

Pleasanton Weekly

Madison Lauren's
'Star Search' run

Page 14

NONPROFIT LOCAL NEWS FOR THE TRI-VALLEY

VOL. XXVII, NUMBER 6 · MARCH 6, 2026

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A cloud of concern

Tri-Valley students, schools struggle with persistence of vaping addiction and use on campus | Page 12



- 5 | **NEWS** Harvest Valley Church finds new home
- 15 | **TRI-VALLEY LIFE** 'Too Many Ghosts'
- 18 | **OPINION** Protecting the downtown we love

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WHAT A WEEK



BY JEREMY WALSH

Searching for Eryn

Eryn Van Acker was a dedicated special education resource specialist and a loving partner, family member, friend and colleague who relished spending time in nature and supporting other people.

That's what I learned during my research and interviews in recent weeks, including with her father — as I hoped to tell more of the real story of the life and legacy of the late Danville resident and former Pleasanton teacher whose disappearance and death while walking along the American River made headlines just after New Year's Day.

Our team had an inkling in January that the "missing Bay Area hiker" actually lived in the Tri-Valley and had worked at least one year for the Pleasanton Unified School District, but we couldn't get the confirmations we needed on the record to report it at the time. Still, I kept the lead on my list to check on — and the door opened when an online search last month led me to an obituary published in Illinois Weeklies.

"Eryn will be remembered for her giving spirit, her caring heart and her beautiful smile. She had a special way of connecting with others. She touched the lives of all who knew her, leaving behind a legacy of love, kindness and acceptance," according to her obit, which listed her hometown as Danville, CA.

After politely poking around social media, I connected with her sister-in-law and then got an unexpected phone call from her dad, Rick Van Acker, who was kind enough to share more about his beloved daughter and what happened in Placer County two months ago.

"She always was incredibly compassionate," Rick told me in an interview days before what would've been Eryn's 41st birthday.

She was drawn to special education just like her father, an accomplished teacher and professor in the field. Raised in Elgin, Ill., Eryn attended Warren Wilson College in North Carolina for undergrad, started teaching and then went back to school to earn a master's degree and doctorate from University of Illinois Chicago.

While in Chicago, she met the man who would become her long-time partner Adam Rauchut. The couple relocated to the Tri-Valley about six years ago, starting in Livermore, then Pleasanton and then settling in Danville.

Eryn was most recently working remotely for a special education contractor based in Illinois, but

during the 2022-23 academic year she was employed as an itinerant teacher for PUSD.

"I remember her to be really passionate, really supportive ... always listening, problem solving, finding creative ways to support students with accommodations," Christine Frazier, an occupational therapist for PUSD who worked with Eryn three years ago, told me on Tuesday.

Eryn floated around multiple Pleasanton school sites in her role, working both in classroom settings and with individual students and their families.

"She was a wonderful person to work with," Frazier recalled. "It's sad."

Her father told me Eryn and Adam decided to take a short trip to the Auburn area for New Year's.

They were preparing to go back home Jan. 2, with Adam not feeling well, and Eryn decided to take dog Vixen on a final hike before the drive. They passed a man panning for gold; 15 minutes later the man noticed Vixen wet and running on its own. The last picture on Eryn's phone was the dog in a side pool, according to her father.

Rick said their best guess is the dog started to get washed away, Eryn went into the river to help but got caught in the current and ultimately drowned.

The family flew out right away after Adam called with the news she was missing and they all crammed into the same Airbnb the couple had rented. Rick credited the local and state search teams who spent three days doing everything they could to locate Eryn.

The Placer County Sheriff's Office confirmed on Jan. 5 that a body had been found and positively identified as Eryn's. She was 40.

"It will never be known exactly why she went into the water, but no evidence of foul play or self harm," Elise Soviar, communication manager at the sheriff's office, told me over the weekend. "It was a very tragic situation all around, our hearts really go out to her family and all of those who knew and loved her."

Eryn is survived by her partner Adam, parents Nancy and Rick Van Acker, brother Victor Chad Van Acker, sister-in-law Mavy, nephews Sebastian and Nicolas and niece Daniela.

A celebration of life is scheduled for March 14 in her hometown in Illinois. Her father said a memorial service may follow in the Tri-Valley in April for those who knew Eryn here. ■

About the Cover

The Pleasanton Weekly looks at the impact of vaping in Tri-Valley schools in this week's Cover Story. See Pages 12-13. Photos courtesy Getty Images. Cover design by Paul Llewellyn.

Vol. XXVII, Number 6

- PLEASANTON LISTINGS -

New Listing - Open This Weekend

Nicely remodeled home in the Avila neighborhood. The convenient location is within a short walk to BART, and provides easy freeway access. Close to the Iron Horse trail, schools, Hacienda Crossings, and much more.

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sunflowerhill.org/programs/summer-camp

Join us for hands-on fun at Sunflower Hill's Garden Explorers Summer Camp! Our special day camps are designed for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD), ages 13 and up. Each week-long session runs Monday through Friday from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM at our beautiful Sunflower Hill Garden in Livermore. Two sessions are available: June 1-5 and July 13-17. Campers will enjoy a variety of engaging outdoor activities, including: hands-on gardening, creative crafts, simple cooking activities, and movement-based games and exercises. Whether planting, painting, or cooking, there's something for everyone to enjoy! Regional Center of the East Bay clients welcome.

Las Positas College Summer Camps

LasPositasCollege.edu/SummerCamps

Basic Car Inspection/Maintenance for Teen Drivers

- Session 1: June 9-26 | 8:00 am to 12:00 pm | Fridays
- Session 2: July 10-17 | 8:00 am to 12:00 pm | Fridays
- \$150 | Age Group: High School or Recent Graduate. Parents Welcome!

Have you ever wanted to know more about your car but do not have time to take an 18-week course? This camp is for you. Learn how to change your own oil and filter, read the digital code on tires, and gain general knowledge about cars. Learning through experience in our state of the art facility, wear clothes that may get dirty!

3D Modeling Camp

- June 8-11 | 9:00 am to 2:00 pm
- \$150 | Age Group: Middle School

Experience some of the basics of 3D workflows exploring hard surface modeling, digital sculpture, and animation. In this camp, students will use Autodesk Maya to learn about the core concepts of 3D modeling, how to create props and environments, and how a 3D animation rig works.

Character Design Camp

- June 15-18 | 9:00 am to 2:00 pm
- \$150 | Age Group: Middle School

Designing a captivating character is vital for graphic novels, movies, video games, and many other industries. We will draw and paint our own character in Photoshop, taking style, costuming and props into consideration, as well as expressions and gestures.

Jazz Camp

- June 22-25 | 10:00 am to 4:00 pm (concert 6/25 5-7 pm)
- \$250 | Age Group: High School, including rising High Schoolers and incoming College Freshman

Join us for a 4-day intensive of Improvisation, Music Theory, Rehearsals, Performance and more! High School musicians of all abilities will get the opportunity to work with LPC Music Faculty and Alumni and present their work in a public performance on the Mertes Main Stage. This year's theme is one of the greatest of all American composers: Edward Kennedy "Duke" Ellington (1899-1974)!

Interior Design Camp

- June 22-25 | 10:30 am to 12:30 pm | Live Online Camp
- \$150 | Age Group: Middle and High School

Interested in learning how to decorate homes or become an interior designer? Learn the elements and principles of interior design with an emphasis on the use of color and texture in the selection of home furnishings using a computer aided design (CAD) program.

Public Safety Camp

- June 10-12 | 9:00 am to 1:00 pm
- \$150 | Age Group: High School

Join us for a week of excitement, learning, and hands-on experiences and immerse yourself in a journey where you'll interact with professionals in the Fire service, Criminal Justice and Emergency Medical Responders. Gain invaluable insight, skills, and knowledge that can shape your future and empower you to make a difference in your community.

Stratford School

StratfordSchools.com/Summer

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Academic Camps will enhance your child's love of learning while focusing on grade-level readiness and subjects ranging from math and robotics to literature and creative writing. Campers work independently and in small groups to apply real-life experiences to lessons learned in the classroom. Additionally, students enjoy plenty of fun as they join the day camp program in the afternoon.

Roar and Explore Day Camps features a jam-packed schedule of hands-on indoor and outdoor activities, with field trips available as an addition. Grades 1- 5 students jump into action with new, exciting themes each week. Campers explore science and nature, get creative with arts and crafts, STEAM projects, and performing arts. They also stay active with plenty of team sports and games.

Innovative Specialty Camps offer unique, curated experiences that help campers discover new skills and talents. Whatever your child's interests are, Stratford offers fun and unique activities to try.

Sports Camps are dedicated to skill development, introducing children to new activities, and fostering healthy exercise habits. Sports specialists assist each camper in improving, practicing, and playing sports to build self-confidence and increase overall competence.

Summer@Stratford offers over 25 locations across the Bay Area where campers can explore new interests, engage in hands-on activities, make new friends, and create lasting memories. Extended-day options are also available. Give your child a summer filled with wonder, exploration, and discovery!

Streetwise

ASKED AROUND TOWN

What are you saving up your hard-earned money for these days?



David Martin

Retired

I'm saving money for, and spending money on, my future grandson who'll be arriving in April. My wife and I are so excited. Our son and daughter-in-law live in Colorado, so we plan on making many trips to visit them, and that costs money we're happy to spend.



