

Pleasanton Weekly



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'Tis the Season

Bright colors and bright smiles fill Main Street for Hometown Holiday Parade and Tree Lighting Ceremony

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WHAT A WEEK



By JEREMY WALSH

Trail on trial

The city of Pleasanton won an interesting case in the appellate court earlier this year that might also remind bicyclists to beware of where they're riding in the eastern part of town.

At issue was whether the pathway on the west side of Valley Avenue between Busch Road and Boulder Street is a streetside sidewalk that could leave the city liable for a dangerous pavement condition, or if it is a trail by definition and therefore exempt because of the so-called "trail immunity" under state law.

Verdict? Trail.

The California Court of Appeal, First Appellate District, Division Four upheld the Alameda County Superior Court's prior finding in favor of the city and rejected the lawsuit brought by former resident Diana Escoda, who sustained serious head injuries after crashing her bike upon hitting a piece of raised concrete on the pathway in the spring of 2020.

"Escoda does not and cannot dispute that the pathway was designed for use by recreational bicyclists and is being used by bicyclists, including herself, both for recreation and to access three recreational areas in the general area. Her failure to contest these facts is fatal to her appeal," wrote Acting Presiding Justice Jon B. Streeter in the unanimous opinion.

City attorney Dan Sodergren offered no real reaction to the legal victory when I contacted him. "As you know, it is our practice not to comment on litigation," he responded by email. (I can respect the consistency, but I was surprised the city didn't want to say more after a win in court.)

The plaintiff's lawyer, George Oliver, had plenty to say when we spoke by phone last Friday.

"I'm really of the belief that the court didn't get it right," Oliver told me. "No ramifications for not addressing a dangerous condition, which doesn't promote public safety."

Escoda, then an executive at The Clorox Company in the Bay Area, was riding her bike southbound on the pathway with her son on May 16, 2020 when she hit a patch where one piece of concrete was 3 inches higher than the last and she crashed about 440 feet north of the Boulder Street intersection. Her subsequent claim alleged the city was told about the dangerous condition at least three days earlier.

She sustained a traumatic brain injury, permanent eye damage and PTSD. She spent 15 days in care

between a hospital and an inpatient rehabilitation facility, and missed three months of work, according to her original claim for \$5 million in damages filed against the city that October.

After her claim was rejected, Escoda proceeded to sue the city for general negligence and premises liability, with a first amended complaint submitted in July 2021.

More than a year after the lawsuit, an Alameda County Superior Court judge granted the city's motion for summary judgment based on trail immunity. She appealed, and attorneys argued the case earlier this year.

None of her arguments hit home with the three-justice appellate panel, which sided pretty much down the line with the city.

"In short, the trial court correctly granted the City's motion for summary judgment because all the papers submitted show there is no material triable issue of fact; as a matter of law, the pathway is a 'trail' under Government Code section 831.4," Streeter wrote in the 17-page opinion issued June 12. "Trail immunity applies to all manner of defects in the trail's condition."

Finally finding time to dive into the case, I walked the route in question last week — and I'll admit it wasn't easy for me to discern. This is the stretch of the city-owned connector trail between where East Bay Regional Park District's Iron Horse Regional Trail stops at Busch and Valley before picking up again at Shadow Cliffs Regional Recreation Area.

The Iron Horse is on the east side of Valley, but any pathway stops at Boulder and there are black-and-white stamps in the corners of the crosswalks leading Iron Horse users to the west side of the street to continue south to Stanley Boulevard.

In question though is the concrete path on the west of Valley between Busch and Boulder, alongside the foliage and fence with Oldcastle Infrastructure.

Oliver tried to argue it is a sidewalk in an industrial zone and Iron Horse users would not consider that portion as part of the recreational connector trail because the clearest signage on the west side starts south of Boulder.

The appellate court disagreed, saying the "Bike Route" signage in the area is clear enough and as importantly, so is the city's paper trail in defining both pathways on either side of Valley.

Recreational path. Trail immunity. No liability. Case closed. ■

About the Cover

The Pleasanton community celebrated the holiday spirit on a cool and clear evening downtown Saturday at the 2024 Hometown Holiday Parade and Tree Lighting Ceremony. Photo by Chuck Deckert.

Cover design by Doug Young.

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Streetwise

ASKED AROUND TOWN

What good, positive thoughts are you reflecting upon as you prepare for and enjoy this holiday season?



Dan Lovinger
Retired media executive

Every holiday season I look forward to time slowing down and having all of my family (three generations!) spending time together. Also, I like thinking about doing my year-end clean-out of needless subscriptions and canceling them all.



Shyamalima Karan
Artist and stay-at-home mom

Now is the perfect time to reflect on the year that was. While I can make a laundry list of things going wrong in my life, I feel nothing but gratitude for what's going right. My heart aches thinking about how divided we are nowadays. I just hope we can all learn to be a bit more forgiving and embrace each other's differences of thoughts and opinions and move towards a better world.



Jared Greisman
Lawyer

I'm really excited thinking about some down-time from work for a few days, and spending quality time with my three children in Florida. My oldest will be home from college, so we are all reflecting upon that and are very happy about it.



Margie Painter
Retired art teacher

I'm trying to focus on everything and anything good and positive, that gives me some peace of mind and puts some joy in my heart. It's not so easy these days. I also like thinking about how the days will start to get longer again soon, once we are beyond the winter equinox on Dec. 21.



Carol Zhou
Retired computational biologist

I've been thinking about how grateful I am for the companionship of cats and dogs who share our homes and warm our hearts. Not only just during the holiday season, but throughout the entire year.

—Compiled by Nancy and Jeff Lewis

Have a Streetwise question? Email editor@PleasantonWeekly.com

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DIGEST

Get sweaters out

The Pleasanton Downtown Association is urging people to pull on their favorite holiday sweaters — even the ugly ones — and enjoy eating, drinking and shopping along Main Street this weekend.

Set rain or shine, the Spirit and Sweater Stroll is scheduled for 5-8 p.m. Saturday (Dec. 14). Some 20 locations downtown will be offering participating adults (21 years old and older) a special cocktail for the season.

“There will be plenty of photo ops along the way, capturing the joyful moments of this special event,” PDA officials said. “Get ready to spread some holiday cheer at the Downtown Pleasanton Spirit and Sweater Stroll!”

A few tickets remain available. To purchase online or to learn more, go to pleasanton.downtown.net.

Hope crab feed

Local nonprofit Hope Hospice and Health Services is holding its third annual crab feed fundraiser on Feb. 15 at the Shannon Community Center in Dublin — and tickets are already selling fast.

The event benefits the organization's end-of-life care and related family education and support programs in the Tri-Valley.

Doors will open at 5 p.m. that evening with a social hour, raffle sales and cash bar before dinner service begins at 6 p.m. and the live auction of desserts follows at 7:15 p.m., organizers said. Attendance is restricted to adults of drinking age, with red and white wines from Wente Vineyards and River's End beer (both based in Livermore) on sale.

For more information, visit p2p.onecause.com/hop crabfeed or call 925-829-8770.

A Holiday Soiree

Livermore-based SPARC Theater is presenting script-in-hand readings of stories of the season including “The Fir-Tree” by Hans Christian Andersen this weekend in its hometown and in San Ramon.

Part of its ongoing Get Out of the House reading series, the Holiday Soiree shows feature professional actors in costume and under the direction of Mary Ann Rodgers performing in a style “between a full show and story time,” organizers said. There will be a do-it-yourself hot cocoa bar, an assortment of sweet treats and a group sing-along.

Performances are set for 7:30 p.m. this Friday and Saturday and 2 p.m. this Sunday at the SPARC Studio on Railroad Avenue in Livermore and at 7 p.m. Sunday at the Front Row Theater on Bollinger Canyon Road in San Ramon.

For tickets and more info, go to sparctheater.org. ■

DA's reinvestigation clears officers in fatal shooting; family settles suit

In one of her final acts, Price confirms no criminal liability but lambasts PPD for ‘unnecessary escalation’

By Christian Trujano and Jeremy Walsh

Two Pleasanton Police Department officers will not face criminal charges for fatally shooting a man armed with a knife nearly three years ago, following a second investigation into the case ordered by outgoing Alameda County District Attorney Pamela Price.

In a press release issued less than an hour before her recall was certified by election officials Dec. 5, Price confirmed that her Public Accountability

Unit cleared officers Brian Jewell and Mario Guillermo of criminal wrongdoing for the death of Cody Chavez outside the Galloway Apartments on Willow Road in February 2022 despite concluding officers engaged in “unnecessary escalation” during their response to a domestic dispute turned standoff.

“While this is certainly a tragic outcome and series of events, the PAU has concluded that Officers Guillermo and Jewell cannot be held criminally liable for the killing of Mr. Chavez,” Price said. “The prosecution

cannot prove, beyond a reasonable doubt, that the use of lethal force by Officers Jewell and Guillermo was unjustified.”

She added that the reinvestigation of the case found evidence to “point to an unnecessary escalation of force and multiple violations of Pleasanton Police Department policies for mental-health crisis interventions and de-escalation at minimum, and procedures for determining the appropriate level of force necessary to respond to this type of situation.”

The Weekly also learned that three

days before Price's public announcement, attorneys for Chavez's family reached a settlement in their lawsuit, which sought damages on behalf of Chavez's daughter.

James Cook, an associate attorney with the law offices of Burriss Nisenbaum Curry & Lacy, said the settlement will remain confidential until “all details are finalized.”

“The settlement allows both parties to put the incident behind them and move forward,” Cook told the

See **CHAVEZ** on Page 11



SWS MOUNTAIN GUIDES

Carlos “Kique” Romero of Livermore and two other men have been presumed dead after being missing in New Zealand since Dec. 2.

Lost Livermore climber, others presumed dead in New Zealand

Group believed to have taken fatal fall traversing slopes

By Cierra Bailey

A search for three climbers ended last Friday with New Zealand authorities issuing a statement that they presumed a Livermore man and two others dead who had attempted to summit Aoraki Mount Cook, the country's tallest mountain, just days before.

The men — who were identified as 50-year-old Carlos “Kique” Romero of Livermore, 56-year-old Kurt Blair and an unnamed Canadian national — are believed to have taken a fatal fall,

according to a Dec. 6 statement from Aoraki Police Cmdr. Vicki Walker.

Authorities said the third climber's name was withheld out of respect for family wishes.

Romero, who lived in Livermore but traveled often for climbing expeditions, worked for a Mount Shasta-based climbing expedition company called SWS Mountain Guides. While the Aoraki Mount Cook climb was not a work-related endeavor, the company shared a heartfelt Facebook post when news of

Romero's disappearance first became public.

The post praised Romero as a “beloved guide, educator, and mentor” and “an integral part” of the company.

Since then, the company has shared two more posts expressing sadness and grief in the wake of New Zealand authorities' latest updates and subsequent decision to suspend their search.

“It is with heavy hearts that we share the devastating reality

See **CLIMBER** on Page 6

Commission rejects pickleball courts

Other aspects of Springtown Open Space Plan move forward

By Jude Strzemp

The Springtown Open Space project passed muster at a regular Livermore Planning Commission meeting last week, except for the redesign of Marlin Pound Neighborhood Park due to noise concerns related to proposed pickleball courts.

The park is set to be redesigned, sans court, and returned to the commission for review. Revisions will be completed through a collaboration between the city, Livermore Area Recreation Park District and the community, officials said.

“Please show up for those LARPD meetings. Please show up for those community meetings,” Commissioner Tracy Kronzak said of the opportunity for Marlin Pound redesigns. “It is your neighborhood, it is your park and it is your quality of life, and you deserve something that you want.”

Aside from the changes at Marlin Pound, the rest of phase 1 of the Springtown Open Space project — redevelopment of the former Springtown Golf Course into a six-acre community park with an 18-hole disc golf course — received the commission's support. Their approval means the project

See **PICKLEBALL** on Page 9

Feds permanently close notorious prison, settle lawsuit

Deal includes 'formal, public acknowledgement to survivors of staff sexual abuse at FCI Dublin'

BY KILEY RUSSELL AND
KATHLEEN KIRKWOOD / BCN

A day after it was announced that the federal women's prison in Dublin would be permanently shuttered, attorneys for former inmates at the facility said they have reached a tentative settlement with the federal Bureau of Prisons that includes public acknowledgement of staff sexual abuse at the facility.

The settlement's proposed consent decree would be enforced at more than a dozen federal women's prisons where nearly 500 former FCI Dublin inmates are now housed for the next two years, attorneys said Friday.

The agreement to settle the class action suit, if approved by a federal judge, would mandate oversight and remedies for issues related to staff sexual and physical abuse, retaliation, medical care, and case work.

"This settlement is historic. It is the first time in BOP history that monitoring will be enforced by consent decree across over a dozen federal women's prisons nationwide," said Amaris Montes, an attorney with Rights Behind Bars, representing class members along with co-counsel at the California Collaborative for Immigrant Justice, Rosen Bien Galvan &

Grunfeld, and Arnold & Porter.

One of the provisions includes acknowledgement that abuse took place at the prison. "The BOP Director will issue a formal, public acknowledgement to survivors of staff sexual abuse at FCI Dublin," according to a summary of proposed terms released by attorneys.

A spokesperson for the Bureau of Prisons said on Dec. 6 that the agency had agreed to terms in the proposed settlement, which was filed that day in U.S. District Court.

