

# Pleasanton Weekly



Donate to the  
Holiday Fund

Page 14

VOL. XXV, NUMBER 48 • DECEMBER 20, 2024

WWW.PLEASANTONWEEKLY.COM

**20** YEAR IN **24**  
REVIEW

PAGE 15

- 5 | **NEWS** Balch sworn in as new mayor of Pleasanton
- 5 | **NEWS** Planning Commission OKs Philz Coffee
- 31 | **SPORTS** What a ride to state championship game

# Exceptional care is closer than ever.

At Stanford Medicine Partners, we're making comprehensive, personalized care more accessible with our expanded primary care locations. Our new San Ramon clinic and expanded Danville location are home to dedicated primary care physicians who work closely with you to build a long-lasting relationship. From routine screenings to leading-edge treatments, we're committed to supporting your health journey with care that's never far from home.



**Stanford**  
MEDICINE | Partners

[stanfordhealthcare.org/primarycare](https://stanfordhealthcare.org/primarycare)



# WHAT A WEEK



By JEREMY WALSH

## The best of us

Dolores Fox Ciardelli, the award-winning journalist who helped lead the Pleasanton Weekly as managing editor and served as the founding editor of the former Danville Weekly, died this month after battling breast and brain cancers in retirement. She was 78.

As gifted and creative a feature writer as she was, Dolores was a down-the-line reporter through and through, so I thought she would want a straight news lede for her obituary story.

I hope she'll cut me some slack for taking the liberty of first name use though.

Well beyond her profound impact on my growth as an editor and a man, Dolores was such an important part of our Embarcadero Media family, both inside the organization and externally.

As I told our colleagues upon learning of her death, her style and perspective in community storytelling exemplified why our local newspapers and websites resonate with readers and sources. Dolores was the best of us.

The secret sauce was her life experience as a child of the South Bay, an educated woman, a citizen of the world, a wife, a mother, a grandmother and a friend.

Born on June 5, 1946, Dolores was raised in San Jose and earned a bachelor's degree from her hometown state university, including working on SJSU's Spartan Daily. During that time, at 18 years old, she met Jim Ciardelli and they forged a five-decade love story that included 47 years of marriage, son Pepe and daughter Zoe (and later four grandkids).

They lived in New Mexico, Texas and Marysville while Jim served in the Air Force from 1968 to 1972, and they later spent time residing in Saudi Arabia (1975-78) and Thailand (1987 to 1992), according to the obituary published by her family inside on Page 28. The family home was kept in Walnut Creek from 1980 until 2014.

Dolores got back into journalism in Bangkok, with the American Women's Club magazine Sawaddi and the Bangkok Post. Upon returning stateside, she worked for the Contra Costa Times from 1993 until 2000 — when she took a leap of faith and joined an upstart weekly newspaper down Interstate 680 from her office in Concord.

She worked as the Pleasanton Weekly's managing editor from January 2000 until she became the founding editor of the Danville Weekly, which our company launched in May 2005. Dolores

would be the editor in Danville until the paper folded amid Great Recession pressures in October 2009.

She came back to the Pleasanton operation as managing editor for nearly four years and then spent another eight years in her final role, as Tri-Valley Life editor, where she specialized in feature stories and arts-and-entertainment coverage.

I find myself thinking about how two major moments in my life intertwined with personal junctures in the twilight of Dolores' journalism career.

When I started as the online editor of Danville Express in November 2013, Dolores was nearing the end of her recovery from a serious heart attack. As the calendar flipped, we spent only a few weeks (if that) as colleagues in the office when she had to step away again as Jim was diagnosed with aggressive bladder cancer. He died May 9, 2014 at 68.

Dolores returned part time later that year and continued to write for our lifestyles section, mostly remote after moving to Mission Viejo to be closer to her daughter and grandkids. We worked together until weeks after I came back from my month's paternity leave in early 2022.

While my wife and I were rearing our newborn, Dolores was quietly experiencing issues with her motor skills. She was soon diagnosed with brain and breast cancers and retired that February.

We kept in touch by email and text over the next couple of years. She enjoyed seeing photos of Francis and exchanging the occasional Tri-Valley news anecdote. The communications quieted by last spring, likely a sign in hindsight.

Dolores died peacefully in hospice care on Dec. 6.

I've been reading some of my favorite articles of hers in the days since.

My favorite might be among the hardest she ever had to write: Her column "A comfortable chair, a cup of coffee and thou" in the final edition of the Danville Weekly on Oct. 2, 2009. Her pragmatic perspective in the face of such professional heartache still inspires me 15 years later.

"I will miss the pride I took in each and every issue when it was delivered to our Danville office, as I apprehensively turned the pages fearing a glaring error while admiring the interplay of stories, photos and opinions. On the other hand, many people have told me that they already only read us online. This is encouraging because it is where my energy will now go," she wrote, adding:

"Life is all about phases." RIP Dolores. ■

# Gina Piper

925.200.0202

gina@ginapiper.com



# Happy Holidays!

## WISHING YOU AND YOURS A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!

2025 marks my 30th year practicing Real Estate in Pleasanton. Let my experience be your guide through the process if you plan on making a move in the new year.



### About the Cover

The Weekly looks back over the top news stories month by month during a busy 2024 in our annual Year in Review package.

Check it out inside, starting on Page 15.

Using file photos, cover design by Doug Young.

Vol. XXV, Number 48



www.ElationRE.com ~ DRE #: 01201349



Wishing your family  
a great holiday  
season this year!

*Happy Holidays*

As 2024 comes to a close, I'm so thankful for this amazing year and the opportunity to be welcomed into the homes and lives of so many in our community!



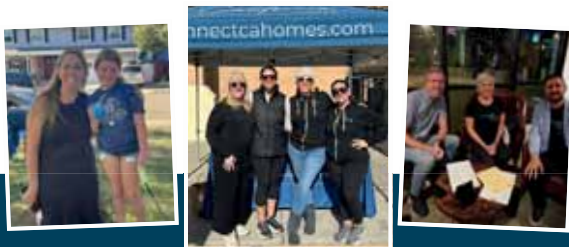
**Free Home Value Report**

Curious about what your home is worth in our current market?



**Giving Back to Our  
Community Year Round!**

Thank you to everyone in the community who joined us in making a lasting impact this year.



KATIE MOE | FOUNDER & REALTOR | 925.216.9083 | DRE #01507863 | KATIEMOEREALTOR.COM

— INVEST IN —



Guaranteed transfer opportunities to 40+ colleges and universities!

**APPLY TODAY!**

[laspositascollege.edu/welcome](https://laspositascollege.edu/welcome)



**LAS POSITAS**  
COLLEGE

# Streetwise

ASKED AROUND TOWN

## How are you planning to spend Christmas Day this year?



**Matt Dennis (with Quinn)**

*Software testing*

My plan for the day is to reconnect with old friends and get back in close touch with them. We'll all be celebrating "Friendsmas" together, if you will, so that we can all really catch up. This upcoming get-together is right on top of my list of Christmas wishes for this year, and I'm really looking forward to it.



**Elena Buarneros**

*Cook*

I'll be happily in my kitchen much of the time, preparing a lot of special Mexican dishes for my closest family and friends. Everyone loves my pozole, and of course I'll also be making some delicious desserts made with baked guava and apples, that are supposed to help everyone get off to a good and sweet New Year.



**Drew Emhoff**

*Cattleman*

Well, just like every other year, and every other holiday actually, I plan to spend the day with my closest nuclear family, which consists of my mom and my dad, and my brother and my sister. I'm expecting to have a great day with them all.



**Tyler Vanni**

*Mechanical engineer*

I plan to slow down for the day and spend time in the kitchen, cooking with my mom. I expect my dog Bronson will be keenly supervising our every move. And I can't think of a better way to spend Christmas.



**Sam Smith**

*HVAC technician*

I'll be spending the day with my 2-year-old son and my girlfriend. We'll be celebrating the gratitude we feel about the family we are.

—Compiled by Nancy and Jeff Lewis

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

The Pleasanton Weekly is published every Friday by Embarcadero Media Foundation, 5506 Sunol Blvd., Suite 203, Pleasanton, CA 94566; (925) 600-0840. Mailed at Periodicals Postage Rate, USPS 020407. The Pleasanton Weekly is mailed upon request to homes and apartments in Pleasanton. However, in order to continue delivering you the news you depend on, we encourage you to become a paid subscribing member. Go to [www.PleasantonWeekly.com/join](http://www.PleasantonWeekly.com/join) to start supporting the Pleasanton Weekly today.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Pleasanton Weekly, 5506 Sunol Blvd., Suite 203, Pleasanton, CA 94566. ©2024 by Embarcadero Media Foundation. All rights reserved. Reproduction without permission is strictly prohibited.

## DIGEST

### See you Jan. 3

Today's paper will be the final Pleasanton Weekly print edition of 2024, as we opted for a larger special issue with our Year in Review this week and take a break from the newspaper production during Christmas week. Our print paper will be back as usual on Jan. 3.

The news coverage won't stop in the interim, however. Our journalists will be hard at work reporting articles online over the coming days. You can expect our weekday Express emails to continue, except for Dec. 25 and Jan. 1.

Visit [PleasantonWeekly.com](http://PleasantonWeekly.com) to see all of the big stories, and we will see you again in print in 2025. Happy Holidays!

### Kirk for 'Shorts'

Livermore Valley Arts just announced that actor Justin Kirk, known for his Emmy nominated television work in "Angels in America" plus his role on "Weeds", has signed on as the final cast member for "Selected Shorts" at the Bankhead Theater on Feb. 2.

Kirk will join Emmy nominee Wendie Malick ("Just Shoot Me") and Richa Moorjani ("Never Have I Ever") in the show that sees actors read short stories in a live theatrical experience — an afternoon of "literature in performance".

### Clint Black at the fair

Country music star Clint Black and Taylor Swift tribute act Twist on Taylor have been added to the bill for the Big O Tires Concert Series at the 2025 Alameda County Fair.

Black, a Grammy-winning singer-songwriter, will play the fair in Pleasanton on July 3 while Twist on Taylor (starring Las Vegas performer Sarah Jessica Rhodes) will be on the amphitheater stage on June 21.

They join previously announced concert acts WAR (opening night, June 13) and Too \$hort (June 25) on the list so far. For tickets and more info, go to [alamedacountyfair.com](http://alamedacountyfair.com).

### 'Vernacular' talk

Tri-Valley artist Carolyn Lord, whose "Valley Vernacular" art exhibition is on display in the Firehouse Arts Center lobby, is hosting a gallery talk this Saturday (Dec. 21) from 1-2:30 p.m. at the venue in downtown Pleasanton.

At the free event, Lord said she will share about her creative process for these works as well as "discuss random historical facts and anecdotal observations on topics such as water tanks, telephones, swamp coolers and lawns." ■

## Balch sworn in as Pleasanton mayor; Eicher, Gaidos join City Council

Brown, Arkin reflect on years in office upon stepping down from dais

By Christian Trujano

**A** packed Pleasanton City Council chambers erupted into applause and cheers Tuesday night as Mayor Jack Balch was officially sworn into office, along with the two other new councilmembers to join the dais.

"It's an honor of my life," Balch said during the Dec. 17 meeting as he fought back tears after he took his oath of office.

"As your mayor, I promise to lead with integrity, to listen and learn, and to do my very best to deliver real results," Balch said. "Let's celebrate our

wins while investing for a vibrant and thriving future."

According to the official results certified by the Alameda County Registrar of Voters' Office, 18,950 of Pleasanton residents (53.94%) voted for Balch while 16,184 (46.06%) voted for now-former mayor Karla Brown in the Nov. 5 election.

Before the new councilmembers — along with Balch — were sworn into their positions, dozens of residents spoke during the recognition ceremony for and praised Brown for her four years of leading the city during the COVID pandemic, a difficult

Housing Element process and many other challenges, most recently with the city's projected budget deficit.

From representatives of other local elected officials at the Alameda County Board of Supervisors, to fellow neighbors and city employees, everyone who spoke on Brown's mayoral run had nothing but high praise.

The same went for Valerie Arkin, who lost her District 2 reelection bid to former police Capt. Craig Eicher by just under 700 votes.

Many of the speakers also highlighted how collectively, the two

departing electeds clocked in more than a quarter-century worth of public service to Pleasanton — Arkin with her 12 years on the school board and Brown with her time serving on the council before being elected as mayor in 2020.

"I don't know of two people who have worked harder for our city and its residents as Mayor Brown and Councilmember Arkin have," Councilmember Julie Testa said.

Testa said Brown has been her mentor during these past four years

See **COUNCIL** on Page 10



An early rendering of the signage design for the proposed Philz Coffee that the Planning Commission greenlit for construction at its Dec. 11 meeting.

## Commission OKs Philz Coffee on Santa Rita Road

Shop to replace old KFC in Valley Plaza

By Christian Trujano

**T**he Pleasanton Planning Commission approved an application to turn a former Kentucky Fried Chicken restaurant into Pleasanton's first-ever Philz Coffee during its meeting last week.

The application was approved as part of the commission's consent calendar, which are items considered routine in nature and are typically approved through a single vote with little to no discussion.

"Looking forward to Philz Coffee," then-Chair Matt Gaidos said during the Dec. 11 meeting.

There were no additional comments made regarding the coffee

shop's now approved applications for a conditional use permit, design review, and sign design review to operate the Philz Coffee.

Eric Luchini, senior planner for the city, wrote in his staff report for that night's meeting that staff have reviewed the design proposal for the potential new Philz Coffee and that the design plans are consistent with city regulations and ordinances.

The coffee shop, which was founded in San Francisco in 2003 and has since expanded throughout California and Chicago, will be taking over an existing commercial building at 1803 Santa Rita Road — located inside the Valley Plaza

Shopping Center

The establishment would be the second to open in the Tri-Valley, with another location at City Center Bishop Ranch in San Ramon.

According to Luchini, the coffee shop's design plans are not proposing any major changes to the building itself.

Instead, the plan is to repurpose the existing approximately 2,479-square-foot former KFC building and operate a drive-thru coffee shop daily from 5 a.m. to 9 p.m. with a maximum of five employees on-site.

See **PHILZ** on Page 6

## Maher ends long career at PUSD

'It's just been a nice ride,' parting trustee says

By Christian Trujano

**I**t was an emotional Pleasanton school board meeting last week for many trustees, colleagues and family members who fought back tears as they formally recognized Steve Maher for his 53 years of service as a teacher, administrator and school board member.

Even though the Dec. 13 meeting was Maher's last on the board, those who spoke said his legacy will continue to live on through all the work he has done for the community and through all of the people he has helped — students and faculty alike.

"Steve, you have touched the lives of thousands of families and your legacy of service has been felt and will be felt by generations of Pleasanton students, their family and our community," Interim Superintendent Maurice Ghysels said during the early part of the meeting.

Maher, who has been on the board since 2016 but did not run



Steve Maher

See **MAHER** on Page 9

# Visit Tri-Valley picks Dublin for new event center

Proposed venue would host indoor sports, entertainment, corporate shows for whole region

BY CHRISTIAN TRUJANO

Visit Tri-Valley this week announced plans to build its new multi-use event center in Dublin just across Interstate 580 from the Dublin-Pleasanton BART Station.

The news of the proposed location comes just a few months after the organization committed to constructing the state-of-the-art facility, which it says will boost the local economy and provide a much-needed space for a wide variety of events.

"We are thrilled that Visit Tri-Valley has chosen Dublin as the future home of their state-of-the-art Multi-Use Event Center," said Dublin Councilmember Michael McCorriston during his time serving as interim mayor.

"This facility will not only enhance our city's standing as a premier destination for sports, entertainment and corporate events but

also bring significant economic benefits to local businesses and communities throughout the entire Tri-Valley," McCorriston added in the press release from Visit Tri-Valley, which works to promote tourism in the region.

"We look forward to seeing this vision come to life and welcoming visitors from near and far."

Visit Tri-Valley announced the development of the new center and released conceptual renderings during its "Cirque Tri-Vallé" annual showcase at the Bankhead Theater in Livermore back in September.

The need for such a regional facility was first identified in Visit Tri-Valley's 2023 Strategic Plan.

According to Monday's press release, the new event center "aligns with Visit Tri-Valley's strategic vision to boost the region's visitor profile and capitalize on its unique advantages while providing an enhanced

quality of life for residents."

"This innovative, sustainable, multi-use approach will benefit all Tri-Valley communities from residents to visitors alike," the press release stated. "It grants the region the ability to easily host high-profile sports tournaments, entertainment events and corporate meetings, along with additional retail and community gathering opportunities; all within an iconic structure sure to secure the Tri-Valley as a premier visitor destination in the Bay Area."

According to the organization, its Board of Directors were the ones who recommended and approved the Dublin location after a year-long study and location vetting process as well as various interviews and conversations with the city.

The proposed location for the center will be specifically at the corner of Martinelli Way and Arnold



Visit Tri-Valley proposes to develop a new regional event center in Dublin. VTV

Road, adjacent to I-580.

The organization said in its statement that it will be pursuing a memorandum of understanding with the city of Dublin and in collaboration with Alameda County.

While the development for the

new center is "actively progressing" according to the organization's website, Visit Tri-Valley is now shifting its focus on identifying funding options that will bring it one step closer to making the regional facility a reality. ■

## PHILZ

Continued from Page 5

In his report, Luchini noted that the applicant — Patti Nelson, the chief development officer for Philz Coffee — is mainly proposing minor

exterior changes to the existing building's roof as well as new site and building-mounted signage.

Only minimal color changes are proposed for the existing building, which include changing the metal roof and building cornice colors from

white to yellow

Previously, the roof and portions of the building's walls were painted red when occupied by KFC.

Luchini also wrote that traffic impacts had already been addressed when the shopping center was

originally approved and the existing drive-thru was analyzed when the building was first constructed.

"The existing drive-through has been operating for approximately the past 30 years without any traffic or circulation problems being reported

to the city," Luchini wrote. "The city's traffic engineer has reviewed the assessment and agrees it is unlikely that vehicle queues would extend beyond the limits of the existing drive-through lane and into the shopping center drive aisles." ■

## New Year's Resolution: Living Trust

### Book Now for January Appointments (925) 568-2350

### Your Neighborhood Estate Planning Solution

### Living Trusts For Families of All Ages and Sizes:

- ✓ Widows and Widowers
- ✓ Blended Families
- ✓ Updating Old Trusts
- ✓ Fixing Outdated AB Trusts

**480 St. John Street, Suite 260**  
Corner of St. John and Peters  
Downtown Pleasanton

In the same building as the Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce



*Creating Peace of Mind for You  
~Security for Your Family~*

**DECARLI LAW**  
WILLS • TRUSTS • ESTATE PLANNING

*Wishing Our Neighbors a Happy and Prosperous 2025!*



PHOTOS BY LPFD

Above, A local firefighter walks down the stairs with a cat rescued from the apartment complex fire on Dec. 9. Below, LPFD crews knocked down a fire in an apartment on Pacific Avenue in Livermore last week.

## Firefighters tackle blaze at apartment complex

Kitten rescued from two-alarm fire reunited with owner in Livermore

By **CIERRA BAILEY**

The Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department battled a two-alarm fire in Livermore last week that broke out on the 3500 block of Pacific Avenue.

In a social media post, officials said two apartment units sustained major damage while others are still being assessed. The cause of the fire on Dec. 9 remains under investigation.

Two firefighters suffered minor injuries — one was treated at the scene, and the other was transported to an area hospital in good condition, officials said.

A rescue mission was also successfully carried out, with a kitten who had been trapped safely reunited with its owner.

LPFD said it received support from Alameda County Fire and Falck Ambulance in response to the blaze. ■





**FLASHBERGER**  
REAL ESTATE GROUP  
DRE# 01243871 | 01001584 Realtor®, CRS, GRI, SRES

**925.463.0436**  
Sue @SoldInAFlash.com  
SoldInAFlash.com



**PLEASANTON'S HOTTEST PROPERTY! MULTIPLE OFFERS!**



**3088 CRESTABLANCA DRIVE, PLEASANTON**  
4 Bedrooms | 3 Baths | 2,788 Sq Ft  
Enjoy beautiful views of Pleasanton Ridge! Beautiful remodeled kitchen, sun filled windows, and award-winning schools. Offered at \$2,398,000

**CURRENTLY REVIEWING MULTIPLE OFFERS!**



**3221 MELANIE CIRCLE, PLEASANTON**  
3 Bedrooms | 2.5 Baths | 2,643 Sq Ft  
Desirable single-story home in the Parkside community, just steps from Pleasanton Sports Park, offering the perfect blend of convenience, comfort, and charm. Offered at \$2,000,000

**THIS BEAUTY HAS FOUND ITS MATCH!**



**6337 BENNER COURT, PLEASANTON**  
4 Bedrooms | 2 Baths | 1,489 Sq Ft | 6,201 Sq Ft Lot  
Spacious backyard features a detached flex space perfect for a home office, art studio or extra storage. Offered at \$1,489,000

**RECORD BREAKING SALE IN RUBY HILL!**



**2965 BOTTINI COURT, PLEASANTON**  
5 Bedrooms | 5.5 Baths | 7,818 Sq Ft | 1.03 Acre Parcel  
Den | Home Theater | 4 Car Garage | ADU or Pool House with Full Bath, Cozy Loft Bedroom, and Kitchenette  
Sold for \$6,100,000

**LISTED, LOVED, AND PENDING IN RECORD TIME!**



**324 LIVE OAK DRIVE, PLEASANTON**  
3 Bedrooms | 2 Baths | 1,851 Sq Ft  
Beautifully remodeled single-story home offers stunning golf course views, luxurious updates throughout, and a serene blend of comfort and style in a gated community. Offered at \$1,698,000

**EXCLUSIVE OFF-MARKET SALE IN BIRDLAND!**



**2182 Tanager Court, Pleasanton**  
Charming and spacious 6-bedroom home in the sought-after Birdland community, offering 2,679 sq ft of elegant living space, a serene front porch, a chef's kitchen, and a beautifully landscaped yard. Sold for \$2,300,000

**TWO HAPPY SELLERS ~ SOLD IN A FLASH!**



**6001 INGLEWOOD DRIVE, PLEASANTON**  
4 Bedrooms | 2 Baths | 1,934 Sq Ft  
Beautifully remodeled home featuring a spacious kitchen with a large center island, a stunning stacked stone fireplace, and sleek wide plank flooring  
Sold for \$1,500,000

**RECORD-BREAKING SALE IN BIRDLAND! SOLD FOR \$2,100,000 AT OVER \$1,141 PER SQ FT**



**2446 RAVEN ROAD, PLEASANTON**  
4 Bedrooms | 2 Baths | 1,882 Sq Ft  
Over \$500K in remodeling to this beautiful home! Gorgeous quartz kitchen, custom cabinetry and wide plank white oak hardwood floors. Sold for 2,100,000

**YOUR HOME DESERVES AN EXPERT**

We can help you sell your home for the best price possible.  
Contact us to review our comprehensive home - selling services and complete marketing plan.



SCANDIA  
H O M E



Give the gift of  
*Comfort & Joy*

For a truly personalized service, visit us in-store to shop with us this holiday season.

SCANDIA HOME PALO ALTO

261 Hamilton Ave, Suite 130 · 650.512.3533 · [paloalto@scandiahome.com](mailto:paloalto@scandiahome.com)

# Livermore Airport oversight now under new department

Facility transitions from public works to innovation and economic development

BY CIERRA BAILEY

The city of Livermore announced a change in its organizational structure that shifts oversight of the Livermore Municipal Airport from the Public Works Department to the Innovation & Economic Development Department.

“This strategic realignment reflects the City’s commitment to focusing resources and expertise where they can have the greatest impact,” officials said in a statement Friday.

The Innovation & Economic Development Department — led by Brandon Cardwell — seeks to lead a comprehensive visioning process

to explore new strategies to enhance the airport’s role as a unique economic development asset, with a focus on business development and revenue generation while addressing community concerns related to aircraft noise and leaded fuel, according to officials.

Meanwhile, the Public Works

Department is transitioning focus back to its core responsibilities, including water and wastewater service delivery, environmental services, maintenance and asset management.

“These changes are an important step toward optimizing our organizational structure to better serve

Livermore residents and businesses,” said City Manager Marianna Marysheva. “We are confident this realignment will strengthen our service delivery and our economic development efforts while continuing to address community concerns related to aircraft noise and transition to clean fuel.” ■

## MAHER

Continued from Page 5

for reelection this year, said while he still plans on providing input in future board meetings — as a community member sitting in the audience — he is excited to spend more time with his wife, Tina, and his grandchildren.

“Tina, thank you for always being there for me. Now it’s my time to be there for her and my grandkids,” Maher said. “Now, I’ll be able to spend my time with my grandkids and my daughters.”

Maher started off his career at PUSD as a third grade teacher at Camp Park School in 1971 after having served as a Chief Corpsman at the Naval Hospital during the Vietnam War, according to the district. Camp Park School was

eventually relocated to what is currently Fairlands Elementary School.

After 10 years of teaching elementary school, he simultaneously took on the role of principal at Vintage Hills Elementary — after that he served as the principal for Alisal Elementary, Donlon Elementary and Pleasanton Middle School before retiring as the first-ever principal of Hart Middle School in 2010.

