



## FULL FORCE STEPPERS

PUSD PERFORMANCE PROGRAM PROMOTES CULTURAL EXPRESSION, UNITY AMONG BLACK STUDENTS

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# WHAT A WEEK



By JEREMY WALSH

## Wrong number

We strive to maintain impactful relationships with our readers. But one local family might have called our connection a little too close for comfort at times.

For nearly two decades, the Andersons' home phone number caused them headaches and humor ... because it was almost identical to ours at the Pleasanton Weekly office — just the last two digits were flipped.

"It was a goofy connection to the community and to the newspaper ... and now it is no more," Leah Anderson told me on Monday.

The family finally cut the cord on Jan. 27, as many have done in this cellphone-dominant world. But all the way until their line was disconnected, their outgoing voicemail message listed their correct number followed by a polite disclaimer: "If you are calling the Pleasanton Weekly newspaper, you have misdialled. So please hang up and dial 925-600-0840."

When I learned about our link, I couldn't help but ask to hear more about their story.

Leah and Mark Anderson moved from Cupertino to Pleasanton in 2006. Their house in the Fairlands area is almost on the complete opposite side of town from our current office on Sunol Boulevard.

"I picked it out off the list AT&T gave because with all of the zeroes in it, I thought it would be easy for my kids to remember," Leah Anderson said of the number. "It was shortly after that that I started to notice our phone would ring a lot ... We would get — and I'm not joking — two, three, sometimes four calls a day, and it was intense."

Those mix of calls were what you might expect for a newspaper office, she told me. Someone's paper wasn't delivered, a subscriber was moving, they had a news tip or they were upset about something they read in the Weekly.

"It's amazing how often people will dial the wrong number," she said, noting that the family would usually answer the phone after the third consecutive call to let the person on the other end know this number wasn't the Weekly's. Some (likely embarrassed) callers would scoff to the Andersons, "I did not misdial."

She remembered one time, "A woman called and left a five-minute rant ... an impassioned argument against something (my predecessor) Jeb wrote. So I actually called her

back and said you misdialled, and she was very grateful and apologized."

Another Anderson anecdote was the time a prankster put up a sign on a fence around a historic building undergoing restoration in 2007, falsely claiming that Hooters was moving into downtown Pleasanton. The unlabeled phone number the "announcement" listed for inquiries? The Weekly's.

She recalled the family getting a number of calls or voicemails that week, "Hi! I'd like to apply for the job at Hooters."

"Now we have a phone number like Hooters?!" Anderson said looking back, with a laugh.

The inconvenience, though persistent, was minor in the Andersons' eyes and they didn't want to change numbers because of their kids.

The conversation changed in recent months though. The children are now young adults, and the family — like most others — operates cellphone-first now.

Maintaining a landline became less important for the family, and more expensive. Plus, by the end, the only people really calling that number were telemarketers, scammers and of course, those trying to phone the Weekly.

Anderson joked that she felt like our "honorary telephone assistant ... redirecting people" over nearly 18 years. She admits that's one thing she'll miss, that relationship within the community she loves.

"It was a bittersweet moment," she said of ending their landline. "It was a connection to the small-town newspaper, and it was a source of amusement for people who knew us."

The Andersons probably held onto their home phone longer than most these days, but the timing of their final decision in recent months was intriguing in the grand scheme.

The future of landlines in California has been in the news in recent weeks.

AT&T has filed an application with the California Public Utilities Commission to withdraw its "eligible telecommunications carrier" designation and remove its "carrier of last resort" obligations as it pertains to telephone service for areas that cover millions of people across the state.

We'll see how it all works out. In the meantime, our line remains open. So if you have any questions for us at the Embarcadero Media Foundation, don't hesitate to call our Pleasanton office. Just make sure you dial correctly. ■

## About the Cover

Antwan Davis, a longtime professional stepper who now teaches kids, goes through different movements and sequences with about a dozen Pleasanton students who are part of the district's Step Program. Photos by Christian Trujano. Cover design by Paul Llewellyn.

Vol. XXV, Number 4

## My Latest Pleasanton Listings



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## How do you envision spending your retirement?



**Jeff Garrison** *Retired*

Well, I'm already retired and am happily living the retirement I envisioned, whether it's at home or away. When we're not away RV-ing, I wake up on my own, make coffee, do some word games/puzzles, eat breakfast, go for a bike ride or a hike, eat lunch, maybe take a nap depending on how strenuous my exercise was, and then do some sort of hobby in the afternoon. After that I cook dinner for my wife and me, and in the evening we watch a television show or a movie.



**Christy Van De Graaf, with Milo**  
*Intel technology*

I plan to travel internationally and explore my Sicilian roots. I was there as a child and look forward to spending lots of time there in my retirement. We plan to spend a lot of time in Holland as well, as that is where my husband's origins are.



**Gus Garcia**  
*Scrub nurse*

I plan to really take it easy, since I've spent my entire career working under very stressful, life-or-death conditions. So "sun, surf, hike, bike, ride and rest" will be my mantra.



**Michelle Garrison**  
*Retired*

I'm already living my retirement vision. I've focused on developing my inner artist. Las Positas offers wonderful courses in both traditional and digital photography, as well as drawing. I've also taken courses in art quilting, which blends various forms of painting, with textiles. Plus, I've been blessed with a grandchild and enjoy spending time with him as he explores his world.



**Nicole van de Graaf-Garcia,**  
*Executive assistant*

We plan to do a lot of mini-vacations that will enable us to hike a lot and spend time at the beach. I want to lead a really simple and relaxed lifestyle and do plenty of volunteer work in my local community.

—Compiled by Nancy and Jeff Lewis

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

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## DIGEST

### Construction plans

The Pleasanton Unified School is holding two informational meetings next Tuesday at Foothill High School to provide updates on bond-funded renovation and construction plans for performance arts and athletic facilities at Foothill and Amador Valley High School.

"The Pleasanton community is invited to learn more about the current status of the design-build process for the Amador Valley and Foothill High School theatre and gym renovation projects made possible by Measure I, passed by Pleasanton voters in November 2022," PUSD officials said. "This will be the second of three meetings where Pleasanton families and residents can learn more and ask questions about projects that will benefit the entire community."

The sessions are set for 3:30-4:30 p.m. and 6-7 p.m. Tuesday (Feb. 20) in Room C-6 at Foothill. There will be a live video version as well. To learn more, visit [pleasantonusd.net](http://pleasantonusd.net).

### Name a new park

Dublin city officials are seeking public input on what to name the future 2-acre neighborhood park coming along Central Parkway in the Jordan Ranch development area near Cottonwood Creek TK-8 School.

"The park will feature a multi-use court for basketball and futsal; fitness stations; an embankment slide; picnic tables with shade structures; a reservable picnic area with barbecues; a large grass area for free play; interior pathways; and two play areas for ages 2-5 years and 5-12 years," officials said.

An online survey is available through 5 p.m. Feb. 28 for people to share their ideas for the park name. Go to [dublin.ca.gov](http://dublin.ca.gov).

### Energy Summit

Innovation Tri-Valley Leadership Group is holding its Tri-Valley 2024 Energy Summit next month in Pleasanton featuring a sitdown luncheon, keynote address from Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory director Kim Budil, two panel discussions and an energy expo.

With a theme of "Building the Green Economy from the Epicenter of Solutions," the event "will convene regional decision-makers, thought leaders, and innovators from the energy, business, government, and education sectors to accelerate discussions about the regional green economy," organizers said.

The event is set for 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. March 19 at Casa Real at Ruby Hill Winery on Vineyard Avenue in Pleasanton. For more information, visit [innovationtrivalley.org](http://innovationtrivalley.org). ■

## Zone 7 alleges Pleasanton failed to pay \$18.5 million in fees

New lawsuit against city claims misreported water meter sizes, connections over seven years

By Christian Trujano

The Zone 7 Water Agency last month sued the city of Pleasanton alleging it failed to pay the agency over \$18 million in fees after Pleasanton increased water meter sizes and connections but failed to properly report those changes.

Because the city did not uphold its end of a longstanding agreement, Zone 7's finances have been heavily impacted and is looking for the city to pay what it owes, and possibly more, according to the petition for writ of mandate and complaint for breach of contract, declaratory relief and failure to perform mandatory duty under state law — a copy of which has been obtained by the Pleasanton Weekly.

"Zone 7 has been personally affected by the City's past failures to

pay water connection fees pursuant to the written agreement and the ordinance," according to the petition filed in Alameda County Superior Court on Jan. 26. "Zone 7 has no plain, speedy, and adequate remedy in the ordinary course of law in that it will suffer irreparable harm if the fees are not paid."

The Zone 7 lawsuit is the latest fallout for Pleasanton from internal reporting discrepancies allegedly unearthed two years ago by a city utilities director who has also sued the city claiming he was unjustly placed on leave and ultimately fired as retaliation in the months after his revelations came to light.

According to Zone 7's petition, city officials have yet to explain how it under-collected over \$18 million in fees during 2015 to 2022, nor have they explained why there

are discrepancies in reports the city provided to Zone 7 during that period or why there are differences between the fee amounts outlined by the governing ordinance and the amounts collected by the city during that period.

Pleasanton City Attorney Dan Sodergren told the Weekly that the city does not have any comment on the pending litigation.

Zone 7 General Manager Valerie Pryor similarly said this week that the agency's practice is to not comment on ongoing litigation matters.

According to the petition, the Alameda County Board of Supervisors adopted an ordinance in 1972 that imposes a fee for each new water service connection to its retailers' water systems that is "based on a standard meter size and capacity and further provides for

variation of that charge for meters of different sizes and capacities."

During that same year, the city and its potable water wholesaler Zone 7 entered into an agreement for the city to follow that ordinance and collect that fee whenever it issues a permit for a new connection to its water system.

The city reports the number, size and capacity of new connections every month and sends payments based on all of that information to Zone 7, which the agency then uses to pay for things like infrastructure and water quality improvements.

The ordinance was amended a couple of times over the years, but in general the city has collected those fees and paid the water agency without issues for over 40 years,

See **LAWSUIT** on Page 10



COURTESY PUSD

The Amador Valley High School competitive civics team pose for a photo after winning the We the People state championship on Feb. 4.

## Amador Valley wins We the People state championship

Dons representing Pleasanton at nationals in D.C. — alongside California runner-up Foothill Falcons

By Christian Trujano

After taking home first place in the We the People state championship earlier this month, Amador Valley High School's competitive civics team is gearing up for the national competition in Washington D.C.

coming up in April.

Foothill High School's team will be the other school representing California in D.C. after taking second place at the state competition and securing the wildcard spot.

"It took this group a while to kind of find their footing,

but they're a terrific group and I'm really pleased to see their hard work pay off," Stacey Sklar, an English teacher at Amador and coach to the team, told the Weekly. "It's always an honor and very exciting to take a group

See **WE THE PEOPLE** on Page 8

## Freeway closure canceled (again)

Weather pushes out weekend work on I-680 indefinitely

By Christian Trujano

Caltrans has once again called off its plans to close southbound Interstate 680 between Pleasanton and Sunol over an upcoming holiday weekend because of predicted rain, according to the transportation agency.

According to the National Weather Service, it is expected to rain from Friday night well into Monday, which is when the bulk of the closure was supposed to take place amid the Presidents Day long weekend.

This is the second time the agency has had to reschedule the road repair work because of rain in the last two months — the last time it was supposed to carry out the closure during the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday weekend. The project has now been delayed indefinitely.

"The public will be notified of the new closure date well in advance," Caltrans stated in a press

See **FREEWAY** on Page 9

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## City leaders provide update on Pleasanton PD staffing shortage

Admin outlines how medical leaves, vacancies have affected patrol and special units

BY CHRISTIAN TRUJANO

Over the last year the Pleasanton Police Department has seen resignations, medical leaves and vacant positions not being filled, which have all caused the department to make several notable organizational changes that the city hopes to correct in the next coming year, according to a new public memorandum from city officials.

Some of the staffing shortages impacts include all traffic and special enforcement officers being temporarily reassigned, one student resource officer having to cover the entire school district, an alternative response unit officer leaving, and overall less deployable officers available.

"For most of 2023, the department's deployable sworn staffing level fluctuated near 80%, consistent with other similarly-sized police departments in Alameda County," according to a Jan. 29 memo to the City Council written by City Manager Gerry Beaudin and Police Chief David Swing.

"The number dipped to 71% toward the end of 2023 due to many leaves (12 sworn workers' compensation cases) and 12 vacancies (including an unexpected resignation towards the end of the calendar year)," the memorandum states.

Back in May of 2023, Swing told the Weekly that the department had reassigned officers in the special enforcement, crime prevention and traffic units in order to cover patrol duties due to a shortage in staff.

Around the same time, the Pleasanton Police Officers Association had declared it was at an impasse in negotiations with the city in regards to its labor contract. After three months of negotiations, the two sides reached an agreement.

Then in December, Pleasanton resident Vicki LaBarge spoke during public comment at a council meeting stating that she wanted to get an update on the department's staffing levels after everything that happened during the year. That is what led to the city drafting the memorandum at the request of the council.

LaBarge had volunteered to be a neighborhood watch captain many years ago, which is why when she first heard about the crime prevention unit being temporarily dissolved last year, it immediately raised some red flags.

She said that as a longtime resident of Pleasanton she moved to the city because of how safe it was, but without a crime prevention unit and a fully staffed police force, she said she is worried crime rates will go up.

According to a Feb. 6 PPD Facebook post, this is already being



WEEKLY FILE PHOTO

Pleasanton police vehicles parked in department headquarters in downtown.

seen as burglaries increased in the city by 62% in 2023.

