

Pleasanton Weekly

**Holiday Fund
raises \$77,776**

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THE STATE OF PLEASANTON

**New Mayor Balch
addresses city's finances,
economic vitality and more
in his inaugural address**

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CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF
AWARD-WINNING JOURNALISM

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WHAT A WEEK



By JEREMY WALSH

Supporting schools

The “it takes a village to raise a child” mindset manifests in public education, often out of necessity.

I had an opportunity to gather among some of that village on Tuesday evening at Nonni’s Bistro downtown as our organization’s representative at the Pleasanton Partnerships in Education Foundation’s Leadership Circle reception, an event to co-mingle some of PPIE’s top contributors and sponsors and recognize their efforts to support Pleasanton’s public school students.

The restaurant was full of several dozen business representatives, PPIE board members and staff, individual donors, two school board trustees and Pleasanton Unified School District officials — including Interim Superintendent Maurice Ghysels, who provided the night’s entertainment with live music.

“There are so many aspects of music that I bring into my approach as a leader,” Ghysels told me in an email interview before the reception. “Leadership is like conducting an orchestra — if everyone’s playing their own tune, it’s chaos ... but if the leader can’t read the music, it’s like playing in a garage.”

It was great to hear Ghysels sing and play guitar and harmonica (in a set that featured familiar tunes like “Rocketman,” “Layla,” “Wild World” and “Landslide”), plus I got a few minutes to pick his brain. Since he had to work the room on top of performing, I’m glad I thought to send him questions to answer beforehand.

He paints a positive picture of his hometown, despite some of the challenges during his interim year at PUSD.

“Pleasanton Unified is in a better position than most CA school districts, who all face budget concerns, especially in the Bay Area where many districts are experiencing a decline in enrollment. We are declining in enrollment but not at the same rate as many districts,” Ghysels told me.

“Pleasanton has some of the best and brightest educational leaders ... I have worked in so many organizations — public and private — and this is the most spectacular team I’ve experienced. From teachers and our support staff to the District office and the School Board, we truly are “Team PUSD,” he said.

A former Amador Valley High School student and teacher who worked a long career in education that included as superintendent on

the Peninsula, Ghysels came out of public employment retirement and put his consulting business to the side to lead PUSD for what has turned into the entire 2024-25 academic year. The school board hopes to have a new permanent superintendent in place by the summer.

It’s hard to know where PUSD would be without Ghysels filling the gap this year.

The same can really be said for PPIE — this year and every year.

The education foundation raises money to provide critical funding for PUSD programs in areas where the government funding simply is not there.

“PPIE is a critical partner in our effort to build stronger ties within our community and highlight the difference their contributions make in the lives of our students. We are thrilled to have PPIE’s support in fully funding our incredible elementary music program,” Ghysels said.

The dedication of the people in Nonni’s Tuesday night (many of whom are active Pleasanton parents themselves), and the hundreds upon hundreds of others who bolster PPIE by participating in fundraisers, have contributed to 2024-25 being pretty steady for the foundation despite all of the economic uncertainty and political noise.

“The year has, overall, been a stable year for PPIE,” Executive Director Andrea Wilson told me by email.

“While we continue to see a decrease in parent donations via our annual giving campaign (which follows both declining enrollment and national giving trends), we have been able to make up for it in different ways, investing in corporate matching software for those that donate to maximize their donation, as well as seeing growth from our events, especially our gala, which well exceeded its fundraising goal last fall,” she said.

Wilson added, “But, that said, due to the financial difficulties and challenges that face PUSD and many school districts throughout the state, we continue to get more and more requests.”

In addition to its annual gala, PPIE receives significant support from its annual Run for Education — which returns to the Alameda County Fairgrounds the morning of April 27.

The fundraising run features 10-kilometer, 5K and 2-mile walk courses, along with a kids’ challenge quarter-mile fun run. Learn more at www.runsignup.com/PPIERun. ■

About the Cover

First-term Pleasanton Mayor Jack Balch delivered his inaugural State of the City address last week, bringing the community up to speed on the city’s current financial situation, future endeavors to improve economic vitality and other general updates about Pleasanton. Photo by Christian Trujano. Cover design by Doug Young.

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Do you have a great ‘small world story’ — you know, where you unexpectedly bumped into someone, somewhere you would not have expected to see them?



Christine Klippness
Nanny

When I was traveling in Barcelona many years ago, I was on a tour bus full of other people. It turns out that the American family sitting behind us lived on the same road as my grandmother in the small town of Hope, N.J., and their son was on a baseball team with a cousin of mine. Small world, indeed!



Trevor Smith
High school teacher

I used to be in the Army. I was stationed in Italy and ended up running into, in Rome, an old friend from my hometown of Modesto. It was so great to see him and get caught up on all of the changes that had occurred in one another’s lives since we’d last gotten together.



Puja Zoey
Financial adviser

I was hanging out right here in downtown Pleasanton, with friends, when I bumped into my first cousin (my mother’s sister’s son) totally out of the blue. He was visiting from India, but I had no idea he was in town. I hadn’t seen him in about five years, so it was a great reunion.



Dan Fedorenko
Warehouse supervisor

I was in Ireland during the late 1990s, at a pub in a suburb outside of Dublin. I was chatting with another couple who could tell by our accents that my wife and I were American. We quickly discovered that we knew people in common and had gone to the same high school in San Ramon.



Adrienne Cummings
Personal assistant

When I first moved to California many years ago we were invited to a “Casino Night” at a local country club. I was at the Blackjack table when I felt someone behind me pinch my butt! I turned around, shocked to discover it was a college sorority sister I hadn’t seen in about 16 years. I was so happy to see her.

—Compiled by Nancy and Jeff Lewis

Have a Streetwise question? Email editor@PleasantonWeekly.com

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DIGEST

Matricide arrest

Police arrested a Pleasanton man on suspicion of committing matricide Tuesday after he allegedly showed up at the police station and said he killed his 71-year-old mother during a dispute.

Officers immediately went to the house after receiving the report around 4:45 p.m. and located a dead person with multiple knife wounds at the scene in the 4000 block of Alvarado Street, according to Pleasanton police Lt. Nicholas Albert. Several kitchen knives were reportedly found near the body.

The man, identified by police as 31-year-old Malcolm Tilley, was booked into the Santa Rita Jail. The victim's name has not yet been released.

"According to department records, there are no prior incidents at the residence," Albert said in a press release that came out moments before the Weekly went to press Wednesday. "This is an active investigation, and our detectives are working to gather additional details."

Innovation Fair

Experiencing and engaging engineering, science and technology is the driving theme for the seventh annual Tri-Valley Innovation Fair, coming to the Alameda County Fairgrounds in Pleasanton next weekend.

Designed as "a dynamic, interactive event designed to inspire all age groups," the free event put on by the Livermore-based Quest Science Center will offer activities, information and presentations indoors and outside from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. next Saturday (April 12).

"With over 80 exhibitors and a series of engaging performances throughout the day, the Innovation Fair highlights our region's diverse achievements and offers hands-on opportunities to explore, experiment and ask questions," organizers said. "This year, the Innovation Fair is introducing two exciting exhibit halls on healthcare and biotech and sustainability and planetary health."

Local Dem officers

The Tri-Valley Democratic Club recently announced the results of its membership's election of the group's leadership positions for the 2025 and 2026 calendar years, with all incumbents earning another term.

Jacqueline Tarin-Rankl was re-elected as president, with Richard Li, Alan Nakisher and Ellis Goldberg each retaining their respective posts of vice-president, treasurer and secretary-political director.

The Tri-Valley Dems, whose club is chartered with the Alameda County Democratic Party, serves members and promotes party priorities in the Amador, Livermore and San Ramon valleys. ■

Planning Commission greenlights housing project planned for Neal property

Builder to bring back revised park plans as part of redeveloping former school district land on Vineyard

By Christian Trujano
The Pleasanton Planning Commission unanimously approved the vesting tentative map for 27 single-family homes and a park to be built along Vineyard Avenue between Thiessen Street and Manoir Lane during its meeting last week.

Staff presented several ways the project had been updated in response to community feedback regarding traffic and public safety before the commissioners approved what they said was a satisfactory project design.

"It fits well within the neighborhood," Commissioner Stephanie Wedge said during the March 26 meeting. "The project does check a lot of boxes ... I'm happy with this project."

The commission is allowed to authorize the map in order to move the project forward in the development process, however the City Council still has the right to appeal or review the project if it chooses to do so at a future meeting.

Referred to as the Neal property, the approximately 10.64-acre site had been previously zoned for housing as part of the city's sixth Housing Element cycle — the property was previously owned by the Pleasanton Unified School District before it sold the land.

The city's zoning administrator had approved the application to move the housing development forward on March 18 and had also recommended that the commission approve the vesting map.

Associate planner Emily Carroll said during the meeting that a vesting tentative map "confers a vested right to proceed with a development in substantial compliance with the ordinances, policies, and standards in effect at the time an application for the map is deemed complete".

Several years ago PUSD wanted to look at its surplus property and identify sites to place on the city's latest Housing Element. Eventually, the city worked out the specifics with the district and PUSD ultimately sold the property to San Ramon-based Trumark Homes, LLC — after a different developer backed out.

Since Trumark Homes took over the project a year ago, the council

approved amendments to the city's Vineyard Avenue Corridor Specific Plan in order to allow the property to be used for housing, and it also approved a resolution to allow for the project's open space area to be split into a dual park as a result of listening to the community.

The current plan for the proposed 3-acre park is to split it into more than one space within the 10-acre site, however, according to the city and the applicant the developer has submitted those plans parallel to the current approved design and they will bring the dual park design back to the commission for approval at a later date.

See **HOUSING** on Page 6

Budget back in positive

PUSD looks to get off state's warning list for this year

By Christian Trujano

The Pleasanton Unified School District's budget was able to recently meet the required positive certification prior to submitting its second mid-year status report to the Alameda County Office of Education.

Pleasanton Unified had been among 32 districts to receive a qualified certification from the California Department of Education for the first interim status report for its 2024-25 budget — meaning the state determined that, based on projections at that time, PUSD might not meet its financial obligations for the current year or one of the next two years.

The district was able to position its \$200-million-plus budget for positive certification for its second interim report, which was released earlier in March.

"We received positive certification," PUSD director of communications Patrick Gannon told the Weekly. "The second interim budget will be submitted to the Alameda County Office of Education as a positive budget."

The district's Board of Trustees

See **BUDGET** on Page 8



ROBERT VOETS/CBS

Livermore resident Kevin Leung was among the 18 castaways who starred in season 48 of "Survivor" but was eliminated in the second episode. He reflected on his five-day experience on the popular TV competition show in an exclusive interview with the Weekly.

'The tribe has spoken'

Livermore's Leung reflects on 'Survivor' appearance

By Jude Strzemp
Kevin Leung is back home in Livermore after recently competing on the Emmy award-winning series "Survivor".

The 34-year-old finance manager spent five days vying for the \$1 million prize and the title of Sole Survivor. But after a shoulder injury on set, Leung was the second contestant to be eliminated from Season 48, which was depicted in an episode that

aired March 5.

Since then, Leung has processed a whirlwind of emotions about his time on "Survivor" and nursed his shoulder back to health.

"I can hold my head high," Leung told the Weekly. "I just never gave up."

Shortly after 18 contestants stepped foot on the Mamanuca Islands of Fiji — the filming location of Season 48 — they were greeted with the first challenge of

the game. That competition involved crawling under a net while muscling through mud. At stake were camp supplies for one of the three competing teams, referred to as "tribes".

Leung was among the first of his tribe to take on the netted obstacle. But midway through, he is heard saying, "Ow my arm! Ow!" Soaked in mud from head to toe, he later identified that his

See **SURVIVOR** on Page 7

Stable Cafe remains open following end of horse racing

Owner says she hopes to keep business going as long as possible despite losing primary customer base

BY CHRISTIAN TRUJANO

The Stable Cafe, a classic diner that has been tucked away inside the Alameda County Fairgrounds for decades, has decided to remain open despite having lost a significant portion of its clientele due to the recent closure of the stables and horse racing at the site.

Maria Juarez, a Walnut Creek resident and the current owner of the cafe, told the Weekly Monday that she plans on serving the community for as long as she can.

“Between the people wanting me to stay (open) and me not having anything else to do, I decided to stay and see how the cafe holds up throughout these next few months,” Juarez said in a Spanish-language interview with the Weekly, translated into English.

While she couldn’t say for certain

what the Pleasanton fairgrounds might have planned for the restaurant in the future, she said if they let her she will continue to stay open.

“I have plans of staying here for a while but I don’t know what (the fairgrounds) office have planned... but if they let me stay and the cafe stays operational, I’ll stay there,” she said.

The California Association of Racing Fairs — the joint-powers authority that conducts business activity with fair associations and also represents the horse racing industry in the state — announced in January it was not going to pursue any horse racing meets this year, including at the summer fair in Pleasanton.

CARF had rallied to try to put together a full year of racing in 2025 following the closure of

Golden Gate Fields — the horse racing track in Berkeley that had typically hosted these horse meets — late last year.

According to a March 28 press release from the Alameda County Agricultural Fair Association, the fair had been engaged in discussions with Bernal Park Racing to “explore options for maintaining training and stabling operations in Pleasanton.”

However, the Southern California Vanning and Stabling Committee still announced that the fairgrounds will no longer serve as a licensed auxiliary vanning and stabling facility beyond March 25.

“Last week the Alameda County Fair and Bernal Park Racing requested an extension of vanning and stabling operations until June 1, 2025,” the March 28 fair press release stated. “Shortly thereafter, the Southern California Vanning and Stabling Committee determined that Pleasanton could no longer be utilized for these purposes due to the absence of a licensed operator, lack of regulatory approval, workman’s compensation requirements, and water quality compliance issues.”

While the fair association noted that this outcome has directly impacted racing employees, who were hired by individual horse owners and trainers, and their families, it has also affected the Stable Cafe’s

primary customer base.

Juarez, an experienced restaurateur who runs Taqueria Plaza Mexico in Antioch with her husband, first reopened the cafe on June 14, 2024 after former long-time owner Esther Hall closed up shop in September 2023 so she could spend more time with her family in Utah.

But it wasn’t until last December that Juarez first learned about the closures of the stables and that the fair would be ceasing racing and training operations.

In an interview with Tri-Valley Foodist Deborah Grossman for a previous blog, Juarez said that she wasn’t happy with having to close up shop on March 25 — the same day that horses and their trainers had to vacate the site. But after talking to the fair association, she said they told her she could keep the cafe open for the community if she wanted to do so.

“We are excited Maria decided to stay open,” Kristin LaPorte, director of marketing and business development at the fairgrounds, told the Weekly. “The cafe is a great addition to the Fairgrounds. The community enjoys the Stable Cafe, they hold meeting(s) there and adore Maria.”

Juarez said while this week is the first full week where the cafe won’t see its usual customers who work at the stable, business hasn’t been affected too much.

Other employees who work at the fairgrounds, several neighboring residents and a group of veterans who have been going to the cafe since before she took over the business have been keeping business afloat, Juarez said.

“People from the community (still) come,” she said. “It’s not all the time but people are coming out.”

She said events like the recent All American Get-Together event that was hosted by the Goodguys Rod & Custom Association at the fairgrounds have also helped her business.

Juarez also said the people who have been visiting the cafe recently have also been helping her out with spreading the word that the restaurant is still open and she hopes that they can gain more traction in Pleasanton because she wants to expand the business and continue serving the community for as long as possible.

“That makes me happy because if they start recommending (the cafe) to their friends and family, that means more people will start coming back,” Juarez said.

She also said she is working on improving the cafe’s online presence so people know they are still open and are welcoming any and all customers, not just people who work at the fairgrounds.

The Stable Cafe is open every day from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. ■

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HOUSING

Continued from Page 5

According to Carroll, the rest of the newly approved design plans include building two streets on the vacant piece of land as well as 27 market rate homes that will each have their own detached, accessible dwelling units — also known as ADUs.

The fact that these homes are going to be market rate because the developer paid in-lieu fees to opt out of building affordable housing was one point of concern for Commissioner Anurag Jain, who brought up previous discussions about the possibility of building more workforce housing in the city.

“The project does check a lot of other things — affordability is not one of those,” Jain said. “I’m happy to see the project come through and move forward but that’s generally the trend that we are seeing: state laws have created more housing, more market rate housing, (that) doesn’t help with the affordability in any way.”

Community development director Ellen Clark acknowledged the commissioner’s statement but she also noted that apart from

changes in state law, the city’s own inclusionary zoning ordinance has also been updated to become more stringent in regards to the requirements that need to be met in order for developers to “fee out” of building affordable housing within their projects.

Clark also noted that while the developer’s in-lieu fees won’t directly help build physical affordable housing, they will help fund other housing programs within the city.