Angelica Esquivel

Health care professional

Right now I'm saving money in order to pay off student loans and debt. I actually got a second job because that will help me to do that sooner rather than later. Financial freedom — in other words, lack of debt — is my goal.



Riley Raines

Elementary school student
Well, I recently spent my life savings of \$119 on a scooter-suitcase. You know, those suitcases that have an attached, built-in scooter that lets you ride the suitcase all over the airport. My next big-ticket item I'm saving for is a big, soft-bottomed fort that I plan to set up in my cozy corner at home so that I can crawl in there and read whenever I want some nice, quiet time to myself.



Paul Bernard, with Kopi

Retired

We're saving right now for taxes, as well as for a new roof for our house. Not very exciting, but we really need it. After that, and something that actually is exciting, is tickets to a Foo Fighters concert, wherever in the country it is because my wife really loves that rock band.



Sarah Wetherell

School resource specialist

My next big purchase that I've been saving up for is a new car. I'm on year 12 of my first car, and I just changed jobs. I think of a new car as a reward to myself for all of my hard work. I'm looking at a 4Runner because it's both stylish and reliable.

—Compiled by Nancy and Jeff Lewis

Have a Streetwise question? Email editor@PleasantonWeekly.com

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DIGEST

State of the District

The Pleasanton Unified School District is hosting its 2026 State of the District event on March 17 at the Firehouse Arts Center.

The 7th annual event, co-hosted by Pleasanton Partnerships in Education Foundation (PPIE), will feature remarks from Pleasanton Mayor Jack Balch, followed by PUSD Superintendent Maurice Ghysels' updates on bond measure projects and the district's key priorities for the upcoming year.

Ghysels will then join Board of Trustees President Kelly Mokashi and Vice President Laurie Walker for a Q&A session with the audience. During the event, PPIE will also recognize the 2026 Pillars of Pleasanton award recipients, which are businesses that have supported Pleasanton schools in ways such as funding and volunteerism.

To register for the State of the District event, visit www.ppie.org.

Zone 7 election

The main deadline for Tri-Valley residents to nominate themselves for the four open seats in this year's Zone 7 Water Agency Board of Directors election ends this Friday (March 6). The election will take place during the primaries on June 2.

According to the agency, Zone 7 is looking for "community-minded individuals interested in helping shape water supply and flood protection policy by serving on its seven-member Board of Directors." Candidates must be 18 years or older and reside within Zone 7's service area.

If one or more incumbents does not file a declaration of candidacy by Friday, the nomination period will be extended to March 13, according to Zone 7. Candidate filing documents will be available at the Alameda County Registrar of Voters office in Oakland until Friday.

Band fundraiser

Foothill High School Band Boosters is hosting its Veggie Bazaar fundraiser this Saturday (March 7) at the school's administration building from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Members of the public are invited to support the school's band, strings and color guard program by shopping for produce and groceries at the school. Vegetarian snacks and hot food from local restaurants will also be available while community members shop around. ■

Corrections

The Weekly desires to correct all significant errors. To request a correction, call the editor at (925) 600-0840 or email: editor@PleasantonWeekly.com

Lawmakers push feds for answers on future of Dublin prison site

Administration stays silent on plans for shuttered site – despite letter demanding information

BY JEANITA LYMAN

The future of the shuttered federal women's prison in Dublin remains unclear more than a year after rumors began circulating over its potential resurrection as an ICE detention facility.

The prison's closure in 2024 made national headlines for findings of widespread sexual abuse and mistreatment of women incarcerated there.

U.S. Rep. Mark DeSaulnier (D-Concord) and U.S. Sens. Alex Padilla

and Adam Schiff were still awaiting answers this week to a series of lingering questions about the federal government's plans for the former FCI Dublin site at 5701 8th St., having requested responses by Feb. 27 in a letter sent to Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem 10 days earlier.

"In light of the facility's state of disrepair and the inexcusable systemic failures highlighted by its history, we are concerned and alarmed that ICE officials are reportedly considering the use of this facility for

immigration detention," California lawmakers wrote in their Feb. 17 letter to Noem. "Local reporting confirms that ICE officials toured FCI Dublin last year amid the increased use of BOP facilities as immigration detention centers."

While Federal Bureau of Prisons Director William Marshall has provided assurance that there are currently no plans to transfer the site to ICE, DeSaulnier and the two senators said the agency's reported interest in the site last year, along with

the effects of increasingly aggressive tactics by ICE locally and nationally since then, have left them "deeply concerned."

Among their questions to Noem were whether or not the facility had ever been formally considered for use by ICE, whether any DHS agency has toured the facility, conducted a cost analysis, or received briefings about using the site for immigration detention, how the agency had

See **PRISON** on Page 6



SCREENSHOT TAKEN FROM FEB. 25, 2026 PLANNING COMMISSION STAFF REPORT

A project rendering shows what the new Harvest Valley Church will look like at its new location within the Valley Business Park.

Church finds new home

After vacating old spot to make way for housing, Harvest Valley permanently moving to business park

BY CHRISTIAN TRUJANO

The Pleasanton Planning Commission held a minutes-long meeting last week to approve a conditional use permit and design review plan that allows Harvest Valley Church to move into the Valley Business Park.

The church has been temporarily operating out of Rosewood Commons Conference Center after vacating its 40-year-old property at 3200 Hopyard Road in 2024 to make way for a housing project with eight three-story residential buildings.

"I'm excited to see that one come up here," Planning Commission Chair Brandon Pace said in regard to the church item during the Feb. 25 meeting.

The application was approved unanimously by the commission during its consent calendar portion of the meeting, which are items considered routine in nature and are typically approved by a single motion without much discussion.

In addition to allowing the church to move into the space, the approval allows the church to make renovations for site and building improvements.

Back in February 2024, the Planning Commission at the time first discussed the plans to demolish the church's longstanding building on Hopyard Road in order for Catalyst Development Partners LLC to develop over 50 housing units. After significant pushback by residents, the

City Council eventually approved a modified version of the plan, which now aims to build 55 townhome-style units at the site.

But because of the development, Harvest Valley Church had to scramble to find a new place of worship. At the time, Pastor Derek Meekins said that the church was planning on moving to a new location on Sunol Boulevard, but it ultimately found a temporary home in Rosewood Commons on Rosewood Drive.

Meekins previously explained that the church was forced to close its preschool and church after exhausting its emergency funds during the COVID-19 pandemic. He said he had decided to sell the

See **CHURCH** on Page 11

BART approves contingency scenario

Plan to address \$367M deficit if tax measure fails

BY BAY CITY NEWS SERVICE

BART's Board of Directors last week approved a sweeping contingency plan that would slash service, close stations and raise fares if the transit agency fails to secure new funding to close a projected \$367 million deficit next fiscal year.

In a statement Feb. 26, BART officials said the agency's board adopted the "Alternative Service Plan" that outlines how BART would balance its budgets for fiscal years 2027 and 2028 if no new revenue becomes available. It faces a structural deficit of \$350 million to \$400 million because ridership remains about 50% below pre-pandemic levels, and BART's funding model relies heavily on passenger fares.

The plan calls for major changes beginning in January 2027. Service would be reduced to three primary lines — Yellow, Blue and Orange — with limited peak-direction service on the Red and Green lines. Trains would run every 30 minutes, and the system would close at 9 p.m. daily. That represents a 63% reduction in service hours.

Fares and parking fees would increase by 30%, raising the estimated average fare from \$4.98 to \$6.38. The agency would also target about \$30 million in savings over six months from cuts to fleet and non-fleet maintenance, police, cleaning and administrative support, while

See **BART** on Page 10

No housing currently planned for Blackhawk Plaza

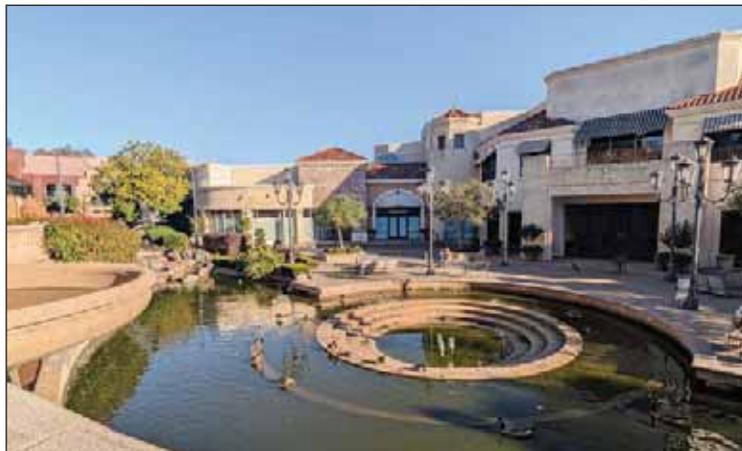
Property's future could remain unclear for years; receiver appointed to take control amid foreclosure

By JEANITA LYMAN

As rumors swirl over the fate of Blackhawk Plaza amid bankruptcy proceedings and the appointment of a receiver for the property, local officials are seeking to provide some clarity and assurance to residents concerned that it could be imminently redeveloped into housing.

Contra Costa County District 2 Supervisor Candace Andersen has launched a new page on her website dedicated to information about the sparsely occupied retail plaza and its future, which she says will be updated as the county receives more information.

