

# Pleasanton Weekly

Then and Now:  
Del Valle Park

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## Lunch is served

Pleasanton Unified School District's nutrition program cooks up change

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CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF  
AWARD-WINNING JOURNALISM

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**Stanford**  
MEDICINE  
Health Care

# Food for Heart



ANATOMY OF A

## Heart-Healthy Burger

### SWAP THE SAUCE

Replace secret sauces and mayonnaise with mustard or ketchup.

### REPLACE RED MEAT

Try healthier alternatives to beef like turkey or plant-based patties.

### LOAD UP ON VEGGIES

Add lettuce, tomato, and other vegetables to your burger for added nutrients, fiber, and flavor.

### BETTER BUNS

Whole wheat buns have more fiber and nutrients than white buns.

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# WHAT A WEEK



By JEREMY WALSH

## Big nights at Bankhead

The Tri-Valley arts scene is still abuzz from the announcement days ago that two-time Grammy Award winner LeAnn Rimes has been booked to headline the 2025 Brilliance at The Bankhead gala on Aug. 23.

Perhaps best known for her record-setting hit "How Do I Live" in 1997, Rimes burst onto the country music scene as a teenager and built a three-decades-and-counting career as a singer, songwriter and actress — and she's no stranger to this area, having performed multiple times at the Alameda County Fair in Pleasanton, most recently two summers ago.

"Brilliance at The Bankhead is more than just a night of incredible music — it's a celebration of the arts and their impact on our community. Having LeAnn Rimes headline our biggest fundraiser of the year is an honor, and her performance will help us continue bringing world-class entertainment, arts education, and cultural enrichment to the 'Tri-Valley,' Livermore Valley Arts CEO Chris Carter told me on Tuesday.

"The arts are essential to our quality of life, and this event ensures we can keep inspiring our community for years to come," Carter added.

The big Brilliance announcement bolstered a busy time for the Bankhead.

We're barely into February and already the bill has seen Jim Henson's Fraggle Rock, Lunar New Year Celebration, "Selected Shorts", "James and the Giant Peach JR" (by CYT Tri-Valley) and Take It To The Limit - Eagles Tribute come and go.

The cover acts continue on Friday night (Feb. 7) with Zep Live! Led Zeppelin Concert Experience.

The next day Nottingham Cellars is holding a wine club event at the theater at 1 p.m. — the first of two events in less than a week for the winery, with its Valentine's Day celebration at the Bankhead from 4-6 p.m. on the holiday.

Del Valle Fine Arts is presenting a string concert with Euclid Quartet on Saturday evening (Feb. 8). Joining CYT and DVFA as Bankhead resident companies with performances coming up, Livermore-Amador Symphony has its "Expressions of Youth" concert on Feb. 15 and Livermore Valley Opera opens its "Don Giovanni" on March 1.

Tri-Valley Nonprofit Alliance has an intriguing community program set for next Thursday (Feb. 13) from 10:30 a.m. to noon at the Bankhead: "The Power of Nonprofit Advocacy: Yes We Can and Why We Must".

CalNonprofits CEO Geoff Green will lead the presentation, touching on key topics like why advocacy matters, practical strategies and how to use your expertise, according to TVNPA reps.

For those still searching for a Valentine's Day plan, tickets remain available for Chloé Arnold's Syncopated Ladies female tap show at 8 p.m. next Friday.

The Rhythm India: Bollywood and Beyond performance, which had been scheduled for Feb. 16, was recently postponed to April 2 (fallout from the Southern California fires).

International Guitar Night returns to the Bankhead on Feb. 21 as part of its 25th anniversary tour featuring Lulo Reinhardt (Germany), Alexandra Whittingham (England), Niwel Tsumbu (Republic of Congo) and Sönke Meinen (Germany).

Comedian Rita Rudner will also be back in Livermore to close out the month. We have an interview story with her on tap for next week's paper to preview her Feb. 28 show.

Be sure to check out the UNCLE Credit Union Art Gallery at the Bankhead in the weeks ahead, as the current exhibit "Adorned: A Celebration of Wearable Art" runs until March 1.

Highlights include three costumes by famed designer Becky Bodurtha, hand-painted silk scarves, intricate hand-embroidered garments and cultural textiles from around the world, LVA reps said. A special reception on closing day will see a "Runway Walk" with artists modeling their wearable works.

There's plenty to be excited about at the Bankhead as winter turns to spring too. Hall of Fame drummer Stewart Copeland (March 5), "Hadestown: Teen Edition" (March 14-16), iLuminate (March 28), "Overcoming Adversity: The Elizabeth Smart Story" (March 30), The Second City 65th Anniversary Show (April 11), Las Cafeteras (May 2), "The Princess Bride: An Inconceivable Evening with Cary Elwes" (May 10) and The Wonder of Elvis (May 17) are just a few of the many shows on the calendar.

I've also been told LVA is going to be releasing its summer 2025 schedule in the coming days — but I couldn't score a sneak peek. Look for that news soon.

And the nonprofit hopes to accelerate the momentum of the Rimes headliner drop on April 9 with its 2025-26 season announcement party. I can't wait to find out who they booked. ■

## About the Cover

Chef-coordinator Steve Seligman (left) joins in serving hot wings during a lunch break at Amador Valley High School last month. Photo by Chuck Deckert. Cover design by Paul Llewellyn.

Vol. XXVI, Number 2

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- The City's budget process
- Revenue sources & expenses
- Cost of programs
- Financial challenges

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- Key principles for budget development
- Revenue ideas

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6 - 7 p.m. Presentation & Discussion  
7 - 8 p.m. Open House Activities  
Drop in anytime

**PLEASANTON LIBRARY MEETING ROOM**  
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Activities for children will be available during the Town Hall



## What measures do you take in order to get yourself out of a funk or a really bad mood?



**James Theodore, with Stella**  
Sales

Taking my dog down to Santa Cruz for the day, and going to any of its beautiful beaches always does the trick for me, to reverse any kind of funk. The rhythmic sound of the ocean's crashing waves always refocuses me, makes me feel grounded and humble, and puts me back in a better mood.



**Chini Newman**  
Engineer

I like to go for a long bike ride up Mount Diablo. It's quite challenging, it gives me time alone to reflect on what has gotten me into a bad mood, and when I get to the top I feel a great sense of accomplishment. And if for any reason that doesn't work, a few beers with good friends at McKay's on Main Street always seems to do the trick in terms of getting me out of any funk.



**Jordan Bearrows**  
Store manager

Whenever I'm in a bad mood, I try to distract my mind from whatever has put me in that mood. I do this by focusing hard on my work, and also by visiting my mom's burial site and leaving flowers there for her. I feel really close to her when I do that, and of course that always helps to get me out of a funk.



**Gordon Lang**  
Soccer coach

I like to head up to Truckee to go skiing at Palisades and Alpine. Also, I like to hike along the Pleasanton Ridge. Doing any or all of that takes me away to another place and zone so that when I return, I feel relaxed and good again.



**Mohit Paul**  
Waiter

If I'm in a funk I make time to take a trip to the mountains, any mountains, and especially really big mountains. And I always share the experience with friends and family. Being outdoors and exploring vast spaces always improves my mood.

—Compiled by Nancy and Jeff Lewis

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

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## DIGEST

### Jazz festival

Amador Valley High School is getting ready to host the 49th Campana Jazz Festival this Saturday (Feb. 8), a day-long competition and celebration of music in honor of the late Jim Campana, Amador's music director 1959-79.

"This educational festival consists of adjudicated performances of middle and high school jazz big bands, combos and vocal groups from the greater Tri-Valley and as far away as Folsom and Palo Alto," organizers said. "The community is invited to enjoy day-long spirited performances at three venues with a final awards ceremony."

Organized by Amador Friends of Music, the event is actually marking its 50th anniversary (with one skipped during the pandemic). For tickets, schedule and more information, go to [campana.amadormusic.org](http://campana.amadormusic.org).

### Student exchange

Learn more about the student exchange program of the Pleasanton-Tulancingo Sister City Association at an informational session next Thursday (Feb. 13) at 7 p.m. in the Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce offices at 777 Peters Ave.

Like summers in the past, PTSCA will help coordinate reciprocal trips for high school students, with Tulancingo teenagers staying with Pleasanton families from June 8-29 and Pleasanton teens traveling to Mexico from June 29 to July 20.

"This will be our 40th year of offering the exchange program in an immersed, family orientated exchange coordinated by sister city associations in both cities," PTSCA reps said. "The exchange has given our students an opportunity to practice/improve their Spanish and experience the real culture of our southern neighbors in a safe family environment."

Visit [ptsca.org](http://ptsca.org) or call Jorge Victoria at 925-989-6882 for more information.

### Church security

Public Safety Training LLC is partnering with the Pleasanton Police Department for an "East Bay Church Security Seminar" on Monday (Feb. 10) from 5-8 p.m. at Blue Oaks Church at 7139 Koll Center Pkwy.

Training topics will include de-escalation techniques, active shooter response protocol and the East Bay Church Security Coalition.

"This seminar provides a unique opportunity to learn about grant funding available right now (CalOES), connect with law enforcement and state subject matter experts on faith-based safety and security issues, gain practical insights, and network with fellow faith-based organizations," organizers said. ■

## 'Morale is low': PUSD plans \$6.3 million in budget cuts

Trustees direct staff to return next week with reduction-in-force resolution

By CHRISTIAN TRUJANO

After more than 12 hours of listening to the pleas of stakeholders, weighing out direct impacts to students and compromises, the Pleasanton Unified School District Board of Trustees agreed last week to direct staff to prepare a resolution that will propose approximately \$6.3 million in budget cuts for the 2025-26 school year.

The board also finalized a list of proposed reductions across all departments, however, the majority of

those reductions will be in district-wide services and administrative positions as members of the board made it a priority to keep the cuts as far away from classrooms as possible.

"There's a lot of time and effort — and sweat and tears — put into these recommendations," Board President Justin Brown said during the Jan. 30 board meeting. "They've been thought through from a professional perspective."

Over the past school year, PUSD has been discussing its financial

challenges that staff have attributed to declining student enrollment, rising operational costs and the end of one-time pandemic relief funds.

"To maintain valued programs over the past four school years, the district used its reserves (savings) and one-time funds to pay its expenditures, which resulted in deficit spending," according to the Jan. 30 staff report. "PUSD's unrestricted reserves are now projected to be below the required 3% at the end of this fiscal year (2024/25)."

Staff have said in order to remain

fiscally solvent, the district needs to make reductions to its budget and find new forms of revenue.

The district previously made about \$8.1 million in reductions and other budget adjustments for the current 2024-25 fiscal year back in spring 2024. However, that was not enough, which is why the district formed a Budget Advisory Committee in May to help with this next year's reduction planning process.

See **BUDGET CUTS** on Page 7



JEREMY WALSH

The 700 block of Main Street has several thriving businesses and several visible vacancies, perhaps the poster child for the situation in downtown Pleasanton right now.

## Downtown economic vitality under the microscope

Council agrees to city match of PDA assessment funds, urges all stakeholders to work together for solutions

By CHRISTIAN TRUJANO

The City Council had some difficult conversations about downtown Pleasanton that ultimately ended with a request from the dais — downtown property owners and businesses will need to team up with the Pleasanton Downtown Association to come up with ideas to reinvigorate Main Street.

During the Jan. 21 council meeting, the dais unanimously agreed to match funds to the PDA

for the 2025 annual assessments, which will be around \$80,000, rather than approving staff's proposed new one-year contract that would have only matched half of that amount. Several councilmembers agreed that reducing the amount of matching funds was not the right path to take if the city wants to grow the downtown's economy.

"I don't think by reducing the small amount of money like that, that it's going to serve

our interests downtown," new Councilmember Craig Eicher said during the meeting. "We need to help the business district and we need to be more engaged with them to help generate economic vitality downtown."

However, the council unanimously agreed that they did not want to pursue staff's separate recommendation to begin the process of possibly forming a

See **DOWNTOWN** on Page 10

## Livermore approves Cornerstone housing

253-unit project includes almost half low-income homes

By JUDE STRZEMP

A residential project called Cornerstone, offering over 100 affordable-rate apartments, is on track for development following a favorable vote by the majority of Livermore City Council last week.

The 253-unit project passed muster with a 4-1 vote, Councilmember Ben Barrientos being the sole dissenter at the council's regular meeting on Jan. 27.

During the meeting, most of the council propounded the city's need for low-income housing, but Barrientos expressed concern over the compactness of affordable units within one building. He and a public commenter worried that the area would become run-down. The four other council members rejected all stigma surrounding low-income housing.

"This is exactly what we need. I don't associate this with a stigma at all," Mayor John Marchand said of the project. "These are people that serve our community — these are our teachers, these are the people that work in the service industry, they're the community service people that work with our police and fire and I applaud the work that they do."

Behind the housing project is Cornerstone Fellowship in Livermore,

See **CORNERSTONE** on Page 9

# Feds eye enhanced plutonium research at lab

Effort now subject to new environmental review thanks to settlement with groups like Tri-Valley CARES

By JEANITA LYMAN

More than 60 residents of Livermore and the surrounding region turned out to a public meeting last week on the local lab's role in a nationwide program to enhance the production of plutonium weapons, with additional public meetings now set to come for a program-wide environmental review process officials agreed to in a recent settlement with nuclear watchdog groups.

The public scoping session hosted by National Nuclear Security Administration officials on Jan. 29 was an early step in the preparation of a supplemental environmental impact statement (SEIS) on Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory's role in nationwide efforts to enhance plutonium pit production at multiple national labs, with the written public comment period extended as of last week's meeting.

According to a presentation from the lab and NNSA officials at the start of the meeting, LLNL currently serves — and will continue

to serve — primarily in a research and development capacity for new nuclear weapons, having recently contributed to the design of a new plutonium pit that was produced at Los Alamos National Laboratory for the modified W87-1 warhead set to replace existing W87 weapons, and with its El Capitan supercomputer serving as a major driver in the development of the new W93 warhead that is intended to replace existing nuclear submarine weapons.

Part of the NNSA's plans to enhance plutonium pit production include changing the security clearance at LLNL from its existing Category III status to Category II, a move officials said last week was necessary for the overall program but would not lead to an increase in the lab's existing administrative threshold for plutonium.

Nonetheless, tensions were high from the dozens of residents whose comments took up a majority of the two-hour long meeting that evening, with concerns encompassing the development currently underway for new warheads, LLNL's proximity to

nearby communities, and the very existence of a nuclear facility in the Bay Area — or anywhere — amid heightened domestic and geopolitical anxieties in the early days of the current presidential administration.

The public hearing came on the heels of an announcement from the Bulletin of Atomic Scientists on Jan. 28 that its "Doomsday Clock" had been moved "as close to midnight as it's ever been," with 89 seconds left until midnight — citing disruptive technologies, climate change and natural disasters, and "daunting biological threats" in addition to geopolitical turmoil. It was previously changed to 90 seconds until midnight in 2023.

With anxieties over nuclear weapons in the present geopolitical and environmental landscapes rising globally, speakers at last week's hearing also emphasized specific local concerns for Livermore and the surrounding region.

"I would urge NNSA to reevaluate their plutonium expansion proposal," said Anoushka Raj, environmental program manager at Tri-Valley CARES. "I believe it blatantly violates environmental justice principles and perpetuates a systemic harm against some of our most vulnerable neighbors."

Raj pointed to the high number of minority and low-income residents in particular at apartments on East Avenue in Livermore near the lab as those who could be disproportionately impacted by the lab's activities.

"These communities have been

systemically excluded from the decision making as we can see in NNSA's failure to provide any translated materials or any in-person hearings," she continued.

