

Pleasanton Weekly



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NONPROFIT LOCAL NEWS FOR THE TRI-VALLEY

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TRI-VALLEY YEAR IN REVIEW 2025

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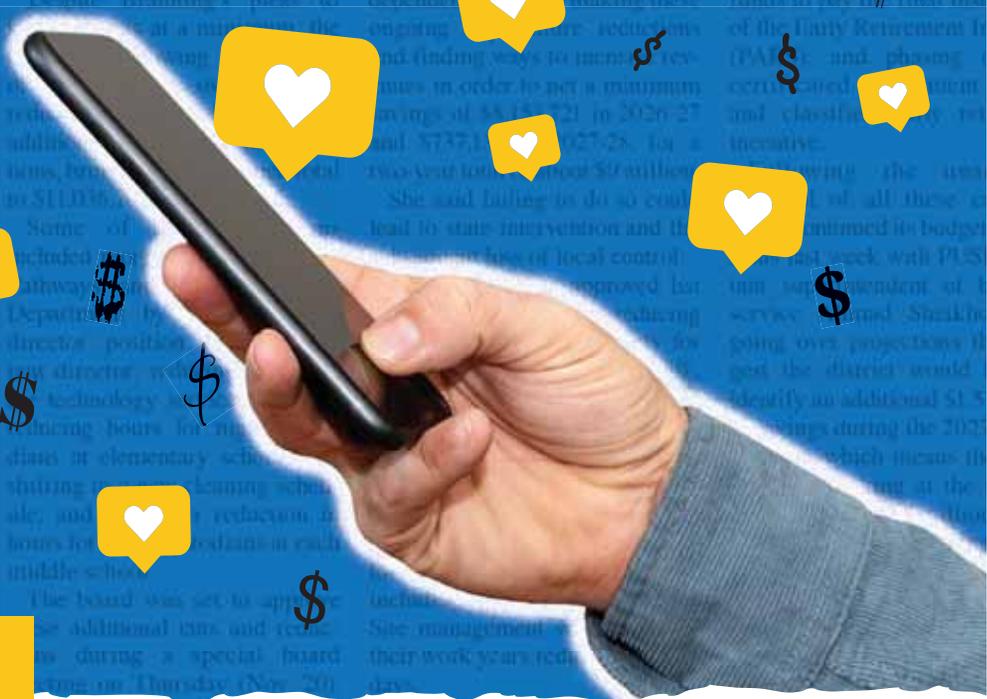
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Reflections on the Importance of Embarcadero Media Foundation

Steve Glazer

STATE SENATOR (RETIRED)



“Local journalism has always been the heartbeat of democracy. The Tri-Valley communities are fortunate

to have local, independent, fact-based reporting from the Pleasanton Weekly. Supporting local nonprofit news organizations like Embarcadero Media Foundation is investing in truth, transparency and the public’s right to know, all of which are imperative to strong communities and a healthy democracy.”

Deborah McKeehan

PARTNER, MCKEEHAN ASSOCIATES



“Local newspapers are essential to connecting communities and keeping residents informed, yet many have disappeared

over the years. I was thrilled when Embarcadero Publishing arrived to cover local issues – from government decisions to high school sports and community events – filling a gap that had existed for decades. Supporting this vital journalism through financial donations ensures that our community stays connected and informed.”

John Sensiba

MANAGING PARTNER, SENSIBA



“I have deep appreciation for those who serve in public office, but accountability is essential

for a healthy society, and that accountability depends on a strong local press. Local journalism ensures transparency, keeps citizens informed, and holds government decisions in the public eye. Without it, government can operate unchecked, putting our community at risk.”



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WHAT A WEEK



BY JEREMY WALSH

Grab bag to end it

With too much going on this past week, I find myself without a solid, singular subject for my final column in print of 2025.

Grab bag it is!

December is just as busy a month at home as at work. My wife's birthday is at the beginning and my son's is toward the end — and four of his friends' parties were in between. That's on top of the usual overload that comes with the holiday season, which also has Christmas, New Year's and two family birthdays in early January.

Just keeping our fingers crossed for cooperative weather for Francis' party this weekend.

Workwise I've been entrenched since Thanksgiving preparing our Year in Review package on top of my normal workload — which unfortunately due to a deluge of breaking news hitting after-hours has also involved more story-writing than I really should be doing. What can I say? I'm a news-hound who just can't ignore an important lead when I catch a whiff.

Shoutout to the Dublin and Livermore school districts for their respective news dumps last Friday afternoon and Friday night. Of course I say that tongue-in-cheek because they were actually very responsive to me on the weekend and I will never complain about having a good story ... but cut a guy a break.

Compelled not to sit on the news over the weekend, I churned out what I think are the definitive articles on DUSD Superintendent Chris Funk's retirement and LVJUSD's tentative agreement with the teachers union after months of tense negotiations in private and in the court of public opinion.

Those stories just had to get out to our readers as quickly as possible — and we deserved the traction that came with those breaking headlines.

Headline-writing is the primary place where I get to flex my journalism muscles these days, other than picking up the odd story to supplement our coverage or putting out this here column.

After making sure each article is fair, accurate and contextual, ethically and legally, coming up with the right headline is the most important job of an editor. Cierra or I are often just tweaking the writer's concept to make it pop more, but sometimes I'll fully form it on my own.

Looking back through every Pleasanton Weekly paper from 2025, I was reminded that I published some pretty darn clever headlines.

Here are a few of my favorites:

“Balancing the books” (about the impact on the library of Pleasanton's city budget woes), “Mussel memory” (my column on my history covering the invasive bivalves), “50 years filled with laughter” (Balloon Platoon's big anniversary) and “Put the supe back on” (PUSD turning to retiree Interim Superintendent Maurice Ghysels for the full job).

A fun exercise, if you'll forgive the inside baseball, was our team coming up with the final headlines for our Downtown Series cover stories — the trick there being the online versions would start “Downtown Series:” and the print versions had the series logo right there, so we wanted to avoid using the actual word “downtown” as redundant. Thus, “Making it on Main Street” in Pleasanton's case.

I'm proud of how our whole editorial group came together to produce an impressive series, highlighting the downtowns (or lack thereof) in Livermore, Pleasanton, Blackhawk, San Ramon, Sunol, Alamo, Dublin and Danville through interviews, research and photographs.

Our reporters took my vision for our 2025 editorial project and ran with it, even if it meant I had to put “Danville” on the cover of the Pleasanton Weekly. As important as each singular cover story was, our journalists also opened doors to ongoing coverage of those downtowns — like the two stories in today's paper.

There's no doubt what our team project will be in 2026. It's election time, baby! Fun times...

Election stuff has already started for us, to be fair.

Some big news hit last month with Tri-Valley Congressman Eric Swalwell (D-Livermore) launching a campaign for governor of California.

And that's about all I'll say about that, lest my column be considered the type of forum that could get us in hot water for opining about anything candidate-related because as a journalism nonprofit, we cannot partake in potential “political engagement” that applies to published opinion-writing. (Our regular news coverage is unaffected by these IRS rules, as are paid advertisements.)

Same goes for the news a couple weeks ago that Pamela Price is running for Alameda County district attorney in 2026 to win the right to complete the term through 2028 that she was originally elected to in 2022 before voters removed her from office in 2024.

Nope, not touching that campaign with a 10-foot pole.

Elections and beyond, 2026 will be an exciting year for news coverage in the Tri-Valley. Let's get going. ■

About the Cover

Look back through the Tri-Valley's top storylines from 2025 in our Year in Review package, inside Pages 14-24. Cover design by Paul Llewellyn.

Vol. XXVI, Number 47



Wishing you a
Merry Christmas
and Happy Holidays!



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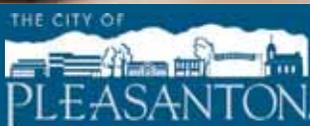


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Whether it's something material, or a heartfelt hope, what is your holiday wish this year?



Jyothi Sampat

Valley Humane Society volunteer

My biggest holiday wish, and one I carry all year long, is for every rescue/shelter animal to find their perfect fur-ever home. Take sweet Erin Brockovich from Valley Humane Society, for example, who I'm holding. She's looking for a person (or two or three!) to give her endless cuddles, belly rubs and all the happiness in the world.



Marie Trexler

Assistant golf professional

I hope that all Americans can come together to protect and preserve our democracy before the imminent AI apocalypse.



Ethan Rodricks

Lab technician

I'm hoping for another NBA championship win for the Warriors. It would be so great for Steph to win one more championship before he retires. He needs it, and I feel he really deserves it.



Cierra Bailey

Editor

My hope this holiday season is for good health for my family and friends. I'm also looking forward to making new memories with my daughter Samira in 2026.



Amy Millard

Delightfully retired from tech

I would like to see the \$4 trillion tax cuts for billionaires and large corporations repealed so that future generations will be able to enjoy a great economy, and life can be more affordable for them. You know, the American Dream.

—Compiled by Nancy and Jeff Lewis

Have a Streetwise question? Email editor@PleasantonWeekly.com

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DIGEST

See you Jan. 2!

This will be the Pleasanton Weekly's final print edition for 2025. Following past practice, we have opted for a larger special issue this week that includes our Year in Review, a recap of all the stories we have covered this year.

Following a short break from the newspaper production during the week of Christmas, the print paper will be back as usual on Jan. 2. However, news coverage won't stop in the interim as our journalists will continue to write articles online and weekday Express emails will continue, except for Dec. 25 and Jan. 1.

Visit PleasantonWeekly.com to see all of the big stories, and we will see you again in print in 2026. Happy holidays!

Tree pickups

The city of Pleasanton recently shared multiple options for residents to dispose of their Christmas trees following the holiday season.

Members of the public can reach out to the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 941 who will pick up trees from residents on Jan. 3, starting at 8 a.m., as part of their recycling fundraiser. Reservations are required, and the trees cannot have any decorations.

Residents can also place their trees at the curb on their regular Pleasanton Garbage Service collection day between Jan. 5 and Jan. 9. Those trees must be cut to 4 feet or less and be clean of any decorations. Trees with flocking or tinsel cannot be recycled and residents will have to call PGS to find out about other disposal options.

After the holidays, residents can also add their trees to their green waste containers, but the trees must, again, be the proper size and free of any decorations.

Take Us Along display

The Pleasanton Weekly's popular Take Us Along feature, which encourages readers to pose with their newspaper on vacation, is being highlighted in a new display at the Museum on Main as part of its current exhibition, "Greetings from Everywhere."

The exhibit is set to run through Jan. 3 in downtown Pleasanton. The Weekly donated the bulk of its Take Us Along physical archive to the museum in recent years before an office consolidation.

Holiday posada

The Pleasanton-Tulancingo Sister City Association, an organization founded in 1983 to forge an international bond between Pleasanton and Tulancingo, Mexico, will be hosting its free holiday posada this Sunday (Dec. 21) from 7-9 p.m. at the Veterans Memorial Building. ■

Commission signals initial support for Hidden Canyon development project

Staff present draft environmental report, ask residents to review and submit comments by Jan. 20

By Christian Trujano

The Pleasanton Planning Commission offered initial support last week for the Hidden Canyon Residences and Preserve Project, a major redevelopment proposal for an unincorporated area of Alameda County just south of Dublin Canyon Road.

During the Dec. 10 commission meeting, members of the dais were asked to review the draft environmental impact report and provide feedback on the several hundreds of pages that outlines what the proposed housing and land development project would look like and what impact it would have on the surrounding environment.

According to staff, the project

aims to construct 28 new detached single-family residential units and roadways on approximately 23.89 acres of an approximately 130.98-acre project site in the northwest area of Pleasanton. The site currently sits just outside of the city's limits and one of the entitlements for moving the project forward in the future will include the annexation of the area — as well as the existing Oak Hills Congregation Church Site — into the city's boundaries.

However, a prominent point of discussion during the meeting was the numerous roadway improvements that the project is proposing.

"The improvements that are being made here, they're going to

make the situation significantly better than it is now," Planning Commission Chair Ken Morgan said during the meeting. "It may not be perfect but from what I can tell so far ... that roadway is going to be significantly safer than it is now."

According to Derek Farmer, assistant director of community and economic Development, those improvements include a new traffic signal at Canyon Meadows Drive and the widening of — along with other improvements to — Dublin Canyon Road that staff and the commission agreed would increase safety and visibility for vehicles, bicyclists and pedestrians.

"It's a very busy road during traffic hours and it does flood,"

Commissioner Stephanie Wedge said. "I think this will slow the traffic down, and I think it's a huge improvement to the area."

According to Jeff Schroeder, a representative from applicant developer Ponderosa Homes, the Hidden Canyon project has been in the city's General Plan for over 40 years, even though the site lies in an unincorporated area of the county and still needs to get annexed into the city.

Due to complications with annexation and a lengthy review and refinement process — as well as the COVID pandemic — the project has taken a long time to get

See **CANYON** on Page 8

Funk retiring from DUSD

Trustees to talk in new year about supe hiring plan

By Jeremy Walsh

The longest-serving schools superintendent in the Tri-Valley is stepping down in June, with Chris Funk announcing his upcoming retirement to the Dublin Unified School District community on Friday.

A career educator with 14 years of superintendent experience overall, Funk was hired to right the ship in Dublin starting in the 2021-22 school year after leading the East Side Union High School District in San Jose. His tenure at DUSD was highlighted by the opening of the long-anticipated Emerald High School on the east side of town, but also marked by difficult budget discussions in the past couple of years like many districts around the Bay Area.

"In Dublin Unified, I've witnessed firsthand the power of a community committed to both excellence and equity," Funk said in his weekly newsletter Friday, revealing his plan to retire at the end of this academic year.

"Together, we've opened new schools, expanded opportunities, strengthened Professional Learning Communities, and deepened our collective focus on belonging and

See **FUNK** on Page 10



COURTESY SHOPCONSCIOUSLY

Mpho Hansjee, owner of ShopConsciously on Main Street in Pleasanton, said the self-serve model helps her keep the store open more days out of the week and for longer hours.

Downtown's first self-serve store

ShopConsciously sells ethically sourced, artisanal gifts

By Christian Trujano

Walking down Main Street in downtown Pleasanton, it's hard to miss ShopConsciously, an artisanal gift store that sells ethically sourced products such as handbags made from recycled bottles by women in Kenya, Africa.

Nestled between the Shokoor Art Gallery and Middle 8 bar, the unique gift shop first opened in 2024 by owner Mpho Hansjee who said she wanted to find out a way to promote the work of

her nonprofit, Women Enabled Enterprises, which focuses on helping low-income, women of color artisans in African countries build up their own small businesses.

"We are trying to help them become self-sufficient," Hansjee told the Weekly. "We're helping them build their business ... but also we're helping them find their client base here."

But since she opened the brick-and-mortar downtown, Hansjee said running a store while managing everything else in her life

has proven to be more difficult than what she imagined, which is why she recently made the decision to convert her store into the city's first entirely self-service gift shop.

Hansjee and her husband moved from South Africa to the United States in the early 2010s, settling in San Jose for her husband's job. Originally, the couple did not intend to stay for longer than two years, but one thing led to another and the two decided

See **STORE** on Page 10

Other complaints alleged unprofessional conduct by principal

New records claim he yelled at staff, bought lottery ticket for student's birthday; Fey continues to deny wrongdoing

BY CHRISTIAN TRUJANO

Newly released documents from investigations into now-former Amador Valley High School principal Jonathan Fey reveal more allegations against the disgraced Pleasanton administrator.

In addition to allegedly grooming and seeking sexual relationships with recent-former students, claims made by former colleagues contended that Fey also created a toxic workplace environment, that he bought a student a lottery ticket for their 18th birthday and that he violated his paid administrative leave directives by participating as a judge in a color guard competition.

The complaints and reports into Fey's two-plus years at the high school were included in the latest batch of documents given to the Pleasanton Weekly by the Pleasanton Unified School District on Nov. 24 as part of the newspaper's year-long public records request into matters related to Fey after he was placed on leave without public explanation in August 2024.

According to the newly unearthed records, Amador culinary teacher Julia Ford filed a complaint against Fey on Dec. 12, 2022 because she was concerned about Fey giving a lottery scratcher to a student as a gift for their 18th birthday two months earlier. According to the documents, she thought it was odd that Fey had done such a thing when it was his first time ever interacting with the student.

The lottery ticket incident was unrelated to the two Amador alumni who Fey allegedly made contact with on Grindr, a dating and hookup app primarily for men looking for same-sex relations.

A married father who lives in Pleasanton with his wife, Fey continues to deny he interacted with the two young men on Grindr and

says he never even downloaded the app onto his phone. That investigation, in which PUSD sustained the key allegations, was central to the legal dispute that ultimately culminated to Fey agreeing to resign in a settlement this October that also included a \$254,000 payout to the ex-administrator.

In documents obtained by the Weekly, the culinary instructor spoke with an investigator and told them Fey had never spoken to that student before giving them the lottery ticket and that, to the student's knowledge, no other student had received any similar birthday gifts from Fey. The student also told investigators that he did not know how Fey knew it was his birthday.

In that same batch of documents, PUSD school board Trustee Laurie Walker, who worked as an administrative assistant at the high school, said she found the act of a principal buying any gifts for students — especially a lottery ticket — to be “very bizarre behavior.”

According to the interview between Ford and the investigator, Fey told the student the gift was part of a tradition from his previous school that he wanted to bring to Amador. However, Fey's former colleague told the investigator that between the time of the student's birthday in October and when she filed her complaint in December, she didn't see or hear of any other student receiving gifts from Fey for their 18th birthday.

Still, as part of the investigation, Fey maintained that he simply provided the student with the lottery ticket as a birthday gesture for front office teacher assistants, which was a new practice he began implementing in October of that year, his first at Amador, but immediately halted following the investigation.

In regard to how he found out it

was the student's birthday, Fey said in an October 2024 interview with investigators that he ran a search and created a list of all the teachers assistants birthdays and that his intent was to reward each one with a lottery ticket when they turned 18 — the student in question just so happened to be the first student who received the gift.

“I never gave students birthday gifts after that,” Fey told an investigator.

Despite redactions in the PUSD-provided copy, the Weekly has learned there was another part of that December 2022 investigation of note: claims of engaging in an act of grooming by providing gifts to a student, which were ultimately not substantiated by the investigator.

This second part of the lottery ticket investigation was brought to light in an unredacted version of the same report obtained separately by the Weekly.

According to the unredacted report, Fey was accused of grooming the student he had given the lottery ticket to because it came across like Fey was trying to build a connection or trust.

However, according to the report, evidence showed that Fey did not groom the former student and that Fey's interactions — apart from the lottery ticket gift — with the student were very limited, according to the investigator.

“During the interview with (the former student), it was confirmed that there was no concern raised by (the student) regarding specialized treatment or receiving of a birthday card with lottery tickets,” the report stated. “(The student) communicated the only person that shared concerns about the gift was Ms. Julia Ford.”

Fey's legal team previously told the Weekly the district intentionally

redacted parts of the investigation report showing that Fey did not groom that student in connection to the lottery ticket incident.

In a YouTube video addressing the Pleasanton community on Nov. 6, after his scandal became public and generated national headlines, Fey denied all of the allegations made against him. He pointed out that not only did he call the Pleasanton Police Department to investigate the allegations, but the district never followed through with their plans to subpoena his medical records or phone records.

According to Fey, the district wanted to look at his Apple ID records to see if he had ever downloaded Grindr.

“I told them, go right ahead — I knew I had never installed any dating app on any phone,” Fey said in the YouTube video. “They never followed through because they feared the truth.”

As for the medical records, Fey said the district wanted to see if he had ever taken a sexually transmitted disease test but the district also did not request those records.

PUSD safety and communications coordinator Susanne Frey told the Weekly the district was not able to provide comments specifically on why the district did not follow through with the subpoenas.

Apart from the allegations involving students, documents also suggest that Fey had a negative professional history with several staff members at Amador Valley.

A complaint form submitted by Sheryl Pacheco, the head school counselor at Amador, on Aug. 20, 2024 details several instances between February 2023 and May 2024 of Fey allegedly yelling at her.

In one instance where Fey was speaking to a group of administrators and counselors, the counselor

claimed that when she wanted Fey to clarify a point while they were all discussing class-size caps, he yelled at her claiming he could make certain decisions, “Because I am the principal, that's why.”

In other documents, Stacey Sklar, an English and social studies teacher, said that while she never saw that side of Fey, there were “a lot of people (who) have trouble with Mr. Fey because he is a screamer.”

The school counselor's complaint outlines other times where Fey seemed confrontational to her and how, for more than a month, Fey seemed to refuse to meet with her to discuss the course selection process for the 2024-25 school year. Another claim stated that Fey got in her face during a meeting, but the details of that incident were redacted.

According to an investigative report letter of finding into Pacheco's claims, several of the allegations she made against Fey were substantiated, including that Fey yelled at her twice, got in her face and avoided meeting with her. The shouting claims were supported by witnesses who saw the alleged outbursts in person.

In the investigative report, there were two other allegations that were unsubstantiated but the nature and details of those claims were redacted.

“The allegations of verbal outburst and aggressive language were substantiated by multiple witnesses in the case of three out of the four specific incidents ... and interviews revealed a pattern of this behavior that was corroborated by several witnesses,” the report stated.

In one of the interviews with former vice principal Athena Duran, the administrator described Fey's tone as intense and that Fey yelling at other administrators “became the norm.”

See **PRINCIPAL** on Page 7

Fratello's Ristorante to shutter this month

Livermore restaurant faces increasing rent, product costs among financial challenges

BY JUDE STRZEMP

A family-owned eatery downtown Livermore is set to close shop at the end of this month amid the rising cost of operations.

Known for its variety of Italian-inspired antipasto and pastas, Fratello's Ristorante first welcomed diners to its current location during November of 2023, co-owner Omar Robles told Livermore Vine.

Despite having a consistent customer base, the financial pressure of rising rent and product costs have

overwhelmed revenue, said Robles, who steers the restaurant with co-owner and chef Edwin Martinez.

“It's not that we want to leave,” Robles said. “I love Livermore and I wish I could stay, but I just can't.”

“I can't even think straight — it's a lot of doubts, a lot of feelings,” Robles said of the restaurant's forthcoming closure. “This is really hard.”

Prior to moving to 2124 Railroad Ave., the business was located on Kitty Hawk Road in Livermore.

However, Robles decided to close the restaurant's former location due

to a rent increase.

“Here we go again,” Robles added, as he now faces the same issue downtown.

Given the annual rent bumps of about \$280, the rent and PG&E bill currently total approximately \$10,000 monthly, according to Robles. In hopes of seeing the restaurant make a financial turnaround, Robles has helped the business stay afloat with personal savings.

However, the turnaround hasn't happened yet and the economy is



CIERRA BAILEY

Fratello's Ristorante in downtown Livermore is set to close permanently following service on Dec. 31.

tough right now, he explained.

“I cannot afford to stay open any more,” he added. “We ran out of savings and we cannot get any loans, so there's no other option.”

Fratello's last day of operation is

set for Dec. 31.

As Robles looks toward the future, he plans to seek out other employment with the goal of saving money to own a restaurant again in the future. ■

LVA reports 'strong' financial health after year of deficit-spending

Record-setting revenue in 2024-25

By JUDE STRZEMP

Despite operating in the red last fiscal year, Livermore Valley Arts is doing well financially with an operating reserve of over \$1.3 million, according to CEO Chris Carter and the nonprofit organization's annual report to the City Council.

Responsible for programming at familiar locations such as the Bankhead Theater and Bothwell Arts Center, LVA earned a total, unaudited revenue of \$3,961,465 during the 2024-25 fiscal year, Carter told Livermore councilmembers at their Dec. 8 regular meeting as part of the organization's annual update to the community.

The record-setting revenue can be attributed to strong ticket sales across programming by Bankhead Presents, he added.

Meanwhile, LVA saw a "significant drop" in charitable donations beginning this past February — a trend visible in arts organizations across the country, Carter said.