"There have been numerous inquiries to our office about what might happen to Blackhawk Plaza and whether it could be redeveloped into housing," Andersen said in her weekly newsletter on Feb. 27. "NO applications have been submitted to redevelop the shopping



JEANITA LYMAN

Empty storefronts at Blackhawk Plaza on Jan. 16.

center or build housing at this time. It is anticipated that the pending litigation could take several years to resolve."

That litigation includes bankruptcy filings by Andrew Stupin of Ramanujan Group LLC, a foreclosure on the property purchased by

the company in 2020, and multiple lawsuits between the former owner and tenants of the plaza on the edge of unincorporated Danville.

Last month, an Orange County judge granted a motion to appoint Douglas Wilson as a receiver for the property, who is tasked with

recouping the value of a \$50,000 loan to Stupin that was never repaid to creditor NanoBanc amid bankruptcy proceedings.

The receivership includes "all leases and rents, profits, revenue and other proceeds" generated by the property such as cash, security deposits, rental income, tools, records, and infrastructure, and could allow for selling a portion or all of the site.

While that could, in theory, lead to the plaza's redevelopment — with the county's general plan allowing for residential development at the site — Andersen said that if or how residential development could unfold remains unclear without a project application on the table.

Any redevelopment of the property would have to be done in collaboration with the Behring Global Education Foundation in order to ensure access to the Blackhawk Museum, which is designated

as a separate property owned by the family of the community's late founder and developer Ken Behring, according to Andersen.

"Not only could the County require this to happen as part of a development agreement, but there are existing legal agreements between whomever owns Blackhawk Plaza and the Behring foundation which would also likely mandate this," Andersen said on her website.

Andersen noted that a 5.73-acre parcel of the site dedicated to the Blackhawk Homeowners Association and serving as a buffer between the plaza and adjacent open space would also likely remain off limits for redevelopment, which would depend on consent from the HOA. She added that regardless, it would be "extremely unlikely" for the county to approve housing development on that buffer zone. ■

Pleasanton appoints Ajluni as assistant director

Former SJ official brings 15 years of experience to utilities and environmental services role

By CHRISTIAN TRUJANO

A former San Jose environmental services manager was recently hired by the city of Pleasanton's Public Works Department in order to help support the city's utilities and environmental services operations.

Nicholas Ajluni, who has about 15 years of local government experience, was set to begin his new role as Pleasanton's assistant director of utilities and environmental services

on Monday (March 2).

"We are excited to welcome Nicholas to Pleasanton's Public Works leadership team," Siew-Chin Yeong, director of public works, said in a city press release last week. "His depth of experience in utility operations, financial management, and regional collaboration will support our continued focus on delivering reliable services while strengthening environmental stewardship in our community."

According to his LinkedIn, Ajluni worked as San Jose's division manager of utility financial and business operations for the past two and a half years. During that time, according to Pleasanton city officials, he "advanced initiatives focused on environmental protection, watershed management, utility service delivery, and sustainability programs".

Prior to that position, he also served as an administrative officer,

a senior environmental inspector and a lower-level environmental inspector all within the city of San Jose, according to his LinkedIn.

"Throughout his career, Ajluni has led complex environmental and utility operations, strategic program development, and cross-jurisdictional collaborations," Pleasanton's press release stated. "He has developed innovative approaches to stormwater and watershed operations, engaged stakeholders, and worked closely with regional water and wastewater partners to address emerging environmental and infrastructure challenges."

In addition to his work in San Jose, Ajluni also currently serves as a board member on BayWork,

a "regional consortium dedicated to workforce development and career pathways in the water and wastewater industry throughout the Bay Area."

According to the city's press release, Ajluni will provide oversight of Pleasanton's utilities and environmental services, which includes water, wastewater, stormwater and sustainability programs. He will also help advance the "ongoing system improvements and long-term infrastructure planning efforts". ■



Nicholas Ajluni

TAILS AT TWILIGHT GOES

Back to
THE 80'S

12th annual
Tails at
Twilight

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Casa Real at Ruby Hill Winery

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PRISON

Continued from Page 5

evaluated the impacts of a detention facility on the local community, and whether there would be opportunities for community feedback and engagement.

The Dublin City Council passed a resolution in December formally opposing the reopening of the facility for any purpose. But while that measure sent an important message to the community according to the council, and served as a major victory for the coalition of numerous activist groups and concerned residents that has spoken out against the prison site's use by ICE, the city government isn't able to do much else.

The facility sits on federally owned land as part of the Parks Reserve Forces Training Area.

Federal authorities said last year that the site was not set to be transferred to DHS or any other federal agency, with BOP set to "permanently deactivate, close, and dispose of FCI Dublin, and to divest itself of the facility", according to a letter to the Dublin City Council in December.

That means transferring the property to the U.S. General Services Administration, which disposes of unwanted government property by public sales and auctions, negotiated sales, or transfers to other government agencies — the latter of which could include DHS.

In the resolution passed last year, the Dublin City Council asked for "open and transparent communication" from federal agencies including the GSA about any decisions regarding the site. ■

'A future filled with possibility'

Hu highlights Dublin's financial health, community investments in State of the City speech

By JUDÉ STRZEMP

Clad in a sunshine yellow suit, Mayor Sherry Hu encouraged fellow Dubliners at the State of the City to dress in the same color during 2026 in the name of year-long optimism.

Hosted by the Dublin Chamber of Commerce, the annual event Feb. 24 dubbed "Growing Brighter: Dublin's Next Chapter" attracted a crowd of government officials as well as representatives and leaders from local organizations and businesses.

"Today I want to take a moment to reflect on where we are as a city to celebrate what we have accomplished together and share where we are headed next," Hu said before an audience at the Shannon Community Center.

Currently home to nearly 69,000 residents, Dublin has grown about 70% in the past decade, Hu said. The year-over-year growth is expected to slow as the city reaches build-out, she added.

The city comprises over 25,000 households and is one of the most diverse communities in the region with residents representing cultures from around the world.

More than half of the households

speak a language other than English at home, Hu added.

"Diversity is one of Dublin's greatest strengths," Hu said.

Among the city's top priorities is public safety, Hu said, giving nods during her speech to Dublin Police Services and the Alameda County Fire Department.

As the city has grown, the rate of crimes against persons has remained stable or declined, she said.

Rates of serious and violent crimes remain relatively low, she said. The city has also seen improvements in the rate of property and quality of life crimes, including in areas such as vehicle theft and shoplifting.

As for the city's fiscal position, Hu expressed pride for its balanced budget.

"Dublin remains in a strong and stable financial position," she said.

During the most recent fiscal year, the city's general fund surplus was approximately \$36.2 million, Hu said. Across all funds, the city's net financial position increased by over \$64 million.

"This strong fiscal position did not happen by chance," Hu said. "It is the result of many years of responsible financial policies,



CITY OF DUBLIN

Dublin Mayor Sherry Hu delivers State of the City address.

thoughtful decision-making by the city council and the dedication of our city management team."

Approximately three-quarters of the city's general fund revenue comes from property tax, sales tax and development-related revenue, Hu explained. Although the city has seen a dip in sales tax revenue due to broader economic conditions, Dublin continues to outperform many jurisdictions across the region.

According to projections, future expenditures may outpace revenue in fiscal year 2031-32 due to an expected decreased development activities and increased contractor costs, she said.

"We remain focused on long-term stability, investing strategically, maintaining healthy reserves and ensuring that today's decisions support tomorrow," she said.

Residents' sense of wellbeing is also very important, Hu added.

According to a survey conducted by the city, nearly 90% of surveyed residents said Dublin is a great place to live, 80% said it was a great place to raise a family and about 92% said they feel safe in the community.

Residents are also clear about their concerns moving forward: affordability, managing growth, traffic and long-term fiscal stability, she said. Their concerns guide the city's priorities, Hu said.

Toward the end of the speech, Hu highlighted the city's investments in public spaces, activities and public communication.

Dublin is home to a total of 28 parks, including newly opened areas such as Wallis Ranch Community Park.

The city also supported several

cultural celebrations last year such as Odisha Dibas and Diwali. By supporting the events, the city is investing in connection and representation, Hu explained.

The city also made progress in infrastructure and facility projects such as the Dublin Arts Center and improvements along Village Parkway, she said. An additional 10 projects are in the pipeline for the coming year, she added.

"These investments in our city improve mobility and support the long-term stability of our community," Hu said.

The city also invested in community outreach by launching a webpage on the city's website dubbed the Dublin Buzz to provide updates on key projects and community conversations. Officials continued to distribute Dublin Digest to residents weekly to keep them informed. Development of a new city website is also underway, she added.

"I see a future filled with possibility, where families continue to thrive, businesses continue to invest and neighbors continue to connect," Hu said. "Together, we will continue growing brighter."

A recording of Hu's speech is available at tri-valleytv.org. ■



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Frederiksen's Griffin is DUSD Teacher of the Year

'What truly drives me is seeing students build confidence, discover their strengths, and realize their potential'

By JUDE STRZEMP

Educator Jericho Griffin of Frederiksen Elementary School has been named the 2025-26 Teacher of the Year by the Dublin Unified School District.

Known for creating an engaging and student-centered classroom, Griffin stands out for her exemplary communication, warmth and professionalism, district officials said in a statement recognizing educators this school year.

"Winning District Teacher of the Year is both a celebration and a calling," Griffin told the Pleasanton Weekly during an email interview. "It inspires me to continue growing, to uplift others in the profession and to showcase the passion and innovation that define education at its best!"

