

# Pleasanton Weekly

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VOL. XXVI, NUMBER 20 • JUNE 13, 2025

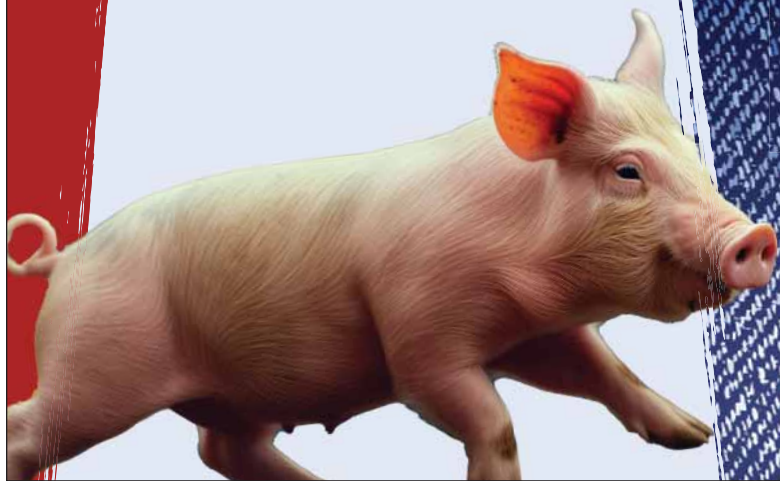
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## A county fair like no other

Pleasanton's summer showcase gets out of the gate  
this weekend — with one notable scratch from lineup  
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**Food, Concerts like  
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# WHAT A WEEK



By JEREMY WALSH

## Remembrances

Pleasanton's Concerts in the Park will be missing one of its signature voices this summer. Steve Marvel, the longtime lead singer of Public Eye, the local cover band known for playing the series' closing show for the past decade, died of a heart attack April 5 at the age of 64.

A Delaware native who moved to the Bay Area for college and stayed here in Northern California until recent years, Marvel found music at a young age and never let it go.

He helped form Public Eye in 1993 as lead singer and multi-instrumentalist and they would go on to play lively gigs in the area for more than 30 years, including the final Concert in the Park last August — in what would be his last show behind the mic, although he couldn't complete the concert for health reasons, according to his ex-wife Kerri Marvel.

"What Steve cherished most was using music to unite people, inspiring them to dance and feel the rhythm, often inviting them to join him on stage with a tambourine," Kerri Marvel told me over the weekend. "Depending on the crowd at any particular venue, Steve was known for changing the lyrics of whatever song he was singing to fit what was going on in the world (or just in the venue)."

Marvel worked a variety of jobs until finding a career as a director of fixed operations for more than 20 years. He was also a devoted sports fan, a huge boat enthusiast and loved reciting movie lines, Kerri said.

She shared that Marvel struggled with alcohol dependence in his later years, which ultimately contributed to his death at his apartment in Myrtle Beach, S.C., where he had recently moved following their divorce to be closer to his mother and sister.

Family, friends and Public Eye fans are gathering at Main Street Brewery (where the band played often over the years) for a memorial on the afternoon of June 29.

Music also played an important role in the life of the late Bob Londagin — I know because my son now has a set of drumsticks inscribed "Blues for Bob" that his grandmother brought over after attending Londagin's funeral in Livermore on May 31.

Londagin worked as a firefighter in the Tri-Valley for nearly three decades, most of the time for the Pleasanton Fire Department before retiring as a fire captain with the Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department after the merger. He then founded the Quail Garden

assisted living community for seniors in Livermore with his late second wife and later ran the business for years alongside his daughter, according to his obituary.

"Around the fire station, Bob was known for his high expectations in housekeeping, earning him the nickname Baseboard Bob," LFPD Fire Chief Joe Testa told me about his former supervisor. "In the community, Bob was a competent and caring responder."

"He was an early adopter of the fire department's emergency medical services role, where he provided compassionate care to his patients. He responded to thousands of emergency calls over the years from the former Station 1, which is now the Firehouse Arts Center," Testa added.

Londagin died peacefully on his 81st birthday, April 22, according to family. Twice a widower in life, Londagin is survived by third wife Kate, daughters Erika and Alicia, step-child Blaze and four grandchildren.

Performance, community service and family are common themes looking through the online obituaries submitted in recent weeks on our website and in our paper.

Larry Bartleson, who died March 28 at age 91, was a founding member of Lynnewood Methodist Church, part of the famed Balloon Platoon and a former ValleyCare Hospital board director.

Also in March the community lost Gloria Fredette, a former Pleasanton Unified School District trustee, on her 76th birthday.

Retired Marine Corps Lt. Col. Bob Gardner, 81, "loved travel, photography, puns, gadgets, guitar, warm weather, and his grandchildren", his family wrote. Gardner's funeral is at Graham Hitch Mortuary this Saturday.

Ginanne Thraillkill's service is also Saturday, at St. Clare Episcopal Church where she taught preschool for several years. She passed around this time last year at 57.

Livermore resident Peggy Despotakis' "warmth, strength, and unwavering love for her family will be cherished and remembered always" — they wrote in her obituary after her death April 21 at 89.

Marty Maslana, also 89, lived a life of experiences, according to her obituary, but in particular enjoyed telling the tale of working at KFMB Channel 8 at the same time as an ambitious up-and-comer, Regis Philbin.

Read more about these Tri-Valley community members, and others, on our Lasting Memories webpage. ■

## About the Cover

The 2025 Alameda County Fair opens today. Check out our preview inside, Pages 12-13. Photos courtesy Alameda County Fair. Cover design by Paul Llewellyn.

Vol. XXVI, Number 20



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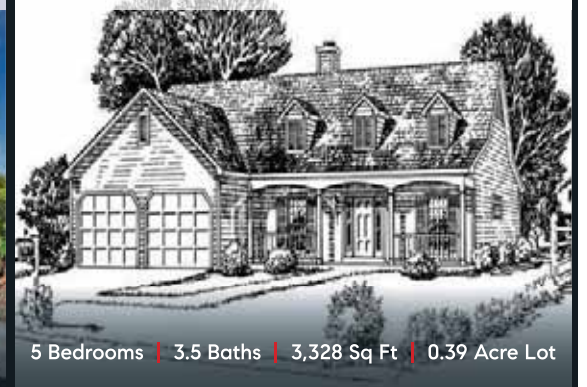
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## Is there anything in your life, whether tangible or intangible, that you would really like to have, but you don't?



**Steve Williams, with Dottie**  
*Endodontist*

Grandchildren, for sure. Not quite yet because my kids aren't ready for that. But they really need to get ready for that. Pretty soon!



**Sarah Dycus, with Sutton**  
*Medical device sales*

Oh yes. I'd really like to have deeper and more meaningful connections with more people. I'm always looking for the right people to meet and develop those kinds of relationships with.



**Charles Botti, with Enzo**  
*Retired*

Nope, I'm good. I've always felt like I'm the luckiest guy in the world. I want for absolutely nothing and am grateful for all that I have.



**Reyna Cabral**  
*Medical assistant*

Yes, time. I wish I had more time to achieve my goals. My primary goal is studying and training to become a registered nurse, while still being there for my family in the way I need and want to be. It often seems there just aren't enough hours in the day for me to be able to do that.



**Sue Lai, with Charlie**  
*Recently (!) retired teacher*

I would like to have affordable health care. Because that's my biggest problem about retiring before I'm 65. It's not until I turn 65 that I'll qualify for Medicare.

—Compiled by Nancy and Jeff Lewis

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

The Pleasanton Weekly is published every Friday by Embarcadero Media Foundation, 5506 Sunol Blvd., Suite 203, Pleasanton, CA 94566; (925) 600-0840. Mailed at Periodicals Postage Rate, USPS 020407.

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## The District Plan The East Bay Regional Park District is planning for the future.

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The Park District is creating our next District Plan, a high-level document to guide the Park District into its next century. It provides a strategic roadmap with key priorities to move toward the vision of an extraordinary and well-managed system of open space parkland in Alameda and Contra Costa counties.

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## DIGEST

### Vintner Summit

The inaugural Global Artisan Vintners Alliance Summit is coming to Livermore Valley wine country next week, bringing seven of the founding regions to the region to collaborate on subjects of economic development, agri-tourism and marketing.

Running from June 19-22, the summit includes Sip Around the World as the marquee event from 2-5 p.m. next Saturday (June 21) at Martinelli Event Center in Livermore.

“When I envisioned taking the concept of sister cities and applying it to sister wine regions, and partnering the Livermore Valley wine region with similar wine regions around the globe, I always imagined the partnership would include in-person visits to the participating wine regions because nothing can replace in-person connecting and collaborating,” Alameda County Supervisor David Haubert said in a statement.

### Army’s 250th birthday

Dublin is celebrating the 250th birthday of the U.S. Army with a special event this Saturday (June 14) from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Don Biddle Community Park, 6100 Horizon Pkwy.

Home to a military base for nearly a century, Dublin has a deep connection to the Army through Parks Reserve Forces Training Area — more commonly known as Camp Parks.

“This event aims to foster community spirit, pride, and remembrance, bringing together residents, veterans, and service members to reflect on the Army’s legacy and its impact on Dublin’s transformation from a rural crossroads to a thriving city,” city officials said.

The celebration will include vintage military vehicles, live demonstrations with military personnel, special recognitions, music from the U.S. Army Band and other performers, games, food and crafts.

### Fill those backpacks

Tri-Valley Haven has launched its annual Backpack Drive that supports students in Livermore, Pleasanton, Dublin and other Tri-Valley communities who need help with school supplies for the upcoming school year.

The nonprofit encourages people to donate pre-filled backpacks organized specifically for a student in preschool, kindergarten, elementary school, middle school or high school. Supply lists by school level are available at [trivalleyhaven.org](http://trivalleyhaven.org). The drive runs now through July 18. Donations can be dropped off this summer at Tri-Valley Haven’s Community Building, 3663 Pacific Ave. in Livermore, weekdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. ■

## Council clears water rate study ahead of public notification period

City to update drought rate allotment policy, increase connection fee for developers

By CHRISTIAN TRUJANO

The Pleasanton City Council accepted the final study for the city’s water and drought rates along with its connection fees last week as part of the city’s ongoing rate-setting process, which is set to come to an end in October following a public notification period to take place over the summer.

The June 3 meeting was largely focused on discussing changes to the city’s drought rates and connection fee for new developments following past discussions on the city’s preliminary water rates and new

rate structure that staff presented to the council last month.

“If you look at what we’re doing, we are walking through how water rates are set in the city in a way we have never done before,” Balch said. “Our community should be building trust in what we are doing to make sure we’re doing this in a thoughtful manner.”

Balch added that when the city gets to the next step in the rate-setting process — notifying the public in detail about the new rates and providing justification as to why they are increasing them — he

hopes the community has some “trust that we’re making data driven decisions to maintain a healthy water system for all of us”.

“Take a look at the Water System Management Plan, which was the condition of our system, then take a look at how we decided how aggressively to get at the capital needs, which is an enhanced method. How we debated water rates with the collapsing of the tiers and now we’re at basically drought rates and connection fees,” he said.

On May 6, city staff and consultants from Water Resources

Economics presented their preliminary water rate scenarios before the council directed staff to move forward with the city’s proposed rate structure change that includes a 100% Zone 7 Water Agency fixed cost recovery on fixed charges.

This would change the city’s water rate structure from a tiered system to a uniform one where very low water users will see their bill more than double by the end of four years.

According to the city’s bimonthly

See **WATER RATES** on Page 10

## Pleasanton Military Families dissolving at end of year

‘Proud of all the work we did for our troops and their families’

By JEREMY WALSH

Pleasanton Military Families, a nonprofit known for organizing homecoming events for local soldiers and sending care packages to those deployed abroad, plans to formally disband by the end of 2025.

Announced “with both a heavy heart and immense gratitude,” the news was shared among PMF members before Memorial Day weekend and ahead of the organization’s latest welcome-home celebration and its final packout this month.

“As we wind down our organization through the end of 2025, it feels like losing an old friend. This is all very bittersweet to us,” PMF co-founder and former president Pat Frizzell told the Pleasanton Weekly.

“Through the most challenging and fearful time of our lives, with our sons and daughters and husbands in combat zones, we shared our concerns, tears, hugs and became the best of friends. Friendships that will last forever,” she added. “And we are proud of all the work we did for our troops and their families for the past 22 years.”

Choosing to dissolve “did not come easily” for the leaders of the nonprofit that originally formed amid the U.S. military operations in the Middle East after Sept. 11, according to current president Sydne Benson Roth.

“Thankfully, today our local active duty troops are no longer in combat zones,” Roth told the Weekly. “With that change, it felt



CHUCK DECKERT

Pleasanton Military Families threw a surprise homecoming celebration June 1 for Matt Roth upon his retirement from the Army.

like the right time to recognize that we have fulfilled our mission. This was not a decision made lightly or by one person — it was thoughtfully discussed among us, and ultimately agreed upon almost unanimously.”

“And we should not be sad, but proud, of a job well done,” Frizzell added.

PMF was founded by Frizzell, a military mom at the time, and the late Chris Miller at the height of the Global War on Terror in February 2003 with a mission “to provide care, comfort, and support to military service members — active duty and reserve — and their families living in Pleasanton and the surrounding communities.”

“Parents and spouses found support and comfort in being able to call one another at any time day or night to share their joy and their worries,” Pleasanton veteran Doug

Miller (no relation) told the Weekly in reflection of PMF’s impact.

“But Chris, a Vietnam War veteran, also knew that service members needed support when they came home from deployment. Chris knew that these veterans needed to be welcomed home and supported during their transition back to normal life,” said Doug Miller, who emceed the recent retirement homecoming ceremony in downtown Pleasanton.

The celebration on June 1 had special meaning for Pleasanton native Roth — it was her husband Matt, whose time in the Army is ending, that PMF, the Patriot Guard Riders and others surprised as the family was out to lunch downtown. A procession led the Roths and their kids down Main Street to their house nearby.

See **MILITARY** on Page 11

## Residents call for railroad quiet zone

‘Enhance both safety and peace of mind for the community’

By CHRISTIAN TRUJANO

Pleasanton residents have been showing up to City Council meetings in recent months imploring the council to prioritize creating a train quiet zone to minimize the disturbance for families living near the railroad tracks in the city.

“At the time we bought our house, there was rarely more than one train a day ... that we could live with,” Dan Fellman, a Pleasanton resident whose family has lived one block from the train tracks around downtown for 28 years, said during the public comment portion of the April 8 council meeting.

But as the Altamont Corridor Express opened up its services and added two additional trains in the morning and evening, Fellman said that’s when noise started to become a problem.

“Train noise has been a problem for a long time and it has been getting worse,” he added. “Other cities along the right-of-way have provided relief for their citizens and we believe it is time for Pleasanton to do the same.”

According to the U.S. Department of Transportation’s Federal Railroad Administration, when the rule requiring the routine sounding of train horns at all public highway-rail grade

See **QUIET ZONE** on Page 11

# PPD says crime trending down, staff levels improving

Police chief also addresses ICE, de-escalation and more during presentation to City Council

BY CHRISTIAN TRUJANO

The Pleasanton Police Department recently updated the City Council on last year's crime rates, staffing and internal operations — and while most of the news was positive, topics such as de-escalation, emergency response time and even immigration arrests became prominent discussion points.

Every year, the PPD staff routinely check in with the council to provide updates on these key areas. The last update was in early December.

PPD was set to provide its latest update in May, but the item was continued to June 3 due to crowded meetings last month.

