

Pleasanton Weekly

Election Night
results are in
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Taste Tri-Valley

Looking back over 10 days
of food, drink and fun
during Restaurant Week

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WHAT A WEEK



By JEREMY WALSH

Paying the piper

It's that time of year when many are thinking about how much money they pay to the government.

For Livermore resident Alan Heckman and Alameda County Taxpayers' Association Inc., focusing on that subject goes beyond just income and property tax seasons. It's a year-round obsession.

In recent months, they have filed two lawsuits against the city of Livermore attempting to bring down what they allege are unfair taxes and fees ultimately charged to city residents. The first case challenges the water and sewer rate structures while the newer suit targets garbage rates.

"Our goal is for the city to stop imposing these taxes and fees on which the citizens of Livermore never voted," Heckman told me over the weekend about the garbage fee lawsuit. "We also want a refund of these taxes and fees as far as the law will allow — and not just for myself, but for everyone similarly affected. This is a class action."

And for the utility case, Heckman said by email, "We want the City of Livermore to stop charging for their extra made-up costs added into our property tax bills, and to return all money that was siphoned into the general fund (which may be spent on who knows what) back to the wastewater fund (to be spent only on the sewer)."

The city is well on its way to mounting its defense, utilizing the same outside law firm in both cases. Livermore city attorney Jason Alcalá told me Monday morning that "the city disagrees with the petitioner's allegations" without getting into more specifics at this stage.

The city's initial responses to each petition, written separately by contracted attorney Benjamin P. Fay of Oakland-based Jarvis Fay LLP, are mainly page after page of either acknowledging certain basic facts for the administrative record or denying allegations from each paragraph of original lawsuits.

The documents also lay the groundwork for broad arguments why the city contends each case from Heckman and the association falls flat legally and should be denied in full by the court.

Both lawsuits remain in the early stages before Judge Michael Markman in Alameda County Superior Court. Neither has a trial date yet.

The first lawsuit, filed last October on behalf of Heckman and the association by attorney Vincent

D. Slavens of San Diego-based law firm Benink & Slavens, LLP, claims the city's water, sewer and stormwater fees and charges violate state law and should be stopped by the court.

That includes rescinding the "excessive" sewer service fees (enacted in May 2020 with increases between July 2020 through June 2025) and "excessive" water service fees (approved in April 2022 with increases between January 2023 and December 2027).

One key angle in the lawsuit is the assertion that the city, which provides water and sewer service via enterprise funds, charges its utility operations rental fees.

The petition argues such a charge "is not a valid cost of service the City may recover from ratepayers" and thus asks the court to require all such general fund monies be transferred back to the enterprise funds.

In the city's retort, Fay stated, "The City alleges that Petitioners are barred from recovering anything from the City under the Petition and each cause of action therein."

The city's arguments include failure to state a cause of action, the statute of limitations, petitioners didn't pay the challenged service fees under protest and the detrimental impact of the payback demand for three years of funds.

The second lawsuit, submitted on Jan. 2, targets "agreement fees and gratuitous service charges" in the garbage hauling contract between the city and Livermore Sanitation, Inc. (aka Waste Collections), which Heckman and the association argue are effectively taxes that were never approved by voters.

Livermore Sanitation pays to the city a contract fee (equal to 11% of its gross rate revenues), street-sweeping fee, vehicle impact fee and neighborhood preservation fee, collectively dubbed "agreement fees", according to the lawsuit.

The petitioners ask the court to toss out these charges unless and until they were approved by city voters, as well as to order a refund of such unlawful taxes and fees to all Livermore garbage customers as a class.

Fay's response on behalf of the city, filed just last week, contends the petitioners lack standing to pursue the case, are prohibited by law from seeking a class refund, and failed to state a cause of action, exhaust administrative remedies pursuant to the Livermore Municipal Code, act within the statute of limitations and pay their garbage fees under protest. ■

About the Cover

Rodney Worth, chef-owner of The Peasant and The Pear in Danville, presents a special prix-fixe meal for participants during Taste Tri-Valley Restaurant Week 2024. Photo by Deborah Grossman. Cover design by Paul Llewellyn.

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What do you enjoy doing in your spare time that you find very gratifying and rewarding?



Clara Nigro, with adoptable Darla
Physical therapist

I really enjoy fostering dogs/puppies through Valley Humane Society here in Pleasanton. My family and I have taken in over 25 fosters in the past year. It has been so rewarding preparing these dogs for their forever homes. Darla is so sweet and will make a perfect addition to any family.



Glenalyn Emmanuel
Content marketer

I love spending time in all of the beautiful nature the Bay Area has to offer, whether it's the Marilyn Kane Trail in Pleasanton, Montara State Beach near Half Moon Bay or even my own backyard. I also love checking books out from the Pleasanton Library and reading them at Inklings or in the park.



Solomon Emmanuel
Administrative management/personal trainer

In my free time, I enjoy working out and helping others on their health journey as a wellness and fitness coach. I also love cooking new recipes, especially from Gordon Ramsay and chef Ranveer Brar.



Danielle Spinola
Teacher

I walk downtown with my dog, hoping to run into friends and acquaintances — and I always do! When I get home, I always feel so happily connected to my community.



Jenn Hoff, with Lola
Teacher

I love watching my kids play sports and spending time with my family, hanging out on the porch. I also find it very rewarding to spend time with all of my amazing friends.

—Compiled by Nancy and Jeff Lewis

Have a Streetwise question? Email editor@PleasantonWeekly.com

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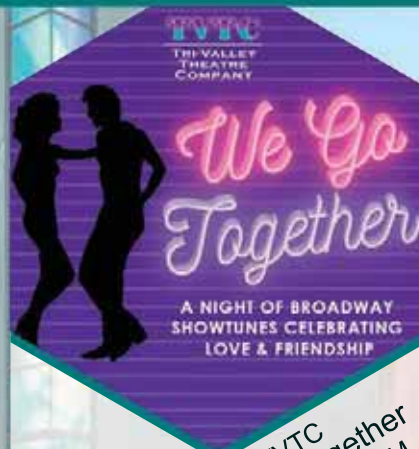
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DIGEST

Distinguished Schools

The state's Department of Education last week recognized five Tri-Valley public schools, including two in Pleasanton, among its 2024 California Distinguished Schools award list.

Hart and Pleasanton middle schools were among the Distinguished Schools "recognized for outstanding student performance and closing the achievement gap for certain student groups," Pleasanton Unified School District officials said.

Across the freeway in Dublin, Wells Middle School and Dublin High School earned spots on the state list, as did Pine Valley Middle School in the San Ramon Valley Unified School District. State Superintendent of Schools Tony Thurmond and his department honored 293 middle and high schools statewide with this year's awards.

New water main

Pleasanton city officials announced that crews are beginning work to place a new water main on Bernal Avenue between Nevada Street and Vineyard Avenue/Tawny Drive.

"This is part of the 2024 water transmission upgrades to increase reliability and capacity in this part of the city. The work consists of installing 1,300 feet of new, larger pipe within Bernal Avenue and crossing the Arroyo del Valle on the Bernal Avenue Bridge," city officials said of the project.

Preliminary work has already started in the area, and the pipe installation and its major traffic impacts are expected to get underway in the middle of this month, city officials said. The majority of the traffic shifts through the work area will take place during the day, although a few will occur at night.

Civil grand jury

Recruitment is underway for residents interested in serving on the 2024-25 Alameda County Civil Grand Jury.

Applications, which are available online at grandjury.acgov.org/join-us, are due by April 1. The one-year term will begin on July 1 and run through June 30, 2025.

"The Civil Grand Jury in Alameda County acts as an arm of the superior court system and is tasked to examine and investigate any and all local government and public agencies that do business in Alameda County," officials said.

"The jury ensures that these agencies are operating in the best public interest and in a fiscally responsible manner," they added. "It is an excellent way to serve the citizens of Alameda County and get a unique perspective of how our government agencies work." ■

Results roundup: Miley controls Election Night, poised to reclaim county supervisor seat

Also: Zone 7 incumbents comfortably ahead, Fickes leads for judge, McNerney tracking to make runoff

By **CHRISTIAN TRUJANO, NICOLE GONZALES AND JEANITA LYMAN**

As Election Night came to a close on Tuesday, initial results to key Tri-Valley races in the primary took shape.

Result totals updated just before midnight indicated that Alameda County District 4 Supervisor Nate Miley is poised to secure another term. The incumbent holds a strong lead with 62.39% of the vote (8,359

votes) while his sole challenger, registered psychiatric nurse Jennifer Esteen, trails with 37.61% (5,039 votes).

Having first been elected to represent District 4 in 2000, a win for Miley would usher in his seventh term on the board. Supervisorial District 4 represents portions of Pleasanton, Oakland, Castro Valley and unincorporated areas of the county.

• All of the incumbents running for the three Zone 7 Water Agency Board of Directors four-year terms are currently ahead in their race while newcomer Cathy Brown, who is seeking a two-year term, holds a significant lead, according to Election Night tallies.

The preliminary results indicated that Laurene Green was leading the full-term race with 32.33% (7,796 votes). Kathy Narum is currently

pulling in second with 25.20% (6,076 votes) and Sandy Figuers follows closely behind with 24.49% (5,906 votes).

Coming in last on Election Night at 17.98% (4,336 votes) is longtime Livermore resident and chemist Alan Burnham, who is running for a seat on the Zone 7 board for the first time.

See **ELECTION** on Page 7



COURTESY KELLY GOLDSMITH

Members of the United for Sunol Glen recall committee submit the petition paperwork at the Alameda County Registrar of Voters' Office on Feb. 20. The election officials would verify the signatures and certify the petition one week later.

County certifies Sunol recall petition signatures

Special ballot expected soon to decide fate of Jergensen, Hurley

By **CHRISTIAN TRUJANO**

The Alameda County Registrar of Voters' Office has formally certified the Sunol recall campaign's two petitions to force a special election to determine whether Sunol Glen Unified School District trustees Ryan Jergensen and Linda Hurley will be removed from the board.

According to a press release from the recall campaign, United for Sunol Glen, the committee received the official certification notification for both petitions on Feb. 28, which means that the recall can now go to a vote. This comes after the recall campaign announced that it had exceeded

the amount of signatures needed for certification.

"I'm just thrilled — and the campaign is thrilled — that the registrar certified the petitions relatively quickly," Kelly Goldsmith, a Sunol parent who is on the United for Sunol Glen recall committee, told the Weekly. "They didn't take the full 30-day window that was required, so we can all move forward with an election as quickly as possible."

Jergensen told the Weekly that he still believes the people who have said they want a recall make up a minority of all Sunolians and that the community will have to "wait and see what the majority of voters of Sunol want."

"I have also heard from many Sunolians who are very disappointed by the group bringing this recall effort and want the board to continue the business of the school board. That is what I will continue to do," Jergensen said.

Hurley has not responded to requests for comment by time of publication.

In the press release, the committee shared what Cynthia Cornejo, a deputy registrar with the county, said in her notification to the group.

"Each petition contained sufficient signatures and qualifies for the issuance of an election order

See **SUNOL** on Page 9

PPD Chief Swing stepping down

Accepts job to lead East Bay Comms System Authority

By **CHRISTIAN TRUJANO**

Pleasanton's Police Chief David Swing will be leaving the department soon after having accepted an executive director position at the East Bay Regional Communications System Authority, according to a press release from the city on Friday.

After putting in for retirement from the city effective in April, Swing is expected to start his new job in May, according to the press release.

"Choosing to retire from a profession, city and department that has given me so much was a tremendously difficult decision," Swing said in a statement. "Throughout my time in Pleasanton, I was continuously impressed by how the women and men of the police department cared for our community and each other."

The East Bay Regional Communications System Authority was created in September 2007, and according to its website, its goal is to "build, own and operate a state-of-the-art P25 compliant communications system for the public agencies



David Swing

See **CHIEF** on Page 6

Residents voice concerns on housing poised to replace church

Planning Commission pushes decision on Harvest Valley project until next week to analyze traffic impacts

BY CHRISTIAN TRUJANO

Pleasanton's Planning Commission voted last week to delay its decision on the proposed demolition of Harvest Valley Christian Church and its affiliated daycare on Hopyard Road in order to construct nine three-story residential buildings after commissioners heard almost two dozen speakers voice their disapproval of the project.

The backlash from residents who live in the Valley Trails Drive neighborhood stemmed from issues ranging from not being notified about the project and not having enough time to digest the plans, to worrying about how the complex won't fit in with the aesthetic of the neighborhood and how it would negatively impact the overall quality of life for those residents.

"We moved here like five months ago ... If I was aware of this project, I would never look at this house, look at this neighborhood, because it's like a nightmare," AJ Jahadakar, a resident of the Valley Trails Drive neighborhood, said during the Feb. 28 commission meeting. "Imagine that you are in your backyard and you see a three-story building less than 20 feet from your house."

Jahadakar, along with his wife Parisa Bayati, said that they had moved to their home after falling in love with the house, the view from their backyard and the area overall, but that if this project ends up getting approved, not only will all of that go away but their property value will go down.

"This project is going to ruin our dream," Bayati said. "With these mortgage rates these days, we cannot even sell our house when we have three or four years of construction close to our house."

That's why after hearing everyone's discontent with the project, the commissioners voted 4-1 to have staff come back at their next

meeting (March 13) and present more specific data on the traffic study that was conducted in relation to the project. Commission Chair Matt Gaidos dissented.

According to city staff, the traffic study that was used to assess the impacts of the project was conducted in February 2020, which offers pre-pandemic levels of travel data. However, after public comments, the commission majority indicated they wanted to have a deeper look at the traffic data before making a decision on approving the project.

The commission also asked for the developer to consider coming back with alternatives such as an exit for cars to leave the complex on Hopyard Road and additional parking spaces inside the complex.

However, while staff agreed to return with the city's traffic engineer to show how the proposed project would affect traffic in the surrounding area, the commission was also reminded that the developer could choose to return with the project as it was originally proposed during the Feb. 28 meeting or it could choose to abandon ship on the project altogether — which could lead to future negative consequences.

