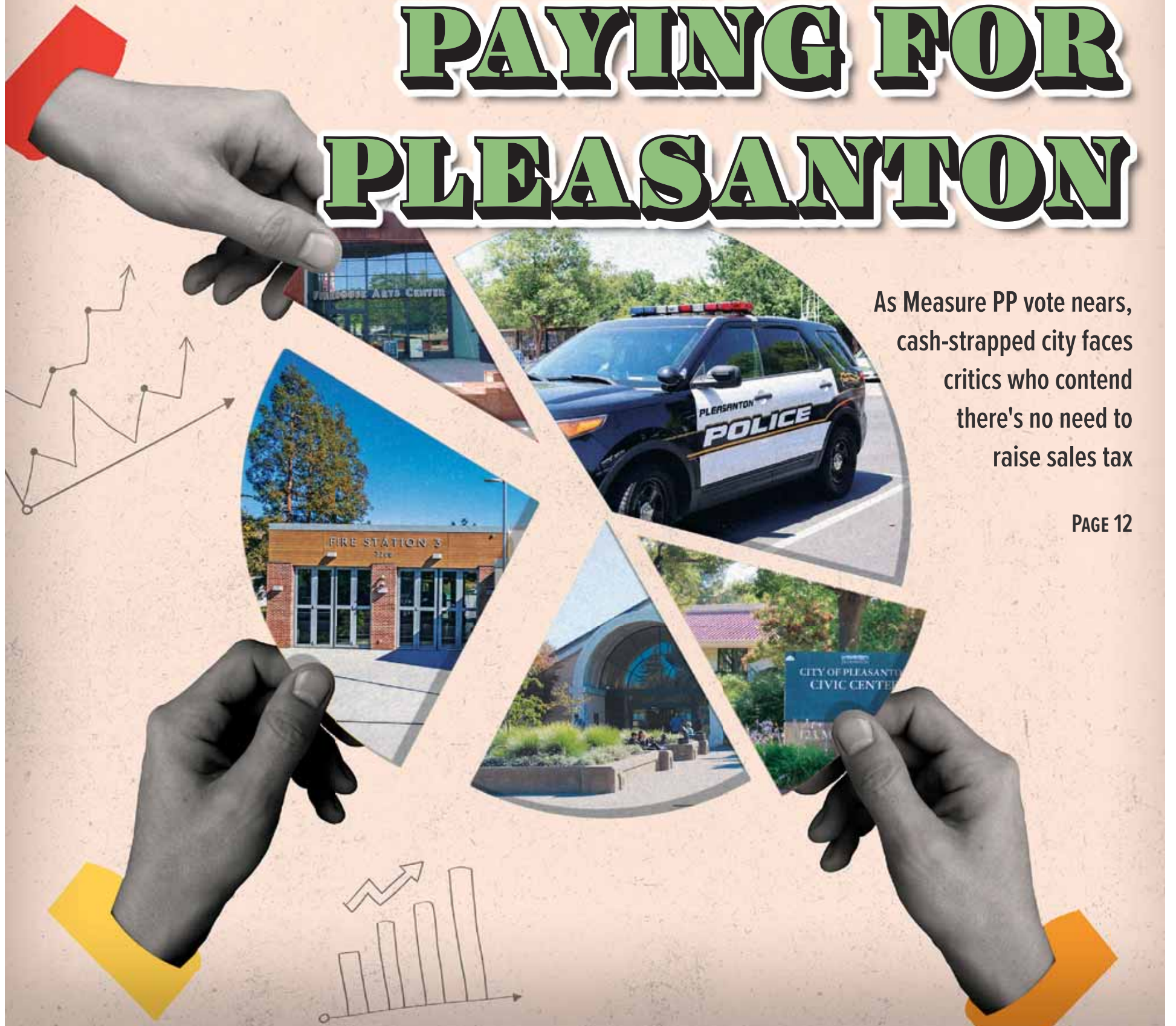


# PAYING FOR PLEASANTON

As Measure PP vote nears, cash-strapped city faces critics who contend there's no need to raise sales tax

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# WHAT A WEEK



By JEREMY WALSH

## Stories I missed

Michelle Obama made an appearance at the Costco in Livermore last week. We didn't, unfortunately, unaware our former first lady would be in the Tri-Valley to tout PLEZI Nutrition's FiZZ beverage.

It happens, particularly with celebrities pitching products in a local store where we'd be lucky to get a half-day's notice — in this case, I never got a press release or anything. So our team was left watching Obama's Livermore moment on Sept. 17 unfold via residents' social media videos, or read about it after the fact when some Bay Area and national outlets picked up the news in arrears.

An important reality to accept in our line of work is you're not going to get every story. It's impossible, unattainable. So I urge my staff not to fret about that part and instead focus on what we can control: Take care of each article you pursue and create an engaging piece of journalism with it.

Still, missing an interesting lead is disappointing. And that's where tips our readers and our sources are absolutely critical, to help make sure a subject gets on our radar so we decide which ones to back-cover and which to let ride without touching.

There are other cases, too, where you haven't seen coverage in the Weekly of a relevant news topic not because we didn't know about it or we passed on it or didn't have time, but in fact because we're doing our due diligence to thoroughly report the article.

We've had plenty of subjects in each of those categories in recent weeks as we've been busy with candidate forums and related election coverage. Here's a taste ...

The Zone 7 Water Agency Board of Directors have had some meaty meetings this summer, with big topics including its PFAS management plan, the Delta Conveyance Project and the Los Vaqueros Reservoir Expansion — the latter of which apparently went belly up this week. We're working to track each of these.

As we've covered the drama of financial allegations lodged by Livermore Area Recreation and Park District directors against the East Bay Regional Park District, we haven't had a chance yet to highlight recent park news from LARPD: the new turf field at Cayetano Park, the field renovations at William (Bill) Payne Sports Park and the cool communication boards installed at May Nissen Community Park.

For those wondering why Livermore's flags were lowered earlier this month, it's because the city

was honoring retired city manager Lee Horner (1978 to 1996), who died in June at 91.

Oh, one other Livermore lead: I reached out several weeks ago trying to get an interview after owners announced French Dips and More downtown was closing. I never heard back, and now it's their final week.

Openings have been on Pleasanton residents' minds recently.

We're trying to get a firm date for the new Costco; the company's website says Nov. 27, but it sure looks closer to ready than that. I've heard the Stable Cafe at the race-track reopened under new management. Driving Hopyard on Monday I noticed the restaurant succeeding Eddie Papa's was soft-opening, but I couldn't see the name. And just Tuesday I got a press release about the new Starbird Chicken at 6455 Owens Drive.

We've got multiple irons in the fire related to the Pleasanton city government, including the reported "disruptive incidents" at the softball complex, a sidewalk problem at the Ken Mercer Sports Park and the city's recent appeals court victory in an injury lawsuit that seemed to come down to the question of trail vs. sidewalk.

Kudos to resident Karen Miller, whose recent well-read Letter to the Editor helped us get some initial coverage of her neighborhood issue of large trucks barreling down First Street at seemingly all hours. That's a story I wanted to write about, but just haven't had a chance.


I also can't find the time to pull anything together yet on Specialty Sales Classics shutting down amid the legal troubles for its owner. Thanks to our blogger Tim Hunt for touching on it a little. We'll try to do something substantive in-house, but it's a haul — in the meantime the Press Democrat and the Chronicle have done great coverage of the underlying situation in Sonoma County.

We have multiple California Public Records Act requests filed or in the works in the aftermath of government developments up and down the Tri-Valley. Preparing those is such an exacting process; it's hard to find the time to keep up with those during the daily grind of local news.

Well, that's all the space I have in the paper this week and I didn't even get through my own list. Go figure. Plus, I've got hours' worth of inbox to comb through. I appreciate your patience with me and my team during this busy election season — and please, keep those tips coming. ■


### About the Cover

With Pleasanton residents slated to vote on a half-cent sales tax revenue measure this November, vocal community members question the need for such a tax increase while officials maintain such a revenue stream is necessary for the city's fiscal health. Local photos via Pleasanton Weekly files; design photo courtesy Getty Images. Cover design by Kristin Brown. Vol. XXV, Number 36




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# Streetwise

ASKED AROUND TOWN

## How do you feel about pets in the workplace, whether brought by employees or by customers/clients?



**Harley Williams**  
Periodontist

Well, my dog Jeffrey comes to work with me three days a week and my patients just love him. They try to schedule their appointments for days when they know he'll be there because he is such a comfort to them and reduces their stress level. He's like a non-prescription tranquilizer.



**Kade Ogden**  
Barback

I love having pets in the workplace. It makes for a fun and enjoyable work environment. Having dogs around while I'm working is one of the reasons I love my job. I do understand, though, that pets do not belong in every workplace; it really depends upon the nature of the establishment.



**Satya Bhunya**  
College student

When I worked as a cashier, many customers would bring their pets into my workplace. I feel like it was great for the employees to have them around because we could interact with them and they really boosted morale.



**Nora Stringa**  
Barista

I always enjoy seeing and playing with all sorts of dogs at work, not just service and therapy dogs. Unfortunately though, many businesses only permit entry to service and emotional support animals.



**Xavier McKay**  
High school student

Personally, I'm absolutely fine with that because it's a totally normal thing for me. I think it's beneficial to have dogs in the workplace because they help people feel relaxed and happy.

—Compiled by Nancy and Jeff Lewis

Have a Streetwise question? Email editor@PleasantonWeekly.com

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School Board Area 4

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- ◆ Dedicated Parent of 3 Students
- ◆ Former PTA President
- ◆ Prior PUSD Employee
- ◆ Current PPIE Board Member
- ◆ Vice-Chair Superintendent's Budget Advisory Committee

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## DIGEST

### Candidate forums

Embarcadero Media Foundation's East Bay Division is holding our next two election forums next week: Livermore City Council on Monday (Sept. 30) and San Ramon Mayor/City Council on Wednesday (Oct. 2).

The Livermore event, set for 5-7 p.m. at the Robert Livermore Community Center, will feature District 3 candidates Steven Dunbar, David Farley and Jeffrey Kaskey, District 4 candidates Tom Soules and Kristie Wang, and Mayor John Marchand, who is running unopposed.

The San Ramon forum at Roundhouse Bishop Ranch will be a split bill, with mayoral candidates Mark Armstrong and Chirag Kathrani speaking from 6-7 p.m. and City Council District 1 candidates Robert Jweinat and Vasanth Shetty from 7:15-8:15 p.m.

For more information, go to the "Election Forums" pages on [LivermoreVine.com](http://LivermoreVine.com) and [DanvilleSanRamon.com](http://DanvilleSanRamon.com), respectively.

### Beaudin award

Pleasanton City Manager Gerry Beaudin recently received the credentialed manager designation from the International City/County Management Association.

"To receive the respected ICMA credential, a member must have significant experience as a senior management executive in local government, have earned a degree, preferably in public administration or a related field, and demonstrate a commitment to high standards of integrity and to lifelong learning and professional development," city officials added.

### Celebrate LLNL

Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory and City Center Bishop Ranch are joining for a special celebration of the lab's fusion ignition achievement this Sunday (Sept. 29) from 2-4 p.m. at the shopping center in San Ramon.

LLNL Director Kim Budil will reflect on the journey of fusion ignition at the lab at the event emceed by NBC Bay Area meteorologist Rob Mayeda. Sunset Development CEO Alex Mehran Jr. and other local dignitaries will also make remarks.

"Attendees can look forward to refreshments, LLNL's laser fountain and DJ activities, along with interactive, family-friendly science exhibits by Science Alliance, featuring innovative projects from local high school students," lab officials said.

The event will also feature the art installation "Bringing Star Power to Earth" created by LLNL graphic designer James Wickboldt, with nine large banners on display around City Center. ■

## Castlewood association mulls options after homeowners hit with 172% water rate hike

If volunteer board can't convince county to properly fund area, forming Community Services District or annexing into city could be on the table

By TIM HUNT

Stung by water bills that are increasing 172%, Castlewood County Service Area residents flocked to a meeting last week to hear what their volunteer board of directors was doing about it.

The service area, established in the late 1950s, provides water, sewer and road maintenance for the 187 homes in the Castlewood area plus older homes along Foothill Road in unincorporated Pleasanton. Fees are billed on the property tax bill, with monthly charges assessed only if a

homeowner uses more water than his annual allotment.

The bad news from the Castlewood Property Owners Association board on Sept. 17 was blunt — there's nothing that can be done about the 2024-25 property tax bill that will be hitting mailboxes soon.

The Alameda County Board of Supervisors already approved it, with local supervisors Nate Miley and David Haubert supporting it with the caveat that they asked something be done about the huge increase. County managers in the Public

Works Agency pushed ahead with the staggering hike.

Castlewood homeowners will see the water maintenance and operations charge on their bill soar from \$1,089 to \$2,958, or \$338 for 330 units per year. City of Pleasanton rates, even after this year's hefty increases, are \$180 while Dublin San Ramon Services District clients pay \$169 and Fremont area users pay \$168.

That's motivated the board members to dive deeply into the finances, where they said the county has been

less than responsive.

Doug Ricketts, who works on the water committee, has tried to investigate the finances, as has Dan Dilger. Ricketts said he was given a big data dump from the county and, despite asking, received no training on how to deal with it.

Dilger pointed out how the annual audited report through 2022 contained detailed charts showing revenues, expenses and the bottom line. Charts vanished in 2023, he said.

See **CASTLEWOOD** on Page 10

## LVJUSD candidates debate

Issues include district's budget problem, top priority if elected, student health and safety, phone use at school and more

By JUDE STRZEMP

The district's budget, first-year priorities and sexual education proved to be among the divisive topics during the Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District Board of Education candidates forum last week.

In attendance were hopefuls Tara Boyce, Deena Kaplanis, Jean Paulsen, Maggie Tufts and Christiaan VandenHeuvel attempting to earn the community's vote. Candidate Amanda Pepper was unable to attend for scheduling reasons, but submitted a statement in her absence.

The participants found some common ground on collaborating with teachers, supporting students' mental and physical well-being, cellphone usage at school and early marks for New Superintendent Torie Gibson.

The six candidates are competing for two at-large seats on the school board that are fully wide open, with incumbent Trustee Kristie Wang running for Livermore City Council instead and Trustee Yanira Guzmán not seeking reelection for personal and professional reasons.

Held in the LVJUSD boardroom and livestreamed on the evening of Sept. 19, Livermore Vine publisher Gina Channell Wilcox and editorial director Jeremy Walsh moderated the forum. Questions for the candidates were solicited before and during the event.

To open the program, candidates were each allowed two minutes to introduce themselves and their platform.



CHUCK DECKERT

Candidates at LVJUSD election forum (from left): Jean Paulsen, Maggie Tufts, Christiaan VandenHeuvel, Deena Kaplanis and Tara Boyce.

LVJUSD parent Boyce said she will earn the community's vote because she has a direct stake in Livermore's public schools, a unique background in business and finance and child-centered values.

Boyce said if she's elected, "All students will have unfettered access to all learning materials necessary for the richest learning experience possible (and) learn in schools safe from physical and mental harm."

Business owner Kaplanis, a second-time candidate who gave her opening statement next, commented on her support of students and families.

"I'd like to continue serving all the children and families in our community by implementing data-driven strategies that promote critical thinking skills, academic

excellence and student achievement," Kaplanis said.

Paulsen, a former LVJUSD student who studied political science in college and is now a graphic novelist, suggested hiring a grant writer to secure funds for the district and solving the book ban issue by putting warnings on the inner jackets of books for "naughty stuff".

"Craft some kind of diligence program ... that parents need to be accountable for what their kids are doing," Paulsen said. "Lately there's been situations where kids are being almost weaponized. They're bringing weapons, they're using social media accounts to do, basically, acts of domestic terrorism."

Pepper, a 12-year Livermore resident and parent of three LVJUSD

See **LVJUSD** on Page 11

## Bobertz secure as petition falters

County rejects call for special election in SGUSD

By CHRISTIAN TRUJANO

Chris Bobertz, Sunol Glen Unified School District's recently appointed provisional board trustee, has cleared his final obstacle to take his seat after the Alameda County Office of Education rejected a petition submitted earlier this month trying to force a special election for his position.

The office did not certify the petition, which was filed on Sept. 6, because it did not meet certain state requirements, according to an ACOE spokesperson. And because Bobertz was formally appointed to the provisional seat on Aug. 20, the window to file another similar petition is over due to policy that says a petition to call for such an election must be submitted within 30 calendar days of the appointment.

"Per our Counsel's review of the applicable education code, we've been advised that Sept. 19 was the deadline to submit a new petition," Neetu Balram, director of communications and public affairs for the county office, told the Weekly. "That



Chris Bobertz

See **PETITION** on Page 9

# Dublin mayoral candidates square off in Weekly forum

Opponents outline opinions on range of topics including both ballot measures, downtown development

By JEANITA LYMAN

The four candidates seeking the mayor's office in Dublin gathered this week for an election forum aimed at giving the public a chance to connect with the candidates and hear about their platforms firsthand.

The event, moderated by the Pleasanton Weekly and hosted by Dublin Chamber of Commerce, featured candidates Shawn Costello, Tom Evans, Sherry Hu and Jean Josey fielding questions on topics on Monday evening including the city's two ballot measures in this year's election, the shift in leadership in the city manager's office and economic development.