Since then, first-year Police Chief Tracy Avelar said there have been some developments including the retirement of two officers, which has left two vacancies, and the retirement of a captain.

"We are recruiting for one of those based on the current budget discussions," Avelar said in regard to the officer vacancies.

Staffing at the PPD has been an ongoing issue for the past few years.

"I know since I worked there that more than 50% of the staff has turned over in the last four and a half years, which is significant," Councilmember Craig Eicher, a retired PPD captain. "That is a significant impact to an organization and it requires a tremendous amount of relearning by all the new staff to get (them) to a higher level."

According to Avelar, there are seven sworn officers on medical leave and that the city isn't as

focused on recruitment as intently as before. She said PPD anticipates the percentage of deployable sworn officers for the second quarter of 2025 to be 91% given the three officers in the field training program and the four officers who are in or are about to start the police academy.

The city's current percentage of deployable officers is 80%, Avelar said.

Apart from Eicher's point of the department being able to maintain its crime clearance rates, which are crimes that have been solved, Avelar said that with more staffing coming into the department, more officers are also able to be proactive with self-initiated stops rather than reacting to calls.

Avelar said before 2024, self-initiated stops by officers were decreasing due to staffing challenges.

Regarding crime data, the numbers were too different from the PPD's biannual update last December. Rape cases did jump up from four to six in 2024, but it is still lower than the 20 cases that were listed in 2023.

There was also one homicide listed in 2024, which was less than the three reported in 2023.

But according to the police chief, the main takeaway is similar to the last update: crimes committed against people — assaults, homicide — is down 10% compared to previous years. She also said property crime — burglary, arson, stolen vehicles — is down 15%.

However, Avelar said robberies continue to show an increase in the PPD's data, which were mainly

attributed to retail theft.

She said the PPD is also continuing to focus its efforts on crime prevention through the addition of a crime prevention officer, a crime analyst and the use of technology.

The police chief briefly touched on the department's use-of-force data — the department used force during 87 incidents from 2021 to 2024. The most common use of force was control holds, which a PPD captain later clarified meant when officers had to forcibly hold someone after the suspect began resisting.

Avelar and PPD Capt. Kurt Schlehuber also spent some time responding to questions about de-escalation in which Schlehuber said people should look at the tactic as a noun rather than a verb and that people need to want to also de-escalate situations. Even though it is required by state law, the two PPD leaders said communication and the desire for de-escalation are important in order to actually achieve desired results.

On the topic of de-escalation, Pleasanton resident Todd Nelson brought up recent U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement arrests that have been making national headlines and even local news after a Livermore man was arrested by the federal agency while he was reporting to an immigration office in San Francisco last month.

Nelson pointed out one of the city's policies regarding requesting assistance with ICE and asked PPD if they could get involved in de-escalating instances with ICE agents

pulling up in unmarked vans and not wearing uniforms while drawing weapons in the community.

Councilmember Julie Testa also mentioned the Livermore man who was arrested and asked Avelar what role the PPD has if community members begin alleging that they are being taken by these non-uniformed agents.

Avelar said she believes all ICE agents are uniformed — even though they typically do wear civilian clothing — and that the only real advice she has is for residents to call PPD if they see any incidents that might show people who are pretending to be federal agents, which she said is a real concern for her.

"It's my understanding that any sort of enforcement will not be in anything but a uniform," Avelar said. "So if there were men jumping out in camouflage and guns and masks I would call the police and just ensure that they are actually who they say they are."

For Mayor Jack Balch, one of his main concerns circled back to what he typically brings up during these PPD updates — emergency response time.

According to Avelar, the PPD's average response time to emergencies is five minutes and 16 seconds while its response time to non-emergencies is 19 minutes and 34 seconds, which is lower than what it used to be in previous years.

Avelar further explained how the data largely focused on priority one calls and not priority three calls, the latter of which are the calls that require police vehicle lights and sirens. She said that affects the response times because priority one calls — and even to an extent the

other higher priority calls — require officers to follow traffic laws as much as possible.

"If we're talking about only code three response situations — lights and sirens — which in these numbers we are not, we would have a different response time average," Avelar said.

Balch brought up the city's policy regarding response time goal of four minutes and agreed with City Manager Gerry Beaudin's comment of updating the policy in the near future. Balch said his main concern was to find a way to reconcile the response time and get a community understanding of what the times should be moving forward.

"A four-minute response time in 2005 may not be appropriate in 2025 with 20,000 more people," Avelar said.

Avelar also went over the success of the city's alternate response unit, which responded to a total of 1,268 calls in 2024. She said with the addition of a new officer to the unit, it continues to provide significant help and outreach to those in need.

For personnel investigations, Avelar said there were a total of 19 last year — seven of those complaints were sustained while the rest were not. Three cases are also currently pending.

Avelar noted that there seems to be a lot of complaints because citizens who might not have all of the evidence or information such as body camera footage submit more complaints and she added that one person in particular submitted the bulk of complaints. However, she said she has not found any organizational issues causing these complaints. ■

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## TAKE US ALONG



**Catch a crab:** Oliver, Daniel, Michel and Jennifer Heid took an Alaskan Cruise last August, which included a crab fishing tour in Ketchikan aboard the Aleutian Ballad, the famed fishing vessel from Discovery Channel's "Deadliest Catch"!

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.

# Union alleges teacher reassignments were retaliation

Grievances filed by DTA claim contract violations in site transfers of Rockwell, other educators

By JUDE STRZEMP

The Dublin Unified School District's recent decisions to reassign some educators to different schools for the 2025-26 school year have faced scrutiny from the teachers union. Jason Rockwell, former head coach of junior varsity boys' basketball and special education teacher at Emerald High School, spoke out at a school board meeting last month after being notified he was being transferred to teach at a middle

school in the district. In his comments, he urged the district to reconsider his transfer.

Additionally, DUSD also planned to reassign Wells Middle School teacher Sabrina Britton to an elementary school in the district.

DUSD has the authority to reassign a teacher to meet the district's needs based on the collective bargaining agreement between the district and teachers union, according to district spokesperson Chip Dehnert.

But the Dublin Teachers Association has filed grievances against district management, alleging that the reassignments — including the now-reversed reassignment of another Wells teacher, Marianne Tirnetta — were retaliatory, DTA President Brad Dobrzanski told the Weekly May 30.

"It's our belief that these educators were really outspoken and strong advocates and this is the consequence of their advocacy for students," Dobrzanski said. "We're

asserting there has been a violation of our contract."

In early March, Rockwell was informed that he would not be the Emerald basketball coach moving forward, Dehnert told the Weekly in an email that month. But Rockwell has remained a teacher with the district.

The news followed a complaint filed against Rockwell in December 2024 and a 10-day, paid administrative leave while unspecified allegations were investigated,

Dehnert confirmed.

Then in April, longtime East Bay coach Ron Pangilinan was selected as Emerald's first varsity boys' basketball head coach.

Throughout the evolving situation, students and parents have flocked to DUSD board meetings to support Rockwell's post at Emerald.

But for the first time, Rockwell took to the podium May 13 to discuss his position at the school.

See **UNION** on Page 11

## Livermore city attorney retiring this summer

By CIERRA BAILEY

Longtime Livermore city attorney Jason Alcalá is leaving his post this summer, retiring after more than two decades with the organization.

The city announced Alcalá's upcoming departure in a press release Friday.

"Livermore is a special place. It has been a privilege serving the Livermore community," Alcalá said in the statement. "I am grateful for the opportunity to work with such extraordinary council members, staff, and community members who are truly committed to the

city's quality of life and to doing the right thing — even when it is hard."

Alcalá has served as the city's chief legal advisor since 2014 and has played a key role in guiding the city through major legal, operational and development initiatives.

With more than 21 years under his belt, Alcalá began his tenure with the city in 2004 as an assistant city attorney. He was promoted to



Jason Alcalá

city attorney in 2014, providing legal counsel and representation for a wide range of projects, including the redevelopment of Livermore's downtown, the Bankhead Theater rescue, the Isabel Avenue-Interstate 580 interchange and the San Francisco Premium Outlets. He also helped steer the city through significant challenges, including a 2019 cyberattack and the COVID-19 pandemic.

A graduate of the University of Notre Dame and the University of Southern California's Gould School of Law, Alcalá has practiced municipal law for 25 years.

Prior to joining Livermore, he held positions with the cities of Chino, Coachella and Thousand Oaks, and also represented private clients in litigation and transactional matters, according to the city's statement.

Mayor John Marchand, who worked with Alcalá during most of his tenure with the city of Livermore while serving on the City Council since 2005 with a two-year break from 2020 to 2022, reflected on Alcalá's impact.

"I truly appreciate Jason's dedication to Livermore. His tireless work has helped the City succeed where others might falter. Though legal

work is often behind the scenes, the results of his leadership are visible throughout the community," Marchand said.

Vice Mayor Evan Branning added, "Jason's approach to identifying and managing legal issues has been invaluable. His work ensures that our complex projects are done right, done well, and serve our community."

Officials said they have begun the recruitment process for Livermore's next city attorney, with a successor expected to be in place in the coming months before Alcalá's departure. ■

## San Ramon and Pleasanton top national quality-of-life ranking

Tri-Valley cities rated first and second in U.S. Social Progress Map

By JEANITA LYMAN

Residents of San Ramon enjoy the highest quality of life among the largest cities in the country, according to a recent ranking that also positioned nearby Pleasanton in second place in its measure of communities based on a number of non-economic factors.

The U.S. Social Progress Map from the Washington, D.C. non-profit Social Progress Imperative ranks the country's 500 largest cities based on a total of 50 indicators categorized as basic human needs, opportunity and foundations of well-being.

"San Ramon and the other top cities stand out as national leaders in delivering strong outcomes for their residents across key drivers of social progress," said Michael Green, CEO of the Social Progress Imperative in a press release Tuesday. "These findings highlight how thoughtful planning, community investment, and people-centered policy can foster thriving, inclusive cities."

San Ramon came out on top with an overall score of 69.2 out of 100 points, which broke down into a score of 75.8 for basic needs indicators, 69.5 for foundations of well-being and 62.2 for opportunity.

"San Ramon's quality of life is highly valued in our community," San Ramon Mayor Mark Armstrong said in Tuesday's press release. "From quality schools to beautiful parks, from public safety to family-friendly events and activities that bring the community together, there's so much to celebrate in San Ramon."

Pleasanton was right behind San Ramon in the No. 2 spot, with an overall score of 66.3 — 70.1 for basic needs, 68.3 for foundations of wellbeing, and 60.6 for opportunity.

"This recognition from the U.S. Social Progress Index speaks volumes about what makes Pleasanton so special: public safety, great schools, beautiful parks and open spaces, and neighbors who truly care about one another," Pleasanton

See **RANKING** on Page 11

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# State of the City lauds Livermore's latest achievements

Mayor Marchand spotlights efforts of city, LLNL, residents from past year

BY CIERRA BAILEY

In yet another well-received State of the City speech, Mayor John Marchand lauded Livermore as a great place to live, work and play while beaming with pride at the podium. Hosted by the Livermore Valley Chamber of Commerce at Garré Winery, the May 22 event once again brought together movers and shakers of the Tri-Valley, including elected officials, business owners and community leaders, to hear about what's new in Livermore and the status of its economic vitality.

Marchand kicked off his speech with nods to the notable work of Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory researchers, including El Capitan which has been deemed the world's fastest supercomputer.

Breaking the ice with a humorous quip Marchand said, "Livermorium, fusion ignition and El Capitan — three of the most significant achievements in the history of humankind — and all of them recognized during my tenure as mayor." The tone of his remarks remained lighthearted and sprinkled with humor while sharing information about the city's finances, goals and ongoing projects.

"Over 36 years we've received a

certificate of achievement for excellence in financial reporting," Marchand said. "I get to work with great people," he added before inviting all of the city staffers in the room to stand and be celebrated with applause.

He also highlighted the results of a research survey the city circulates every two years. "This really is not so much about habitability, it's about livability," Marchand said of the survey. "It's about creating a place where people want to live."

Of those surveyed, 95% said they believe Livermore is an excellent or good place to live and 92% said they would recommend living in the city to others.

"This is the highest number in the history of this poll. We have never gotten this number — 95%. I think that's remarkable and it's a testament to the great work of the people that I get to work with," Marchand said. The survey was conducted by the National Research Center at Polco using a rigorous, representative sampling method, city officials said in a statement following the event. Of the 3,000 randomly selected Livermore households, 374 residents completed the survey between February and April 2025, resulting

in a 13% response rate. Responses were weighted to ensure representation across age, gender, race/ethnicity, housing status and geography, according to officials.

While discussing performance measures, Marchand noted that the Livermore Police Department in the last year took 23,000 911 calls and nearly 56,000 total calls for service.

"That's our first responders responding to the needs of our community," he said.

As for the fire department, they responded to almost 10,000 calls for service. However, less than 3% of the calls are actually for fires with most of them being traffic accidents, health-related and public safety calls.

Among the city projects making progress that received applause from the audience is the replacement of the fence along Holmes Street, which for many years was a source of frustration for residents and an eyesore to passersby.

"(The city) took ownership of this 60 years ago but there was never a

mechanism to fund the replacement of it," Marchand explained, adding that eight years ago the city started working on a plan to replace the aging and deteriorating fence and now the first increment is finally done.

Additionally, Marchand highlighted the plan to develop an aviation innovation center at the Livermore Municipal Airport as well as successfully bringing unleaded fuel to the facility.

While discussing housing projects underway, Marchand called attention to the Cornerstone residential development that was approved by the City Council in January. "Cornerstone church made a remarkable commitment to this community. They understood the importance and the criticality of the housing crisis and they committed to provide more affordable housing that was required for the project but they said that they understood the need for the community and they wanted to help meet that need," Marchand said.

Although he spent time recognizing new housing going up in the city, he also emphasized Livermore's commitment to open space and the hundreds of acres the city has acquired in the last year to preserve as open space like the Quint property located next to the Garaventa Wetlands Preserve.

Toward the end of his speech, Marchand underscored that the past year saw several big wins for Livermore as a community such as the annual rodeo being inducted into the ProRodeo Hall Of Fame, the beloved Deacon Dave's Christmas display winning "The Great Christmas Light Fight" television competition and the city receiving the 2024 Beacon Spotlight Platinum Award for Sustainability Best Practices by the Institute for Local Government.

Marchand closed his remarks by sharing a list of words he thinks best describes the city. "Community, home, wineries, family, hometown, awesome — I couldn't agree more because we are Livermore." ■

## Mohr/Hearst VP hired as principal in Piedmont

Fry tells trustees in new district she is excited to lead Wildwood next year

BY CHRISTIAN TRUJANO

A vice principal of two Pleasanton elementary schools has officially parted ways with the district so that she could take on the position of principal in Piedmont.

Amy Fry, now-former vice principal of Mohr and Hearst elementary schools, was first named as the new principal for Wildwood Elementary School during the Piedmont Unified School District Board of Trustees meeting on March 12. During the meeting, she thanked the board for the opportunity to lead the school.

"I am so looking forward to working with the Wildwood community," Fry said.

According to the personnel document in this week's Pleasanton Unified School District Board of Directors meeting agenda, Fry's resignation was effective as of June 6. Her first day at the new school district is set to be July 1.

Pleasanton Unified director of communications Patrick Gannon told the Weekly that the district has plans to fill the vacancy left by Fry's departure and that the district is thankful for the vice principal's service over the years.

"We'd like to thank Amy Fry for her dedication and service to our PUSD community and wish her all the best in her new role as principal," Gannon said.

