

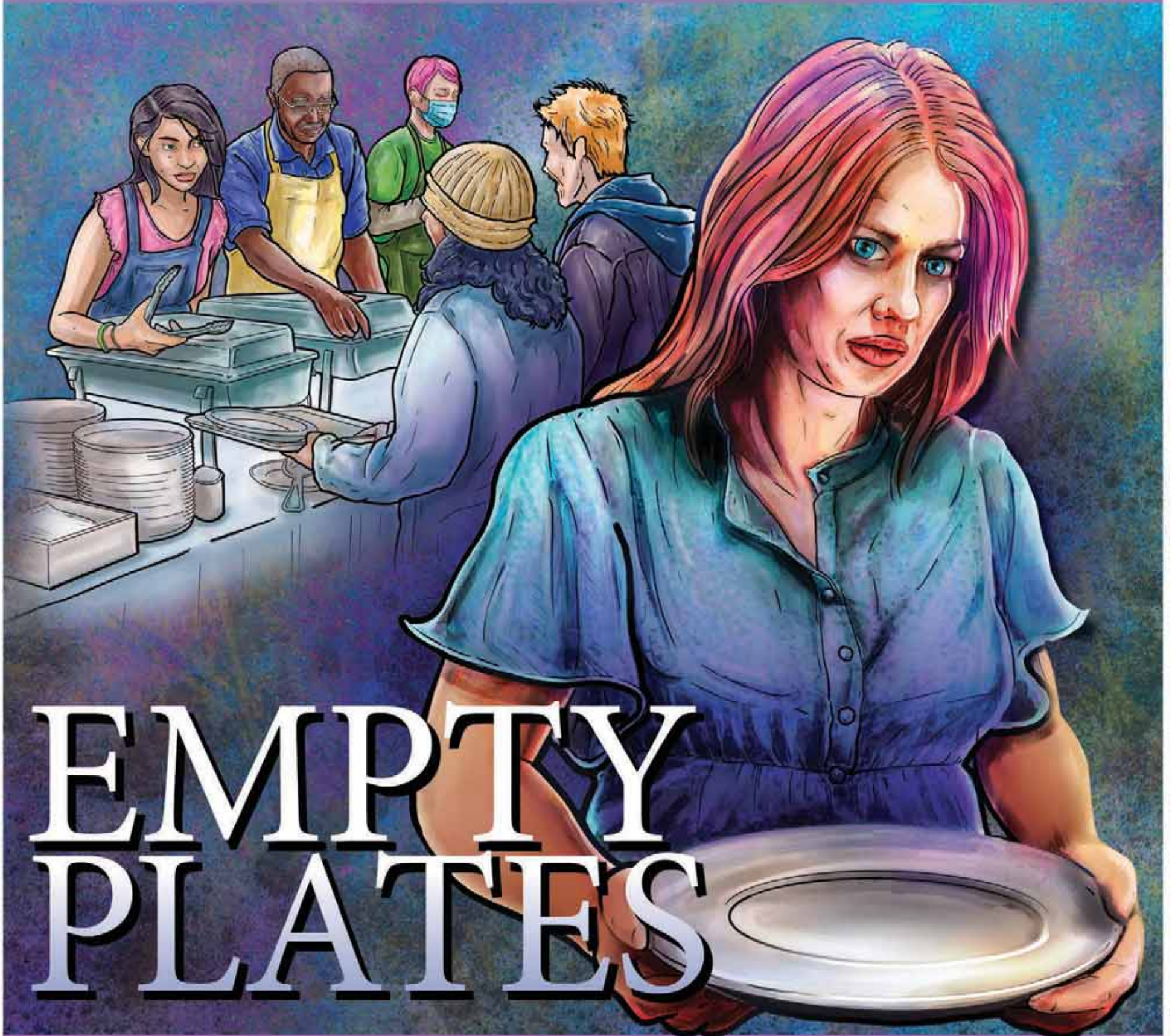
# Pleasanton Weekly

**Haglund delivers  
State of the District**

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## EMPTY PLATES

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# THANK YOU

## Tri-Valley Residents, Pleasanton Weekly, and Embarcadero Media Foundation

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Due to your generous support of the Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund,  
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Angels



# WHAT A WEEK



By JEREMY WALSH

## Giddy-up

The Alameda County Fairgrounds is really picking up momentum as we enter the second quarter of 2024.

In response to Golden Gate Fields' impending closure, the California Horse Racing Board last week awarded major meets scheduled between October and December to the historic racetrack at the fairgrounds — a move that could be a significant boon for Pleasanton this fall.

"The chance to host more racing is exciting. The Alameda County Fairgrounds is home to the oldest one-mile racetrack in America. Horse racing has been embedded in the fabric of Pleasanton since 1858, and we are happy to bring it back home to where it all started," Alameda County Fairgrounds CEO Jerome Hoban told me on Wednesday. "The Tri-Valley has great racing fans and is located near the 580/680 interchange, BART and the ACE Train making Pleasanton an ideal location to grow the sport."

These new meets, which expect to elevate the Tri-Valley to the center of the horse racing universe for Northern California and beyond for weeks, will be in addition to the familiar race slate on the docket during this year's Alameda County Fair — which includes the Pleasanton Mile stakes race on July 7 offering one of the largest prize winnings of \$150,000.

Details also continue to roll out about the 2024 county fair in Pleasanton, themed "That Summer Feeling" and running on Wednesdays through Sundays from June 14 to July 7.

In particular, fair officials are unveiling the roster for the Big O Tires Concert Series week by week. They're about halfway through the list.

The most recent batch, revealed this Wednesday morning, included rising country singer-songwriter Ashley Cooke on June 15, Colombian music group Sonora Tropicana on June 16 and CCR tribute band Revisiting Creedence on June 28.

Last week, we learned about the concerts featuring 1980s/90s vocal group Exposé (known for "Seasons Change" among other hits) on June 21, Twist on Taylor (Taylor Swift cover act) on June 22 and 2000s rock band The Fray ("How to Save a Life") on June 27.

Also on the calendar so far are Bay Area rap legend E-40 on June 20, Grammy nominee Hunter Hayes on July 5 and '80s rock tribute group Fast Times on July 6. The rest of the performers are due out in the coming weeks.

The racing and concert announcements provide an ideal lead-in for a busy April at the fairgrounds.

Next Thursday (April 4) will mark the start of the San Francisco Bay Flower & Garden Show. Running daily from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. through April 7, the show promises "spectacular indoor and outdoor flower displays, top floral experts, an interactive kid's display and more," according to fairgrounds officials.

Also next weekend, the facility will host the annual Golden Gate AHA Arabian & Half Arabian Horse Show from April 6-7.

The 36th annual Spring Home Show will arrive from April 12-14, with a range of home and yard design and renovation experts, plus the opportunity to shop for custom kitchens, bathrooms, landscaping, doors, floors and more.

Alongside that weekend will be the sixth annual Tri-Valley Innovation Fair, a showcase of local ingenuity that is free and designed for the entire family on April 13 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and the Exotic Bird Mart & Expo on April 14 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

StumpyCon — "for vertically challenged pups and their humans" — will be the center of attention on April 20 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

And on the final Sunday of the month (April 28), the fairgrounds will host the Pleasanton Partnerships in Education Foundation's Pleasanton Run for Education in the morning and the CSHA Region 5 Spring Stampede horse show throughout the day.

This month is also an important time for those interested in entering the 2024 Alameda County Fair Wine Competition, which is open only to local wineries commercially bonded in the county. Submissions for the "Alameda County", "Best of the Blends" and "Zin and Sauvignon Summit" divisions can be made until April 26.

As much as the Alameda County Fair is about featuring competition winners in all sorts of disciplines, the fairgrounds is not to be outdone itself most years.

Just recently, the organization earned 42 awards in all (its highest count ever) between the Western Fairs Association and International Association of Fairs and Expositions for performances in marketing, innovations, events, photography and other categories in 2023.

I can't wait to see what types of successes are in store for the fairgrounds for the rest of 2024. ■

### About the Cover

In this week's cover story, the Pleasanton Weekly looks at food insecurity, and the nonprofits working to stem the tide, in the Tri-Valley and Alameda County. Cover design by Doug Young.

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# My Recent Pleasanton Listings



**7977 Foothill Knolls Dr**  
**Stunningly Remodeled Foothill Knolls Home**

**Listed for \$3,198,000**

**Sold for \$3,378,000**



**7933 Winged Foot Ct**

**Nicely Updated Home in Lower Golden Eagle**

**Listed for \$1,980,000**

**Pending Sale**



**4379 Clovewood Ln**

**Beautiful 5 Bedroom Highland Oaks Home**

**Listed for \$1,568,000**

**Pending Sale**

## COMING SOON

**3534 Churchill Court, Pleasanton**

**4 Bedroom, 2.5 Bathrooms, 2,600 Sq Ft**

Beautiful Pleasanton Meadows home located in a great court location close to great schools, parks and easy freeway access.



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## What was your first clock-punching, minimum wage-type job? Did you learn any valuable life lessons from it? And what was your hourly pay?



**Mike Stetson**  
*Business owner*

I worked for the parks department the summer I was 15. I made about \$15 an hour, which was a really great hourly rate back then. I learned how “cliquey” workplaces and work relationships can be, and how to conduct myself in a professional, non-school environment.



**Patricia Cardenas**  
*Registered nurse*

I worked at a Filipino fast food restaurant. I believe my wage was \$7.50/hour. I learned to speak up for myself, and to not put up with any toxic managerial styles.



**Helmo Cardenas**  
*Electronic games designer*

I worked at Old Navy, which is where I met my beautiful wife. I was a stock associate making about \$8 and change an hour. I learned how to communicate — often not in English — with all sorts of people from many different countries, cultures and walks of life.



**Ryan Anderson**  
*Adviser*

I worked as a ski technician at a ski resort in Angel Fire, which is in the Rocky Mountains of New Mexico. I earned \$5.50/hour. I was the ski resort’s foreign laborer, visiting from South Africa. I learned the value of hard work, and the value of a dollar, and to work hard and play hard.



**Nia Vere-Nicoll**  
*Registered nurse*

I worked as a caregiver in an assisted-living facility. It was that experience that made me want to become a nurse. I learned how important it is to provide compassionate and responsible care to other people. If I recall correctly, I earned about \$4.50 per hour.

—Compiled by Nancy and Jeff Lewis

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

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# HIKE for HOPE

Saturday, May 4  
Del Valle Regional Park, Livermore

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

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

\$35 Adult (AGE 18+) | \$15 Youth (AGES 13-17) | Free for kids under 12

Corporate Sponsorships Available!  
Connect by 4/5 to maximize your publicity benefits.

[TheHikeForHope.com](http://TheHikeForHope.com)

Sign up by 4/5 for access to Early Bird shirt pickup

## We're looking for a few interns

We are seeking local high school or college students with an appetite for news and an interest in learning about print and digital media for internship opportunities. The interns will research stories, do interviews and help with fact checking and rewrites for the award-winning Pleasanton Weekly, LivermoreVine.com and DanvilleSanRamon.com. They will also be introduced to the other aspects of publishing, including advertising and production.

During the internship period, the intern will be an integral part of the team, participating fully in the process of gathering and presenting news.

Candidates must be responsible, have good writing skills, be available 10 to 12 hours a week and have reliable internet access. Internships require an academic sponsor. Applicants should send a resume, a cover letter explaining your interest and links to at least three examples of journalistic work to editor Cierra Bailey at [cbailey@embarcaderomedia.org](mailto:cbailey@embarcaderomedia.org) by noon April 22.



## DIGEST

### LAVTA committee

Regional transit officials are recruiting for positions available to serve on Tri-Valley Accessible Advisory Committee, which provides advice and advocacy on key accessibility issues to the Livermore Amador Valley Transit Authority, which operates Wheels bus and Dial-A-Ride paratransit service.

Current committee vacancies are representing the city of Dublin (one regular member, one alternate), city of Livermore (two members), city of Pleasanton (one member, one alternate), unincorporated Alameda County (one member) and Tri-Valley social services agencies (three members, one alternate).

The committee meets six times per year for approximately 90 minutes each time; members receive a free annual LAVTA fixed-route bus pass.

Applications are due by April 19, with the final appointments to be approved by the LAVTA Board of Directors. Learn more at [wheelsbus.com](http://wheelsbus.com) or 925-455-7555.

### Two join LLF

The Livermore Lab Foundation, the nonprofit partner supporting innovation and education efforts at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, recently welcomed two new members to its board of directors: Lori Souza and June Yu.

Souza is a longtime community leader in Livermore who also worked for nearly four decades at LLNL before retiring as associate deputy director of operations. Yu, who resides in Livermore, is the associate vice president and interim vice president for UC National Laboratories.

"Both are dedicated to the fundamental principles so critical to success for the lab and the foundation. Their knowledge of the laboratory, exceptional leadership and insights will be invaluable as we enter our eighth year of philanthropic dedication for science, research and student support at LLNL," said Dona Crawford, board chair for the foundation.

For more details, go to [livermorelabfoundation.org](http://livermorelabfoundation.org).

### Chancellor's award

Chabot-Las Positas Community College District Chancellor Ronald P. Gerhard recently received the Harry Buttmer Distinguished Administrator Award at the annual conference of the Association of California Community College Administrators.

Gerhard, who is the third CLPCCD chancellor to win the award that recognizes integrity and strength in community college leadership statewide, has been at the helm of the district since being promoted to interim chancellor in January 2019. ■

## Pleasanton council mulls over looming budget reductions

Staff to identify discretionary and potentially essential services to cut along with pausing CIP projects

By CHRISTIAN TRUJANO

It was a mostly grim Pleasanton council meeting where tough discussions and topics came up regarding potential reductions in services, cuts to capital improvement projects and how the city will need to plan ahead in order to address its financial challenges.

One of the most notable discussions and actions the council took during its March 19 meeting was voting 4-1 — with Councilmember Jack Balch dissenting — to begin negotiations with the Pleasanton Unified

School District on agreeing to share costs for the school resource officer and crossing guard programs, which the city currently finances.

The goal is to set up a multi-phased plan that would eventually have the district pay 50% of the costs to fund these programs with the city paying the rest in order to alleviate some of the city's financial burdens. However, as City Manager Gerry Beaudin said, it will depend on the district — which is having budget challenges of its own — agreeing on a cost-sharing solution within the next 15 months.

If it doesn't, then the city will have to make even tougher decisions.

"They can say no and then we have to come back and decide if we want to fund it at 100%, the way that we have been ... or if we have to make some different decisions," Beaudin said.

Those decisions could include right-sizing — in other words reducing — the amount of crossing guards and school officers, Beaudin said.

The decision to look at reducing how much the city funds the crossing guard, school police officer and

even the tobacco education programs was only a small part of the overall discussion last week, which mainly revolved around finding ways to improve the city's budget and address the city's expenditures outweighing its revenues.

During a three-part presentation, staff focused on proposed reductions to discretionary funds — which is considered money that is available to spend on things deemed useful, not completely necessary — and deleting,

See **COUNCIL** on Page 10



COURTESY ALAMEDA COUNTY FAIR

A file photo shows past horse racing action at the Alameda County Fair. State leaders have now awarded major Northern California races to the fairgrounds in Pleasanton for this fall.

## State horse racing board moves major meets to fairgrounds

Decision made amid pending closure of Golden Gate Fields

By CHRISTIAN TRUJANO

Pleasanton is set to become the new hub for horse racing in Northern California after the California Horse Racing Board voted to allocate the rest of the 2024 horse race meets to take place at the Alameda County Fairgrounds, according to a press release from the board.