Prior to working at Frederiksen, Griffin began her career in education

nine years ago in Kansas.

Upon moving to California, she initially worked at the Dublin-based campus as an intervention specialist three years ago wherein she helped students improve their reading skills, district officials said. During her time in the role, she helped secure "significant gains" in Frederiksen's STAR and CAASPP scores, they added.

Since then, Griffin has worked with the same cohort of students as they rose from fourth to fifth grade, according to district officials.

"I want my students to feel safe, loved, explore, collaborate, problem solve, learn from each other and more importantly be able to apply



Jericho Griffin

their learning to multiple real world situations," Griffin said.

"While growth in learning is important, what truly drives me is seeing students build confidence, discover their strengths, and realize their potential," she explained.

During class, she engages students through cross-curricular learning and guest speakers, district officials said.

She also began incorporating American Sign Language into the classroom last year as a way to honor and support a Deaf student.

During silent snack periods, students communicate exclusively through ASL and nonverbal cues for reading-time, games and a snack, she explained.

"Introducing ASL was not only about accessibility. It was also about inclusion, awareness and connection," she said. "I wanted to create a learning

environment where all forms of communication are valued, and where students understand that language extends beyond spoken words."

ASL interpreter Apryl Chauhan applauded Griffin's incorporation of sign language in the classroom.

"Mrs. Griffin has truly become an ally for her Deaf student and a role model for the hearing students to embrace and respect new cultures and languages," Chauhan told the Weekly.

"She exemplifies the excellence and dedication that define Dublin Unified," district officials said.

The district also announced peer-nominated awards for the 2025-26 Teachers of the Year for each school site.

Joining Griffin were Christine Miller of Amador Elementary, Michele Chandler of Dublin Elementary, Christine Yim of James

Dougherty Elementary, Teri Kolon of John Green Elementary, Renee Rutherford of Kolb Elementary, Alexander Lopez of Murray Elementary, Sharon Pizer of Cottonwood Creek TK-8, Barbara Barrett of Fallon Middle, Devon Combe of Wells Middle, Holly Garcia of Dublin High, Christopher MacDougall of Emerald High and Deborah Silverberg Lopez of Valley High.

Colleagues named the honorees for their dedication to students, instructional excellence and school leadership.

"Our teachers make Dublin Unified the exceptional district it is," DUSD Superintendent Chris Funk said in a statement. "We are incredibly proud of this year's Teachers of the Year and grateful for the meaningful impact they have on students and families." ■

Airport landings paused during bomb squad case

Small bottles of crystalized chemical safely detonated across street, LPPD says

By JEREMY WALSH

A bomb squad response about a block from the Livermore Municipal Airport led to inbound flights being temporarily suspended last week.

The hazmat situation was

ultimately resolved with the materials in question being safely detonated, according to the Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department.

Fire personnel responded to a report of hazardous conditions on Stealth Street in Livermore just after 2 p.m. Feb. 26, according to LPPD.

"Crews located several small bottles containing a crystallized chemical that posed a potential hazard. The building and nearby businesses were evacuated as a precaution," LPPD officials stated.

The Alameda County Sheriff's

Office Bomb Squad took over to conduct a controlled destruction of the materials, with the Livermore Police Department providing traffic control and securing a perimeter, according to LPPD. Landings at the airport were paused for a period because the scene was located

under the flight path.

"Small explosions were heard during the controlled operation. All materials were safely destroyed without injury. Airports operations resumed. Units cleared the scene at approximately 6:00 p.m.," LPPD officials stated. ■

Library spotlights old west for Livermore Reads Together

Featured novel 'Silver Lies' by local author; series of special events all month long

By JUDE STRZEMP

In celebration of its city-wide reading program's 20th anniversary, the Livermore Public Library is hosting a series of Western-themed activities this month.

At the center of the annual Livermore Reads Together program this year is "Silver Lies", book one of the "Silver Rush Mysteries" series by the city's very own Ann Parker.

The award-winning book was recognized as one of the best mysteries of 2003 by Publishers Weekly and the Chicago Tribune, library officials said in a statement announcing the programming. The novel also received the WILLA Literary Award and the Colorado Gold Award and was a finalist for the Spur Award and the Bruce Alexander Historical Mystery Award, library officials added.

"Silver Lies" was selected as this year's featured novel through community voting, marking the program's first spotlight on a local author.

As part of the 2026 Livermore Reads Together programming, Parker is scheduled to host an author talk and book signing on



PHOTOS COURTESY LIVERMORE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Above: "Light of the West" art show is set for display at the Civic Center Library Art Gallery through the end of March. Right: The 2026 Livermore Reads Together program features "Silver Lies" by local author Ann Parker.

March 19 for adults starting at 7 p.m. at the Civic Center Library's Community Rooms.

The library is also presenting the "Light of the West" art exhibit through the month of March at the Civic Center Library Art Gallery.

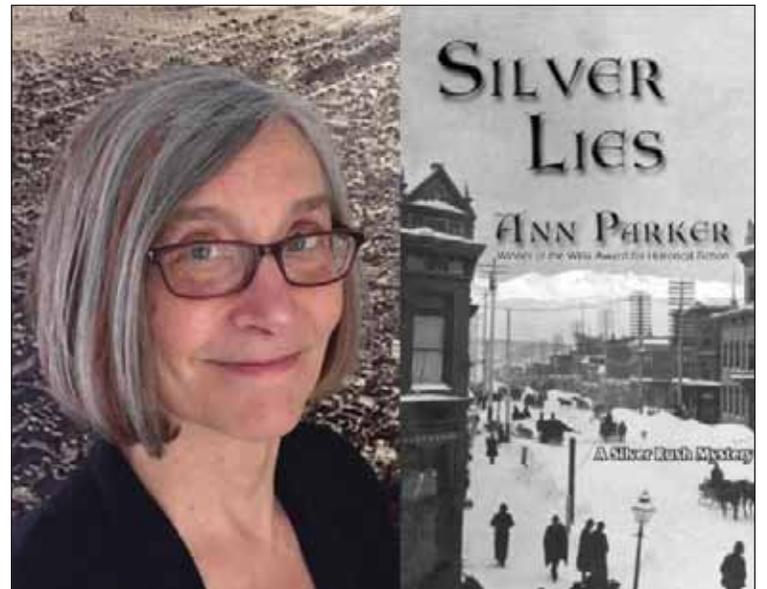
The exhibition, presented in collaboration with the Livermore Art Association, explores themes of the American West such as discovery, resilience and mystery, library representatives said in a statement

announcing the display.

A public reception for the "Light of the West" is scheduled to begin at 2 p.m. on Saturday (March 7) for the community to meet featured artists.

Community theater group Encore Players is scheduled to present "Trailblazers of the West" for adults beginning at 2 p.m. on Sunday (March 8).

Programming will also be hosted online with an author talk by



Marianne Monson on "Frontier Grit: The Unlikely True Stories of Daring Pioneer Women." Intended for adults, the virtual event is scheduled to begin at 7 p.m. next Tuesday (March 10).

During the following week, the library has scheduled a session in the ongoing lecture series "Then & Now: Livermore Stories" dubbed "Ranching at Sycamore Grove."

Presented by ranger Eric

Whiteside of Livermore Area Recreation and Park District, the lecture is set for March 18 at 7 p.m. in the Storytime Room.

Livermore Reads Together programming, sponsored by the Friends of the Livermore Public Library, is free and open to the public.

For more information, visit the library website at library.livermore.ca.gov. ■

Wings of Hope gala set next month in Dublin

Tri-Valley Haven benefit raising money for domestic violence shelter rebuild project

BY CHRISTIAN TRUJANO

Tri-Valley Haven, a nonprofit that serves survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, homelessness and poverty, will be hosting its 2026 “Wings of Hope: Light the Way Gala” next month at the Shannon Community Center in Dublin.

“This gala reflects the incredible compassion and commitment of our community,” Suyeon Lee, communications and outreach specialists for Tri-Valley Haven said in a statement to the Weekly.

“It’s not just about recognizing impact, it’s about strengthening it. The support generated that evening helps ensure survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, homelessness, and food insecurity have access to the critical services they need to heal and rebuild their lives,” Lee said.

Over the past few years, Tri-Valley Haven has hosted several



COURTESY TRI-VALLEY HAVEN

From left to right: Tri-Valley Haven Executive Director Christine Dillman; Cathie Brown, one of the nonprofit’s founding members; Jean King, a board member at Livermore Valley Arts; and former Dublin mayor Melissa Hernandez pose for a photo for the upcoming 2026 gala.

fundraisers for its Shiloh Rebuilding project. Shiloh was the organization’s domestic violence emergency shelter, which was demolished in

2024 after years of deterioration.

“For nearly 50 years, the shelter has been a cornerstone of safety in our community, providing refuge,

stability, and healing to thousands of survivors and their children,” according to a press release from the nonprofit. “Tri-Valley Haven operates the only confidential domestic violence shelter in the Tri-Valley and is the only shelter in the area that accepts teenage boys as part of families.”

Construction has already begun for the rebuild project and is expected to be completed by January 2027. However, the nonprofit is still shy a couple million dollars from its project funding total, which is why events such as the April 17 gala continue to be important for the organization.

“The 2026 Wings of Hope: Light the Way Gala will help us move closer to completing our new, modernized shelter, a renewed space thoughtfully designed to provide dignity, security, and hope for generations to come,” the Tri-Valley Haven press release states.