To make up for the dip, LVA

launched a \$1 million matching gift campaign this year, which organization officials expect to exceed its goal.

On the flip side, unaudited expenditures last fiscal year totaled \$4,313,115, a figure composed of programming, administrative and fundraising costs.

Looking toward the future, he estimates that the Bankhead will require approximately \$2 million to \$3 million worth of upgrades and maintenance over the next 10 to 15 years, efforts LVA officials are currently planning for.

"Our overall financial health remains strong," Carter said. "I don't think we're going to be going anywhere anytime soon."

In addition to LVA's financial outcome of the 2024-25 fiscal year, Carter also presented the reach of LVA throughout the period. The organization has supported 222 programs at the Bankhead Theater, eight cultural celebrations in the Bankhead Plaza as well as over 200

See **LVA** on Page 10

PRINCIPAL

Continued from Page 6

Akhil Raman, another vice principal, also said during his interview that aside from Fey's hands-off leadership approach, Fey was also perceived by some employees as "kind of a dictator".

"Toward the end of last year, staff didn't feel united with admin, many didn't know who (Fey) was or what he was about, he'd only talk with department chairs," Raman told the investigator.

The documents further provided other testimonies of Fey making employees feel like they were walking on eggshells and created a "tough working environment".

"If (Fey) disagreed with you, he'd raise his voice and get agitated (and he) could get inappropriate and unprofessional," former Amador vice principal Melanie Harris said in her interview with the investigator. "I was yelled at by him ... this is my third interview in the fall of the school year talking about Jon Fey."

"The substantiated complaints about discourteous interactions and interpersonal conflict with fellow AVHS employees, including uncontrolled yelling, inappropriately aggressive body language and demeanor, and avoidance of time-sensitive meetings, reveal a pattern of behavior ill-suited to an effective and efficient workplace, which the district finds unacceptable," Fey's notice of intent to dismiss stated.

In his interview with the

investigator, Fey did not recall yelling or raising his voice in those past instances or any other negative behavior toward his staff listed in the other incidents. In regard to concerns about things like his temper or tone, Fey described himself as insistent when it comes to certain topics and that he did not intend to come off as disrespectful.

In another newly released record, the district alleged Fey violated his administrative leave directive in February 2025. During his administrative leave of absence, Fey was ordered to — among many other things — stay away from any school-sponsored events, according to a notice of intent to dismiss and placement on immediate unpaid suspension document issued by PUSD that Fey challenged before their settlement.

However, on Feb. 15, 2025, the document states that Fey violated that directive by serving as a judge at the California Color Guard Circuit competition at James Logan High School in Union City. According to the notice, the district "sponsored the participation of the Amador varsity and junior varsity winter guards at this event" and because Fey was a judge, he was in close proximity to Amador students and staff.

That violation, among the other allegations and complaints made against him, were ultimately used as reasoning for Fey's dismissal from Amador, unpaid suspension and legal disputes before the two sides agreed to part ways. ■



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LVJUSD, teachers union reach tentative agreement

Deal forged in marathon mediation day includes two raises during 2026, more health benefits

By JEREMY WALSH

Livermore school district and teachers union negotiators agreed to terms that would end their impasse late Friday night, with a deal centered around two salary increases during the 2026 calendar year and additional health and welfare benefits.

The tentative agreement, which still needs to be ratified by Livermore Education Association membership and the district's Board of Education in the coming weeks, calms months of contention at the bargaining table and in the court of public opinion — with a 14-hour-plus mediation session a week before winter break doing the trick.

“The support of parents and students speaking at Board meetings, community members writing letters, and LEA educators wearing blue with signs on the sidewalks in

front of their school sites is what made this agreement possible,” LEA said in a statement posted on their website and Facebook page.

“Your efforts and voice made a difference, and because of that, we are extremely grateful to you. When we put our voices together, changes are made! Thank you,” the union added.

Steven Drouin, board president for the Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District, told Livermore Vine in a statement, “This negotiated settlement represents a meaningful step in the right direction. Our teachers and specialists dedicate themselves every day to supporting our students, and I am pleased that these negotiations were resolved prioritizing them.”

“We are proud of the progress made during our mediation session and look forward to continuing

our work together,” LVJUSD Superintendent Torie Gibson added. “As we move ahead, we will need to carefully review how every dollar is allocated and make thoughtful adjustments to ensure the long-term fiscal sustainability of our district, while continuing to prioritize and support our staff and students.”

Announced just after 11 p.m. Friday (Dec. 12), the tentative agreement includes increased compensation and benefits for the 2025-26 and 2026-27 academic years.

For the current fiscal year, the deal calls for a 4% increase to the LEA salary schedules effective Jan. 1 and a \$1,600 increase toward members' health and welfare benefits retroactive to July 1, 2025.

For next school year, there would be a 2% increase to the teacher salary schedule and a \$3,000 increase toward health and welfare benefits — both effective July 1, 2026.

“The tentative agreement also increases salary and extends the work year for some special education positions,” Gibson said in a community message released late Friday night.

Full terms of the agreement have not yet been disclosed publicly. The union ratification vote would typically occur first, with the package brought to the five-member school board afterward — likely all done in January, given the calendar constraints with the winter holiday hiatus.

District officials confirmed to Livermore Vine on Saturday that the cost of the agreement would not threaten the budget solvency for 2025-26 but the district would need to make approximately \$14.7 million in ongoing cuts for the 2026-27 budget and another \$1.5 million for the 2027-28 budget. Those discussions could start soon, with a March deadline for layoff notification

requirements, and the projections are dependent on state funding levels for those future years.

LEA President Aimee Thompson did not respond to requests for comment on the deal Saturday.

“You did an amazing job of speaking up, picketing in front of your school, leafletting to parents, writing letters to the Board, and wearing blue,” LEA said in a Facebook post directed at educators Saturday afternoon.

“Your collective efforts made a positive impact on our entire community. Do not lose sight that you stood for what is right for yourselves, your families, and your students and that made a difference!” the union added. “Thank you to each and every one of you that shared your story, your worries, and your time on the behalf of LEA. We are absolutely stronger together!”

In addition to teachers, LEA also represents counselors, nurses, psychologists, social workers and speech pathologists within LVJUSD.

The union and its supporters have been vocally advocating for higher wages and criticizing Gibson's administration since the beginning of the school year, turning out to board meetings, rallying at school sites and blitzing social media with posts to spur engagement among its members and the Livermore community.

LVJUSD leaders held that any compensation increases needed to be fair and sustainable, especially for a district that faced deficit-spending and enacted millions in reductions, including layoffs, to pull its budget back toward fiscal solvency last school year. In education bargaining, pay raises given to a teachers union are typically then offered to other employee groups.

After unfruitful negotiation sessions between the two sides, LEA

declared an impasse on Oct. 2 — setting up mediation by a state-appointed representative to try to move things along. That facilitated meeting was subsequently scheduled for Dec. 12.

The union and district bargaining teams sat down with the mediator for the first time starting at 9 a.m. Friday, and they came out of the room around 11 p.m. with a deal.

“Both our District and LEA teams worked tirelessly with the State-appointed mediator throughout the day and evening to reach this agreement,” Gibson said Friday night. “We are grateful to the members of both teams who remained focused on the goal of resolving these negotiations. Their commitment, patience, and unwavering focus on the shared goal of a resolved agreement is truly commendable.”

While Livermore was the first Tri-Valley district to face an impasse this year, it isn't the only one so far. The Dublin Teachers Association declared a standstill last month, and the unions and districts in Pleasanton and the San Ramon Valley have been locked in contentious negotiations.

A number of educator unions across the state have reached impasse or rallied members aggressively this school year as part of the California Teachers Association's “We Can't Wait” campaign to coordinate advocacy for better compensation, putting pressure on locally and sending signals to Sacramento.

Two days before the Livermore mediation session, teachers in the West Contra Costa Unified School District agreed to a deal to end their strike that started the prior week — their walkout had been one of the first and largest escalations to labor unrest of the 2025-26 school year statewide. ■



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CANYON

Continued from Page 5

to this point, Schroeder and city community and economic development director Ellen Clark explained.

But now, with the draft EIR done, the city's next steps will be to continue to receive comments from the public and take all of that feedback, as well as the feedback from the commission, to draft and complete the final EIR.

That final report will look to answer questions from the public and also include details surrounding impacts the project would have on things like air quality, energy, greenhouse gas emissions, noise, public services, recreation and utilities and service systems, just to name a few.

The draft impact review found that there would be no impact or less than significant impact before mitigation on those environmental

topics. The only notable impact, which would still be less than significant in terms of impact, is transportation — specifically, impacts related to vehicle miles traveled.

However, the commission didn't spend as much time reviewing the details of the hundreds of pages in the impact report and instead focused on what a lot of members of the public spoke on during public comment: road improvements.

Members of the commission noted how the project, despite one of the main focuses being the nearly 30 houses, would benefit the greater community. Many public commenters voiced their support for the project mostly because of the traffic mitigation improvements that would come along with the project.

The commission also noted the other benefits that would come from the project, which includes

the dedication of about 104 acres of open space and numerous park improvements including: a new public trailhead dedicated to the East Bay Regional Park District, a new trail connecting to the Pleasanton Ridge EBRPD trails system, new restrooms and parking, and an equestrian staging area.

But with the holiday season coming up, the commission directed staff to give the public 60 days, rather than the required 45 days, to review the hundreds of pages in the impact report and provide comments to the city and the project applicant. Residents will have until Jan. 20 to submit their comments.

Following this comment period, the Planning Commission and the City Council will vote on accepting the Final EIR and any relevant entitlements. According to staff, these future actions are expected to take place in the first quarter of 2026. ■

Gulf Gas Station signage saga concludes

City Council votes 3-2 to uphold modifications made to canopy, monument sign at prominent corner

BY CHRISTIAN TRUJANO

The contentious debate over new signage at the Gulf Gas Station on the corner of First Street and Vineyard Avenue in Pleasanton came to a close last month after the City Council approved the latest modifications made to the station's canopy and monument sign.

Councilmember Julie Testa, who had previously raised concerns about the canopy and monument signage, pulled the item from the council's Nov. 18 consent calendar for further discussion and moved to deny the modifications that the gas station's applicant made since the council last discussed the item in May.

Testa's main issue with the signage since the topic first came up was that it did not fall within the guidelines set by the city's General Plan and the applicant did not follow the appropriate process before installing the signage.

"The recent Gulf Station is inconsistent with the requirements and standards set forth in our General Plan," Testa said. "According to our sign design guidance, canopy designs should be compatible with the scale, color palette and context. The current (Gulf Gas Station) design does not meet that standard."

However, her motion failed to get enough votes — all but Vice Mayor Jeff Nibert disagreed. A separate motion was made to uphold the city zoning administrator's approval of the signage and the modifications that have been made over the past year, passing 3-2.

Councilmember Matt Gaidos said the applicant did everything that was asked of them by making the modifications based on feedback from staff and the council.

"If we want, as a council, to be more specific about what kind of signs we want and provide more guidance to the staff and to applicants to enforce some sort of objective standards, we can do that," Gaidos said during the Nov. 18 council meeting. "But at this point I'm not willing to, essentially, make them tear down what they've built."

The months-long saga initially began back in March when Testa pulled the sign design review application for the Gulf Gas Station from the council's consent calendar for further discussion. The application was in regards to the installation of the new monument, wall, canopy, and pump signage as part of its rebranding from Shell to Gulf.

Due to a lack of time, the council pushed the discussion to April 15 where Testa and other council members voiced their concerns over the overall aesthetic of the new signs and about the process for how those changes were installed prior to the council meeting. The council asked staff for more information and met

again in May where they approved majority of the new signage, except for the canopy.

Testa said then — and reiterated Nov. 18 — that she was surprised to see the signage changes had been made before the council ever had a chance to weigh in on the matter.

"The signage was installed before the required permits were issued ... (and) before the City Council's review," Testa said.

Senior city planner Eric Luchini previously explained to the council that the sign design review was completed in January after over a month of meetings following an initially incomplete application. City approval, with an effective date of March 5, was issued once the application was complete.

The permits were held until March 5 so the building division could

complete its plan check; however, Luchini said the applicant installed the new signage without permits sometime between late February and early March, before the March 5 effective date.

Unaware of the council's March 4 request to review the signage approval, the building division then issued the sign design review permits, after which the applicant installed the monument signage with those new permits.

The council's final approval marks the end of the signage debate; however, the project applicant will likely submit for another permit to add some lighting to a palm tree located on the gas station property.

Staff said that the permit will follow the typical building process and go through the appropriate channels. ■

TAKE US ALONG



Happy holidays from us! The Pleasanton Weekly team celebrated the season (and all that we accomplished in 2025) during our holiday party Dec. 11 at Earl Anthony's Dublin Bowl. Thank you for all of your support throughout the year, and here's to even more engaging and impactful community journalism in 2026. From our family to yours, happy holidays!

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.



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FUNK

Continued from Page 5

student achievement,” he said. “These accomplishments reflect not one individual’s effort, but the shared vision and dedication of a remarkable team of professionals and a supportive community.”

“It has been an honor to serve as your superintendent and to contribute to the future of this extraordinary district,” Funk added.

The DUSD Board of Trustees expects to discuss the superintendent search process at its first meeting of the new year, Board President Kristin Speck told the Pleasanton Weekly on Saturday morning.

“I am grateful for Chris Funk’s leadership over the past five years as our superintendent,” Speck said.

“When he first arrived, Chris tackled the challenges of a large funding gap for our capital projects, ensuring we had enough funds for Emerald and also for our older west side elementary schools,” she continued. “He was a steady leader during our post-COVID recovery efforts and supported the district as the student growth leveled off after 10 years of dramatic growth.”

“Thanks to his advocacy, teacher compensation was significantly increased, making Dublin a place where educators are truly valued and now earn the highest salaries in the region,” Speck said. “We appreciate Chris’s commitment to our



CHUCK DECKERT

Dublin Unified School District Superintendent Chris Funk addresses the audience at the ribbon-cutting for Emerald High School in June 2024.

students, staff, and community.”

Arriving at a disruptive time in Dublin, Funk represented the chance at stability following a run of four superintendents in just over two years. He will leave as the most-tenured superintendent in the Tri-Valley, with every other peer just in their second year with their district.

Funk told the Weekly on Saturday that he believes the district was “extremely successful” in achieving his top goals from when he started in July 2021, which he sees as “embedded in the daily work of DUSD”.

“(1) Identify the district’s top five bond priorities and align remaining bond funds to those priorities using an equity-based framework,” Funk said. “(2) Establish high-level indicators that track three-to-five-year trends, along with actionable sub-indicators that enable schools to make ongoing instructional and support adjustments; and (3) Strengthen systems and practices that build a more equitable school community for all students.”

Asked to name a top accomplishment during his five years in Dublin, Funk cited the district’s

new gem on Central Parkway that welcomed its first students last school year.

“We delivered on a longstanding commitment by opening Emerald High School and stabilizing a bond program that had lost direction and community trust,” he said.

Retirement has been on Funk’s mind for months.

He said he informed Speck in August that he was planning to step down after the current school year, with the full board being told during closed session at last week’s meeting and district leadership, staff and the community at-large getting the news in his weekly update email on Friday.

“This decision comes with deep gratitude for the countless people who have made this work so meaningful: our students, families, staff, and community partners,” Funk wrote to the community.

That Dec. 9 board meeting included a nearly hour-long discussion on the district’s first midyear budget check-in — which had a much different tone after a financial error that Funk said he took “full responsibility” for was discovered and rectified, to the tune of \$3.6 million. The mistake, which occurred because of overstated “vacancy savings” figures that weren’t caught before 2025-26 budget adoption, is contributing to DUSD now needing to target \$8.4 million in cuts for its 2026-27 budget.

The board session last week also saw turnout from Dublin Teachers Association members and supporters amid the union’s impasse with the district in labor negotiations.

Funk’s decision means the trustees will add the future of the superintendent’s office as a parallel agenda priority alongside ongoing budget deliberations and union bargaining in the new year.

“At our initial board meeting in January, we will start talking about how to proceed with the superintendent search. The board will review all available options then and decide on the process we will follow,” said Speck, who was selected to serve a second straight year as president in a 3-2 vote Dec. 9.

“As I look ahead to my final semester,” Funk told the community, “my focus will remain on ensuring a smooth leadership transition and continuing the work of building an educational system where every student thrives.”

As for what lies ahead personally and professionally after June, Funk said he foresees a permanent retirement from full-time employment after more than 30 years in education.

“I am fully retiring from work in public education and will not be pursuing any future leadership roles. I may consider limited consulting or mentoring opportunities,” he told the Weekly. ■

STORE

Continued from Page 5

they wanted to stay.

Hansjee then began working in retail, specifically at the corporate Ross office in Dublin, helping major companies grow their retail category so that customers would buy more of their products. She said that while she enjoyed her work, in the back of her mind she always wanted to do something to give back to her home country.

When her mom died in 2015, Hansjee said she realized life was too short not to pursue her dreams. At the time, she realized she loved helping companies become more successful and liked figuring out customer buying trends.

In the following years, she worked on marrying those two passions through the formation of Women

Enabled Enterprises. According to Hansjee, the nonprofit’s goal is to provide low-income women of color artisans in African countries with the resources necessary to launch or grow their businesses.

But around 2021, Hansjee said she still felt like she could do more to help these up-and-coming artisans. She said she realized a lot of her clients simply did not have enough of a customer base to survive, which is when she first got the idea to open a shop where she could resell her clients’ products.

At first, she began to resell these products online but eventually, she tried opening her first shop in Portland, Oregon. When that did not work out, she did not quit.

She eventually landed in downtown Pleasanton, at 310 Main St., Suite E, in October 2024. Since then, she said the shop has been fairly

successful in opening up a whole new world of African artisans to the Pleasanton community.

“I loved meeting everybody, everybody loved meeting me, they loved hearing the story about all the products so that location grew and we were just excited to be here,” Hansjee said regarding the Pleasanton store.

Through ShopConsciously’s model, Hansjee said her clients now have access to a whole new market of customers and Pleasanton residents and downtown patrons are able to support African women on the other side of the world who truly care about their crafts.

However, running her own store hasn’t been easy. Hansjee said that before the gift store converted into its current self service model, she was really only able to open the store during the weekend and

during limited, and at times, sporadic hours.

She said the store was not at a place financially where she could afford to hire employees to run the store when she wasn’t free, even though she heard nonstop from residents who wished the store would be open.

So after opening a hybrid, self-run kiosk at the San Jose Mineta International Airport this past August, she decided to try and bring that same self-service model to the Pleasanton location, which officially took effect on Nov. 14.

Now with the shop being open more often throughout the week, Hansjee said that she hopes more people can experience and check out the unique products that are offered at the gift store, without her having to physically be there.

“(Pleasanton is) so tight-knit and

close and family-oriented that for a lot of the people, they’re just excited that I get to do a little bit more in life ... and I can pick up my kids from school and take them to their activities, while I’m still able to give the community what they want, which is meaningful gift giving,” Hansjee said.

As for the lack of human interaction, she said she wasn’t too worried about losing that connection with customers because there are videos and pictures of the artisans that tell their stories and how buying their product will go directly to supporting their small business.

“What we’ve done is we’ve made sure that we don’t lose the story because a human isn’t there,” Hansjee said. “Those pieces that have a story attached to it, we make sure that there is visual storytelling around that product.” ■

LVA

Continued from Page 7

classes, camps, events and programs at the Bothwell Arts Center and throughout Livermore.

According to Carter, an estimated 90,000 people engaged with LVA programs during the past fiscal year.

LVA has also served the community by providing \$10,000 in grants to resident companies for their work in arts education as well as offering free tickets to nonprofit partners

that provide essential services such as Open Heart Kitchen, Tri-Valley Haven, CityServe of the Tri-Valley, Goodness Village and Vet Tix.

Following Carter’s presentation, approximately 10 representatives from local organizations expressed their support and gratitude for LVA’s work.

Among those to express their support was Jonathan Kleid, president of Livermore Valley Opera’s Board of Directors, the largest resident company at the Bankhead.

“When our company celebrates its 35th anniversary next year, it would be near-impossible to have attained this milestone without the Bankhead as our home,” Kleid said.

Tri-Valley Haven Executive Director Christine Dillman also expressed her appreciation to LVA, particularly for the organization’s donation of event tickets.

“Many of our shelter residents are rebuilding their lives after escaping domestic violence, sexual assault or homelessness,” Dillman said. “The

opportunity to step into a beautiful community space, to feel welcomed, inspired and included is profoundly healing.”

During a later comment period, Tri-Valley activist Alan Marling expressed his disapproval of select LVA leaders — saying LVA board members Jean King and Joan Seppala, publisher of The Independent, have delayed affordable housing downtown for years to the detriment of Livermore workers.

Marling then requested that the

city defund LVA and either shut down the Bankhead Theater or issue a statement of condemnation against King and Seppala.

In line with the majority of the commenters, Livermore Mayor John Marchand expressed his fondness for the Bankhead.

“Preaching to the choir here, we all understand the importance of the arts,” Marchand said. “I look forward to many, many decades and many generations of the arts here in Livermore.” ■

Community Pulse

POLICE BULLETIN

Police investigate as vandals cut down trees at Dublin High School

Dublin High School officials arrived in the morning to discover eight trees on campus had been chopped down in an act of vandalism, principal Maureen Byrne wrote in a message to the campus community last week.

As seen in video surveillance provided to Dublin Police Services, two vandals used tools including an electric chainsaw to cut down multiple trees on Dec. 11 between 12:15 a.m. and 1:15 a.m., DPS Capt. Miguel Campos told the Weekly.

The culprits entered campus through the unsecured south side gate and left heading east on Brighton Drive, toward Amador Valley Boulevard, Campos added.

"It is difficult to fully express the level of dismay we feel," Byrne said. "We are shocked, saddened and deeply frustrated."

"We are struggling to understand why anyone would do something like this," she added.

Just hours before the discovery, DHS hosted its fifth annual tree lighting the evening before.

"This made it especially frustrating to come to campus this morning to a senseless act of vandalism," Byrne said.

"These trees were part of our campus environment, planted and cared for to create a welcoming, vibrant place for our students to learn and grow," she added. "To see them destroyed so deliberately has



COURTESY DUSD

Dublin High School officials report finding eight felled trees on campus on the morning of Dec. 11.

been heartbreaking."

The vandalism is under investigation with DPS currently working several leads, according to Campos. Police encourage anyone with information about the incident or home video surveillance in the area to call the department at 925-833-6670.

— Jude Strzemp

Teens arrested in Tri-Valley vehicle thefts

Police in Livermore busted a vehicle theft operation allegedly being carried out by two teenagers, the department said last week.

Between Oct. 17 and 19, several reports of stolen Infiniti cars came into the Livermore Police Department, as well as the report of multiple attempted vehicle thefts.

Investigators focused in on a possible suspect vehicle registered in the city of Richmond and identified two teenage boys aged 16 and 17 as suspects, one from Richmond and one from nearby San Pablo. Detectives allege that one of the juveniles was connected to several stolen cars in Danville. Arrest warrants were issued for both boys.

On Dec. 4, the Contra Costa County Sheriff's SWAT team served a search warrant at the residence of the boy in Richmond and allegedly found a carbon-fiber Infiniti hood attached to the suspect's vehicle which was allegedly connected to a stolen car in Livermore. The juvenile was arrested by Danville police, according to the department.

Investigators also went to the second boy's residence in San Pablo, arresting him at his house.

The Richmond boy was booked into county juvenile hall on suspicion of vehicle theft, conspiracy and attempted vehicle theft.

— Bay City News Service

DPS gets grant to combat underage drinking

Six Bay Area police departments have been selected to receive funding from the state Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control to help boost enforcement against underage drinking and alcohol-related harm within their communities.

The police departments of San Pablo, Lodi, San Mateo, Dublin, San Jose and Petaluma are six of 27 law enforcement agencies in California that will get up to \$30,000 each.

