

Pleasanton Weekly

‘Uncharted waters’
for Castlewood

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LOCAL NONPROFIT REDUCES COMMUNITY MEALS, DEPLOYS HIRING
FREEZE, DIPS INTO RESERVES AMID DEARTH IN FEDERAL FUNDING

OPEN
heart

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PLEASANTON WEEKLY
25
CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF
AWARD-WINNING JOURNALISM

JUST KEEPS BEATING

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WHAT A WEEK



Anniversaries

One reason we hear from business owners, community leaders and everyday residents the most is trying to pitch coverage of a special anniversary.

The milestone often provides us a timeliness hook from which we can frame an article, but the story has to be about much more than just a date on the calendar to intrigue our editorial team and engage our readers.

We like to know what's going on throughout our Tri-Valley coverage area, and share those stories with our readers, but where anniversaries get tricky is there are just so many. It's right there in the word ... happens every year.

Which is why we often look for a nice round number or a key new development to center an article on. A real oomph of news. Like last week's Cover Story was about the Balloon Platoon, which is marking 50 years in 2025. Come to think of it, this week's Cover also has such an angle — this is Open Heart Kitchen's 30th anniversary.

That's not to downplay the importance of each anniversary, particularly for a small business, recurring community event or local institution, because every year going is an amazing accomplishment and a clear reflection of the effort and support involved to sustain. Believe me, I recognize that.

Beyond the professional anniversaries I've written about this year (25 years for the Pleasanton Weekly; 20 years for DanvilleSanRamon), my wife and I reached 12 years of marriage and 19 years together overall this month.

Not neat numbers, but worthy of celebration nonetheless — not only because it's good to take a break from the everyday exertion required of working parents, but also considering the context of the households we came from.

A dozen is quite an achievement, especially when it's rooted in love, respect and growth.

We marked the occasion with an evening out in Livermore: early dinner at Maple Street Eatery, dessert at Verace Gelato and a show with Shakespeare in the Vineyard.

It's such a beautiful setting to watch a play, the outdoor stage at Darcie Kent Estate Winery on which SPARC Theater performs every July.

And it's a fun adaptation by the troupe's executive/artistic director Lisa Tromovitch, with engaging performances to boot. She sets her take on the Bard's comedy "The Merry

Wives of Windsor" in the post-Civil War era around Livermore's founding — including a few local references like Las Positas and Arroyo Del Valle.

SPARC Theater's "Sir John Falstaff and the Merry Wives of Windsor" has one more weekend (this Friday through Sunday) outdoors in Livermore Valley wine country.

There will be more chances to catch the production, though, indoors at the historic Village Theatre in downtown Danville from Aug. 8-24 with Friday and Saturday evening shows and Sunday matinees.

The Walshes weren't the only ones with anniversaries in the Tri-Valley this month.

The Hindu Community and Cultural Center in Livermore, also known as Shiva-Vishnu Temple, celebrated its 39th anniversary with festivities July 12-13 honoring the longstanding "vibrant hub where devotion, community service, and cultural heritage go hand in hand".

The weekend was "a celebration of faith and tradition", according to HCCC President Sudha Surapaneni.

"The sacred pujas and vibrant ceremonies showcased our community's strong connection to the temple. On behalf of the management, we would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to all the devotees, volunteers, temple staff, and our generous donors. Your unwavering support and dedication continue to strengthen our community and spiritual mission," Surapaneni told me in a statement.

While we didn't see an opportunity to spin up a full feature on HCCC this month, I have it down on my list of us to pursue for a potential Cover Story next year when the Livermore temple marks its ruby anniversary.

Editorial bandwidth often contributes to our difficulty in quickly activating on anniversary articles, round numbers or not. I think back to the short notice we got that Vic's All Star Kitchen was having a ribbon-cutting ceremony July 1 to recognize five years under the current ownership.

Although we aren't able to do full stories on every anniversary, please reach out to us anytime one is coming up or just passed. We'll do our best to give it at least a shoutout editorially, or even consider sharing a Letter to the Editor.

With that, I'll head into the weekend with one more anniversary to celebrate ... the anniversary of my birth. Although with that framing, maybe it's a day my mom should get the credit for. ■

About the Cover

After an expected federal grant failed to materialize, Open Heart Kitchen has been left to foot the bill for investments, including staff expansion, equipment and operations. Photo by Jude Strzemp. Cover design by Doug Young. Vol. XXVI, Number 26

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Do you have any interesting upcoming summer plans?



Rishi Kapoor
IT

My wife and I will be traveling to New York City for a cousin’s wedding in Short Hills, N.J. We’ll be involved in three different ceremonies: The wedding itself, as well as mehndi (a ceremony where the bride’s hands and feet will be adorned with intricate henna designs, and which involves lots of dancing and cocktails) and the rehearsal dinner. I’m expecting it to be a fabulous trip. And multicultural. The best kind.



Elizabeth Thompson
Mediator / legal consultant

I was headed to Georgia, South Carolina and Tennessee in order to visit family and friends and to look into some investment properties. But I’m experiencing some complications from shoulder surgery and have been advised by my MRI technician to avoid travel. So instead of my planned travel, I’ll be spending my time locally, and at the beach in Aptos.



Paige Simmons
Elementary school teacher

This is my first summer “off” because last year was my first year teaching. My main travel plan is to just enjoy my first summer off, staycationing locally, and then I’ll be spending a lot of time setting up my classroom for my incoming third graders. I can’t wait to meet them all!



Arun Batra
VP finance

I’m going to London for the convocation of my nephew from Leeds University. While I’m in Europe, I have plans to also visit Lisbon and Barcelona. Looking forward to my travels.



Stephanie Hogan, with Cooper
Administrative assistant

My plans are to travel to Tahoe to be a bridesmaid in my friend’s wedding. The rest of my summer will be devoted to working, and being the very best “dog mom” I can be.

—Compiled by Nancy and Jeff Lewis

Have a Streetwise question? Email editor@PleasantonWeekly.com

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Open Waiting List for BMR Three-Bedroom Units

The City of Pleasanton, in coordination with Avalon Pleasanton, is opening the Waiting List for Three-Bedroom Below Market Rate (BMR) units at Avalon Pleasanton located at 5649 Owens Drive, Pleasanton, CA 94588.

Waiting List Open: 7/17/25–7/31/25

- Applicants required to submit Pre-Application for placement on Waiting List.
- Applications must be received by Thursday, July 31 at 5:00pm.
- Lottery will be administered to determine the Waiting List order, for the City Preference System for Pleasanton residents and employees for City-assisted affordable housing developments.
- Applicants must meet maximum income limits and household size requirements.



Complete and submit your application
online starting Thursday, July 17, 2025.

Paper applications available by request at avalonpleasanton@avalonbay.com.
Electronic Pre-Application form is available at AvalonPleasanton.com.
Pre-Applications must be received electronically, by mail, or in person before the deadline at Avalon Pleasanton Leasing Office - 5649 Owens Drive, Pleasanton, CA 94588.
Emailed or faxed Pre-Applications will not be accepted. Only 1 application may be submitted per household; Duplicate submissions will disqualify all entries.
For more information email avalonpleasanton@avalonbay.com or call 888-450-8816.

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Three (3) Bedrooms: \$3,995

Avalon Pleasanton residents are responsible for gas, electric, sewer, water, phone, cable, internet, and renter's insurance. Renter's insurance is required. Additional fees for parking and pets may apply.

Household Maximum Income Limits (100% Program)

Household Size	Maximum Income
Three (3) People	\$143,800
Four (4) People	\$159,800
Five (5) People	\$172,600
Six (6) People	\$185,300
Seven (7) People	\$198,150

Section 8 voucher holders are encouraged to apply.

No exceptions or consideration will be given to Pre-Applications received after the deadline date. Pre-Applications postmarked July 31, 2025, will be accepted. Rates and income limits may change with or without notice. Suggested minimum income limits do not apply to households applying with a housing voucher. Applicants with disabilities may request modifications to the rental unit and/or accommodation according to our rules, policies, practices, or services, if such modifications or accommodations are necessary to afford equal opportunity to use and enjoy the premises. AvalonBay Communities, Inc. does not discriminate in the selection of applicants on the basis of race, color, national origin, disability, age, ancestry, children, familial status, genetic information, marital status, public assistance reciprocity, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, veteran/military status, or any other basis prohibited by law.



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DIGEST

I-680 SB closure

Caltrans will be closing southbound Interstate 680 near the Mission San Jose overpass in Fremont this weekend to perform “critical bridge and pavement work.”

The closure will last from Friday (July 25) at 10 p.m. until Monday (July 28) at 5 a.m., according to the transportation agency. There will be another similar closure for the northbound side during the weekend of Aug. 8.

According to Caltrans, the closures will help reduce the “duration and impact of the project.”

“These 55-hour closures are necessary to safely and efficiently complete key construction activities, including full bridge deck resurfacing and approach slab repairs,” the agency stated in a press release.

Detours will be set in place. Motorists are encouraged to plan ahead and use alternate routes.

Barone’s site news

Robson Homes, the firm behind the Barone’s Restaurant property redevelopment project, has submitted construction plans to the city for review and approval, associate planner Natalie Amos said.

Amos told the Weekly the city hasn’t approved anything except for permits to demolish an accessory dwelling unit on the property.

The City Council previously approved the design plans to redevelop the 2.3-acre project site at 475 and 493 St. John St. into 14 homes, two commercial buildings with a plaza and parking.

One of the properties — 493 St. John St. — was sold in April for just over \$7 million, according to data collected for homes sold that month.

Leadership signups

The Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce is accepting applications from individuals to sign up for Leadership Pleasanton, a program run by the chamber that educates participants from local professionals and residents on various aspects of how the city operates.

Each year, the program takes a class of roughly 30 people on monthly, full-day sessions where participants experience a behind-the-scenes look into city services. Learn more at pleasanton.org. ■

Corrections

Last week’s Take Us Along, “A trip of a lifetime”, misspelled the name of resident Jens Moyer. Also, State Senator Jerry McNerney’s town hall in Dublin, which was highlighted in last week’s News Digest, was rescheduled to Aug. 6. The Pleasanton Weekly regrets the confusion.

Council majority halts plans to explore charter city status

Dais divided when debating potential benefits, consequences of identity change for Pleasanton

By CHRISTIAN TRUJANO

Pleasanton will not become a charter city anytime soon after a City Council majority pressed pause on staff’s efforts to continue exploring the possibility of becoming one during last week’s council meeting.

The city, according to staff’s presentation on July 15, would have ultimately left the decision up to the voters during next year’s election as a ballot measure — Pleasanton would have had to pay between \$194,000 to \$291,000 to place the

measure on the November 2026 ballot.

However, councilmembers Craig Eicher and Matt Gaidos and Mayor Jack Balch informally directed staff to stop exploring the possibility of becoming a charter city for several reasons, including waste of staff time and concerns regarding the city’s key reason for becoming a charter city — implementation of a higher, voter-approved real property transfer tax.

“This may be a different conversation in a year or 18 months once

the ramifications of our budget and the cuts that we’ve had to make have gone forward but I just don’t know that we’re there yet,” Gaidos said. “With the amount of staff time it would take and the amount of money it would take to explore it, I don’t see it as a wise use of resources.”

During the May 7, 2024 council meeting, Councilmember Julie Testa asked staff to explore the creation of a charter for the city during the matters initiated portion of the meeting. With majority consensus,

the council at that time agreed to have staff compile more information about the process to become a charter city and the benefits of becoming one.

According to assistant to the city manager Aaron Zavala, a charter city derives its authority directly from the California constitution rather than from state law. A charter itself is a formal document that outlines the powers and structure of a municipality like Pleasanton.

See **CHARTER CITY** on Page 9



The entrance to the unincorporated Castlewood community in Pleasanton.

Castlewood homeowners, county navigating ‘uncharted waters’

Directors push for plan to deal with persisting issues

By TIM HUNT

Alameda County Supervisor David Haubert succinctly summed up the situation facing the county and the Castlewood Property Owners Association last week when he said, “We’re in uncharted waters.”

Haubert was reacting to the homeowners’ overwhelming rejection of the county’s proposed \$1.4 million special assessment to cover two prior years’ shortfalls in the water maintenance and operations fund for the community in unincorporated west

Pleasanton. It would have been about a \$7,000 hit per household, on top of water rates that went up 172% last year.

Haubert was speaking to a sparsely attended association meeting July 15 to update members on what has happened and what’s next after the June counting of the votes. Through a county service area, Alameda County provides water, sewer and road maintenance services that are paid on the property tax bill.

Doug Ricketts, who chairs the association’s water committee, was ready to meet and plan how

to move forward. In preparation for electrical power outages, the association is still paying to rent generators that are not tied automatically into the pumping system, requiring an employee to be dispatched to plug them in and manually start the generators to fill the two large tanks located above the country club that supply domestic water and water for fire hydrants. It costs nearly \$100,000 annually.

Both Ricketts and association vice president Mike Mitchell had

See **CASTLEWOOD** on Page 7

Zone 7, city settle lawsuit

‘Reflects our desire to move forward in partnership’

By CIERRA BAILEY

After more than a year since Zone 7 Water Agency filed a lawsuit against the city of Pleasanton alleging it failed to pay over \$18 million in connection fees, the two entities have reached a settlement agreement, city officials confirmed Friday.

The city and Zone 7 officially entered the agreement one day earlier, reaffirming both agencies’ commitment to collaboration and their shared responsibility in providing safe, reliable water for the community, officials said.

As part of the settlement, the city and Zone 7 will revise the existing agreement that governs how connection fees are collected, bringing greater clarity to each agency’s roles and responsibilities moving forward. Additionally, together they will complete the city’s planned water meter replacement project within three years.

The city of Pleasanton will contribute \$250,000 to Zone 7’s PFAS Treatment Project using settlement proceeds the city received through its participation in lawsuits against 3M and other companies who have manufactured and distributed products containing PFAS and provide Zone 7 with a \$500,000 credit toward future land acquisition needed for the

See **LAWSUIT** on Page 7



PHOTOS COURTESY ALAMEDA COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS

Left: Alameda County Fair attendees pack the Michelob Ultra Grandstand on July 5 to watch a monster truck show. Right: The Big O Tires Concert Series featured many artists throughout the 2025 Alameda County Fair, which saw concert ticket sales go up 66% this year.

Fair sees upticks in attendance, food sales in 2025

Despite lack of horse racing, new attractions, concerts and other entertainment drew 400,000+ people

BY CHRISTIAN TRUJANO

Favorable weather, unique food concoctions and brand-new attractions — including a new animal barn — were just some of many reasons why representatives from the Alameda County Fairgrounds called this year's fair one of the best, despite the lack of horse racing.

The annual fair, which is a summertime staple for Pleasanton and residents of Alameda County, ended its 18-day run on July 6 and since then, the fair association has released data that shows just how successful this year's fair was compared to last year.

"It was a really good fair," Kristin LaPorte, director of marketing and business development for the fairgrounds, told the Weekly.

According to a July 16 press release from the fairgrounds, the Alameda County Fair ended this year with over 400,000 attendees, a significant increase from last year's attendance which was just over 363,000.

"The Fair is such an important

part of summer in Alameda County, and it was great to see so many people out enjoying the Fair and making memories," Angel Moore, COO of the Alameda County Fairgrounds, stated in the press release.

The fair food was one of the top highlights in this year's data as guests devoured a "whopping 102,490 corndogs and 27,423 funnel cakes — a staggering 155% increase from last year."