"It would still have to comply with all of our development standards, except to the extent that they might be granted a waiver (but) yeah, there's a possibility that a denser project could be proposed here," community development director Ellen Clark told the commission.

Others on the commission also pointed out that Pleasanton is under state pressure to meet its assigned Regional Housing Needs Allocation tally of 5,965 new units — 2,758 of which are targeted toward lower-income households — over the next eight years, and that at the end of the day, these types of housing developments are more or less unavoidable.

"We see this project coming in (and) we should be prepared for

more," Commissioner Anurag Jain said. "We heard a lot of things from the group here, we'll make a decision but at the same time ... we are constantly threatened by the state. We are under immense pressure from the state to produce these housing (developments)."

In October 2022, Catalyst Development Partners LLC submitted a preliminary review application to build its development on top of the Harvest Valley church, which is located on 3200 Hopyard Road.

The proposed housing development aims to build 57 multi-family units made up of 48 townhomes and nine apartments. Nine one-bedroom units in the proposed development would also be deed-restricted to lower-income households in order to meet the city's inclusionary zoning requirements and to qualify for waivers and concessions pursuant to the state housing density bonus law.

"48 three- and four-bedroom townhome-style units would be provided in clusters of six or seven side-by-side units, each with an attached two-car garage, with units ranging from 1,691 to 2,378 square feet," Diego Mora, an associate planner for the city, told the commission. "Nine of the townhome-style units would have a second detached 565 square foot, one bedroom condo apartment unit in a duplex configuration with a one car garage."

As for the Harvest Valley church itself, Pastor Derek Meekins told his congregation during a sermon on Feb. 11 that the church is already going through the permit process for moving the church to a new location at 5587 Sunol Blvd.

According to the Feb. 11 sermon recording, Meekins said COVID forced the church to close its preschool and the church had to spend through its emergency savings. But when he rediscovered a letter that a developer had sent the church seven



COURTESY CITY OF PLEASANTON

Renderings depict the proposed high-density residential development project that would replace Harvest Valley Christian Church on Hopyard Road in Pleasanton.

years ago asking if they wanted to sell the property, he decided to make the call.

Then after working with some lawyers, he said that a contract was reached where the developer of the property would pay the church in installments — if the housing development is approved — which would cover the cost of relocating and would also wipe away the church's debt and provide even more money for its future.

The project site, which is approximately 2.99 acres, is listed under the city's sixth Housing Element cycle sites inventory. Originally, the site was slated to provide 44 moderate-income housing units but now the proposed development will instead aim to create 48 above-moderate income units and nine lower-income units.

The units will also be for sale, not to rent, according to Bruce Myers, the project applicant.

Each of the buildings will be constructed using Santa Barbara

Mission-style architectural designs, Mora said, and will include roughly 38,600 square feet of common open space, two private streets, a bicycle storage area and six surface guest parking spaces.

After the commission listened to staff's presentation and went through some high-level questions on certain aspects of the project such as traffic and state laws that didn't give the city too much flexibility on making decisions about the project's design, 23 residents who lived in the Valley Trails area voiced their discontent with the project.

Some said they didn't receive any notification of the project, they didn't have the opportunity to weigh in on the design, the three-story buildings didn't fit into the neighborhood, and all of the proposed units will increase traffic congestion, crime and people parking in areas where they're not supposed to park.

"When I compare the neighbor-

See **CHURCH** on Page 11

CHIEF

Continued from Page 5

within Alameda and Contra Costa counties."

According to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, P25 systems are land mobile radio systems that provide tactical and emergency communications capabilities to public safety agencies nationwide.

"While I am looking forward to the new professional challenges ahead with EBRCSA and continuing to serve in a purpose-filled role, I will always look back fondly on how the department welcomed me during the onset of the pandemic and hope the

relationships I've made last as long as the things we accomplished," Swing said.

Swing first joined the Pleasanton Police Department in the midst of the COVID pandemic in April 2020, with the social justice reform protests sparked by the murder of George Floyd by Minneapolis police to soon follow in Pleasanton as they did nationwide.

Before Pleasanton, Swing worked as the police chief of Morgan Hill for nine years and simultaneously served as the president of the California Police Chiefs Association where he "actively engaged state legislators and successfully influenced

legislation impacting California law enforcement agencies."

During his entire career, Swing had built a track record of strategic budget management, committing to community engagement and personnel development, and deploying new law enforcement technology to tackle complex issues in the community, according to the city press release.

More specifically, when he was police chief for Pleasanton, Swing became instrumental in the development and implementation of the alternative response unit, which was fully operational at the beginning of 2023.

The unit works to identify and follow up on calls made to the department regarding individuals experiencing a mental health crisis. Instead of sending officers, trained mental health clinicians respond to those situations.

Last year, the special unit was able to reduce the number of psychiatric holds by 47% and the unit was even awarded with the Helen Putnam Award for Excellence last September for its development.

During his tenure with the city, Swing also helped develop and implement a five-year strategic plan, increased employee recognition through an inaugural department

awards ceremony, and led the establishment of a Community Advisory Board, where residents can offer input to the department regarding policies and practices.

"Our community has benefited from Chief Swing's leadership, expertise, and passion for public service and public safety," City Manager Gerry Beaudin said in the press release.

Communications Manager Heather Tiernan told the Weekly that the city will be conducting a "robust recruitment process for our next police chief" and that Beaudin will be naming an interim chief during that recruitment process. ■

I-680 SB closure rescheduled for St. Patrick's weekend

Caltrans has fingers crossed after rain canceled project twice this year already

BY CHRISTIAN TRUJANO

Caltrans will be once again attempting to shut down a portion of southbound Interstate 680 in Pleasanton — this time during the St. Patrick's Day weekend — after rain impeded on its plans during the last two months.

If the weather doesn't postpone the project for a third time, the transportation agency will close the I-680 southbound lanes between the I-580/I-680 connector in Pleasanton and Dublin down to Koopman Road in Sunol from next Friday (March 15) at 9 p.m. until the following Monday (March 18) at 4 a.m.

Caltrans stated in a press release

that a contractor will replace a portion of the roadway, which is deteriorated, with new pavement in order to "enhance motorist safety while reducing the number of nightly closures needed on the project."

The transportation agency had previously closed the portion of the freeway back in early November for those same reasons. Caltrans said that the weekend-long closures allow crews to accomplish the amount of work that otherwise would require approximately 40 nighttime closures.

The closure now set for next weekend was initially planned to take place during the Martin Luther King Jr. Day weekend but it was rescheduled for Presidents

Day weekend due to the weather. However, rain was also in the forecast during Presidents Day weekend, which forced the transportation agency to reschedule the highway closure once again.

Caltrans said that if it is again projected to rain during the St. Patrick's Day weekend, then it will reschedule the road work again and notify the public. As of publication time, the closure plans remain intact.

Part of the closure means that southbound Foothill Road and southbound Pleasanton Sunol Road will be closed at Castlewood Drive, just like it was back in November. Motorists on southbound Foothill Road will be able to only turn left onto Castlewood Drive and only

turn left again onto Pleasanton Sunol Road to northbound I-680, Caltrans said.

A Caltrans spokesperson previously told the Weekly that the closure in November — which was requested by the city of Pleasanton — proved to be effective in preventing the gridlock that occurred in Pleasanton during an even earlier southbound I-680 closure.

Apart from Pleasanton and Sunol residents, other Bay Area drivers will also have to deal with significant detours.

Motorists going westbound on I-80 from Vacaville and Fairfield will be advised to remain on I-80 to southbound I-880. Those going south on I-680 near the Benicia-Martinez Bridge will have to take I-780 west to the I-80 and then to southbound I-880.

Caltrans also said I-680

southbound drivers in either Concord or Walnut Creek can go on Highway 4 to I-80 to southbound I-880. Those coming southbound on I-680 from Danville can either take westbound I-580 to Highway 238 to southbound I-880 or they can take eastbound I-580 to Highway 84 and hop back on southbound I-680 just south of Calaveras Road near Sunol.

People coming west on I-580 from the Tracy area will have the option to take Highway 84 and get back on southbound I-680 south of Calaveras Road as well.

"Caltrans is aware that the closures will impact the motoring public and measures are being taken to minimize inconvenience," according to the agency. "Caltrans thanks the motoring public in advance for your patience as we work to improve I-680." ■

ELECTION

Continued from Page 5

Green is seeking a second four-year term after having first joined the board in 2020. She has a background of working in the environmental and energy fields in the U.S. and abroad.

Narum served as a Pleasanton City Council member for nine years and has a chemical engineering background. She has also been a longtime proponent of reliable water in the Tri-Valley.

Figuers has been a returning figure on the Zone 7 board since 1988. The Livermore resident and groundwater geologist took a break in the early 2000s after 12 years of service and then returned in 2008, where he has been ever since.

In Zone 7's short-term race, where both candidates would be newcomers to the agency, Pleasanton resident and environmental scientist Brown closed out Election Night with a wide lead in the race for the sole seat with 81.02% (8,753 votes) while Dublin resident Seema Badar sits with just 18.98% (2,050 votes).

The two-year term on the ballot is to complete the unexpired elected term of former director Olivia Sanwong, who resigned to join the East Bay Regional Park District Board of Directors. Narum has been filling the vacancy temporarily by appointment.

Current Zone 7 Director Angela Ramirez Holmes, whose term is also up on June 30, did not seek reelection.

In the race for the only contested Alameda County Superior Court judgeship on the ballot, Mark Fickes took the lead on Election Night with 56.85% of the vote (33,343 votes). His opponent, Michael Johnson, followed with 43.15% (25,310 votes).

The seat was wide open this year as incumbent, Judge Evelio Grillo, did not seek reelection.

Measure A, which aims to reduce the time period for the county to

announce job openings, was above the threshold of votes it needed to pass, according to the latest election results.

As of 11:50 p.m. Tuesday, 56.57% (38,683 votes) of the county's voters were Yes on passing the measure while the No side had 43.43% of the vote (29,696 votes). In order to pass, it requires a simple majority of over 50%.

If approved by voters, Measure A would amend a section of the county's charter — which governs certain county governmental functions — to change the county's job announcement posting requirement from 25 calendar days to 14.

Alameda County's Measure B, which aims to change a section of the county's charter that governs the recall of elected and appointed county officers, recorded more than the percentage of votes needed for the ballot measure to pass, according to the most recent election results.

At the end of Election Night, Yes votes sat at 62.34% (42,346 votes) and the opposing votes trailed at 37.66% (25,583 votes). The measure requires a simple majority to pass.

Measure B was also placed on the ballot by the Board of Supervisors after a 3-2 vote in November. It aims to update Section 62 of the county's charter by replacing current language with new language that will make it so the county aligns with state law that governs the recalls of county elected officers.

Pleasanton is one step closer to having the region's representatives at the state and federal levels solidified, with early results from Tuesday's election giving a sense of voters' favored candidates ahead of the final count and verification of results next month.

Jim Shoemaker (R-San Joaquin Valley) took the lead early Election Night in the race for the newly drawn State Senate District 5 seat that sees Pleasanton, Dublin and Livermore fall within the same district as much

of the San Joaquin Valley.

Results showed Shoemaker with 44.9% of the vote, followed by former congressman Jerry McNerney (D-Pleasanton) at 31.7% and Assemblymember Carlos Villapudua (D-Stockton) at 23.4%. The top two finishers after the final results are in for District 5 will return to ballots in November for a runoff.

For State Assembly District 16, representing the vast majority of the Tri-Valley, incumbent Rebecca Bauer-Kahan (D-Orinda) led with 64.2% to the 35.8% of lone challenger Joe Rubay (R-Alamo). They both automatically advance to the November general election.

For District 20, which includes portions of western Pleasanton and Dublin, Democratic Assemblymember Liz Ortega ran unopposed for a second term.

Incumbent Tri-Valley Rep. Eric Swalwell (D-Livermore) appeared to remain the top choice for voters as of Election Night with 61.9% of the vote for another term in his Congressional District 14 seat, with Vin Kruttiventi topping the two other Republican candidates with 19.1% of the vote compared with 11.2% for Allison Hayden and 7.8% for Luis Reynoso.

If the outcome holds, Swalwell would face Kruttiventi in November.

Adam Schiff (D-Burbank), a Monte Vista High School alumnus, was ahead in the crowded race to fill the seat of late U.S. Sen. Dianne Feinstein.

Schiff was the top vote-getter to fill the seat for temporary term with 33.7% of the vote followed by Republican Steve Garvey at 31.2% of the vote as of Election Night. Schiff was also ahead for a full term with 36.6% of the vote, followed by Garvey at 29.2%, setting the stage for a November runoff between the two.

Election officials in Alameda County have up to 30 days to finish counting ballots and certify results. ■

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Pleasanton Real Estate Market Update — Signs of Optimism

Pleasanton Real Estate Market Update — Market Surging in early Spring

The real estate market in Pleasanton is surging. Buyer demand is strong despite the general economic uncertainty, inflation concerns, and geo-political unrest. Inventory is still constrained in historic terms, but more homes are starting to hit the market. All in all, the market seems poised for a stronger 2024 after the sluggish 2022 & 2023 markets.

So what is the data telling us in February?

Supply/Inventory: Inventory was up in February, up 29% from January. However it is still 21% lower than February last year. However, we should see an uptick in homes for sale as we enter the Spring market

Demand: Pending (under contract) homes surged in February, up 85% from January and 37% from February of 2023. Closed sales were down 5.3% from January, and down 10% as compared to February 2023, mainly a function of constrained inventory. But as the pending sales start to close escrow this month we will see the closed sales numbers improve

>> To read the rest of this article go to The680Blog.com.