On Dec. 5, officials with the Federal Bureau of Prisons notified Congress that they have no intention of reopening the low-security lockup, which announced a temporary closure in April.

The prison requires "considerable repairs" and suffered from staffing shortages due to the region's high cost of living and competition for employees with better-paying local law enforcement agencies, according to BOP officials.

It also suffers from a reputation as a "rape club" that prison officials knew about for years yet did nothing to prevent, according to the class action lawsuit filed by eight former prisoners who were victims of abuse.

The women "endured horrific abuse and exploitation at the hands of facility staff, including but not

limited to: rape and sexual assault," according to the lawsuit.

Other abuses included sexual coercion — including officers forcing prisoners to undress in order to get permission to leave their cells — degrading sexual comments, voyeurism and taking and sharing explicit photos, drugging and groping inmates during medical exams and abusing immigrant women while threatening them with deportation, according to the suit.

A lawyer for the women said that while the federal government should close prisons it can't run safely, simply shuttering a prison doesn't fix the underlying problems that led to the rampant abuse.

"Those issues, including decrepit facilities, understaffing, and lack of programs, are the result of a long history of mismanagement by BOP and remain at the other prisons currently holding our clients following the closure," said Kara Janssen, an attorney with Rosen Bien Galvan & Grunfeld.

U.S. Rep. Mark DeSaulnier (D-Walnut Creek) said he's happy the prison is permanently closed but still has questions for BOP leadership.

"I remain committed to continuing my work to conduct federal oversight and to seek answers from the Bureau of Prisons (BOP) as to



FILE PHOTO BY JEREMY WALSH

The Federal Correctional Institution in Dublin has now been closed for good.

how this situation was allowed to continue for so long, get answers about the botched closure, and insist on reforms to root out abuse at other facilities," DeSaulnier said in a news release.

The congressman, along with nine of his colleagues, also sent a letter to the House Judiciary Committee and the House Committee on Oversight and Accountability in May asking for hearings related to how BOP officials mishandled inmate transfers when the Dublin prison initially closed in the spring.

Alleged abuses include retaliation against whistleblowers, inhumane treatment and withholding of necessary medical care, according to the letter.

So far, eight former prison employees have been charged with sex crimes, including former warden Ray Garcia, who was convicted in 2022 and sentenced to nearly six years in prison for sexually abusing three inmates and lying about it, and the prison's former chaplain, James Highhouse, who pleaded guilty in February 2022 and was sentenced to seven years in prison for sexually abusing an inmate from May 2018 to February 2019.

In addition to the Dublin prison, BOP officials said they are closing six other locations around the country over staffing shortages, decaying facilities and "limited budgetary resources". ■

CLIMBER

Continued from Page 5

that our dear friend and colleague, Carlos 'Kique' Romero, will not be returning home," the company

wrote Friday. "This loss has profoundly impacted all of us at SWS Mountain Guides, and our deepest sympathies are with Kique's family during this incredibly difficult time."

The company also issued a press release, memorializing Romero and sharing details of the tragedy provided by the New Zealand authorities.

"The entire SWS Mountain

Guides community is grieving this tragedy alongside so many others. Kique and his climbing partners remain in our thoughts, as do their families and everyone impacted by this loss. Kique's contributions to the guiding world and our team are immeasurable, and his presence is profoundly missed," the press release reads.

A search for the three men was initially launched on Dec. 2 when they failed to make their flight out of the mountain at the expected time.

"The climbers were due to complete their climb at 8.30am today but did not meet their prearranged transport. A missing persons report was made to Police at 12.45pm today," authorities said in a statement announcing the search last week.

On that first day, some climbing items were found that were believed to belong to the three men.

Due to extreme weather conditions, the search was halted for several days but resumed that Friday when it was safer for teams to fly in the area.

The second time around, additional belongings were found but there was still no sign of the climbers.

"Today, the helicopter crew discovered further climbing-related items on the mountain," Walker

said in a statement Friday. "They found a top and energy gels. Earlier this week we located a jacket and an ice axe. All of these objects were retrieved by a crew operating from the helicopter. While we cannot confirm that the objects belong to the men, we believe they do."

In addition to those findings, there were other signs of the climbers' presence in the area.

"Based on the footage from the drone, we can see evidence of where the climbers had begun to traverse the slopes beneath Zurbriggen Ridge. This evidence includes footprints and the items we have retrieved," Walker said.

Walker noted that as of last Friday, all families had been notified and authorities had formally advised the coroner of their belief that the climbers did not survive a fall.

Despite presuming the climbers dead at this time, Walker said that authorities "remain poised to reactivate our search if we receive fresh information or credible reports of sightings — especially from the climbing community."

She added, "In terms of any recovery operation, its feasibility will be carefully considered and managed."

"I know that finding the men will be what the family wants and deserves," she said. ■

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CityServe launching emergency hotel room pilot program

The Caring Hotels Network will help address housing needs during winter months

BY CHRISTIAN TRUJANO

CityServe of the Tri-Valley is gearing up to launch a new program that will temporarily place unhoused individuals and families in hotels during these colder months.

The pilot program, dubbed The Caring Hotels Network, is a collaborative effort in partnership with Visit Tri-Valley to tackle emergency housing needs in the community, especially during the winter season.

CityServe CEO Christine Beitsch-Bahmani told the Weekly there are currently nine hotels throughout Pleasanton, Livermore and Dublin that are a part of the network and have agreed to take in unhoused individuals who need a place to sleep during cold nights and are out of options. The nonprofit is still training its staff on the new program and is slated to begin placing people in hotels soon.

“In these cold nights, we don’t want to see a high volume of people perishing out in the cold,” Beitsch-Bahmani said.

During the pandemic, Beitsch-Bahmani said the nonprofit — which focuses, among other things, on coordinating services for people experiencing homelessness — had been receiving emergency funding to help



those in need of immediate housing.

She said the idea for the hotel network came about from a conversation with Visit Tri-Valley CEO Tracy Farhad. After seeing the success that came from that, the nonprofit decided to use \$80,000 of county funding to launch the Caring Hotel Network so they can continue to provide hotels for those who need them.

The nonprofit had already been working with a couple of hotels to temporarily house people, Beitsch-Bahmani said, and that really what the program will be bringing to the table is the infrastructure and new relationships with other hotels.

There are, however, certain requirements that need to be met in order for folks who need the emergency housing to get into a hotel. According to Beitsch-Bahmani, the urgent and temporary hotel rooms are really meant for people who don’t meet the criteria

for other shelters and are down to their last options.

“We will vet them and make sure they can maintain a hotel room,” she said. “We want to make sure there’s low barriers but there’s a lot of vetting that’s involved.”

She also said they will be limiting clients to those who are local to the Tri-Valley and that if it’s people the organization knows, they could get priority. She said the nonprofit could consider housing folks in those hotels for weeks or even a month if it’s someone who is working on getting permanent housing.

But even with the infrastructure and relationships in place, Beitsch-Bahmani said in order to make the hotel network program a yearly thing — which is the end goal — they need more money.

They are currently raising funds to house vetted clients through CityServe’s care coordination program but after the cold winter months, she said they will need to rely on the community for additional funding.

“I feel like there’s a united effort to really make sure people have a safe place to stay,” Beitsch-Bahmani said.

CityServe of the Tri-Valley is one of 10 local nonprofit beneficiaries for the Pleasanton Weekly’s 2024-25

Holiday Fund, which is running now through mid-January. CityServe’s share of Holiday Fund monies will be earmarked to support The Caring Hotels Network, according to

Beitsch-Bahmani.

To donate to the Holiday Fund, go to pleasantonweekly.com/holiday_fund. For more information about CityServe, visit cityservecares.org. ■



Exploring history in Catalonia: Former Pleasanton residents Ananda Laberge and Ed Arron joined current Pleasanton residents Bill Trankle and Jeannette Bitz earlier this year at the Ruins of Scala Dei Carthusian monastery at Parc Natural de la Serra de Montsant in La Morera de Montsant in Catalonia, Spain.

Elves Commute, Too

To all the hard-working elves out there during the holidays - Wheels salutes you.

We’ll be operating throughout the holiday season, helping community members in the Tri-Valley get to work or wherever else they need to be.

Happy Holidays to hard-working elves everywhere.

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California Respects the Power of Your Vote

By Shirley N. Weber, Ph.D.,
California Secretary of State

Californians can confidently claim this: California has made more significant reforms to our election laws and expanded voting rights than any other state.

The relevance of this accomplishment deepens as we prepare to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Voting Rights Act next year. This landmark legislation began to undo our country's long history of voter suppression, intimidation, and disenfranchisement that far too many Americans experienced at the polls for decades.

My own parents, who were sharecroppers, were denied their right to vote in the Jim Crow era South. Before moving to Los Angeles from Hope, Arkansas, my parents, David and Mildred Nash, could not vote. My father was an adult with six children before he registered to vote and was only able to exercise that constitutional right for the first time here in California.

As California Secretary of State, I do not take the progress we have made over the years lightly. My staff and I hold sacred the obligation to ensure that our elections are safe, free, fair, and accessible to all. Therefore, before certifying the results for this year's election on Dec. 13, we have taken a number of steps to ensure that every vote is counted. We have also made sure that our ballot counting process is credible and free from interference.

To meet that deadline without a hitch, California requires elections officials in all 58 counties to turn in their official results by a certain date. This year, that date was Dec. 6.

By law, every eligible voter in our state receives a vote-by-mail ballot. This ensures all registered voters can exercise their right to vote.

Whether you placed your ballot in a designated drop-off box, voted by mail, or cast your ballot at a polling center, votes are safe and secure. And we allow voters to sign up to receive text message, email, or voice call notifications about the status of their own ballots by using the **Where's My Ballot?** tool. To learn more or to sign up, paste this URL in your web browser: <https://california.ballottrax.net/voter/>.

The ballots of Californians who voted by mail are also protected. The United States Postal Service partners with the State to make sure ballots are delivered on time. All mailed-in ballots are sent by First Class mail with a postage paid envelope provided to every eligible registered voter.

Election Security is our number one priority. That's why my office designed and implemented a program to back up that commitment. For more information, visit this URL: <https://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/election-cybersecurity>.

Additionally, California takes preventive actions to make sure our voting technology keeps our elections safe and protects everyone's votes.

For example, county voting systems are not connected to the internet, which protects them from cyberthreats. The State also performs regular and rigorous testing to make sure the voting systems are working optimally, and only authorized personnel are granted access.

Staff members are also given phishing and cybersecurity training.

VoteCal, the state's centralized voter registration system, is also key. The system is regularly updated, and it is used as a resource for counties to verify voter signatures.

California also provides security at all counting locations and makes sure ballot drop-off boxes are secured and monitored.

And all election processes are open to observation during specified hours.

In my role as Secretary of State of California, there is nothing more important to me than defending our democracy. I am committed to safeguarding voting rights, and to leading our state in upholding the highest democratic standards by implementing policies and practices that Californians and all Americans can trust and look to for instruction and hope.

You can contact the California Office of the Secretary of State at 1-800-345-Vote or elections@sos.ca.gov with inquiries or to report suspected incidents or irregularities. Additional information can be found at www.sos.ca.gov and the office's social media platforms:

Instagram: [@californiasos](https://www.instagram.com/californiasos)
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Shirley N. Weber

Council improves city manager's severance package

Beaudin's contract amended amid some resident criticism

BY CHRISTIAN TRUJANO

The Pleasanton City Council approved an amendment to City Manager Gerry Beaudin's employment contract last week to extend his severance package from six months to 12 months, with the caveat that he would not get that package if he is fired for felonious reasons.

After a contentious public comment period and discussion from the council, all except Councilmember Jack Balch agreed that giving Beaudin the additional six months in severance pay is the right thing to do despite many residents calling for the council to postpone the vote until the two newly elected council members take office.

"He has given 110% to this city," Vice Mayor Julie Testa said during the Dec. 3 meeting. "Suggesting that people who have never worked with him should be making this decision, I disagree."

On Nov. 19, the council was set to approve the update to Beaudin's severance package as part of the consent calendar, which are items considered routine in nature and are typically approved by a single vote. However, the item was continued by Balch to the next meeting after the topic seemed to polarize the community when it was initially made public.

At the heart of the discourse was a shared sentiment from some residents that because the current City Council hired Beaudin — and conducted his employee performance evaluation this past July — they should have postponed the vote until the new council takes over in a few weeks.

But the reasons why this handful of residents did not agree with the contract amendment slightly differed.

Pleasanton resident Jan Batcheller said she has followed Pleasanton city government for many years and that she was astonished to see the severance item on the consent calendar during the last council meeting.

"Doubling the severance pay of the city manager is not routine in nature, in my opinion," Batcheller said.

She said with all of the recent talks about future budget challenges, the conversation should be about tightening the belt on the budget and that she does not think the city had enough of a justification to move forward with the severance bump.

"The contract must be looked at in its entirety," Batcheller said. "Why is this even a topic at this time? This item benefits one person."

She continued, "The City Council

is elected to serve the citizens of Pleasanton and oversee city staff actions. It seems like this council majority has been serving city staff at the expense of its citizens."

The other core issue felt by folks who agreed with Batcheller was that if the council decides to fire Beaudin without cause for whatever reason, then it would cost the city more money because they would be paying his salary, medical and dental insurance will be covered for a full year.

"Just because other city managers get 12 months severance, it is not a good enough rationale," Pleasanton resident Vin Pohray said.