“This project will pay over a million dollars in affordable housing fees as part of its mitigation which ... helps us to fund affordable housing programs and hopefully some construction at some point,” Clark said.

Some other points that were brought up during the meeting include several past concerns from the neighborhood surrounding the project site.

Carroll said that despite some concerns about traffic, the city’s traffic department found that there wasn’t a need to install a new traffic signal at the location but that the city will be requiring the developer to do some restriping and construction of buffer lanes that staff said should help narrow

the lanes and make it safer for residents to maneuver through the area.

The design plan also includes specific set backs on the surrounding streets so that it will be easier for residents to see cars on the main roads before turning onto those roads.

Carroll also brought up the concerns from neighbors regarding unwanted activity on the vacant site and said the developer will be installing bollards to prevent people from driving behind the site. She also said general construction at the site in the future will help mitigate that unwanted activity.

“One of the things I appreciate, the work that has gone into being responsive to the community,” Commissioner Brandon Pace said during the meeting. “Continuing to work with the community on the park and the traffic ... are going to continue to be some of the most important pieces.”

The project development team told the commission that they are still in the process of working through the new plan for the dual park but that if they are able to get all of their permits lined up by October, the goal is to start construction as soon as possible. ■

LARPD files claim against East Bay Parks

Livermore park district alleges misuse of millions in revenue by EBRPD under tax-sharing agreement

By JUDE STRZEMP

The Livermore Area Recreation and Park District filed a claim against East Bay Regional Park District Tuesday for allegedly violating a tax-sharing agreement, including misappropriation of tax revenue since 1992.

Since the voluntary agreement was reached 33 years ago, LARPD has transferred \$110 million in property tax revenue from its service area in eastern Alameda County to EBRPD for regional park and trail services in the area, according to LARPD's statement

announcing the claim.

The Livermore park district alleges EBRPD has used less than 20% of the tax revenue consistently with the agreement, with a large portion spent on projects outside of LARPD's boundaries.

LARPD's claim states that it is entitled to damages as a result of EBRPD's multiple breaches of the tax-sharing agreement including compensatory, consequential, restitution and incidental damages. EBRPD has 45 days to respond to the claim. If the matter remains unresolved after that time, LARPD

will explore further steps to ensure the tax revenue is used "properly," according to the statement.

"The tax revenue from local taxpayers should be invested locally to improve parks and trails for the benefit of the community, rather than being used for broader regional initiatives," LARPD General Manager Mathew Fuzie said in a statement.

EBRPD did not respond to requests for comment as of Tuesday afternoon.

Per the tax-sharing agreement, EBRPD received \$0.0075 per \$100

assessed valuation for the LARPD service area, also known as Murray Township, during the fiscal years of 1993-94 and 1994-95. EBRPD's share of the tax revenue grew over the next few years. Since the 2001-02 fiscal year (base year), EBRPD's share has been calculated as \$0.025 of the base year's assessed valuation plus \$0.030 per \$100 of all assessed valuation growth over the base year thereafter.

According to LARPD's claim, the tax-sharing agreement obligates EBRPD to use Murray Township tax revenues from LARPD on facilities

within the jurisdictional boundaries of the township. LARPD alleges that EBRPD has used some of the revenue to operate and improve EBRPD facilities outside Murray Township, including Sunset Cliffs.

The claim also states that EBRPD agreed to use tax revenues to develop additional regional parks but has failed to do so. The "substantial tax revenues" EBRPD spent to improve and operate Del Valle Regional Park from 1998 to 2023 violated the agreement because Del

See **PARKS** on Page 8

SURVIVOR

Continued from Page 5

shoulder was in pain.

Once the challenge was over, Leung called for medical assistance, he wrote in an Instagram post. Off-screen, he said series host Jeff Probst and a doctor found he had a torn, dislocated shoulder.

Afterwards, Leung was chosen to represent his tribe in a follow-up challenge to win supplies for his team.

"It was hard, mentally and emotionally, to just stay strong, stay positive," he told the Weekly.

In the televised confessional, he considered the challenge as a pivotal point for his game. To him, it was a chance for the tribe to consider him an "asset."

As it turned out, Leung won the one-on-one challenge and was rewarded with team supplies.

Upon watching the televised victory with his family, Leung's dad celebrated the win with a fist pump.



COURTESY LEUNG

Kevin Leung

"That's when I knew this whole experience was worth it," Leung wrote online. "We're not just playing for ourselves, we're playing for everyone who supported us throughout the entire journey."

But his victory in episode one wasn't enough to maintain his place on the show, as Leung was eliminated from the competition in the next episode.

"I think you can call that a blindside. I thought I was in control the entire game, but they outed me,"



ROBERT VOETS/CBS

Kevin Leung is now proud of himself for the game he played on "Survivor". (From left) Justin Pioppi, Cedrek McFadden, Kevin Leung and Mary Zheng.

Leung said in a confessional after his elimination. "I played as hard as I could, even though I hurt my shoulder on day one in the first hour. I kept (persevering) and kept trying."

He continued to process his participation on "Survivor" in the months following his elimination.

"What I wasn't expecting was not being able to understand what I was feeling emotionally and mentally about the whole experience," Leung wrote in a post on Instagram March 17.

Initially, the feeling that stuck was one of failure. He fixated on being eliminated second — how would he tell his family or viewers, he had asked himself.

While Leung said he's much more likely to crack a joke than divulge vulnerability, being honest about the experience was really important.

"It's hard to really say, 'everybody, life was great on 'Survivor' as they're watching me go to tribal council multiple times. I got blindsided. I tried to orchestrate a blindside. My shoulder was hurt," Leung said.

While he didn't set out to be vulnerable per se, it emerged anyway.

"It would be such a disservice to not just me but to the people watching and people who supported me

to be like, 'Yeah it was amazing. I had the best time,'" Leung said. "No actually, I didn't have the best time, but I had a really rewarding time at the end of the day."

Through his "Survivor" experience, he also learned to embrace his inner and outer self.

Prior to the show, Leung relied on intelligence and social cues, rather than brute strength in his daily life. Meanwhile, he always felt lacking in muscles.

Leung worried about being strong enough on "Survivor," so he worked out and bulked up for the program. Later on, he found peace in being himself.

"I realized, I don't need to focus so much on my physical aspects to even prepare for life. I'm very much OK being a 'David' and a 'Goliath' in some ways and just being me," he said. "Being me is good enough."

Not just mental and emotional, his post-game journey was also one of physical recovery.

"Hopefully I can get an MRI and heal this bad boy," Leung said in an Instagram video, as he waited for his first doctor's appointment after

the competition.

With his arm in a sling and a smile on his face, he added, "But was it worth it? Yes. And would I break my other arm to do it? Yes."

The recording then jumps to Leung exercising his arms with a resistance band and weights.

For months, he said he underwent rigorous physical therapy to regain the range of motion and strength in his shoulder. If the physical therapy hadn't worked, surgery would have been the next step, Leung explained in a social media post.

Since undergoing physical rehab, Leung said his shoulder is much better. He's able to work out, play tennis and "the whole shebang," he wrote online.

"And emotionally, I am still happy, sad, grateful, disappointed, and excited for the rest of the season. And what an awesome combination to feel," he wrote online just last week. ■

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Plato's Closet reopens doors under new ownership

Resale store sees hundreds of customers return during opening week

BY CHRISTIAN TRUJANO

Plato's Closet, a consignment store with locations across the Bay Area and North America, celebrated the grand reopening of its Pleasanton location last month after it shuttered last October.

Marcie Webster, a local entrepreneur who took ownership of the store, told the Weekly that the Pleasanton location had been her favorite location and she was overwhelmed by the community's positive energy following the store's reopening on March 20.

"Everyone has fond memories of it and so many people came out to us and told us how glad (they were) that we brought it back," Webster said. "The community has come out big time to support us and bring us great merchandise."

Plato's Closet, according to the company, is a national retail resale franchise that "focuses on sustainability, small business formation

and providing resale for everyone."

Webster said that while it mirrors a thrift store, Plato's Closet is a for-profit store that, instead of relying on donations, actually purchases clothes from members of the community for resale.

Located at 4555 Hopyard Road, the Pleasanton franchise had closed in October because the previous owners were ready to retire and sell the business following the COVID-19 pandemic, Webster said.

Webster, at that time, had already owned a few other of the chain stores in the Bay Area — she bought her first one in Pacifica after having previously gotten into the retail business when she took over a North Face store — so she jumped at the opportunity when she heard about the closure of the Plato's Closet in Pleasanton.

"I feel like this store is sort of a culmination of all the things that I've learned over the years with my

other stores," she said.

After Webster officially took over the store in January, she and her team had to work hard to remodel the store and start buying clothes from people in the community so that they could open their doors.

And while it did take some time, Webster said seeing the community line up for that first day back a couple of weeks ago was worth it.

"It's just been so much positive energy," she said. "I couldn't believe how many people showed up."

She said they had over 100 people in line during their first day open and throughout that first weekend they stayed packed with customers.

Webster also said she was glad to further the company's goal of sustainability with this business model of buying clothes from people instead of relying on donations because according to her, most donated clothes end up in a landfill.

But just as sustainability is



COURTESY MARCIE WEBSTER

A customer poses for a photo with a pair of colorful Nike shoes during the Plato's Closet reopening on March 20.

important to Webster, so is being able to provide affordable and stylish clothes for the youth in Pleasanton, as well as job opportunities for them.

"We're excited about continuing to provide interesting and fun

drops and events and things like that," she said. "(We're) hoping to get involved in the local high schools and work with local content creators ... because it's like a community store so I want to make it theirs." ■

PARKS

Continued from Page 7

Valle was not an "additional" or "future" regional park at the time of the agreement, according to the claim.

LARPD also claims EBRPD agreed to acquire, plan, develop and operate regional multipurpose trail segments from Shadow Cliffs to Del Valle with appropriate staging areas and access from Sycamore Grove and Veterans Park to Del Valle. EBRPD has not completed the trail segment and staging area work, the claim states.

In addition to allegations of improper spending, LARPD also contends EBRPD has failed to comply with the tax-sharing agreement regarding planning. In each EBRPD Master Plan review from 1992 to the present, EBRPD failed to adequately assess the Murray Township regional needs, include LARPD in the planning for all future regional facilities and acquisition and development within Murray Township and include

citizens and organizations located within Murray Township in the planning process, according to the complaint.

LARPD filed the claim April 1, following the district's call for an investigation in August 2024 of EBRPD's tax revenue spending.

"Our issue with East Bay: that they're getting money and they're not providing services," then-LARPD Chair David Furst said at an Aug. 14 Board of Directors meeting. "East Bay is taking our money."

At the time, Fuzie said the board did not express the district's position on the issue, as the board's opinions were intermixed with data. But the district had been inquiring where EBRPD funds were being used within the Murray Township for years.

The two agencies then met Feb. 28 for a discussion facilitated by the Local Agency Formation Commission of Alameda County, an overseeing agency with authorities such as reviewing jurisdictional boundaries and ensuring the

orderly formation of local government agencies.

EBRPD has stated that it has complied with the tax sharing agreement, according to a LAFCO staff report prepared for its March 13 regular meeting. While spending tax revenue from Murray Township exclusively within the township, EBRPD argued that the agreement does not require all funds collected from Murray Township within the jurisdiction. EBRPD also stated that it spends more in the township than it receives in revenues.

LAFCO encourages the agencies to engage in direct discussions regarding the terms and execution of the tax-sharing agreement to reconcile their differing viewpoints, LAFCO Executive Officer Rachel Jones said at the March 13 meeting. If the districts are unable to reach an agreement, they could consider mediation for legal review. The agency is available to facilitate discussions, if formally requested by both parties.

LAFCO requested that the park districts return in six months to

give an update on the disagreement, Jones told Livermore Vine in a follow-up conversation. The timeline from LAFCO is independent of the 45-day response period LARPD offered in its statement.

"They both have different definitions of that agreement and they need to work together in understanding the correct language for that to

come to a resolution," Jones said.

LAFCO aims to have as limited involvement as possible, but if the districts cannot reach a resolution, LAFCO may review the dispute further, Jones explained. LAFCO could consider different jurisdictional boundary options which could mean a change of organization proposal or consolidation of one of the agencies. ■

BUDGET

Continued from Page 5

approved the second interim budget report during its March 13 meeting where staff showed how recent reductions have led to a slight improvement in the budget. The second interim budget report is one of two updates the district makes to its 2024-25 adopted budget.

During the meeting, staff went over all of the updated budget information and recent changes made

to the budget through Jan. 31 that, according to staff, showed significant positive changes.

"Since the first interim budget report, we have received updated information on the Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) and budget assumptions, updated demographer and enrollment reports and incorporated the board-approved budget reductions," Gannon said.

Those previous budget reductions account for about \$6.5 million in savings that the district will incorporate into its multiyear budget

projection, according to staff.

"Based on the adjustments in the Second Interim Budget Report, the District can meet the required minimum three percent reserve for economic uncertainty for the current fiscal year, and two subsequent years," Gannon said. "It is estimated that the unrestricted reserves will be at 3.08%."

The California Department of Education's fiscal oversight webpage has not been updated yet with results of the second interim reports across California. ■

TAKE US ALONG



On the beach with Bob: Sally and Bob Leuten, who live in the Vintage Hills area of Pleasanton, went on a New Year's cruise to Mexico. Sally snapped this picture of Bob at Puerto Vallarta on New Year's Day.

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

Zone 7 celebrates opening of second water treatment site

Chain of Lakes PFAS Treatment Facility will have capacity to process 10 million gallons of water daily

BY CHRISTIAN TRUJANO

City and state employees, as well as elected officials from the Tri-Valley, attended the grand opening of the Zone 7 Water Agency's second PFAS treatment facility last week, which many said would further improve the region's water supply quality.

Located in Livermore just off El Charro Road, the new Chain of Lakes PFAS Treatment Facility is the largest facility of its kind in Northern California.

"Zone 7 has been at the forefront of addressing PFAS ... in our groundwater basin," said Zone 7 Board of Directors President Dennis Gambs during the new facility's ribbon cutting ceremony on March 26. "Today we reached another milestone with the Chain of Lakes Treatment Facility. We take our mission to provide safe and clean drinking water in the Tri-Valley, very important."

The water agency has been looking at different ways to address PFAS, also known as forever chemicals, in the region's groundwater for several years.

Zone 7 previously opened a first-of-its-kind Ion Exchange PFAS Treatment Facility at the Stoneridge groundwater well — located just west of Mohr Elementary School in Pleasanton — back in September 2023.

The new treatment facility, similar to the first one, uses state-of-the-art ion exchange technology to treat up to 10 million gallons of water per day. Numerous tanks at the facility



Members of the Zone 7 Water Agency Board of Directors pose for a photo during the ribbon cutting ceremony that celebrated the completion of the Chain of Lakes PFAS Treatment Facility in Livermore.

are filled with small ion-exchange polymers, which are designed to attract PFAS chemicals in the water while the H₂O molecules pass through, leaving clean water.

"Addressing PFAS contamination is critical as these persistent chemicals pose ongoing challenges for water agencies nationwide," Zone 7 General Manager Valerie Pryor said in a March 26 press release.

"Zone 7 is committed to proactively installing the most up-to-date technology to address this issue as part of our commitment to delivering safe, high-quality water," Pryor added. "This new Chain of Lakes facility marks a critical investment in safeguarding water quality for the Tri-Valley community and demonstrates Zone 7's proactive approach to managing

emerging contaminants."

Alec W. Naugle, senior engineering geologist at the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Board, spoke during the ceremony about some of the issues that PFAS poses.

"PFAS has been used in so many commercial, industrial and household products ... for decades," Naugle said. "(That) means there are likely many places where PFAS could come from to get into the groundwater system."

He said things like Aqueous Film-Forming Foam (AFFF), which firefighters have used for years before it was discontinued for use, can persist in the soil for many years.

The regional water quality control agency recently announced that it detected PFAS levels at the Livermore-Pleasanton Fire

Department training center that warrants further investigation

Even though his agency is still investigating other possible sources of PFAS in surrounding LPPFD stations, Naugle said those aren't the only sources of PFAS contamination.

"Regardless of what we find at the fire station — and other facilities like the Livermore Airport that we are (also) investigating — there may still be other PFAS that have contributed to the problem," Naugle said. "Finding all the potential contributing PFAS sources, at the very least, will be very challenging and, in some cases, it may not be fully possible to do that."

He said he was proud to see Zone 7's latest treatment facility come to fruition because it addresses long term treatment while agencies such as his own work to remedy PFAS sources in the short term.

"This is really blazing the trail and I think this is the way of the future across the state as we discover and identify more and more PFAS in groundwater," Naugle said. "We're very proud to have supported this facility."