Evans and Costello are both longtime Dublin residents who would be in their first terms in office should either be elected in November, with Hu and Josey, also longtime residents of the city, currently holding seats on the City Council.

The mayor's seat is up for grabs following the departure of former mayor Melissa Hernandez, who was appointed to the BART Board of Directors earlier this year. Michael McCorriston was appointed to an interim term as mayor until December, on the condition that he not seek election to the mayor's office this November. He is currently the only candidate running for the District 1 seat on the City Council.

One topic of discussion Monday evening was Measure JJ, which would increase term limits for newly elected councilmembers from eight years to 12 years, counting both mayoral and council service. Although the measure also includes language about prohibiting elected officials in the city

from accepting gifts from lobbyists and contractors and from appointing lobbyists to city commissions, the candidates were in agreement that the term limit expansion is the main thrust of the measure.

"Gifts — right now, I don't think that's a big problem," Hu said. "Everyone who's appointed and elected shies away from any gifts."

However, Hu said that she supported the measure for the sake of expanding term limits, pointing to other neighboring communities less restrictive term limits and the learning curve for elected officials.

"The pro is that we do have new blood in the city to bring new energy," said Hu, who is running for mayor at the end of her first four-year council term. "The con is this is a lot of work and it takes a lot of time."

She noted that if approved, the increased term limits would be applied only to any newly elected councilmembers and mayor, not those already in office.

"My thought is we encourage a longer term limit, 12 years in total, and this applies to the future councilmembers, not anybody who's already elected," Hu said.

Josey, who voted against placing the measure on the ballot, also emphasized that term limits were the main target of the measure.

"None of us accepts gifts, and if we did we would have to disclose them," said Josey, who has two years remaining on her second and final term on the City Council. "We don't put lobbyists and contractors on our commissions now, and we already post contracts on our website."

Nonetheless, she noted that Dublin has "the most restrictive term limits



CHUCK DECKERT

Dublin's 2024 mayor candidates (from left) Jean Josey, Sherry Hu, Tom Evans and Shawn Costello at Sept. 23 forum hosted by the Dublin Chamber of Commerce and moderated by the Pleasanton Weekly.

in the region," and that the current eight-year term limit puts the city at risk of being led by an inexperienced mayor.

Costello said he approved of the fact that the extended term limits would only apply to newly elected officials should it pass with voters.

"I am for letting the new people like myself have more time to run for office and serve our city, and give us more time to do good work," Costello said. "And that's what I want to do is do good work, as long as I live and as long as I can stand it."

Evans said that while he supported the prospect of increasing term limits in the city, he did not approve of the measure as it is written.

"I like the idea of a term-limit extension because experience does help, but the rest of it I think is quite frankly ridiculous," Evans said.

Evans was also critical of the other major issue that had been placed on the ballot by the City Council — Measure II, which would allow

the city to explore a potential private commercial development on the Crosby Property to the east of the city limits, which is currently designated as open space.

"I am against (Measure II)," Evans said. "I want to leave this as open space. I don't want the measure to pass. We don't need to annex that land to Dublin. We have enough land in southeast Dublin already that has not been developed."

Josey and Hu, who both voted to place the measure on the ballot, voiced their support for the move and sought to explain why the council advanced the measure to the voters.

"It does not annex any land into Dublin; it does not approve any specific development. All it does is ask voters if they want Dublin to take the first step in talking about what might go along the roadway," Josey said.

Hu noted that the Dublin Boulevard extension had been envisioned for decades, and that a previously approved plan from the city required current officials to explore development options on the land surrounding the road. She emphasized that while the price-tag for the extension would be high, the goal was to pay for it using federal and state funding rather than taxpayer money.

"Our city will help to get the funding from the state and the federal government to help with cost, and with this measure we can build the road at no cost to taxpayers," Hu said.

Costello said he was against the measure, citing increased traffic risks and a desire to preserve the existing open space.

"We're losing open space left and right because all we're doing in Dublin is building and building and building," Costello said.

The candidates also expressed a range of views on the prospect of developing a downtown district in the growing city.

Costello, a city candidate in multiple elections over the years, noted that while the prospect of facilitating a downtown has been discussed for decades, he continues to face obstacles navigating the city streets in

a wheelchair, or to see any follow-through from current city officials on his requests to make the city — particularly a downtown area — accessible to people with disabilities.

"If you make it wheelchair accessible that means it's accessible for everybody — baby strollers kids on bikes all that stuff — but the most important thing is that we build it smartly," Costello said. "We don't want to spend 100 million on a project that is not going to work."

Evans voiced concerns about the cost for a new downtown area, and said that the costs should be funded in some part by developers who would benefit from business in the area, as well as calling for additional transparency on those costs.

"I have asked specifically what are we paying for and how much is it going to cost," said Evans, a first-time candidate. "I've asked point blank and I get no answers."

Josey said that while the city's housing stock is already sufficient, the need for a shopping and dining district remains. She also voiced support for property and sales tax-sharing programs aimed at incentivizing developers.

"What I want to do is make sure we get a walkable, pedestrian friendly downtown with a true dining district that I've been asking for the whole time I've been on council," Josey said.

Hu said she had mixed feelings about the development of a downtown district. While she voiced support for a centralized district for dining, entertainment and shopping, she said she was worried about overdevelopment.

"I'm concerned about eight-story buildings and being packed like sardines and not enough parking spaces, overcrowding that will compromise the charm and the functionality of our downtown area," Hu said.

The candidates also weighed in on questions regarding public safety, economic development, housing and next month's city manager transition. A full video of Monday's forum will be made available at [pleasanton-weekly.com](http://pleasanton-weekly.com) and on the Pleasanton Weekly's YouTube page soon. ■

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# Morada, Hasni differentiate at Dublin District 3 debate

Measure II, safety, economic development, housing among hot topics for council candidates

By JUDE STRZEMP

Dublin City Council District 3 candidates John Morada and Razi Hasni tried to appeal to the city's southeastern voters at a forum on Monday evening over topics like the city's two ballot measures, public safety, economic development and housing.

The hopefuls found common values in supporting businesses and improving public safety, but distinguished themselves on subjects like Measure II and affordable housing.

District 3 is the only contested council race this election season and the seat is wide open to newcomer Morada and second-time candidate Hasni, with no eligible incumbent running in the race during Dublin's first district-based election.

Also up for grabs in this election are the positions of Dublin mayor with four candidates on the ballot citywide and City Council District 1, where Mayor Michael McCarriston is running unopposed to represent the western part of Dublin in a regular council seat.

The District 3 forum immediately followed a debate featuring the mayor candidates on Monday evening in the Chabot-Las Positas Community College District boardroom at the Dublin Professional Center. Pleasanton Weekly publisher Gina Channell Wilcox and editorial director Jeremy Walsh moderated the event, which was co-hosted by the Dublin Chamber of Commerce.

Hasni, former board chair of the chamber who also ran for council in 2020, opened the discussion with about 30 people remaining in the audience after the mayoral portion.

"As a local business owner and a proud father of a high school senior who's right here at Dublin High School, I understand the joys, challenges and opportunities that families like ours face day in and day out," Hasni said.

He said he prioritizes public safety, including police and fire departments, and maintaining a balanced budget. And as a leader, he considered himself to be a collaborative problem-solver.

Next up was Morada, a first-time candidate and former Dublin High School Parent Faculty Student Organization board member who also served as a trustee for the Dublin United Soccer League. "These experiences have taught me the value of listening and the importance of acting in the public's best interest, rather than being swayed by either commercial interests or populist rhetoric," he said.

Morada said his top three priorities are improving public safety, expanding affordable housing and supporting fair pay.

To kick off the question period, candidates were asked about their position on Measure II, called the

"Dublin Traffic Relief, Clean Air/Open Space Preservation Measure". This measure asks if City Council will acquire the power to approve limited commercial development in an area on the east side eyed to include the Dublin Boulevard extension.

Morada began by saying he supports Dublin working within its own boundaries. But if Livermore supported moving forward with "that", then he'd also be supportive. If Livermore didn't support "that", then he'd want to understand why.

According to a letter from Livermore City Manager Marianna Marysheva to Dublin City Manager Linda Smith on July 15, Livermore doesn't support commercial development along the extension area.

Morada said in terms of Measure II, "It's yet to be determined exactly how we'll benefit from it. The way that the budget today is being defined

is somewhat nebulous, so I want to understand who's paying for what and where that will come from because there's still a lot of unknowns left."

Hasni came out in support of Measure II — which is on the ballot as a letter-based label as assigned by the county (preceding Dublin's other ballot issue, Measure JJ), although Hasni also pronounced it as "measure two" during the forum.

The measure would allow Dublin to consider options for constructing the road, he explained. And though he endorses Measure II, Hasni said he would listen to all supporting and opposing points of view before voting on a potential project.

To determine the impact of the extension, Hasni said that he wants to make sure an environmental impact report and California Environmental



CHUCK DECKERT

Candidates for Dublin City Council District 3 are (from left) John Morada and Razi Hasni.

See **COUNCIL** on Page 8

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# Fairgrounds breaks ground on new educational farm

First phase of construction will include building barn, paddock, petting corral

BY CHRISTIAN TRUJANO

The Alameda County Fairgrounds celebrated the start of the first phase of construction last week on a new, state-of-the-art educational farm that officials say will serve as a prime field trip destination for students and a valuable community resource.

The groundbreaking ceremony, which took place on Sept. 18 at the fairgrounds in Pleasanton, featured renderings of what the 2-acre facility will look like once it's finished and comments from folks like Jerome Hoban, CEO of Alameda County Agricultural Fair Association.

"Thank you to the Fair Foundation for achieving the remarkable milestone of raising over \$2 million to kickstart phase one of 'The Farm,'" Hoban said in a press release before the event. "This incredible support propels our mission to educate future generations in the vital field of agriculture, ensuring a lasting

impact for years to come."

Back in April, the Alameda County Fair Foundation announced its partnership with Safeway to formally name the foundation's educational farm the Safeway Barn, as a way of meeting the project's fundraising goals for this year in order to break ground on construction.

According to the press release, apart from the 19 other donors that joined Safeway in supporting the project, the fair foundation also raised funds in order to break ground on the first phase of construction.

The foundation had been campaigning to raise money for the farm's construction since 2022 after getting approval from the county Board of Supervisors.

The first phase of the project includes constructing the barn, paddock and a petting corral

"Breaking ground on The Farm is a meaningful milestone for all of our supporters," Valerie Shirk, executive

director of the Alameda County Fair Foundation, said in the Sept. 4 press release.

According to the farm's website, the educational facility will emphasize agriculture technology and will have programming and curriculum on things like animal and plant sciences, renewable energy and water conservation, health and nutrition, and many other topics. It will also have live animals and crops; a modern barn, greenhouse and lab; and indoor classrooms with kitchens.

"The Farm, which will be built and operated by the Alameda County Fairgrounds, will offer students and the public immersive, hands-on experiences with crops, livestock, and agriculture ecosystems," according to the Sept. 4 press release. "Programming will also provide visitors with an introduction to the latest advancements in farming, fostering an appreciation for sustainable practices, innovative technologies, and



FAIR FOUNDATION

A rendering of what the barn and petting corral would look like at The Farm at the fairgrounds.

career opportunities within the agriculture sector."

The proposed location for the farm would be just inside the red gate in the grassy area, which is also known as AgVenture Park.

Shirk stated that while they are celebrating reaching the groundbreaking

milestone for the first phase of the project, there is still more work to be done.

"Phase two of the project will focus on important components of The Farm, including ways to showcase local crops and an outdoor kitchen and gathering space," she said. ■

# Stanford Medicine is once again in-network for Blue Shield

Insurance coverage for all services reinstated as of September

BY LISA MORENO /  
PALO ALTO WEEKLY

After more than two months of negotiations, Stanford Medicine and Blue Shield of California reached a new agreement, making Stanford Hospital, Lucile Packard Children's Hospital, Tri-Valley Hospital, Stanford Medicine Partners and Packard

Children's Health Alliance in-network for its HMO and PPO member recipients.

Blue Shield announced that the agreement had gone into effect on Sept. 1.

Blue Shield announced in July that Stanford Medicine would be dropped from its medical coverage following contract disagreements,

and only patients with terminal illnesses, in need of surgery or using pregnancy and postpartum services would qualify for its Continuity of Care program, which allows patients to continue treatment throughout network disruptions.

But after the announcement, Stanford Health Care said it would continue to honor Blue Shield's

in-network expenses for all services throughout the negotiations, according to Lisa Kim, Stanford Medicine media representative.

Now, all coverage has been reinstated between the two groups following the new agreement.

Blue Shield of California and Stanford Health have a history of disagreements, having also

terminated their contract in 2014.

"We look forward to continuing our longstanding collaboration for the benefit of our members and patients," the two parties wrote in a joint statement.

Blue Shield of California and Stanford Health did not immediately respond to requests for comment. ■

## COUNCIL

Continued from Page 7

Quality Act review are completed prior to any development. (The city's website notes that a final EIR for the Dublin Boulevard extension has already been prepared in accordance with CEQA, but the environmental impact of potential development alongside the extension that has not been studied yet.)

In final comment on the topic, Hasni said, "I support open space. We want to make sure we maintain our open space and protect our eastern urban limits, but I also know how important it is for us to bring in higher paying jobs to Dublin."

Candidates were also asked how they would promote economic development for all businesses citywide and in District 3 specifically.

Morada, who cited 17 years of

experience in the commercial sector and a background in mergers and acquisitions, said he wants to focus on refilling vacant commercial lots.

"That's one of the most important, quickly impactful ways we can bring businesses back," Morada said.

He suggested working with the city's economic development team to find businesses to fill vacant locations, noting his connections with start-ups.

Hasni, who has been a small business owner for the last 15 years, shared Morada's priority of filling up vacant lots. But Hasni focused the conversation on revitalizing Hacienda Crossings.

Also on Hasni's priorities was business growth in eastern Dublin, which he said will be key to attracting higher paying employers to Dublin. Of particular interest to Hasni was bringing in industries like manufacturing, biomedical and clean technology, saying he has connections in the fields.

When the floor opened to what each candidate considered the most important issue in District 3 and their proposed solutions, Morada focused on improving bike lanes and public safety whereas Hasni focused on business development and improved traffic.

"I would love District 3 to become a much more bikeable part of the city," Morada said.

Riding from nearby Fallon Sports Park to the events at Emerald Glen Park with his family, Morada said there aren't enough well-defined bike lanes. "We're either rumbling through a bunch of gravel or we're having to divert ourselves to avoid the potholes that exist," he said.

Also on the topic of safety, Morada said well-lit barrier poles along streets would improve safety for people who walk in the evenings.

Hasni followed up by complimenting the police for keeping residents safe to walk at night.

He repeated his support of business development in East Dublin and leasing out all of Hacienda Crossings, so "that doesn't become another sad story like Stoneridge Mall." Hasni also wants to improve traffic and parking around Emerald High School.

Closing statements began with Morada, who expressed public safety as his top concern.

"Let's talk about three specific numbers: 110, 11, one ... 110 is the average heart rate for an 11-year-old child. And when I got the call that my daughter was hit by a car, I wondered

if I'd ever hear her heartbeat again," Morada said, his voice breaking.

He added, "When my daughter was hit, there was one driver in the car who was distracted because she was talking on the phone. So I stand before you today with the conviction to ensure that public safety is my No. 1 priority."


Morada also said he wants to "frame affordable housing as affordable living" and address the insurance crisis with state representatives.

Hasni, who started by acknowledging his opponent's emotional personal story, then shared, "As a father, husband, small business owner and entrepreneur, I am your candidate for this critical time as we transition from building homes to fostering and supporting businesses that will improve our local economy."

Hasni also voiced support of public safety, operating a balanced budget, investing in parks and recreation, protecting open space and development of downtown Dublin.

A video of the full forum will be available on [pleasantonweekly.com](http://pleasantonweekly.com) and the Pleasanton Weekly's YouTube page soon. Other question topics included Measure JJ, downtown Dublin and public safety. ■

THE CITY OF PLEASANTON



HIGHLIGHTS

City Council Meeting

Tuesday, October 1, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.

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

- Receive information and discuss options and opportunities for a program to support affordable housing project(s) in Pleasanton

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

# Stretch of Mines Road closing for three weeks

‘Essential’ project to fix landslide damage is for ‘long-term benefit of all users’

By JEREMY WALSH

Mines Road will be shut down in both directions at Mile Marker 6.50 in unincorporated Livermore from

next week into mid-October so construction crews can address severe landslide damage along the rural roadway, according to the Alameda County Public Works Agency.

In a press release urging motorists to plan in advance and use alternate routes, county officials said the project aims to “restore and enhance Mines Road for the

long-term benefit of all users”.

“The full closure is essential to repair severe roadway damage caused by landslides and to ensure the road’s safety and durability,”

officials added.

The shutdown is scheduled to start on Monday (Sept. 30) and continue through Oct. 19, in effect 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

For project updates and other information, visit the agency’s website at [acpwa.org](http://acpwa.org), email [info@acpwa.org](mailto:info@acpwa.org) or call its construction hotline at 510-670-5591. ■

## PETITION

Continued from Page 5

was based on Aug. 20 being the date when the provisional appointment occurred.”

Sunol Glen School administrative assistant Miki Whitfield previously told the Weekly that Sunol residents would have up to 30 days from Sept. 10 — which is the school board meeting where Bobertz was officially sworn in as a provisional trustee. But county officials said this week that the California Education Code starts the clock as soon as an individual is appointed, not when they are sworn in to the board.