The funding comes from a \$3 million grant awarded to the state Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control, or ABC, from the California Office of Traffic Safety and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

The funding will go toward ABC programs such as its Decoy Shoulder Tap Program, which involves directing minors under the supervision of law enforcement to ask drinking-age adults to buy them alcohol.

The funding will also support fake identification enforcement, compliance checks related to alcohol delivery services, and maximum enforcement during the holidays. The grant will run through the end of September 2026.

— Bay City News Service

Criminal case dropped against ex-police officer

An Alameda County judge last Friday agreed to dismiss a case against former San Leandro police officer Jason Fletcher, who was charged with voluntary manslaughter in the fatal shooting of Steven Taylor five years ago.

"It is an absolute truth that the loss of Steven Taylor's life is a tragedy," District Attorney Ursula Jones Dickson said in a statement.

"However, this office cannot prove beyond a reasonable doubt that a crime was committed."

On April 18, 2020, Fletcher responded to reports of a shoplifter at a Walmart in San Leandro. Fletcher had been inside the store for less than 15 seconds when he drew his firearm on Steven Taylor, who was holding a baseball bat.

Fletcher unsuccessfully attempted to forcibly remove the bat from Taylor's grasp, then held Taylor at gunpoint from about 15 feet away until Taylor allegedly took several steps forward and Fletcher fatally shot him in the chest.

Fletcher was charged with voluntary manslaughter five months later by then-DA Nancy O'Malley — it was the first time O'Malley's office had ever charged a law enforcement officer over a fatal shooting on duty.

But years of delays ensued with subsequent DA Pamela Price being recused from the case over alleged bias.

After Price's recall from office, the case returned to the Alameda County District Attorney's Office in September under Jones Dickson, who was appointed earlier this year.

Jones Dickson's office announced earlier in the week that she would be requesting for the case to be dropped, saying in a statement that a decision was reached based "purely on a meticulous, objective evaluation of the evidence and the applicable law".

During a review of the case, the DA's Office discovered that exculpatory evidence was allegedly withheld from the defense by prosecutors under Price's administration. Previous prosecutors had consulted two expert witnesses who concluded that Fletcher acted in self-defense.

"The expert statements and reports are profoundly exculpatory and were withheld from the defense," Jones Dickson said. "Furthermore, the defense's own expert reached the same conclusion: justified homicide."

Additionally, the judge overseeing the preliminary hearing in 2021 found that the evidence in the case was weak, and he did not believe a jury would find Fletcher guilty beyond a reasonable doubt, according to the District Attorney's Office.

While Jones Dickson acknowledged the pain caused to Taylor's family, she stood by her decision to drop the case.

"It is my solemn obligation to evaluate the facts before us now," she said. "Those facts, including the statements from civilian witnesses, expert opinions, and the ethical failures that tainted this case, are simply not sufficient to prove the charges beyond a reasonable doubt."

The San Leandro Police Officers'

Association union expressed gratitude that the case was dropped.

"From the beginning, the Association has maintained confidence that the facts and the law would ultimately vindicate Officer Fletcher," the union said in a statement after Friday's dismissal of the case. "Today's decision brings long-awaited closure and relief to those who have stood by him during these challenging years."

— Alise Maripuu, Bay City News

School campus secured

Pine Valley Middle School in San Ramon was placed on a partial lockdown on Monday afternoon after a student reported being threatened by a non-student, according to authorities.

Police and school officials lifted the "secure" status by the end of the school day after determining there was no immediate threat, authorities said that afternoon. The incident remains under investigation.

"We are grateful for our amazing staff who remained calm and kept students reassured throughout the incident. We also appreciate the swift response and support from our community partners at the San Ramon Police Department," principal Sandy Kontilis said in an email to the Pine Valley community.

Kontilis explained that Pine Valley was put on "secure" campus status "out of an abundance of caution ... because we received information about a possible, unspecified threat against the school" — secure status is not a full lockdown, but limits movement at the school while continuing normal operations, according to the principal.

San Ramon police later confirmed the nature of the reported threat, saying, "Both uniformed and plain clothes officers responded to the school after a student reported being threatened by a non-student."

"Through the preliminary investigation, it was determined there was no imminent threat at the end of the school day, therefore the secure lockdown was lifted and students were released," SRPD stated in a Facebook post. "The situation is continuing to be thoroughly investigated. We appreciate the cooperation of school staff, students, and families as we worked to ensure everyone's safety."

Kontilis added, "We understand that situations like this can be unsettling for students and families. While it is never our intention to cause concern, the safety of our students and staff is always our highest priority, and decisions like these are made carefully and with great consideration. In these situations, our immediate focus is on ensuring student safety while working to provide accurate information to families as quickly as possible." ■

— Jeremy Walsh

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Neil Daniel Sweeney

October 29, 1926 – November 30, 2025
Pleasanton, California

With profound love we share the passing of our father, Cornelius “Neil” Daniel Sweeney, native of San Francisco. Born October 29, 1926 to John and Margaret Sweeney, Neil is survived by his wife of 74 years, Beverly; 8 children Joseph (Theresa), Patrick (Michele), Anne (David), Matthew (Patricia), Elizabeth (Hugh), Timothy (Debbie), Frances (Jennifer), and Neil Daniel, Jr. (Jennifer); 21 grandchildren and 21 great grandchildren.

Born Cornelius Daniel Sweeney, it wasn't too long before Cornelius dropped his cumbersome name and became simply “Neil.” His Irish mother wasn't pleased, but she was the only one. Neil was the fourth son in a family of five boys, Timothy McSweeney (Marge), Joe McSweeney (Rita), Robert McSweeney (Margaret), and Bernard Sweeney (Gerian).

Raised in the Noe Valley/Outer Mission District of San Francisco, Neil attended St. Paul's Parish elementary and middle schools. His Irish immigrant parents raised their sons to become independent and self-sufficient. Neil attended Sacred Heart High School, and he took cable cars to get there, jumping on and off at will. When he was old enough, he went to work for his cousin's grocery store as a delivery driver. When they asked him if he knew how to drive, he promptly said, “Yes”. Of course, he didn't know how to drive, but he learned on the job, driving up and down the steep cobblestone streets of San Francisco. In addition to a solid academic record, Neil was Student Body President and played football, his true joy.

After high school, Neil received a football scholarship to Saint Mary's College in Moraga, CA, a place which would go on to become a lifelong passion. His first awareness of the College was when he was 10 years old, 1936, when he saved a \$10 Christmas gift to attend a summer sports camp. This was WWII, and most able-bodied men were in the service. Modestly, Dad always gave us the caveat that he made the team as a “give me” but it was more likely due to his own great determination and grit that he earned the scholarship. When he turned 18, he enlisted in the Navy, and was trained as a radioman. After the war, he returned to graduate from Saint Mary's in 1950, now with the advantage of having the GI bill.

In his senior year at Saint Mary's, he met Beverly Geraldine Teves of Hilo, Hawaii, who was literally the answer to his prayers. He often recalled praying in the Saint Mary's chapel every morning that God would bless him with a good life partner. Neil and Beverly, who was studying at Dominican College in San Rafael, met at a mixer in De La Salle Hall at Saint Mary's. It didn't take them long to realize that they belonged together even though Beverly had always thought she should be a nun! They were married in Beverly's parish, Saint Joseph's of Hilo, Hawaii on August 4, 1951.



Knowing from an early age he wanted to coach football and teach, Neil took a position at Amador High School in Pleasanton after being persuaded by his best friend at Saint Mary's, Tom Hart, to join him. He taught History, English, and even Home Ec., at Amador, where he also coached football, his true passion. It was 1951, and Pleasanton was still very rural, with less than 2500 people. Most of the valley consisted of dairies, ranches and farms. In fact, Neil and his brother Bernard began raising beef cattle on land they leased. There were many other ventures and side investments in real estate, but Neil raised cattle for most of his adult life. His children enjoyed many adventures at their Sunol, then Livermore, ranch property. One never knew when Neil would add a few more animals to his stock. Calves, goats, chickens, rabbits and sheep made their way as pets through the Pleasanton Angela Street home. We even had a few retired racehorses to ride in the early days, Nifty and Penny, as well as two very stubborn donkeys, Josephine and Napoleon.

Neil's career blossomed, and he became an administrator at Amador first as dean of students, then vice principal, and principal. He went on to develop and serve as Foothill High School's first principal in 1973, and then took various positions for the Pleasanton district, retiring as Deputy Superintendent in 1986. Too young to fully retire, Neil worked for the North Coast Section for the next five years, organizing athletic conference championships. A lifelong learner, Neil had many hobbies, including managing his rental properties, writing stories about his life, racquetball, swimming, and hiking. He especially loved getting out to

hike the Pleasanton ridge. If he found a good swimming spot, this was probably his favorite thing to do; no matter how chilly the water he would jump right in, even without a swimsuit! A firm believer in education and lifting up others, Neil was a lifelong contributor to his parish, St. Augustine's, and to Saint Mary's College, where he served in many roles with the Alumni Board, as well as being a generous donor to numerous foundations and charities.

Neil's greatest passion was for his marriage and his family. Having just celebrated their 74th anniversary this past August, Neil and Beverly lived a life of genuine love and faith in each other and in their Catholic religion. Neil never missed mass, and even in recent years he watched it online. When we were kids, no matter where we were, Mom and Dad found out where the local Catholic service was being held and took us to mass. It could be on a camping trip in the mountains somewhere or in Hawaii at the beach, but we'd be there. Neil was not one to preach or judge. A man of strength and humility, his favorite prayer was the peace prayer of St. Francis, and Neil lived it, leading by example. Even the day before he died, he spoke of “always having a strong faith, making mistakes and getting back on the bicycle, and continuing on.” Neil always stayed positive and grateful for his blessings.

His memory is a blessing, and his life is a legacy. He instilled in us a great faith, a sense of justice, and respect for all, as well as the importance of family and having fun. Picnics, reunions, backyard luaus and Sweeney Family Christmas celebrations were opportunities for the family to be together. Attending graduations, baptisms, weddings and as many school sporting competitions and presentations as possible became Neil and Bev's greatest joy, and another show of support. It is difficult to capture here the depth of significance of Neil's impact on hundreds of individuals, from students to colleagues to his large Irish-Portuguese clan, or his inimitable faith and goodwill. Today we raise a toast to his legacy – Slainte! Ain't life grand!

The family invites you to the vigil for Neil's passing on January 13 at 6 p.m. at Graham Hitch Mortuary, and the mass of Christian Burial on Wednesday, January 14, 10 a.m., at St. Augustine's Church in Pleasanton. Condolences may be sent to the Sweeney Family, c/o Graham Hitch Mortuary, 4167 First Street, Pleasanton, CA 94566. In lieu of flowers, the family welcomes donations to the Neil and Beverly Sweeney Family Endowed Scholarship at Saint Mary's College, to continue Neil's commitment to education for future Gaels: stmarys-ca.edu/SweeneyEndowment or by check to Sweeney Family Scholarship, Advancement Office, Saint Mary's College, 1928 St. Mary's Road, PMB 4300, Moraga, CA 94575.

PAID OBITUARY

TRI-VALLEY YEAR IN REVIEW 2025

COMPILED BY JEREMY WALSH

2025 was a banner year for the Tri-Valley.

The Pleasanton Weekly, Livermore Vine and DanvilleSanRamon.com were there to cover the local people and issues that generated national headlines and the national news that spurred local action.

After 13 months of fighting for public records, we were finally able to tell the story of why Amador Valley High School's principal was removed from the campus last year, revealing sordid allegations (which he vigorously disputes) that became fodder for coverage across the country.

A local congressman is making hay in the California governor race. A Dublin sportswriter was inducted into the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame. Pleasanton mourned the loss of an International Drag Racing Hall of Fame

member. Perhaps Foothill's most accomplished athlete alumnus was celebrated for his San Francisco Giants' career — although a current Falcon swimmer, who just shattered an age group record at the U.S. Open, could have something to say about that unofficial title in a few years. The world's fastest supercomputer was unveiled (and then put to work) at the lab. And with its signature varietal selection and other moves, the Livermore Valley wine industry is leveraging Cabernet Franc as the face of its global identity.

National political discourse also compelled some (but certainly not all) residents here to rally shouting "Hands Off!" and "No Kings", to protest loudly against ICE reopening the scandal-ridden former federal women's prison in Dublin as an immigration detention center, and to support a



CHUCK DECKERT

Foothill High School swimmer Luka Mijatovic is making a name for himself in the pool at the local, state and national levels. (This picture was also our photographer's pick for his best of the year.)

Livermore family ripped apart by a father's unexpected deportation.

But what truly captured Tri-Valley readers' interest the most — and filled our pages in print and online — were the local stories closest to home day in and day out.

Business openings and business closings. Coverage of crimes, convictions and crashes. Development debates. Tough budget discussions for cities and schools, including some union unrest.

Lawsuits and layoffs. Executive shakeups in the public and private sectors. The ups and the downs for nonprofits. Concerts, art exhibitions, plays, new books and a county fair without horse-racing. Oh, and a certain newspaper commemorating 25 years.

Our editorial team project, the Downtown Series, examined the commercial and communal hearts of each Tri-Valley city and town through interviews, research and

images all year long.

Let's look through our top storylines and photographs from 2025. We've also brought back two special features in our Tri-Valley Year in Review section: A list of our Top 25 stories from 2025 according to PleasantonWeekly.com data, and our editorial team's personal picks for their own favorite story and their own best story of 2025.

Enjoy! ■

JANUARY

- With the plug pulled on Golden State Racing after a lackluster fall slate at the Alameda County Fairgrounds, optimism remains that horse racing will return for the summer fair in Pleasanton.

- Thomas Rossberg is the new police chief in Danville.

- All Party City stores in the U.S. are closing permanently soon, with the Pleasanton location joining its peers nationwide in winding down operations.

- Former Alameda County judge and longtime Pleasanton community member Ron Hyde dies from COVID-19. He was 81.

- Foothill High School student Daniel Hernández Alvarado is killed in a car crash on Del Valle Road. He was 17.

- Iconic Barone's Restaurant in downtown Pleasanton will soon be gone for good after the City Council unanimously approved the design plans to redevelop the area into new housing and commercial space.

- After some back and forth, the Pleasanton council eventually compromises on how the city will develop its two-year budget by approving two related items — a budget development plan and a Budget Advisory Committee (BAC).

- Tracy Avelar is sworn in as the new police chief in Pleasanton.

- The world's fastest supercom-



COURTESY LLNL

The world's fastest supercomputer El Capitan — capable of 2.79 quintillion calculations per second at peak performance — is dedicated to national security, particularly research on the nuclear stockpile, at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory.

puter, El Capitan, located at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, receives a warm welcome from National Nuclear Security Administration officials and industry partners at a grand dedication ceremony.

- Los Vaqueros Reservoir Joint Powers Authority, which oversees the proposed reservoir expansion, votes to dissolve itself — meaning agencies like Zone 7 will have to look elsewhere for places to store more water in the future.

- Months after a weeks-long outage spurred by a ransomware attack last summer, Dublin-based Patelco Credit Union is continuing to face aftershocks from the incident in the form of multiple lawsuits in federal court, one of

which could go to trial in 2027.

- The Kohl's department store that has been a centerpiece of the Metro 580 shopping center in Pleasanton for more than two decades is set to close by April.

- Celebration of life held for Jim Walker, former city manager of Pleasanton (1980 to 1990). Walker, 85, died on Christmas Eve while in hospice care in New Mexico.

- Alameda County Board of Supervisors will have a list of 15 applicants to choose from when they take up the task of picking who should run the District Attorney's Office following the recall of Pamela Price.

- John Muir Health has more

than doubled its presence in San Ramon with a 52,000-square-foot space in the newly renovated Bishop Ranch Medical Center.

- Environmental assessment for the Valley Link rail project is released for the public to view and provide input.

- Annual Make A Difference for Pleasanton Festival is held, helping residents kick off the new year by getting their resolutions to volunteer more going on the right note.

- Tri-Valley Theatre Company presents "Rock of Ages" for a three-weekend run at the Bankhead Theater.

- Foothill High dedicates "Randy Isaacs Court" in honor of

the late former coach and teacher.

- Pleasanton Unified School District Board of Trustees unanimously approves a roughly \$85 million design-build agreement to construct the new athletic and performing arts facilities at Amador Valley High School.

- The chef who founded San Francisco's beloved Slanted Door that expanded to include a prominent location in San Ramon has died after being hospitalized over the weekend. Charles Phan was 62.

- Pleasanton City Council receives several updates regarding the city's emergency preparedness in response to the recent wildfires that have been ravaging Southern California.

- The highly anticipated new Axis Community Health integrated care facility in Livermore is officially open to patients, bringing primary medical care, dental services, behavioral health support and enrollment assistance under one roof.

- Teachers, school staff and other community members at the San Ramon Valley Unified School District gather outside a number of schools to protest more than \$26 million in budget cuts currently underway.

- Livermore Downtown Inc. Executive Director Ruby Lopez-Villarreal is stepping down. Livermore native Kara Klotchman is later hired away from Martinez to lead LDI.

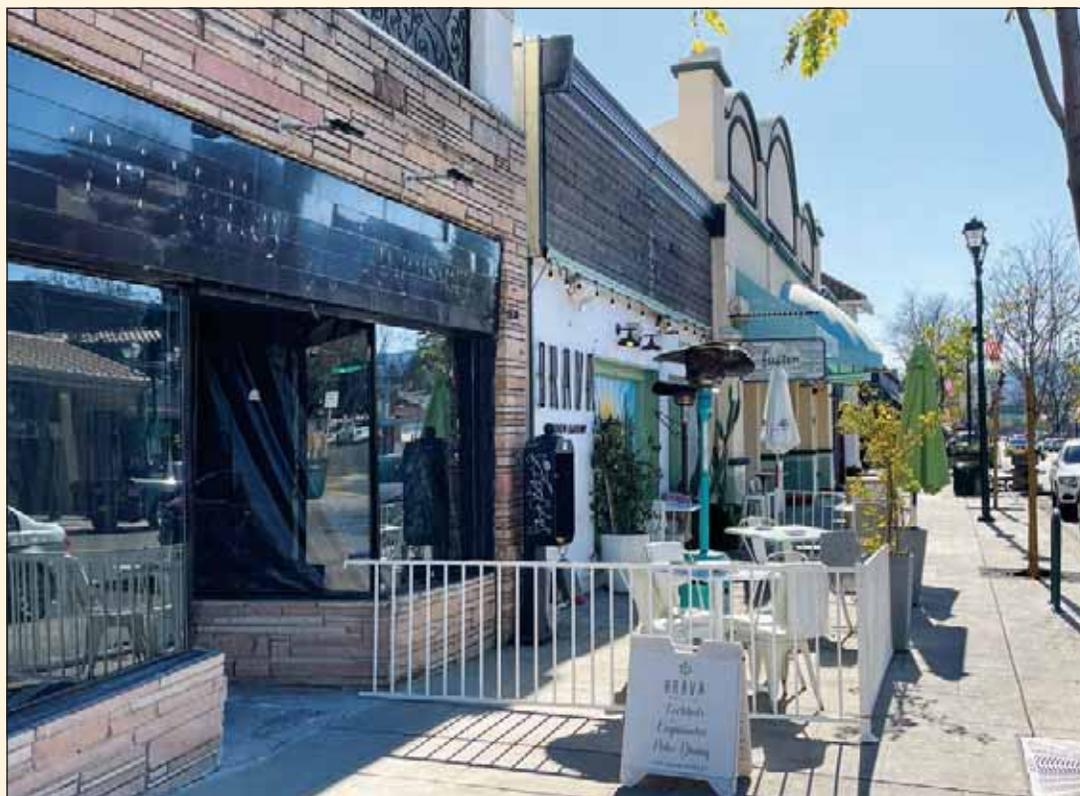
- California Authority of Racing Fairs announces it will not pursue any horse racing meets during 2025, canceling its familiar county fair circuit in destinations like Pleasanton.

- Alameda County supervisors select Superior Court Judge Ursula Jones Dickson as the county's new district attorney at the end of a nearly four-hour special meeting.

- New details emerge in the sex abuse allegations against former San Ramon Valley teacher and coach Nicholas Moseby, with the girls involved filing a civil lawsuit as the trial date in the related criminal case approaches.

- Newly appointed Dublin Unified School District Trustee Carolina Martinez can complete her two-year term following the dismissal of a petition seeking to force a special election to fill her Area 3 seat.

- After Bay Area cities see federal agents conduct operations, law enforcement agencies in the Tri-Valley recommitted their stances on not aiding the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement in light of policies in place that prohibit officers from sharing information or enforcing



JEREMY WALSH

A look at the 700 block of Main Street in Pleasanton in January 2025. Downtowns in the Tri-Valley were the focal point of the Weekly's team project throughout the year: The Downtown Series featured cover stories on Livermore, Pleasanton, Blackhawk, San Ramon, Sunol, Alamo, Dublin and Danville.

any national immigration laws.

- Stanford Health Care Tri-Valley is under new leadership following the promotion of its former CEO, Rick Shumway, to the role of chief operating officer for Stanford Health Care. Mino Sastry is serving as the interim CEO of the Tri-Valley health care network.

- Pleasanton Weekly marks its 25th anniversary.

- More choices, more time to shop and stabilizing prices could be coming to the Tri-Valley real estate market during 2025, according to the Bay East Association of Realtors.

- "Morale is low" as PUSD plans \$6.3 million in budget cuts.

- City Council has some difficult conversations about downtown Pleasanton that ultimately

ended with a request from the dais — downtown property owners and businesses will need to team up with the Pleasanton Downtown Association to come up with ideas to reinvigorate Main Street.

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

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

- The Grille at Blackhawk, perhaps the most prominent restaurant space in the Blackhawk Plaza, abruptly closes its doors for good.

- Joe Callahan, Jerri Long and W. Ron Sutton receive 2025 History Maker Awards at Museum on Main's annual gala.

- Pleasanton Weekly, Livermore Vine and DanvilleSanRamon.com announce our 2025 team project, the Tri-Valley Downtown Series.

FEBRUARY

- After nearly eight years of expired permits, a mostly empty building and hundreds of residents online seemingly giving up hope, Cook's Seafood might finally open its doors in Pleasanton — what exact day, however, remains a mystery.

- The ongoing wave of tech layoffs throughout the Bay Area has now come to Pleasanton-based Workday, which announces plans to cut its workforce by 8.5% (1,750 jobs) amid an increasing focus on artificial intelligence.

- As the Livermore Valley wine region has worked to establish and strengthen its identity in recent years, the latest milestone in that process is conferring Cabernet Franc and Sauvignon Blanc as the area's signature varietals.

- Pleasanton City Council increased a professional service agreement by \$175,000 so a consultant could continue working with the city to develop its first-ever asset management plan, which staff said will help them be more proactive when it comes to managing the city's property.

- BASIS Independent Schools is scheduled to open its third private institution in the Bay Area for grades sixth through 12th in Dublin by fall 2026.

- Assemblymember Rebecca Bauer-Kahan proposes two new pieces of legislation aimed at increasing regulation and transparency around AI technology.

- St. Michael School in Livermore is currently renovating three of its 10 classrooms as part

of a campus-wide improvement project.

- Naturopathic doctors and local business owners Cristina Romero-Bosch and John A. Robinson open up about their new podcast, "Longevity Protocol", using the platform to shine a light on topics related to hormone optimization, nutrition, mental health and sexual wellness.

- Former San Ramon Valley High coach Hans de Lannoy dies at home after a years-long battle with cancer at the age of 72.

- Long-awaited Belmont Village Senior Living with 177 housing units opens in Bishop Ranch.

- Three Valleys Community Foundation is further making its imprint on the Tri-Valley and surrounding cities through its new "925 Gives" initiative.

- Pleasanton City Council unanimously votes to move forward with the process of annexing properties in East Pleasanton where two large housing developments are being proposed for construction.

- An independent accounting firm publishes its assessment of Pleasanton's 10-year financial forecast and the results show that while there are areas where the city could do better in terms of communicating information to the public, the overall assumptions in regards to the city's ongoing budget deficit seem to be correct.