Matthew Bates, assistant division manager of the California's Department of Water Resources' Division of Regional Assistance,

also expressed support for the completion of both ion exchange treatment facilities.

"This is a much needed project providing clean, treated groundwater for over a quarter million residents in the Tri-Valley region," Bates said. "This project is designed to treat PFAS contaminants from the groundwater, which supplies the region's users with clean, reliable groundwater supply, improving their quality of life both now and for future generations."

The state department had previously awarded Zone 7 with a \$16 million grant to cover most of the Stoneridge project cost — the Chain of Lakes facility was partially funded thanks to a nearly \$958,000 federal grant that the water agency secured with the help of congressmen Eric Swalwell and Mark DeSaulnier.

Gambs ended the ceremony with an update on a third PFAS treatment facility that the agency will be looking to build at the Mocho Wellfield in Pleasanton. According to the agency, it will begin designing the new facility this year.

"Zone 7 and other water agencies didn't create the PFAS problem, but it is our job to find the solutions to make the water safe for our community," Gambs said. ■

Trustees approve \$2.35M settlement for Amador gym fire

Insurance money will help fund the high school's overall Measure I renovation project

BY CHRISTIAN TRUJANO

The Pleasanton Unified School District Board of Trustees approved a roughly \$2.35 million insurance payout last week, which came as a result of a fire that broke out last year in the Amador Valley High School small gym.

Board President Justin Brown said the funds from the insurance settlement and release agreement with Northern California Relief will help fund the planned renovations of the athletic and performing arts facilities at the high school, which has been one of the big ticket items listed in the \$395 million Measure I general obligation bond.

"As part of refining the design with our site committee, which includes the principal, teachers and community members, we felt that some additional changes — beyond what was first forecasted for Measure I — was needed," Brown told the

Weekly. "As such, we have chosen to invest the insurance funds from the Amador small gym fire as well as other Measure I1 savings and developer fees to support the best possible design for our students such that we meet both medium and long-term needs."

On March 17, 2024, the Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department responded to a commercial fire alarm at the small gym just before 8 p.m. It was elevated to a second alarm fire before firefighters worked to put it out with the help of the Alameda County Fire Department.

Following the fire, the district cleaned up and stabilized the significant fire damages to the small gym and girls' locker room. That work cost the district about \$511,000, which was later recouped from the district's insurance carrier.

PUSD then hired an engineer and architect to determine the extent of the damage and repairs and after

estimating the cost of repairs, the district decided it didn't make sense to repair the gym when there are already plans to renovate all of the athletic facilities at the high school as part of the Measure I bond project list, which Pleasanton voters approved in 2023.

Those plans were first introduced — along with the plans to use the insurance money to help fund the overall campus renovation project — during a Jan. 16 board meeting.

"The new campus layout includes a new 'Avenue of the Dons' which will connect the sports fields past our new competition gym," Brown said.

"The new competition gym will support up to 1,700 people and its completion will allow our existing gym to become the new practice gym," he added. "What was the small gym (which suffered the fire last year) will be replaced and its current location will become part of the theater and arts redesign area." ■

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Amador Elementary custodian wins top honor from DUSD

District also celebrates peer-nominated Classified Employees of the Year across job categories

By JUDE STRZEMP

The Dublin Unified School District recently named John Alexander, lead custodian at Amador Elementary School, as the 2024-25 overall Classified Employee of the Year.

Alexander said he was honored and shocked to receive the award. “I can’t even find the words for it, but it’s a true honor to receive something like that and it makes me feel good inside,” he said.

Alexander has worked at DUSD full-time since 2013, beginning with his role as a night shift custodian. For about seven years, he cleaned schools across the district during his 3 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. workday.

By 2020, he began working the mid-shift at Amador. Then in August 2024, he rose to become the lead custodian at the school.

“As long as I see a smile at the end of the day on them, I know I’ve done my work,” he said of students.

Alexander is a beloved member



John Alexander celebrates his award with district and Amador Elementary School staff.

COURTESY DUSD

of the school community, said DUSD director of maintenance and operations Tim Leal.

“John Alexander exemplifies

dedication, hard work, and an unwavering commitment to the students and staff at Amador Elementary,” Leal said. “For over a

decade, he has gone above and beyond to ensure that our schools are clean, safe, and welcoming environments for learning.”

He was selected as the overall honoree from winners of an annual staff recognition program. In this program, peer-nominated individuals are identified for their hard work and dedication.

The DUSD classified employees of the year and their respective categories include Will Crozier in food and nutrition, Karen Chamberlain in security, Mino Etemadnia in paraprofessional, Tabitha Leni in clerical and Alexander in custodial.

“Our classified staff are the unsung heroes of our district, playing an essential role in every aspect of our schools,” DUSD Superintendent Chris Funk said. “Their hard work and expertise are the foundation that allows our educators to focus on teaching and our students to focus on learning. We are deeply grateful for their contributions.”

Employees of the year will be submitted in their respective categories to the Alameda County Office of Education Classified Employee of the Year competition. ■

Dublin commission OKs new urgent care facility

Clinic to take over space in shopping center formerly occupied by Fit Body Bootcamp

By JUDE STRZEMP

A new health clinic called Dublin Urgent Care appears on track to open its doors at the San Ramon Village Plaza shopping center, following unanimous approval of its operations by the Dublin Planning Commission at its regular meeting last week.

The urgent care facility is set to take over a 1,709-square-foot tenant space, previously occupied by Fit Body Bootcamp. At 8931 San Ramon Road, it will join current building tenants including Boba Bliss, Mountain Mike’s Pizza, Biryani Bistro, We Care Dental and Mayflower Massage.

The new clinic will include four exam rooms, an X-ray room, a waiting room, a private office, a

nurses’ station, a staff room and a storage area. A bike rack will be added outside the clinic. No service vehicles, like ambulances, will be operated in conjunction with this facility.

The clinic’s standard hours of operation would be 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., seven days a week, though it is permitted to operate from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. to accommodate for potential medical emergencies.

The commission green-lit a conditional use permit to allow Dublin Urgent Care to open. They also decided the proposal was exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act because the project involves no expansion of the existing building and all use-related activities would be located within

the existing building.

Following the commission’s approval, the applicant will apply for a building permit for construction within the unit.

Construction is expected to last three to four months from its start date, according to Joseph Pennisi, project architect and applicant representing Dublin Urgent Care.

In response to commissioners’ questions about construction noise, Pennisi recommended the loudest activities take place during off-hours or maybe Saturday

mornings. Other noises, like those from saws and drills will probably happen during regular working hours.

As for parking, there are an ample number of spaces in the shopping center, assistant community development director Amy Million said at the meeting.

Including Dublin Urgent Care, the parking needs in the shopping center total 81 spaces. That leaves a surplus of 12 spaces in the 93-spot parking lot, Million said.

“There isn’t a separate loading

area for quick drop-off,” Million said. “Staff anticipated that people would be able to, most likely, calmly park in one of the designated parking spaces and just walk that small stretch.”

If need be, someone could be dropped off near the entrance of the facility, Pennisi said.

There was no mention of Dublin Urgent Care’s affiliation with any other facilities, nor were there any public comments or additional input from the commissioners regarding the facility. ■

Wings of Hope gala to benefit Tri-Valley Haven

Fundraiser this month supports nonprofit focusing on domestic violence, homelessness

By JEREMY WALSH

The community is set to celebrate and support Tri-Valley Haven at the nonprofit’s Wings of Hope: Transforming Lives Gala at the end of the month in Livermore.

Billed as “an unforgettable night of giving back,” the event will feature dinner, a live auction, entertainment and a keynote presentation by comedian and writer Regina Stoops — all to raise money and awareness for Tri-Valley Haven’s programs for survivors of domestic violence,

sexual assault and homelessness.

“Our annual gala is more than a celebration — it’s a crucial fundraiser that supports Tri-Valley Haven’s mission. I’m excited to see our community come together to make a lasting impact,” director of development Ranjani Costa told the Weekly.

“In 2025, we’re focused on rebuilding our domestic violence shelter, strengthening operations, and expanding outreach. The gala plays a key role in making these goals a reality,” Costa added.

The Wings of Hope gala is

set to begin at 5:30 p.m. April 25 in the Robert Livermore Community Center. For tickets, sponsorships and other information, go to trivalleyhaven.org or call 925-449-5845.

“We invite the community to join us for this incredible evening that celebrates resilience and hope,” Executive Director Christine Dillman said in a recent press release. “Every ticket purchase directly supports survivors and helps us continue providing essential services, including shelter, counseling and advocacy.” ■

THE CITY OF PLEASANTON

HIGHLIGHTS

City Council Special Meeting

Tuesday, April 8, 2025, at 5 p.m.

- Receive a report on the Fiscal Years 2025/26 - 2026/27 preliminary budget reduction recommendations and provide direction to inform development of the two-year General Fund operating budget
- Receive a report on General Fund dependent capital needs and other capital/infrastructure priorities for FY 2025/26 and FY 2026/27 and provide direction to inform the development of the two-year Capital Budget and five-year Capital Improvement Program

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

Housing progress report shows positive gains in Livermore

Building permits issued for over 350 new units in 2024, more expected in coming years

By JUDE STRZEMP

The city of Livermore made strides last year toward meeting its housing needs, according to an annual progress report presented at last week's City Council meeting.

In 2024, the city issued building permits for 364 new units, which was significantly higher than the previous two years, according to a staff report prepared by assistant planner for the city of Livermore, Shannon Pagan.

The permitted units signify progress towards accommodating 4,570 new units between 2023 and 2031, a state-assigned goal through the Regional Housing Needs Allocation. The dwellings must consist of four categories of units including 1,317 very-low, 758 low, 696 moderate and 1,799 above-moderate income. Half of the very-low-income units are extremely-low-income units.

These income categories are based on the area median income, which is \$142,800 annually for a family of four in Livermore. For that family, low income is \$112,150 (80% AMI), lower income is \$88,740 (60% AMI), very-low income is \$73,950 (50% AMI), extremely-low income is \$47,900 (30% AMI) and moderate income is \$177,500 (120% AMI).

Looking toward the future, city staff anticipate residential building permit activity will continue to increase over the next several years, through construction of projects in the Arroyo Vista Neighborhood Plan in eastern Livermore and the Isabel Neighborhood Specific Plan in northwest Livermore as well as smaller-scale residential projects like Garaventa Hills.

The housing update and outlook came as part of the 2024 General Plan Housing Element annual progress report, presented to city council at the March 24 regular meeting. This state-mandated report covers the city's progress towards RHNA targets and implementing programs in the general plan housing element.

"We're growing smart," Mayor John Marchand said during the meeting. "This isn't rampant unchecked growth. This is very precise, very strategic growth that we are allowing in this community, so that it really welcomes everyone."

Projects that contributed to RHNA goals last year include Serenity, Triad West Cava and Arroyo Vista, all of which are currently under construction.

Of the 364 building permits issued last year, 14 were very-low-income, 14 were low-income, 69 were moderate-income and 267 were above-moderate-income units. No building permits were issued for extremely-low-income units,

according to the report.

Approximately 90% of the building permits were for multi-family housing units in the Isabel Neighborhood Specific Plan area. Accessory dwelling units accounted for approximately 9% and single-family units made up the remaining 1%.

The gains in 2024 add to the prior year, wherein the city issued building permits for 45 moderate, 21 above-moderate and zero very-low or low income units. In total, the city has issued building permits to 486 of the required 4,570 units.

Of the required units, the greatest housing need in Livermore is in the very low-income (29% of RHNA) and above moderate-income (39% of RHNA) categories, according to the report, citing the percentages as consistent with most Bay Area cities.

Livermore's RHNA also reflects a need for workforce and senior housing in the low- and moderate-income categories, 17% and 15% of the RHNA, respectively.

But across jurisdictions, there are challenges to building lower income units, Pagan said at the meeting.

The high costs of land, construction, and labor often exceed the revenue generated from lower rent and for-sale prices, the staff report states. In effect, the projects almost always require substantial subsidies, either through a developer or public contributions.

In response to the ongoing need for lower income units, the city continues to implement the inclusionary housing ordinance requirements to necessitate affordable units in new residential projects as well as its encouragement of partnerships between supportive housing providers and private developers.

Also the city continues to implement housing assistance programs and funding local nonprofits and homelessness programs.

Looking ahead, city officials were optimistic about continued progress toward RHNA housing goals.

"We are slowly starting to contribute to those RHNA targets in the affordable categories and anticipate further progress as approved projects come to fruition," Pagan said during the meeting.

Projects approved in 2024 and expected to contribute to targets in the coming years include Isabel Crossing (1,299 for-sale and rental units, including 363 affordable), Aura (164 for-sale units, including 33 affordable), Parkview (31 for-sale units, including 6 affordable) and Garaventa Hills (44 for-sale units, including 6 affordable). Of note, units are counted toward RHNA targets once the building permits have been issued.

Additional projects that are expected to contribute to RHNA targets include Triad East Amarone (172 for-sale units, including 34 affordable, Cornerstone (253 for-sale and rental units, including 114 affordable) and Pacific and Livermore (115 for-sale units, including 23 affordable). Triad East Amarone was approved in 2023, Cornerstone was approved in January 2025 and Pacific and Livermore is currently under review.

Units at approved projects like Pacific Avenue Senior Living (140 very-low- and low-income senior units) and Assisted Living at the Well (84 assisted-living suites, 44 memory care suites) will also contribute to RHNA once their building permits are issued.

"A lot of times, these conversations — when we talk about affordable housing — there's stigma attached around it," Vice Mayor Evan Branning commented.

New teachers living alone would qualify as low income, he said to put the income levels in perspective.

For individuals living alone in a studio, earning \$31,000 or less per year is considered extremely-low-income. "We're not talking about someone who doesn't have an income," Branning added. "That is roughly the annual minimum wage."

The Cornerstone housing project, which is set to exceed the required number of affordable units, received his commendation.

"I appreciate very much the community that stepped up recently, particularly with projects like Cornerstone, where they've

gone above and beyond providing extremely-low, very-low and low-income housing," Branning said. "Because without projects like that, there is absolutely no way we would ever meet our RHNA numbers for those levels."

The dollar value of these income thresholds can be hard to see, Councilmember Steven Dunbar agreed.

But affordable housing allows young people to move out of their

parents' homes and for people to spread their roots in the city, he said.

Branning told the audience that sometimes change can be difficult, but it is necessary. "This is allowing our teachers, our service workers, our city employees to live in our city," Branning said.

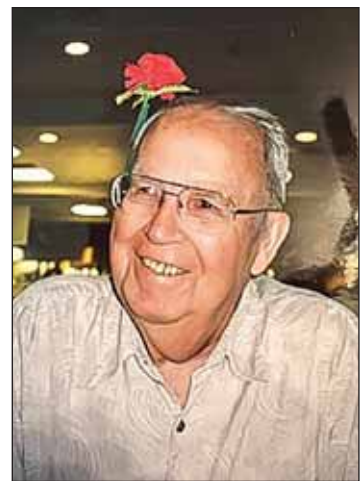
Following the council's unanimous approval of the progress report, it was submitted to the state by the April 1 deadline. ■

Joseph William Skroch

July 29, 1931 – March 12th, 2025

Joseph 93 passed away on March 12th, 2025

Joseph was born to Joseph W. Skroch, Sr. and Mabel Alberta Norton on July 29, 1931 at the family home in Jamestown, North Dakota. He went to schools in Jamestown and worked for Hamm's Grocery Store during school and after. Joseph moved to Casper, Wyoming with his youngest sister, Betty, to live with his older sister Luverne Troyer and family after his Mother passed away. He returned to Jamestown and was drafted into the Army in 1951. He was stationed at Fort Lee, Virginia, and later shipped off to Korea for 18 months.



Joseph married Jeannine M. Hogden on June 19, 1952 in Fort Lee VA. They returned to Jamestown where Joe worked as a Bar Tender for the Trading Post. Their daughter, Lynn Renee Skroch Vogel was born on Oct. 27, 1954, and Gregory Lee on Nov. 30, 1956. The family moved to Daly City, Ca. in 1959 and their 2nd son, Mark Allen was born on June 9, 1966. Joe worked for American Airlines as a fueler for 32 years. Upon retirement in 1990 the family moved to Red Bluff, Ca. He continued to work as a bar tender for the Green Barn in Red Bluff. Then the family decided after 12 years there they just had to move to Pleasanton, Ca. to be close to their two sons and precious grandchildren, Sophia Lynn and Ryan Christopher who were residing in San Jose and later Mountain House, Ca.

Joseph is preceded in death by his lovely daughter, Lynn, father Joseph Sr. and mother Mabel, brother Bernard, sister Luverne Troyer. Brothers-in-law Monty Montelaro and Lloyd Hogden, and sister-in-law Marlys Hogden.