Pleasanton Market Report Data for January 2024 Single Family Detached Homes

	FEB 2024	CHANGE FROM JAN 2024	CHANGE FROM FEB 2023
Homes sold	18	+5.3%	+10%
Homes for sale	31	+29%	+21%
Median days on market	8	+11%	+0%
Median price per square foot	\$871	+4.7%	+9.2%
Months of inventory	1.7	+36%	+12%
Median sold price	\$1,825,000	+12%	+22%
Homes under contract	37	+85%	+37%



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Group submits petition to oust DA Price

Opponents of recall effort seek state investigation into signature-gathering methods

By BAY CITY NEWS SERVICE

The group trying to recall Alameda County District Attorney Pamela Price said Monday morning they've submitted enough signatures to the county registrar of voters to qualify for the ballot.

Save Alameda For Everyone (SAFE) said in a statement it gathered at least 127,387 signatures to qualify for the ballot — well above the

necessary 73,195 valid signatures to qualify for the fall election. The signatures still need to be verified county election officials.

SAFE said it's a broad coalition of Alameda County residents, business owners, victims,



Pamela Price

victims' families, and concerned citizens who have come together in the face of rising crime and what it says is a "failure by DA Price to hold perpetrators accountable."

"DA Price is jeopardizing the safety of every resident and business in Alameda County, by failing to enforce the law, prosecute criminals, and keep violent offenders off our streets," the group said.

A spokesperson for the campaign

to defeat the recall said Monday that they have their doubts about the number of valid signatures being submitted for verification.

"We're asking for the California Secretary of State to independently verify and check every signature," said Protect the Win spokesperson William Fitzgerald. "We've received hundreds of complaints about fraud, deception and bait-and-switch tactics."

Last week, Price supporters also

sent a letter to California Attorney General Rob Bonta asking his office to investigate "potential widespread voter fraud in connection with signature gathering for the recall of Alameda County District Attorney Pamela Price."

Opponents say the effort to recall Price is supported by wealthy real estate interests and would, if successful, result in an appointed district attorney rather than an elected one.

"The other side has no solutions just money and loud mouths and they're weaponizing people's real pain trying to oust a democratically elected leader," Fitzgerald said. ■

Pleasanton council makes changes to four commissions

Civic Arts, Human Services, Library, Parks and Rec will now have seven members each

By CHRISTIAN TRUJANO

The Pleasanton City Council discussed two options to restructure four of the city's commissions last month. After hearing concerns from speakers on an option that would have combined the Library and Civic Arts commissions, the council decided to approve a second option that keeps all four commissions intact, but instead reduces the number of seats for each.

Following the decision during the Feb. 20 council meeting, the Civic Arts, Human Services, Library, and Parks and Recreation commissions will now be reduced to seven members, including one youth member for each. Each commission will also not be offering an alternate position moving forward.

"We have a long standing record of ... public engagement and this is one of the wonderful ways to get involved," Pleasanton Mayor Karla Brown said during the meeting. "That's why this is a big lift for our commissions such as civic arts."

In February 2023, staff presented

an overview of the city's current commission and committee structure with the goal of aligning the city's organizational structure, which is one of the goals listed in the city's five-year One Pleasanton strategic plan.

Library and recreation director Heidi Murphy told the council that by doing so, it would streamline opportunities for community input and engagement, and would increase the efficiency of commission and committee members as well as supporting staff.

"Since the current commission structure was created, the city has changed in many ways," Murphy said. "With fewer projects coming forward for community and commission input, the workload has steadily declined. Similarly, many policies have been established and are now in standard operation, so instead of needing to meet regularly to develop those policies, they now need to be reviewed about every five years on average."

Since that meeting last year, the council appointed an ad hoc

subcommittee that included councilmembers Valerie Arkin and Jack Balch to help review the existing commission and committee structure and recommend modifications.

At a later meeting in October 2023, staff presented the four commissions in question to the council as ones they could look at modifying — the council then instructed staff to develop recommendations for these commissions, which were presented at the meeting Feb. 20.

Staff worked on breaking down the workload of each commission by looking at the action items each commission carried out over the past five years, rather than the administrative work each was doing.

"Administrative items were things like selection of chair and vice chair, selection of committee assignments, things like that," Murphy explained.

The data showed how the Civic Arts and Human Services commissions averaged five and a half action items each year, the Library Commission averaged four and a half, and the Parks and Recreation Commission averaged a little over

13 action items.

With this data, staff then worked with the ad hoc committee to come up with two recommendations to reorganize the four commissions.

The first was to combine the Library and Civic Arts commissions into one and reduce the number of commissioners in those two and the Human Services Commission down to seven, just like the Parks and Recreation Commission. That recommendation would have also reduced the number of meetings for each commission, kept two youth members in each and would have eliminated the alternate position for only the Parks and Recreation Commission.

However, several members of the public made it clear to the council that they did not want to see the Civic Arts Commission being combined with any other group, which is a sentiment that many council members said they also heard through many emails and calls.

"I advocate for keeping all the commissions separate," Kelly Cousins, president of the Pleasanton

Cultural Arts Council, told the council.

"The Civic Arts Commission has been a conduit to many art projects," she added. "Before you receive any information about these pieces, it has to come through the Civic Arts Commission and I know that they have worked many, many hours along with other commissions to make sure that that information gets to you."

Nancy Harrington, a retired educator and philanthropist who has worked alongside her husband to further art projects in Pleasanton, also spoke on the importance of maintaining the Civic Arts Commission as a separate entity so that it can continue to effectively bring more art projects forward in the city.

"We believe if the arts commission is combined with another commission, the message to further art or public art in Pleasanton is no more. That's the message it's sending," Harrington said.

See **COMMISSIONS** on Page 9

DUSD board approves layoff plan for next year

Reductions to impact classified and certificated staff in various roles

By NICOLE GONZALES

The Dublin school board has endorsed a proposal that would reduce district workforce and professional support expenses by roughly \$3 million.

The staffing cuts will impact classified and certificated employees in a number of roles and select school programs across the Dublin Unified School District.

Prior to watching the presentation at the Board of Trustees meeting on Feb. 27, Superintendent Chris Funk stated the district has a statutory duty to make cut selections by March 15. However, the board would still have until May to finalize and implement the reductions.

"These are challenging times. It's one of the hardest things as a

superintendent, for the board and for staff to be talking about budget reductions through reduction in force," Funk said. "We didn't come into these positions looking to reduce programs."

"Dublin has been fortunate enough to have amazing growth, with that growth came amazing resources. Now that we've leveled off and the state budget is not what it used to be — it makes tonight very complicated," he added.

Chris Hobbs, assistant superintendent of business services, delivered the presentation to the public and board members.

Hobbs showed what \$3 million in cuts would look like for the 2024-25 school year. His budget reduction proposal was based on feedback, public comments and a

study session from the previous meeting held Feb. 13.

Matt Campbell, assistant superintendent of educational services, shared insight on the specific roles that would be cut.

"Some reductions we see coming from the restricted general fund are teachers on special assignment (in math, science and early literacy)," said Campbell. "The impact would be the severe reduction in professional development and support to our teachers."

Other positions up for consideration are social worker, Tri-Valley Teacher Induction Project instructional coach, district nurse and elementary music prep teacher, custodian, science lab technician, public information officer and IT supervisor.

"We are proposing elementary students in grades 1 through 5 would go from weekly music instruction to every other week," said Campbell.

Campbell identified the district might be able to find alternative routes of funding through the parcel tax.

"We are currently in the process of looking at alternative funding sources," he said. "I can't get up here right now and promise that we have found it for all of these positions, but at this point we're working with different principals and we think that we can bring a majority of this back."

Campbell then provided information on what non-employee reductions would take place, these included less funding spent on

technology refresh, conferences, and online learning platforms and software.

"We typically spend a lot of money on conferences and that will be limited next year," Campbell said.

"For technology refresh, the devices are going to have to last a little longer. We're not going to replace as many devices moving forward," Campbell continued. "With online learning platforms and software, we looked at student usage data and we were able to identify some unused tools we could cut."

Following the budget cut proposal, members of the public were invited to share comments and reflections.

Lee Carpenter, a former DUSD teacher and music educator for over 30 years, shared his reactions.

"I've seen many local music groups go on to win regional, state,

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SUNOL

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by your governing body,” Cornejo wrote in her notification to the recall committee. “Within 14 days of receiving the certificate of sufficiency from the county elections official, the governing body shall issue an order stating that an election shall be held to determine whether the officer named in the petition shall be recalled.”

According to the press release, the Sunol school board must send the order stating that an election will be held to the county by no later than March 13. It also states that the election itself is to be held “no less than 88 days from the issuance of the election order date or no more than 125 days.”

“Currently the ball is in the school board’s court in terms of ordering the election and scheduling the election, so now we just wait for the board to take action,” Goldsmith said.

The next scheduled board

meeting is on March 13, which means the board can issue that order at that meeting or before.

If the school board does not issue that order within those 14 days, then the Registrar of Voters’ Office can set an election date five days after the 14 days are up, according to the office’s “Procedures for Recalling State and Local Officials” document.

“Local Sunol residents have made their voices heard,” Chris Bobertz, a Sunol resident and recall campaign committee member, said in the press release. “There is now a clear path forward to restore the school’s stability, retain the staff and teachers, and remove the division caused by Trustees Jergensen and Hurley.”

The committee further stated in its press release that the recall hasn’t been about the controversial flag resolution that the two trustees supported back in September or any single action that the two have taken.

It states that the recall is a result of the lack of trust the community has

for Jergensen and Hurley — which is mirrored by the 84% of the Sunol Glen teachers and support staff union members who adopted separate votes of no confidence resolutions where they each expressed their distrust in both the trustees.

“Their attempts to bypass the by-laws, the systematic silencing of public voices and the creation of policies motivated by personal agendas, make both trustees Jergensen and Hurley unsuitable for the school, its student body, or its future,” the press release says.

The committee said that if the two trustees care about the school, they should resign immediately.

“The committee and many Sunolians who have signed the petition would see their resignations as an act of good faith and applaud their courage to do the right thing,” the group said in its press release. “We all wish to return to the beauty and charm of Sunol Glen School and the greater Sunol community.”

If the two trustees do resign, or if they are recalled after the special

election is held, then an open call would be put out for anyone in the community so that they can step in and fill the empty seats temporarily.

The provisional vote would consist of a public process where the remaining member of the three-trustee board, Peter “Ted” Romo, and the community would interview, review and vote any of those candidates into the seats until the next election is held, which would be in November.

However, Romo would not have any power to place anyone in those vacant seats. Instead, the Alameda County Office of Education would step in and help appoint provisional board members to make a quorum that would help get through a provisional election process.

The provisional board members, who would be members of the county board of education, would also help Romo during any regular meetings so that he wouldn’t be the only board member making decisions while other provisional trustees are being vetted, Goldsmith said.

“There’s a state education code ... that states that if any vacancies ever occur in a majority of the seats in a district school board, then the president of the county board of education may appoint members of the county board of education until new members of the governing board are elected or appointed,” Goldsmith said.

As the recall committee gets set to move to the next stage of the process, Goldsmith said the question isn’t if a recall will happen, it’s when and that she is proud of how the Sunol community has come together to put the decision on recalling the two trustees in the hands of the voters.

“It’s been a big community effort that has really brought a lot of people together,” she said. “None of us want to be doing this. But I would say one upside and bright side of this is that I’ve really been heartened and inspired by the community coming together to make change in the community and to hold elected officials accountable.” ■

COMMISSIONS

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Following the public input, the motion was made to go with staff’s second recommendation, which maintains each of the commissions as separate entities. However, Arkin did make an adjustment to the recommendation, requesting that all four commissions have seven members.

Arkin’s motion also made it so that each commission maintains one youth member, which Brown said was crucial to have.

“I appreciate a little bit larger group and still retaining the youth members on these commissions,” Brown said. “These are also life-changing where a person who was in middle school, or in these cases high school, gets to understand how a city works. They get to understand how they can make a change within their own community, and that’s extremely rich.”

Apart from eliminating the alternate member positions, Councilmember Julie Testa also amended Arkin’s motion so that the commissions could meet more than the mandated six meetings every year.

“When I was on the Human Service Commission. I did not feel that we were void of activity with meeting every month,” Testa said. “I never felt that we had a meeting where we had nothing to do or didn’t have anything important.”

Murphy said that with the second recommendation, reducing the number of members in the Library and Civic Arts commissions would happen immediately and “subsequent reductions through attrition could take place by April of 2025.”

She said the reduction in members for the other two commissions would also be effective immediately. ■

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Ava Community Energy CEO resigning in summer

Chaset takes executive post with global company; Ava board set to begin search for successor

By NICOLE GONZALES

Founding CEO of Ava Community Energy, Nick Chaset, has shared plans to leave the agency this summer. With the pending departure, Ava will begin the formal process to fill the position in the coming months.

In a recent statement, Chaset stated he would be resigning from the community choice aggregation agency serving areas in Alameda and San Joaquin counties to become a senior executive at an unidentified global clean energy company. Chaset will remain as Ava's CEO until July 15, representatives said.

Chaset has worked with Ava since its founding in 2017, when it was

known as East Bay Community Energy, serving as the agency's first CEO. Prior to Ava, he worked as chief of staff for the California Public Utilities Commission.

"I joined Ava because I wanted to build a clean energy agency that would operate at a scale large enough to bend the trajectory of the clean energy transition in a meaningful way," Chaset said in the announcement. "My goal with Ava was to show our community that



Nick Chaset

clean energy can be more affordable, more reliable, and just plain better than fossil fuel. And, over the past seven years, we have achieved just that."

Chaset added, "I'm proud of the fact that Ava Community Energy has become a national trailblazer in broadening equitable access to clean energy, building resilience in our communities, and creating a broader demand for clean energy solutions."

Under Chaset's leadership, Ava maintained a consistent 95% customer retention rate and added five new jurisdictions to its original coverage area, representatives said.

The non-for-profit energy

provider currently serves 1.7 million residents in Alameda County and the city of Tracy. Next year the agency will expand its services to parts of the Central Valley in Stockton and Lathrop.

Alameda County District 2 Supervisor Elisa Marquez shared appreciation for Chaset's work in the region with clean energy.