Other novelty food items — such as the Cheeseburger Egg Roll, which was crowned as this year's Foodie's Choice Winner — attracted many fair attendees along with all the other entertainment, according to the press release.

"This was one of the best years yet for our food vendors," Tiffany Loushin, director of entertainment, agriculture and programming for the fairgrounds, said in the press release. "The food is always the main attraction for guests, but entertainment kept them engaged longer and coming back."

According to the fairgrounds, the

fair's carnival saw a surge in attendance with sales up 27% compared to last year.

"People were coming out for different reasons," LaPorte said. "There were just a lot of new, fun things to see ... it was just a really happy fair."

Even though this year's fair was significantly different from previous years due to the lack of horse racing, which saw nearly 61,000 attendees last year, LaPorte dismissed rumors she said she's seen online about this year's attendance being lower due to horse racing being canceled.

"It's something that we all loved and miss," LaPorte said. "I think people just accepted it (being gone this year) unfortunately."

She said in terms of attendance, "the numbers speak for themselves," and added that people had more than enough entertainment to make up for the lack of horse racing.

One of the new attractions people came out to see, LaPorte said, was the fairgrounds' new Safeway Barn. The barn is just one component of the fairgrounds' proposed, state-of-the-art educational farm

which is slated to be finished once the fairgrounds fundraises enough money for the other phases of construction.

"It was packed every day," she said.

LaPorte said the barn — which housed farm animals including sheep, goats, cows and piglets — was very well received and that two live births were even recorded at the barn during the duration of the fair.

There are other pieces of the barn that still need to be constructed as part of phase one construction for the overall farm and the fairgrounds will continue to fundraise for that work plus the rest of the phases to be completed, LaPorte said.

But the barn wasn't the only new addition that welcomed fair attendees this year.

Tens of thousands of guests were able to enjoy new action sports shows at the Michelob Ultra Grandstand, which featured Tractor Pulls, Rodeos and Monster Trucks shows, as well as new hot air balloon rides, camel rides and FMX motocross shows.

The fair also highlighted agricultural aspects of the Tri-Valley through its "Fields of Gratitude, Thank a Farmer" displays throughout the fairgrounds, which paid homage to local farmers by spotlighting the businesses and individuals who made a difference in the county.

In addition to highlighting agriculture, the fair also spotlighted the success from this year's annual blood drive in its press release. According to the fairgrounds, a total of 14,824 pints of blood was donated to the Red Cross.

The fair also celebrated the success of its other community drives including nearly 18,000 meals collected for the Alameda County Food Bank and 14,434 pounds of food collected for the Valley Humane Society to help care for rescue pets in need.

LaPorte also highlighted the Big O Tires Concert Series, which saw bigger names, fewer cover bands and a 66% increase in ticket sales.

"Our concerts were really packed every single night," she said. ■

Livermore gets state grant for EV infrastructure

\$1.6M for new charging ports for city facilities, including police and public works

BY CONNOR HUARD

The California Energy Commission has awarded the city of Livermore a \$1.6 million grant to expand its electric vehicle infrastructure. The grant is part of the state's broader shift toward electric transportation instead of vehicles that use traditional fuels.

The grant is part of the CEC's "Clean Transportation Program" — specifically, the "Charging Infrastructure for Government

Fleets" funding opportunity.

The funding will go toward the installation of 100 EV charging ports across city facilities, enabling the city to transition its light-duty fleet to electric alternatives, city officials said in a statement announcing the award.

The charging ports include 96 L2 charging ports and 4 larger DCFC charging ports. In accordance with California Environmental Quality Act regulations, the charging ports will be built on existing pavement

and connected to existing electrical infrastructure.

The city expects installation to be fully completed by 2027.

While the grant program is designed to support the city's light-duty fleet vehicles — which includes pickup trucks, vans and sedans — the charging ports can also accommodate medium- and heavy-duty fleet vehicles, including bucket, dump and fire trucks, according to the city.

Once installed, the new

infrastructure will help power the electric vehicles used by the police department, public works department and community development department.

"Receiving this grant is pivotal to our sustainability efforts, and its competitive nature underscores its significance, as Livermore was one of only three Bay Area cities selected," said Mayor John Marchand in the city's statement.

"The funding moves us closer to a 100% zero-emission fleet and allows

us to demonstrate our commitment to becoming a recognized leader in climate action," Marchand added.

The Livermore City Council accepted the grant award at its June 9 regular meeting. This project is part of the city's five-year Strategic Plan and Climate Action Plan, implementing goals that support the community and the environment.

For more information on this project and other city initiatives, visit LivermoreCA.gov/Sustainability. ■

Fire sparks Zephyr Grill & Bar closure

Downtown Livermore restaurant slated to reopen under new name sometime after August

By JUDE STRZEMP

Zephyr Grill & Bar in downtown Livermore has been temporarily closed since early July, following a small fire in its prep area and subsequent water damage, according to restaurant officials on social media.

The fire occurred during the evening of July 1, while no one was in the building, officials wrote on social media the following day. As such, no Zephyr employees were injured in the fire.

Restaurant representatives did not indicate a cause for the fire in their posts; however, they said the flames were quickly extinguished thanks to the Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department and Zephyr's sprinkler system, restaurant officials wrote.

Known for serving classic and contemporary American cuisine, the

21-year-old eatery is now undergoing a clean-up, renovation and rebranding process that is expected to last through August, officials wrote July 18 in their latest update.

"We're happy to share that progress is moving forward steadily at Zephyr Grill & Bar," restaurant officials said July 18 of their Livermore location. "As we use this time to reflect and reimagine, we're also looking ahead to the future of Zephyr Grill & Bar."

During restoration efforts, it was discovered that the impact of the fire was more extensive than initially expected.

"While the fire itself was small and swiftly extinguished, the primary effects came from water, smoke and soot," officials wrote on social media.

An industrial hygienist has been onsite to ensure every affected area is

properly addressed, they added.

During this clean-up time, they are also making restaurant improvements including new flooring throughout the space and new paint where needed.

Once complete, the restaurant will open with new hours and a new name: Zephyr on First. Its menu will focus on steaks with an added choice of rack of lamb.

"As downtown Livermore currently has no dedicated steakhouse, we believe Zephyr on First will offer something truly special to the community," officials wrote. "We can't wait to welcome you back soon with a refreshed space!"

The exact date of Zephyr's reopening has not yet been announced.

Restaurant officials were not available for additional comment as of publication time. ■



JUDE STRZEMP

Zephyr Grill & Bar is temporarily closed due to a fire July 1 that took place in the restaurant's prep area.

CASTLEWOOD

Continued from Page 5

spent their late afternoon that day at a Pleasanton City Council workshop to review priorities for the city staff over the next two years. The new two-year budget cycle started July 1. Mitchell told the council and staff that the neighborhood was willing to annex into the city of Pleasanton and do so in a way that is cash-positive for the city.

Councilmembers were each given 10 dots and asked them to place them on projects at the bottom 18 on the 82-project list. Most of the higher-ranked ones are necessary. Although it remains in the

deferred projects category, Mitchell was heartened to see dots from three councilmembers on the annexation consideration that was broader than just Castlewood, including the Remen tract and the Happy Valley/Alisal area.

The Proposition 218 polling on the proposed water assessment that ended in defeat in June followed a 2024 lawsuit by the association against the county that contended, among other claims, that the county failed to follow the required process.

Association board members continue to say that the current situation with the county is untenable. They need improved services from the county or to set up their own

community services district (directly elected board under county auspices) or annex to Pleasanton.

Mitchell made it clear that he thought the Pleasanton annexation was the best choice and indicated the association was willing to wait for the appropriate timing with the city and work with the county to improve services and responsiveness in the meantime.

Haubert chairs the committee on planning and transportation and suggested the association reach out to his staff and get an item on the agenda. The July meeting has already passed and the county board is on recess in August, so it likely will be on the September agenda.

Mitchell said they'd already

contacted Shawn Wilson, Haubert's chief of staff, to get their item on the agenda where the Alameda County Public Works Agency will be asked to map out the future plan.

Castlewood leaders want to move a plan forward with the county now instead of waiting for a potential annexation or separate district election. They told people at the meeting that they're still looking at years, not months, to get the long-term solution in place. Ricketts said there are immediate issues such as the generators, water hammering in pipes when the pumps start and necessary maintenance that has fallen behind.

Property owners were hit last

year when supervisors approved raising their annual water charge by 172%. 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 hikes, are \$180 while Dublin San Ramon Services District clients pay \$169 and Fremont area users pay \$168. ■

Editor's note: Pleasanton Weekly contributor Tim Hunt's family lives in the Castlewood county service area and pays these charges.

LAWSUIT

Continued from Page 5

PFAS project or another Zone 7 project in Pleasanton.

"Zone 7 is satisfied with the agreement and considers this matter resolved," said newly installed Zone 7 board President Kathy Narum in a statement to the Weekly.

"We will not be providing additional comments on the underlying legal issues that led to this lawsuit, however, the legal documents and settlement agreement are publicly available documents for further information. Zone 7 will continue to work with all our partners in the Tri-Valley to provide a reliable and high-quality water supply," added Narum, who served on the Pleasanton City Council before joining Zone 7.

The lawsuit, originally filed by Zone 7 in January 2024, claimed that the city under-collected more than \$18 million in Zone 7 water connection fees related to the installation of upgraded water meters and other water meters

between 2015 to 2022.

However, the city has consistently disagreed with the water agency's claims. In the July 18 statement announcing the settlement, officials said that the city "remains confident in its interpretation and application of Zone 7's fee ordinance".

"Throughout the legal process, the City has maintained that it acted appropriately and in good faith, consistent with its long-standing agreement with Zone 7 dating back to 1972," officials said.

Despite doubling down on its initial position, the city ultimately lauded the new agreement as a positive outcome for both parties.

"This agreement reflects our desire to move forward in partnership, focus on the future, and continue addressing regional water challenges together," said Pleasanton City Manager Gerry Beaudin. "We appreciate the opportunity to resolve this matter outside of court and in a way that allows both agencies to continue serving our shared community." ■

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Left: Hundreds gathered at Don Biddle Community Park in Dublin on Saturday to protest the potential reopening of FCI Dublin as an ICE detention facility. Right: Signs from the protest against reopening FCI Dublin as an ICE detention facility.



JEANITA LYMAN

Protest over prison reopening evokes WWII era

‘History repeating itself’: Speakers oppose establishing immigrant detention center in Dublin

By JEANITA LYMAN

Another otherwise quiet Saturday in Dublin was marked by a sizable crowd at Don Biddle Community Park as local residents and activists from throughout the Bay Area gathered to continue pushing back against proposed plans to reopen a scandal ridden prison in the city as an ICE detention facility.

It was the third protest of its kind in the months since news that ICE officials had toured the FCI Dublin facility in February, following an agreement that month between the Bureau of Prisons and Department of Homeland Security to allow the latter to use federal prison properties as detention centers.

While details of the proposed reopening of the facility have been sparse, the movement against the potential plan has gained steam, with hundreds gathering over the

weekend as the roster of supporters continues to grow.

At the July 19 protest, the voices of those impacted by Japanese American incarceration during World War II took center stage with calls against repeating history.

“The parallels that are going now are all too chilling,” said Douglas Yoshida, a physician at Stanford Health Care Tri-Valley.

“It’s history repeating itself over and over again,” Yoshida continued. “Conjuring a foreign invasion, Trump has again cited the Alien Enemies Act to arrest, brutalize, and incarcerate tens of thousands of immigrants like Miguel Lopez.”

Lopez, a longtime Livermore resident, was detained by ICE officers in San Francisco in May, then deported to Mexico last month, bringing the nationwide impacts of the federal government’s immigration crack-down home to the Tri-Valley.

Yoshida, whose parents were among the approximately 120,000 Japanese Americans and Japanese nationals who were forced out of their homes and into detention camps by the U.S. government during World War II, is one of a growing number of outspoken voices against Lopez’s deportation, as well as those calling for the permanent closure of the Dublin prison that was plagued by sex abuse, medical neglect, and crumbling infrastructure including mold and asbestos.

“That was in 1942,” Yoshida said. “Now imagine you came here from Mexico as a teenager. You’ve lived here for 27 years. Your family, your wife are all U.S. citizens. You’ve applied for U.S. citizenship. You’ve had the same job for nine years. You go for your check-in with immigration and suddenly you’re arrested and deported to Mexico.”

In addition to centering Japanese

American voices and drawing parallels between their mass incarceration during World War II and the present day, speakers at Saturday’s event pointed to the long history of immigration in the United States and some of the reasons for it — including the United States’ overseas military operations such as the Vietnam War.

“To understand how we got here, we must understand our own history,” said Elijah Chhum, executive director for New Light Wellness. “This year, 2025, marks the 50th anniversary of the end of the Southeast Asian wars and the beginning of the largest refugee resettlement program in the U.S. for more than one million refugees from Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos coming to the U.S. in the 1970s and ‘80s. We must remember that if the U.S. was not there, we would not be here.”

Despite the grim tone of the

history lessons at Saturday’s protest, the event was also marked by a jovial feeling among the hundreds in attendance, who were also treated to Taiko drum and dance performances and an array of artwork, including paper cranes that interspersed the signs calling for “ICE out of Dublin” and comparing images of detention during World War II with the present day.

“I am so grateful to be among so many powerful speakers today — survivors of violence, our descendants here of the U.S. internment of Japanese Americans and of immigrant community members that you heard from today, who have been kidnapped, who have been detained, who have been separated from their families,” said Alameda County Supervisor Nicki Fortunato Bas. “And we know we are here because we will not let this happen to anyone ever again.” ■

Sunflower Hill names Rainmaker Award recipients

Hernandez, Monica recognized for roles in ongoing projects for Tri-Valley nonprofit

By PAREENA GUPTA

Tri-Valley nonprofit Sunflower Hill named Melissa Hernandez and Lynn Monica as the recipients of its 2025 Rainmaker Awards.

Sunflower Hill is dedicated to creating innovative spaces and programs for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The organization has presented its Rainmaker Award program each year since 2017 to honor visionary leaders for their lasting contributions to Sunflower Hill.

“We are thrilled to recognize Melissa and Lynn as our 2025 Rainmakers,” said Susan Houghton, board president of Sunflower Hill, in a statement announcing the award recipients. “Both have played integral roles in helping our organization flourish through their leadership, advocacy, and vision.”

Hernandez is currently the vice president of the BART Board of



Melissa Hernandez



Lynn Monica

Directors and the former mayor of Dublin. She is recognized for her role in advancing the vision for Sunflower Hill at Grace Pointe in Dublin, the organization’s next planned residential community for individuals with I/DD.

“Melissa identified, championed and advanced our Grace Pointe development, and her leadership and passion for integrating the arts inspired the inclusion of the Grace Gallery into the community—a creative space that will celebrate and showcase the talents of individuals

with I/DD,” said Houghton. “Her continued advocacy, both as a BART director and in her role with Alameda County Supervisor David Haubert, has helped secure vital programs and financial support for our community. We are extremely grateful.”

Hernandez also acknowledged the recognition in the nonprofit’s statement.

“Receiving the Rainmaker Award is a profound honor,” said Hernandez. “My vision for Dublin has always been to build a city that supports people at every stage of life—from education and employment to housing and community connection.”