Joe is survived by his wife Jeannine, sons Greg and Mark [Dian Coulter] in Mountain House, Ca., Grandchildren Sophia and Ryan Skroch. Also son Martin Pool {Roberta Robbins} in Kenmore Wa., sister Betty {Fred} Brooks of Minot, N. Dak, sisters-in-law Marlene Dhalewal, {Hari} Healdsburg Ca., Kathryn {Monty} Montelaro, Felton, Ca., Gail Gushwa {Doug} Pocatello, Id., Carol Trautman, Clarkston, Wa., Brother-in-law David Hogden, Chico, Ca., And many many nieces and nephews.

Joe loved going to yard sales, playing cards {hand and foot}, reading, and traveling with our friends the Robert Lewis family from England. With them we traveled to Italy, Scotland, Wales, France and England. His first love was family and friends. He was a member of St. Augustine Catholic Church Of Pleasanton Ca. Joe will be missed by many. May he rest in peace.

Funeral services will be at St. Augustine Catholic Church at 3999 Bernal Ave. Pleasanton, Ca. On Wednesday April 23rd, 2025.

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THE STATE OF PLEASANTON

Pleasanton Mayor Jack Balch delivered his first State of the City address last week, highlighting general updates about the city's ongoing financial challenges, new ideas to increase Pleasanton's economic vitality, and key infrastructure projects for streets and the municipal water system.

A sold-out room of city workers and leaders, county and state representatives, and local residents attended the annual event organized by the Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce on March 25 in the Palm Event Center, where Balch's overall message was that the city is working together to maintain the city's overall quality of life.

"At the heart of everything we do — whether it's infrastructure, public safety or business growth — is a commitment to creating a community where everyone belongs," Balch said. "Our future is bright. Let's work to shape a city that is prosperous, inclusive and resilient — not just for today, for generations to come."

Financial challenges

The first-time mayor started off with discussing one of the most talked about topics around town — the city's financial stability.

"Building a strong future starts with a solid foundation," Balch said. "That means ensuring our city is financially stable and well-positioned to meet today's needs and embrace tomorrow's opportunities."

The city is currently facing an annually estimated \$10 million structural deficit, which could go up to \$22 million if a recession occurs. Those numbers were originally outlined — and later confirmed in a third-party review by an accounting firm — in Pleasanton's 10-year financial forecast, a model which uses revenue and expenditure assumptions to help cities plan out their long-term financial health.

Balch said the city has been analyzing both the city's revenues and expenditures as it currently works through its process of developing a balanced two-year budget and that the city is committed to make informed decisions in a transparent manner.

"As we navigate our financial challenges, our focus remains on listening to our residents, businesses and community members, as we advance fiscally sound policies that align with the needs and priorities of our community," he said.

The community recently got a glimpse of the city navigating through difficult budget discussions during a March 13 Budget Advisory Committee where dozens of residents voiced their frustrations on recently identified potential cuts to amenities like the Dolores Bengtson Aquatic Center and the Firehouse Arts Center.

"Through this ongoing conversation, I am confident that together, we will find solutions," Balch said. "By the end of June, we will have a balanced two-year budget."

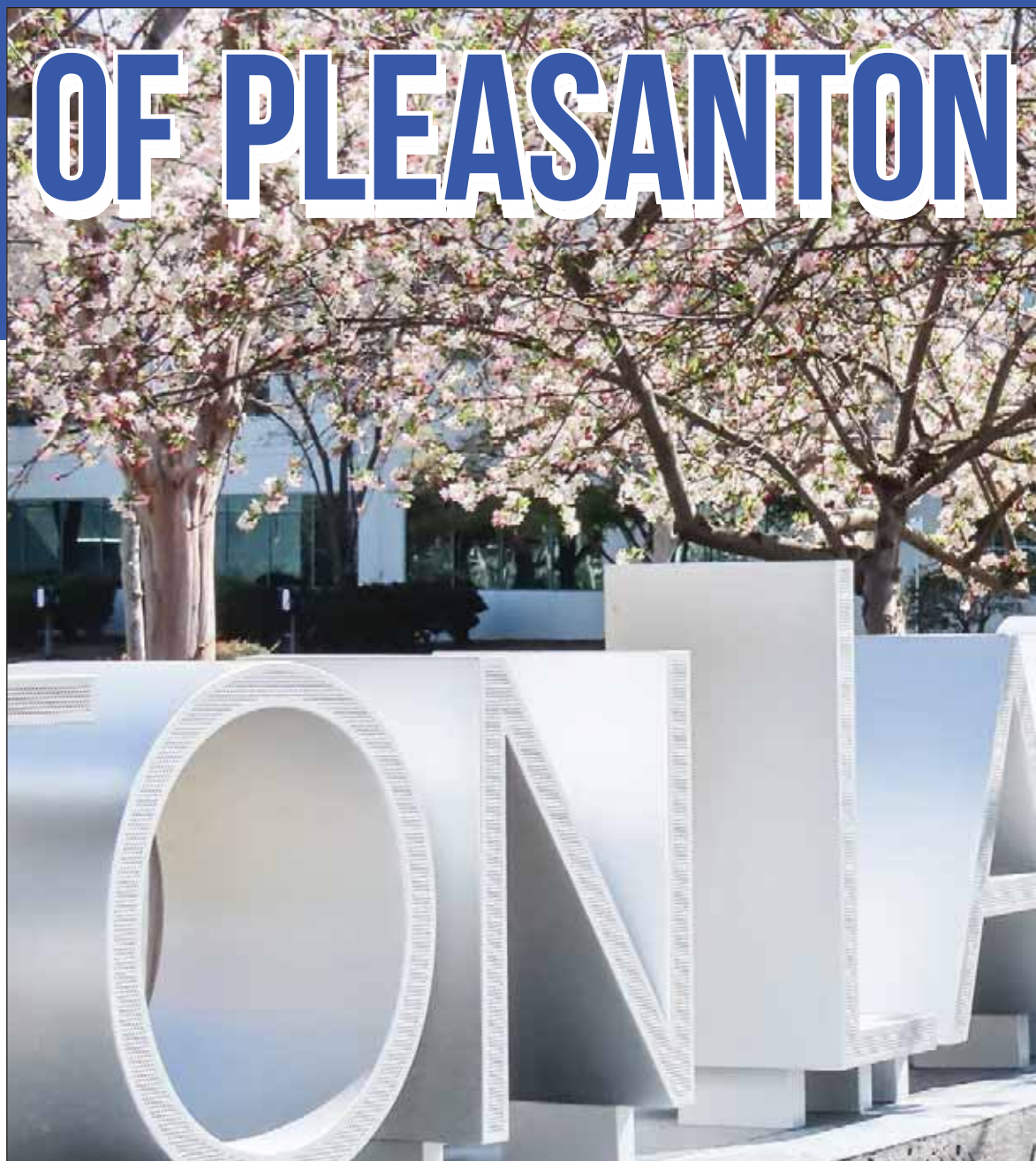
He noted that the city, in addition to cost-recovery strategies, is exploring new revenue streams such as "user fee adjustments, development impact fees and sponsorship policies, all to support city services."

The city's next two-year budget is being drafted this spring in the wake of Pleasanton voters defeating another proposed new revenue stream for the city in November: a half-cent sales tax measure, which Balch opposed putting on the ballot from his prior council seat.

City administrators and others on the council at the time said the tax increase would have brought in roughly \$10 million in annual revenue to help the difficult budget forecast, while opponents against Measure PP argued that the city should be more fiscally prudent before asking for higher taxes.

In his speech last week, Balch went over other ways the city will strengthen its economic sustainability, including the continued use of its 10-year financial forecast, analysis of pension reserve fund usage — the council recently approved the use of these funds for two years — and the development of an asset management plan.

He also pointed to the city's first comprehensive water system management plan and the updated capital improvement program prioritization process as ways that will "guide us in developing our long-term sustainability".



Economic vitality

Balch said that businesses were the "cornerstone of a city's financial health", and that because they make up nearly 40% of the city's total revenue, by "supporting growth, streamlining processes and fostering public-private partnerships, we will continue to strengthen the companies and Pleasanton's financial future".

On the topic of having businesses thrive in the city, Balch said Pleasanton is investing in its future by attracting industries that bring jobs and innovation.

He said companies like Thermo Fisher Scientific, 10x Genomics alongside emerging innovators like Inscripta, a biotechnology company, develop "cutting-edge solutions that help the world from right here in town".

He also said he was excited to see Tarlton Properties — a property management company that works with life and health science companies — investing in the Pleasanton Labs as a "premier incubator space for life and health science companies as we continue to support this cutting-edge industry".

He added that the city is updating its zoning and permitting processes in order to improve the approval process for more life sciences and innovation companies.

As for the city's health care sector, Balch welcomed Kaiser Permanente moving its Northern California headquarters to Hacienda, praised Stanford Health Care Tri-Valley's continued growth in the city and looked forward to future plans of building a new Sutter Health location in Pleasanton.

"These health care organizations are some of the best in the





New Mayor Balch addresses city's finances, economic vitality and more in his inaugural address

By Christian Trujano

Mayor Jack Balch poses at Pleasanton Labs (top) in the days before delivering his inaugural State of the City address (bottom left). Pleasanton's economic vitality, including its new Costco store (bottom center), was among the key speech topics. (Photos by Christian Trujano). Bottom right: Balch at the dais in his first council meeting as mayor. (File photo by Chuck Deckert).

our chamber members for how we continue to develop this path.”

Balch then unveiled one of the newest ways the city proposed to support economic growth in the business sector.

“As we continue to work to attract new businesses, we’ve developed materials focused on the retail and innovation-based sectors, to highlight Pleasanton’s assets and why it’s such a great place to do business,” Balch said in the hopes that audience members share the information with prospective business owners to consider Pleasanton as their home.

Under the general umbrella discussion of businesses in Pleasanton, Balch also recognized that one impediment for many businesses is affordable workforce housing.

“We know housing affordability is a challenge across the region,” the mayor said. “Our goal should be to create thoughtful, balanced solutions that make this an exceptional place to live, work and raise a family, long into the future.”

He said housing development, in general, contributes to the city’s economy and that Pleasanton is continuing to create opportunities for a range of housing types to meet the needs of a diverse population.

“By facilitating housing affordability and new construction, we are supporting employers in attracting and retaining top talent,” Balch said.

Notably, Balch brought up the more than \$15 million that the city has spent on constructing near-term water improvement projects, which residents might have seen around town recently.

“I know it’s an inconvenience, but these improvements are supporting a healthy and reliable water distribution network,” he said.

The mayor also noted the city’s continued work with the Zone 7 Water Agency to explore the construction of new groundwater wells in order to diversify the city’s water supply after the two agencies previously discovered PFAS — also known as forever chemicals — in the local groundwater basin.

Another major infrastructure update was that the city will begin the reconstruction of West Las Positas Boulevard — a long-awaited improvement project — as soon as 2026. He noted that the city’s 2024 pavement management program has already treated nearly two million square feet of the city’s streets, which will lead to safer and smoother roads.

Speaking of safety, Balch provided a quick update on the Pleasanton Police Department’s staffing levels improving to the point where the city was able to reinstate special units like the traffic unit, which was met with supportive applause from the audience.

“This is supported by a state grant to enhance the department’s traffic enforcement program to improve road safety and reduce traffic related incidents throughout the city,” Balch added.

He also said that crime prevention has been a key focus for the PPD, which was reflected in the department’s recent biannual update that showed a downward trend in various types of crimes last year.

Balch said the city’s crime analyst has been instrumental in helping with crime prevention by gathering intelligence and researching patterns, all of which helps address things like retail and vehicle theft. ■



world, and we are thrilled to have their expanding presence in our community,” the mayor said. “This collective healthcare excellence undoubtedly contributes to our city’s economic vitality.”

Balch further touched on the city’s overall economic vitality by reinstating how important it is to attract businesses because it is an investment for the community. He pointed out that for the more than 2,000 building plan reviews that were completed in 2024, the city averaged a 10-day turnaround for the initial review.

“We’re fortunate to have Hacienda as our partner in building an attractive environment where businesses can succeed,” he said.

Balch said the long-awaited opening of the city’s first-ever Costco store with gas station and other construction in the Johnson Drive Economic Development Zone, which includes two new hotels, was another positive investment for the city.

He said the new warehouse, along with the envisioned — but stalled — redevelopment plans for

the Stoneridge Shopping Center were new commercial activity that will be good for the city. He also shouted out some of the new, incoming businesses like Philz Coffee, the Danville Brewing Company and The Duchess — which already recently opened — as other positive additions to the city’s economy.

“How we help businesses move from concept to reality is as critical as how we attract them here to Pleasanton in the first place,” the mayor said. “I look forward to a partnership with our chamber and

Infrastructure and safety

One of the other major topics that Balch brought up during his speech was an update on the city’s ongoing infrastructure improvement projects.

“A well-maintained and sustainable city is key to our quality of life, which drives our investment in the environment,” he said. “Through careful planning and smart investment, we are ensuring that today’s infrastructure decisions will serve Pleasanton moving forward.”

Fifth place on 'Kids Baking Championship'

Tri-Valley middle schooler reflects on Food Network competition run and what's next for her

By JEANITA LYMAN

ADanville middle schooler is celebrating her run on the 13th season of "Kids Baking Championship" and bringing her talents to local consumers following the season finale of the show that finished airing earlier this spring, in which she took fifth place.

After keeping her participation on the show a secret for months after filming, and being limited in what she could say about the production and her placement while the most recent season was broadcasting, Aria Karayil is now finally able to share her experience on the show with friends and the greater community.

"For a few months we had to keep our mouths shut, and I'm not the best at keeping secrets, so that was really hard for me," Karayil said.

However, Karayil's passion for baking wasn't a secret to anyone at that point. Like many, her mother Neethi Palliyath found herself spending more time in the kitchen during lockdowns in the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic, ultimately inspiring her then-7-year-old daughter to join her and develop her own baking skills.

"I used to watch her and admire her, and then slowly after a few months I started getting into baking, and then I just fell in love," Karayil said.

It was also during this time that Karayil began watching "Kids Baking Championship" herself, and drawing inspiration from the young contestants who came before her.

"I was watching the show during quarantine, and I found it really fun because all these kids were making



NEETHI PALLIYATH

Danville's Aria Karayil poses with one of her baking creations.

a bunch of different things, and I'm like, you know I can bake, and I think I can bake as well as these bakers," Karayil said.

"I'm like so I'm just going to apply, you know — I didn't expect a lot to come out of it," she continued. "So I did a lot of interviews, and a lot of thinking, and then one day I came home and I just see 'Congratulations! You're on the show!' and I'm like oh my God, I made it."

While keeping the secret for the ensuing months was difficult, Karayil's existing interest in baking gave her some plausible deniability in sharing her work with friends and family as she prepared to film the show.

"We needed taste testers, so we would be like 'oh, she's just trying out a new recipe. Do you guys want to give us feedback?'" Palliyath said. "And oh man, that was an interesting year until November."

Karayil and the rest of the cast were announced by the Food

Network on Nov. 20, 2024, along with the season's theme, "Amazing Animals", allowing her to finally share the news with friends near the end of her first semester in sixth grade at Diablo Vista Middle School.

"I was finally able to spill everything — why I was gone forever in the summer instead of saying oh, I just went camping, I could be like 'I was filming the show! You all can see it,'" Karayil said.

"It took a few days for her friends to really understand what it really meant to be on the TV show," Palliyath said. "And then we started sending them clips and stuff and they're like, 'oh, it's real.'"

The season premier on Jan. 6 marked Karayil's TV debut, showcasing her talents alongside her fellow contestants weekly on Monday evenings until her elimination in the eighth episode on Feb. 24.

Following the season premiere, Karayil found herself garnering attention locally from people she'd never met.

"We were at Safeway, and this guy is like 'Aria, is that you?' And I'm like who's this?" Karayil said. "It just did not register in my brain that living here in Danville people will recognize you if you're a competitor from the same time."

Her run on the show also garnered recognition from school and district officials, as well as her own teachers, for whom her participation has been a point of pride — and a source for recipe exchanges and baking tips.

It also served as a talking point among her classmates at Diablo Vista.

"Tuesday morning I'll come to school and they'll be like 'I watched



NEETHI PALLIYATH

Aria Karayil has been focusing more on cakes in the kitchen since her appearance on "Kids Baking Championship".

your show; I saw you make that," Karayil said.

While participating on "Kids Baking Championship" was a dream come true for Karayil, she's continuing to look ahead toward new opportunities to hone her skills and share her baking, currently focusing on intricately decorated cakes for her online business, with proceeds going to local nonprofits including the San Francisco AIDS Foundation and the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano.