- Livermore Lab closes an internal office amid federal anti-DEI crackdown.

- JOANN in Dublin is poised for imminent closure, amid the craft company's second bankruptcy.

- Livermore promotes Benny Stuth to permanent airport manager.

- Tequila Bar & Grill settles into Hacienda Crossings Shopping Center in Dublin.

- Chevron confirms layoffs following move out of San Ramon; energy giant looks to "simplify organizational structure" by cutting workforce by 15% to 20% to cut billions in costs.

- ICE eyes vacated Dublin prison; Democratic U.S. representatives send stern opposition letter raising concerns.

- Oyo, a melting pot of South American cuisine, expands its restaurant in downtown Pleasanton after years of success.

- Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District Board of Education agrees to eliminate about 40 full-time equivalent jobs in attempts to address a \$6 million general fund deficit.

- Dublin High School is locked down after a fight involving three students sent two of them to hospitals and attracted a crowd of 50 to 100 students.



DEBORAH GROSSMAN

Chef Moises Bucio shows off live crabs at Cook's Seafood. The restaurant sat dormant in the planning stage for some eight years before finally opening in Pleasanton in the spring.

See **YEAR IN REVIEW**, page 16

YEAR IN REVIEW

continued from page 15

- Anti-hero Don Giovanni springs into mischief and a heap of trouble in Livermore Valley Opera's upcoming production of his namesake opera.

- Dublin High students Anish Ummadi, Josh Zeng, Vikrant Ganesan and Sudith Thota win the 2024 Congressional App Challenge in California's 10th District for their Neurochess app.

- Fairgrounds horse trainers face eviction after cancellation of Northern California racing. Workers also express concern for families who live in RVs and might have to leave by March 25.

- Cal High mock trial team is headed to state finals after winning county for eighth year in a row.

- San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board says detected PFAS levels at the Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department's training center warrant further investigation.

- Chanting, cheering and honking can be heard from blocks away at the intersection of Dublin Boulevard and Arnold Road as hundreds of community members organized by activist groups — and a handful of counter-protesters — gather to protest ICE's reported plans to reopen and repurpose the scandal-ridden federal women's prison that was shuttered last year after findings of widespread abuse and mistreatment.

- Foothill High's competitive civics team is once again heading to the national We the People finals in Washington, D.C. after winning the state championship.

- Parkwest Casino 580 in Livermore appears on course to operate 24/7 with 16 tables and betting limits of \$1,000, an increase from its current 10-table and \$200 limit.

- Pleasanton Downtown Association promotes events director Gabrielle Welk to executive director.

- Midday robbery at Optical Illusions in City Center Bishop Ranch nets thousands of dollars worth of stolen merchandise.

- Livermore Valley forms worldwide wine partnership: The Global Artisan Vintners Alliance.

- City Center highlights newest tenant leases: restaurant Alora, fashion store Gorjana, indoor playground Kidplex.

- Goodness Village in Livermore appears on track to build a community center, following unanimous approval of the project by the Livermore Planning Commission.

- SRVUSD board votes to ax nearly 200 jobs as part of \$26 million spending reduction package.

- Balls will be rolling down the lanes for just one more month at Danville Bowl after more than

six decades, with the property near downtown recently changing hands and the new owners ready to redevelop the parcel as soon as possible.

- Livermore police arrest 36-year-old Oscar Barcenas Gonzalez of Oakland, whom they say is responsible for a major burglary ring with more than 40 targets since last September.

- Community rallies behind Emerald High basketball coach: Parents, players and colleagues urge Board of Trustees to keep Jason Rockwell after unspecified complaint and administrative leave.

- Terri Terry, a longtime Pleasanton restaurateur who founded Cellar Door and served as the downtown association president during the COVID pandemic, dies after a years-long battle with breast cancer. She was 62.

MARCH

- Sandy Hall (57, of San Leandro) is killed and two other people are injured in a crash at the intersection of Sycamore Valley Road and Camino Ramon in Danville. The driver of the other vehicle, 72-year-old Andrew Chao, would later be charged with felony vehicular manslaughter.

- Pleasanton council tells staff to plan on withdrawing \$2 million over the next two years from the Section 115 Pension Trust and use that money to help pay off its employee retirement costs as the city continues to develop its next budget.

- Outpatient laboratory at Kaiser Permanente's Dublin Medical Offices and Cancer Center will shut its doors due to low usage, according to the health system.

- Sunol Repertory Theatre presents "Robin Hood & His Merry Men".

- Crowd of nearly 300 people



CHRISTIAN TRUJANO

The Alameda County Fairgrounds ceased stabling operations in 2025, leaving trainers — and employees of the stables, some of whom lived in RVs onsite — scrambling to figure out their next moves.

rallies in downtown Livermore to advocate for LGBTQIA+ students and immigrant families as well as the U.S. Department of Education amid recent threats of its dismantlement under the Trump administration.

- Downtown Series - Keeping the heart of Livermore healthy: Residents, business owners, officials reflect on how far downtown has come and the direction it's headed.

- Joseph Castro makes his public debut as artistic director of Valley Concert Chorale.

- What a season for Amador Valley girls' soccer: Midyear turnaround propels Dons all the way to CIF NorCal semifinals

- Jason Rockwell will not be reinstated as head coach of junior varsity boys' basketball at Emerald High School for unspecified reasons, sparking concern among his supporters in the community.

- Pleasanton Weekly partners

with Tha Town on a grant-funded project for junior journalists to cover the opioid crisis in Alameda County.

- Futsal dream becoming reality: Ballistic United's new facility at the fairgrounds looks to change the culture of soccer in the Tri-Valley.

- Dozens of Pleasanton residents of various ages flood the library meeting room where the city's Budget Advisory Committee would set the list of 28 potential budget reductions for the city manager to review and present to the City Council in a few months.

- PUSD confirms principal Jonathan Fey, who has been on admin leave since August, will not be back next year and the search for a permanent successor has begun.

- Fair Political Practices Commission investigates Livermore City Councilmember Ben Barrientos for allegedly violating conflict-of-interest laws last year

when voting on the Garaventa Hills housing project near property he owns.

- Fight at Monte Vista High in Danville leaves a teacher hospitalized and a student under arrest.

- Newly revamped, The Syndicate opens in downtown Livermore after shedding its former identity as The Last Word.

- Sandia National Laboratories is welcoming Laura J. McGill as its new director this spring.

- Las Positas College, in collaboration with the college's Actor Conservatory program, debuts a brand new production, "Sueños: Our American Musical", which follows the story of a young Mexican American composer from San Francisco with dreams of going to Juilliard.

- Tri-Valley residents Bisa Grant, Monya Lane and Jennifer Pett-Ridge are elected to Alameda County Women's Hall of Fame.

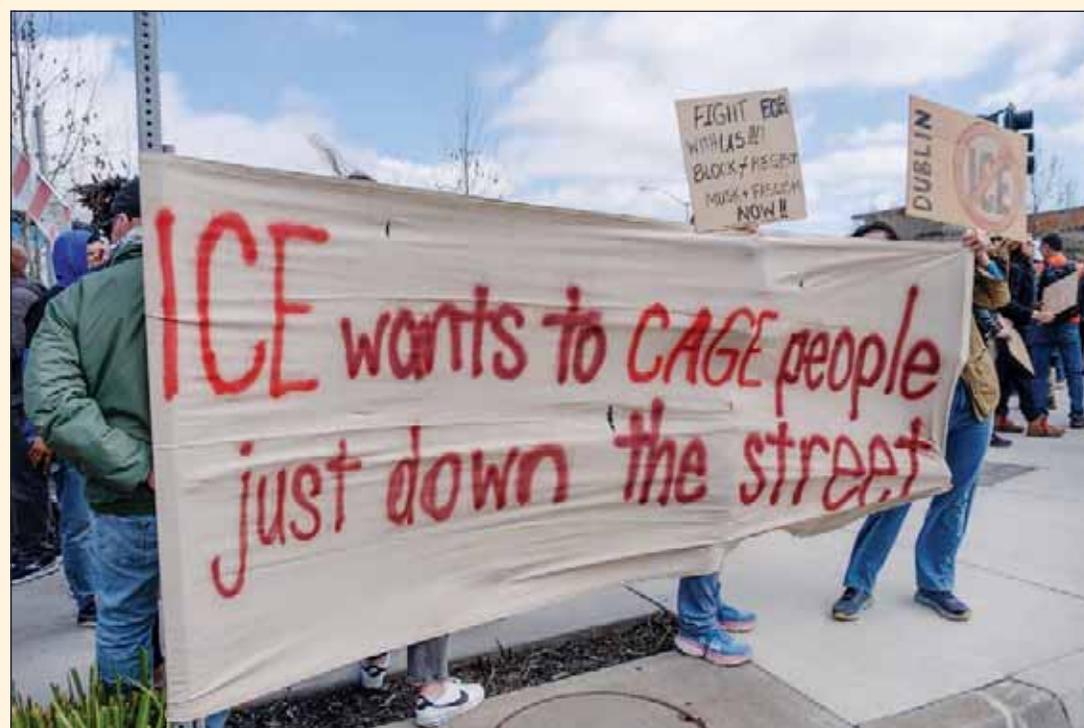
- Tensions stay high as settlement stalls between county, Castlewood board: Association opposes owners taking on more debt to rescue service area's operating budget.

- Pleasanton council has lengthy discussion regarding the East Lakes housing project that is being planned for development in East Pleasanton, with members expressing differing outlooks on age restriction and number of units, among other aspects of the proposal.

- Horses, trainers vacate stables at fairgrounds in Pleasanton: County, fair leaders commit to helping families who face housing insecurity due to loss of jobs.

- Stampede headed for downtown Livermore: New restaurant to take over former Buffalo Wild Wings location this summer.

- New York-based NorthStar acquires Vallecitos Nuclear Center, looks to restore the Sunol site for potential "commercial or industrial purposes".



BOB SHONKOFF/PROBONOPHOTO.ORG

Hundreds of protesters gathered at the intersection of Dublin Boulevard and Arnold Drive on March 1 to raise awareness and oppose reported plans to reopen the troubled FCI Dublin as a detention center for ICE.

- Tri-Valley Cobbler, J & R Sports Supply and Pierson's Livermore Auto Stereo face displacement as their building's owner plans to sell the three-tenant center at 2558 Old First St. in Livermore.

- The beat goes on at The Golden Skate (for now): Delayed housing project in San Ramon looms over one of the Bay Area's last remaining roller rinks.

- Santa Rita Jail inmate Elias Angel Rivera, 37, dies after being found critically injured in his cell. Deputies investigate as a homicide and cellmate Paula Faui, 22, is later charged with murder.

- Junior Max Cory, a 2022 graduate of Dublin High, breaks the NCAA Division III record in the 100-yard freestyle and wins first national championship in Bates College swimming history.

- Redevelopment project aimed at replacing the Livermore Town Center shopping plaza with townhomes draws a group of concerned residents to the Livermore Planning Commission meeting.

- 2024-25 Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund raises \$77,776, split evenly among 10 local nonprofits.

- State appellate court rules that workers' compensation benefits are the sole remedy for the family of late Dublin school trustee Catherine Kuo, who was fatally wounded by a car while volunteering in a food distribution event at Fallon Middle School in 2021.

- Pleasanton Planning Commission unanimously approves the vesting tentative map for 27 single-family homes and a park to be built along Vineyard Avenue between Thiessen Street and Manoir Lane on land formerly owned by PUSD.

- Livermore's Kevin Leung reflects on his experience competing on "Survivor". The 34-year-old finance manager was the second contestant eliminated from Season 48, hampered by a shoulder injury early in the competition.

- Stable Cafe decides to remain open despite having lost a significant portion of its clientele due to the recent closure of the stables and horse racing at the fairgrounds.

- Livermore Area Recreation and Park District files a claim against East Bay Regional Park District for allegedly violating a tax-sharing agreement, including misappropriation of tax revenue since 1992. EBRPD denies allegations.

- PUSD trustees approve a roughly \$2.35 million insurance payout, which comes as a result of a fire that broke out last year in the Amador Valley High School small gym.

- Livermore resident Noorullah Amiri, 29, is taken into custody by county sheriff's deputies for allegedly burglarizing a popular comic book store in Castro Valley



DISNEY/ERIC MCCANDLESS

Dublin resident Filo Ebid reached the top 14 contestants on "American Idol" Season 23.

— with sleuthing employees from the shop helping connect the dots emerging across the East Bay comics community.

- Danville middle schooler Aria Karayil is celebrating her fifth-place finish on "Kids Baking Championship".

APRIL

- Malcolm Tilley, 31, is charged with first-degree murder and other allegations for the brutal stabbing death of his mother at the home they shared on Alvarado Street in Pleasanton. Marjory Tilley, 71, was remembered as a devoted senior services provider and a quiet woman of faith. Malcolm Tilley later pleads not guilty to all charges.

- Now that Alameda County and Castlewood Property Owners Association have settled their legal dispute, the next step will be a special election on the \$7,000 assessment per property assessment proposed to make up a shortfall in the maintenance budget for water.

- Protesters in Livermore and

San Ramon join nationwide Hands Off! mobilization to decry recent actions by the Trump administration.

- Advocates call for change to Santa Rita Jail medical provider; county supervisors review audit of Wellpath's allegedly subpar performance as company navigates financial and legal woes.

- Judge sentences notorious kidnapper and rapist Matthew Muller, whose case was originally cracked by Dublin police, to life in prison for 2009 crimes on the Peninsula.

- After two lengthy meetings and receiving hundreds of resident emails in addition to the dozens who spoke during public comment, Pleasanton City Council gives formal direction on what services, staff positions and amenities to reduce or eliminate as part of budget cuts.

- Misty R. Jones is selected as the new permanent CEO for Stanford Health Care Tri-Valley.

- Livermore's The Wine Group is set to acquire several wine brands and associated assets

through a mutual agreement with Constellation Brands, including Cook's, J. Rogét, Meiomi, Robert Mondavi Private Selection, SIMI and Woodbridge.

- Chevron is laying off hundreds of workers at the San Ramon offices that formerly served as its headquarters in the latest step of an ongoing downsizing of their operations locally.

- California State Controller's Office and Department of Technology are facing a lawsuit from Workday, with the Pleasanton-based company alleging it was unfairly rejected in the bid process for a new payroll system aimed at updating the state's existing, decades-old system.

- Two Alameda County Classified Employees of the Year are from Tri-Valley: Harvest Park Middle School's Lisa Libert for paraprofessional and Emerald High's Karen Chamberlain for security services.

- More than a dozen juveniles are treated for shortness of breath or lung irritation after exposure to chlorine at the pool at The Club @



CHRISTIAN TRUJANO

Jonathan Fey addresses the crowd during the 2024 graduation ceremony at Amador Valley High School, which would be his last as principal following a shocking investigation into alleged grooming and inappropriate Grindr chats with two young men who went to Amador during his tenure.

Livermore.

- "A generational talent": Foothill sophomore Luka Mijatovic focusing on the little things as he captures the attention of the swimming world.

- Dublin Police Services is facing two lawsuits alleging that officers with the agency falsified affidavits in order to obtain arrest warrants without sufficient evidence for two different arrests, one in 2018 and another in 2023.

- Longtime Hacienda Business Park leader James Paxson receives Pleasanton Mayor's Award.

- Driver is killed after pickup is hit by a loose wheel that hopped median on I-680 in Alamo.

- Community rallies around Aman Deshmukh and his family after the Foothill sophomore is paralyzed during Falcons' pole vault practice. He is granted a transfer to Craig Hospital in Colorado — insurance company canceled initial denial after Weekly runs article about saga.

- Rich Guasco, an International Drag Racing Hall of Fame inductee known for his "Pure Hell" car and racing team and a lifelong "proud Pleasantonian", dies in hospice care at home from complications from aspiration pneumonia and cancer. He was 88.

- In the face of serious budget difficulties, the Pleasanton, Livermore Valley and San Ramon Valley school districts are all cutting multiple positions in their comms departments, including two directors well-known in the community.

- Former Foothill vice principal Malcolm Norrington is returning to Pleasanton next year to serve as Amador's new principal.

- City officials plan to move forward with new hangar development at the Livermore Municipal Airport this year, following recent completion of the airport's land use and development study.

- Pleasanton council has a lengthy discussion about the signage changes to a former Shell gas station after it rebranded to Gulf where several councilmembers voice concerns about the overall aesthetic of the new signs and the process for how those changes were installed prior to the public hearing.

- Joe Callahan and Patrick O'Brien are the 2025 Ed Kinney Community Patriots.

- Danville Town Manager Joe Calabrigo plans to retire in June after 32 years in the position.

- Two people die after their vehicles collided on Highway 84 near the Ruby Hill gated community early in the morning commute.

- Downtown Series - Making it on Main Street: Facing modern-day ups and downs, stakeholders say future remains bright for

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historic downtown Pleasanton.

- Pleasanton Planning Commission unanimously approves the Villages at the Quarry project, which aims to develop over 400 housing units at the corner of Busch Road and Valley Avenue.

- Police in Lafayette investigating thefts at a local school allegedly uncover a pattern of burglaries across the Bay Area by the same suspect, including in Danville and Dublin.

- Dumpling Time closes in City Center Bishop Ranch; Meyhouse is tapped to take its place.

- Dublin resident and Dougherty Valley alum Filo Ebid leaves imprint on “American Idol” after advancing to the Top 14 in the singing competition show.

- Sunol Glen School community celebrates the 100th anniversary of the main school building with festivities including a parade featuring antique cars, student-led tours of the school and an old-fashioned, small-town picnic.

- San Francisco Giants honor retired shortstop Brandon Crawford in a pregame ceremony. The Pleasanton native played 13 seasons with his hometown team, winning four Gold Gloves and two World Series titles.

MAY

- The real story behind Emerald High principal’s shocking resignation last fall finally comes out: Exclusive interview with Francis Rojas, new public records and sources on the ground shed light on what happened — and how school moved forward.

- A culinary incubator: Amuse Kitchen provides space and sense of community for burgeoning food businesses.

- Homes in unincorporated Remen Tract are left without water after line break. City of Pleasanton cuts off temporary remedy due to system risk, says public funds can’t be used to fix private pipe.

- Apt for Mother’s Day weekend, the 85th annual Pleasanton Rose Show is held at the Senior Center — and it could well be the last time for the spring tradition.

- Emerald High names longtime East Bay coach Ron Pangilinan as the school’s first varsity boys’ basketball head coach, amid some parental unrest regarding the hiring process.

- Livermore council approves rezoning for approximately 27 acres in the city’s Isabel neighborhood from business park to residential transition as well as a development agreement for an approximately 450-unit housing project on-site.

- Murray Elementary assistant principal Erin Magill is named



CHRISTIAN TRUJANO

Pleasanton native Brandon Crawford speaks to a packed house at Oracle Park as the San Francisco Giants community honors his career during Brandon Crawford Celebration Day on April 26.

inaugural principal of Shamrock Hills TK-8 School, now under construction in Dublin and expected to open in fall 2026.

- Tri-Valley accounting and business advisory firm Sensiba — which recently moved from Pleasanton to Bishop Ranch in San Ramon — acquires Australian cybersecurity company AssuranceLab with the goal of expanding privacy and security services for its clients.

- Long-awaited Cook’s Seafood welcomes customers with a soft opening after taking nearly eight years to bring its new Pleasanton restaurant to fruition.

- Pleasanton Weekly wins 14 California Journalism Awards at annual CNPA gala, including first place for Audience/Community Engagement Award, Editorial Comment and Print Front Page Layout & Design.

- Livermore activist and projection artist Alan Marling settles his lawsuit against the city of San Ramon stemming from a 2021 incident in which he was detained for displaying digital projections on City Hall. The deal includes

\$120,000 to Marling; city admits no wrongdoing.

- Pleasanton-based Alan Hu Foundation is named the 2025 California Nonprofit of the Year in Assembly District 16.

- News comes to light that a 2-year-old boy died last month after becoming unresponsive during nap time at day care at Building Kidz of Dublin. State authorities are investigating the death.

- Chevron station on North Vasco Road in Livermore sells Daily Derby ticket worth \$432,553. Win comes less than a month after a Shell station in the city sold a Fantasy 5 ticket worth \$183,278.

- Fans of the famed Dilbert cartoon strip endure bad news when its creator, longtime Tri-Valley resident and political commentator Scott Adams, announces he has the same type of prostate cancer that former President Joe Biden has and it also has spread to his bones.

- Pleasanton Planning Commission unanimously approves the permits and design review

for Danville Brewing Company to construct and operate a brand-new microbrewery on a vacant lot at the intersection of Wyoming and Utah streets.

- Backers of a campaign to remove Contra Costa County District Attorney Diana Becton say their recall petition has been approved by election officials, clearing the way for signature gathering. The effort would fizzle out by fall without qualifying for the ballot.

- Balancing the books in Pleasanton: After resident pushback, council directs staff to reassess reduced library hours — but not monetary cuts

- Pleasanton’s Cowbell, Livermore’s GILLIG among winners of Innovation Tri-Valley’s 2025 #GameChangers Awards.

- Luka Mijatovic, the stand-out sophomore swimmer from Foothill, brings home CIF State Swimming titles in the 200 freestyle and 500 freestyle — breaking the national high school record by almost four seconds in the latter.



COURTESY ROSA LOPEZ

The Lopez family in Livermore is seeking the return of Miguel Lopez (left), who was arrested by ICE and later deported to Mexico despite ongoing efforts to obtain legal residency.

- Downtown Series - Reviving Blackhawk Plaza: Tenants, patrons of “ghost town” retail center hopeful for theater reopening, more restaurants and service-based businesses.

- Poppy Ridge blooms anew: NCGA-owned golf course in Livermore opens its redesigned 18-hole track after a remarkable 13-month overhaul project.

- Embattled Sonoma real estate mogul Ken Mattson, known in the Tri-Valley for owning a now-shuttered specialty car consignment shop in downtown Pleasanton, is arrested by federal agents and accused of operating a Ponzi scheme.

- Downtown Livermore’s Wingen Bakery + Restaurant expands into a full-service restaurant with a renovated space and even takes a new name to better reflect its current offerings.

- Pleasanton-based 10x Genomics is laying off 93 employees.

- Santa Rosa police arrest two boys, including one from Danville, accused of breaking into a church and defecating on its bathroom floor over the weekend.

- Pleasanton Planning Commission OKs an application for Stanford Health to move forward with plans to expand its facility in Pleasanton and construct a new “East Wing”.

- PUSD is continuing deliberations toward hiring its next permanent superintendent, but the process hit a bit of a snag and the timeline for identifying a finalist remains unclear.

- Pleasanton finds itself as the lone Tri-Valley city on the U.S. Department of Homeland Security’s new list of obstructive sanctuary jurisdictions — and the city administration is unclear exactly why. Pleasanton is later removed without explanation.

- Recent search-and-rescue effort in Arizona ends in tragedy when the body of 31-year-old Livermore native and social media influencer Hannah Moody is discovered near a nature preserve trailhead.

- Construction begins on Regional Street Apartments, 113-unit affordable housing project on St. Patrick Way in Dublin.

- Lawsuit against Workday is continuing to make its way through the courts, with the case now being considered a collective action following a judge’s order.

- High school seniors in the Valley are set for their graduation ceremonies.

- Livermore pub owners open Honeycomb Cocktail Lounge; husband-wife team behind Sons of Liberty welcome public into formerly private speakeasy.

- The Lopez family in Livermore has one request — to be reunited with husband and father of three Miguel Lopez, who is currently being held in an

immigration detention facility in Southern California. Unexpectedly detained while reporting to an immigration office in San Francisco for a scheduled visit, Miguel Lopez would be eventually deported to Mexico.

JUNE

- LARPD sues EBRPD, seeking to exit a longstanding tax-sharing agreement between the two entities on allegations that the latter has failed to uphold its end of the deal.

