

# Pleasanton Weekly

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Oakland Interfaith Gospel Choir to  
headline in Livermore for Juneteenth festivities

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# WHAT A WEEK



BY JEREMY WALSH

## Poems of 'Manure'

The title is eye-catching enough on its own: "The Lighter Side of Horse Manure".

Add on the author's personal experience overcoming adversity, her interesting retirement lifestyle splitting time between Pleasanton and Barcelona, and the two of us sharing an alma mater, and my interest was piqued.

Linda Drattell, who published the book of original poems last fall, is settling into an exciting life likely much different from the one envisioned when she completed her Master of Business Administration at American University in Washington, D.C. in the mid-1980s. "My world was turned upside down," she recalled about the major turning point — being deafened in her late 30s.

"I didn't know what to do," Drattell told me by email this month. "I became nervous, my self-esteem was deflated, I self-isolated. I felt I couldn't be a part of the hearing world anymore, at least not in the same way. And I did not grow up in the Deaf world."

Enrolling in the Ohlone College Deaf Studies Program to learn American Sign Language would be Drattell's key positive step forward.

"What I learned there was an eye-opener. I learned not just sign language, but how to thrive and grow as a deaf person. I ate up their classes," she said.

"And just as important as the classes were, I met deaf students who were warm and embracing," Drattell added. "They helped me not only feel accepted in the Deaf community, but also how to survive in the hearing community. I learned a new language. I learned coping skills and how to self-advocate. I gained self-confidence."

She would go on to work in deaf advocacy and community relations before starting her own nonprofit in 2015, Bay Epicenter of Advocacy for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing — which she operated until disbanding early in the COVID pandemic.

In retirement, Drattell has found another new community and another new outlet.

"Splitting our time between Pleasanton and Barcelona has been an eye-opening experience," she said. "What we love about Barcelona is the sense of community and inclusivity of others. What we love about Pleasanton is our family and longtime friends."

She also set out to learn Spanish

about four years ago, working with private tutor Eve Little.

"Since I couldn't hear the language spoken, she focused on having me read children's stories in Spanish to give me a vocabulary. One day, for homework, she told me I needed to try writing my own children's story," Drattell recalled.

That led to her and Little co-authoring a kids' book, "Who Wants to be Friends With a Dragon?" — which hit home for each woman in reflection of times in their lives struggling to fit in and feel included.

The book published in 2023, the same year as Drattell's first poetry collection, "Remember This Day".

"The Lighter Side of Horse Manure" followed last October.

"The 'Manure' poems were mostly written as a result of spending time with my horse and goats during the last years of their lives," Drattell told me. "Some of the poems arose from other reasons."

Three of the poems from "Manure" are on display right now at the Civic Center Library in Livermore, hanging in the main hallway next to paired artworks in the "Saddle, Brush, and Art: A Cowboy's Poetic Canvas" exhibition.

"The artwork was shared with me first, and then I chose poems that I thought reflected the themes of the paintings. Then poems were selected to be part of the exhibit," Drattell said. "It is a beautiful selection of paintings and poetry."

Her "Compliment" is linked to "Dust Dreams and Distant Hills", an ink drawing by Shweta Agarwal; "Home" is with "Old Cavestri Ranch (Yesterday) by watercolorist Charlotte Severin; and "I Bring You Grain This Evening" is with Joy Theel's oil painting "Study of photo by Bob Langrish of an Andalusian".

The library exhibition will hang until June 30. As I wrote about before, it is being held in conjunction with the same-titled exhibit in the UNCLE Credit Union Art Gallery at the Bankhead Theater, open through July 27.

As for what's next for Drattell, she's working to get a publisher for her new adult fiction novel, "The Peccadilloes of Filamena Phipps".

"It is a big-hearted picaresque tale of overcoming adversity, a story of boldly embracing one's otherness, and of the value of human connection as it follows a unique young immigrant woman who braves, and forever alters, the single-mindedness of a white-picket-fence town," the author told me. ■

## About the Cover

The Oakland Interfaith Gospel Choir is scheduled to perform Saturday at the Bankhead Theater, closing out a day of Juneteenth celebrations in Livermore. Photo courtesy OIGC. Cover design by Paul Llewellyn. Vol. XXVI, Number 21

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# Streetwise

ASKED AROUND TOWN

## What is your favorite movie scene of all time?



**Steve Wilcox**  
*Financial advisor*

It's that scene from "An Officer And A Gentleman" where Richard Gere carries Debra Winger out of the factory (a flour mill) where she was working. I find the scene so impactful because he was a difficult character to like, but he did the right thing by coming back for his true love.



**Amar Akatrai, with Yoshi**  
*High-tech SVP, strategy*

It's from the movie "You've Got Mail", with Meg Ryan and Tom Hanks. It's the final scene where she sees Brinkley, Tom Hanks' dog, running towards her, and realizes that Tom Hanks, who she is hoping will show up, can't be far behind him.



**Kristin Sherrod** *Advertising*

My favorite scene is from "The Way We Were", that great old movie with Robert Redford and Barbra Streisand, after they've broken up and she sees him with his new wife, who is the antithesis of her. She brushes a lock of hair from his forehead and says, "Your girl is lovely, Hubbell." It's poignant and impactful, and highlights the complex emotions and personalities of the characters.



**Colton Cash**  
*College student*

It's from the original "Rocky" movie, when the horns start playing and that long training montage starts where Rocky is working so hard to become a boxer. Whenever I hear those horns, and that song starts playing, I think of that great scene.



**Matt Croghan**  
*Elementary school teacher*

It's that final scene from "The Shawshank Redemption" where Morgan Freeman is walking on the beach in Mexico in order to meet the character played by Tim Robbins, who had escaped from prison, where the two men had spent many years together as friends/fellow prisoners.

—Compiled by Nancy and Jeff Lewis

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

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# Newsfront

## DIGEST

### Fair's 2nd weekend

The 2025 Alameda County Fair is gearing up for the second of its four weekends at the Pleasanton fairgrounds.

Highlights on the schedule include concerts featuring Sugar Ray on Friday, Twist on Taylor on Saturday and Mi Banda El Mexicano on Sunday (Too \$hort follows next Wednesday and Tower of Power is next Thursday).

Tractor pulls are the action sports attraction this weekend, and the hot air balloon rides will continue until Sunday only. Fiesta at the Fair is set for Sunday as well.

See the full schedule at annual.alamedacountyfair.com.

### Still searching

Pleasanton continues to wait with bated breath for the school board to make a final decision regarding its superintendent position.

The trustees met in closed session four times in the past week (Saturday, Sunday, Tuesday and Wednesday) to discuss its ongoing search for a permanent superintendent, with no new hire announced as of press time.

The meetings followed a series of private deliberations in May and early June at which time the board was scheduled to select a top candidate and approve their contract at the June 5 regular meeting, only for that session to be abruptly called off days before and the recruitment reignited.

Pleasanton Unified School District officials have hoped to install the next permanent leader in time for the start of the 2025-26 academic year. The prior board opted to bring Maurice Ghysels out of retirement as interim superintendent for one year rather than make a permanent hire last school year after then-superintendent David Haglund announced his retirement April 22, 2024.

### Train ride east

This is the second weekend in a row that Niles Canyon Railway is offering rare roundtrips that start off headed east instead of west, courtesy of its M200 railbus.

The 1.25-hour journey will depart from the Sunol Station on Kilkare Road and travel eastward to the Happy Valley Bridge in Pleasanton, where track is now completed, and then return to Sunol. Passengers cannot get on or off the train at Happy Valley.

The east rides will depart at 11 a.m. and 12:25 p.m. this Saturday and Sunday. These are in addition to the traditional westward train rides from Sunol to Niles Station through Niles Canyon departing at 10:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. both weekend days.

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

## Council adopts final two-year budget

Cuts include decreasing library hours, two city employees facing layoffs, among other reductions

By Christian Trujano

The Pleasanton City Council unanimously adopted its two-year Operating Budget and five-year Capital Improvement Program Tuesday, following months of public meetings, discourse and community input.

"This budget, I do think, does a fair job of balancing service delivery, which is my premise of what a city is here for," Mayor Jack Balch said during the June 17 meeting.

Every two years, the City Council adopts a balanced two-year Operating and Capital Budget, along with the five-year Capital Improvement Program.

This year, the city had to take into

consideration a structural budget deficit that is projected to set the city back roughly \$13 million each year over the next eight years — that number could go up to \$22 million if a recession hits.

That's what led to the list of departmental reductions, which include a \$2.8 million cut to Internal Services and Operational Support; reductions to landscaping services citywide (this includes the removal of the city's Fall Leaf Pickup program); reducing community support and subsidies to TV 30 by 10% and to the Museum on Main and the Senior Center.

Other reductions that the council supported are reducing the total General Fund contribution

to Housing and Human Services Grants to \$100,000; eliminating the entire budget for community grants in youth and civic arts categories; reducing funding for police special programs; and reductions to the city's planning and permitting department which translate to less in-person hours for the permit center and reductions to plan checking, long-range planning and permitting consultant contracts.

"Not everybody in our community is going to get what they want, which is unfortunate," Councilmember Craig Eicher said. "It would be nice (if) we didn't have to make cuts but some of these cuts are necessary to get to the bottom line so that way we

can move forward."

Measure PP — a sales tax increase measure which failed to get enough votes during the November 2024 election — came up during the council meeting as it has in the past.

Councilmember Julie Testa said while she recognizes that PP was meant to soften the blow of these budget reductions, the tax increase was never going to solve the city's budget deficit and the city is still behind in terms of addressing the deficit, which means they will have to continue looking for future funding sources.

"This is difficult for all of us,"

See **BUDGET** on Page 10



RENDERING COURTESY PUSD

A recent rendering shows the design option for the new Amador Valley High School theater that was OK'ed during a June 4 facilities committee meeting.

## PUSD bond projects advance

As Foothill campus renovation breaks ground, controversy follows Valley View and Amador plans

By Christian Trujano

With summer vacation currently underway throughout the Pleasanton Unified School District, the empty school sites give construction workers the chance to begin and move forward several facility repair and renovation projects — most notably the campus renovation project at Foothill High School, which broke ground two weeks ago.

Construction at Pleasanton Middle School for a new synthetic turf field and track is also scheduled for completion by this fall.

Last month, the Pleasanton Weekly sat down with several top district staff members who lauded many facility improvement projects that were funded by

Measure II, a \$270 million bond measure that voters approved in 2016. District cabinet members like Ahmad Sheikholeslami, assistant superintendent of business services, also praised PUSD's design progress on various recent projects that are funded by Measure I, a \$395 million general obligation bond that voters approved more recently in 2022.

"Basically from here on it's going to be construction, design, planning, opening," he said. "For the next five years it's going to be (an) incredibly busy time."

However, over the past year the district has faced more criticism from community members on how PUSD received public input during the design phase for a couple of these projects, with parents from Valley View

Elementary School more notably calling out the district and their school site for not including them in the decision-making process.

"I feel like it's rushed because ... they already have their plan in place for what is going to happen and they are simply trying to check the box of public notification and public input without ever actually truly considering what is being said and is presented to them," Brittany Hasselbrock, president of the parent-teacher association at Valley View, told the Weekly.

Over the past decade, PUSD has been using Measure II funds to renovate and improve many of its facilities throughout all of its schools.

See **BOND PROJECTS** on Page 11

## Landowners vote down Castlewood assessment

Association, county reps to explore new ways to improve services

By Tim Hunt

Property owners in the Castlewood County Service Area turned in sufficient protests to stop the county's \$6,829.27 per household special assessment, the Alameda County Public Works Agency announced at the supervisors' meeting Tuesday.

Anita Franklin, speaking for the public works department, confirmed that the protests exceeded the necessary threshold of 103 to void the proposed charge. She did not specify the total, although property owners association president Richard Hammel wrote to members last week that they'd turned in 189 signed objection letters, more than 90%.

The supplemental water surcharge is now dead, and the association and county will explore ways to improve the operations and efficiency of the area or other alternatives.

Hammel was the only public speaker Tuesday in Oakland, telling the Board of Supervisors he has owned his home for 33 years, is retired and lives on a fixed income. Hammel and his colleagues on the association board have been

See **CASTLEWOOD** on Page 8

# Livermore dad removed from U.S. after ICE arrest

‘It’s kind of hard ... Especially because you’re always thinking about your family — how they’re doing, what’s happening’

By JUDE STRZEMP

A Livermore father of three was deported to Mexico last week following his detainment at an immigration detention center after being arrested by federal agents while appearing for a legal appointment as part of his years-long attempt to gain permanent residency.

Miguel Lopez was removed from the U.S. some time during the overnight span from June 6 to June 7, just hours before a United States District Court granted his temporary stay in the country.

Although Miguel Lopez is now in Mexico City, both he and wife Rosa Lopez are hopeful that he may return to the U.S. following his June 24 court date.

“I’m stressed. Seeing my wife crying all day makes me feel bad. I’m trying to be strong, but on the inside I’m struggling,” Miguel Lopez told Livermore Vine by phone on Friday.

Originally from Mexico, Miguel Lopez lived in Livermore with his wife and their three children — all of whom are U.S. citizens.

In total, he has lived in the U.S. for 27 years, worked and paid taxes for almost all that time and does not have a criminal record, according to a June 7 court document for his temporary stay. Over the course of almost two decades, he has attempted to gain immigration status.

“He embodies the spirit of citizenship,” the document states.

While attending a routine check-in at a San Francisco immigration office May 27, he was detained by immigration officials, Rosa Lopez said. The court case states that U.S. Immigration and Custom Enforcement detained Miguel Lopez on June 3.

“I’ve been fighting my case for a

long time, already. I’ve been going to immigration for 17 years to report,” Miguel Lopez said. “This last time, I was detained. I wasn’t expecting that.”

He was then transported to Golden State Annex, an ICE detention facility in McFarland.

In response to Miguel Lopez’s detainment, community organizers held a peaceful rally called “Bring Miguel Home” on June 4 at the Livermorium Plaza.

‘I’m stressed. Seeing my wife crying all day makes me feel bad. I’m trying to be strong, but on the inside I’m struggling.’

Miguel Lopez,  
Livermore resident

Also, one of his son’s teachers started a GoFundMe page for the family. As of Sunday, donations totaled more than \$44,000 from nearly 700 contributions. These funds are slated to help the family pay for legal fees and Miguel’s needs in Mexico, organizer Laura Bertoli wrote on the fundraiser page.

In total, Miguel Lopez spent 10 days incarcerated at Golden State Annex, an experience he said was challenging.

“We used to be free, not to be locked up, so it’s kind of hard,” Miguel Lopez said of his time in custody. “Especially because you’re always thinking about your family — how they’re doing, what’s happening.”

Upon hearing of his future transfer to an undisclosed location, Miguel Lopez told Rosa Lopez that

he would call as soon as he arrived at the next site.

“We thought maybe to San Francisco — they’re probably bringing him home because he still has a case open,” Rosa Lopez recalls thinking.

Instead, Lopez was transported approximately 25 miles south to Bakersfield, where he said he was held for about eight hours and denied access to a phone.

As midnight approached on June 6, officials told him he would be transported to Tijuana.