While Karayil has made a name locally and internationally as one of the San Ramon Valley's most prominent young bakers, she said she did not want potential customers or

others to underestimate her due to her young age.

"As a perfectionist, I'm not going to sell someone a cake that they're going to regret buying from me," Karayil said. "I want people to come back and be like, 'this is the baker who made that awesome birthday or celebration cake.' I don't want to be known as that kid baker who has lots of talent and is just baking from our kitchen."

Now a veteran of the show, Karayil is aware of her role inspiring other young bakers.

"I'd tell them to just follow your passion," Karayil said. "If you really put in the hard work into it, I promise it will take you somewhere." ■

'From Doodles to Diplomas'

Dublin High junior's artwork installed at boardroom

By JEREMY WALSH

Exploring interests as a kid or teenager — and beyond — is the inspiration behind the new student artwork adorning an exterior wall at the Dublin Unified School District boardroom.

Dublin High School junior Emaan Qayyum's "From Doodles to Diplomas" was the art selected for the 2024-25 contest among DUSD secondary school students, succeeding the inaugural work from the prior academic year.

"I wanted to display the diversity in Dublin Unified by choosing something that defines where we all start, a kindergarten cubby, symbolizing how hobbies and interests shape each of us and make our community diverse," Qayyum said in a statement released by the district.

Qayyum was honored by the DUSD Board of Trustees during a ceremony at its March 25 regular meeting inside the Larkdale Avenue building where her artwork hangs.

"Art education is a vital part of a

well-rounded academic experience, fostering creativity, self-expression and critical thinking skills that benefit students throughout their lives," DUSD Superintendent Chris Funk said in the district's press release. "This installation is a testament to the power of student creativity and the importance of providing opportunities for young artists to share their vision with the community. We congratulate Emaan on this well-deserved recognition and look forward to showcasing her work for the next year." ■



DUSD

Dublin High School junior Emaan Qayyum stands in front of her "From Doodles to Diplomas" artwork that has been installed outside the school district boardroom.

Silkroad to harmonize differences in ‘Uplifted Voices’

Diverse musical backgrounds and storytelling across heritages coming to Bankhead stage

By JUDE STRZEMP

The Grammy Award-winning Silkroad Ensemble is poised to present a musical program rooted in the heritage of its performer-composers at the Bankhead Theater this week.

Their “Uplifted Voices” tour combines contemporary innovation with global musical traditions including African and Indigenous American, Armenian, Japanese, Lebanese and Scottish. The resulting compositions are often inspired by their homeland, ancestors, community and family and represent previously under-recognized voices from around the world, according to the Silkroad website.

People need this collaborative show now more than ever, ensemble member and Silkroad associate artistic director Haruka Fujii told the Weekly. “It gives an inspiration, not just on the stage, how to reflect that and see the world and how to face the world.”

The Silkroad Ensemble performs worldwide and has eight recorded albums, including “Sing Me Home”, which won the 2016 Grammy for Best World Music Album.

Performing in “Uplifted Voices” are six female and non-binary ensemble members: Lebanese violinist and composer Layale Chaker; singer-songwriter and activist from Tuscarora Nation in North Carolina, Pura Fé; Japanese multi-percussionist Fujii; Scottish harpist and composer Maeve Gilchrist; Armenian cellist and composer Karen Ouzounian; and



SEAN D. ELLIOT

Silkroad Ensemble is set to perform “Uplifted Voices” at the Bankhead Theater this Friday.

violinist and composer Mazz Swift, who combines classic African American music, electronica and mindfulness.

To create the program, artists each bring a story or message to the group, accompanied by a melody or music style. Sometimes the Silkroad Ensemble performs music composed by someone from outside the ensemble, but this program features music created exclusively by

the performer-composers from the ensemble.

“Every piece is always an invitation to delve into somebody’s unique world — one of the musicians — and at the same time it’s always a discovery for other people,” said Chaker, who is also a member of the Silkroad artist committee.

Each member of the ensemble then contributes their own musical speciality to the piece during

practices to create a “living form,” Fujii explained.

“You have this certain conception of what you want your piece to be, but then you bring it to the group and they really stretch it in ways you could not have imagined,” Chaker said.

Fujii encourages first-time listeners to absorb the conversation that happens on the stage, as artists make a harmony out of their differences.

“It could be a dissonance in a regular setting,” Fuji said. “You see that race-wise, gender-wise, religion, anything that that could be by, but we try to make that as the way of making a harmony.”

Fujii added, “This is a showcase of how we accept our differences.”

The performance is scheduled to begin at 8 p.m. on Friday (April 4). For tickets and other information, go to livermorearts.org. ■

Symphony presenting ‘Romantic Masterpieces’

Violinist to join for Tchaikovsky concerto

By JEREMY WALSH

The emotional music of Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky, including a solo performed on a three-century-old violin, will be the centerpiece of the Livermore-Amador Symphony’s “Romantic Masterpieces” concert next weekend.

The evening will be bookended by the symphony opening with the Tchaikovsky Polonaise from his opera “Eugene Onegin” and closing with “Symphony in D Minor” by Cesar Franck, with a rendition of Tchaikovsky’s “Violin Concerto” in the middle by American soloist Elizabeth Pitcairn, who studied alongside LAS conductor Lara Webber in college.

Webber called the Russian composer’s Polonaise “a piece that feels like popping the cork on a great bottle of champagne ... It is an exciting invitation to focus our attention on what comes next: Tchaikovsky’s

remarkable Violin Concerto.”

Pitcairn, who last played with the symphony at the Bankhead 10 years ago, will be performing the concerto on her 1720 Red Mendelssohn Stradivarius violin. “It truly sings in Elizabeth’s sensitive and expert hands,” Webber said.

“In this performance, she and I are revisiting this concerto together for the first time in a quarter century when we performed it as students at the University of Southern California,” Webber added. “Pitcairn has a particularly rich and detailed interpretation of this exciting concerto, and she plays a remarkable instrument that carries much of music history in its DNA.”

Rounding out the concert will be the lone symphony penned by the Belgian-born French composer of the 19th century.

“The symphony is deeply, personally expressive. It is cyclical,

meaning everything stems from the first theme you hear, and all the primary themes are interwoven and related to one another and return at the end of the symphony in a blaze of glory,” Webber said. “It builds into one of the most satisfying symphonic experiences you can imagine. This will be a blockbuster concert, presented with a personal touch.”

The evening next Saturday (April 12) at the Bankhead in downtown Livermore will begin with an “Inside the Music” talk by Webber from 7-7:15 p.m. before the concert takes off at 7:30 p.m. Tri-Valley middle school musicians will perform in the lobby during intermission, under the direction of Jim Hurley. Complimentary wine and sparkling cider will be offered in the post-concert reception, organizers said.

For tickets and more information, go to livermoreamadorsymphony.org. ■



JOY STROTZ / COURTESY LAS

Violinist Elizabeth Pitcairn will play Tchaikovsky’s “Violin Concerto” on her 1720 Red Mendelssohn Stradivarius at the Livermore-Amador Symphony concert on April 12.

POLICE BULLETIN

Man arrested in comic book store burglary, Lego thefts — with help from shop sleuths

A Livermore man was taken into custody by the county sheriff's deputies last week for allegedly burglarizing a popular comic book store in Castro Valley — with sleuthing employees from the shop helping connect the dots emerging across the East Bay comics community.

The Alameda County Sheriff's Office reported finding nearly 200 boxes of Lego sets, action figures and other merchandise at the arrestee's home in Livermore on March 27, including nearly \$10,000 worth of Lego sets stolen from another person elsewhere in the Bay Area.

Crush Comics owner Josh Hunter said Sunday that crimes at three other hobby and toy shops in the East Bay and a staffer successfully searching the online resale market were key in cracking the case.

"All in all, we have been so supported by our community through this whole ordeal. Our customers and friends have been so generous and kind about it, I'm overwhelmed," Hunter told the Weekly. "There's two bad guys in this story, but they're outnumbered by thousands of good guys. Four small businesses were able to come together and help catch this guy."

The underlying crime took place at about 3 a.m. March 22, when two people broke into Crush Comics on Castro Valley Boulevard and stole merchandise, according to sheriff's Sgt. Roberto Morales.

"They used a hammer to break our glass, and then they stole about \$2,000 worth of comics," Hunter said. "They were in and out in less than two minutes."

Hunter said deputies were on scene within a few minutes but the burglars were already gone. He arrived at about 3:30 a.m. that Saturday and started working with investigators.

"We had security footage showing

the suspects that I shared with the police. One of our customers is a contractor, he sent a crew to board up our storefront that morning," the owner said. He later posted photos of the hoodie-wearing crooks on social media.

A Crush Comics employee, dubbed "Honorary Detective Tommy" by Hunter, started working the case that afternoon, spotting some merchandise from the shop on eBay.

"In particular, we had a hand-painted comic cover that is unique, there's only one in the world. An artist friend of ours had painted it," Hunter said. "I bought that from eBay with my personal account, so I was able to get the seller's name and address. We found an Instagram page associated with the eBay account, and the user had a photo of themselves that looked similar to our security footage. We forwarded all of this information to the police."

Hunter said through friends he connected with the owners of Bricks and Minifigs in San Ramon, which has also been targeted in recent weeks.

"They had been suffering from shoplifting, and their security footage looked similar to our suspect," he added. "We shared all of our info on the cases and it seemed to be the same guy. They found some items that were stolen from their store in the 'sold' history of the eBay page."

The Comic Shop in San Leandro had been hit about two weeks prior, according to Hunter, so he shared the eBay page with that store's manager — "and they too found some of their stolen merchandise on the page."

Thieves also struck Five Little Monkeys toy store in Lafayette four nights after Crush Comics, so Hunter wanted to reach out to that team too. "We wondered if this could be the same thieves, so I went to message them and I already had a message from them! I shared all of our info about the case with them," he said.

"Then on Thursday, the detective on our case called, they had arrested the suspect and recovered many comics and LEGO sets," Hunter

added. "We went down and I'ded our merchandise. We were able to recover almost everything."

Sgt. Morales said the sheriff's Eden Township Substation's property crime unit continued to investigate after the overnight burglary in Castro Valley and soon "developed probable cause and obtained an arrest warrant for one of the suspects" — later publicly identified as 29-year-old Livermore resident Noorullah Amiri.

Sheriff's deputies, including support from the gang suppression and street crimes units, located and arrested Amiri at his home in Livermore on March 27 and proceeded to execute a search warrant at the residence, according to Morales.

Investigators would find "a significant quantity of suspected stolen merchandise", including items from Crush Comics and valuable Lego sets stolen from a separate burglary on March 26, the sergeant said. "The victim was able to recover most of the stolen LEGO sets that were found in Amiri's possession," Morales added.

"The diligent efforts of the Eden Township Substation Property Crime Unit led to the successful investigation and arrest. We remain committed to bringing justice to those affected by property crimes," Morales said. "We are proud of the hard work and dedication shown by our Property Crimes Unit in the arrest of one of the suspects."

It was not immediately clear whether Amiri had been arraigned or was represented by an attorney as of press time.

The investigation is ongoing. Anyone with information related to the case can contact the Eden Township Substation at 510-667-7721.

—Jeremy Walsh

That's a ton of pot (literally!)

• A driver involved in a crash on Interstate 580 near Dublin last week was arrested after allegedly having more than a ton of marijuana and a suitcase of cash discovered once arriving officers observed an obvious odor coming from the back of a U-Haul truck.

The situation unfolded at around 9:55 p.m. March 26 on westbound I-580, west of the Interstate 680 interchange, when a two-vehicle collision on the freeway led to the California Highway Patrol responding to the scene.

Officers could soon smell "a strong odor of marijuana emitting from the cargo portion" of a box truck involved in the crash, according to the CHP.

Investigators ultimately found more than 2,000 pounds of marijuana packaged in large black garbage bags and a suitcase with \$13,120 in cash in the U-Haul, the CHP reported. The driver, whose identity was not released, was arrested on suspicion of drug possession.



COURTESY CHP-DUBLIN

CHP officers processed the marijuana into evidence bags back at their office.

"I know that illegal marijuana can create many problems in our communities, and I am very proud of the Dublin Area officers for their strong commitment to public safety. Their dedication to patrol the gateway to the bay and keep our roads safe for everyone in the community is remarkable," Capt. Gerardo Serrato, commander of the CHP's Dublin office, said in a statement.

—Jeremy Walsh

Opposing officer's early prison release

• Activists and victims' family members rallied last Friday afternoon in protest of the early release of former Danville police officer Andrew Hall.

Hall was sentenced to six years in state prison in March 2022 for assault with a firearm in the killing of unarmed motorist Laudemer Arboleda in 2018.



Andrew Hall

Authorities said at the time that Hall had to spend at least 85% of his sentence — 5.1 years — in prison for being convicted of a violent felony.

Arboleda's family on Friday shared a notice of release from the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, saying Hall was being paroled from San Quentin Rehabilitation Center and his release date was Friday, though it also said that date could change by one or two days.

The notice didn't specify why Hall was being released. A message left for CDCR officials Friday morning wasn't immediately returned.

Hall shot and killed 33-year-old Arboleda at the end of a slow-speed police pursuit in Danville on Nov. 3, 2018.

Police pursued Arboleda after a resident reported Arboleda knocked on their door. Arboleda, whose family said he was hospitalized earlier that year for mental illness, pulled over multiple times,

only to drive away from police. At one point, officers drew their guns without shooting as Arboleda drove away.

Hall was only involved at the end, when he pulled in front of Arboleda at Front and Diablo streets. Standing next to the car's front right side as the Newark resident tried pulling away at 6 mph, Hall shot his gun 10 times, hitting Arboleda nine times. He was pronounced dead at the scene.

Hall's lawyers said at the time that he was only trying to protect himself from an oncoming vehicle. Bodycam footage showed many of the shots came from the vehicle's passenger side as Arboleda tried driving away. The car ended up crossing Diablo Road and colliding with an oncoming car.

The Contra Costa County Sheriff's Office, which contracts with Danville for police services, cleared Hall of wrongdoing in its initial investigation.

Contra Costa County Sheriff David Livingston applauded Hall's release.

"We welcome officer Hall's release because he never should have been in prison in the first place," Livingston said in a statement. "He made a split-second decision to protect his life and the lives of others around him when he was required to use deadly force on Arboleda. Officer Hall reacted to a crazed driver who tried to ram through a police barricade."

"It's time we stop feeling sympathy for dangerous criminals and start supporting law-abiding Contra Costa residents and the warriors that defend them," Livingston said.

Charges weren't filed in the Arboleda case until Hall made news again in March 2021 by shooting and killing 32-year-old transient Tyrell Wilson near the Sycamore Valley Road overpass of Interstate 680. Bodycam video showed Wilson approaching Hall with a knife. Hall wasn't charged in Wilson's death, which wasn't used against Hall during his trial.

The afternoon rally at the sheriff's office was organized by Arboleda's family and local activists. ■

—Tony Hicks, Bay City News Service

Why no Cop Log

The Pleasanton Police Department is changing its online system for publicly reporting data related to service calls and arrests in the city, which is why its "Police Blotter" webpage has not been updated since Dec. 16. The Weekly, which relies on the blotter for its Cop Log in the newspaper, has not been able to publish the popular feature in more than three months as a result. The new crime map and police blotter are now expected to be fully activated later this month, according to the department.



COURTESY CRUSH COMICS

Burglars broke into Crush Comics in Castro Valley by busting a front window and stealing about \$2,000 worth of merchandise in the wee hours of the morning on March 22.

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Holiday Fund raises \$77,776 for local nonprofits

Thanks to the generosity of residents, businesses and community groups in the Tri-Valley, the Pleasanton Weekly's Holiday Fund was privileged to distribute \$77,776 among 10 critical local nonprofits this spring.

We take great pride in highlighting that the 2024-25 Holiday Fund result represented nearly a 50% increase above the prior year's total, a remarkable achievement for our community during a crucial time for our beneficiary organizations.

"As Open Heart Kitchen celebrates its 30th anniversary this year, we are grateful for the overwhelming support from Pleasanton Weekly readers to ensure our Community Meal Program continues to provide free, nutritious meals across the Tri-Valley," Open Heart Kitchen Executive Director John Bost said after his nonprofit received its share of the Holiday Fund.

"With federal funding freezes, cuts to social safety net programs and rising food costs across the country, the support of our community means more now than ever before. Thank you again for the reminder that caring for our most vulnerable neighbors still matters," Bost added.

Joining OHK in accepting an equal share of the overall Holiday Fund total were Axis Community Health, CityServe of the Tri-Valley, Culinary Angels, Goodness Village, Pleasanton Partnerships in Education (PPIE), Sunflower Hill, Tri-Valley Haven, Tri-Valley REACH and Valley Humane Society.