He later came out of retirement to help out as a substitute principal for both Walnut Grove Elementary and Harvest Park Middle School and as a vice principal for Fairlands, Hearst Elementary and Amador Valley High School before being elected to the school board in 2016.

Shay Galletti, Maher’s daughter who is currently the principal

and superintendent at Sunol Glen School, reminisced about the times she and her sister would help their dad pick weeds at Donlon and how much Maher has been a role model to not just them — all three of his daughters work in education — but the entire community as well.

“Everything that we do in education is from watching my dad,” Galletti said. “Your legacy will live on through your children.”

Like Galletti, Board President Mary Jo Carreon was also choked up with emotions during her remarks to Maher because of how much she learned from him over the years.

“You’ve been a role model for me,” Carreon said. “Your knowledge, your expertise, your compassion and your love ... I’m going to miss you.”



WEEKLY FILE PHOTO

Steve Maher first being sworn in to the PUSD Board of Trustees in 2016.

Maher said at the end of his recognition that he was overwhelmed by the support he felt throughout that portion of the meeting and

that it has been an honor to serve PUSD.

“It’s just been a nice ride,” he said. ■

# START THE NEW YEAR RIGHT

THE WORLD’S #1 NON-INVASIVE FAT REMOVAL TREATMENT

UP TO 50% OFF

**New CoolSculpting Elite®**  
Twice the treatment, in half the time.

Dr. Gray is fellowship trained at prestigious UCSF, and a dual board-certified facial plastic and reconstructive surgeon. He is one of approximately 1800 elite surgeons in the US with this level of training.

Call today to schedule your FREE consultation.

531 Main Street | Downtown Pleasanton  
**925-846-2772** | [www.MDLaserSpa.com](http://www.MDLaserSpa.com)

*Nine-Time Reader’s Choice Winner!*

Gift Cards Available

# Holiday shopping experience returns to Tri-Valley Haven

Nonprofit resumes in-person program after shift to gift cards since COVID-19

BY JEANITA LYMAN

Tri-Valley Haven is celebrating the success of its holiday shopping program this year, with the event marking a return to an in-person format for the first time since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic amid an increase in need for the organization's services over the years.

More than 3,000 people signed up for Tri-Valley Haven's holiday program this year, which concluded on Saturday with an in-person holiday shopping experience following a holiday food distribution event and the organization's ninth annual Mony Nop Turkey Drop last month.

"We have been doing a holiday program for about 30 years, and we started out doing it just for the residents and our clients, and then we realized there was this greater need," Executive Director Christine Dillman told the Weekly.

The holiday shopping program had initially offered 30-minute shopping experiences for up to 20 people for each time slot, with the event scheduled from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Dec. 12 and Dec. 14. The cap was expanded to 25 people per time slot, and the end of the second day of the event on Saturday was extended through 7 p.m. in order to accommodate the outpouring of need that was demonstrated by the 3,000-plus registrants this year.

"I was a little astounded because we had never had to do that — we had never had to make additional time slots," Dillman said. "The need just kind of astounded me and it saddened me, even though I'm very glad they know to come to Tri-Valley Haven."

The holiday program has been a key fixture in the organization's services for a majority of its 47-year history, with recent years



TRI-VALLEY HAVEN

This year marked the return of Tri-Valley Haven's in-person shopping experience following a shift to gift cards at the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic.

seeing an uptick not just in demand for that program, but for the whole range of resources offered by the organization.

"With the food pantry especially, we've seen a 20% increase year over year," Dillman said, adding that the food pantry and holiday shopping program offer the "same kind of empowerment model where people get to come in and pick the food that is right for them."

"We're seeing the need for shelter, for housing, for food in the Tri-Valley," Dillman continued. "We do have people with a lot of money in this area, and we do have incredibly generous, amazing people both rich and poor, but we really do have this hidden poverty and it's absolutely increasing."

Dillman noted that the No. 1 cause of homelessness for women is domestic violence, an issue that knows no class or regional boundaries, and whose presence is evident in this region based on both the demand for Tri-Valley Haven's services and in calls to local police departments.

"We have to really look at those core drivers, and unfortunately we

have those core drivers here in the Tri-Valley," Dillman said.

While Tri-Valley Haven serves all of Alameda County, Dillman said that a majority of the 3,000-plus calls the organization's crisis line receives annually are from Tri-Valley residents.

Despite that, Dillman said the region is fortunate in its saturation with nonprofit organizations and generous donors who often work with one another to address community needs — including the Weekly's parent organization, Embarcadero Media Foundation. Tri-Valley Haven has been named one of the 10 nonprofit beneficiaries of the Weekly's Holiday Fund this year.

"We couldn't do it without our wonderful funders, and we really appreciate the Pleasanton Weekly and all of your readers," Dillman said.

Donations for the Holiday Fund are being accepted now through mid-January, which can be made by visiting [pleasantonweekly.com/holiday\\_fund](http://pleasantonweekly.com/holiday_fund). More information on Tri-Valley Haven is available at [trivalleyhaven.org](http://trivalleyhaven.org). ■



CHUCK DECKERT

The new Pleasanton City Council (from left) is Craig Eicher, Julie Testa, Mayor Jack Balch, Jeff Nibert and Matt Gaidos.

## COUNCIL

Continued from Page 5

and that the former mayor brought "grace and decorum to the dais ... even when the discourse is negative and harsh."

"I've seen a lot of other mayors," she added. "Karla has really done a great job of allowing the public to be heard."

Testa also said Arkin had been an outstanding public servant and that it had been a pleasure working with both of the outgoing council members.

"Serving Pleasanton has been a privilege, and I am so grateful for the opportunity to contribute to our city," Arkin said.

Councilmember Jeff Nibert also thanked Brown for acting as a mentor in many ways and that he owed a lot to her. He also commended Arkin, whose family has been friends with Niberts for around 25 years, and specifically thanked the two former officials for signing the city's voluntary spending limits for their election campaigns.

In Pleasanton, the city adopted an ordinance in 2021 for voluntary campaign contribution and expenditure limitations. Mayoral candidates who pledge to uphold these limitations cannot receive a cumulative donation amount of \$1,000 or more from any person and cannot spend more than \$30,000. The city previously confirmed to the Weekly that Brown was the only mayoral candidate to take voluntary pledge.

Brown also thanked Arkin for her efforts to always try and find consensus on the council and proceeded to thank the entirety of the city's employees — from police and firefighters to the city manager and other departmental employees — who have all played a part in serving the city.

After thanking her grassroots campaign members, she said she wishes the new council good luck on all of the future endeavors they will need to tackle such as the budget and the city's water supply.

"I hope the new council make-up will stand unified to bring fiscal changes forward that are needed to reduce expenses while providing all of the services and maintenance that our residents have come to expect in this highly sought after community," Brown said.

With the city getting set for some difficult discussions regarding its budget and how it will have to make up for expenditures outpacing revenues, Balch also said, as he assumed his new seat on the dais, that he hopes the new council will be able to do what is right for the city.

"The challenges ahead are not small. We'll need to make tough decisions, and yes, we'll sometimes disagree, but how we disagree matters," Balch said. "Let's focus on the issues, not on the individual. Let's listen to hear one another, lift up the best ideas, and work together to deliver the services and results our community deserves. Respect and civility must be with us as we do this hard work."

After being sworn into office by his son, Eicher said he is also excited to embark on this new journey as a first-time elected official and that he is ready to tackle the city's challenges.

"Let us work to build a city where every voice is heard, every person feels valued and every citizen and business has the opportunity to succeed," said Eicher, who also served six months as interim chief during his long career with the Pleasanton Police Department. "Thank you once again for placing your trust in me, let's make our city a beacon of hope, progress and unity."

Now District 4 Councilmember Matt Gaidos — who took Balch's seat on the council — also said he will do everything in his power to make the city great for his children so they too could raise their families, like he did.

"There are lots of things that have happened in the past but I'm focused on looking forward and turning this city into a better place for the future and (for) our families," Gaidos said. "I'm hopeful, even though we face some uncertain times in a budgetary manner, that we can move forward and collaborate as a City Council."

Gaidos won the District 4 seat by 317 votes more than his opponent and fellow Planning Commissioner Vivek Mohan.

In her final remarks as mayor, Brown said residents need to stop doubting city staff reports and that they should put more trust into the city, just like she is putting her trust in the new council.

"It's with a great feeling that I now put my trust in a new City Council," Brown said. ■



**AMADOR VALLEY OPTOMETRIC**

**Dr. Inning Chen**

Optometrist

4450 Black Ave., Suite C, Pleasanton, CA 94566  
[amadorvalleyopto@gmail.com](mailto:amadorvalleyopto@gmail.com) | Phone 925.462.2600  
[www.amadorvalleyopto.com](http://www.amadorvalleyopto.com) | Fax 925.462.2605

Accepting VSP and EyeMed vision plans, Medicare, and major medical plans.

# StoryWalk installation aims to blend reading with nature

LARPD also unveils new restrooms inside Sycamore Grove Park

By JUDE STRZEMP

Visitors to Sycamore Grove Park can read year-round as they hike the Magpie Loop Trail with the recent introduction of a permanent StoryWalk.

Located near the Wetmore Road entrance, display boards along the Magpie route feature stories with seasonal themes that are rotated every other month. These revolving titles are meant to encourage return trips to the park as well as library visits for more stories, according to an announcement from the Livermore Area Recreation and Park District.

Set up by the Livermore Public Library and LARPD, this StoryWalk joins hundreds of others posted across the world.

“The installation blends the joys of reading with the beauty of nature, offering an interactive outdoor experience for families, children, and park-goers of all ages,” LARPD officials said in a statement.

In summer 2022, LARPD and the Livermore library introduced a temporary StoryWalk at the park. The installation was a joint effort by Livermore librarian Caitlyn Lung and LARPD open space interpreter Christine Cardosi — the program was originally created by Anne Ferguson of Montpelier, Vt. and developed in collaboration with the Kellogg-Hubbard Library.

The temporary StoryWalk at Sycamore Grove was a resounding success, inspiring the creation of a permanent version, officials said.

Everlasting display boards were



LARPD

There is a new restroom facility at Sycamore Grove Park with two toilets, located in its Veterans Park section.

designed and installed in part by three Eagle Scouts, as guided by Cardosi and ranger Seth Eddings. By spring 2024, the permanent StoryWalk was ready for content.

In August, the first items on display were the top 18 entries from a poster-making contest hosted by the library. The artwork was inspired by the library’s summer reading theme of “Read, Renew, Repeat” and focused on nature and conservation.

The following month, a book about acorns took over the displays.

Currently on view is “We Are Branches” by Joyce Sidman, a nonfiction picture book that notes the importance and frequency of branches in nature.

“We’re thrilled to see this project come to life and offer a unique way to connect literacy, art, and nature,” Cardosi said in a statement.

“It’s a testament to the power of collaboration between LARPD, the Livermore Public Library, and the local community.”

In addition to this interactive feature at the park, officials recently announced new restroom facilities on-site.

Located in the Veterans Park section of Sycamore Grove at the Ranger Station Picnic Area, the two unisex vault toilets are a low maintenance solution to park needs, according to LARPD officials.

“These restrooms will be an added convenience for the participants in our environmental education programs, which serve over 3,300 people annually,” LARPD recreation supervisor Joseph Benjamin said in a statement. “They’ll also support the many ranger-led weekend programs that take place throughout the year.” ■

# Voters pass measure allowing development of Crosby property

Measure II removes protection on 80 acres between Dublin, Livermore; litigation to continue in spring

By JUDE STRZEMP

Dublin City Council gained the power to break the eastern urban limit line and allow limited commercial development on the unincorporated buffer between Dublin and Livermore called the Crosby property, following voter approval of Measure II last month.

Otherwise known as the “Dublin Traffic Relief, Clean Air/Open Space Preservation Measure,” Measure II passed with 53.11% support (13,649 votes) in the general election.

In exchange for the council’s newfound authority, the city of Dublin can accept a land donation to make the 1.5-mile connection

from Dublin Boulevard to North Canyons Parkway in Livermore at no cost to taxpayers, according to the measure.

Of the roadway extension, a half mile is expected to pass through the Crosby property, 180-acres of unincorporated Alameda County land owned by Livbor-Manning LLC (Harry Crosby).

Estimated to cost over \$150 million for its full length, “limited commercial, non-residential development along the Dublin Boulevard extension could provide an opportunity to offset certain costs associated with the extension,” according to a staff report from July 16 when the council approved the measure for the ballot.

Meanwhile, conservation groups like Save Mount Diablo and Tri-Valley Conservancy have spoken out against the development of the Crosby property.

But the city expects council to discuss the potential annexation of the property and the Dublin Boulevard extension at a meeting next year — construction of the roadway could begin in 2026-27 at the earliest, according to city officials.

“We are pleased that Dublin’s electorate voted in favor of the measure,” Crosby said. “But because the measure simply restores the City’s discretion to approve development

I am pleased to announce  
my affiliation with  
**Summit Financial Group, LLC**



**KRISTIN SULLIVAN, CWS®, MBA**  
Financial Advisor, RJFS  
925.866.7800  
kristin@summitadvisors.com

*Pleasanton resident for 28 years!*

**Summit Financial Group, LLC, is a comprehensive financial planning and wealth management organization aligned with Raymond James. Summit offers valuable insights and tailored strategies to help our clients achieve their financial dreams, always recognizing that enriching lives is our highest priority.**

2000 Crow Canyon Place, Suite 450 // San Ramon, CA 94583  
summitadvisors.com



Investment advisory services offered through Raymond James Financial Services Advisors, Inc. Summit Financial Group, LLC is not a registered broker/dealer and is independent of Raymond James Financial Services. Raymond James is a registered trademark of Raymond James Financial, Inc. © 2024 Raymond James Financial Services, Inc., member FINRA/SIPC. Securities offered through Raymond James Financial Services, Inc., member FINRA/SIPC. 24-BRFHT-0011 TA 7/24

## Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at VCC



- ★ Sing joy-filled songs!
- ★ Hear a message of great hope!
- ★ Enjoy our hot cocoa bar!
- ★ Join in the candlelighting!

VISIT [WWW.VC.CHURCH](http://WWW.VC.CHURCH)  
FOR MORE INFORMATION

Valley Community Church  
4455 Del Valle Parkway, Pleasanton



See **MEASURE II** on Page 12

# Recall organizers urge supes to fire registrar of voters

Lack of communication and transparency among complaints lodged against Dupuis

By KILEY RUSSELL / BCN

The people behind the successful recalls of Oakland's mayor and Alameda County's district attorney are now coming for the county's registrar of voters.

During a public comment period at the Board of Supervisors' Dec. 10 meeting, Edward Escobar of the Coalition for Community Engagement, along with several supporters, urged the board to fire Registrar Tim Dupuis — a request the supervisors didn't dismiss out of hand.

"Elections, as it is, are viewed as being complicated, so we need to make them as user-friendly as possible," Escobar told the board. "Tim Dupuis is not providing or facilitating this process to make it better."

Escobar demanded that the board "dispatch" Dupuis as soon as possible.

Several speakers, including

Kanitha Matoury, former candidate for Oakland's at-large City Council seat, and Newark City Councilmember Ana Apodaca, also urged the board to take action over Dupuis' perceived missteps and lack of transparency.

"We've seen too many mistakes in the past and if we don't act, this problem will keep damaging public trust," Matoury said.

Matoury has said her candidacy was hurt because her name was on the second page of electronic ballots at polling places but voters weren't aware they should scroll down to see more candidate names.

While Apodaca thanked Dupuis for his deft handling of a very close election in her city on Nov. 5, she also said she was frustrated by his lack of communication with city officials.

"I've spoken to many of my colleagues throughout Alameda County and our city clerks had a

really hard time getting information out of the registrar of voters regarding the elections and it's very hard to understand why there wasn't better communication and a liaison with our city clerks," Apodaca said.

She and other speakers also complained about how long the vote count took for the Nov. 5 election.

In addition, Dupuis' critics say he has made mistakes tabulating ranked choice votes in cities that use the alternative election system, denied access to people wanting to observe the election process and initially refused to release the county's "cast vote records" in an electronic format that allows for independent verification of the vote tallies, instead of the PDF format he was using at the start of the Nov. 5 election process.

Some speakers were also critical of the fact that Dupuis is the head of both the Registrar

of Voters' Office and the county's Information Technology Department.

Supervisors didn't seem shocked by the criticisms, which have been percolating throughout the county for several election cycles now.

"The board will not necessarily be doing anything to disparage the ROV, that's a personnel matter that we will discuss in closed session, but concerns that have been raised have not gone on deaf ears," Board President Nate Miley said. "We understand what people are saying."

Miley noted that the county's elections are complex, with the size of the electorate, the diversity of voters' languages, the ranked choice voting system in some cities and the youth voting allowed in Oakland and Berkeley school board elections all playing a part.

"We will be looking at the ROV and discussing this moving

forward. I don't want to say more than what I should say at this point in time," Miley said.

Other supervisors expressed support for working with the county's Elections Commission — created in 2023 to oversee the Registrar of Voters' Office — to find ways to improve election processes and transparency.

"One of the things that I would like to see in working with our Elections Commission is perhaps to undertake an audit of our election system and our operations, just to make sure that we have the kind of transparency and integrity that our community expects and deserves when it comes to our elections," Supervisor Lena Tam said.

No vote was taken regarding any of the discussion about Dupuis' performance that day since it was only brought up during a public comment period.

Dupuis didn't respond to a request for comment. ■

## Barrientos took part in vote against FPCC advice

At issue is distance between councilman's home and Garaventa Hills project site

By JUDE STRZEMP

Livermore City Councilmember Ben Barrientos cast a lone vote against the Garaventa Hills housing project at a council meeting last month despite advice from the Fair Political Practices Commission to abstain due to a disqualifying financial interest.

The interest at play is Barrientos' residence, located approximately 700 feet from the 44-unit residential development planned for North Livermore, according to a letter the FPCC wrote city attorney Jason Alcalá in June 2023.

Barrientos' property abuts a road that can be used as a vehicle ingress and egress from the project site,

so the new units would likely mean increased traffic along that road, the FPCC wrote. Overall, the development could change the income producing potential, character and market value of the councilmember's residence, the FPCC declared.

"It is reasonably foreseeable the decisions will have a material financial effect on Councilmember Barrientos' interest in his residence and he may not take part in the decisions," the FPCC advised.

Alcalá's team relayed the FPCC's



Ben Barrientos

recommendation to Barrientos, the councilmember confirmed with Livermore Vine.

The guidance was offered in line with the Political Reform Act, which says public officials shall not make, participate in making, or attempt to use their position to influence governmental decisions "in which the official knows or has reason to know the official has a financial interest."

But according to Barrientos, he has no financial interest in the development and simply wanted to represent the opinion of his constituents.

"How could it be a conflict of interest?" he asked. "If I owned property or owned part of the land,

I could see that. If I was going to make any money on it, I could see that being a conflict of interest."

He said that before the vote he thought, "The odds are, like a million to one, that it's not going to go my way. So I'm going to go out there and voice the opinion of myself and the people who I represent."

Additionally, Barrientos claims that the FPCC advice is based on incorrect information.

"They got information from the city and what they thought and then they based their decision on what the city thought," Barrientos said. "I think some of the measurements were not quite right."

Barrientos claimed the FPCC

based their advice on his home being 500 feet from the project, whereas he really lives 600 to 800 feet from it.

According to the advice letter, the commission based its decision on Barrientos' property being categorically located at more than 500 but less than 1,000 feet from the project site.

The FPCC declined to comment on the situation, per commission norm.

The consequences for Barrientos' participation in the Garaventa vote, if any, are yet to be seen. However, the councilmember told Livermore Vine that an anonymous person has filed a complaint against him with the FPCC. ■

## MEASURE II

Continued from Page 11

on the property in the future, this is just the first step of a long process. We do not yet know what the future holds for the property, other than a portion of it being used for the Dublin Road extension."

Along with the road, construction is set to include bike lanes, pedestrian access and new trails, according to the measure. Proponents claimed the measure protects open space and commercial development would bring high-paying jobs to the area, according to the argument published in favor of the measure.

However, its passage cancels the protections set out by the city's Open Space Initiative of 2014, which "restricts development to the

east of Dublin's eastern boundary," according to an analysis of the measure by Dublin city attorney John Bakker.

"Tri-Valley Conservancy supports building a road between Dublin and Livermore, but it's not necessary to break the Urban Limit Line to do it," the group's executive director, Rebecca Spector, said in a statement during election season.

Of note, voter-approved housing development restrictions are still in place.

Now in the hands of Dublin council, limited commercial development would mean at least 100 acres of the 180-acre Crosby property would be permanently protected as open space, according to the measure.

Development cannot exceed

1,200 feet north of I-580, except west of Cottonwood Creek which may exceed that distance if the total developed area is 80 acres or less, according to a staff report from July 16.

Authorization of commercial development requires that the development would "contribute substantially to the funding of the construction and/or maintenance of the Dublin Boulevard extension" according to the general plan amendment that came before council on Dec. 17 as part of the election certification.

In total, Dublin expects to pay \$124 million and Livermore would be expected to pay \$27.5 million, according to the staff report. But if Dublin were to annex the Crosby property the full cost of the road

would be on the city's dime.

Measure II was added to the November ballot based on a 3-2 vote by city council at a regular meeting on July 16. Those who voted in favor were then Vice Mayor Sherry Hu and councilmembers Janine Thalblum and Jean Josey.

"Its ballot title and summary were deceptive and misleading, and naturally the public was confused," said representatives of the environmental group Save Mount Diablo. "The three councilmembers who placed the measure on the ballot should be ashamed of themselves. They purposely tried to trick Dublin residents."

On Aug. 9, Save Mount Diablo and the Friends of Livermore sued the city of Dublin, its city council and other involved parties, alleging

the city was required to undergo an environmental review before placing Measure II on the ballot, according to Save Mount Diablo conservation director Seth Adams.

The city of Dublin contended the measure did not require an environmental review.

Paused until after the election, the legal proceedings are expected to start up around March, Adams said.

In the meantime, the roadway extension and potential annexation of the Crosby property are topics scheduled to come before council in 2025, city officials told the Weekly. If the city council is interested in annexing the Crosby property, then the city would need to pre-zone the unincorporated territory and complete an environmental review. ■

# Livermore cuts liaison committees with Dublin, Pleasanton

Council also reduces Intergovernmental Committee with LARPD, LVJUSD to one meeting per year

By JUDE STRZEMP

The Livermore City Council recently phased out two intercity liaison groups, deeming the bodies ineffective.

The decision to terminate the Livermore-Dublin and Livermore-Pleasanton liaison committees was unanimous last month.

A third group called the Intergovernmental Committee — composed of the city, the Livermore Area Recreation and Park District and the Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District — was abridged from bimonthly meetings to yearly meetings, as councilmembers agreed it has historically driven positive change.

These three groups did not have decision-making power, merely an opportunity for the assigned councilmembers to share information with partner agencies. The public was also able to comment at the meetings.

Behind the decision at the regular meeting on Nov. 25 was a staff recommendation to sunset all three bodies.

“These have devolved into a gripe session with no real direction

and no solution,” Mayor John Marchand said of the intercity groups, having served on both.

The decision came before council following direction to staff in September to review the three committees for their current relevancy, city clerk Debbie Elam said at the meeting.

They found “staff working groups as needed are more effective,” according to the resolution.

Staff also concluded that elected officials can use alternative lines of communication, like the “Critical Projects” report to receive project updates, Elam explained. Additionally, public comment opportunities exist elsewhere, like at council meetings and advisory body meetings.

The discussion kicked off with Marchand voicing limited support of the Intergovernmental Committee.

The group had a great purpose when working on Measure L, a bond which funded the library and the Robert Livermore Community Center, Marchand said.

That measure was on the ballot in 1999. But recently, the

‘These have devolved into a gripe session with no real direction and no solution.’

John Marchand,  
Mayor of Livermore

committee has done nothing akin to that, he said.

Councilmember Evan Branning, the delegate on the Intergovernmental Committee, noted some of the groups’ benefits. But he also agreed about its inactivity.

“I think the interaction with the other agency bodies have been informative and good to have for positive relations, but we haven’t had any action or business on the committee,” Branning said. “It’s been updates.”

Branning then suggested reducing the intergovernmental meetings to an annual basis. This would retain the group structure in case a need arises for additional sessions, he said.

The yearly gathering would serve as an update meeting for all three departments and keep open the line of communication for officials, Branning explained. At the same time, he agreed it was more efficient for staff to handle the communications.

Councilmember Ben Barrientos, who sat on the Livermore-Dublin Liaison Committee, was hesitant to cancel the groups with new councilmembers soon joining the dais.

“I think we should table it and let them come and decide with us what we want to do,” Barrientos said.

Councilmember Bob Carling shifted the conversation to sunseting the group he participated in, the Livermore-Pleasanton Liaison Committee.

The committee began in 2001, stopped by 2010, then restarted about two years ago, he said.

Councilmember Brittini Kiick agreed to disband the intercity committees. She also agreed with Branning’s idea to reduce the schedule for intergovernmental meetings to once a year.

Kiick reasoned, “Minimize as much of staff time as possible, while keeping opportunities open for the one group that did seem to have a history of positive outcomes.”