The call for in-person hearings and translated materials was echoed by numerous other speakers that evening, and Raj said she believed the lack thereof "is not an oversight — it's plain discrimination."

Some speakers on Jan. 29 specifically called for additional hearings and public outreach in Livermore's neighboring communities.

"The citizens of Tracy, Pleasanton and Dublin should have the chance to speak, and there have been no public hearings scheduled for those communities," Livermore resident Donna Cabanne said.

Cabanne added that she urged the NNSA to reject its current trajectory and instead take no action on increasing plutonium pit production.

"It's too dangerous to store nuclear-grade weapons plutonium so close to thousands of residents," Cabanne said. "I propose increased measures for toxic waste are not sufficient to guarantee public safety. This is not a reasonable risk to impose on thousands of nearby residents in the Tri-Valley and millions in the Bay Area."

While LLNL's proximity to populated areas — and the unique security challenges and health risks that poses compared with other nuclear facilities — was a chief concern of local residents and speakers from miles away, some also expressed

concerns over broader issues, with Livermore resident Shirley Lewandowski pointing toward the lab as a potential local target for global change.

"Our planet is already in trouble," Lewandowski said. "There is a lot of climate changes challenging us. So in this one case, this is controllable. Livermore can say no, we won't have to do that. They will control the fact that they listen to the customers and they listen to the residents."

Other concerns specific to LLNL that evening included the history behind its current Category III security status, which was downgraded in 2012 from a Category I/II level according to Scott Yundt, executive director of Tri-Valley CARES.

"Up until 2012, the lab had a security I/II, which enabled them to have a classified amount, but what was later known to be roughly 3,000 pounds of plutonium on site in vaults at the superblock," Yundt told the Pleasanton Weekly ahead of the Jan. 29 meeting. "Following the failure of force-on-force security drills that were mandated after 9/11 — the government decided our nuclear facilities should be tested with force-on-force drills to see if they could withstand a terrorist attack — those were scheduled in 2008 and Livermore failed two different drills."

LLNL began the process of de-inventorying its plutonium supply shortly after, with two thirds having been moved to other nuclear sites as

See **PLUTONIUM** on Page 10



**From the Heart in Honduras:** The Wheelchair Foundation's "From The Heart" school program took the Weekly with them to distribute wheelchairs in Tegucigalpa, Honduras in July 2024. Students, parents, teachers and other volunteers traveled to distribute 280 wheelchairs to those in desperately need mobility. Travelers included (top, from left) Diana Kaplenko, Don Routh, Abby Roden, Max Duan, Tallulah McKennon-Peterson and Angie Roden, and (bottom, from left) Heather Schomaker, Josh Routh, Shane Duan, Amber Kaplenko and Wendy McKennon.

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# Shumway promoted to COO of Stanford Health

Sastry tapped to lead Tri-Valley network as interim CEO; search for permanent replacement underway

By CIERRA BAILEY

Stanford Health Care Tri-Valley is currently under new leadership following the promotion of its former CEO, Rick Shumway, to the role of chief operating officer for Stanford Health Care.

As of Jan. 13, Shumway has officially taken on his new position and Mino Sastry is serving as the interim CEO of the Tri-Valley health care network.

“Mino has a distinguished history with us, having advanced through various leadership roles at SHC Tri-Valley. He has been instrumental in the development and management of our strategic plan and the execution of many key strategic initiatives,” Shumway wrote of

Sastry in an announcement distributed to colleagues back in November.

“His extensive experience in partnering with our physician colleagues has been critical in aligning our entities and ensuring that we’re working cohesively to meet our objectives. And finally, Mino is a well-respected leader within the Tri-Valley region, having served in many leadership capacities in regional chambers of commerce, community college foundations, and innovation incubators in the East Bay. Prior to his leadership



**Rick Shumway**

term at SHC Tri-Valley, Mino served in a variety of operational and leadership roles at Stanford Health Care in Palo Alto from 2011-18,” the announcement reads.

Shumway’s memo introducing his temporary successor followed just days after the news of his own new role was shared by Stanford Health Care CEO David Entwistle.

As Stanford Health Care’s COO, Shumway oversees daily operations across the Stanford Health Care enterprise system, including operational responsibility for Stanford Health Care Tri-Valley and Stanford Medicine Partners.

“Since joining us in 2019, Rick has proven himself as a transformative and inspiring leader at SHC Tri-Valley and Stanford Medicine

Partners, guiding both to be high-performing entities and highly integrated with our broader Stanford Health Care ecosystem,” Entwistle wrote. “His leadership has driven exceptional outcomes across all key measures: quality and safety, employee and patient experience, engagement, and financial strength. Central to this success has been his focus on developing and recruiting a strong team committed to achieving these remarkable results.”

Sastry will remain at the helm of SHC Tri-Valley until a permanent CEO is found. A national search is currently underway and was initially launched immediately following the November transition announcements, according to Shumway’s memo to staff.

He wrote, “We have engaged a reputable national search firm to facilitate the process and have formed a search committee made up of individuals from across the Stanford Medicine enterprise, including SHC Tri-Valley, SHC, the School of Medicine, and the SHC Tri-Valley Board of Directors.”

SHC Tri-Valley board chair John Sensiba and Monica Davila, interim COO, are serving as co-chairs of the search committee — working closely with the search firm and other committee members.

“We anticipate that this process will take several months, as we seek a candidate who will help us build upon the strong foundation and trajectory we’ve established,” Shumway said. ■

## BUDGET CUTS

Continued from Page 5

That committee spent six months developing revenue and reduction options — and assessing the different impacts of those reductions — which were presented to the board during the Jan. 16 board meeting.

At that meeting several students, faculty and community members urged the board to not go through with certain reductions such as eliminating the elementary music program and the A/B Period for 6th and 7th Grades. A local change.org petition for those two specific reduction options gained over 1,100 signatures to save both programs.

Since Jan. 16, the board has held two workshops to discuss the various reduction options. At their first workshop, the board established a consensus-driven criteria for making these budget cuts, which prioritized impact on students and their classroom experience while also maintaining the district’s legally compliant services — such as human resources.

Previously, staff said that in order to ensure the district’s financial stability during the next fiscal year and also maintain its required 3% reserve in the budget, PUSD will need to make a minimum reduction of about \$5.56 million in 2025-26 and another \$200,000 the next fiscal year.

However, during the Jan. 30 meeting the board provided further direction for staff to now prepare a resolution for about \$6.3 million in proposed reductions for the 2025-26 school year.

“These reductions are necessary for the district to maintain fiscal stability and more adjustments are expected to be required for 2026-2027 to fully address our qualified budget status with the Alameda County Board of Education,” Interim Superintendent Maurice Ghysels said in a district-wide

statement on Feb. 4.

The list of proposed reductions — which will allow the district to hit that \$6.3 million reduction target — was a result of over 12 hours of regular and special meetings which ended with several members of the board and members of the public in attendance feeling tired of having to make all these tough decisions.

Evan Branning, president of the Association of Pleasanton Teachers, was one of those recurring public commenters throughout the various board meetings and on Thursday, he said that while he appreciated the board’s commitment to making these difficult decisions, the cuts that the board have already made up until now have already impacted teachers throughout the district.

“The morale is low,” Branning said.

Branning, along with many other public speakers throughout the month, challenged the board to think about how many of the proposed cuts would affect students. Over the last couple meetings in January, technology specialists, reading specialists and other classified employees highlighted just how important their jobs were to keep the entire district running smoothly.

Pleasanton’s California School Employees Association President Laura Martinez said during the Jan. 30 meeting that classified employees were like threads holding the district together and Ghysels followed up on that point later in the meeting saying that he would like PUSD’s new permanent superintendent to be able to take over a district where those threads of people who hold crucial knowledge are still there.

That’s why many of the trustees focused the discussion last week on looking at ways to cut days from management and higher administration positions given the fact that

those positions are not under union contracts.

“One of our jobs as a trustee is to push ... (I’m) doing my due diligence for us to exhaust all options for our budget cuts,” Board Vice President Kelly Mokashi said.

Other items discussed during the meeting were the board’s unanimous stance against cutting more custodian positions and technology specialists — a lot of the specialist positions that the district originally were vying to cut were off-limits for the board. The board opposed cutting more custodians and in the end, only one custodian position will be cut in order to save just over \$100,000.

Another major talking point was the number of vice principals being reduced across elementary and middle schools.

According to the recently published list of proposed reductions, there will be a reduction of 1.6 FTE for elementary vice principals and 1.4 FTE for middle school vice principals. One FTE — which is an acronym for full-time equivalent — means an employee works the same number of hours as a full-time employee.

While the majority of the board said they were against the reductions — Trustee Mary Jo Carreon recalled a time when PUSD had part-time elementary vice principals and how that burdened teachers — they agreed to the reductions as long as none of the high school vice principal positions were touched.

According to the list of proposed reductions, one of the reductions that will generate the most savings will be a reduction in special education consulting services — it is estimated to save \$500,000. The district will plan to recruit and hire in-house staff for those services instead.

At a higher level, the executive cabinet will see one-time savings

by reducing the number of work days by three days and reducing the number of work days for the extended cabinet by two days. Combined, however, that only makes up just over \$50,000 in savings.

The cuts that will generate hundreds of thousands in savings will be in coordinator positions for fiscal services, technology, human resources, student services and special education — all of those positions have been vacant. Other administrative secretary and classified positions were also listed out to be cut.

Another major area where the district will look to save money is in summer school. According to the list, the district will eliminate summer school for grades one through five and will instead offer

students with “Expanded Learning Opportunities” options. That cut will save the district \$300,000.

Following last week’s meeting, staff will return to the board next Thursday (Feb. 13) to present an initial resolution for a reduction in force in order to “fulfill the statutory required layoff notification to staff by March 15, 2025.”

At the same time, district staff will also work on developing the 2025-26 budget, additional fiscal information and any other factors that could affect the budget.

The final reduction in force resolution will be brought back to the board for approval in May, final layoff notices will be issued before May 15 and the new 2025-26 budget will be finalized and brought to the board in June. ■

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# Livermore man to compete on new season of 'Survivor'

Leung, 17 other castaways on reality show with premiere date of Feb. 26

By JUDE STRZEMP

As fans of the Emmy award-winning series "Survivor" eagerly wait for its season 48 premier airing later this month, some local viewers may recognize Livermore resident Kevin Leung among its 18-member cast.

Per "Survivor" tradition, the 34-year-old finance manager will compete to outlast fellow castaways to win \$1 million and the title of Sole Survivor.

"I'm a little bit nervous now. I'm here, like now what?" Leung said of being on the show during a recently released promotional video by CBS.

"I still recall watching Cook Islands as a teenager and holding mock tribal councils at home (sorry Dad, you always had to go), but now it's ACTUALLY HAPPENING!" Leung said in a recent Instagram post.

Prior to applying, Leung — who is a Fremont native currently residing

in Livermore — found inspiration in watching the success of Yul Kwon, winner of Season 13 "Survivor: Cook Islands" and returning contestant on Season 40.

"I always thought of myself as the brainy guy, like the nerdy guy. Seeing Yul Kwon on TV just made



Kevin Leung

me realize, I'm not pigeonholed into this archetype," Leung said in the cast introduction video. "Someone who looks like me is on TV and he's not just smart, he's strategic and he's athletic and he's a great game player, so he really inspired me to hopefully apply for the show."

As for strategy, Leung intends to find strength in being underestimated. He said, "I want to look as ditsy and clueless as possible

because that's what's going to help me go far in this game."

Whether Leung makes it to the \$1 million prize is yet to be seen. But the story will begin to unfold during a two-hour season premier from 8-10 p.m. Feb. 26 on CBS. The show will also be available to stream through Paramount+.

Following the premier, the series will transition to 90-minute weekly episodes starting March 5. ■

# PUSD commits to protecting immigrant students, families

Trustees approve resolution stating district will not aid ICE unless legally obligated

By CHRISTIAN TRUJANO

The Pleasanton Unified School District Board of Trustees unanimously approved a resolution last week that states that the district will not allow any U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents on its campuses without a valid warrant or that it will not share any student or family information with immigration authorities unless required by law.

The resolution — which also doubles down on the district's commitment to provide all children with equal access to education, regardless of immigration status — was introduced as a response to increased concerns stemming from President Donald Trump's commitments to scale up ICE operations.

Evan Branning, president of the Association of Pleasanton Teachers,

asked the board to pull the item from its consent calendar, which are items considered routine in nature and are typically approved by a single vote, because he believed it deserved further discussion given how immigration concerns are actively affecting some PUSD students and families.

"I've heard from my fellow teachers that students are already missing school for fear of raids, of interruptions to their education," Branning said Jan. 30. "Their parents are afraid."

He said the board needed to use its position of power to, at the minimum, ask what more they can do — within the district's legal framework — in addition to the resolution so that those families in fear feel heard by the district.

"Asking that question of the board 'what more can we do,' it will mean something to those listening

in the audience, those listening at home," Branning said.

After pulling it from the consent calendar, the board received several updates from deputy superintendent of educational services Ed Diolazo as to what schools are doing to protect Pleasanton's immigrant families.

Diolazo said the resolution was definitely one way to reaffirm the district's principles around "providing a safe learning environment for all students."

"Not only is it in board policy, but it's really about student safety and families feeling safe coming to school and really giving them their rights to a safe education," he said.

However, he also said that PUSD director of student services Janet Gates has been specifically providing information to school sites regarding procedures and protocols

for how to respond to certain situations, such as law enforcement showing up to campus.

"We want to reassure our parents and our families that we have a process," Diolazo said. "We're not going to get involved in the legal aspects of this but we just want to make sure that we have a safe campus and we provide procedures for our staff."

Diolazo added that there are specific protocols for front office staff and site administrators to follow if immigration authorities show up to a campus.

Trustee Charlie Jones also asked if staff could look into providing informational cards — both in Spanish and in English — to students so they know what to do if they are approached by ICE because he said as a public educator who previously taught immigrant

students, this issue means a lot to him.

"This is very personal for me," Jones said. "No matter if you were here for five minutes or 50 years, you belong here and you are a part of this community, no matter your status ... and by law and by just ethics, you deserve an education."

Diolazo said they would look into providing students with those informational cards.

Before approving the resolution, Board Vice President Kelly Mokashi suggested that the board read the resolution in its entirety for the sake of community members tuning in virtually and to recognize the importance of the resolution.

"Immigration affects all of us in different ways ... I think it's really important that we recognize that we are providing that safe space for our students," Mokashi said. ■



COURTESY CASTLEWOOD

## The bridge is open

The Castlewood bridge over the Arroyo de la Laguna opened Jan. 25, giving golfers access to the full 18 holes on the Valley Course. The project to replace the former bridge that was damaged in the New Year's Eve storm of 2023 cost \$3.7 million. The third and fourth holes have been closed since construction began last year. Shown (from left): Tom Wagner, Kathleen Butler and Pleasanton Mayor Jack Balch.

## Air district shortens name, launches new logo

BAAD rebrand designed to 'better connect with the public'

By THOMAS HUGHES / BAY CITY NEWS SERVICE

The regional body that regulates and monitors air quality in the Bay Area has a new name and a redesigned logo.

The Bay Area Air Quality Management District has rebranded as the Bay Area Air District, or BAAD.

The district comprises the nine Bay Area counties: Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, and portions of Solano and Sonoma.

The changes were designed to "better connect with the public," according to a Jan. 22 press release from the air district.

The old logo was a square consisting of nine, wavy, navy blue-and-white lines and a light-blue triangle, with nine stripes for nine counties.



COURTESY BAAD VIA BAY CITY NEWS

The new logo also has nine blue-and-white lines, but with four different shades of blue, and this one is circular, with lines that sweep to the left of the circle they form, giving it a swooping or wing-like effect, evoking flowing, clean air on a clear summer day in the Bay Area.