Early bird tickets for the event will remain available until Saturday (March 7), the organization said.

Tickets will be available starting at \$110 per ticket or \$880 for a table of eight until Saturday. After that, tickets will go up to \$125 per person and \$1,000 per table. The gala itself, which will take place on April 17 from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., will feature live music, dinner and a curated selection of wines.

“Tri-Valley Haven continues to be uplifted by tremendous community support from generous individuals and foundations to our partners at the Livermore, Dublin, Pleasanton, and Alameda County,” Lee told the Weekly. “We are able to provide life-saving and life-changing services because of this collective commitment.”

For more information and to purchase tickets, visit www.trivalleyhaven.org. ■

Scholastic program helps teen follow journalism dreams

‘With each article I wrote, I gained more confidence’

BY JUDE STRZEMP

Eighth grader Enya Yang of Pleasanton has been sharpening her journalistic skills over the past few years through a program for youth reporters.

The Stratford Middle School student is part of the 2025-26 cohort of Scholastic Kids Press, a decades-old initiative that trains young people on how to report about subjects such as children’s literacy, reading and education.

Yang is a repeat participant in the Scholastic program with an online portfolio dating back to 2022.

“When I first started, I was nervous and worried I’d forget my questions or miss something important. But with each article I wrote, I gained more confidence,” Yang said of her

experience in the program. “Now, I can have smooth and natural conversations during interviews, something I only dreamed of doing years before.”

Yang began crafting fictional stories at the age of 5, she told the Pleasanton Weekly in an email interview. By 10 years old, Yang said she became very interested in journalism.

Upon entering the program, she joined the ranks of over 500 kids who have participated in Scholastic Kids Press since its founding in 2000, according to Scholastic spokesperson Anne Sparkman.



Enya Yang

“Through hands-on reporting, they learn how to vet sources, think critically, write with clarity and purpose and understand the power of multimedia storytelling,” Sparkman told Pleasanton Weekly in an email. “Along the way, they also build confidence, communication skills and a deeper awareness of the world around them.”

During her time as a youth reporter, Yang has interviewed author and civil rights activist Ruby

Bridges and visited a long-standing book store in San Jose as well as a fruit farm in Contra Costa County, according to her online portfolio on the Scholastic Kids Press website.

Among nearly 20 of her published stories, Yang’s most recent article covers the influence of TikTok on publishing and reading trends.

“Writing news articles and reporting is exciting because it gives me the chance to explore new places and share what I learn with

others,” she told the Weekly.

Yang also said she remains alert for topics to cover with her favorites being meet-and-greets, sports championships and public events hosted by bookstores, universities and museums.

“Enya is a dedicated Scholastic kid reporter and we’re incredibly proud of her,” Sparkman said. “It’s been rewarding to watch her grow in her writing, especially knowing she’s an aspiring author herself.” ■

R Place Music Club hits the market

GM hopes buyer will carry on downtown Livermore bar

BY JUDE STRZEMP

An entertainment venue and bar on Old First Street was recently listed for sale along with its resident building.

Dubbed R Place Music Club, the longstanding business is known for hosting live events with local musicians.

“It’s been a great 15 years! Time to let someone else enjoy what we built!” general manager Tina Brown wrote on social media.

R Place representatives an-

nounced online Feb. 27 that the business was up for sale. The news garnered comments by patrons who reminisced on their fond memories at the bar.

“Keep your prayers and positive vibes coming because I have a very good feeling that the new buyer will keep it the same!” R Place representatives wrote on social media.

According to the online listing, the business is currently offered at \$250,000 with a real estate price of \$1.5 million. ■

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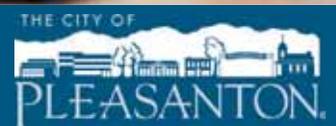
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Tri-Valley teens design urchin-catching submarine

Aqua Sentinels prototype targets species consuming kelp forests along Pacific Coast

By JUDE STRZEMP

A team of Dublin High School students recently invented a sea urchin-capturing submarine in attempts to help protect kelp forests threatened by the purple critter.

Dubbed the Aqua Sentinels, the group of five seniors garnered international attention for their submarine prototype last year by placing among the winners of an innovation competition hosted by the United Nations.

The project's contributing members include team lead Premang Jha, mechanical engineer lead Adhi Jeyappragash, marketing and communications lead Suraj Kudrikar, coding lead Saif Jeelani and mechanical engineer Shikhar Jayswal.

"All of us are highly outdoorsy people and we love being active ... the members are also all committed to leaving an impact on the world, to leave the world better than when we had found it," Kudrikar told the Pleasanton Weekly via email interview. "We knew we had



COURTESY SURAJ KUDRIKAR

The Aqua Sentinels team (left to right) Adhi Jeyappragash, Saif Jeelani, Suraj Kudrikar and Premang Jha. Shikhar Jayswal is not present.

a responsibility to put our skills to good use."

Since 2014, the population of purple sea urchins along the Pacific Coast has grown extensively, with some areas seeing an increase of up to 1,000%, according to the website of the Aquarium of the Pacific, a Long-Beach-based nonprofit

organization that aims to steward the Pacific Ocean and its inhabitants.

Statewide, the purple sea urchin population has trended upward, but some areas such as California's south coast have hosted a relatively stable population, the website states.

The increasing number of grazers threatens kelp forests upon which

numerous marine species depend, according to the website. The impacts of overgrazing are exacerbated by marine heatwaves.

Kickstarting the Aqua Sentinels, Jha found a video on social media that showed a diver killing purple sea urchins.

One of the solutions to urchin overpopulation is manual culling, Kudrikar explained. During the process, divers use hammer-like tools to kill the urchins one by one.

"Our solution was to automate this task, using an AI model that could detect urchins and capture them, if not cull," Kudrikar said.

Each member of the team contributed their skillset to the project whether it was coding, circuitry, communications, presentation or computer-aided design, he explained.

Jha gave the submarine eyes to detect urchins using AI; Jeelani tuned the navigation software; Jeyappragash and Jayswal helped materialize the machine. They also share Indian heritage, Kudrikar said,

including North and South India.

Jayswal recently left the team for personal reasons.

Ahead of any sales, their invention was among the 2025 winners of the UN's global citizens open innovation SDGs (sustainable development goals) challenge. This program invites individuals and groups to address the organization's 17 initiatives including no poverty, no hunger, good health and wellbeing, quality education and in the case of the Aqua Sentinels, the conservation of "oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development," the UN website states.

"Since winning the competition, we are continuing to refine the model and hope to test it in waters soon," Kudrikar said.

In addition to international attention, the team was recognized among the champions of the 2025 entrepreneurship challenge at Dublin High.

The group also aims to eventually put the submarine on the market, but for now it remains a community project. ■

State honors Livermore campus with Green Ribbon

Marylin Avenue STEAM Academy lauded for environmental excellence for second year in a row

By JUDE STRZEMP

Marylin Avenue STEAM Academy in Livermore has been recognized once again by the California Department of Education for its efforts in resource conservation, promotion of health and wellness as well as environmental literacy.

Named a 2026 California Green Ribbon School, Marylin swooped a Gold-level honor for the second consecutive year.

The Livermore-based school stands as the sole Tri-Valley honoree this year among just 26 schools statewide.

"Our California Green Ribbon Schools reflect the very best of what is possible when innovation, equity and environmental

stewardship come together," State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond said in a statement Feb. 12 announcing this year's winners.

"We are incredibly proud to highlight the hard work and dedication that our students demonstrate each day as responsible stewards of their environment," Marylin principal Joe Meunier said in a statement. "Their daily, thoughtful choices, influenced by their impactful project-based lessons and learning, have led to meaningful outcomes that really make a difference for our entire community."

Among Marylin's newest efforts in environmental education and health is its newly renovated

garden, according to Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District officials.

This spring, students will begin planting the garden. The space will allow for students' hands-on learning, grades TK through fifth. Visiting twice monthly, they can take part in growing and cultivating fruits, vegetables and herbs.

Through their experience gardening, students will become increasingly aware of how food is produced and they will develop their environmental leadership skills, according to district officials.

"All Marylin students including those with exceptional support needs (ESN) will have access to a well-planned and innovative

garden environment that will enhance their experiential learning," STEAM instructional coach Shannon Higgins said in a statement.

The garden has been possible thanks to teachers Anne Rosendin and Joanna Martinez, Higgins added.

Students also practice waste reduction on a daily basis by sorting recyclables and compostable items. An AI-based program for monitoring waste helps track their efforts.

The school's mission of waste reduction continues to advance thanks in part to the Alameda County Waste Management Authority, Go Green Initiative, Fertile Groundworks and Livermore Sanitation, according to the district.

In addition to the campus' solar array that provides all of the site's electricity needs, several green energy modernizations were also completed last fall using bond funding.

The school has reduced its energy costs and impacts to the environment through the installation of energy-efficient LED lighting and HVAC systems, a bio-retention system to replenish groundwater with stormwater, irrigation timers that reduce water use, as well as native, drought-tolerant landscaping.

"Marylin Avenue STEAM Academy continues to make strong academic progress, and our Green Ribbon recognition reflects the depth and diversity of learning experiences we provide," Meunier said. ■

BART

Continued from Page 5

continuing to defer capital projects and retiree medical contributions. The rest of the fiscal year would be balanced with one-time resources and financial deferrals.

