22281 Center Street, # 47, Castro Valley, CA 94546, Alameda.  
This business is conducted by: an Individual. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are): THERESA WILLIAMS  
22281 Center Street, # 47  
Castro Valley, CA 94546  
Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 02/01/2023  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on December 29 2023.  
(PLW Jan 12, 19, 26 and Feb 2, 2024)

## GUDESTHETICS LASHGORL FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No.: 603054  
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
1.) GUDESTHETICS, 2.) LASHGORL, located at 39111 Paseo Padre Pkwy Unit 115 Fremont, CA 94538, Alameda County. Mailing Address: 170 Willowrun Way, Oakley, CA 94561  
This business is conducted by: a Limited Liability Company. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are): GUDESTHETICS  
39111 Paseo Padre Pkwy Unit 115  
Fremont, CA 94538  
California  
Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 04/22/2022  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on December 28 2023.  
(PLW Jan 19, 26, Feb 2 and 9, 2024)

## ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA FOR THE COUNTY OF ALAMEDA

Case No.: 24CV061339  
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:  
Petitioner: April Wood Brott filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:  
CALVIN EDWARD DRESSER to CALVIN EDWARD DRESSER-BROTT  
THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.  
NOTICE OF HEARING: 03/12/2024, 9:30 A.M., Department 14 of the Superior Court of California, County of Alameda located at 1221 Oak Street, Oakland, CA, 94612.  
A copy of this ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county:  
PLEASANTON WEEKLY  
Date: 01/25/2024  
Thomas J. Nixon  
JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT  
(PLW Feb 2, 9, 16 and 23, 2024)

## ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA FOR THE COUNTY OF ALAMEDA

Case No.: 23CV055387  
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:  
Petitioner: Emran Mahbub filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:  
AISHA BASHAR MAHBUB to AISHA HANA MAHBUB  
THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.  
NOTICE OF HEARING: 01/30/2024, 9:30 a.m., Dept. 14 of the Superior Court of California, County of Alameda located at 1221 Oak Street, Oakland, CA, 94612.  
A copy of this ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county:  
PLEASANTON WEEKLY  
Date: 12/15/2023  
Charles A. Smiley  
JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT  
(PLW Jan 12, 19, 26 and Feb 2, 2024)

## ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA FOR THE COUNTY OF ALAMEDA

Case No.: 23CV052219  
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:  
Petitioner: Darien Jordan Austin Crawford filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:  
DARIEN JORDAN AUSTIN CRAWFORD to

JORDAN AUSTIN KAI GOUVEIA  
THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.  
NOTICE OF HEARING: 03/07/2024, 10:00 a.m., Department 14 of the Superior Court of California, County of Alameda located at 1225 Fallon Street, Oakland, CA, 94612.  
A copy of this ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county:  
PLEASANTON WEEKLY  
Date: 01/19/2024  
Michael Markman  
JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT  
(PLW Feb 2, 9, 16 and 23, 2024)

## ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA FOR THE COUNTY OF ALAMEDA

Case No.: 24CV060257  
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:  
Petitioner: Jaclyn Mullick and Anthony Arria filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:  
ISABELLE ARRIA-MULLICK to ISABELLE MULLICK  
THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.  
NOTICE OF HEARING: 02/27/2024, 9:30am, Dept. 14 of the Superior Court of California, County of Alameda located at 1221 Oak Street, Oakland, CA 94612.  
A copy of this ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county:  
PLEASANTON WEEKLY  
Date: 01/17/2023  
Charles A. Smiley  
JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT  
(PLW Jan 26, Feb 2, 9 and 16, 2024)

## ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA FOR THE COUNTY OF ALAMEDA

Case No.: 24CV060803  
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:  
Petitioner: Sebastien Enrique Jr Rodriguez filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:  
SEBASTIEN ENRIQUE JR RODRIGUEZ to SEBASTIEN GREY MANCEAU  
THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.  
NOTICE OF HEARING: 03/12/2024, 9:30am, Dept 14 of the Superior Court of California, County of Alameda located at 1221 Oak Street Oakland CA 94612.  
A copy of this ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county:  
PLEASANTON WEEKLY  
Date: 01/22/2024  
Thomas J. Nixon  
JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT  
(PLW Feb 2, 9, 16 and 23, 2024)

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

## Danville commission OKs housing project on Borel property

Portion of vacant walnut orchard set to accommodate 167 units on 7 acres

BY JEANITA LYMAN

A long-planned housing project set to replace a portion of the remnants of an abandoned walnut orchard previously operated by the Borel family advanced through the Danville Planning Commission following a vote in favor of the project last week.