The circle, according to the air district's website, represents "environmental justice and our global impact."

The district's executive officer Philip Fine said the rebranding was a "fresh, modern look" that represented a more "contemporary" time and mission.

"This rebrand isn't just a visual update — it's a renewed promise to lead with purpose and align with the aspirations of the communities we serve," he said in a statement.

The air district was formed by state legislation in 1955 and was the first regional air quality regulator in the state. The blue colors in the new logo represent the district's history of championing clean air and the "changing landscape of air quality management," according to the district's website.

The district is governed by a 24-member board drawn from the cities and counties under its jurisdiction and can set and enforce emissions and environmental standards. ■

# LARPD awarded grant for cybersecurity, tech upgrades

\$234,000 to go toward improving infrastructure

By JUDÉ STRZEMP

The Livermore Area Recreation and Park District recently received a \$234,030 grant from the State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program to improve its cybersecurity and technology infrastructure.

Expected upgrades at LARPD include improved network connectivity, enhanced data backup systems,

modernized software and elevated cybersecurity capabilities, according to an announcement from LARPD. In effect, the upgrades will boost operational efficiency, protect sensitive data and ensure service continuity.

“These improvements go beyond protecting our systems — they help us provide better, more reliable services to our community,” LARPD

spokesperson David Weisgerber said in a statement. “By investing in our infrastructure, we’re ensuring that LARPD can continue to meet the needs of Livermore area residents today and into the future.”

While directly administered by the California Governor’s Office of Emergency Services, the State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program — funding state, local, and

territorial governments to manage and reduce systemic cyber risks — is offered through the Department of Homeland Security.

In response to President Donald Trump’s executive order to pause federal grants and loans, followed by its subsequent reversal, Weisgerber expects no issues with using the recently awarded grant.

“I confirmed with our grant

analyst this week and everything still seemed to be on track to be able to utilize the funds,” Weisgerber told Livermore Vine.

He added, the recently acquired funds were part of the program’s 2022-23 fiscal year due to application and award delays.

Later on, Weisgerber said, “it is possible future funds could be impacted.” ■

## CORNERSTONE

Continued from Page 5

which originally planned to construct a parking lot on the project site. That vision changed after observing housing needs at the low and extremely low income levels.

“We felt like — years ago — the best thing we could do with this land is to add housing and specifically maximize the number of affordable housing units that were available,” said Chris Stockhaus, executive pastor at Cornerstone Fellowship.

The approved project is set to be located on an approximately 13-acre lot at the northwest corner of the intersection of Collier Canyon Road and Constitution Drive. It will include 21 three-story buildings with 143 for-sale townhomes as well as a five-story building with 110 for-rent apartments, according to Emily LaDue, assistant planner for the city of Livermore.

Six of the for-sale townhomes will be priced for moderate income households, 108 of the apartments will be priced for low-, lower-, very low- and extremely low-income households, while the other two apartments are slated as market rate, manager units.

Also included in the project are an approximately 2.5-acre public park with a play area, fitness area, multi-purpose yard; a 0.4 acre pocket park with a community garden, bike parking and grass area along with a pedestrian and bike path along Collier Canyon Creek to connect Collier Canyon Road with Constitution Drive. Street frontage landscaping, connections from units to public streets as well as an off-site pedestrian and bicycle path to connect the site to North Canyons Parkway are part of the project plans.

The project is eligible for concessions and waivers from city development standards to allow the proposed density — exceeding the scenic corridor height limit for the five-story apartment building and some of the three-story townhomes, not evenly distributing the affordable units throughout the project, not having affordable units be comparable with market-rate units and minor deviations from design standards, according

to a letter to council, prepared by LaDue and contract planner Vernon Umetsu.

“Since the concessions and waivers do not compromise health and safety or violate State or Federal law, the concessions and waivers must be granted,” LaDue and Umetsu wrote.

To kick off the council’s discussion, Barrientos expressed concern about the height of the project and the concentration of low-income units in one building.

“I’ve seen areas where they become clustered and they kind of get run-down quickly. And I just don’t want people to go ‘we know what this part of town is,’” Barrientos said. “I don’t want to use a certain word. I just would like to see them spread out more than just clustered in one area.”

Barrientos added, “I’m trying to be diplomatic here.”

In response to Barrientos, assistant city manager Paul Spence explained the city requires affordable units be spread throughout a development. But in this case, the developer was able to use state density bonus waivers and concessions to avoid some requirements.

“In order to build so many affordable units, especially at the real low-income levels that we desperately need — as all cities do in the Bay Area — these waivers were really necessary,” Councilmember Kristie Wang said. “But also, we don’t really have a choice, as Councilmember Barrientos pointed out.”

Even if the council denied project waivers, it would be built anyway due to state law, Wang recapped from a previous conversation with staff. Rejection by the council would only result in a project delay.

She added, “I just can’t delay such needed housing in our community for something that will be built anyway.”

As for the meaning of low-income, \$120,800 per year is the threshold for a family of four to be considered low-income, LaDue said.

“Money I used to dream of making, and that classifies you as low-income,” Marchand said. “It’s astonishing. People just don’t really realize what low-income is.”

LaDue added, extremely low-income for a family of four is \$46,700.

At one point Wang thanked Marchand for reminding people what low income looks like in dollar figures.

For residents living in the low-income units, wrap-around services will be offered by The Pacific Companies in collaboration with Cornerstone. These services will be centralized in the apartment building, a perk of clustering the affordable rental units together, Stockhaus said.

He added, “The ability to do the extremely low (units) would be less feasible financially if we didn’t consolidate them.”

There were two speakers during public comment, one was a Sheet Metal Workers’ union representative and the other was resident Julie Wild.

Wild echoed similar sentiments as Barrientos, expressing concern with the project’s height and clustering of affordable units.

“Having everyone in one building — while it’s nice to combine resources — it also stigmatizes people,” Wild said.

“Ben didn’t want to say it, but it becomes a ghetto,” she added, referencing the “certain word” that Barrientos said he didn’t want to use earlier.

The word “ghetto” in reference to affordable housing has previously sparked controversy in Livermore. Back in 2021, former Livermore planning commissioner John Stein used the word in reference to the Eden Housing development — a low-income residential project planned for downtown currently wrapped up in ongoing litigation.

Stein’s comments received public backlash and even almost led to his removal from the planning commission. However, the council at the time decided to allow him to remain on the commission on the condition that he attend a series of sensitivity trainings.

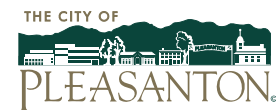
In response to opposition to the Cornerstone project, Vice Mayor Evan Branning extended his support. “What this project was all about is Cornerstone and their members coming together and saying ‘yes in my backyard,’ literally,” he said.

He added, “I don’t want us to look at that building and say ‘it’s out of place’ and point fingers and stigmatize the building or the people inside of it. I want us to understand that this is the start of a neighborhood that really will incorporate all income levels, all different job types, all of the different people that make Livermore wonderful and really

support our community.”

Councilmembers Steven Dunbar and Wang agreed to the benefits of the housing project.

“It will be a very diverse building in its income range but also in many other ways as well, so I don’t have any reason to believe there will be stigma attached to who lives in that building,” Dunbar said. ■



## BE A PART OF THE PUBLIC PROCESS VOLUNTEER FOR A CITY COMMISSION

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Applicants must reside within Pleasanton city limits except those denoted by an asterisk (\*)

Applications are now being accepted for the following vacancies:

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1 Vacancy – Regular member

### CIVIC ARTS COMMISSION

3 Vacancies – Regular member

### ECONOMIC VITALITY COMMITTEE

1 Vacancy - At-Large Representative

1 Vacancy - Life Sciences\*

### HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION

2 Vacancies – Regular member

### LIBRARY COMMISSION

1 Vacancy – Regular member

1 Vacancy – Youth member

### PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

3 Vacancies – Regular member

### PLANNING COMMISSION

2 Vacancies – Regular member

### ALTAMONT EDUCATION ADVISORY BOARD \*

The City of Pleasanton is recruiting a member to participate on the Altamont Education Advisory Board. The representative must be a Science, Environmental Education or Vocational Education teacher from the Pleasanton Public Schools.

Apply by 5:00 PM on Monday, March 10, 2025, on the City of Pleasanton website at <https://www.cityofpleasantonca.gov/our-government/boards-commissions/> and navigate to the bottom of the webpage.

For more information contact the Office of the City Clerk at (925) 931-5027

## DOWNTOWN

Continued from Page 5

Downtown Property & Business Improvement District (PBID), which staff said would have generated more revenue, because of various concerns regarding the lack of support from property owners regarding the PBID and because the potential impacts that could come from the increased fees.

“It’s still a significant amount of money, which is an added tax on the business, so I’d hate to see that affect our downtown even further in a negative way,” Eicher said. “We need to find a way to balance this out a little bit so that it’s equitable for everybody and that the stakeholders actually get a say in what’s going to happen.”

Over the past few years, some longtime storefronts in downtown have become vacant — one prominent example being Clover Creek’s move to the Raley’s shopping center. Those property vacancies, coupled with parking, have been some of the top challenges for downtown Pleasanton property owners, according to staff’s presentation on Jan. 21.

That’s why staff have been working with consultants over the past four months to evaluate the current Downtown Pleasanton Business Improvement District (BID) structure, which is managed by the PDA, and the feasibility of instead creating a PBID.

Established in 1989, the BID is a yearly fee that businesses have paid in order to help the PDA fund parking facility construction, public decorations, events and other general retail promotions.

But because the BID hasn’t been updated since 1989, staff wanted to take the chance to look at what the formation of a more expansive PBID would do for the city.

According to staff, a PBID essentially offers supplemental services and improvements beyond local government and is funded by special

parcel assessments. Those services are chosen by property owners but they must provide a special benefit to the community.

The services are funded by an assessment on the property, which would appear on a business’s property tax bill once a year.

“It is intended that the completion of this project will identify the priorities of stakeholders and focus on strengthening existing downtown businesses and attracting new businesses to create a balance of commercial offerings for the community,” city economic development manager Lisa Adamos said.

Adamos explained that in the previous agreements with the PDA, the BID assessments plus the city’s match accounted for approximately 34% of the downtown association’s operating budget, which she said is not enough given that the PDA has had to reduce its staffing over the years in order to balance its budget.

“It has been apparent that the funding generated does not provide a sufficient revenue to support the PDA in meeting our shared expectations to sustain and increase vitality in the downtown,” Adamos said.

According to Adamos, a PBID could raise significant revenue to provide additional or new services for the benefit of the downtown property owners and district. It would also allow property owners to choose the services that would be funded by the PBID.

Some of the services staff said could be funded by the PBID could include marketing and events, business development initiatives, maintenance and other capital improvements.

Mayor Jack Balch said one of the things he did like about the PBID process was that he thought it appeared to be “a bit more equitable method of how to allocate contributions to the pot based on square footage versus the current method we have.”

Despite going over the dollar amounts and the different scenarios

where the PBID fees would range from \$125 to \$375 for a 2,500-square-foot restaurant on Main Street or \$629 to \$1,887 for a 16,777-square-foot retail shop on Rose Avenue, one main issue that came up during the meeting was the lack of support from property owners who wanted the council to press pause on the formation process.

According to staff, the city emailed online surveys to owners and held an open house in order to assess what the over 100 downtown owners thought about the idea of forming a PBID.

Out of the 116 property owners who would be part of the PBID, 16 showed up to an open house and 47 responded to an online survey, staff said. About 12% of respondents were opposed to the idea, meaning the city was not able to engage with 55% of the owners.

A few of those downtown property owners did show up to the council meeting and the overall consensus from them was that the city needs to give the rest of the owners time to come together with the PDA in order to figure out better ways to improve the economic vitality.

That collaboration was also what several of the council members wanted to see, especially Councilmember Julie Testa who said the onus shouldn’t solely be on the city to reinvigorate downtown Pleasanton.

“To move forward without the support (of property owners) doesn’t make sense,” Testa said. “Downtown is the heart of the city, it is the jewel of Pleasanton and absolutely it should be invested in, but not just the city. It should be the business owners, it should be everybody investing in it.”

Eicher added that he believes there needs to be a lot of work done regarding outreach and working with property owners to “find out what they want, what direction they want to go and realizing that we are going to have some financial obligations to meet here both from the city side

and from the PDA side.”

“They’re going to need to find a funding source and that may mean increasing the current BID, it may mean a PBID in the future with maybe a more moderate increase,” Eicher said.

In the end, the council unanimously agreed to postpone the PBID discussion for one year and gave direction to the business owners and the PDA to provide the city ideas on how they can all effectively invest in downtown Pleasanton.

“The city is pausing so that the owners and the PDA membership can lead,” Balch said. “Show us how and where we need to go to get this downtown reinvigorated.”

The council also agreed to have staff come back in six to nine months for a check in because they didn’t want a year to pass without any work being done. They also gave a little leniency on the time for the check in so that the PDA can hire a permanent executive director because as Testa said, she doesn’t think having someone living out of state running the PDA is the best framework when it comes to addressing challenges in downtown Pleasanton.

Laura Brooks is currently the interim executive director of the PDA — she returned to the position temporarily three different times amid turnover since first stepping down to move to Alabama in 2019. According to staff, the PDA is set to begin interviewing candidates next month.

Separately, the council also approved a motion to match funds to the PDA, which manages the BID, as part of the annual Business Improvement District assessment.

Just like previous years, the city anticipated that its matching funds for the 2025 annual assessments will be around \$80,000. Staff had come to the council during consent calendar, which are items considered routine in nature and are approved by a single vote, to approve a new one-year agreement to match up to 50% of the funds.

However, after several public comments and discussions, they decided to fully match the funds.

“When I see you guys pulling back funding from the PDA ... we’ve only got one downtown and once you guys let it go, once you let it rot, it’s gone,” Mike Madden, former PDA president, said.

“If we’re going to trim things out, this is not where we need to start given what benefit it gives to our city,” new Councilmember Matt Gaidos said.

During this separate portion of the meeting, a lot of the discussion revolved around giving the PDA money, despite not seeing anything change over the past years.

“I don’t think giving them the \$80,000 is going to make any difference over what they’ve done the last few years,” Testa said. “I think there needs to be some real changes.”

Testa said she thinks the PDA should be focusing on more events, such as the First Weekend on Main street closures, and was confused to hear that the association is only planning on two regular closures this year.

Others like Bruce Torquemada, who owns 11 businesses in downtown Pleasanton, said there needs to be more done in order to revitalize the area so that the city can compete with other cities like Livermore, which another public commenter said just opened its third parking structure.

“I’ve done business in Livermore, it’s better,” Torquemada said. “It’s easier, it’s more vibrant. My own kids go to Livermore before they go to Pleasanton to do things.”

That’s why Testa doubled down near the end with saying that she supports fully matching the funds, but she also wants assurance from the PDA that they will be looking at different ways to reinvent the downtown, which could be a possibility now that several of the property owners at the meeting agreed to begin those joint discussions. ■

## PLUTONIUM

Continued from Page 6

of 2009 according to a press release from the lab at that time, ultimately moving to its current Category III status three years later when it met the less than 400-gram threshold of plutonium metal required for that status.

Yundt said that from the perspective of Tri-Valley CARES and other nuclear watch groups, that move had been a step in the right direction, with the current proposal to reclassify the lab’s security clearance status serving as a step backwards.

“We were really hopeful in 2012 when the lab lost its authority to have large quantities of plutonium, and it’s concerning and sad to us that the tides have turned and we’re moving back into an era that puts communities at risk,” Yundt said.