She continued, “Sunflower Hill at Grace Pointe will embody that vision by creating spaces where individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities can thrive, contribute, and feel a true sense of belonging. When we design communities with inclusion at their core, we cultivate a more compassionate

and resilient future for everyone.”

Monica, a longtime advisor to Sunflower Hill, is being honored for her foundational role in the development of the Sunflower Hill Garden at Hagemann Ranch in Livermore — an instructional outdoor space that provides educational, therapeutic, and life skills training for adults with I/DD.

“As we mark the garden’s 10-year anniversary, it is especially meaningful to honor Lynn’s vision, hands-on leadership, and tireless work,” Houghton said. “In her role as one of garden co-founders, Lynn led the transformation of this great space—one that now yields more than 4,700 pounds of fresh produce annually for five local food security partners, while also serving as a hub for enriching programs for individuals with I/DD and community volunteer engagement.”

“The Sunflower Hill Garden has always been my happy place,” Monica said. “I’m incredibly grateful for the

opportunity to help bring it to life — it truly took a village. Seeing how it has grown and evolved over the past decade fills me with pride. Today, it plays a vital role not only in our community’s food ecosystem but also in enriching the lives of our program participants.”

Hernandez and Monica will be formally recognized at Sunflower Hill’s annual gala set for Sept. 27 at the Shannon Community Center in Dublin. While the event is currently sold out, a waiting list for tickets is available at Sunflower Hill’s website.

“We’ve accomplished so much over the past thirteen years thanks to the dedication of our staff, board, advisors and supporters,” Houghton said. “The Rainmaker Award is a way to honor community leaders and individuals whose belief in our mission has helped ‘make it rain’ — nurturing the growth of our programs, communities, and most importantly, the people we serve.” ■

‘Good Trouble’ rallies draw hundreds in Tri-Valley

Local efforts to support civil and human rights on John Lewis National Day of Action

By JUDE STRZEMP

Hundreds of demonstrators gathered at Livermore Plaza and Dublin Civic Plaza last week, as part of a nationwide day of peaceful, non-violent action inspired by late Georgia Rep. John Lewis.

“We showed up today because Congressman Lewis taught us that getting into ‘good trouble’ is how we change history,” Indivisible Tri-Valley co-founder Ward Kanowsky said of the July 17 event in Dublin. “Our democracy is under attack — and we won’t be silent while extremist politicians try to roll back our rights and erase our voices.”

Hosted by Livermore Indivisible and Indivisible Tri-Valley, Good Trouble Lives On protesters assembled to condemn “the growing attacks on our civil and human rights,” officials from both organizations said in separate statements.



RHEA LUSTIG

Good Trouble Lives On demonstration at Dublin Civic Plaza, July 17.

These demonstrations were part of a nationwide effort to observe the fifth annual John Lewis National Day of Action which also coincides with the anniversary of his death, according to the national organizing

website for Good Trouble.

Attendance at the Livermore rally topped 400 people, Livermore Indivisible representatives said in a statement the following day. At the plaza in Dublin, there were



PROBONOPHOTO.ORG/GUY CUMMINS

Good Trouble Lives On rallies appeared July 17 in the cities of Livermore (seen here) and Dublin to support civil and human rights.

approximately 250 individuals in attendance, Indivisible Tri-Valley officials said.

Both rallies featured speakers as

well as community organizations including CityServe, Tri-Valley Haven, Umoja of Las Positas College and Tri-Valley for Black Lives. ■

CHARTER CITY

Continued from Page 5

“The simpler the charter, the more flexibility the city maintains,” Zavala said.

He said 126 of 482 California cities are charter cities and that those cities have control over municipal affairs such as public contracting, prevailing wage, fiscal affairs — including real property transfer taxes — and planning and zoning, with some limitations.

One of the main reasons Testa brought the topic of becoming a charter city up to the council in 2024 was because she said she wanted Pleasanton to have more local control over housing developments.

“I wish that everyone had the courage — all the cities would have the courage — to come together to stand up to the overreach that the state is imposing on our cities,” Testa said.

And while Zavala told the council that planning and zoning have traditionally been municipal affairs, local authority has been largely eroded by state legislation — he pointed out how recent state laws still apply to charter cities and that state housing mandates override local control even for charter cities.

That’s why staff’s focus when looking at the benefits of becoming a charter city shifted to looking at implementing a higher real property transfer tax.

“Becoming a charter city would give us enhanced local control over municipal revenues; specifically the ability to implement a voter-approved real property transfer tax,” Zavala said. “This represents the opportunity for increased fiscal sustainability for our community.”

As a general law city, Pleasanton is subject to state law on all matters.

The current transfer tax is \$1.10 per \$1,000, which is split with the county — meaning Pleasanton only gets 55 cents every time a house is sold in the city. Pleasanton cannot increase that tax without charter status.

Other cities in the East Bay like Berkeley and Oakland have real property transfer taxes ranging from \$10 per \$1,000 to as high as \$25 per \$1,000 depending on property value.

According to Zavala, during the 2023-24 fiscal year Pleasanton received \$853,000 in real property transfer tax revenue but added that if the city had gone forward with pursuing charter status and had voters approved a higher transfer tax, the city would have generated \$7 million to almost \$10 million in revenue even with a \$6 transfer tax rate per \$1,000.

“From my seat today, the value of a really simple, single page charter that unlocks the potential for real property transfer tax is probably the most appealing reason for the city to be looking at it right now based on our overall financial conditions,” City Manager Gerry Beaudin said. “You’ve asked us to consider new and different ways to bring revenue into the organization, and this is a really interesting tool that cities around us have used.”

Vice Mayor Jeff Nibert was particularly invested in exploring the idea of becoming a charter city in order to pursue placing a higher transfer tax measure in front of voters because he thought it was a good alternative to address the city’s structural deficit in the wake of Measure PP — a half cent sales tax increase measure — failing to get voter approval last year.

“We have to do something in regard to our structural deficit. We

can’t just reject things out of hand,” Nibert said. “I don’t see anything wrong with exploring the charter.”

“I think it’s incumbent upon the council to address our city’s severe structural deficit and the mounting challenges that face us in the future and we shouldn’t take anything off the table,” he added.

Testa also said that while the transfer tax wasn’t her main motivation for bringing this matter up to the council, she still thought there were no downsides to becoming a charter city and that additional revenue thanks to a higher transfer tax would have definitely helped the city’s fiscal challenges.

“A charter city gives a city a lot of autonomy and while the courts aren’t currently favoring the cities, to be in a position to act if things shift would be a good thing,” Testa said. “Again, I wasn’t looking at a transfer tax when I asked to have this discussion but I applaud our staff for looking at ways to help us get out of our deficit.”

But as Testa also pointed out, a lot of charter cities haven’t been winning in legal proceedings, which is something that Gaidos noted as an Alameda County deputy district attorney and criticized.

Gaidos said that maybe five or six years ago, he would have understood if the city would have explored the possibility of becoming a charter city to combat the growing state mandates over housing at the time but after reading the “progeny of cases that have preceded through the appellate court,” he couldn’t support moving forward. Especially given the fact that Measure PP lost last year.

“With the benefit of being a practicing attorney and reading all those appellate cases and seeing the direction that they are going, I just don’t

see that it brings us any tangible benefit other than the ability to ask our voters for a transfer tax that I don’t think will pass in November of 2026,” Gaidos said.

Eicher also said he didn’t see any reasons for becoming a charter city other than seeking to increase the transfer tax and while he said he appreciated the discussion, he thought putting a tax on homeowners might do more harm than good.

“I think it does create a barrier to entry into the housing market which will reduce the turnover in our community and will affect long term homeowners the most,” Eicher said.

A number of residents and real estate practitioners also spoke out in opposition to becoming a charter city and pursuing such a tax.

“There are also long-term residents that — due to the appreciation of housing — have high capital gains to consider,” Will Doerlich, a real estate broker, said during the meeting. “Saddling them with a steep, potential real estate transfer tax bill may actually have a chilling effect on their real estate transaction and a home that doesn’t sell won’t generate any transfer tax revenue.”

Balch also said he spoke with other cities who shared their concerns regarding how the state is starting to make grant funding and access to capital a bit more dependent upon general law versus charter cities.

“If it was the way to the promised land, I’m surprised that we’re not one of several hundred cities converting to charter,” Balch said. “And I’m very worried about unintended consequences.”

He added that it was a bad time to pursue charter status or a higher transfer tax because the city just

approved its budget and is looking at ways to improve its economy.

“I personally worry we’re creating a false expectation of a solution that really diverts us away from the groundwork we have put in place for economic growth in Pleasanton,” Balch said, adding that it doesn’t mean the city shouldn’t look at other options like a hotel transfer tax.

However, Nibert and Testa vehemently disagreed with how the council majority wasn’t at least open to exploring a revenue generating tax measure as it faces a severe structural deficit.

“For heaven’s sake, I don’t know what people are talking about up here,” Nibert proclaimed during his final comments. “Yes we have a balanced budget (but) the balanced budget that we have doesn’t do enough. Far from it.”

Nibert said they need to solve the structural deficit without relying on unpromised economic growth years down the road.

“I don’t see any unintended consequences coming from having a charter that (is limited) to implementing a transfer tax,” Nibert said.

Testa agreed with Nibert, echoing similar sentiments.

“I’m tired of hearing we have a balanced budget because it doesn’t mean anything,” Testa said. “Because every city that has gone bankrupt has had a balanced budget the year before they went bankrupt.”

Still, the rest of the council did not change their positions.

“I just don’t think that the voters are going to see it as anything other than another tax and I don’t think, as currently situated now, seven months behind a measure that didn’t pass that it’s a good use of staff time and resources and city money to pursue it,” Gaidos added. ■

Arson team investigating Harlan House blaze

Historic San Ramon building had been set for renovation as part of senior housing development

By JEANITA LYMAN

One of San Ramon's few remaining relics from the area's Gold Rush days was severely damaged in a fire last week in a blow to local history buffs as well as the property owner who had been seeking to renovate the building as part of a proposed project for the site.

The San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District responded to the blaze in 150-plus-year-old Harlan House at 19251 San Ramon Valley Boulevard at 10:28 a.m. July 16, ultimately extinguishing the fire but not before it had torn through most of the structure's upper story and its roof.

"The loss of the Harlan House is a heartbreaking moment for our community and for all who value our shared history," San Ramon Mayor Mark Armstrong said. "Built in 1852 by Joel and Minerva Harlan — early pioneers who arrived in California just ahead of the Donner Party — the house stood as one of the oldest wooden structures in the state."

The house's historical significance — a rarity in the rapidly growing and redeveloping city — had previously been the subject of numerous talks about a proposed plan approved by the city in 2022 to redevelop the site into a residential senior care facility, with property owner Sohail Siddiqi seeking to restore the vacant structure as part of the project.

"We've been working so hard for the last eight years to save this house," Siddiqi said.

That effort has come to an end as of last week. Although Siddiqi had been in continued talks with the city clarifying requirements for the project, he said that at this point he doesn't think the structure is "in any condition to be saved."

Siddiqi had previously sought to have the building moved to a neighboring location in order to make



COURTESY SRVFPD

The historic Harlan House in San Ramon was severely damaged in a fire that is being investigated for potential arson.

way for the planned assisted living project he had planned for the 0.7 acre lot that he acquired in 2017. When that plan fell through, he was left with two options: restoring the house as part of the senior living project, or demolishing the historic building in order to make room for the project.

"At that time we were trying to figure out what was the best thing to do," Siddiqi said. "Working very closely with the San Ramon Historic Foundation and councilmembers at the time, we all concluded that if we can somehow incorporate this house in our overall design, that may be the best solution."

Had the plan to move the house gone through, it would have been the building's second time being relocated over the course of its more than 150-year history.

"Originally located on the border between Alameda and Contra

Costa counties, the Harlan House was moved in 1856 to its final site to avoid the burden of paying property taxes to both counties," Armstrong said. "It was more than a home—it was a living reminder of our roots, our resilience, and the extraordinary journey of those who helped shape this region. Its absence leaves a void not just in our landscape, but in our collective memory."

But despite the city's support for preserving the Harlan House — dubbed El Nido or "the nest" by its Gold Rush-era builders Joel and Minerva Harlan, who raised their nine children there — Siddiqi said that the ongoing planning and development of the project has not been easy.

"We've been working with city planners' specific requirements, and they wanted to make sure we followed the requirements to save this house," Siddiqi said. "They made it

so complex unnecessarily, just wasted so much time."

Talks had been ongoing as recently as July 15, Siddiqi said, when he received a response from the city clarifying requirements for the project. He noted that without the lengthy negotiations and discussion process that the assisted living project — and restoration of the house — could have potentially been underway already.

Given the obstacles that Siddiqi said were posed by the city's review process, the site was listed for sale last year as part of a "two pronged" approach.

"This whole process was dragging on so much, so we said if we can't get to some kind of consensus with the city on the approval then we may have to sell this thing, because we've been at it for eight years," Siddiqi said.

The site was initially listed for \$5.3 million on May 7, 2024, with the

asking price increasing to \$8 million on Sept. 19, 2024, then dropping down to \$6.3 million as of last week according to Redfin.

Trespassing and vandalism — and the risk of arson — at the vacant site were concerns Siddiqi had raised at numerous city meetings while applying for the project. He said July 16 that he suspected the cause of the fire was arson by a group of young kids, but that the investigation was ongoing as of that evening.

SRVFPD maintained a presence at the site throughout the day July 16, ultimately clearing the scene at 5:44 p.m. A spokesperson for the district had not responded to a request for information as of press time. A spokesperson for the San Ramon Police Department said that their agency was also investigating the incident, but declined to comment further and directed questions to SRVFPD.

In a Facebook post the evening after the fire, SRVFPD confirmed that the investigation was ongoing.

"Firefighters worked to quickly contain the blaze minimizing the spread to surrounding vegetation and preventing the spread to neighboring structures," an SRVFPD spokesperson said on Facebook. "Our Arson Investigation Team is coordinating with the San Ramon Police Department and conducting a thorough investigation into the cause of the fire."

Siddiqi said that the two city planners he'd been working with were out of the office last week, making the next steps for the assisted living project uncertain as of July 16.

What was clear, according to Siddiqi, was that his eight-year goal of preserving the building was off the table, and that his work and investments towards that goal had been for naught.

"It's unfortunate the way this whole thing has unfolded," Siddiqi said. ■

County OKs fund to pay Russell City residents

Vote authorizes roughly \$1M to be set aside from several supervisors' discretionary budgets

By KILEY RUSSELL /
BAY CITY NEWS SERVICE

The Alameda County Board of Supervisors on Tuesday voted to create a roughly \$1 million "redress fund" to bring some amount of justice to the former residents of Russell City, a once-thriving African American and Latino community on the Hayward shoreline.

The vote authorized money to be set aside from several supervisors' discretionary budgets to fund direct payments to victims of the community's destruction, which was orchestrated in the 1960s by white politicians then sitting on

the Board of Supervisors and the Hayward City Council.

"Let us be clear, the destruction of Russell City is an atrocity that cannot be undone," said Supervisor Elisa Márquez. "The displacement of homes, businesses, and livelihoods represent a profound injustice that continues to affect former residents, including the elders who are still alive and living in Alameda County."

Márquez noted that the vote comes two years after the county formally apologized for its role in the razing of Russell City and that her office will be contributing \$400,000 to the fund.

While the initial agenda item also included \$250,000 from Supervisor Nate Miley's office and \$250,000 from the city of Hayward, supervisors Nikki Fortunato Bas and David Haubert also pledged \$100,000 each on Tuesday.