The commission voted 6-1 on Jan. 23 to approve subdivision and tree removal requests allowing for a seven-acre portion of the undeveloped Borel property to accommodate a housing project consisting of 124 for-sale townhouses and 43 for-rent apartments.

The for-sale units are set to be developed by Danville-based Trumark Townhomes, with the rental apartments — all set to be affordable to low- and very-low-income households under the proposed plan — being developed by Pacific West Companies, which specializes in affordable housing.

The seven-acre site at 3020 Fostoria Lane in the south of town near the San Ramon border is part of the 17 acres remaining of the Borel property, which has been vacant since the death of Armand Borel in 2009. With Borel's health declining in the years before his death, the property — previously the site of an active walnut orchard for multiple generations of the Borel family — had begun to fall into disrepair, with the orchard no longer in operation.

The property previously consisted of 66 acres, with a majority having been developed already in order to accommodate the businesses at Fostoria Way and Camino Ramon including Costco, Marshalls and the Home Consignment Center.

With Borel reportedly having wished for the remaining property to be preserved as a publicly accessible park, the East Bay Regional Park District acquired the remaining 17 acres after his death, voting in 2021 to allow seven acres to be developed in order to fund a historical interpretive park on 10 acres.

Since then, a number of required studies have been completed behind the scenes to move development plans forward, including an acoustical analysis, a biological constraint analysis and arborist report completed in 2021, a transportation impact analysis in 2022, and a preliminary stormwater control plan completed in September. Air quality, cultural, and geotechnical reports were also prepared for review, with none pointing to obstacles for the project's advancement according to town staff.

The affordable housing units would be along Camino Ramon, with all 43 units set to be affordable to households with low or very-low incomes — meaning below 80% of the county's median income of \$147,900 for very low incomes and 50% below the median for low incomes — with an affordability term set at 55 years.

The 43 affordable units put the project's overall affordability distribution at 25.7% of the total 167 units.

The proposed project is subject to state Senate Bill 330, which is aimed at streamlining the process of new housing developments by limiting the ability of local jurisdictions to delay or deny new housing projects unless they are proven to pose significant health or safety detriments to the surrounding area. Under the legislation, passed in 2019, no more than five



COURTESY TOWN OF DANVILLE

Walnut trees on the vacant site of the remnants of Danville's last walnut orchard are set to be replaced with a 167-unit housing project that was approved by the town's Planning Commission on Jan. 23.

public meetings on applicable housing projects are allowed.

While it was once zoned for agricultural use, the remaining Borel property was zoned for multifamily residential use in the town's last Housing Element in 2013. With no development on the site during that cycle, anticipated housing on the site now accounts for 150 of the minimum 2,241 allocated new housing units in the current Housing Element cycle.

Trumark is seeking a waiver on height and story requirements on the site under the state's density bonus law, allowing for the development of three story buildings with a maximum height of 36 feet and 11 inches for a majority of the project and 40 feet for the affordable three-story apartment buildings.

The request is also subject to state law seeking to decrease barriers to new housing, with denial only allowed in the case of specific, adverse impacts on health and safety according to town staff.

The commission received a total of four public comments on the project — one written comment and three in-person comments on the evening of Jan. 23 — all pointing toward concerns including parking, traffic and aesthetics.

"I always knew something was going to happen with the Borel Property," neighboring resident Ed Anderson said at last week's meeting. "It's gone through different things and now we're here. My biggest issue, raising my kids there, walking my dog, is going to be the parking."

Anderson said that he believed the project would result in Camino Ramon being "blown up with parking," and that getting in and out of the property and driving along the road were "going to be horrendous."