Back in the States on June 7, U.S. District Judge Trina L. Thompson granted Miguel Lopez’s motion for a temporary restraining order to stay in the U.S., according to the case file.

At the time, it was noted that Miguel Lopez was “subject to a final order of removal, and he could be deported from the United States at any time”, the file states.

Originally, Miguel Lopez applied for an adjustment of status with the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services in February 2007, according to the case file. The USCIS denied his application, determining that “he was ineligible because he had made a false claim to U.S. citizenship in attempting to enter the United States years earlier,” the file states.

The Department of Homeland Security then initiated removal proceedings, setting off years of legal disputes.

On May 8, Miguel Lopez filed an instant action against U.S. Attorney General Pamela Bondi and DHS Secretary Kristi Noem. Lopez asserts violation of the Administrative Procedures Act, violation of his right to due process under the Fifth Amendment of the Constitution, injunctive relief and relief under the Declaratory Judgment Act.



COURTESY ROSA LOPEZ

The Lopez family continues to seek the return of Miguel Lopez, who was deported last week despite ongoing attempts to gain his U.S. residency.

Based on the June 7 decision, Miguel could not be removed from the U.S. “until the merits of (his) forthcoming motion for a preliminary injunction is resolved.”

But the ruling was too late. By that morning, Miguel Lopez was already in Tijuana, Mexico, his wife said.

“We were told it was going to be violent criminals — that’s who the president was going to focus on. That’s not who he’s focused on,” Rep. Eric Swalwell said during a video posted on his social media account June 12. “We have the case of Miguel Lopez in our community, who’s been wrongfully removed.”

After switching hands to immigration officials in Mexico, Miguel Lopez discovered that his passport was missing.

Once again, he was denied any phone calls, he said. But during a bathroom break, he was able to call his wife on his personal phone.

Rosa Lopez later flew to Mexico with their youngest son, bringing clothes and Miguel Lopez’s Mexican birth certificate, she said.

Since reuniting, the two make daily calls to their daughter and granddaughter in the U.S.

“She asks for her papa everyday,” Rosa Lopez said of their granddaughter. “My daughter would tell her ‘he’s working,’ but by this point, she knows he’s not working.”

Currently staying in Mexico City with family-friends, Rosa Lopez said she’s worried about the future.

“We have to find somewhere to go and it’s not easy,” Rosa Lopez said. “I worry about him not having a place to stay.”

The issue is imminent since she will need to accompany their son back to the U.S. for his return to school.

At least one supporter of Miguel Lopez spoke on behalf of the family at Dublin’s “No Kings” rally on Saturday, among the many demonstrations in the Bay Area and nation denouncing President Donald Trump’s administration.

As for Miguel Lopez’s upcoming court date, the husband-wife duo are optimistic that he will be able to return to the place they both call home.

“I’m hoping once they go to court — because he was granted the TRO — we can bring him back to the U.S. to continue fighting his case,” Rosa Lopez said. ■

## Patelco agrees to settle suit over cyberattack for \$7.25M

Dublin credit union also hires chief audit executive as fallout from last year's security breach continues

By JEANITA LYMAN

Patelco Credit Union made two major moves in recent days to contend with the fallout of a weeks-long cybersecurity breach last year that led to banking outages impacting nearly 500,000 customers.

The Dublin-based credit union agreed to settle a class-action lawsuit last week that was brought forth by impacted customers shortly after the data breach that resulted in systemwide outages last summer. The legal move came days after announcing a new auditing executive.

Patelco officials confirmed the appointment of Ricardo Araujo as the credit union’s chief audit

executive June 6, putting him at the helm of an internal auditing team that has been bolstered in recent months after Patelco agreed to a cease and desist order from the state over “unsafe and unsound practices” that were revealed by investigations into last summer’s cyberattack.

“I’m joining Patelco at a pivotal time in the organization’s trajectory,” Araujo said in the press release. “Continuing the strong progress within the internal audit organization and with business groups throughout Patelco will bolster its risk management and security technology systems and protocols.”

The consent order Patelco agreed to from the state Commissioner

of Financial Protection and Innovation earlier this year — which did not require the credit union to admit or deny any wrongdoing — included a \$100,000 fee and an agreement to bolster the company’s auditing and cyber security risk analysis teams.

Araujo’s role is set to include leading the credit union’s internal audit operations and working alongside its chief risk officer — Mani Massoomi, who was hired to the new position in March — to bolster Patelco’s auditing processes and “safeguard the integrity of the company’s operations.”

“Ricardo has a strong track record in reducing corporate risk exposure and fostering a strong culture of

risk management,” Patelco CEO Erin Mendez said in the company’s press release. “We are confident that his vision and experience will play a key role in advancing our internal audit function and supporting the long-term success of our organization as a solid foundation for our members.”

Days later, Patelco made another stride toward contending with the aftermath of last summer’s cyberattack, with a judge tentatively ruling in favor of a preliminary approval of a \$7.25 million settlement agreement in a class-action lawsuit with 12 named plaintiffs in Alameda County Superior Court on June 9.

The settlement agreement also does not require any denial

or admission of wrongdoing on Patelco’s part. The lawsuit was first brought forth July 2, 2024, days after the cybersecurity attack was discovered by Patelco and at the start of its ensuing outages.

Meanwhile in federal court, attorneys for Patelco are seeking a motion to dismiss in a lawsuit from married couple Mae Aquino and Donte Brown Jr., who allege that they were hit with \$14,373 in fraudulent charges days into the cybersecurity attack and outage last summer.

A hearing on that motion is set for Aug. 12 at 2 p.m. Pending the judge’s decision on the motion to dismiss, the case is set for a jury trial in January 2027. ■

# Assistant city manager Ott retiring this week

Jeffress being promoted as successor July 1; deputy position going away as cost saving

By Christian Trujano

After more than 20 years of serving the Pleasanton community, assistant city manager Pamela Ott is moving into retirement later this week.

In the press release Friday announcing Ott's departure, city officials confirmed City Manager Gerry Beaudin has appointed deputy city manager Alexa Jeffress as Ott's successor. Jeffress will be set to assume her new role starting July 1.

"When I was hired by the city, I knew the opportunity would be fulfilling, but I didn't know how much I would grow to love this career and community," Ott told



Pamela Ott



Alexa Jeffress

the Pleasanton Weekly. "All along the way, it's been a privilege to work with so many dedicated people who do their best to keep Pleasanton the special place that it is, and I am proud to have a role in this."

Ott first joined the city government in 2003 following two years of service as the executive director

of the Pleasanton Downtown Association. She began her career in Pleasanton as the city's economic development manager where she played a "pivotal role in shaping Pleasanton's thriving business community", according to the city press release.

According to her LinkedIn, Ott was quickly promoted to the director of economic development and community engagement that same year and stayed in that role until 2020 when she was bumped up to the deputy city manager role.

A year later in 2021, Ott was promoted to her current role of assistant city manager where she has remained until now.

Her last day with the city is this Friday (June 20), according to the city.

"Pamela has been a pillar of leadership in Pleasanton, helping advance complex initiatives while always keeping the community's needs and interests at the forefront," Beaudin said in the press release. "Her thoughtful guidance and dedication to public service will be greatly missed."

Throughout her tenure, Ott has overseen various critical city functions, including public works, community development, business licensing, economic development and public communications. Some of the projects

she helped advance include the Workday headquarters campus, the Johnson Drive Economic Development Zone and the expansion of 10x Genomics, according to the city.

"Her steady leadership, collaborative approach, and commitment to service have left a lasting impact on the organization and the Pleasanton community," the press release stated.

As Ott gets set to leave her post, Jeffress — who assumed her current role as deputy city manager in February 2023 — will be getting ready to become the next assistant

See **OTT** on Page 9

# Workday selling one of its office buildings

Company vows HQ is staying in Pleasanton amid reinvestment strategy

By Jeanita Lyman

A portion of the Workday headquarters near the West Dublin-Pleasanton BART station is currently up for sale after laying off 8.5% of its workers earlier this year as part of an ongoing reinvestment strategy.

One of the six buildings making up the company's main base of operations on Stoneridge Mall Road is on the market after 617 employees in Pleasanton were laid off effective April 6, making up a significant portion of the 1,750 employees laid off from the company worldwide, which was

announced in February.

"We're proud to call Pleasanton our home, and we're selling one of our office buildings to bring our employees closer together on our campus," a Workday spokesperson told the Weekly. "This move supports our ongoing efforts to invest in and transform our campus to

foster greater collaboration, connection, and community."

The company debuted its current headquarters with a grand opening in 2019 after more than a decade of being based in Pleasanton, initially moving to the city just three years after the company was created in 2005.

While the company will continue to operate out of its main building at 6110 Stoneridge Mall Road, it is selling the building several doors down at 5928 Stoneridge Mall Road. Details of the sale — and potential new tenants — are not currently available to the public. ■



# Weekend Brunch

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Thousands turned out to Dublin for "No Kings" demonstration on June 14. View more photos of the demonstration at [PleasantonWeekly.com](http://PleasantonWeekly.com).

## Thousands speak their minds at 'No Kings' rally

Dublin event included mile-long human chain 'in solidarity and to reject authoritarianism'

By JEREMY WALSH

An estimated 5,000 people demonstrated their displeasure with President Donald Trump's administration at the "No Kings" rally in Dublin, joining millions of their peers in cities across the country in a day of protest of federal actions and policies Saturday.

The Dublin demonstration focused on national issues like tariffs, proposed cuts to Medicaid, reliance on executive orders, the deployment of U.S. troops in Los Angeles

during protests and immigration enforcement — the latter of which brought out local connections such as the deportation of Livermore resident Miguel Lopez and the consideration of using the now-shuttered federal prison in Dublin as an immigrant detention center, organizers said.

The event included the visible display of a human chain of more than a mile from Interstate 680 to Dougherty Road "in solidarity and to reject authoritarianism", according to Indivisible Tri-Valley, which

'Lady Liberty was freed by a series of chants to remind the power 'We the People' hold.'

Post-event press release by event organizers

hosted the local "No Kings" rally.

"In the political theater, local activists used the imprisonment of Lady Liberty to represent the current president's cruel and lawless policies including ICE raids and deportations without due processes; his plan to cut Medicaid and the safety net for working families to fund tax cuts for billionaires, and his tariffs which make everyday goods more expensive for regular people," organizers said in a post-event press release. "Lady Liberty was freed by a series of chants to remind the power

'We the People' hold."

Featured speakers included Laura Brown on behalf of Lopez and his family, Rev. Jennifer Murdock of Lynnewood United Methodist Church in Pleasanton and Vietnam veteran Rion Causey.

"It was amazing," Kyoko Takayama of Indivisible Tri-Valley told the Pleasanton Weekly afterward. "People are really angry ... Laura's speech was heartbreaking, and people came to ask which church Rev. Murdock serves. They loved her." ■

## Mayors issue joint statement amid national events

'To our residents: Stay safe. Bear witness. Know your rights. And please, do so peacefully.'

By JEREMY WALSH

The 14 mayors within Alameda County co-signed a rare joint statement over the weekend, expressing unity and support for all community members in response to events that have been unfolding across the country in recent weeks.

"To our residents: Stay safe. Bear witness. Know your rights. And please, do so peacefully," the elected officials wrote in their closing. "As mayors, we are proud to serve in a county defined not by hate,

but by dignity, compassion, and justice for all. It is an honor to have your diverse voices among us."

Issued on Saturday as nationwide "No Kings" rallies were winding down in the Bay Area, the statement — joined by Pleasanton Mayor Jack Balch, Dublin Mayor Sherry Hu and Livermore Mayor John Marchand — starts out by acknowledging Alameda County as "one of the most diverse regions" in the United States.

"We stand united with our residents in cultivating environments

where all community members can live, work, and play without fear or retaliation," the mayors said.

They noted many of their families and constituents immigrated to America. "That experience, and the values we've built together, remind us that strength comes from unity, understanding, and compassion, not fear or mistrust. We strive to reduce barriers between neighbors, all of whom are pursuing happiness and a better life for their families," they said.

The mayors reaffirmed their

oath "to uphold the Constitution of the United States of America and the Constitution of the State of California, and our commitment to protect the dignity, rights, and safety of every member of our community."

"We are concerned with any use of force in our communities," the mayors said. "History has shown that aggressive tactics increase tensions rather than provide solutions. Free speech and peaceful protest are cornerstones of our democracy, and we

strongly encourage all who choose to exercise these rights to do so nonviolently."

"Above all, we urge every eligible resident to register and vote at vote.gov, because participating in our democracy, and embracing the ethos of We the People, is the foundation of our nation's promise," they added.

The 266-word statement was also signed by the mayors of Alameda, Albany, Berkeley, Emeryville, Fremont, Hayward, Newark, Oakland, Piedmont, San Leandro and Union City. ■

## CASTLEWOOD

Continued from Page 5

outspoken in their opposition to the special assessment and mounted the organized campaign to collect signed objection letters.

He said he looked forward to cooperating with the county to improve the outsourced services as well as exploring options. Those included forming a self-governing community service area with an elected board that would contract with a paid management company

or seeking annexation to the city of Pleasanton. Early annexation talks with Pleasanton have gone nowhere.

Gerry Beaudin, Pleasanton's city manager, responded to an email about status with the city, writing Tuesday, "The City Council has not yet provided direction to review or analyze annexation opportunities for the Castlewood area. I intend to include the possibility of engaging in a deeper discussion or project for Castlewood at a City Council priority-setting meeting

in July. Given recent budget reductions and limited resources, this process will help determine whether additional City capacity should be dedicated to evaluating this request more fully at this time."

Association members already swallowed a 172% water charge increase on the current year's property taxes. The association members pay the highest water charges in the county, topping even the city of Pleasanton after its hotly debated increase.

Castlewood homeowners saw their water maintenance and operations charge soar from \$1,089 to \$2,958, or \$338 for 330 units per year. City of Pleasanton rates, even after the hefty increases, are \$180 while Dublin San Ramon Services District clients pay \$169 and Fremont area users pay \$168.

Given the prior increase in water charges in the current fiscal year, the Castlewood water fund likely will be solvent for the upcoming fiscal year that starts July 1. Hammel is concerned about the

road charge that has not been increased in 10 years.

Tuesday's vote result ends the supplemental charge debate that was forced when the association sued the county to contend it had not held the required Proposition 218 after its October vote approving the surcharge. A December settlement agreement between the two sides led to the vote. ■

*Editor's note: Pleasanton Weekly freelancer Tim Hunt lives in the Castlewood service area and pays the charges.*

# Townsend takes helm of Sandia's Livermore campus

Nuclear deterrence expert comes to role with more than 20 years of experience at facility

By JUDE STRZEMP

Sandia National Laboratories Livermore campus is under new leadership as of this week with officials announcing the promotion of Toby Townsend to associate labs director.

As head of Sandia's integrated security solutions division effective June 16, Townsend now oversees operations at Sandia, manages the California Nuclear Deterrence programs, directs Sandia's Energy and Homeland Security portfolio and leads a workforce of more than 2,000 staff across California, New Mexico, Texas and Alaska, according to a statement from Sandia officials Monday.