LaBarge also said that she became even more invested in the PPD's staffing challenges when the PPOA was at an impasse with the city. She said that even though she knows that other cities are faced with similar police officer hiring and retention issues, Pleasanton needed to take a firm stance and pay its officers comparable wages to surrounding cities.

"How do you attract new officers to your city if you're paying less than the city next door?" LaBarge asked.

City communications manager Heather Tiernan told the Weekly that the recently negotiated contract is a "significant step towards retention as it provides salary increases plus increased pay for special assignments."

But according to the dual memo from Swing and Beaudin, police staffing has been a challenge for cities across the country regardless of pay.

"The challenge of police staffing is not specific to policing or to Pleasanton and has been discussed with the City Council in recent police department bi-annual updates," according to the memo. "Staffing of police officer positions is a regional and nationwide concern as evidenced in professional publications and news reports from both local and national media."

In 2023, about 71-82% of Pleasanton's sworn officers were deployable — other similarly-sized municipal agencies in Alameda County have a deployable sworn officer strength of about 62-95% with most agencies in the mid-80% range, according to the memo.

Out of Pleasanton's 118 full-time positions, 83 are sworn positions and 35 are professional staff, which includes field personnel, dispatchers, administrative staff and managers. Of those 83 sworn officers, which include supervisors and managers, 71% can be deployed to the field for emergency response.

Of those 83 sworn officer positions, 12 officers are out on medical

leave for various work-related injuries and 12 of those positions are vacant.

Even then, Tiernan said that the minimum staffing requirements and shift schedules are being met and that beyond those minimums, staff have been assigned to other specialty units.

"When necessary, the Police Department reassigns personnel in specialty assignments (traffic, SRO, etc.) to meet the minimum staffing requirements," Tiernan said.

Tiernan also said that with the exception of the traffic and special enforcement unit, all of the other special units have some level of staffing — that includes the crime prevention unit.

In total, 15 sworn officers and civilian volunteers have left the department in all of 2023, which is higher than normal for the past five years. This number represents resignations, retirements and other similar reasons for leaving, according to the memo.

"The higher-than-normal number of officers out on injury is a significant impediment to staffing," the memo states. "While one is out on medical leave, the city is unable to hire for their position without authorization for an over-hire."

Over-hiring is when the city hires officers to cover those on medical leave until all the other vacant positions are filled. According to the memo, this strategy will be discussed in the city's upcoming mid-term budget discussion but it will be challenging as the focus will still be on cost containment and reductions.

That's why the department is really focusing on improving its hiring practices.

According to the memo, one way the PPD streamlined its hiring process last year was by hosting the Police Officer Standard Training law enforcement written exam, which is required for entry-level officers.

In doing so, the department hired

See **POLICE** on Page 10

# Airport Commission report highlights outreach, noise abatement efforts

Also: Advisory body in process of reviewing applicants to fill vacant seat

By NICOLE GONZALES

Representatives of the Livermore Airport Commission shared an annual update during Monday night's City Council meeting, offering insights into the group's main projects completed throughout 2023.

The Airport Commission compiles its yearly review to give city leaders and the public an in-depth look at data, policies and updates from the previous calendar year. Acting airport manager Benedict Stuth led the presentation to council.

"Last year, the Airport Commission fulfilled its job of approving, advising and completing community outreach projects," Stuth said during the meeting. He explained the main projects and policies the commission oversaw in 2023.

"They worked on approving the Airport Development Policy (and) the airport hangar policy update. They provided direction on the airport minimum standards for commercial activity, the Casper Noise Monitoring System installation and activation, the Fly Quiet Fly

Friendly program, updating airport signage and addressing noise concerns, as well as conducting the airport open house," he said.

Where operations are defined as a landing or takeoff of an aircraft at the airport, 2023 saw 181,176 total operations. While the historical high for the airport operations was marked in 1993 with 282,261, Stuth noted the numbers have been increasing since taking a dip in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"The airport is an asset to the Tri-Valley community," Stuth told the council. "It provides air tours, flight training and aircraft maintenance. It also supports aviation and stem education through multiple youth programs. It supports law enforcement, disaster relief services for the Tri-Valley area and is able to provide access to emergency medical flights."

In 2024, the commission plans to give direction on the airport land use development analysis as well as other additional projects that may arise.

Following the council meeting, Stuth further discussed the report's



FILE PHOTO BY CHUCK DECKERT

An airplane takes off from the Livermore Municipal Airport, which is located near the Livermore-Pleasanton border.

details with the Weekly.

"Some of the things that we've done here at the airport to address noise concerns is to further flesh out the noise abatement portion of our website," Stuth said. "We've also put up signage around the airport reminding pilots to fly quietly and to abide by our noise friendly procedures for operation of an aircraft such as turning up early, bringing the throttle levels back, and also voluntarily abiding

by our nighttime noise curfew."

Stuth told the Weekly that the advisory body is also currently looking to fill a vacancy.

Typically, the commission is made up of five members each serving four year term lengths with a two term limit. Right now, there are only four commissioners.

"We have two candidates that have filled out applications for the vacancy. We're currently in review of those applications. After that

review, we would make a recommendation to the City Council and there would be an appointment that would follow based on that," Stuth said. "The two applicants we are considering have never served on the Airport Commission before."

The city did not provide further details about who the two applicants are or the planned timeline for filling the commission vacancy as of Tuesday evening. ■

# 97%

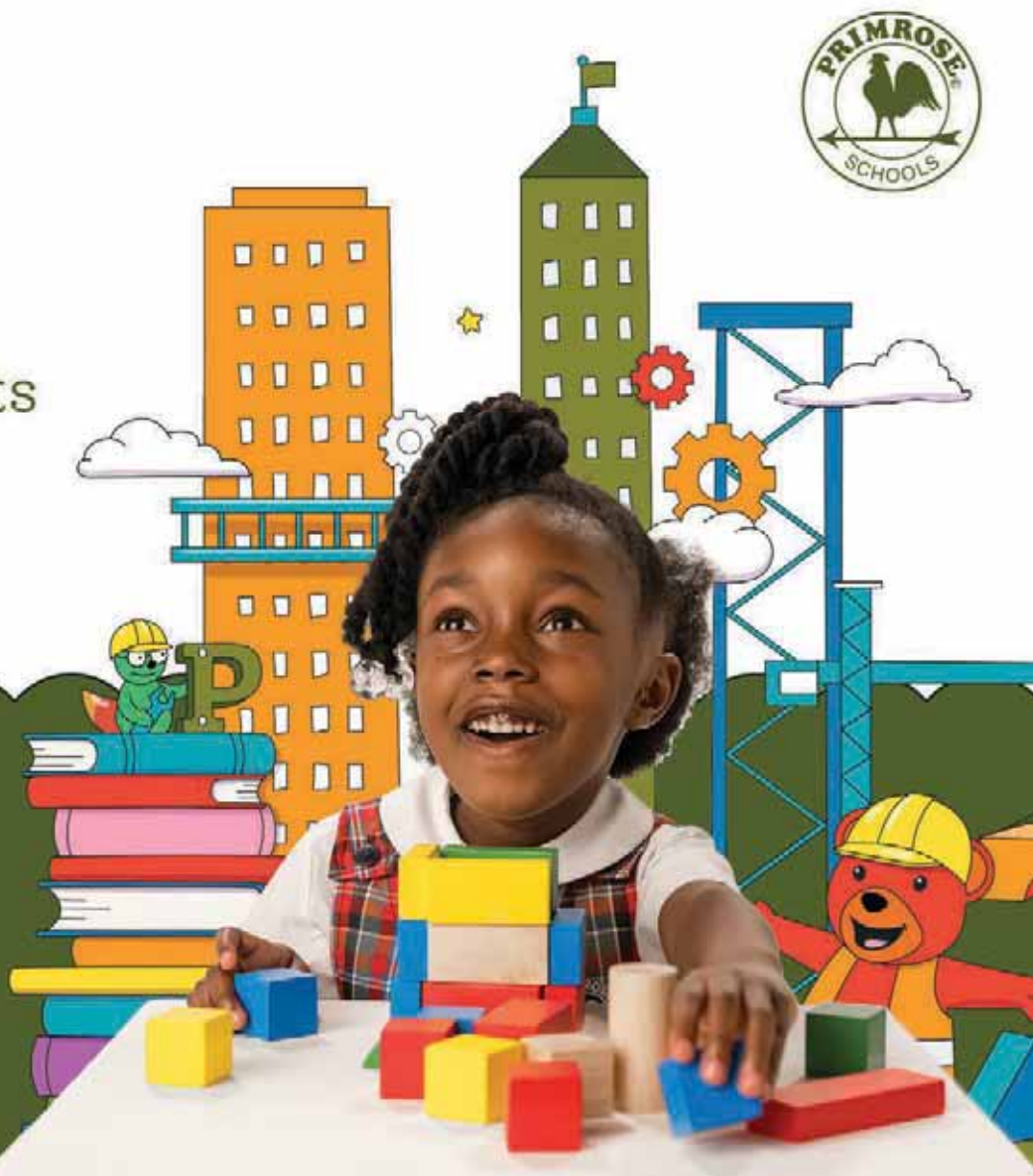
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# State Senate candidates compete for Tri-Valley votes

Three running for newly drawn District 5 representing large swath on both sides of Altamont

By JEANITA LYMAN

With the upcoming March primary election just weeks away, candidates for the newly drawn State Senate district that will see portions of the Tri-Valley represented by the same new legislator as a majority of the Central Valley are seeking to woo local voters in order to ensure a spot on the ballot in November.

Asm. Carlos Villapudua (D-Stockton), former congressman Jerry McNerney (D-Pleasanton) and businessman Jim Shoemaker (R-San Joaquin County) are running for State Senate District 5 in a wide-open race following the implementation of new district boundaries and the terming out of incumbent Susan Eggman (D-Stockton).

Earlier in the campaign season, the three candidates specifically sought to highlight their platforms to Tri-Valley voters in a candidate forum hosted by Livermore Indivisible on Jan. 21, discussing the region's relationship to the Central Valley and their proposed solutions to the challenges faced by entirety of the newly-drawn district including water, transportation, jobs, housing and crime and their relationships to the state's political landscape.

Villapudua, who was elected to his current position representing Assembly District 13 in 2020, made a last-minute decision not to run for reelection to that seat in this year's race, instead opting to campaign for the State Senate seat that his wife Edith Villapudua (D-Stockton) had initially been eyeing before shifting gears to campaign for Carlos Villapudua's current seat on the Assembly.

Villapudua said he had already



**Carlos Villapudua**



**Jerry McNerney**



**Jim Shoemaker**

been getting familiar with the Tri-Valley in January, pointing to his recent exploration of the area as inspiration for current and future plans closer to home for him in Stockton.

"I was actually spending some time in the Tri-Valley, especially in Pleasanton just because I was looking at what they've done with their downtown," Villapudua said.

"I brought in \$23 million for a certain part of Stockton, and it's about five blocks, I worked closely with their planning department — I'm one that if I see a wheel that is working, I try not to reinvent the wheel; I try to figure out what can we do we'll copy it and try to use it and then try to figure out if there's any kinks that we need to figure out," he added. "And so I've been working in the Tri-Valley getting to know folks and I'm excited about this race."

Despite the last-minute change in both Villapudua's political aspirations and career plans, Carlos Villapudua noted that he had already been excited for this year's election, and that he was particularly excited about the possibility of uniting the Tri-Valley and Central Valley regions under the new State Senate map.

"Obviously you guys heard that there were a few changes, and here I am running," Villapudua said.

"I've now been trying to spend some time in Livermore, Dublin — you know the whole Tri-Valley, it's not that it's new to me. I'm excited, and what I hear from folks is they

want to be part of the Central Valley, so I'm going to be the member that's going to try to make sure we merge this and bring back and listen to my community and what they need, and that's who I've been in the Central Valley."

Villapudua pointed to highlights of his tenure in the assembly thus far, including funding for higher education and transportation, in particular the goal of increasing rail transit options throughout the district.

In his opening statement, Shoemaker — who previously ran for McNerney's former congressional seat in the 2022 election — pointed to what he characterized as existing issues at the state level, including education, water and business closures.

"Today our education system is failing our children; our state's failing the people of this state," Shoemaker said. "Over-regulations have affected so many people that our food costs, our utilities, everything has sky-rocketed."

"The Central Valley and also in the Tri-Valley, we need water, the water issue in the Tri-Valley right now, and what they're going through is something that concerns me greatly," he added. "We need to start saving our water instead of sending it to the ocean, and these are issues

that I'm really focused on along with the crime situation that we're dealing with today, that we have no accountability, that we have no follow-through, that we have businesses closing and leaving the state."

Overall, the lone Republican on the ballot said that the major issue he would seek to contend with if elected is what he characterized as overreach and bad decision-making at the state level.

"All I've seen is the state seeming to get more and more powerful, and controlling our lives, taking more of what we work for, taking our money and utilizing it in areas that are detrimental," Shoemaker said.

McNerney echoed some of the concerns raised by his fellow candidates, including housing, water, jobs and transportation, as well as highlighting the focal points of his 16-year tenure in the U.S. House of Representatives — from 2007 to 2023 — and pointing toward the importance of addressing challenges brought on by new technology.

"I'm going to focus again on Veterans issues but I'm very excited about Valley Link — it's very important to open up that corridor of transportation so the people that live in the Central Valley can commute more easily and with less time and stress to jobs here in the Bay Area now, and I think bringing jobs to the Central Valley is very important," McNerney said. "We need to make sure we do everything we can to open up, and that means improving the perception of public safety in the valley. We need to make sure that schools are turning out students that can work and provide good service to these jobs."