He said while he understood that the city couldn't raise Beaudin's salary due to the city's current economic challenges — the council also noted Beaudin gave up a potential salary increase because he understood the city's financial situation — another six months of severance is the "equivalent of almost a 50% salary increase," just over a longer period of time.

"Instead of paying a person upfront, it feels like it's just being springloaded to trap us in the back end and snap shut," Pohray said. "It is not a good practice."

That was a similar reason for Balch voting no on the contract amendment.

Balch said he was comfortable with the contract as it was with six months of severance pay and that he wasn't able to support the amendment because "as an employer myself I generally prefer, as a matter of course, to pay for the services being rendered when they are rendered."

"It is a benefit to the employee, which is why it is asked for," Balch said. "It potentially has a cost and that should not be ignored."

On the other hand, several residents defended Beaudin and argued that all the work he has done since he was first hired in April 2022 justifies his severance package bump.

"Gerry is working steadily to set us on a corrective (path). That has not happened in the past," Pleasanton resident Linda Garbarino said during the Dec. 3 meeting.

She said Beaudin not only inherited a difficult job, but he also identified other longstanding issues that have been affecting the city, which is why the city needs him moving forward.

"He's brought light to our council



Gerry Beaudin

and shone that light on these issues," Garbarino said.

Pleasanton Cultural Arts Council president Kelly Cousins also came to Beaudin's defense and reiterated what Garbarino previously said about the severance item not being an eminent expenditure.

"It will not cost the city any additional funds to have this clause added to his contract," Cousins said.

The council majority also hammered down the same point and that Beaudin's excellent performance as a city manager over the past few years combined with his knowledge of the city is something that should be rewarded.

Councilmember Valerie Arkin also doubled down on why she thought it was appropriate to have the current City Council vote on the matter.

"The reason this council is voting on this is because we did his evaluation, we've been working with him," she said. "A new council, with all due respect ... haven't been working with him."

She also noted that Beaudin's salary is 7% less than the average salary mean compared to other Bay Area cities and that even the assistant superintendents at the Pleasanton Unified School District have 12 months of severance pay. She expressed that the least Pleasanton can do to retain Beaudin in his role is make his severance pay aligned with neighboring cities like Dublin and Livermore.

Councilmember Jeff Nibert also made the point that as long as Beaudin isn't fired due to criminal conduct, which is outlined in the contract, the city wouldn't have to worry about any additional costs.

"Increasing the severance for an additional six months is not putting the city on the hook for any payment as long as everyone behaves themselves," Nibert said.

Mayor Karla Brown also supported the severance package update mainly because of the fluidity of the city manager position.

"If those new people do not feel he is the right person for the job ... he can be removed and unemployed tomorrow," Brown said.

She also defended Beaudin after seeing "lies" spread throughout the internet.

"He's also been subjected to some horrible lies on the internet that quite honestly, he's had to tolerate," Brown said. "If anyone here in the audience is part of that, shame on you."

She said Beaudin has been working hard for Pleasanton and that they need to do everything they can to keep an expert like Beaudin employed at the city. ■

Supes nail down process for picking interim DA

‘This will be very transparent and open ... All the applications will be public’

By KILEY RUSSELL / BCN

The Alameda County Board of Supervisors on Tuesday laid out a process for appointing an interim district attorney to replace Pamela Price, who was recalled from office in last month's election.

In a unanimous vote, supervisors committed to a public application, interview and selection process that would ideally end, at the latest, in the first week of February with the formal appointment and swearing in of a new district attorney.

The whole thing kicks off Wednesday, with the application process starting. The deadline for submissions is Jan. 6 at 5 p.m.

Then, during the week of Jan. 13, the board is scheduled to pick finalists from the applicants during a not yet scheduled public meeting. After that, during the week of Jan. 20, the supervisors will conduct candidate interviews, which will also happen during public meetings.

Supervisors are then expected to deliberate publicly and make their

final selection the week of Jan. 27, with the intention of getting the new interim district attorney into the office by no later than Feb. 4.

“There will be at least four occasions, counting today, when the public can weigh in,” said Supervisor Nate Miley. “So this will be very transparent and open.”

“All the applications will be public,” Miley said.

The whole process was originally proposed to end a week earlier than what the supervisors ultimately decided on, but during a long public comment period, several people asked that the application and interview process be extended to account for the upcoming holidays and allow the public more time to review candidates.

The new timeline also allows incoming Supervisor Nikki Fortunato Bas to participate in more of the process when she takes office on Jan. 6 and for Supervisor David Haubert to take over as board president.

Whoever the board selects will

only serve until the next regularly scheduled election in 2026. The winner of that election will serve the rest of Price's term, which was extended to 2028 by a recent change in state law to line up elections for district attorneys and sheriffs with the presidential election.

The new interim district attorney will replace Royl Roberts, who took over the office after Price departed last week, having lost the Nov. 5 recall election with only about 37% supporting her compared to 63% voting yes to recalling her.

During a full day of one-on-one interviews with local media outlets Monday, Roberts hinted that he might apply to be his own replacement.

“It's a possibility,” he said. “Ultimately, you know, I want to do what is best for Alameda County and I think over my past two years serving in this office, I've had an opportunity to meet the people working here, I know the

See **INTERIM** on Page 10

PICKLEBALL

Continued from Page 5

design will go directly to the city's engineering department for execution. Construction is set to begin June 2025 and reach completion in December 2025.

In addition to disc golf, the area is set to feature a community garden, classroom picnic area and multi-generation plaza for games like corn hole and chess.

In 2017 Livermore City Council adopted the Springtown Open Space Plan, which the city created with LARPD. At the time, funding issues delayed action on the project.

Following community feedback, the plan's design in 2023 included a multi-use pickleball/tennis court and disc golf course.

After some additional feedback and adjustments, the city shared during a community outreach meeting this summer that the pickleball/tennis courts were specifically slated for Marlin Pound. Four pickleball courts would be located within two tennis courts at the existing location of a half basketball court at the park. The basketball court would be relocated within the site.

LARPD extended its support for the conceptual plans and community feedback was largely positive at the June 25 outreach meeting, according to staff.

Noise studies found that the pickleball courts would not produce noise in excess of allowable levels from the city's general plan, officials

said. Pickleball games would not contribute to additional noise at night because the park would only be open during daylight hours, they added.

At the meeting on Dec. 3, eight of nine public commenters spoke out against the pickleball courts. The one outlier supported the disc golf course in the community park and did not mention pickleball.

Among the top concerns of residents were noise disruption, parking availability and house values. A few of the speakers suggested moving it to a less populated area of Livermore.

Opposition also submitted a petition to move the courts with over 100 signatures.

“For a quiet, family-oriented neighborhood like Springtown, this level of disruption is unacceptable,” said Christine Guzman, a resident who said she lives near the park. “This is not just about a pickleball court. It's about preserving the integrity and quality of life in our neighborhood.”

Momentarily, the game can create noise at a level of 70 dBA, according to studies by consultant Saxelby Acoustics. Over the period of an hour, the average noise level is 44.5 dBA when combined with the ambient noise, according to staff.

The city's only noise standard regulates the average level, which it sets as 55 dBA, so the estimated volume with the pickleball courts was determined to be within standard limits, staff explained.

Kronzak questioned whether the right measurements have been

taken into account for the pickleball courts. Kronzak also questioned if the city has the right standards by which to measure the game noise.

Kronzak then hinted at potential fallout from the commissioners' decision. “Everybody in Livermore knows, the next step is to take approved projects to the court.”

Staff assured the commissioners that if taken to court, they would likely rule in favor of Livermore. The standards are being met, as they are currently laid out, staff said.

Vice chair Yolanda Fintschenko asked about alternative sources for obtaining noise guidelines, which staff considered possible but unusual for the city.

When the discussion shifted to mitigation measures, commissioner Daniel Leary warned of its potentially high costs. He suggested exchanging the court with another feature.

In response to the court site being supported by LARPD, Steven Dunbar added, “It sounds like they're spreading out equitable access to a location that doesn't really want it.”

Ultimately, the commissioners unanimously agreed that the overall project was consistent with the California Environmental Quality Act and approved the site plan design review for phase 1 of the Springtown Open Space project, with an amendment to remove Marlin Pound Park.

Redesigned plans for Marlin Pound will undergo future review by the commission. ■

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Police report shows less overall crime, more officers hired

Mayor: 'Crime is down in Pleasanton and I am so, so proud to say that'

BY CHRISTIAN TRUJANO

Less overall crime, more deployable police officers and the return of special units such as the traffic unit in the coming year are just some of the highlights that former Interim Police Chief Gina Anderson touched on during last week's biannual update to the Pleasanton City Council.

It was also the last time Anderson addressed the council after the city chose Foster City's chief of police, Tracy Avelar, as the Pleasanton Police Department's next police chief. Anderson first stepped in about seven months ago following the departure of former chief David Swing.

"It really has been just a great pleasure to be able to live out a little bit of a dream for me which was to have the opportunity to serve as the police chief in the city where I live," Anderson said during the Dec. 3 meeting.

Anderson kicked off her presentation by reviewing the different crime trends over the past four years and showed that compared to the three-year average from 2021 to 2023, there were less overall crimes reported from January to September of the year.

"Based on the presentation ... crime is down in Pleasanton and I am so, so proud to say that," Mayor

Karla Brown said.

According to Anderson's presentation, the total crimes committed against a person — homicides, rapes and aggravated assaults — significantly went down when comparing 2024 to the three-year average, with the exception of robberies which in 2024 went up 18% when comparing to the average from 2021 to 2023.

Anderson said of the 28 robberies this year, 54% of them were either originally incidents of theft that escalated to robbery or were related to organized retail theft.

"There are two retail locations in our city that account for 43% of the robberies," Anderson said.

While she did not name the specific retail locations, Anderson said that the department is working with staff at both of them to address these issues by stationing more plain-clothes officers there.

She also suggested that the city could look into entering into some sort of contract with those retail locations so that more officers can help because sending more units out takes time and resources away from the rest of the city.

The report also indicated there were four reports of rape in 2024 compared to 17 in 2023.

While there was a downward trend

in many types of crimes this year, the city saw a slight increase in property crimes such as burglaries and auto thefts, Anderson said. According to her presentation, there were 120 burglaries this year — the three-year average from 2021 to 2023 was 117 — and 129 auto thefts. From 2021 to 2023, there had been an average of 104 auto thefts reported.

Anderson said the increase in auto theft is consistent with what is being seen regionally and nationally and that California is the state losing the greatest volume of vehicles in the country with the Bay Area also being one of the regions that has seen the highest volume of vehicle thefts in the country.

Despite increases in those property crime areas, the city still saw a 3% decrease overall in property crimes this year with a total of 983. The year before there were 1,167 total property crimes.

When combined, the total crimes reported in 2024 were 1,046 — the last time the city saw low crime numbers was in 2021 when there were a combined 950 crimes reported.

Anderson said while the PPD's clearance rate on crimes decreased from 26% to 23%, the clearance rate for violent crimes was 40%.

The former interim police chief also touched on several highlights from the past year which included fully staffing the School Resource Officer unit and the Alternate Response Unit. Anderson pointed out that the Alternate Response Unit has continued to make strides in responding to calls for service. She said compared to 2020, when the PPD had 410 mental health commitments, this year they only committed 87 people.

"To reduce the 5150s and 5585s was ... my focus and I'm so very proud that we've been so successful in doing that," Councilmember Julie Testa said.

One of the key achievements Anderson also highlighted was the department's steady shift back to being fully staffed.

She noted that this year, the PPD's deployable sworn strength is 84% — last year it was 78%, which is why they had to collapse several units like special enforcement and traffic and SRO. But now, they only have two officer vacancies and one property and evidence technician vacancy, Anderson said.

She added that the department has five officers in the field officer training program, two in the academy and two more planning to join the academy. Because of that, Anderson said the PPD is projecting to have 91% of its deployable sworn officers by the first quarter of 2025, which means the department will be able to bring back its traffic and special enforcement units.

Anderson said one traffic officer is slated to return in January and three more slated to join the traffic unit by

the middle of 2025. She also said with 12 officers ranging in ranks eligible for retirement this upcoming year, the city needs to continue prioritizing recruitment and hiring to avoid any future staffing shortages.

However, even amid all of the good news were a few points of concern brought up by some councilmembers.

Councilmember Valerie Arkin asked about the department's response time goals of four minutes for emergencies and 20 minutes for non-emergencies to which Anderson said the PPD has been averaging 19 minutes for the latter, but for emergencies they have been hovering right above five minutes.

"It's increased pretty steadily since 2020," Anderson said.

She said it was mostly due to the lack of staffing in the past and that hopefully with more officers on the ground, they will be able to respond quicker. She also said that in the future, it might be wise to discuss the possibility of using technology such as drones to respond to crime scenes so that responding officers have a better plan of action.

The topic of technology also came up regarding the city's 28 license plate reader cameras and how about a third of them are not currently working, according to PPD Capt. Kurt Schlehber.

Anderson and Schlehber said the department is currently working on a plan to bring forward to the council where they will decide if it's best to keep the currently outdated cameras and just fix them or if they should invest in new cameras from a different vendor.

Anderson also said that in general, the City Council and the city can continue to help the department by not only maintaining competitive wages, but by also providing the necessary resources and training so officers can keep the community safe.

"The community's expectations for the Pleasanton staff is high and so for us to be successful, we have to have the tools and equipment in order to do that," Anderson said. "It really is demoralizing when you want to do your best but are unable to and then you are criticized for the fact that you can't provide the service that is being demanded because you don't have the equipment to do it."