If either Pleasanton or Dublin responds with compelling arguments to retain the intercity committees, then future councils may consider it, Branning said.

Carling disagreed with Branning. He then claimed that Pleasanton electeds from the Livermore-Pleasanton Liaison Committee gave direction to the Livermore staff, something he considered “completely and utterly objectionable.”

Marchand then addressed comments supporting the intercity meetings as a chance for more people to voice their opinions.

“It’s been my experience that it’s just the same folks and it’s the same information (as the council meetings),” Marchand said.

Instead of intercity meetings, the mayor suggested ad hoc committees should form as the need arises. The groups would dissolve once a job is completed. ■

## Flooding in Livermore amid rainstorm

Police, firefighters remind drivers to always stay away from water-logged roadways

By JEREMY WALSH

Rainy and windy conditions overnight Friday and into Saturday morning led to significant flooding in parts of Livermore, including some notable roadways and intersections.

“Due to substantial flooding,

many undercrossings are closed, including Murrieta Blvd and Stanley Blvd. Please avoid the area and find alternate routes,” the Livermore Police Department said on Facebook at 7:30 a.m. Saturday. “Do NOT drive through flooded roads — water may be deeper and

more dangerous than it looks.”

Police followed up at 11:15 a.m. Saturday that water was receding around the city and that Stanley Boulevard and the North P Street underpass were reopened. The Murrieta underpass was reported open just after 2 p.m.

Local firefighters also shared their experience rescuing people whose vehicles were caught in floodwaters in the city that morning.

“E97 was able to secure the vehicle from sinking further while E91 and RB91 was able to remove victims safely from their cars,”

Livermore-Pleasanton Firefighters Local 1974 said on Facebook. “Please, stay safe during this weather — if you don’t have to be on the roads, stay home. Avoid flooded areas and never attempt to drive through standing water. Your safety is our top priority.” ■



Livermore police urged residents to be cautious amid flooding in low-lying parts of the city, including several underpassings and marquee intersections on Saturday morning.

LPD

## TAKE US ALONG



Happy holidays! Embarcadero Media Foundation’s East Bay Division team enjoyed their 2024 holiday party at Earl Anthony’s Dublin Bowl on Dec. 6. (Photo by Chuck Deckert)

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



# 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:**

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

## 2024-25 Holiday Fund Donors

As of December 17th, 95 donors have contributed \$33,096 to the Holiday Fund.

9 Anonymous.....	\$2,375	Joe and Sue Silva.....	*
Xiaopei & Andrew Gelb.....	*	Edward Herman.....	100
David & Deborah Clausen.....	300	Jim & Elaine Keysor.....	300
Jon Proctor.....	*	Christina Nystrom.....	50
Jon & Rhonda Elliott.....	*	Sonal & Ajay Shah.....	*
Alphonse and Anna Lipski.....	*		
Jan and Bob Hermann.....	300	<b>IN MEMORY OF</b>	
Curt & Dana Hansen.....	*	Ron Morrow.....	300
Ronny & Lonnie Shaw.....	200	Joyce Shapiro.....	500
Al & Lola Malatesta.....	100	Jim Green.....	50
Jim & Argie Vlamis.....	100	Joyce Shapiro.....	*
Don & Nora Kvale.....	*	Brenda Lathlean Faggiano & Debbie Daugherty Engle.....	200
John and Noel Wilson.....	*	Jeff Coulthart.....	45
Alan & Jean Purves.....	250	Beloved Xiaofan Han.....	*
The Alonso Family.....	*	Cleve Beck.....	250
Fugate Family.....	250	James B Kohnen.....	250
Tim & Sharyn Henshaw.....	*	JoAnn and Fred Elling, Rene LaVigne.....	*
Sborov Family Foundation.....	*	Michelle Hertogs.....	250
Jan and Jeb Bing.....	100	Karl K. Witze.....	500
Ana and Michael Fong.....	150	Bert Brook.....	200
Kate Duggan.....	250	Rick Aguiar & George Fargis, Jr.....	*
Dave Cryer.....	100	Lee B. Young.....	*
Carol Guarnaccia.....	100	Carl W. Pretzel.....	*
Bob & Marianne Eisberg.....	*	John R. Gendreau.....	150
Norm & Joyce Pacheco.....	*	William & Alice Marsh.....	*
Ciccarello Family.....	*	Jim and Fritz Traini.....	*
Gary & Monica Potter.....	100	Gam & Papa Abbott.....	*
Carole Peterson & Jim Brice.....	*	Richard Del Tredici.....	100
Margie & Randy Schmidt.....	*	Charles Huff, Darlene, Charles and Annette Langston.....	*
Randy & Pat Davis.....	100	Bob Gee.....	200
Alex & Kit Wong.....	*	Chris & Glenda Beratlis.....	*
Rich & Gloria Fredette.....	100		
Frank & Muriel Capilla.....	*	<b>IN HONOR OF</b>	
Greg Landrum.....	500	Our 5 grands SMMCB.....	*
Kathy & Bob Russman.....	*	Our wonderful parents from Kristin and Will.....	*
Chris and Debbie Scott.....	*		
The Markel Ohana.....	350	<b>AS A GIFT FOR</b>	
Rodger and Laura Miller.....	50	Trudy (Mom) Fabian.....	100
Diane Wardin.....	*	Jon Threshie.....	*
The Morgenstern Family.....	*		
Mary Jane Bedegi.....	300	<b>BUSINESSES &amp; ORGANIZATIONS</b>	
Mark & MaryAnne Lewis.....	*	Edward Jones, Pleasanton branch.....	3,000
Jack Balch.....	300	Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices - Lois Cox.....	100
Sharon Piekarski.....	200	Tim McGuire Team- Compass.....	1,000
Nancy and Marvin Rensink.....	*	Pleasanton Newcomers Club.....	1,000
King Family.....	200	Daggetts Garage & friends.....	325
Kathy & Jeff Narum.....	100	Thomson PsychoTherapy.....	100
		Rita CPA.....	250

\* Donor did not want to publish the amount of the gift.

## Holiday Fund

Please consider donating online, which enables your gift to be processed immediately. The secure website is:  
**[PleasantonWeekly.com/holiday\\_fund](https://PleasantonWeekly.com/holiday_fund)**

Enclosed is a check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Business Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Only required if business name is to be listed as donor in the paper)

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Employer match (mark if yes). Employer: \_\_\_\_\_

I wish to designate my contribution as follows (select one):

- In my name as shown above       In the name of business above  
 – OR –  
 In honor of:     In memory of:     As a gift for:

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Name of Person)

The Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund is sponsored by the Embarcadero Media Foundation. It is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt charitable organization, allowing your donation to be tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the law.

All donors and their gift amounts will be published in the Pleasanton Weekly unless the boxes below are checked.

- I wish to contribute anonymously.  
 Please withhold the amount of my contribution.

Make checks payable to Embarcadero Media Foundation and send to:  
 Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund  
 c/o Embarcadero Media Foundation  
 2345 Yale Street, 1st floor  
 Palo Alto, CA 94306

# TRI-VALLEY YEAR *in* REVIEW 2 0 2 4

COMPILED BY JEREMY WALSH



JEFF SILVERSMITH

Amador Valley quarterback Tristan Ti'a (3) carries the ball against Foothill on Oct. 4. Ti'a would lead the Dons all the way to the state championship game.

**2024** is coming to an end, a year of so much local news throughout the Tri-Valley — but like much of the nation, the headlines here were also dominated by elections.

While the Nov. 5 results are still very fresh in minds, ballot season was of course right there when the calendar turned to the new year back in January with campaigning underway for the primary election in March in this presidential year.

There were important votes then like Zone 7 Water Agency Board of Directors, Alameda County

Supervisor Nate Miley winning a seventh term, and runoffs being set for state and federal seats.

Off-schedule ballot issues kept the drama going through spring and summer, with the San Ramon Valley Unified School District's two parcel tax measures in May (both failing), the Sunol Glen Unified School District trustee recalls in July and tracking with baited breath the petition to oust Alameda County District Attorney Pamela Price that was ultimately set for November.

Beyond the Price recall, intrigue permeated local campaign

season throughout the Tri-Valley. Pleasanton saw a heated mayoral battle and a controversial sales tax measure, key races unfolded for City Council and school board in Livermore, Dublin had a crowded contest for the open mayor seat, SRVUSD got its parcel tax this time, San Ramon voters approved a 1% sales tax increase and Measure II brought open space and Dublin Boulevard extension to the fore.

Oh, and now there's a Monte Vista High School alumnus in the U.S. Senate.

But there was so much more than the election to the year that

was in the Tri-Valley — good, bad and in between.

Local high schoolers reaching the pinnacle of sports in California (plus one who made a splash at the national level during Olympic trials). Cities and school districts tighten their belts amid budget difficulties. Tense negotiations between public and private management and their employee unions. The giveth and taketh away for horse racing in Pleasanton. The excitement (and angst) of executive leadership changes, including two sudden and still-unexplained principal exits in the first weeks

of the school year. And the reinvigoration from new businesses, small (like Patisserie by Simone) and large (Costco in Pleasanton ... finally).

Take a look back at our most prominent storylines and photographs from 2024. We've also brought back two special features in our Tri-Valley Year in Review section: A list of our Top 24 stories from 2024 according to PleasantonWeekly.com data, and our editorial team's personal picks for their own favorite story and their own best story of 2024.

Enjoy! ■

## JANUARY

- Pleasanton residents and businesses begin paying higher water rates approved by the City Council in the prior November.

- Embarcadero Media — the parent company of the Pleasanton Weekly, Livermore Vine and DanvilleSanRamon.com — transitions to become a nonprofit journalism organization. The foundation would unveil redesigns of its seven news websites later in the month.

- City of Pleasanton opens a new account after its Facebook page is hacked.

- There is a new commander of the California Highway Patrol's Dublin office, with Capt. Gerardo Serrato taking the reins.

- Weekly interviews former astronaut and Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory engineer Jose Hernandez about the recent feature film inspired by his life story, "A Million Miles Away".

- Pleasanton community left reeling after former residents Melissa Soto and Johnny Soto are identified as the estranged couple at the center of a murder-suicide about an hour outside of San Diego around Christmas.



CONCANNON VINEYARD

The historic Concannon Vineyard and Winery on Tesla Road in Livermore was sold to Lemmons Family Vineyards and Darcie Kent Winery in November.

- Mark Sanders, 27 — one of the suspects in the shooting death of Oakland Police Officer Tuan Le — is arrested in Livermore.

- The last Rite Aid store in Livermore is set to close later this year.

- A new graffiti ordinance in Livermore is now being enforced, which requires graffiti to be cleaned up by property owners within seven days after the vandalism occurs.

- Another successful Make

A Difference Festival is held in Pleasanton.

- "Legally Blonde" at the Bankhead Theater becomes the first production under its new name for the newly rebranded Tri-Valley Theatre Company.

- The Firehouse Arts Center has an all-new look for its crowded and eclectic set of shows over the next two months that the theater's managers hope will make audiences feel "closer to the heart of entertainment" — cafe-style seating.

- Richard Thornton, head coach of San Ramon Valley Aquatics since 1984, dies while surfing off Santa Cruz, his family confirms.

- The Pleasanton school board majority provides minimal input while discussing two high school boundary adjustments options as the trustees gear up for the final vote later this month.

- Alameda County election officials give the green light to parents and community members to circulate their proposed petition to recall Sunol Glen Unified School District Board President Ryan Jergensen and Trustee Linda Hurley.

- Wheels bus service announces expansions in the Tri-Valley.

- Bob Pack, a Danville resident lauded for his advocacy against impaired driving after two of his young kids were killed in 2003, sues his now-former employer (Orkin's Livermore branch) alleging discrimination, harassment and wrongful termination in the wake

See **YEAR IN REVIEW** on Page 16

## YEAR IN REVIEW

Continued from Page 15

of his manager pestering him about alcohol and drug use.

- Former Granada High School student David Cantero Valdez is gunned down in Tracy. He was 17.

- Las Positas College community remembers the life and legacy of professor emeritus Ken Ross, who died after a rapid 15-day battle with cancer.

- The U.S. Capitol Police are formally investigating comments allegedly made by conservative political figure Roger Stone advocating for the assassination of U.S. Rep. Eric Swalwell and a colleague back in 2020, according to reports from multiple national news outlets.

- Foothill basketball standout Riley Young scores the 1,000th point of her high school career.

- Sandra J. Wing Healing Therapies Foundation formally dissolves and awards its remaining assets to another cancer support nonprofit in the Tri-Valley, Culinary Angels.

- The City Council reviews an update regarding the city's efforts to develop a sustainable organizational culture that would help create an equitable and inclusive employment environment and make Pleasanton a more desired workplace destination.

- Newly released documentary "American Nightmare" explores the shocking story of the 2015 kidnapping case initially and mistakenly deemed a hoax by the Vallejo Police Department before the crime was ultimately solved with key investigative work by Dublin Police Services.

- Though the primary hasn't even arrived yet, the general election season gets into gear as Livermore school board Trustee Kristie Wang announces her bid for City Council in the fall.

- Danville resident Kevin Xu, 24, who is now charged with allegedly assaulting his father and spurring a

police search of the neighborhood, is confirmed for the first time to be the same local resident who was investigated as the driver who fatally struck bicyclist and NFL coach Greg Knapp in San Ramon more than two years ago.

- The newly anointed leader of San Francisco's Sheriff's Department of Accountability - Office of Inspector General and the clear front-runner for one open seat on the Alameda County Superior Court bench will face a tough choice soon. That's because they're the same person: Terry Wiley, who gained name recognition in 2022 after losing to Pamela Price in the district attorney race.

- California Highway Patrol helicopter personnel airlift a woman who was trapped on top of her overturned small pickup truck, which was submerged in flood water for almost 15 hours deep in the Del Valle Regional Park in Livermore.

- Fire safety inspector Alexandra Le is reinstated to her position at Pleasanton-based Construction Testing Services and sees union dues and back pay returned to her as part of a settlement with the company and an employees' union following a federal complaint she brought forward last year.

- As the Association of Pleasanton Teachers and the Pleasanton Unified School District prepare to enter the factfinding stage of the contract negotiations process, the district presents a budget update that outlines even more financial challenges.

- Livermore Lab is under federal investigation for a reported incident last spring in which radioactive contamination was allegedly not properly controlled.

- Livermore resident Phillip Wong dies after a solo bicycle crash on Encino Drive. He was 58.

- Open Heart Kitchen and its community partners reach a significant milestone with the soft opening of the Vineyard Resource Center in Livermore.



CHUCK DECKERT

The horse track at the Pleasanton fairgrounds saw the highs and lows of the racing industry in 2024. After a solid fair meet, the track hosted the inaugural Golden State Racing meet in the fall, but state officials pulled the plug on future GSR races in Pleasanton in December.

## FEBRUARY

- Owners and supporters of The Ranch Pet Resort & Spa in Livermore celebrate a victory after the Alameda County Board of Supervisors votes to uphold approval of the facility's conditional use permit.

- Heinz Gewing, who served as Dublin's first schools superintendent after local districts unified 35 years ago, dies in hospice care. He was 91.

- The Pleasanton Police Department arrests two juveniles at Pleasanton Middle School after an altercation took place where one of them allegedly assaulted a parent who tried breaking up a fight in front of the school.

- Danville Planning Commission approves a proposal for 167 housing units at the abandoned walnut orchard previously operated by the Borel family.

- Sunol Glen School Superintendent-Principal Molleen Barnes announces her retirement in June after 16 years leading the small-town campus.

- Pleasanton-based Workday Inc. sees a leadership change as co-CEO Aneel Bhusri moves into an advisory role, leaving Carl Eschenbach as the lone CEO.

- Dublin Teachers Association prepares for possible strike amid stalled negotiations with the district.

- San Ramon native Ashley Nguyen Dewitt reflects on her Emmy nomination for Outstanding Voice Directing for an Animated Series for her work on the Netflix series "Ada Twist, Scientist".

- The Weekly learns that prosecutors have charged Westley resident Emilio Chambers Cruz with misdemeanor vehicular manslaughter stemming from the July 2023 crash that killed Livermore winery owner Mitchell Katz.

- Gov. Gavin Newsom to deploy 120 CHP officers to enact a temporary enforcement surge in Oakland and the East Bay.

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

- Amador Valley High School wins We the People state championship. Foothill also heads to nationals as a wild-card after finishing second at state.

- Caltrans once again calls off plans to fully close southbound Interstate 680 between Pleasanton and Sunol over an upcoming holiday weekend because of predicted rain. The work would later occur over St. Patrick's Day weekend.

- Over the last year the Pleasanton PD has seen resignations, medical leaves and vacant positions not being filled, which have all caused the department to make several notable organizational changes that the city hopes to correct in the next coming year, according to a

new public memorandum from city officials.

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

- Taste Tri-Valley Restaurant Week is back for the fourth year in a row.

- A man being held in minimum security at Santa Rita Jail after his arrest on suspicion of vehicle theft in San Leandro dies at the Dublin facility. Eric Johnson, 53, is Santa Rita's first inmate death of 2024.

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

- Much ado over ADUs: Dublin's WellNest among companies to focus on growing industry serving older Californians — like founder's father.

- Campaign submits completed petitions for review in hopes of forcing a special election to recall Sunol school trustees Jergensen and Hurley.

- Patisserie by Simone opens in Livermore, bringing French-inspired desserts to downtown.

- Much Ado About Pizza in Pleasanton makes Yelp's 2024 Top 100 U.S. restaurants list.

- Caltrans closes a major stretch of Highway 84, also known as Niles Canyon Road, between Sunol and Fremont following the roadway erosion that occurred amid the Presidents Day weekend rainstorms.

- An Alameda County Fire Department crew out on assignment in the Tri-Valley is hit hard recently after \$20,000 worth of equipment was stolen from their trucks while they were resting at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel in Pleasanton.

- Amador alum Stephen Piscotty



JUDE STRZEMP

Nearly 1,000 freshmen and sophomores filled Emerald High School on the first day of school on Aug. 13. The brand-new high school in Dublin then experienced the shock departure of founding principal Francis Rojas two months later.

signs a minor league deal with the Oakland Athletics in the hopes of rejuvenating his Major League Baseball career.

- For the second summer in a row, Bay Area rap legend E-40 is set to headline the Big O Tires Concert Series at the Alameda County Fair, officials reveal.

- Niles Canyon Railway commemorates the 100th birthday of its Clover Valley Lumber Company No. 4 train.

- San Ramon Valley Unified School District faces accusations from a second former student who alleges that she was sexually assaulted by high school theater teacher Ryan Weible after he remained employed by the district following abuse complaints from another student.

- PUSD and APT fail to reach a labor settlement agreement during their fact-finding session, as more than 450 teachers, families and community members rallied outside of the meeting in support of the union.

- The Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Office identifies the 21-year-old victim in a suspected homicide case as San Ramon resident and University of California, Santa Cruz student Zainab Mansoor.

- Pleasanton appoints Siew-Chin Yeong as the city's new public works director.

- A Fairfield man arrested in a sting operation after trying to meet a teen for sex in Danville died at an area hospital from injuries sustained while attempting to hang himself while in custody, the Contra Costa County Sheriff's Office confirms. Jaime Rodriguez was 50.

- Dublin school board endorses a proposal to reduce district workforce and professional support expenses by roughly \$3 million.

- SRVUSD Superintendent

John Malloy is stepping down at the end of the academic year to become assistant executive director for the School Superintendents Association.

- San Ramon Valley beats Amador in the girls' soccer semi-finals of the North Coast Section tournament. The Wolves would go on to defeat Carondelet in the finals.

## MARCH

- Pleasanton Police Chief David Swing confirms he will soon resign after being hired as the executive director of the East Bay Regional Communications System Authority.

- Group of critics submits signatures on a petition to force a recall election for Alameda County DA Price.

- Amador and Foothill team up to present their annual joint musical, with this year's production being "9 to 5".

- Coroner identified 90-year-old Joseph Eastwood III as the man found dead inside his pickup truck in a creek on his property west of Dublin.

- Dublin Leprechauns independent league baseball team hires David Acheron as their manager for their second season in the Tri-Valley.

- Primary election night in the Tri-Valley sees Zone 7 incumbents Laurene Green, Kathy Narum and Sandy Figuers win new terms while newcomer Cathy Brown earns the special two-year term on the ballot.

- Other local election results: District 4 Supervisor Nate Miley wins a seventh term, Mark Fickes takes the contested Alameda County Superior Court judgeship, and county voters pass Measure A (requirements for public postings of county jobs) and Measure B (recall election rules).



CHRISTIAN TRUJANO

Amador Valley High principal Jonathan Fey, shown here congratulating 2024 salutatorian Kyle Zhou at the graduation ceremony on May 31, was placed on a sudden and unexplained leave of absence two weeks into the 2024-25 school year.

- Monte Vista High alumnus Adam Schiff, a Burbank Democrat in the U.S. House of Representatives, finishes first in the primary and heads to a November runoff for U.S. Senate.

- PUSD, teachers reach agreement after months at tense impasse. The tentative deal includes 10% salary increase, full Kaiser coverage and high school class size reductions.

- Vote coming? Appellate court sides with Move Eden Housing in referendum case in a decision that requires the city of Livermore to process the petition and reverse the order for the group to pay \$500,000 bond.

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

- Pleasanton politics heat up as Councilmember Jack Balch announces he's running for mayor to challenge incumbent Karla Brown instead of a second term on the council.

- City Council approves a resolution that declares the city's intent to reimburse money spent on near-term improvements to Pleasanton's water infrastructure through debt financing in the form of a revenue bond sale that the council will look at approving at a future council meeting.

- Pleasanton police investigate apparent murder-suicide, alleging a man forced his way into his estranged girlfriend's house at the Las Positas Gardens townhouse development and shot her several times before taking his own life on the freeway.

- The Federal Correctional Institution, Dublin women's prison has a new warden after the FBI descended on the facility.

- The Weekly spotlights Sri Surabhi Go Ksetra cow sanctuary on Camino Tassajara in unincorporated Pleasanton.

- Eye-opening and colorful works from the late artist Marc Chagall come to Livermore for a limited time only.

- Former Alamo doctor Parto Karimi, 59, is given a year and a day in federal prison for illegally distributing opioids.

- Livermore Valley Arts announces the headliner for its annual marquee fundraising gala Brilliance at the Bankhead: American singer, songwriter and actress Katharine McPhee.

- Stockton resident Dennis Lee, 40, is charged with killing gas station employee Wadih Badran, 78, in a confrontation over loitering at the San Leandro business.

- A man trying to elude police in Tracy is captured after an aggressive standoff with law enforcement in a Dublin office parking lot on a Saturday afternoon, according to authorities.

- Sunol school board recall election is scheduled for July 2.

- Firefighters battle a serious blaze in the 100-year-old small gymnasium at Amador Valley High.

- Pleasanton school board votes to resell the district-owned Neal property located along Vineyard Avenue between Thiessen Street and Manoir Lane for \$34,695,000 to a new housing developer after the last one decided to back out of the purchase at the last minute.

- Dublin Unified School District and Dublin Teachers Association bargaining teams come to terms on a tentative agreement that includes a 6% raise for educators, among other provisions, at the end of a long negotiation session on a Friday night.

- "Dysfunctional mess" — A U.S. district judge orders the appointment of a special master to oversee the Federal Correctional Institution Dublin, the Bay Area women's prison with a history of widespread sexual abuse.

- It's a mostly grim Pleasanton council meeting where tough

discussions and topics come up regarding potential reductions in services, cuts to capital improvement projects and how the city will need to plan ahead in order to address its financial challenges.

- Judge denies a petition to stop the Sunol school board recall election.

- Danville resident Timothy Stephenson, now 50, pleads guilty to the cold-case murder of 26-year-old Randall Oliphant in Kansas City, Mo., in 1998.

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

- West Point cadet Havin Morris, a Pleasanton native and 2020 Amador grad, dies in an apparent accidental drowning while on leave in Florida.

- There will be no fire in the sky this Fourth of July in Livermore as the city announces that the annual fireworks show will be replaced by a reimagined family-friendly celebration.

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

- The Weekly and its entire Embarcadero Media Foundation East Bay Division distributes the proceeds of its 2023-24 Holiday Fund to 10 crucial nonprofits in the Tri-Valley: \$51,710.

- BART Director John McPartland, whose District 5 includes a large portion of the Tri-Valley, resigns after nearly 16 years.

- A judge decides that Sunol school Board President Ryan Jergensen will have to pay former board trustee Denise Kent Romo

See **YEAR IN REVIEW** on Page 18



USA GYMNASTICS

Pleasanton teen Tiana Sumanasekera competed in the U.S. Women's Gymnastics National Team trials in Minneapolis in June 2024.

## YEAR IN REVIEW

Continued from Page 17

over \$8,000 in attorney fees after he filed and later dropped a temporary restraining order against her.

- A 14-year-old boy is arrested on multiple accusations of attempted carjacking in a downtown Livermore parking garage, police say.

- Former Dougherty Valley High School student is suing SRVUSD for negligence following serious injuries he allegedly sustained at the hands of students at a rival school after a basketball game last year.