"There's a lot happening in Sacramento, and it's going to be a good term to really go after some of these issues," McNerney continued. "One of the things I'm very focused on is artificial intelligence. I was chair of the artificial intelligence caucus in the House of Representatives, and what I want to do is make sure that AI is beneficial to the residents of my district, of our state and our country, and the world has a big challenge."

McNerney also noted that he was keen on using technology to address climate and energy challenges, particularly by way of nuclear energy and its potential for replacing fossil fuels.

"I'm also focused on energy policy," McNerney said. "I'm a big proponent of developing fusion energy. I support nuclear energy. We need to move away from fossil fuels in a way that doesn't disrupt the economy but does reduce carbon emissions so that our children and grandchildren and successive generations can enjoy the same quality of environment on this earth that we have been given. I think that we are borrowing from the future, from our children, and we want to be good stewards and hand down to them the best that we possibly can."

The three candidates answered a number of questions submitted by Tri-Valley residents and provided by moderators in last month's forum, with a recording available on YouTube.

In the upcoming primary, the two candidates to receive the most votes are poised to move forward to face off in the general election at the end of the year, regardless of party affiliation. ■

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## WE THE PEOPLE

Continued from Page 5

of students to Washington, D.C. and watch them get to take this competition to the very end. I'm excited to do that with this group."

We the People is a national educational program where students demonstrate their understanding of government and the Constitution by participating in simulated congressional hearings, according to the Center for Civic Education website.

Amador senior Fengyi Ruan told the Weekly that as a Singaporean citizen who just moved to the U.S. a few years ago, it was difficult explaining all of that and what the program is about to her family who went to support her at the state competition from Feb. 3 to Feb. 4. But after seeing her compete and win, Ruan said her family understood what this program means to her.

"Afterwards, my sister came up to me, she gave me a hug and she

was like, 'I get what you're doing,'" Ruan said. "She understood what the competition was about and why understanding the American government is important and what we're doing in this class. So yeah, that was really nice."

Ruan said that she first got interested in joining the competitive civics team because she had heard nothing but great things about the program from alumni who said it is a once-in-a-lifetime experience. She also heard how the class covers a variety of subjects and that no matter what, she would be learning about something interesting.

Runab Dixit, another Amador senior who is also on the team along with Ruan, told the Weekly that his reasons for joining the team and program were similar to Ruan but that he also joined because he wanted to take his passion for history that he developed last year and his passion for understanding how the country has evolved over the years, and take it to the next level.

Dixit said that while he still doesn't know if he wants to pursue a career in politics, at least in the class and in the program he is able to explore his love for civil rights and voting — especially given his similar background of recently becoming a U.S. citizen — all while learning skills that are preparing him for college.

After spending the countless weeks before the state tournament battling it out with Foothill — whom Amador lost to both at the district and regional level — and the countless hours during the state championship tournament working on securing the win, the two students said they are ready to put in the work before going to the national competition, which takes place from April 13-15.

"It's going to be a lot of practicing as much as possible," Dixit said. "I know my unit we met almost every day for all of January and so it'll probably be putting in that same amount of effort going into April." ■

# Fifth grade science camp trip reinstated for Jackson Avenue Elementary

Parents banded together after experience was halted due to pandemic

BY CIERRA BAILEY

A number of Livermore parents with children attending Jackson Avenue Elementary School rallied together to advocate for the reinstatement of a longstanding fifth grade tradition.

Since returning from the coronavirus pandemic, the administration at Jackson had replaced the sleep-away outdoor education camp with a week-long, on-campus science camp for their fifth grade students. It included hands-on activities and off-site day field trips to local parks and outdoor spaces, according to the Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District.

While district officials said the reimaged activity was well-received by students for the past couple of years, several of next

year's fifth grade parents expressed the desire for their children to experience the sleep-away outdoor education camp.

Jackson had intended to keep the on-campus structure in place permanently due to the reduced cost and accessibility to students, including those not comfortable with attending a sleep-away camp. Parents responded by submitting correspondence to the school board expressing why they wanted to see the sleep-away field trip return.

"We believe that returning an off-site science camp to Jackson Avenue will not only complement and enrich our curriculum but also contribute significantly to the overall emotional intelligence of our students. We kindly request the school board's support

in reinstating this long-time tradition for our students," wrote Viva Chavez, a parent of current and former Jackson students.

Dozens of parents echoed similar sentiments in their letters, including Erin McGuire who expressed concern about Jackson being the only K-5 school in the district to not offer the traditional camp experience.

"Despite the district's effort with 'Camp Jackson,' it falls short in providing an equitable replacement, placing our students at a disadvantage in terms of both academic and non-academic growth," McGuire wrote. "Participation in a sleepover science camp not only enhances academic understanding but also fosters teamwork, critical thinking, and social skills in a unique and irreplaceable setting.

The denial of this opportunity creates a disparity against the principles of equity our education system should uphold."

Several of the parents noted that they had initially shared their concerns with Jackson principal Tom Jones but felt they weren't being heard, so they resorted to seeking the school board's support for their initiative.

Their efforts were successful as the elementary school is now looking to plan for the camp next year.

"After surveying parents, Jackson is in the process of planning a sleep-away outdoor ed camp for next year," district officials told the Weekly in an email. "Our district budget does not include funding for science camp, so students and families participate in fundraising to help reduce costs. Students who

choose not to attend sleep-away camp can attend school for alternate activities," they added.

Officials said some Jackson parents attended the Feb. 6 school board meeting and thanked the board and district administration for listening to their concerns and for working with the site administration to revisit the options for next year.

Some parents also referenced a fourth grade history field trip to visit one of the state's Spanish missions in their letters to the board; however, the district did not have information about the status of that experience. "Many things have changed as a result of the pandemic and each school has made adjustments. Some old traditions may be replaced with new experiences," officials said. ■

## FREEWAY

Continued from Page 5

release on Tuesday. "All closures are dependent on circumstances such as rain."

Originally, Caltrans was going

to fully close the southbound side of the freeway from this Friday night (Feb. 16) to Tuesday morning (Feb. 20) between the I-580 connector in Pleasanton and Dublin down to Koopman Road in Sunol.

The goal was to help rehabilitate that stretch of pavement an entire year ahead of schedule by replacing a portion of the existing deteriorated roadway with new pavement. With the additional day from the holiday

weekend, the department would have been able to accomplish the amount of work overall that would have otherwise required nearly two months worth of nightly closures.

Janis Mara, spokesperson for

Caltrans District 4, told the Weekly that there is no early indication as to when exactly the agency plans to reschedule the closure but that there should be more information in the next few weeks. ■

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# Ava plans for fleet of zero-emission trucks

Framework includes establishing 4.4-acre charging depot in Livermore

By NICOLE GONZALES

One Alameda County energy provider is looking toward the future as it makes strides in clean, renewable transportation.

Ava Community Energy, formerly known as East Bay Community Energy, has completed a blueprint to address carbon emissions of medium and heavy duty vehicles. The agency's framework includes establishing a fleet of zero-emission trucks and corresponding infrastructure such as a charging depot in Livermore.

Forum Mobility, a zero-emission truck provider, was awarded

\$4.5 million in financing to aid in the Livermore charging depot development.

"Ava Community Energy provides clean electricity from Oakland to Tracy — and now Forum Mobility will provide clean trucking on the same route," said Ava CEO Nick Chaset in a statement announcing the blueprint.

"We're excited to help Forum Mobility charge electric trucks with 100% renewable energy, and further reduce harmful emissions in our community," added Chaset.

Ava provides power to portions of Alameda County and Tracy, with its latest expansion

planned for 2025 heading east to the Central Valley (Stockton and Lathrop).

Funded by the California Energy Commission and in partnership with CALSTART, Ava said the project was the culmination of studies, feedback and research done over two years.

CALSTART, a nonprofit founded in 1992, works with energy companies to help build and develop plans for clean-transportation.

"Alameda County is a global focal point for electric transportation, from Tesla's Fremont factory to GILLIG, the leading manufacturer of heavy-duty transit buses in

the United States, to Newark-based Lucid Motors. It's only fitting that Ava, the area's leading clean energy supplier, is continuing to go big on EVs," Chaset said. "The first step in any journey is a roadmap; that's where Ava began and that's how we're scaling for the future."

Ava representatives said the depot will be situated on a 4.4-acre site off of Interstate 580 in Livermore with the capacity to store and charge 95 trucks.

Transitioning to zero-emission trucks will contribute to cleaner air and a safer climate for local and global communities, representatives added.

"The City of Livermore, as a longtime leader in climate action, is proud to help lead the transition to zero-emission goods movement," Livermore City Councilmember Ben Barrientos said in the statement. "As the host of key, cutting-edge clean charging infrastructure, cleaning up the I-580 freight corridor starts with us."

Barrientos also serves on the Ava Board of Directors subcommittee which meets every other month.

Ava is one of two community utility companies in the state to have established a CEC blueprint with strategies to roll out California's clean energy transition. ■

## POLICE

Continued from Page 6

three applicants and has other individuals at various stages of the hiring process. According to the memo, PPD plans to keep hosting these written exams once a month until the middle of the year.

"A promising outlook is on the immediate horizon as five officers will start the 16-week Field Training Program on Feb. 5, one police recruit is planned to graduate from the academy in May 2024, and four recruits will start the 6-month police academy this February/March," according to the memo. "The five new officers will decrease the vacancy percentage substantially; however, the deployable strength will not increase until the new officers complete training in June."

Other improvements to the hiring process include the implementation

of a recruitment and communication software solution and streamlining the hiring process for academy graduates and lateral officers by expediting interviews for academy graduates.

"The city will be evaluating the recruitment process to look for strategies to deepen the pool of qualified applicants across the organization — including the police department," according to the memo. "This effort will optimize internal processes and external strategies to attract and retain high-quality employees, foster the long-term success of the organization, its workforce, and best support the community."

The department is also looking for ways to attract more experienced officers, which is something that doesn't happen as much anymore but would save the PPD about \$80,000 in training expenses for those in the police academy.

According to the memo, if enough experienced officers apply, the city can over-hire for the officers on extended medical leave and if everything keeps going well with the recent hires, the PPD anticipates all the specialized units will be reinstated by the end of this year — with the traffic unit being reinstated by this summer — and the entire department being fully staffed by 2025. Tiernan also said that the city expects to assign an additional alternate response unit officer and SRO by this summer.

But for issues like over-hiring, the city will have to find ways to bring more money into the city's general fund budget, according to the memo.

However, LaBarge cannot see this current council majority being able to tackle this issue any time soon.

LaBarge said that she knows city funding is one of the reasons why

officers were not immediately granted that pay raise when the union was at an impasse in contract negotiations and added that the city is to blame for all of its fiscal challenges.

"We've done it to ourselves," LaBarge said. "We have absolutely done it to ourselves with the no growth or low growth policies that our council has had in place."

She said that halting the east Pleasanton development plans and spending money on capital projects like the Century House rebuild and Ken Mercer Sports Park skatepark project have been serious mistakes that hurt the city's financial capabilities to pay its officers better wages.

As far as the capital projects, Tiernan said those are funds that need to be separate from operating costs, such as the police budget.

"The city is currently exploring a variety of ways to increase revenue so that we can continue to

offer the wide variety of services and programs the Pleasanton community expects," Tiernan said. "The general fund pays for the operation of services and programs, while the capital improvement program ensures our facilities and infrastructure can accommodate the services and programs."

But LaBarge said that without finding a way to better compensate officers with things like retention bonuses, believing that the city will resolve its police staffing shortage problem by 2025 is nothing but "a pipe dream."

"I think that we're going to be in kind of a tough position for more years than what they're putting forward ... just based on the most recent contract that they settled, unless something changes," LaBarge said. "And I don't see that happening because they're under contract now." ■

## LAWSUIT

Continued from Page 5

according to Zone 7's lawsuit.

"Zone 7 and the City have a four-decade business relationship where the city performed under the agreement and integrated ordinance by accurately reporting the correct meter sizes and remitting the appropriate fees without any issues," according to the lawsuit.

However, that all changed on June 14, 2022 when now-former Pleasanton utilities director Dan Repp went to Zone 7 staff and showed them how Pleasanton had been reporting incorrect meter sizes and collecting the incorrect fees from 2015 through June 2022 for all new meters installed on commercial and residential properties," according to the lawsuit.

"City staff also informed Zone 7 that the city began upgrading all of its customer's meters around 2015 or 2016 with larger meters," according to the petition. "As part of the upgrade process, the city replaced all

existing customers' 5/8-inch meters with 3/4-inch meters or one-inch meters. The city did not pay any fees for increasing the meter size on existing meters for any commercial or residential properties."

Repp was fired from the city effective in July 2023, with second-year City Manager Gerry Beaudin citing profanity in the workplace toward a subordinate among the primary justifications, according to the termination letter.

But Repp has since filed his own suit claiming wrongful termination and alleging that him finding out about the city not informing Zone 7 about installing new water meters in 2016 and not adjusting the water connection fees was one of the main reasons he was fired.

The bulk of the alleged misreporting window occurred during the final years of former city manager Nelson Fialho's administration before he retired, with Repp reportedly sharing his revelations weeks after the start of Beaudin's tenure.