"We are progressing beyond words and taking tangible action today by establishing the Russell City Redress Fund," said Márquez, who grew up in Hayward and served on the City Council before being elected to the Board of Supervisors.

"While this fund cannot match the magnitude of loss experienced, it is a fundamental and necessary

step toward repairing, healing and justice for former Russell City residents and their families," she said.

Founded in 1853, Russell City was destroyed by county officials who used eminent domain to acquire homes and businesses in 1963, according to a 2024 report by Hayward's Russell City Arts Committee, a partnership formed between former Russell City residents and the city.

To justify such a move, the county declared the community blighted and eventually forcibly evicted all 205 families and 33 individuals living there and bulldozed the 200-acre town.

The county then then allowed a developer to build an industrial park, after which Hayward annexed the area and finally began providing city services after years of neglect on the part of the city and county, according to the report "Erased by Eminent Domain: 'The City May Be Gone, But the Memories Live On' Russell City 1853-1963".

"Unless we confront our history, we are doomed to repeat it," Haubert said. "And it wasn't that long ago, yet it seems like a distant memory, but we still have people living in our community who were affected by this and their descendants." ■

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EDITORIAL

THE OPINION OF THE WEEKLY

With budget finalized, let's move forward

The residents of Pleasanton — including those on the city council — went through an intense time trying to get to a balanced two-year operating budget. What started more than a year ago and spanned two city councils was finally approved in June.

The process didn't have to be this contentious, divisive or time-consuming. Had the 2024 council majority focused on collaborating with the community rather than trying to push a sales tax measure that they were warned against putting on the ballot if there was opposition, we would be in a much better place.

But the council voted to put Measure PP on the ballot regardless of what the consultants they paid over \$380,000 told them about the chances of it passing.

Not only would Pleasanton citizens not have been distracted (and pitted against each other), that \$380,000 would have possibly helped retain employees or kept the library open a few more hours a week.

It was only after the November election — when Measure PP predictably failed and a new mayor and two new councilmembers were seated — that transparency was embraced and the work that should have been done in 2024 actually began.

The community was provided an overview of the challenges at a community meeting in February and residents were invited to review materials and provide feedback on priorities. A Budget Advisory Committee of residents, city staff and other stakeholders was formed to recommend cost-saving strategies.

Because of a lack of trust between some residents and the former city council and senior staff, a group of citizens sought verification before the election that the deficit was as dire as they were being told, but were denied.

After the November election, though, an independent audit was conducted. In February, the accounting firm completed its review of Pleasanton's 10-year financial forecast and reported overall assumptions in regards to the city's ongoing budget deficit seem to be correct. The firm did, however, also recommended improving communication of the city's financial information to the public.

In March, the city received a report in which an actuarial consultant recommended not using money from the 115 Supplemental Pension Trust, but admitted they were not aware of the city's financial situation. Because of the foresight of the council and staff who created the 115 trust in 2018, there was a policy in place that allows for the trust to be used to smooth out pension payments when there is a structural deficit.

Ultimately, the wise decision was made to use \$3 million from the

annual interest earned over the two-year budget cycle. While this money won't accrue more interest, the city used money that was immediately available without touching any of the principal.

The community wanted more transparency, access to information and details, and it was provided — after the election. The community was invited to give input, and residents did — after the election.

Economic development should be Pleasanton's top priority. There are many actions the city can take to make Pleasanton more business-friendly, such as streamlining permitting and licensing processes, creating a "concierge service" and offering incentives like tax breaks, grants or reduced fees.

Meanwhile, the community needs to shop and dine in Pleasanton to benefit our businesses and generate sales tax revenue.

It's unfortunate that so much time and money was wasted, dissension was sown amongst neighbors and the citizen / city trust relationship was further damaged. But now it's time to move on and come together as a community. ■

LETTERS

For a world free of nuclear weapons

This year marks 80 years since the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki — acts of unimaginable violence that took over 200,000 lives and forever changed the course of history.

As we approach this solemn anniversary, it is crucial to stand in solidarity as we reflect, resist and recommit to a world free of nuclear weapons.

As one of the key nuclear weapons laboratories in the nation, the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory is essential in the current American nuclear weapons stockpile enhancement, further exacerbating the threat of nuclear warfare.

Now, it is more crucial than ever to halt the expedited arms race and learn from the devastating history of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Please join us in the commemoration of the 80th year since this tragedy on Wednesday, Aug. 6, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. at the Livermore Nuclear Weapons Lab West Gate (off S. Vasco Road) for a powerful morning of remembrance and action.

The event features speakers including Arjun Makhijani, Helen Jaccard, Rev. Michael Yoshii, Rev. Monica Cross, Patricia Ellsberg, and Marylia Kelley. The program will also include music and a symbolic "die-in" and a Bon Dance. After the program, there will be a nonviolent direct action for those who choose to participate.

For more information, please visit trivalleycares.org.

— Tanvi Kardile

Why we're proud to be American

The real reason to be proud to be an American isn't found in flags waving in the wind or in the lyrics of a national anthem. It's not about symbols. It's about people — about the legacy of ordinary individuals who stood up, spoke out, and refused to be silenced.

America was not handed down from kings or built by elites. It was built from the ground up by people who demanded their freedom.

The Revolution wasn't led by royalty — it was driven by farmers, printers, blacksmiths and thinkers who had nothing to lose but their chains. They rose against one of the most powerful empires in the world because they believed that freedom had to be earned, not given.

That spirit — of fighting from the bottom up — is what defines America. It's not abstract. It's concrete.

It's in every movement where people stood up to power and said, "Enough". Enslaved people who fought for their freedom. Workers who struck for better lives. Women who refused to be shut out of the vote. Civil rights leaders who faced dogs, fire hoses and jail cells just to be treated as equals. Immigrants who came with nothing and built lives of dignity and purpose.

That's the real pride of America. Not blind patriotism. Not the pagantry. It's the unshakable belief that no matter where you start, your voice matters — that this country becomes better when people rise from below

and demand justice, demand inclusion, demand change.

We are proud to be American because of the struggle, not in spite of it. We honor this country not by

saluting its symbols, but by continuing its fight — from the bottom up — for freedom, fairness, and a future that includes us all.

— John Williams

TAKE US ALONG



Basket sledge ride in Madeira: Cristina and Mario daSilva, former Pleasanton residents for over 30 years (but now living in Dublin), visited the Portuguese island of Madeira off the Moroccan coast during the Christmas/New Year holidays. A highlight of the trip was taking "one of the world's coolest commutes" from the village of Monte to the city of Funchal — a traditional basket sledge, used as a means of transport for more than a century. "We waited over two hours in line to have two runners, dressed in white and wearing the typical hats, maneuver our toboggan 2 km (1.25 miles) descent in about 10 minutes with a thrilling ride of up to 30 kph (18 mph)," Mario said.

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

Open Heart just

Local nonprofit reduces community meals, deploys hiring

By JUDE STRZEMP

The Tri-Valley's largest nonprofit nutrition provider recently enacted a range of budget cuts after federal funding fell short of expectations.

Open Heart Kitchen anticipated receiving an \$850,000 reimbursement for the construction of its new food bank in Livermore. The money was forecasted for distribution from the nationwide "Community Project Funding" program, from which zero dollars were allocated for the federal government's 2025 fiscal year.

As a result, OHK was left to foot an unexpected bill.

Now as it gets ready to celebrate its 30th anniversary — with one year of operations at Vineyard Resource Center and a new food bank under its belt — the nonprofit has reduced and eliminated select services to the Tri-Valley in order to balance its budget for the current fiscal year.

Meanwhile, the organization braces for increased demand for services, amid federal cuts to Medicaid and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

"We had no reason to believe the \$850K grant could be taken away, so we made sizable investments in staff expansion, equipment and operations to meet the growing demand for food resources in the Tri-Valley," OHK Executive Director John Bost said. "We are now left holding the bag for all those expenses, and no pathway to invoice the federal government for reimbursement."

Founded in 1995, the nonprofit organization was originally a small, grassroots effort to address hunger in the Tri-Valley. Since then, it has distributed nearly 8 million free meals.

The organization has also expanded its reach to provide overnight shelter for those who are unhoused and/or in crisis.

"Over the past thirty years, Open Heart Kitchen has evolved from a humble, charity-driven effort into a justice-centered, infrastructure-building organization tackling the root causes of hunger and poverty," Bost said in a statement.

One of OHK's newest ventures is the Vineyard Resource Center in Livermore, which opened in January 2024.

As its name suggests, the site at 450 N. Livermore Ave. is a service hub. As a tenant, OHK provides the community meal program, the Open Heart Refuge overnight shelter and other essential services for individuals experiencing homelessness or food insecurity. The center is also the site of the nonprofit's commercial kitchen operations.

In November, Open Heart Refuge grew from 20 to 30 beds, making it one of the largest year-round emergency

shelters in Alameda County, according to OHK officials.

Throughout its first year, OHK served 114,468 community meals at Vineyard and provided 6,775 overnight stays, according to OHK officials. Clients also utilized 5,854 showers, 2,962 loads of laundry and other resources surrounding housing, employment and substance use.

"The numbers are always there," Bost said. "What doesn't show up on the stats are all the stories in between. There is a community here."

"This shelter provides life-saving services, from a warm meal to a safe place to rest, reminding us that the smallest acts of kindness make a world of difference," OHK volunteer Shelly Haynes added in a statement. "Those seeking support here are not defined by their struggles — they are parents, children, partners and friends, deserving of the same grace and understanding we've all received in life."

Also this year, OHK celebrated the official launch of its food bank.

The 19,000-square-foot facility in Livermore allows for regional redistribution of food from the Oakland-based Alameda County Community Food Bank.

Five staff members are involved in running the food bank, but OHK aims to hire three additional employees for its operation.

Fully staffed, OHK can move through its food bank at least 3 million pounds of food annually. But in-action, the distribution amount depends on the food supply from ACCFB and the amount that pantries distribute.

Currently, the food bank distributes to sites including the Food Pantry at Muslim Community Center East Bay, the Graceland Food Pantry at Graceland International and the Interfaith Sharing Food Pantry at St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church.

"We've spent years not just expanding programs but rethinking what it means to serve this community," OHK chief financial officer Heather Greaux, Bost's predecessor as executive director, said in a statement. "From stepping up during the pandemic to launching the Vineyard Resource Center, our team has pushed itself to the brink to meet the need, and I'm proud of how far we've come."

Where's the money?

During OHK's 2025 fiscal year, which ended June 30, the organization anticipated receiving \$850,000 through the "Community Project Funding" program also known as the "Congressionally Directed Spending" program.

The program was created in November 2021, with the passage of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, according to the state of California



JUDE STRZEMP

Despite this year's budget cuts, Open Heart Kitchen Executive Director John Bost remains cautiously optimistic about the nonprofit's financial future.



COURTESY OHK

Volunteers help Open Heart Food Bank redistribute goods to food pantries in the Tri-Valley from the Alameda County Community Food Bank.



JUDE STRZEMP

The food bank distributes to sites including the Food Pantry at Muslim Community Center East Bay, the Graceland Food Pantry at Graceland International and the Interfaith Sharing Food Pantry at St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church.

t keeps beating

g freeze, dips into reserves amid dearth in federal funding

website. Its intent is to support specific community projects as part of the annual appropriations process.

Procedurally, projects are selected by members of the U.S. House of Representatives and U.S. Senate. Then the scope and funding amount for each of the selected projects is written into law via the annual appropriations bill.

The federal program is funded from Oct. 1, 2022 through Sept. 30, 2027, according to the state website.

But Congress did not include any of the community projects in the continuing resolution passed earlier this year, according to Carly Sincavitch, policy adviser for U.S. Rep. Eric Swalwell (D-Livermore).

“More specifically, given that Republicans have the majority in the House and Senate, they decided to not include (community project funding) in the final appropriations bills for FY25,” Sincavitch said. “The CPFs basically disappeared after not being included in the CR.”

In the case of OHK, the \$850,000 never materialized, despite being among the applicants to receive a positive recommendation from the U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations, Sincavitch confirmed.

The unexpected shortfall represented 18% of OHK’s annual budget. OHK had no reason to believe the funds would fall through, as community project funding had been allocated annually since the 2022 federal fiscal year, according to Bost.

As a result, OHK was required to reduce its expenditures to maintain a balanced budget for the 2026 fiscal year.

As part of the budget reduction, OHK froze its plans to hire three additional employees for food bank operations — a warehouse manager and two additional assistants. Their absence has meant decreased efficiency at the food bank and added strain on local pantries to pick up food, Bost explained.

“Every impediment, in terms of operations for them, manifests in people getting less food and getting it less frequently,” Bost said of the downstream implications.

The community meal program at Vineyard has also been affected.

While individuals can still dine-in at Vineyard for four meals per day, the take-home limit has decreased on select days of the week.

Individuals can now take home two meals per day (Monday through Thursday), down from six meals. On Fridays, the limit remains at six to-go meals to make sure folks have enough food for the weekend, Bost said.

He hopes that this take-home meal reduction is short-lived.

OHK also shuttered its pop-up pantry program, which was a

residual service from its response to the pandemic.

Despite the underlying cause being budget cuts, “It was a good pivot,” Bost explained, saying this way, OHK can focus on the food bank while pantries focus on distribution to the community.

To reach a balanced budget, OHK also had to pull from its reserve funds in what Bost described as a “Band-Aid fix.”

“Long story short, cuts made at the federal level have serious local consequences,” Bost said.

Following the realization that OHK would not receive the \$850,000 grant, the nonprofit organized a matching campaign and successfully raised a combined total of \$400,000 this year.

'A storm coming'

As for the current fiscal year, OHK’s operating budget is \$3.3 million, an amount that must be raised through individual donations, workplace matching, government grants and private, non-government grants.

Meanwhile, Medicaid and SNAP were cut as part of H.R. 1, better known as the “One Big Beautiful Bill Act.”

“There is a storm brewing and a storm coming,” Bost said. “We are already struggling to make ends meet on the food distribution side.”

One source of funding could be the next round of congressionally directed community project awards, but Bost said receiving the applied-for \$226,026 is a “long-shot.”

The new application is a resubmission from the 2025 federal fiscal year, Sincavitch said.

“Rep. Swalwell’s office submitted all FY25 CPFs that were still considered eligible for the FY26 process,” Swalwell’s spokesperson, Cassie Baloue, explained.

Since submission, OHK’s request was fully funded in the House Appropriations Committee Transportation, Housing and Urban Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, according to Baloue.

“We now have to wait for the bill to pass the House, the Senate and be signed into law by the President before this funding becomes enacted,” Baloue added.

While welcoming individual contributions to OHK, Bost believes that the responsibility of support lies in the government.

“Government at all of its levels — the public sector — is obligated and responsible to provide for basic human rights for its citizens,” Bost said. “I don’t think individuals and communities should have to be the cake. I think they should be the icing.”

It’s going to be financially tight, Bost added.



COURTESY OHK

As part of budget cuts this fiscal year, Open Heart Kitchen froze its plans to hire three additional employees for food bank operations, decreasing efficiency at the facility.



JUDE STRZEMP

Budget cuts can also be seen at the Vineyard Resource Center, where the maximum number of take-home meals has been reduced for most days of the week as part of the community meal program.

“We’ll find a way forward through this dark time, as we will meet the dark times ahead,” Bost said. “What’s the other option? Abandon the people who rely on us? Give in and give up? The stakes are too high.”