"With Nick as CEO, Ava established and has maintained an 'A' credit rating as well as set a target of 100% clean energy by 2030 — 15 years ahead of California's goal," said Marquez. "Nick's visionary leadership has helped Ava to become a national blueprint for how to build the infrastructure needed

to decarbonize our communities."

Pleasanton City Councilmember Jack Balch, who sits as chair of Ava's executive committee, also shared words of praise for the outgoing CEO.

"Under Nick's direction, Ava Community Energy has become one of the largest purveyors of 100% renewable energy in the entire country," Balch said. "The entire Ava community is grateful for Nick's ongoing contributions in bringing broader access to clean energy to residents across the East Bay and the Valley."

Ava is expected to share additional updates on its search for Chaset's successor later this year. ■

Lawsuit over former NFL coach's death targets road safety conditions

Knapp's family sues San Ramon, developers and driver; city argues victim 'assumed the risk'

By JEANITA LYMAN

The family of late NFL coach Greg Knapp is seeking damages in court following his death nearly three years ago after being struck by a vehicle while bicycling in San Ramon, with a court date in the case occurring earlier this week.

Knapp's widow and daughters filed the initial civil complaint in January 2023 alleging wrongful death against the city of San Ramon and the driver of the vehicle that struck and ultimately killed 58-year-old Knapp in 2021.

The lawsuit in Contra Costa County Superior Court is among the few records publicly naming Kevin Xu as the driver in the collision that led to Knapp's death, with his identity having not been released by authorities following the decision from the district attorney's office not to pursue criminal charges. Distracted driving due to cellphone use was determined to be the cause of the collision, but Xu's use of a hands-free device kept the incident from being classified as a criminal one.

Xu, now 24, was arrested earlier this year for attempted assault and harassment charges following reported encounters with his estranged father and a neighboring resident. The Danville man's mental health and competency were formally brought into doubt at a Feb. 5 hearing in that new criminal case, with a doctor's report hearing scheduled for April 16, according to court records.

Embarcadero Media Foundation brought to light Xu's connection to

the Knapp case in the aftermath of his assault arrest by the Danville Police Department in January.

Although Xu was identified as the one behind the wheel of the vehicle that mortally injured Knapp, attorneys for the coach's widow Charlotte Knapp, daughter Jordan Knapp and stepdaughters Natalie and Camille Dean argue that the city of San Ramon and Lennar Corp. were the ones responsible for unsafe conditions in the bike lane Knapp was riding in just before the collision on Dougherty Road north of North Monarch Road on July 17, 2021.

Knapp, a longtime NFL assistant coach who was just about to start his first season with the New York Jets, never regained consciousness and died at an area hospital five days after the crash.

The family's attorneys argue that the city and 49 unidentified city employees "failed to properly design, plan, install, configure, maintain, repair, operate, monitor and/or control portions" of the stretch of road Knapp was struck on "including but not limited to the bicycle lane, the traffic lanes, the truck/water truck lane and the sidewalk" at the site of the collision "such that they constituted a dangerous condition of public property."

They point to the impacts of the installation and operation of a recycled water facility near the roadway, including a reduction in lane width that was intended to be temporary "but ultimately was not a temporary change, thereby creating a dangerous condition."

"Among other things, the subject roadway lacked proper safety measures and other controls, including, but not limited to, proper and sufficiently wide bike lane, proper and sufficiently wide traffic lanes, and/or

safety barriers," attorneys from the Homampour Law Firm wrote in last year's initial complaint.

They additionally allege that the city and associated staff had not warned drivers and bicyclists about the changes to the roadway to accommodate the water facility, which according to attorneys amounted to a "deficiently sized bike lane and traffic lanes" that created a "foreseeable risk of injury to normal users of the roadway."

"Said conditions were allowed to exist unremedied," attorneys for Knapp's family wrote. "This was inherently dangerous and created a trap, peculiar risk, and nuisance."

The lawsuit argues that the city should have put forth additional efforts and measures to warn bicyclists and drivers about the narrowed lanes, such as signage indicating what to expect on the portion of roadway where Knapp was hit by Xu's vehicle, and/or improved conditions and safety measures such as by installing barriers, moving the bike lane or widening lanes.

"The absence of proper safety measures and the installation, maintenance, repair, operation, monitoring, and/or control of the subject roadway, including, but not limited to, the bicycle lane, the traffic lanes, the truck/water truck lane, and the sidewalk at and near the roadway, was inadequate and improper and created a hazard, trap, and dangerous condition," attorneys for the Knapp family wrote.

"It also created a peculiar risk and trap (the existence of an unsafe condition not reasonably apparent to motorists and bicyclists and/or an unsafe and improper roadway) for motorists and bicyclists traveling on the subject roadway," they continued.

Attorneys argued that "the collision was foreseeable" to city and staff involved in changes to the roadway "and yet they failed to warn (or adequately warn) motorists and bicyclists."

As a result, the initial complaint concludes that the city and associated staff are liable for Knapp's death, as well as the resulting damages suffered by his widow and daughters "resulting from the loss of the love, companionship, society, comfort, care, assistance, protection, affection, attention, services, and support, including economic support, of Decedent."

Attorneys for the city from the law firm Clapp, Moroney, Vucinich, Beeman and Scheley denied that the city was liable for Knapp's death or damages to his surviving family in an answer to the initial complaint filed April 17, 2023, and argued that the plaintiffs were not entitled to damages.

They contended that the complaint "fails to state facts sufficient to constitute a cause of action" against the city, and that Knapp had intentionally and knowingly assumed the risk associated with using the bike lane at the time of his death.

"This answering defendant alleges that decedent Gregory Knapp acted with knowledge of all the facts and circumstances surrounding his injuries and assumed the risk of the matters causing the injury, and that said matters of which decedent assumed the risk proximately," defense attorneys for the city wrote in their answer to the initial complaint.

They went on to argue that the city and associated staff did not breach any duty in the implementation of changes to the lanes on the stretch of Dougherty Road in question, and that any dangerous

conditions on the road were not within their purview.

"The damages suffered by plaintiffs, if any, are a result of comparative fault of third parties," attorneys for the city wrote.

Among the other arguments in the initial response were the fact that the city did not own the property in question, as well as an allegation that they could not have foreseen Xu's distracted driving.

Attorneys for the Knapp family filed an amended complaint on July 11, 2023 reaffirming their allegations against the city and Xu while adding Faria Preserve LLC, Calatlantic Group Inc. and Lennar Corp. to the list of defendants, arguing that they along with the city were responsible for the maintenance, operation, and safety of the roadway.

The amended complaint added a cause of action against Faria, Calatlantic and Lennar alleging general negligence on their parts for the conditions on the roadway prior to Knapp's death that they said made the three companies also liable for the accident and the impact on the surviving family.

Attorneys for all three companies denied liability in their answer to the amended complaint, as did attorneys for the city again in their answer in August 2023.

Attorneys for Xu filed cross-complaints against the city and the other defendants named in the amended complaint, with attorneys for all three parties subsequently submitting answers to Xu and vice versa, which have been the subject of a majority of the court hearings in the case since last fall.

There was a case management conference in the lawsuit scheduled for Wednesday, with results pending as of press time. ■



Greg Knapp

DUSD BOARD

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national and even international awards and honors because of your music department. People know about the Dublin music department in Ireland, Vancouver, New York City, Chicago, Hawaii, to name a few," Carpenter. "All of this is because of a strong elementary music program, the very program you are considering reducing."

"Music is the foundation for all of the success that you've built and you are chipping away at that foundation, eventually it will collapse. Reducing music is a short-sighted plan that will severely impact the strength of all district programs," Carpenter added.

The next public speaker, Tanisha Shanbhag, identified herself as a Dublin High School junior. Shanbhag reflected on the impact the climate and culture specialist position has had at her school.

"Ever since the position of culture and climate specialist was created, I've noticed a more positive environment at Dublin High," Shanbhag said. "In this past year, thanks to our culture and climate specialist, there hasn't been a single fight that students have seen. That also makes social media a better and more positive environment."

The student also explained that recently the DHS culture and climate specialist gave students the opportunity to learn about Black History Month in a dedicated assembly presentation.

"At that assembly I learned so much about Black history and the fight for civil rights," she said.

Xing Wang, a DUSD parent with two elementary children, emphasized the importance of music class in primary schools.

"My son has dyslexia and anxiety, but when it comes to music, he is so much more engaged," said Wang. "It's one of the reasons he wants to go to school, he is always excited to go on Wednesdays because that's the day he's going to have music class. Music has had a very profound effect on him."

"When my kids practice, they get better and better and I can see it has a huge impact on them," Wang added. "How am I going to say to them, 'You need to practice music everyday but the school can not even give you a lesson once a week?'"

After concluding the public comment section, the board then moved to a discussion and voting period.

In relation to the budget cut proposal, the board discussed three resolutions: item one on certificated employee layoffs, item two on tie-breaking criteria for certificated employee layoffs and resolution three includes layoffs to the classified workforce.

"This is a really difficult place to be in," Trustee Gabi Blackman said. "It's not easy but a lot of times when you trim, you get efficient and end up making it through. The issue that we're facing this year is that things aren't necessarily going to be any different next year. If the economy improves, great. If it doesn't we're going to be right back here and the cuts will be more severe."

"It's good to go through a process

like this and we have to be very honest with ourselves about what we can cut now," added Blackman. "What we don't cut now, we will have to cut next year."

For resolution one, the board voted 4-1 to approve the layoffs of certificated employees in accordance with the budget reduction proposal. Trustee Dan Cherrier was the lone dissenter.

In the meeting report, staff stated the reduction would include "a commitment to looking for alternative funding for elementary music teachers and culture and climate specialists."

"It's not that we want to do these cuts, we've had growth for a very long period of time but that growth has stopped unfortunately," Blackman reiterated.

For the second resolution, the board voted unanimously to determine tie-breaking criteria. The resolution establishes a framework for laying off employees of a certain rank or experience level.

A DUSD staff member clarified to the board, "if you get to a situation where one person has the same seniority as another person, you utilize tie breaking criteria to determine who gets selected first."

In resolution three to reduce the classified employee workforce, the board voted 4-1 with Cherrier again opposing.

The DUSD board is expected to make additional decisions about the budget cuts later this year.

"Tonight is not the final decision but the statutory actions we need to complete in case we do need to implement those staff layoffs come May," Funk said. ■

CHURCH

Continued from Page 6

hood with the monstrosity of this complex that is being proposed, I feel (it) is out of character ... for Pleasanton and for this neighborhood," said Kaveh Nikpour, who lives two blocks from the proposed project.

"I understand that the developer wants to squeeze every dollar out of the land that they have purchased by jampacking 57 units in this," Nikpour added. "But just because they are asking for this doesn't mean they should be granted. I think we will solve a lot of problems by reducing the number of units from 57, let's say down to 26, make it two story buildings and allow less people to live here."

However, Myers said that people have to keep in mind that the number of units could have been a lot higher.

"The current general plan and zoning would allow 87 units to be built on this property. That's most likely going to be some kind of apartment building," he said. "With the city's 15% inclusionary housing ordinance, the property would also qualify for an additional 35%

density bonus, which is another 30 units. So 117 apartments could realistically be built under the current laws on this site."

"The city would have to assess

that and look at the environmental impacts," he added. "But these numbers that I'm quoting are true numbers. I'm not sugar coating these numbers." ■

TAKE US ALONG



Visiting the Everglades: Nitin, Pareena and Varupi Gupta enjoyed perusing the Weekly at Everglades National Park in Florida last Thanksgiving. The Everglades is the largest remaining subtropical wilderness in North America.

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

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TASTE TRI-VALLEY

Looking back over 10 days of food, drink and fun during Restaurant Week



Left: Urban Momo Nepalese specialties: momo dumplings, cauliflower chili and fried rice. Above: Souffle pancakes with cafe mocha at Denica's Real Food Kitchen in Pleasanton.

STORY AND PHOTOS BY DEBORAH GROSSMAN

If you seek restaurant specials, a delicious carbohydrate fantasy or adventures with new cuisines, then look forward to the 2025 Taste Tri-Valley Restaurant Week next February. Visit Tri-Valley, the regional destination marketing group, has hosted Taste since 2020. New special events and merchants augmented the mission to attract guests and heighten awareness of the local food and drink scene. This year businesses at the fourth Taste Tri-Valley Restaurant Week from Feb. 23 to March 3 presented fluffy soufflé

pancakes, Nepalese dumplings, two-for-one tastings at wineries and much more. There were two ways to whet your appetite for Taste. One option was by registering in advance for "Restaurant Week Events" on the Visit Tri-Valley website. Requiring reservations, these special experiences included two charity events, the opening dinner and closing brunch, plus five other events. The other option for learning about Taste was the list of participating restaurants and wineries on the

website, but the list was a tease. Descriptions of the offers were only listed on the free Taste pass which required signup on the website. After receiving the link to the pass on your phone, details on the offers went live on the Taste start date.

Sorting through the 173 "redemptions" (aka offers, discounts or prix fixe meals) from the 55 restaurants, 15 wineries and three beer pubs was a delectable puzzle. In the end, I explored several new, unusual and value-driven opportunities.

I attended the opening event, a grand, four-course dinner at the LB Steak location in City Center Bishop Ranch in San Ramon. I looked forward to the beef entree prepared by in-house celebrity chefs Roland Passot and Romero Miraflore, plus outstanding dishes from Francis X. Hogan of Sabio on Main in Pleasanton, Daniel Massie of Wente Vineyards in Livermore and Rodney Worth of The Peasant and The Pear in Danville.

Beyond the first-rate food, it was heartwarming to see support from the event sponsors and community leaders for the Taste charity beneficiary, Sunflower Hill, a Tri-Valley nonprofit that co-develops affordable housing and opportunities for people with developmental disabilities.

The event also highlighted the teamwork required to enable residents and visitors to feast on the Taste opportunities. The title sponsor for Taste was Fremont

Bank, represented at the opening event by senior vice president Don Merak who told me, "If people ask how we fuel innovation in the Tri-Valley, many say with fusion from Lawrence Livermore National Lab. I say, we innovate with food."