- Superintendent Chris Van Schaack, a mainstay in the Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District in various roles across three decades, is retiring at the end of June after two years at the helm of the district.

## APRIL

- New Grocery Outlet opens on Amador Valley Boulevard in Dublin.

- Tri-Valley residents have a once-in-a-lifetime chance to see and hear an acoustic guitar made from a 500-year-old piece of wood that originally came from the roof of the Munich Cathedral in Germany — dubbed the “Resurrection Guitar” by Pleasanton’s very own luthier George Bowen.

- Livermore promotes city clerk Marie Weber to deputy city manager.

- With more California homeowners just discovering their insurance policies are getting canceled — and hundreds of thousands of others stuck with a pricey option of last resort — state Insurance Commissioner Ricardo Lara’s efforts to fix the home insurance market can’t come quickly enough.

- City Manager Gerry Beaudin picks Newark Police Chief Gina Anderson to take over her hometown Pleasanton Police Department as interim chief until a permanent hire is made.

- PUSD executive cabinet members, including Superintendent David Haglund, waive a salary increase that they typically get at the same time other management staff, such as principals and vice principals, receive one.

- San Ramon’s Marketplace Shopping Center is down one more tenant (Firehouse 37) as a lawsuit against the city makes its way through county court.

- Pleasanton promotes Xaviera Scoggins to become director human resources and labor relations.

- All 99 Cents Only stores will close nationwide, including the shop on Railroad Avenue in Livermore.

- Casa Orozco, with its main restaurant in Dublin and second location in Livermore, celebrates its 40th anniversary.

- Changes to Livermore’s tobacco retailer take effect, following



JEANITA LYMAN

Alameda County District Attorney Pamela Price conceded her campaign to stay in office at a press conference in Oakland on Nov. 18 amid election results showing the measure to recall her garnering approximately 2:1 support.

the City Council’s adoption of an amended ordinance that aims to help authorities better enforce existing mandates.

- Former Foothill boys’ basketball coach Randy Isaacs dies after suffering a heart attack at the age of 59.

- Pleasanton’s Planning Commission rejects an application to demolish two buildings on the corner of West Las Positas Boulevard and Hopyard Road in order to build 146 multi-family residential units — property currently occupied by general offices.

- Fallout continues after a couple with kids in PUSD speak out at a school board meeting to raise awareness about what they said has been an ongoing issue of students saying the “N-word” and asking Black and African American students for a pass to use it. The district would later update its policy on hate-motivated speech as a result.

- Alameda County Fair Foundation announces partnership with Safeway to formally name the foundation’s educational farm it plans to build at the fairgrounds in Pleasanton.

- Registrar of Voters’ Office says the recall petition has enough signatures to force a vote on the future of DA Pamela Price.

- John Cleese, Colin Hay, Elizabeth Smart, JD Souther and 10,000 Maniacs are among the big names unveiled for the 2024-25 Bankhead Presents series.

- The Federal Bureau of Prisons confirms that FCI Dublin will close for good after a sex abuse scandal resulting in criminal convictions of at least seven former employees of the prison so far.

- Livermore community mourns the loss of four members of the Negrete family in a horrific car crash in Manteca.

- Bill Butler and Lisa and Randy Brown are named the 2024 Ed Kinney Community Patriots.

- PUSD’s David Haglund plans to retire this summer — marking the fourth superintendent departure in the Tri-Valley at the end of the 2023-24 school year.

- Benicia Knapps pleads no contest to second-degree murder for fatally shooting Pleasanton Home Depot employee Blake Mohs during a robbery gone bad at the store nearly one year ago. Her accomplice also inks a plea deal for his role in her escape from the scene. Knapps will be sentenced to 19 years to life later in the spring.

- California State Parks and Recreation Commission officials offer a media tour of Alameda Tesla property between Livermore and Tracy.

- Pleasanton City Council approves a design change for a developer’s plan to build eight, three-story multifamily buildings at the site currently occupied by Harvest Valley Christian Church and its affiliated daycare.

- Foothill places third in We the People national finals. Crosstown rival Amador, who won the state championship, finished in seventh place in Washington, D.C.

- State Assemblymember Rebecca Bauer-Kahan advances legislation to regulate artificial intelligence in California.

- Second Chick-fil-A restaurant opens in Pleasanton, this one in Hacienda on Hopyard Road.

- Stanford Health confirms plans to close its Livermore Diabetes and Bariatric Center.

- PUSD promotes Nimarta Grewal to assistant superintendent of human resources.

- Pleasanton Mayor Karla Brown presents her 2024 Mayor’s Award to Pleasanton Cultural Arts Council president Kelly Cousins.

- Dublin High hires former Oakland Raiders running back and local pastor Napoleon Kaufman as its head football coach.

- The first two phases of homes in the City Village development in Bishop Ranch sell out.

- Pleasanton community is left reeling after the deaths of the George family of four in a car crash on Foothill Road.

- Backers of an Alameda County sales tax increase to fund child care are celebrating after a ruling by the California Supreme Court has finally validated the measure, four years after voters approved Measure C.

## MAY

- The Weekly gets an inside glimpse at the Stanford Health Care Tri-Valley culinary operation.

- Livermore Valley wine country is set for its second annual CabFranc-A-Palooza.

- Paralympian and Dublin High alumna Bethany Zummo is inducted among the 2024 class of the Alameda County Women’s Hall of Fame.

- Lynn Gatehouse, Wayne Johnson and Sunflower Hill win 2024 Juanita Haugen Awards from the Pleasanton Community of Character Collaborative.

- After a carjacking attempt outside their home on Neal Street, the Bailey family raises concerns over the Pleasanton police response that Saturday evening.

- Caltrans gets ready to begin a series of weekend-long closures of multiple lanes of I-680 between San Ramon and Dublin for ongoing construction.



CHUCK DECKERT

The candidates for Livermore City Council participated in an election forum on Sept. 30, one of seven candidate debates moderated by the Pleasanton Weekly and its sister publications in the Tri-Valley this fall.

- Voters reject a parcel tax renewal (Measure E) and a supplemental parcel tax (Measure F) in a special election for SRVUSD. Each measure receives more than 50% support, but below the two-thirds supermajority threshold required to pass.

- CJ Cammack is returning to SRVUSD as superintendent.

- Livermore native Jason Lyle Black performs a Mother's Day show at his hometown Bankhead Theater.

- "Something on the Lighter Side" marks the final concert for John Emory Bush as artistic director of Valley Concert Chorale.

- An Oakland woman and Hayward man are found dead from gunshot wounds inside a hotel room at La Quinta Inn by Wyndham Livermore.

- Service Corporation International agrees to pay \$23 million to settle charges that it used deceptive marketing practices related to its prepaid cremation services in California, including at its location in Livermore.

- Pacific Chamber Orchestra holds its inaugural Tri-Valley Craft Cocktail Competition.

- Pleasanton resident Joseph Roberts is found guilty of second-degree murder for killing his girlfriend Rachel Elizabeth Imani Buckner, dismembering her body and dumping her remains on Bay Farm Island in Alameda. Roberts, 43, will be sentenced to 15 years to life in the summer.

- Pleasanton City Council unanimously approves finance documents to allow the city to issue water revenue bonds with a principal maximum amount of \$19 million, which will help pay for water system improvement projects and the first phase and design work for drilling new wells as part of the city's Water Supply Alternative Project.

- The Alameda County Board of Supervisors decides to consolidate the DA recall with the general election on Nov. 5.

- Livermore Area Recreation and Park District Director David Furst receives the Award of Distinction for Outstanding Board Member by the California Association of Recreation and Park Districts.

- Foothill freshman swimmer Luka Mijatovic wins the state title in the 500 freestyle.

- A 5-year-old boy from Livermore drowns in the Delta near Bethel Island.

- Hiker Alex Stecher and his dog Apollo are found safe after being reported lost for nearly two days in the Ohlone Wilderness in the Tri-Valley.

- PUSD assistant superintendent of teaching and learning William Nelson is leaving for a job in Paramount, and the district has no intention of bringing the position back as a cost-cutting measure.

- SPARC Theater announces that its production of "Twelfth Night" will shift into the Village Theatre in Danville after its run outdoors for Shakespeare in the Vineyard in Livermore this summer.

- Livermore celebrates groundbreaking for Blacksmith Square expansion, a project set to bring about 13,000 square feet of additional retail and restaurant space downtown.

- Dublin Mayor Melissa Hernandez is stepping down after being appointed to fill the District 5 vacancy on the BART Board of Directors.

- Livermore hires Brent Smith as community development director.

- Pleasanton City Council backs the Planning Commission's decision to not approve a 146 multi-family unit housing development on West Las Positas Boulevard.

- National Highway Traffic Safety Administration is formally investigating the deadly car crash on Foothill Road from prior month that killed a Pleasanton family of four. The probe appears to focus on the VinFast electric vehicle they were riding in.

- Residential developer Landsea Homes closes a deal to acquire the Dublin Centre development property.

- San Ramon Valley is making national headlines after the fugitive in a nearly 20-year-old rape case in Massachusetts who had eluded authorities for more than 16 years is found to have been living in Diablo for a majority of that time. Police allege Tuan Lee, 55, was the "bad breath rapist" from 2005.

- Livermore City Councilmember Evan Branning gets a new gig in his day job, becoming president of the Association of Pleasanton Teachers.

- Resident Richard Lorenz dies in a fire in his unit at the Pleasanton Hacienda Mobile Home Park.

- Amador student Saavnvi Immadi shares about her experience competing on the U.S. Women's Cricket Under-19 Team in Dubai.

- An 11-year-old girl drowns in Alameda Creek in the Niles Canyon area.

- Once sitting 12-11 on the season, the Amador softball team re-sets in a big way — running through the playoffs to win the CIF NorCal Division I championship.

- The region's best: Granada baseball finishes off an incredible one-loss season with a CIF NorCal D-I title.

- Police reveal the arrests of three people in connection with the murder of janitor Santiago Jacobo at Pleasant Hill Park nearly four months ago, alleging a romantic triangle forged in the Tri-Valley was at the heart of the motive. The victim and suspects reportedly all worked together at The Watermark at San Ramon.

- High school graduation season sees seniors walk the stage and begin the next stage of their lives.

## JUNE

- The city of Pleasanton implements a new traffic pattern for the summer months around Meadowlark Dairy to try to limit the impact of its infamous drive-up lines downtown.

- Livermore native Tammi Barker Neilsen appears as a contestant on Pat Sajak's final episode of "Wheel of Fortune" as host.

- Costco website touts August timeframe for opening day of its new Pleasanton store.

- High aspirations: Cannabis dispensary at Darcie Kent Estate Winery in Livermore rebrands under in-house management as Highlands Boutique Dispensary.

- PUSD Trustee Steve Maher announces he will not seek a third term in office.

- Authorities recover the body of 56-year-old Hollister resident Lester Ashcraft, who drowned after falling into the Delta-Mendota Canal under Grant Line Road while fishing.

- The 106th annual Livermore Rodeo rides into town.

- Sunol Glen Unified School District selects PUSD's Shay Galletti to be its next superintendent and principal.

- Pleasanton City Council approves extension of Stoneridge



CHRISTIAN TRUJANO

Jack Balch made the leap from councilmember to mayor of Pleasanton.

Mall expansion terms, but the lack of progress on the private redevelopment project frustrates city leaders.

- The body of 73-year-old San Ramon resident William Knight, who was reported missing days earlier during a motorcycle trip, is found in the south fork of the Pit River south of Alturas in Modoc County.

- Councilmember Michael McCorrison is picked by his colleague to serve as interim mayor Dublin until December with Hernandez's resignation to join the BART board.

- LVJUSD selects Torie Gibson, dual superintendent of the Amador County Office of Education and Amador County Unified School

District, as the next superintendent in Livermore.

- Tri-Valley Conservancy is in the midst of its third executive director search in as many years after quietly elevating an internal official months ago to shepherd the land preservation nonprofit on an interim basis following its latest leadership departure.

- The new Emerald High School in Dublin is ready to welcome students, hosting a ribbon-cutting for community leaders and stakeholders ahead of the start of the school year.

- The Alameda County Fair opens its 18-day run in Pleasanton for 2024.

See **YEAR IN REVIEW** on Page 20

## OUR TOP 24 STORIES OF 2024

Here were our 24 most-read stories written in 2024, based on data for PleasantonWeekly.com.

1. Jim's Restaurant founder killed during Baja 100 racing event in Mexico
2. Kaiser lays off administrative staff in Pleasanton
3. New details emerge about fatal crash on Foothill Road that killed Pleasanton family
4. Amador Valley principal out on indefinite leave of absence
5. Pleasanton teens injured in Hayward shooting
6. Emerald High principal texted in resignation after being called into meeting by superintendent, records show
7. Emerald High principal Rojas resigns months into new school's first year open
8. Costco set to open in Pleasanton on the day before Thanksgiving
9. Johnson, Fickes vie for seat on Alameda County Superior Court
10. Phase II of BART Silicon Valley extension to break ground on Friday
11. Southbound I-680 set to close through Pleasanton for entire MLK holiday weekend
12. Pleasanton putting up new traffic pattern around Meadowlark Dairy for summer months
13. Dublin Unified mourning recent deaths of teacher, staffer
14. Fire breaks out at Amador Valley High School
15. Pleasanton: Roadwork delays push Costco store opening deeper into 2024
16. Pleasanton Preps: Remembering my friend, former Foothill coach Randy Isaacs
17. Costco touts August timeframe for opening day in Pleasanton
18. Caltrans schedules full closure of southbound I-680 in San Ramon next weekend
19. Mother, daughter die in fiery crash in Livermore
20. "The worst 911 call I've ever heard": Ex-sheriff's deputy sentenced to 50 years to life for Dublin double murder
21. Homebuilder Taylor Morrison acquires piece of Dublin's Francis Ranch site
22. PPD investigating fatal car crash on Foothill Road
23. Former sheriff's deputy found guilty of murdering Dublin couple
24. PDA announces 2024 Concert in the Park lineup ■

## YEAR IN REVIEW

Continued from Page 19

• High school junior Nidhi Parachuri, who lives in San Ramon and studies at the California School of Art and Design in Pleasanton, wins U.S. Rep. Mark DeSaulnier's Congressional Art for her submission "Simply Chaos".

• Former Amador Valley High student and teacher Maurice Ghysels, a retired superintendent on the Peninsula, is named the interim leader for PUSD.

• Livermore Mayor John Marchand announces reelection bid. He would ultimately win another two-year term unchallenged.

• Patti Lee, a former spokesperson for DA Price, is suing for wrongful termination amid allegations of racial discrimination, retaliation and serious violations.

• A California Northern District Court judge rejects a subpoena for raw footage from KTVU of a 2022 fatal police shooting in Pleasanton that was being jointly sought by both sides in a civil rights lawsuit on behalf of the daughter of the man who was killed.

• Officials with the Contra Costa Transportation Authority are soliciting public comments on a proposed toll lane on northbound I-680 between northern Alamo and Martinez, with the agency's draft environmental document for the concept now.

• Livermore PD introduces its new Mobile Evaluation Team, which was formed to improve outcomes when law enforcement officers respond to mental health crises.

• Rockin' the saddle: Outspoken jockey William Antongeorgi III ("Billy the Kid") sees a path to success for NorCal horse racing in Pleasanton.

• Production of "Mourning Becomes Electra" is announced as the main event for the Eugene O'Neill Festival in Danville.

• Sunset Development unveils a new turnkey program for more than 15 office spaces at Bishop Ranch in

San Ramon that aims to accommodate businesses that are seeking a return to the office environment as well as adapting to hybrid work options.

• The majority of the Pleasanton City Council reinforces the city's stance on why residents should support a sales tax increase measure that is poised to be placed on the November ballot.

• A judge orders Stanford University and Stanford Health Care to pay \$10 million in damages in connection with an employee's racial harassment case that included allegations of a staffer dressing as a member of the Ku Klux Klan.

• Deja vu: Janine Thalblum is appointed to complete the final months of newly anointed Dublin Mayor Michael McCorriston's regular City Council term. She had a similar short run on the council in 2018 earlier after the death of then-vice mayor Don Biddle.

• Workers at Kaiser Permanent's administrative offices in Pleasanton have been hit with a series of layoffs over the past year as the company seeks to reduce costs, with the most recent round consisting of dozens of information technology positions being slashed.

• A Florida man (Michael Shapiro) is set to be sentenced later this summer after admitting in federal court to leaving threatening voicemails at the congressional office of Tri-Valley Rep. Eric Swalwell.

• Former congresswoman turned political pundit and author Tulsi Gabbard, who made headlines for divorcing from the Democratic Party, appears at the Bankhead Theater in Livermore as part of the Dublin Chamber of Commerce's speaker series.

• Livermore City Council votes to rescind the 2022 development agreement with Eden Housing, Inc. for its proposed affordable housing project in downtown that included language to allow the construction of and improvements to Veterans Park — a decision designed to prevent the Move Eden Housing referendum to



FILE PHOTOS

Four new superintendents arrived in the Tri-Valley for the 2024-25 school year. From left: CJ Cammack (SRVUSD), Maurice Ghysels (interim, PUSD), Shay Galletti (Sunol) and Torie Gibson (LVJUSD).

go to a citywide vote following the city's loss in court.

• It is another packed house at the latest community meeting in Livermore about the Springtown Open Space improvement project plans.

• State Senator Steve Glazer awards Tri-Valley Haven as his district's Nonprofit of the Year.

• Pleasanton Planning Commission approves an application to transform the 46-acre Merritt property just south of Foothill High School into a new gated community for seniors with up to 110 new homes.

• After a recent court ruling in Los Angeles County, Pleasanton is among those exploring charter city status amid the battle with the state over housing mandates.

• Pleasanton gymnast Tiana Sumanasekera captures the nation's attention with her strong performance at the Team USA trials. The 16-year-old finished eighth in the all-around competition, narrowly missing out on a spot on the Olympic team.

• Dublin-based Patelco Credit Union suspends electronic banking services while it recovers from a serious cyberattack.

## JULY

• Former state assemblymember Catharine Baker (R-Dublin) is hired as the director of the University of California Student and Policy

Center in Sacramento.

• Livermore author John G. Bluck reflects on his newest book "Pigeons of Death", the latest installment of his Luke Ryder detective series.

• In addition to lingering system disruptions in the wake of a security breach that was identified more than a week earlier, Dublin-based Patelco is now facing legal challenges in the form of two lawsuits filed amid a system outage spurred by the cyberattack.

• Special election day in Sunol sees a majority of voters narrowly support the recalls of school trustees Linda Hurley (51.50%) and Ryan Jergensen (52.07%).

• Livermore school board Trustee Yanira Guzmán is not seeking reelection this November for professional and personal reasons, meaning both LVJUSD Board of Education seats will be wide open in the general election with Trustee Kristie Wang also not running.

• Blue Shield of California customers are caught aback as the insurer announces Stanford Health Care is no longer included in its network amid contract disagreements.

• Livermore Valley Open Campus hits its collaborative stride: 14 years after founding, both Sandia and Lawrence Livermore labs are spinning out technology success stories.

• Recent Amador grad Denis Bautista, 18, dies at the hospital from injuries sustained in a shooting in Hayward days earlier. A 17-year-old boy who was with him that night is recovering at home from gunshot injuries.

• The prominent home of late Blackhawk developer and founder Ken Behring is now up for auction after being placed on the market for the first time ever last year but soliciting no deal at its asking price of just under \$25 million.

• The Weekly earns seven California Journalism Awards from the CNPA for work during 2023, including first-place honors in its division for Feature Story and for Coverage of Youth and Education.

• Pleasanton residents will be voting on a city revenue measure this November that, if passed by a simple majority, will increase the city's sales tax by half a percent to 10.75% and bring in roughly \$10 million annually for the following 10 years amid the city's budget difficulties.

• Dublin City Manager Linda

Smith is resigning in October to take the same job in Orinda.

• Commuters on I-580 heading east toward the Altamont Pass at night are no longer greeted by an illuminated cross on the hillside that reads "Jesus Saves". While the 550 feet tall by 240 feet wide grass carving of the cross is currently still present and visible in the daylight for now, it is not being lit at night anymore — which community members are concerned signifies plans for its removal.

• Three Alameda County death row inmates are resentenced following an investigation into whether Black and Jewish people were unfairly excluded from the juries.

• Patelco online and mobile banking services are back up and running after a two-week-plus outage following a cyberattack.

• Ava Community Energy promotes Howard Chang to CEO.

• Pleasanton officials push PG&E over recurring outages around the city, including during excessive heat waves.

• San Ramon City Council advances a 1% sales tax measure to the ballot amid city budget concerns.

• Livermore police break a vehicle window to provide relief to a dog locked inside with the windows rolled up in the Costco parking lot. Temperatures in the Jeep were estimated between 112-131 degrees.

• Mountain House resident Qais Faizi, 35, faces prison time for being convicted of a 2021 rape in San Ramon.

• The ongoing effort to reshape San Ramon's Bishop Ranch into a central downtown area for the city as part of officials' vision for the neighborhood's future as a "10-minute city" is the latest in a series of transformations seen by the property over generations, including earlier incarnations as an agricultural hub and a sprawling business park hosting high-profile tenants.

• Granada baseball coach Corrigan Willis wins California Coach of the Year.

• Amador alum Ashley Bower (class of 2009) reflects on doing the film festival circuit with her debut short as a solo writer and executive producer, "Stuck".

• Pleasanton City Council signs off on the 110-unit senior housing



CHRISTIAN TRUJANO

Pleasanton resident Joseph Roberts sits in an Oakland courtroom on July 2 while members of Rachel Elizabeth Imani Buckner's family and friends talk about how much her murder has affected their lives.

development on the Merritt property along Foothill Road.

- A class action lawsuit against Pleasanton-based Workday is set to move forward in federal court after a judge denied the company's motion to dismiss the complaint, which alleges bias and discrimination in its hiring software.

- Walnut Creek resident Donald Eng, 68, dies after his SUV rear-ends a meat truck during the morning commute on I-680 in Fremont.

- Voters will decide come Nov. 5 whether to allow Dublin City Council the authority to approve limited development of the debated Crosby property along a future extension of Dublin Boulevard with a ballot measure titled "Dublin Traffic Relief, Clean Air/Open Space Preservation Measure".

- Manteca mother Tahlaynah Casuga, 24, and her 4-year-old Katana are killed in a crash on South Vasco Road in Livermore. The girl's father was injured in the wreck.

- Pleasanton Middle School history teacher Katherine Orenberg is named 2024 California History Teacher of the Year by the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History.

- Dublin Unified Trustee William Kuo says he won't seek reelection this fall, creating an open race for Area 3.

- Sarah Schaefer steps down from the Museum on Main in Pleasanton and Tony Cruz is brought in as the new executive director.

- Livermore police arrest a transient for allegedly breaking windows of at least five downtown businesses.

- Alameda County Board of Education trustees Cheryl Cook-Kallio and Aisha Knowles join the Sunol school board to allow imperative business to continue before local replacements are seated in the wake of the recall election.

- Firefighters get help from cooler summer weather and stop forward progress of the wildfire burning 774 acres in the Sunol Regional Wilderness within about 24 hours, according to Cal Fire.

- Brittini Kiick reveals she won't run for reelection to the Livermore City Council.

- President Joe Biden signs the Federal Prison Oversight Act, which came after a string of prominent scandals nationwide, including at FCI Dublin.

- A former Home Depot cashier is suing the retail giant, saying she was the victim of age discrimination, retaliation, wrongful termination and emotional distress after a customer bullied her into completing a suspicious transaction at the San Ramon store.

- The last Big Lots! store in the Tri-Valley, located on Las Positas Road in Livermore, is shuttering for good.

## AUGUST

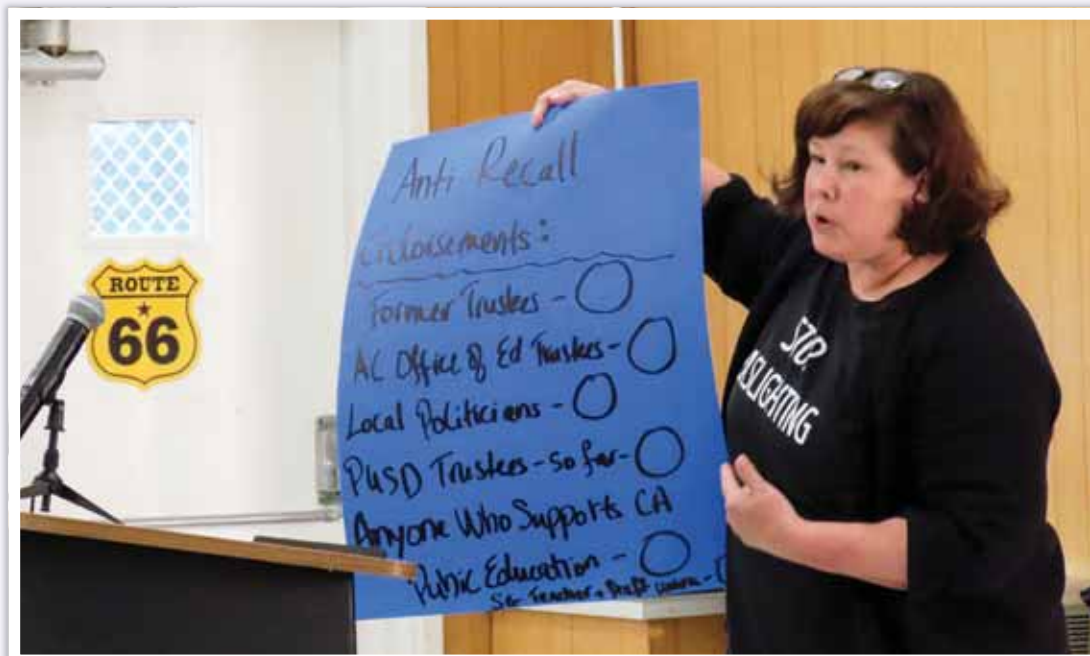
- Chevron confirms plans to downsize its operations in San Ramon once again, including the energy giant's headquarters and corporate functions set to shift to a new headquarters out of state to Texas in the coming years.