The decision to do so on March 21 came after Golden Gate Fields, the horse racing track in Berkeley that had typically hosted these meets, surprisingly announced last June that it was permanently closing at the end of this race

season, according to the California Authority of Racing Fairs.

CARF is a joint-powers authority that conducts business activity with fair associations like the Pleasanton fairgrounds and also represents the horse racing industry.

"We did not have a great deal of time to put Golden State Horse Racing together," Larry Swartzlander, the executive director of CARF, said in a press release. "However, we did have an incredible depth of experience. We brought together the best and the brightest of our sport. Our commitment was to develop a horse

racing plan that is modern, enhances the economic and social health of the community, is safe for the horses and jockeys, fun for our fans and generates excitement in Northern California."

According to the press release recapping the board's decision, the board unanimously voted in favor of setting the race meet dates for Oct. 16 to Dec. 25 after three hours of discussion and over 20 Northern California stakeholders expressing their support for the decision.

CARF stated in its press release

See **RACING** on Page 10

## Sheriff, supervisors discuss Santa Rita

New programs at jail amid halt of planned mental health building

By JEANITA LYMAN

The Alameda County Sheriff's Office and Board of Supervisors provided the first public update last month on improvements to mental health services and overall conditions at the county jail that are required in the wake of a class action lawsuit and under new state legislation, following a decision not to move forward with a new mental health facility.

Sheriff Yesenia Sanchez joined the board's regular meeting along with officials from Alameda County Behavioral Health and General Services Agency on Feb. 27 to provide a public update on capital improvement projects at Santa Rita Jail aimed at addressing behavioral health and substance abuse needs of the jail's population in line with a consent decree agreed to in 2022 calling for change at the facility in the wake of the class action Babu lawsuit that was filed in 2018.

The class action lawsuit was on behalf of all people incarcerated in the jail that alleged inadequate mental health care and suicide prevention precautions at Santa Rita as well as a lack of out-of-cell time and access to programs and services for people with mental health challenges and use of force.

See **JAIL** on Page 8

# Sunol board selects SoCal firm to recruit new superintendent

Community members urge outgoing Barnes to stay until replacement is chosen

BY CHRISTIAN TRUJANO

Sunol Glen School's recruitment for a new superintendent and principal is officially underway after the school board unanimously voted to have a Southern California-based firm begin the search process.

Thanks to the Alameda County Office of Education, Sunol Glen Unified School District will not have to pay any of the \$13,000 for the firm to find qualified candidates to replace longtime and beloved leader Molleen Barnes.

While the decision was made to move forward with the search, several community members at the March 12 meeting begged Barnes to postpone her retirement and serve in an interim position during the search — a process that many also said shouldn't be rushed.

"I don't think that we should rush into hiring anybody particularly quickly," former Sunol board member Vic Cloutier told the board. "I think it's in the interest of the community to have Molly as interim because she has a spectacular amount of knowledge, she can help guide us through this process and we can make the right choice because we don't want to rush into somebody who isn't going to have the duration of longevity."

Barnes first announced in January that she will be retiring at the end of this academic year, after having served the one-school district for 16 years. She previously told the Weekly that she had made the decision to leave in order to take care of her mental health.

After her announcement, the county office of education offered to pay for a search firm at the school board's February meeting. On March 12, the board was left with the decision to choose between two firms.

The three trustees chose Leadership Associates, an employment firm based in Glendora

— located in Los Angeles County — that caters to school districts throughout the state.

"We do about close to 70% of the searches here in California," said Donald Evans, one of the partners at the firm who will be working on the search. "We've done about over 650 searches and of course all of those in the state of California. We listen, we personalize, we customize and we cater to the districts that we work with."

Evans said Leadership Associates focuses on the students as being the most important assets when it comes to choosing a new superintendent.

"I love doing searches because you get to find out a lot about the community, as well as the person that they want to be at the helm of the district," Evans said.

Evans has experience of being a superintendent in Alameda County for 10 years in Berkeley and Hayward, which was one of the reasons the board liked his presentation and firm.

The other firm, which the board also really liked, was Nebraska-based McPherson and Jacobson LLC. All of the members said that while they could have gone either way, Leadership Associates was the better fit.

Evans said that the search process will start and end with the the Sunol community as the firm will begin with reaching out to the residents, distributing online surveys for a few days and asking the students questions about what they would like to see out of a superintendent.

"Our students are really why we're here, and we like to include them in the process because they are important," Evans said.

Employees and staff are also



Molleen Barnes

questioned in order to build a profile of who the firm thinks would be a good candidate for the district before they start blasting out newsletters that go to aspiring administrators and superintendents.

The firm then vets candidates before moving on to the board interviews and the selection process, which are both set by the school board.

The timeline for the process is projected to be two to three months, depending on varying factors. That length of time would have been the same with either firm the board chose to go with.

A number of residents expressed concerns during the meeting about the estimated duration of the process for various reasons.

One reason, according to former school board trustee Guin Van Dyke, was that it takes much longer to choose the appropriate person. One example she gave was Barnes herself, who Van Dyke actually helped hire alongside the rest of the school board in 2007.

"We had one year ... to find the perfect, caring person for Sunol," Van Dyke said. "A credential teacher, as well as qualified to be principal and superintendent, who cared about her school and not using the position as a stepping stone. I think it's safe to say we found that person 17 years ago."

"I want to reiterate to the board that this is your most important job and you need to take the time to carefully find that perfect candidate out there," she added.

The timeline also didn't sit well with others who said it was not appropriate due to the fact that the community will soon have a recall vote for trustees Ryan Jergensen and Linda Hurley.

Kelly Goldsmith, a Sunol Glen parent who lives in Fremont and is on the pro-recall campaign committee, said that she wanted both of the

top two firms to address how they'd plan on bringing on a candidate into a workplace that she believes led Barnes to retire in the first place.

"I see nothing addressed by the firms to speak specifically to how they will navigate the extremely unique and difficult position they will be in recruiting candidates to a position that has been vacated earlier than would have otherwise been desired by the beloved administrator ... due to overwhelming and unhealthy levels of stress as a result of the politicization of the school board and the resultant drama that it brings," Goldsmith said.

"Superintendent Barnes is retiring early due to poor working conditions," she added. "Any candidate considering this role is not only stepping into an especially challenging environment, but they also will not know who they will be reporting to if they accept the position given that two thirds of the board is currently under recall."

However, one of the representatives from McPherson and Jacobson LLC said that changes in school board leadership during these hiring processes are a lot more common than most might think and that things like that shouldn't scare off potential superintendent candidates — and if they do get scared off then that means they probably wouldn't be a good fit for the job.

Trustee Peter "Ted" Romo at the end said that he agreed with most of what people were saying about taking the time to search for Barnes' replacement in light of the upcoming recall election.

"If we choose to select a search firm tonight, the process must be slow," Romo said. "It must be thoughtful, it must take into account all of the various people out there who have stakes in this process and it should not be decided on the recall election timeframe."

He also said that Barnes is

obviously loved in the community — regardless of what he called the board's "shenanigans" — and having her stay for a bit longer, even if she didn't decide that night, was what everyone wanted to see.

"The public here loves you, the students love you, the teachers love you, the staff loves you and so it would be an honor to have you stay on, if that's possible," Romo said. "Obviously, it's an emotional issue; it's one that you don't take lightly and it's also one, given the vitriol and abuse that you've suffered ... that you need to think about."

Hurley said that if the board waits until fall to hire Barnes' successor, it would be harder to find someone.

The representative from McPherson and Jacobson LLC confirmed that running a search in the fall would make it more difficult to find someone to start in the middle of the school year as opposed to the beginning.

Hurley also defended herself in her comments, saying that it was Barnes' own decision to leave and that she did not pressure Barnes to retire, which was met with laughter from the room after some people made statements saying that it was Hurley and Jergensen's fault that Barnes is retiring.

"You can laugh," Hurley said. "You're basing your opinions on a bunch of spun lies. I have not been welcomed down here ... I don't understand this harassment."

Jergensen chimed in and said that the best time to look for a replacement is at the end of the school year and that ultimately, the community will need to come together to find this new leader for the sake of the students.

"I call on my fellow board members and the community as a whole to come together to truly try to be united for Sunol," Jergensen said. "To truly try to work together for the school and not continue to divide." ■

## Caltrans schedules final weekend closure for I-680 SB

BY CHRISTIAN TRUJANO

Caltrans' newly announced plans to close a portion of southbound Interstate 680 at the end of April will mark the final weekend-long closure for that stretch of the overall project, a spokesperson for the agency said.

The final I-680 southbound lanes closure between the I-580/I-680 connector in Pleasanton and Dublin down to Koopman Road in Sunol is scheduled to take place from Friday, April 26 at 9 p.m. until the following Monday (April 29) at 4 a.m.

"We anticipate that after the April 26-29 weekend closure, there will be no more closures at the south end of the project," Caltrans spokesperson Janis Mara said.

However, motorists in the San Ramon area should expect more weekend closures in the future as the transportation agency continues to work on the overall southbound I-680 project, which stretches from Sunol to San Ramon.

"We anticipate that the entire project will conclude in 2027," Mara said. "After the April 26-29 closure, there will be weekend closures in the north end of the project, which is in the vicinity of Alcosta Boulevard in San Ramon."

In the case of rain, Caltrans said it will reschedule the late-April closure and notify the public but as of publication time, the closure plans remain intact. The northbound lanes of I-680 will once again not be affected.

The transportation agency has been working on that portion of the freeway since last November. According to Caltrans, the work being done there will repair the existing pavement that has deteriorated and will enhance motorist safety.

Mara said that the agency was previously going to schedule the closure from April 12-15, but they decided to push it to the end of the month because there were a number of large events taking place around the Bay Area and there was another major closure scheduled in that timeframe, which would have impacted the public.

"This weekend closure will rehabilitate the pavement an entire year ahead of schedule, giving motorists

a smooth ride starting in spring 2024 instead of having to drive on deteriorated pavement until 2025," according to a Caltrans press release. "It also will accomplish the amount of work that otherwise would require an estimated 40 nighttime closures."

Caltrans had attempted to fully shut down those southbound lanes during the Martin Luther King Jr. Day and Presidents Day long holiday weekends but due to the rain, those were each rescheduled.

However, the transportation agency's most recent plans to shut down the freeway lanes during the St. Patrick's Day weekend went on as planned and Mara said it was a successful weekend.

"The closure went very smoothly

and the roadway reopened an hour and a half ahead of schedule for a smooth ride for motorists," Mara said.

Shari Jackman, communications manager for the city of Dublin, also said that despite the I-680 closure, events like the St. Patrick's Day festival were not affected because all the highways and entrances to Dublin were open.

"At the festival, I spoke with people who came from all over the Bay Area, including the South Bay, who were not dissuaded to travel the highways to get to Dublin," Jackman said. "Attendance at each of the St. Patrick's Day events was very high, and everyone seemed to

See **FREWAY** on Page 9

# Zone 7 board candidates reflect on election results

Three incumbent directors win full terms; newcomer dominates for two-year seat

BY CHRISTIAN TRUJANO

While the Alameda County Registrar of Voters' Office hasn't certified the official March 5 primary election results, its updates over the month have painted a clear picture of who will be returning to the Zone 7 Water Agency Board of Directors and who will be joining the board for the first time.

According to the latest results on March 20, Zone 7 incumbent directors Laurene Green, Kathy Narum and Sandy Figuers are each on track to win a full-term seat on the board while first-time candidate Cathy Brown holds a huge lead for the short-term seat.

Monique Santiago, a Zone 7 representative, told the Weekly that the four will be officially sworn in as directors during the July 17 board meeting. The three full-term seat winners will serve for four years while Brown will serve for two years.

Throughout the month, Green held the most votes in the full-term race, now sitting with 30,310 (32.85%) votes. She will be entering her second term on the Zone 7 board after she first joined in 2020.

"Honestly, I think it was a tough choice for voters as there were many good and highly qualified candidates, but the public appears to be supporting incumbents, which tells me they believe Zone 7 is on the right track," Green told the Weekly on March 8. "We are fortunate in the Tri-Valley to have many good options to choose from."

Green, who has a background of working in the environmental and energy fields in the U.S. and abroad, has contributed in various ways to the water agency during the last four years and ran her platform on the basis of continuing the work that needs to be done regarding PFAS — which are forever chemicals that have been found in the groundwater systems in Pleasanton and Livermore.

Narum, a former Pleasanton City Council member with a chemical engineering background, had the second highest number of votes with 23,815 (25.81%) votes.

"I'm humbled and appreciative of the support shown in the initial voting results," Narum told the Weekly on March 9. "I look forward to continuing to work hard to represent our Tri-Valley community and their interests towards clean, safe water as well as supply/storage solutions. Just as important are flood control improvements as well as non-potable water needs for agriculture in the valley."

Narum first joined the board in a temporary position in early 2023 after she was termed out from the council and was appointed through a special Zone 7 recruitment process to serve in former Zone 7



Cathy Brown



Kathy Narum



Laurene Green



Sandy Figuers

director Olivia Sanwong's seat, after Sanwong resigned to join the East Bay Regional Park District Board of Directors.

Figuers is the third incumbent who will be returning to the water agency board for another four years after having received 22,435 (24.31%) of the votes — and he is by far no stranger to Zone 7.

Figuers, a Livermore resident and groundwater geologist, has been on the Zone 7 board since 1988. After 12 years of service, he took a break

in the early 2000s but returned in 2008, where he has been ever since working on studying the geology of the Livermore basin in order to continue delivering clean water.

He said he will continue to use his understanding of the groundwater basin as a geophysicist to work with the rest of the Zone 7 board in order to serve the community.

"I'm very proud that (the voters chose me)," Figuers told the Weekly on March 26. "They have enough faith in me to do right by the water,

which is always been my intent."

Alan Burnham, a longtime Livermore resident and chemist who worked at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory for 35 years, came in fourth place for the three full seats, receiving only 15,710 (17.03%) of the votes.

It was Burnham's first time throwing his hat in the race and while he did not win a spot on the board, he said he wanted to thank all of his supporters for their help on his campaign.

"I congratulate Laurene Green, Kathy Narum and Sandy Figuers on their reelection," he told the Weekly on March 8. "I also congratulate Catherine Brown on her election to the two-year term. They are all capable people with the best interests of Zone 7 water customers at heart."

In the short-term seat race, Brown took the lead by a landslide after

receiving 34,490 (82.22%) of the votes, according to the current election results.

"I am encouraged by my election and thank the voters for their clear support," Brown told the Weekly on March 13. "I look forward to working with the Zone 7 Board on water resource issues for the Tri-Valley in the coming years."

Brown is a Pleasanton resident of more than 20 years who had previously worked as an environmental scientist for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency at the San Francisco office. Most of her work was based around environmental cleanup for groundwater, surface water, soils and air — including PFAS.

Since election night, Brown held a strong lead over her opponent Seema Badar, who had 7,456 (17.78%) votes as of March 20. ■



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## JAIL

Continued from Page 5

While the initial plan to address the requirements of the consent decree had been in the form of a new building aimed at addressing behavioral health and substance abuse needs among the jail's population that would have been funded by a state grant secured in 2015, conversations shifted last year toward alternatives to the new facility amid criticism and protests from a number of community groups throughout the county calling for a different approach as the death toll at the jail continues to rise, with four deaths so far this year.

"Since taking office — it's been a year now — there's been a number of improvements that we've been making, but we are really here now working in partnership with our behavioral health GSA team on what this mental health building means for the individuals that are going to be receiving care," Sanchez said on Feb. 6. "Through these discussions and

through the evaluation process, we found that the design and the planning for this building to be placed on the Santa Rita Jail campus is not the most ideal, and it's not something that I support anymore."