While Zone 7 is still working

to figure out the actual number of new meters installed and the amount of fees the city has failed to collect as part of those upgrades, the water agency has reviewed preliminary information provided by Pleasanton city staff, according to the petition. Through that, the agency learned that from 2015 to 2022, the city misreported the "meter sizes for both residential and commercial properties for meters on newly permitted properties and upgraded meters on existing properties for all meter sizes ranging from 5/8-inch to one-inch."

"Between 2015 and 2022, the difference between the new connection fees and upgrade connection fees that were collected and paid to Zone 7 and the amounts due under the agreement and incorporated ordinance are substantial," according to the petition.

One example of this laid out in the petition is that the city's monthly reports consistently state that Pleasanton was installing 5/8-inch meters and that the city was

making appropriate payments for that meter size. But after Repp's discovery, it was found that in certain months, "the actual meters being installed were one-inch meters that required the City to collect a significantly higher fee," according to the petition.

The lawsuit lays out it has conservatively calculated under-payment of fees which breaks down those amount differences and shows how in years like 2019, the city underpaid as much as about \$6.8 million to Zone 7.

"The total preliminary estimate of additional collections required based on the capacities of the meters actually installed from January 2015 to July 2022 is \$18,541,655," according to the petition.

However, these numbers only represent new meter installations; it doesn't include meters that were replaced by the city through its citywide meter upgrade project, according to city officials.

In their lawsuit, Zone 7 officials indicate that one reason the

discrepancies went unnoticed for years is because the city has been reporting the correct meter sizes and paying accurate fees for the previous four decades so the water agency had every reason to believe Pleasanton was doing so during 2015 to 2022.

After submitting its initial claims on Nov. 18, 2022, going back and forth with the city on the topic of statute of limitations and the agency making the argument that it did not know about any of the claims until recently, Zone 7 is now bringing these issues to the Alameda County Superior Court.

The agency will be looking to get the city to pay for what it owes as well as unspecified damages, upgrade its new water connection fees to align with the agreement and ordinance set in place, and cover for any attorney fees.

A case management conference has been scheduled on March 30 at the Rene C. Davidson Courthouse in Oakland, according to online court records. ■

## Governor names new Alameda County judges

BY BAY CITY NEWS SERVICE

Gov. Gavin Newsom has appointed five new superior court judges for the Bay Area.

Three of them were appointed for Alameda County while the others were for San Francisco and Solano County, Newsom's office said in a statement late last month.

The three new Superior Court judges for Alameda County include Brian Caruth, who was an assistant public defender at the Alameda County Public Defender's Office since 2021 and has served in several positions there since 1995, including deputy public defender and associate public defender. He fills the vacancy created by the retirement

of Judge Richard Seabolt.

Elizabeth Riles served as a commissioner in Alameda County Superior Court since 2023. She also was an administrative law judge for the California Unemployment Insurance Appeals Board from 2022 to 2023. She fills the vacancy created by the transfer of Judge Kevin Murphy to Marin County Superior Court.

Bentrich Satarzadeh sat as a commissioner in Alameda County Superior Court since 2018 and was a legal research attorney there from 2004 to 2018. She fills the vacancy created by the retirement of Judge Jacob Blea.

Meanwhile, Brian Stretch was appointed to serve as a judge in San Francisco Superior Court. Stretch

served as U.S. attorney for the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of California from 2016 to 2018 and served in several roles there from 1999 to 2016, including first assistant U.S. attorney and chief of the criminal division. He fills the vacancy created by the appointment of Judge Rita Lin to the federal bench.

Kelly Trujillo was appointed to serve as judge in Solano County Superior Court. Trujillo served as an assistant city attorney at the Napa City Attorney's Office since 2022. She served as an assistant city attorney at the Livermore City Attorney's Office from 2020 to 2022 and at the Vallejo City Attorney's Office from 2012 to 2020. She fills the vacancy created by the retirement of Judge David Scott Daniels.

The five appointees, all of whom are Democrats, were among the 16 judicial appointees announced by Newsom's office on Jan. 29. ■

## Tesla Road closed due to landslide

Portion of county road has been hit hard by erosion

BY JEREMY WALSH

The Alameda County Public Works Agency closed Tesla Road after more erosion in a hard-hit stretch of the roadway east of Livermore during the last rainstorm.

The California Highway Patrol's Dublin office announced on social media on Feb. 3 that Tesla Road was being shut down to through traffic from Cross Road in Livermore all the way to the Alameda-San Joaquin counties border.

The CHP-Dublin post on X included a photo depicting additional erosion in an area where road crews had already been working for more than a month due to prior landslide damage.

County public works confirmed on Feb. 4 that Tesla Road was closed at mile marker 9.5 to through traffic until further notice.

Tesla Road is a major commuter thoroughfare for motorists looking for an alternative route to the freeway. ■

## Keeping tabs on California's Master Plan for Aging

Document outlines major goals and action blueprint, but new report notes implementation challenges

BY SUSAN NASH / BCN

California's Master Plan for Aging has been lauded as the broadest and most ambitious such plan in the nation.

Launched by Gov. Gavin Newsom in January 2021, the plan outlines five major goals and a 10-year blueprint for dealing with a population where one in four Californians will be age 60 or over by 2030.

Since the plan's inception, the state has launched or planned 227 initiatives to help older adults in areas ranging from health care to housing to digital access.

Three years in, watchdog and oversight groups are taking a look at progress so far.

In a report issued earlier this winter, the state's Little Hoover Commission — an independent, bipartisan board formed in 1962 to advise the Governor and Legislature — reported that implementation of the Master Plan has been challenging because of the number of people and agencies tasked with putting it into action.

Those involved include the California Health and Human Services Agency, the California Department of Aging, a Work Group for Aging made up of representatives of Newsom's cabinet and other executive departments, the Governor's Office senior advisor, the California Commission on Aging and several stakeholder groups.

According to the LHC report, "In practice, it is not clear which agency, if any, has ultimate responsibility to ensuring progress" on the hundreds of projects and programs underway.

LHC chairman Pedro Nava said in an interview that while he is "encouraged by the fact that this (gubernatorial) administration began

to give serious consideration to the growing needs of" older adults, there is a need to "develop and maintain a permanent constituency that will advocate for" and oversee the plan's ambitious agenda.

To that end, the LHC recommends that the state Legislature "establish a joint committee to oversee implementation of the plan through 2030."

In another 2023 report on the Master Plan, the IMPACT (Implementing the Master Plan for Aging in California Together) Stakeholder Committee recommended that the coming years "be clearly focused" on three specific goals: 1. Build a home care system that works for all Californians; 2. End older adult homelessness in California; and 3. Use the MPA to advance equity in aging.

The LHC agreed with the IMPACT committee recommendations and more generally with the idea that the Plan must "deliver results ... to residents ... with an urgency not typical of most government operations." Without this sense of urgency, Nava noted, lawmakers tend "not to focus on an issue until it's a catastrophe."

The radical demographic change anticipated by the Master Plan is indeed already underway and will dramatically alter what California's population looks like in the coming decades.

By 2060, the number of children 17 and under is expected to decrease by 5%, while those over 55 will increase by 10%. The state's median age will be over 45, compared to age 28 in 1970.

The older population will also become more diverse, with the population of Hispanics age 65+ expected to grow by 18% while the older White population decreases by 17%.

The Department of Aging is also monitoring the Master Plan's progress. In its 2023 Annual Report, the DOA found "significant advancements" in many areas, including expanding access to health care coverage and Medi-Cal; construction and rehabilitation of low-income housing for older adults; addressing older adults' behavioral health; and expanding the CalFresh food assistance program to older adults and people with disabilities.

DOA director Susan DeMarois said that ongoing stakeholder engagement means "continuing momentum that is propelling the Master Plan forward."

As a concrete example of a Master Plan accomplishment, DeMarois singled out the CalGrows and In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) Career Pathways Program, which provide for recruitment, training and maintenance of home caregivers.

"People want to stay in their homes as they age," DeMarois said. "These programs make it possible for them to do so."



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# FULL FORCE

## PUSD performance program promotes culture

BY CHRISTIAN TRUJANO

Creating strong bonds and a sense of community is important for people from all walks of life, but having that sense of unity with folks who share one's own cultural background, who understand you the most, can sometimes be more important in helping understand one's own identity.

Especially for Black students who are navigating through the Pleasanton Unified School District.

"African Americans only make up 1% of the demographics in ... our school district. So if you break that down to all of the school sites in Pleasanton, it really averages out to one per child per class, if that," Pleasanton mom Sana Vieux told the Weekly.

That's why when Vieux and husband Steve heard about the PUSD Step Program, they knew it was something they needed to look into for their daughter, whose ethnic background includes Haitian and Indian.

The PUSD Step Program is an after-school group where students of all ages in the district can learn about stepping, the history behind the expressive dance style and become a part of the district's Steppers team.

Stepping is a polyrhythmic dance form that uses the body as percussion and was created by African American fraternities at historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs) in the U.S. at the turn of the last century, according to Antwan Davis, the instructor of the PUSD Step Program.

"I tell people that the African American fraternity-sorority system is a culture, and the dance of the culture is stepping," Davis said.

Davis is the co-founder of Molodi, a Las Vegas-based body percussion dance company, and has been professionally performing since 2003 with various organizations like Step Afrika, a renowned professional stepping company.

But Davis has also been heavily involved in teaching youth how to step and the history behind the dance, and with the newly created step program at PUSD, Davis said he has been not only witnessing the students improve their dance skills, he has also seen them grow as individuals.

"This challenges you," he said. "The stepping, the body percussion, the music, the layers of complexity of musicality, challenges you and you basically find yourself through this journey."



"You get to interact with your peers and you find who you are as a community member and ... you find out how strong you really are," he added.

During each session, which takes place once a week at Hearst Elementary School, the families and their kids gather first for free dinner provided by the nonprofit Open Heart Kitchen. Then the students, who are collectively known as the Full Force Steppers, head over with Davis to begin going through different dance routines. After rehearsals,

they can stay at the school for tutoring help.

Once a month, the Black Enrichment Program, which is an additional enrichment program connected to the step program, brings in African and African American figures from across the Bay Area who are sort of experts or notable in various fields with the help of the Cheza Nami Foundation, which is an African arts organization.

But what the Full Force Steppers said they really love about the overall

step program is being able to perform like they did recently at the 24th annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Fellowship Breakfast in Pleasanton on Jan. 22.

For students like Naila, the third grade daughter of Steve and Sana Vieux, she said that she knows how important it is to be in a space where she can learn more about her history.

"I think it's important to connect with my culture and be with other African American people," she said.

Seeing that is one of the reasons

Jamie Mather, coordinator of extended learning, said he was excited to see the program grow as it enters into its second year. He said that while any student of any race or culture can join the program, he really wanted it to be a space for Black and African American students to find their community and find a sense of belonging.

"There's a lot of value to affinity spaces for kids and really just for people in a variety of ways," Mather said. "In Pleasanton, there's not very many Afro-centric spaces for kids

# STEPPERS

## Cultural expression, unity among Black students



Left photo: PUSD's Full Force Steppers perform their routine during Pleasanton's Hometown Holiday Parade on Dec. 2. (Photo courtesy of PUSD). Above two photos: Instructor Antwan Davis gets the students in the program in a circle to help them learn and understand the moves he teaches them during a weekly session at Hearst Elementary School. (Photo by Christian Trujano).

and families where the sort of primary perspectives and experience that is like centered and whatever's going on is one that is African American or African."

"For our kids in Pleasanton Unified, we thought that we could build an affinity space for them, while also teaching something pretty central to HBCU ... and that is stepping," he added.

He said that developing an identity relevant to their culture at an early age is so important for students,

which is why the district wanted to build this space for them to explore their cultural background and find out more about their history so they can figure out more about who they are as an individual.

For Esther Adeyemi, whose two sons are in the program, that is really important for her given that she not only came to the U.S. from Nigeria, but that she used to practice stepping over there and is now using that as a way to connect with her sons and their cultural background.

"It's important for my kids to feel that they are Africans," Adeyemi said.

She said the program has helped with her sons' understanding their African culture and being able to relate to it because before the step program, they would say they are Americans and they wouldn't consider themselves African.

But now that they have been stepping, they are more curious about the dance and are now asking Adeyemi to pull up her old videos and photos of when she used to step in Nigeria.

She said that while it can seem like they are just interested in the dance, they are actually learning about their roots and about their history, all while having fun and making friends who share the same backgrounds.

"Usually I'm not friends with people in my culture because there's not a lot of people at my school who are African American, so it's really nice to be around people who are from," said Adeyemi's son Elijah.

Tonya Bass, who is the parent liaison for the step program and for the

African American Family Network, said seeing those students find themselves and discover their cultural backgrounds is one of the reasons she wanted to help create the group.

"I just see the step program as being a positive cultural experience for them, where they get to express themselves," she said. "It's just a way to tie our community into Pleasanton but make our children feel self worth and also feel like they have a community behind them."

Bass has been with the district for over five years now and in that time has helped grow the African American Family Network, which sponsors the step program, into a supportive community where everyone helps each other.

Whether it is to help with finding resources for their children or for themselves as parents, she said that having a group of peers who share similar cultural and ethnic backgrounds is important, especially in a place like Pleasanton where they are a minority group.

"That is very, very important when you're in small numbers, because sometimes you just need to sit down and talk to somebody who gets it," Bass said. "That networking is very important because when you are in a smaller community, you want to feel safe to be who you are and that's what I feel like the network and the step program allows the kids to be."

She said that apart from being an expressive art form where they can educate themselves about Black and African American history, the step program also acts as a way for the students to learn more about colleges and universities that primarily serve Black and African American students, which can help them realize that there are spaces for them in higher education.