New Tri-Valley places to dine

A key reason to join Taste is discovering new dining spots. Denica's Real Food Kitchen is so new to Pleasanton the sign isn't up yet. The 25-year-old Denica's in Dublin and those in Livermore and Castro Valley are known for jumbo-sized cinnamon buns and large portions of breakfast and brunch specialties.

Opened in December, the Pleasanton locale features new dishes such as breakfast carbonara with pasta and two poached eggs and my recent selection, the high-carbohydrate, nearly two-inch-high soufflé pancakes accompanied by a welcomed sprinkle of fresh fruit and a fanciful but over-the-top gob of whipped cream.

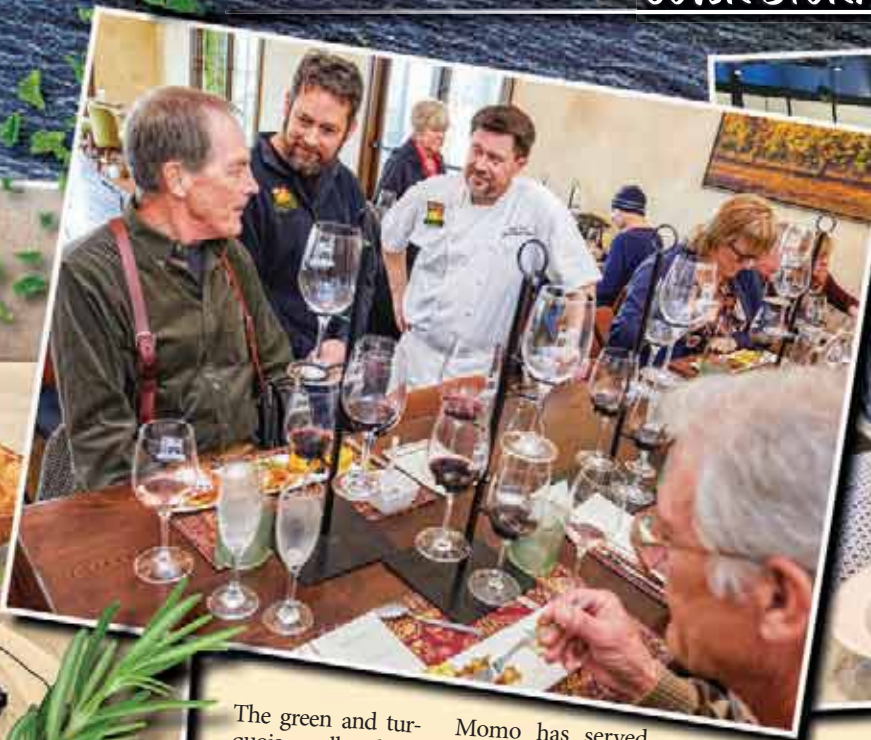
The Taste redemption — a free cookie — was taken home.

Tides restaurant has spawned new seafood lovers in Danville since opening in August.



Above: Longevity Wines winemaker Philip Long Jr. discusses the Taste Tri-Valley six-wine pairing. Right: The Hop Yard American Alehouse & Grill lunch offer of soup and turkey club sandwich.





Left: Las Positas Vineyards winemaker Brent Amos and chef Curt Pipes meet guests at the “Fizz, Food and Fun” brunch. (Photo by Ron Essex Photography). Center: The Peasant and The Pear chef-owner Rodney Worth. Right: Appetizer sampler at McKay’s Taphouse & Beer Garden.

The green and turquoise walls, plants and clam shell-shaped lamps over the bar lend a tropical air to the sister restaurant of Forbes Mill Steakhouse, also in Danville and

a Taste participant. Owner Ron Garald told me his Forbes customers encouraged him to open a fish-centric place.

Tides’ Taste prix fixe dinner featured their bestsellers: crabcake and Chilean sea bass. My friend and I liked the coconut panna cotta that looked like a pretty sea gastropod (snail) crawling across the plate with slivers of coconut “antennae” on top.

Three blocks from Tides is a much-newer restaurant, Isola Osteria, featuring the food of Sicily. “We opened in early February and about 10% of our guests dining during Taste used the pass,” said owner Angelo Davo, who offered a prix fixe dinner with an antipasto and four main options from ravioli porcini to grilled whole branzino.

Another new restaurant introduced me to a cuisine on my foods-to-try bucket list. Urban

Momo has served Nepalese food at the Pacific Food Hall in Pleasanton’s Pacific Pearl shopping center since mid-February.

Nepal is situated between China and India, and the restaurant’s menu includes familiar dishes from both cuisines. Gaining traction in the food world, Nepalese momos are Chinese-style steamed dumplings served with sauces based on tangy-spicy timur, a Himalayan pepper.

Armed with a 20% Taste discount and a hunger for Nepalese specialties, I ordered an Everest-sized lunch of momos, “gobi chili” cauliflower stir fry and Nepali fried rice.

Value-driven experiences

Taste redemptions enabled several high-value food and wine experiences.

Chef-owner Worth offered a \$29 three-course prix fixe lunch or dinner at The Peasant and The Pear, one of his three restaurants in Danville. While I waited for my takeout Taste special, Worth told me, “I chose chicken piccata because it is recognizable and popular with guests.” A savory blue cheese and glazed walnut spinach salad and decadent chocolate cake accompanied the meal. Worth mentioned that nearly 20% of sales were due to Taste redemptions.

Retail stores also brought Taste offerings to the table. Prima Vini Wine Merchants in Dublin now has a wine

bar, and the pass redemption was an exclusive Italian wine flight. (But the store’s listing was not categorized on the Taste pass under either the “Restaurant” or “Winery” filter.)

Known for its large cheese selection in Livermore, The Cheese Parlor was listed on the “Restaurant” filter with a discount on their meal-sized cheese or charcuterie plates.

Livermore wine tastings

Many Livermore wineries such as Retzlaff Vineyards offered two-for-one tasting redemptions.

With a five-wine tasting, Retzlaff drew a crowd on a sunny Sunday on their tasting lawn. Surrounded by the winery’s organic vineyards yet only one mile from the city’s downtown, the bucolic scene reminded me of the area’s rural roots.

An advantage of Taste winery visits is the opportunity to spot the winemaker and taste small production wines. At Longevity Winery, I met winemaker Philip Long, Jr., the son of founders Phil and Debra Long. The tasting at Longevity stood out with a pour of six wines for only \$20 including the popular Rosé of Pinot Grigio and the small lot Rosé of Petite Sirah, which is only available at the winery.

Dining with beer and food

This year three beer pubs joined Taste. McKay’s Taphouse & Beer Garden in Pleasanton offered two redemptions, but I visited McKay’s during a Livermore Wine Trolley special restaurant tour event.

As I sipped my Faction Red Ale, I devoured the warm pretzel bites with house-made sweet red ale mustard and two savory flatbreads. I assumed the panini triangle was filled with cheese but was pleasantly surprised by a thick layer of mac ‘n cheese.

The Hop Yard American Alehouse & Grill in Pleasanton is under its third ownership since opening in 1993. But server Gabby Alfonso told me regulars from the early days stop by, and hamburgers remain the signature dish.

I ordered the Taste lunch for \$19: Tomato-basil soup with

extra parmesan and turkey club on whole wheat bread with fries. The bacon was crispy, the turkey freshly sliced and the portions huge. The dinner special of braised short ribs in a red wine reduction also looked appetizing. The broad beer selection on tap satisfied me and my beer-loving friend.

The “Fizz, Food and Fun” brunch was a special charity event at Las Positas Vineyards in Livermore last Sunday (March 3). Winemaker and general manager Brent Amos, the recent “White Sweepstakes Winner” at the prestigious San Francisco Chronicle Wine Competition, chatted with guests as they dined on chef Curt Pipes’ tapas while sampling wines from their five-tier wine tower.

If you seek more culinary experiences or art and culture happenings, check The Vibe, the new one-stop events platform, from Visit Tri-Valley. ■

More fun special events

As in previous years, Taste offered additional special events that required signup on the Visit Tri-Valley website. Repeat events included the popular food tours with Livermore Wine Trolley, the Beer vs. Wine Dinner at Bottletaps, Pleasanton, and the Wine & Cheese Pairing dinner at Page Mill Winery. New special event participants included Wood Family Vineyards’ Wine Tapas and Music and Meet the Winemakers at Concannon Vineyard in Livermore.



At the Taste opening event (from left): Kela Driggs of Wente Vineyards, Don Marek of Fremont Bank, Dublin Mayor Melissa Hernandez, Janeen Rubino-Brumm of Sunflower Hill, Brian Gentry of Fremont Bank and Alameda County Supervisor David Haubert.

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EVERY HERO NEEDS A VILLAIN

Sunol Rep marrying melodrama and comedy with 'Rise of the Superheroes'

BY NICOLE GONZALES



Sunol Repertory Theatre is presenting a melodrama of “superhero proportions” this month to benefit the historic Sunol Glen School and its arts programs.

When selecting what production SRT would put on for its 41st season, “Rise of the Superheroes” written by Marty Matthews stuck out the most, according to Klay Kunkel, who is co-directing the play with Robin Spindler.

“We read many, many scripts but this one we all gravitated to. It is a little different for us because it’s about superheroes — which we’ve not done before,” Kunkel told the Weekly.

The story takes place in the fictional city of Warkopolis after the age of superheroes has passed. With the city’s villains behind bars, the superheroes feel they have no purpose. A hilarious and melodramatic story begins to unfold as the main villain escapes.

“It’s about a group of superheroes that have put away all of the bad guys. They are working at the mall, or working odd jobs, because there’s no villains to deal with,” Kunkel said. “The main villain decides they are becoming irrelevant and breaks out of prison along with the help of a 9-year-old computer genius.”

“Hilarity ensues because the heroes have to get in shape, so they

go to the gym and things like that,” Kunkel added.

Kunkel has worked with SRT previously in both acting and directorial roles. He directed his first show with the group in 2007, “Taming the Wild Wild West In a Dress.”

Kunkel said that although he and his co-director come from different backgrounds, the two are great collaborators.

“Robin and I have known each other for many years. We’ve done many performances together and have been to plenty of cast parties together. I know Robin’s family,” Kunkel said.

“We do come from very different places. I’m from an engineering background and Robin works in a school district over on the Peninsula. Yes there’s always compromise involved when there are two bosses, but I think us having different perspectives has benefited the show,” he added.

When the casting process began in November 2023, Kunkel said they were able to rely on a group of talented regional performers to fill the roles.

“We have a core group of people that have supported SRT for many, many years. We draw our talent from all over, from Sonoma, Fremont to Livermore. Although a big chunk of our cast is from Livermore,” the co-director said.

“Rise of the Superheroes” cast ranges from ages 7 to 85.

“All of these people are very passionate, they really love doing it. It’s not just to support the school, but they love being on stage and creating and problem-solving. Our core group puts in so much time and energy to make sure these shows go perfectly,” Kunkel said.

Kunkel shared that for the first time ever, the show will feature live student musicians.

“We always enjoy having Sunol Glen students in the plays. It’s always a good thing to get younger people involved,” he said.

With proceeds from the production going directly back to the Sunol school, Kunkel said the cast and crew never lose sight of why they are there.

“This group puts on fun performances — but we are completely committed to supporting the kids. At the end of day, we are raising money for the students so we want donations,” Kunkel said. “We put on silly shows for a serious cause.”

“I do want the audience to be entertained, I want them to come back to see other shows,” Kunkel added.

After opening night on Saturday (March 2), performances will run on Fridays and Saturdays from March 8-23 at 8 p.m. in the Sunol Glen School Theatre.

To purchase tickets for the show or find more information about SRT, visit www.sunol.net/srt. ■



COURTESY SRT

Top: “Rise of the Superheroes” is being performed by Sunol Repertory Theatre now through March 23. Above: Bob Canning (pictured) plays the role of police officer in the comedic melodrama.

High schoolers putting in work for '9 to 5' at Amador Theater

Dons and Falcons join forces to present musical adaptation of '80s comedy classic

BY CHRISTIAN TRUJANO

One of the '80s most memorable movies will be brought to life in Pleasanton this month as students from Foothill and Amador Valley high schools perform a musical rendition of the workplace comedy "9 to 5".

Foothill English and drama teacher Dax Treible, who is also serving as a producer and technical director for the show, told the Weekly that he is excited to see the students get on stage this Friday and showcase all the hard work they have been putting in over the last three months.

"It's a great opportunity to support the students, to support art," Treible said. "It's a nice feel-good comedy; it's a way to experience some live theater that might otherwise be inaccessible."

Based on the 1980 film "9 to 5" featuring legendary actress Jane Fonda and musical icon Dolly Parton, the musical follows two office workers who end up helping their co-worker Violet (played on screen by famed comedian Lily Tomlin) kidnap their sexist, egotistical and bigoted boss who typically humiliates, takes advantage and is condescending to his staff.

Backed by an orchestra who will be playing the original score written by Parton, the musical will have heavy themes of female empowerment and friendship, which Treible said he can't wait for audiences to experience.

More than 60 students from both of Pleasanton's comprehensive high schools are involved in the technical and acting sides of the production. After having gone through

the audition process since early December, the team of students are in the last leg of rehearsals now as they began stage rehearsals at the Amador Theater in preparation for opening night this week.

Daniel Mobraaten, a senior at Foothill who is a stage manager for the show, told the Weekly that those stage rehearsals are actually one of his favorite moments of the entire production process.

"Usually the most exciting day for me is the day that everything comes together," Mobraaten said. "You do the run-through where you have the actors on stage doing their thing, the band doing their thing, the sets moving on and off. The first time the show fully comes together is usually the best day of the production."

Treible said that was also one of his favorite moments so far in the production because the student actors really get to see the sets and what everything will look like in the theater.

"All the hard work that they've been doing for the past two, three months, finally now has a vision," he said. "Kind of culminates in like this is the moment, this is where it's real. This is the performance."