Sanchez said that as an alternative to the facility, her office had instead been seeking to partner with existing services through the county's General Services Agency and Behavioral Health Services in the community and reevaluate the needs of people incarcerated at Santa Rita with the goal of providing services and support within the jail's existing facilities rather than within a new building.

"It's been discussed through the inception of this consent decree that this mental health building was appropriate, but as we've navigated this consent decree and the needs within the facility we find that the way to deliver services through our behavioral health team is inside the living areas where they are housed," Sanchez said. "Building a facility of this size and placing it where it is planned to have

been placed would be a logistical nightmare really with staffing, and then moving individuals from one side of the jail to another, which I think will impact the number of people that will be able to have actual delivery of services," she added.

Instead of the new facility, which had been set to be paid for by \$54.3 million in state funds and \$23.7 million in county funds, Sanchez said that evidence and evaluation by her department and other county stakeholders pointed instead toward providing additional services within the existing facility and bolstering partnerships and support for the county's general and behavioral health services in order to address the requirements of the consent decree.

"We have been able to identify care coordination, outreach and engagement programs to date in partnership with behavioral health services," Sanchez said. "We are examining how we can identify locations within our housing units in our facility to deliver care directly, and those are still in their preliminary plans — those are things we're deciding right now in terms of which way to go forward."

In addition to new care coordination, outreach, and engagement programs, the new efforts being put into place systemwide by Behavioral Health Services in lieu of the additional building include medication, pharmacy, and nursing services, school and community based wellness centers and outpatient services, crisis services and crisis stabilization units, acute and long-term psychiatric treatment, sobering centers, and behavioral health courts.

Meanwhile, Santa Rita is ushering on-site changes spearheaded by the county's behavioral health department, including therapeutic housing units, early access and stabilization services, and a reentry and care coordination team to ensure continued services after people with mental health and social service needs are released from the jail.

The department is also bolstering reentry services in general with reentry coaches and peer groups and efforts to reduce parole and probation violations, as well as diversion programs aimed at keeping people out of the jail system including an arrest diversion and treatment center and a forensic peer respite space as alternatives to Santa Rita for people suffering mental health and substance abuse crises.

Other efforts include expanding support services for friends and loved ones of incarcerated people and helping them to navigate other sources of support throughout the county.

"We're also looking at ways that we better support family members and better support clients who have not typically accepted our services within the community," said Juan Taizan, director of forensic and reentry services for behavioral health. "One effort currently underway is our family navigation and support center to really help families if they

have loved ones with mental health needs or in the justice system, helping them navigate the justice system, helping them navigate the behavioral health system."

Connecting people with mental health needs to services outside of Santa Rita is also the goal of the state-mandated Care Court program that will be launched in December, Taizan said, as well as new residential treatment facilities including an eight-bed crisis treatment facility.

In addition to the requirements of the consent decree, Sanchez noted that updates to state law on corrections facilities mean more changes aimed at making circumstances for incarcerated people more humane, including a shift in language from "inmate" to "individual" while discussing members of the jail's population and the use of general terminology, as well as tangible changes on the ground for people in the jail such as an increase in out-of-cell time from three hours in a seven-day period to 10 hours in a seven-day period, the elimination of "disciplinary diets" and opportunities for exercise, as well as an increase in suicide prevention services.

The jail has already seen the implementation of cell softening and security screening projects that were completed last year, with ADA renovations and additional security camera installations underway, as well as additional outdoor recreation and "quasi-yard" facilities and confidential interview rooms and workstations.

"We want to make sure that we address consent decree requirements but we don't want to stop there," Sanchez said. "That's why we are taking additional steps to make sure that we are covering anything that we come across in the jail as far as a safety issue that we need to address."

Sanchez and others noted that it would take more than just short-term solutions to fully update the jail though, with infrastructure projects underway and additional work needed to upgrade the aging infrastructure.

"It's a 30-year-old building and infrastructure that operates 24/7, so that's a significant amount of wear on any facility," said Kimberly Gasaway, director of general services. "There are significant maintenance needs that are included in your capital plan."

Gasaway also noted that the jail had been built on a now-outdated model for law enforcement and corrections that has changed in the present day.

"The facility is designed based on a previous concept of running detention," Gasaway said. "It's not the program that the office is now speaking of. It's a focus on pre-trial detention rather than programs and rehabilitation."

The situation has been evaluated in a full facility assessment of Santa Rita aimed at guiding and prioritizing short and long term plans for upgrades and changes to the site.

"The new sheriff was very responsive to our efforts to come into their

space and essentially open the doors and let us look at every square inch of the building," Gasaway said.

While the short-term solutions to challenges at Santa Rita are aimed at bringing the facility into compliance with updates to federal and state law and the requirements of the consent decree, they are also serving as the beginning stages for new projects that will be brought before the board in the future, as well as the development of an overall master plan for the jail.

The update at last month's meeting was informational only, with further short-term and long-term efforts to improve conditions at Santa Rita set to come to the board in the future. However, supervisors lauded the efforts currently in place under Sanchez's short time in office thus far, as well as her overall vision for the jail and its relationship to other challenges facing the county's population.

"It's nearly impossible to rent a place to live, very difficult to find a job, people end up homeless and in more despair and back in the system again," said District 1 Supervisor David Haubert, of Dublin.

"On the front end, creating jobs so that people can make a living and rent a space to live and sustain themselves — if all the pieces of the system, as we call it, are working well we can get better, and if any one piece of the system fails we all fail," Haubert said. "So what I heard today is that we're really working on pieces that maybe existed in the past, maybe they're brand new, or maybe we're going to do a better job at. We have to."

"I'm excited to hear what we're doing," Haubert continued. "I see the shift from inside the jail to outside the jail and I think it's the right way to go. So godspeed to all of us doing this, and let's attack this with a moral imperative and a sense of urgency."

Board of Supervisors President Nate Miley emphasized that changes to Santa Rita were necessary from a public safety perspective — and that safety should be a concern for those incarcerated as well as those outside the jail.

"I put public safety first," Miley said. "Public safety is always paramount. If folks don't feel safe then I don't think the government is doing its job. And safety isn't just in the community. It's safety when people are in Santa Rita Jail as well."

Miley also noted that he was hopeful for longer-term changes and solutions at Santa Rita under Sanchez's leadership.

"What I value is that I'm always going to back law enforcement as long as they're doing their jobs professionally and consistently," Miley said. "So with the new sheriff, clearly having the new sheriff's input on this, and the sheriff was formerly the manager (of Santa Rita) and it's been pointed out in the presentation there are some things now that we can consider doing that we couldn't consider doing under the former administration." ■

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# DUSD honors Classified Employees of the Year

Fallon child nutrition lead Meza wins districtwide award

By NICOLE GONZALES

As a way to recognize its most dedicated and outstanding classified staff members, the Dublin Unified School District recently unveiled its Classified Employees of the Year for the 2023-24 academic year.

Among the honorees, Teresa Meza emerged as the overall district Classified Employee of the Year.

From custodial staff to administrative assistants, classified individuals play a significant role in ensuring the smooth operation of the educational institution, often working diligently behind the scenes. The recipients are peer-nominated to represent the most impactful employees in the district.

“The vital contributions of our classified staff cannot be overstated,” DUSD Superintendent Chris Funk said in the announcement. “These dedicated professionals — spanning maintenance, nutrition, health services, technology, administrative support, finance, and beyond — form the backbone of our district’s operations.”

The cohort of 2023-24 DUSD Classified Employees of the Year includes Mary Washington (technical



COURTESY DUSD

Teresa Meza was recognized as DUSD’s overall Classified Employee of the Year for her contributions and exemplary service to the school district.

services), Deborah Visovsky (clerical and administrative services), Carly Mendoza (custodial and maintenance), Helen Doyle (health and student services), Kevin Reynolds (skilled trades) and Virginia “Ginny” Wolfenberger (paraprofessional).

Meza’s recognition as the overall Classified Employee of the Year emphasized her contributions and exemplary service to the school district through her food service role. As a DUSD staff member since 2007, she has spent all but two years of her career at Fallon Middle School.

Fallon principal Candice Baligiya

described Meza as dedicated, nurturing — and skilled at making delicious food.

“Serving meals to over 1,600 students is not easy, but Teresa does so with a smile on her face. She brings warmth and comfort to any room,” Baligiya said. “Ms. Meza is selfless with a servant’s heart. She ensures our child nutrition staff is supported and our students are nourished every day.”

“On top of it all, she makes the most delicious guacamole. We love Ms. Meza,” the principal added.

As part of the annual staff recognition program, the honorees

will receive official thanks from the DUSD board at the next regular meeting. Recipients are also submitted to the Alameda County Office of Education for countywide consideration.

“Their commitment and expertise ensure that sites across our district can nurture and inspire

students. Without their support, our mission to deliver top-tier education to every student would simply be unattainable,” Funk said. “To all our classified employees, your efforts are seen, appreciated, and critically important. Thank you for everything you do to keep our district running smoothly.” ■

## FREEWAY

Continued from Page 6

be in very good spirits.”

This final closure for the south portion of the entire project will put the transportation agency one year ahead of schedule, according to the Caltrans press release. After the full weekend closure, work will “continue on southbound I-680 through the year at night under typical lane closures.”

Similar to the St. Patrick’s weekend closure, part of the shutdown next month means southbound Foothill Road and southbound Pleasanton Sunol Road will be closed at Castlewood Drive so that there won’t be a gridlock. 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.

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 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. Caltrans thanks the motoring public in advance for your patience as we work to improve I-680,” the agency said. ■

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# Fickes poised to become newest county judge

Holds 55.23% to 44.77% lead over Johnson as election certification draws near

By NICOLE GONZALES

As the dust settles from the March 5 primary election, Mark Fickes appears headed to victory to become the newest judge on the Alameda County Superior Court.

With results still not yet certified, Fickes has emerged as the frontrunner sustaining a lead since Election Night over opponent Michael Johnson in the two-candidate race to succeed incumbent Judge Evelio Grillo, who did not seek reelection.

In most recent results update from the county Registrar of Voters, as of March 20, Fickes sat at 55.23% (132,830 votes) and Johnson at 44.77% (107,680) for

the spot on the bench — labeled on the ballot as “Seat 12.”

“At this point in the post-election weeks, I’m feeling a sense of gratitude,” Fickes said. “The support and trust that the voters of Alameda County have placed in me are truly humbling, and I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to potentially serve as their judge.”

In the coming days and weeks, the final results are expected to be certified and the transition to a new judge begins. Fickes is poised



Mark Fickes

to join more than 30 Alameda County Superior Court Judges and commissioners overseeing cases from within the county.

“Mixed with that gratitude is a sense of eagerness to see the final results and to officially begin this next chapter. The weeks following the election have been filled with excitement and anticipation as we wait for the final tallies and certification of the results,” Fickes said.

He addressed his lead, saying he is honored as his team looks forward to election certification.

“I’m aware of the responsibility that comes with leading in the numbers. The trust that the voters have placed in me is not something I take lightly. If elected, I am

committed to upholding integrity, fairness and justice in serving the people of Alameda County,” he said.

Johnson also shared his reflections following weeks of voting results after Election Night.

“I am proud of the campaign we ran and the support we received from voters across Alameda County. I also feel a sense of anticipation and uncertainty as we await the final results,” he said.

“This (post-election period) has been a time of reflection and gratitude. I am incredibly thankful to the volunteers, supporters, and constituents who believed in our vision for a fair and equitable judiciary. Their dedication and passion

have been the driving force behind our campaign, and I am deeply appreciative of their efforts,” Johnson added.

Throughout the race, issues ranging from fairness, equality and public confidence were main issues addressed by Johnson and Fickes.

Johnson said he remains dedicated to serving the residents of Alameda County.

“Regardless of the outcome, I am committed to continuing to serve the community and advocating for the values that guided our campaign from the beginning. Our work does not end with the election,” he added. “I am grateful for the opportunity to participate in the democratic process and hopeful for the future of our judiciary.”

As election results are certified, Fickes and Johnson said they anticipate making additional official statements. ■

## COUNCIL

Continued from Page 5

deferring or partially funding dozens of capital improvement program projects in order to allocate money toward critical infrastructure repairs that were caused by the 2023 winter storms, which totaled between \$9 million and \$16 million.

Staff also said that the city needed to start taking away money from certain projects and putting those on the shelf in order to also address road repairs to West Las Positas Boulevard — specifically between Hopyard and Stoneridge roads — which is estimated to cost anywhere from \$25.9 million to \$38.6 million.

Apart from these cost-containment measures the city is planning on bringing back up to the council during its midterm budget review in the coming months, staff also presented its financial assumptions and models for the next several years that outlined more of the city’s fiscal challenges.

Delays in developments, a decline in sales at the Stoneridge Shopping Center and increases in insurance, pension, personnel and contract service costs, among other things, have all forced staff to bring up these tough conversations to the council.

Vice Mayor Julie Testa made the point that pension costs have been

the No. 1 reason the city is facing these daunting fiscal challenges.

“We’ve been hearing for 20 years that this pension tsunami was going to happen,” Testa said. “So we’re not surprised that it’s happening. I just want to be honest with how did we get here and what the biggest piece is.”

Staff also said Inflation, loss of pandemic relief dollars and reduced hotel tax revenue have also put extra pressure on the city’s general fund and the aging infrastructure throughout the city which needs fixing is not helping.

Finance director Susan Hsieh added that even if Pleasanton did not have those growing pension burdens, the issue of deferred maintenance still needs to be addressed.

Other cost reduction proposals that staff discussed that could be brought to the council as staff work out its budget include reducing the city’s police and fire departments; reducing library and recreation programs; reducing park, street and building services; and cuts to other core services.

While the city is looking at making mostly non-personnel cost reductions, staff said those core-services reductions would be next on the chopping block followed by full-time and part-time personnel reductions, which would be a last resort.

And while Beaudin and Hsieh said

that the city has already been tightening its belt by not hiring budgeted positions, not spending money on new programs and looking at non-essential services they can cut, Balch said no matter how they look at it, these are difficult times for the city of Pleasanton.

“Everything tonight is making me sick to my stomach,” Balch said.

“It’s difficult to palate this because from my perspective, and not trying to put salt in the wound, but being able to read financials and being unable to support the past two years of budgets because they didn’t contain spending that I thought was the best interest of our community makes it very difficult to figure out how to move forward when options are now becoming less and less available to me,” he added.

Balch also said he didn’t support the idea of putting the school programs up for discussion, along with possibly reducing the police force, because both are essential services that need to be funded by the city, which is why he voted no on entering negotiations with the district to share costs for programs that cost the city in total roughly \$1.8 million every year.

Staff also spent a large majority of the meeting going over its revenues and showing how a potential economic recession combined with sales

tax reductions will be negatively impacting the city’s budget over the next several years.

That’s why the city has been looking at placing a half-cent sales tax increase measure on the Nov. 5 election ballot.

The idea for such a ballot measure first came up at the council meeting on March 21, 2023, as a way to identify new revenue streams

If the measure is placed on the ballot and approved by voters, it would raise the city’s current 10.25% sales tax rate to 10.75%. That means the additional tax would add \$5 on \$1,000 taxable purchases.

According to staff, the sales tax rate for six other cities in Alameda County is at 10.75% and things like prescription medicine, devices and groceries would be exempt from the tax. Rent, mortgage payments, utilities and other items such as goods transmitted electronically would also be exempt from sales tax.

While the revenue generated from the sales tax wouldn’t help with enterprise funds like the water fund and with other infrastructure improvements, Beaudin said it is a potential general revenue stream that could help the overall general fund.