Bobertz’s ascension comes after a majority of Sunol voters recalled school board trustees Ryan Jergensen and Linda Hurley in July. Following their removal, ACOE Board President Cheryl Cook-Kallio appointed herself and Alameda County Area 4 Trustee Aisha Knowles as temporary trustees to serve alongside

now-Board President Peter (Ted) Romo on the three-member board.

Cook-Kallio took over Hurley’s seat, which is up for reelection this November, and Knowles took over Jergensen’s term, which was scheduled to end in 2026. Instead of waiting until 2026, the new-look Sunol board decided to interview a handful of residents to provisionally replace Knowles’ seat.

After interviewing five candidates during its Aug. 20 meeting, the board voted to appoint Bobertz. He was then officially sworn in on Sept. 10.

However, under state law and district bylaws, Sunol voters who didn’t agree with the school board’s Aug. 20 decision to pick Bobertz had the opportunity to force a special election for the seat by submitting a petition to the county.

According to the petition, which was made public in a post by the United for Sunol Glen recall campaign on Monday, 39 Sunol residents signed their names to trigger the

special election which, according to the petition itself, would have cost the district between \$15,000 and \$17,000.

James Lowder, a Sunol resident who was very vocal against the recall efforts, was the lead petitioner of the effort and was the main person named in the petition. He had thrown his name in as a candidate for the provisional seat but did not show up for his interview during the Aug. 20 board meeting.

According to the recall campaign’s post, its representatives received reports from multiple residents who said they signed Lowder’s petition but claimed that the “nature of the petition was misrepresented to them when their signature was collected and that if they had known it was intended to remove a good trustee like Chris from the school board they never would have signed it.”

“These Sunolians have expressed that they feel betrayed, angry and embarrassed that they signed the

petition and have asked for guidance to have their names withdrawn,” the United for Sunol Glen post stated.

As for why the petition itself did not get certified, Balram said the document did not meet the part of the education code that stipulates the requirements for such a petition — specifically, she said it did not contain “the election official’s estimate of the cost of conducting the special election and those estimated costs expressed on a per-pupil or per-student basis.”

“No reason or grounds for attempting to recall trustee Bobertz from his seat were included on the petition; he had not yet been sworn in at the time of the filing of the petition so he had no opportunity to have his competency as a trustee evaluated by the petitioners or signatories,” the United for Sunol Glen post stated.

After hearing the news of the petition not being certified, Sunol Glen Superintendent-Principal Shay Galletti told the Weekly it will allow

her and her team to shift focus on the school.

“Moving forward, this will allow the board and me to focus our energy and attention on serving all students, families and supporting staff,” Galletti said.

Bobertz said he knew about the petition being filed to remove him from his provisional seat, but it wasn’t until recently that he heard about it being rejected and the deadline to submit another petition having passed.

He said while he was prepared to campaign for a seat if there had been such an election, he’s glad to know he doesn’t have to worry about this issue anymore and can focus on other matters.

“Of course, I hoped there would not be one, and I’m glad that the school community can collectively sigh a bit of relief as we look forward to the annual Sunol Glen Walk-a-Thon fundraiser and the 100-year anniversary of Sunol Glen!” Bobertz said. ■


## Thank You Sponsors & Donors For Your Support!

# Tri-Valley Jewish congregations set for high holidays

Rabbis note this year's Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur observances impacted by terror attack anniversary

By JEREMY WALSH

Jewish congregations in the Tri-Valley are getting ready for the Jewish New Year and high holidays, with the local observances that begin next week likely presenting a different feeling and significance this year given the events in the Middle East and how the calendar falls.

"The arrival of the New Year is supposed to fill us with joy and hope for the future," said Rabbi Laurence Elis Milder, of Congregation Beth Emek in Pleasanton. "These High Holy Days, however, will also be marked by solemn remembrance. Oct. 7 is the one-year anniversary of Hamas' murderous assault on a music festival and villages in Israel. This year, that date falls between the Jewish holy days of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur."

Rabbi Raleigh Resnick of Chabad of the Tri-Valley, also based in Pleasanton, told the Weekly, "Ever since the terror attack last year, we have seen an increase in the number of Jews who feel the need to reconnect and strengthen their bond with their heritage, traditions and People. It's at times like this when community comes together."

Rosh Hashanah will run from next Wednesday evening (Oct. 2) until Friday (Oct. 4), with Jews gathering for evening prayers to mark the New Year on Wednesday and morning prayers on Thursday and Friday, Milder noted. Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement, will follow on Oct. 11-12.

All holy days observances at

Congregation Beth Emek, the Tri-Valley's Reform synagogue, will be held in-person and online. See the full schedule of events at [bethemek.org](http://bethemek.org).

"Our hearts are with the men, women and children still being held hostage in Gaza," Milder said. "In Jewish tradition, redemption of the captives is one of the highest mitzvot, one of the most important of our sacred obligations. We pray for the speedy return of the hostages to their homes and families, for an end to war, for an end to the suffering of innocent civilians, and for peace between Israelis and Palestinians."

Resnick noted that the "center and focal point of the Jewish New Year is the sounding of the shofar (a hollowed-out ram's horn)."

"By sounding the shofar, we infuse new energy and blessing into the universe and into our lives for this coming year. As we listen to the shofar's piercing and penetrating sound, we are inspired to become better and holier people," he said.

Chabad will sound the shofar at its Center for Jewish Life next Thursday and Friday at 11:45 a.m. and again at 5:30 p.m. at a special "Shofar in the Park" event on both days at Ken Mercer Sports Park in Pleasanton.

"Especially in light of the terror attacks in Israel, we encourage the entire Jewish community to join us for this important holiday observance," Resnick said. "For Chabad, this upcoming Jewish year carries an extra measure of significance and joy. We

are celebrating our 20th year serving the Tri-Valley's community, and we are months away from opening our newly constructed facility."

To learn more about Chabad's three-course community New Year dinner and services on Wednesday and all other high holiday season events, go to [www.JewishTriValley.com](http://www.JewishTriValley.com). Chabad is also hosting a free special event this Sunday (Sept. 29) at 7:30 p.m. with Itamar Shapira, a survivor of the Nova Music Festival from Israel.

Tri-Valley Cultural Jews are also holding observances, including their annual Rosh Hashanah Celebration on Wednesday in Livermore with a pot luck dinner at 6:30 p.m. followed by an hour-long ceremony of readings and music at 7:30 p.m. that is online as well as in-person.

Their Yom Kippur gathering with music, readings and discussion is set for 2-5 p.m. Oct. 12.

"Rabbi Judith Seid will lead a short ceremony of repentance and forgiveness at 2 p.m.," TVCJ reps said. "Discussions sessions following will include mental health, forms of governance, education and invasive/endangered species during which participants will be encouraged to examine how they can have impacts on these social problems in the year to come. The afternoon will conclude with a remembrance (nizkor) ceremony. Quiet activities will be available for children for whom the afternoon might be inappropriate."

For more information, go to [trivalleyculturaljews.org](http://trivalleyculturaljews.org). ■

# HOPE100

GOLF MARATHON

## Monday, October 21

### Castlewood Country Club

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#### Option 1 – Traditional 100-Hole Marathon

- ✓ You may register as an individual and attempt the 100 holes on your own; or, split the challenge among friends.
- ✓ The event has a quick pace of play. Most people complete 18 holes every two hours.
- ✓ Your registration is a display of your intent to raise a minimum of \$2,500 in support toward Hope's mission of care and service to our community. Your green fees, cart rental, three meals, and course beverages are all covered by your registration fee.

#### Option 2 – Steve Thompson Skills Challenge

- ✓ A new half-day addition to the Hope 100, the skills challenge runs concurrent to the marathon and offers a chance to compete for prizes and bragging rights in a series of 10 trials including putts, chips, and drives.
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- ✓ Snacks and course beverages are provided.



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## CASTLEWOOD

Continued from Page 5

Dilger's analysis showed a \$1.9 million difference between what the auditor reported the ending balance in the Castlewood dedicated account was and what the county financial staff listed in its report to the board. The county also has not been forthcoming to show where the differences stem from as well as explaining details of spending that sent the water bill soaring, directors said.

In addition, the county is claiming there's a shortfall in the account of \$1.237 million, about \$6,000 per household. Public works sent the board a slide deck an hour before the scheduled general meeting in August laying out the shortfall and options for payment with the demand that a decision be reached that evening, directors said. The board pulled the slide from the deck and did not show it.

The board believes the association must protest the shortfall and refuse

to pay it. They've hired an attorney who is experienced dealing with the county. They said they hope to avoid legal action.

Board President Rick Hammel summed up the situation saying that the public works director had said to his face that Castlewood was a "bleep-bleep-bleep." He said that the director would like Castlewood to find another alternative to the county.

The board, noting that the membership would make any final decision, had Vice President Mike Mitchel lay out three potential options.

1. Convince the county to properly fund the area. The county receives 15% of the property tax. It provides sheriff's services and fire protection to Castlewood with the homeowners bearing the burden for the rest. Doing this would require the supervisors' approval, and they would still have the final say on budget.

2. Form a Community Services District, in effect, a mini-city with

a directly elected board. The county would have to agree to allocate 12-13% of the property tax pot and would still retain ultimate control. Administrative costs would increase.

3. Annex to the city of Pleasanton. Pleasanton receives 18% of the property tax. The challenge is the city has little incentive to annex unless there's additional revenue that comes with it. The City Council would make governance decisions. City services are better than what's provided by the county and local officials presumably would be more responsive, directors said. Pleasanton is facing its own structural budget shortfall, and the council majority has placed a 1/2-cent local sales tax increase proposal on the November ballot.

The board said it will be a multi-year process, and it would be pursuing all three options until one or more are determined infeasible. ■

*Editor's note: Journalist Tim Hunt is a freelancer for the Pleasanton Weekly. Hunt and his family live in the Castlewood area and pay these taxes.*

## LVJUSD

Continued from Page 5

students, values flexibility and open-mindedness as a leader. And she vowed to be a reasonable and responsible board member.

"We have so many great programs in Livermore and we're pretty good at serving our diverse community. But we can always do better and I want to help facilitate that," Pepper wrote in her prepared statement read aloud by Walsh.

A student and family mentor for college and career readiness, Tufts shared her bilingual and bicultural upbringing in her opening statement, saying it has inspired her dedication to serving English language learners.

"I will encourage communication so that students (and) families will connect with teachers and staff in an inclusive and welcome environment," Tufts said.

Last to speak was VandenHeuvel, who immigrated to the U.S. at 20 years old and learned English during the transition. He has two kids who are LVJUSD alumni and a third at Livermore High School.

"I run on empathy. I run on opportunity for each student; I know, having a special needs background myself, how important it is that we include everybody," VandenHeuvel told the audience. "I want to make sure every student feels like they belong and marginalized students especially, who get pushed out more and more."

The forum then transitioned to the question-and-answer portion of the night.

As background for the first question, moderators noted that LVJUSD's budget received a "qualified certification" from the state because it is projected to have insufficient funds for the 2025-26 school year. Candidates were then asked how the problem could be fixed.

Kaplanis and Tufts suggested the district cut spending, and they agreed to keep the cuts away from students as much as possible. But Kaplanis focused on cutting unnecessary positions or positions "at the top", whereas Tufts said that ineffective resources could be targeted.

Paulsen approached the issue from the revenue side, repeating the need for a grant writer.

VandenHeuvel and Boyce put the conversation in context of the district's recent approval of its 2023-24 unaudited budget actual financial report — which showed the general fund increased by about \$141,000 last school year. This offers a much different outcome than expected by the third interim budget, which predicted the general fund to decrease by nearly \$11 million in 2023-24.

Since the general fund balance will roll over into the 2024-25 budget, the previously expected deficit may change, Boyce said.

She added that as a boardmember, she wants to make sure financial fluctuations are entered into budget projections in as real-time as possible.

"District-wide programs, away from the classroom and in the classroom, can also be evaluated for redundancies, so we can capture redundancies as they may exist," Boyce said.

Candidates continued to differentiate themselves when asked about the changes they'd like to enact in their first year on the Board of Education.

Kaplanis, Tufts and Boyce centered their answers on interrelated parts of education.

Tufts said she would focus on communicating with students and families to boost college and career readiness; Boyce would build an early literacy program for all students, and Kaplanis would study low student achievement and academic success and invest from there.

VandenHeuvel said he wants to focus on reducing phone-usage at school, helping teachers "with a policy that would assist them in getting rid of the smart devices in the classroom during the class day, so that students can see each other again, can interact with each other again, can interact with the material again and do not have a music library in their pocket every single day."

Approaching phone-usage with a different tone, Paulsen reiterated her support of a due-diligence program.

"What I'm seeing is children hurting themselves, hurting others ... to make Zuckerberg rich, to make Elon Musk rich? Who cares? They don't own me. They don't own you. You're all adults. This is disgusting," she said. "If you have stock in Meta, just take it out. Take it out right now ... Save your children."

With regard to the board's relationship with teachers and their union, VandenHeuvel, Boyce and Kaplanis agreed that collaboration is a necessity.

At the same time, VandenHeuvel said discussion might be needed in opposition to zero period or in support of the new semester schedule.

And Boyce said that the union needs to challenge the district to provide more resources for teachers.

Tufts explained her approach as more centered on individual teacher needs. "Let's listen to what the teachers want ... let's work directly with them before we talk about 'what are we going to work with the unions.' Yes, we do have rules, we will follow it, but let's work with our teachers," she said.

Paulsen claimed there are no problems between the school board and the union, so nothing needs to be changed.

Next up, candidates shared their opinion of how the district has addressed the mental and physical well-being of students as well as what can be done to better support the students.

Boyce suggested expanding programs for teachers to learn how to implement wellness techniques into their daily curriculum.

Kaplanis even recommended making wellness classes for students. "We need to be able to have therapeutic

courses as part of curriculum, so that everyone can benefit. Nobody is being singled out," she said. "I also think that we need to have anti-bullying practices."

Tufts located the solution in teaching kids how to communicate. She also voiced her support of events like Unity Day, National Bullying Prevention and Awareness Day, as beneficial to students' mental health.

VandenHeuvel said he's seen teachers become increasingly trained around the topic of mental well-being. He also suggested that well-being be addressed through effectors like phones, social media, availability of guns in the house and bullying.

Paulsen repeated her support of a due-diligence program.

The candidates were also able to bring their legislative interest to the forum and their position on the No. 1 state education bill they're following. Suggested topics included LGBTQ+ student safety, parent notification of gender identification, book removals, ethnic study requirements and social media regulations.

Tufts said she supports the LBGTQ community and student privacy and that since students' home situation is unknown, keeping students safe means keeping their gender or name change private.

Boyce voiced a similar opinion in support of protecting students' right to use preferred pronouns at school without telling parents. She also

expressed her support of Assembly Bill 3216 on limiting student use of cellphones at school.

On the topic of removing books, Boyce said, "Books provide mirrors to our children, to our LGBTQ communities, our Mexican communities, our Black communities, etc. They need to see all of that in the library, so they're reading stories about themselves and learning about their history."

VanderHeuvel also opposed censorship of books, especially for older students. Books allow them to stretch their minds and learn about other people's opinions, so they develop their critical thinking skills, he said.

Paulsen said she agreed that book-banning is bad.

Kaplanis answered the question on policy by expressing support for communication with parents and families. "I follow a lot of these bills and how it aligns with our district, considering our LCAP goals of providing an 'engaging, clean and healthy, physically and emotionally safe environment to support learning at the highest levels' and also to 'enhance parent and community engagement and communication.' Any of the bills that directly oppose or collide with this is concerning," she said.

To follow up, an audience-suggested question asked how the candidates will involve parents in decisions about curriculum on topics like sexual education, gender

identity and diversity.

"When it comes to all these issues, I think it's really important that we follow the science," VandenHeuvel said, adding that parental feedback is really important.

Tufts and Boyce agreed that sexual education is vital.

It is part of a state-directed curriculum and parents can opt-out, Boyce explained. "The school has a responsibility to impart information to the students so that they can stay healthy," she said.

Tufts suggested educating families about why sexual education is part of the curriculum and prompting parental feedback through methods like surveys.

Paulsen expressed full support of sexual education too.

However Kaplanis did not voice for or against specific topics being taught in school. Instead, she said parental comments will inform the curriculum to represent the community and its values.

To see the full event, including candidates' opinions about Gibson, responses to LVJUSD lagging behind Pleasanton and Dublin high schools and ideas for addressing equity across Livermore campuses, watch the recording on Livermore Vine's YouTube page.

This forum was hosted by Livermore Vine, with logistical support from Livermore Indivisible and help with the venue and video-recording from the school district. ■



## CITY OF LIVERMORE

# City Council Candidates' Forum

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# Paying for Pleasanton

*As Measure PP vote nears, cash-strapped city faces critics who contend there's no need to raise sales tax*

BY CHRISTIAN TRUJANO

**P**leasanton has always championed the idea of being the city that carefully plans for its future — especially when it comes to its budget.

But as city leaders and staff have come to learn over the past year and a half, Pleasanton's financial future is not as secure as it has been.

"I was always under the impression that we always had money if we needed it," Mayor Karla Brown said at the Sept. 17 council meeting. "I learned over this past year that was not the case."