Townsend's new post follows a 20-plus year career at Sandia where he has specialized in nuclear deterrence and national security. He succeeds Andrew McLroy whose forthcoming retirement was announced in April.

Key to Townsend's selection is his track record in delivering complex systems and programs across the nuclear security enterprise, labs director Laura McGill said in a statement.

"His leadership in both nuclear



Toby Townsend

deterrence and national security space programs reflects his deep technical expertise and commitment to Sandia's mission," McGill said. "He understands the responsibility that comes with delivering national security systems that must work the first time and every time."

Prior to leading the integrated security solutions division, Townsend served as director of nuclear deterrence systems, guiding the W80-4 warhead modernization program and leading the California stockpile systems and engineering services teams.

"I am excited and grateful to be provided the opportunity to continue Sandia National Laboratories' amazing tradition of exceptional

service in the national interest here in Livermore," Townsend said of his associate labs director position. "This site has a rich history of doing incredibly vital things for national security and partnering with the community."

Townsend joined Sandia as an intern in 1999, later becoming an electrical engineer supporting work related to the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty. He has also served in leadership roles in national security space programs, nuclear detonation detection and defense nuclear nonproliferation.

Through his time at Sandia, Townsend has built partnerships across the laboratories, National Nuclear Security Administration,

the Department of Defense and other government agencies, according to McGill.

Sandia Labs' main facilities are based in Albuquerque and Livermore at 7011 East Ave.

"He's shown the ability to drive results while supporting the people and culture that make Sandia exceptional," McGill said.

Townsend holds a master's degree in electrical engineering from Princeton University and a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from the University of New Mexico.

As a Bay Area resident, Townsend said he looks forward to deepening the lab's community connections in Livermore and the wider Tri-Valley. ■

## LVJUSD appeals loss of mental health grant

Funding to last through Dec. 31 as district awaits answer from U.S. Department of Education

By JUDE STRZEMP

The Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District's \$5.7 million school-based mental health grant from the U.S. Department of Education is set to end prematurely following this calendar year, spurring the district to appeal the federal agency's decision.

Since being awarded the five-year, staggered grant in February 2023, LVJUSD has expanded counseling services and mental health supports for its elementary schools, district spokesperson Michelle Dawson told Livermore Vine. The grant has supported the hiring of four elementary counselors and two social workers focused on serving the elementary-level as well as the purchase of social emotional curriculum vetted by the California Department of Education, Dawson said.

Since allocation of the grant was slated to take place over the course of five years, LVJUSD had a tiered plan to hire counselors and social workers, she added. But following the notification of grant non-continuation April 29, LVJUSD has paused the hiring of additional counselors.

Far from alone, LVJUSD is among the many districts across the state slated to lose school-based mental health grant funding. But as the sole district in Alameda County awarded the grant, it is the only one in the county facing its potential withdrawal.

It is not immediately clear why the grant is being slashed and the district has requested that the Department of Education reconsider its decision.

"We are unsure of when to expect a response," Dawson said of the request. "Should the appeal

be denied, there will definitely be more discussion to be had in the future."

At the latest, the district expects federal officials to reply by December to coincide with the end of grant funding.

According to the education department's website, "Decisions will

be communicated to grantees individually as soon as possible."

"State and local entities will have an opportunity to apply for grants that support the mental health needs of students, in alignment with the current Administration's policies and priorities," the website states. "Additional information

about forthcoming grant competitions will be provided soon."

A defunct phone number was provided on the website for outreach regarding the grant program. The department's Office of Elementary and Secondary Education did not respond for comment via email as of Tuesday. ■

## OTT

Continued from Page 7

city manager next month. Apart from her two years with the city, Jeffress brings with her more than 20 years of experience in government administration, project management, and economic and community development, according to the city press release.

Before coming on as deputy city manager, Jeffress served as the director of the economic and workforce development department for the city of Oakland. She also held leadership positions with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and BRIDGE Housing, an affordable real estate developer based in San Francisco.

According to the city, during the past two years as deputy city manager Jeffress has overseen various city services such as library and

recreation, information technology, the city clerk's office, emergency preparedness, and waste and recycling. She has also been "instrumental in advancing major citywide initiatives" such as ONE Pleasanton, the city's first five-year strategic plan; the city's two-year budget development; and a centralized emergency management division.

"We are fortunate to have Alexa step into this important role," Beaudin said in the press release. "Her professional experience, expertise, and dedication make her an excellent fit to help guide the organization forward."

The city will not be seeing a replacement for Jeffress because the position is being eliminated as "part of the internal reductions for the upcoming budget," according to city communications manager Heather Tiernan. ■

# Livermore welcomes new public works director

Former Manteca city staffer Brown started in role this week

By JUDE STRZEMP

The city of Livermore's newly appointed public works director Carl Brown officially took on the leadership role Monday, according to an announcement from the city this week.

Previously serving in the same capacity for the city of Manteca, Brown brings to Livermore over 21 years of municipal public works experience, including a decade in management positions, the announcement states.

As the city's public works director, Brown leads a department of 112 staff and oversees the city's environmental services, maintenance and water resources divisions.

Brown succeeds Livermore's former public works director Scott Lanphier, who retired in September 2023, and public works manager Judy Erlandson who has been serving as the acting public works director during the interim.

"We are excited to welcome Carl to

the Livermore team," City Manager Marianna Burch said in a statement. "With a proven leadership record, focus on organizational excellence and staff development and commitment to responsive and high-quality services to our community, Carl will be a great addition to Livermore's team of talented and dedicated city professionals."

While serving as the director of public works for the Manteca, Brown oversaw over 200 staff and managed

a \$90 million budget, according to the announcement. Brown established an interdepartmental committee to address traffic concerns, led capital projects that boosted wastewater treatment plant capacity and curbed illegal dumping with trash disposal events.

Previously, Brown worked in the cities of Turlock and Merced.

"I am excited to join the city of Livermore. As the public works director, I look forward to collaborating

with other city departments to uphold Livermore's outstanding reputation for exceptional service delivery and professionalism," Brown said in a statement.

Brown holds a bachelor's degree in management from the University of Phoenix and is equipped with certifications surrounding public works operations including roadway lighting, backflow prevention as well as water distribution and treatment. ■

## BUDGET

Continued from Page 5

Testa said. "The community is absolutely feeling the consequences of not having that funding that we had hoped would help us get through these challenges but we definitely have a lot more challenges ... we still have a lot of work to do."

One of the main talking points during the last few months within the community was the proposed cuts to the library.

According to supplemental material that staff provided to the council, the city is still considering different schedule options for the library. The final schedule will definitely include 48 hours of service — open six days out of the week and eight hours each day — and might include the retention of some evening hours where the library stays open until 9 p.m.

However, staff is not recommending closing the library on Friday, as was previously discussed at the May 20 council meeting, for various reasons.

City Manager Gerry Beaudin said the library will be saving \$830,000 in the first year thanks to the reduction in library hours and \$940,000 in year two. Beaudin said the city still needs to work with its labor partners to make sure they are adjusting the hours appropriately and with consideration of staff.

The adopted budget will also continue to set aside funds for the Crossing Guard Program but instead of funding all 22 positions, the Pleasanton Unified School District will manage 10 of those positions while the city will manage the remaining 12. Beaudin said this will be a pilot year for this new set up so that both entities can figure out the new process and whether or not it works financially and practically.

One of the key adjustments that the city made to the budget based on the council's direction at the May 20 meeting was to reduce the use of Section 115 Pension Trust funds from \$4 million — which the council majority previously agreed on — to \$3 million.

This topic continued to create tension between Testa and Balch during the June 17 meeting because while Balch said keeping the money in the trust fund would help it earn more interest, Testa said the use of one-time funds was not the best way to address the city's structural deficit. Testa had previously been against the use of any 115 trust fund money and said during the May 20 council meeting that reducing the amount being used by the city is more for show.

Balch argued against the notion that the use of 115 trust fund money is one-time funds.

The council also agreed to reduce the transfer to the city's

deferred maintenance asset management program by \$1.6 million, which also created tension between Councilmember Jeff Nibert and Balch because Nibert wanted to maintain funding for future infrastructure and maintenance needs.

Along with adopting the budget,

'The community is absolutely feeling the consequences of not having that funding that we had hoped would help us get through these challenges.'

Julie Testa,

City council member

the council also unanimously approved an unexpected third motion to direct staff to bring back an agenda report at a later council meeting on a train quiet zone, which would include information on funding sources, timeline and the process for implementing such a quiet zone.

"Guys, it's loud," Justin Smith, a downtown Pleasanton resident who lives near the train tracks, said during the meeting. "I got a decibel reader just a few days ago ... and I was actually shocked by this. I went to my driveway and the first reading

I took for the train that came by was 119.7 decibels."

Other speakers during public comment also spoke in support of establishing a quiet zone saying the city needs to invest in this project.

The quiet zone feasibility study is the first step for the city to determine how much it would cost to establish such a thing. The study has been in the city's CIP prioritization process and was analyzed by the city but Beaudin recommended that the council direct staff to bring back a proposal at a later time.

The quiet zone project previously ranked low during the city's CIP prioritization process, which is why the project was not included in the two-year proposed CIP budget for fiscal years 2025-26 and 2026-27.

City Traffic Engineer Mike Tassano told the council that the cost for hiring a consultant to evaluate the feasibility and cost of implementing railroad quiet zones would be approximately \$175,000.

Councilmember Matt Gaidos said he wanted to do everything in the council's power to support the establishment of a quiet zone after having spoken with many people who live near the tracks who told him that the noise has been getting worse.

"I think that's a worthwhile expenditure because it directly impacts the living conditions of our community," Gaidos said.

Other public speakers also focused on another aspect of the adopted budget — employee layoffs.

The city plans on eliminating 12 staff positions — two of those positions are currently staffed while the rest are vacant. In the past, Beaudin said the city was trying to do everything they could to keep those employees by moving them around within the organization.

But during the June 17 meeting, it was revealed that the two positions — a library staff member and a PPD communications employee — will be laid off. The city's director of finance Susan Hsieh said both layoffs will total about \$300,000 in savings for the city.

Teri Yan, community and public relations coordinator for PPD, spoke up during public comment and asked the city to reconsider saving her position so that she could



CHRISTIAN TRUJANO

Teri Yan, the community and public relations coordinator for the Pleasanton Police Department, talks about her job, which is one of the two filled staff positions that the city plans to cut as part of its newly adopted budget.

continue providing the community with important public safety information.

"I love my job and I'm proud of the work that I have done to support this city," Yan said. "I believe in the value this position brings not just to the police department, but to the community we serve."

Lisa Harlow, a union representative for AFSCME Council 57 — which represents city employees — also spoke during public comment and said if the city does indeed lay off employees as prescribed in the adopted budget, it would be a disgrace for a city that has a history of not laying off its workers.

Harlow also said the layoffs were illegal because one of the two employees who will be laid off testified against the city in an unfair labor practice hearing in January because the city changed job descriptions while the other employee asked for a raise after their duties were "significantly expanded".

Eicher said he did struggle with the idea of laying off employees and he made a motion to try to keep the two staff members but that motion failed to get a second by the rest of the council.

In response to the employee layoffs, Beaudin reiterated that it has been a challenging time for the city and that staff have really tried to leave as many positions vacant as possible in order to avoid laying people off. ■



CHRISTIAN TRUJANO

Several community members at the June 17 council meeting raise their hands to show support for a speaker's comments about not laying off employees.

## BOND PROJECTS

Continued from Page 5

This included new fencing around various schools, the complete rebuilding of Lydiksen Elementary School, new classrooms at Hart Middle School and Amador Valley High School, and a new career technical education building at Foothill High School. Other Measure I1 projects also included new air conditioning units and fire systems across all schools.

Kathy Narum, chair of the Citizens Bond Oversight Committee (CBOC), told the Weekly that a lot of those projects — while mostly unseen by the public — are extremely beneficial for the city's student population, some of whom did not have cool air during some extremely hot days.

She also stressed that as a member of the CBOC — a committee which was set up as an independent auditor that ensures the district is appropriately spending bond money — she has seen how transparent the district is in handling the bond money.

"The money is being used in the manner that the residents, the voters, expect," Narum said.

Now, the district is shifting its focus over the next few years on Measure I projects, which are set to bring some of the most notable changes to several school sites.

One of those marquee projects include the campus renovation projects at Foothill, which will see completely new athletic and performance arts facilities.

The dual athletic and performing arts facility project will aim to connect to the existing competition gym and completely reimagine that central part of the school with a new pathway, improved lawn seating, a new synthetic turf field and many more improvements.

"I know (from) talking with lots of students and staff that they're very excited about this," Foothill principal Sebastian Bull said during the June 5 groundbreaking ceremony. "They know it's going to be a messy couple of years but they are extremely excited about the finished product."

Over the summer, the construction team will work on building interim housing for the affected programs and will begin with demolishing the locker rooms. According to Aaron Kael, executive director of facilities, construction and bond program, the project is aiming for completion in the winter of 2027.

Some of the other major Measure I projects that have been underway also include the transitional kindergarten projects where elementary schools around the city will be building additional spaces to house TK students.

According to Kael, construction is already underway for the new TK classrooms at Donlon and Fairlands elementary schools, with completion anticipated for the first quarter of 2026. The TK expansion project at Mohr Elementary School is set to



CHRISTIAN TRUJANO

Foothill High School Principal Sebastian Bull delivers a speech to a crowd of only district staff and officials during the school's groundbreaking ceremony for its Measure I-funded campus renovation project.

begin construction this summer.

However, Valley View has been a recent point of contention during these TK expansion talks — mainly due to parents and other community members not agreeing with the fact that the school site design plans seek to move the school's community garden.

Several community members told the Weekly they felt like the district's overall process for coming up with these bond project designs seem to be moving a bit too fast and without much community involvement.

According to Kael, the district uses what is known as a design build delivery method where, before they start a project, the district forms a site committee that is made up of stakeholders who represent different "user groups" at the campus. Committee members, Kael said, typically include the principal, faculty, non-credentialed staff, parents and, in some cases, some form of student engagement.

The committee then meets with the district's architects and discusses the various needs that the school would like to see addressed through these projects.

That eventually leads to a project design that is presented at a community meeting where neighbors can learn more about the project before the design goes through the facilities department meeting and then, finally, to the Board of Trustees for final approval. The idea is that the design gets refined through the community meetings and staff meetings.

But Hasselbrock, who is also a member of the CBOC and was a parent at the school, said the parents at Valley View were mostly unaware of the proposed TK expansion project because many people either don't know about the site committees or they didn't know about the facilities meetings.

She said she only caught wind of it at the CBOC when it was listed with the other elementary schools.

"I feel like I have been able to provide the parent population with more details given the fact that I have CBOC committee presentations available that have renderings and drawings," Hasselbrock said.

The main issue for her was how stakeholders like herself — and the PTA which funds the garden — were not included in those initial conversations, which led to the decision of placing the new TK buildings at the school on top of where the garden has been located for years.

Kelly Cantu, former Valley View PTA president, also agreed that the PTA has put in a lot of money into the garden and that PUSD should be more considerate when making these sorts of decisions because it involved not just the PTA's money, but parents' money as well.