- Livermore Rodeo riding high into 2025: 107th year arrives fresh off organizer's election to ProRodeo Hall of Fame.

- Pleasanton council accepts the final study for the city's water and drought rates along with its connection as part of the city's ongoing rate-setting process, set to be finalized in the fall.

- Residents turn out to council meeting to call for a railroad quiet zone in Pleasanton.

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

- Longtime Livermore city attorney Jason Alcalá is retiring.

- Residents of San Ramon enjoy the highest quality of life among the largest cities in the country, according to a recent ranking that also positioned nearby Pleasanton in second place.

- Alameda County supervisors vote for nearly \$270M in jail repairs — five-year project will focus on deferred maintenance and other vital renovations at Santa Rita in Dublin.

- Danville Town Council promotes assistant town manager Tai Williams to town manager.

- Pleasanton welcomes a county fair like no other: Summer showcase brings familiar rides, food,

concerts, exhibitions and shows — but there's one notable scratch from the lineup, with horse racing now a thing of the past.

- Introducing Zippy: Pleasanton's first-ever library with wheels seeks to spread the word around the community.

- Santa Rita Jail medical provider Wellpath agrees to a \$2.5 million settlement in a federal civil rights lawsuit filed by the family of Maurice Monk, an inmate who was dead in his cell unnoticed for three days in 2021.

- Livermore resident Ryan Bally Lance, 27, dies in chain-reaction crashes on I-580.

- Luka Mijatovic earns spot among world's best swimmers: After second place at nationals, Foothill junior headed to Singapore with U.S. men's team

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

- Pleasanton council adopts final two-year budget marked by millions in cuts, most notably decreased library hours and two employee layoffs.

- Property owners in Castlewood County Service Area turned in sufficient protests to stop the county's \$6,829.27 per household special assessment.

- Former Amador coach and teacher Steve Mortara dies in an accidental drowning. He was 76.

- "I'm stressed. Seeing my wife crying all day makes me feel bad. I'm trying to be strong, but on the inside I'm struggling," Livermore's Miguel Lopez tells the Weekly in a phone interview after he is deported to Mexico as one of thousands swept up in ICE actions against non-violent immigration offenders across the U.S.

- Patelco agrees to settle suit over cyberattack for \$7.25 million: Dublin credit union also hires a chief audit executive as

OUR TOP 25 STORIES OF 2025

Here were our 25 most-read stories written in 2025, based on data for PleasantonWeekly.com.

1. Jury sides with Stanford Tri-Valley doctor after woman sues for malpractice during her pregnancy
2. Pleasanton specialty car shop owner charged in real estate Ponzi scheme
3. Tri-Valley's first Pop Mart store debuts at Stoneridge Shopping Center
4. 'Constructively terminated': East Bay Parks general manager resigns two days after performance evaluation
5. Walmart closing Neighborhood Market in Pleasanton next month
6. Tim Talk: Taxpayers on hook for \$1.6 billion boondoggle in desert
7. Tim Talk: City and Stoneridge owners need to get moving
8. Pleasanton woman killed in Tuesday night crash downtown
9. 'He loved helping other people': Amador alum ID'd as motorcyclist who died in I-580 crash
10. Dozens of Pleasanton workers hit by wave of Oracle layoffs
11. Court records reveal new details on weekend shooting in Pleasanton
12. 'For sure I need this to stay a secret': Inside the grooming, Grindr investigation of a Pleasanton principal
13. Pleasanton teen identified in fatal crash on Del Valle Road
14. News Digest: I-680 NB closure this weekend | AI Summit coming to Dublin | Livermore wine auction
15. CHP arrests driver in Pleasanton on suspicion of felony grand theft
16. PPD seeks public's help in identifying bank fraud suspect
17. News Digest: I-680 SB closure this weekend | Barone's redevelopment update | Leadership Pleasanton signups
18. Editorial: Our yearlong fight for public records on Amador principal ouster finally pays off
19. Pleasanton resident, former city commissioner appointed as Alameda County Superior Court judge
20. Stampede headed for downtown Livermore
21. Downtown Pleasanton Starbucks set to close later this month
22. 'A snap move': The story behind Emerald High principal's shocking resignation
23. Discrimination lawsuit against Workday moves forward
24. 'A safer, more efficient route': Highway 84-Interstate 680 interchange improvements complete
25. PG&E shuts off power across several counties

fallout from last year's security breach continues

- Pleasanton assistant city manager Pamela Ott retires; Alexa Jeffress is promoted as successor while the deputy city manager position is going away as a cost-saving move.

- Workday is selling one of its office buildings on Stoneridge

Mall Road; company vows headquarters is staying in Pleasanton amid reinvestment strategy

- Estimated 5,000 people demonstrate their displeasure with President Donald Trump's administration at the "No Kings" rally in Dublin, joining millions of their peers in cities across the country in a day of protest of federal

actions and policies.

- Sandia National Laboratories Livermore campus is under new leadership, with Toby Townsend promoted to associate labs director.

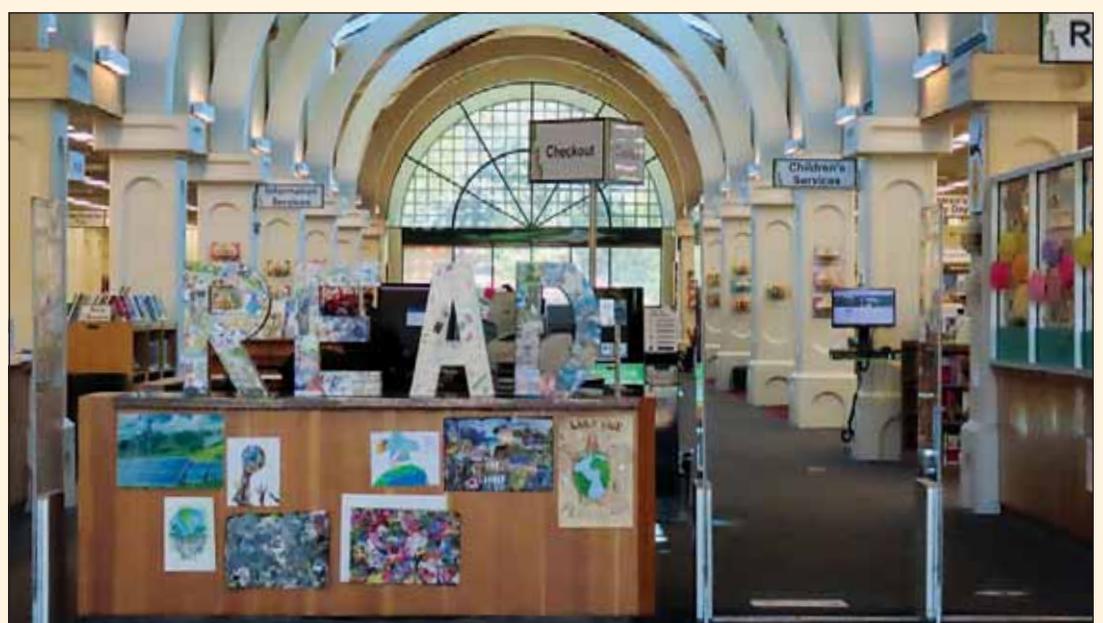
- LVJUSD's \$5.7 million school-based mental health grant from

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CHRISTIAN TRUJANO

Maurice Ghysels, who served as interim superintendent for 2024-25, unretired and will continue to serve as the PUSD superintendent for the next two years.



CHRISTIAN TRUJANO

Operations and staffing levels at the Pleasanton Public Library were on the chopping block for the 2025-26 fiscal year and beyond amid the city government's budget woes.

YEAR IN REVIEW

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the U.S. Department of Education is set to end prematurely, spurring the district to appeal the federal agency's decision.

- Sue Kuipers, chaplain for the Alameda County Sheriff's Office, is named Chaplain of the Year by the National Sheriffs' Association.

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

- Local Realtors advocate in Washington, D.C. — capital gains, housing affordability and mortgage access among key discussions with East Bay legislators

- The county's grand jury? The 2024-25 Alameda County Civil Grand Jury releases its final report, revealing that five of its six investigations pertained exclusively to Oakland. The sixth subject, a countywide agency based in, you guessed it, Oakland.

- Pleasanton settles with the Housing Action Coalition, an affordable housing advocacy nonprofit. Deal stipulates the city will consider rezoning three additional commercial properties for residential use as part of the city's sixth Housing Element.

- In a stunning twist, PUSD Board of Trustees names Interim Superintendent Maurice Ghysels as the top choice for the district's new permanent leader, following two months of candidate interviews and nearly a full year since former superintendent David Haglund left his post. Ghysels, who had been expected to return to retirement this month, inks a two-year contract.

- Sutter Health patients can now seek primary care and select specialty services at the organization's new facility on Southfront Road in Livermore.

- Jury sides with doctor in pregnancy malpractice case: Former Pleasanton resident Jessica Perry sought damages after a Stanford Tri-Valley doctor incorrectly diagnosed her with miscarriage in 2021. (Baby Hudson would be born healthy six months after the jarring ER visit.)

- Armadillo Willy's shutters in Dublin; only one Bay Area location remains amid company's financial struggles.

- Three children — ages 12, 14 and 15 — are arrested in connection with 49 auto burglaries in Livermore, police say.

- Dublin Leprechauns independent league baseball team makes headlines by bringing in reliever Marika Lyszczyk, the first woman to play in Pecos League history. It's no gimmick signing as Lyszczyk would pitch effectively in multiple games for the upstart Leprechauns.



SRS CAPITAL MARKETS

Gateway Centre at 21001 San Ramon Valley Blvd. in San Ramon was listed for sale at an undisclosed price in the fall.

- Livermore is among the finalist locations being considered by Pacific Fusion for its new billion-dollar research facility.

- Pleasanton celebrates reopening of renovated Lions Wayside Park.

- There is more turnover near the top of Livermore's city administration, as Weekly learns deputy city manager Marie Weber quietly resigned in recent weeks after just over two years in the position. She would start a job in Prince William County in Virginia next month.

- County expands conditional uses in South Livermore: tasting rooms, inns and food-and-drink stores related to agriculture among permitted facilities.

- New restaurants bring more international flavors to Dublin: Lineup includes Baithak, Raya, Mom's Pho & Banh Mi, Joe's Pho, Bodrum Mezze & Cocktails and bb.q Chicken.

- Two more former correctional officers at the Federal Correctional Institution in Dublin have been charged with sexually abusing female prisoners, bringing the number of guards charged with sex crimes at the now-closed women's prison to 10.

JULY

- Starbucks in downtown Pleasanton is set to permanently close after almost a decade of serving coffee to Main Street patrons.

- Whistleblower lawsuit against city of Pleasanton marches forward: Ex-employee Dan Repp claims City Manager Gerry Beaudin fired him for daylighting illegal, unsafe practices within utilities.

- Former Amador principal Jonathan Fey, who was on a mysterious leave of absence for almost a full year, is poised to participate in a slew of administrative hearings against the district slated to start in August and end in October.

- Alcohol distributor Republic National Distribution Company is exiting Pleasanton (and California at large).

- Zachary's Chicago Pizza is set to open its first Livermore location this fall, taking over the former Patxi's Pizza spot downtown.

- Pleasanton police arrest two juveniles in connection with the recent string of ATM robberies at various banks across the city, including one 12-year-old boy previously linked to dozens of car break-ins in Livermore.

- Downtown Series — Build it and they will come: A walk through San Ramon's nascent downtown.

- "Cinderella" arrives for the ball: Tri-Valley Theatre Company performances run three weekends at Bankhead.

- City of Pleasanton confirms library's reduced hours, Sunday closure and service changes.

- Pop Mart arrives at the Stoneridge Shopping Center.

- Pleasanton native Ani Kandada is facing a felony vandalism charge in Los Angeles County for supergluing his hand to the poultry section of a Trader Joe's in Pasadena as a form of protest against the grocery chain selling chicken from a supplier accused of animal cruelty.

- Pleasanton residents can now fulfill their rockstar dreams with the city's first-ever School of Rock now open.

- Notorious kidnapper and rapist Matthew Muller, who was already serving multiple life sentences for his crimes in other parts of the state, is sentenced to seven years to life after pleading no contest for a 2015 ransom incident in San Ramon that came to light last year.

- 50 years filled with laughter: Pleasanton's Balloon Platoon has marched across the country and around the world delighting crowds with precision drills.

- Open Heart Kitchen just

keeps beating: Nonprofit reduces community meals, deploys hiring freeze and dips into reserves amid dearth in federal funding.

- Pleasanton will not become a charter city anytime soon after a City Council majority presses pause on staff's efforts to continue exploring the possibility of becoming one.

- Zone 7, Pleasanton reach settlement in lawsuit over collection of water connection fees.

- Fair sees upticks in attendance, food sales in 2025: Despite lack of horse racing, new attractions, concerts and other entertainment drew 400,000-plus people.

- Fire sparks Zephyr Grill & Bar closure. Downtown Livermore restaurant was slated to reopen under new name sometime after August — but the renovations would take until November and they would keep the original name.

- An otherwise quiet Saturday in Dublin is marked by a sizable crowd as local residents and activists from throughout the Bay Area gather to continue pushing back against proposed plans to reopen a scandal-ridden prison in the city as an ICE detention facility.

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

- San Ramon's historic Harlan House is severely damaged in a fire being investigated as arson.

- Contemporary "Prisontown" is selected alongside classic "The Hairy Ape" as the plays to be featured at 26th Eugene O'Neill Festival in Danville.

- Burglars detonate an improvised explosive device to gain access to an ATM at the Target store in San Ramon in the wee hours of the morning.

- San Jose resident Rohith Sunil, 21, is accused of gunning down a woman walking her dogs in San Leandro and is ultimately captured in Dublin after following someone suspiciously in his car, prosecutors say.

- The driver who caused the fatal head-on collision on Highway 84 in Livermore lost control while racing a pickup truck that fled the scene and remains at-large, the CHP says in a case update. The victim is ID'd as Ryan Joshua Aquino Amigable, 22, of Oakley.

- Judge rules against Danville in builder's remedy case: Application for 38-unit housing project in Anderson Ranch now deemed complete, held to rules that were in place in 2023.

- A former executive of a Livermore insurance brokerage, 69-year-old Jasbir Thandi, pleads guilty to his role in fraud schemes that led to the collapse of two firms and more than \$20 million in losses.

- Predevelopment work is underway for a potential senior housing project at the old Victory Baptist Church site in Livermore.

- Sunol dog trainer Joshua Kaplan is facing multiple charges, including attempted murder, after allegedly shooting a Pleasanton man during a confrontation over a report that the victim was beating his dog. Police said they found no evidence of alleged dog abuse.



CHUCK DECKERT

The Pleasanton Weekly celebrated its 25th anniversary with the community at the Concert in the Park on Aug. 29.



NAISMITH BASKETBALL HOF

Sportswriter Michelle Smith, a longtime resident of Dublin, addresses the audience upon her enshrinement into the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame during the ceremony Sept. 5.

Kaplan pleads not guilty, saying he acted in self-defense.

- Gov. Gavin Newsom signs a bill championed by the local Neev Kolte & Brave Ronil Foundation that gives Californians the option to donate a portion of state tax return to childhood cancer research.

- “Ratify, reaffirm and readopt”: Livermore council again endorses Eden Housing project provisions: Developer permitted to secure final construction financing for 130 affordable units downtown.

- PUSD agrees to use the majority of the \$30 million proceeds from the sale of its Vineyard Avenue property to pay down the certificate of participation that helped finance the purchase of its new headquarters site. The board also sets aside \$11 million for general fund reserves.

- Briarhill Cabana Club in western Dublin must upgrade its pool prior to next year’s swim season in order to abide by Alameda County health and safety codes.

- New gallery, cafe creating community hub for the arts: Latte Da Vinci celebrates grand opening on Main Street with first exhibit and competition.

- Delta Airlines co-pilot Rustom Bhagwagar, 34, is arrested on suspicion of child sexual abuse after his plane landed at San Francisco International Airport. The case, which sparks national headlines, has San Ramon Valley ties. His ex-girlfriend would later be charged.

- The city of Pleasanton files a motion for summary judgment, asking Alameda County Superior Court to rule in its favor in a whistleblower case brought by former employee Dan Repp. The city would like a decision before the case goes to a jury trial in November because “there are no triable issues as to any material fact against the city”.

- Pleasanton Planning Commission unanimously approves a conditional use permit for Ballistic United Soccer Club to operate a new futsal facility at the

Alameda County Fairgrounds.

- Tri-Valley Conservancy announces that 1,168 acres of land between the cities of Dublin and Livermore is established as permanently protected open space.

- Alameda County supervisors vote on how to allocate \$810 million generated from Measure W, a sales tax passed in 2020 originally earmarked for issues surrounding homelessness — 80% of the funds will go toward homelessness and 20% will go toward other support services.

- Civil lawsuit by two “Jane Doe” plaintiffs against SRVUSD alleging that it failed to protect two former students from sexual abuse at the hands of former teacher Ryan Weible (who denies wrongdoing and was dismissed from the lawsuit) is quietly settled for \$6,999,900.

AUGUST

- Dish n Dash is taking over old Applebee’s spot; remodel is underway to bring the Middle Eastern restaurant to Hacienda Crossings in Dublin.

- Rite Aid is marking its final weeks in Pleasanton and Alamo, with the stores set to permanently shutter later this month amid the bankruptcy proceedings at the corporate level.

- Fostering stability and strengthening community: Superintendent Ghysels outlines plans to address PUSD’s financial challenges, improve academic performance ahead of the start of the 2025-26 school year.

- Pleasanton residents have expressed their growing frustration with what seems to be a recurring trend during the hot summer months: power outages.

- Burlington is closing its store in Dublin Place after the company sold the building to American Realty Advisors, which owns the overall shopping center and wants to reinvent the prominent Amador Plaza Road property.

- Three defendants in the

murder of a Pittsburg husband and father are sentenced in a plea deal struck with prosecutors to resolve the case purportedly precipitated by a romantic triangle at the San Ramon senior home where they all worked.

- Contra Costa County judge denies motion from former sheriff’s deputy Andrew Hall to expunge his record of the felony assault conviction he received in the fatal on-duty shooting of Laudemer Arboleda in 2018. Hall was released early from prison back in March.

- In just their third season, the Dublin Leprechauns vault into the upper tier of the Pecos League by winning a road playoff series before falling to San Rafael in the Pacific Division finals.

- Grammy winner LeAnn Rimes headlines Brilliance at the Bankhead gala.

- PUSD begins grappling with a projected deficit of \$8 million to \$9 million, in part due to an error in accounting salaries and a state deferral in funds that could leave the district short of money to pay employees.

- LPGD Fire Chief Joe Testa retires. Deputy chief Aaron Lacey is elevated to interim chief.

- Dublin dealership is taking over the former Specialty Sales Classics shop in downtown Pleasanton that shuttered amid ongoing fraud allegations against the owner.

- “Hope, not handcuffs”: New jail diversion center Horizon Treatment Services opens in Pleasanton.

- Pleasanton resident Lucas Chan, 28, is charged with killing his father, 61-year-old Lance Chan, following a verbal dispute.

- Apple Cinemas postpones Blackhawk opening until next year as the movie theater chain is embroiled in litigation with Apple Inc. over copyright infringement claims.

- Downtown Series - Polishing the secret gem of Sunol: Residents, community leaders want to improve Main Street while maintaining its unique charm.

- City of Pleasanton to explore hotel tax increase amid ongoing financial uncertainty; council declines to poll voters on other revenue measures such as sales tax increase or parcel tax.

- In a split vote, the Pleasanton City Council approves staff’s recommendation to pause casket burial services at the Pioneer Cemetery and only offer cremation services while the city updates how the cemetery is operated.

- PDA outlines efforts to improve downtown economy: New foundation, redrawn boundaries and associate member program among goals for the next two years.

- Yonston Vazquez, the man

suspected of killing two people at a hotel in Livermore last year, is apprehended in Mexico, following a nearly 16-month-long investigation.

- Some 30 instruments are stolen from Dublin Elementary over summer break, and a crowdfunding campaign is underway to help replace guitars and ukuleles for students.

- Construction begins on Springtown Open Space — community park and disc golf course in Livermore are expected to be finished in a year.

- Alameda County District Attorney Ursula Jones Dickson drops all charges against most of the 11 Santa Rita Jail guards and staff accused in the 2021 death of inmate Maurice Monk.

- Livermore dog Ziya wins insurer’s Hambone Award: Injured while protecting owners from bull, voted as most unusual claim of the year for Nationwide.

- The staple pizzeria at the gateway to downtown Danville has changed hands this summer — and while the new owners vow not to change Primos’ soul, they say they are working on a few tweaks to breathe new life for the future.

- Happy 25th! Pleasanton Weekly celebrates big anniversary with community at Concert in the Park.

SEPTEMBER

- Walmart closing Neighborhood Market on Santa Rita Road next month.

- Main Street Brewery shuttering after nearly 30 years in downtown Pleasanton.

- Hoping to score fusion research facility, Livermore gives early project approval while waiting for Pacific Fusion to decide on the final location.

- PRIMM’s plight leads the owner to close up shop in downtown Pleasanton. Boutique is moving to Paso Robles after structural issues forced the store out of its original Main Street building.

- Livermore poaches Pleasanton’s assistant city attorney Kimberly Cilley to become its next city attorney — albeit she left Livermore for Pleasanton just 16 months prior.

- A taste of Peru on Main Street with new Bravazo: Local chef who went viral for cheese-wrapped burrito takes over former Downtown Cafe location.

- LVJUSD unveils renovated Marilyn Avenue STEAM Academy.

- California Lottery confirms that two Powerball tickets across the state won \$1,564,348 each, including one sold at the Circle K convenience store at 7850 Amador Valley Blvd. in Dublin.

- All Gas, no brakes: Gay Nineties Pizza employee Conner Close takes a chance at bottling and selling his own Green Gas Hot Sauce.

- Dublin’s own Michelle Smith, a pioneering writer and reporter known best for her coverage of women’s professional and college sports, is etched forever into hoops history with her induction into the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame.

- “A great partnership between the city and the U.S. Army”: Revival project underway for historic Camp Parks sign and guard booth in Dublin.

- Pleasanton school board authorizes staff to borrow up to \$15 million from the county treasury in order to make up for state money the district doesn’t have yet but is set to receive down the line.

- Alameda County to restart Castlewood steering committee. LAFCO advances annexation feasibility study, but homeowners lament current services in meantime.

- BART Board of Directors issues a public apology after two recent major service disruptions that left one of the Bay Area’s most expansive transit agencies paralyzed and stranded hundreds of thousands of riders across the region.

- The final throw: Limitless Axes & Ales closes ‘flagship’ Pleasanton location. Meanwhile, the company’s escape room next door “remains open and is doing great” in Valley Plaza, the owner says.

- Alameda County officials say they anticipate moving ahead with a new plan to revitalize and reopen the 20-year-old Martinelli Center on Greenville Road in Livermore.

- Police have arrested five boys in Livermore in connection with a June armed robbery and assault outside a San Jose casino that left a man injured.

- San Ramon Police Chief Denton Carlson announces upcoming retirement.

- Beer is officially flowing at Del Cielo Brewing Company’s new brewery and taproom in Livermore.

- Major League FootGolf is making its debut at Las Positas Golf Course with a season-opening tournament in the hybrid sport.

- Wesley Katz confirms the difficult duality of the moment: The Mitchell Katz Winery property on South Vasco Road is listed for sale for \$4.2 million, and he hopes to keep the now-second-generation winery working “forever”.

- Tensions flare during the Pleasanton City Council’s discussion regarding the future of the city’s two utility discount

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programs as Mayor Jack Balch and Councilmember Julie Testa engaged in a heated exchange that culminated in Balch banging his gavel and calling for a recess before briefly departing from the dais.

- Barone's Restaurant is demolished as redevelopment plans forge ahead; new homes and commercial space are set to replace the downtown Pleasanton staple.