Fry has been in public education for over two decades serving as the

vice principal for both Pleasanton schools, a literacy coach and response to intervention coordinator at Oxford Elementary School in Berkeley and a classroom teacher at Malcolm X Elementary School in Berkeley.

According to a press release from the Piedmont school district, Fry's experience and expertise in "literacy instruction, curriculum development, and inclusive education has shaped her commitment to equity and excellence in education."

In Pleasanton, she was instrumental in fostering inclusive learning environments, according to the press release. She also helped lead staff development, oversaw special education meetings, facilitated intervention services and collaborated with educators and families in order to support students' success.

"Her ability to analyze data and implement targeted academic and behavioral interventions stood out as one of many examples of her expert support of student success," according to the Piedmont press release. "Passionate about fostering collaborative and student-centered learning environments, she values strong relationships with students, staff, and families."

According to her new school district, Piedmont underwent a "rigorous and comprehensive" selection process before choosing Fry. The school district said it received 28 applications which were ultimately

dialled down to five candidates who went through the first round of interviews.

From there, two finalists were chosen to move on to the second round of interviews and a separate meeting with Piedmont Unified School District Superintendent Jennifer Hawn.

"We are thrilled to bring an educator with Amy's depth of experience to Piedmont Unified School District," Hawn told the Weekly. "Amy's collaborative leadership and academic focus are just what Wildwood Elementary School needs to ensure every student has an opportunity to thrive."

According to the Piedmont press release, the interview panels were diverse and included parents, teachers and staff. The interview process, which Fry said she admired, also involved a writing task and a range of "scenario and value-based questions, ensuring a fair and thorough evaluation of each candidate's suitability."

"Just want to thank you so much for this opportunity," Fry said during the March 12 meeting. "The representation of all stakeholders on that panel was mildly intimidating but such a clear sign of what's important in this community and made it feel much more somewhere where I wanted to be knowing that everyone has a voice here and that we are going to be a collaborative entity where we're all going to be working together." ■

# Supervisors vote for nearly \$270M in jail repairs

Five-year project will focus on deferred maintenance, other vital renovations at Santa Rita

By KILEY RUSSELL /  
BAY CITY NEWS SERVICE

Alameda County's Santa Rita Jail is set to undergo a nearly \$270 million maintenance and repair transformation thanks to a decision by the county Board of Supervisors at its meeting last week.

The five-year project will focus on deferred maintenance and other vital repairs for the 36-year-old detention center.

"The jail is our largest facility that houses 1,600-plus people at any given time, so it is very critically important that we maintain that facility in a way that guarantees life-safety issues are addressed," said Kimberly Gasaway, director of the Alameda County General Services Agency, which is responsible for all county-owned buildings.

Included in the project is the replacement of the "ring road," which circles the jail's housing units and other facilities and provides access for emergency response vehicles.

Also, much of the jail's heating, ventilation and air conditioning system needs to be repaired, replaced or cleaned.

The project includes new fire alarms, sprinklers, cybersecurity upgrades, new roofing and security radio systems, along with improvements to remote door controls, intercoms, building perimeters, duress

system alarm monitoring, CCTV surveillance systems, a new million-gallon steel water tank, new generators and 123 new detention-grade doors.

"We are currently experiencing regular failures," Gasaway said. "When we are operating in a break-fix environment, that is costing the county more money and more problems at the jail and it puts staff at risk as well as the inmates."

Sheriff Yesenia Sanchez said providing the jail with regular, predictable electrical service has been a problem that inhibits her staff from delivering medical and behavioral health services in a timely manner and from delivering hot meals to inmates.

"That's been a big concern, power to that facility has been a constant failure and a constant patchwork that is not going to work anymore," Sanchez said.

Supervisors voted 4-1 in favor of the massive expenditure, with Nikki Fortunato Bas casting the sole dissenting vote.

The project funding proposal was originally on the board's consent calendar until it was pulled at the request of Fortunato Bas so supervisors could have a public discussion before the vote.

Fortunato Bas made her request after several people got up to criticize the project's size and what many

said was a troubling lack of public input and disclosure.

"If the jail population is less than half the jail capacity, we ought to be thinking much more broadly about downsizing the jail then doing rehabilitation that makes sense to do, especially as it's at a time when federal and state benefits are in major doubt," said Richard Speigman, chair of the group Interfaith Coalition for Justice in our Jails.

A few speakers at the meeting criticized supervisors for considering the project in light of their prior commitment to certain criminal justice reforms, such as the "care first, jails last" policy for people with mental health and addiction problems and the "reimagining adult justice" policy, which is intended to help the county reduce its reliance on incarceration.

Tash Nguyen, executive director of the advocacy group Restore Oakland, said the project is "shocking and heartbreaking, especially when the county has a \$108 million deficit to close."

Nguyen said the money spent on jail improvements and repairs could be used to build 2,100 permanent supportive housing units.

"Please suspend this and do the right thing," she said.

Supervisor Lena Tam said she favored the proposal since it's not a jail expansion and that it allows

the county to more safely house inmates while protecting jail staff as well.

"The people that are there need to have life-safety access, whether it's an alarm system that works, whether it's power and electrical systems, a toilet that flushes, climate control, all these things," Tam said. "This is not an expansion of the jail it's basically making sure that we address the deferred maintenance that's occurring right now in the jail."

Fortunato Bas and Supervisor Elisa Márquez said they had concerns about the fact that the board and public only had about three days to review the project proposal before the meeting.

"This is the last major budget thing that I'm going to support without it being properly vetted, whether it's a work session or at a committee level," Márquez said. "We have to do better at that."

Márquez also said she was sympathetic to complaints from the public about the fact that the board was in closed session for several hours before it got to the public hearing portion of its meeting, which apparently resulted in many members of the public leaving before the project could be discussed.

She suggested the board consider moving its closed-session hearings to days when they don't also have a regular board meeting. ■

## Danville council promotes Williams to town manager

Top assistant set to replace retiring Calabrigo on July 1

By JEANITA LYMAN

The Danville Town Council finalized its pick for the next town manager last week, with assistant town manager Tai Williams now set to officially take the reins from outgoing Joe Calabrigo upon his retirement at the end of the month.

The council voted unanimously June 3 evening to approve Williams' contract effective July 1 through June 2027. Her salary for the first year is set at \$265,000, with her salary for the second year pending a performance review after the one-year mark. That's less than Calabrigo's most recently reported salary in 2023, which was \$292,729 according to Transparent California, but more than Williams' salary as assistant town manager, which was \$219,366 in 2023.

"Tai will ensure a smooth transition from our current Town Manager to her new role. Her experience as the assistant town manager will help maintain continuity in leadership and services for the community," said Mayor Renee Morgan in a press release the next day. "Joe's succession planning, combined with Tai Williams

expertise and dedication to our community, will facilitate a smooth transition between two exceptional civic leaders."

Calabrigo's retirement and the search for his successor have marked a bittersweet time for the Town Council and staff, with Calabrigo departing amid widespread accolades as he heads toward his 32nd anniversary in the position — making him currently the longest-tenured Tri-Valley city manager by far — and preparing to shift priorities as he retires from a four-decade long career with the town.

"It is actually bittersweet because we are losing someone that has been around for as long of us have been around and has guided this town with amazing abilities, and the guy that we've looked to in a leadership position has always been Joe Calabrigo," Councilmember Robert Storer said at the June 3 council meeting.

"To say goodbye is going to be



Tai Williams

extremely difficult," Storer added. "And then I look at how fortunate and grateful I am to see the quality of Tai Williams following right behind Joe, and from a council's perspective, we couldn't ask for more. We didn't have to go out into the world and look for candidates — we just looked down the hallway at the office next to Joe's."

A longtime Danville resident, Williams began her tenure with the town as a land-use planner in 1996 before working at other agencies for a period of time, then returning to the Danville town staff in 2001, where she has held executive roles in transportation, economic development, and administrative services prior to being appointed as assistant town manager in 2017.

Since then, Williams has led the way in implementing enterprise technology to streamline the town's online permitting process, launching the monthly Town Talks series, and securing more than \$100 million in transportation funding for the TRAFFIX school bus program and the I-680 Auxiliary Lanes project, according to the town's press release.

According to comments from the

council upon Williams' appointment last week, she has long been eyed as Calabrigo's successor.

"When Joe told us as a council like any great leader he said 'at some point, I'm going to eventually retire' — we didn't know when — but he said 'I found somebody that we're going to spend the next couple of years to help develop that person,' and that was Tai Williams," Vice Mayor Newell Arnerich said.

"It's been just a wonderful relationship, and I know we all have similar relationships with Tai, but Joe really made a point to make sure that the choice was going to be easy for us," he continued. "Danville is a unique place — we have unique assets, we don't compete in the marketplace in the same way as other communities, but what nobody competes with us on is the quality of our staff, the relationship they have with each other, the council, and particularly their dedication to our community."

Community members are invited to send off Calabrigo at his final council meeting as town manager next Tuesday (June 17) and to meet Williams ahead of the official start of her time in the position. ■



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# Regional union shakeup as negotiations linger

AFSCME national president replaces district council leadership for 'serious deficiencies'

BY CHRISTIAN TRUJANO

One of the largest employee trade unions in the United States placed a California District Council that represent various Tri-Valley workers, including employees for the city of Pleasanton locked in stalled negotiations, under emergency administratorship following a recent audit that found "serious deficiencies" within the council's leadership.

Administratorship refers to a process where an outside party assumes day-to-day control of a body, like the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees' District Council 57 now finds itself.

According to a June 6 letter to its

union members, District Council 57 administrator Walter Blair said that AFSCME President Lee Saunders placed the regional council under the emergency leadership change and that the national union would assume responsibility for the "day-to-day affairs of the council" effective immediately.

Blair, under the district council's new administration, will serve as the administrator. Saunders' executive assistant and the national union's field coordinator will also step in to serve as deputy administrators.

"In my opinion, an emergency situation exists in California District Council 57, AFSCME, AFL-CIO in that dissipation or loss of the funds or assets of the council

is threatened and the council is acting in violation of the International Constitution," Saunders said in a letter to District Council 57 officers.

While Blair wrote in his June 6 letter that placing the national union affiliate under an administratorship is "never made lightly," the intent was to serve the best interests of the union's membership.

According to Blair, a recent audit conducted by the International Union found "serious deficiencies in the management and accounting of union funds and other violations of AFSCME's Financial Standards Code".

"Council 57 was notified of these deficiencies and given an opportunity to take corrective action," Blair wrote in the June 6 letter.

"However, its inability to do so has posed a threat to the fiscal stability of the council."

But Blair also said that the district council administratorship will have no impact on any local unions or their elected leaders.

Some of those local unions under the District Council 57 umbrella include Pleasanton City Employees Association Local 955, which represents city employees; Local 2428, which represents East Bay Regional Park District employees; and Local 2019 which represents East Bay Municipal Utility District employees.

"Council 57 business representatives will continue to work with your locals to provide representational services," Blair said. "We will remain connected with your

local's leadership to address any other matters of concern. Together we will continue to grow our union, build power, and protect public services."

The Weekly reached out to District Council 57 to see if there were any potential impacts the administratorship could have on Pleasanton employees given that they are currently negotiating on a new contract — the previous contract between the city and the union ended on May 31 after having already been extended from its original end date on March 31, according to the May 20 City Council agenda packet.

No one from the union council has responded as of publication time. ■

## WATER RATES

Continued from Page 5

impacts reports for single-family customers with a 5/8-inch meter, average water consumers under the proposed rate structure can expect a nearly \$20 bump to their current water bill by next year but by year four, that difference jumps to over \$80.

During that May 6 meeting, the council also discussed potential changes to the city's water discount programs for seniors and low-income residents, but staff reiterated on June 3 that nothing has been determined and that they still have time to work through those programs.

The three-step, rate-setting process started off last September when the city contracted with WRE to conduct a comprehensive water rate study.

The first step of developing that study was to adopt a Water System Management Plan and water enterprise financial analysis to set the foundation and framework for the study — both of which have been approved by the council.

"In the next four years there's going to be substantial investment in the city's CIP and that is driving the changes to rates," WRE principal consultant Nancy Phan said during the meeting.

She also said the rate changes are associated with the implementation of an enhanced project delivery model from the Water System Management Plan, which included a revenue increase of 15% for the first two years and 8% for the following two years, and full fixed charge recovery of Zone 7 fixed costs.

After discussing the water rates during the May 6 meeting, staff and the WRE returned to the council this month to finish off the discussions surrounding drought rates and connection fees as part of the final

rate study that the council accepted.

Drought rates, according to Phan, are temporary surcharges applied on top of regular water rates during water shortage emergencies like drought, earthquake or situations where they have to limit water use, which would reduce revenues and costs. The city, apart from implementing a full or partial drought rate during emergencies, could also choose to reduce capital project spending or use its reserves during those critical times.

The rates incorporate variable charge revenue loss from reduced usage and variable cost savings from purchasing less Zone 7 water, which is where the city gets 100% of its water currently, according to the WRE presentation.

Phan said the rates are designed to maintain the city's financial position during drought. She also clarified that higher fixed charges on regular water rates equal lower drought rates.

Specifically, the council discussed and ultimately agreed on moving forward with staff's recommendation to maintain the city's current drought rate allotment policy but instead of keeping it a 10 ccf — ccf is a unit of measure used on water bills — the council agreed to staff's proposal to lower it to 8 ccf, which is about 6,000 gallons of water.

WRE founder and president Sanjay Gaur provided a simpler explanation of the allotment, stating, "If you use eight units or less, you would not have to pay the drought surcharge."

This is meant to promote water conservation and according to the WRE presentation, this recognizes that low water users are unlikely to reduce water usage during drought compared to high water users.

"I think this will show that we're trying to be cognizant of the lower water users on the drought rates," Balch said.

However, the challenge that comes

with the option is that the allotment policy change would increase unit cost for drought rates for all usage over 8 ccf. During the discussion, it was also noted that this option would put more financial burden on higher end users.

Staff also presented a second option which would have removed the drought usage allotment for all customers, which means everyone would have to pay the drought surcharge. Gaur, however, noted that this would have created financial impacts to low water users, which is something the council did not want to do.

"It has been a multi-step process," City Manager Gerry Beaudin added. "In the overall rate structure because we went from multiple tiers to a single tier, the ... higher consumption rates actually had a decrease in their overall bill so we're trying to balance the policy as we move through the process here rather than continuing to benefit or negatively impact particular customers."

Another major portion of the meeting regarding connection fees was the council decision to accept staff's recommendation to increase Pleasanton's water connection fee.

Connections fees are one-time charges for new developments that have to connect to the city's water system. Instead of covering the costs of operating and maintaining the water system for existing customers — which is what water rates do — connection fees cover the costs of expanding the system to serve new customers and to accommodate for growth in the city.

"Together, water rates and connection fees form a full funding source for the CIP but they have different functions within your system," Phan said during the meeting.

The council ended up agreeing to the WRE's recommendation to have the city calculate the connection fee utilizing a hybrid method where new customers pay a portion

to buy in and a portion to build new capacity. This method is typically used with agencies that have both existing and future capacity for development, according to the WRE presentation.

Currently, Pleasanton uses the incremental cost method, which is used by agencies that are adding capacity to expand its water system, where new customers pay for capital projects that are built to serve growth in the city.

By including the buy-in and the incremental components to the connection fees, the consultants said it would help benefit existing water customers and it would fund expansion-related capital projects that would benefit future growth.

Pleasanton's current connection fee is \$2,177, which would now go up to \$5,269 given the policy change recommendation that the council agreed upon. Pleasanton's fee still ranks low compared to other Tri-Valley cities — Livermore's connection fee is \$5,462 while Dublin's is \$15,650, according to the WRE presentation.