While Treible said that he isn't as nervous as he is excited for the students to hit the ground running on opening day, Mobraaten said that he is a bit nervous being a first-time stage manager. But he also said that he mostly just wants his friends to do as good as they can and just have fun with the show.

For folks who might be on the fence of attending the two-hour-long play, Treible said that the major toll live theater took after having



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Pleasanton high school students rehearse ahead of the debut of their joint musical production of "9 to 5", which will be staged at the Amador Theater for the next two weekends.

to shut down during the pandemic — coupled with the fact that might be one of the last shows at the Amador Theater before the district replaces it with a modern facilities thanks to the \$395 million Measure I bond money — are good reasons why people should check out this musical.

Mobraaten, on the other hand, said that as a student, he knows how difficult it is to convince other students to check out a musical, play or really any live theater at school.

"I remember from last year's musical, 'Mamma Mia', I had some trouble convincing my friends to go and see it because definitely theater isn't something that a lot of kids are not excited to go see, especially when there's a price tag involved," he said.

But he also said that his friends who did go and see that musical last year were surprised at how good the music, the singing and the acting all were, which is an experience he said can't be found anywhere else.

"I think that getting that live music experience with an audience and being part of that crowd and getting kind of swept up in the storytelling of the songs is just an experience you can't really get anywhere else," Mobraaten said.

Six showings of "9 to 5 the Musical" are set to run from this Friday (March 8) through next Sunday (March 17), with varied start times. Tickets and more information can be found at the Firehouse Arts Center website. ■

VCC concerts to take audiences 'into paradise'

'Music to Soothe the Soul' selections range from traditional to contemporary

BY NICOLE GONZALES

The Tri-Valley's premier chorus group, Valley Concert Chorale, is slated to perform a setlist of peaceful, calming and relaxing songs from contemporary to classical composers alike.

VCC will host "In Paradisum, Music to Soothe the Soul" for two nights only next weekend.

"These shows will be calming and serene with beautiful harmonies," VCC representative Heidi Massie said. "Listeners can expect to be soothed and to forget any worries they have while at the performances."

Opening night will take place next Saturday (March 16) at 7:30 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church in Livermore, the second performance will follow next Sunday (March 17) at 4 p.m. at the Trinity Lutheran Church in Pleasanton.

The show's title, a Latin phrase "in paradisum" which translates to "into paradise" in English, is a reference to the heavenly sounds the chorus said it will bring. The setlist ranges

in genre and style, from traditional to more modern composers.

Selections in the set will include Albinoni's "Adagio for Strings" (arranged for a choir) and Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's "Ave Verum Corpus" — a track the VCC representatives called "the loveliest four minutes and 11 seconds of choral music ever written."

Franz Schubert's "Gott ist Mein Hirt", which is based on the text of Psalm 23 "The Lord is my shepherd", and Ola Gjeilo's "The Ground" will also be featured. Modern selections will include "The Lamb" by John Tavener and Grammy-nominated "The Lost Birds" by composer Christopher Tin.

Songs will be sung in Latin, French, German, Russian and English, according to VCC.

"We invite members of the public to join us for what will be an evening in musical paradise," Massie said.

The chorus group will hold a pre-show lecture before both performances. Guests will hear about the concert's selections and



VCC

Valley Concert Chorale is presenting two shows this month centered around peaceful and calming music.

composers. The talk will start at 7:15 p.m. for the March 16 show and 3:45 p.m. on March 17.

Tickets for "In Paradisum, Music to Soothe

the Soul" are available on VCC's website www.valleyconcertchorale.org or by calling 925-866-4003. ■

Community Pulse

POLICE BULLETIN

Coroner IDs driver found dead in truck overturned in creek

The Alameda County Coroner's Bureau has confirmed the identity of the 90-year-old man discovered dead inside his pickup truck in a creek on his property west of Dublin last month.

The decedent was Joseph Eastwood III, the coroner's bureau said on Tuesday. An online obituary said the ranch property on the edge of Castro Valley had been in the Eastwood family for generations.

A U.S. Marines veteran who went on to work as owner of the family business, Pacific States Steel, Eastwood is survived by five of his six children, according to his obituary. He and his late wife Elizabeth raised their kids in Danville.

"Joe was well known for his quick-witted humor and intelligence that has fortunately lived on through his loved ones. One didn't need to use Google with Joe around as he was also known for his impressive and intriguing well of knowledge on all things history," his obituary stated.

Eastwood's death remains under investigation by the California Highway Patrol.

His body was found inside his Ford F-150 overturned in a creek on the afternoon of Feb. 18 by neighbors who had gone onto his property to search for Eastwood after having not seen him for about a week and a half, according to the CHP's Dublin office.

CHP officers responded to the creek off Eden Canyon Road near Hollis Canyon Road at around 2 p.m. after the neighbors reported their discovery that day.

The cause of the crash was unclear, but a tire track mark on the embankment indicated the 90-year-old was leaving his property and driving toward his driveway entrance when the wreck occurred, according to the CHP. Investigators said he was unrestrained inside the truck and appeared to have hit his head on the windshield when the pickup flipped down into the creek.

—Jeremy Walsh

In other news

- A Fairfield man arrested in a sting operation after trying to meet a teen for sex in Danville died at an area hospital after attempting to hang himself while in custody, the Contra Costa County Sheriff's Office said last week.

The decedent has been identified as 50-year-old Jaime Rodriguez, according to the sheriff's office.

Authorities first shared details of the case late on the afternoon of Feb. 28, while Rodriguez was still alive in the hospital.

According to the sheriff's office, Rodriguez was arrested at around 10:30 a.m. Feb. 27 by the region's Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force in a multi-agency operation. Investigators allege Rodriguez went to a house in Danville after communicating with a detective posing as a 13-year-old boy and soliciting them for sex.

The Fairfield man was taken into custody on suspicion of

arranging to meet a minor for lewd purposes, contacting a minor to commit a felony, attempting lewd acts on a child, attempting to send harmful material to seduce a minor and resisting arrest, according to the sheriff's office.

"While being transported to the Martinez Detention Facility, Rodriguez attempted suicide by hanging himself. Medical aid was rendered, and the suspect was transported to a local hospital," the sheriff's office said. No additional details have been released about how or where the arrestee tried to hang himself while in law enforcement custody.

The sheriff's office confirmed on the morning of Feb. 29 that Rodriguez had been pronounced dead at a hospital.

His death is being investigated separately by the sheriff's office and the Contra Costa County District Attorney's Office, in accordance with the county's law enforcement-involved fatal incident protocol.

The regional internet crimes task force includes investigators from the Walnut Creek, Brentwood, Pleasant Hill, San Ramon and Concord police departments, the sheriff's office, the DA's office, the U.S. Secret Service and the Department of Homeland Security investigations unit.

—Jeremy Walsh

- Four teenagers were recently taken into custody in Tracy after allegedly being caught traveling in a sedan that was carjacked in Livermore not long before.

Tracy police said the situation unfolded in their area just after 9:30 p.m. Feb. 9 when a Livermore



TRACY PD

Tracy police reported that four teens were arrested on Feb. 9 after being caught in this sedan, which was stolen in a carjacking in Livermore.

police officer contacted the department after getting a hit while entering the information of a carjacked vehicle into the Flock Safety Automated License Plate Reader database.

The database recorded the vehicle, which had been stolen in a carjacking in Livermore, as just having been detected in northwest Tracy, according to police, who reported soon locating the sedan near Byron Road and Great Valley Parkway.

Tracy police officers used spike strips to stop the car on Byron Road north of Mountain House Parkway, according to the department. Four occupants got out and tried to run away but were quickly caught, police said.

Officers detained an 18-year-old Tracy man and three juveniles at the scene. The eldest arrestee allegedly admitted to being the driver and was subsequently booked into the San Joaquin County Jail on suspicion of receiving a stolen

vehicle, evading police and resisting arrest.

—Jeremy Walsh

- The San Ramon Police Department is continuing to investigate an attempted retail robbery in the southern portion of the city.

Police received a call about an attempted robbery in progress at 2 p.m. Feb. 23 at the Walmart Neighborhood Market located at 9100 Alcosta Blvd.

By the time police responded, the two suspects had already fled the scene.

An SRPD spokesperson said that no weapons were seen. Although the suspects had attempted to remove cash register drawers, they were unsuccessful and Walmart suffered no loss in the incident.

No arrests had been made as of press time. ■

—Jeanita Lyman

POLICE REPORT

The Pleasanton Police Department made the following information available.

March 1

Theft

- 12:47 p.m., 3100 block of Valley Avenue; auto theft
- 3:54 p.m. on the 1700 block of Paseo Del Cajon

Burglary

- 4:57 p.m. on the 4300 block of Pleasanton Avenue
- 8:28 p.m. on the 1800 block of Spumante Place

Vandalism

- 7:35 p.m. on the 1300 block of Via Di Salerno

Feb. 29

Theft

- 2:58 p.m., 2100 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting
- 4:02 p.m. on the 1600 block of East Gate Way

Vandalism

- 4:25 p.m. on the 6300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

Domestic battery

- 6:43 p.m. on Owens Drive

DUI

- 6:43 p.m. on the 5600 block of Owens Drive

Burglary

- 7:45 p.m. on the 400 block of Matthew Court
- 9:09 p.m. on the 2300 block of Silver Oaks Lane

Feb. 28

Warrant arrest

- 2:57 a.m. on the 5800 block of Laurel Creek Drive
- 7:44 a.m. on the 5000 block of Hopyard Road
- 5:53 p.m. at Vine Street and Carnation Court
- 7:54 p.m. at Johnson and Owens drives

Theft

- 8:51 a.m. on the 4700 block of Willow Road

Feb. 27

Warrant arrest

- 1:42 a.m. on the 3100 block of Santa Rita Road

Theft

- 9:49 a.m. on the 400 block of Rose Avenue
- 10:06 a.m., 400 block of Boulder Court; theft from auto
- 1:18 p.m., 2600 block of Stoneridge Drive; theft from auto
- 4:31 p.m., 1400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting

Trespassing/prowling

- 1:52 p.m. on the 5300 block of Hopyard Road

Assault/battery

- 5:51 p.m. on the 3700 block of Vineyard Avenue

Drug violation

- 11:21 p.m. on the 1800 block of Santa Rita Road

Feb. 26

Burglary

- 10 a.m. on the 1600 block of Orvieto Court
- 10:45 a.m. on the 1600 block of Orvieto Court

Graffiti offense

- 10:40 a.m. at Bernal Avenue and Nevada Court

Fraud

- 12:05 p.m. on the 3300 block of Prairie Drive
- 2:28 p.m. on the 5400 block of Sunol Boulevard

Vandalism

- 10:48 p.m. on the 5500 block of Johnson Drive

Feb. 25

Assault/battery

- 1:53 a.m. on the 5500 block of West Las Positas Boulevard

Drug violation

- 9:35 a.m. on the 4700 block of Willow Road

Theft

- 9:36 a.m. on the 1700 block of Santa Rita Road
- 12:58 p.m., 000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting
- 2:42 p.m., 6700 block of Bernal Avenue; catalytic converter theft

Fraud

- 2:56 p.m. on the 3900 block of Santa Rita Road

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Opinion

LETTERS

Profiling different neighborhoods?

We subscribe to the Pleasanton Weekly and see the Our Neighborhoods section every year. We are disappointed that the same neighborhoods get profiled every year.

As this year's insert mentions, there are 100 neighborhoods in Pleasanton. It would be great to profile some of the other ones, including Mission Park, where I live and where your office is located! I know that a lot of these neighborhoods are featured by various real estate agents who specialize in those areas, but it would be great for people to read more about all the other neighborhoods in town.

—June Wong

Editor's note: Good inquiry, June. Our Neighborhoods selections are based on whether an advertiser agrees to sponsor said neighborhood. The special section doesn't have editorial involvement.

I like getting to know Weekly staff

In response to Deb Insel's letter to the editor last week regarding Jeremy's What a Week column the prior week, I was surprised that someone

would write that he was "way too self-indulgent".

I love "getting to know" the people at the Pleasanton Weekly and very much enjoy hearing about their lives. And who can't relate to the hectic, joyful, exhausting life of a young couple with a toddler?

When Dolores Fox Ciardelli used to write the column (Valley Views) it often included personal anecdotes about herself, her children, grandchildren, travels, etc., and I always looked forward to reading it!

So, Jeremy, I hope you continue to unapologetically write about whatever you please; it's always interesting and insightful.

—Kathleen Hall

Grief meetings

Whether the death was sudden and tragic or one with warning and preparation, the reality of death leaves most of us in a state of shock, confusion and sadness. Grieving people need time and space to honor their grief and figure out how to keep on living when our loved one is gone.

We will be meeting March 21 at 7 p.m. at St. Elizabeth Seton, 4001 Stoneridge Drive. These sessions are open to all, regardless of religious affiliation.

—Mary Kay Clauser

PET OF THE WEEK

Pick Penny

Searching for brains and beauty in a furry companion? Look no further than Penny, the 5-month-old hound dog who will captivate your heart and mind. Penny isn't just smart; she's brimming with personality and charm. Despite being deaf, her spirit shines through and she's ready to find a home that will embrace her unique qualities. She has mastered various hand cues, showcasing her intelligence and adaptability. Truly one-of-a-kind! Come meet her in person at the East Bay SPCA Dublin Adoption Center. Visit eastbayspca.org/dogs for more information.



EAST BAY SPCA

Thank you, Tri-Valley

On behalf of Operation Christmas Child (OCC) as a Tri-Valley area coordinator volunteer, I would like to thank the Tri-Valley community for their tremendous generosity, donating 6,516 Christmas shoebox gifts during our November 2023 collection drive!

This contributed to a San Francisco East Bay total of 19,869 gifts for children in poverty or war in third-world countries in 2023. Worldwide, OCC collected and will send over 11.3 million shoebox gifts to children this year.