"We have to be fiscally responsible with our parents' money for our parents to feel comfortable donating to our PTA," Cantu said. "If the district takes away something that parents have funded ... over the years, then it's hard as a PTA for those parents to gain trust with us."

The lack of communication issues between the district and Valley View parents also mirrors a similar issue at Amador Valley High School earlier this year where staff and community members did not agree with the original design of the school's campus renovation project, which aims to construct the new athletic and performing arts facilities.

Kael said the district had several meetings where they asked questions about the logistics of where things should go in these new facilities and what amenities they were looking for before working with a consultant to turn those needs and requests into a design.

But during that design-build process, because the district is looking at different firms and different designs, PUSD had to keep quiet, which is why when they came out on the other side with a design, many people at Amador felt like they were left out, Kael said. He also attributed that lack of communication to the December holiday break — the original Amador renovation project design came out in January — which didn't leave PUSD with much time to inform the public.

Diana Hasenpflug, the head athletic trainer at Amador, previously made comments to the school's student-run newspaper, Amador Valley

Today, regarding the lack of communication between the school community and the district when it came to the design of the new facilities.

She told the Weekly more recently that in the beginning, there were people in the community — including herself — who felt like their input was not being considered or didn't know what was going on in general.

"Nobody asked them, nobody really knew what was going on within the committees because none of us were a part of (them)," Hasenpflug said.

But while certain steps in regard to the community input process might have not been communicated in the beginning, Hasenpflug said that has definitely shifted since then following a survey which the district said garnered over a thousand responses.

"When they took our feedback, they made changes," Hasenpflug said. "For example, they've included the entire physical education department in these meetings ... When they took our feedback, they made changes."

"I think the engagement has really picked up," Sheikholeslami said. "They're meeting, they're designing, they're actively involved and there's excitement there."

However, that wasn't the same sentiment felt at Valley View because, while the school site and district are continuing discussions about where to locate the garden, community members like Hasselbrock feel like they can't trust the district anymore.

Hasselbrock said she feels like there is also a lack of trust between the community and the district because, at least for her, she has received inconsistent information. She said she would sit down with people and see one thing but then witness completely new information at a public meeting regarding the same issue.

"To me, why would I ever believe that what you're saying is the truth," Hasselbrock said. "The number of plans that I have seen and the number of location changes that have happened to the garden are absolutely crazy. And at this point ... I don't ever fully trust that we will get the garden back."

But when The Weekly brought these concerns to Kael, he said the discussions surrounding the garden at Valley View have been an

enhanced level of engagement where the a site committee specifically focused on the garden — made up of about 12 people — is working to find a comparable location.

He said while he recognizes that not everyone will be happy in all of the decisions made during many of these bond projects — one case in point is Hasenpflug's athletic training program not being included in the new gym project — the district's goal is to present the best information and decisions available.

One example that he pointed to was the Amador Theater.

Narum said the school's committee really wanted to look at the theater's historical ties to Main Street and that the latest option for the facade captures the arches, which is an architectural motif seen around the city.

She said the committee especially wanted to look at doing the facade right because of the controversy surrounding it within the community — in the past, residents have spoken up against the demolition of the theater due to wanting to preserve its historical nature.

Kael said the district also recognizes the historical significance of the theater, which is why they are including nooks inside the lobby of the theater for displays of historical elements of Amador and past performances. He also said school board trustees recently provided staff direction recently at the June 4 Facilities Committee meeting to move forward with the theater design option that includes the arches at the facade.

"Wherever something is really important to the community, we want to get as much feedback as we can possibly get so that we can do all that listening and we can try to assimilate it into an end product that is going to meet as many needs and as many desires as we can," Kael said.

But according to Valley View community members like Hasselbrock and Cantu, they still feel like the district needs to reassess its design process in general so that they can get more input from the community, even if that means it takes longer to complete projects.

"We need to just breathe and take the time to do it right the first time," Cantu said. ■

## PET OF THE WEEK



TVAR

### Meet Blaze and Carli

Adorable Blaze and Carli are 5-month-old puppies living in a foster home with other dogs and cats. They are sweet, a bit shy and do well with other small dogs and cats. Blaze is a Miniature Pinscher/Dachshund mix and Carli is a Miniature Schnauzer mix. They can be adopted together, or separately if the adopter has an existing, small compatible dog. Contact Tri-Valley Animal Rescue via tvar.org.



# 'A MUSICAL CATALYST CHANGE THE WORLD'

## Oakland Interfaith Gospel Choir to headline in Livermore for Juneteenth

By JUDE STRZEMP

The award-winning Oakland Interfaith Gospel Choir is set to bring Black gospel and spiritual music traditions to the Bankhead Theater as part of Juneteenth celebrations in Livermore this weekend.

On the day of the concert Saturday, Livermore Valley Arts and Tri-Valley for Black Lives — an organization dedicated to fostering a safe and anti-racist community for BIPOC, with priority for Black lives — are hosting the fourth annual Juneteenth event in the Bankhead Plaza. The family-friendly celebration is set to include emcee and comedian Faith Alpher as well as other entertainment and music, alongside retail and food vendors.

Alpher will then hold an hour-long conversation at the Bankhead with stories to inspire attendees, in honor of Juneteenth.

These festivities all commemorate the holiday marking the emancipation of enslaved people in Texas on June 19, 1865, two years after the Emancipation Proclamation abolished slavery in the confederate states.

"The values at the heart of Juneteenth — liberation, community and the ongoing fight for social justice — are deeply meaningful to me," OIGC singer Isaac Hanson said. "I'm grateful for the opportunity to honor this important holiday with the Livermore community as we sing, uplift and reflect on the legacy and meaning of Juneteenth."

Founded in 1986, OIGC's mission is to inspire joy and unity among all people through Black gospel and spiritual music traditions, according to the choir's website. The organization is composed of over 300 singers across multiple choirs with a range of faiths, races and cultures.

Every year, the choir performs 25 to 30 times, with additional events performed by an ensemble representing the group, according to the choir's website.

Since its founding, they have journeyed across the world to perform in locations such as Israel, Norway, Australia and the southern United States. Locally, their appearances have included shows at Paramount Theatre in Oakland and the San Quentin Rehabilitation Center.

"We want to be a musical catalyst to change the world by showing people of all faiths and backgrounds can come together and make it a better place to be. We know music is universal and OIGC proves it every time we perform," OIGC singer and board member Sharon Hymes-Offord said.

The choir's accolades include appearances on Grammy-winning albums by Linda Ronstadt, MC Hammer, Tramaine Hawkins and more. They have also performed with groups including Joshua Nelson, the Five Blind Boys of Alabama and the Duke Ellington Orchestra.

Additionally, the choir's founding artistic director Terrance Kelly has won an Emmy Award for his choral

arrangement of OIGC's KGO-TV public service announcement.

As the writer or arranger of most of the music for the choir's albums, his work also includes choral arrangements on albums by Ronstadt and the Kronos Quartet as well as gospel arrangements of popular music for TV and video soundtracks, the choir's website states.

For his directorship of Oakland Interfaith Youth Choir, Kelly received the Local Heroes Award from KQED Television in 2005 with honor at the Gospel Music Awards. Then in 2013, he was granted the Dr. Edwin Hawkins Excellence Award.

"He always refocuses us back to why we're doing what we're doing," OIGC marketing and programs



# TO festivities



Left: The Oakland Interfaith Gospel Choir aims to evoke joy and unity among all people through Black gospel and spiritual music traditions. (Photo courtesy OIGC). Above: The Juneteenth celebration this Saturday in Livermore is set to feature entertainment including singing, drumming and dancing (upper left and right), as well as vendor booths from Black-owned businesses and community organizations such as JTM In The Kitchen (lower left) and Bells Bath and Body Essentials (lower right). (All four above photos courtesy Tri-Valley for Black Lives).

manager Isa S. Chu said of Kelly. “And yes, we can perform at all these amazing venues, like the Bankhead, but the main mission of what we’re trying to do is to share joy and touch people’s hearts.”

Set for their third annual performance at the Bankhead, LVA has come to know the choir for its “soul-stirring harmonies and electrifying energy.”

Before every show, members of the choir hold hands in a circle to share their wishes of peace, joy, love and hope to the audience, according to the choir website.

“They can expect to stand up and sing along,” Chu said of the upcoming Juneteenth celebratory performance. “They can expect a little bit of a history lesson as well.”

When Kelly shares the history of the music, it enriches the experience, Hymes-Offord said.

“I am excited as always to perform and spread the spirit, joy and message of Gospel music,” Hymes-Offord said. “As a Black woman, Juneteenth is special as one of the many distinct parts of my heritage. Black history is American history and it is important to share, teach and learn from each other.”

“I hope we leave the audience at Bankhead feeling lifted and knowing that we can still stand together and make not only beautiful music but a beautiful world,” Hymes-Offord added.

The OIGC performance is scheduled to begin at 8 p.m. Saturday (June 21).

In addition to the OIGC performance, LVA also welcomes attendees to the Bankhead Plaza to celebrate Juneteenth with food, art and entertainment such as dancing, drumming, singing and storytelling. Emceed by Alpher, a motivational speaker, KKIQ radio personality, educator and comedian, the daytime event is set to run from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday.

Also joining the event from across the Bay Area are vendors including Black-owned businesses and community organizations: JTM In The Kitchen, JAMM The Artist, Bells Bath and Body Essentials, Vazi Safi, Quita Is Love and The Fusion Food Club as well as Diablo Black Men’s Group, Livermore Indivisible, Stanford Health Care Tri-Valley,

Tri-Valley for Black Lives and Tri-Valley Haven, according to an announcement by Tri-Valley for Black Lives.

“We’ve brought together our favorite Black-owned businesses, selling everything from barbecue to bath products, jewelry, tea, and more,” Tri-Valley for Black Lives organizer Emily Moore said in a statement. “We look forward to seeing their latest flavors and creations.”

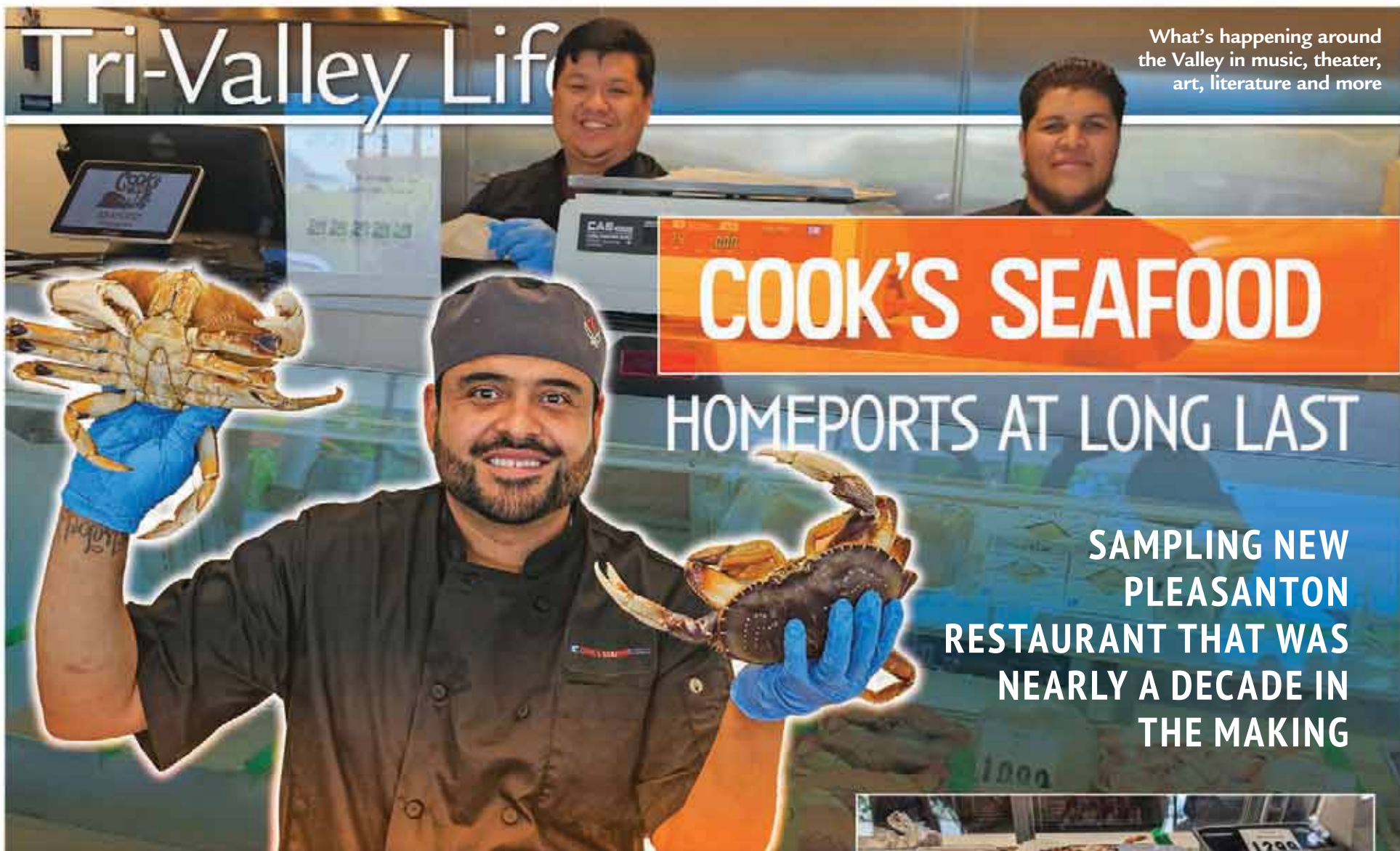
The lineup of performances includes African dance by Cheza Nami, singing by Jordyn Diew, poetry by Alie Jones and more.

The event is meant “to not only celebrate African-American culture but also to learn and grow from our shared history as Americans”, LVA officials said in a statement.

Just after the celebration in the plaza, Alpher is set to host a free show in the theater featuring stories and a conversation in honor of Juneteenth. Her “Freedom, Faith & The Power of Celebration” is set to begin at 3 p.m.

The day of festivities in downtown Livermore was set to follow other Juneteenth observances in the region, with Pleasanton’s event held last Saturday outside the Firehouse Arts Center and Dublin’s inaugural Juneteenth celebration set for the actual holiday in Emerald Glen Park on Thursday afternoon and evening.

For tickets and more information about OIGC’s performance at the Bankhead, visit the LVA website at [livermorearts.org](http://livermorearts.org). ■



**STORY AND PHOTOS  
BY DEBORAH GROSSMAN**

Situated across from the Alameda County Fairgrounds and one traffic signal from Interstate 680, Cook's Seafood is a welcome site for fair visitors and Tri-Valley residents. "People come in and say, 'I have been waiting for you,'" said Moises Bacio, chef and butcher at Cook's, which opened in Pleasanton on May 12. "I tell them, I have been waiting for you, too. Our menu is like the original Menlo Park location with fish and chips as the starring option, and we also offer grilled fish, clam chowder, tacos and more."

The understated nautical decor reveals fish replicas and sailing knots in a shadow box on the blue-toned walls. Ordering at the counter and self-serve napkins and utensils reinforce the causal ambiance with inside and patio seating.