Through its financial difficulties, OHK is scheduled to host the Heart of the Tri-Valley Gala later this summer for its 30th anniversary.

This 1990s-themed event is set to include dinner, signature cocktails, auctions, entertainment and storytelling to celebrate OHK’s legacy.

The gala is important for face time and connection, according to Bost.

“With the funding challenges and uncertainty, raising money is more top of mind than in past years, where every little bit counts,” he said.

The gala is set for 6 p.m. on Sept. 5 at Casa Real Events Center at Ruby Hill Winery in Pleasanton. For more information about the gala and the nonprofit overall, visit openheart-kitchen.org. ■



JUDE STRZEMP

OHK must raise \$3.3 million this fiscal year to cover its operating expenses.

Greek tragedy meets New Orleans jazz at Firehouse

Pleasanton Youth Theater Company becomes latest local troupe to adapt 'Hadestown: Teen Edition'

By **CONNOR HUARD**

The Pleasanton Youth Theater Company is performing "Hadestown: Teen Edition" this week and next at the Firehouse Arts Center.

Anaïs Mitchell's "Hadestown" won eight Tony Awards in 2019, including the award for Best Musical, and reimagines the Greek myth of Orpheus and Eurydice in Depression-era New Orleans.

With an Underworld inspired by coal mines, big industry and dark factories, "Hadestown" is filled with jazz and American folk music. Narrated by the god Hermes, the main stars of "Hadestown" are Orpheus and Eurydice, in addition to King Hades, god of the dead, and the lady Persephone.

"The love story of Orpheus and Eurydice is full of struggle, but hope continues to shine through," said Jeff Zavattero, library and recreation coordinator for the city of Pleasanton.

Mitchell published "Hadestown: Teen Edition" in June 2024, which was written specifically for teen actors to perform for family audiences. Fans of the original Broadway production have no need to worry about the "Teen Edition" missing anything from the original — musical licensor and publisher Concord Theatricals claimed the primary difference between the two editions is simply modifying vocal arrangements to better fit teen voices.

Concord Theatricals also noted that copies of "Hadestown: Teen

Edition" are in high demand, something fans of East Bay youth theater groups may have noticed. The upcoming PYTC performance of "Hadestown: Teen Edition" is a continuation of the musical's local popularity this year.

So far in 2025, "Hadestown: Teen Edition" has been performed by Christian Youth Theater (CYT) Tri-Valley in March and by the joint efforts of Livermore and Granada high schools' students in May. While its popularity and publishing recency may have influenced PYTC to put on "Hadestown", Zavattero told Pleasanton Weekly the musical's deep emotional complexity is what drew him to the musical.

"I chose it because it gives our performers the chance to explore emotionally rich and complex material," Zavattero said. "Every time I give direction, students ask thoughtful questions about motivations or suggest movements and emotions they think their character would express. It's inspiring to witness, and I'm incredibly proud of their commitment and creativity."

PYTC's cast of "Hadestown: Teen Edition" is split between the "Melody Cast" and the "Song Cast". The two casts will be performing the same musical, but Zavattero explained that each cast has different interpretations of the musical's complex themes. Show dates are this Friday and Saturday (July 25-26) and next Friday and Saturday (Aug. 1-2).



Entirely made up of actors ages 13-18, PYTC's performances at the Firehouse Arts Center will be briefly interrupted by one of their three annual cabaret-style shows on July 31 starring the behind-the-scenes staff of the company.

Tickets for "Hadestown: Teen Edition" are available for purchase at firehouse.vbotickets.com or in person at the Firehouse box office or Pleasanton Library. PYTC performs over 50 times at the Firehouse each year and produces seven musicals, four improv shows, three cabarets and its annual Youth Music Festival. ■



COURTESY FIREHOUSE ARTS

Rehearsals are winding down for Pleasanton Youth Theater Company's production of "Hadestown: Teen Edition", which runs the next two Fridays and Saturdays at the Firehouse Arts Center.

Foundation announces plays for O'Neill showcase

Contemporary 'Prisontown' on tap alongside classic 'The Hairy Ape' at 26th Eugene O'Neill Festival

By **JEANITA LYMAN**

Organizers with the Eugene O'Neill Foundation are revealing details of the upcoming annual festival dedicated to the famed late playwright and to showcasing his former Danville home that is now a national historic site.

Tickets are now on sale for the Eugene O'Neill Festival's two major productions — "Prisontown", written and performed by previous artist-in-residence Lee Osorio and directed by Richard Perez, and "The Hairy Ape", written by O'Neill himself and performed by an ensemble cast directed by Eric Fraisher Hayes.

"Both Festival plays offer us stories of people haunted by forces that they don't understand and yet need to pursue on a journey to discover themselves and where they belong," organizers wrote in an announcement

this month. "We all desire individual recognition as well as feeling connected to others. Like the characters in our Festival stories, we all seek to be seen, be heard, and to belong."

"Prisontown" tells the story of a writer drawn back to his hometown of Lumpkin, Ga., following a notice from his immigration attorney brother, subsequently haunted by a ghost as he explores the town's transformation into the home of a significant immigration detention center.

"The Hairy Ape", an expressionist work of O'Neill's written during his early career in 1922, centers on its main character's Robert "Yank"



Lee Osorio

Smith's encounter with a mysterious woman dressed in white and his subsequent mission to find her again — and to "ultimately find where he belongs," according to EONF organizers.

Now in its 26th year, the Eugene O'Neill Festival is set to kick off with the production of "Prisontown" Aug. 23-24 at the Veterans Memorial Hall in downtown Danville. "The Hairy Ape" follows from Sept. 5 through Sept. 21, first in the old barn theater at O'Neill's Tao House property in the Danville hills and then at the Village Theatre downtown.

Tickets and more information are available at eugeneoneill.org. ■



James Hiser



COURTESY EUGENE O'NEILL FOUNDATION

"The Hairy Ape" will be performed in the old barn at Eugene O'Neill's Tao House property in the Danville hills as part of the annual festival that honors the late playwright's legacy.

Community Pulse

POLICE BULLETIN

Explosive device used to break into ATM at Target

Burglars detonated an improvised explosive device to gain access to an ATM at the Target store in San Ramon in the wee hours of the morning Sunday, according to city police.

No injuries were reported in the overnight explosion, and FBI personnel were remaining on scene for most of the day as part of the active investigation, according to San Ramon police Lt. Mike Pistello.

"There is no immediate danger to the community and we are thankful no innocent bystanders were injured," Pistello said in a press release Sunday afternoon confirming the brazen after-hours crime.

San Ramon Police Department officers were called to the Target in The Shops at Bishop Ranch shopping center on Bishop Drive just before 2:20 a.m. Sunday on a report of a commercial burglary, Pistello said.

Arriving officers discovered that an IED had been used to gain entry to an ATM. Nobody was injured, but the explosion damaged a portion of the store's interior near the eastern customer entrance, according to Pistello.

The lieutenant said that because of the nature of the investigation, the FBI's field office in San Francisco was contacted and federal agents responded to the Target. FBI personnel processed the crime scene for the rest of the day.

The circumstances remain under active investigation, and no arrests have been announced to date. Anyone with information relevant to the case can contact San Ramon police Detective Hugh Cotton at hcotton@sanramon.ca.gov or FBI media coordinator Cameron Polan at Media.sf@fbi.gov.

— Jeremy Walsh

Murder suspect captured in Dublin

A San Jose man accused of gunning down a woman walking her dogs in San Leandro last week is facing murder and other charges following his arrest in Dublin, the Alameda County District Attorney's Office announced Tuesday.

Prosecutors charged Rohith Sunil, 21, with murder, assault with a semiautomatic gun and carrying a loaded gun in public in the shooting death of 41-year-old Casey Way.

Sunil also faces a number of gun enhancements and special allegations, including that he knowingly used a stolen gun to kill Way. If convicted of all charges, he could spend 50 years to life in prison.



CHUCK DECKERT

A file photo of the Target store on Bishop Drive in San Ramon in late June.

San Leandro police said Way was allegedly shot and killed by Sunil while walking her dogs with her boyfriend near the intersection of East 14th and Williams streets at about 11:10 p.m. July 17.

Sunil allegedly drove up to the couple, got out of his car to accost them and then shot Way after a brief exchange, police said. Sunil then allegedly got back into his car and drove off, according to police.

Neither the boyfriend nor the dogs were physically harmed, but Way later died at a hospital.

Then, just before midnight, San Leandro police learned that Sunil had been arrested in Dublin after allegedly following someone suspiciously in his car.

He was picked up at about 11:45 p.m. after another driver called 911 to report that someone in a dark-colored sedan with tinted windows and no license plate was following him.

A dispatcher told the caller to drive to the Dublin Police Services parking lot, where Alameda County sheriff's deputies arrived to find Sunil allegedly parked directly behind the caller's car.

Deputies approached Sunil and detained him after they noticed that a gun allegedly fell from his possession onto the ground.

— Kiley Russell,
Bay City News Service

CHP: Racing precipitated deadly highway crash

The driver who caused the fatal head-on collision on Highway 84 in Livermore last week lost control while racing a pickup truck that fled the scene and remains at-large, the California Highway Patrol said in a case update.

Revelations of a speed contest and the involvement of a third vehicle — a white 2015 or 2016 GMC Sierra 2500 truck — provided new context about the violent crash that killed an unsuspecting driver and critically injured one of the apparent racers.

The situation unfolded at about

6:15 p.m. July 15 on Highway 84, just west of Ruby Hill Drive in the area of Pigeon Pass, according to Officer Tyler Hahn of CHP's Dublin office.

Investigators determined that the male driver of a westbound Lexus IS 250 was engaged in a speed contest with a GMC Sierra. For unknown reasons, the Lexus veered out of control into the eastbound lane and crashed into the front of an oncoming Honda Civic, according to Hahn.

The Honda's driver succumbed at the scene to injuries suffered in the head-on crash. He was identified as Ryan Joshua Aquino Amigable, 22, of Oakley, according to the Alameda County Coroner's Bureau.

The Lexus' driver sustained critical injuries and was airlifted to Regional Medical Center in San Jose, where he remained alive at last report, according to Hahn.

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His identity has not been revealed publicly.

It is unknown at this point whether alcohol or drugs were factors in the deadly crash, Hahn said.

Officers are actively searching for the GMC, which fled the scene continuing west on Highway 84 that evening. The CHP described it as a lifted, four-door, heavy-duty truck with black rims and oversized tires as well as equipped with a receiver hitch, tow mirrors and chrome bumpers.

Anyone who witnessed what happened or has other information pertinent to the crash, the at-large driver or their truck can contact CHP-Dublin at 925-828-0466 and ask for Officer G. Barajas.

— Jeremy Walsh

Police arrest suspect in drive-by shooting

A 25-year-old man was arrested last week in connection with a drive-by shooting in Livermore that left one person injured earlier this month, police said.

Jesus Andrade of Livermore was taken into custody on July 8 as he was leaving his home. His arrest followed a July 5 shooting reported just before 2 a.m. in the 300 block of Chestnut Street.

Officers responding to the scene found a 27-year-old Livermore resident suffering from a gunshot wound. Police administered medical aid, and the victim was transported to a local hospital. The victim was later released and is recovering, authorities said.

Detectives said they developed leads identifying the suspect's vehicle, which ultimately led to Andrade's arrest. Investigators believe the shooting was gang-related.

Andrade was booked into Santa Rita Jail on suspicion of shooting from a vehicle and assault with a firearm.

Police are continuing to investigate the case. Anyone with additional information is urged to contact the Livermore Police Department's anonymous tip line at 925-371-4790.

— Tony Hicks,
Bay City News Service

Insurance exec pleads guilty to fraud

A former executive of a Livermore insurance brokerage has pleaded guilty to his role in fraud schemes that led to the collapse of two firms and more than \$20

See BULLETIN on Page 16

Robert F. Brown

October 30, 1938 – June 10, 2025

Robert F. Brown, known to most as Bob, took his final flight on June 10, 2025, at the age of 86. Born on October 30, 1938, in Portland, Oregon, Bob made his mark on the world with a blend of quick wit, adventurous spirit, and earnest dedication.

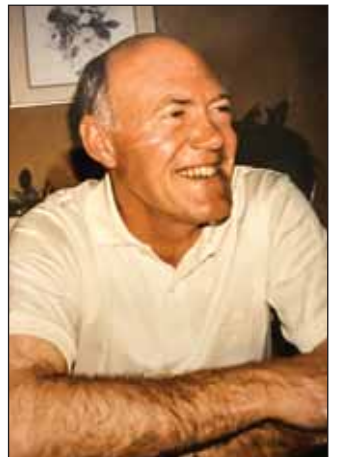
Bob's life journey took him to Pleasanton, California, where he became a cherished member of the community. As the proud owner of Pleasanton Glass Company, he built not only a business but also a legacy of hard work and integrity. His commitment to quality of service made his business a respected staple in the community.

Beyond his professional life, Bob was a proud member of the Livermore Municipal Airport, where he shared his passion for aviation and connected with fellow enthusiasts. His passion for aviation took him from Alaska to Mexico with many memorable destinations in between.

Bob is survived by his beloved daughters, Lisa Bachmann and Jennifer Bilse, who will cherish the memories they shared with their father. His legacy lives on through his grandchildren Evan Bachmann, Maiya Bachmann and Stella Bilse.

He will be deeply missed by all who had the privilege to know him. His enduring spirit, dedication and kindness will be remembered fondly by family, friends and community members.

A celebration of life will be held Sunday September 7, at 12pm at Elevation LVK. 682 Terminal Cir. Livermore.



PAID OBITUARY

BULLETIN

Continued from Page 15

million in losses, prosecutors said.

Jasbir Thandi, 69, formerly of San Francisco, pleaded guilty in federal court last Friday to two counts of conspiracy to commit insurance fraud, according to the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of California.

Thandi founded Global Century Insurance Brokers, based in Livermore, which helped manage the business of Global Hawk Risk Retention Group. He and his co-conspirators created records that overstated Global Hawk's capital

and reserves. In 2020, after regulators discovered the fraud, Global Hawk was declared insolvent and liquidated.

Thandi misappropriated more than \$1.5 million in Global Hawk funds for personal use, including the purchase of a house and a luxury vehicle, prosecutors said.

Thandi admitted that in August 2016, he obtained a \$6.4 million line of credit, later increased to \$14 million, on behalf of Global Hawk, which was not authorized by the company's board of directors. Around March 2017, he applied for a second line of credit in the name of Global Hawk in the

amount of \$14.75 million, again without authorization.

Thandi admitted to a similar fraud conspiracy with Houston General Insurance Exchange, prosecutors said. He and his co-conspirators created documents that falsely represented that HGIE had millions of dollars in insurance reserves and capital assets required by law.

Thandi is the fourth and final defendant to plead guilty to charges related to the fraud schemes. Co-defendants Sandeep Sahota, Jaspreet Padda, and Gunjan Aggarwal all previously pleaded guilty.

Thandi faces a maximum penalty of five years in prison and a \$250,000 fine for each of the two counts, according to prosecutors.

— Bay City News Service

Burglary suspect runs vehicle into police car

Livermore police arrested a man last week for allegedly trying to break into a home, then ramming his vehicle into a police car.

Just before 2 p.m. July 17, police said they received a report of someone trying to break into a home near Railroad Avenue and North P Street.

The suspect allegedly tried forcing his way inside before fleeing the scene.