If further cuts are deemed safe and legally feasible, a second phase would begin in July 2027. That phase would aim for more than \$175 million in annual cost reductions through a cumulative 70% reduction in service hours. BART officials said they would maintain the three-line structure, 30-minute frequencies and 9 p.m. closing time, and could close up to 15

stations and up to 25% of system track miles. Fares and parking fees could rise to a cumulative 50%, pushing the estimated average fare to \$7.26.

The plan does not name specific stations for closure and makes clear that the BART board would decide in the future which stations or line segments to shut down. BART staff's original proposal revealed earlier in February called for closing specific stations, including West Dublin-Pleasanton in the first phase in January 2027 and Dublin-Pleasanton in the second phase — but the directors ultimately sent that plan back to the drawing board.

Under a contingency scenario, if BART determines it cannot safely or legally operate with available resources, it would stop passenger service, use existing tax revenues to secure system assets and determine the system's future, agency officials said.

According to BART, a state bridge loan cannot be used to avoid service cuts without new revenue because the agency would have no way to repay it. If a regional sales tax measure scheduled for November 2026 succeeds, BART plans to use \$97 million in loan funds to help balance the fiscal year 2027 budget. Sales tax revenue from a successful measure is

projected to become available in July 2027, though it is expected it could take longer.

Ridership recovering

The board's action comes as ridership continues to recover slowly. In January, BART recorded nearly 4.6 million paid exits, a 10.7% increase from the same month in 2025. Average weekday ridership reached 182,487 trips, with several days topping 200,000 trips. The busiest day was Jan. 28, with 207,343 trips.

Use of "Tap and Ride" — which allows riders to pay with contactless bank cards or mobile wallets — rose 15.5% in January compared

with December, accounting for 14% of all trips. Clipper START, which offers a 50% discount for low-income riders, increased 32.6% year over year.

Even if the regional sales tax measure passes, the agency would still face annual shortfalls of at least \$45 million, according to previous staff presentations. General Manager Robert Powers warned earlier this month that deep cuts would be unavoidable without new revenue.

"At the end of the day, if this measure isn't successful, you know, stations are getting closed," Powers said. "There's no two ways about that." ■

Danville decides against exploring cannabis retail options

Council majority directs staff at study session not to further evaluate recourse for shuttered hemp shop

By JEANITA LYMAN

While the fate of America's Finest Hemp Company remains uncertain months after it was forced to shutter due to changes in state law last year, the outcome of a recent discussion by the Danville Town Council signals the popular shop won't be returning to downtown.

The council held a second study session Feb. 17 exploring what it would take to allow hemp retailers such as the former shop at 422 Hartz Ave. that first opened in 2021, serving as the town's only hemp shop and as a shopping destination as downtown businesses began the journey of recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic.

America's Finest Hemp Company has been closed since October, when a new state law went into effect classifying hemp products under the same umbrella as marijuana products — thereby subjecting hemp retailers to the same licensing requirements as marijuana dispensaries.

As it stands, Danville's municipal code prohibits the operation of brick-and-mortar marijuana dispensaries and all commercial cannabis sales, allowing only for the delivery of medical marijuana as required by changes in state law that went into effect in 2024.

Danville's rules appear unlikely to change any time soon.

While the Town Council's study sessions consist of topics set to be up for discussion only, with no formal vote outside of regular meetings, the conclusion by a majority of council members on Feb. 17 was to direct staff to take no further action on changing the town's prohibitions on commercial cannabis, rather than to return with more information or a resolution to be considered at a regular meeting.

"I think what I hear from three of us ... is to not go forward with allowing cannabis retailers in

Danville," Mayor Newell Arnerich said at the end of the nearly two-plus hour workshop. "So we're giving that direction to staff at this point, and the caveat is unless something else changes or there's some other opportunity that might change in the future."

Arnerich had begun the study session earlier that evening by noting that while America's Finest Hemp Company was the only business impacted by last year's changes in state law, the discussions about allowing commercial cannabis sales in Danville was not specifically about that business or its owner.

"It's not about an existing business — it's not about anything other than changing the rules given state law," Arnerich said.

However, more than 50 people attended the meeting in support of America's Finest Hemp Company and operator Jeff Sutherland, a longtime Danville resident and business owner who continues to serve on the board for the Danville Area Chamber of Commerce.

"Newell, this is about Jeff," Bob Hammer said during the public comment portion of the meeting. "I want to make sure that everybody understands the point that this is about Jeff, and his family, and the 50 years that this family's been here, and the trust and dedication that these people have served."

In addition to expressing support for Sutherland and his business, the speakers during the public comment period offered anecdotes, data and a wide range of arguments supporting the use of both hemp and cannabis, and offering of such products close to home.

It wasn't the potential benefits of hemp and cannabis products that were up for debate, however, with all council members acknowledging their growing popularity and potential uses for a wide range of health conditions. It was instead the possibility for cannabis

dispensaries to serve as what Arnerich described as an "attractive nuisance" that could threaten downtown Danville's small-town character and status as the safest city in California, a title it recently regained this year.

"We get an ice cream store robbed for \$500 and the whole damn neighborhood goes to hell," Vice Mayor Robert Storer said. "I get 15 phone calls, I get 30 emails going, 'What are you going to do? This town is in trouble. How can you stop crime?' — put a cannabis store in town. See what that looks like."

Storer and others on the council opposing retail cannabis storefronts said that while America's Finest Hemp Company had been a valued member of the town's business community and a welcome addition to the downtown retail roster, other marijuana dispensaries that would be permitted should cannabis retail be allowed could be a different story.

"It's the antithesis of our community," Arnerich said. "It's not the same to have those type of businesses. Are there places for them? Yeah, there are. And it's a different business to be in. There's a lot of comp as we're seeing by the number of calls from those retailers, so I think we ought to be honest and transparent. So if we're not really going to do this, let's say no, not at this time, and move on."

While Storer and Councilmember Karen Stepper ultimately agreed with that sentiment, councilmembers Renee Morgan and Mark Belotz said they wanted to continue exploring options, and that they supported changes to the town's municipal code to allow for retail cannabis under the proper regulations and safety processes.

"I think it's important for us to take a look at to this as a council and as staff and to really see and dig into what the reality is of that, not to Jeff Sutherland, not for the hemp shop, not for any of that, but



JEREMY WALSH

The storefront at 422 Hartz Ave. in downtown Danville that previously housed America's Finest Hemp Company.

because laws are changing, things are changing, and we should as a council members make those decisions based on factual information that's presented before us, and not start painting this picture of doom and gloom," Morgan said.

"It just to me is not the way governments should work. We should give people the opportunity for us to make those decisions," she added.

As Morgan had emphasized earlier in the meeting, that evening's discussion was a study session with no formal decisions on the table for a council vote. However, at the end of the session, the direction from a council majority to staff was that the town would not be further exploring changes to the status quo.

"There's three of us that do not want to go forward under these circumstances," Arnerich said. "If it came up in a different way, and we had the rights — as we've all said, if there was a way to reopen the same kind of store, we'd figure it out."

Sutherland told DanvilleSanRamon that he was disappointed not just with the outcome of the meeting, but with the study session process and the apparent finality of the conclusion that evening.

"We walked out of there and we were like what the hell just happened," Sutherland said last week. "For one, it wasn't a study session by any means — that format was just terrible, and it was very clear that there was a predetermined outcome of that meeting. It was a dirty play on the town's part."

Sutherland said that he would be exploring further options with his legal counsel, but that it remained unclear when, if, and how his business might ever be able to reopen its storefront.

In the meantime, the site at 422 Hartz Ave. is serving as the temporary home for the clothing boutique Moda Mi after the devastation of its original site on Prospect Avenue was hit by a fire last fall. Over the holiday shopping season, Sutherland had operated a sports memorabilia pop-up out of the storefront.

While the future for both businesses remains unclear, Sutherland said that Moda Mi had signed a lease with him guaranteeing the space for at least six months. He added that the boutique could be welcome to stay longer if the hemp shop is unable to reopen, but that next steps remain to be seen. ■

CHURCH

Continued from Page 5

property where the developer would pay the church in installments, which would cover the church's debt and offer more money in its pockets.

But now, the church has found a new permanent home in the Valley Business Park at 1252 Quarry Lane, Suite A.

Because the business park was originally zoned for industrial and commercial use, the commission had to vote on the conditional use permit to allow the church to operate at its new location, according to city staff.

According to the staff report, the church will operate daily with its largest gatherings taking place on the

weekends — primarily on Sunday.

The church will be open Mondays through Fridays from 6-9 p.m. and will be able to hold up to 50 congregation members, in addition to staff. Occasionally, the church will be allowed to open on Saturdays — for things like weddings, receptions and community gatherings — where up to 100 people will be allowed to gather.

Then, on Sundays, the church will be open from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. and will allow for up to 200 congregants during each service.

Some of the additional site improvements that the church plans to make at the existing site include new pavement to add parking spaces in the west side of the building, a patio on the east side, new

on-site pedestrian walkways, the removal of 13 existing trees and new landscaping.

Inside the building, the church plans on building a vestibule, new lobbies and offices, new classrooms, a mother's room, a nap room, storage areas and restrooms.