In other business

- After nearly 29 years of service, Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Chief Joe Testa officially began his retirement process during last week's meeting.

The council unanimously approved a waiver to the state law requiring a 180-day waiting period before a retiree can reenter public employment so that Chief Testa could assume an interim fire chief title while the city looks for his permanent replacement.

His retirement is technically effective as of Dec. 9 but according to

Xavier Scoggins, Pleasanton's director of human resources and labor relations, both city managers for Pleasanton and Livermore decided to appoint him as the interim chief effective Dec. 10.

"An interim fire chief is crucial as the position is critical to leading several key projects, maintaining adequate staffing for emergency response and negotiating emergency medicine services in other public safety services for the department," Scoggins said. "During the interim appointment, Chief Testa will provide organizational stability and a smooth transition to the permanently appointed fire chief."

As a retired annuitant, he will be limited to 960 working hours during the fiscal year and he would be paid an hourly rate of \$137.03 while being ineligible for benefits, vacation leave or holidays.

- The council also unanimously accepted the first reading of an ordinance amending and replacing the city's municipal code regarding tree preservation. The ordinance outlines penalty fees for removing trees, planting trees but not caring for them and other changes to the tree removal process. ■

INTERIM

Continued from Page 9

office, know the locations and been intimately involved in the budget process."

Roberts also made it clear that his priorities aren't necessarily the same as Price's, who won her seat with about 53% of the vote by running on a criminal justice reform platform.

He said he will be focused on improving public safety with an emphasis on the rights of victims and witnesses.


"What I am paying attention to is the realization that being safe and feeling safe, you know, may be two different things, but they are equally as important," he said. "And I do think that it's important to recognize that the public has spoken, so there may need to be changes in the way we move forward and really not shy away from that responsibility."

Roberts appeared eager to make his presence felt as soon as possible and said that on Dec. 5 he appointed three new chiefs of prosecution who together have 83 years of prosecutorial experience.

He also said he'd be working with his senior staff to conduct a kind of "forensic examination" of existing district attorney policies "to see if they are things that actually made the community safer."

"I do plan on guiding the team to take a close look at some of those policies and procedures," Roberts said. ■

THE CITY OF PLEASANTON



HIGHLIGHTS

City Council Meeting

Tuesday, December 17, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.
The meeting will be held at the City of Pleasanton Council Chamber – 200 Old Bernal Ave.

- Approve the FY 2025/26 and FY 2026/27 budget engagement plan
- Approve the establishment of a Budget Advisory Committee and appoint members
- Adopt a CIP Process and Prioritization Strategy
- A) Adopt a resolution approving an addendum to the Downtown Specific Plan Final Environmental Impact Report; introduce an ordinance to approve: (1) Planned Unit Development rezoning (P21-1173) of two parcels totaling approximately 2.3 acres in area from C-C (Central-Commercial) to PUD-MU (Planned Unit Development-Mixed-Use) District; and (2) A PUD-MU development plan (PUD-146) to: (a) retain the two-story single-family home and construct a two-story addition to the north side of the home; (b) demolish the detached accessory dwelling unit, Barone's restaurant, and all other structures and site modifications; and (c) construct 14 detached single-family homes and two commercial buildings with a public plaza and parking lot, new private street, and related site improvements; and
- B) Adopt a resolution to approve a Vesting Tentative Tract Map (Tract 8631) to subdivide the 2.3 acres into 15 single-family lots, one commercial lot, and three private common space parcels located at 475 and 493 St. John Street

To explore more about Pleasanton,
visit us at www.cityofpleasantonca.gov

LVJUSD sets final hearing to pick election map

‘By law, we have a swift timeline of just 90 days to complete this process’

By JUDE STRZEMP

As the Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District transitions away from at-large elections for the Board of Education, it is set to host its fifth and final public hearing next Tuesday to select a by-trustee area map.

The switch means that instead of the whole community voting for

the same school board candidates, areas will separately vote for one representative each.

There are 10 options for segmenting the electorate being considered as well as proposed election sequencing.

The chosen map will be implemented in November 2026 for the election of three board members, following approval by the Alameda

County Committee on School District Organization.

“We hope that community members interested in this process will share their thoughts on the draft maps being considered,” LVJUSD board President Emily Prusso said in a statement.

“Our board has reviewed all of the community input received thus far and has used that feedback to elicit

additional draft maps from our demographer. By law, we have a swift timeline of just 90 days to complete this process and we greatly value the perspectives of our community in this decision,” she added.

The public hearing date was initially set for Dec. 10 but was postponed to Dec. 17 due to the swearing in of newly elected board members, district officials said.

The district’s move to by-trustee area elections is meant to ensure fair representation and reduce the possibility for litigation under the California Voting Rights Act, which safeguards protected groups whose votes differ from the rest of the electorate, according to the resolution passed by the board in October.

The draft maps are available for viewing at livermoreschools.org. Feedback opportunities include an online form, email at community-engagement@lvjUSD.org and in person at the public hearing. ■

BART raising fares beginning Jan. 1

By BAY CITY NEWS SERVICE

BART has announced that train fares will go up 5.5% on Jan. 1.

BART said in a statement Dec. 3 that the increase will be “to keep pace with inflation so that the agency is able to pay for continued operations and to work toward restoring financial stability.”

BART said its current funding model relies on passenger fares to pay for operations.

The increase is tied to the rate of

inflation, minus a half-percentage point. It’s the second such increase — the first took effect Jan. 1, 2024.

The average fare will increase 25 cents, from \$4.47 to \$4.72.

“We understand that price increases are never welcome, but BART fares remain a vital source of funds even with ridership lower than they were before the pandemic,” BART board vice president Mark Foley said in a statement. “My board colleagues and I voted in June 2023 to spread necessary fare increases over two years

rather than catching up all at once. At the same time, we voted to increase the Clipper START means-based discount from 20% to 50% to help those most in need.”

The fare increase is expected to raise about \$14 million per year for operations. Combined with the previous year’s fare adjustment, BART will use this \$30 million per year to fund train service, enhanced cleaning, additional police and unarmed safety staff presence, and capital projects.

BART said the regional Clipper

START program is an important resource for low-income riders of BART and other Bay Area transit systems. The program is for adult riders with a household income of 200% of the federal poverty level or less. Administered by the Metropolitan Transportation Commission, program participants receive a personalized Clipper card that cuts half the cost of fares on more than 20 transit systems.

Under the program, limited-income riders get 50% off with Clipper START.

People 5 to 18 years old get 50% off with a youth Clipper card. Seniors 65 and over get 62.5% off

with a senior Clipper card. The RTC Clipper card was created for passengers under 65 with qualifying disabilities, providing 62.5% off.

BART said that even with the fare increase, the agency faces a \$35 million operating deficit in fiscal year 2026 and \$385 million in fiscal year 2027. Since BART’s model of relying on passenger fares to pay most operating costs is no longer feasible because of the increase in remote work, the agency said it must modernize its funding sources to better match other transit systems throughout the country that receive larger amounts of public funding. ■

CHAVEZ

Continued from Page 5

Weekly on Dec. 6.

Pleasanton city attorney Dan Sodergren said he couldn’t confirm whether a settlement had been reached and that he “can’t comment on the potential settlement.”

The county prosecutors’ office, under former DA Nancy O’Malley, initially cleared the two officers of criminal liability in December 2022,



Cody Chavez

weeks before Price took the oath of office in January 2023. By the end of that month, the Chavez case was on a list of eight fatal police shootings targeted by Price’s administration for further investigation by her then-new Public Accountability Unit.

The unit, which Price formed early in 2023, had been tasked with holding law enforcement and public officials accountable for misconduct. Price said the unit had reviewed the prior report from O’Malley, PPD policies and other case file materials such as body-camera footage, witness statements and dispatch recordings.

In a statement on Dec. 5, a PPD spokesperson told the Weekly, “The Pleasanton Police Department remains committed to ensuring the safety of our citizens and community and supports the earlier findings and the secondary review conducted by the Public Accountability Unit. Both reviews found no justification for criminal charges.”

“Unfortunately, we are unable to comment further at this time because of pending civil litigation,” the spokesperson added — likely referring to the wrongful-death lawsuit brought against the city on behalf of Chavez’s daughter.

Pleasanton Police Officers’ Association vice president Chris Lewellyn told the Weekly that the union “stands firmly behind the actions of the officers involved in the tragic incident.”

“From the very beginning, we were confident that a thorough investigation would confirm that the officers acted within the bounds of the law and in accordance with their training, ultimately making the difficult decision to use force in a situation where their lives were at risk,” Lewellyn said on Dec. 6. “Following the incident, the case was thoroughly reviewed by the appropriate authorities, and it was determined that the officers’ actions were justified.”

“Despite this, when a new District Attorney took office, she made the decision to reopen the case and conduct a fresh review of all available evidence,” Lewellyn added. “After a comprehensive examination of the facts, the District Attorney concluded that there was no wrongdoing on the part of the officers.”

Jewell is the current president of the police union.

“The POA continues to stand by these officers, who are dedicated professionals who serve with honor and integrity. The secondary review and findings of the case by the DA only further validates our belief that the officers acted appropriately under the circumstances,” Lewellyn

said. “We are pleased that the legal process has reaffirmed that no criminal conduct occurred, and we continue to support our officers as they carry out their essential work in our communities.”

PPD first responded to a domestic violence call at the Galloway Apartments at 1 p.m. on Feb. 17, 2022, which is where they attempted to contact Chavez. Officers tried to enter the apartment after receiving a report from a woman in a romantic relationship with Chavez who said he had beaten her and attempted to smother her with a pillow the previous night.

Chavez, a 33-year-old San Jose resident, refused to answer the door and locked it after officers attempted to gain access, which led to a three-hour-long standoff, according to investigators.

PPD brought in the SWAT team and armored response vehicle followed by a crisis negotiation team to attempt to speak with Chavez, who denied he was in the apartment despite police having previously seen him peek through the windows and additional evidence, authorities said.

After obtaining a warrant for Chavez’s arrest for assault and imprisonment of the resident of the apartment, officers deployed a wheeled robot after forcing the door open, which was when they identified him and were made aware of the kitchen knife he was holding.

They then deployed a drone and as Chavez exited the front door with the knife, officers attempted to get him to stop with verbal commands and non-lethal bean bag rounds. However, Chavez moved toward officers near

a window, which is when Jewell and Guillermo fired a total of seven rounds at Chavez.

Chavez was pronounced dead at the scene.

Both Jewell and Guillermo told investigators they believed Chavez intended to kill officers.

During her primary election campaign in 2022, Price had been critical of the Chavez shooting in the days after it occurred. And even now, her office said there are lessons to be learned from what happened that day although there was no criminal culpability for the officers involved.

“(PPD) deployed at least 19 police officers from Pleasanton and Livermore Police Departments with militarized equipment (an ARV-armed recovery vehicle) to arrest the suspect of a domestic violence incident that occurred 12 hours earlier, knowing the suspect posed no imminent threat to the victim, was alone, unarmed, likely under the influence of alcohol and experiencing mental health issues,” Price said in last week’s press release.

According to a supplemental report of the shooting from the DA’s office, even though the two officers “had a reasonable belief that Mr. Chavez posed an imminent threat of death or serious bodily injury to their fellow officers,” they could have handled the incident differently.

Apart from the “overmilitarized police response,” the report states that the PPD failed to reach out to mental health professionals during the incident despite knowing Chavez had mental health issues.

That was also mentioned in the initial lawsuit that was filed on

Sept. 20, 2022.

“On the date of the incident at approximately 11:51 a.m., Mr. Chavez was at his girlfriend’s apartment,” the lawsuit states. “Mr. Chavez struggled with mental health, and began to act abnormally. In response, Chavez’s girlfriend called 911 to seek help for Mr. Chavez.”

The lawsuit alleged that if police had followed through with their original plan of using less lethal ammunition to apprehend Chavez as soon as he exited the apartment — which officers did use before discharging their actual guns when the less lethal rounds did not work — he would still be alive.

“Cody Chavez might be here today if not for the Pleasanton Police Department’s policy violations and overmilitarized response to a domestic violence complaint with no active safety threat,” the DA’s supplemental report stated. “Had the officers not further agitated Mr. Chavez, even after Jane Doe told crisis negotiators that Mr. Chavez was experiencing mental health issues and was most likely intoxicated, his death might have been avoided.”

But the office still found both officers “acted in lawful defense of others when they shot and killed Mr. Chavez” and concluded the report by stating that the shooting acts as a lesson for all Alameda County police departments.