However, Tri-Valley CARES and others concerned about increased nuclear technology and weapons had achieved what they classified as a victory earlier in January, when a settlement was reached with the NNSA and Department of Energy in a lawsuit filed in 2021 contesting the planned enhanced plutonium pit production program’s compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

As part of the settlement, LLNL and other nuclear sites involved in the plan are now subject to a programmatic environmental impact statement (PEIS) process and associated review, requiring at least two public hearings — one on the scope of the project, and another on the draft PEIS before it is finalized. The dates, times, and locations of those meetings and public review periods remain to be determined.

Last week’s separate public

scoping session comes following the initial notice of intent to prepare an SEIS for changes at LLNL that was filed by the NNSA on Jan. 13. At last week’s public meeting, officials announced that they had extended the public comment period from its previous 30-day period through Feb. 12 to March 3, with some speakers calling on them to extend it further for up to 90 days.

The next step in that process is for the NNSA to prepare a draft SEIS with public input in mind, which is set to be announced upon its completion. The draft will be the subject of one or more public hearings in which public input will be considered in the preparation for the final SEIS. Information on the SEIS for Livermore and the environmental review process for other sites is available at [energy.gov/nnsa/nnsa-nepa-reading-room](http://energy.gov/nnsa/nnsa-nepa-reading-room).

LLNL officials referred questions

from the Weekly to NNSA spokespeople, which they had acknowledged as of Friday morning, but said they would need approximately a week to fully respond. “Current

response times may be longer than usual,” according to a notice on the NNSA website. In the meantime, they pointed to the Jan. 29 presentation for additional information. ■

## The Last Word closes amid rebrand

Set to reopen with ‘lounge-like vibe’

By JUDE STRZEMP

After shuttering its doors Jan. 20, The Last Word gastropub in downtown Livermore is scheduled to reopen with a new name and a fresh look in the coming weeks.

Known for its cocktails, Spanish-inspired menu and live music, ownership said the soon-to-be renamed location will have

a “lounge-like vibe” upon opening. Otherwise, its revamp will be revealed during Valentine’s week, given a three-week turnaround goal.

“Thank you to our incredible customers and patrons! Your loyalty and support have made The Last Word an unforgettable chapter,” restaurant representatives wrote on a Facebook post Jan. 20. ■



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Top left: Donna Henninger and Armani Cooper prepare Japanese steakhouse salad at Amador Valley High School. Middle left: Chef-coordinator Steve Seligman and Henninger review the recipes. Bottom left: PUSD's electric food truck.

# LUNCH IS

## Pleasanton Unified School District program cooks

STORY BY DEBORAH GROSSMAN



**A**t 11 a.m. on a recent Friday, the kitchen at Amador Valley High School hummed with activity. Chef-coordinator Steve Seligman oversaw the bustle which began at 6:30 a.m. to prepare lunch for 1,100 hungry students.

Staff bantered as they poured spicy sauce over oven-baked, whole grain-breaded boneless chicken wings. Others dished out grass-fed beef strips marinated and cooked in ginger and garlic sauce into the Japanese steakhouse salad containers which await edamame, more veggies, a bun, and house-made dressing.

That day's driver of the Pleasanton Unified School District electric food truck loaded hot and cold meals onto their respective temperature-controlled shelves. She will soon serve the meals to Village High School students.

In her office next to the kitchen, Sarah Kimiecik, director of child nutrition services (CNS) for the district, poured over her \$7 million budget and audit requirements for various agencies.

She oversees 60 employees and meets regularly with her leadership team which includes chef Seligman, two nutrition specialists and an operations coordinator. Her team prepares on average 6,500 lunches daily for students at 15 Pleasanton schools.

The team develops daily breakfast and lunch menus for the three school levels: elementary, middle, and high school. CNS plans 90 days in advance for fall, winter and spring menus. These changes target availability of seasonal items and students' evolving appetite for hot or cold foods.

As Kimiecik reviews the 18 menus over the school year, she must consider supply schedules, weekly nutrition regulations, and staffing levels with all employees certified on training and safety-sanitation standards.

### BEHIND THE KITCHEN DOOR

Kimiecik is uniquely qualified for the job.

With a Bachelor of Science in dietetics and marketing, she has worked in CNS management at other districts and has experience as a facilities support coordinator for a national restaurant chain. With two years' service at PUSD, Kimiecik has begun implementing her mission to upgrade food quality with more made from scratch cooking.

Knowledge of both student satisfaction with the food and back of the kitchen operations is essential for Kimiecik's role. Her budget for PUSD is self-supporting, meaning she cannot make a profit and must allocate costs to break even. CNS receives about \$5.60 per lunch meal. About 40% covers food and the remaining 60% supports labor, kitchen and serving equipment, and commodities.

At PUSD, the budget for CNS is reimbursed by a combination of 40% from the free breakfast and lunch programs provided by California Department of Education's Universal Meals Program since the 2022-23 school year and 60% from federal U.S. Department of Agriculture funds under the National School Lunch Act established in 1946.

Kimiecik manages 10 major supplier contracts. The top expenditure of \$1 million is allocated for commodities such as rice and fresh produce which the federal government supplies as part of the Omnibus Farm Bill. The massive procurement network of the Department of Defense handles the complex distribution of these products that are 100% American-grown or produced.

Free meals do not require formal application. If parents or caregivers receive government aid such as SNAP, registration for free meals is automatic. If not, the district encourages lower-income households to register for free meals to receive additional benefits.

The entree selections at Amador Valley High School's Court Cafe serving lines, whether Hawaiian pizza or chicken salad from the grab-and-go speed line or one of the hot items on the cafe line like the chicken shawarma wrap or veggie chili mac, fulfill the nutrition standards and two of the three parts of the free meal, a whole grain element and meat or meat alternative.

As teens swipe their student ID without a fruit or vegetable for their meal, the clerk politely asks them to take fruit or hand them one. Clerks cannot complete the required government record-keeping without the complete free meal.

When asked if students buy a second lunch for \$5 with their MySchoolBucks spending account, senior Catherine Gao said, "Maybe some buffed athletes do, but we barely have time to get through the line and eat in 30 minutes."

About half of AVHS students bring their lunch; some also grab a free lunch. Parents can bring food at lunch to hand to their students over the Activities gate.

### ON THE LUNCH LINE

In 2022, chef Seligman also arrived at PUSD with a broad culinary background. Trained at the Culinary Institute of America, he

# 3 SERVED

## chool District's nutrition ks up change

| PHOTOS BY CHUCK DECKERT



worked as a chef, foodservice consultant, and CNS coordinator at other East Bay districts. For 23 years, he owned Savvy Savories which sold grab-and-go vegetarian and vegan sandwiches and salads to supermarkets such as Whole Foods.

Seligman welcomed the opportunity to bring more plant-forward foods to PUSD. With the team, he established daily vegetarian options. A daily salad bar, chipotle black bean bowls and vegan hot dogs are on the high school menus.

Higher reimbursements from the free lunch programs enabled the team to serve more quality ingredients. An advocate for food with clean labels, Seligman purchases products with no artificial ingredients, preservatives or nitrates except those naturally occurring.

Rather than serving hot dogs with added nitrates and wheat or soy fillers, Seligman menus all-natural Angus beef hot dogs. He also sources meat like the steakhouse salad strips from regenerative farms which tend the soil carefully, like food labeled organic, but also work to improve all environmental impact of their production.

CNS procures more local foods. Seligman sources hamburger beef from a Marin County ranch. The non-processed (whole muscle) chicken tenders are from Tracy. Bonami Bakery in Pittsburg supplies bánh mì buns and ciabatta bread. Dos Pisanos in Concord makes the tamales; Alicia's Los Mayas in Hayward prepares burritos.

With his experience, Seligman

understands student preferences and receives few complaints.

"Kids that are OG ('old school') like burgers. All kids like veggies and fruit cut up. Younger students prefer familiar comfort foods. With more exposure to global foods and broader palates, middle and high schoolers often crave garlic and spice," he said.

Since pizza is such an important offering, the CNS team sought student input. Elementary students chose Garlex pizza; older students selected Dominos. Spicy chicken sandwiches, cheeseburgers, and turkey bacon cheddar panini are top selections, added Seligman.

In addition to the regular menu, CNS serves 40 meals daily to students who have applied for alternate meals due to medically diagnosed disabilities related to food. These meals require special handling to avoid cross-contamination during preparing and handling.

### STUDENTS SERVE UP SUGGESTIONS

At the busy courtyard, groups gathered to chat and eat lunch. Several students were eager to report the accomplishments of the nutrition panel of the PUSD Student Interschools Action Panel (SIAP) supported by CNS.

Like chefs proposing menu changes to a restaurant's owners, the panel presented a proposal to CNS with ingredient lists, costs and nutrition details for overnight oats as a breakfast item which now cycles onto the menu.

SIAP member Maya Mithani, a junior, noted that they also proposed



a bibimbap rice bowl. After taste testing with the panel, CNS developed popular versions with beef or tofu, kimchi, and house-prepared, soy-marinated hard-boiled eggs. When they requested bánh mì, CNS developed a recipe with house-pickled vegetables and fresh herbs.

The group agreed that small changes matter.

The new baked, whole grain-breaded onion rings served with the chicken wings have more crunch and oniony flavor because chopped onions replaced slices in the batter which can become soggy and stringy. Another panel member, junior Smriti Mehta, added, "Other veggie options like the coleslaw with the steakhouse salad taste better."

Noting that avocados are expensive, Mithani appreciates the nachos entrée with a substantial portion of house-made guacamole. Overall, Mithani said, "By adding layers of flavor for all entrées, the chef makes them more filling and satisfying."

What happens to leftover food? With an eye on reducing organic waste, two students at AVHS and their parents volunteer weekly to pick up shelf-stable items and extra fresh produce to deliver to Open Heart Kitchen in Livermore.

Teachers and admin staff rarely purchase adult meals. AVHS teacher-librarian Erik Scherer is an exception. Appreciative of the increase in scratch cooking, he hustles over to the Court Cafe to buy chicken mole with rice. Along the way, Scherer sees more students eating meals than tossing them out.

Back in the kitchen, Seligman strives for improvements to the food service: "Our goal is to please our student customer base with nutritious, wholesome and delicious food while mentoring our team and also satisfying parents, the district and government bodies."

See **CULINARY UPDATES** on Page 14



Center photo and right rail: All in a day's lunch from prep to service to students eating their meals.

# CULINARY UPDATES FROM DUBLIN AND SAN RAMON VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICTS

**D**ublin Unified School District and PUSD are similar in student population, number of schools, and CNS staffing.

Like Kimiecik in Pleasanton, DUSD director of CNS Maly Pra also aims to upgrade food quality. Pra joined DUSD in July with experience in CNS, a BS in nutrition and dietetics, an MBA and registered dietician certification.

Early in his career, chef supervisor Rodrigo Vazquez interned at El Bulli, regarded as the world's best restaurant before closing in 2011. Later, he served as head chef at a Walnut Creek restaurant and East Bay hospital.

Though Vazquez joined CNS less than a year ago, he has brainstormed with the team to develop new recipes, upgrade existing dishes and introduce more international flavors such as chicken teriyaki noodles and carne asada bowls.

"Our biggest achievement," Vazquez said, "is transitioning the high school lunch menu from 90 percent processed food to 85% from scratch cooking."

There are differences between Pleasanton and Dublin school lunches. The DUSD high schools have open campuses, which enable high school students who drive to leave at lunchtime. Unlike PUSD with a separate menu for middle school students, DUSD offers one menu for kindergarten through 8th grade and another for the high schools.

The menu content differs for high school students.

Pizza is on DUSD menus once a week while PUSD lists it daily. While PUSD offers seven rotating entrees per week with five daily items such as cheeseburgers and chicken tenders with waffles, DUSD rotates two weekly options

such as gyro beef bowl with veggies and chicken birria with six daily sandwich or salad options.

## EMERALD HIGH SCHOOL

Dublin's Emerald High School, open since August, is the first new comprehensive high school in Alameda County since Foothill High School half a century ago.

The design for the lunchroom is innovative and architecturally stunning with a high ceiling, huge modern fans, couches, high bistro seating and long tables. Reminiscent of a college dining and gathering locale, Emerald named the large area the Student Union. The large room abuts the Performing and Visual Arts Center auditorium, and Admin Activities Center.

Students snake through the lunch lines to the four identical serving stations at the Food Court.

A popular daily item is the crunchables hummus and pita box. Emerald kitchen lead Sherrie Hardeman described the contents, "We cut a colorful mix of seasonal fresh vegetables daily and add hummus and local pita. We also serve a 'special' meal not on the published menu such as ramen chicken salad."

## DUBLIN CULINARY ACADEMY

Dublin High School offers three Academy programs focused on advanced studies: culinary arts, engineering design and health sciences. Established 15 years ago as the first academy, the Culinary Academy has a storied history.

Over the years, students in the advanced catering course have sold food for community events, politicians, and local groups. Academy graduates became chefs



DEBORAH GROSSMAN

A snapshot of the lunch line and Student Union Food Court at the new Emerald High School in Dublin.



CHUCK DECKERT

A workstation at the Dublin Culinary Academy at Dublin High School.

at venues such as Wente Vineyards and Marriott hotels. Students find jobs at restaurants like Cheesecake Factory and Denica's.

From humble beginnings with three course offerings, director Leena Hung and two staff members lead three culinary and two catering courses to 450 students. All courses are University of California A-G accredited classes. Students who complete the advanced catering course are eligible for UC Honors or college credits at Diablo Valley College.

Dublin High School's ASB (associated student body) organization handles the academy's accounting functions. Outstanding students may receive scholarships from the earned funds.

With a BS in dietetics and an associate degree in culinary arts, Hung worked as a chef and then

food stylist. During an advanced catering class, Hung kept an eye on the half-dozen workstations where students were working two paid jobs: a taco bar for a Cub Scouts pack and a fundraiser with the theme "Denim and Diamonds" for the PFSO (parent faculty student organization).

Samantha Friday, a senior, smoothed Swiss meringue frosting on her caramel cake made as a "Southern vibe" auction item for the PFSO event. She planned to decorate the cake with more drips and dollops of caramel on top and add toffee crumbles for texture.

When asked about a career as a chef, Friday said, "I want to study environmental engineering. But I may make cakes as a sideline."

Assisting at the taco bar station, junior Sean McGinley also has no ambition to be a chef: "Though I

have no interest in making cakes, cooking is my passion."

## AT SRVUSD

Behind the scenes, San Ramon Valley Unified School District has enhanced school meals by implementing a program to support the CNS staff who have a full plate of daily tasks.

SRVUSD is the first California school district to partner with Brigaid, a company that helps improve foodservice at large institutions. The company's name resembles "chefs' brigade" — another term for kitchen staff.

Since 2022, the SRVUSD partnership with Brigaid's professional chefs has enhanced student meals with more creative and cooked from-scratch food through training and support for the CNS team. ■

# Tri-Valley Life

What's happening around the Valley in music, theater, art, literature and more

## THEN AND NOW

### DEL VALLE REGIONAL PARK HOW THE ANCESTRAL TERRITORY OF THE TAUNAN OHLONE BECAME A RECREATION HUB

BY JUDE STRZEMP

Known as a local hotspot for outdoor recreation, Del Valle Regional Park has not always been as it appears today.

Throughout history, the land located about five miles south of Livermore has hosted indigenous people, settlers and ranchers. Only in 1970, after a dam was constructed over the Arroyo del Valle waterway to create a reservoir, did the East Bay Regional Park District open the park.

The history of the park and the land it occupies received public attention at a lecture last week, where EBRPD supervising naturalist Ashley Grenier recalled over 10,000 years into the past.