The multipart menu takes up three large panels on the wall. Pondering

## 'I TELL THEM I HAVE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU, TOO.'

**Moises Bacio,**  
Cook's Seafood chef

the menu can challenge new customers not hooked by fish and chips. According to general manager Ramalah LaBang, a customer recently asked for a New Orleans-style fried oyster sandwich. The clerk immediately tapped Bacio who prepared the sandwich.

As JoEllen Lambert reviewed the menu, the counter clerk asked if this was her first visit. When Lambert concurred, the clerk offered a warm welcome. Later, Lambert told me, "I liked the chips in thick-cut, steak fries' style, and the halibut and cod combo which tasted fresh and crispy."

Bacio joined Cook's Seafood Restaurant and Fish Market in Menlo

Park in 2019. With a dozen years' experience as a fish butcher at a Japanese market and then chef at Benihana, Bacio came on board to lead the second location in Pleasanton.

After filing original permits eight years ago, personnel changes in Menlo Park halted planning. Then COVID disrupted all restaurants. Meanwhile Bacio developed a serious health condition. With his medical team, and support from the owner and his wife Carmen, Bacio fully recovered in late 2024 and is pleased to greet patrons at the Koll Center Plaza location.

Selling and serving seafood since 1928, Cook's has a cadre of vendors on several continents who know the restaurant's quality standards.

"The fish arrives daily for both the market and kitchen. We inspect the fish three times and cook the crab and shrimp daily," Bacio said. In season, local Dungeness crab is a specialty along with halibut, swordfish, and organic salmon farmed in net-pen ocean waters.

With fish and chips taking center stage, a debate exists on whether cod, halibut, or prawns is best.

Jeff Justeson of Pleasanton enjoyed his cod and chips, sampled my halibut, and pronounced cod the winner. After living in London for five years near a fish and chip shop, I preferred the cod, the most common British option. An Irish native, my neighbor John liked both the cod and shrimp though he prefers a thinner crust. Malt vinegar, a traditional condiment, delighted him.

The Cook's locations apply a common restaurant practice to prepare



fish and chips.

"We sell over 300 pieces of fish each day. Each morning, we blanch the fish to pre-cook it. After the pieces cool, we can prepare the orders faster while preserving the texture of the fish," Bacio said. As for the chips, LaBang noted that guests can substitute coleslaw, potato salad or side salad for free or upgrade to onion rings or sautéed vegetables.

Many seafood lovers prefer grilled over fried fish. The menu contains two disparate sections with grilled options. The left menu panel under "Specials" lists a grilled salmon sandwich and nearby is a picture of grilled halibut and chips. In addition to the salmon, scallops, petrale sole and catfish on the "Other Entrées" section of the same panel, cod is also available fried or grilled.

The center panel lists sandwiches such as Dungeness crab and two burgers with lettuce and tomatoes, either salmon or halibut. Like a ground beef burger, the fish burger contains minced fish. The cook applies a light cornmeal coating and then grills the patty. The grilled salmon sandwich, at a higher price point, is a fish filet.

Cook's serves house-made crab cakes and lobster rolls. The gluten-free

tacos come with grilled or fried fish. The vegetarian version brims with sautéed fresh vegetables.

Pasta lovers can order fettuccine Alfredo with seafood or vegetables. Crab or shrimp Louie salads, Mexican style prawn cocktail platters, and clam chowder or cioppino in a cup or bowl are menued. Except for burger buns, the bread comes from Berkeley's long-established Acme Bread Co. and is available for sale. The pickle-forward tartar, cocktail and Louie sauces are house-made.

After Justeson finished his fish and chips, I asked what he might order next time. "I will spin the wheel. I love all seafood?"

After a warm day at the fairgrounds, the small yet well-curated list of beverages is reasonably priced. Sodas are \$4; the average price of American and Mexican beer is \$8. There are four white wines including Oyster Bay Sauvignon Blanc and three red wines. Though not on the menu, ask for the 187ml Flybird agave wine-based Margaritas for a refreshing \$9.

Eager to cast his style onto the Pleasanton menu, Bacio said, "Later this summer, look for the addition of more pasta options, poke and ceviche." ■



Chef Moises Bacio shows off live crabs (top of page), among the many oceanic options at Cook's Seafood in Pleasanton, including its seafood market (top right) and fish and chips (above).

# Community Pulse

## POLICE BULLETIN

### Boy found safe hours after walking away from Dublin special ed program

Community response to police social media alerts is being credited with helping locate an 8-year-old boy who was lost for almost four hours after walking away unnoticed from a Dublin elementary school's special education summer program Monday.

The boy, who is autistic and non-verbal, was found about a half-mile from Frederiksen Elementary School safe and in good health after a resident who was aware of the ongoing missing-person search saw the boy near their house and called police, according to authorities.

"We would like to thank our allied agencies for their assistance and express our sincere appreciation to the Dublin community for their vigilance and support in helping bring this situation to a safe resolution," Dublin Police Services Capt. Miguel Campos said in a press release Monday afternoon.

The situation unfolded after a late-morning recess Monday (June 16) in the extended school year program for special education students, hosted at Frederiksen, according to the Dublin Unified School District. The boy was reported missing after the recess and police were called to the scene.

DPS officers arrived at Frederiksen at 11:08 a.m., and all Dublin police units on duty as well as multiple units from neighboring law enforcement agencies and DUSD personnel began scouring the area around the school at 7243 Tamarack Drive, according to Campos.

The search would continue until 2:44 p.m. when a resident of the northwest Dublin neighborhood — who had seen police social media posts about the missing child — observed the boy near their house blocks away from the school, according to Campos.

"The resident made contact with the child and immediately called DPS dispatch," Campos said. "The child was located safe and in good health and reunited with his parents."

DUSD Superintendent Chris Funk issued a community statement later Monday lauding the "swift and coordinated efforts" of the police department in helping lead to a positive resolution.

"I want to express my deep appreciation to the DPD for their rapid response and overwhelming support. They immediately flooded the area with personnel and resources, ensuring every possible

measure was taken to bring the student home safely," Funk said.

"I also want to acknowledge and thank the many staff members who jumped into action, searching the surrounding area, providing key information, and supporting students and one another during a stressful moment. Your commitment and care make a real difference," he added. "Thank you all for everything you do to keep our students safe."

Although the boy's name and photo were publicly shared by Dublin police during the search, the Pleasanton Weekly is withholding his identity from this story to limit potential impacts on the boy and his family.

— Jeremy Walsh

### East Bay SPCA teams up with Livermore PD

The Livermore Police Department and East Bay SPCA have announced a partnership beginning July 1 to provide care and shelter for stray and abandoned animals.

East Bay SPCA operates a modern, full-service facility in Dublin.

"Our partnership with local animal sheltering agencies is vital to our mission of ensuring animals have safe housing and to our efforts in reuniting lost pets with their owners," Livermore Police Chief Jeramy Young said in a press release earlier this month announcing the collaboration.

The new arrangement aims to provide high-quality veterinary care, exercise and enrichment with lost and homeless animals. The two organizations are also focused on the reunification of lost animals with their families or placement of stray pets into new homes are also being undertaken by the two organizations, according to the press release.

Under the agreement, the East Bay SPCA will work with LPD animal services officers to manage sheltering services. These services include the intake, care, and placement of stray and injured pets found within the city of Livermore.

The agencies encourage Livermore residents to call the non-emergency dispatch line at 925-371-4987 if they find a lost, stray, or injured pet. Alternatively, members of the public may bring animals directly to East Bay SPCA's Dublin shelter during business hours (Wednesday through Sunday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.).

"We're honored to expand our reach and deepen our community impact through this partnership," said Karalyn Aronow, vice president of operations at East Bay SPCA. "Together with the City of Livermore, we'll offer life-saving services and resources that help animals thrive and stay in loving homes."



The California Highway Patrol said officers found this loaded gun inside an SUV from which shots were seen fired on Interstate 580 near the Altamont Pass on June 11.

The East Bay SPCA offers a variety of community-based programs to support pet owners and promote animal welfare. These include pet owner support services to help owners keep their pets, youth education programs for kids and teens ages 6-17, community education workshops to help train pets, and a modern shelter facility to promote health and comfort for pets. The local SPCA is also an American Red Cross partner and has opportunities for public volunteers to help aid shelter animals.

— Connor Huard

### Livermore inmate dies

A 78-year-old inmate at Santa Rita Jail in Dublin died last week following a rapid decline in health, the Alameda County Sheriff's Office said, prompting an ongoing investigation.

Daniel Lavi, who suffered from multiple chronic and serious illnesses, was transported to a hospital on June 10 after his condition deteriorated. He died at 12:24 a.m. June 12, the sheriff's office said in a statement.

His family was notified and reportedly had the opportunity to visit him before his death.

A resident of Livermore, Lavi had been in custody since Nov. 14, 2019, after being arrested by Livermore police officers on suspicion of committing a lewd and lascivious act with a child under 14.

The sheriff's office said they have notified the Alameda County District Attorney's Office and will submit a report to the California Attorney General's Office, as required under state law regarding deaths in custody.

No further details were immediately disclosed.

— Bay City News Service

### Freeway shooting

A driver who allegedly shot at another vehicle on Interstate 580 near the Altamont Pass last week was later arrested in San Leandro, the California Highway Patrol said.

The shooting was reported shortly after 9 a.m. June 11 on I-580

between Flynn and Grant Line roads.

The victim, who was driving a Tesla Model 3, told officers that the driver of a red GMC Yukon fired a handgun at him at least five times.

The gunfire didn't hit the victim or his car, the CHP said. A description of the suspect's SUV was shared with other law enforcement agencies and license plate reader cameras helped track down the vehicle, which was eventually located by San Leandro police.

A loaded gun was allegedly found inside the SUV and the suspect was taken into custody and booked at Santa Rita Jail. The shooting is still under investigation by the CHP's Dublin Area and the Golden Gate Division Special Investigation Unit.

— Bay City News Service

### Who sent card with meth to jail?

A months-long investigation into the sender of a greeting card to Santa Rita Jail laced with methamphetamine has led to the arrest of an Oakland man suspected of drug dealing, the Alameda County Sheriff's Office said.

Last year, someone in custody received a card that tested positive for meth which was intercepted by a narcotics K-9.

Detectives believe the card was

sent by Dominic Lucero, 47. On June 3, his residence in Oakland was searched.

Deputies allegedly seized 232 grams of meth, 41 grams of fentanyl, 24.9 grams of cocaine, 2.7 grams of heroin, a spray bottle containing liquid meth, three firearms (including one allegedly linked to a felony case in Colorado), and \$4,301 in cash.

Lucero was arrested and booked into Santa Rita on suspicion of multiple felonies including possession of narcotics for sale, second degree robbery, first degree burglary, grand theft, bringing drugs into a jail, and several weapons violations, including being a felon in possession of a firearm.

— Katy St. Clair,  
Bay City News Service

### Dash and dine

Unclear if they had worked up an appetite from a late-night sprint, but suspects from a hit-and-run on the freeway were reportedly caught hiding in a nearby restaurant over the weekend in Pleasanton.

In a social media post highlighting a couple of crimes covered by its graveyard shift overnight last Friday into Saturday, the CHP's Dublin office described the case of a car crash on I-580.

The individuals responsible for the crash fled the scene on foot from eastbound I-580 near Hopyard Road, but they were soon located at Denny's just over a block from the freeway interchange. According to the CHP, officers found two guns in the possession of the hit-and-run suspects.

Additional details about the case, including the suspects' identities and potential charges, were not immediately available.

The CHP also reported that a local unit on that same graveyard shift stopped a driver who was traveling 122 mph without their seat belt on. "Why?" the agency asked rhetorically in the social post, followed by a shrug emoji. ■

— Jeremy Walsh

## Employment

Safeway Inc. hiring Digital Product Manager/ Data Products (Execute product roadmap for digital analytics team) in Pleasanton, CA. May telecommute. Reports to Pleasanton. Must have legal right to work in US. EOE. \$168,397-188,700/YR Email resume: TA.Applications@albertsons.com, Attn: J. Bustamante REF #0603HJ

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# Opinion

## GUEST OPINION

BY JACK BALCH

### Through tough fiscal decisions: Thank you, Pleasanton

On June 17, the Pleasanton City Council adopted one of the more challenging budgets our city has faced in recent memory. These decisions weren't easy, but they were made with your input, our values, and our future in mind.

To every resident who showed up, wrote in, tuned in, or spoke up: thank you.

Cities across the Bay Area and the nation are grappling with rising costs and slowing revenues. Some of us warned this day would come as we grew concerned that difficult choices were being deferred or overshadowed by competing priorities. That's why it's more important than ever to realign our focus and invest in what matters most.

This starts with having complete

and accurate information so we can make the best possible decisions, especially the hard decisions that are expected of us.

Here in Pleasanton, our community met the moment with transparency, responsibility and civility. While we all had to compromise, through reductions, realignments and reprioritizations, we also made bold, proactive decisions to protect and strengthen our city for the future.

Among the most significant: We are more than doubling our investment in Pleasanton's long-term infrastructure and facilities. Our capital investment will grow from the \$2 million to \$3.4 million range contributed by past operating budgets to approximately \$6.2 million next year and \$8.8 million the year after. That's a powerful step forward — representing real,

tangible improvements to the roads we drive on, the parks we enjoy, and the city facilities that serve residents of all ages.

We are also making prudent use of the FAS 115 Pension Trust, reserves set aside during stronger financial years, using a portion of its annual interest earnings to help offset pension costs. This eases near-term impacts while preserving the fund's long-term integrity by keeping the principal untouched and allowing unused interest to continue compounding.

This budget helps safeguard the high quality of life that makes



Pleasanton a special place to call home. It keeps our parks maintained, our public bathrooms open, and trash collected. It funds crossing guards, School Resource Officers, and our Alternative Mental Health Response. While the library will see some changes, the budget minimizes user impacts. We also found significant internal savings before looking elsewhere.

No one welcomes budget reductions, but our community engaged. We didn't always agree, but we listened. While no process is perfect, and lessons were learned, I appreciate how our community stepped up, did the hard work, and met the challenge head-on, together. I also thank my fellow councilmembers and school leaders for their dedication to Pleasanton.

Please know that your voice matters. Whether on local, state or national issues, please vote. Participate and hold your leaders accountable, including me. Make sure you're registered at [vote.gov](http://vote.gov), and stay engaged in our future.

Next, let's grow our local economy! This budget lays the groundwork for a more agile and responsive Pleasanton.

It funds two key initiatives: first, an internal Municipal Review to identify ways to streamline operations, reduce inefficiencies, and move past "analysis paralysis"; and second, it reorganizes City departments by combining Community Development and Economic Development into one, aligning zoning, land use, and business support. With smarter processes, we can attract and retain businesses, strengthen our tax base, and deliver the services, amenities, and entertainment our residents expect and deserve.

These are meaningful steps, not just to fix what's urgent, but to prepare Pleasanton for what's next. Thank you, Pleasanton, for your partnership and dedication to our vibrant future.