“This tragedy provides critical lessons-learned and the opportunity for improvements to public safety and policing for the benefit of the residents of Pleasanton and the entire Alameda County,” the DA’s supplemental report stated. ■

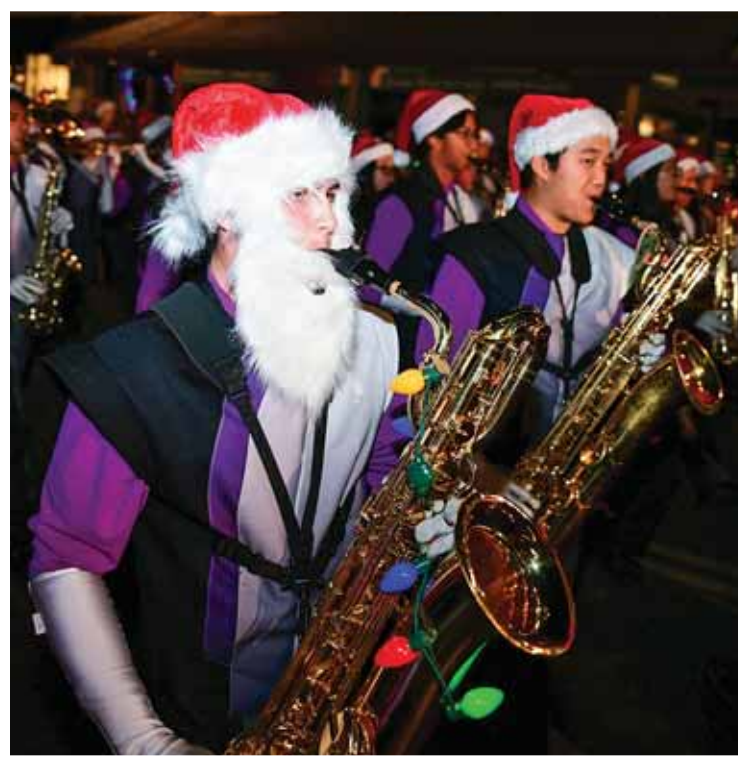


'Tis the

Bright colors and bright smiles fill the streets

PHOTOS BY CHRIS...

The Pleasanton community celebrated a festive and clear evening Saturday as thousands gathered for the 2024 Hometown Holiday Parade.



season

ll Main Street on Saturday night

HUCK DECKERT

orated the holiday spirit on a cool
sands turned out downtown for the
e and Tree Lighting Ceremony. ■





Holiday Fund



Each year, the Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund raises money to support programs and services that care for local families and children in our community. The Holiday Fund partners with the Embarcadero Media Foundation, which handles all finances, so every dollar of your tax-deductible donation goes directly to local nonprofits with no administrative expenses.

This year's Holiday Fund recipients that will share in fund contributions are:

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- CityServe of the Tri-Valley
- Culinary Angels
- Goodness Village
- Open Heart Kitchen
- Pleasanton Partnerships in Education
- Sunflower Hill
- Tri-Valley Haven
- Tri-Valley REACH
- Valley Humane Society

Holiday Fund

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The future of innovation

Bold students honored as Tri-Valley's 2024 DreamMakers and RiskTakers

BY TIM HUNT

A few key leaders of the Innovation Tri-Valley Leadership Group had to be enjoying a prideful moment when the group celebrated its 14th anniversary DreamMakers and RiskTakers event recognizing students for outstanding achievement.

The program was launched in 2010 shortly after Dale Kaye co-founded the group and the first program remains one of its signature events. The breakfast event was held Nov. 21 in Dublin.

Kelly Bowers, CEO of the Three Valleys Community Foundation, joined Las Positas College President Dyrell Foster to emcee the event. As co-chair of the education committee in her prior job as superintendent of Livermore schools, she had a major role in launching it. Innovation Chair Stephanie Beasley also was involved as a board member.

"This event is one of the highlights of my year because it reflects the very best of what the Tri-Valley stands for: a commitment to innovation, a spirit of collaboration and a deep investment in the success of our future leaders," Foster said by email.

Bowers wrote: "Reflecting on the inspiration behind DreamMakers and RiskTakers, I'm struck by a meaningful shift in how we approach youth development and workforce readiness. When many of us were growing up, we were often asked, 'What do you want to be when you grow up?' The response was typically an occupation, a title or a role. But for Generation Z, the question has evolved into something much more profound: 'What problem do you want to solve? What impact do you want to make?'"

"What's truly remarkable — and deeply inspiring — is that these young people aren't waiting to be 'grown up' to take action. They're already problem-solving, innovating, and making an impact in their communities and beyond.

"The award recipients are true visionaries, embodying the spirit of Helen Keller's words: 'The only thing worse than being blind is having sight but no vision.' These DreamMakers don't just dream; they act. They transform their aspirations into tangible results, improving the world in the process."

Katie Marcel, Innovation Tri-Valley CEO, said, "Many of this year's awardees inspire a wellness through innovation theme, a concept that resonates deeply with the

Tri-Valley business sector's ethos. These students are using the power of innovation to enhance lives."

"Whether they are improving accessibility, harnessing technology to solve complex problems, or fostering equity in their communities, these students remind us of what's possible when creativity meets determination," she added. "Having so many of the region's biggest companies there to present the awards to the kids was particularly special as we hope to foster meaningful connections between the regional business community and this next generation of leaders."

2024 honorees

Raza Ali, presented by Irena Keller, professor of psychology at Las Positas College. Ali's research project, titled "Bioactive Molecules in Islamically Recommended Foods", merges traditional wisdom from his Muslim community with cutting-edge biological research.

Notably, Ali was one of only two community college students in the nation selected to present his original research at the National Research Conference hosted by the University of Pennsylvania in early October. His innovative approach to bridging disparate disciplines not only earned him national recognition but also made meaningful contributions to an underexplored field.

Presha Dutt, a Dublin High School senior and president of the DECA program, was introduced by Hazel Wetherford, deputy city manager of Dublin. Dutt developed CIVEE, a social media management consulting service powered by tech-savvy teens, to help small businesses reach Gen Z audiences.

CIVEE worked with local Dublin business, Mimi's Chocolates, to help the company increase sales and social media engagement.

Amador Valley High School students Aryan Das, Colin Jennings, Jeffrey Ma and Noah Small received their award from Tracy Vogler, engineer and distinguished member of the technical staff at Sandia National Laboratories and a 1992 Hertz Fellow.

The team of Pleasanton students designed an AI fact checker capable of real-time validation of statements. The team demonstrated their tool with the 2024 U.S. presidential debate in September, where it successfully provided accurate fact-checking on political claims.

Mental health was the focus for Livermore High senior Kerigan



JOY LIU PHOTOGRAPHY

The 2024 Tri-Valley DreamMakers and RiskTakers (back row, from left) Presha Dutt, Vedant Kathrani, Raza Ali, Kerigan Coates, Rohan Vij, Aryan Das, Colin Jennings and Jeffery Ma, and (front, from left) Robi Tozulahmad, Noor Tozulahmad, Sonia Sharma, Noah Small and Sophia Sucato.

Coates, who was presented by ITV executive board member Beth McCormick, employer engagement specialist at Las Positas.

Coates tackled student-athlete mental health by launching a peer support project and collaborating with the Kevin Love Fund to host an assembly promoting self-care. Her mental health website and resources for coaches have made a significant impact on campus.

Sonia Sharma, a junior at Monte Vista High in Danville, was introduced by Veena Kaul of Dublin Technology Center Workspaces and vice president of Kensington Labs. Sharma launched Project emPOWER Train the Trainer, a program making self-defense education accessible in schools to bolster student confidence and safety.

Her model, which trains physical education teachers to integrate self-defense skills, has reached approximately 25,000 students across several Bay Area school districts.

The Dougherty Valley High School trio of Vedant Kathrani, Noor Tozulahmad and Robi Tozulahmad — and their Plate to People — were welcomed by ITV board member Pam Galley, senior vice president and area manager for Kaiser Permanente.

The San Ramon students co-founded Plate to People, a community-centered platform addressing food insecurity. By partnering

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See **INNOVATION** on Page 16

Local stages busy with ballet this holiday season

Valley Dance Theatre presents annual 'Nutcracker' show; Ballet Roots performs first Christmas special

By JUDE STRZEMP

Tri-Valley ballet fans are in for an entertaining month, as the Bankhead Theater brings back "The Nutcracker" and the Firehouse Arts Center hosts a new Christmas showcase.

Presented by Valley Dance Theatre, its 44th season of "The Nutcracker" boasts live accompaniment by the Valley Dance Theatre Pit Orchestra which will play Tchaikovsky's classical music.

"It's a fun, festive way to start the season off," said Karin Bunnell, retired board chair of the Valley Dance Theatre.

In "The Nutcracker," the daughter of a San Francisco family falls asleep at a Christmas party. She dreams of dancing mice, a sugar plum fairy and the show's namesake — a magical nutcracker.

"(It's about) the joy of dancing and music and using your imagination, all in the Christmas spirit," Bunnell said.

Once you leave that first scene, the rest of the show is more of a general holiday production than a Christmas show, she said. So it can be enjoyable for people that don't celebrate the holiday too.

The performance can also serve as an inspiration to children who may be interested in ballet or playing a musical instrument, since the Bankhead allows for relatively close proximity to the performers, Bunnell noted.

In addition to the public shows, Valley Dance Theatre is scheduled to give two exclusive performances for school groups.

Elsewhere in the Tri-Valley, the Ballet Roots Dance Company — Pleasanton's only professional ballet group — will perform its first Christmas show this month at the Firehouse Arts Center.

The intimate performances called "Christmas with Ballet Roots" will showcase classical and contemporary ballet, set to a variety of Christmas tunes.



JERWIN CHUA / VDT

As performed by Valley Dance Theatre, "The Nutcracker" shows are set for Dec. 14-15 and Dec. 20-22 at the Bankhead Theater. Shown in past production, Roberto Vega and Alana Bourguet.

"We are incredibly excited to offer the local community a fun and festive show as an alternative (or addition!) to the Nutcracker this holiday season," said Talia Fallis, artistic director of the Ballet Roots.

The shows will also feature a guest performance by The Academy of Danse Libre, a vintage dance group that revives 19th and early 20th century dances wearing period dress.

"The Nutcracker" is set to run this weekend (Dec. 14-15) and Dec. 20-22 at the Bankhead in downtown

Livermore. For more information about the performances, visit the Livermore Valley Arts website at livermorearts.org. Showings for students, including those who are homeschooled, are scheduled for Dec. 17 and interested groups can contact office@valleydance theatre.com for more information.

Showtimes for "Christmas with Ballet Roots" are 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. this Sunday (Dec. 15) at the Firehouse in downtown Pleasanton. Tickets are available at the venue website at firehousearts.org. ■

INNOVATION

Continued from Page 15

with community organizations such as White Pony Express, they work to combat food waste and support local families in need.

Sophia Sucato, representing the Tri-Valley Regional Occupational Program, accepted her award from ITV's Sblend Sblendorio of Hoge Fenton. Sucato, a photographer and writer currently studying in TVROP's Middle College High School Program, honored her Italian heritage through her published book of photography and photography exhibit in Italy.

Tri-Valley 2040 Visionary Award

Dublin High's Rohan Vij took home ITV's 2040 Visionary Award, presented by Amar Tiwari, business development manager for ENGIE North America. Vij worked with global energy services company, ENGIE North America when the company upgraded the Dublin Unified School District's energy efficiency through renewable energy solutions.

Through this program, Vij invented TRIKALA, an app that integrates geospatial analysis for sustainable land use.

Editor's note: The Innovation Tri-Valley Leadership Group contributed to this coverage. ■

COMING DEC. 20

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END OF YEAR DOUBLE EDITION!

Just like Santa, we're planning to deliver something special later this month.

We will wrap up the year with a special double edition combining the Dec. 20 and 27 issues.

The Dec. 20 Pleasanton Weekly will be the final newspaper delivered in 2024. We'll be back in print on Jan. 3.

Unlike Santa, though, our journalists will not rest for long after the big day. Just because there will be no paper delivered Dec. 27, our staff will still be working and you can **keep up with the local news on PleasantonWeekly.com**.

Happy Holidays!

Pleasanton Weekly

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Community Pulse

Ron Morrow

September 28, 1938 – November 21, 2024

Ronald C Morrow, son of Virgil and Hazel Morrow, was born in Rockport, Illinois on September 28, 1938. He was raised on a farm, the youngest of six children. Ron began his working career in St. Louis Missouri at McDonnell Aircraft as a technician. At the age of 20, wanting more than farm life, he and his oldest brother rode motorcycles to the West Coast. Once he discovered California, he made it his permanent home. Ron worked at Lockheed for 13 years, working his way up from a technician into production management.



In 1972, Ron made a career change and moved into the mortgage business, eventually becoming a partner in a mortgage brokerage that would lead to a very long and successful career up until his retirement in 2022. Ron loved the community of Pleasanton and was a long-time member of the Castlewood Country Club and the Pleasanton Men's Club. He was a huge sports fan, especially of his beloved St. Louis Cardinals, as well as a prolific gardener. His days on the farm must have rubbed off as no one grew better tomatoes.

Ron is preceded in death by three sisters, two brothers and his son (Phillip Morrow of Sacramento, CA).

He is survived by his daughter Dawn Morrow (Capitola, CA) and 4 step-grandchildren: Paige, Maya, Mason and William Scofield. Ron is also survived by his soulmate and partner Judy Lipson (Clayton, CA).

Ron passed away on November 21st, 2024 and will be dearly missed.

To honor Ron's wishes, there will be no formal memorial services held.

PAID OBITUARY

POLICE BULLETIN

Sheriff's office brings Tri-Valley cold cases back into light

Alameda County Sheriff's Office is asking the public for help to solve some cold case homicides that occurred in the 1970s and '80s in Sunol and Dublin following their recent anniversaries.

ACSO Sgt. Roberto Morales told the Weekly that the office regularly posts calls for help on social media regarding their unsolved crimes as part of their "ongoing efforts to solve cold cases".

"While these cases may span decades, our dedicated detectives continue to actively investigate each one with the goal of bringing the responsible individuals to justice and providing closure to the victims' families," Morales said.