Hosted at the Livermore Civic Center Library on Jan. 28, her presentation called "Then and Now: Del Valle Regional Park" was part of the "Then and Now: Livermore Stories" series where local history is co-presented by the Livermore Heritage Guild and the Livermore Public Library.

"It's important to connect people to their local environment, whether it be the natural environment or the history," Grenier said of the presentation's purpose. "There are really special places just right outside of our door and we don't have to travel all the way to Yosemite or Joshua Tree or places like that. You can explore our own backyards and feel more connected to the place that we live."

The story of the parkland begins over 13,000 years prior to European settlement, when the indigenous tribes Ohlone, Bay Miwok, and Northern Valley Yokuts started residing in the Bay Area.

Taunan Ohlone, a tribelet within the larger Ohlone-speaking group, lived near present-day Livermore and Del Valle. In that area, all life-sustaining resources would have been available: oak trees for acorns to eat, tule reeds for shelter and a creek for fresh water, Grenier explained.

"It's important to acknowledge that all native people have a reciprocal relationship with the natural environment. They managed the land in a way that was beneficial to the land and to themselves," Grenier said.

In the late 1700s, the Spanish king sent military troops and Franciscan missionaries to California to colonize the territory and convert indigenous people to Christianity, according to the California Missions Foundation website. This organization restores and protects all 21 mission structures and their contents with the goal of history preservation.

"In general, missionization is really what caused the genocide of the indigenous people," Grenier said.

Land and culture in the western United States continued to change through the late 1800s as settlers bought up acreage for a small fee under The Homestead Act.

During this time, a vibrant community grew in Livermore, planted crops, raised livestock, and sent their children to school, Grenier said. One such group was the Crosby family, who settled near the Arroyo del Valle.

By the early 1900s, ranching became a norm in the valley. Among those to ranch in the area was the Patterson family who owned 5,000 acres within the Del Valle watershed. Large portions of their ranches have since been converted to public open space including Coyote

Hills Regional Park, Ardenwood Historic Farm and Del Valle Regional Park.

Through the 1940s and '50s, the Arroyo del Valle was a vital waterway for folks that lived here, Grenier said. It was also a place to play and relax.

But trouble often arose during the winter, when the creek caused flooding in towns and valleys downstream.

Finally in 1968, flood protection arose in the form of a dam along Arroyo del Valle creek. Additional benefits of the dam included recreation opportunities at the resulting reservoir and the creation of a drinking water reserve.

Within two years, EBRPD opened Del Valle Regional Park.

"While things have changed, much has stayed the same," Grenier said.

Upon opening, visitors took up familiar activities at the park including boating, horseback riding, camping and hiking.

One difference was the cost of admission, set at \$1 per car during off-season and \$1.50 per car during peak season. Meanwhile, camping was only \$5 per site.

Not just a location for recreation, the park also provides open space with many landscapes that can support a variety of wildlife, Grenier said. Insects, frogs, fish, waterfowl and eagles are just some of the inhabitants of the park.

Also new was the inclusion of the reservoir in the California State Water Project, a water

storage and delivery system extending over 705 miles with benefits like power generation, flood control and recreation.

The Lake Del Valle reservoir can store 77,000 acre-feet of water, equivalent to 77,000

football fields filled with one foot of water each. Recipients of the water include residents of the Tri-Valley and the Dougherty Valley area, as distributed by Zone 7 Water Agency.

Usually the reservoir's managing agency, the California Department of Water Resources fills the

lake for recreational use during summers and drains during autumn in preparation for rain. But in recent years, the park has flooded twice amid unpredictable rainfall: once in 2017 and again in 2023 when water reached the visitor center.

At the root of the unpredictability is climate change, wherein the Bay Area is experiencing "precipitation whiplash" meaning longer dry seasons and shorter, more intense wet seasons, Grenier said.

She hopes for improved rainfall predictions to manage the water levels amid weather extremes.

Despite the recent flooding, the visitor center is once again operational. It contains exhibits and information about the natural history of Del Valle and the surrounding wilderness.

For more information about Del Valle Regional Park, visit the EBRPD website at [ebparks.org](http://ebparks.org). ■

**'WHILE THINGS HAVE CHANGED, MUCH HAS STAYED THE SAME.'**

**Ashley Grenier,**  
EBRPD supervising naturalist



Above: Black-and-white photos show the range of recreation at Del Valle Regional Park in Livermore in the early 1970s. (Photos courtesy of Martin J. Cooney Collection, EBRPD Archives). Top right: Flooding at Del Valle Regional Park damaged the visitor center in 2023. (Photo courtesy EBRPD). Bottom right: A present day look at part of Lake Del Valle. (Photo by Ida Berejikian, courtesy EBRPD).

# Community Pulse

## POLICE BULLETIN

### Livermore man arrested for alleged sexual assault of a minor

A 53-year-old Livermore man was arrested on allegations of sexually assaulting a minor in San Jose on New Year's Eve, police said last week.

The San Jose Police Department's Internet Crimes Against Children/Child Exploitation Detail Task Force began investigating after the department received a report of an alleged sexual assault that occurred on Dec. 31, 2024, when a man allegedly assaulted a minor he had met through an online chat application.

The man was identified as a resident of Livermore.

Livermore police served a warrant at his residence on Jan. 23.

He was arrested and booked into Santa Clara County Main Jail.

Anyone with information about this case or similar cases is encouraged to contact the San Jose Police Department's Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force at 4576@sanjoseca.gov or 408-537-1381.

—Bay City News Service

### In other news

- A morning police chase resulted in one arrest last week after San Ramon officers pursued two suspects who fled the scene of an alleged burglary.

San Ramon officers responded to a commercial burglary at the Sugar Hill Smoke Shop at 12903 Alcosta Blvd. at 6:18 a.m. Jan. 30. Upon arrival, it was apparent that a burglary had been committed but no suspects were found

on-site, according to Lt. Mike Pistello of the San Ramon Police Department.

Using city FLOCK cameras, officers discovered a lead on a suspect vehicle — a green 1998 Honda Civic. The vehicle, occupied by a male driver and female passenger, was located driving through the parking lot of the Extended Stay hotel located at 18000 San Ramon Valley Blvd.

When officers attempted an investigative stop the Honda fled from officers, driving over vegetation and colliding with an SRPD vehicle. Police pursued the Honda on San Ramon Valley Boulevard and eventually onto Interstate 680. The suspect was able to evade officers near the I-680/I-580 exchange, Pistello told the Pleasanton Weekly.

With assistance from the Alameda County Sheriff's Office,

the Honda was found unoccupied in the Aster apartment complex at 6775 Golden Gate Drive in Dublin.

Shortly after locating the Honda, SRPD officers and ACSO deputies found the two suspects walking in the 7100 block of Dublin Boulevard. The male suspect was taken into custody and the female suspect fled on foot. An extensive area search was conducted; however, the female was not located.

The Honda used in the chase was later determined to have been stolen from the city of Concord. Additionally, both suspects were found to be responsible for a different attempted burglary at another business in San Ramon and two commercial burglaries in Pleasant Hill.

The female suspect, who remains at large, was identified as 32-year-old Kayla Gutierrez of Alameda. The male suspect was identified as Devin Woodard, 40, of Oakland. Woodard was also determined to be on CDC Parole.

He was booked at Martinez Detention Facility on multiple charges, including assault with a deadly weapon, not a firearm, on a police officer; second degree burglary; parole violation; felony vandalism; vehicle theft and felony evading, among other charges.

No innocent bystanders or police officers were injured during the incident, Pistello said. The investigation will be filed jointly by San Ramon and Pleasant Hill police departments with the Contra Costa County District Attorney's Office. ■

—Cierra Bailey

## Sterling Edward McLane

May 12, 1943 – January 27, 2025

The world has lost another good man. Sterling Edward McLane, a 43-year resident of Pleasanton, California, passed away peacefully at age 81, after a long and valiant fight against colon cancer and short hospital stay. His wife of 59 years and other family members were with him in his final days. To the end, Sterling retained his good nature, sense of humor, pragmatism, and stoicism.



Sterling was born May 12, 1943, in San Fernando, California, to Garland McLane Jr. and Elda Lavonne (Harman) McLane. His father was away serving in the Army as a cook. After World War II ended, Sterling and his younger sister Lynda grew up in a hard-working family with his paternal grandmother caring for them while parents both worked.

Sterling graduated from San Fernando High School in 1961 and enlisted in the U.S. Air Force, rather than wait to be drafted. While serving in Danang, Vietnam, in intelligence, his mother arranged for a colleague's daughter to become a pen pal to cheer him.

He corresponded with Sally Dunlop throughout his first tour of duty and during a holiday leave the pair dated for six weeks before eloping. They were married December 3, 1965, in Las Vegas, Nevada, before he shipped out to his next tour of duty in Hawaii. Sally followed, and the newlyweds enjoyed a "three-year honeymoon" in Honolulu. With encouragement from his commanding officer, Sterling became interested in nascent computer technology and took night classes. He aced a calculus final while Sally delivered their first child, daughter Tegan.

After his honorable discharge, the young family moved to Nebraska, where they welcomed son Rodrick, bought their first house and Sterling completed his bachelor's degree at Bellevue College. He had a 40-year career in the defense industry, earning an MBA from UCLA along the way, and finishing out his career as a systems analyst at Lockheed Martin.

A lifelong car buff, Sterling enjoyed auto-crossing with son. He was a great cook, grill master, and accomplished bread baker. He was an avid reader of science fiction, mysteries and history, and became a big fan of Irish music and culture after his granddaughter took up Irish dancing. He and Sally enjoyed trips together to the British Isles and Hawaii.

Sterling is survived by his wife Sally, daughter Tegan (Eric Cowger), son Rodrick (Tammy), and grandchildren Kellyn Cowger and Kai McLane. He will be remembered as the rock in our family, the finest example of a good, hard-working family man -- beloved husband, father, and grandpa.

Sterling's family would like to thank the staff of Kaiser Walnut Creek ICU Department for taking such good care of him and us during his final days.

PAID OBITUARY

## Michael L. Bennardo

1948-2024

Mike's light was extinguished unexpectedly on December 27, 2024. A native of San Francisco, and a graduate of San Leandro High School, Mike was proud of his Bay Area roots.

Mike was a force of nature who lived life to the fullest with no regrets. He served our country as a Viet Nam vet, and went on to serve his community as a firefighter/paramedic with Alameda County Firefighters Local 55. His younger years saw him on his Arlen Ness chopper, on surf boards in Santa Cruz, or rooting on the SF Giants. He loved music and had an encyclopedic knowledge of The Blues. Mike was always willing to challenge the status quo and was never shy about his beliefs. His rebel spirit and snarky humor was a balm in a troubled world.

Mike and his wife, Lori, were well-matched and shared a loving, adventurous spirit. As Cal Berkeley grads, they fiercely supported The Bears attending football games regularly. They embraced their Italian heritage and, in their travels, located Mike's Nona's birthplace in Cosenza, Calabria.

Known as the 'Mike and Lori Show', they exited life's stage a few short weeks apart.

Mike will be missed by many for his zest for life. He is survived and cherished by his sons Brennan Bennardo (Annie) of San Jose and Devin Bennardo (Benazeer) of Pleasanton (and their mother, Linda Bennardo of Pleasanton); four loving granddaughters; his sister, Kathryn Padro (Alfred) of Castro Valley; and his sister-in-law Sheri Jensen of Concord and her family.

A Celebration of Life will be announced at a later date. In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts may be made to the World Central Kitchen ([www.wck.org](http://www.wck.org)) for their support of firefighters and victims of the LA fire or to the Berkeley Society for Preservation of Traditional Music [dbaFreightandSalvage] ([www.thefreight.org](http://www.thefreight.org)) for their commitment to preserve and promote traditional music.



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## AROUND THE VALLEY



BY GINA CHANNELL WILCOX

### Council appointment leaves questions, concerns

The San Ramon City Council on Dec. 11 decided to appoint a councilmember rather than hold a special election to fill the District 2 seat left vacant when Mark Armstrong was sworn in as mayor the day before.

Although the best plan would be to allow the voters of District 2 to vote for the person they wanted to represent them, for myriad reasons, an appointment was the most expedient and stewardly way to proceed.

Armstrong and councilmembers Robert Jweinat, Marisol Rubio and Sridhar Verose were pressed for time to make a decision because of a municipal code that gives a 30-day timeframe to either fill the position by appointment or call a special election. The clock started ticking Dec. 10.

Calling for a special election would need to be done at a regular meeting, and the next regular city council meeting was canceled because it fell on Christmas Eve. In addition to that delay, the actual process of the election could take up to six months and, with a number of housing and other development proposals coming soon to the council's agenda, a full council would be optimal.

Another significant factor in the decision was the cost of a special election. Estimated at a minimum of \$159,335, the outlay of money would be painful given the city's current financial struggles.

During a Jan. 6 special meeting, the council whittled the pool of 16 eligible candidates down to four individuals who would be interviewed Jan. 10 — Richard Adler, Kyle Levy, Baljit Sull and Tiffany Uhri Chi.

Of the finalists, Levy was by far the most qualified and prepared for the job and I question why Adler was ultimately appointed. Forever a cynic, I am concerned the reason I suspect will lead to a council majority "voting bloc," which has proven to be destructive in another Tri-Valley city.

On paper, it was clear Levy was the top candidate. In fact, when asked for their top two candidates to interview, all four electeds selected Levy as their first choice.

Levy served as the treasurer in the city's successful Yes on Measure N sales tax measure in 2024 and, prior to that, was a member of a smaller group that encouraged the council to place the sales tax measure on the ballot. He is the board president for the San Ramon Library Foundation, and chair of the San Ramon Valley Unified School District Facilities Oversight and Advisory Committee.

He works in administrative project management

for the Castro Valley Sanitary District, and is responsible for preparing staff reports for agenda packets for the agency's meetings.

Levy is also a commissioner on San Ramon's Parks and Community Services Commission, so he has experience with reading staff reports and meeting protocol. He has a degree in political science, a law degree, and certificates in HR Management and Public Law and Policy.

Before conducting the interviews, the councilmembers listed characteristics they wanted in the person they would appoint, including knowledge of the community and, specifically, District 2, as well as the issues; understanding of law and local government; ability to think critically; communication skills; and ability to connect with residents.

All the candidates did well during the Jan. 10 interviews, but Levy stood out there too. His answers were on-point, clear and concise, demonstrated his knowledge and highlighted his experience. He needed no prompting to give specific examples or to clarify or elaborate on an answer as other candidates were asked to do.

After the four interviews, the councilmembers voted on a four-point scale, with their top candidate receiving four points, the second candidate receiving three, and so on.

Adler received 13 points, with Armstrong giving him three points, Jweinat giving him two and Rubio and Verose both giving him four. Levy received 12 points, with Rubio and Verose both giving him two points and Armstrong and Jweinat giving him four.

When the results were shown, Armstrong said he was surprised.

"In regard to Kyle Levy, I personally felt he kind of knocked it out of the park in terms of his answers and how succinct his answers were, and clear as to understanding the issues," Armstrong said.

In response to Armstrong's statement, Rubio explained why she gave three points to Uhri Chi and two to Levy, saying both had similar knowledge of the law and local government, but Uhri Chi has qualities she feels are lacking in the current council.

"(Uhri Chi) brought a perspective that is needed," Rubio said, "We have to think not just about right now, but we need to think about the community we will have in 10, 20 years."

"One of the things she did really well was talking about families, talking about their needs and that's something that really stood out to me," Rubio said.

Verose praised Uhri Chi for having a good grasp

of the city's budget and the budgeting process, which is a priority right now, and agreed with Rubio that the council needs to look to the future. "We want to have different perspectives," he said.