If you have ideas, questions, or concerns, please reach out to me at [jbalch@cityofpleasantonca.gov](mailto:jbalch@cityofpleasantonca.gov). ■

*Editor's note: Jack Balch is in his first year as mayor of Pleasanton. He served in a regular seat on the Pleasanton City Council from 2020 to 2024, and previously sat on the Pleasanton Planning Commission.*

## LETTERS

### Trains wake us nightly

The reader who stated that, "Everybody that bought a house in that area knew the railroad was there, and their houses were cheaper for that reason" is incorrect.

We used to have two RR lines running through town, the Southern Pacific and the Western Pacific, and a station on each line for passengers. Most houses were near one of the lines.

Living here since 1958, yes, you heard the train throughout Pleasanton — it is a bowl-shaped valley, but rarely was there a train between midnight and 5 a.m. During the 1990s to 2019, weekly, there was a Wednesday freight train that ran between 3-3:30 a.m. Since 2020, we have one to three freight trains running between midnight and 5 a.m. daily.

In the maps from 1869 and 1954, almost all of the houses in Pleasanton were close to one of the two RR lines. I asked the sellers of our home, in Pleasanton since 1965, if they'd ever heard of houses costing less because of the RR lines? Response: no.

I asked a longtime Pleasanton Realtor if houses near the RR tracks cost less? He said, "I am not aware of any specifics relating to homes that have had to sell for less because they're next to the train."

The train horn by law ranges from 96-110 dB. This is why Castlewood residents asked for their crossing to be included in Sunol's quiet zone. We would like to stop being awakened by the train horn nightly — we would like the improved quality of life a

quiet zone can afford us.

— Diane Rodriguez

### Letter rebuttal

I had hoped not to see a frequent writer make it onto your pages. His breathless regurgitation of MAGA talking points and right wing paranoia doesn't fit in a local weekly. So let's rebut his arguments.

An 80-year-old man was insulated from some trying interactions with the press. Can you point to a decision or outcome that was affected by that? And this protection was the most egregious in history? Besides Reagan's dementia being covered up in the last two years of his term, while still coherent he authorized the selling of sophisticated weaponry to Iran and used those profits to arm the Nicaraguan Contras. An act specifically outlawed by Congress.

I will skip Nixon, Teapot dome, ad nauseum.

Would it be possible to make the Weekly a forum for local and community views only? Mr. Ott already gets his weekly screeds into the Independent. That is more than enough MAGA propaganda for me.

— Brian Sanborn

### Power outages ongoing in northwest Pleasanton

It is common for northwest Pleasanton to experience as many as four power outages a week. They are so common I installed solar with whole house battery backup in November 2022, as did other residents over the years. During the week of May 23-29,

there was a four-hour power outage. June 1 we had four outages, between 0713 hours and 1155 hours.

I suspect BART may play a role in these outages. Although I have no evidence to support that. It is common knowledge that BART experiences power surges. I believe those surges may not be limited to BART track fires and BART structure fire damage (like San Leandro on May 20); those surges may find their way into neighborhoods, flip a breaker, blow out a transformer, knock out an electrical vault. Those outages are everything south of I-580 to Bernal and everything west of I-680 including the ridge.

Much of BART's equipment is obsolete (1970s). Obsolete components, some older equipment is so outdated that BART engineers have had to search for replacement parts on platforms like eBay. Regenerative braking, when trains slow down, they feed electricity back into the system, (it is assumed); maybe that energy is going elsewhere. Neighborhood power outages are coincidental with the newer Dublin/Stoneridge BART stations coming online.

The weight of BART trains that will vary with passenger loads can have an impact on power usage. A fully loaded train is heavier and requires more power to accelerate, climb grades and maintain speed compared to a train with fewer passengers. BART electrical systems may not properly accommodate this fluctuation. Specifically, if one train is behind the other.

— Michael Austin

### Honor America's freedom

The longer and warmer days bring more traveling. Freedom comes with following laws.

When 16 in 1992, I was hit by a drunken driver. Medical care and therapy in the Bay Area and Central Valley made up half of my teenage life. After three decades, I communicate with a deep tone, read lips, cannot drive and I walk unsteadily.

Look at the results for Independence Day weekend maximum enforcement period for 2023 and 2024: CHP made 1,224 DUI arrests in 2023 and made 1,336 DUI arrests in 2024. Drivers, please make DUI arrests come down this year.

Californians, please follow laws. Anyone's independence can be ruined if you drive drunk. Many holidays are coming. Memories of a crash, injuries or even death caused from drunken driving will haunt your future.

Food and drinks are part of the fun. Taking I-680 to head home from a festivity? Planning to drink? Go ahead, but don't forget to have a sober person drive you if you become drunk. This certainly shows your pride for freedom and people will admire your safety.

Freedom and safety go hand in hand.

— Lori Martin

### Article resolves mystery

Christian Trujano's article "Live fire training burn this week at Shadow Cliffs" coincidentally preceded the

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# GUEST OPINION

By VALERIE PRYOR

## Our water future is at stake

**Z**one 7 Water Agency delivers safe, reliable and affordable water to over a quarter of a million residents in eastern Alameda County. We do this by importing surface water through the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta as a part of the State Water Project.

In fact, 70% of the total water supply for the Tri-Valley communities of Dublin, Livermore, Pleasanton and the Dougherty Valley of San Ramon is delivered through the Delta.

Various factors, including aging infrastructure and a changing climate, have resulted in significant reductions in the reliability of the State Water Project supplies. Recent estimates by the California Department of Water Resources show that the State Water Project may only be about 50% reliable in delivering the water supply through the Delta.

For communities that depend heavily on this imported water supply, this could significantly impact

our quality of life, economic vitality and environmental well-being. Restoring the long-term reliability of this water supply is critical to the Tri-Valley communities.

That's why we support Gov. Gavin Newsom's proposal to streamline and expedite the Delta Conveyance Project. His plan would reduce costly administrative delays, avoid unnecessary litigation and save the state billions of dollars in unnecessary delays.

More importantly, it would help modernize the State Water Project so it can continue securing water reliably in the face of climate extremes, aging infrastructure and seismic risks. The Delta Conveyance Project is not providing additional water; it is restoring the water supply already lost.

The project has already undergone rigorous, transparent environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act, including a 142-day public comment period and more than 7,000 public

comments. The final environmental impact report — all 22,000 pages of it — was released in December and includes detailed responses to thousands of substantive concerns.

The governor's proposal doesn't shortcut environmental protections or override public input. It simply ensures that the state can move forward with planning and engineering while preventing the kind of procedural gridlock that has derailed other critical infrastructure projects.

It also confirms the Department of Water Resources' authority to issue revenue bonds — not taxpayer-backed bonds — to be repaid by the local public water agencies that choose to participate. There will be no burden on state taxpayers and full local accountability.



There are those that argue that the project is too expensive and that there are cheaper alternatives. Zone 7 has been evaluating alternative sources of water supply for many years and takes into account potential Delta levee improvements, local groundwater storage, additional water conservation and additional water recycling. These are all good tools — and we at Zone 7, and our partner contractors who receive water from the State Water Project, are investing in them.

But these other improvements cannot replace the Delta Conveyance Project, which makes up 70% of the total water supplies of the Tri-Valley. These improvements would only help fill part of the gap that reductions in reliability of the aging State Water Project infrastructure have left. No combination of local projects can replace the volume or affordability of water supplied by the State Water Project.

A recent economic analysis confirmed that State Water Project water is more cost-effective than desalination, recycling, or stormwater capture. And if the project had been in place last year, it could have captured nearly 1 million acre-feet of water — enough for 10 million people

— while still meeting all environmental protections.

The State Water Project serves communities up and down the state, including ours right here in Alameda County. Our residents rely on Delta water every day, just like those in the Bay Area, Central Coast, Southern California and the Central Valley.

The Delta Conveyance Project is not about sending water south. It's about ensuring the entire state, including our own district, has access to a clean, reliable supply of water — now and into the future.

The governor's proposal is a smart, timely and fiscally responsible way to move California's most important water infrastructure project forward. The people of eastern Alameda County — and 27 million Californians — are counting on us. ■

*Editor's note: Valerie Pryor is general manager of Zone 7 Water Agency, the wholesale water provider to the cities of Pleasanton, Livermore, Dublin and the Dougherty Valley area of San Ramon. Zone 7 also provides flood protection services to all of eastern Alameda County. Pryor holds a Master of Arts in urban planning and a Bachelor of Arts in geography from UCLA and a post-graduate diploma in economics from Bristol University, England.*

## LETTERS

Continued from Page 16

June 10 fire at the 1800 block of Collier Canyon Road at Duarte's Gardening Services around 4:30 p.m.

Many of the fire departments (if not all of the departments in the article) were at Shadow Cliffs completing the day's training for "wildfires" when the fire broke out at the gardening center's storage and waste area. Smoke was visible as 10-15 mph western winds fanned the flames near outbuildings and a red barn in the area.

Various departments' fire engines and water tankers, probably around 10-15 vehicles including a bulldozer, whizzed past our business on the 900 block North Canyons Parkway and Doolan Road.

After an hour of working on the blaze, out of the east it looked like a Firehawk water-dropping helicopter appeared, water siphon hose dangling. It flew over the fire area and banked south toward the Shadow Lakes area just south of I-580 and Stanley Boulevard.

After a few minutes, around 5:40 p.m. it reappeared from the south, flew over the fire area and dropped its first load of water, white steamy smoke rising from the fire area. It continued with several drops and I assume after 6 p.m. it was subdued.

Christian's timely article online resolved the mystery of the myriad of agencies that appeared on scene.

— Arlie Ray

### The Weekly supported PMF the whole way

I am the treasurer of Pleasanton Military Families. I joined the group in 2003 when my son was sent on his

first deployment to Iraq. I know you have been talking with Sydne Roth and Pat Frizzell about our decision to disband our group, but I thought you might appreciate some insight into the role the Pleasanton Weekly played from the very beginning.

Chris Miller and Jeb Bing devised a way to send copies of the Weekly to our troops overseas. I have a picture of my son, Brian Weser, with his while in Iraq.

A little bit of home goes a long way. Of course, this was not sustainable because of cost and constant troop movement, but for a time, that copy of the Weekly was a very welcome sight.

My son is now retired after 20 years and our group is ending its mission, but the memories are lasting, and the Pleasanton Weekly has supported us the whole way. Thank you.

— JoAnn Weser

### CityServe expo success

On Wednesday, June 4, CityServe of the Tri-Valley hosted a vibrant Health & Wellness Expo at its Pleasanton Senior Center office, drawing over 100 local senior residents for a day of community connection, health education, and preventive care services.

The event brought together a diverse group of health care and community service providers, all committed to supporting the wellness of Tri-Valley's aging population. Attendees received free services such as blood pressure checks, balance testing, and medication management consultations, while also enjoying opportunities to speak directly with experts about healthcare, safety, and support resources.

Featured partner exhibitors included

Center for Elders' Independence (PACE Program), FirstLight Home Care, Creating New Hope and Suncrest Hospice (free blood pressure checks provided onsite).

Supporting exhibitors included Free balance testing and medication consultations, Open Heart Kitchen, local senior centers, Assisting Hands Home Care, Amada Health — Bilingual Mandarin Health Network, SBHIS Medicare Insurance — Bilingual Mandarin/Cantonese, Hallway Healthcare, Home Safety Services and Oneiro Pharmacy.

This event was about more than just health screenings — it was about connection, empowerment, and making seniors feel seen and supported. We're so grateful to our partners for showing up, and to the Pleasanton community for embracing the event with such enthusiasm.

Thanks to the hard work of CityServe's care team and the generosity of exhibitors, the expo also helped raise over \$10,000 in sponsorship support — funds that will directly benefit senior wellness initiatives throughout the region.

CityServe remains committed to helping older adults in the Tri-Valley live healthier, safer, and more connected lives through collaborative events like this and ongoing care coordination.

— Christine Beitsch-Bahmani, CEO, CityServe

### Calling class of 1975

Excitement is building for a week-end of great visiting and reminiscing for the Tracy High School Class of 1975. Their big one, the 50th class reunion, will be Sept. 26-28. Of the 388 classmates pictured in the 1975

yearbook, there are simply too many still missing, say committee members, and they want to find them all.

There will be something for everyone to enjoy and plenty of time to visit with former classmates beginning Friday through Sunday this fall. A school tour starts the fun on Friday to see the new campus and have lunch with current students in the high school FEAST lab. Later that evening, an informal meet-up will be at the Banta Inn where casual dress and a no-host bar make for a relaxed atmosphere perfect to reconnect with old friends.

On Saturday evening, the official 'Grand 50th Class Reunion' will take place at The Reserve in Stockton and includes dinner, dancing and walking down memory lane.

On Sunday morning, the classmates are invited to a Tracy Starbucks to enjoy more visiting and great coffee before attending Journey Christian Church together.

Invitations will be sent via email and reservation forms can be accessed on the Facebook site, Tracy High School-Class of '75. Former classmates are encouraged to buy their tickets now for the Grand Reunion at The Reserve at Spanos Park for \$75 each as the deadline is Aug. 1 and no tickets will be sold at the door.

Forms and monies are to be mailed to Jerry Dias, P. O. Box 471, Tracy, CA 95378.

If you or someone you know was in the Class of 1975 and has not heard about the plans, please make sure the committee has current contact information by emailing Jerry.Yerian@gmail.com.

— Debra Dingman

### Utilities are shutting off power during heat waves

Summer is almost here, and with it will come deadly heat waves supercharged by the climate crisis. Yet in 27 states, it's perfectly legal for utility companies to shut off electricity on the hottest days of summer, leaving individuals and families without air conditioning in extreme temperatures and threatening their health and safety.

Shutting off power and preventing access to lifesaving air conditioning in the summer can have life-or-death consequences. We need to shine a spotlight on this critical issue and raise our voices to demand change.

Utility companies and local leaders everywhere must act to end utility shutoffs on the hottest days of summer. Save lives — stop the summer shutoffs.

— Suzanne Smith

### Let's skip the weekly rants

I don't know if it indicates a shortage of letters to the editor or a bias towards conservative views, but I am really tired of reading David Ott's almost weekly published letters in the Pleasanton Weekly.

Are the liberals not writing letters to rally their followers, or are these liberal leaning letters being withheld? Without representing both sides of the political spectrum, you are giving Mr. Ott unlimited space to voice his politics. He is now claiming Biden was "diminished" at the same time that we are hearing the mental ramblings of the current POTUS.

Please help balance the political rhetoric in your publication or at least give less time to Mr. Ott.

— Rosemary Patterson

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## PLEASANTON PREPS

BY DENNIS MILLER

### Stout secures fifth in high jump at state meet

After competing for two state titles in one year, new Amador grad hopes to walk on at Oregon

As the final weeks of his high school time wound down, Amador Valley senior Ben Stout faced a major decision.

After finishing second in North Coast Section Meet of Champions in the high jump, Stout had the decision to advance on to the CIF State Track and Field Championships or to attend his high school graduation.

The opening day of the state meet was Friday, May 30, the same day as the Amador Valley graduations ceremonies. I had written about it that week, saying there is no right answer as it is something each athlete — and their family — must decide.