Councilmember Julie Testa expressed shock and confusion as to why Dublin is charging over \$15,000 while Pleasanton's connection fee is currently just breaking \$2,000.

"This is just too low," Testa said. "It doesn't make sense."

Testa asked if they knew more about Dublin's rate structure, but according to Beaudin and Gaur, they couldn't find any information regarding the studies that led to the development of Dublin's rate structure.

Gaur also said Dublin's geology and open spaces could have something to do with the buy-in approach for its connection fees.

"When a city is developing (and) there's a lot of green fields, maybe some development that's higher up in the elevation planes, then there's a lot more incremental costs," Gaur added. "Our suspicion is that

Dublin may have more of that; more of the green fields, more of these larger expenditures to develop (in) areas that are further away from the center of the city."

But Testa pointed to upcoming development plans for Pleasanton's east side and said she still doesn't understand why the connection fee, even with the updated policy change, is still so low.

Beaudin said the reason the city broke down anticipated new growth and development with existing system needs in its recent report was because the city's system is already mostly established but is still anticipating some expansion.

"These are the numbers that the study, with the assumptions that we made in the study, will allow us to charge and be able to justify and reasonably defend," Beaudin said.

He said it would have been helpful if the city had access to the same studies that Dublin and Livermore conducted to develop their connection fees but that Pleasanton's studies justify the numbers staff presented to the council.

Testa agreed with the policy change to the connection fee, along with the rest of the council, however she still thought the fee was not where it should be when comparing it to Dublin's roughly \$15,000 connection fee.

"I'm just so incredibly uncomfortable that I think we've been losing so much money on our artificially low connection fee so clearly we want to put this new one in place ... It makes no sense to stay where we're at, but it just seems wrong that it's still so low," Testa said.

The council will return in July to approve the Proposition 218 notice and accept the rate study report before all of the notices are mailed out to the community by July 30. The council will then return on Oct. 7 to adopt the final water rates and connection fees with the goal of them going into effect by Jan. 1, 2026. ■

## UNION

Continued from Page 7

“I believed that staying quiet and trusting the process was the right example to set for my students and my players,” Rockwell said at the meeting. “Watching them grow, take the initiative and stand up for their beliefs has made me incredibly proud and now they’ve shown me that it’s my turn to speak up and stand beside them.”

Rockwell has coached high school basketball for 14 years. His experience also includes coaching at college, middle school and youth

levels, but he has built his skills, passion and purpose at Emerald, Rockwell said at the meeting.

He was also named Emerald’s school site Teacher of the Year for the 2023-24 school year.

After receiving feedback from management earlier this year, Rockwell said he responded by changing his daily practices. But on May 12, he was notified of his transfer to Wells.

“I’m heartbroken by the news that another opportunity to stay connected to the community — and more importantly the students that I love — is being taken away from

me,” Rockwell said. “I belong at Emerald High School.”

“This isn’t just about an administrative transfer job change,” Rockwell added. “This is an obvious and blatant punishment for the support that the Emerald students and community have shown me these past few months.”

In April, two teachers from Wells also received notices of administrative transfers, Dobrzenski said. The reassignments were set to move Tirnetta and Britton to elementary schools in the district.

“(They) were outspoken advocates for their students,” Dobrzenski

said of Tirnetta and Britton. “As a result, we believe that they are being moved and separated and sent to elementary levels, which is not where their passion was.”

“Similarly, Jason was also a really outspoken advocate of the needs of his students,” Dobrzenski added.

The union initially filed grievances against district management for the reassignments of all three teachers, Dobrzenski said.

“While HR is involved, the ultimate decision rests with the superintendent,” Dehnert said of the reassignments. “Regarding the duration of the assignment, after a year, a

teacher who has been reassigned can request a transfer to a new location.”

On June 2, DUSD management told Tirnetta that she will be staying at Wells, she told the Weekly.

“I’m so thankful that I get to remain at WMS, it’s where I belong. It’s my home,” Tirnetta said.

DUSD officials did not confirm the assignment statuses of Rockwell nor Britton as of Monday. “Mr. Rockwell and Ms. Britton, are aware of their 2025-26 assignments,” Dehnert said.

Neither Rockwell nor Britton responded to requests for comment as of Monday. ■

## QUIET ZONE

Continued from Page 5

crossings was established, so too was a procedure established for local municipalities to create what’s known as quiet zones.

These quiet zones are designated segments of a rail line with one or more consecutive crossings where train horns aren’t routinely sounded, according to the administration’s website. The zones must meet certain safety requirements and can only be established by a public authority responsible for traffic control or law enforcement at those public crossings.

Horns in these areas can also still be used in emergency situations such as alerting animals, drivers, pedestrians or other trains.

In order to establish these quiet zones, public authorities — in this case the city of Pleasanton — must first mitigate the risks associated with the absence of a train horn.

Another resident who spoke up during the April 8 meeting was Jim Lehrman, who also lives near the Union Pacific Railroad train tracks.

“When I got my home in 1999 our Realtors told us, ‘The railroad’s winding down, eventually it’ll become a rails-to-trails project.’ That hasn’t happened,” Lehrman said. “The railroad traffic has only increased over the past 26 years and train noise occurs increasingly louder and around the clock, as my neighbors mentioned.”

He said other residents who don’t live near the tracks, visitors and businesses are also affected by train horns

and that a quiet zone would help reduce noise pollution and would improve quality of life.

Lehrman, Fellman and many of the others who have been advocating for the train quiet zone asked the city to find some room in its budget for a necessary feasibility study, which one speaker said is a crucial first step to bring such an ordinance to life.

According to an April 28 Change.org petition, 229 other residents also support the city prioritizing the establishment of a train quiet zone in order to address the growing noise pollution caused by the “increasing number of trains and their loud, disruptive horns”.

“Train noise significantly impacts the quality of life for thousands of residents, downtown businesses, and visitors who live, work, attend school,

dine, or enjoy leisure time near the tracks,” according to the online petition. “While we appreciate the benefits of rail connectivity and prioritize safety, we believe Pleasanton can implement solutions that enhance both safety and peace of mind for the community.”

The petition also notes that other Bay Area communities, such as Sunol, Fremont, Emeryville and San Jose have successfully introduced quiet zones — “proving that reduced train noise and enhanced safety can coexist.”

“In Pleasanton’s case, lower-cost safety solutions are now available, making it more feasible than ever to achieve this goal,” the petition states.

According to Heather Tiernan, communication manager for the city, the quiet zone project ranked low

during the city’s Capital Improvement Program (CIP) prioritization process, which is why the project is not included in the upcoming two-year proposed CIP budget for fiscal years 2025-26 and 2026-27.

Tiernan said the most recent estimate, which is shown in the May 20 CIP program document, for hiring a consultant to evaluate the feasibility and cost of implementing railroad quiet zones was approximately \$175,000.

“This estimate covers only the feasibility study and planning phase,” Tiernan added. “Based on the study’s findings, the total implementation cost could range from \$50,000 to \$500,000 or more, depending on the number and characteristics of railroad crossings and the required safety upgrades.” ■

## MILITARY

Continued from Page 5

“With his retirement and having the opportunity to make his return a Homecoming, I was excited — but wanted to stay hands-off. I wanted to be surprised, to experience it alongside him. And I was blown away,” Roth said.

“The time, energy, love, and thoughtfulness this group pours into welcoming our troops and families home is beyond words. Matt, who typically avoids any kind of fanfare, was deeply touched. He felt humbled, honored, and genuinely seen,” she told the Weekly. “Exactly what a Homecoming should be.”

Sending support to local military

members deployed abroad has also been a central focus for the nonprofit. Its recurring packout events, where volunteers assemble and box donated goods for shipment, served to spread some love from home to troops in combat zones while also building community among their family members, friends and fellow residents back in Pleasanton.

But the need has changed in recent years, Frizzell acknowledged.

“The current troops are all, except for some special forces, on bases or ships that have everything they need. We all surely hope it will remain this way,” she said. “They really are not in need of care packages. In fact the last several pack-outs we have had, only two, perhaps three, of the names on the deployed lists

were from PMF families or friends.”

PMF’s final packout event is scheduled for this weekend, around a summer and Fourth of July theme. The pre-pack is Friday at 3:15 p.m. and the packout is Saturday at 8:45 a.m. — both at the Veterans Memorial Building on Main Street in Pleasanton.

The nonprofit said online that it is “very low in donations” while promoting its Amazon wishlist of items at [pleasantonmilitaryfamilies.org](https://www.pleasantonmilitaryfamilies.org) ahead of its last packout.

Another homecoming celebration is expected in the coming months, according to Frizzell.

It is unclear what is happening with other events still listed on PMF’s online calendar for the year, but Roth told members in her

dissolution announcement email, “We will continue fulfilling our existing commitments through the end of 2025.”

“We want to extend our deepest thank you to every volunteer, donor, supporter, and family who

stood with us. Your kindness and commitment made every success possible,” she added. “Though our organization is closing its chapter, the legacy of compassion and community lives on in every life touched and every connection made.” ■

## RANKING

Continued from Page 7

Mayor Jack Balch said on Facebook on Tuesday afternoon.

San Ramon and Pleasanton were the only two cities in the Tri-Valley among the top 10 cities in the national ranking. Fremont ranked at No. 10, with Folsom, Carlsbad and Irvine also making up the total of six California cities in the top 10. The other top cities in the ranking are Centennial, Colo.; Newton, Mass.; Plymouth, Minn.; and Bellevue, Wash.


The positive news comes amid budget struggles in each of the top two cities, with San Ramon’s ongoing deficit being temporarily bolstered by a 1% sales tax increase that voters approved in November for 10 years. A half-cent sales tax measure on the ballot for Pleasanton was meanwhile rejected by voters there, with the City Council looking toward budget cuts to an array of city services in the face of a projected \$13 million deficit annually over each of the next eight years.

Both cities have also been hit by recent waves of layoffs in the private

sector, with Chevron axing workers in San Ramon as it continues minimizing its operations in the city following the move of its headquarters to Texas. Pleasanton-based Workday and 10x Genomics have also cut local jobs recently — 600 positions at Workday and 93 at 10x Genomics.

However, the Social Progress Map seeks to offer “a more complete view of how people are actually faring” at what representatives from the Social Progress Imperative call “a time when economic growth alone no longer defines community success.” ■

THE CITY OF PLEASANTON



HIGHLIGHTS

**GHAD Meeting**  
 Tuesday, June 17, 2025, at 6:55 p.m.

- Adopt resolutions approving the 2025/26 Annual Assessments for the Geologic Hazard Abatement Districts (GHADs) for Laurel Creek, Moller Ranch, Lemoine Ranch, and Oak Tree Farm

**City Council Meeting**  
 Tuesday, June 17, 2025, at 7 p.m.

- Adopt a resolution adopting the Two-Year Operating and Capital Budget for Fiscal Years 2025/26 and 2026/27 and approving the Five-Year Capital Improvement Program for Fiscal Years 2025/26 through 2029/30
- Adopt a resolution approving the City’s 2025 Sewer System Management Plan

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 visit us at [www.cityofpleasantonca.gov](https://www.cityofpleasantonca.gov)

# A country fair

Pleasanton's summer showcase gets out of the gate this weekend — with one notable scratch from lineup

By Jeremy Walsh



The Alameda County Fair lives in the world of familiar but different.

Recurring entertainment like concerts but a unique bill of performers each year — and usually an eclectic mix of artists to boot. Competitive exhibitions around recognizable themes like collectibles, food, agriculture, art and crafts, but featuring original submissions each summer. Rows and rows of vendors, many faces the same from years past but their merchandise or services fresh for today.

Favorite fair food offerings with just enough debut dishes and drinks to tantalize. Carnival rides and games people have tried before, or maybe they'll finally give it a try now — or maybe look to share the memory with someone else this time around.

Pleasanton's summer showcase thrives in that space, that balance, between new and nostalgia.

The give-and-take is being put to the test like never before in 2025, as the county fair returns this Friday for an 18-day run without one of its defining stalwarts and consistent draws.

"The Fair team is saddened that horse racing was not licensed for 2025. It is a longstanding tradition that will be missed," fair spokesperson Liz Rosinski told the Pleasanton Weekly ahead of opening day.

"However, we have lined up amazing new shows in the Michelob Ultra Grandstand which will offer exciting entertainment, starting with the Off Axis Stunt Show opening weekend and Hot Air Balloon rides at 8pm during the first week of the Fair (June 14 to June 22)," Rosinski said.

Figuring how to utilize existing spaces in new ways — whether minor tweaks or major overhauls — to attract and entertain eager audiences is part of the muscle memory for officials at the Alameda County Fairgrounds on the edge of downtown Pleasanton.

And they exercised those muscles for the historic race track, grandstand and the fair in general in the wake of the California Authority of Racing Fairs deciding in January not to pursue the county fair racing circuit in 2025 and the subsequent shuttering of horse training operations in Pleasanton in March.

"Each weekend will offer a new exciting action sports show Friday to Sunday with FMX almost every

day. New shows include a Rodeo, Tractor Pull Show, and a 'Monsters of Destruction' monster truck show," Rosinski said. "We'll continue to have nightly drone shows after the concerts and camel rides will be offered in the Paddock."

And while the vibe may shift for some without the popular horse races, this year's fair is still focused on embodying that familiar "Celebrate Summer" feeling — which is its theme for 2025.

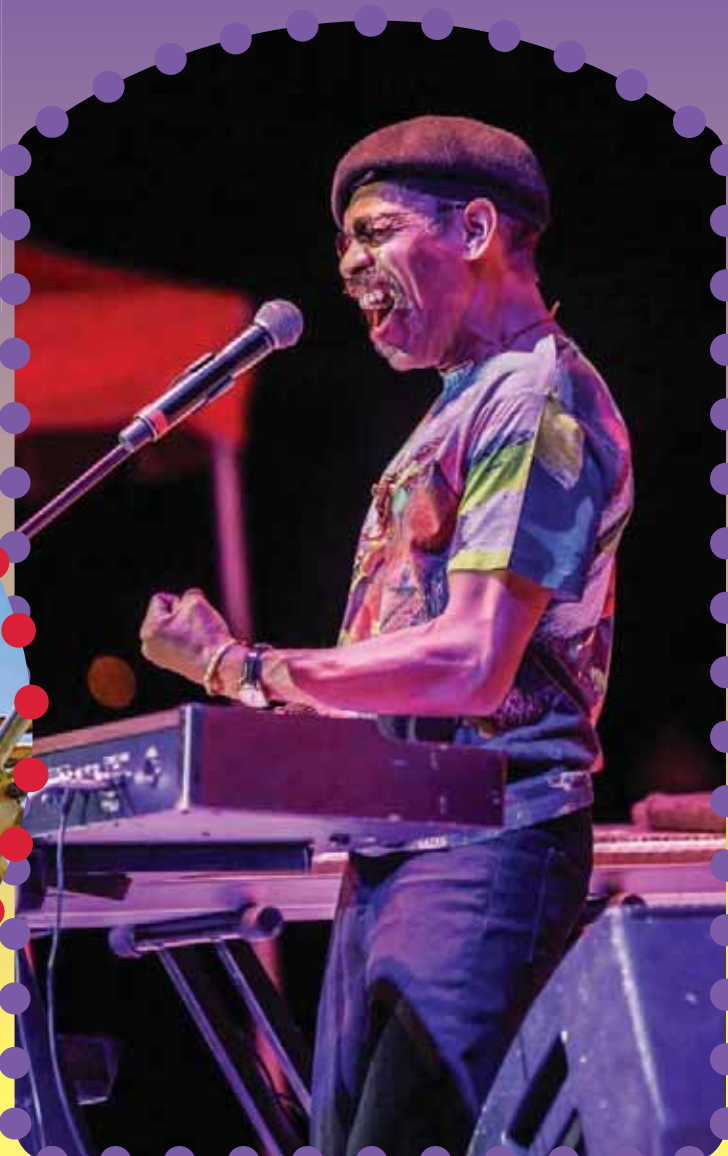
"The Alameda County Fair, to me personally, is pure joy," Rosinski said. "It is a place where people can come together with their friends and families to create memories that will last a lifetime. When I step through the gates, I know summer has officially begun."