Other ways that the city is looking to cut down on costs to address those safety improvement projects like the damages from the winter storm

and the West Las Positas Boulevard were deleting, deferring and partially funding capital projects like the Century House facility renovation project and the Ken Mercer Sports Park skatepark project.

Staff said that identifying these buckets of projects that would be either shelved or partially funded — which wouldn’t get the final vote until the council has its budget discussions — would help bring in about \$18.9 million from those non-restricted CIP projects.

While the council did approve both the list of projects to be put on pause or not fully funded and the decision to look at recommended reductions to discretionary funds in the future, the overall consensus was that these are tough decisions the dais will need to make and that nobody wants to make them, but in order to keep the city running, they must.

“This was a difficult meeting — talk about a really bad feeling in the pit of my stomach,” Mayor Karla Brown said. “Projects that we had worked toward are getting derailed because of things like storms ... global warming, heavy rains, torrential downpours, it just completely overwhelmed our storm system and caused damage that now we’re looking to have to backfill with projects that we had approved for going forward.” ■

## RACING

Continued from Page 5

that while the news of the Golden Gate Fields race track closing was premature, stakeholders in the horse racing community took it as a challenge to reinvigorate the sport. That’s why the CARF Board of Directors unanimously voted on working with Pleasanton to create an “accessible crown jewel of Northern California horse racing.”

“We anticipate more dynamic racing fields, higher purses and betting opportunities that enhance the fun,”

Swartzlander said in the press release. “At the same time, we have adhered closely to ideas offered by experts as we continue focusing on the health of our horses and jockeys.”

According to the CARF press release, the authority chose the fairgrounds after having reviewed several options because it was a financially sound location. It stated that Pleasanton is a welcoming and accessible site for fans and that it is an ideal location for Northern California horse racing trainers and owners to work.

The authority also states that

jockeys want to compete in Northern California and that having a strong location in the north isn’t just the fiscally right decision, it will also enhance horse racing in Southern California.

“The first documented horse races in California began in the early days of our state in Northern California,” according to the CARF press release. “Horse racing is an integral part of our agricultural heritage. The media infrastructure in place at Pleasanton will help educate and inspire as we continue a proud sporting tradition poised to

become more active in California.”

Even so, according to the California Horse Racing Board press release, several commissioners on the board pointed out that the plans to keep Northern California horse racing in Pleasanton lack several important details.

“Despite the unanimous vote, the board expressed a desire for more specific details leading up to the racing meet application,” according to the California Horse Racing Board release. “Principally, the board asked for more details regarding environmental-related permitting, purse

projections, and funding availability and mechanisms.”

While the interest was to move things forward, the commissioners want to see those details be brought when the meet application is considered in August. It also noted that the plans don’t cover all of the issues regarding the future of horse racing.

“The board also recognized that its support for the northern date allocation did not solve underlying purse-generation issues and expressed a desire to work toward solving this larger structural problem,” the horse racing board release stated. ■

# Board keeps CBOC member accused of sending racist email

Sunol trustees take no action after failing to come to consensus

BY CHRISTIAN TRUJANO

Emotions ran high during an already tense Sunol school board meeting this month after the board decided not to remove a member of the Citizens Bond Oversight Committee who sent what many residents called a racist email to another Sunol resident.

Debbie Ferrari sent an email to Anna Wang, a Sunol resident and associate dean for public service and public interest law at the Stanford Law School, on Feb. 4 after Ferrari saw Wang publish a letter to the editor in *The Sunolian*. In the letter, Wang expressed her support for the campaign to recall Trustees Ryan Jergensen and Linda Hurley and called for the two to resign immediately.

Ferrari, however, has been very vocally against the recall ever since the topic first came up and has defended the two Sunol Glen Unified School District trustees at almost every board meeting over the past few months.

In Ferrari's email, which was posted in a special issue of *The Sunolian*, her main argument was that she could not understand why Wang would support the recall and told Wang, "Most people I know of Chinese descent are much more compassionate and they understand that this is about control, control like they have seen in China."

That comment was what led Wang to file a complaint with the district, saying that Ferrari should be removed from the CBOC.

"Debbie sent an insulting and racist message to my work email account. This was not an isolated incident," Wang told the trustees during the March 12 meeting. "Debbie has repeatedly made several aggressive, confrontational and rude comments that demonstrate extremely poor judgment, an inability to

civily discuss a disagreement with others and a refusal to offer basic courtesy to a fellow community member. This is the opposite of how someone appointed to serve on the CBOC should represent Sunol."

Ferrari, who was allowed to speak longer than the three minutes provided to the rest of the community during public comments because Jergensen invited her as a speaker on the item, admitted she did go overboard with the email. She even apologized to Wang during the meeting — after several people in the crowd urged her to — and said that she had also apologized to Wang before.

"I shouldn't have sent the email and if I did send it, I should have just explained my opinion in a polite way," Ferrari said. "I shouldn't have lumped a certain descent or ethnicity all into one group. So that was something I shouldn't have done."

However, she also said that getting attacked by the community and getting labeled as a racist was a political move from the pro-recall group and that anyone who knows her knows that she has many Chinese friends, respects all ethnicities and is far from being racist.

"I think they're just doing it as a way to try to crush me. Anybody who knows me knows that I don't have a racist bone in my body," Ferrari said. "There is a type of hate speech going around in this town and that type of hate speech is when you call others racist, when you call others a bigot ... there has been a huge amount of vitriol coming out of the pro-recall community."

A few other community members also spoke out in support of Ferrari saying that she is not racist and that she should not be removed from the CBOC.

Stephanie Szto, a Sunol resident who is of Chinese descent, said that as Ferrari's friend she has never heard her say anything racist and

does not understand why the community is going after Ferrari, who Szto said is just trying to ensure bond dollars are spent appropriately. She said that Ferrari is a good person and that she doesn't understand why the committee doesn't want someone who is opposed to the recall.

"Stop this political prosecution and actually get the work done," Szto said.

**'Anybody who knows me knows that I don't have a racist bone in my body.'**

**Debbie Ferrari,**  
Sunol CBOC member

However, the number of people who spoke out against Ferrari's email and called for her to be removed from the committee heavily outweighed those who wanted Ferrari to stay.

Former school board trustees Vic Cloutier and Denise Kent Romo said Ferrari was being discriminatory against Wang, and Cloutier went as far as giving the board specific reasons why the board needed to remove Ferrari.

"One, you have irrefutable, incontrovertible evidence of racist behavior; two, you will soon listen to the impact of that email, and its intended target and the threat therein; and three, you have precedents, multiple school boards have actually removed CBOC members for misconduct. I counted at least 15 cases," Cloutier said.

Hurley demanded evidence to which Cloutier threw papers of the lists of school boards that removed CBOC members.

"Failure to remove that individual

today is a failure of governance, failure to remove her is a failure to repudiate racism," Cloutier said. "Failure to remove her sends the message that this board tolerates racism, and is complicit."

At the end of the discussion, the board did not vote on removing Ferrari from the committee as each of the three trustees had completely different opinions on what to do.

Trustee Peter "Ted" Romo was the only one who motioned to remove Ferrari from the committee, citing CBOC bylaws that explain why the board could remove Ferrari.

"By making a racist statement, she placed her personal interest in scoring points in the back and forth around the recall efforts ahead of the interests of the Sunol Glen district," Romo said. "The ethics policy attached to the CBOC bylaws makes clear that 'a committee member shall place the interests of the district above any personal or business interests of the member.'"

"Section 5.6 of the CBOC bylaws provide that 'board may remove any committee member for cause which includes failure to comply with the committee ethics policy,'" Romo added. "On this basis, an individual member of the CBOC making a racist statement to a member of the Sunol community, even if the statement is not made in the course of CBOC work, directly brings ill repute on the district and the CBOC and accordingly is not placing the interest of the district above such individuals personal interests."

Hurley, who interrupted and shouted over the other trustees several times during the discussion saying they were "out of line" for even bringing this item up, made the argument that the board and administration did not have any lawful rights to remove a member from the CBOC and that the district should not be getting

involved in the committee.

"There is no (educational) code, there is no provision to remove anybody off the CBOC," Hurley said.

But after continuously interrupting and talking over others on the dais — so much so that Jergensen told Hurley to take it down a notch — Superintendent Molleen Barnes weighed in and said that the board does have jurisdiction to remove a member.

Jergensen's approach to dealing with the issue was more down the middle. After Romo's motion failed, Jergensen said that per the board's policies, any complaint has to go through administration, which can then bring it up to the board for a decision.

He said that after talking to the district's attorney, who told him that ethics and board bylaws don't specifically talk about the situation at hand, he wanted to bring the complaint and possibility of removing Ferrari from the committee back to the attorney, research the issue a bit more to see what can be done legally and come back at a later time for a final decision.

"I spoke with our attorney about this. There are procedures and policies and there are ways to talk with people, there are ways to try to resolve conflict," Jergensen said. "If a mob brings pitchforks and wants someone kicked out, you can do that. Or you can research it further ... We do have the ability to change the bylaws for the bond oversight committee."

He also offered reassurance to the community that not taking any action did not mean that anyone on the board was racist.

"I hear the complaints, I read the emails from three members of our community and sure, it is worth looking into," Jergensen said. "It is worth standing against racism and hate. That is what we do." ■

## Governor appoints new judges, nominates one local for higher bench

Alameda County Judge Desautels tapped for appellate court

BY BAY CITY NEWS SERVICE

Gov. Gavin Newsom this month announced his appointment of several new judges in the Bay Area, including two in Contra Costa County, plus the nomination of an Alameda County judge to an appellate court seat.

Judge Tara Desautels, of Alameda County, has been nominated to serve as an associate justice of the First District Court of Appeal, Division Two. She has served as a Judge at the Alameda

County Superior Court since 2010.

Nichelle Holmes, of Solano County, has been appointed to serve as a judge in Contra Costa County Superior Court. Holmes has served as a deputy district attorney at the Contra Costa County District Attorney's Office since 2012. She fills the vacancy created by the retirement of Judge Leslie Landau.

Jesse Jen-Yen Hsieh, of Alameda County, has also been appointed to serve as a judge in Contra Costa County Superior Court. Hsieh has

served as a deputy public defender at the San Francisco Public Defender's Office since 2021.

Christna Martinez, of San Joaquin County, has been appointed to serve as a judge in San Joaquin County Superior Court. Martinez has served as a deputy public defender at the San Joaquin County Public Defender's Office since 1999.

Rosendo Padilla Jr., of San Mateo County, has been appointed to serve as a judge in San Mateo County Superior Court. Padilla has served as a commissioner in San Mateo

County Superior Court since 2022.

Vincent Parrett, of Santa Clara County, has been appointed to serve as a judge in Santa Clara County Superior Court. Parrett has been a partner at Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton LLP since 2021. Parrett fills the vacancy created by the retirement of Judge Patricia Lucas.

Elizabeth Manassau Sanada, of Santa Clara County, has also been appointed to serve as a judge in Santa Clara County Superior Court. Sanada served as an administrative law judge for

the California Unemployment Insurance Appeals Board since 2020. She served as an attorney-advisor at the U.S. Social Security Administration from 2017 to 2020.

Marlo Nisperos, of Solano County, has been appointed to serve as a judge in Solano County Superior Court. Nisperos has served as an administrative law judge at the Office of Administrative Hearings since 2019.

The annual compensation for each of these positions is \$238,479, according to the state. ■

# Empty plates

## Tackling food insecurity in the Tri-Valley

By JUDÉ STRZEMP

With the expansion of social services in the Tri-Valley, including the recent opening of the Vineyard Resource Center in Livermore and forthcoming projects like the Open Heart Kitchen Food Bank, it becomes more apparent that need exists in the region despite its affluence, particularly as it relates to food insecurity.

The Tri-Valley has needed 14% more food from the Alameda County Community Food Bank (ACCFB) in this fiscal year so far — which includes July 2023 to February 2024 — compared to the first eight months of last fiscal year.

“The increase in food is a direct reflection of the demand from our agency partners,” wrote Michael Altfest, director of community engagement and marketing at ACCFB. “It’s safe to assume the demand for food assistance is increasing.”

Among ACCFB’s Tri-Valley partners are Open Heart Kitchen and Tri-Valley Haven, two nonprofits whose work overlaps in addressing food insecurity — or the lack of

consistent and dependable access to food that is nutritionally adequate and safe, or compromised ability to get that food in “socially acceptable ways,” as defined by the USDA.

Since 2022, an increasing number of people have sought help at TVH’s food pantry. The organization offers low-income Tri-Valley residents free groceries at the pantry and specializes in providing shelter and support to adults and children who have experienced sexual assault, domestic violence or homelessness.

TVH served 5,045 unduplicated individuals (the term for tracking unique, separate people) from Livermore, Pleasanton and Dublin in the 2023 fiscal year from July 2022 to June 2023. This was an increase of nearly 20% compared to the previous fiscal year from July 2021 to June 2022.

The rise is anticipated to continue this fiscal year (July 2023 to June 2024), where TVH expects to serve 17% more unduplicated individuals than last.

Demand at the food pantry is directly correlated with food insecurity, according to Juliana Schirmer,



CHUCK DECKERT / OHK

Open Heart Kitchen works to expand food access through pop-up grocery distribution in the Tri-Valley.

director of development and communications at Tri-Valley Nonprofit Alliance (TVNPA), a coalition of nonprofits that includes OHK, TVH and more.

Christine Dillman, executive director of TVH, reasons that recent losses of pandemic-era government relief, like the end of rental moratoriums in March 2022, likely contributed to the boost in demand for food assistance at TVH.

Also reflective of the growing need for food assistance in the area was the near-doubling of Tri-Valley residents receiving CalFresh — a food assistance program in California that subsidizes low-income residents to purchase fresh, quality food — from 4,987 people in April 2020 to 8,133 people in April 2023, according to a report by TVNPA.

Livermore resident and 32-year-old mom, Kalyssa Roddewig, is among those in the Tri-Valley who have struggled to put food on the table.

Over five years ago, while living in her car and expecting her first child, she applied to CalFresh. She told Embarcadero Media Foundation that this was the second time she’d enrolled in the program and it allowed her to buy the food she needed.

Now she lives in low-income housing in Livermore and enjoys buying healthy food for her growing family with the help of CalFresh. She said she also leans on OHK’s meal services in Livermore once, twice or sometimes more every week.

Food insecurity is also a significant

issue at the county level.

From 2019 to 2021, Feeding America estimates food insecurity as affecting between 134,800 and 154,830 Alameda County residents, according to its national study called Map the Meal Gap. This accounted for 8.1% to 9.3% of county residents.

“An important caveat here — this data does not account for cost of living at the county level compared to

the state. As such, many food banks in high cost of living areas — ours included — consider these numbers to be significant underestimates,” wrote Altfest.

Also, statistics on food insecurity don’t account for unauthorized residents or those who don’t fit in the federal guidelines, according to Yu-Ling Chang, assistant professor of social welfare at UC Berkeley. So the



OHK’s pop-up grocery distribution at Resurrection Lutheran Church in Dublin, att



CHUCK DECKERT / OHK

OHK distributes free groceries to the community at the Muslim Community Center of East Bay in Pleasanton to address food insecurity.

actual number of people experiencing difficulties obtaining consistent and nutritional food is likely higher than reported.

According to Altfest, about one in four residents of the county experience or are at risk of hunger.

The ACCFB's statistic is based on a broader definition of need than the USDA's, accounting for people who are "marginally food insecure," or those who "at times had problems with or anxiety about accessing adequate nutrition," according to a report by the food bank and Urban Institute.

Racial disparities related to food insecurity exist in Alameda County too. In 2021, an estimated 18% of Black households in the county experienced unreliable or inconsistent access to food, an estimated 11% of Hispanic households and an estimated 4% of white households, according to the study by Feeding America.