Through shoeboxes — packed with fun toys, school supplies and personal care items — Tri-Valley volunteers brought joy to children in need around the world. Across California, many serve at a deeper level by becoming year-round volunteers. Information to volunteer is here at samaritanspurse.org/occ.

These simple gifts, packed with love, send a message to children worldwide that they are loved and not forgotten. Again, a big thank you to the churches, businesses, schools and individuals in the Tri-Valley for their tireless, heartfelt and amazing generosity.

—Jason Gor, area coordinator, Operation Christmas Child

Website redesign

A website redesign should address a specific problem; it is not about changing everything for the sake of it. Your new website design ignored the key players, its customer base.

There is no cohesive approach.

—Michael Austin

Content and functionality are left out. Town Square was the main attraction. It is gone. Popular articles are buried somewhere. Now it is necessary to search for them. They were always there before.

Redesigning a popular website is a strategic decision that requires careful consideration. Some scenarios when it might be best to avoid a redesign.

1. Effective content and functionality: If the website's content and functionality are still effective, but its visual design looks outdated or inconsistent with the brand identity, consider a reskin instead of a full redesign. A reskin involves updating the look and feel while keeping the basic structure intact.

2. Minimal impact on user experience: Sometimes minor adjustments or incremental improvements can address the specific issues without necessitating a complete redesign. Evaluate whether the changes you want to make will significantly impact user experience.

3. Risk of disruption: Popular websites have established user habits, and redesign confuses. Consider whether the potential benefits outweigh the risk of alienating existing users. A website redesign is an opportunity to enhance user experience, align with brand goals and improve functionality.

A principal factor to consider: Your advertisers want traffic. This redesign will not attract new, paid subscribers; it may lose some current paid subscribers. Confer with your regular bloggers, they know something about traffic and users.

What's your opinion?

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. 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 Editor Jeremy Walsh at (925) 600-0840.

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PLEASANTON PREPS

By DENNIS MILLER

Dublin Leprechauns welcome new manager for upcoming season

Also: Amador girls' soccer playoff run comes to an end in tough shootout

David Acheron has been named the manager for the Dublin Leprechauns as the team is getting ready to start the 2024 Pecos League.

The new manager for the Leprechauns will lead the pro baseball franchise into its second season in the Tri-Valley.

"I grew up in a baseball family where lessons in life were taught on and off the ballfield," said Acheron (pronounced ACE-er-on). "Baseball is a platform and very spiritual for me. You can touch people's lives and teach life lessons, hard work, discipline, and respect. Respect the game and respect will come to you."

The San Diego native has been honing his managerial skills for the last 10 years, climbing the ladder one step at a time in San Diego high schools and colleges. His latest coaching stint was at Orange Glen High School, leading the team to the 2021 Section Regional Semifinals.

The jump to an independent-league managerial position is just another continuation of that journey, and Acheron is ready for the challenge.

"When people talk about the Leprechauns, they better know that we will be competitive all season," Acheron said. "Expectations are high to provide a great product for the local community and win this season."

Born in a military family at Letterman Hospital at the San Francisco Presidio, he was raised by his grandparents, who were career military. The family eventually landed in San Diego where David was influenced heavily by his uncle, Eric Anthony, a journeyman Major League Baseball player that started his career with the Houston Astros and ended with the Los Angeles Dodgers.

The Leprechauns begin their season May 28 at Fallon Sports Park in

Dublin against the defending league champion San Rafael Pacifics. The Pecos League is an independent professional minor league with teams throughout California, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Arizona, Kansas, Texas and Colorado.

Amador girls' soccer

The Dons' amazing run into the CIF NorCal Regional tournament came to an end with a penalty kick shootout loss to Del Oro of Loomis on Feb. 27.

Amador got the best of play, outshooting Del Oro 15-9, but they could not find the back of the net. After regulation and overtime with the two teams scoreless, it went to penalty kicks.

Del Oro outscored the Dons 4-3 in the shootout and advanced on in the tournament.

Foothill boys' lacrosse

The Falcons started their season strong taking the home opener 12-5 over Las Lomas. The offense dominated as Foothill had six different players scoring goals.

Darrin Lau led the scoring with six goals. Ethan and Wyatt Lam combined for a total of three goals, Tyler Walsh, and AJ Becker each had a single score.

Rounding out the dozen points was freshman Grady DeMichiel with his first varsity goal. Sophomore keeper Alex Morgan had eight saves.

Amador baseball

The Dons started out 2-2 this

season, with the wins coming in their first and fourth games.

Battling in the rain, Amador opened the season with a 14-1 win over Miramonte. The Dons pounded out 12 hits, including a pair of triples.

A 5-4 loss to Castro Valley and a 1-0 loss to James Logan followed before Amador came back with a 5-0 win over Liberty.

Foothill volleyball

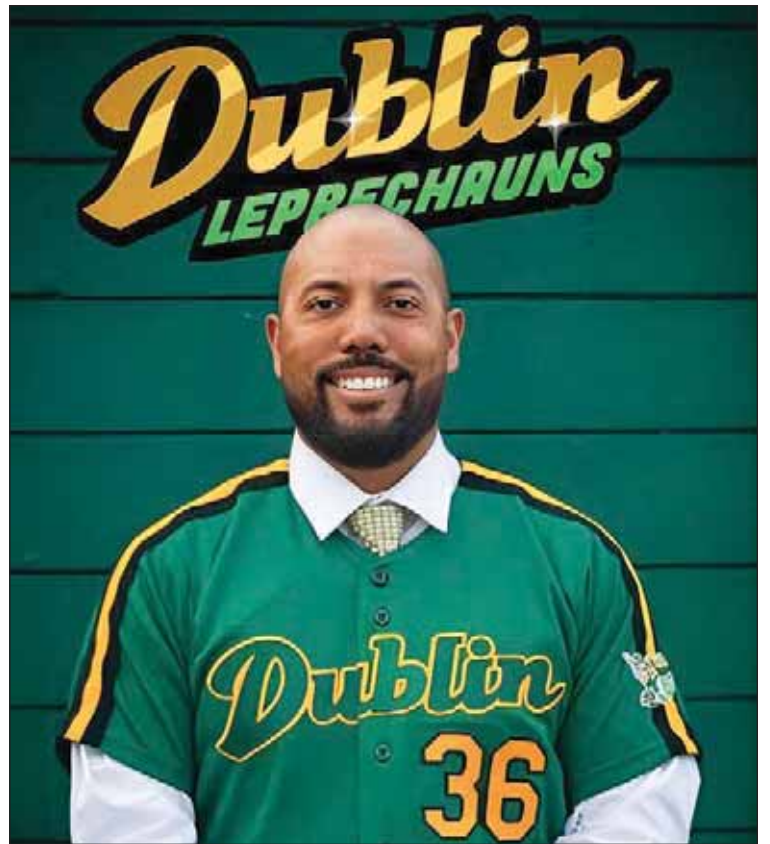
The Falcons had a solid week, winning a pair of non-league games and falling in the semifinals of a tournament.

It started with a 25-20, 25-12, 25-12 over Tamalpais. Highlights came from seniors Noah Mitzenmacher (18 service points, 9 digs), Casey Collins (7 kills, 6 digs, 3 aces) and Carter Tsui (4 kills, 1 block).

Later in the week the Falcons traveled to Liberty and won 28-26, 25-20, 19-25, 25-22. Highlights came from sophomore Josh Salonga (47 assists, 10 service points, 10 digs), and seniors Kayan Vohra (21 kills, 4 blocks) and Yun Bae (12 kills, 7 service points, 6 digs).

In the East County Tournament, the Falcons went 3-1, beating Irvington, Rio Americano and Deer Valley, before falling in the semifinals to eventual champ Sanger. ■

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



COURTESY DUBLIN LEPRECHAUNS

David Acheron is taking the reins as manager of the Dublin Leprechauns for their second season in the Tri-Valley.

THE CITY OF PLEASANTON



HIGHLIGHTS

Planning Commission Meeting

Wednesday, March 13, 2024, at 7:00 a.m.

The meeting will be held at the City of Pleasanton Council Chamber – 200 Old Bernal Ave. and streamed live at <https://www.youtube.com/user/TheCityofPleasanton>.

- Continued from February 28, 2024 - P23-0177, Bruce Myers, Catalyst Development Partners LLC, Tract 8672, 3200 Hopyard – Applications for Design Review (P23-0177) and Vesting Tentative Tract Map 8672 approval pursuant to SB 330 to: 1) demolish an existing church and daycare facility; 2) construct a housing development consisting of 57 attached condominium units including 48 three-story townhomes ranging in size from approximately 1,691 to 2,738 square feet, and nine apartment units; and related site improvements; and 3) Vesting Tentative Map.

Youth Commission Meeting

Wednesday, March 13, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.

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

- Discussion – Funding Pleasanton's Future
- Review and Allocate Community Grant Funds in the Youth Category for Fiscal Year 2024/25 and Recommend City Council Approval

Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting

Thursday, March 14, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.

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

- Discussion – Funding Pleasanton's Future
- Review and Comment on the Proposed Edits to the Parks and Recreation Commission Duties
- Receive an Overview of the Sports Athletic Field Audit Process

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Public Notices

THE LABOR COMPLIANCE MANAGERS
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 604213

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

1.) The Labor Compliance Managers,
located at 2909 Nieman Boulevard Unit
#111, San Jose, CA 95148, Santa Clara
County.

This business is conducted by: an
Individual.

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

LINDLEY ROBERTSON
2909 Nieman Boulevard Unit #111
San Jose, CA 95148

CALIFORNIA

Registrant began transacting business
under the fictitious business name(s) listed
above on 02/23/2024

This statement was filed with the County
Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on February
23 2024.

(PLW Mar 1, 8, 15 and 22, 2024)

RIGHT AT HOME EAST BAY
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 604024

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

1.) RIGHT AT HOME EAST BAY, located at
5700 Stoneridge Mall Road, Suite 330,
Pleasanton, CA 94588, Alameda County.
Mailing Address: 427 Melrose Ct San
Ramon, CA 94582.

This business is conducted by: a Limited
Liability Company.

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

SOULCARE LLC
427 Melrose Ct
San Ramon, CA 94582

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 February
13 2024.

(PLW Feb 23, Mar 1, 8 and 15, 2024)

BAY EAST FOUNDATION
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 604068

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

1.) Bay East Foundation, located at 7021
Koll Center Parkway, Pleasanton, CA 94566,
Alameda County.

This business is conducted by: a
Corporation.

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

BAY EAST ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS
FOUNDATION
7021 Koll Center Parkway
Pleasanton, CA 94566

CA

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 February
15 2024.

(PLW Mar 1, 8, 15 and 22, 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)

DEL RIO MANUFACTURED HOUSING
COMMUNITY
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 603347

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

1.) Del Rio Manufactured Housing
Community, located at 1550 162nd Avenue
San Leandro, CA 94578, Alameda. Mailing

Address: 6653 Embarcadero Dr. Suite C
Stockton, CA 95219.

This business is conducted by: a Limited
Liability Company.

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

GOLDEN HILLS MANUFACTURED HOUSING
COMMUNITY, LLC
6653 Embarcadero Drive Suite C
Stockton, CA 95219
Delaware

Registrant began transacting business
under the fictitious business name(s) listed
above on 11/30/2023

This statement was filed with the County
Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on January 12
2024.

(PLW Feb 23, Mar 1, 8 and 15, 2024)

HOUSE KOMBUCHA
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 603575

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

1.) House Kombucha, located at 2994
Teagarden St. San Leandro, CA 94577,
Alameda County.

This business is conducted by: a Limited
Liability Company.

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

WISE PROBI LLC
886 Hazelnut Ct.
Sunnyvale, CA 94087

CALIFORNIA

Registrant began transacting business
under the fictitious business name(s) listed
above on 01/17/2024

This statement was filed with the County
Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on January 24
2024.

(PLW Mar 8, 15, 22 and 29, 2024)

PELICAN PREMIER
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: #604185

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

1.) Pelican Premier, located at 3711 Saratoga
Way Pleasanton, CA 94588, Alameda.
This business is conducted by: a Limited
Liability Company.

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

PELICAN PREMIER LLC
3711 Saratoga Way
Pleasanton, CA 94588

CA

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 February
22 2024.

(PLW Mar 1, 8, 15 and 22, 2024)

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

Case No.: 24CV064683

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:

Petitioner: WANDA JUNE HEFFERNON
filed a petition with this court for a decree
changing names as follows:

WANDA JUNE HEFFERNON to WANDA JUNE
MAHNOKINI

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: 04/23/2024, 9:30 AM,
SUPERIOR COURT 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: 02/21/2024

THOMAS NIXON

JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT

(PLW Mar 1, 8, 15 and 22, 2024)

Place a legal notice at
PleasantonWeekly.com/legal_notices/

Calendar

POST CALENDAR ITEMS AT PLEASANTONWEEKLY.COM

Entertainment

**AMADOR AND FOOTHILL SPRING
MUSICAL 9** to 5 tells the story of
three coworkers-turned-friends
who team up to take down their
boss to create a more welcoming
and efficient workplace. 7 p.m.,
March 8-9, 15-16; 2 p.m., March 10
and 17. Tickets \$15-\$20. Amador
Theater. Visit firehousearts.org.

GOD IS A SCOTTISH DRAG QUEEN
Hilarious and award-winning
comedian Mike Delamont takes the
stage as he embodies God in his hit
show in this one-man side-splitting
comedy. 8 p.m., March 8. Tickets
\$25-\$55. Visit livermorearts.org.

RISE OF THE SUPERHEROES Sunol
Repertory Theatre presents Rise of
the Superheroes. 8 p.m., March
8-9, 15-16, 22-23. Tickets \$20-\$30.
Sunol Glen School Theatre, 11601
Main St., Sunol. Visit sunol.net/srt/.

THE T-SISTERS Distinguished by
close harmonies, catchy melodies
and potent lyricism, the T-Sisters
have created a refreshing brew of
indie-folk/Americana music that
flows seamlessly between styles and
moods. 8 p.m., March 8. Tickets
\$30-\$35. Visit 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 9.
2:30 p.m., March 10. Tickets \$20-
\$105. Visit livermorearts.org.