- Dublin resident and Kolb Elementary School teacher Kathryn Varner shares the process of releasing her first-ever children's book, "The Wise Old Tree" — with illustrations by DUSD librarian Dominique De Vera.

- Baseball coach Lou Cesario opens up about leaving Amador for Northgate High in Walnut Creek.

- The Weekly learns that Pleasanton Unified's STEAM Preschool had to shut down four of its outdoor water faucets earlier this year due to excessive levels of lead being found in the water.

- Amador alum Christopher Moore, 59, dies after the small plane



CHRISTIAN TRUJANO

Former Sunol school board trustee Denise Kent Romo holds up a poster board showing a lack of endorsements for the anti-recall campaign during the June 18 school board meeting.

he was flying crashed en route to the Bahamas from Florida.

- Silicon Valley elected leaders and transportation advocates celebrate a federal award of nearly \$5.1 billion that brings the Silicon Valley BART extension one step closer to fruition.

- Sunflower Hill is marching forward without executive director after the quiet departure of its former leader in March, the Weekly learns. Recruitment is expected to begin next year as the nonprofit realigns strategic goals.

- Dublin's Mara Olivas is releasing her first novel, "Sundown in San Ojuela," a fictional story that explores family history and identity through a queer, Indigenous and Chicana lens.

- Livermore Little League makes it to the U.S. title game at the Intermediate World Series hosted in their hometown but falls to Southwest representative Louisiana 3-1.

- Longtime Bay Area legislator Ellen Corbett, a trailblazer in her hometown of San Leandro before going onto represent Pleasanton in the State Legislature, died at age 69. She was serving on the East Bay Regional Park District Board of Directors at the time.

- Livermore Police Chief Jeramy Young announces his intention to run as a conservative challenger to the Republican incumbent for State Senate District 4 representing his hometown in the Central Valley in 2026. Young had been mayor and councilmember in Hughson.

- The Bay Area Housing Finance Authority withdraws a \$20 billion general obligation bond measure that was aimed at supporting affordable housing from the upcoming general election ballot.

- Schools' unsung heroes: Pleasanton custodians talk about what it takes to get campuses ready for new academic year

- Class action settlement changes home buying and selling process — and Tri-Valley real estate agents

are rolling out new business practices early ahead of the national deadline.

- Local general election ballots are set as the nomination deadline passes. Among the intriguing candidate races for Nov. 5 in the Tri-Valley are Karla Brown vs. Jack Balch for Pleasanton mayor, six candidates for two LVJUSD board seats, four contestants for Dublin mayor, recall advocate Erin Choin against recalled trustee Ryan Jergensen for Sunol school board and two newcomers competing to succeed longtime San Ramon Councilman Scott Perkins.

- Emerald High School opens to students in eastern Dublin, becoming the first brand-new comprehensive high school in Alameda County in 50 years.

- The Weekly looks into the trend of nonprofit leadership instability as Tri-Valley Conservancy, Museum on Main, Culinary Angels, Sunflower Hill, The Crayon Initiative and the Pleasanton Downtown Association all experience recent turnover.

- Rumors swirl as Amador Valley High School principal Jonathan Fey is out on an indefinite and unexplained leave of absence as of the second week of the school year.

- Pleasanton City Council unanimously agrees that staff should look into what the pros and cons would be if the city annexes two properties in unincorporated East Pleasanton where developers are looking to build new housing.

- PUSD officials confirm they're leaning toward fully demolishing the Amador Theater in the next two to three years, setting the stage for the final curtain to fall just before its centennial to make way for a modernized replacement.

- Sutter Health patients in the Tri-Valley are set to have access to new local facilities in the coming years, with the healthcare organization announcing its planned forays into Livermore and Pleasanton as part of a broader expansion effort.

- San Mateo County sheriff deputies arrest 19-year-old Pleasanton man William V. Coultrip, a 2023 Amador grad, after investigators allege he used social media to prey on teenage girls.

- Danville 15-year-old Eme Williams releases an art therapy book for mental health, "The Art of Mindfulness".

- The Parkview, a retirement community that provides assisted living to seniors in Pleasanton, has been struggling financially over the last few years following the pandemic as the facility continues to draw from its budget reserves in order to cover yearly operations.

- The show is set to go on for Livermore High School's performing arts students after the district received pushback from them on a schedule change that they said would have required them to make difficult choices between classes or receive no course credit for their preparations for the school's annual musical.

- Pleasanton Rage team gets the chance to scrimmage against Fiji's Under-20 National Team.

- Dublin City Council opts to promote Colleen Tribby to become the next city manager.

- Sunol Glen Unified School District's temporary Board of Trustees appoints Chris Bobertz, a Sunol resident and parent who ran for the school board in 2022, to fill the empty board seat left by recalled trustee Ryan Jergensen. Bobertz's selection is later threatened by a petition to force a special election, but the effort fails due to a lack of sufficient signatures.

- Construction of a new multi-tenant commercial building and associated site improvements is coming to the Dublin Place Shopping Center at the intersection of Amador Plaza Road and Amador Valley Boulevard, as approved by the City Council.

- Authorities net one arrest and more than \$450,000 in previously

See **YEAR IN REVIEW** on Page 22



CHUCK DECKERT

Makeshift memorial honors Pleasanton's George family, a father, mother and two children who died in a fiery car crash here along Foothill Road on April 21. The ongoing investigation has centered on the VinFast electric vehicle they were riding in.

## YEAR IN REVIEW

Continued from Page 21

stolen merchandise following a month-long investigation into an alleged retail theft ring with San Ramon ties.

- The new superintendent and new top fiscal administrator for the Livermore school system are having to hit the ground running as the district works to get itself off the state's financial warning list.

- Florida man Nicholas Paleveda is arrested in a Walmart parking lot in Barstow on a warrant from Dublin Police Services for allegedly shooting Michael Dalipe at the front door of his Emerald Park apartment. Online interactions reportedly connected the two men.

- Police release new details about their investigation into an assault at Dublin High School, saying a confrontation with a parent precipitated an attack in which four teenagers beat up a student in the boys' locker room.

- With a new \$7.9 million federal grant, Go Green Initiative will partner with the National School Boards Association and its state affiliates on a five-year program to improve air quality inside classrooms and other buildings at low-income and tribal schools in all 10 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency regions across the country.

- California State Parks Foundation is celebrating the completion of 22 new bike turnouts at Mount Diablo State Park.

- Las Positas College's Campus Hill Winery welcomes its new \$8.5 million processing facility.

- Kevin Crow, a 1979 graduate of Amador Valley and former U.S. National Team member, which included two stints on the U.S. Olympic team, is named a semi-finalist for the U.S. Soccer Hall of Fame.

- Ballot arguments are out for and against Measure PP, Pleasanton's hotly contested 0.5% sales tax.

- Dublin City Council votes unanimously to allow Livermore Sanitation Inc. to take over all of Dublin's garbage and waste disposal needs in the wake of the sale of its

# STAFF PICKS: MY FAVORITE STORY AND MY BEST STORY OF 2024

We asked our editorial team to reflect on their coverage from 2024 and select what they felt was their favorite story and their best story of the year. Here are their picks...

## Jeremy Walsh, editorial director

**Best:** Nonprofit stability: What's going on with this run of executive director turnover in the Tri-Valley?

**Favorite:** As my A's leave Oakland, allow me to say: 'Don't let the door ...'

## Cierra Bailey, editor

**Best:** 'A Million Miles Away' follows former LLNL engineer's journey to space

**Favorite:** Patisserie by Simone brings French-inspired desserts to Livermore

## Gina Channell Wilcox, publisher

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

**Favorite:** Changes on the horizon

## Jeanita Lyman, staff reporter

**Best:** Transforming Bishop Ranch (again)

**Favorite:** Tri-Valley firefighters contend with daunting season

## Jude Strzemp, staff reporter

**Best:** Court finds Livermore violated elections code and previous order with Eden Housing resolution

**Favorite:** Open Heart Kitchen Food Bank launching service this fall

## Christian Trujano, staff reporter

**Best:** Pleasanton man sentenced to 15 years to life for 'heinous' murder, dismemberment of girlfriend

**Favorite:** Schools' unsung heroes

## Chuck Deckert, photographer

**Best:** Foothill Road fatal crash site (news photo)

**Favorite:** Next stop! ... (cover photo)

## Dennis Miller, sports columnist

**Best:** Remembering my friend, former Foothill coach Randy Isaacs

**Favorite:** What's in a name? Cal High announcer steps down after being told not to say 'Lady Grizzlies'

## Deborah Grossman, blogger

**Best:** Looking back over Taste Tri-Valley Restaurant Week

**Favorite:** Chinese Szechuan continues to serve fan-favorite food

## Tim Hunt, blogger

**Best:** Livermore Valley Open Campus hitting its collaborative stride

**Favorite:** David Kent returns to Concannon ownership

## Nancy Lewis, Streetwise columnist

**Best:** "Is there something you remember from your childhood, that no longer exists, that you really loved and would like to have back?"

**Favorite:** "What do your parents do to keep you safe and comfortable when it's really hot outside?" (annual pet column)

former service provider, Amador Valley Industries.

- The Livermore school board is bringing in a former colleague of new Superintendent Torie Gibson's from Amador County, Michelle Pechette, to fill the district's final vacant cabinet position — roughly a month after quietly terminating the contract of predecessor Melissa Theide for undisclosed reasons.

- Danville-based child care provider Kids' Country faces allegations of child abuse and neglect, including claims that a 4-year-old student was able to leave the premises alone on separate occasions.

## SEPTEMBER

- The Weekly holds Pleasanton city election forum for candidates for mayor (Jack Balch and Karla Brown), City Council District 2 (Valerie Arkin and Craig Eicher) and City Council District 4 (Matt Gaidos and Vivek Mohan). It is the first of seven candidate debates moderated by the Weekly and its sister publications in the Tri-Valley, followed by Livermore school board, Dublin mayor and council, Pleasanton school board, Livermore council, San Ramon mayor and council, and Danville council.

- Pleasanton residents will soon begin to see construction take place at the Lions Wayside Park after the City Council unanimously approves the final design plans and awards a construction contract to create a new lawn area and new bandstand at the park.

- Courtney Lynne Andrade, also known as Courtney Peterson, is

sentenced to four years in county jail after accepting a plea deal for gross vehicular manslaughter while intoxicated in a 2018 crash that killed a motorcycle-loving couple (Mark Nida and Kathleen Seifert) out for an anniversary ride on Altamont Pass Road.

- Charles McMillan, the former director of Los Alamos National Laboratory whose career first blossomed at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory over two decades, is killed in a car crash in New Mexico where he resided in retirement and still consulted for the lab. He was 69.

- Weekly publisher Gina Channell Wilcox moderates a panel discussion that includes State Senator Steve Glazer after a screening of the award-winning documentary "Stripped for Parts: American Journalism on the Brink" at the Firehouse.

- Visit Tri-Valley unveils its commitment to develop a new multi-use event center from the ground up during the coming years. In December, the organization would reveal the location of the proposed facility in Dublin.

- Policy advocate and

environmental nonprofit leader Rebecca Spector is the new permanent executive director for Tri-Valley Conservancy.

- Tri-Valley cancer patient support nonprofit Culinary Angels confirms the selection of Mansoor Sakhiy as its new executive director, succeeding founder Lisa McNaney in the role.

- Livermore Valley Arts announces a slate of five new performers added to the Bankhead Theater's 2025 calendar, a list headlined by a presentation by famed drummer Stewart Copeland, an original member of The Police, and two shows with actor Cary Elwes reflecting on his experience making "The Princess Bride."

- Former longtime Pleasanton resident Ray Hartjen shares about his cancer journey in a new memoir, "Me, Myself & My Multiple Myeloma".

- Oakland resident Kennedy Stith, 27, is arrested and charged with first-degree murder for the stabbing death of Edevion White at his Pleasanton apartment in May 2023. Police allege Stith was White's girlfriend and lied about the initial story of a robbery gone wrong.



SF GIANTS

Pleasanton native Brandon Crawford retired from professional baseball at the end of the 2024 season, capping a career that included two World Series titles and four Gold Glove awards with his childhood team, the San Francisco Giants.



CHRISTIAN TRUJANO

The new Costco store in Pleasanton finally opened its doors on Nov. 27 after a decade of planning, a ballot measure, two lawsuits and construction.

- PUSD board agrees to ask Interim Superintendent Maurice Ghysels to come out of retirement so he could continue serving in his current position until a permanent hire is made without having to worry about losing his pension benefits.

- LARPD requests an investigation of EBRPD's tax revenue spending in the Livermore Valley, an area representing shared responsibilities and funding for the park districts — amid accusations from LARPD directors that EBRPD has taken more than \$110 million of Livermore's money. Local EBRPD Director Olivia Sanwong calls the "shocking" allegations false.

- A Livermore man is arrested for allegedly running a scam in which he sold stolen vehicles with swapped out identification numbers to further trick unsuspecting buyers.

- Home Consignment Center in Danville is recovering from yet another robbery in which police say people ambushed the store during business hours and stole jewelry, leaving shattered display cases in their wake as they drove away — at least the fourth since December.

- The 2024 Amador Athletic Hall of Fame inductees are former volleyball coach Rich Cortez, Natalie

Griffen (soccer/track and field), Bob Hall (basketball) and legacy pick Kelly French (softball and basketball).

- Former first lady Michelle Obama makes an appearance at the Costco in Livermore to tout PLEZI Nutrition's FiZZ beverage.

- What's in a name? Cal High announcer Lenard Matthews steps down after being told not to say "Lady Grizzlies". Admin says they received "multiple messages" about gender moniker and emphasize all Cal athletes "proudly known as Grizzlies".

- Stung by water bills that are increasing 172%, Castlewood County Service Area residents flock to a meeting to hear what their volunteer board of directors was doing about it. If the board can't convince Alameda County to properly fund the area, forming a Community Services District or annexing into city could be on the table.

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

- After more than two months of negotiations, Stanford Medicine and Blue Shield of California reach a new agreement, making Stanford

Hospital, Lucile Packard Children's Hospital, Tri-Valley Hospital, Stanford Medicine Partners and Packard Children's Health Alliance in-network for its HMO and PPO member recipients.

- Paying for Pleasanton: As Measure PP vote nears, cash-strapped city faces critics who contend there is no need to raise sales tax right now.

- American singer-songwriter JD Souther, known for his musical collaborations with the Eagles and Linda Ronstadt in addition to his own performing career, dies at his home in New Mexico days before he was set to begin a tour that had an early stop scheduled in Livermore. He was 78.

- Livermore's Jacob Kober, who was serving life in prison for a 2012 murder in a dispute over money and a romantic rivalry, is found fatally wounded in his cell.

- A Pleasant Hill woman dies after leaping out of a car on I-580 in Livermore and rolling into multiple traffic lanes, where she is struck by a yet-unconfirmed number of vehicles, per the CHP.

- California Insurance Commissioner Ricardo Lara discusses with CalMatters his multi-pronged approach to the insurance crisis — with companies decreasing coverage, raising premiums for residential and commercial customers, or leaving the state altogether.

- The case of a dog dying from heat stroke after being trapped on an apartment balcony amid hot weather in Pleasanton is being considered an "accidental tragedy" with no sign of criminal negligence, a police spokesperson told the Weekly.

- Dublin residents will determine term limits for future mayors and councilmembers, as well as the city's rules on lobbying and transparency, with their vote on Measure JJ — the so-called "Government Accountability Act" — on their Nov. 5 ballot.

Fremont resident Abbasin Hoshmand, 47, turns himself in to Pleasanton police in connection with a fatal shooting in his hometown the day before.



COURTESY SIMONE BALTZELLE

Simone Baltzelle (center) poses with friends and family who also helped staff the bakery during opening weekend at her Patisserie by Simone in downtown Livermore.

- A jury convicts 27-year-old Oakland resident Shane Ivan Downs on four counts of armed robbery for stealing high-value watches, including one Danville case, as well as for possessing a firearm as a convicted felon.

## OCTOBER

- Weekly reporters analyze campaign finance reports for local candidates and ballot measures up and down the Tri-Valley leading into the final month before the election.

- Affordable housing in Pleasanton: Council debates strategies for how to get more attainable units actually built in the city.

- The Livermore school district will transition from at-large school board ballots to "by-trustee area" elections in 2026 of its own volition, following unanimous approval by the Board of Education.

- Foothill High School's We the People competitive civics team will be spotlighted in the final episode of a new documentary series airing on PBS, "Citizen Nation".

- Former Alameda County sheriff's deputy Devin Williams Jr., 26, of Stockton is found guilty of two counts of first-degree murder for killing his lover and her husband — Maria Tran and Benison Tran — with his service weapon in the couple's house in September 2022. He would later be sentenced to 50 years to life in state prison.

- Police in Livermore criticize DA Pamela Price's office for what they say was going too easy on a felon arrested in their city and eventually convicted.

- Livermore High grad Daniel Villasenor, who is now studying at the University of California at Berkeley, becomes a viral sports sensation when he kicked a 33-yard field goal on ESPN's "College GameDay" to win \$100,000 for himself and \$600,000 for Hurricane Helene relief efforts.

- To help calm the hot-potato of leadership at Amador Valley High amid principal Jonathan Fey's unexplained leave of absence, PUSD appoints district technology corridor Jr Yee — a former Amador vice

principal — as acting principal until further notice.

- An overwhelming majority of the nurses at the Stanford Health Care TriValley in Pleasanton recently vote in favor of ratifying a new three-year contract with the hospital that their union says will improve patient safety and staff retention, among other things.

- Alameda County Mosquito Abatement District staff start inspecting the Amador Valley neighborhood since four additional *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes are found in Pleasanton after announcing the week before the discovery of the nonnative insect that hadn't been seen in the county for a decade and is capable of spreading diseases.

- The Dublin school community is mourning the recent deaths of Murray Elementary teacher Kaitlin Repine and Dublin Elementary child nutrition staffer Rocky Orman less than two weeks apart.

- By the end of this year, customers will sip their last goodbye to local craft beer-maker, Shadow Puppet Brewing Co. in Livermore.

- Dublin selects Victor Fox, a commander for the Alameda County Sheriff's Office, as the new chief of Dublin Police Services, a day after city officials announce that police chief Nathan "Nate" Schmidt is retiring.

- Pleasanton welcomes the inaugural Golden State Racing slate of horse races every weekend from mid-October to mid-December.

- Rumors that Chinese Szechuan restaurant will soon close are not true. The 37-year Pleasanton staple remains open ... at least for a while while the owners look for a new buyer.

- Walnut Creek cyclist Allison Merkle is fatally struck by a car on Livorna Road at the I-680 underpass in Alamo.

- The Duchess, a European fusion restaurant, opens at the corner of St. Mary and Peters in downtown Pleasanton — the spot most recently occupied by Salt Craft.

See **YEAR IN REVIEW** on Page 24



CHRIS ROBLEDO / CTA

Members from the Dublin and Pleasanton teachers unions gathered at the Dublin Sports Ground on Feb. 21 as part of a coordinated day of picketing where multiple teachers unions from across the East Bay rallied to demand for better contracts.

## YEAR IN REVIEW

Continued from Page 23

- An executive spokesperson for PG&E tries to reassure the Pleasanton City Council and residents that the company is doing everything it can to address the complaints coming from residents who have been experiencing unexpected and prolonged power outages.

- Dublin's brand-new high school is already in the midst of a leadership change at the top, as founding principal Francis Rojas abruptly resigns from Emerald High School two months after the campus opened to students. The reason for Rojas' exit is not publicly reported.

- Niche names three Tri-Valley school districts among the highest-ranked in the area, with Pleasanton Unified School District being recognized as No. 1 in Alameda County.

- "Think about if we were to go on strike." Procedural dispute stirs SEIU and LVJUSD relations.

- Alameda County Treasurer and Tax Collector's Office is apologizing to residents for confusion regarding information about where to send property tax payments.

- Livermore community is mourning the loss of its inaugural Ambassador, Boomer Bowers, who dies after spending much of this year as his hometown's ceremonial canine representative.

- The second annual TASTE: The Livermore Valley Wine Experience entices guests with a wide variety of 13 events from wine brunches and grape stomping to pairing competitions and gourmet dinners.

- A Hayward man now facing a murder charge in a separate case is identified as the prime suspect in an attempted carjacking that took place almost six months ago near downtown Pleasanton — thanks to DNA evidence collected at the scene, police tell the Weekly.

- Pleasanton PD is investigating what officers believe to have been a brothel that was operating out of an apartment in The Galloway at Hacienda.

- Dublin finance professional and parent Jeff Clark, who was poised to be the next Area 3 trustee for the school board, informs the district that he is bowing out and will not take the seat he was set to be appointed to without an election.

- With less than a week to go until the election in which Alameda County residents will make a final decision on a measure to recall first-term DA Price, the pro- and anti-recall campaigns are continuing to battle one another in the push to win over voters — including new public jobs by Price critics Eric Swalwell and Nancy O'Malley.

- Preliminary review of the Avaanti Vineyards project produces over 15 concerned commenters and a handful of tasks for Alameda County staff at an East County Board of Zoning Adjustments meeting.



SUNSET DEVELOPMENT

Rendering shows concept for a portion of City Village in San Ramon, the vision for redeveloping Bishop Ranch from an office park to a mixed-use district with homes, retail and other commercial uses, parks and more.

## NOVEMBER

- Pleasanton couple who were robbed at gunpoint outside their home in 2021 say they were disheartened by how the DA's Office reduced the charges against two of the suspects and never even told them about it, the husband and wife told the Weekly.

- Swaths of East Dublin see three unplanned power outages triggered by bird-related incidents, according to a PG&E spokesperson.

- Assistant principal Lenni Velez is promoted to permanent principal at Emerald High School to provide stability amid the sudden turnover at the top of the new school.

- Officers on steed will once again ride the streets of Livermore, as the city's police department reintroduces its Mounted Police Unit in October.

- A focus in East Dublin this fall has been on DC (but not necessarily because of the election). Landsea Homes breaks ground on its 500-home Dublin Centre residential development, a set of neighborhoods newly dubbed "The DC" that will have a mix of standalone houses and townhomes at the northeast corner of the Tassajara Road-Dublin Boulevard intersection.

- Livermore wins the 2024 Helen Putnam Award for Excellence in Intergovernmental Collaboration at a recent statewide conference for the partnership between its school district and the city-operated Horizons Family Counseling.

- Sandia National Laboratories celebrates its 75th anniversary.

- One of California High School's assistant principals is reportedly dragged by her hair in an attack by a student from a different high school outside of the Cal High homecoming dance, with the student taken into custody and district officials condemning the incident in the days that followed.

- Costco reveals current plans to open its new Pleasanton store on the day before Thanksgiving.

- Several prominent elected officials for the San Ramon Valley and greater Bay Area join representatives from the Contra Costa Transportation Authority for a virtual press conference announcing and celebrating the award of a \$166 million "mega-grant" to fund the agency's Innovate 680 project.

- Contra Costa County Sheriff's Lt. Thomas Rossberg is named the new police chief in Danville upon the upcoming retirement of Allan Shields.

- Election Day finally arrives in the Tri-Valley.

- In city of Pleasanton results, Councilmember Jack Balch unseats Karla Brown for mayor. The Measure PP sales tax increase fails. Retired police captain Craig Eicher beats incumbent Valerie Arkin for City Council District 2. Matt Gaidos edges fellow Planning Commissioner Vivek Mohan for City Council District 4.

- At PUSD, Trustee Kelly Mokashi comfortably defeats Donalyn Harris for Area 3. Though the margin would get down to within a percentage point, Charlie Jones would ultimately win over Jen Flynn for Area 4. Board President Mary Jo Carreon was uncontested for Area 1.

Pamela Price is recalled as Alameda County DA, by nearly a 2:1 margin.

- Erin Choin ends Ryan Jergensen's bid to rejoin the Sunol school board.

- In Livermore city results, Kristie Wang defeats Tom Soules for City Council District 4 and Steven Dunbar bests Jeff Kaskey and David Farley for District 3.

- Deena Kaplanis completes her resurgence from the last school board election to finish first in the LVJUSD trustee race. Though he trails on Election Night, Christaan VandenHeuvel jumps ahead to claim the second seat.