She added, "Not only is the Fair a cherished tradition in our community, but it also helps to create jobs and stimulates our local economy."

The county fair runs from Friday through July 6, with closure days on each Monday and Tuesday and an early exit at 8 p.m. on Independence Day. Regular hours will be noon to 11 p.m.

Opening weekend will see the annual Big O Tires Concert Series — in the newly rebranded Cuervo

# Like no other



COURTESY ALAMEDA COUNTY FAIR

Amphitheater — start off with a strong lineup of WAR on Friday, Gym Class Heroes on Saturday and The Romantics on Sunday.

There'll be a bang too, on the debut night, as a fireworks and drone show follows the WAR concert at 9:30 p.m. Fireworks will return on July 3 after country legend Clint Black performs on the stage, otherwise all other concerts will be followed by a drone show sans pyrotechnics.

The rest of the concert lineup features Sawyer Brown on Wednesday, Air Supply on Thursday, Sugar Ray next Friday, Twist on Taylor next Saturday, Mi Banda El Mexicano next Sunday, Too \$hort on June 25, Tower of Power on June 26, Colbie Caillat on June 27, Elton John The Early Years Tribute on June 28, former Journey lead singer Steve Augeri on June 29, Tesla on July 2, Revisiting Creedence on July 5 and La Original Banda El Limón on closing night July 6.

A variety of musical and dance acts will be performing throughout the fairgrounds every day as well.

Movies on the Lawn, which start at 6 p.m. each evening, will get underway with "The Lego Movie" on Friday, "The Powerpuff Girls" on Saturday and "Up" on Sunday.

Perhaps the marquee special attraction of opening weekend is the fair hosting the West Coast Regional Qualifiers of Nathan's Famous Hot Dog Eating Contest at 1 p.m. Saturday at the O'Reilly Auto Parts Grandstand Stage. The competitive eaters are duking it out (or maybe more like wolfing it down) for the chance to advance to the finals in Coney Island on the Fourth of July.

Eating is synonymous with the fair, after all.

"Food is consistently ranked as one of the top attractions at the Fair, so the Foodie's Choice Awards are something we are excited about," Rosinski said. "The contest, which runs through June, gives people the chance to vote for their favorite crazy new food or beverage item. It's a great way for our food vendors to spin up fun, unusual culinary creations and find out which ones are the most popular."

"In addition to all the new fabulous Fair Food, the opening of the Safeway Barn is another feature we are looking forward to because it will bring the community together year-round," she said, touting another attraction of the first weekend.

"It's also something that honors

the agricultural roots of the Alameda County Fair. The Farm project is something that the Fair has been working on for so long, and it's really wonderful seeing it come to fruition," Rosinski added.

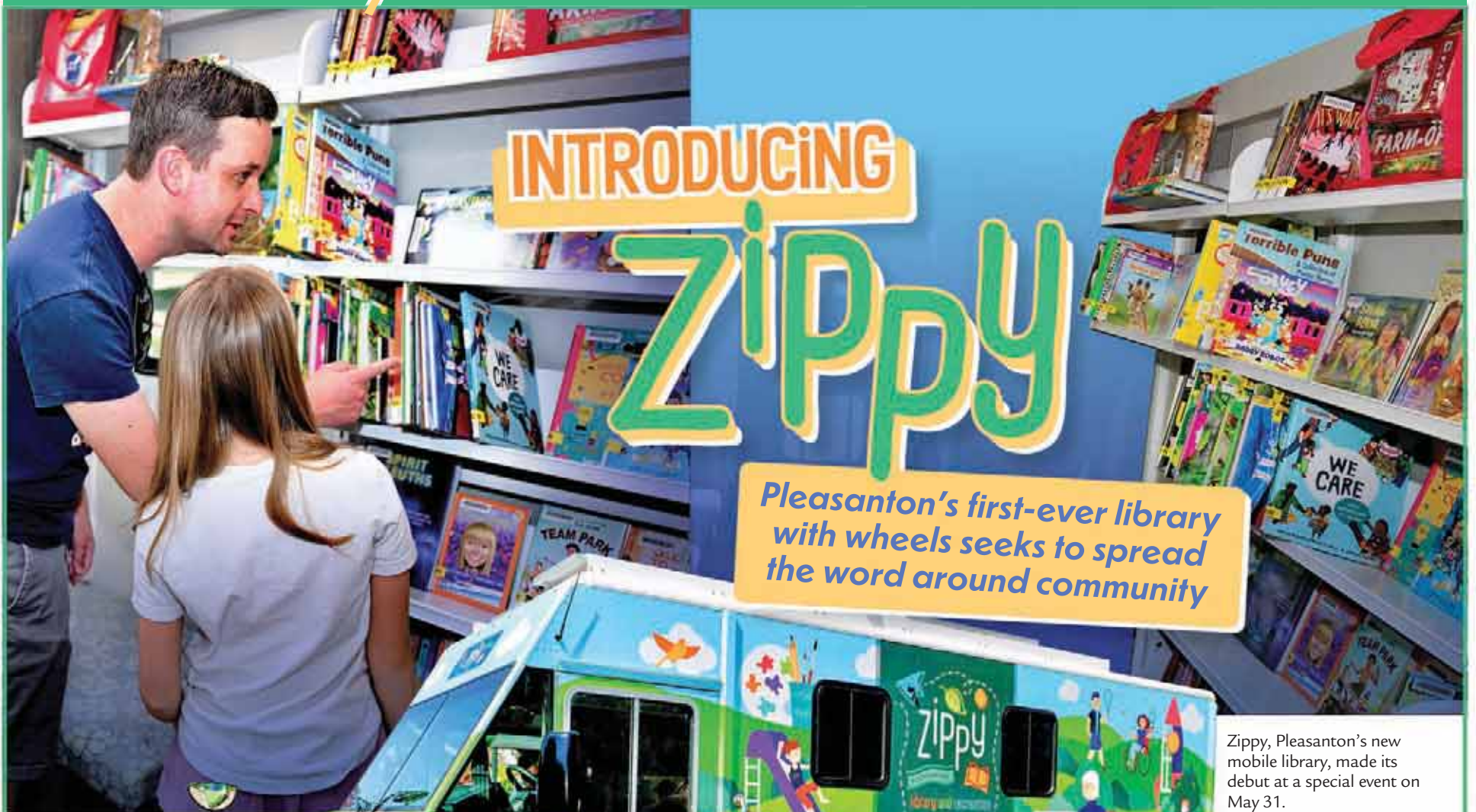
Looking ahead on the fair schedule, upcoming special events include Fiesta at the Fair on June 22, Wine Fest on June 28, Blues at the Fair on June 29 and the Junior Livestock Auction on July 6.

Admission promotional offerings are on the calendar too, such as \$1 rides on Wednesdays, \$3 Fair Food Bites on Thursdays and Throwback Thursdays (\$11 admission) — all until 5 p.m. First responders are free until 3 p.m. on Independence Day, and military with valid ID and kids 5 years old and under get free entry all the time. Learn more at [annual.alamedacountyfair.com](http://annual.alamedacountyfair.com).

"The Fair is a cherished annual tradition for so many, celebrating the culture and community of Alameda County," Angel Moore, chief operating officer of the fairgrounds, said in a press release ahead of opening day. "We couldn't be more excited to welcome our guests back for a truly amazing summer."

And with that, they're off starting at noon Friday. ■

Clockwise from top left: Action sports and special experiences will now be the primary draws on the historic race track and grandstand area at the Alameda County Fair, with no live horse racing this year. The Dole Whip is a popular sweet, cold treat. Fair-goers flock to the carnival midway for games and rides, night or day. WAR is the opening night concert this Friday. Youngsters enjoy visiting the petting zoo and livestock areas. The Fun Slide is among the activities for the youngest kids.



Zippy, Pleasanton's new mobile library, made its debut at a special event on May 31.

STORY BY  
CHRISTIAN TRUJANO  
PHOTOS BY  
CHUCK DECKERT

**Z**ippy, Pleasanton's first-of-its-kind mobile library, made its debut appearance this spring — three years after the city first received state funding for the van.

The focus of the outreach vehicle will be to not just serve the entire city, but particularly the population of residents who might be of lower income or who do not have the means to get to the library as often as others do, city officials said in a press release last month.

“At their core, public libraries are about access: access to information, to technology, to opportunity, and to community,” Nick Binzoni, communications specialist for the city's Library and Recreation Department, told the Weekly. “But we know that for a variety of reasons — transportation challenges, work schedules, language barriers or simply a lack of awareness — not everyone is able to walk through the doors of a physical library building.”

“Zippy provides an opportunity for us to reimagine what access can look like,” Binzoni added. “It allows us to meet people where they are, especially in underserved neighborhoods that may not have had consistent access to library services.”

The city first recognized the need for such an outreach vehicle back in 2021 after a citywide community survey revealed a “correlation between residents' proximity to, and overall satisfaction with, library services.”

“As distance from the library increased, residents' satisfaction decreased,” according to

the city's press release. “Compared to those living in the closest proximity to the library, overall satisfaction dropped by 29% among respondents who live the furthest distances from the library.”

In January 2022, a year after recognizing this need, the state awarded the city with a \$175,000 grant from the California State Library for the purchase and design of the outreach vehicle, Zippy.

Zippy is a custom-built, 28-foot step van that is equipped with book cars, a wheelchair lift, internet access, a sound system, air conditioning and a LCD monitor. Inside the van is interchangeable shelving that will “allow staff to transform the space at each service location to best meet community needs.”

According to the city, the grant was aimed at helping 15 cities, including Pleasanton, implement “new ways to bring literacy, technology, and other services to those who face challenges visiting their local library.”

In the following years, despite facing several setbacks ranging from manufacturing and safety modifications to training and compliance with state regulations, the city was able to obtain additional funding for the

vehicle. One \$12,250 grant from the Black Gold Cooperative Library System helped pay for exterior design services and books while a separate \$10,000 grant from the Friends of the Pleasanton Library helped pay for additional books.

According to the city press release, the vehicle staffed by trained library personnel will be deployed during community events, neighborhood pop-ups and school visits and will provide resources ranging from lending books and STEAM kits, to offering sports equipment and interactive programming.

However, budgeting for the continued use of the vehicle is one major issue that has recently impacted the deployment of Zippy.

According to Binzoni, due to the city's recent budget challenges and the City Council's latest direction to make cuts to the library department in the soon-to-be adopted city budget, Zippy's schedule has been scaled back to one stop per month.

“We're making the most of this opportunity by relying on existing staff to drive and operate the vehicle, and the programs offered at each stop will be drawn from our current suite of library and recreation offerings,” Binzoni said.

“Our goal is to provide the same high-quality, trusted services that the community knows and values — just in new, more

accessible locations,” he added. “As resources allow, we hope to expand Zippy's reach over time. For now, each stop represents a meaningful step toward bringing library and recreation services into the heart of every Pleasanton neighborhood.”

He said despite the library department currently navigating a “period of transition,” staff have been able to secure three scheduled visits for Zippy: June 26 at Kottinger Village, July 11 at Concerts in the Park and July 24 at Ken Mercer Sports Park.

“Beyond these dates, we don't yet have a finalized schedule,” Binzoni said. “However, our team is working on a phased approach that focuses on reaching areas with limited access to library services, and we hope to expand our visits to schools and community hubs as resources allow.”

He also noted that the community's response to Zippy's first appearance outside of the downtown library on May 31 during the city's Summer Reading Kickoff event was “overwhelmingly positive” and that many residents had the chance to excitedly check out the new vehicle. He said many were thrilled about the vehicle's scheduled appearances and that they appreciated the city's efforts to expand access to library and recreation resources.

“We're committed to making sure everyone in Pleasanton can benefit from the resources the library provides — not just those who live nearby or have the means to visit,” Binzoni said. “This vehicle is an extension of our mission to serve the whole community, and it's a step toward ensuring equity in how we deliver those services.” ■

# Community Pulse

## POLICE BULLETIN

### Jail medical provider agrees to \$2.5M settlement in inmate death lawsuit

The private company responsible for medical care at Alameda County's Santa Rita Jail has agreed to a \$2.5 million settlement in a federal civil rights lawsuit filed by a dead inmate's family.

Wellpath, a Nashville-based company, agreed to settle the case brought by the children of Maurice Monk, who died in the jail in November 2021.

"Maurice Monk's children will receive some justice for the needless death of their father," Monk family attorney Ty Clarke said. "There is simply no excuse for any medical professionals, no matter the setting, to neglect their primary duties and their Hippocratic oath."

A spokesperson for Wellpath, whose \$250 million contract with the county expires in 2027, declined to comment on the settlement.

Monk was found in his cell in a pool of bodily fluids after being dead for about three days.

His family lawyers said guards ignored his condition even as meals delivered to him piled up uneaten and Wellpath nurses simply tossed his medications into the cell.

Monk was being treated for diabetes and schizophrenia at the time. "The settlement ends the Monk family's lawsuit against at least nine nurses and a physician's assistant who never intervened as they watched Monk deteriorate while in their care, yet did nothing to help him," said lawyer Adante Pointer in a news release last week.

In addition to the lawsuit, criminal charges were filed in 2024 against seven Alameda County sheriff's deputies, two former deputies and a pair of civilian Santa Rita Jail employees. All defendants have pleaded not guilty and the cases are still pending, according to court records.

Monk was in jail for about a month prior to his death, having been arrested on suspicion of disorderly conduct for allegedly refusing to get off an Alameda-Contra Costa Transit bus and failing to appear on a misdemeanor warrant for another alleged altercation on a bus, according to prosecutors.

His public defender said that he missed his court date because he was turned away at the door and was unable to pay the \$2,500 cash bail once he was arrested.

In 2023, Alameda County agreed to a \$7 million settlement with Monk's family, an agreement that also requires the sheriff's office to improve the ways in which it



WEEKLY FILE PHOTO

Wellpath has settled its lawsuit with the family of Maurice Monk, who was dead in his cell at Santa Rita Jail for roughly three days, unnoticed.

conducts observation checks of inmates.

Guards must now undergo an annual training course on how to assess "emergent issues related to the physical and mental health of incarcerated persons, including deterioration in quality of life".

Also, the Alameda County Board of Supervisors is considering putting the jail's medical care contract out to bid in order to possibly replace Wellpath when its contract expires in 2027.

— Kiley Russell, Bay City News

### Coroner IDs motorcyclist killed on I-580

The Alameda County Coroner's Bureau has confirmed the identity of the motorcyclist who died after being struck by multiple vehicles in chain-reaction crashes on the freeway in Livermore last week.

The decedent was identified as 27-year-old Ryan Bally Lance, of Livermore.

Family remembered Lance as "warm-spirited, adventurous, and a beautiful soul whose life was tragically cut short in a motorcycle accident, with so much life still ahead" in an obituary online.