Pleasanton is facing a significant structural deficit that could cost the city tens of millions of dollars each year, according to the city. In its general fund 10-year financial forecast, city staff have projected a yearly budget shortfall starting at \$10,788,817 in 2026, with that number rising as high as \$15,678,578 in 2030.

Throughout the year, staff have attributed the deficit to the city's expenditures outpacing its revenues — in other words, the city is spending more than it is making — which can be seen in the city's yearly budgets.

According to the 2019-20 and 2020-21 operating budget report, the city's major revenue streams — property, sales and hotel taxes — had been steadily increasing. One good example was the hotel tax, or transient occupancy tax, which went from generating \$2.7 million in fiscal year 2009-10 to \$6.8 million in the 2019-20 fiscal year.

But as noted in the 2023-24 and

2024-25 operating budget report, after the pandemic all of those tax categories generated a lot less revenue. And while sales and property taxes began recovering over the last few years, the hotel tax experienced the sharpest decline and the slowest recovery.

Apart from the loss of revenue from hotel taxes and the city's pandemic funds being depleted, staff have also attributed the structural deficit to other factors like rising personnel costs, inflation, slow real estate development and more.

Those notable other reasons include unfunded liability pension costs that remain at over \$200 million and a \$900 million infrastructure funding gap over the next decade to maintain community assets like buildings, parks, roads and pipes.

That's why the Pleasanton City Council majority voted to place Measure PP — a sales tax measure slated to bring in roughly \$10 million every year in revenue exclusively for the city, if passed by a simple majority of voters — on the November ballot this year.

City officials have repeatedly said the half-cent sales tax increase, which would bring Pleasanton's sales tax up from 10.25% to 10.75%, is the best way the city can be positioned to balance its budget and maintain its essential services during these next few years. Another option that staff are holding onto as a backup plan is making further



Services such as street and sidewalk maintenance on Main Street are one of the things the city officials say they could look at if the sales tax increase measure does not pass this November.

cuts across various departments — including essential services such as police and fire — that staff say will impact the daily lives of residents.

The council has not voted on the backup list of reductions and cuts across departments as it is contingent on Measure PP not passing.

Some vocal residents, however, are still not convinced that the city needed to place the revenue measure on the ballot in the first place and said more work should have been done before determining that a sales tax increase was the best solution to the deficit.

Doug Miller, chair of the No on Measure PP campaign, said he didn't think council has done a good job in communicating the need of the measure and questioned why the city didn't look into adjusting development fees sooner. He also didn't like the fact that the city hasn't released its current budget, which adds to the lack of trust some might

feel toward the city and how it balances its budget.

"Our city leaders have not done the work required to create a balanced budget," longtime resident Vicki LaBarge said during last week's council meeting. "Instead, you've taken the easy way out by coming to us, the taxpayers, and asking us to solve the problem for you when that should have been done in the first place."

One thing LaBarge said the city should have looked into more was drawing money from the city's Section 115 Pension Trust Fund — which, according to the trust fund's withdrawal policy guidelines, is something the city could do if the city's General Fund has a structural deficit that needs to be addressed.

Pleasanton city finance director Susan Hsieh said during the Sept. 17 meeting that the total market value for the trust fund at the end of the 2023-24 fiscal year was \$51.1 million.

LaBarge said the city could draw from that fund, which was originally created as an investment to help Pleasanton pay down its pension liabilities in the future, at a rate of \$5 million per year over the next 15 years, which along with other moves, could significantly help.

This could be seen in an alternative "General Fund 10-Year Financial Forecast" that was shared with the Pleasanton Weekly.

According to the document, if the city drew down as little as \$4 million and as high as \$9 million each year for present-day pension payments and combined that with other budget reductions such as the \$2.5 million that the council recently approved that have minimal impacts on residents, the city's annual shortfall wouldn't go over \$5 million until 2032, which instead projects a \$8,798,134 deficit.

But as Hsieh told the Weekly in a

recent sit-down interview, creating a balanced budget has its limits and using savings such as the trust fund, while it is an option, won't help address the deficit in the long run.

"When it comes to balancing budgets when there is a deficit ... it's appropriate to use one-time money temporarily to bridge the budget," she said. "But ongoing use of the money to balance a structural deficit is not recommended."

"This is not a one-time budget problem," she added.

She said using one-time funds will hurt the city in the long run and it would go against the whole point of the fund, which is to help pay the city's growing pension costs.

She even noted that the chart, which shows the projections with the adjusted shortfalls, was a chart that staff used to demonstrate how despite drawing down from the trust fund and taking other measures to address the shortfall, the



Funding for Firehouse Arts Center and other community programming could also be on the chopping block, if the city is forced to balance its budget through further cuts and reductions, according to city officials

CHRISTIAN TRUJANO



One controversial idea to save money from stations in Pleasanton. Just which station



CHRISTIAN TRUJANO

reducing as part of a contingency plan if

city will still be short millions of dollars.

That's why she said the goal is to smoothen out the city's revenues and expenditures. And according to the council majority, the only way to do so is by voters passing Measure PP or by making drastic cuts and reductions — staff previously said a fire station could close and police services could be reduced.

"We've (made) significant cuts," Brown said. "The next round of cuts will hurt, but if that's what the voters decide, that's what we'll do."

Councilmember Jack Balch, who voted against placing the measure on the ballot, said he still wanted to look at other options — even if it is small reductions or cuts which could add up over time.

He brought up the fact that he didn't vote to approve the last couple of budget adoptions because he hasn't agreed with the city's spending decisions but he still wanted to

come together to address the deficit as a community.

"There is no doubt we have a structural challenge amongst us," Balch said. "There's no doubt that these are challenging times for Pleasanton's future."

While LaBarge brought up the idea that residents were mad at things like the Ken Mercer Sports Park skatepark and Century House renovation projects taking up hundreds of dollars for designs that were inevitably shelved and defunded, among other things, spending wasn't the only criticism the community had on the city's dire budget assumptions and projections.

According to the No on Measure PP campaign, the city has been exaggerating things like its projected property tax revenues. The 10-year financial forecast assumes property tax revenues will grow over the next decade by an annual average of 3.5%.

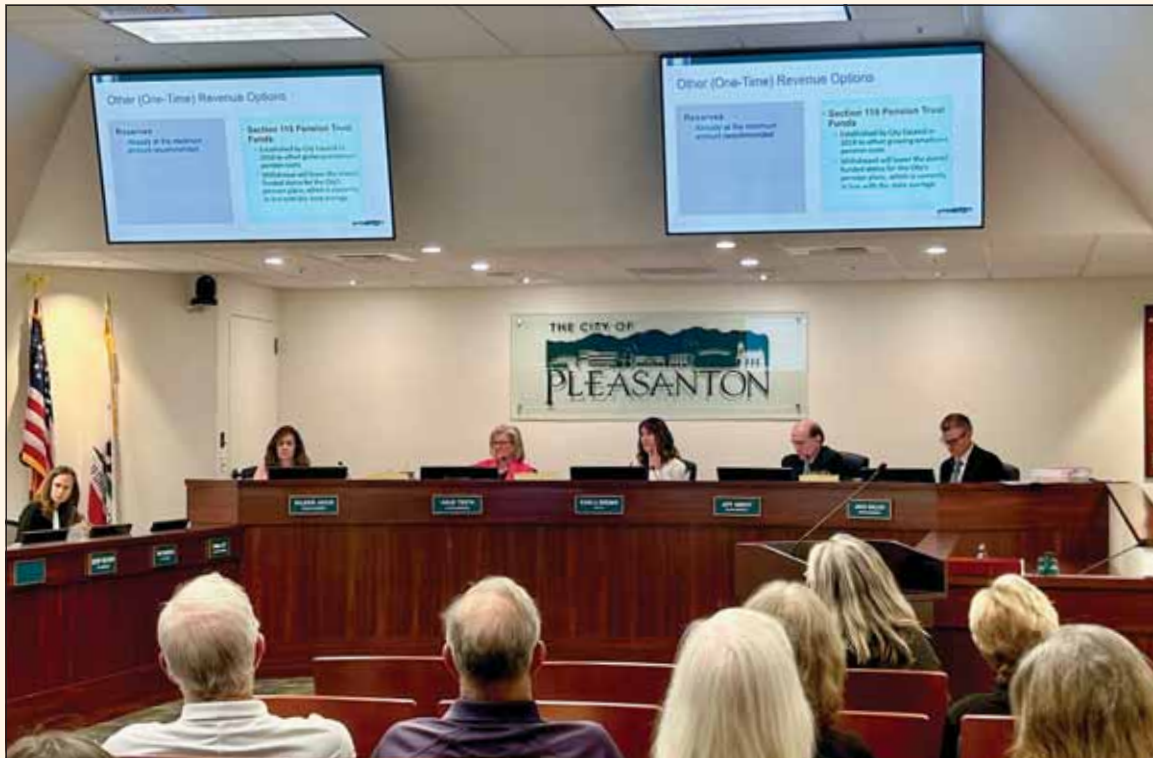
However, according to Pleasanton's annual comprehensive financial report, which was conducted by an external audit firm, at the end of the 2023 fiscal year audited property tax growth for the past 10 years averaged 5.5%.

And according to a March 18 staff report, each 0.5% increase translates into an additional \$2.5 million in projected revenues.

But as Hsieh explained, it's best practice for a city to be conservative when calculating a 10-year financial forecast. She said they are conservative when it comes to revenue projections and they are aggressive when coming up with expenditure projections for many reasons.

One of the reasons being that just like sales taxes, property tax revenues fluctuate every year.

She also said it was important to note that the 10-year financial forecast does not cover all of the city's underfunded departments, deferred maintenance needs and other funding needs, which is why she again said no matter how much the city draws down from its other funds,



FILE PHOTO BY CHUCK DECKERT

The Pleasanton City Council discusses potential budget cuts to city services and departments if the city doesn't find new revenue options during a special council workshop on May 21.

the structural deficit won't be solved without new revenue sources.

And as City Manager Gerry Beaudin noted during the Sept. 17 meeting, even if residents approve the half-cent sales tax increase, the city will still have to make further cuts and reductions in order to fully address the deficit.

John Huk, however, said that if the sales tax increases in Pleasanton, the city might be metaphorically shooting itself in the foot and could even make the deficit worse.

Huk, a longtime resident and a certified public accountant who has been working in the field of sales and use tax for 42 years, said increasing the sales tax to 10.75% would not only place Pleasanton in an elite club of cities with alarmingly high sales taxes in the state, but it would deter people from purchasing goods in the city.

He said especially with the Costco that is set to open its doors next

month, people like him will probably end up driving to other surrounding cities in order to avoid the high prices.

"It drives business away," Huk told the Weekly. "It could hurt business."

He said it could specifically hurt businesses with fixed assets and supplies because now those companies will have to pay more for those types of things due to the higher sales taxes in Pleasanton.

"They're going to recognize that Pleasanton is a very expensive place to do business," Huk said. "And now they want more for the sales tax."

Similarly, he said it would burden the school district and even the city offices because each entity has fixed assets that, if bought in Pleasanton, would be raised due to the sales tax increase.

And despite the city's claim that Measure PP would sunset in 10 years, Huk said he doesn't believe that will happen in reality.

That's why Huk, like other residents, wants the city to tighten its budget instead of raising taxes.

But as Hsieh explained to the Weekly, while the city is still looking at other ways to save money and has reduced or cut services that minimally affect residents as much as possible, there is no getting around the fact that even the state auditor confirmed the city's at-risk financial status.

According to her presentation on Sept. 17, the State Auditor's Office showed that in 2021, Pleasanton was listed as being at high risk in revenue trends — out of over 430 cities in California, Pleasanton placed 61, which according to Hsieh the lower the ranking the higher the financial risk.

"We have been open and direct about the city's financial challenges," Hsieh said. "We don't want to kick the can down the road. We want to find solutions to address our challenges." ■



FILE PHOTO BY CITY OF PLEASANTON

from the city's back-up plan if Measure PP doesn't pass is closing one of the fire stations. This has not been clarified.



CHRISTIAN TRUJANO

One of the ways the city saved money thus far in its budget crisis was by moving away from the \$14 million plan to completely redevelop Lions Wayside and Delucchi parks and instead using almost \$2 million to make general improvements including a new bandstand.

## LVOpera opening season with 'The Daughter of the Regiment'

Comedic story of love and loyalty comes to Bankhead starting this weekend

By JUDE STRZEMP



COURTESY LVOPERA

Left: Set to play the lead role of Marie in the LVOpera's production of "The Daughter of the Regiment", Véronique Filloux is seen here on stage at the Arizona Opera in 2024. Above: Filloux and LVOpera artistic director Erie Mills during rehearsals.

The rom-com opera "The Daughter of the Regiment", performed by Livermore Valley Opera, will hit the stage at Bankhead Theater for the next two weekends.

Recognized as one of composer Gaetano Donizetti's most loved operas, LVOpera's four performances kick off the company's 33rd season. Sung in French with English super-titles, all shows will be accompanied by the Livermore Valley Opera Orchestra, conducted by music director Alexander Katsman.

"Donizetti's masterpiece is overflowing with charm and humor. (This production) holds a special place in the hearts of opera lovers worldwide. Its endearing story of love and loyalty, coupled with Donizetti's enchanting score, promises an evening of pure delight," said Erie Mills, LVOpera artistic director.

Led by stage director Marc Jacobs, the local production tells the story of heroine Marie, who is found on the battlefield and raised by a French regiment. She dodges her family's wishes in pursuit of

the one she loves, Tyrolean peasant Tonio.

"It's such a heartfelt, hilarious, feminist piece, which is why I first fell in love with it — it's a perfect opera for seasoned opera goers and first-timers alike, and it's great for the whole family!" said Véronique Filloux, the soprano artist returning to LVOpera as Marie.

"The Daughter of the Regiment" is considered a bel canto opera, according to Mills.

She explained, "The composers of that period wrote for the voice. In a nutshell, it's about beautiful music with lovely lines. That doesn't mean it's always sad. It means the music meets the moment in the story, and it's up to the singer to make it their own."

Filloux is excited to fill those shoes in the lead role of Marie.

Ever since seeing the opera in high school, Filloux had dreamed of playing Marie. She even pursued an education in music because of the show.

"She has a sense of humor, she is funny and fun-loving. She also has a sense of duty," Mills said of



COURTESY CHRIS MOSZ

Tenor Chris Mosz will play Marie's lover Tonio.

the character Marie. "And she has beautiful music to sing. Some of the tunes are very upbeat, some are poignant. But they are all wonderful."

But playing Marie also comes with challenges, Filloux said.

"The most difficult part of the

show for me is the pacing. Marie is a massive role, and it's extremely physical — she's in the army, after all," Filloux said. "I have spent a lot of time preparing for the role vocally, but I have also devoted a lot of time to the character: her emotional arc, her physicality, and her journey through this opera, during which she almost never leaves the stage."

Overall though, she said it's been a really gratifying and exciting process.

Playing her lover Tonio is tenor Chris Mosz, who is making his LVOpera debut. His musicality is rooted in his family, including his father and mother who sang as a coloratura soprano.

Eugene Brancoveanu, Romanian baritone and Tony Award winner, will play as Marie's foster-father Suplice.

He's a charismatic crowd-pleaser, according to LVOpera marketing and communications director Leslie Silberman.

Brancoveanu's history at the company includes his performance at the CELEBRATE concert in fall 2021, his role as Renato in "Masked Ball" in spring 2018 and his directorial role in "The Abduction from the Seraglio" in fall 2018.

Marie's aunt, the Marquise of Berkenfield, will be played by Lisa Chavez, who is also making her

LVOpera debut. Other artists in the production include Debra Lambert as the Duchess of Krachenthorp and Gilead Wurman as Hortensius.

"Our cast is a dynamite combination of the best of both worlds. Playful spontaneity and rock solid hitting of marks," Brancoveanu said. "Not to mention the world class vocal-talents of our leads, my dear colleagues."

After each performance, attendees will have the chance to meet the artists during a reception in the Bankhead Theater lobby.

In addition to the performances, LVOpera will host a season opening dinner at Uncle Yu's at the Vineyard in Livermore before the first performance this Saturday (Sept. 28). The event will begin with appetizers at 4 p.m., followed by a four-course dinner where all dishes will be paired with award-winning wines from sponsor Cellar 13 Winery.

The first of four performances will take place on Saturday (Sept. 28) at 7:30 p.m. The following shows will be at 2 p.m. this Sunday (Sept. 29), Oct. 5 and Oct. 6. Performance tickets are available at [lvopera.com](http://lvopera.com) and include pre-opera talks held one hour before curtain time. Tickets for the opening dinner at Uncle Yu's at the Vineyard are sold separately and available at [livermorearts.org](http://livermorearts.org). ■

# Musician JD Souther dies days before Bankhead concert

Famed singer-songwriter reflected on career, upcoming tour during interview with Weekly before death

**BY JEREMY WALSH AND CHRISTIAN TRUJANO**  
**A**merican singer-songwriter JD Souther, known for his musical collaborations with the Eagles and Linda Ronstadt in addition to his own performing career, died at his home in New Mexico last week, days before he was set to begin a tour that had an early stop scheduled in Livermore.

His family announced the news on his official website, saying the Songwriters Hall of Fame inductee had passed peacefully on Sept. 17 at the age of 78.

Souther recently spoke with the Pleasanton Weekly about his planned tour with Karla Bonoff ahead of their concert date at the Bankhead Theater scheduled for this Friday (Sept. 27), reflecting on his career and expressing his excitement to return to the stage in Livermore.