- Vice Mayor Sherry Hu wins the Dublin mayor election over newcomer Tom Evans, fellow Councilmember Jean Josey and near-perennial candidate Shawn Costello. John Morada beats Razi Hasni for Dublin City Council District 3. Michael McCorriston takes District 1 unchallenged.

- Dublin voters pass both Measure II (the "Dublin Traffic Relief, Clean Air/Open Space Preservation Measure") and Measure JJ (the "Government Accountability Act").

- Kristian Reyes is the newest DUSD Trustee Area 1 rep, finishing ahead of opponent Ram Shanbhogue.

- Councilmember Mark Armstrong beats newcomer Chirag Kathrani to become San Ramon mayor. In the Tri-Valley's tightest race, Robert Jweinat takes down Vasanth Shetty for City Council District 1. Councilmember Sridhar Verose wins District 3 unchallenged. City voters also approve the 1% sales tax increase.

- SRVUSD incumbents Shelley Clark and Laura Bratt earn second terms. The district also passes its Measure Q parcel tax.

- Danville Town Council incumbents Newell Arnerich and Renee Morgan are reelected, joined by first-time winner Mark Belotz.

- Former local congressman Jerry Mc Nerney (D-Pleasanton) wins close State Senate District 5 election.

- California's newest U.S. senator is Monte Vista alum Adam Schiff, who has gained prominence as a Democratic congressman in Burbank.

- Former Emerald High School principal Francis Rojas resigned from his position via text message after being called to a morning meeting with the superintendent and another Dublin school district official last month, according to records obtained by the Weekly.

- The Roman Catholic Diocese of Oakland, which filed for bankruptcy last year in the wake of hundreds of child sex abuse lawsuits, says that it will create a survivors' trust to compensate victims of the church. The plaintiff's lawyer calls the plan "a scam and a sham".

- Alameda County Registrar of Voters Tim Dupuis is asking for patience as the process to count hundreds of thousands of unprocessed ballots continues three days after the election.

- Tracy teacher and musician Andrew Verdoes, 60, dies after his motorcycle is knocked down and driven over on I-580 outside of Livermore.

- After Measure PP's defeat, Pleasanton city councilmembers and administrators take a stern tone as they address rumors alleging the city was hiding information on the past fiscal year's budget and talk about how even though the city saved some money last year, that doesn't change Pleasanton's high-level financial challenges ahead.

- Jim Goff, the downhome restaurateur whose namesake diner has been a staple in Pleasanton for three decades, is one of two bystanders killed by a vehicle during the famed Baja 1000 off-road racing event in Mexico.

- San Ramon Chamber of Commerce says Danielle Cook is coming on as the new president/CEO after Heidi Kenniston-Lee decides to leave to refocus on her own business, Heidi's Hutch.

- Dublin City Council agrees to loan \$5 million to developer

Sunflower Grace LP to carry out a 59-unit affordable housing project for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

- The remains of Livermore native and U.S. Army bombardier 2nd Lt. Thomas V. Kelly Jr. are accounted for following his death during World War II.

- One of the owners of Pleasanton's famous drive-thru ice cream store Meadowlark Dairy confirms to the Weekly that they are planning to submit their plans soon to open a new location in Livermore.

- LVJUSD updates its rules regarding dogs on campus, derailing aspects of Valley Humane Society's Canine Comfort.

- Seven active sheriff's deputies, two former deputies and two civilian jail employees are charged in connection with the 2021 death of Maurice Monk in Santa Rita Jail. Monk, 45, was found in his cell after apparently being dead for at least 72 hours unnoticed.

- Former San Ramon Valley High dual-sport star and retired Major League Baseball outfielder Randy Winn signs on to become the vice president of player development for the hometown San Francisco Giants.

- Both PPD and LPPD have ceased investigations without confirming what caused the damaging fire in the Amador Valley High School small gym, leaving residents with questions unanswered about what really led to that late-night blaze eight months ago.

- Foster City Police Chief Tracy Avelar is named as Pleasanton's new police chief.

- Livermore Lab's El Capitan, which officials say can perform 1.742 quintillion calculations per second, is verified as the world's most powerful supercomputer during the 2024 Supercomputing Conference.

- The Family Justice Center of Contra Costa and Solano County is set in the coming weeks to debut the organization's long-anticipated South County Center in Danville, with the move set to expand the

organization's services to residents in the San Ramon Valley.

- The city of Livermore loses another legal battle over Eden Housing last month when an Alameda County Superior Court judge determines the City Council improperly ratified a resolution aimed at moving the planned 130-unit downtown affordable housing project forward.

- PUSD board greenlights a nearly \$70 million design-build agreement to construct a dual athletic and performing arts facility at Foothill High School — one of the marquee projects funded by the \$395 million Measure I bond.

- The Weekly launches its 2024-25 Holiday Fund, which will benefit 10 local nonprofits: Axis Community Health, CityServe of the Tri-Valley, Culinary Angels, Goodness Village, Open Heart Kitchen, Pleasanton Partnerships in Education (PPIE), Sunflower Hill, Tri-Valley Haven, Tri-Valley REACH and Valley Humane Society.

- The Livermore City Council votes 4-1 to advance the long-debated Garaventa Hills housing project. It would later come out that the dissenter, Ben Barrientos, participated in the meeting against FPPC advice because of how close he lives to the property in question.

- Bay Area rapper Too \$hort and soul-funk-R&B band WAR are announced as the initial headliners for the 2025 Alameda County Fair's Big O Tires Summer Concert series.

- Foothill girls' volleyball makes a run all the way to the CIF Division I state championship game before falling to Palos Verdes.

- Two prominent families in the Livermore Valley's viticulture world (Lemmons Family Vineyards and Darcie Kent Winery) are now the new owners and operators of the historic Concannon Vineyard after acquiring the property for an undisclosed price from The Wine Group.

- The new Costco store with gas station (finally) opens on Johnson Drive in Pleasanton following a decade of planning, ballot measure, lawsuits and construction.



DEBORAH GROSSMAN

Chinese Szechuan owner Huey Wang poses inside her restaurant at the Hopyard Village shopping center that was at the center of a lot of community intrigue amid rumors of its planned closure in 2024.

## DECEMBER

- LPPD Chief Joe Testa confirms plans to retire but remain on board as interim fire chief into next year until a permanent successor is hired.

- New leadership is coming suddenly to the Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce, with the Board of Directors announcing that it was moving on from President/CEO James Cooper after 2-1/2 years at the helm.

- Livermore father Jeff Herrington opens up after his experience with life-threatening cardiac arrest, crediting the quick response from his wife and son, two Livermore police officers, paramedics and medical professionals.

- Deacon Dave's appears — and wins — on an episode of "The Great Christmas Light Fight".

- Daniel Andreas San Diego, who is suspected in two-decade-old bombings in Pleasanton and Emeryville, is taken into custody by the FBI after being captured in Wales.

- Samuel Grumet, a 17-year-old high school student taking a year off to prepare for the Navy SEALs, is killed when he is hit by a car while on foot on I-680 in San Ramon.

- Livermore motorcyclist Arthur Alexander Drucker dies in an apparent solo crash on Mines Road on Thanksgiving morning.

- Amador Valley football wins its first NCS and CIF NorCal championships in school history. In the state final, the Dons couldn't quite claw all the way back against Frontier, falling 18-14.

- "An unbelievable ride." Foothill alum Brandon Crawford retires from professional baseball after a career that included two World Series trophies and 4 Gold Gloves at shortstop with the San Francisco Giants.

- Two PPD 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, Price confirmed that her Public Accountability Unit cleared officers of criminal wrongdoing for the death of Cody Chavez despite concluding officers engaged in "unnecessary escalation" during their response to a domestic dispute turned standoff.

- Livermore's Carlos "Kique" Romero, 50, is one of three climbers presumed dead in New Zealand, believed to have taken a fatal fall traversing slopes.

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

- Sunset Development submits application to transform Chevron Park into "The Orchards" — a mixed-use neighborhood with residential and commercial buildings.

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

- Livermore City Council authorizes the purchase of a 41.3-acre

property in north Livermore near Garaventa Wetlands Preserve for \$1.6 million for conservation and possible recreational uses.

- Pleasanton City Council approves an amendment to City Manager Gerry Beaudin's employment contract to extend his severance package from six months to 12 months if fired without cause, a change in provision that draws some resident criticism for cost and timing.

- The Alameda County Board of Supervisors lays out a process for appointing an interim district attorney to replace recalled Pamela Price. Royle Roberts will lead the department until the new person is chosen early next year.

- 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 her final biannual update to the City Council.

- 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.

- The city is transferring oversight of the Livermore Municipal Airport to the Innovation and Economic Development Department instead of the Public Works Department.

- Pleasanton Planning Commission endorses plans for Philz Coffee to replace the old KFC drive-thru building in the Valley Plaza Shopping Center on Santa Rita Road.

- Swearing-in ceremonies happen at cities and school districts across the Tri-Valley to welcome newly elected officials and say goodbye to departing ones.

- State racing officials kill plans to expand Golden State Racing in Pleasanton into 2025. The future of horse racing at the historic fairgrounds track remains uncertain as the once-optimistic 2024 comes to an end. ■



VTV

Visit Tri-Valley announced plans this year to develop a new multi-use venue to draw the sports, entertainment and corporate event industries more to the region.



## “IF WE LOVE OUR SMALL TOWNS, WE MUST SUPPORT OUR LOCAL NEWSPAPERS!”

Many of us in the Bay Area live in the suburbs because we prefer the small-town feel, the community culture, the intimate relationships with mom-and-pop shops, and restaurants where the servers are friendly, and know our name. We also appreciate small local schools, community events, and activities, including youth sports, art, music, and parades down Main Street.

Life is changing, and so much of what we hold dear is disappearing. Shops and restaurants are closed because we forgot to visit them and spend our money. After all, they need our support. They cannot compete with chains and box stores. So, if you love those unique places, support them by giving them your business.

Local journalism is the same. We all know that many local newspapers are dying because we have stopped supporting them. How many of us subscribe to a local paper, if we are lucky enough to still have one? Small local papers existed decades ago but disappeared when conglomerates took over, providing “regional news” instead. Coverage of our communities disappeared.

I could not have been happier when Embarcadero Publishing showed up in our small town to provide coverage of local issues. Reporting of government decisions, community interest stories, local high school sports, charitable event successes, local obituaries, and advertising for local small businesses had not existed for decades.

Any community with a local newspaper has been given the gift of connection among its citizens. Nothing else provides that same connection to the place you call home. It is time to celebrate and support this gift before it disappears. Sites like Nextdoor have their place, but nothing is more impactful than a local newspaper, be it in a printed version for those who still prefer that option or online.

As we all know, more money is needed for the things we want to be successful such as schools, arts, music, and charitable endeavors. Today, newspapers are no different. It should come as no surprise to anyone that if we want to have a local newspaper, we must provide the necessary funds through membership, donations, or a combination of both.

Decide today to support your local community by donating to your local non-profit newspaper. Keep independent, unbiased reporting coming, hold your elected officials accountable, and keep a local advertising option. Send in your donation before it's too late.

*—Deborah Acosta McKeehan*

**Bio:** Deborah was among the first female city managers in the United States, serving in California cities for over 25 years. After that career, she became vice president of Embarcadero Media's East Bay Region for three years, and currently serves on the Embarcadero Media Foundation board. She was chairwoman of the board of the Valley Care Hospital, which became Stanford Tri-Valley after a merger she helped to lead. She is on the board of Stanford Medicine Partners, which oversees the relationship between hundreds of doctors in the Bay Area with Stanford Hospital and Stanford School of Medicine. Deborah has also been deeply involved with numerous other nonprofits.



Scan QR code to

**DONATE TODAY**

[www.embarcaderomediafoundation.org/donate/pleasanton/](http://www.embarcaderomediafoundation.org/donate/pleasanton/)

If you would like to pay for your annual membership of \$144, or make a donation by check it may be sent to:

**Embarcadero Media Foundation,  
2345 Yale St., FL 1, Palo Alto, CA 94306**

A receipt will be mailed to you.



**Pleasanton  
Weekly**

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

## Sensory-friendly Santa events come to town

LARPD, Stoneridge Mall host meet-and-greets for children with autism, disabilities

By Christian Trujano

For many Tri-Valley kids who celebrate Christmas, meeting Santa Claus for the first time and taking those momentous photos can be both exciting and nerve-racking.

But for children with developmental disorders or disabilities, that same experience — usually set in a mall or other crowded space — it's usually the latter.

That's why organizations like the Livermore Area Recreation and Park District created programs like its new "Sensory Santa" event this year so that more children can have those special holiday moments, just in a more comfortable setting.

"Everyone should have an opportunity for recreation, regardless of your ability to do it," Makenna Nation, a recreation coordinator at LARPD, told the Weekly. "It's a part of what makes a high quality of life ... being able to participate in that is everybody's right."

According to the LARPD's website, "adaptive recreation focuses on customizing recreation programs and activities to accommodate individuals of all ages with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD)."

Nation, who oversees the park district's new adaptive recreation programming, said the LARPD had been wanting to offer more recreation events designed for people with I/DD for a while.

She said they have been hosting their Donuts with Santa for quite some time, but last year they noticed how loud and overwhelming it might be for those with sensory sensitivities.

So she said they decided to try out their new event for the first time this past weekend, "Sensory Santa: A Gentle, Sensory-Friendly Holiday Event".

"Rooted in recreational therapy practices, these programs will foster positive social interactions, enhance physical health, and build essential social skills through engaging in community recreation activities," according to the LARPD's website.

The event, which was hosted in the LARPD event room on Dec. 13, was specifically catered for children with autism and other disabilities to meet Santa in a sensory-friendly environment. There were limited decorations and other small tweaks to make the entire experience more sensory sensitive.

Nation said families signed up for one of the 12 time slots so that they and their kids could have a one-on-one session with Santa, which "opens up a much bigger opportunity for people in the community that can get very overwhelmed and uncomfortable in those big event settings."

Livermore resident Laura Zupan and her family were among those who attended the Sensory Santa event last Friday — her 4-year-old son Nolan is autistic and has attended other adaptive LARPD events. Zupan told the Weekly even though her son is in a general classroom setting, participating in smaller group settings allows him to comfortably try new activities, like meeting Santa.

"I truly appreciated how Makenna and her team kept the



LARPD

A child sits next to Santa Claus during LARPD's "Sensory Santa: A Gentle, Sensory-Friendly Holiday Event" last Friday.

event size small, allowed us to purchase a private time slot to meet Santa and put Santa in a different room than the main event so that it would be less stimulating for our sensory sensitive kids," Zupan said.

Apart from the meet-and-greet, Nation said there were also crafts and games for the families to enjoy while they waited for their time slot.

Before the event, Nation said the 12 time slots filled up pretty fast and that they were going to use this first run at the event as a learning experience so that hopefully next year, they can offer more timeslots.

Plus, LARPD wasn't the only organization to host such an event in the area.

Back on Dec. 8, the Stoneridge Shopping Center hosted its yearly Caring Santa event early in the morning.

Astrid Ramos, director of marketing and business development for the shopping center in Pleasanton, said it was a privilege to once again host the private photo event, which was made exclusively for children with I/DD, and to spread the holiday cheer with more families.

"We have worked with our Santa partner, Cherry Hill, for years to bring the Caring Santa event, along with our other Santa photo-related experiences, to life," Ramos said in a statement to the Weekly.

"Caring Santa gives children with special needs and their families a unique opportunity to enjoy the holidays in a comfortable, controlled and festive environment," Ramos added. "As a family-focused center, it is important that we create a welcoming environment that allows shoppers to look forward to their experience at our property every time they visit."

Nation also said LARPD is working on tweaking other holiday-related events throughout the year so that every resident — regardless of their abilities — can

participate in local recreation.

"It's important to serve the entire community and not let that population fall under and not be served," she said. ■



LARPD

The holiday event at the Robert Livermore Community Center also featured crafts and other activities.

**TVTC**  
TRI-VALLEY  
THEATRE  
COMPANY

# LIVE AT THE BANKHEAD

# ROCK OF AGES

ROCK OF AGES BOOK BY CHRIS D'ARIEUNZO ARRANGEMENTS AND ORCHESTRATIONS BY ETHAN POPP

SATURDAY JAN 11-26  
& SUNDAYS

## GET TICKETS NOW!

LivermoreArts.org | 925.373.6800

ROCK OF AGES IS PRESENTED BY ARRANGEMENT WITH CONCORD THEATRICALS. [WWW.CONCORDTHEATRICALS.COM](http://WWW.CONCORDTHEATRICALS.COM)

Artwork designed by AKA NYC

# Opinion

## LETTERS

### Homeowners insurance: Part 2

A couple months ago I wrote about the ongoing crisis regarding obtaining homeowners insurance in California. I found two reports on both NBC & Fox news last week very interesting as relates to this matter. Both gave major praise to Farmers Insurance Company for writing new homeowners policies in this area.

To be sure, Farmers is the only "major player" that I know that is still writing new policies; I replaced my "non renewed" policy with Liberty Mutual after 30 years of no claims, with a Farmers policy. Before we hand out the "Good Neighbor of the Year" award to Farmers, here are a few facts that the news media forgot to mention:

My new policy increased by over 30% above a 9% increase on the old policy. I found that depending on which Farmers location you deal with, the policy price can vary by more than \$2,000. None can really be classified as a bargain.

But wait, there's more! In order to qualify for a Farmers policy, you must: have a central control burglary/fire system in your home, install both

an auto shutoff water and gas system, and verify through receipts from licensed contractors. As you might guess, none of this is cheap.

Not saying that these things do not represent a benefit; I'm just not sure they should be mandatory for people who are already overburdened. If this represents California's answer to a serious problem, then we as homeowners are in trouble.

In the meantime folks, keep your eye out for that homeowners renewal policy, and good luck.

—Mitch Fidziura

### No Costco traffic apocalypse

"Costco is finally here" — This was the cover story in the Pleasanton Weekly's Dec. 6, 2024 edition.

The big-box store's opening rightly deserved the coverage. Missing, however, was a forthright reporting of the traffic doomsday scenarios that the Costco naysayers promoted for years on end. Well guess what: Costco has opened and the traffic zombie apocalypse did not arrive.

The 10-year delay that preceded the Costco opening is another example of the short-sighted and anti-business bias that permeates

## PET OF THE WEEK

### Cast his spell

Harry Potter is still sporting robes and tie, as he hasn't been gifted any Christmas sweaters quite yet. Nevertheless, this magical tuxedo kitten is eager for a loving home in which to celebrate the holidays. A tad shy in busy environments, Harry Potter quickly transforms into a purring cuddlebug, and he enjoys having feline friends. Go on, ask Harry Potter to the Yule Ball — he's at Valley Humane Society's pet adoption center in Pleasanton! Learn more at valleyhumane.org or email info@valleyhumane.org to start the adoption process.



VHS

Pleasanton city leadership.

If the city really wanted to backstop a possible budget deficit, you would have thought that getting Costco opened would have been a political priority. Instead, small vocal NIMBY groups successfully delayed the project for nearly a decade.

Bravo to Costco for persevering, and let's hope our new city leadership show a little more, well, leadership.

—Harry Edwards

### El Pintado senior living

I have been following the recent senior living development off of El Pintado Road. It came to my attention that the Town Council recently unanimously approved rezoning and special use permit development. However, it seemed to be passed despite some pretty valid concerns.

As a Danville resident of 24 years, I am quite familiar with the area. It seems that concerns regarding a variety of factors such as a questionable validity of a traffic study which many residents at a recent hearing disputed the findings of. They also seem to have overlooked the density concerns of adding 420 living units in an already crowded area with little regard for overflow parking.

The biggest concern that seems to have been overlooked is the safety issues of emergency vehicles accessing this area. For a senior living complex, it is quite likely that emergency vehicles will need to access this facility or neighboring residents.

When familiar with the traffic patterns of that area it is quite easy to see how an ambulance would struggle to access this area promptly. Adding 240 households that are not senior assisted living units, people that will likely drive, to the existing traffic jams seems to be a massive safety concern that hasn't been adequately addressed.

Even though this development has already been approved and is likely past the point of return I would encourage some of these concerns to be voiced louder as they seem to have fallen on deaf ears.

—Kurt Steingraber

### Wildlife protection and public health

California annually imports some two million non-native American bullfrogs and 300,000 freshwater turtles for human consumption, sold in "live markets" throughout the state.

All are diseased and/or parasitized, though it is illegal to import/sell such products. Released into local waters by various "do-gooders", the exotics prey upon and displace our native species, while spreading all sorts of diseases and parasites, dangerous for wildlife and public alike.

The market animals are kept in horrendous conditions, routinely butchered while fully conscious. Worse, the majority of the bullfrogs carry a dreaded chytrid fungus, *Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis* (Bd), causing the extinctions of 200-plus amphibian species worldwide in recent years.

Easy fix: Stop issuing the import permits! Our Department of Fish & Wildlife and the Fish & Game Commission have received more than 4,000 letters supporting a ban, from environmental and sporting organizations, animal welfare groups and the general public; former Resources Secretary Huey Johnson wrote twice, all to no avail. Legislation is in order.

The issues are many: environmental protection, public health and unacceptable animal cruelty. All legislators may be written c/o The State Capitol, Sacramento, CA 95814. Email pattern for all: senator.lastname@senate.ca.gov; assembly-member.lastname@assembly.ca.gov

—Eric Mills, coordinator,  
Action for Animals

### What's your opinion?

Submit letters to the editor of up to 250 words and guest opinion pieces up to 550 words with a short bio to editor@PleasantonWeekly.com.

## Dolores Fox Ciardelli

June 5, 1946 – December 6, 2024

Dolores Fox Ciardelli passed away peacefully on Dec. 6, 2024, nearly 3 years after a diagnosis of breast and brain cancer. Her daughter Zoe held her hand one last time shortly before she died. She will be missed and remembered for her kindness, charm, elegance, and her motto "it's a good life if you don't weaken". She loved writing, reading, traveling, her family, and staying in touch with a huge circle of friends throughout California and the world.



Dolores was born and raised in San Jose. At the age of 18, she met the love of her life, James (Jim) Ciardelli, with whom she was married for 47 years. She graduated from San Jose State University, where she earned a BA in Journalism. While Jim was in the Air Force from 1968-1972, they lived in New Mexico, Texas, and Marysville, California. From 1975-1978, they lived in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia; then from 1987-92, in Bangkok, Thailand. From 1980 until Jim's death in 2014, the family home was in Walnut Creek.

While in Bangkok, Dolores started writing for the American Women's Club magazine Sawaddi and the Bangkok Post, as well as publishing short stories. Upon the family's return to the United States, she became a full time journalist and editor. She worked for the Contra Costa Times from 1993-2000. In 2000, she helped Embarcadero Media launch the Pleasanton Weekly and, in 2005, was the founding editor of the Danville Weekly. She continued writing for Embarcadero Media publications until her diagnosis.

She is survived by her son Joseph Pepe Ciardelli of Berlin, Germany and grandchildren Ruby and Elliot, both 8; daughter Zoe Ryan, son-in-law Jeff Ryan and grandchildren Camille, 12, and James, 9, of Mission Viejo; sister Diane Lechner of San Jose; sister-in-law Sue Martin of Alameda; and nieces and nephews.

A memorial service will be held in Walnut Creek in January.

PAID OBITUARY

## Pleasanton Weekly

### PUBLISHER

Gina Channell Wilcox, Ext. 1171,  
gchannell@PleasantonWeekly.com

### EDITORIAL

#### Editorial Director

Jeremy Walsh, Ext. 1172,  
jwalsh@PleasantonWeekly.com

#### Editor

Cierra Bailey, (650) 223-6528  
cbailey@LivermoreVine.com

#### Editor Emeritus

Jeb Bing

#### Staff Reporters

Jeanita Lyman, Ext. 1179,  
jlyman@PleasantonWeekly.com

Jude Strzemp, Ext. 1175,  
jstrzemp@PleasantonWeekly.com

Christian Trujano, Ext. 1176,  
ctrujano@PleasantonWeekly.com

### Contributors

Chuck Deckert, Tim Hunt,  
Nancy Lewis, Dennis Miller

### ART & PRODUCTION

#### Design and Production Manager

Kristin Brown

#### Designers

Linda Atilano, Paul Llewellyn,  
Mary Watanabe, Doug Young

### ADVERTISING

#### Account Executive

Karen Klein, Ext. 1177,  
kklein@PleasantonWeekly.com

#### Real Estate Sales

Carol Cano, Ext. 1173,  
ccano@PleasantonWeekly.com

### BUSINESS

#### Business Associate

Lisa Oefelein, Ext. 1178

#### Administrative Associate

Carolyn Chan, Ext. 1174,  
cchan@PleasantonWeekly.com

### HOW TO REACH THE WEEKLY

Phone: (925) 600-0840

Fax: (925) 600-9559

#### Editorial email:

editor@PleasantonWeekly.com  
calendar@PleasantonWeekly.com

#### Display Sales email:

sales@PleasantonWeekly.com

#### Classifieds Sales email:

ads@PleasantonWeekly.com

#### Circulation email:

circulation@PleasantonWeekly.com

The Pleasanton Weekly is published

every Friday by Embarcadero Media

Foundation, 5506 Sunol Blvd., Suite 203,

Pleasanton, CA 94566; (925) 600-0840.