Elevated rates of food insecurity can be caused by racially discriminatory structures, including minimal grocery store access in some communities, according to Chang.

The elimination of CalFresh's Emergency Allotments (EAs) has contributed to growing difficulties in accessing food in Alameda County, Altfest wrote.

Beginning in March 2020, CalFresh recipients received EAs, which meant they were offered the maximum allowable aid for their family size. The last EAs rolled out in March 2023.

Conclusion of the emergency aid meant a decrease in CalFresh benefits to households by an average of \$89 per month, according to the ACCFB website.

The organization estimated



CHUCK DECKERT / OHK

The Alameda County Community Food Bank estimates one in four people in Alameda County experience or are at risk of hunger. OHK grocery distribution aims to make more meals available to residents in need.

more than 100,000 households in Alameda County would see a reduction in benefits starting April 2023, estimated as a loss in 3.1 million meals per month in the county.

At the current rate of monthly benefits, CalFresh does not cover the cost of groceries in Alameda County, Chang explained. Whereas a household of one receives an estimated average monthly benefit of \$202 from SNAP in the 2024 fiscal year, the estimated cost of food for an individual in the county is about \$419 per month, according to MIT's Living Wage Calculator and the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities.

"While we can't 100% tie (the increase in number of individuals served) back to elimination of the

CalFresh extended benefits, the timing certainly correlates that more people are struggling to meet their financial obligations and they're definitely struggling with food," Schirmer said about the change in demand at TVH's food pantry from 2022 to 2023.

Despite thousands of Alameda County residents who don't know where their next meal is coming from, the problem is not often ascribed to the Tri-Valley, according to John Bost, executive director of OHK.

"At the end of the day, when people do not have enough money in their pockets, they are going to make cuts within their budget. And it just so happens that food, out of every sort of item in a family

budget, tends to be the most flexible," Bost said. "So people will almost always strike food, or the type of food or the frequency of food that they can get before they'll cut anything else."

Some Tri-Valley residents, including service workers, new graduates and seniors on fixed income, battle high cost of living, inflation and wages that don't keep up, Schirmer said.

OHK, which specializes in providing equitable access to nutritious meals to Tri-Valley residents, including seniors and other community members, served 418,292 meals between July 2022 to June 2023, a drop from the 454,829 meals it served from July 2021 to June 2022.

Further decline is anticipated for

fiscal year 2024, when OHK projects it will serve around 400,000 meals.

Bost said they expect to produce less meals this fiscal year than last because of recent program elimination and cutback, like the end of to-go meals at senior centers last July, the cessation of dinner service at Ridgeview Commons senior apartments last June and the decrease in weekly street outreach visits.

To-go meals were eliminated to encourage seniors to socialize, dinner services ended at Ridgeview Commons to stop duplicating the service offered at Pleasanton Senior Center and pandemic-era outreach was reduced as other services returned post-pandemic and the Vineyard Resource Center opened, according to Bost.

"I don't feel that our raw data tells the complete picture just yet," Bost said. "We don't yet have enough data to know if there is an increase or decrease just yet. We will have more data to work with to make that determination next year, after things level out a bit."

He emphasized that regardless of the downturn in the number of meals served by OHK, need still exists.

In the face of any level of need, Bost emphasized that the charity food sector requires funding, as equal amounts of support are required to meet growing and declining demand, to "not lose ground" on the work they've already done.

"Nonprofits, in general, cannot take their foot off the donor pedal in raising funds and development," Bost said.

More information about Open Heart Kitchen or Tri-Valley Haven can be found at [openheartkitchen.org](http://openheartkitchen.org) and [trivalleyhaven.org](http://trivalleyhaven.org). ■



CHUCK DECKERT / OHK

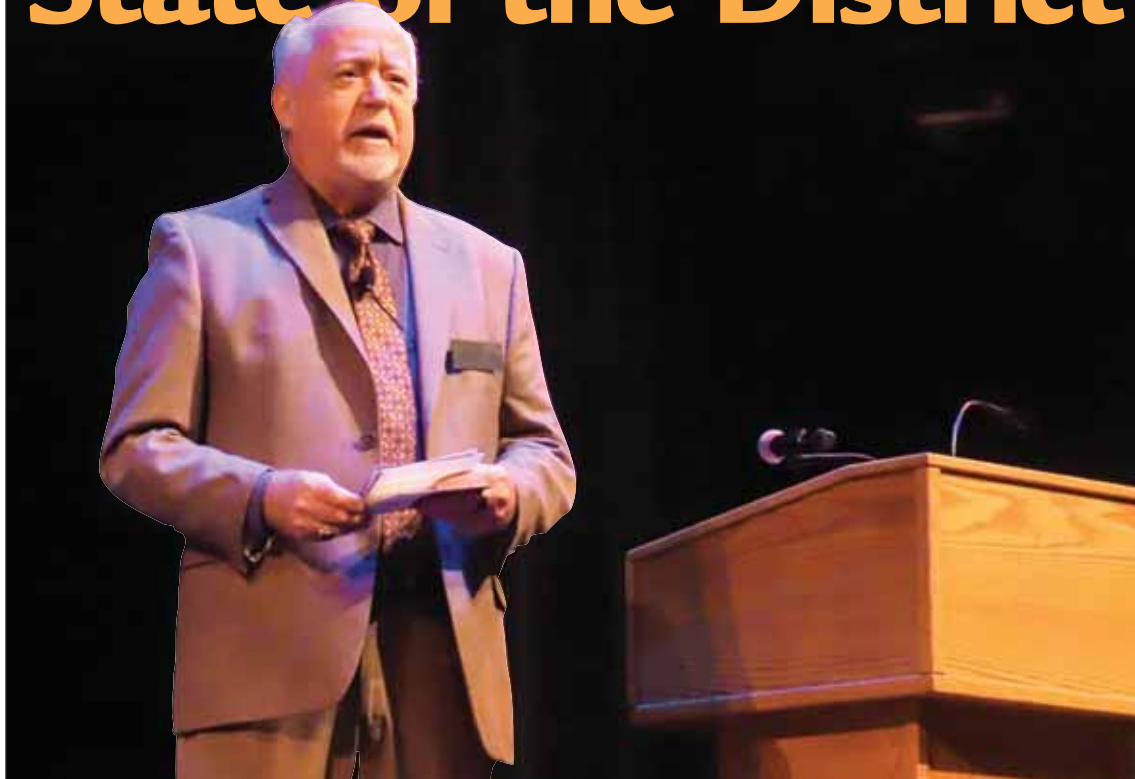


JUDE STRZEMP

The Tri-Valley Haven food pantry is stocked with donated and rescued items. The pantry's client choice model allows guests to select the food they want to bring home.

acts a crowd.

## State of the District



**P**leasanton Unified School District Superintendent David Haglund delivered his annual State of the District speech this month at the Firehouse Arts Center, where he highlighted the district's equity work, bond measure projects, workforce housing and successful programs.

He also broke the news that morning of the district having reached a tentative agreement with the teachers union the night before to avoid a strike after months of being at impasse.

However, despite all the good Haglund did touch on, there are economic challenges the district will be facing in the coming months as PUSD continues to experience a decline in enrollment, attendance and less in state funding.

"It's difficult though to fully celebrate this and all of the special things that go on in our schools, knowing that the situation with the state economy is what it is," Haglund said during his speech on March 12.

The Pleasanton Partnerships in Education Foundation (PPIE) hosts the State of the District event

annually, where the superintendent goes over notable achievements from the previous year and focuses on what lies ahead for the district.

PPIE also uses the event as a reminder for the community to continue using the nonprofit organization as a way to support the district financially during these tough economic times, which is why the organization also presented its Pillars of Pleasanton Awards to several local businesses that contribute to helping out the schools.

"It is imperative that we continue to do what we can to help provide and support our students," PPIE Executive Director Andrea Wilson said during the event.

Some of the most notable achievements from last year's school year were the completion of several Measure II projects. The \$270 million general obligation bond that Pleasanton voters approved in 2017 was aimed at helping fund infrastructure projects like the recently completed Lydiksen Elementary School rebuild.

Haglund also pointed to the \$395 million Measure I bond that voters

passed in 2022 and the projects that are already in the design phases. He said that as the schools and the district work on the design plans, he reminded the audience that community engagement was an important factor when it came to these various Measure I projects and that the community's input will have a large role in how these projects will look.

"The schools are working with the architects to finalize the designs of the various projects," Haglund said. "Especially with the larger projects, we came up with conceptual designs ... of what the projects could look like but we also made a commitment to the community, the stakeholders at the school in particular, that we were not driving the bus on these. The design processes are coming back to you."

Some of the Measure I projects already in the pipeline include the construction of new athletic and visual arts facilities at both Amador Valley and Foothill high schools; the construction of an Educational Options Center, which will replace Village High School; new athletic fields at the middle schools; a new early education facility at Harvest Park Middle School, additional transitional kindergarten classrooms; and various other improvements to kitchens and other facilities at the schools. (Haglund's speech occurred before Amador's small gym was damaged by a fire on March 17.)

Haglund also talked about how the area that currently houses Village High and other district offices will be mostly turned into workforce housing.

Haglund touched on PUSD's continued diversity, equity and inclusion work that it has done at a district level

## PUSD's Haglund talks construction projects, fiscal challenges during annual PPIE event

STORY AND PHOTOS BY CHRISTIAN TRUJANO



Left: Pleasanton Unified School District Superintendent David Haglund delivers his 2024 State of the District speech. Above: An early rendering shows plans for workforce housing to be built where the old district offices were located on Bernal Avenue.

as well, with implementation of new board bylaws and policies.

He also applauded the work being done by after school programs like the Mariachi, Folklorico (which is a traditional Mexican dance style) and Step programs to create spaces where kids can pursue different interests.

He even said PUSD will be using state funding to implement mariachi and folklorico as courses during the school day and will look to expand the courses into the high schools.

Another achievement Haglund highlighted was how the school board approved new elementary, middle and high school boundary lines so that kids can stay with the same group of friends from kindergarten all the way to high school graduation.

"I heard from parents over the last several years about the difficulty of having these friends split up ... and so it was nice to see the community come out and support this option so that they now graduate from the same school," Haglund said.

He then went on to talk about probably one of the more pressing matters the district will have to face in these next few months; reductions to staffing, programs and overall services.

Haglund said that shifting economic indicators like the state's cost of living adjustment (COLA) — which he showed was predicted to be 4% last June but was actually 0.76% according to the governor's recently released budget — and government priorities have been affecting PUSD's funding.

And he pointed out that with the COLA for next year already being predicted to be zero percent, state funding is going to be a big issue for PUSD moving forward.

"Why does the state's economic condition affect schools so much? Because ... a good deal of our funding comes from state dollars," Haglund said. "48% of the state budget goes

towards schools. So when the bucket size of that 48% shrinks, and a good deal of our revenue comes from that bucket, that means our dollars come down as well."

So as the district gets ready to have these difficult budget discussions, Haglund said this spring the district will assemble a superintendent's budget advisory committee. The members will look at having those difficult conversations as the district builds its budget for next year and will look at reductions, revenue enhancements and reallocation of expenditures.

Some ideas he threw out for generating more money is expanding PUSD's Kids Club, increasing the number of students in the Pleasanton Virtual Academy and transitioning to full day transitional kindergarten programs.

He also said that things like the recent sale of the Neal property and having the tenants at the new district office on West Las Positas Boulevard will also start bringing in more money for the district. ■

### PPIE Pillars of Pleasanton Award recipients

- Chuck Deckert
- Jersey Mike's
- Jim's Country Style Restaurant
- Lucky California
- Meadowlark Dairy
- Mochiholic Mochi Donuts
- Omron Robotics and Safety Technology
- Porky's Pizza Palace
- Rancho Grande Taqueria
- Schlicher Orthodontics
- Shamrock Development and Construction
- Service Champions
- SideTrack Bar & Grill
- Stanford Health Care
- Tri-Valley
- The Bay Club
- Valley EyeCare Center
- Vic's All Star Kitchen



Members of PUSD's Mariachi Program perform at the 2024 State of the District event at the Firehouse Arts Center on March 12.

# Pleasanton Art League presents 'Imagination Expressed 2024'

15th installment of annual exhibition now open inside Museum on Main

By NICOLE GONZALES

From now until May 11, art lovers can stop by the Museum on Main to view the annual "Imagination Expressed" exhibit, presented by the Pleasanton Art League. In the 2024 display, PAL members showcase some of their most intricate and thoughtful work.

Museum representatives said the exhibit will "dazzle the eyes, engage the minds, and nourish the spirits of visitors." This year marks PAL's 15th "Imagination Expressed" show.

"These are some of the best artists and creators Pleasanton and the Tri-Valley has to offer. We are dedicated to connecting with and uplifting groups like the Pleasanton Art League," Museum on Main curator Ken MacLennan said.

The exhibition highlights local talents who use a range of mediums. Paintings, sculptures, photographs and mixed-media installations combine to create a dynamic visual landscape.

Founded in 1969, PAL is a collective of local artists seeking to support and enrich the Tri-Valley art scene. Its members host exhibitions, meetings and other events throughout the year.



COURTESY PAL

The wood and resin piece "Flight" by Suneet Bahl is part of the "2024 Imagination Expressed" exhibit.

Select PAL artists will appear at the museum for live art demonstrations and community discussions during Imagination Expressed's 2024 run. These include Wei-Ting Chuang (East Asian brush painting), Vyjayanthi Malladi (batik), Meghana Mitragotri (watercolor floral and landscape), Charlotte Severin (watercolor), Anuja Goyal (mixed media),

Olga Symoneko (soft pastel) and Lorraine Wells (watercolor).

Jen Huber and Tuan Karsevar will have a joint acrylic and oil demonstration.

"We're happy to be partnering with them and to have the 2024 exhibit at our museum. It's a beneficial collaboration that positively impacts everyone — the community members,



COURTESY PAL

Anusha Mishra's "The Beginning" is an acrylic work on paper now on display in the Museum on Main.

the artists, art buyers and of course the Museum on Main," MacLennan added. "When people come out to visit, they are not only supporting the local creators but the museum as well." Many works on display will be

available for purchase through PAL. To find more information on the PAL's "Imagination Expressed 2024" exhibit, including specific artist demonstration times, visit [www.museumonmain.org](http://www.museumonmain.org). ■

## Reaching for the stars with Aomawa Shields at Bankhead

Final event of 2023-24 Rae Dorough Speaker Series

By NICOLE GONZALES

Renowned astronomer and scientist Aomawa Shields, Ph.D. always had a lifelong passion for science and space exploration. Her latest book, "Life on Other Planets: A Memoir of Finding My Place in the Universe", chronicles this love of science and major life events such as becoming a mother and professionally training as an actor.

Shields will discuss themes from her latest book on May 2 at the Bankhead Theater in Livermore as part of the Rae Dorough Speaker Series. The event will begin at 7:30 p.m.

"Shields' talk promises to be an enlightening and captivating experience for our audience," said Ruth Egberman, of Livermore Valley Arts. "Her knowledge of astronomy and dedication to promoting diversity in STEM make her an incredibly inspiring figure."

Released in the summer of 2023, "Life on Other Planets: A Memoir of Finding My Place in the Universe" details Shields' struggle to feel accepted in science as a young African American woman.



Aomawa Shields

Despite experiencing years of discrimination and bias, both for being Black and existing in male-dominated fields of study, Shields persevered and is now considered one of the top researchers in astronomy.

As an associate professor of physics and astronomy at the University of California at Irvine, she focuses on exploring climate and habitability of exoplanets — often using

data from observatories such as NASA's Kepler spacecraft.