"As proposed and conditioned, staff concludes that the proposed use would be compatible with the surrounding businesses and would not detrimentally affect them," Pleasanton senior planner Eric Luchini wrote in the staff report. "Conditions of approval have been included to ensure the safety and general welfare of the surrounding area, and the City in general, are maintained." ■

GAY NINETIES PIZZA CO.
Italian Style
Spaghetti & Ravioli

2022 PLEASANTON WEEKLY
Readers' Choice

2021 PLEASANTON WEEKLY
Readers' Choice

2020 PLEASANTON WEEKLY
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Tri-Valley students, schools struggle with persistence of vaping addiction and use on campus

BY CHRISTIAN TRUJANO

COURTESY GETTY IMAGES

It's no secret that many young people, particularly high school students, have a penchant for rebellion.

While drugs and alcohol remain primary concerns, more and more teenagers seem to have a new vice that they can't seem to put down: vaping.

"Although the prevalence of current nicotine vaping declined during 2020 to 2024, the youth vaping population may have hardened over this period, evidenced by increasing daily use, more unsuccessful quit attempts and shifting demographic profiles," according to an article published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association Network* last November.

A National Center for Health Statistics data report from January 2025 also noted that while electronic cigarette use had declined among younger demographics in

recent years, analysis shows how "use has increased among adults, particularly young adults."

"As 1 in 10 adults ages 18—20 and about 1 in 6 adults ages 21—24 used electronic cigarettes in 2023, continued monitoring of use, particularly among young adults, is needed," the NCHS data report stated.

Even though it might not seem as prevalent in the Tri-Valley, there are still a number of high school students who not only are addicted to vaping, but actively use them at school — particularly inside the bathrooms.

"When I'm walking to class and I pass by a bathroom, I do see some people who are vaping," Saarthak Yadav, a junior at Amador Valley High School, told the *Pleasanton Weekly*.

According to an email exchange among Amador leadership in

October 2024, school administrators were updated on the fact that coordinator of operations, Dwight Pratt, had finished installing air quality monitoring systems in the bathrooms that are "most commonly used as vaping hangouts."

"These will send live alerts to the phones of the admin and campus supervisors; Dwight was going to get a demonstration after the meeting yesterday. He's hoping that will cut down on the vaping," read the email — which was among the trove of documents obtained by the *Weekly* in its investigation into former principal Jonathan Fey.

In a statement to the *Weekly*, the Pleasanton Unified School District confirmed that 44 documented cases of vaping — including nicotine or marijuana — have been recorded in the district's student discipline records so far in the

2025-26 school year. During the 2024-25 school year, that number was 41, and the previous year it was 30 cases.

"These figures reflect incidents recorded in formal discipline records and do not include cases where vaping was suspected but could not be confirmed," the district stated.

Regarding those numbers, Yadav said that while he wants to believe the overall number of students vaping is low, he also thinks it might be higher at both of Pleasanton's comprehensive high schools simply because not every student who vapes is getting caught.

"The drug and vape problem in both schools is still quite prevalent," Yadav said.

Gargi Kanetkar, another junior at Amador, said she's known about students vaping ever since she attended Pleasanton Middle School

and heard about kids as young as seventh grade who were vaping.

She said she learned about these cases when she would talk to those seventh grade classes as part of a presentation for California Tobacco-Use Prevention Education (TUPE) — a state-funded program that supports school initiatives that advocate for the prevention of all tobacco use among students.

Kanetkar, who has been a member of the program since eighth grade, said when she graduated from Pleasanton Middle School and started attending Amador, she didn't expect the vaping and smoking problem to be as bad.

But she quickly learned it was much worse.

"When I was a freshman, I went to the bathroom once and while I was inside the stalls this girl asked me if I vaped," she said, adding that she declined and quickly

Cloud of concern

left the restroom following the conversation.

Kanetkar said a big difference between middle and high school was that in middle school, she had only ever heard about students vaping, whereas in high school she actively saw students going as far as walking around with vapes in their hands.

Students hitting their vapes isn't just a problem happening in Pleasanton.

"It's been kind of crazy to witness," Arshia Sharda, a sophomore at Livermore's Granada High School, told the Weekly.

Much like other peers, Sharda said vaping has been a big issue at the bathrooms at her school. She sometimes feels uncomfortable when she walks inside a restroom and sees kids grouping together in the stalls so they can hit their vapes.

"It's like, I'm going to the bathroom to use the bathroom, but at the same time I feel out of place because the majority of people at the bathroom are doing things they're not supposed to be doing," Sharda said.

While she did note that teachers and other staff have been working hard to try and crack down on students vaping in the bathrooms at her school, Sharda said it doesn't seem to be helping, especially when there are students who are genuinely addicted.

She said she has seen certain students who seem to be more addicted than others because there are a few who go as far as hitting their vape in class so they can satisfy that craving.

"They take hits through the sleeve of their sweater or jacket ... in class," she said. "You can see people bent over and take a hit off their vape."

According to Michelle Dawson, director of communications and engagement for the Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District, Livermore's total number of high school vaping and tobacco referrals for the current school year is 70 — half of which are specifically for tobacco. During the 2024-25 school year that number was 63 with a more balanced count of drug and tobacco referrals while the 2023-24 school year saw a total of 88 referrals, 53 of which were for drugs.

For comparison, the San Ramon Valley Unified School District told the Weekly that for the current school year, there have been 32 documented cases of vaping nicotine

or marijuana that were recorded in student discipline records across all four of its high schools and its alternative high school. The previous school year there were 39 cases.

And while he was only able to provide data from the current school year, Dublin Unified School District director of communications Chip Dehnert told the Weekly, "It's my understanding there have only been five incidents of vaping violations at the high school level in Dublin this year."

"In general, vaping activity at the high school level has been on decline," Dehnert added.

This generally lines up with what studies have been showing over the last few years and how use among younger people has declined.

"Data from the 2024 National Youth Tobacco Survey showed that 5.9% of middle and high school students used electronic cigarettes in the past 30 days, a decline from 7.7% in 2023," according to the January 2025 National Center for Health Statistics data report.

The issue, however, is that those teenagers and young adults who do smoke seem to have a tougher time putting their vapes down.

"In this cross-sectional study of 115,191 youths in 8th to 12th grade, weighted prevalence of daily nicotine vaping rose from 15% in 2020 to 29% in 2024 among current vapers and unsuccessful quit attempts increased from 28% to 53% among daily vapers," according to the Nov. 3, 2025 article published in the Journal of the American Medical Association Network.

All four school districts across the Tri-Valley told the Weekly about the ways they are working on helping these students who are addicted.

At PUSD, before receiving referrals, the district offers students the opportunity to go through Healthy Futures, which is an "alternative-to-suspension program" developed by Stanford University's REACH Lab.

"This program is geared for students who have been found using e-cigarettes or cannabis and/or for any students who are interested in trying to quit," according to the REACH Lab's website. "This program is packed with a self-paced lesson, a group 2-or 4-hour teacher or counselor-led curriculum, quitting resources, and more!"

According to PUSD's coordinator of safety and communication, Susanne Frey, the district — much

like its peers in the Tri-Valley — try to focus on education and intervention before moving on to other disciplinary consequences, which could include suspension.

"Student health, safety, and prevention are central to Pleasanton Unified School District's approach to addressing vaping and substance use," Frey told the Weekly. "Our focus is on education and intervention to support students in avoiding and stopping nicotine and substance use, rather than relying solely on punitive measures."

She also said site administrators have implemented preventative and responsive measures to address this problem, including constant restroom monitoring and constant communication with students about the consequences of vaping, both from a health and educational perspective.

Livermore also touted its anti-tobacco use grant that helps educate students about the negative effects of vaping and smoking and San Ramon Valley noted its health classes, which include tobacco and drug education, and its partnership with the Contra Costa County Office of Education and the Discovery Counseling Center to provide targeted support.

But according to students like Sharda, presentations and lectures might not work as well as the school districts might think they do.

"If you talk to someone who's addicted, and you tell them it's bad for them, they sort of already know that," Sharda said, adding that those students will still convince



COURTESY GETTY IMAGES

themselves that smoking is not that big of a deal.

Yadav added while he has seen administrators over the last few years standing by the bathrooms and clearing them out if students are in there too long, those students who smoke are now moving to other areas of the school to continue using their vapes.

That's why the students overwhelmingly agreed that in order to really get those who are addicted the help they need, it has to come from their peers.

"If the word comes from our peers, if it comes from someone that they know personally, that will have a much greater impact than if some video came out ... about this," Yadav said.