"It's great to see our children finding out about the history of our HBCUs ... so they know OK there's colleges and universities that are out there that are specific for me. Specifically created to educate African Americans (and) Black people," Bass said.

And because of the fact that those colleges and universities most of the time already have their own step programs, she said these PUSD students who are already stepping at an early age now have that way in and can easily find their place within those institutions.

"It all ties back to being African American and a positive group that wants us to succeed," Bass said. ■

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## Pleasanton Weekly

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## Restaurant Week IS UPON US

10-day showcase spotlights food and wine standouts across the Tri-Valley

BY JEREMY WALSH

Get ready to sample some of the best culinary delights that the Tri-Valley has to offer.

The fourth annual Taste Tri-Valley Restaurant Week, which begins next weekend, aims to bring “10 delicious days of special events, unique menu offerings and exclusive deals to local restaurants and wineries,” according to organizers with Visit Tri-Valley.

So far more than 50 venues are on the participant list across Pleasanton, Livermore, Danville, Dublin and City Center Bishop Ranch in San Ramon — and Visit Tri-Valley says more could be added before the event kicks off.

The festivities actually start one day early, for those with tickets to the opening night dinner and reception on Thursday (Feb. 22) at LB Steak in San Ramon.

Regional chefs Francis Hogan from Sabio on Main, Roland Passot and Romero Miraflore from LB Steak, Daniel Massie from Wente Vineyards and Rodney Worth from The Peasant and the Pear will join forces for the one night only “to craft an amazing four-course tasting menu — each creating their take on a classic steakhouse favorite, accompanied by Wente wines,” organizers said.

Then during the heart of Restaurant Week, which runs from next Friday (Feb. 23) through the following Sunday (March 3), all of the participating restaurants,

breweries and wineries up and down the valley will present special menus and other offerings for patrons.

Special events on the Restaurant Week schedule are the Livermore Wine Trolley's Taste of the Tri-Valley Food Tour on Feb. 27 and Feb. 29, the “Beer vs. Wine Dinner” at BottleTaps in Pleasanton on Feb. 28, “Wine & Cheese Pairing” at Page Mill Winery in Livermore and “Meet the Winemakers” with James Foster and Brett Fikse at Concannon Vineyard in Livermore on March 3.

The closer will be the “Fizz, Food & Fun” brunch on March 3 at Las Positas Vineyards in Livermore, complete with a mimosa bar, live music and seated brunch with sparkling wine pairing. A portion of the ticket proceeds for the closing brunch (as well as the Chef Collaboration Kick-off Dinner on Feb. 22) will benefit local nonprofit Sunflower Hill.

Organizers encourage patrons to check in at every venue they visit during Restaurant Week via the event's mobile pass, and each log-in will count as an entry toward the special giveaway drawing with a prize valued at over \$800, including a two-night stay at a local hotel, two-day e-bike rental, two tickets to the Blackhawk Museum and gift certificates to local restaurants and wineries.

Spearheaded by Visit Tri-Valley, Restaurant Week is a partnership among the municipalities and chambers of commerce of Pleasanton, Livermore, Dublin and Danville, along with City Center Bishop Ranch in San Ramon and presenting sponsor Fremont Bank. To learn more, go to [visittrivalley.com](http://visittrivalley.com). ■



A visual sampling of the delectable bites offered during last year's Taste Tri-Valley Restaurant Week. The 2024 event is scheduled to run from Feb. 23 to March 3, highlighting the best in food and drink that the region has to offer.

FILE PHOTOS BY DEBORAH GROSSMAN

## SCHOLARSHIP CORNER

By JEREMY WALSH

The Pleasanton Weekly has received a handful of scholarship announcements from local organizations trying to let Tri-Valley students know that the application window is open for financial awards to support their ongoing education.

Most of the messages have been added to our online community calendar, and we will highlight those currently in our queue in this special "Scholarship Corner" feature this week only.

If your organization would like to share a scholarship announcement with us for future inclusion in our calendar, please email [jwalsh@embarcaderomedia.org](mailto:jwalsh@embarcaderomedia.org) or go to the calendar page on our website to add the information yourself.

### Rotary Foundation

The Downtown Rotary Club of Pleasanton Foundation is offering more than \$40,000 in scholarships (generally in the range of \$500 to \$5,000 each) to high school seniors who are graduating from a Pleasanton school or Pleasanton homeschool program and attending college, junior college or vocational school.

Students can apply through their high school counselor or online at [pleasantonrotary.org](http://pleasantonrotary.org). Applications are due by March 31.

### Assistance League

The Assistance League of Amador Valley is recruiting applicants for three scholarships in 2024: the \$3,000 Jean Cole Scholarship for a high school senior going to a four-year college, the \$1,500 Tri-Valley Community Scholarship for a senior going to a community college or trade school, and the \$3,000 Las Positas College Transfer Scholarship.

Students must live in Pleasanton, Dublin or Livermore and provide information on community involvement and financial need, organizers said. The deadline to apply is March 15. Go to [www.assistanceleague.org/amador-valley](http://www.assistanceleague.org/amador-valley).

### Haugen Scholarships

The Pleasanton Community of Character Collaborative has been seeking Pleasanton Unified high school seniors to apply for the annual \$1,000 Juanita Haugen Memorial Scholarships, which "will recognize students who have a strong record of civic engagement and have demonstrated exceptional character by role modeling the traits of compassion, honesty, respect, responsibility, integrity and self-discipline," organizers said.

The deadline to apply is Feb. 17; visit the "Scholarship" page at [CommunityofCharacter.org](http://CommunityofCharacter.org).

### Retired educators

The Tri-Valley Retired Educators Scholarship Fund is handing out up to five \$2,500 scholarships to students who plan to become professional educators. The awards are open to high school seniors as well as current community college or four-year college/

university students from the Tri-Valley.

Completed applications, which must include an official transcript, are due by March 15. To learn more, visit [div85.calrta.org](http://div85.calrta.org) or email coordinator Claudia Wanlin at [cwanlin61@gmail.com](mailto:cwanlin61@gmail.com).

### Alan Hu Foundation

The Alan Hu Foundation Scholarship application window is open now through March 10, offering awards of up to \$1,000 to selected high school seniors from Dublin, Livermore or Pleasanton school districts whose college majors and career aspirations support mental health, including prospective first responders.

"The scholarship was created in memory of Alan Hu and Sarah Rahman, young people with great promise whose battles with mental illness resulted in suicide," organizers said. Learn more at [alanhufoundation.org](http://alanhufoundation.org).

### Women's Hall of Fame

The Alameda County Women's Hall of Fame is presenting up to four \$5,000 scholarships to female high school graduating seniors, via the Mary V. King/Wilma Chan Youth Scholarship Fund.

"Applicants must demonstrate academic success, have participated in enrichment activities such as athletic programs, volunteerism, leadership opportunities and/or community support, and have overcome barriers and challenges to improve her community, city or county's well-being," organizers said.

The deadline is March 30. Go to [www.acgov.org/whof](http://www.acgov.org/whof).

### PG&E Foundation

The PG&E Corporation Foundation is seeking applicants for its annual Better Together STEM Scholarship Program for Bay Area students pursuing science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) disciplines.

The PG&E Foundation will provide \$350,000 in total funding for 60 scholarships in the amounts of \$10,000, \$5,000 and \$2,500 awards for eligible students, according to organizers. This represents an expansion of 20 student winners compared to last year.

Learn more at [www.pge.com](http://www.pge.com). Applications must be submitted by March 15.

### Cal Water awards

The California Water Service Group is accepting applications now through March 28 for its 11th annual College Scholarship Program, available to students living in the areas served by the company's subsidiaries in California (including Livermore), Hawaii, New Mexico and Washington.

Four \$10,000 scholarships will be awarded, along with others in the range of \$2,500 to \$5,000, for students enrolled in 2024-25 in an accredited college, university or vocational-technical school.

For more information or to apply, visit [learnmore.scholarsapply.org/calwaterscholarships](http://learnmore.scholarsapply.org/calwaterscholarships). ■

# 'Reimagined' Valley Concert Chorale benefit show

Longtime VCC pianist Glover to take the stage this weekend

By NICOLE GONZALES

Pianist Daniel Glover has performed in over two dozen countries, with over 20 orchestral groups — and has been a longtime member of one of the Tri-Valley's most prominent musical collectives.

The musician is now slated to perform several solo pieces for the upcoming Valley Concert Chorale benefit event. "Reimagined" will take place Saturday (Feb. 17) at 7:30 pm at the First Presbyterian Church in Livermore.

Glover has been the Valley Concert Chorale's piano accompanist since 1998. The musician has also appeared as a soloist with Szeged Philharmonic (in Hungary), the Slovak National Symphony Orchestra, and with over 20 local orchestras, VCC said.

"Mr. Glover's piano concerts are always a popular event. He is an internationally-known concert pianist and has a great following around the world," VCC board president Bill Leach said.

Aside from performing, Glover has served as a faculty member at New York University, University of the Virgin Islands, University of San Francisco and Notre Dame de Namur University.

"We are so very fortunate to have him as the Chorale's accompanist for so many years and we enjoy offering the community an opportunity to experience his great talent each year," Leach added.

With a large international presence, Glover has performed in 42 U.S. states and 27 countries throughout Europe, Asia, the Americas and the Caribbean. He maintains an extensive and prestigious professional music career, both as a performer and educator.

Glover's "Reimagined" collection includes works initially created in other instrumentations. VCC said



Pianist Daniel Glover is performing a solo set at the "Reimagined" concert this weekend.

the event will be for both entertainment and education, as Glover will discuss each piece.

The program features Glover's reworked arrangement of "Canzone", a slow movement by Samuel Barber, "Andante Spianato et Grande Polonaise Brillante" by Chopin, songs from Ukrainian-born Sergei Borkiewicz and Russian-born Sergei Rachmaninoff.

VCC has operated in the Tri-Valley for more than 60 years. The group's mission is to engage audience members and showcase the "transforming power of music by sharing passion and joy in live performance." VCC presents chorale music from all genres, creating a diverse musical repertoire.

Proceeds from the concert event will go toward VCC and its continued musical programs. To get tickets or find more information on VCC, visit [www.valleyconcertchorale.org](http://www.valleyconcertchorale.org). ■



Group photo of some of the student artists who contributed to the mural.

## Students use art to celebrate Black History Month

Organized by Granada's Humans Against Hate Club

By PLEASANTON WEEKLY STAFF

Granada High School's Humans Against Hate Club and students from art teacher Kate Malson's classes collaborated on a project to celebrate and honor Black History Month.

Students explored their creativity, painting various quotes and a mural featuring prominent and historical Black figures that are on display throughout campus.

"We want our campus to include visual representations of culture that increase awareness and understanding, and want our student body to feel seen, accepted and appreciated," said Trenton Thomsen, founder of Granada's Humans Against Hate Club. ■

# Community Pulse

## POLICE BULLETIN

### Man found unresponsive in jail cell becomes first inmate death of 2024

A man being held in minimum security at Santa Rita Jail after his arrest on suspicion of vehicle theft in San Leandro died at the Dublin facility last week, according to the Alameda County Sheriff's Office.

Eric Johnson, who was found unresponsive in his cell within 28 hours of being booked into custody, is the first inmate to die at the jail in 2024, according to sheriff's Capt. Tya Modeste.

Johnson, 53, whose last known address was in Oakland, was arrested by the San Leandro Police Department just before midnight on Feb. 6 and subsequently incarcerated at Santa Rita Jail just before 1:30 a.m. Feb. 7, according to Modeste. He was the sole occupant of a cell in "the minimum-security setting in the custodial reception center," according to the captain.

The next morning, at around 5:15 a.m., Johnson was found unconscious in his cell by a deputy conducting an observation check, according to Modeste. "Deputies and custodial medical staff immediately performed lifesaving measures, but sadly, he did not

regain consciousness and was pronounced deceased on-site at 5:30 a.m.," she said.

Johnson's cause of death remains unconfirmed and will be determined by the county's medical examiner, according to Modeste.

The sheriff's office notified the Alameda County District Attorney's Office, and the department will submit a report on the in-custody death investigation to the California Attorney General's Office in accordance with state law, according to Modeste.

"This is an ongoing investigation, and no further information is available at this time," Modeste added.

—Jeremy Walsh

### In other news

- A man was taken into custody by the East County Tactical Team in Livermore last week after allegedly assaulting people inside a Springtown house and barricading himself inside a bedroom for several hours.

The Livermore Police Department said the first call came in just before 4 a.m. Feb. 8 about a 27-year-old man beating two adults inside a home on Woodrose Way. Additional details about the circumstances of the assault were not released.

The suspect, whose name has not been revealed publicly, proceeded to hole up inside an upstairs

bedroom while the two victims were taken to an area hospital for treatment of non-life-threatening injuries, police said.

The man allegedly barricaded himself in the house for several hours, leading to the East County Tactical Team regional law enforcement unit responding. Livermore police issued an advisory on social media around 6:30 a.m. for people to avoid the area near Central Avenue south of Scenic Avenue due to the yet-unspecified police response with "no threat to the public."

"With help from the East County Tactical Team, around 8 a.m., the suspect was taken into custody. He will be transported to Santa Rita Jail," police said, declining to reveal additional details about what tactical intervention strategies were ultimately used.

The man was arrested on suspicion of assault with a deadly weapon and resisting arrest, according to police, who said they would be turning the case over to the DA's Office for consideration of charges.

—Jeremy Walsh

- A group of hammer-wielding robbers bombarded Home Consignment Center to smash display cases and steal jewelry last week, marking the third time criminals have targeted the store in the past two months, according to Danville police.