Her work has greatly contributed to various astronomy and physics-related studies at NASA, MIT and other institutions.

"This event is a fantastic opportunity not only for astronomy enthusiasts, but also individuals interested in diversity, education and science fields. I believe her insights will resonate with a wide range of people," Egberman said. "I'm confident that Shields' talk will be a standout event for our theater."

Additionally, Shields is a classically trained actress. She is the founder and director of Rising Stargirls, an organization that teaches astronomy to middle school girls of color through theater and visual arts.

Shields actively encourages young girls to get involved in STEM subjects.

Shields will be the final speaker in the 2023-24 Rae Dorough Speaker Series. The evening will be sponsored in part by Sandia National Laboratories. To purchase tickets or find more information about the show, visit [livermorearts.org](http://livermorearts.org) or call 925-373-6800. ■

## PDA unveils lineup for Concert in the Park

Audio Illusion to kick off series on June 7

By JEREMY WALSH

A hallmark of summertime in downtown Pleasanton, the annual Concert in the Park series returns with "an eclectic mix of music from rock, blues and country to '50s and '60s oldies, soul and more," according to organizers.

With the Pleasanton Downtown Association releasing the full music lineup earlier this month, series favorite Audio Illusion was revealed as the opening act for the series on June 7, performing their repertoire of classic rock, pop and blues sounds.

The free concerts will take place every Friday in June, July and August at Lions Wayside Park and adjacent Delucchi Park at First and Neal streets. The shows run from 7-8:30 p.m., with residents and visitors filling the grass with lawn chairs, blankets and picnic dinners often from downtown restaurants.

Attendees often put out their blanket or chairs starting on Friday mornings, at their own risk — although PDA officials reminded folks that the use of plastic tarps as well as rocks to hold down blankets is prohibited.

Learn more about the 2024 Concerts in the Park at [pleasantondowntown.net](http://pleasantondowntown.net). The series lineup is as follows:

- June 7: Audio Illusion, classic rock, pop and blues
- June 14: Diablo Fugitives, rock 'n' roll covers
- June 21: East Bay Grooveline, danceable groove covers
- June 28: The CoolTones Big Band, jazz and swing
- July 5: Road Eleven, rock 'n' roll, country and blues
- July 12: Other People's Money, classic rock
- July 19: Evan Thomas Band, funk, soul and blues
- July 26: Honky Tonk Heroes, country
- Aug. 2: Sally and the Fields, rock
- Aug. 9: 925 Band & The Wise Girls, danceable covers
- Aug. 16: RPM, rock 'n' roll dance music from the '70s, '80s, '90s and beyond
- Aug. 23: RUSTY Rock and Roll, rock covers
- Aug. 30: Public Eye, high-energy rock 'n' roll. ■

# Community Pulse

## POLICE BULLETIN

### 14-year-old arrested in string of attempted carjackings in Livermore

A teenage boy was arrested last week on multiple accusations of attempted carjacking in a downtown parking garage, Livermore police said.

A man said he was approached March 12 at the parking structure near Livermore and Railroad Avenues by someone who held a hand in his pocket, suggesting he had a weapon, and threatening to harm him if he didn't give the suspect his car, police said in a social media post. The man drove away as the suspect kicked his car, police said.

On March 16, police said, they received four more reports of a suspect with a similar description attempting carjackings. The suspect was identified through video surveillance and witness statements as a 14-year-old Livermore boy, police said.

The boy was arrested on March 21 at his school and faces charges of attempted robbery and criminal threats in addition to attempted carjacking, police said. The boy's name



COURTESY LPD

was not released publicly.

Anyone with information about the cases is asked to contact the Livermore Police Department's anonymous tip line at 925-371-4790.

—Bay City News Service

### In other news

- A former doctor in Alamo has been given a year and a day in federal prison for illegally distributing opioids, the U.S. Attorney's Office announced last week.

Parto Karimi, 59, was convicted of distributing powerful opioids outside the scope of her medical practice after she pleaded guilty last year to distributing Norco, a brand name for medication containing

acetaminophen and hydrocodone.

Prosecutors alleged that she would trade the prescriptions for street drugs like cocaine and methamphetamine, as well as cash. Karimi had a medical practice on the grounds of her home which she called "Mindful Medicine," prosecutors said on March 18.

The U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency began investigating her after the family of one her former patients reached out to them after their loved one died.

Multiple undercover agents began visiting her practice, prosecutors said, and one agent was given a prescription to Norco without a physical exam, follow-up questions, looking at medical records, exploring other options or trying a lower dose than the high-dose 10 mg she prescribed. The agent had told Karimi that they had leg pain from working in a restaurant.

In her plea deal, she admitted to acting in an unauthorized manner and knowingly prescribing addictive medication. After her prison sentence, Karimi will be on probation for three years. She must also forfeit her medical license and pay a fine of \$4,000.

—Bay City News Service

- The Contra Costa County District Attorney's Office said last Friday it charged four men with crimes related to child exploitation following a days-long sting operation centered in Danville.

The Contra Costa County Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force arrested six men while conducting Operation Broken Heart, from Feb. 26 to March 7.

The two other suspects' cases are still being reviewed by prosecutors.

The operation targeted adults on the internet allegedly intending to travel to meet minors for sex.

On Feb. 29, Alexander Derrick Hellmund, 59, of Concord, allegedly arrived at an apartment complex in Danville to pick up a 13-year-old boy and take him to Concord for sex.

Hellmund was arrested and charged with suspicion of attempting to kidnap a minor for sex, attempted lewd acts with a minor, and arranging to meet a minor for sex.

On Feb. 28, Elmer Desiderio Ramirez-Lucha, 45, of Pittsburg, allegedly arrived at an apartment complex in Danville to meet a 13-year-old girl for sex.

Ramirez was arrested and charged with attempted lewd acts with a minor and arranging to meet a minor for sex.

On Feb. 28, Mahmut Guzelsu, 27, of Benicia, allegedly arrived at a park in Danville to meet a 13-year-old girl for sex. Guzelsu was arrested and charged with attempted lewd acts with a minor and arranging to meet a minor for sex. He was released on bail.

On March 7, Brady Allen Godsey-Lally, 27, of Brentwood, allegedly arrived at an apartment complex in Danville to meet a 13-year-old girl for sex. Godsey was arrested and charged for attempted lewd acts with a minor and arranging to meet a minor for sex.

The operation was run by the Contra Costa County Sheriff's Office and the Danville Police Department in conjunction with multiple local, state, and federal agencies that make up the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force.

The DA's office did not elaborate whether the sting operation

See BULLETIN on Page 17

## Phyllis Weidler Gilbert

January 6, 1940 – January 8, 2024

Phyllis Weidler Gilbert, 84, of Pleasanton CA, died while in the hospital of an aortic aneurysm.

She was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in 1940 to Jay Benoir and Emma Dorothy Weidler. She grew up with a great desire to learn and during high school, her passion for math and science emerged. Phyllis began her college years at McGill University before attending the University of Pennsylvania and graduating with a Bachelor's of Science in Chemistry. Phyllis met and married Samuel Vanderpoel Gilbert III and they had 3 boys, Sam, Jay and Geoff. Phyllis and her family eventually moved to Pleasanton, California where she raised her boys and went to work at Clorox Corporation in the Mass Spectrometry department. Phyllis retired from Clorox Corporation and she and Van opened a Wild Birds Unlimited store in Dublin, California. After Van passed away, Phyllis spent her time enjoying her kids, grandkids, great grandkids, playing bridge and tennis with her friends and volunteering in various ways in Pleasanton. Phyllis enjoyed traveling with her family and grandkids. She was most happy spending time with the people she loved.

Phyllis was preceded in death by her husband Samuel Vanderpoel Gilbert III and is survived by her sons Samuel Vanderpoel Gilbert IV, Jay Benoir Gilbert, Geoffrey Calderwood Gilbert, 7 grandkids and 2 great grandkids.

A Celebration of Life service will be at 5pm on Saturday, April 13th at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. Pleasanton CA, 94566.



PAID OBITUARY

## THE CITY OF PLEASANTON



### HIGHLIGHTS

#### Library Commission Meeting

Thursday, April 4, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.

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

- Identify Outreach Opportunities at Events in the City and Discuss Ways the Commission Can Spread Awareness of Library Services

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

## Pleasanton Weekly

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**BULLETIN**

Continued from Page 16

also involved the investigation into 50-year-old Fairfield resident Jaime Rodriguez, who died at the hospital allegedly after attempting to hang himself while in sheriff's custody following his arrest by the task force in Danville on Feb. 27 on suspicion of trying to meet who he thought was a 13-year-old boy for sex.

—Tony Hicks, BCN

- Tracy police rescued a woman who was being held hostage at gunpoint and arrested two men, authorities said Saturday.

Gerado Tornero-Rosales, 26, of Livermore, was accused of kidnapping and assault with a deadly weapon, while Angel Lopez-Gutierrez, 24, of Oakland, was accused of kidnapping and rape, police said in a Facebook posting.

Officers received information about 4:45 p.m. last Friday that a kidnapping victim was being held in a residence in the 1500 block of Lankershire Drive, police said.

Officers surrounded the residence and launched a video-equipped drone that spotted Tornero-Rosales fleeing out the back of the home, where he was arrested, police said. Lopez-Gutierrez surrendered at the front of the residence.

Anyone with information that could assist the investigation is asked to contact Detective Andrew Glover at 209-831-6607 or Andrew.Glover@TracyPD.com, or Detective Lissette Ortiz at 209-831-6569 or Lissette.Ortiz@TracyPD.com.

—Bay City News Service

- A former Contra Costa Fire Protection District battalion chief has been convicted of felony grand

**PET OF THE WEEK**



EAST BAY SPCA

**Sweet Cinnabon**

And the award for the most adorable wrinkles goes to none other than Cinnabon! (But let's be real, did anyone stand a chance against those crinkles?) Get ready to welcome endless fun and joy into your life with this sweet and crinkly 2-year-old sharpei. Cinnabon is searching for a home where he can be the center of attention as the only dog, and he promises to fill your days with laughter and love. Don't miss out on the chance to meet Cinnabon at the East Bay SPCA Dublin Adoption Center. Visit eastbayspca.org/dogs for more information.

theft for doctoring his timekeeping records, the District Attorney's Office said last week.

Louis Manzo, Jr., 58, was convicted after admitting to misappropriating county funds and taking a plea deal, prosecutors said. Manzo, who is from Danville, was originally charged in 2019 with misappropriating funds between 2014 and 2019.

Prosecutors said he falsified information on timekeeping records and paid time off requests and then redirected the public funds for his own private use. Prosecutors estimate he stole over \$46,000 in fraudulent salary payments.

Manzo pleaded no contest to one count of felony grand theft. He will spend 30 days in the sheriff's work alternative program and one year on probation. He must also complete 30 hours of community service and pay restitution fines.

Manzo can have no contact with any Con Fire employees and he must stay away from all Con Fire locations. He is also subject to searches and seizures of records and other materials related to his

finances. Prosecutors also say his plea will affect his county pension.

—Bay City News Service

- A San Ramon man was sentenced last week to 40 months in prison for illegally possessing a firearm and ammunition in 2021 after being put on a supervised release program and then being involved in two shootings in 2023, one of which resulted in him being shot.

Rashad Shambray-Jones, 30, previously pleaded guilty to one count of being a felon in possession of a firearm and ammunition, back on Oct. 6, 2021.

According to the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of California, Shambray-Jones crashed a vehicle into a fence on federal property on Jan. 31, 2021.

Responding police found a firearm and 19 rounds of ammunition on the front floorboard of the driver's side of the vehicle. Shambray-Jones was arrested for unlawfully possessing the firearm and ammunition due to his prohibited status as a convicted felon.

After pleading guilty to the charge, Shambray-Jones was placed in the Northern District of California's Conviction Alternatives Program, a court-administered program entailing intensive supervision of participants before sentencing. The program offers the potential of a reduced or non-custodial sentence for participants who complete it.

While still in the program, Shambray-Jones was captured on surveillance video firing about seven rounds from a firearm on May 5, 2023, in San Francisco's Bayview District.

Shambray-Jones was arrested by San Francisco police in connection with the May 5 case after he went to San Francisco General Hospital on Sept. 1, 2023 seeking treatment for a gunshot wound soon after another shooting in the same area.

"Alternative justice programs are an important part of our criminal justice system," U.S. Attorney Ismail Ramsey said in a statement. "They often help defendants overcome serious root, personal problems, such as addiction, that motivate their criminal conduct. But, when defendants masquerade through these programs while in fact continuing to terrorize our streets with gun violence, we will ask for sentences that appropriately address their deception and violent conduct."

Shambray-Jones must also serve three years of supervised release once his prison term is completed.

—Tony Hicks, BCN

- Two Oakland men were arrested — with one taken into custody on a separate warrant — following an altercation with bowling alley staff in Danville this month.

Police responded to the scene of a reported fight at Danville Bowl at 200 Boone Court at 11:12 p.m.

March 16. Upon investigation, they determined that a customer allegedly assaulted two employees as they attempted to prevent him from bringing outside alcohol onto the premises.

The 28-year-old Oakland man was arrested on misdemeanor counts of battery and released after being issued a notice to appear in court.

While investigating the scene and questioning a group that was attempting to leave, police identified and arrested a 26-year-old Oakland man on an outstanding felony warrant out of Oakland, proceeding to arrest him and book him into the Martinez Detention facility on \$100,000 bail.

—Jeanita Lyman

- The Contra Costa County Sheriff's Office is continuing to investigate an armed robbery in Alamo earlier in the month, with the culprits still on the loose.

Deputies with the office's Valley Station responded to the incident at approximately 2:36 p.m. on March 12 at the 2400 block of Biltmore Drive in the Round Hill area, according to a spokesperson for the sheriff's office.

The victim alleged that two armed robbers approached her after she parked her vehicle in her garage and exited, taking several items from her before fleeing the scene.

Officers with the Lafayette Police Department reportedly located the vehicle believed to have been used by the suspects on westbound Highway 24, attempting to stop the vehicle then initiating a pursuit that was terminated for undisclosed reasons.

The investigation into the incident was ongoing as of press time. ■

—Jeanita Lyman

**POLICE REPORT**

The Pleasanton Police Department made the following information available.