For me it would have been an easy decision: I had much higher aspirations educationally than a high school degree and as a competitive athlete, the chance to compete at the highest level would be exciting.

For Stout — who was also a member of the Amador Valley football team that played for a state title — the decision was also an easy one.

“It really wasn’t a tough decision for me. This was a goal I had since I started track season and after the amazing experience going to state with the football team it was a no-brainer for me,” said Stout, who ultimately finished fifth in the state in the high jump.

But it was hardly an automatic decision.

“I knew it was important for my family, so we all sat down and talked about it,” Stout explained. “They were very supportive of my goals and were so happy for me in whatever I wanted to do.”

The Amador Valley administration team stepped up in a major way to facilitate whatever the Stout family needed.

“It also helped that my school helped make it a good experience for my family to be there during our class rehearsal where I actually graduated,” Stout said. “My whole family was there, and they got to see me walk across the stage in a special ceremony.”

After the graduation situation was settled, it was time for preparation for the final high school athletic event of Stout’s career.

What were the expectations?

“I honestly was feeling good going into the meet, especially after coming off the MOC high and jumping 6 foot, 6 inches to actually hit the qualifying mark for the state meet,” Stout said of the section meet, where he set a personal best.



COURTESY STOUT FAMILY

Recent Amador Valley graduate Ben Stout clears 6-foot, 7 inches, in the CIF State meet to take fifth place.

He advanced out of the state trials with another clearance of 6-6, and it was off to fight for a medal.

“As for the finals, I just wanted to get on the podium and knew I had to come out strong and try to hit my jumps on the first try,” Stout said. “When I hit 6-5 first try, I knew it was going to be a good day. But getting 6-7, let alone on my first jump, was something that has been a dream in my head all season as my end goal.”

“Six-six was the current Amador school record held by Andy Finn since 1975, and I wanted more than anything to make my mark on that list, especially knowing this was the last time I would be in an Amador uniform,” he added. “It was amazing to jump 6-7 and to do it in the state meet competing against the best jumpers in the state. I proved to myself that I belong in that group and to do it with all my family and friends

near and far cheering for me was such an amazing experience I won’t ever forget.”

Josh Harel of Notre Dame-Sherman Oaks was the winner at 6-9. By virtue of not missing a height through 6-7, Stout secured his fifth-place medal. After an incredible senior year that saw Stout compete in those two state championships, he now turns his full attention to college.

“As for next year, I am heading to University of Oregon in the fall to study kinesiology,” Stout said. “I am hopeful to walk on to the track team and be able to wear a Duck uniform and represent Amador/Pleasanton with pride.” ■

*Editor’s note: Dennis Miller is a contributing sports writer for Embarcadero Media Foundation’s East Bay Division. To contact him about his Pleasanton Preps column, email acesmag@aol.com.*



# Grab a front row seat to local high school sports

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# Public Notices

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)

STYLED SPACES BY MONICA STYLED SPACES STAGING AND DESIGN FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: 614685  
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
1.) STYLED SPACES BY MONICA , 2.) STYLED SPACES STAGING AND DESIGN , located at 43513 Mission Blvd, Fremont, CA 94539, Alameda County. Mailing Address: 1076 Heinz Ranch Ct Pleasanton, CA 94566 This business is conducted by: an Individual. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are): MONICA SABEH 1076 Heinz Ranch Ct Pleasanton, CA 94566 Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above. This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on May 16 2025. (PLW Jun 20, 27, Jul 4 and 11, 2025)

GANGJONG GIFTS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: 615098  
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
1.) Gangjong Gifts , located at 1595 Solano Ave Berkeley, CA 94707, Alameda County. This business is conducted by: an Individual. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are): CHOWANG PALMO 1595 Solano Ave Berkeley, CA 94707 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 04 2025. (PLW Jun 20, 27, Jul 4 and 11, 2025)

1791 NEPTUNE PROPERTIES, LLC FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: 614692  
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
1.) 1791 Neptune Properties LLC , located at 1791 Neptune Dr., San Leandro, CA 94577, Alameda County. This business is conducted by: a Limited Liability Company. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are): 1791 NEPTUNE PROPERTIES LLC 123 Estudillo Ave Ste 225 San Leandro, CA 94577 State of Incorporation/Organization: CA Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 01/14/2025 This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on May 19 2025. (PLW Jun 20, 27, Jul 4 and 11, 2025)

KONG OPTICS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: 615343  
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
1.) KONG OPTICS , located at 1016 WEST LAGOON ROAD, PLEASANTON, CA 94566, ALAMEDA County. This business is conducted by: an Individual. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are): QIANG KONG 1016 WEST LAGOON ROAD PLEASANTON, CA 94566 Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 1/1/2025

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on June 12 2025. (PLW Jun 20, 27, Jul 4 and 11, 2025)

ELYON MOBILE DETAIL FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: 615209  
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
1.) Elyon Mobile Detail , located at 21663 Garden Ave. Unit 19 Hayward, CA 94541, Alameda County. This business is conducted by: an Individual. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are): MARCO LORETO 21663 Garden Ave. Unit 19 Hayward, CA 94541 Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 6/3/2016 This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on June 09 2025. (PLW Jun 20, 27, Jul 4 and 11, 2025)

VENUS NAILED IT FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: 615362  
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
1.) Venus Nailed It , located at 7183 Rich Ave, Newark, CA 94560, Alameda County. Mailing Address: 6496 Potrero Drive, Newark, CA 94560 This business is conducted by: an Individual. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are): VENUS SHIH 7183 Rich Ave Newark, CA 94560 Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 06/05/2025 This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on June 13 2025. (PLW Jun 20, 27, Jul 4 and 11, 2025)

HUHOMEHUB FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: 615260  
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
1.) HUHOMEHUB , located at 4250 Sunset View Dr. Dublin, CA 94568, Alameda County. This business is conducted by: an Individual. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are): FANG HU 4250 Sunset View Dr Dublin, CA 94568 Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 06/10/2025 This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on June 10 2025. (PLW Jun 20, 27, Jul 4 and 11, 2025)

RDT FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: 614952  
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
1.) RDT , located at 3218 Arden Rd Hayward, CA 94544, Alameda County. Mailing Address: PO BOX 3292 Hayward, CA 94540 This business is conducted by: an Individual. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are): RICARDO SERGIO DOMINGUEZ PO BOX 3292 Hayward, CA 94540 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 30 2025. (PLW Jun 20, 27, Jul 4 and 11, 2025)

DIABLO PLUMBING INC. FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: 615157  
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
1.) Diablo Plumbing Inc. , located at 7074 Commerce CR #D Pleasanton, CA 94588, Alameda County. This business is conducted by: a Corporation. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are): DIABLO PLUMBING INC. 7074 Commerce CR #D Pleasanton, CA 94588 State of Incorporation/Organization: California Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 01/01/24 This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on June 06 2025. (PLW Jun 20, 27, Jul 4 and 11, 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)

A R WORKS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: 615208  
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
1.) A R Works , located at 4669 Cochise Court, Pleasanton CA 94588, Alameda County. This business is conducted by: an Individual. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are): AMY GAIR 4669 Cochise Court Pleasanton CA 94588 Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 06/01/25 This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on June 09 2025. (PLW Jun 20, 27, Jul 4 and 11, 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 #5 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 #5 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)

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)

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA FOR THE COUNTY OF ALAMEDA Case No.: 25CV126331 TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner: Qingrong Laura Zhang filed a petition with this court for a decree changing

names as follows: QINGRONG ZHANG to QINGRONG LAURA ZHANG 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: 11/07/2025, 09:30, Hayward Hall of Justice of the Superior Court of California, County of Alameda located at 24405 Amador Street, Hayward CA 94544. A copy of this ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: PLEASANTON WEEKLY Date: 06/13/2025 Thomas Nixon JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT (PLW Jun 20, 27, Jul 4 and 11, 2025)

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA FOR THE COUNTY OF ALAMEDA Case No.: 25CV124612 TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner: FNU Zabihullah filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: FNU ZABIHULLAH to JAWAID MOHAMMADZAI 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: 10/10/2025, 9:30AM, 514 of the Superior Court of California, County of Alameda located at 24405 Amador St, Hayward, CA 94544. A copy of this ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: PLEASANTON WEEKLY Date: 06/02/2025 Thomas Nixon JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT (PLW Jun 20, 27, Jul 4 and 11, 2025)

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA FOR THE COUNTY OF ALAMEDA Case No.: 25CV123686 TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner: Michael Kim filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: MICHAEL KIM to JINHAN KIM 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: 10/03/2025, 9:30 AM, Hayward Hall of Justice of the Superior Court of California, County of Alameda located at 24405 Amador St, Hayward, CA 94544. A copy of this ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: PLEASANTON WEEKLY Date: 05/27/2025 Thomas J Nixon JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT (PLW Jun 6, 13, 20 and 27, 2025)

*Continued on next page*

# Public Notices

*Continued from previous page*

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA FOR THE COUNTY OF ALAMEDA Case No.: 25CV125575 TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner: BAHMAN ABDOLHAMIDZADEH filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: BAHMAN ABDOLHAMIDZADEH to BAHMAN HAMIDI 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: 09/19/2025, 9:30 AM, HAYWARD HALL OF JUSTICE of the Superior Court of California, County of ALAMEDA located at 24405 AMADOR STREET, HAYWARD, CA 94544.

A copy of this ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: PLEASANTON WEEKLY Date: 06/09/2025 THOMAS NIXON JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT (PLW Jun 20, 27, Jul 4 and 11, 2025)

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA FOR THE COUNTY OF ALAMEDA Case No.: 25CV105828 TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner: Kathryn Jenner Coulombe filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: KATHRYN JENNER COULOMBE to KATHRYN JENNER LIU 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: August 29, 2025, 9:30 a.m., Hayward Hall of Justice of the Superior Court of California, County of Alameda located at 24405 Amador Street, Hayward, CA 94544.

A copy of this ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: PLEASANTON WEEKLY Date: 4/23/2025 Thomas J. Nixon JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT (PLW Jun 20, 27, Jul 4 and 11, 2025)

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA FOR THE COUNTY OF ALAMEDA Case No.: 25CV125415 TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner: Kathryn Rose Feit filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: KATHRYN ROSE FEIT to KATHRYN ROSE FEIT D'AGROSA 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: 10/17/2025, 9:30AM, Hayward Hall of Justice of the Superior Court of California, County of Alameda located at 24405 Amador Street, Hayward CA 94544. A copy of this ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE shall be published at least once each week for

four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: PLEASANTON WEEKLY Date: June 6th, 2025 Thomas J. Nixon JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT (PLW Jun 13, 20, 27 and Jul 4, 2025)

**Summons (Domestic Violence Restraining Order)**  
**Citación (Orden de restricción de violencia en el hogar)**

**Superior Court of California, County of (Corte Superior de California, Condado de):** 751 Pine Street, Martinez CA 94553

**Case Number (Número de caso):** D19-05244

**Filed:** May 30, 2025

**Person Asking for Protection (La Persona que solicita protección):** ROBERT LATONA

**Notice to (Avisa a):** AYLA ORTIZ

The person in **(1)** is asking for a Domestic Violence Restraining Order against you.

La persona en **(1)** está pidiendo una orden de restricción de violencia en el hogar contra usted. Lea la página 2 para más información.

**You have a court date (tiene una audiencia en la corte)**

**Date (Fecha):** 08/07/2025

**Time (Hora):** 8:30 am

**Dept (Depto):** 17

**Room (Sala):** 222

**Name and address of court, if different from above (Nombre y dirección de la corte, si no es la misma de arriba):** 725 Court Street, Martinez, CA 94553

**What if I don't go to my court date?**

If you do not go to your court date, the judge can grant a restraining order that limits your contact with the person in **(1)**. If you have a child with the person in **(1)**, the court could make orders that limit your time with your child. Having a restraining order against you may impact your life in other ways, including preventing you from having guns and ammunition. If you do not go to your court date, the judge could grant everything that the person in **(1)** asked the judge to order.

**¿Qué pasa si no voy a la audiencia?**

Si no va a la audiencia, el juez puede dictar una orden de restricción que limita su contacto con la persona en **(1)**. Si tiene un hijo con la persona en **(1)**, la corte puede dictar órdenes que limitan su tiempo con su hijo. Una orden de restricción en su contra puede tener otras consecuencias, como prohibirle tener armas de fuego y municiones. Si no va a la audiencia, el juez puede ordenar todo lo que pide la persona en **(1)**.

**How do I find out what the person in (1) is asking for?**

To find what the person in **(1)** is asking the judge to order, go to the courthouse listed at the top of page 1. Ask the court clerk to let you see your case file. You will need to give the court clerk your case number, which is listed above and on page 1. The request for restraining order will be on form DV-100, *Request for Domestic Violence Restraining Order*.

**¿Cómo puedo entender lo que pide la persona en (1)?**

Para entender lo que pide la persona en **(1)**, vaya al tribunal en la dirección indicada en la parte superior de la página 1. Pida al secretario de la corte permiso para ver el expediente de su caso. Tendrá que darle al secretario el número de su caso, que aparece arriba y en la página 1. La solicitud de una orden de restricción se hace en el formulario DV-100, *Solicitud de orden de restricción de violencia en el hogar*.

**Where can I get help?**

Free legal information is available at your local court's self-help center. Go to [www.courts.ca.gov/selfhelp](http://www.courts.ca.gov/selfhelp) to find your local center.

**¿Dónde puedo obtener ayuda?**

Puede obtener información legal gratis en el centro de ayuda de su corte. Vea <https://www.courts.ca.gov/selfhelp-selfhelpcenters.htm?rdeLocaleAttr=es> para encontrar el centro de ayuda en su condado.

**Do I need a lawyer?**

You are not required to have a lawyer, but you may want legal advice before your court hearing. For help finding a lawyer, you can

visit [www.lawhelpca.org](http://www.lawhelpca.org) or contact your local bar association.

**¿Necesito un Abogado?**

No es obligatorio tener un abogado, pero es posible que quiera consejos legales antes de la audiencia en la corte. Para ayuda a encontrar un abogado, visite <https://www.lawhelpca.org/es/homepage> o contacte al Colegio de Abogados local.

**Superior Court, Contra Costa County, California**

**Date (Fecha):** May 30, 2025

**Clerk, by (Secretario, por):** S. JONES

(PLW Jun 20, 27, Jul 4 and 11, 2025)

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: DAVID PEDRO GARCIA, AKA DAVID P. GARCIA, AKA DAVID GARCIA Case No.: 25PR125849

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of DAVID PEDRO GARCIA, AKA DAVID P. GARCIA, AKA DAVID GARCIA.

A Petition for Probate has been filed by: MARIA COBIAN in the Superior Court of California, County of Alameda. The Petition for Probate requests that: MARIA COBIAN 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 July 18 2025 at 9:45 AM in DEPT. 202 of the Superior Court of California, County of Alameda, located at 2120 MARTIN LUTHER KING WAY, BERKELEY, CA 94704.

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

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

Attorney for Petitioner: ERNEST H. TUTTLE, IV, ESQUIRE GIBSON & TUTTLE, INC.