All three cases remain open and under investigation by Danville Police Department detectives, according to Police Chief Allan Shields. He did not comment on whether investigators think any or all of the incidents are related.

The consignment store on Camino Ramon was hit most recently Feb. 5 at around 5:50 p.m. when five people wearing ski masks and hoodies entered the store with hammers, broke display cases and ran out with pieces of jewelry, according to Shields.

"All suspects fled the area of the robbery in a vehicle. No staff or patrons were assaulted or injured during the robbery and no other weapons were seen," Shields told the Weekly. "Officers and detectives from the Danville Police Department processed the scene for evidence and are actively investigating the case."

There was a similar type of robbery at Home Consignment Center on Dec. 6, as reported by the Weekly at the time.

In that case, two male suspects entered the store just before 4 p.m., shattered a jewelry case at the center of the business and stole several pieces of jewelry while a male accomplice waited in the parking lot with the getaway vehicle, police said.

All three culprits drove away and remain at-large. No staff members were injured and no weapons were seen, police said.

Shields just confirmed that the store was actually targeted exactly one week later, at around 11:45 p.m. Dec. 13, in what has been categorized as a commercial burglary.

"Officers investigating the case determined that five men wearing ski masks and sweatshirts entered the business by smashing the front door, ransacked the office area, and left the area in a vehicle," Shields said. "No staff were present, and the business was closed during the burglary."

Each of the three crimes at Home Consignment Center remain under active investigation, according to Shields. Anyone with information about any of the cases can contact Det. Sgt. Veronique Balea at 925-314-3703 or vbalea@danville.ca.gov.

—Jeremy Walsh

- Fremont police arrested a Livermore man for allegedly selling drugs and found approximately 500 pounds of copper wire in his possession. Which the suspect said wasn't his. Even though it was in his car.

Police said that at around 2:30 a.m. Feb. 6 officers conducted a vehicle enforcement stop in the area of Farwell Drive.

Officers contacted the driver, a

33-year-old man from Livermore, and three other occupants of the vehicle.

Officers searched the vehicle and allegedly found 4 ounces of suspected methamphetamine, several electric saws, bolt cutters, and more than five hundred pounds of copper wire.

The driver and other occupants of the vehicle denied ownership of the suspected methamphetamine and copper wire.

Officers attempted to locate the owner of the copper wire but weren't successful.

The Livermore man was arrested on suspicion of possessing a controlled substance for sale, receiving stolen property, possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of burglary tools, and suspected driving without a license.

Police also arrested the other three occupants of the vehicle for alleged outstanding warrants and drug-related offenses.

Anyone with information about the recovered copper wire can contact the Fremont Police Department Investigations Unit at 510-790-6900. You can also send an anonymous tip by texting "Tip FREMONT" followed by your message, to 888-777.

—Tony Hicks, Bay City News

- Gov. Gavin Newsom announced last week that he is sending state lawyers to help the Alameda County District Attorney's Office prosecute crimes, particularly violent, drug and property crimes in Oakland.

The announcement on Feb. 8 comes on the heels of Newsom's decision to send 120 California Highway Patrol officers to Oakland as part of a so-called "law enforcement surge operation."

In addition to the CHP officers, lawyers from the California Department of Justice and the California National Guard will now work in cooperation with county prosecutors focused on violent, property and some drug crimes, Newsom said in a news release.

"I welcome the support from the Governor in this fight against organized retail crime and the scourge of fentanyl in our community," said Alameda County District Attorney Pamela Price. "I am assigning Alameda County career prosecutor assistant DA Michael Nieto to represent my office in this collaborative effort."

The governor's office said that crime statistics from Oakland show that violent crime rose 21% in 2023 compared to the previous year, while robberies increased by 38% and vehicle theft rose by 45%. ■

—Bay City News Service

## POLICE REPORT

The Pleasanton Police Department made the following information available.

### Feb. 11

#### Theft

■ 8:40 a.m. on the 4300 block of Valley Avenue

■ 1:31 p.m., 6100 block of West Las Positas Boulevard; auto theft

#### DUI

■ 8:51 p.m. on the 3900 block of Fairlands Drive

#### Burglary

■ 9:04 p.m. on the 000 block of Vintage Circle

■ 9:29 p.m. on the 6500 block of Inglewood Drive

### Feb. 10

#### Theft

■ 9:55 a.m., 5500 block of Johnson Drive; theft from auto

■ 4:26 p.m., 1300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; auto theft

#### Alcohol violation

■ 2:57 p.m. on the 6000 block of Johnson Drive

#### Fraud

■ 5:53 p.m. on the 1400 block of Briones Lane

#### Weapons violation

■ 11:22 p.m. at Owens and Rosewood drives

### Feb. 9

#### Fraud

■ 12:53 p.m. on the 4500 block of El Dorado Court

#### Warrant arrest

■ 3:48 p.m. on the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive

#### Burglary

■ 4:37 p.m. on the 5700 block of West Las Positas Boulevard

#### Theft

■ 5:17 p.m. on the 7200 block of West Woodbury Court

#### DUI

■ 8:57 p.m. at Foothill Road and I-580

### Feb. 8

#### Theft

■ 8:54 a.m. on the 7800 block of Canyon Meadows Circle

■ 10:32 a.m. on the 1100 block of Santa Rita Road

#### Fraud

■ 2:10 p.m. on the 3300 block of Newport Street

■ 3:14 p.m. on the 5300 block of Case Avenue

### Feb. 7

#### Theft

■ 7:25 a.m. on the 5600 block of Black Avenue

■ 12:10 p.m. on the 3200 block West Lagoon Road

#### Vandalism

■ 9:06 a.m. on the 11900 block of Dublin Canyon Road

#### Fraud

■ 9:20 a.m. on the 2500 block of Willowren Way

■ 4:47 p.m. on the 4300 block of Bevilacqua Court

#### Vehicle tampering

■ 1:29 p.m. on the 5600 block of Stoneridge Drive

#### Weapons violation

■ 7:01 p.m. on the 6700 block of Santa Rita Road

### Feb. 6

#### Alcohol violation

■ 1:44 a.m. on the 5800 block of Owens Drive

#### Theft

■ 6:44 a.m., 7000 block of Johnson Drive; theft from auto

■ 9:46 a.m., 000 block of Vintage Circle; auto theft

■ 12:29 p.m., 3900 block of Stoneridge Drive; theft from auto

■ 6:22 p.m., 5300 block of Owens Court; theft from auto

■ 6:36 p.m., 5300 block of Owens Court; theft from auto

### Feb. 5

#### Alcohol violation

■ 4:17 a.m. on the 1700 block of Santa Rita Road

#### Vandalism

■ 11:41 a.m. on the 200 block of Kottinger Drive

#### Theft

■ 1:20 p.m., 7600 block of Stoneridge Drive; auto theft

■ 5:08 p.m., 000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

■ 6:55 p.m., 5700 block of Johnson Drive; shoplifting

#### Missing persons report

■ 6:43 p.m. on Case Avenue

# Opinion

## LETTERS

### A Miley sticker?

The Pleasanton Weekly is not endorsing Nate Miley for Alameda County supervisor in the upcoming primary election on March 5. The sticker that appeared on the front page of the Feb. 9 print edition of the Pleasanton Weekly was a paid political advertisement.

I wanted to make sure this was clear to the community because I heard from a number of people who interpreted the sticker as an endorsement. The resulting confusion caused me to reach out to the editor director at the Pleasanton Weekly given that the publication is now a nonprofit and restricted from making political endorsements.

The staff responded that the political ad is, "an opportunity that is

offered at the same rates/terms to all candidates," and that it is "independent of our editorial side, so obviously it is not a position taken by our editorial board or our organization."

The Pleasanton Weekly is on a slippery slope here, I believe. It can offer the same rates and terms to all candidates, but not all candidates can afford the same rates and terms especially if they are a grassroots campaign funded through small dollar donations. No doubt the Miley campaign is aware of this and willing to take advantage of this loophole.

If the Pleasanton Weekly is going to continue to accept money for political ads, they need to emphasize that no endorsement is attached. To do otherwise is disingenuous.

—Ward Kanowsky

### Early primary election

I wanted to point out nonsensical

activity regarding this early primary election.

I spoke with neighbors all up and down my neighborhood to ask if they voted. Nearly all of us in this part of the county voted nearly two weeks ago.

Today all of us are receiving the county voter information guide, candidates are having a debate this week and candidates' literature is flooding our mailboxes.

The California Legislature changed its primary from June to March. Local county election officials never got the word.

I remember during the Cuban Missile Crisis in October 1962, an Air Force pilot got airborne off the coast of Alaska and the Russians immediately shot him down. John Kennedy in the White House said, "There is always some ... that does not get the word."

—Michael Austin

### Nonprofit journalism and political campaigns

I am writing to express concern about political ads and stickers in your newspaper since the Pleasanton Weekly now has nonprofit status.

It's disconcerting that you profit off of political campaigns. Perhaps other campaigns do not have the same financial resources, so in essence, you are backing candidates by placing these stickers on your front cover.

—Janie Dobbs

### The kids are alright

In 1987, in honor of the 200th anniversary of the Constitution, the Center for Civic Education began the nationwide We the People program to promote "civic competence and responsibility among the nation's upper elementary and secondary students."

Divided into six units, the program takes students from the historical, philosophical and theological background underlying the Constitution, through the debates around its content, up to the challenges of the present. Simply assimilating the content would be a feat for anyone. However, students are not simply given an exam. Rather, the program culminates in simulated congressional hearings, in which students work in small groups to present to a set of judges.

The presentations begin with a prepared statement, showing basic mastery of the subject. It is in the follow-up questions that students show their ability to think through the implications of their answers, to respond to challenges, and apply raw knowledge to current problems.

Recently, I had the privilege of observing the state hearings. I saw hundreds of students from across the state talking, discussing and practicing their work. The teams of three to five students presented their knowledge collaboratively and with relative confidence.

They worked hard to apply that knowledge to understand societal problems, both historical and current.

Every generation worries about the next. These kids should allay some of those fears and give us all hope for the future.

—Trish Munro

### Don't downplay it

I understand the challenges of reporting on sensitive issues, but I implore you to uphold the principles of impartiality and accuracy. Reliable news sources are more important than ever, and I hope your paper will consider becoming one such source.

The media's evident bias, especially concerning Palestine and Israel, is apparent in the insufficient coverage of civilian casualties in Gaza.

The United Nations Human Rights Office is now urging an investigation into the Israeli military raid at Kamal Adwan Hospital, where civilians in medical tents were bulldozed alive. Pope Francis has criticized the assault on churches, including the Israeli tank shelling of a church compound housing disabled civilians.

My concern is centered on the inadequate reporting of the Israeli military's disregard for human life. Despite tens of thousands of Palestinian civilians losing their lives, mainstream media consistently downplays the events unfolding in Gaza.

I request that you address the lack of coverage within Gaza promptly and commit to fair and unbiased reporting in the future. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

—Orzala Arsala

## YOUR TURN

The Pleasanton Weekly encourages comments on our coverage or issues of local interest.

Submit letters to the editor of up to 250 words and guest opinion pieces up to 550 words with a short bio to [editor@PleasantonWeekly.com](mailto:editor@PleasantonWeekly.com). Include your name, address and daytime phone number so we can reach you. We reserve the right to edit contributions for length, objectionable content, libel and factual errors known to us. Anonymous letters will generally not be accepted.

Submitting a letter to the editor or guest opinion constitutes a granting of permission to the Pleasanton Weekly and Embarcadero Media Foundation to also publish it online, including in our online archives.

For more information contact Jeremy Walsh at (925) 600-0840.

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THE CITY OF PLEASANTON

**HIGHLIGHTS**

**City Council Meeting**  
Tuesday, February 20, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.  
The meeting will be held at the City Council Chamber – 200 Old Bernal Ave.

- Accept the FY 2023/24 Mid-Year Budget report and adopt a resolution approving FY 2023/24 budget amendments
- Review and provide direction on the Council ad-hoc subcommittee recommendations regarding the reorganization of the Civic Arts, Human Services, Library, and Parks and Recreation Commissions

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

# Employment

Workday, Inc. is accepting resumes for the following positions at various levels in **Pleasanton, CA:**

**Manager, Software Development Engineering (20637.2377):** Perform requirement analysis and impact assessment of new features and enhancements proposed in our software product. Salary: \$169,600 – \$254,400 per year, 40 hours per week.

**Software Development Engineer in Test (SDET) (20637.1653):** Develop, automate, and maintain highly effective test cases in a CI/CD environment during each sprint of the Agile life cycle. Salary: \$125,900.00 - \$188,800.00 per year, 40 hours per week.

Workday pay ranges vary based on work location and recruiters can share more during the hiring process. As a part of the total compensation package, this role may be eligible for the Workday Bonus Plan or a role-specific commission/bonus, as well as annual refresh stock grants. Each candidate's compensation offer will be based on multiple factors including, but not limited to, geography, experience, skills, future potential and internal pay parity. For more information regarding Workday's comprehensive benefits, please go to [workday.com/en-us/company/careers/life-at-workday.html](http://workday.com/en-us/company/careers/life-at-workday.html)

Interested applicants submit resumes by mail to: J. Thurston at Workday, Inc., 6110 Stoneridge Mall Road, Pleasanton, CA 94588. Must reference job title and job code.