Because our parent organization, Embarcadero Media Foundation, covered all administrative and other expenses associated with managing the Holiday Fund at no cost to the

campaign, every single dollar contributed by the 160 donors this fall and winter went directly to the beneficiary organizations.

This money makes a real impact in your community.

"We are deeply grateful for the generous support from our community, which enables us to continue providing vital services to those transitioning out of homelessness," Goodness Village Executive Director Kim Curtis said. "These funds will be used intentionally and expertly to enhance the supportive services within our program, ensuring each individual has the tools and resources needed for a successful and sustainable future."

Axis CEO Liz Perez-Howe added, "This recognition supports our work in creating pathways to physical and mental wellness for all members of the Tri-Valley. During the holiday season and beyond, Axis Community Health remains committed to addressing the needs of our community. We are grateful for the opportunity to provide support that makes a real difference in people's lives for over 50 years."

"REACH has many funding needs/projects identified for 2025 to 2026 and these funds will be very helpful in our accomplishing them. The Pleasanton Weekly's Holiday Fund has a positive and significant impact in bettering the lives of not only the I/DD community, but many others," Board Chair Kay King said.

"PPIE is so grateful to the Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund and our community for this amazing support," Executive Director Andrea Wilson told us.

"This grant helps PPIE continue funding programs that make a real difference for Pleasanton students.



CHUCK DECKERT

Representatives of the 10 Holiday Fund nonprofit beneficiaries join Pleasanton Weekly leadership in commemorating the end of the 2024-25 giving campaign last Saturday.

love going — donations from the heart, fresh ingredients from local farms, meals cooked right here in Livermore, and delivered with care to cancer patients and their caregivers," Sakhiy said. "Every meal is our way of saying, 'You're not alone.' This fund is proof that we're stronger together — community strong."

"Community support through the Holiday Fund means everything to CityServe. It's a powerful reminder that we are not alone in caring for our neighbors," said CEO Christine Beitsch-Bahmani. "The \$7,700 (plus) raised will go directly toward our Caring Hotel Network, which provides emergency shelter for individuals and families experiencing homelessness in the Tri-Valley. This support gives people a safe place to stay while our team works with them on a long-term plan toward stability and permanent housing."

For Sunflower Hill, the funds will support its Hands-On Garden group classes at the Sunflower Hill

rector of Tri-Valley Haven, which was a new beneficiary this year, commented, "We are incredibly grateful to Pleasanton Weekly and its readers for their generous support of Tri-Valley Haven's Holiday Program. Thanks to you, we were able to provide gifts and food to over 650 Tri-Valley families in need. Without this program, these families would have gone without. Your kindness truly makes a difference in our community."

And Valley Humane Society President Melanie Sadek noted, "The funds donated to our organization will help offset rising veterinary costs at a time when we're seeing a growing number of animals in need of medical support. These contributions provide the critical resources we need to meet that demand."

"We're always grateful to The Weekly and our compassionate community for their continued support of Tri-Valley nonprofits," Sadek added. ■

LETTERS

City Council decision

The new Pleasanton City Council majority approved an \$11,500 taxpayer-funded party at Callippe Preserve Golf Course during the March 18 meeting.

This decision is particularly ridiculous given Pleasanton's proposed deficit. A committee is currently considering deep cuts — including shutting down the Dolores Bengtson Aquatic Center, altering library hours, and cutting programs for the mentally ill and unhoused in our community.

As a previous writer opined, with such serious budget concerns, scaling down the annual Mayor's Award celebration should have indeed been a no-brainer. Vice Mayor Nibert and

Councilmember Testa suggested a modest \$500 ceremony with a certificate of recognition, drinks and cookies at City Hall. Yet, instead of choosing this responsible alternative, the council majority opted for a more expensive option.

As a previous invitee to many of these dinners, I can say that I would feel odd eating dinner at the golf course when I knew important services to the community were in the cross hairs for elimination. I served the community as public service-not because I desired a rubber-chicken dinner and a chocolate bar party favor.

Mayor Balch, who was instrumental in torpedoing Measure PP, should have been the person suggesting the

cheapest alternative-not voting for a more expensive option and wasting staff time looking for a "sponsor".

—Laura Danielson

Mayor's Award event

Gratitude is an important trait for the success of both individuals and organizations. Julie Testa's suggestion to forgo the Mayor's Award event is petty. The Mayor's Award event held each year shows gratitude to the hundreds of Pleasanton taxpayers who aid city staff.

It also honors past recipients of the Mayor's award. These people are the ones on whose shoulders we all stand. It was not considered excessive last year when the previous mayor was

in office and councilmembers Julie Testa and Jeff Nibert were aware of the city's finances and still proceeded to spend almost \$35,000 on this luncheon without question.

Matthew Gray's statement that the "New council majority has zero credibility" is preposterous. The new council majority should be commended for its transparent and inclusive method of fixing the budget problem they inherited.

We must get serious about government efficiency. The city of Pleasanton must stop shopping at the Consultant Candy Store. Hundreds of thousands of dollars were spent on consultants to place the sales tax increase on the

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LETTERS

Continued from Page 17

ballot. Many thousands of dollars are spent each year on an executive coach for the administrators. Many thousands are spent on consultants for the development of the current budget.

The City of Pleasanton does not have a revenue problem. It has a spending problem.

—Jan Batcheller

Mountain bikers took over Sierra Club

Mountain bikers in the San Francisco Bay Area think that the Sierra Club has influence over our East Bay Regional Park District. For some reason, the chapter's executive committee allowed them to take over the East Bay Public Lands Committee, which the mountain bikers thought would put them into position to persuade the park district to open more trails to mountain bikes.

Actually, the Sierra Club's mountain biking policy is a policy of no policy! It says that mountain biking is acceptable if the land manager says it is. Of course, it's not!

Mountain biking destroys wildlife habitat, causes horrendous injuries and deaths, and drives hikers and equestrians off the trails and out of the parks — in other words, it's incompatible with the Sierra Club's mission.

The club's policy is also invalid because it was created by an undemocratic procedure: REI sponsored a conference in Park City, Utah in 1994 from which anyone opposed to mountain biking (such as me) was excluded. It resulted in that disastrous mountain biking policy.

—Mike Vandeman

Our library is at risk — take action!

The Pleasanton Library is more than just a building — it is a vital hub for learning, connection and opportunity. Yet, the city is proposing a drastic reduction in library hours from 62 to 40 per week, including two full days, a change that would severely limit access for thousands of residents who rely on this essential resource.

Think about the high school students who depend on the library's welcoming study spaces in the evening, the families who gather for storytime and enrichment programs throughout the week, and the remote workers who benefit from the library's internet connection and other technology. Tutors meet with students, adult learners take the next step in their education and job seekers find the tools they need to build a better future.

How do you use the library? What will you miss?

A great city invests in its people. Closing the doors of our library two

days a week means shutting out those who need it most. I urge the City Council to stand with its residents and protect our library's current hours of operation.

Pleasanton residents, now is the time to act. Contact your City Council members, attend the City Council meeting on Tuesday (April 8) and make your voices heard. Together, we can ensure our library remains open and accessible for all.

—Lori Carducci

Missing two inconvenient facts

Matthew Gray's letter published March 28, 2025 asks why Pleasanton "voters should be forced to pay for a party at a golf course".

Mr. Gray hides two inconvenient facts. First, this "party" is how the city recognizes and thanks residents who volunteer hundreds of hours of their time each year to serve on commissions, committees and in other critical ways to supplement the work of city staff and City Council.

Second, when Mayor Brown held her "party" in April 2024, everything was already known about our looming budget issues. The city had already tested two versions of the planned Measure PP ballot measure language to see which one polled better.

Despite this, Mayor Brown and the prior City Council went ahead with the \$35,000 Mayor's Award Dinner. Economizing was not a concern to Mayor Brown or councilmembers Testa and Nibert.

This year the city staff proposed a dramatically less expensive version that was estimated to cost \$11,500. The City Council approved that amount on March 18. I understand that the city has already reduced that number to about \$8,000. There also may be some sponsorship money to further reduce the cost. Councilmember Eicher also suggested that council members forego some of their stipend money to cover the balance.

While Mr. Gray wants to eliminate any meaningful recognition for the many volunteers in Pleasanton, I am pretty sure his pay as a city employee has not been reduced by a penny.

—Doug Miller, chair, No on Measure PP Campaign

Tesla owner and Tesla protestor

I am a Tesla owner and an active participant in the weekly Boycott Tesla protest in Dublin. My driving a Tesla is not an endorsement of the actions of Tesla CEO Elon Musk, particularly his alarming intrusion into the functions of our government.

The nationwide protests against Tesla are not attacks on the cars or their owners. Instead, they are a peaceful and necessary response to Mr. Musk's ambition to dismantle essential aspects of the U.S. government.

As a private individual, unqualified for public service, lacking

PET OF THE WEEK



VHS

Neo is The One

Despite his size, Neo is a lap dog through and through, and he's on a heat-seeking mission to find yours. This affectionate, toy-loving guy is always up for a game of tug or a good cuddle session. With his playful energy and big heart, Neo is ready to bring love, laughs and lots of snuggles to his new family. Call Valley Humane Society at 925-426-8656 or email info@valleyhumane.org to start the adoption process.

understanding of our governmental structures and unvetted by the Senate, Mr. Musk's influence in eliminating government agencies, defunding vital programs, and unjustifiably laying off thousands of federal employees is deeply concerning and, I believe, an overreach of power.

The consequences of these assumed actions are already being felt by our most vulnerable citizens, children, veterans, seniors and individuals with disabilities. Our elderly neighbors who rely on Meals on Wheels are now living with the fear that their next meal might be their last.

Having significantly benefited from government support himself, it is particularly galling to witness Mr. Musk state that all U.S. government aid funds and grants are "wasteful and fraudulent". In total, Tesla has reportedly accepted an estimated \$2.5 billion in government assistance (i.e. from us, the American taxpayers).

There is something fundamentally wrong in witnessing the wealthiest individual on the planet cutting the very life support systems that our most vulnerable populations depend upon. My participation in the Boycott Tesla protest is a stand against this overreach and a demand for accountability.

—Isabel Gomez

Stealing your power

Governor Newsom hamstringing the CA rooftop-solar industry because those small businesses were cutting into the profits of PG&E. That big-utilities company has donated millions to him. He's let them get away with murder.

Now they want him to break your contract that you entered while installing rooftop solar. It wasn't enough that his cronies in the California Public Utilities Commission slashed the incentives for all private solar installed after April 2023. They're coming for those lucky ones who added photovoltaic cells before that date. You have an agreement that allows you to stay on net metering for 20 years, giving you a reasonable deal selling energy back to the grid. PG&E hates that.

While the PG&E monopoly jacks up its rates to funnel more money into the pockets of its CEO,

shareholders and bought politicians, it blames homeowners with rooftop solar for those increases in pricing. Push back against this false narrative. Join the Solar Rights Alliance and call your California legislators. Assemblymember Bauer-Kahan has had our back and championed legislation to reverse the damage done to rooftop solar. Newsom vetoed it. Thank her and also tell our new Senator McNerney where you stand.

Studies have shown we will need both distributed solar and centralized, industrial solar to meet our needs in the 21st century. What we don't need is a corporation willing to ruin half the solution and burn Californians alive for one more good quarterly earnings. March with the Utility Justice Campaign April 24 in Sacramento, demanding accountability from Newsom and utilities that are owned by and beholden to the public.

—Alan Marling

Why I dislike them

I am often asked by conservative friends on Facebook, "why do you hate Donald Trump so much?" Here is what I tell them...

My dislike for the man actually dovetails almost identically with my disdain for his primary donor. I disliked Trump when he was a pro-choice New York Democrat. Similarly, I disliked Elon Musk when he was a liberal environmentalist. The fact that both switched parties has nothing to do with my loathing for them and it has everything to do with it.

Both men illustrate a complete void in the qualities that I look for in leadership. Yes, they are both lacking in a moral or an ideological compass, making them unworthy of the public trust. Worse, they are utterly bereft of empathy, compassion, and even the more modest commodity of sympathy.

While their privilege makes them unable to relate to common men and women, their absence of emotional maturity makes it impossible for them to even conceive of helping other people. Who knows if I have policy differences with either of them; that ranks much further down the list.

This is why I dislike them.

—Rick Altman

We're looking for a few interns

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

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

Candidates must be responsible, have good writing skills, be available 10 to 12 hours a week and have reliable internet access. Internships require an academic sponsor. Applicants should send a resume, a cover letter explaining your interest and links to at least three examples of journalistic work to editor Cierra Bailey at cbailey@embarcaderomedia.org by 11:59 p.m. April 21.





PLEASANTON PREPS

By DENNIS MILLER

Foothill boys' volleyball wins Stockton Classic

Highlights also from busy week in lacrosse, swimming and badminton

The Foothill High boys' volleyball team capped an amazing week by winning the top level of the Stockton Classic.

The tournament win was the Falcons' first regular season tournament win since 2014.

But before getting to the weekend and the tournament, the Falcons won a pair of big East Bay Athletic League games.

They opened the week with a 17-25, 25-20, 25-18, 25-23 win over Amador Valley. The highlights came from Josh Salonga (25 assists, 15 digs, 8 kills), Dean Caudill (15 kills, 13 digs), Cam Hitchan (9 kills, 1 block) and Caleb Lai (15 digs).

Two days later the Falcons took down Granada, also in four sets, winning 25-21, 25-19, 23-25, 25-23. This time the highlights came from Thomas Paduraru (11 kills, 10 blocks), Salonga (28 assists, 7 kills, 5 blocks) and Lai (16 service points, 15 digs).

In Stockton, the Falcons beat Ripon Christian (2-0) and River Valley (2-1) in pool play, then beat Monterey Tail (2-0) in the semifinals.

In the championship Foothill beat Folsom the top seed — 2-0 to win the title.

Foothill coach Dusty Collins had high praise for the players mentioned above.

Foothill boys' lacrosse

The Falcons have gotten off to a strong start this year, going 7-4 overall and 3-1 in EBAL play.

Captains AJ Becker, Darrin Lau and Ethan Lam have led the offensive unit, while captain Alex Morgan has been strong in goal.

Last week the Falcons started the week with a 15-3 win over Dublin. Becker had three goals to lead the way, Darrin Lau and Nico Lau had two goals each. Karter Williams, Grady DeMichiel, Avery Fink, Micha Canales and Graham Nelson each had one goal.

The week ended with a 5-4 loss to Granada. Morgan was strong in the goal with 10 saves. DeMichiel (2), Becker and Ethan Lam got the goals for the Falcons.

Earlier this season, the Falcons honored longtime announcer Bob Gee (11 years). Gee passed away in the fall and was honored by a moment of silence.

Amador swimming

Amador Valley swept Livermore in all four meets, as well as winning every race. Top performers were:

JV girls: Nafisa Aurangabadwala won the 100 backstroke and 100 breaststroke. She also swam the back leg 200 medley relay with Lauren Lasserre, Caitlin Brown and Piper Vieler.

JV boys: Colin Kirschner won the 100 breast and swam breast leg in 200 medley relay with Liam Smith, Rishab Burli and Connor Robitaille. He also teamed up with Robitaille, Burli and Matt Svanyuta to win the 200 freestyle relay.

Varsity girls: Rylee Hutchinson won the 500 free in a North Coast Section automatic time of 5:10.52 (she is the defending NCS champion in this race). Francesca Lin won the 200 individual medley in an NCS automatic time of 2:11.53. The two teamed up with Lillyana

Caples and Elayna Ling to win the 200 medley relay, and they teamed up with Ling and Susan Swyers to win the 400 free relay.

Varsity boys: In the closest race of the meet, Ryan Wong out-touched teammate Toby Huang by 0.01 seconds in the 100 butterfly. Wong was also on the winning 200 medley, swimming fly, with Cade Vieler, Oryan Liu, and Huang. He was also on the winning 400 free relay with Vieler, Liu and Kealan Tupper.

Foothill badminton

The Falcons turned in a perfect match, beating Clayton Valley 17-0, with every individual match being 2-0 wins for Foothill.

Boys' singles winners: Hugo Chang, Shashwat Sahoo, Ernest Zhang and Hayden Zhang.

Girls' singles winners: Sanjana Mahesh, Anoushka George, Kaashvi Varshney and Naisha Kapoor.

Boys' doubles winners: Kevin Zhang and Scott Lin, Arnav Kameth and Axel Joseph, and Allen John and Bhagirath Bandigari.

Girls' doubles winners: Patrice Xi and Joan Kim, Shayna Kamick and Anindita Guruaman, and Pratiksha Dubey and Sahana Balaji.

Mixed doubles winners: Vedant Reddy and Isha Ramakrishna, Aryan Nudurupati and Natalie Lo, and Joshua Kim and Tanya Shah.