Neither Rubio nor Verose mentioned why they had given Adler four points, so Armstrong asked Verose to explain why he selected Adler over Levy. Verose said there needs to be a vision for the future and Adler's experience would bring the city's "community services to the next level."

Rubio seconded Verose's statement and said that "it's not all about the numbers." She said "nuanced" psycho-social economic issues are important to recognize. She gave a long, extremely confusing explanation of how a person is able to understand those nuances, and I guessed that understanding the "nuances" is basically the ability to relate to and communicate with people.

Adler is involved in community groups and interacts with residents.. He was a member of the Yes on Measure N committee, is president of the Dougherty Valley San Ramon Rotary Club as well as a member of the city's Senior Advisory Committee and the San Ramon Valley Mental Health Advisory Council.

However, I didn't get anything from Adler that would lead me to believe he would be better at communicating with residents than Levy.

Apparently Jweinat felt the same way and said Levy's interview was "by far a higher quality. The answers were in-depth, were rich."

"Candidly, I didn't find Mr. Adler's commentary or answers really heartfelt," Jweinat continued. "It felt more like a check-off on a resume ...this is what I've done' and that's pretty much it."

Adler's interview did strike me as perfunctory, with weak answers and few specific examples.

Rubio and Verose continued to defend their four-out-of-four ranking of Adler by reiterating the council's need for a different perspective, someone who could look to the future, and that Adler's experience in community service would be valuable.

But the value Levy would immediately bring to the council, which is in the midst of the aforementioned budget concerns and upcoming development projects, far outweighs what Adler can bring now or 10 to 20 years from now.

The connection between Rubio, Verose and Adler is what gives me pause.

Rubio has ties to the Democratic Party of Contra Costa County (DPCCC), where she is a committee vice-chair and one of Central County's four members. She was endorsed by the San Ramon Valley Democratic Club when she ran for her current council seat in 2022, and received a \$1,300 independent expenditure from the group.

Also that year, Rubio reported contributions of about \$25,000, with only \$200 contributed by a San Ramon resident. About \$20,350 was contributed by individuals outside of the city,

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## LETTERS

### Your coverage made a difference

Thank you for the cover story and photo spread publicizing our annual Make A Difference for Pleasanton Festival. That undoubtedly was part of the reason that we set a new record: Over 700 attendees during the four hours of the event!

And that doesn't include more

than 100 volunteers taking shifts behind the 40-some exhibits.

New this year was advanced on-line signup for student community service hours, which saw 142 individuals sign up for the 202 volunteer slots (some serving more than one slot).

There were four hands-on projects: a hundred handmade cards were created to send to local military personnel serving far from home; 300 pounds of crayons were sorted by color, to be melted down to make fresh crayons to be

distributed to children in hospitals; 4,500 sets of safety pins were prepared for use at the Thanksgiving Day Turkey Burn, for the bibs participants attach to their clothing (saying "I am thankful for..."); and 15 fleece blankets had fringe cut and tied, plus animal chew toys were braided.

Teen volunteers also signed up to help with setup and cleanup, plus other tasks during the festival, for a total of 252 hours of service.

In addition, for the first time, those entering the exhibit hall had

the opportunity to quickly put together hygiene kits for distribution to homeless and other neighbors in need. This was especially popular for families with young children, who could experience how they, too, could make a difference for other peoples' lives. There were 300 kits assembled.

Many exhibitors expressed gratitude, not only for the opportunity to recruit volunteers, but also for the chance to meet people from other

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LETTERS

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organizations who have found positive ways to make a difference. For those unable to attend the event, we encourage a visit to MAD4P.org, where they can see a listing of participating nonprofit organizations, plus their mission statements and contact. We could not have the Make A Difference for Pleasanton Festival without the sponsorship of the City of Pleasanton, Pleasanton Unified School District, Pleasanton Community of Character Collaborative, ACCUSPLIT Make A Difference Programs, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and Karlsson & Lane Accountancy Corporation. Thanks again for your help.

—The Planning Team: Ken Mano, Ron Sutton, Jerri Long, Bruce Bird, Patrick Gannon and Julian Mireles

Our downtown

I read Jeremy Walsh's report on his downtown stroll and was encouraged by his signoff, indicating more editorial coverage soon. I hope that this future coverage includes an exploration into the economics of vacancy, because most of us can't fathom how it makes sense for storefronts to be empty for so long.

We hear vague reports of tyrannical landlords and property owners charging rents that have essentially driven businesses away. How can this be good fiscal policy? What is going on here?

We want to understand the forces at play that have resulted in buildings sitting vacant for years on end. Please provide that for us.

—Rick Altman

Citizenship reform is possible

Citizenships sold abroad for \$50,000 to \$100,000 are seen as tawdry by the overwhelming majority. A system that splits immigration status within a family on account of a birth defies logic and common sense.

Those who insist an amendment is needed might ask themselves: "How did Native Americans obtain U.S. citizenship?"

In passing the 1924 Indian Citizenship Act, Congress overruled the 14th Amendment's 1884 Supreme Court interpretation (Elk vs. Wilkins). This demonstrates that Congress can modify pathways to citizenship as ideas about how they should work change over time. That clears the way for corrective legislation this year based a few simple principles:

1. After some effective date, births no longer cause split-status within a family.
2. Instead, all newborns inherit the nationality and immigration status of their parents.
3. States and localities are given

adequate time for an orderly change process.

The idea of American parents passing citizenship to their baby will resonate very strongly, regardless of party affiliation. With bipartisan support, a well-crafted bill based on these principles can make it across the finish line.

What to call it? Why name it the thing being phased out (birthright citizenship), when it establishes something new and exciting?

The Citizenship Inheritance Act.

—Pierre Bierre

Keep eye on downtown

Jeremy, nice job on the editorial Friday. I am so glad you're going to keep an eye on downtown since I think it's dying. I think one or two of the street closures last year might have actually hurt the normal business and it will be interesting if Costco has an impact.

As it relates to Costco, I noted at a city council meeting a few months ago that my eyeglasses, hearing aids and RX prescriptions were all from Pleasanton establishments and could be done as "one stop shopping" at Costco (and cheaper).

When a neighbor told me that the Christmas parade was the only time she went downtown last year, it really caught my attention.

Thank you for what you do.

—TJ McGrath

Giving thanks for 2024 Turkey Burn

Pleasanton North Rotary has many reasons to be thankful for the Tri-Valley Turkey Burn, our Thanksgiving morning 5K/10K Family Fun Run in Pleasanton's Ken Mercer Sports Park.

As its organizer, PNR is thankful for record turnout at our 10th annual event last November. Nearly 3,200 runners and walkers from 23 states and British Columbia, Canada, participated.

We are thankful the Turkey Burn has fulfilled its original goal, as proposed by the event's co-creators W. Ron Sutton and Kevin Greenlee. They created it as an opportunity for the community to gather on Thanksgiving Day morning for healthy exercise to compensate for all the calories they would consume later in the day.

We also credit Mr. Sutton for designing the Turkey Burn's iconic "I am thankful for..." bibs. Instead of assigning registrants a number, the face of the bib is left blank to provide space that nearly every registrant fills with messages of thanks. The bibs are fun and make an emotional connection between the Turkey Burn and the national holiday.

PET OF THE WEEK



EAST BAY SPCA

Yay for Yosemite

Yosemite is a sweet, mellow cattle dog with a heart full of love, looking for a calm and patient home. He's naturally friendly and enjoys being around people, forming strong bonds with those who take the time to earn his trust. While he may be a little reserved at first, with patience and kindness, he quickly warms up and becomes an incredibly loving companion. As a cattle dog, Yosemite has a high play drive and would thrive in a space where he can engage both mentally and physically, making sure his active nature is channeled positively. Meet Yosemite at East Bay SPCA's Dublin campus or visit him online at eastbayspca.org.

PNR past president Michael Cherman and his wife, Viviana, deserve our appreciation for the Turkey Burn's longevity. They converted it into a virtual event in 2020 to assure its survival through the COVID-19 pandemic. They then switched it back to a live format that increased its popularity after the health crisis was over.

Corporate sponsorships are another key. Gina Piper's Elation Real Estate has been our top donor for several years. Her company was joined by 22 other Tri-Valley businesses in 2024 to fund Rotary youth service programs that include Interact, an after-school community service club; the Annual Richard D. King Youth Speech Contest; Rotary Youth Achievement Awards (RYLA), a week-long student leadership training camp; and International Youth Exchange, which supports opportunities for Tri-Valley high school students to live and study abroad.

We have also welcomed help from the City of Pleasanton for holiday access to the sports park, Zone 7 Water District for use of its Mucho Arroyo Trail, the Pleasanton Police Department for security, the Pleasanton Weekly and The Independent of Livermore for news coverage, and our own PNR members, who volunteered hundreds of hours to hold the event and assure its affordability.

Finally, we cannot say enough to thank everyone who answers the Turkey Burn's Thanksgiving morning call. We owe our success their support, enthusiasm, and good behavior. They make all our efforts worthwhile.

—Steve Sherman, president, Pleasanton North Rotary

Thank you to the Pleasanton community

Pleasanton Nursing and Rehabilitation Center would like to thank our Pleasanton community for their support. Our families and friends who visit regularly. Our

church families St. Augustine's and Presbyterian Fellowship. Special thanks to Dominic Wong from St Augustine's and Betty Gail from Presbyterian Fellowship.

Our medical director Dr. Raafat Zamary and all the visiting Doctors for their special care for our residents.

Our Activities Department for always keeping our residents engaged. Our Rehabilitation Department for working miracles every day.

Our nurses, CNAs and RNAs who never fail our residents' needs.

Our transport services Wheels, Angelica and Royal Ambulance for taking our residents to appointments and returning them safely. Our delivery services USPS, UPS, FedEx and Amazon for bringing our residents their deliveries.

Our pharmacy, lab and X-ray techs for their team effort.

Our entertainers who share their talents with our residents and families and staff. Our own bookkeeper Rexella who plays the piano for our residents on a regular basis.

Our Dietary Department, who cook with love. Our Housekeeping, Laundry and Maintenance Department, who keep our facility clean and well-maintained.

Finally to our administrator Ed Johnson who takes care of all of us: residents, families and staff. A kind, generous and fair man we all admire and love.

—Linda DeGennaro, receptionist, PNRC

Sanctuary Pleasanton?

The Pleasanton police have announced that they will not help federal authorities enforce current immigrants law.

Really? I guess the tragedy of Laken Riley's murder at the hands of an illegal alien means nothing.

If public safety is really the goal of the Pleasanton Police Department then cooperation with federal authorities is vital to achieving that goal.

—Harry Edwards

COUNCIL

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from special interest groups such as the Sheet Metal Workers, Plumbers and Teamsters unions and the San Ramon Valley Democratic Club (SRVDC).

When Rubio ran for State Senate in 2024, Adler hosted a meet and greet at his home for Rubio. The invitation was on the DPCCC website.

In 2020, Verose was endorsed by the SRVDC and received a \$250 campaign contribution from the group. He also received contributions from special interest groups and individuals outside of the city.

I was taken aback when Verose cut off Armstrong's argument for Levy to make a motion to appoint Adler. Rubio very quickly seconded the motion, which passed 3-1 with Armstrong being the dissenting vote.

The weak justifications of Adler's scores, the connections and the motion to move on an appointment quickly were alarming.

As I wrote in a 2022 column, "Influencing Elections," it's disconcerting to see thousands of dollars from outside special interest and political groups impact local, supposedly non-partisan, elections.

Now I'm concerned that partisanship is creeping into the appointment process, which could lead to a voting bloc.

A poignant example of what can happen when a majority of a council frequently casts ballots together to achieve certain goals comes from recent Pleasanton City Councils. Beginning in 2020, when Valerie Arkin was elected to the council, a majority of Arkin, Councilmember Julie Testa and Mayor Karla Brown was born.

After that most votes ended 3-2, with councilmembers Kathy Narum and Jack Balch defeated by the majority, and some very illogical — even absurd — decisions were made.

When Narum left the council in 2022 and Jeff Nibert was elected, many votes ended 4-1 because Nibert often followed the majority's lead.

The decisions ratified by the Pleasanton council majority were not what was best for Pleasanton or the residents, and when Balch started speaking out about that, the majority called a special meeting and tried to silence him.

Three or four elected officials pushing their own agenda is damaging to a community's future and, more importantly, trust in the council and the city. In the last election, Pleasanton voters sent a strong, loud message that they wanted to disband that majority.

After seeing Levy's superior qualifications, listening to the interviews and hearing Rubio and Verose's weak defense of Adler's scores, I felt obligated to bring the connection between Rubio, Verose and newly-appointed Adler to light.

Let's not have what happened in Pleasanton occur in San Ramon. ■



## PLEASANTON PREPS

By DENNIS MILLER

### Dons shock Spartans with upset win on the mat

Also: Amador girls' soccer scores much-needed victory last week over Dublin

The Amador Valley wrestling team did something not many local teams have done in the last 15 years, and that is beat De La Salle.

The Spartans have won 14 of the last 15 North Coast Section Dual Meet titles, losing only in 2009 to James Logan.

But on Jan. 30, there the Dons were standing with a 38-33 win over De La Salle.

So dominant has been De La Salle that in 2010, the East Bay Athletic League coaches voted for the Spartans to get the EBAL automatic berth to the Dual event, thus allowing teams in the EBAL to not have to wrestle against the Spartans.

The last couple years, some EBAL coaches were tired of handing the Spartans the automatic berth, but they couldn't get the votes needed to change the policy.

"I have been trying to get this changed," Amador coach Travis Chubb said. "I wanted this dual meet."

Chubb didn't get the votes again this year but did come out with a dual match against De La Salle last week.

Some of the big performances for the Dons came from Jayden Wood, Roman Moore, Noah Awad and Santino Sevier.

The Dons trailed 33-30 with two matches left. Awad stepped up with a 17-3 win to give the Dons a 34-33 lead, and Sevier won 10-2 in the night's final match, locking up the 38-33 win.

#### Amador boys' soccer

The Dons had a mixed week of results, losing a pair of EBAL matches but getting a big non-league win.

The league games were against Dublin (2-1) and Monte Vista (4-1). Nader Hanna and Ekansh Samanta scored the Dons' only goals in those contests.

At the end of the week, the Dons came away with a 2-0 non-league win over Heritage. It was a rainy day,

but the Dons got goals from Jonas Lyons, and Hanna scored from long range. Goalie Anon Prathnadi secured the shutout with several key saves. Lyons earned Player of the Game honors.

The junior varsity team also split their results.

They began the week with a 2-0 win against Dublin, fueled by two goals from Kinston Smith, assisted by Muhriz Munir and Leo Wiedemeyer.

Joseph Prunty earned Player of the Game for his versatility, playing defense, midfield and forward due to injuries on the team.

The JV then fell 2-0 to Monte Vista, despite a strong defensive effort from Sean Kim, who earned Player of the Match for his performance.

They also lost a hard-fought, rainy match against Heritage 2-0, with Harry Brown earning Player of the Game for stepping up on the injury-plagued team.



COURTESY AMADOR WRESTLING

Santino Sevier of Amador during the deciding match against De La Salle.

The freshmen had a mixed week as well.

The week started with a 6-0 home win over Dublin, getting goals from six different players. Notably, Lucas Shimy with a header, Jace Danielson with a long-distance stunner, and Mueez Munir with a slick one touch finish off a cross.

The Dons then traveled to Monte Vista, facing the Mustangs with several players injured. They fought hard, but in the end were hurt by the lack of depth and fell 3-0.

#### Amador boys' basketball

The Dons suffered through another tough EBAL week, falling to Dublin and Monte Vista.