100 ESTATES DRIVE ROSEVILLE, CA 95678 916-782-4402 (PLW Jun 20, 27 and Jul 4, 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/)

## Entertainment

**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).

**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).

**A HISTORY LESSON**

Take a musical journey through time with this captivating cabaret-style performance presented by the High School Cabaret program. This show celebrates the rich and evolving history of musical theater. 7 p.m., June 27. Tickets \$13. Visit [firehousearts.org](http://firehousearts.org).

**MARIA BAMFORD AT THE BANKHEAD**

Maria Bamford brings her one-of-a-kind comedic genius to the stage, blending razor-sharp wit with an unapologetically honest take on life's quirks and challenges. Bamford's comedy is as heartfelt as it is hilarious. 8 p.m., June 27. Tickets \$25-\$70. Visit [livermorearts.org](http://livermorearts.org).

**COMICCON LIVERMORE**

Join this free event which is an exhilarating celebration of all things geek culture, showcasing a vibrant tapestry of artists in all genres including graphic novel, manga, crime/noir, sci-fi, horror, fantasy, slice of life, adventure, humor and romance. 11 a.m., June 28. Bankhead Theater.

## Outdoor Rec

**CALIFORNIA BUTTERFLIES**

Join an LARPD Ranger to discuss California native butterflies and learn surprising facts about these insects and their significance to our ecosystem. 2-3 p.m., June 22. Free registration at [larpd.org](http://larpd.org).

**WILDLIFE SCIENCE WITH WILD**

**NEIGHBORS** Learn about wildlife science and the environment while viewing rescued wild animals. 10:15-11:15 a.m., June 27. Livermore Rincon Library. Bring a blanket to sit on.

## Seniors

**A DAY IN HISTORIC COLUMBIA, CA**

Join Pleasanton Senior Center's VIP Travel on this trip to see the Wizard of Oz and explore the town of Columbia before the performance. 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., June 29. Tickets \$110-\$120. Price includes roundtrip transportation and 2 p.m. performance. Sign up at [VIP Travel](http://VIP Travel).

# LUXURY HOMES PREVIEW



COURTESY GETTY IMAGES

## Local Realtors advocate in Washington, D.C.

*Capital gains, housing affordability and mortgage access among key discussions with East Bay legislators*

BY DAVID STARK

Local Realtors recently traveled more than 3,000 miles to help bring housing solutions back home.

Tracey Esling, a Tri-Valley resident, Realtor and 2025 president of the Bay East Association of Realtors was in Washington, D.C. during early June where she led a delegation of Realtors from Alameda County to advocate for federal housing policies that could impact homeownership opportunities in Pleasanton and throughout the East Bay.

Esling said the trip, which coincided with National Homeownership Month, was part of the National Association of Realtors' annual legislative meetings, bringing together thousands of real estate professionals to meet with their elected representatives.

"We talked about the issues that we see every day here in Pleasanton," Esling said. "We need more homes and fewer roadblocks to ownership."



David Stark

A major focus of the meetings with Congresswoman Lateefah Simon and Congressman Eric Swalwell was the "More Homes on the Market Act" (House Resolution 1340), which would increase the capital gains exclusion for long-time homeowners.

Under current law, sellers can exclude up to \$250,000 — or \$500,000 for married couples — of profit from the sale of their primary residence. With East Bay home prices well

into the seven-figure range, Esling said many Pleasanton homeowners may be subject to a big federal tax bill when they sell. The potential tax burden keeps sellers out of the market and in homes that may not make sense for them.

"When you have a home that's 3,500 square feet and one or two people living in it, maintenance becomes a burden," Esling said. "But they can't sell because so much of that money would go back to the government."

Esling believes that adjusting the capital gains exclusion would give Pleasanton homeowners more flexibility to downsize or relocate and create opportunities for new buyers. "It may even allow the seller to do some of the deferred maintenance or help the buyer with repairs. It helps both sides," she said.

The delegation also discussed the role of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac — two government-sponsored enterprises (GSEs) that provide home purchase financing options by buying loans from lenders.

Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac have remained under federal conservatorship since the 2008 financial crisis. While some government leaders have signaled interest in ending that oversight and returning the GSEs to private ownership, housing finance experts caution that removing the government backstop could lead to higher mortgage costs for homebuyers.



DAVID STARK / BAY EAST

Tracey Esling, 2025 president of the Bay East Association of Realtors (left) and Bill Espinola, 2025 Bay East president-elect took the Realtor voice directly to Washington, D.C.

See **REALTORS** on Page 22

**HOME SALES** This week's data represents homes sold during March 24 to April 4 for Pleasanton, Livermore, Dublin and Sunol, and May 12-23 for San Ramon.**PLEASANTON**

**4568 1st Street** Winget Family Trust to T. Knuppe for \$2,100,000

**7410 Aspen Court** Whippet Trust to F. El Haddad for \$1,265,000

**1234 Bordeaux Street** D. & A. Treadway to Subhashis Trust for \$2,700,000

**6524 Calle De La Mancha** Cheves Family Trust to K. & A. Olarig for \$2,098,000

**3239 Cheryl Circle** B. & S. Poruri to A. & T. Doshi for \$1,960,000

**7687 Highland Oaks Drive** Desprez Family Trust to A. & A. Malhotra for \$1,675,000

**2621 Ingrid Court** Detrane Family Trust to Guo-Lu Trust for \$3,425,000

**7374 Lemonwood Way** Cleveland Family Trust to S. & S. Challa for \$1,790,000

**3746 Riesling Court** Day Trust to A. & W. Wiedemeyer for \$2,095,000

**3747 Rose Rock Circle** Roybal Family Trust to Kanoongo Living Trust for \$1,410,000

**7222 Valley View Court** Chaturvedi Family Trust to U. & A. Patel for \$1,220,000

**5788 Belleza Drive** Riley Living Trust to M. & M. Fedor for \$899,000

**2862 Calle Reynoso** J. Chen to J. & J. Huang for \$2,250,000

**202 Del Valle Court** Y. Chen to S. & A. Kulathumony for \$2,110,000

**3767 Fairlands Drive** Xue & Gao Family Trust to S. & A. Vattikundala for \$1,600,000

**3253 Flemington Court** Bowlby Living Trust to S. & V. Manthripragada for \$1,830,000

**935 Mingoia Street** N. & C. Pak to Dash-Mamidipally Family Trust for \$3,350,000

**520 Rowell Lane** L. & J. Davis to M. & P. Anand for \$2,300,000

**2279 Segundo Court #2** Glancy Trust to Z. & F. Nawid for \$519,000

**1087 Touriga Place** Vistaven LLC to Sanchez Family Trust for \$1,995,000

**3421 Touriga Drive** H. Jeon to S. & A. Chauhan for \$1,670,000

**7357 Tulipwood Circle** Cruz Living Trust to H. & A. Wei for \$1,355,000

**1392 Vailwood Court** Lawson Trust to K. Crawford for \$1,900,000

**LIVERMORE**

**5720 Arlene Way** D. Branco to C. Robinson for \$1,589,000

**5436 Arrowhead Court** D. & G. Gibson to D. & A. Jain for \$1,423,000

**451 Bell Avenue** Teslich Trust to S. & P. Athreya for \$1,550,000

**3193 Belmont Court** Briggs Family Trust to C. & P. Hoopes for \$2,530,000

**1937 Bluebell Drive** Corniola Trust to T. & S. Majithia for \$1,250,000

**718 Carla Street** C. & M. Nagel to L. & T. Dalldorf for \$1,175,000

**2445 Chateau Way** Eic 2019 Trust to H. & S. Hy for \$1,460,000

**2248 Chateau Way** Dante Trust to H. & J. Forlines for \$1,260,000

**1189 Dana Circle** Bidwell Family Trust Of 2016 to S. & A. Ferrel for \$1,580,000

**3817 Dartmouth Way** D. & J. Mcmichael to W & J Gibbons Family Trust for \$877,500

**5650 Dresslar Circle** Sanders Living Trust to J. Kaur for \$2,100,000

**5883 Dresslar Circle** Mulhem Trust to S. & S. Punnamraju for \$1,899,000

**789 Lido Drive** A. He to Pulivarthi Family Trust for \$1,582,000

**361 North Livermore Avenue** Scatena Trust to K. & C. Chamberlain for \$1,175,000

**1438 Locust Street** Fink Living Trust to E & A 2025 Investments LLC for \$799,000

**975 Murrieta Boulevard #2** E. Grigsby to G. Mcchesney for \$450,000

**111 Northwood Common** Harris-Castro Living Trust to G. & A. Singh for \$765,000

**1832 Railroad Avenue #106** C. Jackson to A. Thomas for \$785,000

**814 Saddleback Circle** C. Avanzino to B. & S. Moreno for \$1,400,000

**1881 Staghorn Way** Doidge Trust to R. & M. Joshi for \$2,070,000

**1016 Vienna Street** Shell Family Trust to T. & M. Maldonado for \$870,000

**570 Yosemite Drive** A. & G. Stevens to R. & A. Kumar for \$1,700,000

**2488 Ancona Circle** Burnett Family Trust to Cherian Trust for \$2,500,000

**1762 Centaurus Street** Dierks Family Trust to M. & R. Tonne for \$812,000

**4264 East Avenue** Zca Homes LLC to Remi LLC for \$875,000

**427 El Caminito** Klino Trust to A. & R. Chukkapalli for \$1,135,000

**678 Falcon Way** A. & N. Ruotolo to G. & E. Pang for \$1,000,000

**3830 Madeira Way** E. & M. Tadeo to K. & A. Khanna for \$925,000

**1206 Notre Dame Court** Lawson Trust to M. & N. Carter for \$1,250,000

**3863 Pestana Way** A. & T. Bruley to S. Paranjape for \$1,265,000

**801 Tranquility Court #10** S. Sharan to Ntia Living Trust for \$925,000

**977 Verona Avenue** P. Robert to T. & T. Nguyen for \$1,010,000

**1345 Windsor Way** Lucas Family Trust to B. & S. Felch for \$1,550,000

**DUBLIN**

**8330 Ferncliff Court** M. Munoz to M. & P. Lyer for \$1,370,000

**7786 Ironwood Drive** Timm Family Trust to M. & A. Gupta for \$1,182,500

**5582 Linden Street** Baker Family Trust to Sofia Family Trust for \$2,110,000

**7656 Millbrook Avenue** Leclair Living Trust to Ng Family Trust for \$1,470,000

**4805 Perugia Street** Buktenica Trust to G. Grewal for \$1,035,000

**7318 Yountville Street** J. & J. Carter to S. & G. Subramanian for \$2,250,000

**8889 Bellina Commons** H. Chandrasekharam to M. & S. Hegde for \$1,005,000

**7454 Brookdale Court** Melendez Trust to Dgn Chen Family LLC for \$1,310,000

**11603 Circle Way** R. Park to J. & G. Xu for \$1,410,000

**5366 South Dublin Ranch Drive** A. & B. Macdonald to Shenoy Living Trust for \$2,710,000

**3651 Finian Way** Sciammas Surviving Family Trust to Lau Trust for \$855,500

**4152 Forest Springs Road** S. Balraj to S. & B. Talakad for \$1,320,000

**7792 Kelly Canyon Drive** Fong Family Trust to H. & C. Shukla for \$2,270,000

**3240 Maguire Way #424** S. Abidi to D. & L. Vo for \$795,000

**4313 Panorama Drive** Li Family Trust to S. & D. Verma for \$1,490,000

**7947 Regional Common** S. Vaidya to T. & P. Ponomarev for \$1,250,000

**SUNOL**

**861 Kilkare Road** Canaparo Trust to Streamside Ministry Inc for \$2,177,000

**SAN RAMON**

**3465 Ashbourne Circle** A. Jolly to Avala Living Trust for \$3,180,000

**2239 Britannia Drive** Marchese Family Trust to S. & S. Singh for \$2,550,000

**9875 Brunswick Way** Sv Ventures Holdings LLC to S. & S. Ramesh for \$1,500,000

**111 Corral Circle** Ross Living Trust to R. & N. Duuva for \$1,870,000

**SALES AT A GLANCE****PLEASANTON**

(MARCH 24-APRIL 4)

**Total sales reported:** 23**Lowest sale reported:** \$519,000**Highest sale reported:** \$3,425,000**Average sales reported:** \$1,891,999**LIVERMORE**

(MARCH 24-APRIL 4)

**Total sales reported:** 33**Lowest sale reported:** \$440,000**Highest sale reported:** \$1,700,000**Average sales reported:** \$1,319,287**DUBLIN**

(MARCH 24-APRIL 4)

**Total sales reported:** 16**Lowest sale reported:** \$795,000**Highest sale reported:** \$2,710,000**Average sales reported:** \$1,489,562**SUNOL (MARCH 24-APRIL 4)****Total sales reported:** 1**Lowest sale reported:** \$2,177,000**Highest sale reported:** \$2,177,000**Average sales reported:** \$2,177,000**SAN RAMON (MAY 12-23)****Total sales reported:** 26**Lowest sale reported:** \$488,000**Highest sale reported:** \$3,500,000**Average sales reported:** \$1,725,769*Source: California REsource*

**1143 Hawkshead Circle** Langenbach-Hoang Family Trust to Chappell Family Trust for \$3,500,000

**44 Longwood Court** Neumann Trust to Brager 2014 Family Trust for \$2,200,000

**169 Pebble Place** H. Hokkyo to S. & K. Mock for \$1,655,000

**433 Pine Ridge Drive** Lspi Exchange Corp to M & R Tahoe LLC for \$831,000

**215 Reflections Drive #28** Bareiss Trust to B. Christensen for \$488,000

*Source: California REsource***REALTORS**

Continued from Page 21

Esling and her colleagues urged lawmakers to preserve a government guarantee for these entities to maintain stability in the housing finance system.

“Interest rates are already high and if there isn't some kind of government involvement in the GSEs, it may be even more expensive to do these loans,” Esling said.

Another priority was the “Disaster Resiliency and Coverage Act” (HR 1105), which would provide grants and tax credits for home hardening projects to help reduce skyrocketing insurance premiums.

“High insurance costs can make homeownership unaffordable,” Esling said. “This legislation helps homeowners protect their properties and reduce costs.”

The Realtors also supported the “Fair and Equal Housing Act”, which would expand federal housing protections to include sexual orientation and gender identity.

“Discrimination has no place in our housing markets,” Esling said.

Asked if lawmakers were receptive to the issues, Esling said, “Yes, because of the questions they were asking. When they start asking questions, I know they're engaged and they care about their communities.”

While much of the advocacy took place in Washington, Esling said her work doesn't stop when she comes home. She said, “Whether we're in Washington or at a city council meeting closer to home, we're always working for the people we serve.”

For Esling, advocacy is more than a responsibility — it's part of what it means to be a Realtor.

“I don't know that our communities realize how much we go to bat for them,” she said. “But that's what we do.” ■

*Editor's note: David Stark is chief public affairs and communications officer for the Bay East Association of Realtors, based in Pleasanton.*



DAVID STARK / BAY EAST

From left: U.S. Rep. Eric Swalwell, Bay East Association of Realtors past-president Otto Catrina, Bay East president Tracey Esling and Bay East president-elect Bill Espinola discuss housing and homeownership issues.

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