"I think it's going to be a blast ... The people in Livermore are great," Souther told the Weekly in what would be one of his final public interviews. "I played (at the Bankhead) by myself last time, and I still had a good time."

Souther said he was looking forward to sharing a stage and a tour with Bonoff, with whom he'd played in the past but the "Together Again" series offered the opportunity to do an entire set with her, a new and unique experience that he had been wanting to do for some time.

Livermore Valley Arts, who manages the Bankhead, reacted to Souther's unexpected passing with a statement the next day.

"We are deeply saddened by the news of JD Souther's passing. Our hearts go out to his family, friends and fans. We are working out details about the concert and will reach out directly to ticket holders when we have more information," LVA officials told the Weekly.

Detroit-born and Texas-raised, Souther told the Weekly in the phone interview on Aug. 19 that ever since he was a young kid, he could not remember a time when he wasn't surrounded by music. After having started playing the violin in fourth grade, he went on to learn to play the saxophone and drums, the latter being his instrument of choice for a while.

It wasn't until he sold everything he had to move to California — to play for a band he didn't quite like too much — that he began writing his own music. He didn't even touch his first guitar until he was 22.

Souther said he knew songwriting was his way into the music industry and having been surrounded by a lot of songwriters at the time — and having a knack for poetry — he decided to give it a shot.

And he did more than just give it a shot.

He met Glenn Frey in the late-1960s in Los Angeles and the creative relationship blossomed, leading to Souther co-writing some of the most-recognizable songs for Frey's band, the Eagles, including, "Best of My Love," "James Dean" and "Heartache Tonight", according to his biography.

Souther's other songwriting hits, which contributed to him being selected for the

Songwriters Hall of Fame in 2013, included "Run Like a Thief" for Bonnie Raitt and "Faithless Love" and "White Rhythm and Blues" for Ronstadt, according to his bio. His most successful solo album was 1979's "You're Only Lonely", bolstered by the title track that peaked at No. 7 on the "Billboard" Hot 100.

Longtime friend James Taylor was among his other notable collaborators. He also sang for artists such as Don Henley, Roy Orbison and Christopher Cross, and played in The Souther-Hillman-Furray Band in the '70s, according to his bio. Souther acted on screen as well, with credits including "thirtysomething", "My Girl 2" and "Nashville".

Souther was set to begin his latest tour with accomplished singer-songwriter Bonoff on Tuesday in Phoenix, with the pair set for a show three days later in Livermore.

He told the Weekly in August that the two had been rehearsing together and while it had been a long time since they played together, the only real struggles they had were trying to shorten their set because they were over their allotted play time.

"They're almost all songs that people know, and there's still too many of them," Souther said.

Souther's family said he is survived by his two sisters, his former wife and her daughter, his dogs Layla and Bob, and "countless friends and colleagues within the music community and beyond." They added that donations could be made in his honor to Best Friends Animal Society.



COURTESY LAPPEN ENTERPRISES

Singer-songwriter JD Souther died on Sept. 17, days before his concert at the Bankhead.

*Editor's note: Pleasanton Weekly reporter Christian Trujano's story based on his interview with Souther was scheduled to publish online on Sept. 19 and in the Sept. 20 print edition, as a concert preview. The original draft was pulled and the article reworked after news broke of Souther's death on Sept. 17. ■*



COURTESY LAS

A view from the stage out to the audience at a previous Livermore-Amador Symphony POPS on the Green concert.

## POPS on the Green

Free symphony concert Saturday afternoon

**BY JEREMY WALSH**

**T**he Livermore-Amador Symphony is again offering people of all ages the chance to hear a lively performance outdoors, with its free POPS on the Green concert this Saturday afternoon on the lawn in front of the Bankhead Theater.

Symphony music director and conductor Lara Webber will narrate the show, and the bill will span "from movie and memory themes to marches", according to LAS officials. "See how much fun we have in one hour!"

The concert will include music from James Bond movies, "Mary Poppins", "Jurassic Park", "Apollo 13" and more, according to the symphony. In addition to its full symphonic orchestra of more than 60 musicians, the LAS show will also feature local teenage jazz band Element 116.

Symphony officials urge attendees to bring a picnic basket, blankets and chairs — and even consider wearing a costume — to enjoy the concert. Kids will even be invited up to the stage to guest-conduct the musicians.

The POPS concert is set for 3-4 p.m. Saturday (Sept. 28) in the Bankhead Plaza in downtown Livermore. No tickets required. To learn more, visit [livermoreamadorsymphony.org](http://livermoreamadorsymphony.org). ■

# HALLOWEEN SPIRIT RUN

8:30 AM ON SUNDAY

# OCTOBER 13

HELD AT: WORKBENCH HARDWARE MAIN ST., DOWNTOWN PLEASANTON

**8:30 a.m. Timed Races:**

- 5K & 10K Run or Walk

**10:00 a.m. Kids Challenge:**

- 1/4 Mile (12 & Under)
- 100 yard dash (5 & Under)

[spiritrun.pleasantonrotary.org](http://spiritrun.pleasantonrotary.org)

Proceeds to support scholarships for Pleasanton students plus community & international projects of the Rotary Club of Pleasanton

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Costumes Welcome • Age Group Awards • Flat, Loop Courses

# Community Pulse

## POLICE BULLETIN

### Dog dies after being trapped on hot apartment balcony

A pet dog succumbed to heat stroke after being stuck on a Pleasanton apartment balcony on Tuesday morning into early afternoon, according to city police.

The initial investigation indicates the situation was unintentional, but detectives are conducting a thorough probe into the circumstances of what happened, according to a statement from the Pleasanton Police Department.

The police statement also implies that bystanders witnessed the dog yelping in distress on the sunny apartment balcony near the corner of Gibraltar and Hacienda drives, but posted about it on social media before alerting authorities. Meanwhile, some residents have been critical of the police response, claiming it took roughly an hour for officers to actually be dispatched and arrive to the scene Tuesday.

"This is a disturbing and tragic incident, and we recognize the

concern and interest from those who care about animal welfare," the PPD statement read. "We understand a video of the dog was circulating on social media prior to the initial report, generating hundreds of comments from the community."

"Additionally, we want to emphasize the importance of acting quickly involving animal welfare concerns. If you see something, please report it immediately rather than waiting to share it on social media ... If you witness any animals in distress, please call 9-1-1 right away," PPD added.

According to the police statement, the department's dispatchers received a call around noon from someone reporting a dog barking, whining and exposed to the sun on the balcony in question.

The police animal services officer, in line with department protocol, contacted the apartment's leasing office to try to locate the owner quickly, but the effort was unsuccessful, the department stated.

Police personnel arrived at the scene within 15 minutes of being dispatched and discovered that

the dog had died from heat stroke, according to the department.

But one key aspect that remains in question is the timing of that sequence of events, in particular any potential gap between when the initial call was received and when PPD staff were dispatched to the apartment complex.

Multiple residents on social media said the first call was made to police at noon, but the dispatch order wasn't given until 12:54 p.m., with PPD personnel arriving at 1:09 p.m. PulsePoint recorded an entry of the Livermore-Police Fire Department being called to the scene for a police assist at 12:54 p.m.

Pleasanton PD representatives had not responded to a request for clarification on the precise timeline as of press time Wednesday.

The circumstances of the dog's death remain under investigation, police said. The owner has not been publicly identified, and it is unclear whether they will face criminal charges.

"The preliminary stages of the investigation suggest this was not intentional, however, as our detectives conduct a complete and thorough investigation, we kindly

ask for the community's patience," police said.

They added a reminder for responsible pet ownership, especially when temperatures are high like Tuesday, "With the hot weather, it is crucial to keep all animals cool indoors and ensure they have access to water."

—Jeremy Walsh

### In other news

• A Livermore man serving life in prison for a 2012 murder in a dispute over money and a romantic rivalry was found fatally wounded in his cell, corrections officials said last Friday.

Jacob Kober, 35, was pronounced dead at 7:52 p.m. Sept. 19 at Kern Valley State Prison with injuries consistent with an improvised weapon made in prison, the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation said in a statement. His cellmate, Matthew Perez, was injured.

Prison officials are investigating Kober's death as a homicide.

Kober was imprisoned for murdering a former friend on a Livermore golf course in 2012, according to the Alameda County

District Attorney's Office.

Prosecutors said Kober and 28-year-old Kenneth Robert Ogden were old friends who had a falling out because Ogden owed Kober money and Kober thought Ogden tried to kiss his girlfriend.

The two went to the then-Springtown Golf Course the night of the murder to talk things over, but once they walked out onto the grass, Kober shot Ogden in the left arm and the right side, prosecutors said.

A woman jogging the next morning spotted Ogden's body lying in the grass along a fairway on the course.

Kober fled to Oakland and then Oregon to avoid arrest and allegedly sent threatening text messages to witnesses in the case. He was arrested in Oregon on Jan. 16, 2013, and was extradited to California to face the murder charge. Kober was convicted in 2015.

Ogden's mother, Rachael Supnet, reacted on social media to the



Jacob Kober

See BULLETIN on Page 17

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**BULLETIN**

Continued from Page 16

news of Kober's death, saying on Facebook that "justice has been served ... son you now can RIP"

She later posted a TikTok video, saying in part, "I am at a sigh of relief ... I'm saddened. This won't bring my son back, but it's a great ending. And I'm so sorry for everybody. Prayers for everyone."

Kober's cellmate, Perez, 39, was convicted in Monterey County of assault with a firearm, with enhancements for a street gang act in commission of a violent felony.

In 2014, while in prison, Perez was sentenced to eight years for assault by a prisoner with a deadly weapon or force likely to cause great bodily injury. In 2016, he was sentenced to two years for possession of a controlled substance while in prison.

Kober was also implicated in a serious crime while in prison — the death of fellow inmate Devlin Stringfellow, 48, at the state prison in Folsom in January 2018. Kober and another inmate were identified at the time as the prime suspects in the slaying of Stringfellow, a white supremacist gang leader, but the outcome of that homicide investigation was not immediately clear.

—Story by Bay City News Service.  
Weekly editorial director Jeremy Walsh contributed.

- A woman was killed after leaping out of a car on Interstate 580 in Livermore and rolling into multiple traffic lanes, where she was struck by a yet-unconfirmed number of vehicles on Saturday evening, according to the California Highway Patrol.

The fatality investigation backed traffic up for miles on the freeway and on nearby city streets for hours into the night, with the last lane reopening and the all clear finally given nearly 10 hours later on Sunday morning.

CHP officers also put out a call for witnesses to come forward, including motorists with any information about what vehicles possibly ran over the woman lying in the roadway.

The situation unfolded at approximately 8:20 p.m. Saturday (Sept. 21) on eastbound I-580 just west of the First Street interchange in Livermore, according to Officer Tyler Hahn of the CHP's Dublin office. Emergency dispatch received a number of calls about a pedestrian down in the freeway lanes.

Officers learned the woman — later identified as a 24-year-old Pleasant Hill resident — had jumped out of the front passenger seat of a black 2018 Audi, under suspicious circumstances, and rolled into the traffic lanes of I-580, according to Hahn.

Several approaching vehicles proceeded to run over or strike the woman as she rolled on the freeway,

Hahn said without confirming an exact number of cars involved. The woman was pronounced dead at the scene. Her name was not immediately released.

Hahn alleged the Audi's driver briefly pulled over to the shoulder before driving away from the scene and not stopping to report the incident until getting to Tracy. The driver, whose name was not revealed, was ultimately arrested on suspicion of felony hit-and-run.

The collisions and subsequent investigation and cleanup heavily impacted traffic on eastbound I-580 on Saturday night — on a weekend where freeway congestion was already heightened in the Tri-Valley, with the full closure of I-680 southbound in the San Ramon and Dublin areas for construction.

The initial report on the CHP incidents webpage said all but one of the seven I-580 lanes were blocked in the immediate aftermath of the fatal crash. CHP-Dublin announced around 11:30 p.m. that three more lanes had opened up, and the agency posted on social media at around 6:20 a.m. Sunday that all lanes had reopened.

The circumstances of the woman's death remain under investigation. "The CHP is asking for your help with any information regarding anyone who may have run over the pedestrian lying in

the roadway, or anyone who may have witnessed this crash," Hahn said, urging potential witnesses to call the CHP-Dublin office at 925-828-0466.

—Jeremy Walsh

- A man accused of committing a murder in Berkeley this summer died at an Alameda County hospital last week, roughly 18 hours after experiencing a medical emergency at Santa Rita Jail in Dublin, according to the sheriff's office.

The investigation into the death of 57-year-old inmate Steve Addison remains ongoing, according to a press release from Alameda County sheriff's Sgt. Roberto Morales.

Addison, a Black man who lived in Oakland and had serious and chronic health issues, had been in custody at the Dublin jail since about 8:30 a.m. Aug. 1, hours after he was arrested by the Berkeley Police Department on a murder charge, according to Morales. Berkeley police previously reported the case involved a fatal shooting on the 2900 block of Martin Luther King Jr. Way on July 3.

A jail deputy conducting a routine observation check on Sept. 16 around 1:50 a.m. noticed Addison, who was classified into a therapeutic housing unit, experiencing an apparent medical emergency with

difficulty breathing and speaking, according to Morales.

The sergeant said deputies and personnel with the jail's medical partner, Wellpath, took Addison to the trauma room before he was ultimately transported to a local hospital a short time later.

"SRJ personnel contacted Mr. Addison's family, advised them of his condition and made arrangements for them to visit him at the hospital. Mr. Addison suffered from several chronic, serious illnesses and his condition continued to decline while at the hospital,"

Morales said.

Hospital staff informed Addison's next of kin and sheriff's deputies at approximately 1:40 p.m. Sept. 17 that he died, according to the sergeant.

"The Medical Examiner will determine his cause of death," Morales said. "We have notified the District Attorney's Office and will submit a report to the California Attorney General's Office in accordance with California Government Code 12525. This is an ongoing investigation, and no further information is available at this time." ■

—Jeremy Walsh

**Robert Ronald Gee**

July 16th, 1940 – August 31st, 2024

Robert Ronald Gee, Bob Gee (to friends and family) passed away peacefully in the early hours of the morning August 31st, 2024, with his loving wife by his side.



Bob was born on July 16th, 1940 in Salt Lake City to Lael and Ronald Gee in a small home with 5 other siblings. He lived a very full life. Serving his country as a member of the US Coast guard, attending the University of Utah, and founding Utah's very own Bonneville Raceway where he operated as

the track announcer for several years. He traveled the country with Ford Racing and became a pinnacle of the Car business. He proceeded to co-own Sunnyvale Chrysler-Plymouth, and culminated his career as the co-owner, President/GM of Fremont Pontiac Oldsmobile GMC Truck. In the twilight of his career, Bob worked for various other dealer groups and spent over 10 years working with many of his old colleagues as a Territory Sales Representative for BG Products covering Northern California. He had a reputation for being the best and impossible to replace. While finishing his individual career he became an important part of his Wife, Cindy's, Real Estate Practice with over 20 Years as a Real Estate License holder helping her with Open Houses, Client Acquisition, and Marketing. Bob was an important member of the team at Keller-Williams, Tri-Valley Luxury Real Estate.

Bob had a tremendous amount of energy and always gave his all. Many in the Pleasanton community may remember him from his time with the Pleasanton Rotary North, the Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce, running the timers for summer swim team for both Clubsport and the FAST Dolphins, and announcing for the Foothill High School boy's lacrosse program. He loved his wife and children dearly. Always supporting them and encouraging them to achieve everything they attempted. In his free time, he loved to be in the mountains, skiing down the long sweeping runs at Heavenly, and in the summer spending every available opportunity on the boat watching his boys take laps on the wakeboards.

Bob is survived by his wife Cindy Hochler-Gee, children Sam, Scott, Brandon and Tiffany. His Siblings, Maryanne, Marge, Lonnie, and Rick. Plus, a tremendous number of other friends, grandchildren and community members who loved him dearly.

There's nothing Bob loved quite as much as close friends, good country music, a Salmon Caesar, and a nice glass of red wine. He'll be missed dearly.

The family will be hosting a Celebration of Life November 1st at Castlewood from 3 to 6pm with friends, family, and members of the community who want to pay their respects. Please fill out your information in the following link if you're interested in attending.

<https://www.mykeeper.com/BobGee>

PAID OBITUARY

**Edith Hanson**

December 31, 1916 – September 26, 2014

Our dear Mother passed away 10 years ago today. Mother was born on a chicken ranch on Wilbeam Ave. in Castro Valley Ca. She was the third daughter to a family of five sisters. Her parents were proud emigrants from England. Mother was a bit of a tomboy. She enjoyed time with her father taking trips to Petaluma to replenish the chick supply. Her Dad taught her how to garden, a talent she enjoyed her entire life. She was skilled in growing vegetables and her many flowering plants, roses and orchid collections. Edie attended Castro Valley Grammar school and She graduated from Hayward High School class of 1939.



Mother and her friends would meet on Sundays for their weekly horseback riding or tennis games. On one of these occasions she was introduced to Hollis Hanson. They became fast friends and in time they were engaged. They married in 1940. Dad was a carpenter from a family of home builders. The happy couple set up housekeeping in Oakland before settling in Hayward. They welcomed a family of five children that they dearly loved, Janice, Kenwood, Marjorie, Leslie and Ronald.