In the 58-52 loss to Dublin, the Dons got 14 points from Cade Krueger 14, 10 points each from Jaylen Smith and Kasen Krueger,

and Dante Ventura added nine.

The 47-38 loss to the Mustangs, Smith had 11 and Kasen Krueger had 10.

#### Amador girls' soccer

The Dons got a much-needed 4-1 win over Dublin last week.

Alden Hofstede scored a pair of well-earned goals to lead the Dons. Addison Montoya — a freshman — got her first goal as a member of the Amador varsity.

Another freshman, Addison Stout, continued to score goals for the Dons and had an assist, with Haily Morec getting the final goal for Amador, off an assist from Ava Hailey.

Mira Garuda had another strong showing, putting up two assists for the Dons. Sophomore Keeper Sara Reni had four saves and allowed only one goal. ■

## Horse training facilities to shut down next month

Fairgrounds 'did everything in our power ... but economic and licensing issues made it impossible'

By JEREMY WALSH

It took all of two days for the other shoe to drop for the horse industry at the Alameda County Fairgrounds.

In the wake of the announcement that it would not pursue live horse racing during any fairs in 2025, the California Authority of Racing Fairs confirmed on Jan. 30 it would end all Golden State Racing stabling and training operations at the historic fairgrounds in Pleasanton when the current contract expires next month.

The news marks "the end of an era" for the fairgrounds and its nearly 500 stables that will also close on March 25, according to Alameda County Fair officials.

"It's a sad and difficult decision to end racing, stables and training," Alameda County Agricultural Fair Association CEO Jerome Hoban said in a statement on Friday afternoon. "The Alameda County Fair did everything in our power to promote and preserve horse racing at the Fairgrounds, but economic and licensing issues made it impossible."

An Alameda County Fair

spokesperson also confirmed to the Weekly's Tri-Valley Foodist Deborah Grossman on Monday that the Stable Cafe is set to close once the horse operations cease. The familiar diner within the fairgrounds reopened under new management last fall after a nearly year-long closure when the prior owner retired in September 2023 after 32 years of serving breakfasts and lunches.

CARF leaders sent a jolt through the Northern California racing industry on Jan. 28 by announcing it would not apply for any horse racing events during 2025, including its county fair meets, citing "financial challenges" of its inaugural GSR fall meet in Pleasanton and "current obstacles" in the industry in this part of the state. Despite GSR canceling its planned winter races, many still expected the fair circuit to go off this summer.

After the initial shock, the conversation in Pleasanton quickly turned to the future of the stabling and training operations at the fairgrounds. Sacramento-based CARF soon revealed those too would close

for good on March 25 when its current vanning and stabling contract ends.

"This decision, while necessary, is made with great care and concern for all those impacted, including the horsemen, employees and industry stakeholders who have dedicated their time and passion to California horse racing," officials with the authority said. "CARF recognizes the significance of this transition for those directly affected and remain committed to assisting in this transition."

Lamenting "financial and regulatory challenges" at play, Alameda County Fair officials acknowledged the decision was "difficult" for the CARF Board of Directors, including Hoban as chair, "who understand the historical and cultural significance of fairgrounds racing in California."

The authority's role was vital in operating the horse racing circuit at the fair venues like the Pleasanton, preparing license applications, providing administrative and technical support, and negotiating contracts



MIKE SEDLAK

Jockey Kyle Frey and his mount are escorted to the starting gate shortly before running to a third place finish during the Alameda County Fair in 2021.

between the fairs and simulcast organizations for satellite wagering, according to Alameda County Fair officials.

In light of not pursuing its own live racing, CARF is now undergoing a "strategic reorganization to focus on supporting California fairgrounds and their satellite wagering operations" — and it is doing so without Larry Swartzlander, who was stepping down as executive director effective Tuesday. Day-to-day

operations of the authority will be overseen by its Executive Committee going forward.

"While the conclusion of CARF-sponsored Northern CA live racing operations presents challenges, CARF remains steadfast in its mission to advocate for its member fairgrounds, and support the California Horse Racing Industry. We appreciate the support and collaboration of industry partners as we navigate this transition together," CARF reps said. ■

# Public Notices

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

Case No.: 25CV106127

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:

Petitioner: IAN MANUEL DOMINGO filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:

IAN MANUEL DOMINGO to IAN MANUEL SORIANO

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 9, 2025, 9:30AM, SUPERIOR of the Superior Court of California, County of ALAMEDA located at 224 W WINTON AVE #208, 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: JANUARY 13, 2025

THOMAS NIXON

JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT

(PLW Jan 31, Feb 7, 14 and 21, 2025)

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

Case No.: 24CV084587

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:

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

NEIL KANGUTKAR DHURU to NEIL DHURU KANGUTKAR

THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.

NOTICE OF HEARING: 03/07/2025, 09:30 AM, Hayward Hall of Justice of the Superior Court of California, County of Alameda located at 24405 Amador Street, Dept 514, 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: 12/06/2024

Han Tran

JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT

(PLW Jan 24, 31, Feb 7 and 14, 2025)

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

Case No.: 24CV100588

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:

Petitioner: Manas Roy; Niharika Singh filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:

SVASTIKA SINGH ROY to VAMIKA SINGH ROY

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, 9:30am, Dept. 103 of the Superior Court of California, County of Alameda located at 661

Washington Street, Oakland, CA 94607.

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

PLEASANTON WEEKLY

Date: 11/21/2024

Thomas Nixon

JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT

(PLW Jan 24, 31, Feb 7 and 14, 2025)

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

Case No.: 24CV105578

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:

Petitioner: TUAN NGOC VI filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:

BACH THONG PHAN to THOMAS PHAN

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: 05/02/2025, 9:30am, department 514 of the Superior Court of California, County of Alameda located at 24405 Amador St, 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: 12/30/2024

Thomas J. Nixon

JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT

(PLW Jan 17, 24, 31 and Feb 7, 2025)

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

Case No.: 25CV106063

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:

Petitioner: Hannah Claudia Doan filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:

HANNAH CLAUDIA DOAN to HANNAH DOAN PORCEL

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: 05/02/2025, 9:30 AM, 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: 01/10/2025

Thomas J. Nixon

JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT

(PLW Jan 17, 24, 31 and Feb 7, 2025)

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

Case No.: 24CV088063

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:

Petitioner: TRACI CORBETT filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:

TRACI KATHLEEN CORBETT to TRACI KATHLEEN FORTNER

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: 03/14/2025, 09:30AM, Hayward Hall of Justice Dept 514 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: 01/13/2025

HAN TRAN

JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT

(PLW Jan 24, 31, Feb 7 and 14, 2025)

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

Case No.: 25CV105400

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:

Petitioner: Tracey Necole Broadhead Frith filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:

TRACEY NECOLE BROADHEAD FRITH to TRACEY NECOLE BROADHEAD FRITH WHITE

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: March 14, 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: January 6, 2025

Thomas J. Nixon

JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT

(PLW Jan 17, 24, 31 and Feb 7, 2025)

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

Case No.: 25CV106058

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:

Petitioner: Francisco Porcel Rodriguez filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:

FRANCISCO PORCEL RODRIGUEZ to FRANCISCO PORCEL

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: 05/02/2025, 9:30 am, 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: 01/10/2025

Thomas J. Nixon

JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT

(PLW Jan 17, 24, 31 and Feb 7, 2025)

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF:

WILLIE WESLEY CROWDER

Case No.: 25PR105600

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of WILLIE WESLEY CROWDER. A Petition for Probate has been filed by:

Alexandria M. Crowder in the Superior Court of California, County of Alameda.

The Petition for Probate requests that:

Alexandria M. Crowder be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.

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 February 10 2025 at 9:45am in Probate Dept, Room 202 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.

Attorney for Petitioner:

Garry Cohen, Attorney

The Cohen Law Office, PC

1900 S. Norfolk St. #350, San Mateo, CA

94403

San Mateo, CA 94403

650-592-8600

(PLW Jan 24, 31 and Feb 7, 2025)

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME

File No. 608926

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): FOREVER FARMS 13575 Lake Chabot Rd. San Leandro, CA 94577 FILED IN ALAMEDA COUNTY ON: 08/27/2024 UNDER FILE NO. 608926 REGISTRANT'S NAME(S): DILLON GRUBER 205 Downey St. San Francisco, CA 94117 THIS BUSINESS WAS CONDUCTED BY An Individual.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Alameda County on December 27 2024. (PLW Jan 24, 31, Feb 7 and 14, 2025)

REMOTE STAFFING NETWORK

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No.: 612028

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

1.) Remote Staffing Network , located at 36163 Ruschin Drive, Newark, CA 94560, Alameda County.

This business is conducted by: a Limited Liability Company.

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

VIRTUAL ASSISTANT TALENT LLC

36163 Ruschin Drive

Newark, CA 94560

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 January 27 2025. (PLW Feb 7, 14, 21 and 28, 2025)

YOGITA'S KITCHEN

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No.: 611449

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

1.) Yogita's Kitchen , located at 5601, Sterling st, Dublin CA 94568, Alameda County.

This business is conducted by: an Individual.

The name and residence address of the

registrant(s) is(are):

YOGITA KULKARNI

5601 Sterling st

Dublin CA 94568

Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 01/14/2022

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on December 24 2024. (PLW Jan 31, Feb 7, 14 and 21, 2025)

SUDCITY DETAIL

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No.: 612013

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

1.) SudCity Detail , located at 17349 Via

Alamitos San Lorenzo CA 94580, Alameda County.

This business is conducted by: an Individual.

The name and residence address of the

registrant(s) is(are):

SERGIO GARCIA

17349 Via Alamitos

San Lorenzo CA 94580

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 January 24 2025. (PLW Jan 31, Feb 7, 14 and 21, 2025)

MECHANIC KING AUTO REPAIR

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No.: 611689

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

1.) Mechanic King Auto Repair , located at 3687 Old Santa Rita Rd #14, Pleasanton CA, 94588, ALAMEDA County. Mailing Address: 3630 Andrews Dr #310, Pleasanton, CA 94588.

This business is conducted by: a Joint Venture. The name and residence address of the

registrant(s) is(are):

JIHAD ALKHOURY

3687 Old Santa Rita Rd #14

Pleasanton CA, 94588

Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 01/02/25

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on January 08 2025. (PLW Jan 31, Feb 7, 14 and 21, 2025)

BLUE SKY PSYCHIATRY

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No.: 611835

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

1.) Blue Sky Psychiatry , located at 2199 Manzanita Dr Oakland, CA 94611, Alameda County. Mailing Address: 2930 Domingo Ave., #218 Berkeley, CA 94705.

This business is conducted by: a Corporation.

The name and residence address of the

registrant(s) is(are):

MINDY WERNER-CROHN MD INC

2930 Domingo Ave., #218

Berkeley, CA 94705

State of Incorporation/Organization: California Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 1/1/2025

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on January 16 2025. (PLW Feb 7, 14, 21 and 28, 2025)

LIFE'N LEMONS

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No.: 611451

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

1.) Life'N Lemons , located at 3225 Internet Common Unit 1000, Fremont, CA, 94538, Alameda County.

This business is conducted by: an Individual.

The name and residence address of the

registrant(s) is(are):

ANKITA ARUN PISE

3225 Internet Common Unit 1000

Fremont, CA, 94538

Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 10/10/2024

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on December 26 2024. (PLW Feb 7, 14, 21 and 28, 2025)

*Continued on next page*

# Public Notices

*Continued from previous page*

ACCELERATE REVENUE SERVICES  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: 611905  
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
1.) Accelerate Revenue Services , located at 2226 Kamp Ct, Pleasanton, CA 94588, Alameda County.  
This business is conducted by: a Corporation.  
The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):  
BLASCHKA VENTURES INC.  
2226 Kamp Ct.  
Pleasanton, CA 94588  
State of Incorporation/Organization:  
California  
Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 12/22/2024  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on January 21 2025.  
(PLW Jan 31, Feb 7, 14 and 21, 2025)

P-TOWN PROPERTIES  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: 611832  
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
1.) P-TOWN PROPERTIES , located at 3072 Albumi Court Pleasanton, CA 94566, Alameda County. Mailing Address: 101 E Vineyard Ave, Ste 119-129, Livermore, CA 94550.  
This business is conducted by: a Married Couple.  
The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):  
ERIKA TORQUEMADA  
101 E Vineyard Ave, Ste 119-129  
Livermore, CA 94550  
H.BRUCE TORQUEMADA  
101 E Vineyard Ave, Ste 119-129  
Livermore, CA 94550  
Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above.  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on January 16 2025.  
(PLW Feb 7, 14, 21 and 28, 2025)

SIRENE  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: 612065  
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
1.) Sirene , located at 3308 Grand Ave Oakland, CA 94610, Alameda County.  
This business is conducted by: a Limited Liability Company.  
The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):  
MAMA BIRD LLC  
3308 Grand Ave  
Oakland, CA 94610  
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 January 28 2025.  
(PLW Feb 7, 14, 21 and 28, 2025)

BALAJI MESS  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: 611370  
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
1.) Balaji Mess , located at 5400 SUNOL BLVD STE 2 PLEASANTON, CA 94566 , Alameda County.  
This business is conducted by: a Limited Liability Company.  
The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):  
MS GOURMET FOODS LLC  
3398 DUBLIN BLVD  
DUBLIN, CA 94568  
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 December 20 2024.  
(PLW Jan 24, 31, Feb 7 and 14, 2025)

TJ BURRUEL CONSULTING  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: 611252  
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
1.) TJ BURRUEL CONSULTING , located at 1888 RHODODENDRON DR. LIVERMORE, CA 94551, ALAMEDA County.  
This business is conducted by: an Individual.  
The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):  
THOMAS BURRUEL  
1888 RHODODENDRON DR.  
LIVERMORE, CA 94551  
Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 12/12/2024.  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on December 17 2024.  
(PLW Jan 17, 24, 31 and Feb 7, 2025)

BLUEBERRY STUDIOS  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: 611620  
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
1.) Blueberry Studios , located at 4147 Ravenwood Pl, Castro Valley, CA 94546, Alameda County.  
This business is conducted by: an Individual.  
The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):  
LAURA SNOW  
4147 Ravenwood Pl  
Castro Valley, CA 94546  
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 January 06 2025.  
(PLW Jan 17, 24, 31 and Feb 7, 2025)

HOUSE OF COLOUR NORTH PLEASANTON  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: 611818  
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
1.) House Of Colour North Pleasanton , located at 2226 Kamp Ct., Pleasanton, CA 94588, Alameda County.  
This business is conducted by: a Corporation.  
The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):  
BLASCHKA VENTURES INC.  
2226 Kamp Ct.  
Pleasanton, CA 94588  
State of Incorporation/Organization:  
California  
Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 12/22/24  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on January 15 2025.  
(PLW Jan 24, 31, Feb 7 and 14, 2025)

OMEGA ROAD WINERY  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: 611487  
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
1.) Omega Road Winery , located at 2135 South Vasco Road Suite C Livermore, CA 94550, Alameda County. Mailing Address: PO BOX 2925 Livermore, CA 94551.  
This business is conducted by: a Corporation.  
The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):  
HENKELMAN INC  
2135 South Vasco Road Suite C  
Livermore, CA 94550  
State of Incorporation/Organization:  
California  
Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 5/31/2017  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on December 27 2024.  
(PLW Jan 24, 31, Feb 7 and 14, 2025)

PREMIUM PSYCHIATRIC CARE NURSING-PC  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: 611154  
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
1.) Premium Psychiatric Care Nursing-PC , located at 6200 Stoneridge Mall Rd ste#300, Pleasanton, CA 94588, Alameda County.  
This business is conducted by: a Corporation.  
The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):  
PREMIUM PSYCHIATRIC CARE NURSING-PC  
6200 Stoneridge Mall Dr ste# 300  
Pleasanton, CA 94588  
State of Incorporation/Organization: CA  
Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 04/04/2024  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on December 12 2024.  
(PLW Jan 17, 24, 31 and Feb 7, 2025)

# Calendar

POST CALENDAR ITEMS AT PLEASANTONWEEKLY.COM

## Entertainment

**THE LED ZEPPELIN CONCERT EXPERIENCE** This special performance will feature hit selections from Led Zeppelin's legendary career spanning three decades of solid gold highlighting the greatest and most popular music of their career. 7:30 p.m., Feb. 7. Tickets \$49-\$69. Visit [livermorearts.org](http://livermorearts.org).