"Ryan approached life with compassion, dry humor, and quiet strength," his family wrote. "Ryan's passion with motors, boats and cars started when he was just a toddler. He had a work ethic that carried through every part of his life. He was deeply loyal to his close friends and was always the first to show up to lend a hand."

The circumstances of Lance's death on Interstate 580 remain under investigation by the California Highway Patrol's Dublin office.

CHP officials reported that the situation unfolded just before 2:40 a.m. June 3 on eastbound I-580 east of Airway Boulevard in Livermore.

The initial investigation indicated that a Yamaha motorcycle was involved in a crash in the No. 5 lane for unknown reasons and the motorcyclist — later identified as Lance — was ejected and landed in the No. 6 lane. The CHP said the rider was then struck by three

other passing vehicles and died at the scene.

Any potential witnesses can contact CHP-Dublin at 925-828-0466.

— Jeremy Walsh

### Downtown crash

There was some commotion in downtown Pleasanton last week when a driver crashed into a planter box after experiencing a medical emergency, a Pleasanton Police Department spokesperson confirmed.

Only the driver was injured and was transported to a local hospital for treatment, PPD Lt. Nicholas Albert told the Pleasanton Weekly.

"There were no major injuries to the driver as a result of the crash to our knowledge," Albert said. "There were no additional parties involved or injured as a result of the collision."

According to the lieutenant, the incident occurred at about 9 a.m. June 4 in front of 252 Main St., which is the address of McKay's Taphouse & Beer Garden. Only the planter box outside the establishment sustained damages, according to Albert.

The unnamed driver is not being charged with a crime. Albert did not disclose the nature of the person's medical emergency due to health privacy reasons.

— Christian Trujano

### Fatality on tracks; ACE trains delayed

A person died after being struck by a freight train on the tracks in downtown Livermore last week, leading to major backups for commuter trains through the Tri-Valley as the emergency response and subsequent investigation continued into that evening.

Livermore police confirmed a pedestrian was on the tracks at the L Street crossing north of Railroad Avenue at around 3 p.m. June 5. The conductor of an eastbound freight train en route from Oakland to Lathrop observed the person, sounded the horn and applied the emergency brakes but could not avoid the collision, police said.

The pedestrian sustained fatal injuries. The circumstances remain under investigation, police said.

The situation caused severe impacts for the Altamont Corridor Express trains that travel from Silicon Valley to the Tri-Valley and out to the San Joaquin Valley. ACE service resumed at about 6:30 p.m. that day, the agency said.

— Jeremy Walsh

### Traffic citation scam

Scammers have been sending out fake text messages purporting to be from the Superior Court of Alameda County seeking payment for unpaid traffic tickets, the Sheriff's Office said.

The Court cautioned the public that they would never text anyone and ask for traffic citation payments and advises that no one should ever respond to such texts with personal or financial information.

Anyone who is unsure if they owe money for a traffic ticket can go to [www.alameda.courts.ca.gov](http://www.alameda.courts.ca.gov) and click on "Pay Your Traffic Ticket" to see if there are any outstanding citations.

— Bay City News Service

### State cuts pilot program to increase juror pay

Alameda County Superior Court jurors will no longer get \$100 a day for their efforts thanks to state budget cuts, court officials announced last week.

The pilot program that provided the money, along with 67 cents per mile for travel to and from the courthouse, was removed from Gov. Gavin Newsom's budget in his May revisions.

Jurors selected after June 5 will receive the regular \$15 a day and 34 cents per mile.

The \$27 million program was intended to gauge whether paying jurors more to participate in the legal process would increase the diversity of jurors.

"We share the disappointment

of our justice partners who had hoped this study would provide insight into how increased compensation could diversify jury pools," Alameda County Superior Court Presiding Judge Thomas Nixon said. "Jurors are an essential part of our judicial system, and we need to do all we can to increase participation."

In addition to Alameda County, six other superior court systems in the state were participating and the National Center for State Courts was compiling data for a report on the program's effectiveness.

It's not clear if such a report is feasible now that the program came to an end before it was even half-way complete, court officials said.

Any money that remains in the program budget will revert back to the state in order to help close a projected \$12 billion budget shortfall.

— Kiley Russell, Bay City News

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## EDITORIAL

THE OPINION OF THE WEEKLY

### A tale of two problem-solving techniques

A lesson can be learned by the manner in which a similar problem was addressed by two different agencies — Dublin San Ramon Services District (DSRSD) and the city of Pleasanton.

The problem: DSRSD and Pleasanton both allegedly failed in their contractual and legal duties to fully compensate Zone 7 Water Agency by not reporting changes in the size and capacity of new water meters installed.

As a water wholesaler, Zone 7 sells treated water in the Tri-Valley to the cities of Livermore and Pleasanton, and DSRSD, and the cities and DSRSD pay Zone 7 based on the amount of water delivered.

The new, larger meters allowed more water to be delivered, but DSRSD and Pleasanton neglected to report the installation of new meters and the increase in water flow to Zone 7. Both agencies also continued to collect fees based on the

smaller meter sizes, resulting in the undercollection and underpayment of fees to Zone 7.

This is where the tales diverge — dramatically and irreversibly.

In October 2024, DSRSD reported to Zone 7 that in 2012 the agency installed meters that provide a higher maximum continuous flow of water and “DSRSD may have collected and remitted to Zone 7 water connection fees in amounts less than what was required under the Parties’ 2003 Connection Fee Agreement...”

The representatives of DSRSD and Zone 7 collaborated on an agreement that includes a plan for DSRSD to decrease the flow of water through the meters and Zone 7 agreeing to amend its fee schedule if necessary.

The best part is that both parties agreed to look forward through constructive actions, not backward by placing blame or litigating over what is, arguably, owed to Zone 7.

In other words, DSRSD took

the path of transparency and responsibility.

Pleasanton took a different, less transparent, possibly expensive path of trying to fight the reality of a problematic situation, forcing Zone 7 to file a lawsuit in January 2024.

And Pleasanton continues to fight accountability through litigation, which will likely cost millions of dollars in legal fees to defend a case that seems indefensible considering the documentation and evidence presented by Zone 7.

According to the 2024 complaint, Zone 7 was informed in June 2022 by former Pleasanton employee Dan Repp (who is suing the city for wrongful employment termination) that larger meters which allowed increased water flow were installed on new and existing residential and commercial properties between 2015 and 2016.

In other words, Pleasanton had not been collecting or paying for the increased water capacity the new meters allowed since 2015.

Zone 7’s estimate of what Pleasanton owed for the increased water delivery between January 2015 to July 2022 was more than \$18.5 million.

In California, in order to sue a municipality, a legal claim must first be

filed and a response received. Zone 7 submitted its claims on Nov. 18, 2022. On Dec. 3, 2022, Pleasanton sent a letter to Zone 7’s legal council and returned the claim because it fell outside the statute of limitations of one year of the “event or occurrence”.

Actually, though, Pleasanton’s rejection was, well, rejected. We assume the rejection was because the claim was filed within a year of notification of underpayment.

On May 31, 2023, Zone 7 and Pleasanton entered into an agreement that paused the statute of limitations for 120 days, so the agency could still sue outside of the year statute if necessary.

According to the complaint, there were several extension agreements. Apparently, Zone 7 had had enough of the delays and filed its lawsuit before the expiration of the final agreement.

So, DSRSD owned up to errors made years earlier — whether knowingly or by bureaucratic negligence under another general manager — and came away with an agreement that excludes a monetary settlement and avoids “the time, burden, expense, distraction, uncertainty, and inconvenience of litigation”.

When Pleasanton was alerted to a potential problem, perhaps staff

should have asked for time to research if the city did in fact under-collect and under-pay more than \$18.5 million in fees for approximately seven years — whether knowingly or by bureaucratic negligence under another city manager.

Instead, Pleasanton City Manager Gerry Beaudin and the City Council in 2023 chose to kick the can down the road through legal maneuvers and delays, and now Pleasanton is involved in what could be a very expensive lawsuit.

In addition to the \$18.5 million-plus in fees owed, Zone 7 is asking for interest and its legal fees to be paid by Pleasanton, if the agency is successful in its lawsuit. A hearing is set for July 22; a jury trial is set for Aug. 25.

Why Beaudin and the former council, leading a city reportedly facing a \$10.4 million budget shortfall in fiscal year 2025-26 and a \$12 million shortfall in 2026-27, decided to let this fester to the point Zone 7 wants a jury trial is a mystery.

There are obviously better ways to handle situations like this. We hope Beaudin, his staff and the current City Council will take a lesson on transparency, accountability and leadership from DSRSD and work to get this lawsuit settled before it goes to trial. ■

## Pleasanton Weekly

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## LETTERS

### Budget problems were known

I wanted to comment on the former Pleasanton mayor Karla Brown’s understanding of Measure PP and its effects. The measure was defeated by a majority, not popular vote. We already live in one of the highest taxed states in the country. My sense one of the reasons another tax increase did not go through is the lack of accountability in the money our government receives already.

With all the shopping alternatives available today, people can pick and choose. Later this year, I think we will lose Stoneridge Mall, which houses many storefronts. Hacienda Business Park is fairly empty and adding more housing. How are we as a city attracting business to Pleasanton? By increasing the price to do business here? I think not.

I am heartbroken that the city is in the fiscal shape it is in. I appreciate you making us aware this issue was not all of a sudden but a known problem coming like a storm.

There are a number of ways to solve this fiscal problem. At numerous City Council meetings, there have been new methods proposed to bring in more revenue that should be considered. We cannot cut our way out of this problem, but the city will need to find new, better ways of managing parks, pools and its own assets.

Costs in Pleasanton are already

high and increasing the sales tax would drive people to do their business elsewhere than in their own town.

— Pat Shaughnessy

### Happy Father’s Day

Father’s Day was invented by Sonora Smart Dodd in 1909. She was inspired by a Mother’s Day sermon and wanted to create a similar holiday to honor fathers. The first Father’s Day celebration was held in Spokane, Wash., in 1910 to honor her father.

In 1972 it became a national holiday when President Richard Nixon signed legislation declaring it a national holiday, to be celebrated on the third Sunday in June.

I was fortunate to have a loving and dedicated father, John George Ott. He was a hardworking man who was a steel worker for most of his life. He was born in the hills of western Pennsylvania in 1919, joined the Navy during WWII and worked for Bethlehem Steel until he retired in the 1980s.

He taught me how to tie my shoes, ride a bike, catch and hit a baseball, and he shared the rich history of baseball, his favorite sport. He was a great example on how to be a loving husband and father and to never shy away from hard work and to believe in God.

On this Father’s Day, please visit or call your father and tell him you love him and to thank him for all that he has done for you. If your father has passed away, share his story

with someone and tell them how important he was to you.

Happy Father’s Day to all the fathers past and present.

— David Ott

### Train quiet zone

I urge the city to create a railroad quiet zone in Pleasanton. Residents of downtown Pleasanton deserve better than being jolted awake dozens of times each night by 100-plus-decibel train horns. This chronic noise disrupts sleep, increases blood pressure and raises anxiety, directly undermining the mental health goals our city prides itself on.

Nearly 20 years ago, Pleasanton had a quiet-zone plan ready to go, but it was never implemented. Today, with improved safety technology and successful quiet-zone projects in nearby Fremont and Sunol, completing the job is easier and more affordable than ever.

A quiet zone would make our vibrant Main Street even more inviting. Studies in other cities across the country have shown that a quiet zone increases the appeal of downtown, resulting in an additional influx of revenue to the city. At a time when the city is struggling, this is another avenue that could help revitalize our fair city.

The residents of Pleasanton have waited long enough, suffering in silence — it’s time to prioritize quality of life and give our community the peace it deserves.

— Shiray Choksey

### Eyesore structure

Regarding the visual impression of the Gulf gas station on First Street in Pleasanton: the canopy and signage of the Gulf gas station needs to be redone. The canopy is way too big for the surrounding area, and the orange colors have no relationship to the visual surroundings. The colors are glaring and don’t complement that area.

As it is now, it is not in keeping with the quality standards of Pleasanton. If the overall structure of the canopy and signs were smaller, the words smaller and the orange color more of a darker, quiet tone, it would help.

— Phyllis Couper

### Railroad perspective

I’m getting upset listening to these people at the City Council meeting! I’ve lived here since 1971. It’s my understanding that they got their homes cheaper because of the railroad.

I am sending you a couple of articles that may help. I have a problem with these people pressuring the city council when they all know they got their houses cheaper because of the railroad. The railroads been there since 1800s.

It would be great if you can write an article regarding the history of the railroad in Pleasanton. Everybody that bought a house in that area knew the railroad was there, and their houses were cheaper for that reason.

— Erlene DeMarcus



## PLEASANTON PREPS

By DENNIS MILLER

### Mijatovic earns spot among world's best swimmers

After second place at nationals, Foothill junior headed to Singapore with U.S. men's team

Luka Mijatovic was certainly well-known in the junior swimming world by virtue of success in both national and international competitions.

The incoming junior at Foothill High recently won two more CIF State championships, taking the 200 and 500 freestyle races at the state meet in mid-May.

Despite all the success for Mijatovic, who swims for the Pleasanton Seahawks, the moment he became known on the senior level had not yet arrived.

It has now.

Following the conclusion of the 2025 Toyota National Championships in Indianapolis on Saturday, Mijatovic is not only known — by virtue of a second place in the 400 free, he has earned a spot on the United States Senior Team for the 2025 World Aquatics Championship July 11 to Aug. 3 in Singapore.

"I didn't put any pressure on myself," Mijatovic said. "I just wanted

to qualify for Junior World's. That was truly my goal."

He's not lying. The two times I have talked with him recently, he was adamant the goal was to qualify for Juniors. Both times I dangled Senior World's at him, he wouldn't admit to thinking about it.

Mijatovic — he turned 16 on April 22 — is the youngest American swimmer to compete in World's since Michael Phelps in 2001.

The big moment came last Thursday night in the 400-meter free, Mijatovic's third day competing, when his biggest swim came.

He had already swum two events and made the finals in both, taking some of the pressure off, which certainly helped on the mental side.

"I was having fun and trying not to think about anything else or my nerves would take over," Mijatovic said. "Having already swam in two finals also helped with the nerves."

During the 400 trials, Mijatovic qualified first for the finals with a time of 3:45.89. In the finals, swim-

ming against NCAA champion Rex Mauer, Mijatovic finished second to Mauer, with a 3:47.71 to Mauer's 3:43.33.

Mauer celebrated after touching the wall, but so did Mijatovic, fist-pumping the water after seeing he was second and bringing a spot at World's a possible reality.

"After qualifying first, it meant I would have a real shot of making the World's team in the finals," Mijatovic said. "I was just trying to stay as close as possible to Rex and get my hand on the wall right behind him."

They had to wait until after the meet ended Saturday night to make it official that Mijatovic made the team due to roster limitations.

But the 400 was far from the lone accomplishment Mijatovic had during the meet.

He set national age group records in the 200 and 400 freestyle for the 15-16 age group. In the 200, he also swam faster than Phelps' mark in the 17-18 age group but due to the



CHUCK DECKERT

Foothill swimmer Luka Mijatovic is making a name for himself in the pool at the local, state and national levels.

fact he is not in the group it doesn't go down as the record-holder.

He made the A final in all four of his events.

In the 200 he qualified fourth, then proceeded to finish eighth in the A finals. In the 400 individual medley, he was eighth qualifying and then went out and finished fifth with a 4:16.75.

Day three was the 400 and his qualifying mark of 3:45.89 set the age group record. His time is the second best of all time, with the legendary Ian Thorpe of Australia being the only one that has gone faster in that age group.

Finally on the final day in the 800, he was fourth with a mark of 7:53.80.