In their other match last week, the Falcons beat San Ramon Valley 13-4.

Boys' singles winners were Kevin Zhang, Hugo Chang, Shashwat Sahoo and Joshua Kim, and girls' singles winners were Charvi Krishnamani, Sanjana Mahesh,



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Foothill boys' volleyball team after capturing the top division of the Stockton Classic.

Anoushka George and Kaashvi Varshney.

Boys' doubles winners were Arnav Mameth and Alex Joseph, Scott Lin and Allen John, and Krishna Pranav Praturi and Rishnik Kasula. Mixed doubles winners were Ernest Zhang and Isha Ramakrishna, and Aryan Nudurupati and Natalia Lo.

Amador badminton

The Dons got a big 15-2 win over Monte Vista.

Boys' singles winners were Kayosh

Kumar, Aadi Koshal, Luming Wang and Jaewon Choi, and girls' singles winners were Riya Natarajan, Shravanni Kurapati, Xizyuan Ou and Nidhi Kakarla.

On the doubles teams, boys' winners were Benjamin Li and Geffen Kama; girls' winners were Varshini Subramanian and Aishani Pramod, Jessy Yeh and Paige Xu, and Anupraya Sathiyananan and Sydney Lo; and mixed winners were Joyce Li and Allen Yi, Regina Mok and Aaron Kao, and Cara Li and Nachketh Nandish. ■



GAY NINETIES PIZZA GO.

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Tri-Valley RADD athletes earn medals

Pleasanton hosts Special Olympics basketball event

By JEREMY WALSH

Nearly 400 Special Olympics athletes from Alameda County and beyond showed off their basketball skills at the East Bay Basketball Tournament in Pleasanton last month.

The Tri-Valley RADD teams earned medals for their performances in the regional competition, as did the local RADD athletes taking part in the individual skills events. The

tournament on March 9 featured 35 teams from Alameda, Contra Costa and Solano counties, as well as more than 70 athletes in the skills contests.

"What a wonderful and well-run event was organized again this year," RADD coach Kay King said. "Our volunteer supporters were so fun and inspiring. Our T-RADD teams were so grateful for their support and the athletes loved having them cheer for their teams throughout the day."

The RADD B and C teams took home silver medals while the A team finished with a bronze medal. RADD skills competitors each earned either gold or silver.

More than 200 local volunteers came out to support the competition held at the gyms of Harvest Park, Pleasanton and Hart middle schools. The Amador Valley Athletic Boosters served as event host for the 21st year. ■

Employment

The Pleasanton Weekly offers employment advertising.

The deadline is Sunday at 11:59 pm.

Visit PleasantonWeekly.com/employment_ads/.

For assistance email LegalNotices@PleasantonWeekly.com.

Public Notices

PLANETITAD
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 613516
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) PlanetITAD , located at 4352 Douglas Ct, Pleasanton, CA 94588, Alameda County.
Mailing Address: PO BOX 25 Pleasanton, CA 94566
This business is conducted by: a Limited Liability Company.
The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):
TEXTILEZEN LLC
PO BOX 25
Pleasanton, CA 94566
State of Incorporation/Organization: California
Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on March 28 2025.
(PLW Apr 4, 11, 18 and 25, 2025)

GENTIAM POWER
GENTIAM ELECTRONICS
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 613113
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) GENTIAM POWER , 2.) GENTIAM ELECTRONICS , located at 8000 Edgewater Drive, Ste 200, Oakland, CA 94621 , Alameda County.
This business is conducted by: a Limited Liability Company.
The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):
GENTIAM CONSULTING LLC
8000 Edgewater Drive, Ste 200
Oakland, CA 94621
State of Incorporation/Organization: California
Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on March 12 2025.
(PLW Mar 21, 28, Apr 4 and 11, 2025)

HOMEM DECOR
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 613185
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) Homem Decor , located at 1733 Beachwood Way Pleasanton, CA 94566, Alameda County.
This business is conducted by: an Individual.
The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):
MARGARET HOMEM
1733 Beachwood Way
Pleasanton, CA 94566
Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on March 17 2025.
(PLW Apr 4, 11, 18 and 25, 2025)

SOMISOMI SOFT SERVE & TAIYAKI
PLEASANTON
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 612590
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) SOMISOMI SOFT SERVE & TAIYAKI PLEASANTON , located at 2725 Stoneridge Drive #106 Pleasanton, CA 94588, Alameda County. Mailing Address: 2671 Spindrift Circle Hayward, CA 94545.
This business is conducted by: a Corporation.
The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):
RK SOMI CORP
2671 Spindrift Circle
Hayward, CA 94545
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 February 20 2025.
(PLW Mar 21, 28, Apr 4 and 11, 2025)

HENRY AND ELIZABETH
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 613187
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) Henry And Elizabeth , located at 7703 Cottonwood Lane, Pleasanton, CA 94588, Alameda County.

This business is conducted by: a Limited Liability Company.
The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):
R&A MOBILE SCREENS LLC
7703 Cottonwood Lane
Pleasanton, CA 94588
State of Incorporation/Organization: California
Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on March 17 2025.
(PLW Apr 4, 11, 18 and 25, 2025)

AWESOME DUDES MAKING TOOLS
ADMT
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 613487
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) AWESOME DUDES MAKING TOOLS , 2.) ADMT , located at 3701 Elston Ave, Oakland, CA 94602, Alameda County.
This business is conducted by: an Individual.
The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):
RYAN LEARD
3701 ELSTON AVE
OAKLAND, CA 94602
Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 11/15/2024
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on March 27 2025.
(PLW Apr 4, 11, 18 and 25, 2025)

KEEPER BOOKS
DON MARTINS BLOG
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 612527
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) Keeper Books , 2.) Don Martins Blog , located at 21314 Gary Drive, Apt 201 Hayward, CA 94546, Alameda County.
This business is conducted by: an Individual.
The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):
MARTINS EWERE
21314 Gary Drive, Apt 201
Hayward, CA 94546
Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 02/18/2025
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on February 18 2025.
(PLW Mar 28, Apr 4, 11 and 18, 2025)

SPECIALTY TERMITE INC
SPECIALTY HOME INSPECTIONS INC
SPECIALTY INSPECTIONS ROOFING INC
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 613372
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) SPECIALTY TERMITE INC , 2.) SPECIALTY HOME INSPECTIONS INC , 3.) SPECIALTY INSPECTIONS ROOFING INC , located at 261 SPRING ST, PLEASANTON, CA 94566, ALAMEDA County.
This business is conducted by: a General Partnership.
The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):
MARK KEARNS
474 AMARAL CIR
PLEASANTON, CA 94566
State of Incorporation/Organization: CALIFORNIA
Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 3/24/2025
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on March 24 2025.
(PLW Apr 4, 11, 18 and 25, 2025)

OFFICEPAK
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 613171
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) OfficePAK , located at 1452 N Vasco Road #315, Livermore, CA 94551, Alameda County.
This business is conducted by: a Limited Liability Company.
The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):
BLUEBIT DIGITAL LLC
1452 N Vasco Road #315
Livermore, CA 94551
State of Incorporation/Organization: California
Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above

on 03/15/2025
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on March 17 2025.
(PLW Mar 28, Apr 4, 11 and 18, 2025)

ECO-SMART SOLUTIONS AND SERVICES
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 613117
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) Eco-Smart Solutions And Services , located at 900 36th Avenue Oakland, CA 94601, Alameda County.
This business is conducted by: a Limited Liability Company.
The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):
ECO-SMART JUNK REMOVAL SERVICES
2100 N Street #12039
Sacramento, CA 95816
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 March 13 2025.
(PLW Mar 28, Apr 4, 11 and 18, 2025)

PACIFIC IN-HOMECARE SERVICES
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 612669
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) PACIFIC IN-HOMECARE SERVICES , located at 5000 HOPYARD RD SUITE 205 PLEASANTON, CA 94588, ALAMEDA County.
Mailing Address: 3202 W MARCH LANE SUITE D STOCKTON, CA 95219.
This business is conducted by: a Limited Liability Company.
The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):
PACIFIC COAST SERVICES
3202 W MARCH LANE SUITE D
STOCKTON, CA 95219
State of Incorporation/Organization: CALIFORNIA
Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 04/01/2014
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on February 25 2025.
(PLW Mar 21, 28, Apr 4 and 11, 2025)

DIALD IN BARBER STUDIO
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 612701
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) Diald In Barber Studio , located at 22441 Foothill Blvd Hayward, CA 94541, Alameda County. Mailing Address: 649 Celia St. Hayward, CA 94544
This business is conducted by: a Corporation.
The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):
DIALD IN STUDIO CORP
649 Celia St.
Hayward, CA 94544
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 February 26 2025.
(PLW Mar 21, 28, Apr 4 and 11, 2025)

SOULFUL THERAPY & WELLNESS
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 612869
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) Soulful Therapy & Wellness , located at 2111 8th St., Berkeley, CA 94710, Alameda County.
This business is conducted by: an Individual.
The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):
ERIN O'CONNOR
2111 8th St.
Berkeley, CA 94710
Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on March 04 2025.
(PLW Mar 28, Apr 4, 11 and 18, 2025)

CHEF MAK EXPRESS
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 613225
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) CHEF MAK EXPRESS , located at 390

W Tennyson Road, Hayward, CA 94544, Alameda County.
This business is conducted by: a Corporation.
The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):
UNCLE YU RESTAURANY INC
390 W Tennyson Rd
Hayward, CA 94544
Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on March 18 2025.
(PLW Mar 28, Apr 4, 11 and 18, 2025)

DUFC
DUBLIN UNITED FC
DUBLIN UNITED
DUBLIN UNITED FOOTBALL CLUB
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 613031
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) DUFC , 2.) DUBLIN UNITED FC , 3.) DUBLIN UNITED , 4.) DUBLIN UNITED FOOTBALL CLUB , located at 6950 Village Parkway, Dublin, CA 94568, Alameda County. Mailing Address: PO BOX 2485 Dublin, CA 94568
This business is conducted by: a Corporation.
The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):
DUBLIN UNITED SOCCER LEAGUE
PO BOX 2485
Dublin, CA 94568
State of Incorporation/Organization: California
Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on January 1, 2025
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on March 07 2025.
(PLW Mar 14, 21, 28 and Apr 4, 2025)

BLACK OWLS NETWORK COMMUNICATIONS
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 613131
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) Black Owls Network Communications , located at 271 Sunset Blvd, Hayward, CA, 94541, Alameda County.
This business is conducted by: a Limited Liability Company.
The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):
SHIVAN LLC
271 Sunset Blvd
Hayward, CA, 94541
Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on March 13 2025.
(PLW Apr 4, 11, 18 and 25, 2025)

ANDERSON SEWER & ROOTER
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 612965
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) Anderson Sewer & Rooter , located at 346 Rose Ave Pleasanton, CA 94566, Alameda County.
This business is conducted by: an Individual.
The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):
SAMUEL ANDERSON
346 Rose Ave
Pleasanton, CA 94566
Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on March 06 2025.
(PLW Apr 4, 11, 18 and 25, 2025)

PREMIUM PSYCHIATRIC CARE NURSING-PC
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 612470
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) PREMIUM PSYCHIATRIC CARE NURSING-PC , located at 4695 CHABOT DRIVE STE#200 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
4695 CHABOT DRIVE STE #200
PLEASANTON, CA 94588
State of Incorporation/Organization: California
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 February 13 2025.
(PLW Mar 14, 21, 28 and Apr 4, 2025)

BERKELEY DENTAL GROUP
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 613337
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) Berkeley Dental Group , located at 3000 Colby St STE 300 Berkeley, CA 94705, Alameda County.
This business is conducted by: an Individual.
The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):
MI HYUN KIM DDS
3000 Colby St STE 300
Berkeley, CA 94705
Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 04/08/2015
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on March 21 2025.
(PLW Mar 28, Apr 4, 11 and 18, 2025)

FAIRY GOD MOTHER
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 613009
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) Fairy God Mother , located at 1680 Calle Santiago, Pleasanton, CA 94566, Alameda County.
This business is conducted by: an Individual.
The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):
KAYALVIZHI MUTHUKUMAR
1680 Calle Santiago
Pleasanton, CA 94566
Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on March 07 2025.
(PLW Mar 21, 28, Apr 4 and 11, 2025)

LEMONSODADESIGN
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 613039
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) Lemonsodadesign , located at 214 Windward Common Unit 5 Livermore, CA 94551 , Alameda County.
This business is conducted by: an Individual.
The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):
YUJIN KIM
214 Windward Common Unit 5
Livermore, CA 94551
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 March 10 2025.
(PLW Mar 21, 28, Apr 4 and 11, 2025)

SIRIUS THOUGHTWORKS
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 613019
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) SIRIUS THOUGHTWORKS , located at 1061 Gray Fox Circle, Pleasanton, CA 94566, Alameda County.
This business is conducted by: an Individual.
The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):
ARUN KRISHNA
1061 Gray Fox Cir.
Pleasanton, CA 94566
Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on March 07 2025.
(PLW Mar 14, 21, 28 and Apr 4, 2025)

THE CODER SCHOOL
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 613055
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) The Coder School , located at 3015 Hopyard Rd, Ste I, Pleasanton, CA 94588, Alameda County. Mailing Address: 1321 Upland Drive #1220 Houston, TX 77043.
This business is conducted by: a Limited Liability Company.
The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):
TRI-VALLEY CS LLC
1321 Upland Drive #1220
Houston, TX 77043
State of Incorporation/Organization: CA
Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on August 23, 2017
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on March 10 2025.
(PLW Mar 21, 28, Apr 4 and 11, 2025)

Continued on next page

Public Notices

Continued from previous page

MAINE COONS OF FINN MANOR
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 613021

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

1.) Maine Coons Of Finn Manor , located at 2508 Wilde Avenue, Pleasanton CA 94588, Alameda County.

This business is conducted by: an Individual.

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

JEFFREY FINN
2508 Wilde Avenue
Pleasanton, CA 94588

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 March 07 2025.

(PLW Mar 14, 21, 28 and Apr 4, 2025)

LEGACY FINANCING
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 612961

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

1.) Legacy Financing , located at 4163 Hall Ct, Pleasanton, CA 94566, Alameda County.

This business is conducted by: a Corporation.

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

CJC LENDING CORP
4163 Hall Ct
Pleasanton, CA 94566

State of Incorporation/Organization: California

Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 03/03/25

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on March 06 2025.

(PLW Apr 4, 11, 18 and 25, 2025)

NASCHMARKT
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 613000

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

1.) Naschmarkt , located at 310 Main St Suite B, Pleasanton CA, 94566 , Alameda County.

This business is conducted by: a Corporation.

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

PAIRINGS WINE AND BAR RESTAURANT INC.
310 Main St Suite B
Pleasanton CA, 94566

State of Incorporation/Organization: California

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

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on March 07 2025.

(PLW Mar 14, 21, 28 and Apr 4, 2025)

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

Case No.: 25CV114030

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:

Petitioner: Komal Parmar filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:

MAANVI PARMAR SAGAR to MAANVI PARMAR

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: July 25, 2025, 9:30AM, Dept 514, Hayward Hall of Justice 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: March 14, 2025

Thomas Nixon

JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT

(PLW Apr 4, 11, 18 and 25, 2025)

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

Case No.: 25CV112020

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:

Petitioner: Ethan Rich Quiachon Conte filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:

ETHAN RICH QUIACHON CONTE to ETHAN RICH QUIACHON

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, 9:30 A.M., HAYWARD HALL OF JUSTICE IN 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: FEBRUARY 28, 2025

THOMAS J. NIXON

JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT

(PLW Mar 28, Apr 4, 11 and 18, 2025)

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

Case No.: 25CV111655

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:

Petitioner: NARASIMHASWAMY SATYANARAYANA and TARA HINDISKERE SUDARSHAN filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:

SRIYAN KASHYAP to SHRIYAN KASHYAP

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: JUNE 13, 2025, 9:30 AM, Hayward Hall of Justice 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: Feb 26, 2025

THOMAS I NIXON

JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT

(PLW Mar 21, 28, Apr 4 and 11, 2025)

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

Case No.: 24CV105077

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:

Petitioner: Ma Desiree Joy Collier filed a petition with this court for a decree

changing names as follows: MA DESIREE JOY COLLIER to DESIREE JOY COLLIER

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: June 6, 2025, 9:30 a.m., 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: February 13, 2025

Thomas Nixon

JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT

(PLW Mar 14, 21, 28 and Apr 4, 2025)

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

Case No.: 25CV115244

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:

Petitioner: Sonia Elizabeth Fulop filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:

SONIA ELIZABETH FULOP to ZOEY SIMONE NIAMH ROSE

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: July 18, 2025, 9:30, Department 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: March 21, 2025

Thomas J. Nixon

JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT

(PLW Mar 28, Apr 4, 11 and 18, 2025)

The Pleasanton Weekly is adjudicated to publish in Alameda County.