- Largest Workday Rising to date: Company seeks to strike optimistic tone on future of AI and work at annual conference.

- Downtown businesses to see assessment fee changes as Pleasanton City Council supports proposed increase that stakeholders say will bring more revenue to Main Street.

- LVJUSD mourns recent deaths of staffers: Colleagues honor the memories of two longtime district employees, Brett Francois and Marilyn Burns, who died weeks apart.

- Longtime Pleasanton resident Meera T. Parikh, a career lawyer and former member of the city's Human Services Commission, reaches a new professional height when Gov. Gavin Newsom appoints her as a judge in the Alameda County Superior Court.

- The Firehouse lineup: City-run theater unveils schedule of fall shows — spring slate still under construction.

- Heller Jewelers in City Center Bishop Ranch is hit in an armed takeover-style robbery in the middle of a Monday afternoon.

- With dwindling roster, Dougherty Valley decides to stop football season after non-league games: "Student athlete safety is our No. 1 priority. This is the reset that we need as a program," the acting athletic director says.



CHUCK DECKERT

Cuda Ridge Wines' 2023 Cabernet Franc in the estate vineyard on Arroyo Road. The Livermore Valley is leaning into Cab Franc more than ever before, naming it a signature varietal in 2025.

- A Stockton man is taken into custody on suspicion of fatal DUI after authorities allege he killed another driver — 66-year-old Akram Ghazal from Tracy — in a crash on I-580 east of Livermore.

- Former U.S. Men's National Soccer Team player Kevin Crow, an Amador alumnus, is inducted into the Cal North Soccer Association Hall of Fame in a ceremony at PayPal Park in San Jose.

- Pleasanton's Goal Line Studios, the media production space created by late football legend John Madden, becomes the new home of pregame, halftime and post-game shows for the Pac-12 as the sports conference gears up for the next stage of its rebirth next year.

- Harringtons out: Philanthropists behind Pleasanton's public art program open up on "surprise" move to Washington.

- Beach retreat: An off-site summer summit for LVJUSD leadership attracts negative attention, leading to criticism over the agency's spending.

- Trustees support parcel tax polling, but formal action as PUSD weighs viability of 2026 ballot.

- Pacific Fusion picks Albuquerque as the home for its planned billion-dollar fusion research facility, passing over Bay Area finalists Livermore and Alameda after receiving a nearly \$800 million incentive package in New Mexico.

- Downtown Danville, City Center Bishop Ranch in San Ramon and Republic Square in Livermore are among the six locations in the Tri-Valley where Starbucks stores shut down for good as part of a major restructuring for the coffeehouse giant.

- BART officials, elected representatives and other public transit stakeholders gather at the West Dublin-Pleasanton BART Station to commemorate the completion of the transit agency's years-long effort to install new fare gates at all 50 stations across the Bay Area.

- Seven-year-old Pleasanton chess prodigy Varun Karthik

Turaga prepares for the World Cup in Europe.

- City of Livermore agrees to credit a total of \$3,783,000 to water and wastewater utilities to settle a lawsuit from the Alameda County Taxpayers' Association alleging the agency's overcharging and misuse of utility fees.

- Community mourns Bob Widmer, longtime Pleasanton resident and creator of the popular Widmer World holiday light display.

OCTOBER

- Is Cab Franc the future of the Livermore Valley wine industry? The logic — and hope — behind the region leaning into the newly anointed signature grape.

- Pleasanton-Tulancingo Sister City Association finds itself at a crossroads, with the new need for new members and leaders to sustain the organization on the Pleasanton end.

- City of Pleasanton scores a decisive legal victory when a judge dismisses the lawsuit brought by a former employee over his firing in 2023, finding the allegations of whistleblower retaliation and age discrimination didn't hold water. Dan Repp would later appeal the decision.

- Livermore teachers union declares impasse at the bargaining table with the district.

- Residents demand answers from PG&E on frequent outages: Power company shares plans to address infrastructure issues, but many Pleasanton customers remain skeptical.

- Math educator John Thayer of Granada High School is named 2025 Alameda County Teacher of the Year.

- City Center welcomes new restaurant tenants: KHAKI opens on the second floor; Meyhouse, Palmetto Superfoods and Rico Rico Taco due in coming months.

- Downtown Series — Change afoot in Alamo: Small town

grapples with maintaining character amid new housing requirements, business shakeups.

- Amador football coach Danny Jones, who led the Dons to the state championship game last season, is leaving the Pleasanton school after this year and moving to Idaho with his family.

- Pleasanton council OKs water rate increases as part of new utility fee structure: 2.7% COLA approved for wastewater service too, but full sewer rate study coming down the line.

- Years-long journey to build a 130-unit affordable housing complex in downtown Livermore forges ahead following the state appellate court's ruling that favored actions by the city aimed at moving the project forward.

- Rare plant discovered after 68 years: EBRPD confirms caper-fruited tropidocarpum in Vasco Hills Regional Preserve.

- The Weekly learns that Joan and Joseph Patti, a Pleasanton couple in their 90s, died from injuries sustained after their vehicle crashed through an Interstate 580 interchange and landed perpendicular to the ground a month ago in Dublin.

- Construction of a new all-wheel pump track is underway at Sunken Gardens Skate Park, following a years-long delay spurred by additional project requirements, LARPD says.

- Fatal collision involving a pedestrian on I-580 east of Foothill Road in Pleasanton remains under CHP investigation. The victim still has not been identified.

- Two people are killed and three are seriously injured, including two CHP officers, after a pursuit that started on I-580 west of Pleasanton ends with two crashes in San Leandro.

- Downtown Series - Dreaming of downtown Dublin: Timeline to create "Main Street experience" uncertain amid pullback of Dublin Commons proposal.

- Pleasanton school board takes first look at potential \$13 million-plus in budget cuts: "We've been deficit-spending, and we have to correct our structural deficit," Superintendent Ghysels says.

- Pleasanton Middle School celebrates its newly renovated sports field. The Measure I project features synthetic turf, new play courts and more.

- City Council votes 4-1 to discontinue Pleasanton's two current utility discount programs and adopt a new, single-tiered structure where the city will now offer a 30% discount to residents who qualify for low-income under the PG&E CARE program.

- Tri-Valley turns out to spread the message of "No Kings": Weekend rallies among nationwide day of demonstrations against the Trump administration.

- IKEA scraps plan to build



GUY CUMMINS/PROBONOPHOTO.ORG

Congressman Eric Swalwell, seen here speaking at a "No Kings" rally in Pleasanton in October, later announced a bid for governor of California.

Dublin store: Company selling 28-acre parcel as it shifts focus to smaller-format stores.

- Michelin-star chef Torsten Schulz opens L Campo restaurant in Livermore, serving “simple and rustic” Spanish plates at the intersection of local and international products.

- Pleasanton workers hit by a new round of Kaiser layoffs; local admin and IT positions among the more than 150 cuts.

- Nighttime fire causes heavy damage to a strip mall-style commercial building on East Prospect Avenue in downtown Danville, closing a handful of local businesses indefinitely.

- Jury finds former San Ramon Valley teacher and cheer coach Nicholas Moseby guilty of felonies and misdemeanors for child sex abuse.

- Livermore High School alum Jeremy Wayne Jones, 53, and his girlfriend Christina Lyn Garner are convicted of murder and other charges for killing 30-year-old Justin Peoples during a confrontation among strangers at a Tracy gas station more than three years ago.

- Pleasanton councilmembers voice their initial support for a pre-annexation and development agreement between the city and the applicant behind the Arroyo Lago project set to bring nearly 200 single-family homes to East Pleasanton.

- Parents of 2-year-old Matthew Bonneau Jr. file a lawsuit against Building Kidz of Dublin for the toddler’s April death. Day care rep denies allegations of negligence.

- SRVUSD buys Canyon Commons office building in San Ramon for \$18 million, which will eventually be funded by the future sale of the district’s current headquarters in Danville.

- “Hoxie Hall”: Sunol Glen School community commemorates the renovation of its cafeteria building, a Measure J project.

- Historic Harlan House is demolished after fire damage — juveniles were arrested in the suspected arson, and the assisted living facility project proceeding at the site in San Ramon.

- With a glowing performance review, Livermore City Manager Marianna Burch sees her salary go up to almost \$400,000 per year.

- Slice House expanding to Tri-Valley: New pizzeria in downtown Livermore to open next year.

- PFAS contamination is discovered in the Livermore Municipal Airport’s groundwater and soil. The regional water board says further investigation is required before determining next steps.

- Dublin residents Richard Lund and Asia Morton are arrested by Santa Rosa police in connection with the shooting death of San Francisco strip club boss Mark Calcagni.

STAFF PICKS: MY FAVORITE STORY AND MY BEST STORY OF 2025

We asked our editorial team to reflect on their coverage from 2025 and select what they felt was their favorite story and their best story of the year. Here are their picks...

Jeremy Walsh, associate publisher

Best: ‘A snap move’: The story behind Emerald High principal’s shocking resignation
Favorite: Put the supe back on: How PUSD landed on retiree interim superintendent Ghysels as permanent leader

Cierra Bailey, editor

Best: Appellate court sides with city in its 2024 vote to readopt provisions for Eden Housing project in downtown Livermore
Favorite: Love and longevity

Christian Trujano, reporter

Best: Inside the grooming, Grindr investigation of a Pleasanton principal
Favorite: In-home care workers provide vital support for Tri-Valley seniors

Jeanita Lyman, reporter

Best: The beat goes on at the Golden Skate (for now)
Favorite: SRPD responds to ‘derogatory social media comments’

Jude Strzemp, reporter

Best: Districts uphold state’s protections for LGBTQ+ students amid federal rollback
Favorite: Inside Livermore Library’s ASL series aimed at cultivating community

Gina Channell Wilcox, publisher

Best: Whistleblower lawsuit: Pleasanton, former employee seek judge’s decision before trial
Favorite: Pleasanton has a trust problem

Dennis Miller, sports columnist

Best: ‘A generational talent’
Favorite: Reminiscing with my old Amador teammates and coach

Deborah Grossman, blogger

Best: Is Cab Franc the Future of the Livermore Valley Wine Industry?
Favorite: Cook’s Seafood homeports in Pleasanton at long last

Tim Hunt, blogger

Best: Castlewood owners defeat county’s proposed special assessment
Favorite: Balloon Platoon celebrates 50 years filled with laughter

Nancy Lewis, columnist

Best: Local seniors making a difference
Favorite: Streetwise: “If you could get into someone else’s head in order to truly understand how they think and what makes them tick, whose head would you like to get into — and why?”

Chuck Deckert, photographer

Best: ‘A generational talent’
Favorite: Summer fun in Pleasanton

Doug Young, cover page designer

Best: Amador Valley exposé
Favorite: Open Heart just keeps beating

Paul Llewellyn, cover page designer

Best: A county fair like no other
Favorite: ‘A musical catalyst to change the world’

Alameda County Opioid Project

Best: Generation O: Children harmed by opioids (by Hakim Rad)
Favorite: Micah’s Hugs: Fighting for change, one community at a time (by Eshaan Nair)

- Isaiah Jamon Andrews, a suspect in a homicide in Washington state, is arrested in Contra Costa County but mistakenly released from jail. His whereabouts remain unknown.

- San Ramon approves 200 affordable housing units. Eden Housing is poised to be the city’s first-ever “100% affordable” complex amid expansive redevelopment in Bishop Ranch.

- After being left in the dark for over a year, the Amador community now have confirmation on why their principal suddenly went on a mysterious leave of absence last year: A third-party investigation sustained allegations that Jonathan Fey had inappropriate conversations with two Amador alumni on Grindr (including during one’s senior year) between late

2023 and August 2024, which led to Fey’s removal from the school and ultimately his departure from PUSD. Fey, a married father who lives in Pleasanton, adamantly denies the allegations to this day.

- Additional reporting on the Fey case, which occurred in the aftermath of the district agreeing to turn over documents to the Weekly 13 months after our initial public records request, includes that the two sides settled Fey’s administrative challenge against the district in exchange for \$254,000 and the ability to resign, among other terms.

- Philz Coffee opens in Pleasanton: Coffee chain welcomes customers to its first drive-thru store in Northern California.

- “Food is a human right. No one should go hungry.” Alameda County officials announce plans to help families affected by SNAP benefits freeze.

- Neighborhood disagreement over a family’s application to install six, 15-foot-tall tennis court lights in their backyard comes to an end after a split Pleasanton City Council votes not to uphold the Planning Commission’s previous approval of the project on Martin Avenue.

- California voters approve Proposition 50, redrawing congressional maps to favor Democrats in response to national redistricting fight.

- “These are all painful cuts”: PUSD board refines priority list of reductions, seeks to minimize direct impact on students.

- “Constructively terminated”: EBRPD General Manager Sabrina Landreth resigns two days after performance evaluation, later claims the board left her no option. Deputy Max Korten appointed acting GM at a sudden Saturday morning meeting.

- Total of 40 earthquakes are recorded on the same day with epicenters in the Valley, with nearly all located within the city limits of San Ramon. The largest is 3.8 magnitude.

- Pleasanton resident Rowena Coronel, 56, dies after being hit by a car at the intersection of Main and Neal streets in downtown Pleasanton.

- Pleasanton council authorizes City Manager Gerry Beaudin to sign an agreement with a consultant to develop a comprehensive citywide assessment designed to streamline the city’s organizational structure and identify cost savings.

- 7 authors, 1 book: Pleasanton neighbors chronicle their journeys in respective industries to inspire others in “Success Beyond the Backyard”.

See **YEAR IN REVIEW**, page 24

NOVEMBER

YEAR IN REVIEW

continued from page 23

- Fairfield man accused of trespassing on several school campuses and stealing items throughout the Bay Area, including recently in Livermore, is arrested. Christopher Britton was also charged back in April for similar crimes in other communities, including Danville and Dublin.

- PUSD is facing a lawsuit from former Foothill pole vaulter Aman Deshmukh and his father stemming from the serious spinal injury the teenager suffered at practice last academic year.

- Pleasanton Connects debuts: City partners with Workday, TogetherUp on “civic hub” network.

- All signs point to the Pleasanton City Council finally being done debating the Gulf gas station, as the members review and approve modifications made to the monument signage/canopy following the council’s previous directions at past meetings.

- Pleasanton council expresses strong support for the initial concepts of a proposed high-density residential development at the Dublin-Pleasanton BART Station, which could produce as many as 1,300 new rental units.

- Pleasanton Planning Commission approves an application and related items to allow the demolition of a commercial building at 4400 Black Ave. and the construction of 59 condos and seven ADUs on the property.

- Alameda County Fair announces The Beach Boys will headline the 2026 Big O Tires Concert Series.

- Livermore and Granada high schools add badminton to their sports slate.

- “A safer, more efficient route”: Highway 84-Interstate 680 interchange improvements are complete as the \$244 million project finalizes the expressway through the Tri-Valley.

- Tri-Valley Congressman Eric Swalwell announces bid for California governor: Campaign priorities include fighting Trump policies while focusing on affordability, economic growth and modernizing state government.

- Livermore High School sophomore Zoe Zabrowski, whose



EBRPD

Sabrina Landreth abruptly resigned as EBRPD general manager.



CHUCK DECKERT

A JCPenney spokesperson confirmed that the store, located inside the Stoneridge Shopping Center, will be closing toward the end of February 2026.

parents own Much Ado About Pizza in Pleasanton, wins 2025 Young Pizza Maker of the Year honor during the Florida Restaurant Show/Pizza Tomorrow Summit for her unique pizza she dubbed “Pigs in Paradise”.

- Judge orders Dublin to revoke Measure II for failing to conduct a required environmental review ahead of placing the measure on the November 2024 ballot. City loses voter-approved authority to greenlight limited development along future Dublin Boulevard extension.

- As city’s current franchise agreement with Pleasanton Garbage Service is set to end in a few years, the council unanimously agrees to give city staff six months to continue negotiating an extension of the current agreement with the waste service provider

- Livermore Amador Valley Transit Authority is awarded a \$63.95 million grant from the Federal Transit Administration for the construction of a new agency campus and eight hybrid buses.

- The Weekly learns that veterinarian Surya Chaudhri of Animal Medical Center of Pleasanton could be facing disciplinary action by the state for allegedly diverting prescription medication from the

practice for personal use.

- The Gateway Centre shopping center anchored by Lucky, Dollar Tree and McDonald’s is now listed for sale at an undisclosed price near the border of San Ramon and Dublin.

- City of Pleasanton finished last fiscal year with a \$7 million surplus, according to unaudited year-end actuals. Staff point to developer fees, business revenue increases among unbudgeted funds.

- Xiaojie Zhang, 40, of Union City is taken into custody after police allege she shot a 17-year-old boy in San Ramon.

- Move Eden Housing continues to challenge the affordable apartment complex proposed for downtown Livermore — this time petitioning the California Supreme Court to review a recent ruling by the state appellate court in favor of the project’s progression.

- Pleasanton resident Badal Dholaria, 27, is charged with murder and other counts for allegedly driving over 150 mph while drunk and crashing into another car on Crow Canyon Road in San Ramon, killing 41-year-old Alix Sparks of Castro Valley. Dholaria pleads not guilty.

- Brown vote violated Brown Act: Judge rules Alameda County and its Board of Supervisors did not follow procedure when it appointed former interim supervisor Dave Brown in 2021.

- Pleasanton school board completes its months-long budget cut process, approving just over \$11 million in reductions. Staff will begin meeting with labor unions to discuss negotiable items over the next few weeks.

DECEMBER

- Becky Chestnut is sworn in as new San Ramon police chief.

- LARPD is not pulling out of its campground located near the south shore of Lake Tahoe, the agency’s Board of Directors confirm during a special meeting — an explicit correction to rumors circulating about Camp Shelly’s future.

- Hateful, racist graffiti is scrawled in a restroom at Amador, the third such incident in just over a month.

- Brayam Chirinos, 30, is charged with murder for allegedly stabbing his roommate, who was found dead at home on North P Street in Livermore during a welfare check after not having been

seen in several days.

- Amador alumnus and aspiring nurse Scott Renton, 25, dies in motorcycle crash on I-580 west of Pleasanton.

- BottleTaps, a bar and restaurant in Pleasanton for nearly a decade, closes for good.

- Dublin school district and teachers union are at an impasse in labor negotiations.

- The Golden Skate roller rink is shut down indefinitely — and possibly permanently — after the death of longtime manager Manuel Duarte.

- T’s Nail Bar owner Tammy Nguyen opens Fusion Wine Bar in the unit next door in Pleasanton.

- JCPenney is shuttering its store in Stoneridge Shopping Center in February: Retailer cites lease issues as main reason for exit; building owner teases ‘new-to-market tenant’ on tap.

- Sanjani Ramkissoon reflects on opening new yarn store Stitch & Revel in Livermore.

- Pamela Price, the former Alameda County DA who was recalled by voters last year, enters the race to get her old job back in the 2026 election.

- Foothill junior Luka Mijatovic crushes the national age group record in the 800-meter at U.S. Open Swimming Championships.

- Downtown Series - Home in Danville for the holidays: Small businesses welcome winter shopping season as economic bright spot — but long-term challenges loom.

- The Brass Door is shuttering after nearly 80 years: Christmas Eve will mark the final day for storied San Ramon steakhouse.

- Police investigate after eight trees are cut down overnight at Dublin High School.

- Newly released investigatory documents on former Amador principal Jonathan Fey claim that — apart from allegedly grooming and seeking sexual relationships with recent-former students — Fey had created a toxic workplace environment, gave a student a lottery ticket for their 18th birthday and violated his leave of absence directives by judging a color guard competition.

- Superintendent Chris Funk announces his retirement from Dublin Unified, effective in June.

- First domino falls in a difficult year of teacher negotiations in the Tri-Valley. Livermore Education Association, which declared impasse two months ago, reaches tentative agreement with LVJUSD after a 14-hour mediation session. The deal centers around two salary increases during the 2026 calendar year and additional health and welfare benefits. ■



DEBORAH GROSSMAN

Philz Coffee Pleasanton store manager Aerielle Ortiz and clerk Tayyaba on opening day at the drive-thru store on Santa Rita Road.



Awe-inspiring displays

Sights of the season at Widmer World, Deacon Dave's, Candy Cane Lane

STORY AND PHOTOS
BY SOPHIA SUCATO

In the spirit of the holiday season and tradition, decorative light displays throughout the Tri-Valley help families make magical memories each year.

Every December, with about 28 homes participating, 4150 Walnut Dr. in Pleasanton becomes what locals know as Candy Cane Lane, where families and friends gather to walk the neighborhood in awe of all the different holiday displays.

For about the last 60 years, Candy Cane Lane has been a classic destination for holiday sightseeing for several generations. Each house decorates in its own style, featuring live movie projections and wooden cutouts of famous cartoon characters.

More about Candy Cane Lane can be found on Instagram @candycanelaneplesanton.

Also in Pleasanton at 3671 Chelsea Court, Widmer World has also been a beloved holiday attraction for decades. Started initially in 1980 by homeowners Bob and Susan Widmer, the holiday light display was originally limited to the home's front yard. However, 25 years ago the family decided to open their backyard to visitors, showcasing all the elaborate holiday decorations they had collected over the years.

This year marks the first that Widmer World welcomes visitors for the holidays without Bob Widmer, following his death in September at



age 81. Susan and the Widmer children now carry on the tradition in his honor.

For more information about Widmer World, visit www.widmer-world.com.

Farther east down Interstate 580 in Livermore, Deacon Dave's Christmas lights display at Casa del Pombo (House of the Dove) is a must-see holiday attraction.

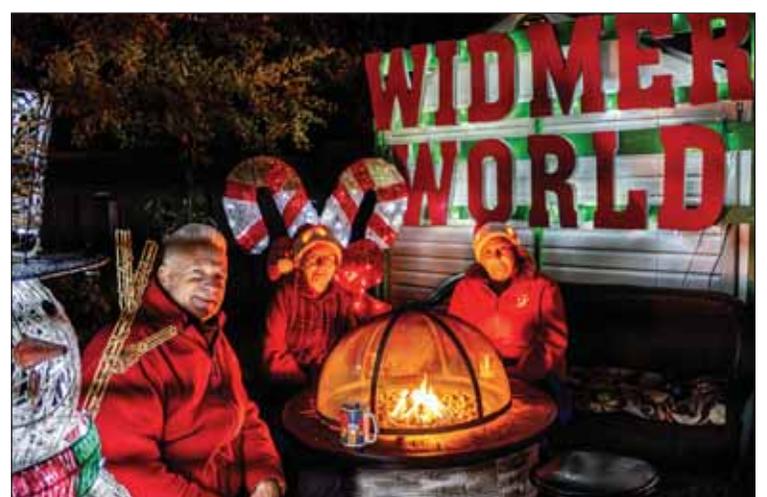
Located at 352 Hillcrest Ave., the display features over 957,007 lights and a theme that changes annually. People stand in lines for several blocks to see this display which began when the homeowner, Deacon Dave Rezendes, was ordained in 1982.

He told the Weekly that the house

display takes several months to plan and build, with construction starting as early as June and the pre-planning of the theme beginning months prior. In addition to the captivating spectacle outside, Rezendes also shared that inside, he has around 45 Christmas trees that he personally designs himself, incorporating family heirlooms and changing themes.

More information about Deacon Dave's is available at casadelpomba.com.

What keeps these homeowners bringing their extravagant traditions back year after year despite the time and labor it takes? The consensus is that it makes them happy to bring joy to families and their communities for the holiday season. ■



Pleasanton Weekly intern Sophia Sucato captured photos at three popular Tri-Valley holiday displays: Candy Cane Lane (top and middle-left), Deacon Dave's (middle-right) and Widmer World (bottom).

PUBLISHER'S NOTE

BY GINA CHANNELL WILCOX

In age of AI, there's no substitute for fact-based reporting by humans

A reader recently asked why we didn't cover a shooting that had taken place in Pleasanton on a Friday night.

We hadn't heard anything about a shooting, which was unusual, so we reached out to the Pleasanton Police Department.