#### Pleasanton Seahawks

Mijatovic was hardly the only Seahawk swimmer to have a good week.

Tim Wu (Dougherty Valley) and Libby Clark both qualified for the Junior World Team, with recent SoCal transplant Teagan O'Dell making the World University Games.

Brooke Bennett (Granada), Lilly Caples (Amador Valley) and Daniela Lineras Danzos (San Ramon Valley) all swam well in their events.

"It was a very strong week for the Seahawks," Seahawks coach Steve Morsilli said. "We are very proud of their performances." ■

### Minor League Cricket moving to San Ramon

New partnership includes Grizzlies games at Quail Run, support for local youth prospects

By JEREMY WALSH

Professional cricket has found a new home in the Tri-Valley, as a Northern California minor league men's franchise is moving into the region and rebranding as the San Ramon Grizzlies.

Announced last week, the affiliation will see the Minor League Cricket team play two home games in San Ramon this season with logistical support from the city government, as well as forge a reciprocal relationship between the Grizzlies and the San Ramon Cricket Association for facility access and a pathway to develop local young cricketers for the professional level.

"We are proud to welcome the Grizzlies to San Ramon," Mayor Mark Armstrong said in the June 2 press release. "This partnership

enhances recreational opportunities for our residents and brings the excitement of top-tier cricket right to our doorstep."

"This is more than a name change — it's a commitment to building a deep and lasting partnership with the San Ramon community," added Samir Shah, new co-owner and CEO of the Grizzlies. "Together, we look forward to creating meaningful opportunities for youth and growing the game right here in the Bay Area."

The rebrand comes amid a new era for the franchise that began about a month earlier when Shah — a Bay Area resident and lifelong cricket fan — took over as the lead investor and CEO of the then-Golden State Grizzlies, previously based in Davis. "Together, we're building a world-class team that delivers last-

ing value to our players, partners, investors, and the broader cricket community," he vowed May 1.

The ownership group then hired veteran Indian cricketer and coach Arunkumar Jagadeesh (known better as Jak) as the Grizzlies' new head coach on May 8. The organization is working to build out its player roster ahead of the start of the 2025 regular season later this summer.

The final schedule is still pending from MiLC, but when it is released, two of the Grizzlies' home games will be played at the brand-new Quail Run Cricket Pitch in the heart of eastern San Ramon's Dougherty Valley.

The city is expected to "provide logistical and ground support, helping elevate the overall game-day experience for both players and fans" for those matches, ac-



COURTESY SAN RAMON GRIZZLIES

San Ramon Grizzlies team members, organization officials and fans gather at a recent event in Milpitas.

ording to the Grizzlies.

The team also looks to benefit from cricket's strong roots in the Tri-Valley by leveraging SRCA's facilities and support staff, and in turn the local cricket club is launching an advanced training program for top young cricket players with help from the Grizzlies.

"This collaboration gives our most promising young players ac-

cess to elite resources and a direct path to the professional level," SRCA Youth Chairman Ramesh Immadi said in the press release.

Vice Mayor Sridhar Verose added, "San Ramon has always celebrated diversity and youth engagement. The Grizzlies' presence here adds a new dimension to our city's sports culture and inspires our youth to dream bigger." ■

# Public Notices

## STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME

File No. 604311

The following person(s)/registrant(s) has/ have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name(s). The information given below is as it appeared on the fictitious business statement that was filed at the County Clerk-Recorder's Office. FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME(S):

REF-OLOGY

111 Centre Crt.

Alameda, CA 94502

FILED IN ALAMEDA COUNTY ON:

02/28/2024

UNDER FILE NO. 604311

REGISTRANT'S NAME(S):

BLAST EQUALITY COLLAB

111 Centre Crt.

Alameda, CA 94502

THIS BUSINESS WAS CONDUCTED BY A

Corporation.

This statement was filed with the County

Clerk Recorder of Alameda County on May

08 2025.

(PLW May 23, 30, Jun 6 and 13, 2025)

## STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME

File No. 597109

The following person(s)/registrant(s) has/ have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name(s). The information given below is as it appeared on the fictitious business statement that was filed at the County Clerk-Recorder's Office. FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME(S):

BIZ BROKERS OF CA

22230 W Lyndon Loop

Castro Valley, 94552

FILED IN ALAMEDA COUNTY ON:

04/12/2023

UNDER FILE NO. 597109

REGISTRANT'S NAME(S):

BRIAN KANG

22230 W Lyndon Loop

Castro Valley, 94552

THIS BUSINESS WAS CONDUCTED BY An

Individual.

This statement was filed with the County

Clerk Recorder of Alameda County on May

16 2025.

(PLW Jun 13, 20, 27 and Jul 4, 2025)

## ISLAND FOOD CO. FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No.: 614561

The following person (persons) is (are)

doing business as:

1.) Island Food Co., located at 3125 Marina

Dr. Alameda, CA 94501, Alameda County.

This business is conducted by: a Limited

Liability Company.

The name and residence address of the

registrant(s) is(are):

ISLAND BAIT & TACKLE LLC

3125 Marina Dr

Alameda, CA 94501

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 May 13

2025.

(PLW May 30, Jun 6, 13 and 20, 2025)

## THE LEAN CURRY FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No.: 614935

The following person (persons) is (are)

doing business as:

1.) The Lean Curry , located at 5499

Horizon Pkwy, Dublin, CA 94568, Alameda

County.

This business is conducted by: a Limited

Liability Company.

The name and residence address of the

registrant(s) is(are):

ASK-Y LLC

2108 N ST STE N

Sacramento, CA 95816

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 May 29

2025.

(PLW Jun 6, 13, 20 and 27, 2025)

## JANTRIC CLOUD PARTNERS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No.: 614941

The following person (persons) is (are)

doing business as:

1.) Jantric Cloud Partners , located at 529

Malbec Court, Pleasanton, 94566, Alameda

County.

This business is conducted by: a Limited

Liability Company.

The name and residence address of the

registrant(s) is(are):

JANTRIC VENTURES LLC

2108 N ST STE N

SACRAMENTO CA 95816

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 May 29

2025.

(PLW Jun 6, 13, 20 and 27, 2025)

## CIRCULARITY

### FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No.: 614657

The following person (persons) is (are)

doing business as:

1.) CIRCULARITY , located at 80 Swan Way,

#245, Oakland, CA 94521, Alameda County.

This business is conducted by: a

Corporation.

The name and residence address of the

registrant(s) is(are):

WESTERN REGIONAL MINORITY SUPPLIER

DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

80 Swan Way, #245

Oakland, CA 94521

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 May 16

2025.

(PLW Jun 13, 20, 27 and Jul 4, 2025)

## FLOWER SHOP BY NINA

### FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No.: 614496

The following person (persons) is (are)

doing business as:

1.) Flower Shop By Nina , located at 5255

Mowry Ave #S Fremont CA 94538, Alameda

County.

This business is conducted by: an

Individual.

The name and residence address of the

registrant(s) is(are):

ARLENE AQUINO

5255 Mowry Ave #S

Fremont CA 94538

Registrant began transacting business

under the fictitious business name(s) listed

above on 05/09/25

This statement was filed with the County

Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on May 09

2025.

(PLW Jun 6, 13, 20 and 27, 2025)

## OFFICEPAQ

### FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No.: 615137

The following person (persons) is (are)

doing business as:

1.) OfficePAQ , 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):

RAJ GAUTAM

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 06/01/2025

This statement was filed with the County

Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on June 05

2025.

(PLW Jun 13, 20, 27 and Jul 4, 2025)

## THE MATH SOLUTION

### FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No.: 614654

The following person (persons) is (are)

doing business as:

1.) The Math Solution , located at 37191

Panton Ter., #3016, Fremont CA 94536,

Alameda County.

This business is conducted by: an

Individual.

The name and residence address of the

registrant(s) is(are):

CARLEY BIBLIN

37191 Panton Ter., #3016

Fremont CA 94536

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 May 16

2025.

(PLW May 30, Jun 6, 13 and 20, 2025)

## BAY REVERSE

### FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No.: 615079

The following person (persons) is (are)

doing business as:

1.) Bay Reverse , located at 3825 Hopyard

Rd Ste#150, Pleasanton, CA 94588,

Alameda County. Mailing Address: 1522

Portola Ave, Livermore, CA 94551.

This business is conducted by: an

Individual.

The name and residence address of the

registrant(s) is(are):

JAMES A STAFFORD

1522 Portola Ave

Livermore, CA 94551

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 June 03

2025.

(PLW Jun 13, 20, 27 and Jul 4, 2025)

## PLEASANTON FAMILY DENTAL FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No.: 614695

The following person (persons) is (are)

doing business as:

1.) Pleasanton Family Dental , located at

4040 Pimlico Dr STE 120, Pleasanton, CA

94588, Alameda County.

This business is conducted by: an

Individual.

The name and residence address of the

registrant(s) is(are):

ESTER LISA DOMINGO

4040 Pimlico Dr STE 120

Pleasanton, CA 94588

Registrant began transacting business

under the fictitious business name(s) listed

above on 01/01/1998

This statement was filed with the County

Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on May 19

2025.

(PLW May 30, Jun 6, 13 and 20, 2025)

## MATERIA SECUNDA FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No.: 614521

The following person (persons) is (are)

doing business as:

1.) Materia Secunda , located at 1032 62nd

St, Oakland, CA 94608, ALAMEDA County.

This business is conducted by: an

Individual.

The name and residence address of the

registrant(s) is(are):

ESTER LISA DOMINGO

4040 Pimlico Dr STE 120

Pleasanton, CA 94588

Registrant began transacting business

under the fictitious business name(s) listed

above on 01/01/1998

This statement was filed with the County

Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on May 19

2025.

(PLW May 30, Jun 6, 13 and 20, 2025)

## MATERIA SECUNDA FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No.: 614521

The following person (persons) is (are)

doing business as:

1.) Materia Secunda , located at 1032 62nd

St, Oakland, CA 94608, ALAMEDA County.

This business is conducted by: an

Individual.

The name and residence address of the

registrant(s) is(are):

ESTER LISA DOMINGO

4040 Pimlico Dr STE 120

Pleasanton, CA 94588

Registrant began transacting business

under the fictitious business name(s) listed

above on 1/1/2024

This statement was filed with the County

Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on May 09

2025.

(PLW May 23, 30, Jun 6 and 13, 2025)

## REF-OLOGY

### FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No.: 614468

The following person (persons) is (are)

doing business as:

1.) REF-OLOGY , located at 111 Centre Ct,

Alameda, CA 94502, Alameda County.

This business is conducted by: a

Corporation.

The name and residence address of the

registrant(s) is(are):

SR2G REFEREE HOLDINGS, INC.

111 Centre Ct

Alameda, CA 94502

# Public Notices

Continued from previous page

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

Case No.: 25CV122671

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:

Petitioner: Ann Sue Alberty filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: ANN SUE ALBERTY to ANN SUE ALBERTY SAUNKEAH

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: October 3, 2025, 9:30 am, Hayward of the Superior Court of California, County of Alameda located at 24405 Amador Street Dept 514, Hayward, California 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: May 16, 2025

Jonathan Wolff

JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT

(PLW May 23, 30, Jun 6 and 13, 2025)

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF:

ANTHONY JAMES GREGOR

Case No.: RP21095195

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of ANTHONY JAMES GREGOR.

A Petition for Probate has been filed by: John Thomas in the Superior Court of California, County of Alameda. The Petition for Probate requests that: Maria Chang be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.

THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.

A HEARING on the petition will be held on June 20 2025 at 9:45 AM in Berkeley Branch, Dept. 201 of the Superior Court of California, County of Alameda, located at 2120 Martin Luther King Way, Berkeley, CA, 94704.

If you object to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.

If you are a creditor or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58 (b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the

California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law. You may examine the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.

Attorney for Petitioner:  
Hunter Hodge Hoestenbach, Special Counsel  
Antonyan Miranda, LLP  
402 West Broadway 21st Floor  
San Diego, CA 92101  
619-696-1100  
(PLW Jun 6, 13 and 20, 2025)

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF:

ALIZA TAMAR RAINE

Case No.: 25PR119198

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of ALIZA TAMAR RAINE.

A Petition for Probate has been filed by: Laila Yael Zohav in the Superior Court of California, County of Alameda.

The Petition for Probate requests that: Laila Yael Zohav be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.

THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.

A HEARING on the petition will be held on June 30 2025 at 10:15 in Probate Dept., Room 201 of the Superior Court of California, County of Alameda, located at 2120 Martin Luther King, Jr. Way, Berkeley, CA 94704.

If you object to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.

If you are a creditor or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58 (b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law. You may examine the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.

Attorney for Petitioner:  
Kira L. Hettinger, Esquire  
Hettinger Law, PC  
129 Wingfoot Court  
Aptos, CA 95003  
831-251-1279  
(PLW Jun 6, 13 and 20, 2025)

Place a legal notice at [PleasantonWeekly.com/legal\\_notices/](http://PleasantonWeekly.com/legal_notices/)

# Calendar

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

## Entertainment

### CYT ANASTASIA: THE MUSICAL

A rumor is spreading across the land: the missing princess of the Romanov empire may still be alive. Then, a young woman appears with no name and no family, but with the drive to discover her destiny. 7 p.m., June 12-14; 2 p.m., June 13-15. Tickets \$30 Visit [livermorearts.org](http://livermorearts.org).

### WENTE SUMMER MUSIC SERIES

This series brings a vibrant mix of tribute bands where guests enjoy a live performance, a variety of foods and favorite Wente wines. Doors open at 6 p.m. General admission \$55. June 13, Carnaval (Santana Tribute). Visit [wentevineyards.com](http://wentevineyards.com).

### FREE JAZZ AT INKLINGS

Join Matt Finders and the upcoming young musicians from Las Positas & Berkeley. Reserve at [meetup.com/pleasanton-jazz-society](http://meetup.com/pleasanton-jazz-society). 6 p.m., June 14.

### ANTHONY PAULE SOUL ORCHESTRA

The Anthony Paule Soul Orchestra is a San Francisco-based ensemble known for dynamic horn-driven performances and authentic vocalists. 7:30 p.m., June 15. Tickets \$28-\$35. Visit [firehousearts.org](http://firehousearts.org).

### COMEDY NIGHT AT THE STAGE DOOR LOUNGE

Prepare to roll on the stage laughing as the Bankhead Theater is transformed into an intimate comedy club where the stand-ups and the audience members are all on stage. 8 p.m., June 20. Tickets \$35-\$45. Visit [livermorearts.org](http://livermorearts.org).

### FREEDOM, FAITH & THE POWER OF CELEBRATION

Join Faith Alpher for a heartfelt and family-friendly Juneteenth celebration filled with music, meaning and joy and explore the rich history of this important day and reflect on why it resonates so deeply today. 3 p.m., June 21. Free. Visit [livermorearts.org](http://livermorearts.org).

### OAKLAND INTERFAITH GOSPEL CHOIR

Experience the uplifting power of music as the Oakland Interfaith Gospel Choir takes the stage with their signature blend of Black Gospel and Spiritual music traditions. 8 p.m., June 21. Tickets \$25-\$35. Visit [livermorearts.org](http://livermorearts.org).

### RICK ESTRIN AND THE NIGHTCATS

Featuring Estrin's streetwise lyrics and masterful harmonica, the band delivers a high-energy show packed with phenomenal musicianship and infectious grooves. 7:30 p.m., June 21. Tickets \$33. Visit [firehousearts.org](http://firehousearts.org).