**March 23**

**Theft**

- 6:39 a.m., 5500 block of Johnson Drive; theft from auto
- 8:11 a.m., 7000 block of Johnson Drive; auto theft
- 8:48 a.m., 3100 block of Washoe Way; auto theft
- 9:06 a.m. on the 3000 block of Staples Ranch Drive
- 1:20 p.m., 2200 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting
- 8:07 p.m., 000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting

**March 22**

**Theft**

- 7:44 a.m., 2400 block of Skylark Way; auto theft
- 10:16 a.m. on the 7000 block of Johnson Drive
- 2:47 p.m., 1400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting
- 4:30 p.m., 6000 block of Johnson Drive; auto theft
- 5:30 p.m., 1400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting

**Missing persons report**

- 11:32 a.m. on Flagstone Drive

**Fraud**

- 12:22 p.m. on the 7300 block of Royal Oaks Court

**March 21**

**Theft**

- 7:40 a.m., 3400 block of Andrews Drive; theft from auto
- 10:11 a.m. on the 4300 block of Rosewood Drive
- 5:23 p.m., 4500 block of Rosewood Drive; theft from auto
- 5:43 p.m., 4200 block of Rosewood Drive; theft from auto
- 7:21 p.m., 3200 block of West Lagoon Road; theft from auto
- 8:12 p.m. on the 1400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

**Assault/Battery**

- 1:32 p.m. on the 4500 block of Chabot Drive

**Warrant arrest**

- 8:55 p.m. on the 5700 block of Johnson Drive

**March 20**

**Assault/battery**

- 12:29 a.m. on the 5500 block of Springhouse Drive

**Burglary**

- 2:29 a.m. on the 7000 block of Johnson Drive

**Vandalism**

- 6:14 a.m. on the 5300 block of Owens Court

**Trespassing/prowling**

- 9:11 a.m. on the 3700 block of Hopyard Road

**Fraud**

- 11:04 a.m. on the 3700 block of Old Santa Rita Road
- 11:17 a.m. on the 8000 block of Bethel Lane

**Theft**

- 4:58 p.m., 4500 block of Rosewood Drive; shoplifting
- 6:41 p.m. on the 5600 block of Owens Drive

**DUI**

- 5:16 p.m. at Gibraltar and Stoneridge drives

**Warrant arrest**

- 8:21 p.m. at Owens and Rosewood drives

**March 19**

**Fraud**

- 11:40 a.m. on the 6400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

**Theft**

- 1:12 p.m. on the 4500 block of Shawnee Way
- 3:49 p.m., 3300 block of Hopyard Road; theft from auto

**Employment**

Safeway Inc. hiring Director of Engineering – Personalization & Machine Learning Engineering in Pleasanton, CA. May telecommute. Reports to Pleasanton. Domestic travel 3-4x/yr for meetings. Must have legal right to work in US. EOE. Subj. to bckgrnd check. \$221,834 - 260K/yr. Email resume: TA.Applications@albertsons.com. Attn: P. Ang. Ref # 0311AC

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

**Sr Business Systems Analyst (20637.1800):** Work closely with business partners to understand business processes, goals and gaps. Salary: \$170,955 - \$191,900, 40 hours per week.

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

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

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## PLEASANTON PREPS

By DENNIS MILLER

### After dropping first set, Foothill boys roll off three straight to beat Amador

Also: Highlights from the pool for both Pleasanton schools

The Foothill boys' volleyball team picked up another two wins to stay unbeaten in East Bay Athletic League play at 6-0.

The two wins were huge as the Falcons got past two of the other top teams in league, overcoming one-set deficits in both matches.

They opened the week with a 23-25, 25-20, 25-23, 25-20 over rival Amador Valley.

Highlights came from Noah Mitzenmacher (27 receptions, 9 service points, 5 digs), Casey Collins (11 kills, 11 service points, 5 aces), Kayan Vohra (14 kills, 2 blocks) and Caden Stedman (7 kills, 1 block).

Next up was a 22-25, 25-19, 25-22, 25-18 win over previously unbeaten Granada.

The leaders this time were Collins (17 digs, 16 kills, 10 service points), Josh Salonga (38 assists, 10 digs, 3 kills), Mitzenmacher (22 receptions, 16 digs) and Dean Caudill (13 digs, 8 kills).

Over the weekend, Foothill went to the Stockton Classic finishing with a 2-2 mark, beating Christian Brothers and Futures, and losing to Oak Ridge and Granite Bay. Playing well in the event was Yun Bae (23 service points, 23 digs, 17 kills, 17 assists), Salonga (70 assists, 16 digs), and Ian Neuman (11 kills, 11 digs).

#### Amador volleyball

The Dons took the first set from Foothill, but dropped three in a row to the Falcons in the Pleasanton rivalry match.

The highlights came from Max Riter (23 kills, 2 blocks, 6 aces), Nick Nayak (11 kills), Parker Brookhart (34 assists, 10 digs), Ryan Bury (7 kills), Aiden Husejnovic (5 kills), Ryan Yu (2 aces) and Aiden Lam (7 assists).

Amador rebounded by knocking off Dublin 25-16, 28-26, 25-20.

Big performers here were Riter (17 kills, 6 digs, 2 blocks), Nayak (9 kills, 3 blocks), Parker Brookhart (3 aces, 18 assists), Lam (2 kills, 15 assists), Bury (4 kills, 10 digs), Ryder Kuckien (9 digs) and Husejnovic (4 kills, 2 blocks).

#### Foothill softball

It was an up-and-down week for the Falcons as they lost 18-13 to Dublin and beat Clayton Valley 5-4.

In the loss to Dublin, Marissa Anderson had three hits, including a home run, and she drove in a pair. Kaycie Burdick had three hits, with a home run.

Alexa Sponsel had two hits and drove in two, while Kyla Springer added three hits and drove in two against the Gaels.

In the win over Clayton Valley,

Ellie Novitske drove in the game-winner in the seventh inning. Sophia Burdick had two hits to drive in a pair of runs, and Amanda Bilter diving catch in left to save a pair of runs.

#### Foothill swimming

The Falcons got some great performances in their dual meet wins over Livermore on both the boys' and girls' side.

For the Foothill girls, Chloe Xu, Clare Alexander and Mckinley Scobie all won a pair of individual races.

Xu took the 200 freestyle and the 100 butterfly, with Alexander picking up wins in the 200 individual medley and the 100 free, and Scobie winning the 50 free and the 500 free.

All three swam legs on the winning 200 free, with Alexander and Scobie swimming legs on the 400 free relay. Xu swam a leg on the winning 200 medley relay.

On the boys' side, Cameron Jones won the 50 and 100 free, and same legs on the 200 and 400 free relays.

Conner Kann took the 200 free and 100 backstroke, while also swimming legs on the 200-medley relay and the 400 free relay. Ethan Wang won the 100 fly and the 100 breaststroke.



COURTESY AMADOR VOLLEYBALL

Amador Valley's Parker Brookhart sets against Foothill, while Casey Collins (2) is ready on defense for the Falcons.

#### Amador swimming

The Dons took all four meetings at Livermore: The varsity girls won 132-31, the varsity boys 140-24, the JV girls 133-23 and the JV boys 137-12.

A couple of varsity girls achieved North Coast Section automatic qualifying times while winning their events, sophomore Rylee Hutchinson won the 200 freestyle in a time of 1:55.43 and sophomore Lillyana Caples won the 500 free in 5:06.92.

One of the more exciting races was the varsity boys' 100 breaststroke, which saw Asher Ding lead

an Amador to a 1-2-3 sweep with the top three times only separated by a little over a second. Ding's winning time was 1:03.43 (an NCS consideration time).

For the JV girls, Grace Choe was a double winner, winning the 100 IM in a time of 1:08.68 and the 100 back in 1:07.52.

Choe was also part of the winning 400 free relay.

On the JV boys' side, Evan Crandall was also a double winner, winning the 50 free in a time of 28.69 and the 100 free in a time of 58.96. He was also part of the winning 200 medley relay. ■

### Registration underway for 2024 Hike for Hope

Annual fundraiser at Del Valle supports Hope Hospice programs

By JEREMY WALSH

Tri-Valley residents can get in a morning of exercise for a good cause later this spring as Hope Hospice presents its annual Hike for Hope fundraiser to Del Valle Regional Park in Livermore.

The event, scheduled for May 4, includes three trail hike options plus a barbecue lunch with raffle and prizes — all in support of the Dublin-based nonprofit that provides end-of-life services and related education in the area.

"Money raised through registrations and peer-to-peer supporting donations benefits patient care and

helps keep grief support, dementia education and family caregiver resources available to the public at no charge," Hope Hospice officials said. "The community's participation helps Hope Hospice care for more than 2,000 East Bay neighbors each year."

The 2024 Hike for Hope is due to begin at 8:30 a.m. with everyone starting out together before advancing along their chosen route at their own pace.

Organizers said they've set the main "out-and-back" route along Lake Del Valle's East Shore Trail at 4.4 miles, with an optional



CHUCK DECKERT / HOPE HOSPICE

The annual Hike for Hope fundraiser returns to Del Valle Regional Park on May 4, benefitting local nonprofit Hope Hospice.

moderate loop on the Hetch Hetchy and Ridgeline trails with scenic climbs. An alternative 1.7-mile loop on the East Shore Trail offers a flat route — or all three legs can be combined for a 6-mile trip.

The barbecue lunch, sponsored

by MCE Corp., will be waiting for participants after their hike in the Fiesta Grande picnic area at the regional park. Raffle prizes, silent auction winners and top fundraiser awards will be announced around noon, organizers said.

They have their fingers crossed for pleasant spring weather on event day. Last year's Hike for Hope, which faced residual rain amid the wet start to 2023, still saw nearly 850 people turn out, many ready with ponchos and umbrellas accordingly.

"If Mother Nature cooperates," Hope Hospice director of philanthropy Marc Rovetti said, "we expect to see well over a thousand hikers on May 4."

Registration is underway with adult, teenage youth and family packages available, with payments to Hope Hospice being tax-deductible. Signing up by next Friday (April 5) gives early access to the special Hike for Hope T-shirt. The nonprofit is also still recruiting for event sponsors.

For more information, go to TheHikeForHope.com or call 925-829-8770 on weekdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. ■

# Calendar

POST CALENDAR ITEMS AT PLEASANTONWEEKLY.COM

## Entertainment Talks

### THE BEST OF SF COMEDY

**COMPETITION** Hosted by Stuart B. Thompson, a stand-up comedian, actor, voiceover actor, writer and host. 8 p.m., March 29. Tickets \$35-\$55. Visit [livermorearts.org](http://livermorearts.org).

### SPARC THEATER PRESENTS

**RUNNING THE LIGHT** Join this Science@Play Reading, Running the Light. 7:30 p.m., March 29-30; 2 p.m., March 30. Tickets \$25. SPARC Studio, 2172 Railroad Ave., Livermore. Visit [sparctheater.org](http://sparctheater.org).

**ANIMANIACS IN CONCERT** Join the voices of Animaniacs, the iconic animated Warner Bros series, as they perform the world-famous songs from the beloved cartoon series backed by the original projected animation. 8 p.m., April 5. Tickets \$45-\$75. Visit [livermorearts.org](http://livermorearts.org).

**DECEMBER '63** This re-creation of a Frankie Valli and The Four Seasons concert will have you reaching for the high notes as the cast and band take you on a musical journey in this one-of-a-kind concert experience. 8 p.m., April 6. Tickets \$45-\$65. Visit [livermorearts.org](http://livermorearts.org).

**NAVA DANCE THEATRE** Experience the breathtaking fusion of movement and storytelling in Nava Dance's performance of Rogue Gestures/Foreign Bodies. 3 p.m., April 7. Tickets \$35-\$65. Visit [livermorearts.org](http://livermorearts.org).

**PAM TILLIS ACOUSTIC TRIO** Get lost in the intimate setting and immerse yourself in the sweet harmonies of the legendary Pam Tillis and her talented companions for this unforgettable evening of music that will leave you feeling inspired and moved. 7:30 p.m., April 10. Tickets \$40-\$70. Visit [livermorearts.org](http://livermorearts.org).

## Exhibits

**CALL FOR ARTISTS: TRI-VALLEY ARTIST OPEN STUDIO TOUR** For artists located in the Tri-Valley, be part of an open studio event and share artwork with the public. Deadline to apply is March 31. Visit [allianceforthevisualarts.org](http://allianceforthevisualarts.org).

**FRESH WORKS XII ANNUAL JURIED EXHIBITION** The Harrington Gallery at the Firehouse Arts Center presents this incredible celebration of different artistic practices and includes approximately 80 works. Now through May 18. Visit [firehousearts.org](http://firehousearts.org).

**LIMITED EDITION CHAGALL PRINTS AND SYMBOLIC ART** On display at the UNCLE Credit Union Art Gallery this exhibit features twelve lithographs created by artist Marc Chagall (1887-1985). Thursdays through Sundays, 1-5 p.m., through May 19. Bankhead Theater.

### IMAGINATION EXPRESSED 2024

The Pleasanton Art League annual showcase of works by artists in Pleasanton and the Tri-Valley is on display at the Museum on Main. Now through May 11. Visit [museumonmain.org](http://museumonmain.org).

**LIVERMORE-AMADOR GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY** Jennifer Holik, genealogical & military research expert, discusses Research a Veteran. In this part 2 of 2 she uses storytelling along with the records to help understand the deeper impacts of service. 7-8:30, April 8. Congregation Beth Emek, 3400 Nevada Court, Pleasanton. Visit [l-ags.org](http://l-ags.org).

### MENTAL HEALTH LECTURE SERIES

Dr. Leanne Williams, Vincent V.C. Woo Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at Stanford University, will present "Precision Treatments for Depression: Are We Getting Closer?" at the next Alan Hu Foundation lecture series. 6:30-7:30 p.m., April 9. This free webinar will be held via Zoom. RSVP by April 8 at [alanhufoundation.org](http://alanhufoundation.org).

### DEMENTIA CAREGIVING: A

**FAMILY MATTER** In this webinar, the importance of open communication, empathy and seeking external support will be discussed along with strategies to decrease tension and strengthen relationship all with a focus on prioritizing the needs and wishes of the care recipient. 10-11 a.m., April 11. Register at [HopeHospice.com/](http://HopeHospice.com/) family.

### LIVERMORE-AMADOR VALLEY

**GARDEN CLUB** Jennifer de Graaf returns in April to discuss the naming of plants, the origins and parts of scientific names, when they are important and how she puts these names to use. 6-8 p.m., April 11. Crosswinds Church.

### HACIENDA PARK TOASTMASTERS

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

## Galas & Shows

### SAN FRANCISCO BAY FLOWER

**& GARDEN SHOW** Alameda County Fairgrounds will be in full bloom, both inside and out with spectacular display gardens, 75-plus free seminars with top garden and floral experts, and more. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., April 4-7. Visit [alamedacountyfair.com](http://alamedacountyfair.com).

### BUILDING TOGETHER DINNER

**GALA** Tri-Valley Haven's Building Together Dinner Gala features live music from local artists, dinner, wine, games and a live and silent auction. 5:30- 8:30 p.m., April 13. Tickets \$100. Robert Livermore Community Center. Visit [trivalleyhaven.org](http://trivalleyhaven.org).

## Farmers' Markets

### PLEASANTON FARMERS' MARKET

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

### LIVERMORE SUNDAY FARMERS'

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

## Support

### FREE COMMUNITY MEALS

Open Heart Kitchen provides free meals to the community Monday-Friday, 12-5 p.m. at Vineyard Resource Center, 450 North Livermore Ave., Livermore.

### GENERAL GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

This Hope Hospice Zoom General Grief Support Group is Mondays, 6-7:30 p.m., April 8 to May 27. Call 925-829-8770.

## Public Notices

COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION MANAGEMENT  
COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION FINANCIAL  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: 604988

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

1.) Community Association Management , 2.) Community Association Financial , located at 6088 Sunol Blvd, Suite 100, Pleasanton, CA 94566, Alameda County.

This business is conducted by: a Limited Liability Company.

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

ALVAND CAM LLC  
6088 Sunol Blvd Suite 100  
Pleasanton, CA 94566

State of Incorporation/Organization: CA

Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 06/14/1999

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on March 21 2024. (PLW Mar 29, Apr 5, 12 and 19, 2024)

TITAN ELECTRICAL SERVICES  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: 605044

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

1.) Titan Electrical Services , located at 4207 Mirador Drive Pleasanton, CA 94566, Alameda County.

This business is conducted by: a Corporation.

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

TITAN ELECTRICAL SERVICES  
4207 Mirador Drive  
Pleasanton, CA 94566

State of Incorporation/Organization: California

Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 03/22/2024

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on March 22 2024. (PLW Mar 29, Apr 5, 12 and 19, 2024)

10XCAREER LLC  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: 605027

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

1.) 10xCareer LLC , located at 1060 Bartlett Place, Pleasanton, CA 94566, Alameda County.