Officers located the suspect's vehicle nearby. As an officer positioned his patrol car behind it, the suspect suddenly accelerated and struck the front push bumper of the patrol vehicle. Police said their vehicle sustained no damage.

Officers arrested the 32-year-old suspect, who was on probation in Alameda County for carrying a concealed weapon. Police said he showed signs of being under the influence of narcotics.

Police arrested the man on suspicion of residential burglary,

probation violation, and assault on a peace officer, and booked him into Santa Rita Jail.

— Tony Hicks,
Bay City News Service

Feds: Advisor bilked \$9.5M from investors

A Contra Costa County man was indicted for an alleged investment fraud scheme that netted nearly \$10 million from investors, according to the U.S. Department of Justice.

Edwin Lickiss, Jr., 77, is accused of wire fraud and money laundering in connection with a \$9.5 million investment scheme, federal prosecutors said Monday.

Between 1998 and 2024, Lickiss worked as a financial advisor in Danville and Alamo and owned and operated Foundation Financial Group. Prosecutors allege that even though Lickiss' broker's license was suspended in 2014 and revoked in 2016, he continued to solicit and obtain investments until September 2024, never telling investors he had been suspended and then lost his license.

Lickiss allegedly falsely represented to investors that he would invest their money in government bonds and other bonds, according to the indictment. Prosecutors allege he told investors that he had exclusive access to fictitious bonds that paid very high rates of returns, including rates exceeding 20 percent. Lickiss reportedly said these fake bonds were safe, secure and tax-free and that they could be redeemed at any time.

As part of the alleged scheme, Lickiss is accused of giving fake promissory notes that included fictitious information. He would occasionally give payments to some investors by using funds fraudulently obtained from other investors, prosecutors said.

Lickiss allegedly ran a Ponzi

scheme and used the money he took in for things like home renovations and travel, as well as car, mortgage, and credit card payments. In total, he is accused of getting at least \$9.5 million out of 50 investors.

If convicted, Lickiss is facing up to 20 years in prison for wire fraud and 10 years in prison for the alleged money laundering, plus fines adding up to \$500,000.

— Bay City News Service

Big-rig fire spreads, snarls commute

Westbound lanes on Interstate 580 were closed for hours last Friday after an 18-wheeler caught fire that morning, igniting a vegetation fire and forcing a full closure of the freeway's westbound lanes in Alameda County, fire officials said.

The blaze broke out around 6:30 a.m. east of Flynn and Grant Line roads, near Livermore, according to the Alameda County Fire Department, which responded along with Cal Fire.

CHP officers shut down westbound lanes of I-580 at Grant Line Road as crews worked to contain both the vehicle and vegetation fires.

No injuries were immediately reported, and the cause of the fire remains under further investigation.

Later that morning, ACFD shared on social media that forward progress had been stopped. However, all westbound lanes remained closed for several more hours due to heavy smoke and cleanup of almonds on the road.

Just before 9 a.m., CHP posted on X an updated photo of the scene with both blazes extinguished along with a notice that they were "working to open up a lane soon". At 1:18 p.m., CHP reported all lanes had reopened. ■

— Bay City News Service
and Cierra Bailey

Yvonne Champlin Crawford

March 1, 1953 – July 5, 2025

On July 5, 2025, Yvonne Champlin Crawford passed away peacefully in her Pleasanton home, surrounded by her closest family. She leaves behind her husband Bruce Crawford, son Scott Crawford, brothers Virgil and Raymond Champlin, and countless others whose lives she has touched.

Yvonne's grace in life was truly a reflection of her favorite word: "Ubuntu." This South African phrase loosely translates to "I am because we are." It beautifully embodies both her lifelong interest in philosophy and other cultures, as well as the unwavering compassion and connection she shared with those around her.

Born March 1, 1953, Yvonne's early years charted the meandering course of a Navy family, but from high school onward, she and her brothers all came to call the Bay Area home. Perhaps in part because of a childhood spent moving around the world, Yvonne put down deep roots, becoming a beloved figure in both the Catholic Community of Pleasanton and the greater Tri-Valley. Though a self-described ambivert, reaching out to others always seemed to come naturally—whether that meant welcoming new neighbors, helping loved ones through tough times, or congenially striking up a conversation with a waiter or barista. She always found ways to bring people together.

These deep roots, however, could not stifle her tenacious wanderlust. She garnered a reputation with friends and family for meticulously planned trips all across the globe, and in so doing spread her infectious verve for adventure. Even in the face of on-again off-again bouts fighting cancer over the last decade and a half, she never stopped traveling or lost sight of that endless desire to immerse herself in new cultures (and sate her inner foodie with all the delicious eats they have to offer).

She also had a crafty streak, and pursued many creative projects throughout her life—from stamp-making to sewing. She and her husband loved to experiment with quirky fabric combinations, and made all kinds of fun designs that now warm countless homes. In fact, their work is even enjoyed by children as far away as Africa through the "Dress a Girl" program.

Yvonne will be remembered for her generous spirit, dry wit, ceaseless curiosity, dauntless initiative, and indelible zest for life. She made even the simplest of moments special. We hope that all who cherished her will carry on her legacy of thoughtfulness, compassion, and community. Be good to each other, reach out to those around you, and always remember: "Ubuntu."

A Celebration of Life Open House will take place on 8/2/2025, reach out by email to yc@whybs.org for more details. An online collaborative memorial is also available at forevermissed.com/yvonne-crawford. Memories and well wishes are deeply appreciated.

PAID OBITUARY



ALAMEDA COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT VIA BAY CITY NEWS

An 18-wheeler caught fire on westbound Interstate 580 on July 18, igniting a vegetation fire and forcing a full closure of the freeway near Livermore.



By DENNIS MILLER

Intermediate World Series arrives in Livermore

‘There is some unfinished business’ –
Danville team eager to face the best of the best

Last summer, the Danville Little League 12-year-old all-star team felt like they had the depth and the talent to make it to the Little League World Series in Williamsport, Penn.

However, a mere couple of mistakes along the way ended their hopes short of their goal. In the postseason, there is a slim margin of error and the boys from Danville found that out the hard way.

Following Little League, players often go their own way, playing for various travel ball teams.

Not this group.

As the Danville 13-year-old all-star team, the group has earned a spot in the 2025 Intermediate (50/70) Baseball World Series right here in Livermore at Max Baer Park.

The tournament starts this Sunday (July 27), with the championship game set for Aug. 3, which will be broadcast on ESPN.

There are 12 teams, six from the United States and six International teams.

“There is some unfinished business,” Danville manager Shaun Moylan said.

Danville opens the tournament on Sunday night at 7 p.m. against the Southeast representative, Irmo

Little League from Irmo, S.C.

And they’ll do so with a team seemingly built for success in these types of tournaments — full of pitching and hitting. Depth in pitching is mandatory to be successful.

“The team is fantastic,” Moylan said. “We’ve got a lot of big kids — four or five of them are over 6 feet tall. We’ve got five aces, and all the kids on the team can pitch.”

The lone concern is coming into the tournament with over a month without a tournament game. To qualify for the World Series, Danville just needed to win the District 57 Tournament and earn the host team spot.

District 57 is no walk in the park and is always in the mix in this event.

In 2022, Danville won the tournament, beating a team from Seoul, South Korea 5-0 in the title game.

There are pros and cons to the break as the boys won the District 57 title back in June.

“We have a lot of kids that play travel ball, so they have been playing. But for the kids on our team that don’t play travel ball, it’s a long time off,” Moylan said. “We have a lot of kids that play football as well, so there’s been a lot of baseball and football practices on the same day.”

And kids from the community have been providing opposition.

“We’ve been scrimmaging against other kids that are either not playing or older kids that played for us in the past,” Moylan said. “It was a lot of fun and great in the community.”

The other teams, in some cases, are still fighting to qualify for the series. The West Region championship game was set for this Thursday night.

“Game experience is invaluable, but it is a grind. And you are traveling a lot,” Moylan said. “I like that we are well-rested.”

Moylan ran through the 12 members of the Danville team.

Alex Wierzbinski: “One of our aces. He’s probably our go to guy. He pitches, plays shortstop — he can play anywhere. He also hits for power.”

Charlie McLean: “He’s 6-3, pitches and plays first base. He hits very well. One of our aces.”

Connor Moylan: “Connor is our middle-infield guy. He can play defense, and he hits well.”

CJ McMillan: “He is 6-3 as well, pitches, plays first base, and is a hitting machine. Another ace.” (Note: CJ’s older brother Gavin was a member of the Tri-Valley Babe



COURTESY DANVILLE LITTLE LEAGUE

Danville will be representing host District 57 in the 2025 Intermediate (50/70) Baseball World Series, being played over the next week in Livermore.

Ruth team that won their World Series back in 2022.)

Jack Hansen: “We needed a catcher this year, and we moved him there. He’s done a great job learning the position and has been great for us.”

Liam Manter: “He’s one of our aces and has been a big thrower for us. He’s a great leader. Usually, he’s a 3-4 guy but we moved him to leadoff.”

George Krause: “He’s our third-baseman. He’s a power hitter who is unafraid — he’s just impressive to watch. Also, one of our aces.”

Craig Bessiers: “He might be the most improved player I have ever seen. He’s got it going for us with the bat.”

Tyson Macdonald: “He’s younger than the others, and he had a broken thumb. He is back with us now.”

Mason Colliss: “He is new to the team this year. He’s been our Swiss army knife — he does whatever we need.”

Owen Beck: “He was hurt, but he is now back into it. He is an elite athlete.”

Jake Henzi: “He is kind of the heart and soul of our team. He did not get a hit in the district tournament but was second in runs scored. He just gets it done.”

And perhaps the best thing about the tournament — basically it’s a home game.

“It’s probably the neatest thing,” Moylan said. “I expect we’ll have a lot of support. The kids realize it’s different when you are playing for the name on the front of the jersey, not the back.”

Follow the tournament at www.littleleague.org and watch the games streaming on ESPN+. ■

Supes approve final terms for Coliseum sale

‘This is another step in the direction to get us across the finish line,’ Miley says

By KILEY RUSSELL / BCN

The Alameda County Board of Supervisors voted Tuesday to finalize terms for the sale of the Oakland-Alameda County Coliseum to a local development company.

After years of incremental progress, the Oakland Acquisition Company, an affiliate of the African American Sports and Entertainment Group, is now a little less than a year away from closing escrow on the 112-acre site once jointly owned by the city of Oakland and Alameda County.

“Getting this far in such a complex deal has been a true community wide effort,” said Supervisor

Nikki Fortunato Bas.

“I certainly look forward to a transformative project and collaboration with AASEG, the city of Oakland and the community to revitalize not only East Oakland, but the entire region through the Coliseum,” Fortunato Bas said.

Prior to being elected to the Board of Supervisors, Fortunato Bas played a key role in the deal as a member of the Oakland City Council.

As council president, she helped secure an exclusive negotiating agreement for AASEG’s purchase of Oakland’s 50% share in the property, along with conditions of approval that include affordable

housing and an agreement to use local, union labor.

Tuesday’s vote allows the Oakland Acquisition Company to purchase what was once the county’s 50% share of the property from Coliseum Way Partners, an affiliate of the former Oakland A’s professional baseball team that bought the property from the county for \$85 million in 2019.

The Oakland Acquisition Company has agreed to buy both Oakland’s and the A’s shares of the property for \$125 million each, but needed the Board of Supervisors’ approval to move forward.

Prior to the vote, AASEG co-founder Ray Bobbit thanked the

supervisors and county staff for their work in putting the agreement together.

“Clearly this is an important, critical step in a monumental process,” Bobbit said. “This has been a long process that’s occurred for almost five years at this point. We just want to say thank you so much for the opportunity to move this forward.”

Supervisor Nate Miley said he was pleased with the deal but stopped short of a full-throated celebration, noting that the terms of the agreement won’t be finalized until the close of escrow on June 30, 2026.

“So this is another step in the direction to get us across the finish

line,” Miley said. “When we get across the finish line, by that point in time, then we can break out the champagne, smoke the cigars and sing Hallelujah.”

He also said that the county’s “long journey” to reach an agreement included doing its due diligence in securing terms that defend the county’s interests, such as being protected from environmental clean-up responsibilities and claims related to any “pre-existing” conditions at the Coliseum complex.

Still, he echoed the other supervisors’ declarations that the deal is a momentous one.

“We recognize the fact that by having a team of African Americans take the interest in the property from the county it would be a tremendous, historic, transformative undertaking,” Miley said. ■

Public Notices

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
File No. 573469
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):
SANDATA
4833 mancini dr
Castro valley, ca 94546
FILED IN ALAMEDA COUNTY ON:
10/02/2020
UNDER FILE NO. 573469
REGISTRANT'S NAME(S):
SANDRA SUE LAINES
4833 mancini dr
Castro valley, ca 94546
THIS BUSINESS WAS CONDUCTED BY An Individual.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Alameda County on July 08 2025.
(PLW Jul 18, 25, Aug 1 and 8, 2025)

GOAL LINE STUDIOS
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 616248
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) GOAL LINE STUDIOS , located at 5959 CORONADO LANE PLEASANTON, CA 94588, ALAMEDA County. Mailing Address: 5955 CORONADO LANE PLEASANTON, CA 94588
This business is conducted by: a Limited Partnership.
The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):
CRIMSON BEAR LTD, A CALIFORNIA LIMITED PARTNERSHIP
5955 CORONADO LANE
PLEASANTON, CA 94588
State of Incorporation/Organization: CA
Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 07/01/2025
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on July 17 2025.
(PLW Jul 25, Aug 1, 8 and 15, 2025)

INDIAN TIFFINS
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 615731
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) Indian Tiffins , located at 5690 Metrose Ct Unit 301 Dublin, CA 94568, Alameda County.
This business is conducted by: an Individual.
The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):
MANISH PARMAR
5690 Metrose Ct Unit 301
Dublin, CA 94568
Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 01/01/2024
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on June 27 2025.
(PLW Jul 25, Aug 1, 8 and 15, 2025)

CALENDOULA
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 615487
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) Calendoula , located at 1133 Harrison St San Leandro, CA 94577, Alameda County.
This business is conducted by: an Individual.
The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):
LAIA MOSS
1133 Harrison St
San Leandro, CA 94577
Registrant began transacting business

under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 10/31/2024
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on June 18 2025.
(PLW Jul 18, 25, Aug 1 and 8, 2025)

PRAKRUTII BAZAAAR
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 615368
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) Prakrutii Bazaar , located at 3958 Stoneridge Dr Apt #8,Pleasanton CA 94588, Alameda County.
This business is conducted by: a Married Couple.
The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):
POOJA WAGH JADHAV
3958 Stoneridge Dr Apt #8
Pleasanton, CA 94588
ROHIT JADHAV
3958 Stoneridge Dr Apt #8
Pleasanton, CA 94588
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 13 2025.
(PLW Jul 11, 18, 25 and Aug 1, 2025)

TA DANADO JIU JITSU HAYWARD
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 615652
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) Ta Danado Jiu Jitsu Hayward , located at 21463-B Foothill Blvd Hayward CA 94541, Alameda County.
This business is conducted by: a Corporation.
The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):
GALINDO ENTERPRISES INC
1244 Apple Ave
Hayward, CA, 94541
State of Incorporation/Organization: California
Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 06/09/2025
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on June 25 2025.
(PLW Jul 11, 18, 25 and Aug 1, 2025)