Dad passed away in 1978 leaving Mother a widow for over thirty years. In Edie's later years she resided with her eldest daughter, Janice. Edie was an avid reader and a proud mother and grandmother. She enjoyed her numerous visits from her children, grandchildren and siblings.

We miss you Mom!

PAID OBITUARY

# The state of local media: How we got here and what we could lose

Embarcadero Media Foundation's East Bay Division (which includes the Pleasanton Weekly, Livermore Vine and DanvilleSanRamon.com) and Three Valleys Community Foundation had the privilege of screening the documentary "Stripped for Parts: American Journalism on the Brink" on Sept. 6 at the Firehouse Arts Center in downtown Pleasanton.

The film detailed how hedge funds would buy distressed news organizations, further weaken them and rake in millions of dollars at the expense of a community's source of journalism.

One hedge fund in particular, Alden Global Capital, basically destroyed the news group commonly known here as Bay Area News Group (BANG) by consolidating the Oakland Tribune, Mercury News and East Bay Times, slashing newsroom personnel and putting the Oakland Tribune building up for sale. BANG was not Alden's first victim; by the time Alden made it to the West Coast, they had written the playbook.

After the screening, EMF East Bay division president Gina Channell Wilcox moderated a discussion that included Tim Hunt, a local journalist and former associate publisher of the Tri-Valley Herald; Rick Goldsmith, the filmmaker; and State Sen. Steve Glazer, a strong proponent of local independent journalism and author of state senate bills aimed at strengthening local, independent news organizations.

During the discussion, Glazer pointed out that, while the hedge funds were the focus of the film, what caused the distress in the industry that the "vulture capitalists" took advantage of was "ingenuity" of social media and sales platforms — specifically Google, Meta and Amazon.

He explained that these tech giants have spent 25 years extracting

data from site users and, with this personal data, they are able to sell digital ads that are targeted to people based on their preferences, interests and leanings.

This is extremely profitable. According to Glazer, the three largest platforms reported profits of \$142 billion — with a "b" — in 2023.

In the same 25-year timeframe, roughly a third of news outlets across the country have closed and, in California, 65% of journalists have lost their jobs.

Researchers at Medill School of Journalism recently reported, "The loss of local newspapers accelerated in 2023 to an average of 2.5 per week, leaving more than 200 counties as 'news deserts' and meaning that more than half of all U.S. counties now have limited access to reliable local news and information."

Glazer frequently speaks of the connection between a strong, free press and a strong democracy, but his support goes beyond raising awareness. For example, in 2022, Glazer introduced Senate Bill 911, which would have created a public media fund for California and news organizations would have received grants to increase local news coverage.

The bill that would have provided \$25 million in funding to news organizations was killed, somewhat ironically, by some of the state's largest publishers. According to Glazer, the representatives said they were concerned about government interference in news but were probably more worried about grants being used to launch competing news sources.

Earlier this year, Glazer introduced SB 1327, which sought to impose a 7.25% tax on gross receipts from "data extraction transactions" to support journalism in California. It would mitigate the destruction Big Tech's data extraction and ad targeting caused to the advertising model that had funded

journalism successfully for decades.

Before Glazer introduced his bill, Assemblymember Buffy Wicks authored AB 886, "The California Journalism Act", which would have big tech platforms pay "link taxes" and negotiate with publishers to share their advertising revenue.

In response to Wicks' bill meant to bolster newsrooms and strengthen local journalism, Google reminded publishers of its power over them when it announced plans to stop linking to news sites, behavior California State Senate President Pro-Tempore Mike McGuire, a co-author of the bill, called "bullying" and an "abuse of power".

This would have been devastating to news organizations, including ours, that depend on traffic from Google.

What this threat pointed out is the disturbing amount of control Big Tech has over distribution of news. Seemingly, at their whim, they can stop the flow of fact-based journalism.

With its deep pockets and influence, Google ultimately won with a "deal" that, for all intents and purposes, kills the legislation in exchange for paying \$250 million to publishers, which is significantly less than they and other big tech platforms would have to pay if it was a percentage of advertising revenue. (Google's online advertising business brought in more than \$200 billion — with a "b" — in revenue in 2023.) Under this deal, Meta and Amazon will contribute nothing.

"Ultimately, the decision was: Do we want nothing, or something?" Wicks said about the deal in an interview with the Sacramento Bee.

### What's your opinion?

Submit letters to the editor of up to 250 words and guest opinion pieces up to 550 words with a short bio to [editor@PleasantonWeekly.com](mailto:editor@PleasantonWeekly.com).

"From my perspective, a nearly quarter-billion-dollar framework was better than zero."

Glazer expressed profound disappointment in the deal, saying in a statement shortly after the deal was announced that, "The hollowing out of independent news gathering and the monopoly power of these digital platforms is an existential threat to our democratic republic."

"Social media platforms and shopping websites have used our engagement to acquire unique user data that they turn around and profit from in the selling of micro-targeted ads," Glazer explained to us. "This data extraction and subsequent ad sales has significantly contributed to the loss of revenue to traditional media and contributed to the layoff of 65% of local reporters in recent years."

"It is why Google and other platforms should fully mitigate this damage, as proposed in Senate Bill 1327," he continued. "The private side deal negotiated by Google doesn't come close to fulfilling their obligation for eroding independent news gathering and its work in supporting our democracy."

The purpose of our screening and panel discussion was to educate the public on the state of American journalism, how it got to this point and what is at stake.

A free press is part of the foundation of our democracy. Our Founding Fathers envisioned a strong, free press to keep tabs on the branches of government, which is why the media is referred to as the "fourth estate". They knew that an informed citizenry is key to a thriving democracy, and a strong,

independent media is key to an informed citizenry.

"Local journalism has always been the heartbeat of democracy," Glazer said. "When local journalism dies, public engagement dies. And what rushes in to fill the void? An onslaught of opinions and 'hot takes' often based not in honest, diligent, fact-based reporting but fake news meant to divide and polarize."

The senator's reference to the "existential threat to our democratic republic" is not hyperbole. ■

*Editor's note: If you would like to support the Pleasanton Weekly, part of the 501(c)3 Embarcadero Media Foundation, and its sister publications, Three Valleys Community Foundation has established the Partners for Local Press Fund "to help preserve local press via grantmaking to nonprofit organizations, projects and programs that support local journalism, increase civic engagement which is a cornerstone of our democracy and promote community voice by revitalizing the infrastructure of local media." To donate, visit [tinyurl.com/Local-Press-Fund](http://tinyurl.com/Local-Press-Fund)*

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## LETTERS

### Opinion on Measure PP

My wife Sheila and I are 38-year residents of Pleasanton. We raised two children here while my wife worked at the local grammar school. Upon retirement a few years ago we thought about downsizing and moving someplace else in Northern California, but after looking at five other areas we realized it doesn't get

any better than Pleasanton.

When Pleasanton offered a Community Academy, we attended the five-month program which included interactive sessions on "City Government", "Police/Fire", "Public Works", "Parks/Recreation" and "Good Citizen Skills".

We now understand and appreciate the city "behind the scenes". We saw first-hand how the departments

within the city operate and know what we will lose with any cutbacks.

As it relates to Measure PP, I cannot speak to the details of "how we got here" on the deficit, but I can express concern about where this might lead. The proposed cuts represent the core of everything we need in the city.

As citizens of Pleasanton, let's all approve the tax increase and then

be more involved in the future as to how the city funding is managed and distributed. This whole situation is a "wake up call" for all of us but needs to be addressed with forward thinking. I fear extreme cuts across city departments will diminish essential services and impact the quality of life many of us have taken for granted in our wonderful town.

—TJ McGrath



## PLEASANTON PREPS

By DENNIS MILLER

### A tale of two starts for Pleasanton's football teams

First-time quarterback helps lead Falcons to 3-1; optimism still for 1-3 Dons amid 'loaded' schedule

It has been an interesting first four weeks of the season for the football teams at Amador Valley and Foothill high schools.

The Falcons are sitting at 3-1, while the Dons are at 1-3 after playing a brutally tough first four games.

Foothill coach Greg Haubner, while happy with the Falcons' start, will be the first to sing the praises of their crosstown rivals.

"We are basking in the glow of being 3-1," Haubner said. "But Amador — don't look at their record — they are a really good team. They've had a tough, unforgiving schedule."

The two teams meet next Friday (Oct. 4) at Foothill. Game time is 7 p.m.

Let's take a look at each team, starting with the Dons.

#### Amador Valley

"Our schedule is loaded up," Amador coach Danny Jones said. "We are very young, but we feel like we are turning the corner."

There is one thing for sure — who is leading the way for the Dons. That would be senior quarterback Tristan Ti'a.

The 6-foot-2, 200-pound senior is among the statistical leaders for all of California and has not been a disappointment.

"He's the best I've ever coached," Jones said of Ti'a. "He's a phenomenal player. The offers keep coming in for him."

Ti'a is hardly alone on the offensive side of the ball, as the team is averaging 35.5 points per game. He has been offered by Utah State, Boston College and UNLV just to

name a few.

Anthony Harrington is a junior in his third season of starting on both sides of the ball for the Dons.

"Harrington is our best overall player on offense," Jones said of the team's leading receiver through the first four games.

Other top weapons for the Dons included junior Kade Robertson and junior tight ends McKay Kenitzer (6-foot-3, 215) and Cole Goldsworthy (6-4, 210). Oliver Heid (6-3, 180) has played well at wide for the Dons.

The offensive line is led by some big boys to open the running lanes and protect Ti'a: Viliamu Baker-Kline (6-3, 285), Cooper Longmire (6-2, 280) and Cal Duarte (6-3, 280).

Longmire, Goldsworthy and Kaden Keliher (5-11, 205) occupy spots on the defensive line.

The Amador defense is a patchwork unit right now, as four linebackers are out with injuries.

Gabe Gyamfi (6-3, 200) has not played a snap this year, but things are looking up for some injured players to return soon.

"We are kind of getting healthy," Jones said.

Harrington is big in the defensive backfield, as is safety Nemo Fungula (6-1, 175).

"He's a big, physical safety," Jones said of Fungula.

Tommy Vespi (6-0, 195) is solid on both sides of the ball, and sophomore Calvin Albertson (6-0, 225) is a big and strong sophomore.

Despite the slow start, Jones is still looking at what the season can be.

"It has been tough this year because our expectations are high," the

coach said. "But if we can get back to 5-5, we should get a good seed in the D-II playoffs."

#### Foothill

Haubner's Falcons came into the season with only seven seniors on the roster, something that can lead to a tough season.

They also had a quarterback who'd never played a snap at the position, another potential roadblock to a successful campaign.

Neither situation has gotten the best of the team through the first four games.

Jason Knight, a senior who did not play football last season, has come in and seized the quarterback position.

"Jason has been amazing," Haubner said. "He has exceeded all expectations. To come in with zero quarterback experience and play like he has is flat out tremendous."

Knight has the blessing to have Michael O'Donoghue at receiver.

"Michael O'Donoghue is one of the better wideouts anywhere," Haubner said.

Dylan Souza, a junior running back, has turned in a strong effort through the first four games. Jason Bennett is a sophomore that has been strong at tight end, with fellow sophomore Max Shuga also playing well at receiver.

The Falcons suffered a big injury early on when senior Hunter Mutz went down possibly for the season, leaving a huge void of offense and at linebacker on defense.

George Schmitt Jr., a junior, has been dynamic as a rush end, with seniors Brayden Brown and Keenan Adams playing well at linebacker.

Freshman Gavin Schmitt was a call-up from the junior varsity and earned a spot in the defensive backfield, picking off a pass in his first varsity game.

So far, the team has shown grit and resolve well above what could be expected with the youth of the team. In two of the wins the Falcons have rallied late, with the latest being this past Friday when Knight hit Osmar Calderon for a 2-point conversion in overtime for the 30-29 win over San Leandro.

"We never led in that game until we walked it off," Haubner said. "There is no quit in this team. Our



BRYAN KENITZER

McKay Kenitzer (8) and Tommy Vespi (9) celebrate an Amador Valley touchdown earlier this season.

finishes have been miraculous, and I could not be prouder of how this team carries itself."

#### Amador girls' water polo

The Dons rolled to a 20-0 win over Dougherty Valley paced by six goals from Susan Swyers.

Abigail Jones added five goals and Regan Braga four in the win. Anushka Shelatkar and Kate Hopkins had two goals each, with Juliette Nudelman adding one.

Deepika Suresh had five saves for the Dons.

#### Foothill girls' volleyball

The Falcons swept three matches last week to continue their winning

streak.

It started with a 25-16, 25-3, 25-12 win over Dublin. Highlights came from Paige Nelson (17 service points, 14 assists, 10 digs), Lulu Hoenninger (4 kills on 4 attempts, 1 block) and Serena Wu (5 kills).

Next was a 25-23, 25-19, 25-11 win over Castro Valley. This time it was Kaycie Burdick (16 kills, 13 digs), Kait Vogel (17 service points, 14 digs, 7 kills) and Olivia So (12 digs) that led the way.

Finally, they beat Livermore 25-9, 25-14, 25-11. Leading the way was Sophia Burdick (13 kills, 10 service points, 9 digs), Brooke Stedman (19 assists, 6 service points) and Danielle Yeh (9 assists, 3 digs). ■



JEFF SILVERSMITH

Jason Knight (16) has been a key to Foothill's early success from his quarterback spot.

## Employment

#### Engineering Manager

Cowbell Cyber, Inc. has an opening in Pleasanton, CA. Engineering Mgr, Platform: lead & manage development; ensure projects go to plan + continuous improvements. May be assigned to various, unanticipated sites throughout the US. Remote work may be permitted. Salary range: \$237,120 - \$237,120 per year. Submit resume (principals only) to: sahar@cowbellcyber.ai Must include recruitment source + job title in subject line. EOE

Help Keep Livermore Kids Safe- join the School Crossing Guard Team! Livermore School Crossing Guards earn \$20.00 per hour plus bonus time. Work 1 hour before school and 1 hour after school and get paid bonus time. Work 2 hours a day and earn \$60.00 per day! Apply now <https://jobapply.page.link/FTGqN> or call Supervisor Yuan at (925) 436-9977 for more information.

Safeway Inc. is hiring a Sr. Staff Engineer Software/ IT Digital Loyalty (Design, construct & implement highly scalable software apps & systems, across mult. platform types) in Pleasanton, CA. May telecommute. Reports to Pleasanton. Must have legal right to work in US. EOE\$180,014 - 231,154.20/yr. Email resume: TA.Applications@albertsons.com, Attn: R. Samonte. Ref# 0823SC

Omron Robotics & Safety Technologies, Inc. has opening for Lead Software Engr (Robotics) in Pleasanton, CA. Responsible for the specification, design, & implementation of software features for mobile robots. May telecommute. Int'l travel req'd (20%). Email resume to Sally.nguyen@omron.com. Ref. #72. \$168,480/yr

Tekion Corp. has openings in Pleasanton, CA for a **Senior Product Manager [SPMSK924]** to conduct market research on competitive prod to identify key market gaps & opps. Wage Range: \$158,642- \$229,800/ yr. & a **Senior Product Manager [SPMKK924]** to leverage the info gathered through research to translate users' bus reqs into prod roadmap reqs. Wage Range: \$158,642-\$229,800/ yr. To apply, email resume to mfeist@tekion.com. Must reference job title & job code.

To advertise here please visit [PleasantonWeekly.com/employment\\_ads/](http://PleasantonWeekly.com/employment_ads/).