One case dates back to Dec. 3, 1973 when Michael Marie Shane, 30, and Kathy Sue Pethel, 27, were found dead on the west side of Fallon Road, north of Interstate 580 in Dublin.

According to an ACSO social media post on Dec. 3, both women were planning to hitchhike to Los Angeles for a custody hearing. They were reportedly last seen between 12:30 a.m. and 2 a.m. that morning, walking on Oak Street toward Ashbury Street in San Francisco.

Another cold case the sheriff's office recently posted about is the death of 14-year-old Kellie Jean Poppleton. According to the same social media post from the ACSO, on Dec. 2, 1983, Poppleton's body was found on the side of Kilkare Road in Sunol.

"Kellie was a student at Conrad Noll School in Fremont and was last seen on the corner of Darwin Drive and Fremont Boulevard," according to the ACSO. "Witnesses reported seeing a black Pontiac Trans-Am near the crime scene before Kellie's body was found."



Kellie Jean Poppleton

The death of 24-year-old Juan Mateo was also recently brought to the fore. According to the sheriff's office, Mateo's body was found off of Niles Canyon Road on Nov. 28, 1985 — he was wearing nothing but his underwear and socks.

He had been fatally shot but his body hadn't been identified until 2006 thanks to a DNA match.

"We urge anyone with information, no matter how small it may seem, to come forward," Morales said. "If you have any details about one of our cold cases, please contact



CHP-DUBLIN

Hot chocolate

Some 30,000 to 40,000 pounds of chocolate were destroyed after a big-rig hauling the sweets caught fire on westbound Interstate 580 near Grant Line Road outside of Livermore last Friday morning, according to the California Highway Patrol. No one was injured, but the fire response and cleanup snarled traffic for hours over the Altamont Pass that day.

our Cold Case Homicide Unit at 510-667-3661 ... Every tip is valuable in helping us seek justice for those affected?"

—Christian Trujano

In other news

- Four of the five men apprehended for a conspicuous midday robbery at San Ramon's City Center Bishop Ranch last year are set to face federal prison sentences with stipulations orders and additional hearings still to come for the fifth.

Paul Tonga and Kyle Vehikite were sentenced to three years in federal prison followed by an additional three years of supervised release at the conclusion of the federal trial in early November, with John Tupou and Sunia Faavesi each sentenced to 42-month prison sentences as well as three years of supervised release.

The fifth defendant, Ryan Montgomery, has not yet been sentenced following a motion that was granted to allow his defense team more time to review evidence.

Vehikite, Faavesi, Tupou and Tonga pleaded guilty to one count each of conspiracy to engage in robbery affecting interstate commerce and one count of robbery affecting interstate commerce, with the case against Montgomery and his plea still pending as of this week.

All of the defendants were taken into custody last July, with the exception of Tupou, who was able to

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BULLETIN

Continued from Page 18

evade authorities until September 2023, for nearly two months after federal charges against the group were first announced.

The bold, midday heist in which one of the perpetrators was armed with a gun on the afternoon of St. Patrick's Day 2023 in the busy shopping center was one of the largest and most prominent of its kind in the Tri-Valley, with the perpetrators taking more than \$1.1 million in merchandise from Heller Jewelers before fleeing the scene. The haul included a Rolex watch equipped with a GPS tracker, which enabled authorities to track down the first perpetrator and make connections to the others.

Montgomery's case is scheduled for a status conference on Dec. 16, with Vehikite, Tupou, Tonga, and Faavesi scheduled for restitution hearings on Feb. 3.

—Jeanita Lyman

- Court officials warned Alameda County residents against a scam involving individuals falsely claiming to be representatives of the superior

court or law enforcers and are targeting their victims in relation to jury duty.

In a statement last week, Alameda County Superior Court officials said scammers present themselves as government agents and ask for personal and financial information from residents under the guise of a jury or grand jury service. They will claim that their victims missed their jury duty date and owe the court a fee for the missed appearance.

"To be clear, the Superior Court of Alameda County will never contact a resident over the phone to seek personal or financial information and California law does not permit residents to pay a fine in lieu of jury service. A fee may be assessed for missed service, but a resident would still be required to reschedule jury service, and the Court or law enforcement agency would never collect the fee via a phone call," the court said on Dec. 5.

"The Court will never ask for information such as your social security number, date of birth or any financial details," the statement added. "If in doubt about a phone call, hang up and contact the

Court separately to seek additional information."

The public is advised to report any suspicious communication to local police or contact their local court's jury office. If there is doubt about a caller's authenticity, people are urged to contact the Superior Court directly.

—Bay City News Service

- Dublin police are conducting a DUI and driver's license checkpoint next Friday night at an undisclosed location in the city, followed by an evening of increased patrols to catch impaired motorists next Saturday.

Funded by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety, through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, the checkpoint and patrols will operate in areas of Dublin with a history of DUI-related collisions and arrests, according to Dublin Police Services Capt. Miguel Campos.

"Impaired drivers put others on the road at significant risk," Campos said. "Any prevention measures that reduce the number of impaired drivers on our roads significantly improves traffic safety."

The DUI checkpoint is set for 7 p.m. next Friday (Dec. 20) until 3 a.m. the next morning. The extra DUI patrols will be out from 6 p.m. next Saturday (Dec. 21) until 2 a.m. the next morning. ■

—Jeremy Walsh

POLICE REPORT

The Pleasanton Police Department made the following information available.

Dec. 7

Vandalism

■ 3:13 p.m. on the 8100 block of Arroyo Drive

Warrant arrest

■ 7:57 p.m. at Bernal Avenue and Koll Center Drive

Dec. 6

Domestic battery

■ 4:18 a.m. on Vineyard Avenue

Vandalism

■ 8:34 a.m. on the 5800 block of Owens Drive

■ 3:12 p.m. on the 4800 block of Willow Road

Fraud

■ 11:22 a.m. on the 1200 block of Piemonte Drive

Shoplifting

■ 11:55 a.m. on the 000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

Assault/battery

■ 6:04 p.m. on the 7200 block of Johnson Drive

Dec. 5

Theft

■ 12:32 p.m., 000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting

■ 1:29 p.m. on the 6500 block of Arlington Drive

■ 5:17 p.m. on the 5500 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

■ 7:51 p.m. on the 1400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

Vandalism

■ 1:53 p.m. on the 3500 block of Stanley Boulevard

Fraud

■ 2:25 p.m. on the 1100 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

Domestic battery

■ 8:56 p.m. on Alvord Way

Dec. 4

Theft from auto

■ 11:25 a.m. on the 3900 block of Vineyard Avenue

Burglary

■ 7:25 p.m. on the 800 block of Montevino Drive

Dec. 3

Drug violation

■ 9 a.m. on the 6300 block of Alisal Street

■ 11:37 a.m. on the 5300 block of Hopyard Road

Bicycle theft

■ 1:09 p.m. on the 3800 block of Vineyard Avenue

Robbery

■ 4:01 p.m. on the 4500 block of Hopyard Road

Vandalism

■ 4:21 p.m. on the 7200 block of Johnson Drive

Dec. 2

Theft

■ 6:59 a.m., 400 block of Vineyard Place; theft from auto

■ 7:08 a.m. on the 5600 block of Springhouse Drive

■ 7:55 a.m. on the 3800 block of Old Santa Rita Road

■ 9:50 a.m. on the 5700 block of Owens Drive

■ 10:47 a.m., 7700 block of Canyon Meadows Circle; auto theft

■ 11:08 a.m. on the 5500 block of Springhouse Drive

■ 2:13 p.m. on the 3400 block of Andrews Drive

Burglary

■ 7:46 a.m. on the 5900 block of Stoneridge Drive

Vandalism

■ 12:21 p.m. on the 4600 block of Chabot Drive

Fraud

■ 4 p.m. on the 4100 block of Morganfield Court

Robbery

■ 7:50 p.m. on the 1000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

Ryan Michael Walsworth

May 6, 1991 – November 20, 2024

On November 20th, 2024, our loving, beautiful son Ryan Michael Walsworth passed away. He was born at Good Samaritan Hospital in Los Gatos, California on May 6th, 1991, to his loving parents Ronald and Desiree, and was also raised by his loving step-mother Mariella Walsworth.



He grew up in Pleasanton, California and graduated from Foothill High School. Ryan was not only a devoted son but a loving brother to Raelyn, Kyle, Alexis, Erica, Ricky, and Josh, who he loved to tease and spend endless hours hanging out with. He was a grandson to Richard and Nancy Walsworth, Verna Smee, and Ron Begin. He was a fun-loving uncle to Julian, Davey, Jesse, and Zoey.

His accomplishments were in High School Football making All-League several years in a row and his career in Precision Manufacturing where he put his heart into his love for Metal Fabrication. His passions were his family, World War history, football, politics and delicious Italian food. Our son is at peace and free now but will live in our hearts forever.

A Celebration of Life will be held this spring with direct family and friends.

PAID OBITUARY

John Miller

July 12, 1945 – November 21, 2024

John (Jack) Miller, age 79, was called to heaven on Thursday, November 21, 2024. He was born on July 12, 1945, in Fort Wayne, Indiana to John and Pauline (Cashman) Miller. As a Bay Area native he and his wife moved to Pleasanton where he resided for 52 years.



Jack is survived by his wife of 56 years, Patty Miller, his children, Amy (Dave) Statham, Matthew (Lisa) Miller, his grandchildren Austin & Hannah Statham, and Gianna & Niko Miller. He will be remembered as a loving husband, father, Papa, uncle, brother and friend.

The third eldest of 10 children, Jack is survived by Karen Boyd, Peggy Fraser, Chuck Miller, Marya Cambra, Monica Miller, and Ron Miller. Jack was preceded in death by his siblings, Bill Miller, Kenneth Miller, Paul Miller, in-laws Roy & Mary Lee, Ray Valladao, & Burke Webb.

Jack was a reservist with the United States Marine Corp for six years. He was honorably discharged as a Sergeant (E-5) on November 21, 1972. His military service prepared him for his leadership role with the Alameda Fire Department. His career was one of his loves and it's here that he formed lasting friendships and grew in his faith. He retired after a long rewarding career as a Captain in 1999.

Jack's legacy will live on through those who loved him, the many stories he shared, trips taken with family and friends, his long career as a fire Captain, his faith, loyalty, honesty, the many "Jackisms", along with his generosity and devotion to his family. He enjoyed attending his grandchildren's sporting events and was an expert bleacher coach (versed in ice hockey, softball, baseball and soccer). He enjoyed caring for his yard, was an avid reader, and enjoyed discussing and following world events. He and Patty spent many years caring for their grandchildren. Jack's trademark was his mini cooler, cup and diet Pepsi. He never left home without them.

A celebration of life will take place at Valley Community Church in Pleasanton, CA (4455 Del Valle Parkway) on Friday, January 3, 2025 at 11 a.m. with a reception to follow in the church hall. In lieu of flowers please donate to St. Jude Children's hospital, Samaritan's Purse, Smile Train, The American Heart Association, Tunnels to Towers or a charity of your choice.

PAID OBITUARY

Lasting Memories
A directory of obituaries and remembrances.
PleasantonWeekly.com/obituaries

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PLEASANTON PREPS

By DENNIS MILLER

Amador Valley playing for state championship

Dons overcome double-digit deficit to defeat McClymonds, book bout with Frontier football in final

Before every high school sports season, a team will always set goals.

It can be to win your league, win a playoff game or some can look at winning half of your games. Goals change from team to team,

Win a state title? Maybe a handful of teams can look at lofty goals — but when your school has yet to win a section championship, it is probably unlikely you can rationalize that title.

But it happens, and following a 44-33 win over McClymonds on Friday night to claim the CIF D-3 AA NorCal regional title, the Amador Valley Dons find themselves in the CIF State title game.

The championship game is set for this week against Frontier of Bakersfield at Long Beach Community College. Game time is 8 p.m. Friday (Dec. 13).

What were the goals the Dons set before the season?

“They’re pretty much the same every year,” Amador Valley coach Danny Jones said. “Win league, beat Foothill, team GPA of 3.0, everyone eligible and a playoff run.”

What about for a state title?

“Being in the state title game is amazing — it’s like a dream,” Jones said. “I am so excited for the kids.”

Getting there was no easy task. Going on the road into a tough environment, with a number of players sick — some missing the game with others throwing up on the bus.

The game started with both teams scoring on their initial drives, with Dons scoring first, then McClymonds, and with over six minutes left in the first quarter it was 8-6.

“That first drive was easy,” Jones said. “I was surprised; we were able to run the ball down the field.”

The Dons have made going for two an art form, and another successful one made it 8-0 Amador. McClymonds came right and scored but missed their attempt and the game stood 8-6 Amador.

From that point on, the game changed for some time.

It turned into a game that worried me. Over the last 40 years, I have watched teams from the East Bay Athletic League fall to teams from the urban area in the postseason.

You can’t simulate the speed of a team like McClymonds, making the first time you face them in person a major adjustment.

On defense the Dons were getting in spots that worked in the EBAL, but not against Mack, resulting in the running back jumping containment resulting in big runs.

On offense, defenders were able to get around the edge on the pass rush, forcing issues for quarterback Tristan Ti’a.

Sometimes teams can adjust and succeed. Some can’t and end up losing.

“It took us about a half,” Jones said of adjusting to the Mack speed.

“They got up those two possessions and we just couldn’t stop them.”

But after some early trouble, the Amador offense found its gear and Mack’s defense couldn’t stop Amador either.