BAY FITNESS
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 616113
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) Bay Fitness , located at 7479 Ginger CT. Pleasanton, CA 94588, Alameda County.
This business is conducted by: an Individual.
The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):
HAMOON NOZARI
7479 Ginger CT
Pleasanton, CA, 94588
Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 07/14/2025
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on July 14 2025.
(PLW Jul 25, Aug 1, 8 and 15, 2025)

ISMASH PLEASANTON
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 615841
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) ISMASH PLEASANTON , located at 4275 Rosewood Dr Pleasanton, CA 94588, Alameda County.
This business is conducted by: a Corporation.
The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):
RAGE CITY INC

19131 Redwood Rd Ste H
Castro Valley, CA 94546
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 July 03 2025.
(PLW Jul 18, 25, Aug 1 and 8, 2025)

GROUNDED IN 3CS HOLISTIC WELLNESS AND DOULA SERVICES
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 615500
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) GROUNDED IN 3CS HOLISTIC WELLNESS AND DOULA SERVICES , located at 2495 Valley St, Berkeley, CA 94702, Alameda County.
This business is conducted by: Co-Partners.
The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):
RAHNEE WILLIAMS
2495 Valley St
Berkeley, CA 94702
MARYAM HASSAN
2495 Valley ST
Berkeley, CA 94702
State of Incorporation/Organization: California
Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 06/20/2025
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on June 20 2025.
(PLW Jul 4, 11, 18 and 25, 2025)

PURSER SERVICES
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 615830
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) Purser Services , located at 3698 Vision Common Unit 402, Fremont, CA 94538, Alameda County.
This business is conducted by: an Individual.
The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):
TZU YING PURSER
3698 Vision Common Unit 402
Fremont, CA 94538
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 July 03 2025.
(PLW Jul 11, 18, 25 and Aug 1, 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 Jul 4, 11, 18 and 25, 2025)

SAMA AUTO
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 615372
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) SAMA AUTO , located at 101 E Vineyard Ave Suite 119 Livermore, CA

94550, Alameda County.
This business is conducted by: a Limited Liability Company.
The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):
SAMA RAYANNE LLC
101 E Vineyard Ave Suite 119
Livermore, CA 94550
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 June 13 2025.
(PLW Jul 4, 11, 18 and 25, 2025)

ORION AUTO EXCHANGE
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 615564
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) ORION AUTO EXCHANGE , located at 4049 1st Street Suite 137, 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):
ORION AUTO EXCHANGE, LLC
4049 1st Street Suite 137
Livermore, CA 94551
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 June 23 2025.
(PLW Jul 4, 11, 18 and 25, 2025)

PROFIT PROPERTY MANAGEMENT
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 615522
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) Profit Property Management , located at 1407 Queens Rd, Berkeley, CA 94708 Alameda County.
This business is conducted by: a Corporation.
The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):
MFMG INC
1407 Queens Rd
Berkeley, CA 94708
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 June 20 2025.
(PLW Jul 11, 18, 25 and Aug 1, 2025)

THE QUIET KNOT
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 615689
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) THE QUIET KNOT , located at 2744 Foothill Road, Pleasanton, CA 94588, Alameda County.
This business is conducted by: a Limited Liability Company.
The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):
THE QUIET KNOT LLC
2744 Foothill Road
Pleasanton, CA 94588
State of Incorporation/Organization: California
Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 06/26/2025
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on June 26 2025.
(PLW Jul 4, 11, 18 and 25, 2025)

ISAIAH 54:2
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 615778
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) Isaiah 54:2 , located at 2781 Garden St Oakland, CA 94601, Alameda County.
This business is conducted by: an Individual.
The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):
MARVIN JORDAN
2781 Garden St
Oakland, CA 94601
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 July 01 2025.
(PLW Jul 11, 18, 25 and Aug 1, 2025)

BAY TREE THERAPY GROUP
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 615082
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) Bay Tree Therapy Group , located at 5994 W Las Positas Blvd, Ste 115, Pleasanton, CA 94588, Alameda County.
This business is conducted by: a Corporation.
The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):
ALLISON KAE LIN MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPY, INC.
5994 W Las Positas Blvd, Ste 115
Pleasanton, CA 94588
State of Incorporation/Organization: California
Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on June 04 2025.
(PLW Jul 4, 11, 18 and 25, 2025)

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA FOR THE COUNTY OF ALAMEDA
Case No.: 25CV129552
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:
Petitioner: JULIE CAO (aka THUY CAO) filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: JULIE CAO (AKA THUY CAO) TO THUY CAO 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: September 5, 2025, 9:00 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: July 2, 2025
Thomas Nixon
JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT
(PLW Jul 25, Aug 1, 8 and 15, 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.: 25CV130777
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:
Petitioner: Sarah Courtney Jean Young filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: SARAH COURTNEY JEAN YOUNG to SARAH COURTNEY PEREZ
THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.
NOTICE OF HEARING: OCTOBER 3, 2025, 9:00 AM, HAYWARD HALL OF JUSTICE of the Superior Court of California, County of ALAMEDA located at 24405 AMADOR STREET, HAYWARD, CA.
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: 7/16/2025
KAREN SCHWARTZ DEPT 514
JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT (PLW Jul 25, Aug 1, 8 and 15, 2025)

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA FOR THE COUNTY OF ALAMEDA
Case No.: 25CV000039
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:
Petitioner: Qiqiang Mao filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: QIQIANG MAO to LAWRENCE MAO
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, 9:30am, Civil Division 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: 6/23/2025
Thomas Nixon
JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT (PLW Jul 18, 25, Aug 1 and 8, 2025)

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA FOR THE COUNTY OF ALAMEDA
Case No.: 25CV121360
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:
Petitioner: Mary Ann Medina filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: MARY ANN ANDRADE AKA MARY ANN MEDINA to MARY ANN MEDINA
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: 9/5/2025, 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: 5/6/2025
Thomas J Nixon
JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT (PLW Jul 4, 11, 18 and 25, 2025)

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA FOR THE COUNTY OF ALAMEDA
Case No.: 25CV130943
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:
Petitioner: Sandhya Marie Thekkekk filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: SANDHYA MARIE THEKKEK to SANDHYA MARIE SAUNDERS
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: September 19, 2025, 9:00 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: July 10,2025
Thomas Nixon
JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT (PLW Jul 25, Aug 1, 8 and 15, 2025)

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA FOR THE COUNTY OF ALAMEDA COUNTY
Case No.: 25CV130913
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:
Petitioner: Lynn Mary Martin filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: LYNN MARY MARTIN to LYNN MARY CARSTENSEN
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: 10/31/2025, 9:00 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: 7/16/25
Thomas J. Nixon
JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT (PLW Jul 25, Aug 1, 8 and 15, 2025)

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA FOR THE COUNTY OF ALAMEDA
Case No.: 25CV131128
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:
Petitioner: Gregory Ross Carlson filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: GREGORY ROSS CARLSON to ROSS CARLSON
THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.
NOTICE OF HEARING: October 3, 2025, 9:00 AM, Hayward Hall of Justice, Dept. 514, of the Superior Court of California, County of Alameda, located at 24405 Amador Street, Hayward, California, 94544.
A copy of this ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: PLEASANTON WEEKLY
Date: July 17, 2025
Thomas J. Nixon
JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT (PLW Jul 25, Aug 1, 8 and 15, 2025)

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA FOR THE COUNTY OF ALAMEDA COUNTY
Case No.: 25CV128058
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:
Petitioner: JOSHUA TIYOWEH BARRERA filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: JOSHUA TIYOWEH BARRERA to JOSHUA TIYOWEH KAPERNAROS
MADELINE SOPHIE BEESON to MADELINE SOPHIE KAPERNAROS
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: 10/31/25, 930am, Hayward Hall of Justice of the Superior Court of California, County of Alameda County 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: 6/30/25
HON. Jonathan Wolff
JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT (PLW Jul 25, Aug 1, 8 and 15, 2025)

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA FOR THE COUNTY OF ALAMEDA
Case No.: 25CV127608
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:
Petitioner: Shayla Loren Owen filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: SHAYLA LOREN OWEN to SHAYLA LOREN BATYAH
THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.
NOTICE OF HEARING: October 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 27, 2025
Thomas Nixon
JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT (PLW Jul 11, 18, 25 and Aug 1, 2025)

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF:
ELIZABETH ANN COBLER, AKA ELIZABETH COBLER
Case No.: 25PR1 30809
To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of ELIZABETH ANN COBLER, AKA ELIZABETH COBLER.
A Petition for Probate has been filed by: Michael T. Cobler in the Superior Court of California, County of Alameda.
The Petition for Probate requests that: Michael T. Cobler 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 August 25 2025 at 9:45 am in 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: Charles W. Volpe, Esq./Maria I. Palomares, Esq.
Berliner Cohen LLP
10 Almaden Blvd., 11th Fl.
San Jose, CA 95113
408-286-5800
(PLW Jul 25, Aug 1 and 8, 2025)

The Pleasanton Weekly is adjudicated to publish in Alameda County.

- Petition to Administer Estate - Probate Hearing
- Abandonment of Fictitious Business Name

- Partnership Withdrawal or Dissolution
- Fictitious Business Name

- Legal Summons
- Name Change

- Trustee Sale
- Notice of Bulk Sale

For assistance email LegalNotices@PleasantonWeekly.com. **The deadline is Sunday at 11:59 pm. Visit PleasantonWeekly.com/legal_notices/**

Entertainment

CONCERTS IN THE PARK Join Concerts in the Park, Friday nights at the redesigned band stand in Lions Wayside Park. 7-8:30 p.m., July 25. The CoolTones Big Band, Jazz & Swing.

HADESTOWN TEEN EDITION Join PYTC for this intriguing and beautiful folk opera which delivers a deeply resonant and defiantly hopeful theatrical experience. 7 p.m., July 25-26 and Aug.1-2; 2 p.m., July 26 and Aug. 2. Tickets \$13-\$23. Visit firehousearts.org.

MUSTANGS OF THE WEST This all-female powerhouse band brings a fresh, rootsy sound that nods to the past while blazing their own trail. 8 p.m., July 25. Tickets \$30-\$50. Visit livermorearts.org.

626 NIGHT MARKET BAY AREA This iconic Californian festival features food, merchandise, crafts, art, games, music and entertainment attractions in an epic event that appeals to all ages. July 25-27. Visit alamedacountyfair.com.

SHAKESPEARE IN THE VINEYARD SPARC Theater presents Sir John Falstaff and the Merry Wives of Windsor, a laugh-out-loud summer production set against the backdrop of Darcie Kent Vineyards. 7 p.m. July 25-27. Visit sparctheater.org.

WENTE SUMMER MUSIC SERIES This series brings a vibrant mix of tribute bands where guests enjoy a live performance, a variety of foods and favorite Wente wines. Doors open at 6 p.m. General admission \$55. July 25, When Doves Cry (Prince Tribute). Visit wentevineyards.com.

TRI-VALLEY THEATRE COMPANY'S CINDERELLA This contemporary take on the classic tale features Rodgers & Hammerstein's most beloved songs alongside an up-to-date, hilarious and romantic libretto by Tony Award nominee Douglas Carter Beane. 7 p.m., July 26. 1 p.m., July 26-27. Tickets \$55. Visit livermorearts.org.

JAZZ IN JULY This annual Livermore tradition returns to the Civic Center Library with performances

by top jazz artists, free of charge. 2 p.m., July 27: Ashley Jemison and Rhonda Sauce.

TUESDAY TUNES Join for Tuesday Tunes every Tuesday night at the Bankhead Livermore Plaza, Shea Homes Stage. 6:45-8:15 p.m., through Aug. 26.

TRIVIA NIGHT AT THE FIREHOUSE Join the Pleasanton library staff for an evening of trivia, created and hosted by librarians. The evening's trivia will focus on board games, card games, video games and anything else game related. 7-8:30 p.m., July 30. Firehouse Arts Center in Pleasanton.

ARE YOU READY FOR IT? A TAYLOR EXPERIENCE Recreating the magic of the Eras Tour in a spectacular, unforgettable show starring Traci Marie as Taylor. Her authentic costumes, mannerisms and voice embody the essence of Taylor Swift. 8 p.m., Aug. 2. Tickets \$25-\$70. Visit livermorearts.org.

THE GREAT DuBOIS: MASTERS OF VARIETY This fast-paced, high energy circus show for all ages showcases incredible feats of juggling, hula hoops, unicycle, aerial, circus stunts, contortion, magic and audience interaction all wrapped up in a blanket of comedy. 8 p.m., Aug. 9. Tickets \$25-\$70. Visit livermorearts.org.

Exhibits

A COWBOY'S POETIC CANVAS An adventurous new exhibit, Saddle, Brush, and Art: A Cowboy's Poetic Canvas is on display at the UNCLE Credit Union Art Gallery at the Bankhead Theater through July 27.

RLCC JULY EXHIBIT: JEFF MASON PHOTOGRAPHY Livermore Art Association presents this solo show at the Robert Livermore Community Center. The Old Man and his four-legged companion, Dawg, invite you on a visual journey which captures moments from their travels. July 1-31. 4444 East Ave., Livermore.

LEVEL UP AT YOUR LIBRARY EXHIBIT This group exhibit is hosted in conjunction with the City of Pleasanton's Library Summer Reading Program and highlights

the interplay of visual art and playful expression. Through Aug. 2. Firehouse Arts Center.

TRAVELING EXHIBITION AT MUSEUM ON MAIN Pleasanton's Museum on Main presents, From Earthquakes to Epidemics: How Disasters Transform California's People and Places, a temporary exhibit exploring the impact of natural and manmade disasters in California. Through Sept. 13.

Outdoor Rec

NATURE WITH LARPD RANGERS Join this Summer at beautiful parks for free games, sports, crafts and special activities for the whole family. Children must be supervised at all times. 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Aug. 1. Independence Park. Visit larpd.org.

NIGHT HIKE WITH A RANGER Experience life in the park after the sun goes down where an LARPD Ranger will lead a mile long hike into the park and discuss nocturnal animals that call Sycamore Grove home. 7:30-9:30 p.m., Aug. 2. \$10/\$11. Visit larpd.org.

RANGER PROGRAM: TARANTULAS In honor of National Tarantula Appreciation Day an LARPD Ranger will introduce these unique arachnids and their very own tarantula, Candy Corn. Face your fears, increase your knowledge, and grow to appreciate the role tarantulas play in ecosystems. 11 a.m., Aug. 3. Free registration at larpd.org.

ICE CREAM SOCIAL AT RAVENSWOOD Presented by The Ravenswood Progress League and LARPD, the Ice Cream Social at Ravenswood Historic Site includes Docent tours, live music from Cool Tones Big Band, a Magician, Ranger Booth and more. Free admission with food available for purchase. 12-4 p.m., Aug. 10.

PATTERSON RANCH TRAIL HIKE Discover new heights and views from the newest addition to the park, the Patterson Ranch Trail. An LARPD Ranger will lead a 2-mile uphill hike to the view of Patterson Ranch and discuss what wonders along the way. Bring water and sunscreen. 9 a.m., Aug. 10. Register for free at larpd.org.

Talks

GRAZING IN THE GROVE Join for a conversation about the cattle grazing pilot program that began this spring where LARPD staff and grazing experts will share how cattle help manage vegetation, support healthy ecosystems and their plans to mitigate any trail impact caused by the cows. 9-10 a.m., July 26. Register at larpd.org.