# Public Notices

QUOTIENT  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: 609388  
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
1.) Quotient, located at 2060 Killkare Rd, Sunol CA 94586, Alameda County.  
This business is conducted by: an Individual. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):  
LORI TURK-BICAKCI  
2060 Killkare Rd  
Sunol, CA 94586  
Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above.  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on September 19 2024.  
(PLW Sep 27, Oct 4, 11 and 18, 2024)

ISLEMONICS  
VICTORIA LONDE  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: 609354  
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
1.) Islemonics, 2.) Victoria Londe, located at 3420 Andrews Dr Apt 102 Pleasanton, CA 94588, Alameda County. Mailing Address: 3020 BERNAL AVE STE 110 #3014, Pleasanton, CA 94566.  
This business is conducted by: an Individual. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):  
VICTORIA HARTJOY  
3020 BERNAL AVE STE 110 #3014  
Pleasanton, CA 94566  
Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 08/28/2024  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on September 18 2024.  
(PLW Sep 27, Oct 4, 11 and 18, 2024)

ARTISAN'S EYE  
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File No.: 608638  
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
1.) Artisan's Eye, located at 18752 Crane Ave Castro Valley, CA 94546, Alameda County.  
This business is conducted by: a Joint Venture.  
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ALAN SCHWARZ  
18752 Crane Ave  
Castro Valley, CA 94546  
JESSICA SCHWARZ  
18752 Crane Ave  
Castro Valley, CA 94546  
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This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on August 15 2024.  
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21BC  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: 609275  
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
1.) 21BC, located at 40760 ENCYCLOPEDIA CIR. Fremont, CA 94538, ALAMEDA County.  
This business is conducted by: a Corporation. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):  
CWJ SPORTS  
9701 BLUE MOUND DR  
SAN RAMON, CA 94583  
State of Incorporation/Organization: CALIFORNIA  
Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 09/12/24  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on September 12 2024.  
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TOTAL FLOORS  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: #609227  
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
1.) Total Floors, located at 2148 First St. Livermore, CA 94550, Alameda County.  
This business is conducted by: a Corporation. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):  
TOTAL FLOORS INC  
2148 First St.  
Livermore, CA 94550  
State of Incorporation/Organization: California  
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the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 08/01/2024  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on September 11 2024.  
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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: 609351  
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
1.) AMAZING SOJOURNS, located at 35614 Stowe Cmn, Fremont, CA 94536, Alameda County.  
This business is conducted by: a Corporation. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):  
KIMMELNET CORP  
35614 Stowe Cmn  
FREMONT, CA 94536  
State of Incorporation/Organization: California  
Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on June 1, 2019  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on September 18 2024.  
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MALHOTRA CONSULTANCY  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: 609037  
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
1.) MALHOTRA CONSULTANCY, located at 7015 Locust Ct, Dublin, CA 94568, Alameda County.  
This business is conducted by: an Individual. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):  
SAMIR MALHOTRA  
7015 Locust Ct  
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 September 03 2024.  
(PLW Sep 20, 27, Oct 4 and 11, 2024)

FRERICH CONSULTING  
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File No.: 608961  
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1.) Frerich Consulting, located at 3650 Touriga Drive, Pleasanton, CA 94566, Alameda County.  
This business is conducted by: an Individual. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):  
PHILIP FRERICH  
3650 Touriga Drive  
Pleasanton, CA 94566  
Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on August 1 2024  
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(PLW Sep 20, 27, Oct 4 and 11, 2024)

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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: 609239  
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1.) Tech Basic, located at 1446 Chateau Common #108 Livermore, CA 94550, Alameda County.  
This business is conducted by: an Individual. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):  
TIM DRAIN  
1446 Chateau Common #108  
Livermore, CA 94550  
Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above.  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on September 11 2024.  
(PLW Sep 20, 27, Oct 4 and 11, 2024)

FOREVER FARMS  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: 608926  
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
1.) Forever Farms, located at 13575 Lake Chabot Rd. San Leandro, CA 94577, Alameda County. Mailing Address: 205 Downey St., San Francisco, CA 94117  
This business is conducted by: an Individual. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):  
DILLON GRUBER

205 Downey St  
San Francisco, CA 94117  
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This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on August 27 2024.  
(PLW Sep 13, 20, 27 and Oct 4, 2024)

RRREALTY  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: 609186  
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This business is conducted by: an Individual. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):  
ANURADHA KADIVETI  
6286 Ruxton Ct  
Pleasanton, CA 94588  
Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 09/09/2024  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on September 09 2024.  
(PLW Sep 20, 27, Oct 4 and 11, 2024)

WARM SPRINGS CHIROPRACTIC  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: 609214  
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
1.) Warm Springs Chiropractic, located at 194 Francisco Lane 104 Fremont, CA 94539, Alameda County.  
This business is conducted by: a Married Couple.  
The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):  
PAUL IATTONI  
194 Francisco Lane 104  
Fremont, CA 94539  
EVANGELINE LAU  
194 Francisco Lane 104  
Fremont, CA 94539  
Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 7/1/24  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on September 10 2024.  
(PLW Sep 20, 27, Oct 4 and 11, 2024)

HOME PROS CONSTRUCTION INC  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: 609017  
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
1.) HOME PROS CONSTRUCTION INC, located at 2583 Orvieto Ct. Livermore, CA 94550, Alameda County.  
This business is conducted by: a Corporation. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):  
HOME PROS KITCHEN BATH INC.  
2583 Orvieto Ct.  
Livermore, CA 94550  
State of Incorporation/Organization: Delaware  
Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 1978  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on August 30 2024.  
(PLW Sep 13, 20, 27 and Oct 4, 2024)

DAANISH TECHNOLOGIES  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: 606321  
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
1.) DAANISH TECHNOLOGIES, located at 6200 STONERIDGE MALL RD STE 300, PLEASANTON, CA 94588, ALAMEDA County.  
This business is conducted by: a Limited Liability Company.  
The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):  
DAANISH LLC  
6200 STONERIDGE MALL RD STE 300  
PLEASANTON, CA 94588  
State of Incorporation/Organization: CA  
Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 01/18/2021  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on May 13 2024.  
(PLW Sep 13, 20, 27 and Oct 4, 2024)

JELLYFLAVOR  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: 608904  
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
1.) Jellyflavor, located at 4571 Maureen Circle, Livermore, CA 94550, Alameda County.  
This business is conducted by: an Individual. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):

TANVI MURUGESH  
4571 Maureen Circle  
Livermore, CA 94550  
Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above.  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on August 26 2024.  
(PLW Sep 6, 13, 20 and 27, 2024)

NANABLUEBERRY  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: 608809  
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
1.) NANABLUEBERRY, located at 34340 Platinum Terrace, Fremont, CA 94555, Alameda County.  
This business is conducted by: an Individual. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):  
LI JIN  
34340 Platinum Terrace  
Fremont, CA 94555  
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 August 21 2024.  
(PLW Sep 6, 13, 20 and 27, 2024)

VELVET HEAD SPA LIVERMORE  
VELVET LIVERMORE  
VELVET HEAD SPA  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: 608932  
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
1.) VELVET HEAD SPA LIVERMORE, 2.) VELVET LIVERMORE, 3.) VELVET HEAD SPA, located at 2133 LAS POSITAS CT., STE. A, LIVERMORE, CA 94551, ALAMEDA County. Mailing Address: 741 TARROGANA DRIVE TRACY, CA 95376  
This business is conducted by: a Corporation. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):  
TGS MASSAGE INC.  
741 TARROGANA DRIVE  
TRACY, CA 95376  
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 August 27 2024.  
(PLW Sep 6, 13, 20 and 27, 2024)

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA FOR THE COUNTY OF ALAMEDA COUNTY  
Case No.: 24CV091171  
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:  
Petitioner: Michael Castillo Tolentino filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:  
MICHAEL CASTILLO TOLENTINO to SIMON TOLENTINO  
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: 2/14/2025, 9:30 AM, WILEY W. MANUEL COURTHOUSE of the Superior Court of California, County of ALAMEDA located at 661 WASHINGTON, OAKLAND, CA 94607.  
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: SEPT. 17., 2024  
THOMAS L. NIXON  
JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT  
(PLW Sep 27, Oct 4, 11 and 18, 2024)

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA FOR THE COUNTY OF ALAMEDA COUNTY  
Case No.: 24CV090817  
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:  
Petitioner: Natalie Nicole Ogransky filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:  
NATALIE NICOLE OGRANSKY to NATASHA ZALIANIS OGRANSKY

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: 1/31/2025, 9:30AM, Dept.:103 of the Superior Court of California, County of Alameda located at 661 Washington Street, Oakland, CA 94607.  
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: 9/10/2024  
THOMAS J. NIXON  
JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT  
(PLW Sep 27, Oct 4, 11 and 18, 2024)

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA FOR THE COUNTY OF ALAMEDA  
Case No.: 24CV091131  
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:  
Petitioner: Materdo Rodrigues Maria Selvam and Saicharanya Sivakumar filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:  
PRAJITH RODRIGUES MATERDO to PRAJITH MATERDO  
THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.  
NOTICE OF HEARING: 01/31/2025, 09:30 AM, Wiley W. Manuel Courthouse of the Superior Court of California, County of Alameda located at 661 Washington St, Oakland, CA 94607.  
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: 09/12/2024  
Thomas Nixon  
JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT  
(PLW Sep 20, 27, Oct 4 and 11, 2024)

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA FOR THE COUNTY OF ALAMEDA  
Case No.: 24CV089422  
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:  
Petitioner: Sean Kendall Robbins filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:  
SEAN KENDALL ROBBINS to SEAN CALVIN KENDALL  
ALEXANDRA LAUREN BRESLIN to ALEXANDRA LAUREN KENDALL  
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: 12/27/2024, 9:30 AM, Civil Branch of the Superior Court of California, County of Alameda located at 661 Washington St., Oakland CA 94607.  
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: Aug 30, 2024  
Thomas J. Nixon  
JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT  
(PLW Sep 13, 20, 27 and Oct 4, 2024)

*Continued on next page*

# Public Notices

Continued from previous page

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

Case No.: 24CV090833

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:

Petitioner: Anne Wong filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:

ANNE WONG to ANNE YING

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: 1/31/2025, 9:30 AM, Wiley W Manuel of the Superior Court of California, County of Alameda located at 661 Washington Street, Oakland, CA 94607.

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: 9/10/2024

Thomas Nixon

JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT

(PLW Sep 20, 27, Oct 4 and 11, 2024)

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

Case No.: 24CV084587

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:

Petitioner: Sagar Sadanand Kangutkar and Namrata Niteen Dhuru filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:

NEIL KANGUTKAR DHURU to NEIL DHURU KANGUTKAR

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: 10/11/2024, 9:30 am, Oakland Branch of the Superior Court of California, County of Alameda located at 1225 Fallon Street, Oakland, CA 94612.

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

Date: 07/24/2024

Thomas Nixon

JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT

(PLW Sep 20, 27, Oct 4 and 11, 2024)

**The Pleasanton Weekly is adjudicated to publish in Alameda County.**

**The deadline is Sunday at 11:59 pm. Visit [PleasantonWeekly.com/legal\\_notices/](http://PleasantonWeekly.com/legal_notices/)**

For assistance email [LegalNotices@PleasantonWeekly.com](mailto:LegalNotices@PleasantonWeekly.com).

# Calendar

POST CALENDAR ITEMS AT [PLEASANTONWEEKLY.COM](http://PLEASANTONWEEKLY.COM)

## Entertainment

### CARNIVAL SANTANA TRIBUTE

Carnival faithfully recreates the drive and the sound that has made Santana's music a mainstay in rock music history for the past five decades. 8 p.m., Sept. 28. Tickets \$25-\$35. Visit [firehousearts.org](http://firehousearts.org).

**JAZZ AT INKLINGS** The next free Jazz at Inklings features vocalist Nicolas Bearde and Matt Finders Trio. 6 p.m., Sept. 28. Seating is limited. 533 Main St., Pleasanton. For reservations visit [meetup.com/pleasanton-jazz-society](http://meetup.com/pleasanton-jazz-society).

### LIVERMORE VALLEY OPERA

Livermore Valley Opera presents The Daughter of the Regiment, the charming tale of Marie found on a battlefield and raised by a French Regiment. 7:30 p.m., Sept. 28; 2 p.m., Sept. 29, Oct. 5-6. Tickets \$25-\$110. Visit [livermorearts.org](http://livermorearts.org).

### PLEASANTON COMMUNITY BAND

Pleasanton Community Band will perform at the Farmers' Market 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., Sept. 28. 30 W. Angela St.

**THE SHE GEES** This electrifying female-fronted tribute to the Bee Gees will have you dancing and singing along to all of the favorite hits. 7:30 p.m., Oct. 2. Tickets \$55-\$75. Visit [livermorearts.org](http://livermorearts.org).

### JOAN OSBORNE AT THE BANKHEAD

Joan Osborne is known for her gritty, blues-based rock sound, passionate performance and emotionally evocative songwriting. 8 p.m., Oct. 4. Tickets \$25-\$220. Visit [livermorearts.org](http://livermorearts.org).

### BEST OF SAN FRANCISCO STAND-UP COMEDY

This comedy tour de force includes some of the hottest up and coming acts in the Bay Area. 8 p.m., Oct. 5. Tickets \$25. Visit [firehousearts.org](http://firehousearts.org).

### GOOSEBUMPS THE MUSICAL

Prepare to get goosebumps as Brooke and Zeke race to solve a mystery in this thrilling and chilling new musical based on the classic series by R.L. Stine. 10 a.m., Oct. 9; 10 a.m., 1 p.m., 6 p.m., Oct. 10. Tickets \$25. Visit [livermorearts.org](http://livermorearts.org).

### CANADIAN BRASS

Join Canadian Brass at the Bankhead, the world's most renowned brass ensemble, where their infectious energy and unparalleled musicianship promise an unforgettable night. 3 p.m., Oct. 13. Tickets \$50-\$80. Visit [livermorearts.org](http://livermorearts.org).

## Exhibitions

**TEXTURES OF REMEMBRANCE** This exhibit explores a date that impacts many Vietnamese Americans: April 30, 1975, the end of the Vietnam War featuring works by 25 Vietnamese artists and writers. Through Sept. 28. Visit [museumonmain.org](http://museumonmain.org).

**LOCOMOTIVE EXHIBIT** This exhibit is on display at the UNCLE Credit Union Art Gallery featuring artists and photographers with artwork that highlights Livermore and the Amador Valley's rich railway history

and culture. 1-5 p.m., Thurs-Sun. Through Oct. 5.

**ALAMEDA FALL HOME SHOW** The 38th annual Fall Home Show is back at the Alameda County Fairgrounds. Meet experts and visit exhibits and displays to help turn your house into the home of your dreams. 12-5 p.m., Oct. 4, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Oct. 5-6. Visit [alamedacountyfair.com](http://alamedacountyfair.com).

**LPFD FIRE EXPO** Join this fun and educational day at the LPFD Fire Expo where this family-friendly event offers activities for all ages, including live firefighter demonstrations, fire extinguisher training and a kids' obstacle course. 8 a.m.-12 p.m., Oct. 5 Training Tower, 3333 Busch Rd., Pleasanton. Visit [lpfire.org](http://lpfire.org).

## Festivities

**PIRATES OF EMERSON** Pirates of Emerson is an extremely frightening, walk-thru Haunted House celebrating 34 years of fear. Enjoy 4 haunted houses, virtual reality ride, games, bands and a gift shop. Sept. 27 to Nov. 2. Alameda County Fairgrounds. Visit [piratesofemerson.com](http://piratesofemerson.com).

**WITCHES NIGHT OUT** Join Witches Night Out in downtown Livermore for a special evening of moonlight shopping and dining. 5:30-9 p.m., Oct. 2. Buy tickets through Sept. 29. For more information visit [livermoredowntown.com/events/witches-night-out-2024](http://livermoredowntown.com/events/witches-night-out-2024).

**TASTE OF AFRICA FESTIVAL** Taste of Africa is a free, outdoor festival showcasing musical and dance performances by local African and African diaspora artists, art exhibits, food, African marketplace, a community art project and a kidzone. 10 a.m., Oct. 5. Visit [livermorearts.org](http://livermorearts.org). Free Bankhead Theater Plaza.

**FILIPINO BARRIO FIESTA** October officially marks Filipino American History Month in the United States. Celebrate Filipinx American History Month through art, food, music, dance, history and culture. 10 a.m., Oct. 6. Free. Visit [livermorearts.org](http://livermorearts.org).

### QUILT, CRAFT & SEWING FESTIVAL

Don't miss this colorful quilting and craft show and interact with nearly 150 booths of the very best vendors from across the country. 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Oct. 10-12. Admission is free. Visit [alamedacountyfair.com](http://alamedacountyfair.com).

### YOM KIPPUR GATHERING

Tri-Valley Cultural Jews will hold a Yom Kippur gathering in Livermore featuring music, readings and discussions. Rabbi Judith Seid will lead a short ceremony of repentance and forgiveness. 2-5 p.m., Oct. 12. \$25/non-member adult though all are welcome regardless of ability to donate. Reserve at [culturaljews@gmail.com](mailto:culturaljews@gmail.com).

### LET'S BEAT BREAST CANCER EVENT

Join local experts, community activists and breast cancer survivors for a special gathering in honor of Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

## PET OF THE WEEK



VALLEY HUMANE SOCIETY

## All ears with Raven

Raven is a sweet soul who is ready to keep you company on long walks, or even better, long naps! You'll fall in love with her sweet smile, friendly demeanor and energetic personality. Her current foster family is "raven" about her ability to use a doggy door, and how quickly she took to house-training. See if the "rave" reviews are true for yourself, and visit [valleyhumane.org](http://valleyhumane.org) to learn more or email [info@valleyhumane.org](mailto:info@valleyhumane.org) to start the adoption process.

This free event also includes a unique blend of percussionists, is 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Oct. 12. Pleasanton Senior Center.

**AMADOR VALLEY QUILTERS FALL FESTIVAL** Out of the Boxers, a friendship group of Amador Valley Quilters, will host a display of unique art and challenge quilts at the Alden Lane Nursery Fall Festival. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Oct. 12-13. Visit [amadorvalleyquilters.org](http://amadorvalleyquilters.org).

## Outdoors

**SEPTEMBER BIRDS RANGER PROGRAM** This beginner level bird walk will be a short, easy walk where some parts of the trail are not paved. Bring binoculars and water. 2-3:30 p.m., Sept. 28. Sycamore Grove Park, Arroyo Road. Visit [larpd.org](http://larpd.org).

**NATIVE GARDEN WORK DAY** Volunteer for this Wetmore Native Garden Work Day at Sycamore Grove Park to help nurture native plants and beautify the park. 9-11 a.m., Oct. 4. Visit [larpd.org/volunteer](http://larpd.org/volunteer).

**RANGER PROGRAM: TARANTULA HIKE** Join an LARPD Ranger for an informative talk about California's tarantulas then a flat 1-mile round trip hike looking for fuzzy friends. 12-1 p.m., Oct. 5. Sycamore Grove Park, Arroyo Rd., entrance. Visit [larpd.org](http://larpd.org).