This business is conducted by: a Limited Liability Company.

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

10XCAREER LLC  
1060 Bartlett Place  
Pleasanton, CA 94566

State of Incorporation/Organization: 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 March 22 2024. (PLW Mar 29, Apr 5, 12 and 19, 2024)

LAVENDER LEMON DROP VINTAGE  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: 604793

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

1.) Lavender Lemon Drop Vintage , located at 7550 St Patrick Way Apt #607, Dublin, CA 94568, Alameda County.

This business is conducted by: an Individual.

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

KIRSTEN LOWN  
7550 St Patrick Way Apt #607  
Dublin CA, 94568

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

## Volunteer

**VOLUNTEER FOR EARTH DAY** Join removing plastics from shorelines and park and various other Earth Day projects. 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. April 20. Find a park near you by visiting [ebparks.org/volunteer](http://ebparks.org/volunteer).

### BECOME A LITERACY VOLUNTEER

Volunteer to help adults become more confident and better able to navigate everyday situations. The next three-part volunteer training is 6-8:30 p.m., April 22, 24 and 29 at the Livermore Civic Center Library. To sign up to become a volunteer email [literacy@livermoreca.gov](mailto:literacy@livermoreca.gov) or call 925-373-5507.

### VOLUNTEER AT OPEN HEART KITCHEN

Open Heart Kitchen offers individual and group volunteer opportunities

at a variety of sites Mondays to Fridays in Pleasanton, Livermore and Dublin. Volunteers at Open Heart Kitchen help create a more food secure future in the Tri-Valley. Visit [openheartkitchen.org/volunteer](http://openheartkitchen.org/volunteer).

## Government

**PLEASANTON CITY COUNCIL** Pleasanton City Council Meetings are held in the City Council Chambers, 200 Old Bernal Ave. The next meeting is 7 p.m., April 2. Visit [cityofpleasantonca.gov](http://cityofpleasantonca.gov).

### LIVERMORE PLANNING COMMISSION

Livermore Planning Commission meetings are held on the first and third Tuesday of the month at the Civic Center Meeting Hall, Mendenhall Room, unless otherwise posted. 7 p.m., April 2. Visit [livermoreca.gov](http://livermoreca.gov).

the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 09/23/2023  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on March 11 2024. (PLW Mar 22, 29, Apr 5 and 12, 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)

FINCOP FINANCIAL PLANNING  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: 604247

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

1.) FinCop Financial Planning, located at 4513 Pietro Pl Dublin, CA 94568, Alameda County.

This business is conducted by: an Individual.

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

ANDREW WONG  
4513 Pietro Pl  
Dublin, CA 94568

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 26 2024. (PLW Mar 15, 22, 29 and Apr 5, 2024)

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA FOR THE COUNTY OF ALAMEDA  
Case No.: 24CV067067

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:  
Petitioner: Maryna Daniliuk filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:

MARYNA DANILIUK TO MARINA DANILIUK

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: 04/25/2024, 10:00am, Dept. 14 of the Superior Court of California, County of Alameda located at 1221 OAK STREET, OAKLAND, CA 94612.

A copy of this ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county:

PLEASANTON WEEKLY  
Date: 03/11/2024

THOMAS I. NIXON  
JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT  
(PLW Mar 22, 29, Apr 5 and 12, 2024)

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

# Real Estate

## With 6% commission fee for real estate agents going away, here's what homebuyers should know

**By MICHAEL REPKA**  
 The real estate industry is starting to undergo some dramatic changes, especially in light of the recent Sitzer/Burnett v. National Association of Realtors case ruling in October that found the real estate industry guilty of collusion to inflate commissions by forcing home sellers to pay a broker fee to the homebuyer's agent in addition to their own listing agent. A federal jury awarded \$1.8 billion in damages to home owners who brought the class action suit forward in Missouri.

and compensating them for their services. While these anticipated industry changes are expected to benefit both buyers and sellers in the long term, there are a number of details that buyers should consider before signing any agreement with an agent.

### Tips for homebuyers

Many buyer's agents will request that potential buyers sign buyer representation agreements — a contract between a homebuyer and a real estate agent that outlines the terms and conditions of their working partnership. While some agents will fully explain the terms and ramifications, others may attempt to gloss over its significance or slip it in unnoticed. It's essential for buyers to understand the agreement fully to avoid unexpected commitments, such as how much commission they will be expected to pay. This is particularly important since it's been the longstanding practice for sellers, rather than buyers, to have paid the commission fees for the buyer's agent.

Although the notion of paying for their own agent might catch buyers off guard, this structure offers several benefits. It encourages competition among agents, which should enhance service levels and exert downward pressure on commissions. Further, compensation can be tailored to the agent's level of competency and time invested, ensuring fair remuneration for their services. For instance, a buyer who finds a home independently and receives no advice on disclosures or financing options may pay a lower rate; whereas, a buyer from outside the area who requires extensive analysis and guidance over months of house hunting may find great value in an agent's services, justifying higher compensation.

Finally, this structure also reduces the risk of agents steering buyers toward less-desirable properties solely

See **COMMISSION** on Page 22



COURTESY GETTY IMAGES



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PANORAMIC VIEWS IN CASTLEWOOD!



**4 Bedrooms | 4 Baths | 4 Car Garage | Over 4,800 Sq Ft**  
 Gorgeous estate nestled in the hills of Pleasanton.  
*Priced in the high \$3,000,000's*

ANOTHER PENDING SALE ~ MULTIPLE OFFERS!



**3605 DUNSMUIR CIRCLE, PLEASANTON**  
 Simply enchanting single-story home with 4 bedrooms, 2 baths. New wide plank flooring, fixtures, paint and so much more! *Offered in the high \$1,600,000's*

SITUATED IN THE HEART OF PLEASANTON



**Wonderful townhome with 2 bedrooms, 2.5 baths and a two car garage. Walk to all things Pleasanton.**  
*Priced in the low \$1,000,000's*

6 OFFERS, 1 HAPPY SELLER!



**7112 TAMARACK DRIVE, DUBLIN**  
 4 bedrooms, 3 baths and two primary suites. Beautifully landscaped. *Priced in the \$1,400,000's*

DEL PRADO ~ 6 OFFERS, 1 HAPPY SELLER!



**1619 PASEO DEL CAJON, PLEASANTON**  
 3 Bedrooms | 2.5 Baths | 1,892 Sq Ft | 7,047 Sq Ft Lot  
*Just Sold \$134,000 Over Asking at \$1782,000*

COMING SOON SINGLE STORY IN PARKSIDE!



**A gardener's paradise! Charming 4 bedroom, 2.5 bath home on a quiet court.**

JUST CLOSED ESCROW \$4,750,000!



**2562 GILLIAN COURT, PLEASANTON**  
 4 Bedrooms | 5 Baths | 5,951 Sq Ft | 1.1-Acre Level Parcel  
 Explore unmatched sophistication in this custom estate. The upgrades and detail in this home are unprecedented. *Offered at \$4,750,000*

ANOTHER PENDING SALE!



**427 MATTHEW COURT, PLEASANTON**  
 Modern farmhouse estate in Carriage Hills with over 4,300 sq ft. Wide plank flooring, sun filled remodeled kitchen and expansive family room. *Offered at \$3,098,000*

5 OFFERS ~ UNDER CONTRACT!



**6033 ASHLEY COURT, PLEASANTON**  
 Sprawling 1/4 acre parcel with paved patio, firepit, pool and garden. Oh, and the house is great too! Over 1,600 sq ft and a beautiful kitchen! *Offered at \$1,489,000*

COMING SOON IN LIVERMORE WINE COUNTRY!



**Beautiful single-story home with 4 bedrooms, 3 baths, 3,668 sq ft on over a half acre with a 9-car garage!**

**YOUR HOME DESERVES AN EXPERT**  
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 Contact us to review our comprehensive home - selling services and complete marketing plan.

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## Pleasanton Weekly

Please consider a one-time tax deductible donation and help make sure our voices are always heard.



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foundation

## COMMISSION

Continued from Page 20

because of higher commission.

The level of experience, expertise and quality of service, however, varies significantly among agents, making it crucial for buyers to conduct thorough interviews, akin to sellers interviewing listing agents.

Factors a buyer should consider include:

- Developing a list of priorities
- Researching and interviewing three to five qualified agents, making sure to ask detailed and specific questions
- Signing agreements with one or more of the chosen agents

Through this process, the buyer will be able to ascertain the pros and cons of each agent.

### Limit the geographic scope of the representation agreement

Local expertise is very important in real estate. Nevertheless, some buyers sign agreements committing themselves to working with one agent despite considering various geographic areas.

Most buyers would be better off working with different specialists from different areas. For example, one agent could focus on the Los Altos to Atherton area; another on the Hillsborough, Burlingame and San Mateo area; and a third on the Saratoga and Los Gatos area. Agents who claim expertise across all areas probably lack true specialization in any particular locale.

Beyond localized knowledge, buyers benefit from agents who are aware of competing agents in different areas, motivating them to act diligently to secure the perfect property before their counterparts do.

### Limit the duration of representation agreement

Buyer representation agreements should strike a balance between giving the agent adequate time to demonstrate their expertise, work ethic, responsiveness and value and not holding the buyer hostage if they're dissatisfied.

Generally, contract periods of 90 and 120 days suffice. If the buyer is happy with the level of service provided, they can always extend the agreement.

### Consider an agent's access to off-market homes

Properties that are sold without being listed on the Multiple Listing Service (MLS) and without marketing through other channels, such as local newspapers, TV commercials, paid online ads and direct mail, tend to sell for less money than similar properties that receive extensive promotion. While this is generally very bad for sellers, it can result in a good buying opportunity. Therefore, an agent's ability to access these off-market properties is a significant advantage to his or her buyers.

Typically, high-volume buyer's agents are well-connected to off-market properties. Similarly, brokerages that handle substantial volume in specific cities or neighborhoods often possess valuable insights into these less-promoted properties. ■

*This guest column was written by contributing writer Michael Repka. Repka, CEO and general counsel for DeLeon Realty, Palo Alto, formerly practiced real estate and tax law in Palo Alto. He formerly served on the Board of Directors of the California Association of Realtors.*

## HOME SALES

This week's data represents homes sold during Jan 2-12 for Pleasanton and Livermore.

### Pleasanton

**1182 Blanc Court** D. Valencia to A. & S. Forster for \$1,359,000

**42 Golf Road C.** Cheng to Dllger Trust for \$3,223,500

**3823 Mesa Verde Court** Cardoza Living Trust to R. & M. Bhatti for \$1,300,000

**218 Tomas Way** Shelton Family Trust to Hooda Family Trust for \$1,150,000

**8185 Arroyo Drive #1** Davis Trust to A. Azad for \$480,000

**4059 Brooks Court** Delcarmen 2015 Trust to K. & A. Vora for \$1,425,000

**4174 Hazelhurst Court** Louthan Living Trust to Redwood Holdings LLC for \$1,200,000

**8020 Mountain View Drive #D B.** Rajan to M. & D. Lapre for \$675,000

**3128 Persimmon Circle** O. & R. Baeza to Zh Family Trust for \$1,825,000

**3626 Platt Court** Redwood Holdings LLC to H. & S. Rayaprolu for \$1,395,000

**6982 Via Quito** B. & D. Wisher to N. & S. Gangaiah for \$1,509,000

**1815 Westbridge Lane** Jensen Living Trust to Q. Nguyen for \$2,196,000

### Livermore

**1622 Knoll Way** T. & J. Zizileuskas to K. & A. Goswami for \$1,450,000

**1496 Melanie Way** S. & T. Madrid to K. & A. Heal for \$1,295,000

**313 Northwood Commons** R. Castro to E. & Z. Fussell for \$680,000

**3502 Ridgecrest Way** Delema Family Trust to Lane Trust for \$1,700,000

**2216 Ryan Street** J. & M. Homen to Foreverhome Properties LLC for \$1,900,000

**662 Sonoma Avenue** Akins Family Trust to A. & R. Lohani for \$1,290,000

**5501 Susan Lane** Heinz Family Trust to P. Reddipalli for \$1,100,000

**4168 Bishop Pine Way** T. Rodriguez to C. & J. Blea for \$975,000

**2417 Decker Lane** Jones Trust to S. Fulmer for \$1,500,000

**463 Fontonett Avenue** L. & K. Sison to C. & J. Canedo for \$950,000

**1418 Honeysuckle Road** Zca Homes LLC to V. & A. Loganathan for \$1,242,000

**454 Persimmon Common #5 S.** Fulmer to N. & D. Sen for \$905,000

**621 Ridgecrest Circle** G. Benavides to N. Montes for \$1,325,000

**9115 Tesla Road** L. & M. Duchaineau to L. Cardoza for \$1,250,000

Source: California REsource



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**663 ROMEO COURT, PLEASANTON**

5 BD | 3 BA | APPROX. 3,700 SQ. FT. LIVING SPACE | .47 ACRES  
**CALL FOR PRICING**

**GOLDEN EAGLE**



**2173 INVERNESS COURT, PLEASANTON**

3 BD | 2.5 BA | 2,520 SQ. FT. LIVING SPACE  
**CALL FOR PRICING**

**WELLINGTON COMMUNITY**



**5375 BLACK AVENUE  
#4, PLEASANTON**

2 BD | 2 BA  
1,245 SQ. FT.  
LIVING SPACE

**LISTED FOR  
\$759,000**

**MONTEVIDEO**



**218 MILO PLACE,  
SAN RAMON**

5 BD | 3 BA  
2,228 SQ. FT.  
LIVING SPACE  
7,000 SQ. FT. LOT

**SOLD FOR  
\$1,775,000**

**JORDAN RANCH**



**2026 CENTRAL  
PARKWAY,  
DUBLIN**

3 BD | 3.5 BA  
2,002 SQ. FT.  
LIVING SPACE

**SOLD FOR  
\$1,260,000**

**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

**SOLD FOR  
\$1,670,000**

This is not intended as a solicitation if your property is currently listed with another broker. The above information, is based on data received from public sources or third parties and has not be independently verified by the broker, Keller Williams Tri-Valley Realty. If important to readers, readers are advised to verify information to their own satisfaction.

# VENEMA HOMES

EXPERIENCE



EXCELLENCE

## The Spring Selling Season Is Here!

Time To Hunt For Your New Home.

**COMING SOON**  
Listed at \$1,729,000

**1402 Melanie Way, Livermore**  
4 Bedrooms | 2.5 Bathrooms | 2,704 Square Feet

**COMING SOON**  
Listed at \$1,949,000

Built in 2015

**4106 Wexler Way, Livermore**  
4 Bedrooms | 3.5 Bathrooms | 3,029 Square Feet

**COMING SOON**  
in Pleasanton

Listed at \$1,595,000

3 Bedrooms | 3 Bathrooms | 1,800 Square Feet

**PENDING**  
Listed at \$2,250,000

**581 E Angela Street, Pleasanton**

**PENDING**

**682 Windmill Lane, Pleasanton**  
Representing Buyer

**JUST SOLD**  
\$3,925,000

**1562 Foothill Road, Pleasanton**  
Represented Buyer and Seller

**JUST SOLD**  
\$3,895,000

**3727 Raboli Street, Ruby Hill**  
Represented Buyer & Seller

**JUST SOLD**  
\$3,030,000

**13 Foothill Lane, Pleasanton**

**JUST SOLD**  
\$2,350,000

**7004 Corte Nina, Pleasanton**  
Represented Buyer



### Hunt for the hidden objects!

- 7 Easter Bunnies
- 2 Baby Chicks
- 6 Spring Flowers
- 1 Carrot
- 9 Easter eggs
- 5 Butterflies

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