In a public comment at the in-person meeting, Mark Shaw said that traffic was already an issue in the area in the wake of the earlier development of businesses such as Costco and Marshall's near the intersection with Fostoria Way.

"The fact that Costco is there and the Marshalls and the traffic that they created also for people who need to charge their car, and now Costco gas is there also — Anyone who's been in that area, sometimes you get stuck at that light if you're going to go northbound on Camino Ramon and you're sitting there at least two lights," Shaw said.

Shaw added that his concerns were not with the project specifically, but called on the town to seek ways to mitigate new traffic brought

on by the additional housing and contend with current difficulty for drivers at the busy intersection in southern Danville.

While commissioners also expressed concerns about the traffic and parking impacts, they noted that with the project meeting state requirements for parking under the density bonus law, these did not pose enough of an obstacle to deter the project from moving forward.

Under state law, the town is not allowed to require more than one parking space per one-bedroom unit or more than 1.5 spaces for two- and three-bedroom units. The maximum required parking under the density bonus law for the 167-unit project in total would be 242, with the project set to provide 289 parking spaces.

Regarding traffic concerns, commissioners said a condition of approval for the project would be the requirement for some incentive for residents in the affordable housing apartments to be provided with a transit program and accommodations and incentives for residents to use public transit — potentially through measures such as a subsidized transit pass and/or a liaison relationship with County Connection aimed at providing additional bus service to the future residents of the site.

Town chief of planning David Crompton noted that existing plans for contending with traffic and pedestrian safety consisted of a new four-way stop sign and crosswalk near the entrance to the project, as well as an extension of the sidewalk northward that would go along the housing project as well as the 10 acre site of the planned interpretive park being pursued by the parks district.

Commissioner Mary Grace Houlihan, who cast the one dissenting vote against the project in that night's meeting, said that she wished the

project had incorporated additional considerations about livability for residents and overall aesthetics.

"Some of the things that concern me and what I would have liked to see a little different in this project are looking at that livability," Houlihan said. "I think had Trumark looked at one more building footprint there could have been some opportunity not to have window on window. The other thing that concerns me is it doesn't really look like four-sided architecture to me. It really looks like the driveway aisles really have a different feel than the rest of the building, and there could be a little bit more articulation with additional setbacks so those wouldn't feel like such a wind tunnel."

"I think there's still some opportunity if my co-commissioners are in agreement to ask that some minor considerations be made to the ridgeline and what have you, and have that go back to DRB for consideration as a condition of the approval," Houlihan added. "When we look at these things, these are going to be here for a very long time. And one of the wonderful things that we have in our Danville neighborhoods is they've got great architecture; they've got great livability, they've got that whole feel, and this development doesn't feel like that to me when I look at this."

Commissioner Lou Palandrani noted that the project had already been reviewed twice by the Design Review Board, where discussions had focused on the experience for future residents but also on the surrounding environment on the site.

"A lot of the reconfiguration in how these buildings are set, there's been some movement there to not only try to support those living within but those that are outside," Palandrani said. "It has been through multiple iterations in design review."

With three of the seven planning commissioners including Palandrani being members of the Design Review Board, commissioners ultimately did not agree with Houlihan's suggestion for further review of the project by that body.

With some modifications aimed at addressing traffic and parking concerns, Commissioner Robert Combs moved to pass a resolution approving the project, which the commission approved 6-1 with Houlihan's dissenting vote.

As a project subject to SB 330 requirements, the Planning Commission's vote was the final approval needed for developers to move forward, with no Town Council review or approval necessary except in the case of an appeal. ■

### SALES AT A GLANCE

#### Pleasanton (Nov. 13-17)

**Total sales reported:** 14  
**Lowest sale reported:** \$538,000  
**Highest sale reported:** \$3,440,500  
**Average sales reported:** \$1,564,107

#### Livermore (Nov. 13-17)

**Total sales reported:** 14  
**Lowest sale reported:** \$755,000  
**Highest sale reported:** \$2,850,000  
**Average sales reported:** \$1,377,785