## Talks

**ARMCHAIR TRAVELERS AT LIVERMORE LIBRARY** Dan Moore presents "Biking around Livermore with Dan Moore" where he will show photographs and highlight bike-accessible sights within 12 miles of Livermore. 1:30 p.m., Oct. 10. Civic Center Library Storytime Room.

**HAPPY HOUR WITH AUTHOR CAM INMAN** Meet Cam Inman, author of "The Franchise: San Francisco 49ers", and take a more profound and unique journey into the history of an iconic team. 5-6 p.m., Sept. 28. Towne Center Books, 555 Main St., Pleasanton.

**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).

## 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., Oct. 1. Visit [cityofpleasantonca.gov](http://cityofpleasantonca.gov).

**PLEASANTON PLANNING COMMISSION** The Pleasanton Planning Commission meets the second and fourth Wednesday of the month. The next meeting is 7 p.m., Oct. 9. 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., Oct. 1. Visit [livermoreca.gov](http://livermoreca.gov).

**LIVERMORE VALLEY JOINT UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT** Regular meetings are in the Boardroom at the District Office, 685 East Jack London Blvd. The next meeting is 7 p.m., Oct 1. Visit [livermoreschools.org](http://livermoreschools.org).

## Farmers' Markets

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

**LIVERMORE THURSDAY FARMERS' MARKET** The Livermore Thursday Night Farmers' Market is 4-8 p.m. at Carnegie Park with over 60 vendors. Rain or shine. 2155 3rd St.

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

# Real Estate

## Why Lara says his plan to fix insurance crisis will work

‘My immediate goal is to stabilize this market now, to get insurers to come back, to grow’

BY SAMEEA KAMAL / CALMATTERS

You're a California homeowner who just spent thousands of dollars to protect your property from wildfires — and saved maybe \$100 on your insurance bill.

Could grants to low- and middle-income residents help? That's an idea California Insurance Commissioner Ricardo Lara wants to bring to the Legislature next year, he said in conversation Sept. 19 with CalMatters' economy reporter Levi Sumagaysay.

Lara discussed his multi-pronged approach to the insurance crisis — with companies decreasing coverage, raising premiums for residential and commercial customers, or leaving the state altogether. Part of the plan includes speeding up the state's

reviews of insurance companies' proposed rate hikes — which are supposed to take 60 days, but often take as long as 18 months, by which time rates might not reflect the risk anymore.

“This was completely ignorant on my part as a new insurance commissioner. I'm like, ‘Okay, we're reviewing these rates. We're done, right?’ They're like, ‘Oh no, there is a whole backlog,’” he said during the hour-long CalMatters event in Sacramento, adding that companies often submit another rate review immediately after one is done because of the long wait times.

Another significant change Lara is pushing to make insurance more available: For California to come out of the “dark ages” to join other states in allowing insurance

companies to do “catastrophe modeling.” That would allow them to take projected losses into account — not just historical information — using data such as frequency, severity, damage and loss from wildfires and other natural disasters. Insurers can start using the modeling to set rates next year.

While companies are allowed to keep the modeling private, Lara promised there will be safeguards in place to ensure data and transparency.

“We're doing this from scratch,” he said.

Lara also wants to tackle problems with the FAIR Plan — a “last resort” insurance plan required by state law that offers minimum coverage for wildfires. His plan is to raise the amount of coverage. Run by a pool

of insurers, the FAIR Plan has grown to 400,000 policies.

While he worries about “Armageddon” scale disasters, Lara said the recent flurry of wildfires in Southern California don't undermine his proposals, noting that he issued emergency declarations to protect 750,000 policyholders from losing coverage.

“I'm so confident in my plan,” he said. “I know it's going to work.”

What's not in Lara's proposals? Requiring insurers to address climate change in the regulations.

“My immediate goal is to stabilize this market now, to get insurers to come back, to grow, and then we're going to be having conversations on separate issues, separate requirements that we can look at,” he said. ■

## HOME SALES

This week's data represents homes sold during July 1-12 for Pleasanton, Livermore and Dublin, and Aug. 19-30 for San Ramon.

### Pleasanton

- 3730 Angus Way** H. Xie to K. & M. Chen for \$1,832,000
- 2368 Corte De La Jara** Guidice Living Trust to B. & Q. Chu for \$2,040,000
- 5860 Corte Monte** Mcguire Trust to L. & D. Wee for \$2,875,000
- 3222 Glenda Court** Davidson Trust to C. & S. Chiu for \$1,870,000
- 2304 Greenberry Court** S. & R. Jedlowski to B. & S. Tang for \$1,845,000
- 5410 Greenfield Way** S. & M. Ryberg to Colvin Family Trust for \$1,850,000
- 194 Kottinger Drive** Seeger Family Trust to L. & P. Jupp for \$1,146,000
- 3965 West Las Positas Boulevard** A. Gordon to Bay Area Renovations LLC for \$1,050,000
- 2665 Lin Gate Court** Jhc Survivors Trust to Ca Realty Investments LLC for \$1,810,000
- 9536 Macdonald Court** N. Gholami to R. & A. Marathe for \$3,400,000
- 5135 Oakdale Court** L. Sun to Reid Family Trust for \$1,201,000
- 5814 Arthur Drive** D. Suvakovic to V. & A. Maniyedath for \$1,915,000
- 3726 Bairn Court** 3726 Bairn Court LLC to M. & I. Park for \$1,625,000
- 5529 Black Avenue** 2006 Cole Trust to S. & R. Chitradurga for \$1,950,000
- 3060 Bolero Court** V. Venkataraman to R. & P. Ranbise for \$1,140,000
- 7615 Canyon Meadow Circle #G** Alcalá Living Trust to J. Chou for \$600,000
- 6259 Corte Fuego** J. & R. Thielen to Chandru Living Trust for \$2,260,000
- 1127 Deer Creek Court** Iyer Family Trust to Karamsetty Family Trust for \$2,375,000
- 829 Division Street #C** Smead Living Trust to S. & A. Paradise for \$380,000

- 4195 Francisco Street** Nny Inc to T. & J. Mac for \$1,230,000
- 2514 Heatherlark Circle** D. Trinh to M. Singh for \$1,250,000
- 4231 Jensen Street** D. Littrell to J. Mederos for \$1,150,000
- 5818 West Las Positas Boulevard** O. & S. Beldianu to A. & A. Zahed for \$1,270,000
- 5186 Mount Tam Circle** Miller Trust to D. & P. Shetty for \$2,500,000
- 5552 San Jose Drive** S. Flamingo to R. & K. Lee for \$1,750,000
- 3676 Shenandoah Court** Golden Eagle Investments Inc to J. & M. Kannapiran for \$1,710,000
- 3014 Staples Ranch Drive** R. & N. Llerena to S. & S. Madala for \$1,701,500
- 715 Sycamore Road** N. & R. Kumar to Simmons Trust for \$1,400,000
- 6016 Tillman Court** D. & M. Nowicki to M. & A. Azad for \$3,260,000
- 2282 Via Espada** Alfred Trust to D. & A. Nepal for \$1,785,000
- 4229 Wells Street** N. & J. Worrall to S. & M. Badri for \$1,310,000

### Livermore

- 4706 Bel Roma Road** Donat Living Trust to S. & S. Aguirre for \$2,550,000
- 1175 Big Basin Road** D. & C. Sattler to K. & S. Ramaswamy for \$1,150,000
- 2974 Bresso Drive** P. & S. Gomez to I. & S. Das for \$2,180,000
- 1912 De Vaca Way** C. Huang to C. & C. Adamson for \$910,000
- 5184 Doolan Road** S. & R. Trehan to S. & P. Gomez for \$2,900,000
- 560 Dovecote Lane #1** M. Guse to U. Randhawa for \$887,000
- 1137 Essex Street** P. & R. Baker to G. & A. Kumar for \$1,280,000
- 1025 Florence Road** Anderson Trust to S. Elahi for \$1,526,000

- 212 Garden Common** R. Petit to P. & P. Shroff for \$785,000
- 4991 Gladys Court** Schmidt Trust to K. & R. Lally for \$1,600,000
- 7 Meritage Common #201** B. Thurman to E. & C. Gfeller for \$740,000
- 871 Old Oak Road** B. & A. Marinelli to Akin Trust for \$2,600,000
- 483 Ontario Drive** Kusko Living Trust to 483 Ontario Drive LLC for \$1,225,000
- 2899 Patcham Common** K. & J. Tate to Heirloom 24 LLC for \$990,000
- 2077 Shetland Road** Roderos Living Trust to A. & C. Brucker for \$825,000
- 530 Starling Avenue** G. & L. Mcpeak to S. & M. Agarwal for \$1,200,000
- 5460 Treeflower Drive** F. Brown to R. & R. Lyer for \$725,000
- 747 Trinity Hills Lane** J. Leon to Scherbarth Trust for \$2,378,000
- 2393 Vintage Lane** M. & S. Bean to R. Bennett for \$2,210,000
- 3775 Carrigan Common** B. Tapja to P. Attanayake for \$660,000
- 66 Chalmette Court** C. & S. Rutherford to P. & A. Cisubalan for \$1,372,500
- 2235 College Avenue** Lemos Living Trust to Av Homes LLC for \$1,075,000
- 1235 De Paul Way** V. & J. Moth to P. & D. Bhatia for \$1,300,000
- 2405 Decker Lane** A. Mohammed to S. & H. Shetty for \$1,900,000
- 5352 Desiree Avenue** Schuetz Family Trust to C. & K. Giebler-Colla for \$1,300,000
- 1240 Gustly Loop** Ramesh Living Trust to H. & R. Pankajakshan for \$1,125,000
- 1598 Helsinki Way** S. & T. Butler to D. & C. Merrigan for \$1,350,000
- 1245 Hyacinth Court** J. & J. Wallace to S. & M. Purushothaman for \$1,454,000
- 1999 Jonquil Common** Solivan Living Trust to M. & T. Pandya for \$1,015,000
- 342 Marie Common** Barron Family Trust to D. & J. Zhang for \$968,000
- 956 Mars Court** Rose Family Trust to C. & A. Lessler for \$1,776,500
- 745 Mayview Way** S. Wol1998 to Hatch Rise LLC for \$1,170,000
- 880 Megan Road** D. & M. Reynolds to Barncord Trust for \$1,405,000
- 117 Misty Circle** Pereira Trust to M. & A. Guda for \$1,127,000
- 574 Morgan Common** Barlow Family Trust to D. Crespín for \$680,000
- 524 Ontario Drive** Stradling Trust to Aitchison Construction Inc for \$1,080,000
- 2749 Patcham Common** C. Hsu to L. Hickey for \$1,100,000
- 1019 Roxanne Street** C. & M. Illichmann to P. & S. Amruth for \$1,315,000

- 166 Selby Lane #8** Brown Living Trust to A. & A. Flynn for \$890,000
- 2553 Spyglass Hills Road** R. & K. Owens to Hayes Living Trust for \$925,000
- 206 Turnstone Drive** K. & G. Thompson to E. & B. Rawlings for \$1,410,000
- 2674 White Crane Circle** Maddix Trust to R. & D. Shaffer for \$2,150,000
- 187 Wildrose Common #1202** I. Popov to L. & S. Chin for \$825,000
- 1501 Yukon Place** J. & M. Zumwalt to N. & M. Balakrishnan for \$2,055,000

### Dublin

- 3071 Central Parkway** R. & T. Andor to Gunda Trust for \$1,900,000
- 4137 Clarinbridge Circle** K. Modepalli to A. & S. Ram for \$880,000
- 8279 Davona Drive** B. Herrera to Ironhorse Property Fund LLC for \$900,000
- 5502 El Dorado Lane** M. Badri to S. & A. Chan for \$929,000
- 6725 Elm Court** J. Hively to F. & S. Kalikota for \$1,280,000
- 4835 Fawn Way #103** Gilbreth Trust to D. & A. Patil for \$827,000
- 7528 Frederiksen Lane** Dobson Living Trust to Threez Investments Inc for \$1,110,000
- 8174 Holanda Lane** Y. Huo to N. & N. Kumar for \$1,420,000
- 8422 Rhoda Avenue** M. & P. Terry to R. & G. Dhillon for \$2,025,000
- 2855 Sable Oaks Way** J. & G. Reizik to H. & R. Sharma for \$2,900,000
- 7549 San Sabana Road** L. & R. Lee to N. & R. Dorai for \$1,440,000
- 8151 Via Zapata** Haglund Trust to R. & S. Katta for \$1,620,000
- 3626 Whitworth Drive** D. Song to C. & E. Tagalicud for \$1,120,000
- 7619 Arbor Creek Circle** C. & K. Tan to S. Kumar for \$615,000
- 7681 Ashford Way** Shanks Trust to H. & L. Saini for \$1,349,500
- 2526 Bassetts Way** M. Ho to S. & M. Kakati for \$1,990,000
- 4216 Clarinbridge Circle** V. Gangiredla to N. Ehsan-Pham for \$855,000
- 3465 Dublin Boulevard #217** Lai Family Trust to M. & D. Fujii for \$725,000
- 3245 Dublin Boulevard #106** J. & K. Bryant to D. & C. Adhikari for \$850,500
- 5530 El Dorado Lane** Y. Zhu to F. & A. Kumar for \$1,315,000
- 11879 Flanagan Court** A. Komatireddy to K. Sutradhar for \$799,000
- 5355 Francia Court** Das & Deb Family Trust to Ramakrishnan & Alagudeep Trust for \$1,630,000

## SALES AT A GLANCE

### Pleasanton (July 1-12)

Total sales reported: 31  
Lowest sale reported: \$380,000  
Highest sale reported: \$3,400,000  
Average sales reported: \$1,725,177

### Livermore (July 1-12)

Total sales reported: 44  
Lowest sale reported: \$660,000  
Highest sale reported: \$2,900,000  
Average sales reported: \$1,257,120

### Dublin (July 1-12)

Total sales reported: 29  
Lowest sale reported: \$600,000  
Highest sale reported: \$2,900,000  
Average sales reported: \$1,310,310

### San Ramon (Aug. 19-30)

Total sales reported: 26  
Lowest sale reported: \$575,000  
Highest sale reported: \$2,949,000  
Average sales reported: \$1,492,115

Source: California REsource

Source: California REsource



# the details *matter*

**The smallest details can make the biggest difference in your real estate journey.**

We are dedicated to understanding your needs and meticulously managing every aspect of your home buying and selling experience. From market insights to closing day, we ensure that nothing is overlooked so you can focus on what truly matters: finding your perfect home.

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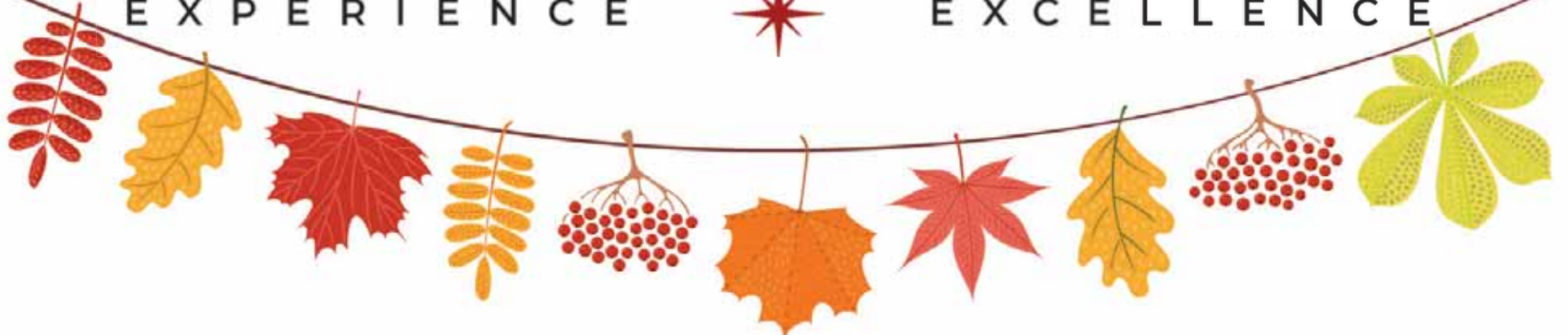
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## The Leaves Aren't The Only Thing Changing This Season! Let Us Help You Find A New Place To Call Home.

**FOR SALE**  
LISTED FOR \$2,399,000

**370 Oak Lane**  
5 Bedrooms | 3.5 Bathrooms | 3,525 Sq. Ft.

**FOR SALE**  
LISTED FOR \$2,098,000

**3424 Touriga Drive**  
4 Bedrooms | 2.5 Bathrooms | 2,050 Sq. Ft.

**COMING SOON**  
LISTED FOR \$3,565,000

**1772 Zenato Place**  
5 Bedrooms | 5 Bathrooms | 3,843 Sq. Ft.

**PENDING**

**2785 Decker Lane**  
5 Bedrooms | 3 Bathrooms | 2,897 Sq. Ft.

**PENDING**

**843 Wall Street**  
3 Bedrooms | 2 Bathrooms | 1,484 Sq. Ft.

**PENDING**

**937 S. I Street**  
Representing Buyers

## The Leaves Are Falling *Home Maintenance Is Calling*

- Clean Gutters
- Check Detectors
- Clean Window Sills
- Change Furnace Filters
- Clean Chimney
- Store Lawn Furniture
- Drain Garden Hoses
- Cut Grass Short
- Winterize Gas Grill
- Rake And Bag Leaves



**CALL ME TODAY FOR ANY OF YOUR REAL ESTATE NEEDS** 📞 **925.413.6544**

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