Mailed at Periodicals Postage Rate, USPS

020407.

The Pleasanton Weekly is mailed upon request

to homes and apartments in Pleasanton.

However, in order to continue delivering you

the news you depend on, we encourage you to

become a member at PleasantonWeekly.com/

become-a-member.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to

Pleasanton Weekly, 5506 Sunol Blvd., Suite 203,

Pleasanton, CA 94566.

© 2024 by Embarcadero Media Foundation.

All rights reserved. Reproduction without

permission is strictly prohibited.



# POLICE BULLETIN

## Livermore OKs settlement with outlets over traffic and safety

The city of Livermore agreed to shell out about \$1.2 million to the Livermore Premium Outlets LLC and take back about \$750,000 when council approved the execution of a settlement agreement with the company last week.

The payment to the outlets is compensation for its contributions to public improvements on a site directly east of the shopping center. At the same time, the city will be reimbursed for the supplemental public safety services it has provided to the outlets.

Livermore council unanimously green-lit the agreement at its regular meeting on Dec. 9 as part of the consent calendar, which includes items considered routine in nature and are typically approved through a single vote.

According to the agreement, the settlement is a “compromise of disputed claims and contentions.”

Beginning in 2015, the city and LPO discussed the need for more safe and functional parking at the site now occupied by the outlets.

Public safety from the city reached an outstanding balance of \$762,145, as of Dec. 31, 2023. This dollar figure is to be reimbursed by LPO.

Additionally, LPO purchased land next to the outlets to build a parking facility where it contributed to public improvements costing \$1,209,346.88.

These are the funds the city agreed last week to repay to LPO, dished out at \$120,934.69 per year for a period of 10 years.

In addition to the financial settlement, both parties signed onto the public safety agreement, set to begin July 1, 2025 and last for 10 years.

In accordance with the safety agreement, LPO will fund the full cost of one additional police officer assigned to the center, costing \$225,799 per year at the time of signing. LPO will also fund 53% of the cost of traffic management services as contracted by the city on an ongoing basis.

—Jude Strzemp

## In other news

- Frontier has agreed to pay \$3.5 million for penalties and costs after settling allegations of hazardous waste management, the office of California Attorney General Rob Bonta and district attorneys in Alameda and San Mateo counties announced.

The improper handling of hazardous materials allegedly violated the Hazardous Waste Control Law and Unfair Competition Law, according to authorities.

Additionally, Frontier is required to take a series of actions to prevent future violations and reduce risks associated with improper handling

and disposal of hazardous materials, a press release on Dec. 5 noted.

“For years, Frontier’s careless and unlawful hazardous waste disposal practices jeopardized the health and environmental well-being of California communities,” Attorney General Rob Bonta said. “Today’s settlement holds them accountable for breaking the law and implements strict measures to prevent them from putting Californians and our environment at risk in the future.”

The settlement is a result of over 12 waste inspections conducted from 2011 to 2013, during which more than 300 potentially hazardous items

were recovered from regular trash dumpsters at 10 Frontier facilities, authorities said.

These items included batteries, remote controls, aerosol cans, and more.

Back then, Frontier was owned and operated by Verizon California, Inc., the press release noted.

“This settlement should put others on notice that district attorneys and the Attorney General will continue to work together to investigate and prosecute violations against our environment,” San Mateo County District Attorney Stephen Wagstaffe said. ■

—Bay City News Service

## Anthony Michael Echavia

April 4, 1965 – December 11, 2024

Anthony “Coach Tony” Echavia was a lifelong Pleasanton resident who was most often pictured with a sunglasses tan, standing at third base, waving someone in to score with a big smile on his face. The only thing to eclipse his love for coaching was his love for his wife Ann, son Michael, daughters Kathryn and Christina, son-in-law Zane, daughter-in-law Katie, and dog Mysti. Coach Tony passed away surrounded by family on December 11, 2024 after a battle with ALS.



Tony was an active and mischievous kid and could be found riding bikes with his friends in the Highland Oaks neighborhood and “white water rafting” during storms in Pleasanton’s creek. He was a lifelong athlete who graduated from Foothill High in 1983 where he played football, wrestling, and ran track & field as a sprinter and pole-vaulter.

His passion for sports continued into college where he ran track & field for Delta College while attending University of the Pacific. There, he met the love of his life and wife of 34 years, Ann. He enjoyed building elaborate structures like multi-story slides with his Omega Phi Alpha brothers and his lifelong curiosity for how things work led him to pursue dual Electrical Engineering and Engineering Physics degrees.

He applied his engineering skills at Underwriter Laboratories and Xerox Engineering Systems, followed by a 25 year career at Cisco Systems leading Engineering Program Management teams. Tony’s goofy and charismatic personality radiated in the office as did his colorful language.

But Tony’s proudest career moments were on the softball, baseball, soccer, and flag football fields. He coached Pleasanton Little League, PGSL, Phantom, Ballistic, RAGE, and PJFL recreational and traveling teams for 15 years. Outside of the Pleasanton community he coached Young Guns, East Bay Rockets, Synergy, Wolfpack, Easton Preps Bay Area, and Elite softball teams alongside Ken Thompson. Tony’s teams won championships but most importantly he developed numerous players who earned collegiate athletic scholarships.

Tony’s legacy lives on through the values he instilled in the athletes he coached, his selfless devotion with which he loved his family, and the network of relationships he created in the office.

Tony reunites with his father Margarito Echavia, mother Jessie Echavia, and sister Marilynn Lum. He is survived by his immediate family, sisters Marjorie Yee, Pamela Carleton, Belinda Quan, and Christine Echavia, along with numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, and nephews.

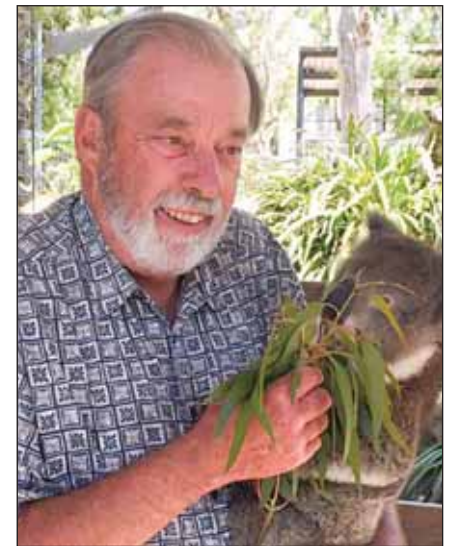
Tony’s family will host a memorial at Graham-Hitch Mortuary (4167 First St., Pleasanton, CA 94566) on Friday, December 20, 2024 with visitation at 11 AM and service at noon followed by burial at Pleasanton Pioneer Cemetery (5780 Sunol Blvd., Pleasanton, CA 94566). A celebration of his life at the Echavia Family home will follow. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the Team Echavia ALS Network Memorial Fund (secure. alsnetwork.org/goto/Team\_Echavia).

PAID OBITUARY

## Larry Lindsey

December 5, 1939 – December 8, 2024

Larry Lindsey, 85, passed away peacefully on December 8, 2024, after enjoying the 49er’s win over the Bears. Born on December 5, 1939, Larry lived a full and vibrant life from beginning to end and touched the lives of many people along the way.



As the loving patriarch of his family as well as the chief planner, master logistician, and trusted advisor (sometimes unsolicited ;), Larry will be dearly missed.

After graduating from San Leandro High in 1958, Larry proudly served his country as an Army Reservist at Fort Ord. He graduated from San Jose State University in 1963 and then met the love of his life, Sharron. They married in 1965 and enjoyed 50+ years living in Pleasanton, raising their children, and serving the community.

During his decades-long career in banking and finance, including getting The Bank of Pleasanton off the ground in 1984, Larry was also an entrepreneur. He started, partnered with, and invested in several successful businesses in the Pleasanton area.

The 1980s was a time of critical growth for the city of Pleasanton. Larry was integral in guiding the rural town on the edge of the East Bay into a city of “Planned Progress.” He enjoyed his years with the Pleasanton Planning Commission, Rotary Club, and Chamber of Commerce. He was honored to receive the Annual Mayor’s Award in 1988.

Larry played poker and golf, but above all, he was dedicated to his family. He and Sharron loved attending music performances and cheering from dozens of sports sidelines. Their grandchildren will cherish summers spent in Pleasanton, swimming, bike riding, barbecuing, golfing, and attending the Fair.

Larry and Sharron retired to Brentwood in 2019, where they enjoyed sunrises on their patio, wine club with friends, and beautiful summer-sunset golf cart outings.

Larry was preceded in death by his parents, Charles and Marjorie Lindsey; his sister, Linda Appleton; and his nephew, Derek Appleton.

Larry is survived by his adoring wife, Sharron; his daughter, Sarah Campbell (Mark); his son, David Lindsey (Tricia); and grandchildren Joseph (Valeria), Ella, Olivia, Luke (Liv), Jack, and Logan; and his nephew Chris Appleton.

The family is holding a memorial service to honor Larry on Saturday, December 28, 2024, at 12:00 - Summerset III Vista Clubhouse, 550 Baldwin Dr., Brentwood, CA.

Condolences can be sent to 1447 Bismarck Lane, Brentwood, CA 94513.

PAID OBITUARY

**GRAHAM-HITCH**  
FD #429 MORTUARY  
LOCALLY OWNED  
AND OPERATED SINCE 1891

BURIAL & CREMATION  
CELEBRATION OF LIFE SERVICES  
RECEPTION FACILITIES

ADVANCE PLANNING  
MADE EASY  
FOR A FREE CONSULTATION  
OR IN-HOME VISIT CALL

DEANNA MOSER  
925.846.5624  
TO VIEW OUR FACILITIES VISIT:  
WWW.GRAHAMHITCH.COM  
4167 FIRST STREET,  
PLEASANTON

*Lasting Memories*  
PleasantonWeekly.com/  
obituaries

## Peter "Pete" W Snyder

December 9, 1934 – October 13, 2024

We are deeply saddened to share the passing of our father, Peter (Pete) W. Snyder, on October 13, 2024. The family will honor Pete's extraordinary life with a Celebration of Life on January 10, 2025, from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM at the Shannon Community Center, Dublin, California.

Pete was born on December 9, 1934, in Des Moines, Iowa, to Claire and Ann Snyder. He was the youngest of three boys, joining older brothers Harlan and Craig. In the 1950s, Pete proudly served in the U.S. Army, stationed overseas in Japan for 2½ years.

On September 8, 1956, Pete married his life partner, Priscilla Edna Rich, and together they raised five children: Gary, Sheri, David, Jon, and Brian. Later in life, their family grew to include 12 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren. Pete and Priscilla cherished their travels, forging lasting friendships around the world. They lived for a time in Nerja, Spain, and welcomed many family and friends to visit. No matter where they were, family was always at the heart of their lives, and their passion for community service was ever-present.

Pete worked more than 40 years in the automotive parts industry in Oakland and San Leandro supporting the growing area's commerce and service industries. He was also an active member of the San Ramon Valley (Danville) Congregational Church for many years.

Pete's life was defined by service. In the early 1960s, he was a founding member of the San Ramon Valley "Host" Lions Club, which later became the Dublin Lions Club. Pete was elected District Governor of Lions District 4-C3, serving from 1978 to 1979, and remained an active and lifelong member of the Lions.

Pete also served on the Murray (Dublin) School District Board of Trustees for five years, including a term as Board Chair. However, his most enduring legacy is his leadership in the incorporation of Dublin as a city. In 1980, he spearheaded the efforts to incorporate Dublin, and in 1982, he became the city's first mayor. Pete served a total of 13 years on the city council, 11 of those as mayor. During his time in office, he played a pivotal role in shaping the community, including the development of the Dublin Civic Center and bringing BART (Bay Area Rapid Transit) service to the area.

Following his time on the city council, Pete was elected to the BART Board in 1996, serving until 2004, including a term as Board President in 2002. He was also involved in a variety of other organizations, including the American Public Transit Association, the Tri-Valley Community Fund, the Dublin Fine Arts Foundation, the Congestion Management Agency, and the Association of Bay Area Governments.

Pete was an active member of the Martin C. Kauffman, 100 Club of Alameda County, serving on the board for many years and as President from 2004-2005.

Pete was widely admired for his integrity and character. A longtime friend of his, quoted in a local newspaper article, said, "When I think of Pete, I think of someone so honest and with such integrity. I can trust him implicitly, and I think everyone in the city can. He's just a straight arrow."

Pete lived an exceptional life, setting an inspiring example for all of us. We miss him dearly and will carry his memory in our hearts forever.

In-lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to Martin C. Kauffman, 100 Club of Alameda. Checks can be mailed to 4900 Hopyard, Suite 100, Pleasanton, CA 94588 or <https://www.100clubalamedacounty.org/page-18110>. Or Hospice of the Foothills, checks can be made to Foothills Compassionate Care, 11270 Rough and Ready Hwy, Grass Valley, CA 95945 or <http://foothills-cares.org/donate/>



PAID OBITUARY

## George Roland Cole

July 21, 1934 – December 3, 2024

George Roland Cole passed away peacefully December 3, 2024 with his loving family by his side, after his battle with lymphoma.

George was born in Long Pine, Nebraska on July 21, 1934. He came to California in 1943 from Rupert, Idaho where he became a longtime resident of the Fremont area.

He served in the U.S. Army Reserve from 1953-1960 with the 49th Military Police company.

He attended Washington High School where he met his high school sweetheart, and future wife, Irene. Together they opened a successful Pleasanton grocery store, Cole's Market. As a family, they ran the store for twenty-five years until their retirement in 1990.

After retirement, George and Irene enjoyed running their almond ranch in Delhi. They loved to entertain friends and family, travel, music, dancing and sports. They took pride in sponsoring the annual American High School "Tim Cole Basketball Tournament", created to honor the memory of their eldest son, Tim Cole.

George decided to explore cooking after his wife's passing 9 and a half years earlier. He became a very good cook pouring his heart and soul into each dish while listening to his favorite "Big Band" era music.

George is survived by his children: Jeff Cole (April), and Denise Cabral (Neil); his sisters: Donna Facey and Sharon Santos; his grandchildren: Jeffery (Mandie), Nicole (Andrew), Jessica (Aaron), Kevin (Erin), Joshua (Maria), and Tyler (Gabby); and great grandchildren, Emma, Cadence, JT, Maverick, Rylee, Lillian, Eloise, Jett, and Cruz. George will be deeply missed by all who knew him.

Private services will be held.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in memory of George to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.



PAID OBITUARY

## Thomas Treto

October 3, 1933 – November 18, 2024

Thomas Treto passed away November 18, 2024, at the age of 91. Tom touched many lives with his outgoing personality. His fun, caring spirit will be missed by all who knew him.

Tom was born in Sonora, CA, and graduated from Sonora High School. After serving four years in the Navy, Tom enjoyed a 24-year career with the Bank of America. He moved to Pleasanton with his wife, Barbara, in 1969 and started his own business, Dependable Home Warranty. Tom finished his career with Land Planning Consultants.

Tom was active in many community and business organizations, including the Lions Club, California Association of School Business Officials, the Pleasanton-Tulancingo Sister City Association, and Sons in Retirement (SIR). He also served several years on the Pleasanton Housing Commission. Tom also enjoyed barbecuing, fishing, camping, golfing, basketball, football, and spending time with family.

Tom is survived by his loving wife, Barbara Treto; children, Tom Treto, Jr., Lisa (David) Pontes, Todd Treto, and Troy (Robin) Treto; grandchildren, Tim Treto, Jeanine Pontes-Boelter, Kristen Pontes-Christian, Jessie Pontes-Self, Stephanie Treto, Jessie Scott, Taylor Treto, and Tanner Treto; and his 12 great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his daughter, Cheryl, and grandsons, Michael, James, and Tyson.

Tom's Memorial Service will be held on Monday, December 23 at 10am at St. Elizabeth-Seton Catholic Church at 4001 Stoneridge Drive in Pleasanton. The service is open to the public.



PAID OBITUARY

## POLICE REPORT

The Pleasanton Police Department made the following information available.

### Dec. 15

#### Theft

- 12:31 p.m., 1400 block of Second Street; auto theft
- 4:37 p.m., 1000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; theft from auto
- 5:29 p.m., 1500 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting

#### Burglary

- 3:01 p.m. on the 6000 block of Laurel Creek Drive

### Dec. 14

#### Vandalism

- 4:55 a.m. on the 5500 block of Springhouse Drive
- 11:05 p.m. on the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive

#### Shoplifting

- 4:08 p.m. on the 1400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road
- 7:13 p.m. on the 1500 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

#### Burglary

- 6:54 p.m. on the 5000 block of Rigatti Circle

### Dec. 13

#### Drug violation

- 8:30 a.m. on the 5600 block of Owens Drive

#### Theft

- 4:27 p.m. on the 000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road
- 8:11 p.m., 1400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting

### Dec. 12

#### Theft from auto

- 10:14 a.m. on the 2700 block of Stoneridge Drive
- 10:25 a.m. on the 6300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

#### Domestic battery

- 10:29 a.m. on Santa Rita Road

#### Vandalism

- 4:17 p.m. on the 000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

### Dec. 11

#### Fraud

- 12:05 p.m. on the 2400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

#### Theft

- 1:36 p.m., 1400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting
- 1:45 p.m., 5600 block of Owens Drive; auto theft

#### Vandalism

- 1:47 p.m. on the 5600 block of Owens Drive
- 11:31 p.m. on the 5300 block of Owens Court

#### Fraud

- 2:28 p.m. on the 4300 block of Black Avenue

#### Warrant arrest

- 11:37 p.m. on the 6700 block of Bernal Avenue

### Dec. 10

#### Warrant arrest

- 12:59 a.m. on the 4700 block of Willow Road

#### Theft

- 8:54 a.m. on the 5800 block of Owens Drive
- 6:46 p.m. on the 1500 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

#### Alcohol violation

- 2:17 p.m. at Owens and Johnson drives

### Dec. 9

#### Auto theft

- 10:35 a.m. on the 4900 block of Owens Drive

#### Trespassing/prowling

- 8:46 p.m. on the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive

### Dec. 8

#### Assault/battery

- 7:19 a.m. on the 4500 block of Eull Court



## PLEASANTON PREPS

By DENNIS MILLER

# What a ride for Amador football to state title game

Here's hoping Dons hold heads high despite heartbreaker against Frontier

At least they got there. I am sure the bus ride home from Southern California on Saturday morning for the Amador Valley football team following their 18-14 loss the night before to Frontier High from Bakersfield was an interesting one.

The Dons were right there with a chance to claim the CIF D-III AA title but ended up just short of capping their sensational season with the state title.

At least they got there. The moods and mannerisms on the bus had to be all over the place. I've been on those bus rides before — some celebratory, others not so much.

The lucky ones were those that got some sleep on the bus. Their minds were clear while their bodies that went through a 15-game season began to heal.

Some just sat and stared at the sparse scenery that I-5 offers, likely listening to music. Others were in conversation with their friends, either trying to move past the disappointment of the loss or pushing off thinking about it.

Lots of emotions, thoughts or questions with no answers available. I was one of those who would stare out the window without talking.

What goes through your mind at this point?

You replay the entire game in your head, trying to find what you could have done differently that could have perhaps turned the tables for your team.

If you have never been an athlete, it's a place you can't understand. Athletes, especially the high-level ones, reach deep inside and grow from the answers they reach for. It may seem extreme, but if you have walked in those shoes, you know.

This is one of the most underrated things about what sports bring to kids from 10 years old to through college. You face adversity head on, and win or lose, you confront it and become a stronger — and better — person.

Athletes have different ways of processing a big loss and they may differ, but they all arrive at the same place: handling a moment these athletes will remember for the rest of their lives.

At least they got there. They will take what they learned and use it in life moving forward. Whether it is work, school, whatever;



BRYAN KENITZER

The Amador Valley football team following their loss in the CIF State D-III AA final.

it will help in their growth in a way many will never know.

When their bus pulled into the Amador Valley parking lot on Saturday, undoubtedly greeted by a throng of parents, friends and members of the Pleasanton community, I hope they had one and only one thought — an overwhelming sense of pride!

This group of boys galvanized an entire community. There were no Foothill or Amador groups; it was all about Pleasanton. Falcons were joining arms to root on their crosstown rivals.

My wife, who is not a sports fan believe it or not, was cheering the last two weeks watching the NorCal final, then the state game.

There were three viewing parties going on in Pleasanton on Friday night with the attendees at all three living the emotions with the players.

And although none of us got the ideal ending we had hoped for, what we got was even better: our sense of pride and community.

At least they got there and that is something that can never be taken away from them. Only two teams in the entire state of California in their division can lay claim to making the state finals.

For the players to be able to bring everyone together gives them the exclusive right to stand tall and carry yourself having done something you can remember every single day and someday share the story with your own kids.

It may sting for a while — and it should — but it is also something that will put a smile on your face for the rest of your lives.

A job and a season well done! Thank you for taking us all along for the ride.

### Amador boys' soccer

The Dons' varsity team started off the season with a bang, winning a pair of 2-0 games over American and Freedom on Dec. 2-3.

Ramsay Hanna and Ryan Bell scored both the goals in each game. Coleson Franklin, Joseph D'Onofrio, Lucas Cimas and Atishay Sati all played well.

On Dec. 7, the Dons fell 5-0 to Clayton Valley.

The JV team beat American 6-0, led by a hat-trick from Ekansh Samanta. Diego Tempero, Leo Wiedemeyer and Joseph Prunty also contributed to the scoring. The following day, they secured a 3-0 victory against Freedom, with goals from Samanta, Tempero and Muhriz Munir. Samanta was named Player of the Match.

The Dons fell short in their weekend match against Clayton Valley Charter, losing 1-0. Munir was recognized for his outstanding performance.

Amador Valley freshmen kicked off their beating Dublin 3-1.

Trailing 1-0 at the half, the Dons got goals from Rolando Tovar (the first goal) and Kingston Smith (knocking in the next two).

Ethan Hernandez, Ewan Kinnear, Harry Brown, Jesus Hernandez and Sawyer Willis played well.

This past week, the varsity Dons tied 1-1 against Liberty and then fell 5-0 to Vintage on Dec. 14.

Bell found the net against Liberty, assisted by D'Onofrio.

The JV team battled to a 0-0 draw against Liberty, then beat Vintage 3-1. Munir, Guillermo Galvan and Jesus Desiderio Hernandez scored the goals.

The freshman team got a late goal by Rolando Tovar to beat Freedom. ■

# Employment

**Engineering Manager**  
Cowbell Cyber, Inc. has an opening in Pleasanton, CA. Engineering Mng'r, App Dev: assess & review areas for improvements; create & monitor metrics; develop stack & contribute to codebase. May be assigned to various, unanticipated sites throughout the US. Remote work may be permitted. Salary range: \$200,304 - \$200,304 per yr. Submit resume (principals only) to: sahar@cowbellcyber.ai Must include recruitment source + job title in subject line. EOE

Tekion Corp. has an opening in Pleasanton, CA for a **Staff Application Support Engineer [SASEIA1224]** to research, identify, troubleshoot, & resolve tech. issues. Will supervise a team of Comp. Syst. Analysts. Wage: \$168,397/ yr. To apply, email resume to mfeist@tekion.com. Must reference job title & job code

**The Pleasanton Weekly offers employment advertising. If you wish to learn more about the employment advertising options, please visit PleasantonWeekly.com/employment\_ads/.**

# Public Notices

## UPDATED PUBLIC NOTICE NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (EA) FOR THE VALLEY LINK RAIL PROJECT

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA), as lead federal agency, and the Tri-Valley - San Joaquin Valley Regional Rail Authority (Authority), as project sponsor, are proposing the Valley Link Rail Project, which would establish a new passenger rail service along a 22-mile corridor between the existing Dublin/Pleasanton Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) District Station in Alameda County and the proposed Mountain House Community Station in San Joaquin County, California.

The FTA and the Authority are issuing this updated Notice of Availability (NOA) to advise other agencies and the public that the Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed Valley Link Rail Project is available for review and comment as of December 10, 2024; this date was previously anticipated to be December 6, 2024. The EA, prepared pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), analyzes potential environmental effects associated with construction and operation of the Valley Link Rail Project. The EA is available for review on the project website: [www.getvalleylinked.com](http://www.getvalleylinked.com). Copies of the EA are also available for review at the following locations:

- Livermore Public Library  
1188 S. Livermore Avenue  
Livermore, CA 94550
- Mountain House Branch Library  
201 E. Main Street  
Mountain House, CA 95391
- Tri-Valley - San Joaquin Valley Regional Rail Authority  
(by appointment only; please call (925) 667-4013)  
2600 Kitty Hawk Road, Suite 103  
Livermore, CA 94551

**Proposed Project and Location**  
The Proposed Project would establish a new passenger rail service along a 22-mile corridor in Northern California between the existing Dublin/Pleasanton BART Station in Alameda County and the proposed Mountain House Community Station in San Joaquin County. The Proposed Project would provide an all-day bi-directional passenger rail service at frequent intervals using zero-emission multiple unit vehicles. The alignment would be constructed within a combination of the existing I-580 freeway median, the existing transportation corridor owned by Alameda County (formerly Southern Pacific Transcontinental Railroad alignment), existing Caltrans

right-of-way (ROW) adjacent to westbound I-580, and new ROW to be acquired for the Proposed Project.