SHE LOVES ME AT LAS POSITAS This
heartwarming romantic musical
follows the story of two feuding
perfume shop employees who
unknowingly find solace in each
other as secret pen pals, set against
the backdrop of a charming 1930s
European perfumery. 8 p.m., March
15-16 and 23. 2 p.m., March 17.
Visit [laspositascollege.edu/theater/
events.php](http://laspositascollege.edu/theater/events.php).

**SPARC THEATER PRESENTS
MARJORIE PRIME** These script-in-
hand readings include a post-show
discussion with the actors and part
of the producing team. 7:30 p.m.,
March 15-16. 2 p.m., March 17.
Tickets \$25. Visit [SPARCtheater.org/
tickets](http://SPARCtheater.org/tickets).

TRAILBLAZING WOMEN OF COUNTRY
The Bankhead Presents Trailblazing
Women of Country: From Patsy
to Loretta to Dolly. This show
celebrates the women who paved
the way for future generations of
country artists. 8 p.m., March 15.
Tickets \$60-\$90. Visit livermorearts.org.

**DANÚ: TRADITIONAL MUSIC OF
IRELAND** Experience the rich and
vibrant sounds of Ireland from lively
jigs and reels to soulful ballads as
this talented group of musicians
transport to the heart of Ireland
with captivating performances. 8
p.m., March 16. Tickets \$50-\$80.
Visit livermorearts.org.

**IN PARADISUM - MUSIC TO SOOTHE
YOUR SOUL** Calming and serene,
these choral favorites are filled with
peaceful melodies and beautiful
harmonies. 7:30 p.m., March
16, First Presbyterian Church,
Livermore. 4 p.m., March 17, Trinity
Lutheran Church, Pleasanton. Visit
valleyconcertchorale.org/events.

St. Patrick's Day

ST. PATRICK'S DAY BREW CRAWL
Downtown Pleasanton turns green
for the 11th annual St. Patrick's
Day Brew Crawl where downtown
locations and breweries come
together for a fun and memorable
beer-tasting night. Guests will
sample over 25 craft beers from
local breweries while enjoying the
festivities. 5-8 p.m., March 16. Visit
pleasantondowntown.net.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY FESTIVAL Join
the Dublin St. Patrick's Day Festival
which includes three stages of Irish
music and dance, an international
food court, shopping at over 250
booths and more. March 16-17.
Visit [dublin.ca.gov/873/Celebration-
Highlights](http://dublin.ca.gov/873/Celebration-Highlights).

SHAMROCK 5K FUN RUN & WALK
Join in the fun and festivities of
the St. Patrick's Day Celebration
by participating in the Shamrock
5K Fun Run and Walk. 8:30 a.m.,
March 17. Rain or shine. Visit
[dublin.ca.gov/867/Shamrock-5K-
Fun-Run-Walk](http://dublin.ca.gov/867/Shamrock-5K-Fun-Run-Walk).

Talks

AMADOR VALLEY QUILTERS The
guest speaker for March is Joanne
Figueroa, owner of Fig Tree &
Company, which designs fabrics and
quilts, sewing accessory patterns
and other licensed products for
the independent fabric and craft
industry. 1:30-3:30 p.m., March 9.
Pleasanton Middle School, 5001
Case Ave. Visit amadorvalleyquilters.org.

**AUTHOR JOHN KING AT LIVERMORE
LIBRARY** Author John King will
discuss his book Portal: San
Francisco's Ferry Building and the
Reinvention of American Cities.
2 p.m., March 10. Civic Center
Library, Community Rooms.

**LIVERMORE-AMADOR GENEALOGICAL
SOCIETY** Jennifer Holik, genealogical
and military research expert,
discusses Research a Veteran.
She uses storytelling and records
to help understand the deeper
impacts of service. 7-8:30, March
11. Congregation Beth Emek, 3400
Nevada Court, Pleasanton. Visit
l-ags.org.

**STORIES OF PLEASANTON IN THE
1950s** Join this special panelist
session with a interviewees from
the book, Cruising Down Memory
Lane: Stories of Pleasanton in the
1950's. Panelists who are featured
in the book will talk about how their
families made a living. 1-2 p.m.,
March 12. Pleasanton Library.

**INTERFAITH INTERCONNECT RELIGION
CHAT** Nearly all religions have
a version of "Thou shalt not
kill." How does your religion/
congregation deal with the reality
of war? Speakers: Manish Singhvi,
Jain and Troy Witt, Church of Jesus
Christ of Latter-day Saints. More
information at [facebook.com/
InterfaithInterconnect](http://facebook.com/InterfaithInterconnect). 5-6 p.m.,
March 13.

**MAKING DECISIONS ABOUT
CAREGIVING: HOME VS. FACILITY**
This webinar will cover information
about assessing needs, accessing
community services and resources,
relocating loved ones and exploring
various care settings including
in-home and residential care.
10-11 a.m., March 14. Register at
HopeHospice.com/family.

**LIVERMORE-AMADOR VALLEY
GARDEN CLUB** Dave Phelps will
discuss soil ecology, the basic
science, and how it applies to
gardening strategies. He will also
touch on related aspects, such as
soil successional levels, contrasting
soil ecologies of native and non-
native plant landscapes and how
to improve water holding capacity
of soils. 6-8 p.m., March 14.
Crosswinds Church. Visit lavgc.org.

TRI-VALLEY WRITERS Linda Joy
Myers, founder of the National
Association of Memoir Writers
and writing coach for fiction and
memoir, will lead this workshop on
The Magic of Bringing Characters to
Life on the Page-Secrets for Memoir
and Fiction. 1-4:30 p.m., March
16. Las Positas College Register by
March 14 at trivalleywriters.org.

Employment

TECHNOLOGY

BlackLine Systems, Inc. is accepting resumes for the position of Manager, Software Development in Pleasanton, CA (Ref. #HHCS). Manage and recruit to a cross functional Agile Team, including Front-end and Back-end Developers QA Engineers and a Scrum Master, to deliver valuable functionality to our clients. Telecommuting permitted. Annual Salary: \$206,550 to \$236,550/year. Mail resume to BlackLine Systems, Inc., HR Department, Tamara Saltzman, 21300 Victory Blvd., 12th Floor, Woodland Hills, CA 91367. Resume must include Ref. #HHCS, full name, email address & mailing address. No phone calls. Must be legally authorized to work in U.S. without sponsorship. EOE.

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Real Estate

Bay East recognizes top contributors in local real estate

Cunha as Realtor of the Year, Faught for Outstanding Leader among award winners

BY JEREMY WALSH

The Bay East Association of Realtors recently honored some of the best real estate professionals in the region for their contributions to the industry during 2023.

Handed out at the association's annual ceremony in January, the awards included Realtor of the Year, Rookie of the Year, Platinum Affiliate of the Year, Outstanding Leader, Good Neighbor of the Year and the John Deadrich Distinguished Service Award.

Association leaders said the recipients "each demonstrated ethical standards and professionalism, active community involvement, and a high level of service to the real estate profession."

Headquartered in Koll Center Parkway in Pleasanton, Bay East is a trade association representing more than 6,000 residential and commercial real estate professionals in the Tri-Valley and other parts of the East Bay.

Here are the 2023 award winners, along with descriptions provided by the association:

Realtor of the Year

Sheila Cunha, with Legacy Real Estate and Associates in Pleasanton, received the Realtor of the Year award for demonstrating the highest level of integrity and commitment to Bay East and the real estate profession.

Cunha has served as Bay East president, has served on the Bay East Board of Directors and as chair of the Bay East Local Government Relations and Political Activities committees. She also serves on the California Association of Realtors Board of Directors and as a leader in the CAR advocacy program. Cunha is a passionate advocate for home ownership and housing providers.

Rookie of the Year

Nicole Easterday, with Compass in Oakland, took home the Rookie of the Year award, which recognizes a new Realtor who demonstrates high principles of integrity, adherence to the Realtor Code of Ethics, and furtherance of the principles of good real estate practice, civic activity, and business accomplishments. Easterday is actively involved with the Central



QUINN VO / BAY EAST

Bay East Association of Realtors award winners and leadership celebrate at the group's annual ceremony in January.

County Marketing Group and the Bay East Foundation.

Platinum Affiliate of the Year

Adriana Mendez, with Custom Moving & Hauling in Danville, earned the Platinum Affiliate of the Year award. Mendez supports the estate community through her involvement with the Real Estate Alliance of Livermore and Valley Real Estate Network, along with the Women's Council of Realtors.

Outstanding Leader

Don Faught, with Compass in Pleasanton, received the Outstanding Leader award, which is given to a past president of the association who continues to pursue the vision of excellence in the name of Bay East. Faught, who is a past president of both Bay East and CAR, continues to serve on several Bay East, CAR and National Association of Realtors committees.

John Deadrich Distinguished Service Award

The John A. Deadrich Distinguished Service Award went to June Burckhardt, with Legacy Real Estate and Associates in Fremont, for her contributions to Bay East during 2023.

Named in honor of Bay East's first president, this award is traditionally given to a single Bay East member who exemplifies the self-sacrifice, vision, and accomplishments of the greatest leaders who have shaped the real estate profession. Burckhardt was honored for her dedication and tireless volunteer work with Bay East on a variety of committees.

Good Neighbor of the Year

Tim Ambrose, with Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Drysdale Properties in Castro Valley, won the Good Neighbor of the Year award, which recognizes a Bay East member making a positive contribution to their communities. Ambrose is dedicated to the Love Never Fails organization which restores, educates and protects survivors of human trafficking. ■

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SAN RAMON**

5 BD | 3 BA

2,228 SQ. FT. LIVING SPACE | 7,000 SQ. FT. LOT

LISTED FOR \$1,459,000

PONDEROSA VILLAGE



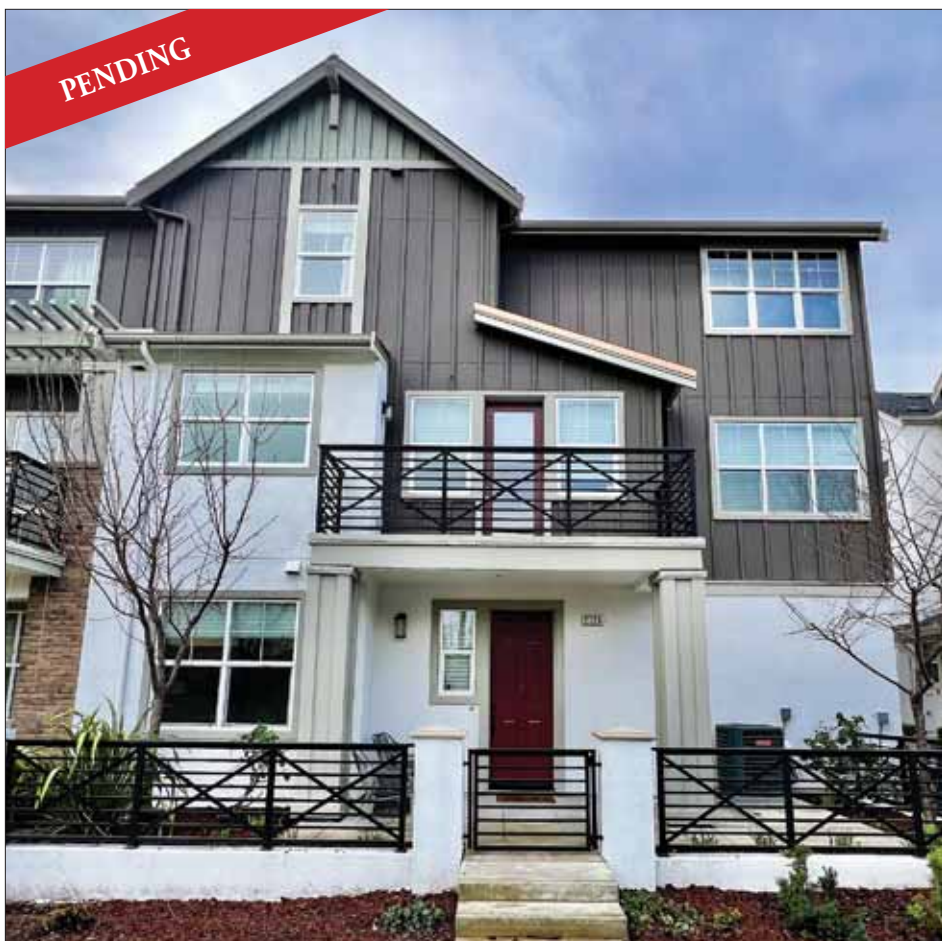
**678 GREYLYN DRIVE,
SAN RAMON**

3 BD + LOFT (4TH BD OPTION) | 2.5 BA

1,850 SQ. FT. LIVING SPACE | 3,234 SQ. FT. LOT.

LISTED FOR \$1,599,000

JORDAN RANCH



**2026 CENTRAL PARKWAY,
DUBLIN**

3 BD | 3.5 BA

2,002 SQ. FT. LIVING SPACE

Don't miss this highly upgraded energy efficient townhouse style condo in the desirable Jordan Ranch neighborhood. Providing over 2,000 square feet of living space, including 3 spacious bedrooms (with a full bed & bath downstairs) and 3.5 bathrooms, this home is better than new featuring all modern luxury builder upgrades. You get soaring ceilings, a light and airy open concept-great room living area, new age luxury vinyl plank flooring, attached 2-car garage, indoor laundry and all bedrooms are complete with their own en-suites and walk in closets! The attractive chef's kitchen is decked out with a molten grey quartz island and countertops, subway tile backsplash, deep farmhouse sink, and all newer SS appliances including built in gas burner with hood vent. Save energy with Milgard window and sliders, a Nest thermostat and Rinnai tankless water heater. Convenient access for commuting, shopping & dining, and situated in an award-winning school district... this home has it all!

LISTED FOR \$1,179,000

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