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**The Pleasanton Weekly offers employment advertising.**  
**If you wish to learn more about the employment advertising options, please visit [PleasantonWeekly.com/employment\\_ads/](http://PleasantonWeekly.com/employment_ads/).**



## PLEASANTON PREPS

By DENNIS MILLER

### Amador girls win EBAL soccer championship

Also: Fourth annual New Year, New Gear event set this weekend

The Amador Valley varsity girls' soccer team continued its amazing run this year, winning a pair of games last week to win the East Bay Athletic League playoff championship.

The Dons started the week with a 2-1 win over San Ramon Valley in the semifinals.

Amador opened the scoring in the first half with an Angel Akanyirige assist to Maylen Montoya who put home a shot from inside the 6-yard box.

The Dons led 1-0 at the half, but San Ramon Valley got the equalizer in the second half. Montoya then carried the ball through traffic and delivered a ball on the ground to Hayden Moe for the winning score.

In the finals, the Dons hosted perennial EBAL powerhouse Carondelet. This time it was all Amador, getting the 3-0 win.

Not much more than 10 minutes into the game, Amador made a statement with a shot by Montoya that was blocked by the Carondelet keeper. Moe picked up the deflection and scored to set the tone for the rest of the game.

Just a few moments later, Montoya delivered the ball to Kaia Hoyman on the run. Hoyman carried the ball through traffic and created her chance to shoot and extended the Amador lead to 2-0.

Midway through the second half, Montoya carried the ball through the Carondelet defense and created a one-on-one opportunity that she

drove home for the final goal in the 3-0 win.

#### Foothill boys' soccer

For 20 seniors, their Foothill soccer careers came to an end on Feb. 6 when the Falcons fell 2-0 to San Ramon Valley.

The last game of the regular season saw the Falcons beat rival Amador Valley 5-2.

The first Foothill goal came from Leo Boss off an assist from Aditya Gundimeda.

The Dons got the next two goals for a 2-1 lead, but the Falcons drew even when Boss got his second goal of the game. Adam Bernhard and Matthew Tahir were involved in the ball movement that led to the goal.

Foothill took the lead a short time later when Jack Leone gained possession, split three defenders, then passed to Tahir to make it 3-2 at halftime.

In the second half, the Falcons added a goal from Tyler Walsh and Amador knocked a ball into its own goal for the 5-2 final.

#### Amador boys' basketball

The Dons advanced to the second round of the EBAL playoffs before being eliminated.

In their first game, the Dons went into the California High gym and behind 19 points from Jaylen Smith and 15 from Brady McMillin came away with a 70-57 win over the Grizzlies. Kasen Krueger had 13 for the Dons.

In their second game of the tournament, the Dons ran into a red-hot Dublin team and fell 91-51.

Ori Khasin was the lone Amador player in double figures, finishing with 14 points. Kasen Krueger had eight, with Adrian Filip and McMillin finishing with seven each.

#### Foothill girls' basketball

The Falcons beat Granada 55-50 in the first round of the EBAL basketball playoffs.

Missing starting center Riley Young, who earlier this year had 30 against Granada, the Falcons turned to senior Beti Terpstra and she delivered with 29 points. Sophie

Nguyen added 10 for the Falcons.

#### New Year, New Gear

Mark your calendars for Sunday (Feb. 18) as the fourth annual New Year, New Gear event will be taking place at four local high schools.

Spearheaded by former Foothill varsity player Anirudh Murugesan (currently at U.C. Davis), the event is to collect athletic equipment, clothes, shoes and jerseys to distribute to underserved communities in the Bay Area.

Now in its fourth year, the event has been a success and has drop spots at four EBAL high schools, as well as one in Southern California.

Donations will be accepted 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the day of the event.

Locally the four spots (along with those involved) are Foothill (Vedant Mehta, Saahas Krishnamsetty, coach Jeros Domagas); Monte Vista (Hoops4Humanity Club); Amador Valley (Harsha Kumar) and Dougherty Valley (coach Mike Hansen). ■

# HIKE *for* HOPE

**MAY 4** Del Valle Regional Park, Livermore

Your participation helps **Hope Hospice** care for more than 2,000 East Bay neighbors each year. Money raised through registrations and supporting donations benefits patient care and helps keep grief support, dementia education, and caregiver resources available to the public at no charge.

*Self-paced hike • Barbecue lunch • Lawn games  
Raffle prizes • Silent auction • Fundraising*



Register Today!  
[TheHikeForHope.com](http://TheHikeForHope.com)



## Entertainment

**BANKHEAD PRESENTS THE IMMEDIATE FAMILY** This unique group of iconic musicians have played together for decades, but never as their own band. Known for their long illustrious careers backing up Hall of Fame artists. 8 p.m., Feb. 16. Tickets \$55-\$85. Visit [livermorearts.org](http://livermorearts.org).

**STELLA MEETS NAT: THE MUSIC OF NAT KING COLE** Stella Heath, Bay Area-based vocalist and bandleader, brings her acclaimed exploration of Nat King Cole's early career to the Firehouse Arts Center, backed by a swinging trio. 8 p.m., Feb. 16. Tickets \$20-\$35. Visit [firehousearts.org](http://firehousearts.org).

**3 REDNECK TENORS** Livermore Valley Opera's 2024 Benefit Performance includes down-home laughs with big city music. This musical comedy features classically trained, incredibly talented artists from world opera stages. 7 p.m., Feb. 17. Tickets \$75-\$200. Visit [livermorearts.org](http://livermorearts.org).

**CONCERT PIANIST DANIEL GLOVER** Concert pianist Daniel Glover performs his program entitled "Reimagined", a collection of piano works originally created in other instrumentations or forms. 7:30 p.m., Feb. 17. Tickets \$30.00, free for children, high school and college students. First Presbyterian Church, 2020 Fifth St., Livermore. Visit [valleyconcertchorale.org](http://valleyconcertchorale.org).

**FREE JAZZ AT INKLINGS** Join Matt Finders group and guest vocalist Shanna Carson for the next free Jazz at Inklings concert. Seating is limited. Reservations at [info@pleasantonjazzsociety.com](mailto:info@pleasantonjazzsociety.com). 6 p.m., Feb. 17. 533 Main St., Pleasanton.

**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.

**JEFF BORDES: VALENTINE'S SHOW** Bay Area favorite Jeff Bordes returns to celebrate Valentine's Day with an evening of jazz and romance in the freshly transformed Firehouse Arts Center theater. 8 p.m., Feb. 17. Tickets \$25-\$30. Visit [firehousearts.org](http://firehousearts.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. 2 p.m. & 7:30 p.m., Feb. 17. Tickets \$25-\$35. Visit [sparttheater.org](http://sparttheater.org).

**TIL DEATH DO US PART: LATE NITE CATECHISM 3** After teaching countless students about the saints, venial sins, limbo and more, Sister is now offering up hilarious lessons on the Sacraments of Marriage and the Last Rites. 3 p.m., Feb. 18. Tickets \$45-\$65. Visit [livermorearts.org](http://livermorearts.org).

**L.A. THEATRE WORKS: A WEEKEND WITH PABLO PICASSO** The genius of Pablo Picasso comes to life with L.A. Theater Works. This one-man show features actor Herbert Siguenza as the legendary artist, taking the audience on a journey through Picasso's mind and creative process. 7:30 p.m., Feb. 21. Tickets \$45-\$75. Visit [livermorearts.org](http://livermorearts.org).

**CREATURES OF IMPULSE/FACE-OFF** Watch as local Bay Area improv teams compete against Creatures of Impulse in this pro wrestling themed run of shows. 7:30 p.m., Feb. 22-24. Tickets \$10. Visit [firehousearts.org](http://firehousearts.org).

**BANKHEAD PRESENTS INTERNATIONAL GUITAR NIGHT** Be mesmerized by the stunning musicianship and artistry of these virtuosos as they showcase their unique styles and techniques through solos along with special duets and collaborations with the entire quartet. 8 p.m., Feb. 23. Tickets \$35-\$65. Visit [livermorearts.org](http://livermorearts.org).

**ABBAFAB AT THE FIREHOUSE** ABBAFab is a stunning tribute to the music of ABBA, the Swedish

pop group formed in Stockholm in 1970, with vocals and musicianship that are second to none. 8 p.m., March 2. Tickets \$20-\$30. Visit [firehousearts.org](http://firehousearts.org).

**THE MAGIC FLUTE** Livermore Valley Opera presents Mozart's The Magic Flute where Prince Tamino is pursued by a dragon into a magical land of fantasy. 7:30 p.m., March 2; 9. 2:30 p.m., March 3; 10. Tickets \$20-\$105. Visit [livermorearts.org](http://livermorearts.org).

## 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.

**CALL FOR ENTRIES AT HARRINGTON GALLERY** The Harrington Gallery is currently accepting submissions for its 12th annual Fresh Works juried exhibition. This is an open call to emerging and established artists who reside or work in the greater Bay Area. Submissions will be accepted through Feb. 23. Visit [onlinejuriedshows.com](http://onlinejuriedshows.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 transporting 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.

## Expos

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

**FLY FISHING SHOW** The Fly Fishing Show produces the largest and most diverse consumer fly fishing event with hundreds of exhibitors on the show floor and dozens of free seminars, demos and programs. Feb. 23-25. Tickets \$5-\$20. Visit [alamedacountyfair.com](http://alamedacountyfair.com).

**STAMP & SCRAPBOOK EXPO** Stamp & Scrapbook Expo caters to paper crafters of all types and experience levels. Card Makers, stampers and scrapbook enthusiasts can find new products and designs from vendors, swap ideas with like-minded crafters and learn new techniques

## PET OF THE WEEK



EAST BAY SPCA

### Yay, Yasmin!

Looking for a world-class cuddler? Say hello to Yasmin! She's a 3-year-old American pit bull terrier who is an expert at snuggling and has a knack for thinking she's a lapdog. Her favorite move is to jump into laps or roll onto her back for belly rubs. Yasmin is eager for leisurely walks, heartwarming snuggles and the chance to be a cherished solo pet in a caring family. If you're in search of a devoted companion, Yasmin is the perfect fit! Don't miss your chance to adopt her for just \$75 until Feb. 25. Visit the East Bay SPCA Dublin Adoption Center or go to [eastbayspca.org](http://eastbayspca.org).

with workshops. March 1-2. Visit [alamedacountyfair.com](http://alamedacountyfair.com).

## Farmers' Markets

**PLEASANTON FARMERS' MARKET** The Pleasanton Farmers' Market is Saturday year round featuring vendors with seasonal fruits and vegetables, plus artisan goods. 9 a.m. and 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. to 1 p.m., Sundays. Between J St. and L St.

## Outdoors

**RANGER PROGRAM: TURTLE VS. TORTOISE** Join an LARPD Ranger and the new live pet tortoise to observe the differences between turtles and tortoises. Hold a real tortoise while learning all about turtles. 2 p.m., Feb. 18. Sycamore Grove Park Ranger Station.

**LIVERMORE VALLEY HALF MARATHON** The 10th Annual Livermore Valley Half Marathon is 7 a.m. to 1 p.m., March 3. Experience hyper-local feels in Downtown Livermore with award-winning local breweries, gold medal wineries and top local favorites on the main music stage. Visit [livermorevalleyhalf.com](http://livermorevalleyhalf.com).

## Government

**PLEASANTON CITY COUNCIL** The next Pleasanton City Council Meeting is 7 p.m., Feb. 20. Visit [cityofpleasantonca.gov](http://cityofpleasantonca.gov).

**PLEASANTON UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT** Regular Board meetings of the Pleasanton Unified School District are scheduled the second and fourth Thursday of each month and are open to the public. The next meeting is 6 p.m., Feb. 22. Visit [pleasantonusd.net](http://pleasantonusd.net).

**PLEASANTON PLANNING COMMISSION** The Pleasanton Planning Commission meets the second and fourth Wednesday of the month.

The next meeting is 7 p.m., Feb. 28. Visit [cityofpleasantonca.gov](http://cityofpleasantonca.gov).

**LIVERMORE VALLEY JOINT UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT** Regular meetings begin at 7 p.m. in the Boardroom at the District Office, 685 East Jack London Blvd. The next meeting is Feb. 20. Visit [livermoreschools.org](http://livermoreschools.org).

**LIVERMORE CITY COUNCIL MEETING** The Livermore City Council meets the second and fourth Monday of the month. The next meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m., Feb. 26. Visit [cityoflivermore.net](http://cityoflivermore.net).

## Support

**HOT MEALS FREE OF CHARGE** Open Heart Kitchen serves free hot meals to anyone who is struggling to make ends meet. Monday-Friday, 1:15-3 p.m. at the Robert Livermore Community Center, 4444 East Ave.

**SOUP-ER TUESDAYS** Volunteers will serve warm soup during the chilly months for all unhoused individuals in the Tri-Valley. Every Tuesday individuals can "grab-n'-go" or stay inside to connect with others, stay warm and/or learn about local resources. 11 a.m.-12 p.m. CityServe Care Center 3311 Pacific Ave., Livermore. Through Feb. 27.

## Seniors

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

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

**PLEASANTON PEDALERS AT THE SENIOR CENTER** Pleasanton Pedalers Cycling is Tuesdays and Thursdays, 8:30 a.m. to 12 p.m., at the Pleasanton Senior Center.

**SOLE MATES WALKING GROUP** Sole Mates Walking Group is Wednesdays, 8:45-10 a.m., at the Pleasanton Senior Center.

## TAKE US ALONG



**SIRs in Croatia:** Marcos and Susan Contreras took the Pleasanton Weekly along on a trip to Croatia with Sons In Retirement members in October. Here they are on the yacht "Invictus" heading out to tour Croatian islands. To submit your "Take Us Along" entry, email your photograph to [editor@pleasantonweekly.com](mailto:editor@pleasantonweekly.com). Be sure to identify who is in the photo (names listed from left to right), the location, the date and any relevant details about where you took your Weekly.