Finally, the game changed in two McClymonds plays.

With the Dons trailing 33-30 after cutting into an 11-point lead in the third quarter, Amador kicker Ethan Ling hit the ensuing kick short and toward one sideline. The Mack returner misplayed the ball, and it headed toward the sideline.

Getting first to the loose ball, but with Amador’s kick coverage team breathing down on him, the returner compounded his mistake by intentionally swatting the ball out of bounds.

By the time it was sorted out, Mack was starting first-and-10 from inside the Warriors’ one-yard line. The defense, fired up by the events, gave up only a yard in three downs forcing Mack to punt from its own endzone.

The Dons had a first-and-10 from the Mack 33, but stalled a little, facing a fourth-and-two. Mack jumped offsides, giving Amador a first down.

A few plays later on a first-and-goal from the 8-yard-line, Ismael Duenas found the endzone for the Dons and they had a 38-33 lead with 5:33 to play.

“We’ve been working on our special teams, and we have been getting



DIANA HASENPFUG

The Amador Valley football team celebrates winning the 2024 CIF NorCal regional championship to head to the state title game.

better,” Jones said.

The gifts didn’t end.

On the next kickoff, Mack’s return man slipped after catching the kickoff, leaving the Warriors starting at their own 4.

A little bit later, with Mack facing a fourth-and-four, the Warriors went for it. A Mack receiver got behind the Amador defense but dropped the ball for what seemed to be a sure long touchdown, instead turning it over on downs.

“He was gone,” Jones said of the receiver. “We got another break there.”

But that’s OK. You have to play well to win in the playoffs, but a little bit of luck helps, often making the difference between two good teams.

Duenas made the Warriors pay for this mistake as well, finding the end zone, making it 44-33 with 3:22 left.

After the Warriors moved to the Amador 28, the Dons’ defense came through again and closed out the game when Gabe Gyamfi picked off a Mack pass to start the celebration.

Now comes the fun — and of course work — in playing for a state title.

“It’s going to be great,” Jones said. “We are heading down Thursday morning and staying two nights. We’ve got a full itinerary for Thursday. This is a business trip: We’re not

taking the boys to Disneyland; we are going to play for a state title.”

What about the students that packed buses to McClymonds? They deserve to be part of it as well. The Amador students have always traveled well.

Rumors as early as Saturday were talking about deals trying to be worked out for student buses to go. I say give the kids off on Friday so they can board buses and get down to the game.

It’s a Friday so it will be a mess in terms of traffic. Let the kids get on the buses between 10-11 a.m. so they can make it to Long Beach for the 8 p.m. kickoff!

The buses can head home right after the game. The students do it for Disneyland grad night, but this one would be more fun and more memorable.

Amador boys’ basketball

The Dons knocked off McClymonds 48-24 and Antioch 61-46 to move to 5-0 on the season.

In the win over Mack, Jaylen Smith led the way with 18 points, while Chad Krueger had eight points and his brother Kasen Kreuger had seven.

Against Antioch, Kasen had 23, with Chad adding 15 and Smith with 14. ■

Dublin wins at National PSD Youth Cricket Tournament

West Coast's best young cricketers converge on Tri-Valley over Thanksgiving weekend

By JEREMY WALSH

Dublin Cricket League’s under-15 boys’ team earned the victory by two wickets in the finale against Southern California Youth Cricket Academy at the National PSD Youth Cricket Tournament held in the Tri-Valley over the Thanksgiving weekend.

Some 20 teams from top youth cricket programs across the West Coast competed in the five-day tournament that concluded Dec. 1, with the California Cricket Academy Stars winning the U13 final and Fremont’s VK Cricket Academy Vulcans taking home the U11 trophy.

“This tournament is more than



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Dublin Cricket League team won the U15 final at the 2024 National PSD Youth Cricket Tournament.

just cricket; it’s a platform to inspire our youth to dream big and develop life skills like resilience, teamwork

and leadership,” Ramesh Immadi, founder and convener of the tournament, said in a press release

afterward. “Seeing the dedication and passion of these players reminds us why youth sports are so important for building a bright future, not just for cricket but for our communities.”

In all, 40 matches across the age groups were played in Pleasanton, Dublin and the San Ramon Valley during the tournament, which in addition to Bay Area representation saw teams come in from Seattle, San Diego and Orange County, according to organizers.

The U11 final was a victory by five wickets for the VKCA Vulcans over the CCA Tornados. The CCA Stars defeated the San Ramon Cricket Association by four wickets in the

U13 final. Local elected officials and other dignitaries, including USA Cricket board member Srinu Salvar, attended the closing ceremonies.

“This year’s tournament was marked by fierce competition and camaraderie, reflecting the remarkable talent and hard work of the young cricketers. Parents, coaches, and fans turned out in full force to support the athletes, creating an electrifying atmosphere at all venues,” organizers said, also extending thanks to local sponsors, volunteers and officials who contributed. “The tournament continues to inspire young athletes and strengthen cricket’s roots in the United States.” ■

Public Notices

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME

File No. 606119

The following person(s)/registrant(s) has/ have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name(s). The information given below is as it appeared on the fictitious business statement that was filed at the County Clerk-Recorder's Office. FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME(S):
W. SCHNEIDERMAN MANAGEMENT LLC
1423 Holly Street
Berkeley, CA 94703
FILED IN ALAMEDA COUNTY ON: 05/06/2024
UNDER FILE NO. 606119
REGISTRANT'S NAME(S):
W. SCHNEIDERMAN MANAGEMENT LLC
1423 Holly Street
Berkeley, CA 94703
THIS BUSINESS WAS CONDUCTED BY A Limited Liability Company.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda County on December 05 2024.
(PLW Dec 13, 20, 2024, Jan 3 and 10, 2025)

MURPHY'S PAW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No.: 610740

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) Murphy's Paw , located at 410 Main Street Pleasanton, CA 94566, Alameda County.
This business is conducted by: a Corporation.
The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):
VINNIMAN INC.
410 Main Street
Pleasanton, CA 94566
State of Incorporation/Organization: California
Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on November 20 2024.
(PLW Dec 13, 20, 2024, Jan 3 and 10, 2025)

KC BEAUTY FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No.: 610872

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) KC Beauty , located at 5668 Bay St. Emeryville, CA 94608, Alameda County.
This business is conducted by: an Individual.
The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):
KATHLEEN MURILLO
414 Taylor Ave.
Alameda, CA 94501
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 November 26 2024.
(PLW Dec 6, 13, 20, 2024 and Jan 3, 2025)

CLAIR DE LUNE SF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No.: 610803

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) CLAIR DE LUNE SF , located at 19035 MAYBERRY DRIVE, CASTRO VALLEY, CA 94546, ALAMEDA County.
This business is conducted by: an Individual.
The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):
NUTNICA THUMAYOS
4470 SCHOOL WAY
CASTRO VALLEY, CA 94546
Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 11/21/2024.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on November 25 2024.
(PLW Dec 13, 20, 2024, Jan 3 and 10, 2025)

SPRING TIDE COACHING FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No.: 611021

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) Spring Tide Coaching , located at 11833 Dublin Green Drive Dublin, CA 94568 , Alameda County.
This business is conducted by: an Individual.
The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):
PATRICIA MCMURDIE
11833 Dublin Green Drive
Dublin, CA 94568
Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 11/12/2024

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on December 04 2024.
(PLW Dec 13, 20, 2024, Jan 3 and 10, 2025)

THRIFT CENTER THRIFT STORES FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No.: 610633

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) Thrift Center Thrift Stores , located at 1047 Serpentine Lane Suite 600 Pleasanton, CA 94566, Alameda County.
This business is conducted by: a Corporation.
The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):
UNITED SALVAGE CORPORATION
1047 Serpentine Lane, Suite 600
Pleasanton, CA. 94566
State of Incorporation/Organization: California
Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 10/19/1972
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on November 14 2024.
(PLW Dec 13, 20, 2024, Jan 3 and 10, 2025)

STREAMIND HEALTH FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No.: 610618

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) Streamind Health , located at 1355 Carlotta Ave Berkeley, CA 94703, Alameda County.
This business is conducted by: a Corporation.
The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):
PEDIATRIC PSYCHOLOGY PARTNERS, PC
1355 Carlotta Ave
Berkeley, CA 94703
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 November 14 2024.
(PLW Nov 29, Dec 6, 13 and 20, 2024)

2SCOOP-A-DOO FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No.: 610420

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) 2Scoop-A-Doo , located at 25800 Industrial Blvd Ste 152 Hayward, CA 94545 , Alameda County.
This business is conducted by: an Individual.
The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):
TIMOTE MANOA
25800 Industrial Blvd Ste 152
Hayward, CA 94545
Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 10/21/2024
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on November 01 2024.
(PLW Nov 29, Dec 6, 13 and 20, 2024)

QUARTERHILL USA FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No.: 610379

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) Quarterhill USA , located at 2142 Rheem Drive, Suite B, Pleasanton, CA 94588, Alameda County. Mailing Address: 5844 John Hickman Pkwy, Ste. 125, Frisco, TX 75034
This business is conducted by: a Limited Liability Company.
The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):
ELECTRONIC TRANSACTION CONSULTANTS, LLC
5844 John Hickman Pkwy, Ste. 125
Frisco, TX 75034
State of Incorporation/Organization: Delaware
Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 8/3/2024
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on October 31 2024.
(PLW Nov 22, 29, Dec 6 and 13, 2024)

SPICY HOUSE CHINA VILLA FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No.: 611030

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) Spicy House , 2.) China Villa , located at 4022 East Ave Livermore, CA 94550, Alameda County.
This business is conducted by: an Individual.

The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):
TIANYUAN YANG
4022 East Ave
Livermore, CA 94550
Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 01/11/2017
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on December 05 2024.
(PLW Dec 13, 20, 2024, Jan 3 and 10, 2025)

1ST TECHS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No.: 610488

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) 1st Techs , located at 4095 Vineyard Ave Apt #8 Pleasanton, CA 94566, Alameda County.
This business is conducted by: an Individual.
The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):
CHRIS RUSSO
4095 Vineyard Ave Apt #8
Pleasanton, CA 94566
Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on November 06 2024.
(PLW Nov 22, 29, Dec 6 and 13, 2024)

PROFIX SOLUTIONS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No.: 610548

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) Profix Solutions , located at 1719 64th Steet, Suite B Emeryville, CA 94530, Alameda County.
This business is conducted by: an Individual.
The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):
SHEILA REPUNTE
1719 64th Street, Suite B
Emeryville, CA 94530
Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 11/07/2024
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on November 08 2024.
(PLW Nov 22, 29, Dec 6 and 13, 2024)

DAANISH TECHNOLOGIES FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No.: 611010

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: California
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 December 04 2024.
(PLW Dec 13, 20, 2024, Jan 3 and 10, 2025)

ATHLETIC PERFORMANCE STUDIO FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No.: 610643

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) ATHLETIC PERFORMANCE STUDIO , located at 5653 Stoneridge Drive, Suite 101, Pleasanton, CA 94588 , Alameda County. Mailing Address: 5122 Corona Court Pleasanton, CA 94588.
This business is conducted by: a Limited Liability Company.
The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):
ATHLETIC PERFORMANCE STUDIO LLC
5122 Corona Court
Pleasanton, CA 94588
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 November 15 2024.
(PLW Nov 29, Dec 6, 13 and 20, 2024)

QUARTERHILL FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No.: 610384

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) Quarterhill , located at 2142 Rheem Drive,

Suite B, Pleasanton, CA 94588, Alameda County. Mailing Address: 5844 John Hickman Pkwy, Ste. 125, Frisco, TX 75034
This business is conducted by: a Limited Liability Company.
The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):
ELECTRONIC TRANSACTION CONSULTANTS, LLC
5844 John Hickman Pkwy, Ste. 125
Frisco, TX 75034
State of Incorporation/Organization: Delaware
Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 8/3/2024
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on October 31 2024.
(PLW Nov 22, 29, Dec 6 and 13, 2024)

PACIFIC DAS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No.: 610776

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) Pacific DAS , located at 5653 Stoneridge Drive Suite 109 Pleasanton, CA 94588, Alameda County.
This business is conducted by: a Corporation.
The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):
BOBCOMM INC.
5653 Stoneridge Drive Suite 109
Pleasanton, CA 94588
State of Incorporation/Organization: California
Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 4/25/2019
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on November 21 2024.
(PLW Nov 29, Dec 6, 13 and 20, 2024)

HANATHE3D FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No.: 610413

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) HANATHE3D , located at 741 Begonia Dr. San Leandro, CA 94578, Alameda County.
This business is conducted by: a Limited Liability Company.
The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):
ZIEANY LLC
741 Begonia Dr.
San Leandro, CA 94578
State of Incorporation/Organization: CA
Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on November 01 2024.
(PLW Dec 13, 20, 2024, Jan 3 and 10, 2025)

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

Case No.: 24CV098672

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:
Petitioner: Juliana Li filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:
ATHENA KAHSSON LI-ALI to AILENE WING-KEI KAHSOON LI-ALI

THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.
NOTICE OF HEARING: 03/28/2025, 09:30AM, 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: 11/08/2024
Thomas Nixon
JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT
(PLW Dec 6, 13, 20, 2024 and Jan 3, 2025)

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

Case No.: 24CV101905

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:
Petitioner: Josselyn Gil Verdin filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:

JOSELYN GIL VERDIN to JOSSELYN VERDIN
THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.
NOTICE OF HEARING: 02/07/2025, 9:30am, 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: 12/06/2024
Thomas J. Nixon
JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT
(PLW Dec 13, 20, 2024, Jan 3 and 10, 2025)

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

Case No.: 24CV099601

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:
Petitioner: Chloe Taylor filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:
CHLOE ISABELLE TAYLOR to CHLOE ISABELLE BYRON

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: 4/4/2025, 9:30am, Wiley W. Manuel Courthouse of the Superior Court of California, County of Alameda located at 661 Washington Street, Oakland, California 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: 11/15/2024
Thomas Nixon
JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT
(PLW Dec 13, 20, 2024, Jan 3 and 10, 2025)

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

Case No.: 24CV100824

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:
Petitioner: Mary Therese Harvey Melchor and Diane Fu filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:
ALEX JEAN FU to ALEX JEAN HARVEY FU
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: 4/11/2025, 9:30, 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: 11/25/2024
Thomas I. Nixon
JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT
(PLW Dec 13, 20, 2024, Jan 3 and 10, 2025)

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 COUNTY
Case No.: 24CV101715
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:
Petitioner: VICTORIA THUY VY PHAM filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:
VICTORIA THUY VY PHAM to AMINYA VICTORIA THUY VY MILANIYA
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: MAY 2, 2025, 9:30AM, WILEY W MANUEL COURTHOUSE of the Superior Court of California, County of ALAMEDA located at 661 WASHINGTON STREET, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA 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: December 5, 2024
THOMAS I. NIXON
JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT
(PLW Dec 13, 20, 2024, Jan 3 and 10, 2025)

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA FOR THE COUNTY OF ALAMEDA
Case No.: 24CV098242
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:
Petitioner: Edward Vu Giovanni filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:
EDWARD VU GIOVANNI to GIOVANNI HIEN NGUYEN
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: 3/21/2025, 9:30AM, Wiley W. Manuel 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: 11/5/24
Thomas I. Nixon
JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT
(PLW Nov 22, 29, Dec 6 and 13, 2024)

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA FOR THE COUNTY OF ALAMEDA
Case No.: 24CV098951
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:
Petitioner: Karen Selma Flynn filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:
KAREN SELMA FLYNN to KAREN SELMA DZUBUR
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: 3/28/2025, 9:30 am, Hayward Hall of Justice Branch of the Superior Court of California, County of Alameda located at 24405 Amador Street , Hayward, CA 94544.
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: 11/12/2024
Thomas I. Nixon
JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT
(PLW Nov 22, 29, Dec 6 and 13, 2024)

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA FOR THE COUNTY OF ALAMEDA
Case No.: 24CV077196
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:
Petitioner: Julissa Vanessa Soto Banuelos filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:
JULISSA VANESSA SOTO BANUELOS to JULISSA VANESSA SOTO
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: 01/10/2025, 9:30 AM, Rene C. Davidson Courthouse of the Superior Court of California, County of Alameda located at 1225 Fallon St , 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: 05/28/2024
Thomas I. Nixon
JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT
(PLW Nov 29, Dec 6, 13 and 20, 2024)

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF:
PETER HOWARD YANG
Case No.: 24PR101186
To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of PETER HOWARD YANG.
A Petition for Probate has been filed by: SOPHIA SHIN in the Superior Court of California, County of Alameda.
The Petition for Probate requests that: SOPHIA SHIN be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.
THE PETITION requests the decedent's will and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. The will and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court. THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.
A HEARING on the petition will be held on January 10 2025 at 9:45 am in Dept 201 of the Superior Court of California, County of Alameda, located at 2120 Martin Luther King Jr Way Berkeley, CA 94704.
If you object to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.

If you are a creditor or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58 (b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law. You may examine the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.
Petitioner in Pro Per:
Sophia Shin
5650 Lexington Ave Unit 401
Dublin, CA 94568
925-548-0675
(PLW Dec 13, 20, 2024 and Jan 3, 2025)

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF:
LENARD J. WITTE
Case No.: 24PR101016
To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of LENARD J. WITTE.
A Petition for Probate has been filed by: Patricia D. Rahimzadeh in the Superior Court of California, County of Alameda.
The Petition for Probate requests that: Patricia D. Rahimzadeh be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.
THE PETITION requests the decedent's will and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. The will and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court. THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.

A HEARING on the petition will be held on January 06 2025 at 9:45 AM in Dept 202 of the Superior Court of California, County of Alameda, located at 2120 Martin Luther King Way, Berkeley, CA 94704.
If you object to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.
If you are a creditor or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58 (b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law. You may examine the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.
Attorney for Petitioner:
Stephen L. Cohen, Esq.
The Pacella Law Group, APC
5000 N. Parkway Calabasas, Suite 219
Calabasas, CA 91302
818-614-9245
(PLW Dec 6, 13 and 20, 2024)

Place a legal notice at
PleasantonWeekly.com/legal_notices/

Calendar

POST CALENDAR ITEMS AT PLEASANTONWEEKLY.COM

Entertainment

A SEASON TO CELEBRATE Join Livermore High School's Holiday concert and listen to songs that celebrate the season including many holiday classics. Free admission though donations to LHS music boosters' organization are gratefully accepted.
6-8 p.m., Dec. 13. Livermore High School Theater.

COMFORT & JOY-ADVENT CONCERT The Catholic Community of Pleasanton presents the ultimate concert of the season, Comfort & Joy, featuring award-winning Catholic composers and musicians Sarah Hart and Steve Angrisano.
7:30 p.m., Dec. 13. Suggested donation \$20, children under 18 free. St. Augustine Catholic Church, 3999 Bernal Ave.

EVOLUTION - THE ULTIMATE TRIBUTE TO JOURNEY Fans of legendary rock band Journey will relive the magic once more with Evolution, the ultimate tribute to Journey, recreating the powerful vocals, electrifying guitar solos and unforgettable melodies.
7:30 p.m., Dec. 13. Tickets \$28-\$38. Visit firehousearts.org.

HOLIDAY SOIREE Get in the holiday spirit with a script-in-hand reading of short holiday stories and keep warm with DIY hot cocoa bar, an assortment of sweet confections and group caroling.
7:30 p.m., Dec. 13-14; 2 p.m., Dec. 15. Tickets \$35. 2172 Railroad Ave. Livermore. Visit SPARCtheater.org.

JAZZ AT INKLINGS This pre-holiday concert with Matt Finders Trio includes a community sing along. Seating is limited.
6 pm., Dec. 13. 530 Main St., Pleasanton. Reserve at meetup.com/pleasanton-jazz-society/.

SING-IT-YOURSELF MESSIAH The holiday tradition continues as Valley Concert Choral hosts its annual Sing-It-Yourself Messiah open to singers of all ages in the community.
7:30 p.m., Dec. 13. Asbury United Methodist Church, 4743 East Ave., Livermore.

SPIRIT & SWEATER STROLL The Spirit and Sweater Stroll is the perfect opportunity to soak up the festive atmosphere and connect with the community where guests enjoy spirits and craft cocktails at a number of downtown Pleasanton locations.
5-8 p.m., Dec. 14. Visit pleasantondowntown.net.

THE NUTCRACKER Valley Dance Theatre's full production of The Nutcracker at the Bankhead Theater is accompanied by the Valley Dance Theatre Pit Orchestra and entertains with elaborate sets, skilled dancers and beautiful costumes. Performances are Dec. 14-15; 20-22. Tickets \$39-\$49. Visit livermorearts.org.

CHRISTMAS WITH BALLET ROOTS Featuring The Academy of Danse Libre this entertaining holiday show is sure to delight audience members both young and old with



TVAR

Meet Reba

She's cute, bouncy and fun! A lively young senior, Reba enjoys people, going for walks, exploring the yard and meeting other dogs. She's a very sweet, loyal companion who cherishes her time with volunteers. She's a ray of sunshine who will brighten up your day. Reba is waiting at the East County Animal Shelter in Dublin, available via Tri-Valley Animal Rescue.

the usual array of dances, ranging from classical to contemporary.
2 p.m. and 4 p.m., Dec. 15. Tickets \$25. Visit firehousearts.org.

TRES SOULS - BOLEROS DE NAVIDAD Enjoy this festive Latin holiday celebration blending Christmas classics and beloved Bolero standards. Get ready to sing along and embrace the holiday spirit.
7:30 p.m., Dec. 16. Tickets \$25-\$60. Visit livermorearts.org.

KINGS RETURN HOLIDAY SHOW Be mesmerized by this Grammy-nominated acapella group known for their seamless harmonies and captivating vocal chemistry.
7:30 p.m., Dec. 18. Tickets \$35-\$65. Visit livermorearts.org.

SISTERS CHRISTMAS CATECHISM Retelling the story of the nativity, as only Sister can, employing her own scientific tools, assisted by a carol singer as well as a gaggle of audience members.
7:30 p.m., Dec. 19. Tickets \$55-\$65. Visit livermorearts.org.

Santa

SENSORY SANTA Sensory Santa allows children with autism and other disabilities to meet Santa in a fun, inviting and sensory-friendly environment that suits their unique needs.
5-7 p.m., Dec. 13. Visit larpd.org.

VISITS WITH SANTA AT THE SQUARE Visit Santa every weekend in front of the large, beautifully decorated Christmas tree for a magical holiday experience filled with joy, a photo and a free gift from Santa from 12-4 p.m., through Dec. 22. City Center Bishop Ranch.

PHOTOS WITH SANTA AT STONERIDGE The ultimate holiday tradition, pictures with Santa Claus awaits now through Dec. 24 at Stoneridge Shopping Center.

PLEASANTON REAL ESTATE MARKET UPDATE – THE HOLIDAYS ARE HERE

The Pleasanton real estate market saw a typical slowdown in November, as many real estate consumers began to hit the pause button. Unsurprisingly, the pace of the market slowed in November, and stubbornly high Mortgage rates did not help (they have since eased). Still, while activity has slowed, it has not stopped. There are still homes selling, some even with multiple offers. But others are seeing sluggish activity. We will see if buyers, hoping to get a jump on the Spring market, emerge during the holidays, or if the market slows further.

Let's take a dive into the numbers for November.

Supply/Inventory: The inventory of available single-family homes declined at the end of November, with a 45 homes on the market, down 32% from the end of October when there were 57 homes on the market. However, inventory is still 9.8% higher than November of

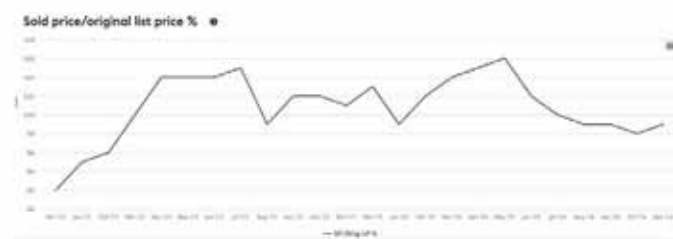
Visit The680Blog.com to read the rest of this article.

Pleasanton Market Report

Data for November 2024

Single Family Detached Homes

	NOV 2024	CHANGE FROM OCT 2024	CHANGE FROM NOV 2023
Homes sold	33	↓31%	↓8.3%
Homes for sale	45	↓32%	↑9.6%
Median days on market	20	↑5.3%	↑43%
Median price per square foot	\$852	↓2.2%	↑6.2%
Months of inventory	1.4	↓0.8%	↑20%
Median sold price	\$1,785,000	↑6.3%	↑4.3%
Homes under contract	31	↓31%	↑24%



3829 Vine St
\$765,000 | 2 Bed | 2 Bath



43054 Gallegos Ave
\$2,525,000 | 4 Bed | 2 Bath



2533 Wood Hollow Dr
\$2,685,000 | 5 Bed | 3 Bath



6894 Maywood Dr
\$2,570,000 | 5 Bed | 3 Bath



1134 Laguna Creek Ln
\$4,025,000 | 6 Bed | 6 Bath



7882 Flagstone Dr
\$1,750,000 | 3 Bed | 2.5 Bath

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Broker Associate | DRE 00843458
925.463.2000 | Doug@680Homes.com

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ARMARIO HOMES
TRI-VALLEY LUXURY REALTY

TOY & FOOD DRIVE

'Tis the season for giving!

Armario Homes is pleased to host our annual Toy & Food Drive to support local families and children in need. Your generous donations will make a meaningful difference during this special time of year.

Thank you for your kindness and support. Together, we can spread joy and make the holidays brighter for families in our community!

Items We Are Collecting:

New & unwrapped toys for children of all ages. Canned food to help local families.

How You Can Help: Simply gather your donations and let us know! We will pick them up directly from your doorstep. Just send us a text or email by **December 21st.**

Info@Armariohomes.com
(925) 694-1011



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SELLER & BUYER!**

3929 FAIRLANDS DR PLEASANTON
SOLD \$1,870,000



**REPRESENTED
SELLER & BUYER!**

399 OAK LANE, PLEASANTON
SOLD \$2,425,000



**REPRESENTED
SELLER & BUYER!**

3204 POMACE CT, PLEASANTON
SOLD \$1,825,000

Considering a Move? Allow us to Assist you Next!

Call Today for a FREE Home Valuation

So far in 2024, Armario Homes Has:

- ✓ COMPLETED \$90 MILLION IN SALES
- ✓ NEGOTIATED 48 SALES FOR CLIENTS
- ✓ PRODUCED TOP-DOLLAR SALES FOR HOME SELLERS!



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