### OPERA IN THE VINEYARD

Experience the magic of live music in the heart of wine country, blending the beauty of world-class voices with the charm of a relaxed, outdoor setting nestled among the vines. 5 p.m., June 22. Garré Vineyard & Winery. Visit [livermorevalleyopera.com](http://livermorevalleyopera.com).

## PET OF THE WEEK

### Meet Hazel

Hazel is a lovable girl with a heart as big as her appetite. This catterdog mix has the experience of life — at 9 years old, Hazel is house-trained and knows how to be the perfect companion around the home. With her gentle nature and expressive eyes, she enjoys leisurely strolls around the block, mellow playtime and is happiest in the company of her human friends. Meet Hazel at East Bay SPCA in Dublin or visit [eastbayspca.org/adopt](http://eastbayspca.org/adopt).



EAST BAY SPCA

## Family

### LIVERMORE RODEO PARADE

The Livermore Rodeo Parade takes place in Downtown Livermore, hosted by the Livermore Rotary Club. Local organizations, schools, businesses and residents participate in this event. 10 a.m., June 14. Visit [livermoreroдео.com/parade](http://livermoreroдео.com/parade).

### JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION AT THE FIREHOUSE

Join this free vibrant Juneteenth celebration with family and friends at the Firehouse Arts Center and enjoy performances by the PUSD Step Team and Cheza Nami, a Pleasanton-based non-profit that teaches African culture through dance, play, and movement. 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., June 14.

### 2025 ALAMEDA COUNTY FAIR

Celebrate summer with corn dogs, funnel cakes, carnival rides, concerts, tasting fests, live entertainment, racing pigs and so much more. Wednesdays to Sundays, June 13 to July 6. Visit [alamedacountyfair.com](http://alamedacountyfair.com).

## Exhibits

### COLOR AND SERENITY EXHIBIT

The Firehouse Arts Center presents the solo exhibition of Don Hershman, Color and Serenity, featuring 16 of the artist's works exploring how a minimal use of color can become a conduit for emotional connection and quiet reflection. Through June 21.

### THOMAS SEE SOLO EXHIBITION

The Firehouse Arts Center is featuring the work of Thomas See featuring approximately 15 of the artist's work, incorporating traditional techniques while engaging with contemporary sentiments. Through June 28.

### A NOVEL TWIST: THE ART OF BOOKS

Livermore Valley Arts presents a unique exhibition called, A Novel Twist: The Art of Books, where this fun exhibit puts a spin on required summer reading. Most of the artworks are for sale and can be purchased by contacting [gallerly@lvpac.org](mailto:gallerly@lvpac.org). Civic Center Library, through June 30.

### A COWBOY'S POETIC CANVAS

An adventurous new exhibit, Saddle, Brush, and Art: A Cowboy's Poetic Canvas, is on display at the UNCLE Credit Union Art Gallery at the

Bankhead Theater through July 27. 1-5 p.m., Thursday to Sunday.

### LEVEL UP AT YOUR LIBRARY EXHIBIT

This group exhibit is hosted in conjunction with the City of Pleasanton's Library Summer Reading Program and highlights the interplay of visual art and playful expression. Through Aug. 2. Firehouse Arts Center.

### TRAVELING EXHIBITION AT MUSEUM ON MAIN

Pleasanton's Museum on Main presents, From Earthquakes to Epidemics: How Disasters Transform California's People and Places, a temporary exhibit exploring the impact of natural and manmade disasters in California.

### HARRINGTON FREE ART TOURS

The Museum on Main, partnering with the Pleasanton Cultural Arts Council, offers a free 1 hour and 15 minute tour of the Public Art pieces at the Firehouse Arts Center. 10 a.m., June 21.

## Outdoor Rec

### EARLY BIRD WALK

Join an LARPD Ranger for a slow-paced walk to look and listen for birds. A limited number of binoculars will be available to borrow. 7:30-8:30 a.m., June 15. Free registration at [larpd.org](http://larpd.org).

### FABULOUS FATHERS OF DEL VALLE

Celebrate dad by spending time in nature. Stop by the Del Valle Visitor Center to discover some of the fabulous fathers of the animal kingdom that call this park their home. 1-3:30 p.m., June 15.

### NIGHT WITH A NATURALIST

Discover the wonders of nature and this camping tradition each Saturday night. Drop-in, no registration required. 8-9:30 p.m., Del Valle Campground Amphitheater.

## Vet Support

### VA PALO ALTO MOBILE MEDICAL OUTREACH

The VA Palo Alto Mobile Medical Outreach team provides veteran benefits review, enrolls veterans for care with the VA Palo Alto Health System, and answers questions about VA services and provides medical care for enrolled veterans. 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., June 19, Livermore Civic Center Library. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., June 23, Pleasanton Library.

# PLEASANTON REAL ESTATE MARKET UPDATE – INVENTORY CLIMBS ALONG WITH PENDING SALES

The Pleasanton real estate market in May saw inventory continue to trend higher, along with more pending sales activity

Let's take a dive into the numbers for May:

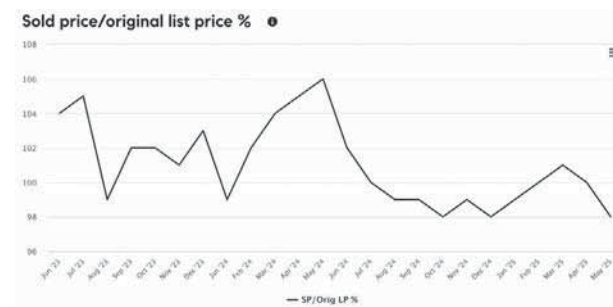
**Supply/Inventory:** The inventory of available single-family homes increased to 122 homes for sale. This represents an 8.9% increase from April, and a 72% increase from May of last year. While it is normal to see inventory climb in the Spring, it is trending higher at a robust clip.

**Demand:** Pending sales (homes under contract) showed gains in May, which often tracks with an increase in inventory (buyers have an easier time finding homes they want). There were 62 pending sales in May, up 44% as compared with April. However it was 13% lower than May of 2024. Closed sales were down however, with 42 closed sales in May, which was 19% lower than April and 25% lower than May of last year. Median days on market for closed sales rose to 16, which is 6.7% higher than April and double the figure for May of 2024. This figure represents the most

**Visit [The680Blog.com](http://The680Blog.com) to read the rest of this article.**

## Pleasanton Market Report Data for May 2025 Single Family Detached Homes

	MAY 2025	CHANGE FROM APR 2025	CHANGE FROM MAY 2024
Homes sold	42	-19%	-25%
Homes for sale	122	+8.9%	+72%
Median days on market	16	+6.7%	+100%
Median price per square foot	\$864	-1.2%	-4.7%
Months of inventory	2.9	+35%	+129%
Median sold price	\$1,685,000	-6.0%	-13%
Homes under contract	62	+44%	-13%



JUST LISTED

**6340 Inspiration Terrace**  
\$5,199,000 | 5 BR | 5.5 BTHS | [View Lot](#)



JUST LISTED

**2307 Vineyard Heights Lane**  
\$3,888,000 | 5 BR | 5 BTHS | ADU



JUST LISTED

**2193 Autinori Ct**  
\$2,195,000 | 5 BR | 4 BTHS



PENDING SALE

**4613 Mirador Dr**  
\$3,578,000 | 5 BR | 4.5 BTHS



JUST SOLD

**1734 Terra Ct**  
\$5,300,000 | 6 BR | 6.5 BTHS



JUST SOLD

**1597 Genoa Dr**  
\$1,395,000 | 3 BR | 2 BTHS

Visit [680Homes.com](http://680Homes.com) for Information on Our Current and Coming Soon Listings



**DOUG BUENZ**

Broker Associate | DRE 00843458  
925.463.2000 | [Doug@680Homes.com](mailto:Doug@680Homes.com)

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**4149 GARIBALDI COURT  
PLEASANTON**  
3 BED | 2.5 BATH | 1,666 +/- SQ. FT.  
LISTED AT \$1,349,000  
REPRESENTING SELLERS



**2355 CHATEAU WAY  
LIVERMORE**  
3 BED | 3 BATH | 2,160 +/- SQ. FT.  
LISTED AT \$1,649,900  
REPRESENTED BUYERS



**7963 CHERRYWOOD COURT  
PLEASANTON**  
4 BED | 2 BATH | 1,682 +/- SQ. FT.  
LISTED AT \$1,698,000  
REPRESENTED BUYERS



**1630 FRANKFURT WAY  
LIVERMORE**  
4 BED | 2 BATH | 1,879 +/- SQ. FT.  
LISTED AT \$1,399,000  
REPRESENTED BUYER



**606 SALEM COURT  
LIVERMORE**  
3 BED | 2 BATH | 1,310 +/- SQ. FT.  
SOLD FOR \$1,039,000  
REPRESENTED SELLERS



**7627 DESERTWOOD WAY  
PLEASANTON**  
4 BED | 2 BATH | 1,593 +/- SQ. FT.  
SOLD FOR \$1,375,000  
REPRESENTED BUYERS

## Join us for a free Seller's Seminar!

**TUESDAY, AUGUST 26TH | 6:30PM - 8PM**  
**COMPASS PLEASANTON | 900 MAIN STREET**

Learn best practices for preparing your home for market, seasonal market trends, multi-tier advertising strategies and more! Please RSVP by emailing Julia at [julia.murtagh@compass.com](mailto:julia.murtagh@compass.com).

**\$580M+**

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VOLUME

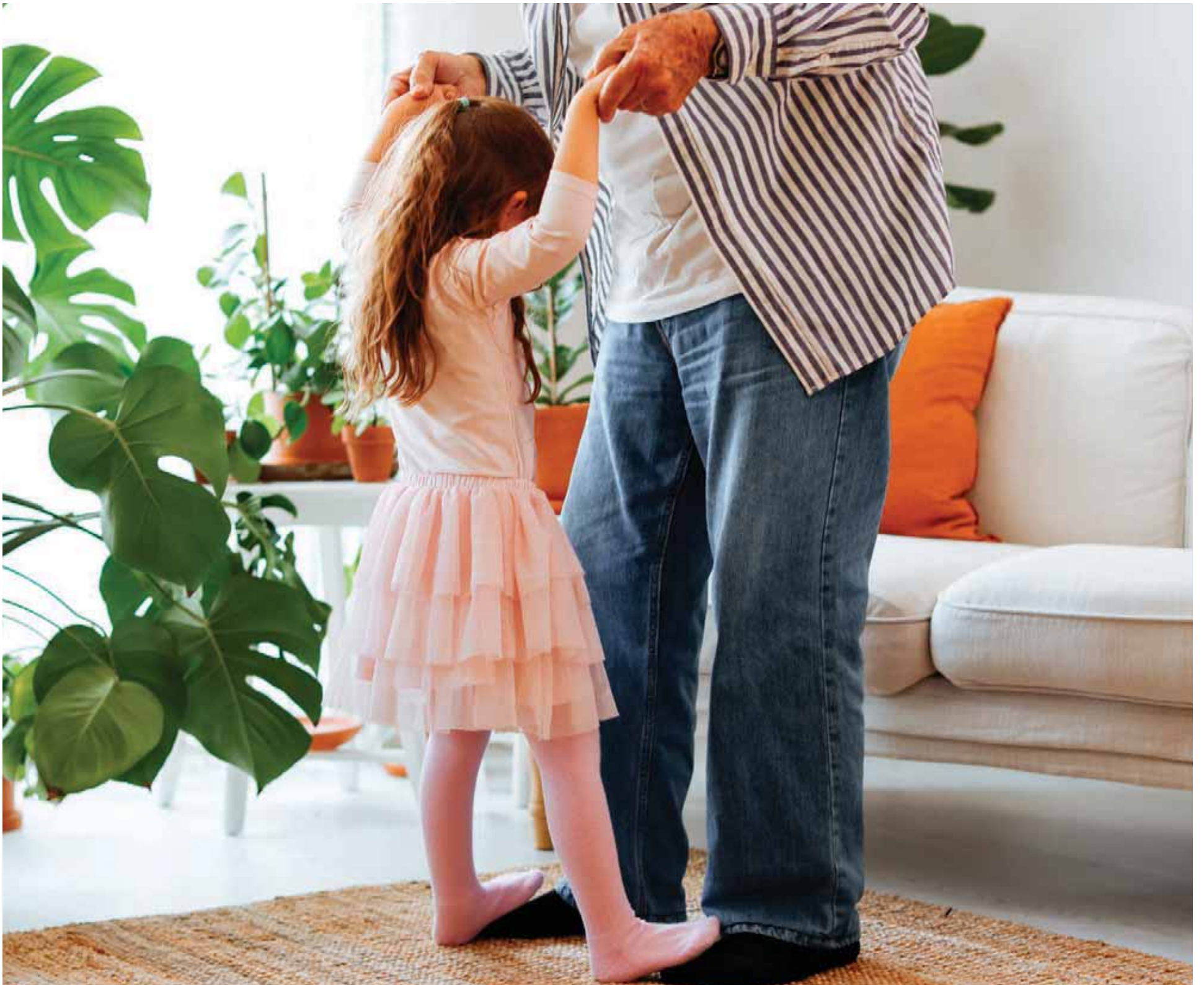
**190+**

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SINCE 2020

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AMY MAYERSON DRE# 02069902  
LAUREN PETERSON DRE# 02235046



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20565 DEBBIE LANE, SARATOGA  
\$5,010,000



4424 NEWMAN PL, PLEASANTON  
\$1,200,000



4614 2ND ST, PLEASANTON  
\$1,995,000



1751 SPUMANTE PLACE | RUBY HILL, PLEASANTON  
\$4,450,000



868 MADEIRA DR, PLEASANTON  
\$1,829,000



1702 NURSERY WAY, PLEASANTON  
\$2,299,000



484 EL PINTADO RD, DANVILLE  
\$2,099,000



507 MAPLE ST, LIVERMORE  
2 HOMES ON LOT \$1,795,000

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EXPERIENCE EXCELLENCE

**HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!**







## OPEN HOUSE EVENT

Open Friday 10am-1pm  
Saturday & Sunday 1-4pm



**1818 Sannita Court, Ruby Hill**  
5 Bedrooms | 5.5 Bathrooms | 6,441 Square Feet | .57 Acre Lot

## OPEN HOUSE

Open Saturday & Sunday 1-4pm



**3029 Alburni Court, Ruby Hill**  
5 Bedrooms | 3 Bathrooms | 4,357 Square Feet | .68 Acre Lot

### Steve Venema's Famous Brisket Recipe!

**INGREDIENTS:**

- One 10-12 lb. brisket
- 1 cup ground pepper
- 1 cup non-iodized salt
- ¼ cup granulated garlic
- ¼ cup onion powder
- ¼ cup paprika

Mix the rub ingredients in a large bowl. This mix will make more than you need for one brisket; store the remainder in an airtight container.

Trim the excess fat from the brisket. Trim the fat off the bottom of the brisket leaving only ¼ in fat. Apply rub to all sides of the meat. Cover the brisket and place in the refrigerator to marinate overnight.

Set the EGG for indirect cooking at 250°F. Place the brisket on the grid, fat-side down. Fat-side up is fine if that is your preference. When the meat reaches an internal temperature of 160°F, double wrap the brisket in non-waxed butcher paper or aluminum foil. The bark will have formed nicely by this point.

Continue to smoke the brisket until the meat is "probe tender," Each piece of meat is different but this will likely be at an internal temperature of between 200-202°F. Remove the brisket from the EGG, wrap in a towel and place in a cooler for at least one hour. This will allow the juices to re-distribute in the meat. Unwrap the brisket and slice against the grain.

*enjoy*