# Public Notices

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Attorneys for Yolo County Health  
and Human Services Agency

## **IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COURT OF YOLO JUVENILE DIVISION**

In the Matter of  
Dilan Sanchez Chacon  
NO: JV- 22 - 170-3

### **Citation Dependent/**

To: Homero Chacon

**you are hereby cited and required to appear** at a hearing in Yolo County Juvenile Court, located at 1000 Main Street, Woodland, California 95695, on April 8, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. in Department 6 . At the hearing, the court will decide whether to permanently terminate your parental rights over the above-named minor born to Jaqueline Sanchez Gonzalez on August 14, 2018 . If you wish to be represented by an attorney and are unable to afford one, the Court will appoint an attorney to represent you.  
Dated 01/25/2024 ,  
PAUL K. RICHARDSON ,  
Judge of the Juvenile Court  
(PLW Feb 9, 16, 23 and Mar 1, 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)

## **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)

## **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)

## **PLEASANTON GROCERY OUTLET FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**

File No.: 603396  
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
1.) Pleasanton Grocery Outlet, located at 3550 Bernal Ave. STE 105 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):  
AMADOR VALLEY GROCERS LLC  
3550 Bernal Ave. STE 105  
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 January 16 2024.  
(PLW Feb 9, 16, 23 and Mar 1, 2024)

## **SOUTHERN ENERGY SERVICES, INC. FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**

File No.: 603927  
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
1.) Southern Energy Services, Inc., located at 1876 Altamont Cir., Livermore, CA 94551 Alameda. Mailing Address: 1452 N. Vasco Rd. #195 Livermore, CA 94551, Alameda.  
This business is conducted by: a Corporation.  
The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):  
National Energy Services, Inc.  
1452 N. Vasco Rd #195  
Livermore, CA 94551  
California  
Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 07/17/2017  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on February 07 2024.  
(PLW Feb 16, 23, Mar 1 and 8, 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)

## **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)

## **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.: 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)

## **NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF:**

**BRIAN KEITH CAMPBELL**  
Case No.: 24PRO62693  
To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of BRIAN KEITH CAMPBELL.  
A Petition for Probate has been filed by: Jeffrey Campbell in the Superior Court of California, County of Alameda.  
The Petition for Probate requests that: Jeffrey Campbell be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.  
THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.  
A HEARING on the petition will be held on March 01 2024 at 10:15AM in Dept. 201 of the Superior Court of California, County of Alameda, located at 2120 Martin Luther King, Jr. Way, Berkeley CA 94704.

## **NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF:**

**BRIAN KEITH CAMPBELL**  
Case No.: 24PRO62693  
To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of BRIAN KEITH CAMPBELL.  
A Petition for Probate has been filed by: Jeffrey Campbell in the Superior Court of California, County of Alameda.  
The Petition for Probate requests that: Jeffrey Campbell be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.  
THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.  
A HEARING on the petition will be held on March 08 2024 at 9:45 AM in Dept. 201 of the Superior Court of California, County of Alameda, located at 2120 Martin Luther King Way, Berkeley, CA 94704.  
If you object to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.  
If you are a creditor or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the

court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58 (b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law. You may examine the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.  
Attorney for Petitioner:  
Elizabeth E. Prehn  
Paley & Prehn, PLC  
819 Eddy Street  
San Francisco, CA 94109  
415-338-8833  
(PLW Feb 16, 23 and Mar 1, 2024)

## **NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF:**

**JOHN GOMEZ**  
Case No.: 23PRO55098  
To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of JOHN GOMEZ.  
A Petition for Probate has been filed by: Mark Gomez in the Superior Court of California, County of Alameda.  
The Petition for Probate requests that: Mark Gomez be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.  
THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.  
A HEARING on the petition will be held on March 01 2024 at 10:15AM in Dept. 201 of the Superior Court of California, County of Alameda, located at 2120 Martin Luther King, Jr. Way, Berkeley CA 94704.  
If you object to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.  
If you are a creditor or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58 (b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law. You may examine the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.  
Attorney for Petitioner:  
Christopher Duane Hirz, Esquire  
Hirz Law Group  
75 E Santa Clara Street  
San Jose, CA 95113  
408-294-4525  
(PLW Feb 9, 16 and 23, 2024)

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# Much ado over ADUs: How accessory dwelling units are giving rise to new cities of longevity

Dublin's WellNest among companies to focus on growing industry serving older Californians – like founder's father

By RUTH DUSSEAULT /  
BAY CITY NEWS SERVICE

Toast on a napkin, a cluster of pill bottles, extra reading glasses, a candy bowl full of cough drops. These are the traces of life found in the dwelling of someone in their senior years.

Someone's parents are cooking less, going to the doctor more and avoiding talk of the future. Gatherings of grown children start to feel more like meetings. They share fears about everything that might happen if mom and dad go on living in the old house with increasing disabilities. They brainstorm, they argue, they research options, which are few.

Residential assisted living facilities can cost around \$7,000 a month. In-home health care providers are in extreme short supply. How can grown daughters and sons possibly manage to care for ailing parents in the same home where they are raising babies, building careers and searching for fleeting intimate moments?

One solution may lie in accessory dwelling units, or ADUs, which are playing a bigger role in the lives of seniors and their adult children in California. For decades, cities largely obstructed their development due to suburban codes and attitudes. In-law houses, garage buildouts, attic and basement additions are all increasing in numbers since the California Legislature passed over a dozen bills to encourage their production.

A 2017 law streamlined their permitting, and in 2020 the state required local governments to boost them. Homeowners could get help through city, county and state programs connecting to ADU designers. They could download architectural drawings that cleared local building codes. Grants of \$40,000 to cover starter costs were offered by the state Housing Finance Agency through 2023, but they have not appeared in the 2024 budget.

Life expectancy in the United States has risen from 39.4 years in 1860 to 78.9 years in 2020. By 2050, 22% of the U.S. population is expected to be over age 65.

In the decades after WWII, children constituted up to 36% of the U.S. population. They grew up watching *The Smothers Brothers* and the Vietnam war on television. This generation of Americans, which has always thought of itself as "a new idea," is now entering their 70s and 80s.

When they came of age in the 1960s, the spotlight of popular culture shifted from the ballrooms of Guy Lombardo to the love-ins of John Lennon. The artistic mood was future-thinking and utopian, which permanently changed social and political narratives. Baby boomers are more likely to own homes and

have finance capital, and they may be more open to the alternative lifestyles that ADUs can offer.

Parents rent ADUs to grown children who want to start families but cannot afford to buy homes of their own. Seniors rent to tenants for extra income and have some flexibility in a fixed retirement budget, maybe travel. Grown children can build ADUs for parents, who can in turn help to reduce another spiraling cost — childcare.

Architectural critics point to other countries, where age-diverse neighborhoods have more safe places with walking distance, more opportunities for multi-generational engagement and more accessible buildings and streetscapes. The troubles of aging may not magically disappear with ADUs, but their ripple effects in architecture and urban planning could make cities more livable for everyone. Physical changes done well could ignite behavioral changes and create cities of longevity.

Whether or not these housing arrangements contribute to a longer life is hard to measure. A 2023 working paper published by the Hoover Institution showed that relief from financial anxiety can improve mental health, perhaps add years. Research from Stanford's Center on Longevity indicates that loneliness and lack of a sense of purpose can subtract years.

For some Bay Area seniors, ADUs have reduced financial stress and social isolation.

## Bob Grant, Dublin

Bakari Grant's father Bob, 72, sat up straight when his 12-year-old granddaughter Naomi entered the room. She began talking about exercises. Perched at the foot of his bed, she spoke in a mature baritone, a voice beyond her years. Bob's eyes brightened in recognition of an awakened spirit.

"Her voice is deep, just like her mother's," Bob Grant said.

In 2012, Bob was living in Las Vegas, where he moved to get a divorce from his wife. Then there was another woman. Then some business involving loans and dishonest men. Then the stroke.

"I didn't know I had a stroke until years later," he said. "I can guess it happened in 1979." It happened in 2014.

In 1979, Bob and his wife were living in Oakland, raising five children. He worked as a lab tech for Chevron. His oldest child, Bisa, grew up to become an engineer. Bob's ADU now stands in her backyard in the East Bay suburb of Dublin.

His youngest child, Bakari Grant, grew up to become a professional athlete, a wide receiver for the San Francisco 49ers. He studied interior



RUTH DUSSEAULT/BAY CITY NEWS

Bob Grant, 72, stretches with his 12-year-old granddaughter Naomi in his backyard ADU in Dublin on Jan. 4.

architecture at UC Davis and knew enough about materials to build an ADU. Bakari would become the founder of WellNest, an ADU builder that specializes in fast, accessibly designed, affordable units for families in crisis, like his.

The family had previously lost a grandmother to mistreatment in a nursing home. So together, for less than \$100,000, the siblings constructed the ADU from scratch in Bisa's backyard while "Pops" recovered in the house. Connecting the ADU to the same water lines as the big house saved money, but city permits and electrical hookups cost another \$15,000.

Transitioning Bob from a hospital in Las Vegas to an independent home in Dublin was a three-year family ordeal. But the work they put into solving that crisis was repurposed as a new business model in 2020.

"If you need an engineer, we'll do that for you. If you need house cleaning, maintenance or any of those things, we will do that too," Bakari said. "We've created a network of partnerships to do all that — estate planning, legal work, financial assistance. We pretty much run the gamut of anything in the senior space."

"There's a ton of programs in every county, but they are scattered, or people feel like they shouldn't get it because they do have some income," he said. "So, they feel guilty about it."

WellNest employs a certified senior advisor, a credentialed professional who offers strategic advice for aging. A typical base package for a senior includes companionship service, cleaning, food preparation, transportation and laundry.

From a showroom warehouse in Dublin, they offer four ADU designs, ranging from the Express Unit priced at \$150,000 to the two-bedroom custom unit for \$240,000. They use paneled architecture, a semi-modular system with complete walls that can be carried through a backyard fence.

Many of their clients are adult children, some holding babies, whose lives have been halted by a parent's health crisis. To reduce decision-fatigue, there are just a few options for things like cabinets and tile.

Accessible interiors have enough safety features for a person with increasing disabilities to live independently for years. Levers, instead of doorknobs, are easier on arthritic hands. Walk-in showers and handrails come in all units.

"Our senior package is going to have things like grab bars, handheld showerheads that can be placed at adjustable heights. Laminate is more forgiving in a fall than stone. Soft-fall flooring to keep from breaking a hip," said Bakari. "We consider how people of all abilities can use our space."

Bob has improved since moving into the ADU from the main house in 2017. He has friends at the senior center, where Open Heart Kitchen provides free meals — Polynesian meatloaf on Tuesday, chicken parmesan on Thursday. He drives his car on short errands around the neighborhood, and he works out at the gym four times a week. On Friday his son-in-law takes him to IHOP.

Bob's granddaughter Nina, whose voice brings him home, studies dance. She helps Bob with stretching. She counts to 10 as he follows her lead and aims for his toes.

"He feels like he's in charge of his life again and he feels like he can make decisions for himself," said Bakari. These daily multigenerational activities might be adding years to Bob's life.

Regular interaction with young people leads older people to feel more valued, included, and appreciated. One 2011 study showed seniors who experienced multi-generational engagements had reduced instances of depression, improved self-esteem and reported enhanced subjective health.

The doctor tells Bob that his health is pretty good.

"But what do they know," Bob said. "I feel pretty good. I have trouble remembering names, but it's good. I see my daughter once a month. I see my grandkids almost daily. We have dinners together."

The average lot in Dublin is about 6,000 square feet (about twice the area of a tennis court). It is typical of the suburban code used in most California developments, even in big cities. Los Angeles has embraced the ADU movement. The state reported 7,160 ADUs permitted in Los Angeles in 2022, compared to 662 in San Diego, the city with the next-highest total.

According to a study by New York University's Furman Center, ADUs in both the Bay Area and Southern California tend to be in census tracts that have relatively low rents and are typically sited on parcels with good access to jobs.

"The single-family house is a family's greatest asset, but it also can be their greatest liability," said Bo Sundius, an ADU architect in Los Angeles. "And then it's inherently inflexible because you can't move out of it. It's literally the roof over your head. So, it's hard to renovate, hard to change, can't move out. If you're underwater, you're stuck."

Once an ADU arrives, underutilized backyards start teeming with possibility.

"Immediately people start thinking about their property as this long-term investment," Sundius said. "They see it not as a house, but more like a compound with many uses. Mom is in it for three quarters of the year, then she visits another sibling for three months. Then you use it as your home office for a spell. Or it's a little bit of storage and an outdoor shower. You need extra cash? You can rent it out. If you just want to legally convert your garage into a studio so you can have your midlife-crisis-garage-band-dream-come-true, the ADU can do that."

"One of the biggest problems with single-family zoning is that it's a very rigid kind of code," said architectural writer Christopher Hawthorne. "It's sort of all or nothing, single family house or bust, without a lot of options for seniors who would like to stay in their immediate neighborhood. They need opportunities to downsize to smaller units."

With ADUs, seniors can stay in their communities and live on the same piece of property, Hawthorne said. They can even move to the smaller ADU and rent out the main house, maybe allow their children to move into the larger house while they're building a family. ■

*Editor's note: The full version of this Bay City News Service story can be read at [PleasantonWeekly.com](http://PleasantonWeekly.com).*



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