**CAMPANA JAZZ FESTIVAL** This educational festival consists of adjudicated performances of middle and high school jazz big bands, combos and vocal groups at three venues at Amador Valley High School. Parking is free with food available for purchase. Feb. 8. The festival schedule is available at [campana.amadormusic.org](http://campana.amadormusic.org).

**CONCERT PIANIST DANIEL GLOVER** Experience a special musical event when concert pianist Daniel Glover performs the music of Spanish composers in his program Spain's Golden Age of Nationalism to benefit the Valley Concert Chorale. 7:30 p.m., Feb. 8. Tickets \$30. First Presbyterian Church. Visit [valleyconcertchorale.org](http://valleyconcertchorale.org).

**DEL VALLE FINE ARTS EUCLID STRING QUARTET** Highlights of the Euclid Quartet's career include significant global recognition as the first American string quartet to be awarded a top prize at the prestigious Osaka International Chamber Music Competition. 7:30 p.m., Feb. 8. Tickets \$35-\$57. Visit [livermorearts.org](http://livermorearts.org).

**VALERIE: A TRIBUTE TO AMY WINEHOUSE** An unforgettable night of soulful music celebrating Amy's artistry and legacy, fronted by a powerhouse vocalist and backed by an extraordinary band. 7 p.m., Feb. 8. Tickets \$38. Visit [firehousearts.org](http://firehousearts.org).

**CHLOE ARNOLD'S SYNCOPATED LADIES** Be electrified and inspired by this ground-breaking all-female tap show that celebrates a sisterhood of diverse women on the stage. Featuring a vibrant vocalist and dancers who weave their personal stories into rapid-fire footwork. 8 p.m., Feb. 14. Tickets \$25-\$100. Visit [livermorearts.org](http://livermorearts.org).

**KALIMBA - SPIRIT OF EARTH, WIND, & FIRE** With dynamic vocalists, a tight rhythm section, and a vibrant horn ensemble, Kalimba is celebrated for delivering an experience that truly honors the spirit of the original band. 7:30 p.m., Feb. 15. Tickets \$38-\$41. Visit [firehousearts.org](http://firehousearts.org).

**LIVERMORE-AMADOR SYMPHONY PRESENTS** The talented winners of the annual Competition for Young Musicians are featured soloists in this evening packed with musical inspiration and variety. 7:30 p.m., Feb. 15. Tickets \$30-\$44. Visit [livermorearts.org](http://livermorearts.org).

**ROMANCE & JULIET** Romance is in the air during this three-actor retelling of Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet. Sip on award-winning wine or delight in a chocolate dessert

while hearing these two star-crossed lovers' classic tale. 7:30 p.m., Feb. 14; 7 p.m., Feb. 15; 2 p.m., Feb. 16. SPARC Studio. Visit [sparctheater.org](http://sparctheater.org).

## Talks

**WINTERTIME IN THE PARK** Presented by naturalists from EBRPD, learn about how the plants and animals of Del Valle Regional Park adapt to survive during the colder months. 3:30 p.m., Feb. 7. Livermore Civic Center Library.

**AMADOR VALLEY QUILTERS** The February program will be mini demos by guild members. 1:30-4 p.m., Feb. 8. Pleasanton Middle School. Visit [amadorvalleyquilters.org/Wordpress/](http://amadorvalleyquilters.org/Wordpress/).

**LIVERMORE-AMADOR GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY** Join or zoom as guest speaker Sara Cochran, a full-time professional genealogist, defines what oral history is and strategies to interview family. 7-8:30, Feb. 10. Congregation Beth Emek, 3400 Nevada Court, Pleasanton.

**ARMCHAIR TRAVELERS: SPAIN** In March 2024, Juls and Rick Vistnes traveled to Spain for 20 days. Juls will share their experiences of Madrid, Granada, The Alhambra, Rhonda, the Andalusian Horse Show, sherry tasting, flamenco performances and more. 1:30-2:30 p.m., Feb. 13. Livermore Civic Center.

**TRI-VALLEY WRITERS** Join on Zoom for a free writing session, meet-and-greet and informal discussion of all things writing. There will be plenty of time to socialize, as well as prompts for writing and current board members will be available to answer questions. 2 p.m., Feb. 15. Visit [trivalleywriters.org](http://trivalleywriters.org).

**ZOOM TALK ON ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA SORORITY** Panelists will discuss the legacy of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., the first historically African American sorority with an international membership of over 380,000 college-educated women committed to a lifetime of service to all humankind. 7-8 p.m., Feb. 20. Visit [us02web.zoom.us/j/87403730236](http://us02web.zoom.us/j/87403730236).

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

## Exhibits

**ART OF THE AFRICAN DIASPORA** View the artwork of talented Bay Area artists in Art of the African Diaspora, Black History Month 2025 Art Exhibit. Now through Feb. 28, Livermore Civic Center Library.

**FAN LEE WARREN: THE LEGACY** The Firehouse Arts Center presents the solo exhibition of Fan Lee Warren. Coinciding with the celebration of Black History Month, her Legacy/Migration series vividly portrays the results of the great migration and provides a profound understanding of the African diaspora. Through March 1.

**ADORNED: A CELEBRATION OF WEARABLE ART** An inspiring exploration of fashion & fine art, this exhibit reveals how everyday garments transform into display-worthy masterpieces. 1-5 p.m., Thursdays to Sundays, now through March 1. UNCLE Credit Union Art Gallery at the Bankhead Theater.

**FLORA IN FOCUS EXHIBIT** The Harrington Gallery welcomes back the Flora in Focus group exhibition featuring approximately 80 works of various mediums. Now to March 8. 444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton.

**PLEASANTON ART LEAGUE WALL** Featuring the work of Jess Copeman onto the PAL Wall, this presentation includes larger and medium-format works. Known for her dynamic brushstrokes and vibrant color palette, viewers are invited to escape into the compelling coastal scenes. Through March 8. Firehouse Arts Center.

**IMAGINATION EXPRESSED 2025** This show at Museum on Main features paintings, drawings, photography, ceramics, jewelry and other works by members of the Pleasanton Art League, promising to dazzle the eyes, engage the minds and nourish the spirits of the Museum's visitors. Through March 15.

# Employment

Safeway Inc. hiring Sr. Staff Engineer Software/Loyalty and Digital Marketing in Pleasanton, CA. May telecommute. Reports to Pleasanton. Must have legal right to work in US. EOE. \$198,894 - \$231,154.20/yr. Email resume: [TA.Applications@albertsons.com](mailto:TA.Applications@albertsons.com), M. Mercado Ref# 1218AK

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# Join us for a FIRST TIME HOMEBUYER WORKSHOP

Your guide to homeownership

## LEARN ABOUT:

- The home buying & closing process
- How to get qualified for a loan and different loan options
- What to expect during the closing process
- Major mistakes to avoid during the home buying process



**Saturday, February 15th | 10:30 AM**

DOORS OPEN AT 10 BRUNCH PROVIDED

**Keller Williams Tri-Valley Realty**

3825 Hopyard Road, Suite 106, Pleasanton

**RSVP:** By scanning the QR code or emailing [malakoffrealestate@gmail.com](mailto:malakoffrealestate@gmail.com)



## PRESENTED BY:



KAREN SORENSEN  
DRE# 02212823



RUCHIKA KHANNA  
DRE# 02149404



LIZ BAKER  
DRE# 02099212



CELESTE STORRS  
DRE# 02055427



ERIN HAMILTON  
NMLS #852880



# Real Estate

## HOME SALES

This week's data represents homes sold during Nov. 18-22 for Pleasanton, Sunol, Livermore and Dublin.

### Pleasanton

- 5348 Brookside Court** S. Patnaik to S. & S. Subbarao for \$1,152,000
- 327 Christina Court** Gilpin Trust to S. & K. Kharbas for \$1,700,000
- 3121 Cochise Way** Saccomanno Trust to K. Dugan for \$300,000
- 8014 Kingbird Court** Sun Meadowlark LLC to H. & D. Jia for \$4,050,000
- 6231 Paseo Santa Cruz** T. Willis to B. & B. Nguyen for \$1,725,000
- 1772 Zenato Place** Meckenstock Trust to A. & R. Katkar for \$3,451,000

### Sunol

- 174 Bond Street** Harland Living Trust to C. & A. Garvin for \$1,350,000

### Livermore

- 2525 7th Street** Ohst-Tonne Living Trust to Bagd Family Trust for \$1,700,000
- 513 Briarwood Court** E. & C. Drummond to R. Escareno for \$810,000
- 637 Caliente Avenue** H. Sridhara to A. & N. Rameshwaram for \$1,345,000
- 377 Charlotte Common** Stevens Trust to M. Magallon for \$1,200,000
- 2332 Chateau Way** R. Lewis to K. & S. Padmanabhan for \$1,540,000
- 844 Cole Common** Belmont Family Trust to M. & V. Sekar for \$900,000
- 3974 Duke Way** S. Reck to S. & M. Garcia for \$900,000

- 1144 Farmington Way** Lara Living Trust to S. & T. Sewitt for \$1,530,000
- 3939 Harvard Court** J. Krusmark to V. & S. Juanitas for \$977,000
- 1085 Murrieta Boulevard #123** N. Graves to P. & A. Jahncke for \$420,000
- 1178 Spring Valley Common** H. Raintree to R. & P. Zereshki for \$675,000
- 777 Wall Street** H. Tran to Shingate Family Trust for \$1,100,000
- 429 Willow Court** Gibbons Family Trust to C. Montiel for \$1,700,000

### Dublin

- 7753 Barn Hollow Court** Green Family Trust to C. & A. Chaturvedi for \$1,440,000
- 7579 Burnham Way** C. Covington to Jrj Property Group LLC for \$880,000
- 7607 Calle Verde Road** Reppas Family Trust to K. & V. Krishnamurthy for \$1,501,000
- 3534 Capoterra Way** Devasia Living Trust to V. & N. Madathil for \$1,500,000
- 5885 Columbus Street** T. Weng to G. & A. Vohra for \$1,570,000
- 4253 Escudo Court** J. Shi to D. & S. Ramaswamy for \$1,700,000
- 8192 Locust Place** M. Guan to V. & R. Solanki for \$1,080,000
- 5762 Sterling Street** Ldeeb Living Trust to P. & Z. Chai for \$1,390,000
- 1627 North Terracina Drive** Q. Xiao to P. & V. Kahlir for \$2,750,000
- 3053 Threecastles Way** Y. Yong to S. & S. Karnam for \$1,170,000
- 3628 Whitworth Drive** K. Mandepudi to Reddy Living Trust for \$840,000

Source: California REsource

## CONNECT California HOMES

A MODERN REAL ESTATE AGENCY



**7628 Driftwood Way, Pleasanton**  
4 BED | 2.5 BATH | 1,854 SQFT



**7374 Lemonwood Way, Pleasanton**  
4 BED | 2.5 BATH | 1,739 SQFT



**3628 Ashwood Drive, Pleasanton**  
4 BED | 2 BATH | 1,519 SQFT



**6844 Herrin Court, Pleasanton**  
4 BED | 2 BATH | 1,928 SQFT

## We Have More Coming Soon!

- BRIDLE CREEK: 6 BED | 5 BATH | 4,655 SQFT
- PLEASANTON MEADOWS: 4 BED | 3 BATH | 1,941 SQFT
- PLEASANTON MEADOWS: 4 BED | 3 BATH | 2,328 SQFT
- PLEASANTON MEADOWS: 4 BED | 2 BATH | 1,748 SQFT

## KATIE MOE

Founder | Realtor®  
925.216.9083  
DRE #01507863

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**17360 GRAND ISLAND RD, WALNUT GROVE, CA**



A Waterfront home offers 3 BD with 2 BA. Built in 2018. Set on an island with ease of access to the deep fresh waters of the Sacramento River.

Solar, 2 boat docks along with spacious lawns both front & back.

**\$1,200,000 call for a private showing**



**KRIS MOXLEY**  
REAL ESTATE

**PLEASANTON / IN THE GATES**

Nicely updated 4 BD, 2 BA with vaulted ceilings with 1,730 SF on a 8,300 SF Lot with side yard access.

**COMING SOON**

**COMING SOON**



**Livermore**

A spacious 4 BD, 2.5 BA home resting on a corner lot with a solar heated pool. Move right in with new carpets and flooring, new paint for this 2,230 SF on an 8,500 SF lot.

**COMING SOON**



**Castlewood, Pleasanton**

4 BD | 2.5 BA with 2,800 SF of living space on a 21,567 SF lot. Plus, a downstairs apartment that walks out to the back yard with a pool & spa.

**Clients Are Talking:**

**JUSTINE W. – BUYER THEN SELLER ★★★★★ Google**  
"Kris is one of the best realtors I have worked with. She is knowledgeable, listens, has excellent communication skills and works hard behind the scenes. She always knew where we were in the process and kept me up to date. This is the second time I have had the pleasure of working with her and she was as excellent as I had remembered. I highly recommend her."

**DAN & KIM MARIE T. – SELLERS ★★★★★ Google**  
"Kris was absolutely awesome in guiding us through the complexities of selling our dad's San Ramon house. I really appreciated her mapping out the expected timelines, attention to detail, and directing us to professionals that were needed to get the house in selling condition. She was extremely responsive in her communications and always cheerful and pleasant. Her deep knowledge and experience gave us a lot of peace as we worked through

the process of selling the house. I was concerned that we would be able to close escrow before our overseas vacation, and she got it done for us in good time. We are so thankful for Kris, and highly recommend her to anyone needing to buy or sell real estate."

**BRETT AND SARAH K. – BUYERS THEN SELLERS ★★★★★ Zillow**  
"It has been a pleasure working with Kris to sell our home. We had a tight timeframe to sell, and Kris made the entire experience very smooth. She helped us prepare for the sale, coordinating activities even when she was on a family vacation. Being a first time home seller, she was able to walk us through the process and helped us understand the terms of our offers and get the best price for our home. I highly recommend Kris to anyone in the Livermore area as her knowledge, connections, and experience are unmatched."

**Serving the Tri-Valley area for 45 years**



**HAPPY 25TH ANNIVERSARY TO THE PLEASANTON WEEKLY**

**Kris Moxley**  
925.519.9080

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\$1,499,000



Open House Saturday & Sunday 1-4pm  
4125 Garibaldi Place, Kottinger Ranch

**PENDING IN  
7 DAYS!**



2951 Sorano Court, Ruby Hill

## No Overtime Needed, We Close The Deal!



## Touchdown Deals On Luxury Homes!

**COMING SOON**  
Listed at \$3,750,000



4105 Grant Court, Kottinger Ranch

**COMING SOON**  
Listed at \$1,950,000



669 Sylvaner Drive, Vintage Hills

**COMING SOON**  
Listed at \$1,950,000



1087 Touriga Place, Vintage Hills

**COMING SOON**  
Listed at \$1,299,000



1565 Trimmingham Drive, Pleasanton

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