- Fictitious Business Name
- Abandonment of Fictitious Business Name
- Name Change
- Partnership Withdrawal or Dissolution
- Petition to Administer Estate - Probate Hearing
- Notice of Bulk Sale
- Legal Summons
- Trustee Sale

The deadline is Sunday at 11:59 pm. Visit PleasantonWeekly.com/legal_notices/

For assistance email LegalNotices@PleasantonWeekly.com.

Calendar

POST CALENDAR ITEMS AT PLEASANTONWEEKLY.COM

Entertainment

SILKROAD ENSEMBLE: UPLIFTED VOICES Silkroad celebrates cultural collaboration and equity through innovative projects like Uplifted Voices honoring under-recognized voices worldwide, blending global instrumentation and strings to weave a contemporary musical tapestry. 8 p.m., April 4. Tickets \$25-\$90. Visit livermorearts.org.

TOM RIGNEY AND FLAMBEAU Experience the fiery energy of Tom Rigney and Flambeau, where blazing Cajun two-steps, soulful blues and funky New Orleans grooves collide with heartbreakingly beautiful ballads and waltzes. 7:30 p.m., April 4. Tickets \$28-\$33. Visit firehousearts.org.

THE BEST INTENTIONS This powerhouse group features talented vocalists, a music director, and an 8-piece band, delivering unforgettable performances that blend the best of the 60s, 70s, and 80s with a fresh modern twist. 7:30 p.m., April 5. Tickets \$38-\$48. Visit firehousearts.org.

THE NEIL DIAMOND EXPERIENCE Rob Garrett captures the presence, passion and energy of this iconic performer in all his youthful glory. This is the ultimate live Neil Diamond In Concert performance highlighting the greatest and most popular music of his career. 7:30 p.m., April 5. Tickets \$49-\$69. Visit livermorearts.org.

DLUX PUPPETS NEVERLAND Join Wendy, Michael, John and Tinkerbell on an adventure to meet Peter Pan and face Captain Hook. Enjoy state-of-the-art digitally projected scenery, life-sized puppets, talented actors and a nostalgic soundtrack. 3 p.m., April 6; 10 a.m., April 7. Tickets \$25-\$55. Visit livermorearts.org.

THE SECOND CITY Second City is celebrating 65 years of legendary laughs showcasing favorite songs, sketches and characters brought to life by an all-star ensemble. 8 p.m., April 11. Tickets \$25-\$80. Visit livermorearts.org.

BALLET ROOTS Ballet Roots Dance Company, Pleasanton's first and only professional ballet company, is celebrating 5 years. Join as they revive audience favorites built over the past five years. 2 p.m. and 4 p.m., April 12. Tickets \$25. Visit firehousearts.org.

ROMANTIC MASTERPIECES Join Livermore-Amador Symphony for an evening loaded with virtuosity and beautiful familiar melodies featuring celebrated violin virtuoso, Elizabeth Pitcairn, performing Tchaikovsky's violin concerto. 7:30 p.m., April 12. Preceded by Inside the Music, 7-7:15 p.m. Visit livermorearts.org.

SONS OF THE PIONEERS Celebrate 90 years of musical excellence with this revered western musical group known for enchanting harmonies and iconic songs, thrilling audiences with their Grammy-honored music. 3 p.m., April 13. Tickets \$25-\$55. Visit livermorearts.org.

Exhibits

ALAMEDA SPRING HOME SHOW At the Spring Home Show discover endless possibilities at hundreds of exhibits from custom kitchens and baths, windows and doors, heating and air, roofing and floors, pools and spas, landscaping displays and more. 12-5 p.m., April 11; 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., April 12-13. Visit alamedacountyfair.com.

PLEASANTON ART LEAGUE WALL The Firehouse Arts Center is featuring the work of Rhonda Chase onto the PAL Wall with approximately 20 of the artist's work. This presentation bridges the realms of fine art and design, offering a unique blend of creativity and craftsmanship. Through May 3.

IDENTITY Livermore Valley Arts presents Identity: Defining Identity Through Visual Expression, at the UNCLE Credit Union Art Gallery at the Bankhead Theater. Free and open to the public. Through May 4.

DOWNTOWN PAST, DOWNTOWN PRESENT EXHIBIT See how Main Street has changed over the decades by looking at its iconic locations both then and now. The Museum on Main center hallway will feature an updated version of this popular interactive exhibit. Through May 10.

Talks

CALIFORNIA GEOLOGY TALK AT SPRINGTOWN LIBRARY Meet an LARPD Ranger at the Springtown Library to dig into the wonders of California geology before taking in the views of local geological features: Brushy Peak and Mount Diablo. Recommended for adults. 6-7 p.m., April 8.

FINANCIAL FRAUD PREVENTION PRESENTATION Join this free presentation at the Pleasanton Senior Center. 11 a.m., April 9.

SENIOR SERVICES EVENTS Learn about science-based recommendations for taking care of one's brain and bodies, which research has shown can reduce the risk of developing cognitive decline or dementia. This is a free presentation by the Alzheimer's Association. 2-3 p.m., April 9. Register at larpd.org.

ARMCHAIR TRAVELERS: MY HEART'S IN THE HIGHLANDS Tom Mathews presents A Week at Aigas Field Centre Scotland, where he and his wife Dorrie took a red-eye flight to Dublin where they boarded a small prop plane for the flight to Glasgow. 1:30-2:30 p.m., April 10. Livermore Civic Center Library.

LIVERMORE-AMADOR VALLEY GARDEN CLUB Glenn Phillips, executive director of the Golden Gate Bird Alliance, presents Creating A Bird-Friendly Garden. Glen is a lifelong environmental educator and conservationist, raised in Livermore, with a master's degrees in urban sustainability and science education. 6-8 p.m., April 10. CrossWinds Church. Visit lavgc.org.

Real Estate

Association honors best in East Bay real estate from 2024

Medeiros named Realtor of the Year, Branchini wins John Deadrich Distinguished Service Award

By JEREMY WALSH

The Bay East Association of Realtors recognized six top members for accomplishments during 2024 with its annual awards program this winter.

The awards, distributed during the trade association's gala on Feb. 1, included Realtor of the Year, Rookie of the Year, Platinum Affiliate of the Year, Outstanding Leader, Good Neighbor of the Year and the John Deadrich Distinguished Service Award.

"Each demonstrated ethical standards and professionalism, active community involvement, and a high level of service to the real estate profession," association reps said. "The 2024 Bay East recipients have dedicated themselves to serving others in every aspect of their careers while simultaneously supporting the Realtor community and real estate industry at large."

Bay East, which is based in Pleasanton, represents more than 6,000 residential and commercial real estate professionals in the Tri-Valley and beyond. Here are the 2024 award winners, including descriptions provided by the association:

Realtor of the Year

Steve Medeiros, with Realty Experts in Fremont, received the Realtor of the Year award for demonstrating the highest level of integrity and commitment to Bay East and the real estate profession.

Medeiros has been a member of Bay East for 14 years and has developed a strong passion for advocacy



Steve Medeiros



Huili Liao



Susan Munkner



Sheila Cunha



Jennifer Branchini



Joe LoParo

related to Realtor issues as he maintains and cultivates relationships with elected officials, city councilmembers and city staff in the Bay Area.

His commitment to Bay East, the California Association of Realtors and the National Association of Realtors has proven to be inspiring for fellow Realtors, as he's viewed to be a vibrant and motivational leader.

In addition to being 2023 Bay East president and serving on several Bay East committees, Medeiros worked to advance the awareness and expansion of the Realtor and Affiliate Wellness (RAW) Program, a support group where members help each other in a confidential and anonymous setting to discuss anything that may be affecting their business or personal lives.

Rookie of the Year

Huili Liao, with Intero Real Estate Services in Fremont, earned the Rookie of the Year award which recognizes a new Realtor who demonstrates high principles of integrity, adherence to the Realtor Code of Ethics, and furtherance of the principles of good real estate practice, civic activity and business accomplishments.

While being in the real estate industry for just over a year, Liao found the journey to be more rewarding than the destination. Liao realized that furthering her education as a real estate professional leaves her feeling excited for the future and brings a self-described glimmer to her eyes.

Platinum Affiliate of the Year

Susan Munkner, with Chase Bank, took home the Platinum Affiliate of the Year award. Munkner supported the real estate community through her involvement with the Women's Council of Realtors and Bay East's Tri-Cities Marketing Council.

In her seven years as a Platinum Affiliate member at Bay East, Munkner has held leadership roles that allowed her to assist in improving educational events to truly interact with Realtors in a meaningful way to develop genuine relationships. She's been an engaged member of multiple committees at Bay East which has allowed her to share her dedication to advocacy for Realtors and local issues tapping into her passion for uplifting the community.

Outstanding Leader

Sheila Cunha, with Legacy Real Estate Associates in Pleasanton, was awarded as Outstanding Leader, which is given to a past president of the association who continues to pursue the vision of excellence in the name of Bay East.

Cunha has served as Bay East president, has served on the Bay East Board of Directors and as chair of the Bay East Local Government Relations and Political Activities committees. She also serves on the C.A.R. Board of Directors and as a leader in the C.A.R. advocacy program.

In addition to her involvement with Bay East, Cunha is past chair of the Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce Ambassadors and the Castro Valley Chamber of Commerce Ambassadors. She served on the Castro Valley Municipal Advisory Council for over 12 years. Cunha is a passionate advocate for home ownership and housing providers.

John Deadrich Distinguished Service Award

Jennifer Branchini, with Compass in Pleasanton, received the John A. Deadrich Distinguished Service Award for her contribution to Bay

East during 2024.

Named in honor of Bay East's first president, this award is traditionally given to a single Bay East member who exemplifies the self-sacrifice, vision and accomplishments of the greatest leaders who have shaped the real estate profession.

Branchini is the 2025 NAR vice president of association affairs as well as a past president of the C.A.R. and Bay East. Branchini is passionate about mentoring fellow members and real estate professionals in their career journeys while working to advance the profession at local, state, and national levels.

Good Neighbor of the Year

Joe LoParo, with Keller Williams Advisors in Alameda, was honored with the Good Neighbor of the Year award, which recognizes a Bay East member making a positive contribution to their communities.

LoParo is determined and committed to making a positive impact in Alameda County, fostering a supportive and caring community for all. For more than five decades, LoParo's volunteered with many community organizations and has influenced others to become more involved in their communities as well.

As a veteran, serving the community for LoParo feels like an extension of his service to the country. From distributing toys for less fortunate children to public safety and helping coordinate events with the Alameda County Veterans Affairs Commission, LoParo holds each of the organizations he partners with very close to his heart. ■

HOME SALES

This week's data represents homes sold during Jan. 6-17 for Pleasanton, Livermore, Dublin and Sunol, and Feb. 24 to March 7 for San Ramon.

Pleasanton

3647 Annis Circle A. & B. Kotov to A. & Y. Bansal for \$1,616,000
379 Bernal Court H. Affordable to Kampala 780 LLC for \$1,425,000
1380 Brookline Loop S. Akella to A. & P. Kothari for \$1,830,000
3088 Crestablanca Drive Mertes Living Trust to M. & D. Tieu for \$2,400,000
3221 Melanie Circle Bretoi Family Trust to Ram Trust for \$2,021,000
5556 Sonoma Drive #5554 Dubois Family Trust to V. & I. Hunnur for \$1,761,000
5369 Springdale Avenue Survivors Trust to E. & E. Tsui for \$1,020,000
2544 Arlotta Place Garrett Family Trust to G. Hung for \$3,088,000
3742 Crofters Court Tahtaras Trust to B. & K. Kushalad for \$1,475,000
3151 Gulfstream Street G. Chavez to K. Gattu for \$1,740,000
6567 Inglewood Drive S. & S. Lawson to H. Goyal for \$1,560,000
3186 Pawnee Way Lutz Family Trust to K. Zhu for \$650,000

3062 West Ruby Hill Drive Sekhon Family Trust to A. Mian for \$6,355,500
1804 Tanglewood Way S. Moore to J. Mederos for \$1,600,000
3829 Vine Street Vandernoot Living Trust to D. & A. Rarick for \$760,000

Livermore

864 Barney Common S. Singh to S. & S. Prattipati for \$1,410,000
646 Cedar Drive Connolly Family Trust to C. & M. Romano for \$1,105,000
3099 Faltings Court B. Hyman to J. & K. Lyster for \$2,320,000
1347 Marigold Road V. Frangadakis to Posilipo Lane Trust for \$862,500
186 Martin Avenue Ruotolo Living Trust to A. & A. Mohan for \$985,000
623 Mulqueeny Street Koziol Living Trust to M. & A. Baker for \$910,000
1001 Murrieta Boulevard #26 L. Lal to J. Ortega for \$390,000
1087 Murrieta Boulevard #128 B. Twiss to A. Suzuki-Davies for \$360,000
1753 Rose Gate Common Kuhl Trust to S. & S. Rane for \$1,235,000
897 Tranquility Court #7 P. & K. Bailey to Lao Family Trust for \$940,000
211 Wildrose Common #1107 Warshe LLC to M. Frenz for \$740,000

1644 Del Norte Court Sas Flips LLC to X. Zhu for \$1,120,000
112 Martin Avenue S. Frost to J. Arrousez for \$815,000
413 Mulqueeny Street T. Sumrien to S. & A. Kumar for \$1,140,000
5218 Norma Way A. Emershaw to P. & S. Gomez for \$1,350,000
820 Sunset Drive B. & D. Osentowski to S. Chernov for \$922,500
1345 Toulon Court R. & R. Prentiss to S. & S. Srinivasan for \$1,455,000
1036 Via Madrid R. Medida to S. & S. Chithanuri for \$1,400,000
2755 Yountville Court R. Mukand to Y. & S. Ganguly for \$2,350,000

Dublin

7128 Cross Creek Circle #D Liu Family Trust to L. Chen for \$670,000
7437 Rolling Hills Circle Leinweber Trust to M. & P. Bohra for \$1,120,000
5862 Silver Place Brookfield Abbey LLC to H. & J. Chen for \$1,386,000
3851 Silvera Ranch Drive Wong Living Trust to A. & A. Karra for \$1,940,000
7116 Calistoga Lane M. & J. Pabla to C. & V. Ravipally for \$1,270,000
5501 De Marcus Boulevard #269 T. Flemings to G. & N. Yamaguchi for \$304,000

3420 Finnian Way #224 A. & R. Tumber to H. Cespedes-Daffin for \$395,000
2862 Southwind Lane S. Price to S. & X. Chen for \$2,350,000
7073 York Court Catamount Properties 2018 LLC to G. & N. Moniz for \$1,320,000

Sunol

12563 Foothill Road Farber Trust to Kahbz Family Trust for \$2,515,500

San Ramon

1705 Campanula Drive He Family Trust to S. & P. Sirishe for \$2,000,000
1024 South Monarch Road G. Sreenivasa to P. Muley for \$1,180,000
9157 Tangerine Street Hfwb Holdings LLC to Percell Trust for \$790,000
101 Valdivia Circle Lum 2004 Family Trust to S. & D. Sangaraju for \$1,419,000
9548 Velvet Leaf Circle A. Shiledar to S. & P. Adama for \$2,500,000
718 Winterside Circle Nunes Trust to K. & T. Ash-Vermillion for \$1,440,000
4305 Canyon Crest Road Tarasow Family Trust to U. & C. Trivedi for \$2,175,000

Source: California REsource

WE'RE PROUD TO BRING OUR READERS SOME OF THE BEST JOURNALISM IN THE STATE.

The annual **California Journalism Awards** competition, which celebrates excellence in reporting, design, photography and multimedia recognized our team with **7 awards** in the following categories:

1st - Coverage of Youth and Education

1st - Feature Story

2nd - In-Depth Reporting

2nd - Columns

3rd - Health Reporting

3rd - Profile Story

5th - Coverage of Local Government



HERE'S WHAT SOME OF THE JUDGES OF THE 2023 CALIFORNIA JOURNALISM AWARDS ARE SAYING ABOUT OUR WORK —

Very thorough and balances policy explanations and the personal experiences of families. The writer does a good job giving context, and the story is structured well with sections that make sense and flow well.

— First Place,
Coverage of Youth and
Education

School systems are bleeding teachers; perhaps nowhere more than in high-cost communities where educators can no longer afford to live. This piece looks at the issue from the district and teacher points of view. This was a very solid look at the issue.

— Second Place, In-Depth Reporting

Catalytic converter theft story was nicely reported with lots of details and facts. This story surprised me with how interesting — and timely — it was.

— First Place, Feature Story



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Weekly

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