AFFORDABLE HOMEOWNERSHIP WORKSHOP Learn about the city of Livermore's Affordable Homeownership Program at the Civic Center Library, Community Rooms A & B. 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Aug. 2.

PET OF THE WEEK



EAST BAY SPCA

Enjoy Eli

This charming gentleman is the full package: playful, affectionate and endlessly friendly. Eli's gentle soul and wagging tail make fast friends with humans and canines alike wherever he goes, and his calm, loving nature makes him just as happy to curl up for a nap after playtime. At his core, Eli is a loyal companion looking for someone to share in his sunny outlook on life. Come meet this beautiful boy at East Bay SPCA in Dublin or go to eastbayspca.org.

DISC GOLF 101 FOR ALL AGES The Springtown Open Space will soon be home to Livermore's newest disc golf course. Join a representative from the Livermore Disc Golf Club to learn how to play this exciting sport. All ages welcome. 6:30-7:30., Aug. 5.

FINANCIAL FUNDAMENTALS (45+) Boost savings and investments by understanding how money works at this free presentation. 5:30-6:30 p.m., Aug. 6. Robert Livermore Community Center. Register at larpd.org.

DISCUSSION OF EAST BAY FAULTS Bay Area geologist Joyce Blueford will visit Pleasanton's Museum on Main to give a presentation on the East Bay's geological faults and their role in shaping the local landscape. 1 p.m., Aug. 9. Register at museumonmain.org.

Farmers' Markets

PLEASANTON FARMERS' MARKET The Pleasanton Farmers' Market is Saturday year round featuring vendors with seasonal fruit & vegetables, plus artisan goods. 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. W. Angela St.

LIVERMORE THURSDAY FARMERS' MARKET The Livermore Thursday Night Farmers' Market is 4-8 p.m. at Carnegie Park with over 60 vendors. Rain or shine. 2155 3rd St.

LIVERMORE SUNDAY FARMERS' MARKET Gather for music, food and fresh local and organic products directly from producers. Support small businesses and local sustainable agriculture. 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Sundays. Between J St. and L St.

Seniors

SOLE MATES WALKING GROUP This free walking group at the Pleasanton Senior Center is 8:45-10 a.m., Wednesdays.

AMERICAN STYLE MAH JONGG Join for American Style Mah Jongg at the Pleasanton Senior Center, Tuesdays/Fridays, 12:45-3:45 p.m. Drop-in fees apply.

KNITTING AT THE PLEASANTON SENIOR CENTER Refresh skills, pick up new tips, share techniques, get help or just sit and knit. 9:00-11:30 a.m., Fridays. Drop-in fees apply.

DROP-IN BRIDGE AT RLCC Join for Bridge, 1-4 p.m., Thursday and Friday afternoons. Robert Livermore Community Center, 4444 East Ave. Drop-In fee \$2.

Support

SOUPER TUESDAY Local volunteers serve warm soup to grab and go or stay inside to connect with others and learn about local resources. 11 a.m. to 12 p.m., Tuesdays. CityServe Care Center, 3311 Pacific Ave., Livermore. If interested in volunteering visit cityservecares.org.

TUESDAYS AT 2 Home goods, clothing or food distribution for all ages. 2-3 p.m. City Serve of the Tri-Valley. 3311 Pacific Ave., Livermore.

CITYSERVE RIDECARE This program provides free round-trip door-through-door transportation services for Tri-Valley older adults and 18+ individuals with disabilities to locations where they can be connected to additional service agencies, errands, medical appointments and more. Visit cityservecares.org/ridecare/.

COMMUNITY MEAL PROGRAM Open Heart Kitchen serves free meals, first come, first served, that are nutritious and freshly prepared. 12-5 p.m. weekdays, Vineyard Resource Center, 450 N. Livermore Ave, Livermore.

FAMILY CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP This free Caregiver Support Group is for families and friends who are caring for a loved one over the age of 60. 10:30-11:30 a.m., Mondays. Heritage Estates, 900 E. Stanley Blvd., Livermore.

OPEN HEART REFUGE Open Heart Refuge is a 20-bed overnight shelter in Livermore for adults who are in crisis or experiencing homelessness, operating seven days a week from 6 p.m. to 8 a.m. and includes both a hot dinner and hot breakfast. For more information, visit openheartkitchen.org/refuge.

Employment

Certified Genetool, Inc. needs a Service Engineer in Pleasanton, CA. Master's degree in Electrical Engineering, Mechanical Engineering or related field (or foreign equivalent) required. Send resume to D. Smiley, 7074 Commerce Cir, Pleasanton, CA 94588

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If you wish to learn more about the advertising options, please visit PleasantonWeekly.com/employment_ads/.

July maintenance tips for your garden

Bee swarms, ‘bolting’ lettuce, invasive weeds and more

What to do if you have a bee swarm

Bees are very active in warm weather. There is simply so much pollen and nectar to collect. Sometimes, a bee colony may swarm. Bee swarms are a natural response to an overcrowded hive, and half or more of the colony departs to look for a new nesting cavity.

If you see a swarm, don’t panic. As in any other time when working around bees, remain calm, move gently, and give them their space. Bees generally swarm when they are looking for a new home. Swarming bees are loaded with food and are not interested in stinging people.

Contact Alameda County Beekeepers Association to have swarms removed. A volunteer will arrange for safe and free relocation. To report honey bee swarms, call (510) 898-6696 or visit alameda bees.org.

Don’t ignore bitter zucchini

Zucchini is part of the cucurbit family, and wild varieties produce the bitter-tasting chemical “cucurbitacin” to deter wildlife from



COURTESY GETTY IMAGES

A view of flying honey bees in a swarm.

eating them. Cultivated varieties have been bred for low levels of cucurbitacins, though mild bitterness can sometimes develop due to environmental factors like heat or stress.

If you encounter a super bitter zucchini, don’t eat it, and pull out the plant. Extreme bitterness is likely due to seeds from an accidental cross with a wild cucurbit. Plants grown from those seeds may contain high levels of cucurbitacin, which can make people very sick.

Avoid overwatering succulents

Succulents store water in their leaves, stems or roots, making them naturally drought-tolerant. The key to healthy succulents? Avoid overwatering. While underwatered succulents can usually recover, overwatering often leads to fatal root rot.

For success, plant in well-draining soil and let it mostly dry out between waterings. Water more frequently during active growing seasons and reduce watering during

dormancy. Remember: It’s better to err on the dry side.

Watch for ‘bolting’ lettuce

In garden terms, bolting means sending up a flower stalk: This is generally undesirable unless you plan to save seeds. Seed packets say lettuce matures in 60–80 days, but the timing also depends on the weather.

In warm weather, lettuce matures and bolts much faster. In cool temperatures, seedlings grow more slowly but will still mature and bolt eventually. If the center of the lettuce starts to push upwards, that’s a clue that it’s starting to bolt. Another clue is if you tear a leaf and see milky sap instead of clear juices. Harvest as soon as you notice, before the leaves become unpleasantly bitter.

Be persistent in removing bindweed

Have you seen a pretty, morning glory-like flower on a vine that winds through any plant within reach? Field bindweed is one of the most challenging weeds to control because its roots can reach depths

of 20 feet or more, and it readily regrows from root fragments as short as 2 inches.

The only chance of controlling this invasive weed is to stay right on top of it and remove it as soon as you see any of it peeking up out of the ground. Every time it starts growing above ground and photosynthesizing, it stores energy in its roots. This allows it to put out new shoots. It produces many seeds which remain viable for years. Making things even worse, it’s drought-tolerant.

Chemicals aren’t needed if you’re persistent in removing new growth to prevent seed production and limit the plant’s ability to store new energy in the roots.

— UC Master Gardeners of Santa Clara County



COURTESY GETTY IMAGES

Field bindweed, a deep-rooted weed, is tough to control.

HOME SALES

This week’s data represents homes sold during May 5-9 for Pleasanton, Livermore and Dublin, and June 23-27 for San Ramon.

Pleasanton

- 5331 Brookside Court** Chanana Family Trust to H. & M. Shah for \$1,170,000
- 6884 Calle Altamira** K. Mellachervu to A. & J. Thomas for \$2,100,000
- 5234 Crestline Way** M. Wakerling to L. Deforest for \$875,000
- 5070 Crestwood Court** Kester Trust to R. & R. Sharma for \$1,490,000
- 4649 Denker Drive** W. Chang to Kumar & Priya Family Trust for \$1,525,000
- 4281 Denker Drive** Wh1 LLC to Z. Chu for \$1,410,000
- 7761 Driftwood Way** Stapleton Living Trust to K. & D. Wagner for \$1,375,000
- 2356 Fairfield Court** Gallagher Family Trust to M. & O. Arslan for \$1,650,000
- 4378 Fairlands Drive** Neil Family Trust to V. & K. Laws for \$1,100,000
- 3118 Montpelier Court** Gaisser Family Trust to H. Zhang for \$1,630,000
- 4067 Nevis Street** K. Mishler to S. & S. Murugesan for \$1,530,000
- 4073 Nice Court** H. & S. Baek to D. & P. Rao for \$1,059,000
- 4265 Pleasanton Avenue #B** Daggett Family Trust to J. Ikeuchi for \$639,000

Livermore

- 1077 Aberdeen Avenue** Ag & Mj 2004 Trust to Delima Living Trust for \$710,000
- 2375 Chateau Way** D. Green to T. & K. Madsen for \$1,165,000
- 1134 Dana Circle** Johnston Family Trust to M. & B. Moody for \$1,600,000
- 5032 Erica Way** K. Kaur to M. & D. Vasser for \$1,457,500

- 1608 Fluorite Court** Andrade Living Trust to Point Green Home Solutions LLC for \$1,784,000
- 507 North M Street** B. Castro to A. & L. Croissant for \$1,050,000
- 957 Marylin Avenue** G. Ferreri to A. & J. Luna for \$850,000
- 576 North O Street** J. Kaur to Jkai Investments LLC for \$800,000
- 5968 Ocean Hills Way** E. & C. Schwartz to B. Battaglini for \$1,250,000
- 1621 Park Street** Zlatev-Zlateva Family Trust to Kandi Living Trust for \$975,000
- 4106 Pinon Way** M. Chin to Etheridge-Shetsin Family Trust for \$900,000
- 5727 Running Hills Avenue** B. & D. Deluna to N. & R. Ramos for \$1,200,000
- 118 Selby Lane #10** S. Sanches to T. Kovalenko for \$750,000
- 700 Tranquility Circle #2** L. Gerasimov to M. & K. Macabitas for \$1,060,000
- 476 Windermere Circle** Davies Family Trust to A. & A. Rekhi for \$1,625,000
- 3969 Yale Way** D. Gragg to A. & K. Parsons for \$1,025,000
- 4840 Zinnia Court** Meconi Trust to A. & N. Gudla for \$1,080,000

Dublin

- 2632 Alliston Loop** Phani Trust to R. & K. Mukkamala for \$1,670,500
- 6802 Amador Valley Boulevard** O. Arslan to N. & P. Vijayaraghavan for \$1,230,000
- 8610 Beverly Lane** C. Wang to B. Kaur for \$1,415,000
- 4825 Boxwood Way #115** P. & A. Bansal to K. & P. Dosajh for \$1,050,000
- 6313 Bray Court** R. Bhatia to R. & J. Sroa for \$1,113,500
- 3465 Dublin Boulevard #344** D. Hur to D. Jeans for \$690,000
- 7310 Hansen Drive** M. Huang to Hardikar Family Trust for \$1,590,000

- 3250 Madden Way** Lahiri Living Trust to R. & V. Mudigonda for \$2,355,000
- 3240 Maguire Way #402** R. Lotfy to D. & E. Ou for \$710,000
- 7572 Mindy Mae Lane** C. & H. Chu to J. & L. Guan for \$2,419,000
- 7257 Newcastle Lane** S. Baek to N. & R. Shelansky for \$1,380,500

San Ramon

- 2252 Britannia Drive** Chan Family Trust to D. & R. Sharma for \$2,770,000
- 9603 Brockton Avenue** S. & C. Jensen to X. & Y. Zhu for \$1,355,000
- 492 Calico Court** Pugay Trust to Harikumar & Ammu Trust for \$3,025,000
- 3295 Casa Grande Drive** C. & S. Fraccarolli to A. & R. Sharma for \$1,514,000
- 1173 South Chanterella Drive** S. & A. Meka to V. & P. Kasat for \$2,285,000
- 2979 Cheyenne Avenue** Jensen Family Trust to M. & N. Vuyyuru for \$1,416,000

- 9597 Davona Drive** Armando Living Trust to Pratt Living Trust for \$1,400,000
- 2644 Durango Lane** Knight Living Trust to F. & A. Jain for \$1,450,000
- 2032 Feathermint Drive** Chin Family Trust to Bhat Living Trust for \$2,440,000
- 507 Haiti Court** Hoffman Living Trust to A. & P. Gupta for \$1,900,000
- 411 Joree Lane** Y. & J. Dai to H. & J. Koning for \$1,145,000
- 3094 Lakemont Drive #3** K. & R. Benbow to M. & A. Sepehrdad for \$825,000
- 113 Laredo Court** D. Mckeown to Lee Family Trust for \$1,370,000
- 300 South Overlook Drive** A. Palacio to A. Bowe for \$780,000
- 2551 Toltec Circle** Williams Family Trust to Y. & T. Chu for \$1,821,000
- 84 Tumbleweed Court** M. & C. Steigerwald to J. & A. Chappell for \$1,895,000
- 104 Victory Circle** G. Blanco to X. Li for \$1,880,000

Source: California REsource

SALES AT A GLANCE

Pleasanton (May 5-9)

Total sales reported: 13
Lowest sale reported: \$639,000
Highest sale reported: \$2,100,000
Average sales reported: \$1,350,230

Livermore (May 5-9)

Total sales reported: 17
Lowest sale reported: \$710,000
Highest sale reported: \$1,784,000
Average sales reported: \$1,134,205

Dublin (May 5-9)

Total sales reported: 11
Lowest sale reported: \$690,000
Highest sale reported: \$2,419,000
Average sales reported: \$1,420,318

San Ramon (June 23-27)

Total sales reported: 17
Lowest sale reported: \$780,000
Highest sale reported: \$3,025,000
Average sales reported: \$1,514,000

Source: California REsource



19 Years of *Gratitude*

We could measure success in offices opened, milestones reached, or sales closed — but that was never the point. What drives us is deeper: the trust of our clients, the spirit of our agents, and the shared belief that real estate can be a force for good.

As we celebrate 19 years, we're filled with gratitude — for those who've believed in us, partnered with us, and have grown with us. And we're just getting started.

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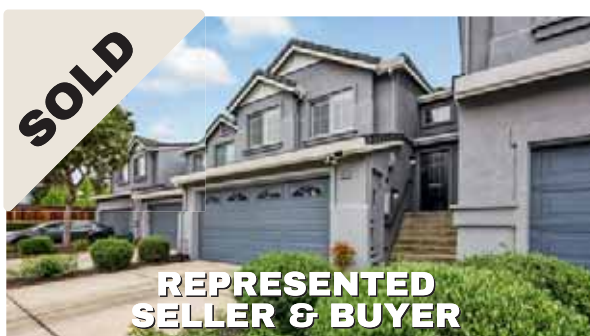
1038 DIVISION ST, PLEASANTON
\$2,199,000



484 EL PINTADO RD, DANVILLE
\$1,999,888



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



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