The Proposed Project includes the construction and operation of four stations:

- Dublin/Pleasanton Station** would be constructed south of the eastbound I-580 freeway lanes in proximity to the existing Dublin/Pleasanton BART Station.
- Isabel Station** would be constructed within the I-580 median with adjacent parking on a 24-acre site along East Airway Boulevard south of I-580 and east of the Isabel Avenue I-580 overcrossing in Livermore.
- Southfront Road Station** in Livermore would be constructed within the I-580 median with adjacent parking located south of I-580 on a seven-acre site along Southfront Road between McGraw Avenue and Franklin Lane.
- Mountain House Community Station** would be constructed north of I-205 on an approximately 54-acre site west of Mountain House Parkway near the I-205/Mountain House Parkway interchange in the Mountain House community.

Facilities to support the operations and maintenance and ancillary project activities are planned at three locations:

- The Altamont Maintenance of Way (MOW) Staging Area** would be constructed on a 10-acre portion of the Alameda County Transportation Corridor ROW, approximately 2,250 feet east of Dyer Road.
- The Mountain House Layover Facility (LF)** would be constructed on an approximately 75-acre site east of Mountain House Parkway and north of I-205 to support train layovers, storage, and light maintenance.
- Tracy Operations and Maintenance Facility/Operations Support Site (OMF/OSS)** would be constructed on part of an approximately 200-acre property along West Schulte Road just west of the Owens-Brockway Glass Container Plant west of Tracy.

**Potential Environmental Impacts**  
The EA has determined that construction and operation of the Proposed Project could result in potential impacts to the following environmental resources: Aesthetics; Agricultural Land; Air Quality; Biological Resources; Cultural Resources; Environmental Justice; Geology, Soils, and Paleontological Resources; Hazardous Materials; Hydrology and Water Quality; Land Use and Property Acquisitions; Noise and Vibration; Transportation and Traffic; Utilities; and Indirect and Cumulative Effects. However, avoidance, minimization, and mitigation measures have been identified, where relevant, to avoid or reduce potential adverse impacts to meet federal requirements and/or state and local requirements.

**Written Comments**  
Written comments on the Valley Link Rail Project EA document will be accepted from December 10, 2024, until 5:00 PM on January 10, 2025. Please send written comments to:  
Tri-Valley - San Joaquin Valley Regional Rail Authority  
2600 Kitty Hawk Road, Suite 103  
Livermore, CA 94551

Your comments on the EA document may also be sent by email to [comments@valleylinkrail.com](mailto:comments@valleylinkrail.com) (please include "Valley Link Project" in the subject heading), or through the online comment submission form provided on the project website: [www.getvalleylinked.com](http://www.getvalleylinked.com). All comments must be received by 5:00 PM on January 10, 2025.

**For Further Information**  
For the latest project updates and information about any additional public events and opportunities to comment, visit our project website at [www.getvalleylinked.com](http://www.getvalleylinked.com), contact us by email at [comments@valleylinkrail.com](mailto:comments@valleylinkrail.com) and include "Valley Link Project" in the subject heading, or visit us on X (formerly Twitter) (<https://x.com/ValleyLinkRail>) and Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/ValleyLinkRail>). Language assistance is available upon request.

Se proporcionará asistencia con el idioma si se solicita llamando al (925) 667-4013.  
联系 (925) 667-4013 可应要求提供语言帮助。  
925-667-4013  
سيتم توفير المساعدة اللغوية عند الطلب عن طريق الاتصال

Hỗ trợ ngôn ngữ sẽ được cung cấp theo yêu cầu bằng cách liên hệ (925) 667-4013.  
언어 지원은 (925) 667-4013으로 연락하여 요청 시 제공될 것입니다.  
Ang tulong sa wika ay ibibigay kapag hiniling sa pamamagitan ng pakikipag-ugnayan sa (925) 667-4013.

# Public Notices

## STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME

File No. 601346

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): SENIOR CARE AUTHORITY 1101 Marina Village Pkwy Suite 201 Alameda, CA 94501 FILED IN ALAMEDA COUNTY ON: 10/12/2023 UNDER FILE NO. 601346 REGISTRANT'S NAME(S): ORA MANAGEMENT 105 Laurel Knoll Dr. Suite 1 Martinez, CA 94553 THIS BUSINESS WAS CONDUCTED BY A Limited Liability Company. This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Alameda County on December 06 2024. (PLW Dec 20, 2024, Jan 3, 10 and 17, 2025)

## 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): NUTNICH 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)

## PAWFECT STUFF CO. FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No.: 611045

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: 1.) PAWFECT STUFF CO. , located at 5569 Dublin Blvd., Dublin, CA 94568, Alameda County. This business is conducted by: a General Partnership. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are): QIUWEN LI 5569 Dublin Blvd. Dublin, CA 94568 XIUQI CAI 5569 Dublin Blvd. Dublin, CA 94568 Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 11/25/2024 This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on December 05 2024. (PLW Dec 20, 2024, Jan 3, 10 and 17, 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)

## 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)

## 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)

## 25SCOOP-A-DOO FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No.: 610420

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: 1.) 25coop-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)

## 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)

## 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)

## 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)

## 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)

## 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)

## 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 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, Hayward Hall of Justice 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: December 5, 2024 HAN TRAN 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)

## 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 KAHSSON 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)

*Continued on next page*

# Public Notices

Continued from previous page

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

Case No.: 24CV101905

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:

Petitioner: Josselyn Gil Verdin filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: JOSSELYN 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)

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)

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

- Fictitious Business Name
- Abandonment of Fictitious Business Name
- Name Change
- Partnership Withdrawal or Dissolution
- Petition to Administer Estate - Probate Hearing
- Notice of Bulk Sale
- Legal Summons
- Trustee Sale

**The deadline is Sunday at 11:59 pm.**

**Visit [PleasantonWeekly.com/legal\\_notices/](https://PleasantonWeekly.com/legal_notices/)**

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

# Calendar

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

## Entertainment

**FREE HOLIDAY CONCERT** The Pleasanton Community Concert Band will play a diverse program of Holiday music which includes seasonal standards along with contemporary favorites. 7:30 p.m., Dec. 20. Firehouse Arts Center.

**THE NUTCRACKER** Valley Dance Theatre's full production of The Nutcracker is accompanied by the Valley Dance Theatre Pit Orchestra and entertains with elaborate sets, skilled dancers and beautiful costumes. Dec. 20-22. Tickets \$39-\$49. Visit [livermorearts.org](https://livermorearts.org).

**A NEW ORLEANS CHRISTMAS** Celebrate the holidays in style with Jeff Bordes & Friends where this holiday extravaganza brings a unique and festive twist to favorite Christmas classics, infused with the vibrant sounds of New Orleans jazz, funk and blues. 8 p.m., Dec. 21. Tickets \$28-\$38. Visit [firehousearts.org](https://firehousearts.org).

**ONCE UPON A TIME STEP** East Bay Children's Theatre presents this musical revue featuring show-stopping song and dance numbers. Accompanying the film will be a live stage show featuring Santa Claus and the Elves performing holiday favorites. 2 p.m., Dec. 22. Visit [firehousearts.org](https://firehousearts.org).

**MOSTLY KOSHER - A CHANUKAH CELEBRATION** Join Mostly Kosher, the acclaimed Klezmer/Rock band, as they radically reconstruct Judaic and American cultural music with ravenous klezmer beats and arresting Yiddish refrains. 7:30 p.m., Dec. 23. Tickets \$25-\$65. Visit [livermorearts.org](https://livermorearts.org).

**COMEDY NIGHT WITH CHICAGO STEVE BARKLEY** With decades of experience on stages across the country, Chicago Steve's humor promises to bring the house down with laughs for everyone. Don't miss this unforgettable night of comedy. 7:30 p.m., Dec. 27. Tickets \$23-\$33. Visit [firehousearts.org](https://firehousearts.org).

**CHRIS CAIN** With over 30 years of touring and fourteen acclaimed albums, Chris Cain's mastery of Memphis-style electric blues shines through every fiery guitar riff and gruff, soulful lyric. 7 p.m., Dec. 28. Tickets \$33. Visit [firehousearts.org](https://firehousearts.org).

**FOREJOUR - FOREIGNER & JOURNEY TRIBUTE BAND** Forejour's multi-media show transports audiences back to the heyday of MTV as the band performs the live soundtrack to cherished videos on screen. 8 p.m., Dec. 28. Tickets \$35-\$69. Visit [livermorearts.org](https://livermorearts.org).

**JEFF BORDES AND FRIENDS: SWINGING IN THE NEW YEAR** Get ready for an unforgettable New Year's Eve with a performance that will set the stage for a memorable start to the New Year. 8 p.m., Dec. 31. Tickets \$100. Visit [livermorearts.org](https://livermorearts.org).

## Christmas

**COOKIES WITH SANTA** This event at Towne Center Books includes a cookie to take home, photo with

Santa and a gift. \$5 per child with reservation required at 925-846-8826. 555 Main St., Pleasanton. 9-11 a.m., Dec. 21.

**HO HO HO HOLIDAY CARNIVAL** Join LARPD for a holiday carnival at Sycamore Grove Park. There will be Midway games, festive arts and crafts, holiday treats and a special meet-and-greet with Santa himself. 5-7:30 p.m., Dec. 21. Tickets \$15R/\$17NR. Visit [larpd.org](https://larpd.org).

**CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE** Join the Unitarian Universalist Church for their Christmas Eve Service featuring Christmas carols, candle lighting and fellowship. Unitarian Universalism is a faith without borders where all are welcome. 6-8 p.m., Dec. 24. 1893 N. Vasco Road, Livermore.

**CALIFORNIA CHRISTMAS LIGHTS** Join in celebrating the magic of the season and discover the most enchanting Christmas lights and holiday displays in your hometown. Visit [californiachristmaslights.com](https://californiachristmaslights.com).

**LIGHTS OF LIVERMORE HOLIDAY TOUR** Join for a magical evening of wine tasting and a tour of Livermore Valley's holiday lights aboard the Wine Trolley. Dec. 6-23. Visit [livermorewinetrolley.com](https://livermorewinetrolley.com).

**PHOTOS WITH SANTA AT STONERIDGE** The ultimate holiday tradition, pictures with Santa Claus, awaits now through Dec. 24 at Stoneridge Shopping Center in Pleasanton. For available dates and times, visit [simon.com](https://simon.com).

**WIDMER WORLD 2024** Bring friends and family for an enjoyable start or ending to the evening in Pleasanton for this Christmas display. 6-9 p.m., Dec. 1-31. 3671 Chelsea Ct. Visit [widmer-world.com](https://widmer-world.com).

**DEACON DAVE'S CHRISTMAS DISPLAY** The 40th annual Deacon Dave's Christmas Display in Livermore is now through Jan. 1. For additional information visit [casadelpomba.com](https://casadelpomba.com).

## Hanukkah

**HANUKKAH CELEBRATION** Join the Tri-Valley Cultural Jews' Hanukkah Celebration where the menorah will be lit and latkes fried. Spin the dreidel and enjoy games and crafts with this warm, welcoming community. 5-7 p.m., Dec. 21. For an invite email [culturaljews@gmail.com](mailto:culturaljews@gmail.com) or call 925-399-8029.

**CHANUKAH WONDERLAND** Celebrate the Festival of Lights with live music, holiday crafts and games, Chanukah photo-op and kindle Stoneridge Shopping Center's 9-foot menorah in the grand mall. 5:30-7 p.m., Dec. 26.

**SHABBAT HANUKKAH SERVICE AT BETH EMEK** Join in person or online for the annual Shabbat Hanukkah service and celebrate the 3rd night of Hanukkah with a joyous, song-filled service. 7:30 p.m., Dec. 27. Visit [bethemek.org](https://bethemek.org).

**CHANUKAH UNDER THE STARS** Join in front of the Bankhead Theater to light up Livermore's menorah with a live Chanukah music concert. Savor traditional foods and glow in the

dark fun. Open to the public. 7:30-8:30 p.m., Dec. 28.

**CHANUKAH CELEBRATION AT CITY CENTER** Join this joyous Chanukah Community Celebration for an evening filled with laughter, warmth and cherished traditions. 4-6 p.m., Dec. 29. City Center Bishop Ranch.

**CHANUKAH ON ICE** Get those skates and glide upon the ice to Chanukah, Israeli and Jewish music with a mega "Fire on Ice" menorah lighting on the rink. 6 p.m., Dec. 29. \$20 per skater. Tri Valley Ice, Dublin.

**SUNOL MENORAH LIGHTING** Join as the quaint town of Sunol lights up their menorah. 5:30 p.m., Dec. 30. Sunol Community Park.

## Seniors

**WOODSHOP AT SENIOR CENTER** Join for Woodshop at the Pleasanton Senior Center 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Drop-in fees apply.

**KNITTING AT THE SENIOR CENTER** Join for Knitting at the Pleasanton Senior Center, Fridays, 9-11:30 a.m. Drop-in fees apply.

**LUNCHES AT THE SENIOR CENTER** Senior Lunches (60+) are served in the Main Hall 11:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. Mondays to Fridays. Call Open Heart Kitchen at 925-500-8241 for more information.

**SPECTRUM MEALS ON WHEELS** Spectrum Meals on Wheels provides home delivered meals (60+). For more information, call 510-881-0305 or visit [spectrumcs.org/senior-services/meals-on-wheels](https://spectrumcs.org/senior-services/meals-on-wheels).

## Support

**VETERANS EVENT** Pleasanton Library hosts the VA Palo Alto Mobile Medical Outreach team to provide veteran benefits review, enroll veterans for care with the VA Palo Alto Health System, answer questions about VA services and provide medical care and referrals for enrolled veterans. 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Dec. 23.

**SOUPER TUESDAY** Local volunteers serve warm soup during the chilly months. Grab and go or stay inside to connect with others and learn about local resources. 11 a.m. to 12 p.m., Tuesdays. CityServe Care Center, 3311 Pacific Ave., Livermore.

**COMMUNITY MEAL PROGRAM** Open Heart Kitchen serves free meals, first come, first served, that are nutritious and freshly prepared. 12-5 p.m., Mon.-Fri., Vineyard Resource Center, 450 N. Livermore Ave., Livermore.

**OPEN HEART REFUGE** Open Heart Refuge is a 20-bed overnight shelter in Livermore for adults who are in crisis or experiencing homelessness. Operating 7 days a week from 6 p.m. to 8 a.m. and includes both a hot dinner and hot breakfast. For more information visit [openheartkitchen.org/refuge](https://openheartkitchen.org/refuge).

## Sunset Development submits application for The Orchards

Vision to transform Chevron Park comes into view after preliminary concept over two years ago

By JEANITA LYMAN

More than two years after Sunset Development Company purchased the former Chevron Park site back from the energy company amid its downsizing of operations in San Ramon, the formal redevelopment process for the site is set to kick off this month, with application documents now filed with the city.

Early this year, Bishop Ranch officials hosted a media tour resulting in a number of news stories sparking buzz about the plans for The Orchards neighborhood. However, city officials posted a notice to the website at the time that while discussions on the planned redevelopment process for the 92-acre site were underway, Sunset had not yet filed formal development applications with the city or discussed the project at public meetings on anything more than an informational level.

"No development plan for the site has been submitted yet, and the City looks forward to working with Sunset Development on the review process for the Orchards



COURTESY SUNSET DEVELOPMENT COMPANY

Rendering of the proposed Orchards project that would redevelop the former Chevron Park site at 6001 Bollinger Canyon Road into a mixed-use and residential neighborhood aimed at complimenting existing facilities at City Center Bishop Ranch.

development once formal applications are submitted," city officials said on Jan. 31. "There will be multiple opportunities for Public Comment on any project applications submitted to the City."

That status changed last week, with Sunset announcing on Dec. 9 that the formal application process was underway and city staff estimating that the approval process will take approximately one year.

"Bishop Ranch is embarking on an exciting transformation, transitioning from a traditional office campus to a dynamic mixed-use development that aligns perfectly with the evolving needs of our community," Sunset Development officials said on the website for Bishop Ranch. "Our vision is to create an all-encompassing destination that offers a remarkable 15-minute lifestyle, eliminating the hassle of long

commutes and providing a seamless blend of convenience and luxury."

The redevelopment of the former Chevron Park site is a major component of that overall vision for Bishop Ranch — as well as for the city itself, which is tasked with accommodating the development of an additional 5,100+ homes during the current Housing Element cycle.

Progress in meeting that goal would be significantly bolstered by the redevelopment plans submitted by Sunset this month, which propose a total of 2,510 new homes and the replacement of the long-standing office park at 6001 Bollinger Canyon Road with a mixed-use and residential neighborhood dubbed The Orchards — a throwback to Bishop Ranch's agricultural past, as well as the development company's early plans for housing in the area — that would consist of three different districts.

The first district of the reimagined neighborhood would consist of mixed-use, residential areas including ground-floor entertainment and commercial services aimed at complimenting neighboring City

Center Bishop Ranch, with the second consisting of multi-family communities in a variety of housing options, Sunset Development officials said.

The third district would consist of a lower-density neighborhood featuring single-family homes situated along new streets and adorned by mini parks.

"These districts are connected through parks and open space and a coordinated streetscape with approximately 15 acres of open space," Sunset Development officials said last week.

The mixed-use district would feature streets lined with retail and dining options leading from Bishop Ranch to the former Chevron Park site across Bollinger Canyon Road, as well as a 2.5-acre park.

According to the announcement from Sunset, the city is expected to complete an initial review of the project and provide formal feedback this month. City officials said Tuesday that they expect the first public hearings on the project to be scheduled around next summer. ■

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

### Talking Real Estate with Doug Buenz | Compass

#### The Most Neglected Home Maintenance Item

As a homeowner, it seems that there are dozens of maintenance items you are supposed to do on a regular basis. And most simply end up getting ignored. But there is one maintenance item that should be at or near the top of the list for home maintenance — gutters.

As a REALTOR, I can confirm that I have seen countless instances of preventable damage that can be traced back to gutter issues. Many of the homes I have sold have had some damage from gutters that have not been maintained.



So why are gutters so critical? Roofs have a huge surface area, and as such they produce a large volume of water when it rains. The gutters are responsible for collecting roof water and diverting away from the structure. When properly maintained, the opportunity for water damage is greatly reduced. If not maintained, the gutters can start rust which will eat away at the metal until they leak. This can lead to other problems, among them:

1. Dry rot in the wood fascia or trim. When gutters leak, it usually causes dry rot to the wood fascia boards and trim in the area of the leak, leading to expensive repairs

>> To read the rest of this article go to [www.The680Blog.com](http://www.The680Blog.com).



**680** | DOUG BUENZ GROUP  
680homes.com

Doug Buenz  
(925) 621-0680  
doug@680homes.com  
DRE 00843458

COMPASS

Compass is the brand name used for services provided by one or more of the Compass group of subsidiary companies. Compass is a real estate broker licensed by the State of California and abides by Equal Housing Opportunity laws. License Number 01079009.

## END OF YEAR DOUBLE EDITION!

We're wrapping 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](http://PleasantonWeekly.com).



Happy Holidays!

Pleasanton Weekly



**HAPPY  
HOLIDAYS!**



**161 GANESHA COMMONS | LIVERMORE**  
**3 BED | 3.5 BATH | 1,568 +/- SQ. FT.**  
**LISTED AT \$880,000**



**1403 STONEHEDGE DRIVE | PLEASANT HILL**  
**3 BED | 2.5 BATH | 2,123 +/- SQ. FT.**  
**LISTED AT \$1,395,950 | REPRESENTING BUYERS**

**COMING SOON IN 2025!**

**CONTACT US TO BE THE FIRST TO PREVIEW**  
**RUBY HILL | WEST PLEASANTON |**  
**EMERALD GLEN/DUBLIN | PLEASANTON**  
**HILLS | PLEASANTON CONDO | OAK HILL**

**OUR SERVICES EXTEND BEYOND  
THE BAY AREA!**

WE HAVE HAPPILY HELPED OUR CLIENTS OUT  
OF THE AREA TO FIND NEW HOMES IN:

- Arnold, CA
- Encinitas, CA
- Los Gatos, CA
- Napa, CA
- Palm Springs, CA
- Newport Beach, CA
- Rocklin, CA
- Tahoe City, CA
- Truckee, CA
- Reno, NV
- Albuquerque, NM
- Bend, OR
- Chesterfield, VA
- Seattle, WA



**THINKING OF MOVING OUT  
OF THE AREA IN 2025?  
PLEASE REACH OUT!**



**The Murtagh Team**

**925.997.2411**  
**JULIA MURTAGH DRE# 01751854**  
**AMY MAYERSON DRE# 02069902**  
**LAUREN PETERSON DRE# 02235046**

**\$550M+**  
**HISTORICAL VOLUME**

**40+**  
**CLIENTS HELPED IN 2024**

Compass is a real estate broker licensed by the State of California and abides by Equal Housing Opportunity laws. License Number 01527235. All material presented herein is intended for informational purposes only and is compiled from sources deemed reliable but has not been verified. Changes in price, condition, sale or withdrawal may be made without notice. No statement is made as to accuracy of any description. All measurements and square footages are approximate. Rules & Exclusions apply. Compass offers no guarantee or warranty of results. Subject to additional terms and conditions.



# VENEMA HOMES

EXPERIENCE



EXCELLENCE

## THANK YOU FOR MAKING OUR HOLIDAY CELEBRATION MAGICAL!



*a note from Liz:*

The joy, laughter, and connection shared at our holiday celebration are what make this season so special. We're endlessly grateful to be part of such an incredible community - thank you for making it a day to remember!

[VenemaHomes.com](http://VenemaHomes.com) | [Liz@VenemaHomes.com](mailto:Liz@VenemaHomes.com) | 925.413.6544 | 660 Main Street, Pleasanton | DRE# 01922957

# VENEMA HOMES

EXPERIENCE



EXCELLENCE

## A HEARTFELT THANK YOU FROM



## VENEMA HOMES



At Venema Homes, our clients are more than transactions—you're the heart of our community. Celebrating the joy of the season with you is a true honor. Your support, trust, and connections mean everything to us. From all of us, thank you for being part of our journey!



From our families to yours, we wish you a Happy New Year! We're here for you in 2025, whether you're buying, selling, or just stopping by to say hello.

HERE'S TO THE SEASON OF

love<sup>®</sup>

*and togetherness*

SAN FRANCISCO • PENINSULA • SILICON VALLEY • EAST BAY • SANTA CRUZ  
MARIN • WINE COUNTRY • TAHOE • SIERRA FOOTHILLS • CENTRAL COAST

FOLLOW OUR STRIDE AT [SERENO.COM](https://sereno.com) | DRE 02101181

CHRISTIE'S  
INTERNATIONAL REAL ESTATE  
— SERENO —



# ARMARIO HOMES

TRI-VALLEY LUXURY REALTY



## Preparing to Sell Your Home?

Let Amanda Sarich guide you to top-dollar results:

- Home Prep and Staging
- Strategic Pricing Guidance
- Customized Marketing Plans
- Expert Negotiation Skills
- Maximized Seller Profits
- Senior Real Estate Services



Top 1.5%  
Of Real Estate  
Teams Nationwide

Amanda Sarich is a trusted local real estate expert dedicated to helping sellers maximize their profits. With a deep understanding of the local market and a results-driven approach, Amanda specializes in preparing homes for sale and strategically positioning them to attract the best offers. As a top negotiator, she consistently secures the most favorable price and terms for her clients. Amanda is also a certified Seniors Real Estate Specialist, providing tailored guidance to those looking to downsize or relocate. Armario Homes is proud to recognize Amanda Sarich as our Top-Producing Agent for Q4 2024.

**Considering a Move? Contact Amanda Sarich: (925) 694-0792**



## Happy Holidays

From Armario Homes to Yours

Wishing you and your family a joyful holiday season and a Happy New Year! We are grateful for the continued trust of our clients and the support of the Pleasanton community. As we reflect on a successful year, we look forward to assisting you with your real estate needs in 2025.



**DeAnna Armario (925) 302-2626**  
459 Main Street, Pleasanton - [www.ArmarioHomes.com](http://www.ArmarioHomes.com)  
DRE# 01363180 | Broker DRE# 02065804



The market usually begins to wake up in mid-January and then accelerates in early spring. The single, most watched factor will be the interest rates, as well as the stock market.

Let me guide you into *2025* with confidence in your housing choices.



**Kris Moxley**

925.519.9080

DRE 00790463

moxleyrealestate.com

kris@moxleyrealestate.com

900 Main Street,  
Pleasanton, CA 94566



2345 Ancona Cir. Livermore  
Representing Buyers



5551 Anita Ct. Livermore  
Representing Buyers



4147 Jensen St, Pleasanton  
Representing Sellers and Buyers



5943 Arthur Dr. Pleasanton  
Representing Sellers



*A Message from Kris*

I'm delighted to share this holiday season with you. Wishing you and your family a season of light and laughter. Merry Christmas.

**Serving the Tri-Valley area for over 44 years**

Visit my website at  
moxleyrealestate.com



A warm Christmas wish for peace, cheer, happiness and the best of the coming new year.



**COMPASS**