#### Dublin (Nov. 13-17)

**Total sales reported:** 5  
**Lowest sale reported:** \$965,000

**Highest sale reported:** \$2,600,000  
**Average sales reported:** \$1,587,000

#### Sunol (Nov. 13-17)

**Total sales reported:** 1  
**Lowest sale reported:** \$959,000  
**Highest sale reported:** \$959,000  
**Average sales reported:** \$959,000

#### San Ramon (Jan. 4-5)

**Total sales reported:** 4  
**Lowest sale reported:** \$575,000  
**Highest sale reported:** \$1,766,000  
**Average sales reported:** \$1,285,000

Source: California REsource



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*Pleasanton Seller – Donna*

### Annual Median House Sales Prices since 2012 Livermore, Castro Valley, Dublin, San Ramon & Pleasanton

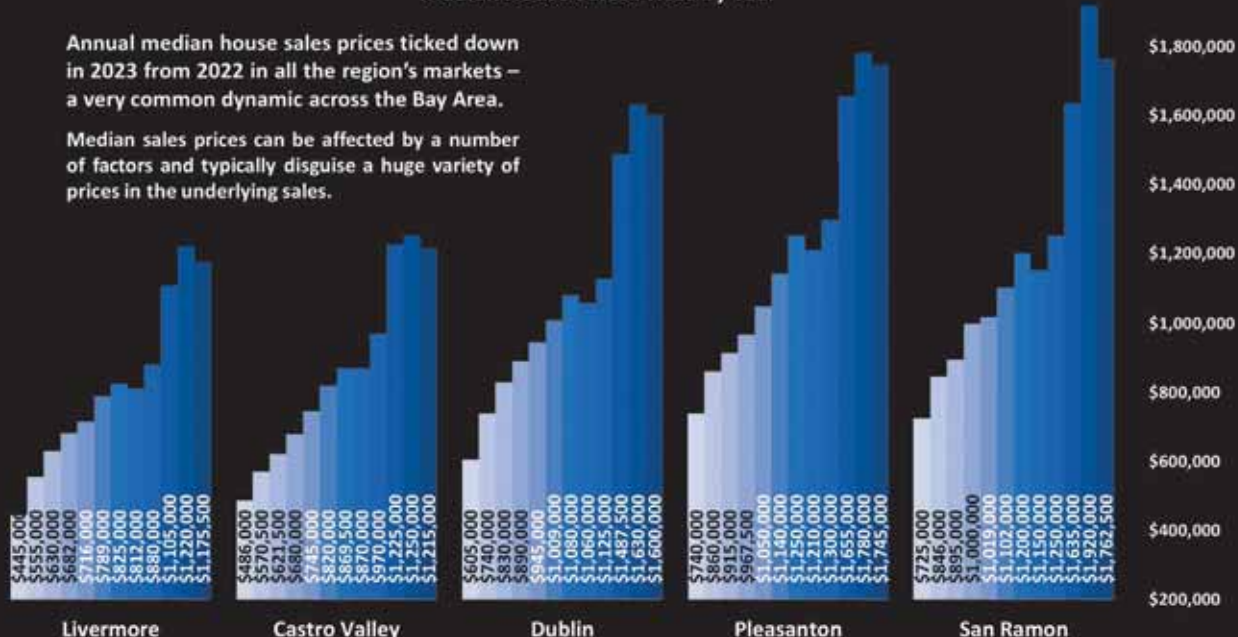
Sales reported to NorCal MLS  
Alliance by 12/31/2023

■ 2012 ■ 2013 ■ 2014 ■ 2015 ■ 2016 ■ 2017 ■ 2018 ■ 2019 ■ 2020 ■ 2021 ■ 2022 ■ 2023

#### Median House Sales Prices by Year

Annual median house sales prices ticked down in 2023 from 2022 in all the region's markets – a very common dynamic across the Bay Area.

Median sales prices can be affected by a number of factors and typically disguise a huge variety of prices in the underlying sales.



Sales reported to MLS. Median Sales Price is that price at which half the sales occurred for more and half for less. It is a general statistic that may be affected by other factors besides changes in fair market value. Data from sources deemed reliable, but may contain errors and subject to revision. All numbers are approximate and may change with late-reported sales.

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