Artificial intelligence is a useful innovation, and many already use AI to check spelling and grammar or to take notes during meetings.

It's also potentially dangerous. AI can quickly produce "deepfakes", which are very realistic, yet fake images or videos like the one our reader saw.

The shooting didn't happen.

In a letter to the editor, the reader explained, "Friday evening, an online Pleasanton community was chattering about a shooting in Pleasanton, (Inglewood) and Hopyard Road. A 24-year-old man shot his father. I checked it out, listened to the report with an eyewitness commenting with a video of police activity at the scene.

"The reported shooting, with video and an eyewitness, in Pleasanton Friday evening appeared to be authentic; it was not. Pleasanton police reported there were no shootings or reports of gunfire."

Depending on the training content used, AI can also amplify biases, which can affect news selection and content.

Then there are "hallucinations", when AI just makes up information and presents it as fact.

Human journalists are essential to combatting risks such as bias, misinformation like deepfakes and inaccuracies like hallucinations. Human editors verify facts, establish policies for AI use and make the ethical judgments necessary to maintain credibility and public trust.

But as the advances in and use of AI are increasing at a breakneck

speed, the number of independent news organizations and journalists is decreasing at an almost equivalent rate.

For centuries, newspapers relied on advertising revenue to employ journalists. But the business model changed with the rise of the internet. "Big Tech" companies like Google, Meta and Amazon spent 25 years extracting data from site users. With this personal data, they are able to sell digital ads that are targeted to people based on their preferences, interests and leanings.

In the same 25-year timeframe, a little over a third of news outlets across the country have closed and, in California, 65% of journalists have lost their jobs.

According to the 2025 State of Local News Report published by Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism, "Almost 40% of all local U.S. newspapers have vanished (since 2005), leaving 50 million Americans with limited or no access to a reliable source of local news."

The number of journalists has dropped at an equally staggering rate. Muck Rack, which maintains a media database and provides tools to journalists, reported a "stunning collapse in local reporting" since 2002 — a 75% drop in the number of local journalists. There were 40 journalists per 100,000 people nationwide in 2002; now there are only 8.2 per 100,000.

California ranks 41st out of 50 states for the number of reporters with 6.1 per 100,000.

According to the data, California's population of 39.43 million has approximately 2,133 journalists.

One consequence of continuing news outlet closures and independent publishers "calling it quits at an alarming rate", as the Medill report authors wrote, is a significant increase in "news deserts" — areas that lack consistent local reporting.

In the State of Local News Report, researchers said there are 212 counties in the U.S. without any local news source.

"In another 1,525 counties, there is only one news source remaining, typically a weekly newspaper," they reported. "Taken together, in these counties some 50 million Americans live with limited or no access to local news."

We are an independent publisher that, instead of calling it quits after years of financial losses, transitioned to a nonprofit.

As evidenced by our reader's story, misuse of AI is already happening. Our community needs and deserves journalists to combat the misinformation and inaccuracies and deliver fact-based, local news.

Facts matter. We need trained journalists to make sure the facts are real before readers see them. We need your support more than ever to ensure that residents of our community have access to quality news to live a more productive and engaged life.

Keep fact-based, human-produced news in Pleasanton by making a donation at PleasantonWeekly.com/donate. ■

LETTERS

On PUSD budget cuts

As a 19-year Pleasanton Unified School District substitute teacher and former Walnut Grove PTA president, I was taken aback by Trustee Justin Brown's comments regarding reducing certificated substitute teachers' pay by 11%.

Mr. Brown dismissively states that the reduction is "actionable and doesn't directly impact our staff". Not only does he not view certificated substitute teachers as staff, but he also appears to be unaware of how classrooms are staffed when permanent certificated teachers are unavailable.

He seems oblivious that certificated substitute teachers are in fact employees who coordinate with permanent teachers to ensure no learning loss while permanent teachers are out.

During long-term assignments, certified substitutes sign off on attendance reports, manage lesson plans, grade assignments and tests, and enter those grades into the system. All substitute teachers must complete the same training videos that other district employees complete, but substitute teachers do not get paid for their time completing the required training.

I recognize that given the current state of PUSD's budget, cuts are required. To callously state that an 11% pay reduction does not affect "staff", however, is apathetic and exemplifies poor leadership.

In light of the actions and results of the current Board of Trustees, Mr.

Brown should vote to cut the trustees' stipends by at least 11%.

PUSD's current board failed to implement their own superintendent transition plan (voting against it after voting in favor of it for several years), wasted money on a superintendent search then re-appointed the interim superintendent for another year. The Board of Trustees has shown no financial acumen resulting in a negative certification for PUSD's budget.

There is an election next year. Our students, staff, and the community deserve better.

— Paige Wright-Henry

Great column on coach

Dennis, I enjoyed your story regarding you and some of your team members getting together to visit coach Mike.

The story reminded me of my high school soccer coach, Tom Simonds. He was our high school coach in my junior year at Amador, 1968. It was the first season that soccer became a varsity sport in the EBAL. We finished in second place. I remember telling coach that we would be back next season to take care of unfinished business.

The next season 1969-70 we took care of the unfinished by going undefeated and bringing the first of many championship banners to hang up in the Amador gym.

Many of the teammates kept in touch with our coach, who obviously made an impression on many of us. We had a team reunion dinner with him and five years later helped him celebrate a birthday with him. Several years after that, a number of

us attended his funeral.

Not the end of the story because when I read your article in the Weekly, it brought back a lot of my favorite memories. Thank you Dennis.

— Frank Gomez, Amador class of 1970

District must address achievement gaps in formal meeting

Pleasanton Unified must directly confront the significant academic achievement gaps affecting students in our community.

Recent incidents of race-based hate behavior at Amador — three in just six weeks — along with additional concerns shared privately by parents and teachers, reflect deeper cultural issues that we cannot ignore.

School culture and academic achievement are inseparable. Students who do not feel safe, valued, and supported cannot learn at their highest potential.

Who is leading this work? At present, multiple "supports" appear to be operating independently, without a cohesive framework to ensure consistency, accountability, and measurable impact.

It is past time for a formal board meeting dedicated to these issues. Not to produce instant solutions, but to ensure trustees receive accurate information, without spin, and can openly discuss what is happening in our schools. Because trustees cannot deliberate outside a public meeting, this conversation can only occur if it is placed on a board agenda — and that requires at least three trustees to agree.

I urge our board to take this neces-

sary step. It may be uncomfortable, but discomfort is not a reason to delay action when students are being harmed academically and culturally.

— Christina Nystrom

Help save a life

As your family gathers for the holidays, ask about your family's health history. The future of your (and your family's) health is written somewhere in the past. Knowing your family's health history can be the key to a longer, healthier life. And it can help your healthcare provider identify traits that may put you at risk for certain health conditions or diseases.

The first step is to talk to your immediate family members. Include three generations. Include siblings (and half-siblings). Your grandparents, parents, siblings, aunts, uncles, nieces, and nephews may all have helpful information.

Gather information about any major medical conditions, age of onset, and for relatives who've passed away, causes of death in the family. If anyone has the death certificate, look at the official cause of death, their age, and other medical conditions.

If you have a family history of a condition, it's important to find out if you have any shared genes that may be related. While you can't change your genetic makeup, there may be steps you can take now that could help you stay healthy.

For assistance in tracing your family tree, contact the Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society. We assist people in tracing their family tree. I'm on their Board of Directors.

— Felicia Ziomek

Submit letters to the editor of up to 250 words to editor@PleasantonWeekly.com.

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PLEASANTON PREPS

BY DENNIS MILLER

Amador boys' soccer posts wins at all three levels

Plus, highlights from Foothill boys' soccer and Amador boys' basketball

The Amador Valley boys' soccer program saw wins for all three levels last week.

The varsity got an early goal from Jonas Lyons off an assist from Matthew Sun, then the Amador defense made the goal stand up as the team earned the 1-0 win against Arroyo.

In the junior varsity game, the Dons rolled to a 5-0 win over Arroyo. The goals were scored by Kingston Smith, Nico Rodriguez and Sawyer Willis split the goals. Smith, Oliver Heid and Sean Kim each contributed an assist. Kim was recognized as the Player of the Match for his outstanding play.

The freshmen team came through with a 1-0 win over Northgate to move to 2-0 in the season. Yabin Dons scored the lone goal, converting a breakaway for the Dons.

Foothill boys' soccer

The Falcons had two wins and a tie last week.

The week ended with a 3-0 win over Tracy, with Jack Leone, Ashrith Gandluru, and Kevin Tippit scoring the goals.

The Falcons started the week with a 2-2 draw with West, with Foothill getting goals from Adnan Rousta and Atlas Kading.

In the middle game of the week, Foothill beat Kimball 4-1. Tippit scored twice with Rousta and Gandluru getting one goal each.

Amador boys' basketball

The Dons got a 73-28 win over Mt. Eden last week.

Jeremy Light had 15 points for the Dons, while Jaylen Smith added

12 points. Elijah Stanley also scored eight points for Amador.

Results reporting needed!

As we get into the Christmas break, we are still lacking in results from all our winter teams.

Before we get into what we need, props go out to Amador boys' basketball and soccer, and Foothill boys' soccer.

There is a group of parents working together to get me all three levels of Amador boys' soccer. They put together the results for the week, send them to me and have attached pictures.

Amador boys' basketball has been taking advantage of how easy it is to turn in results. The Dons' scorekeeper takes pictures of the scorebook, then texts the results to me. Thank



COURTESY AARON FRANKLIN

The Amador Valley varsity starting lineup for a match this year.

you, Brandon Pace!

I have run these before but will run them back again this week to help the remaining teams get me the results each week.

Basketball: As mentioned above, as easy as it gets. The game ends, you take a picture of the scorebook and send it to me. All I need is the final score and who you played, which is usually at the top of the scorebook sheet. Over the years I have had parent volunteers, as well as the team scorekeepers fill this role. Honestly it takes less than five minutes following a game to get me the information.

Soccer: Not too hard as well. Just send me the final score, who you

played, and who scored goals or had assists. Other highlights from the game are fine as well.

Wrestling: If it is a tournament, send me who won medals, what their record for the tournament was, and if possible, a link to the tournament results page.

Pictures are always appreciated! Just include who is in the picture and the name of the person that took the picture.

My only favor I ask is to send the results win or lose. Please don't be the type of parent that only responds when the team wins. It's a bad look and takes away from the efforts the athletes put in every day. ■

Grab your front row seat today!

TRI-VALLEY PREPS PLAYBOOK

GIVING YOU AN IN-DEPTH LOOK AT PREP SPORTS!

Every Tuesday, veteran sports writer Dennis Miller emails you exclusive insights into:

- Season and game previews that tell you what to look for and what's at stake
- Profiles of interesting coaches and athletes
- Post-game analysis
- Entertaining features
- Local sports trends

SCAN AND SIGN UP FOR TRI-VALLEY PLAYBOOK



SIGN UP NOW: PleasantonWeekly.com/tri-valley-preps-playbook/

Public Notices

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME

File No. 605520

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): CGT ELECTRIC

8700 hillside st

Oakland ca 94605

FILED IN ALAMEDA COUNTY ON: 04/12/2024

UNDER FILE NO. 605520

REGISTRANT'S NAME(S):

CESAR AUGUSTO GONZALEZ TAPIA

8700 HILLSIDE ST

OAKLAND CA 94605

THIS BUSINESS WAS CONDUCTED BY An

Individual.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Alameda County on December 05 2025.

(PLW Dec 12, 19, 2025, Jan 2 and 9, 2026)

2017 FORD MUSTANG VIN#

1FA6P8TH3H5211140 OR LIC# NONE LIEN SALE:

12/29/2025 AT: 10:00 AM 41585 ALBRAE ST,

FREMONT, CA 94538

(PLW Dec 19, 2025)

GROUP INTELLECT

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No.: 619228

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

1.) GROUP INTELLECT , located at 1047

Serpentine Ln, Suite 200, Pleasanton CA, 94566, Alameda County.

This business is conducted by: a Corporation.

The name and residence address of the

registrant(s) is(are):

GROUP INTELLECT

1047 Serpentine Ln, Suite 200

Pleasanton CA, 94566

State of Incorporation/Organization: California

Registrant began transacting business under

the fictitious business name(s) listed above on

12/02/25

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-

Recorder of Alameda on December 03 2025.

(PLW Dec 12, 19, 2025, Jan 2 and 9, 2026)

KREO CONSTRUCTION

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No.: 619387

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

1.) Kreo Construction , located at 328 Gramercy

Pl Oakland, CA 94603, Alameda County.

This business is conducted by: a Limited

Liability Company.

The name and residence address of the

registrant(s) is(are):

KREO ENTERPRISES LLC

328 Gramercy Pl

Oakland, CA 94603

State of Incorporation/Organization: California

Registrant has not yet begun to transact

business under the fictitious business name(s)

listed above.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-

Recorder of Alameda on December 10 2025.

(PLW Dec 19, 2025, Jan 2, 9 and 16, 2026)

FANTASY SOUND EVENT SERVICES

FANTASY SOUND

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No.: 619409

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

1.) Fantasy Sound Event Services , 2.) Fantasy

Sound , located at 320 Stealth Court, Livermore,

CA 94551, Alameda County.

This business is conducted by: an Individual.

The name and residence address of the

registrant(s) is(are):

KEVIN DENNIS

320 Stealth Court

Livermore, CA 94551

Registrant began transacting business under

the fictitious business name(s) listed above on

2/1989

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-

Recorder of Alameda on December 11 2025.

(PLW Dec 19, 2025, Jan 2, 9 and 16, 2026)

TREASURY MANAGEMENT SOLUTIONS

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No.: 619352

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

1.) Treasury Management Solutions , located

at 5207 Crestline Way Pleasanton, CA 94566,

Alameda County.

This business is conducted by: an Individual.

The name and residence address of the

registrant(s) is(are):

JEANNE CASTRO SCHMIDT

5207 Crestline Way

Pleasanton, CA 94566

Registrant began transacting business under

the fictitious business name(s) listed above on

December 5, 1995

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-

Recorder of Alameda on December 09 2025.

(PLW Dec 19, 2025, Jan 2, 9 and 16, 2026)

HOUSE OF VANITIES

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No.: 619323

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

1.) House OfVanities , located at 3015

Teagarden St, San Leandro, CA 94577, Alameda

County.

This business is conducted by: a Corporation.

The name and residence address of the

registrant(s) is(are):

HSKB GROUP INC

3033 Teagarden St

San Leandro, CA 94577

State of Incorporation/Organization: California

Registrant has not yet begun to transact

business under the fictitious business name(s)

listed above.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-

Recorder of Alameda on December 08 2025.

(PLW Dec 19, 2025, Jan 2, 9 and 16, 2026)

SF BAY AREA CHAPTER OF BETTER INVESTING

MODEL INVESTMENT CLUB

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No.: 619390

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

1.) SF BAY AREA CHAPTER OF BETTER

INVESTING MODEL INVESTMENT CLUB , located

at 450 MAIN ST SUITE #200, PLEASANTON, CA

94566, ALAMEDA County.

This business is conducted by: a General

Partnership.

The name and residence address of the

registrant(s) is(are):

REBECCA TONG

450 MAIN STREET SUITE #200

PLEASANTON, CA 94566

SERINA KWOK

149 GARDINER AVENUE

SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94080

Registrant began transacting business under

the fictitious business name(s) listed above on

02/01/2011

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-

Recorder of Alameda on December 10 2025.

(PLW Dec 19, 2025, Jan 2, 9 and 16, 2026)

LIVERMORE EXECUTIVE RV & BOAT STORAGE

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No.: 619255

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

1.) Livermore Executive RV & Boat Storage ,

located at 4528 Contractors Place Livermore, CA

94551, Alameda County. Mailing Address: 1301

Ygnacio Valley Road, Suite 200 Walnut Creek,

CA 94598.

This business is conducted by: a Limited

Liability Company.

The name and residence address of the

registrant(s) is(are):

TA DAH, LLC

1301 Ygnacio Valley Road, Suite 200

Walnut Creek, CA 94598

State of Incorporation/Organization: California

Registrant began transacting business under

the fictitious business name(s) listed above on

12/01/2025

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-

Recorder of Alameda on December 03 2025.

(PLW Dec 19, 2025, Jan 2, 9 and 16, 2026)

REDWOOD INSURANCE SOLUTIONS

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No.: 619288

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

1.) Redwood Insurance Solutions , located at

6088 Sunol Blvd. Suite 100, Pleasanton, CA,

94566, Alameda County.

This business is conducted by: a Limited

Liability Company.

The name and residence address of the

registrant(s) is(are):

REDWOOD COVERAGE PARTNERS, LLC

1920 Hillhurst Ave. #1075

Los Angeles, CA 90027

State of Incorporation/Organization: Delaware

Registrant has not yet begun to transact

business under the fictitious business name(s)

listed above.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-

Recorder of Alameda on December 05 2025.

(PLW Dec 19, 2025, Jan 2, 9 and 16, 2026)

AIM TRAFFIC SIGNAL TECHNOLOGY

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No.: 618940

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

1.) AIM Traffic Signal Technology , located at

5854 Sterling Greens Circle, Pleasanton, CA

94566, Alameda County.

This business is conducted by: a Corporation.

The name and residence address of the

registrant(s) is(are):

AIM ENGINEERING CONSULTANTS, INC.

5854 Sterling Greens Circle

Pleasanton, CA 94566

State of Incorporation/Organization: California

Registrant has not yet begun to transact

business under the fictitious business name(s)

listed above.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-

Recorder of Alameda on November 18 2025.

(PLW Dec 12, 19, 2025, Jan 2 and 9, 2026)

KAHIDREAMERS

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No.: 619126

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

1.) KahiDreamers , located at 4510 Hubbard

St, Unit 509, Emeryville, CA 94608, Alameda

County.

This business is conducted by: an Individual.

The name and residence address of the

registrant(s) is(are):

MANABU KIMURA

4510 Hubbard St, Unit 509

Emeryville, CA 94608

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 November 25 2025.

(PLW Dec 5, 12, 19, 2025 and Jan 2, 2026)

PMS (PROFESSIONAL MOVING SERVICE)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No.: 619230

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

1.) PMS (PROFESSIONAL MOVING SERVICE)

, located at 25341 CYPRESS AVE APT 35

HAYWARD, CA 94544, Alameda County. Mailing

Address: 4217 Orinda Way Bakersfield, CA

93306.

This business is conducted by: a Corporation.

The name and residence address of the

registrant(s) is(are):

PMS (PROFESSIONAL MOVING SERVICE)

25341 CYPRESS AVE APT 35

HAYWARD, CA 94544

State of Incorporation/Organization:

CALIFORNIA

Registrant has not yet begun to transact

business under the fictitious business name(s)

listed above.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-

Recorder of Alameda on December 03 2025.

(PLW Dec 12, 19, 2025, Jan 2 and 9, 2026)

8STEW8 INK & STITCH

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No.: 618950

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

1.) 8STEW8 Ink & Stitch , located at 30705 Lyric

Ter Union City, CA 94587, Alameda County.

This business is conducted by: a Married

Couple.

The name and residence address of the

registrant(s) is(are):

DOMINIK STEWART

30705 Lyric Ter

Union City, CA 94587

PRINCESS STEWART

30705 Lyric Ter

Union City, CA 94587

Registrant began transacting business under

the fictitious business name(s) listed above on

11/16/2025

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-

Recorder of Alameda on November 19 2025.

(PLW Dec 12, 19, 2025, Jan 2 and 9, 2026)

SPORTSPPLUS INJURY PREVENTION AND

REHABILITATION

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No.: 619129

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

1.) SportsPlus Injury Prevention And

Rehabilitation , located at 5990 Stoneridge

Dr Suite 102 Pleasanton, CA 94588, Alameda

County.

This business is conducted by: a Corporation.

The name and residence address of the

registrant(s) is(are):

BRUCE CHIROPRACTIC CORPORATION

5990 Stoneridge Dr

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.: 25CV156503

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:

Petitioner: River Tipton filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:

RIVER TIPTON to TALON MATTY TIPTON
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: 1/16/2026, 9am, Rene.C Davidson of the Superior Court of California, County of Alameda located at 1225 Fallon St., Oakland, CA 94612.

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

PLEASANTON WEEKLY

Date: 12/1/2025

Chad Finke

JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT

(PLW Dec 19, 2025, Jan 2, 9 and 16, 2026)

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA FOR THE COUNTY OF ALAMEDA Case No.: 25CV156981

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:

Petitioner: Elsa Jane Ramona Castillo Polanco filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:

ELSA JANE RAMONA CASTILLO POLANCO to JANNY CASTILLO

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: January 16, 2026, 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: 12/02/2025

Assigned Judge Of Alameda County Supreme Court

JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT

(PLW Dec 12, 19, 2025, Jan 2 and 9, 2026)

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA FOR THE COUNTY OF ALAMEDA Case No.: 25CV155264

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:

Petitioner: MICHAEL A. NEESE filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:

MICHAEL ANTHONY CACILHAS to MICHAEL ANTHONY NEESE

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: JANUARY 16, 2026,

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: NOVEMBER 19, 2025

THOMAS J. NIXON

JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT

(PLW Dec 12, 19, 2025, Jan 2 and 9, 2026)

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA FOR THE COUNTY OF ALAMEDA Case No.: 25CV156240

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:

Petitioner: JIN ZHANG and YOUYAN ZENG, on behalf of minor child, CHENXU ZHANG, filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:

CHENXU ZHANG to TOM ZHANG

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

NOTICE OF HEARING: January 30, 2026, 9:00 a.m., Hayward Branch 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: 11/24/2025

Hon. Thomas Nixon

JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT

(PLW Dec 12, 19, 2025, Jan 2 and 9, 2026)

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA FOR THE COUNTY OF ALAMEDA Case No.: 25CV157564

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:

Petitioner: Andrew Alan Moore filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:

ANDREW ALAN KNOWLTON to ANDREW ALAN MOORE

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: January 30, 2026, 9:00am, Family law of the Superior Court of California, County of Alameda located at 24405 Amador St, Hayward, CA 94544.

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

PLEASANTON WEEKLY

Date: 12/04/2025

Thomas J. Nixon

JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT

(PLW Dec 12, 19, 2025, Jan 2 and 9, 2026)

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA FOR THE COUNTY OF ALAMEDA Case No.: 25CV153385

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:

Petitioner: Zarmina Kochi Hennessy filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:

ZARMINA KOCHI HENNESSY to ZARMINA HENNESSY

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: 01/23/2026, 9 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: 11/10/2025

Thomas J. Nixon

JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT

(PLW Dec 5, 12, 19, 2025 and Jan 2, 2026)

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA FOR THE COUNTY OF ALAMEDA Case No.: 25CV157613

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:

Petitioner: Sorphea Ouk Wong filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:

SORPHEA OUK WONG to SOPHIA OUK WONG
ARIYAH SOPHIA WONG to ARIA SOPHIA WONG

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: January 23, 2026, 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: December 4, 2025

Thomas J. Nixon

JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT

(PLW Dec 12, 19, 2025, Jan 2 and 9, 2026)

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA FOR THE COUNTY OF ALAMEDA Case No.: 25CV141589

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:

Petitioner: Jessica Lyn Osterberg filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:

JESSICA LYN OSTERBERG to JESSICA LYN TREAN

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: 01/09/2026, 9:00, Department 514 of the Superior Court of California, County of Alameda located at 24405 Amador Street, Hayward, CA 94544.

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

PLEASANTON WEEKLY

Date: 10/08/2025

Thomas Nixon

JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT

(PLW Nov 28, Dec 5, 12 and 19, 2025)

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA FOR THE COUNTY OF ALAMEDA Case No.: 25CV154498

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:

Petitioner: EAN HUAT KHOR filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:

EAN HUAT KHOR to DAVE EAN-HUAT KHOR
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: JANUARY 23, 2026, 9:00 A.M., HAYWARD BRANCH 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: 11/13/2025

HON. THOMAS NIXON

JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT

(PLW Nov 28, Dec 5, 12 and 19, 2025)

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF:

DAVID CHEW

Case No.: 25PR158731

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

A Petition for Probate has been filed by: Traci M. Chew in the Superior Court of California, County of Alameda.

The Petition for Probate requests that: Traci M. Chew be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.

THE PETITION requests the decedent's will and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. The will and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court. 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 January 14 2026 at 9:45 am in Dept 202 of the Superior Court of California, County of Alameda, located at 2120 Martin Luther King Way, Berkeley, CA, 94704.

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

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

Attorney for Petitioner:

Raquel Lazar-Paley, Esq.

Paley & Pohn, PLC

819 Eddy Street

San Francisco, CA 94109

415-338-8226

(PLW Dec 19, 2025, Jan 2 and 9, 2026)

SUMMONS **Case No. 24CV067579**

(CITACION JUDICIAL)

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT (A VISO AL

DEMANDADO): **Desoto Cab Company, LLC**

and Does 1-15

YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF: (LO ESTÁ DEMANDANDO EL DEMANDANTE):

T.J. Kristi Corporation

NOTICE! You have been sued. The court may decide against you without your being heard unless you respond Within 30 days. Read the information below.

You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons and legal papers are served on you to file a written response at this court and have a copy served on the plaintiff. A letter or phone call will not protect you. Your written response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case. There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and more Information at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the court clerk for a fee waiver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and your wages, money, and property may be taken without further warning from the court. There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may want to call an attorney referral service. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may be eligible for free legal services from a nonprofit legal services program. You can locate these nonprofit groups at the California Legal Services Web site (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), or by contacting your local court or county bar association. NOTE: The court has a statutory lien for waived fees and costs on any settlement or arbitration award of \$10,000 or more in a civil case. The court's lien must be paid before the court will dismiss the case. ¡AVISO! Lo han demandado. Si no responde dentro de 30 días, la corte puede decidir en su contra sin escuchar su versión. Lea la información a continuación. Tiene 30 DIAS DE CALENDARIO después de que le entreguen esta citación y papeles legales para presentar una respuesta por escrito en esta corte y hacer que se entregue una copia al demandante. Una carta o una llamada telefónica no lo protegen. Su respuesta por escrito tiene que estar en formato legal correcto si desea que procesen su caso en la corte. Es posible que haya un formulario que usted pueda usar para su respuesta. Puede encontrar estos formularios de la corte y mas información en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California (www.sucorte.ca.gov), en la biblioteca de leyes de su condado o en la corte que le quede mas cerca. Si no puede pagar la cuota de presentación, pida al secretario de la corte que le dé un formulario de exención de pago de cuotas. Si no presenta su respuesta a tiempo, puede perder el caso por incumplimiento y la corte le podra quitar su sueldo, dinero y bienes sin mas advertencia. Hay otros requisitos legales. Es recomendable que llame a un abogado inmediatamente. Si no conoce a un abogado, puede llamar a un servicio de remisión a abogados. Si no puede pagar a un abogado, es posible que cumpla con los requisitos para obtener servicios legales gratuitos de un programa de servicios legales sin fines de lucro. Puede encontrar estos grupos sin fines de lucro en el sitio web de California Legal Services, (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California, (www.sucorte.ca.gov) o poniéndose en contacto con la corte o el colegio de abogados locales. AVISO: Por ley, la corte tiene derecho a reclamar las cuotas y los costos exentos por imponer un gravamen sobre cualquier recuperación de \$10,000 mas de valor recibida mediante un acuerdo o una concesión de arbitraje en un caso de derecho civil. Tiene que pagar el gravamen de la corte antes de que la corte pueda desear el caso. The name and address of the court is (El nombre y dirección de la corte es):

24405 Amador Street, Hayward, CA 94544

The name, address, and telephone number of plaintiff's attorney, or plaintiff without an attorney, is

(El nombre, la dirección y el numero de teléfono del abogado del demandante, o del demandante que no tiene abogado, es):

T.J. Kristi Corporation dba Portola Food & Gas, 4431 Stoneridge Drive, #100, Pleasanton, CA 94588 (925) 963-9049

DATE (Fecha): **03/13/2024**

Chad Finke, Clerk,

by /s/ D. Franklin, Deputy Clerk

(Secretario) (Adjunto)

NOTICE TO THE PERSON SERVED: You are served

(PLW Dec 5, 12, 19, 2025 and Jan 2, 2026)

Place a legal notice at

PleasantonWeekly.com/legal_notices/

Entertainment

HOLIDAY YOUTH MUSIC FESTIVAL Holiday Youth Music Festival showcases the vibrant talents of high schoolers, featuring a delightful mix of original and classic holiday songs promising to fill the heart with holiday cheer and musical joy. 7 p.m., Dec. 19. Tickets \$13. Visit firehousearts.org.

THE NUTCRACKER Valley Dance Theatre brings Tchaikovsky's Nutcracker to the Bankhead in this full-length repertory classical ballet where costumes and sets are created by professional, award-winning designers. Dec. 19-21. Visit livermorearts.org.

BEST OF SAN FRANCISCO STAND-UP COMEDY From the producers of one of the longest running independent shows in America comes this comedy tour de force from some of the hottest up and coming acts in the Bay Area. 8 p.m., Dec. 20. Tickets \$13.40-\$21.40. Visit firehousearts.org.

CAMPANA SOBRE CAMPANA: CHRISTMAS IN MEXICO This vibrant show weaves cherished Mexican traditions into a magical story of the season. Through joyous rhythms and the colorful spectacle of Mexican dance, capture the heartwarming reenactment of Mary and Joseph's journey. 7:30 p.m., Dec. 22. Tickets \$70-\$100. Visit livermorearts.org.

FOREJOUR - FOREIGNER & JOURNEY TRIBUTE BAND A tribute to the music of these '80s mega bands and recreating the soundtrack of a generation with stunning accuracy. 8 p.m., Dec. 27. Tickets \$35-\$69. Visit livermorearts.org.

NEW YEAR'S EVE WITH MATT AXTON & BADMOON Ring in the New Year with a night of live music, dancing and celebration featuring Matt Axton and Badmoon, known for their rich, genre-blending sound that fuses Americana, blues, folk and rock. Dancing and DJ in the lobby. 7 p.m., Dec. 31. Tickets \$150. Visit livermorearts.org.

ANDY MCKEE AT THE STAGE DOOR LOUNGE Experience the mesmerizing artistry of world-renowned acoustic

guitarist Andy McKee. With his signature two-handed technique and percussive guitar mastery, McKee brings his latest EP Symbol to life. 8 p.m., Jan. 2. Tickets \$40-\$50. Visit livermorearts.org.

100 YEARS OF HANK WILLIAMS Back by popular demand, Jason Petty's Obie Award-winning performance brings the timeless music of Hank Williams to life in 100 Years of Hank Williams. This unforgettable show has fans clapping, stomping, and coming back for more. 3 p.m., Jan. 4. Visit livermorearts.org.

STEALIN' CHICAGO The San Francisco Bay Area's Aja Vu Band pays tribute to the timeless music of Steely Dan and Chicago. Known for their faithful renditions, Aja Vu blends the rich harmonies and classic horns that define the sound of these musical legends. 7:30 p.m., Jan. 9. Tickets \$33-\$38. Visit firehousearts.org.

Holidays

SHABBAT HANUKKAH Join in person at Congregation Beth Emek, or online, for their annual Shabbat Hanukkah service celebrating the 6th night of Hanukkah with a joyous, song-filled service. 7:30 p.m., Dec. 19. Visit bethemek.org.

CHANUKAH UNDER THE STARS Join to light up Livermore's menorah in front of the Bankhead Theater with a live Chanukah music concert. Get showered by "chocolate gelt" raining down with LPPFD, enjoy hot latkes, Chanukah donuts and glow-in-the-dark fun. 7:30-8:30 p.m., Dec. 20.

HOLIDAY ORNAMENT MAKING Join LARPD with nature-made materials gathered from the park to make beautiful ornaments. All materials will be provided for this free event. 12-2 p.m., Dec. 20. Register at larpd.org.

PLEASANTON-TULANCINGO SISTER CITY COMMUNITY POSADA The Pleasanton-Tulancingo Sister City invites the Pleasanton/Tri-Valley community to a holiday Posada. Join this traditional holiday family friendly event celebrated in our sister city and other South

American cities. 7-9 p.m., Dec. 21. Veterans Memorial Building, 301 Main St., Pleasanton.

LIVERMORE HOLIDAY LIGHTS & WINE TROLLEY Celebrate the season with the annual Livermore Holiday Lights & Wine Trolley. Dec. 5-23. Visit winecountry.com/event.

GIFT WRAP PARTY Bring gift wrap and gift and learn how to wrap gifts. Limited gift wrapping supplies will be available. 4-5 p.m., Dec. 23. Livermore Springtown Library.

SANTA PHOTOS AT STONERIDGE MALL The ultimate holiday tradition awaits. Don't miss Santa pictures at Stoneridge Shopping Center where walk ups are welcome every day until closing time. Now through Dec. 24. For reservation visit simon.com.

NOON YEAR'S EVE CELEBRATION Skip the midnight countdown and join for a lively celebration with games, crafts, dancing, light refreshments and balloon drop. 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Dec. 31. Robert Livermore Community Center. Visit larpd.org.

DEACON DAVE'S HOUSE OF THE DOVE Deacon Dave's House of the Dove is open now through New Year's. 6-10 p.m., Fridays and Saturdays; 6-9 p.m., Sundays through Thursdays; 352 Hillcrest Ave., Livermore.

WINTER GLOW EXPERIENCE: A DRIVE-THRU HOLIDAY LIGHT SHOW Experience the magic of the holiday season with the Winter Glow Experience, a dazzling drive-thru spectacular featuring hundreds of larger-than-life festive displays. Bundle up in the car and enjoy a synchronized light show along a 1-mile holiday route. Now through Jan. 4. Visit alamedacountyfair.com.

BOY SCOUTS TREE RECYCLING FUNDRAISER Boy Scout Troop 941 will pick up trees from Pleasanton residents, 8 a.m., Jan. 3. Remove all lights, tinsel, ornaments, nails and stands. Reservations required at Troop941.org.

PGS HOLIDAY TREE PICKUP Place trees at the curb on regular collection day between Jan. 5-9. Trees must be clean (no flocking or tinsel) cut to 4 feet or less in height with bases or stands removed.

Exhibitions

FIREHOUSE LOBBY EXHIBIT This solo exhibition of Isadore Kamins, A Colorful Life, features nearly 20 works by the artist in this retrospective exhibition organized by his family in memory of his expansive creative endeavors. Through Dec. 20. Visit firehousearts.org.

PLEASANTON ART LEAGUE'S ANNUAL FALL MEMBERS' SHOW Featuring approximately 75 works of all mediums, this annual group exhibition will showcase the diverse and talented work of PAL's members. Through Dec. 20. The Harrington Gallery. Visit firehousearts.org.

PET OF THE WEEK



EAST BAY SPCA

Meet Parker

A sweet, smart and eager 5-year-old cattle dog mix who can't wait to be your loyal sidekick, Parker loves being included in everyday adventures, whether that's hiking, neighborhood strolls, yard play or relaxing together after a fun day out. Parker rides well in the car, has a gentle, friendly vibe and knows "sit" and "shake" like a champ. If you're searching for an active, loving best friend, Parker is your guy. Meet him at East Bay SPCA or visit eastbayspca.org.

GREETINGS FROM EVERYWHERE EXHIBIT In this exhibit the museum displays a wide variety of items that residents of Pleasanton and the Tri-Valley have acquired on their travels. Through Jan. 3. Museum on Main.

KNOCK, KNOCK: THE ART OF WIT AND WHIMSY On display this fall & winter at the UNCLE Credit Union Art Gallery this lighthearted and joyful exhibition celebrates the playful side of creativity, showcasing artwork that elicits laughter, sparks delight and nudges the imagination in unexpected directions. Through Jan. 4. Visit livermorearts.org.

Fairgrounds

JURASSIC QUEST Jurassic Quest, the world's most popular dinosaur experience is at the Alameda County Fairgrounds Dec. 27-30. Visit alamedacountyfair.com.

Farmers Markets

PLEASANTON FARMERS MARKET The Pleasanton Farmers Market is Saturday year round featuring vendors with seasonal fruits and vegetables, plus artisan goods. 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on West Angela Street.

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.

Support

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.

Volunteer

OPEN SPACE WORK DAY Help LARPD Rangers keep the park safe, enjoyable and accessible for visitors and wildlife. Tasks vary each workday. 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., Dec. 20. Visit larpd.org.

HOME TO HOME Valley Humane Society's Home To Home is an online pet placement platform that helps pet owners find permanent or temporary homes for pets. To learn more, visit home-home.org/shelters/vhs.

VOLUNTEER WITH NILES CANYON RAILWAY Niles Canyon Railway is looking for volunteers for all levels of skill and experience. For more information, visit ncry.org/volunteer/.

VOLUNTEER AT OPEN HEART KITCHEN Volunteers at Open Heart Kitchen help create a more food secure future in the Tri-Valley. Visit openheartkitchen.org.

VOLUNTEER WITH HOPE HOSPICE Hope patient care volunteers help patients and their families in many different ways by interacting with patients, escorting a canine companion to visit patients, or helping in the office or special event. For more information, visit hopehospice.com.

RIDECARE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED RideCare is CityServe, premier transportation program that connects older adults and individuals with disabilities with free transportation and connects them to locations throughout greater Alameda County with a special focus area of Livermore, Pleasanton, Dublin and Sunol. Visit cityservecares.org/ridecare.

Employment

The Pleasanton Weekly offers employment advertising.

The deadline is Sunday at 11:59 pm.

Visit PleasantonWeekly.com/employment_ads/.

For assistance email LegalNotices@PleasantonWeekly.com.

Real Estate

HOME SALES

This week's data represents homes sold during Sept. 29 to Oct. 3 for Pleasanton, Livermore and Dublin, and Nov. 17-21 for San Ramon.

Pleasanton

- 3818 Brumm Court** C. Royball to Y. & K. Lu for \$1,655,000
- 5531 Calico Lane** Nassar Living Trust to E. & L. James for \$2,860,000
- 4697 Canary Drive** Gamble Living Trust to S. & P. Hande for \$1,660,000
- 2670 Corte Elena** K. Dulka to Nagabhyru Family Trust for \$1,765,000
- 1419 Greenwood Road** Gregory Living Trust to J. & R. Song for \$1,600,000
- 7527 Hillsdale Drive** Wood Living Trust to S. & P. Vengala for \$1,700,000
- 3397 East Ruby Hill Drive** Zca Homes LLC to S. & K. Burli for \$4,000,000
- 702 Sylvaner Drive** Mattison-Bryant L Trust to S. Lee for \$1,688,000
- 1804 Tanglewood Way** J. Mederos to R. & A. Tomar for \$1,950,000
- 3633 Terrazzo Court** Devasarma Family Trust to Q. & S. Hart for \$2,860,000
- 1916 Ticino Court** R. Patel to G. & M. Singh for \$6,500,000
- 1282 Vintner Way** Sat Capital Group LLC to Anson Causeway Bay Finl LLC for \$1,357,500
- 366 Virginia Way** Georgis Family Trust to T. & D. Caponigro for \$1,183,000

Livermore

- 645 Buckeye Drive** Bates Trust to Buckeye Investment LLC for \$650,000

- 711 Catalina Drive** R. & K. Horry to K. & E. Lee for \$1,450,000
- 5828 Crestmont Avenue** P. Tello to M. Kandi for \$1,015,000
- 4374 Emory Way #2** Ikonik Property Holdings LLC to R. & C. Knisely for \$1,665,000
- 3987 Fordham Way** Wrinkle Trust to V. & T. Knoll for \$930,000
- 505 Joyce Street** Callabresi Family Trust to L. & J. Mcalister for \$1,225,000
- 1699 Lodestone Road** K. & G. Hoffman to M. & R. Simpson for \$2,245,000
- 1021 Montclair Court** C. & D. Jaramillo to S. & C. Varela for \$1,340,000
- 1237 Norwood Place** Rivers Trust to Rinetti Family Trust for \$1,284,000
- 1762 Old Tower Road** Wang Living Trust to J. & T. Roche for \$1,602,500
- 428 North P Street** C. & M. Arias to Nelson Living Trust for \$1,060,000
- 3869 Silver Oaks Way** C. Varela to Q. & S. Houghton for \$850,000
- 1323 Spring Valley Common** Russell Trust to C. Williams-Miller for \$683,000
- 1133 Tokay Common** Balthazar Family Trust to J. & A. Morgan for \$1,435,000
- 1128 Verona Avenue** Wall Family Trust to T. & K. Richardson for \$1,015,000
- 775 Vivian Drive** T. Hussain to R. & K. Horry for \$1,715,500
- 844 Wall Street** Malsam Living Trust to L. Lee for \$970,000
- 2304 White Oak Place** Straus Family Trust to V. & R. Nyberg for \$2,425,000

Dublin

- 3684 Branding Iron Place** Lisa-Roman Living Trust to G. & A. Leong for \$780,000
- 11448 Cresta Lane** B. & J. Worrall to P. & T. Benson for \$1,530,000
- 8567 Davona Drive** Samuelsen Family Trust to S. & C. Lau for \$1,310,000
- 6610 South Mariposa Lane** Won & Ha Living Trust to M. & T. Chaudhary for \$1,000,000
- 7822 Ridgeline Place** Pj Family Trust to S. & A. Shiroor for \$2,550,000
- 2734 East Sugar Hill Terrace** Boehm Living Trust to Challagundla Family Trust for \$2,825,000

San Ramon

- 22208 Argento Loop** S. Estevez to Deyong Family Trust for \$1,265,000

- 1412 Arianna Lane** Toy Trust to A. & S. Kasture for \$910,000
- 1020 Canyon Hills Road** Brown Family Trust to C. & H. Jaiprakash for \$1,725,000
- 3163 Christopher Way** Ap Custom Builds LLC to S. & W. Wu for \$1,550,000
- 1132 Hoskins Lane** Chen Family Trust to R. & S. Asha for \$1,855,000
- 334 La Paz Court** Cornerstone Bridgepoint LLC to M. Narayanappa for \$1,225,000
- 2720 Marsh Drive** M. Mariella to Rocha Family Trust for \$1,615,000
- 125 Reflections Drive #21** U. & A. Malpani to N. Tran for \$575,000
- 341 Santa Cruz Place** J. & M. Isern to S. & K. Ahmadi for \$2,100,000
- 1020 Sinopia Terrace** Summerhill City Village LLC to A. & J. Goh for \$1,504,500

Source: California REsource

SALES AT A GLANCE

Pleasanton (Sept. 29-Oct. 3)

Total sales reported: 13
Lowest sale reported: \$1,183,000
Highest sale reported: \$6,500,000
Average sales reported: \$2,367,576

Livermore (Sept. 29-Oct. 3)

Total sales reported: 18
Lowest sale reported: \$650,000
Highest sale reported: \$2,425,000
Average sales reported: \$1,308,888

Dublin (Sept. 29-Oct. 3)

Total sales reported: 6
Lowest sale reported: \$780,000
Highest sale reported: \$2,825,000
Average sales reported: \$1,665,833

San Ramon (Nov. 17-21)

Total sales reported: 10
Lowest sale reported: \$575,000
Highest sale reported: \$2,100,000
Average sales reported: \$1,527,250

Source: California REsource

FRACISCO REALTY & INVESTMENTS PRESENTS:

OPEN SAT. AND SUN. 1-4 PM



...BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS FOR FOUR GENERATIONS

2215 Chardonnay Way, Livermore

OFFERED AT \$3,200,000

Come see this exquisite home in Livermore's prestigious Chardonnay Estates. This elegant, custom-built, 4,370 square foot single-level has a large loft and a well-designed floor plan which makes daily living and entertaining effortless and comfortable. This estate sits prominently on a .84 acre lot with a private park-like back yard, has an expansive 1,200 square foot workshop, and additional grounds.

Fracisco Realty & Investments

FraciscoProperties.com



Patrick J. Fracisco
 Broker/REALTOR®
 DRE #01062662
 Direct: 925-337-3750



Collette L. Fracisco
 REALTOR®
 DRE #01951888
 Direct: 925-200-6231



John E. Fracisco
 REALTOR®
 DRE #02254508
 Direct: 925-789-0046



ARMARIO HOMES

TRI-VALLEY LUXURY REALTY

Home Is Where the Holidays Are Shared

From all of us at Armario Homes, we wish you and your family a warm and joyful holiday season. Thank you for trusting us with your real estate journey. We're proud to serve the Pleasanton community and look forward to helping you buy or sell in 2026.



CALL FOR SHOWING



1038 DIVISION ST, PLEASANTON
\$1,995,000

CALL FOR SHOWING



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

PENDING



3482 KENNETH DR, PALO ALTO
\$3,699,000

SOLD



444 CABONIA CT, RUBY HILL
\$1,905,000

SOLD



5550 SAN JUAN WAY, PLEASANTON
\$1,425,000

SOLD



1751 SPUMANTE PL, RUBY HILL
\$4,265,000

SOLD



627 EAST ANGELA ST, PLEASANTON
\$1,707,000

FOOD DRIVE

Canned goods • Pasta • Dry snacks • Rice • Cereal

Join us in helping local families this holiday season. We're partnering with Tri-Valley Haven and CityServe to fight hunger in our community. Even the smallest donation can brighten someone's holiday!



We'll pick it up!

Call or text before 12/21—
we'll pick up your donation.

DeAnna Armario & Brianna Armario | (925) 694-0802 | Info@Armariohomes.com | www.ArmarioHomes.com

459 Main Street, Pleasanton | DRE #01363180 #01967027 | Broker DRE# 02065804

MORE

Tim McGuire
DRE 1349446

Lori Olson
DRE 02004247



Happy Holidays

Reflecting on a remarkable year with our clients
& heading into 2026 ready for MORE!

MORE McGuire Olson
REAL ESTATE TEAM

MORETEAMHOMES.COM
925.517.MORE (6673)

You deserve **MORE** from your real estate experience.

\$2+ Billion
Combined Sales
Volume

1800+
Families' Real Estate
Dreams Come True

\$140 Million
Sales Volume
in 2024

400+
5 Star Online
Reviews

#1
Compass Team in
the Tri Valley*

Top 1%
Teams in the
Nation**

*Per MLS 1/1/2024-12/31/2024 by number of transactions. **Per WSJ Real Trends 2024. Compass is a licensed real estate broker and abides by Equal Housing Opportunity laws. All material presented herein is intended for informational purposes only. Information is compiled from sources deemed reliable but is subject to errors, omissions, changes in price, condition, sale, or withdraw without notice. No statement is made as to accuracy of any description. All measurements and square footages are approximate. Exact dimensions can be obtained by retaining the services of an architect or engineer. This is not intended to solicit property already listed.

COMPASS



Community, Connection, The Spirit of Home.



This year, we gathered hundreds of families for our annual Holiday Client Event complete with professional photos with Santa, food, desserts, wine, laughter, and more joy than you could fit under a tree.

We cheered in the hometown parade with our Venema Homes float, waving to friends, neighbors, and clients who have become family.

Giving back isn't something we do once a year; it's who we are.

We believe community is the heartbeat of every great neighborhood.



VENEMA HOMES

EXPERIENCE



EXCELLENCE



Home For The Holidays



VenemaHomes.com

Liz@VenemaHomes.com

925.413.6544

660 Main Street, Pleasanton

DRE# 01922957

Merry Christmas



*Wishing
you and
your family
a Merry
Christmas
and a Happy
New year.*



*2025 marks my
45th year in
Real Estate.
I welcome you
to Experience
my Professionalism
in 2026.*



Kris Moxley

925.519.9080

DRE 00790463

moxleyrealestate.com

kris@moxleyrealestate.com

900 Main Street,
Pleasanton, CA 94566

Visit my website at
moxleyrealestate.com



COMPASS