"It's a really rebellious age where everyone is kind of trying to do what looks cool and what sounds cool to other people, even when administrators, teachers, parents are trying to warn people against

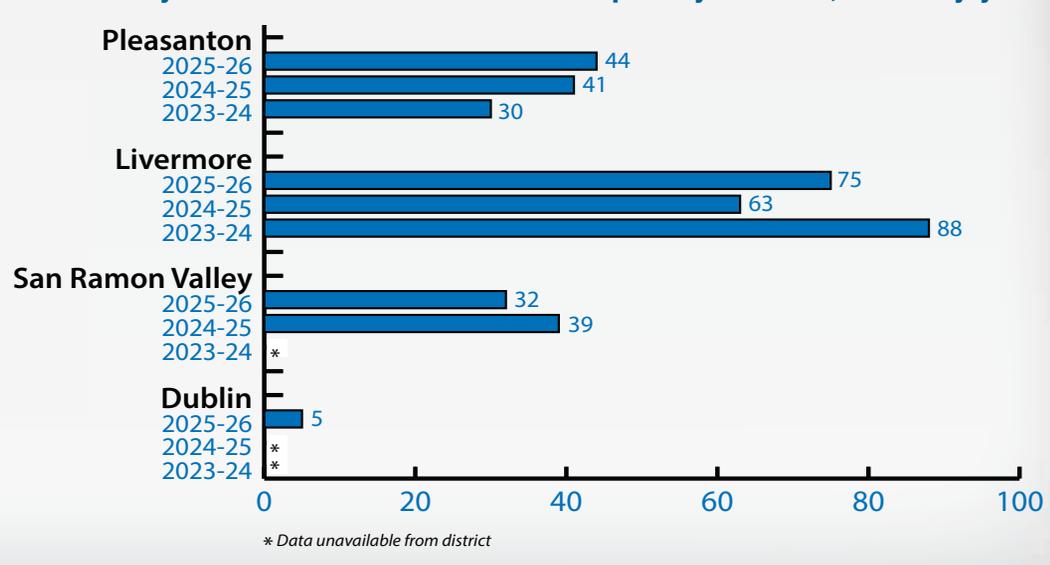
it," Kanetkar said. "When it comes from a peer, it feels less like a lecture, it feels less condescending and it feels more conversational."

Isabella Burns, a senior at Amador, told the Weekly while she thinks the issue of vaping is very real at school, for the most part vaping is something looked down upon by the majority of other students, which might make it hard for those who are addicted to say anything.

Burns said she believes help should come from those within a student's inner circle because, at the end of the day, presentations and lectures can only go so far and going to an adult might be more difficult than going to a peer they trust.

"I think friends can do so much," she said. "I think your friends are really the first people that you have to reach out to, and I think they are going to be the ones to support you the most and be the least judgmental." ■

Documented cases of vaping nicotine or using drugs (including THC) in Tri-Valley school districts' student disciplinary records, listed by year.



Madison Lauren's run on 'Star Search'

Young Dublin singer makes finals in Netflix revival of TV talent show

BY JUDE STRZEMP

‘Ever since I was 6 years old, I’ve said that I wanted to sing for the world. Four and a half years later, I was able to sing on Netflix’s ‘Star Search,’” said young Dublin singer Madison Manlapaz, known by her stage name Madison Lauren.

Eleven-year-old Madison Lauren won the live competition’s Juniors Music category this winter to earn a spot in the overall finals. She rose to the top of her division with viewers’ real-time voting as well as support from judges such as Jelly Roll, Sarah Michelle Gellar and Chrissy Teigen.

The young performer was ultimately voted off during the finale, just short of winning the \$500,000 prize claimed by magician TJ Salta on Feb. 17. But walking away from the contest, Madison Lauren said she is grateful for her supporters and the opportunity to compete.

“None of this would have been possible without God’s grace and the people who believed in me from the very beginning,” she told the Pleasanton Weekly in an email interview.

She began singing when she was about 1-1/2 or 2 years old. She is also a songwriter and ventriloquist who plays piano, guitar and ukulele.

“I think music has always been part of me,” she said. “I don’t even remember a time when I didn’t love singing.”

Through the competition, Madison Lauren realized her ability to perform under intense pressure. Despite feeling nervous, she took to the stage and did her best, she explained.

Upon leaving the show, as the number of competitors dwindled from eight to four, she said she was worried about disappointing her supporters.

“But I learned that love isn’t based on winning,” she said. “Everyone was still proud of me and that helped me understand that growing and learning is more important than a title.”

Among those to applaud Madison Lauren’s work was Tara Brown, her principal at Brave Christian Elementary.

“Watching her compete in the Netflix ‘Star Search’ finale, we were all so proud — not just of her talent, but of her poise, her confidence and the joy she spread through her voice for the world to hear,” Brown told the Weekly.

Since returning home to Dublin, Madison Lauren said she misses the rehearsals, stage, staff and other performers on the set of “Star Search.”

However, she said she maintains her gratitude and focus as she gears up to perform in “Matilda The Musical JR.” from March 5-7 at the Brave Church auditorium in Dublin.

“My goal is still the same — to share my voice and my heart with people



PHOTOS BY KIT KARZEN/NETFLIX, COURTESY MADISON LAUREN

Dublin singer Madison Manlapaz, known as Madison Lauren, was a finalist on Netflix’s competition show “Star Search.”

everywhere. I want people to feel encouraged, hopeful, and maybe even a little braver when they hear me sing,” she added.

A youth dance team from Xtreme Force Dance Company of Livermore also competed in “Star Search.”

With eight members ranging in age from 9 to 14 years old, the team dubbed The Force performed acrobatic-inspired dance.

“That was the biggest thing we’ve ever done,” Xtreme Force Dance Company co-owner Ashley Firestone told the Weekly. “We were insanely proud of the kids and all their work.”

It was impressive that the dancers performed through the pressure of being on live TV, Firestone added.

Competitor Victoria Nichols, 13, said she felt proud of her team’s effort.

“You could see everyone in the audience and you just have to pretend that no one’s filming you and you’re performing it like how you did in practice,” 14-year old competitor Calisa Schwarer told the Weekly.

Reflecting on the competition, 13-year-old dancer Annabella Mauergeri said, “I’ve grown so much from this experience and it is really something that I’ll never forget.” ■

‘My goal is still the same — to share my voice and my heart with people everywhere. I want people to feel encouraged, hopeful, and maybe even a little braver when they hear me sing.’

MADISON LAUREN



PHOTO BY GREG GAYNE/NETFLIX, COURTESY ASHLEY FIRESTONE

The Force of Xtreme Force Dance Company in Livermore.



COURTESY LEA BLEVINS



COURTESY DONNA BLEVINS

Sunol Repertory Theatre actors are seen rehearsing for the play, which follows the story of a mom and son who try to save a haunted inn from being bulldozed.

Ghostbusters like the ones seen in this picture are just some of the many characters who will be featured during the play.

Sunol Rep presenting ‘Too Many Ghosts’ this month

Original play continues four decades of community theater tradition to support small-town school

BY CHRISTIAN TRUJANO

Ghostbusters, a mom and son looking to save an old inn and five mischievous spirits are just some of the characters featured in the Sunol Repertory Theatre’s newest production, “Too Many Ghosts”.

The play, which is set to debut on Saturday, will be the small community theater’s 43rd production — a feat that director and Pleasanton resident Mike Telang said is indicative of the theater’s value to the Tri-Valley.

“Putting (on) 44 years worth of plays that continue to attract an audience is big,” Telang told the Weekly.

Founded in the early 1980s, SRT has spent the past four decades putting on small, local plays for the purpose of raising money for Sunol Glen School, which is where performances have been held every year (except for a hiatus during COVID). According

to the theater troupe, it has raised over \$250,000 in its 44-year run.

This year’s production of “Too Many Ghosts” is an original play inspired by the 2021 television show, “Ghosts,” according to an SRT press release last month.

Telang said the play is about a mom and son who move into an old inn where they discover five ghosts who refuse to leave. The story follows the mom and son, who want to convert the inn into a proper bed-and-breakfast, as they team up with the dead to save the inn from being bulldozed.

“This play is exactly the kind of show community theatre does best — it brings families together for a night of shared laughter,” Telang stated in the SRT press release. “It’s fast, funny and accessible for all ages, with humor that works just as well for kids as it does for adults.”

Telang said it is his first time directing a play with SRT since he joined two years ago. He said he has always had a love for theater since he was in college, so after he retired in January 2025, he started looking for local community groups to join.

That’s when he found SRT. Apart from the great work the theater does with raising money for the kids at Sunol Glen, Telang said he appreciates how the troupe has developed a multi-generational tradition and love for the arts and for theater across the Tri-Valley.

With cast members ranging from longtime members who have been with the theater for decades to current Sunol Glen students who saw last year’s production and wanted to try their hand at acting, Telang said he truly believes SRT is keeping the arts alive. He even noted how this year, the play didn’t have any roles

for kids — but after several students wanted to audition for a role in the play, they decided to change the script in order to include those kids.

One of the adult cast members is Patricia Balch, the mother of Pleasanton Mayor Jack Balch, who attended Sunol Glen School when he was a kid.

Balch said this year marks her 40th year with the theater company. She has done everything from curating the costumes and set designs to acting in each single play during the past four decades. This year she will be playing as one of the mischievous ghosts in the inn.

She said she first joined the theater company after seeing some of the plays when her kids attended the school and thinking it would be fun to be a part of the production.

Over the last 40 years, she said she has had nothing but fun working

with all the different volunteers, getting to know everyone involved and watching children mature and eventually bring their own children into the fold.

“It’s like a real family,” Balch said. “Everybody supports everybody so much.”

Telang said he appreciated all of his cast and crew who, for the last two months, have been working hard on preparing themselves for opening week and added that he can’t wait for audiences to see what SRT has in store for them.

“We absolutely have a fabulous cast,” he said. “We have a group of very dedicated, talented cast members.”

The play is set to debut this Saturday (March 7) — it will run on select Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays throughout March. For showtimes and tickets, visit www.sunol.net/srt. ■

Craft Cocktail Competition returns to benefit PCO

Third annual event expanding offerings, tickets, layout in Bankhead Plaza on May 2

BY JEREMY WALSH

The Tri-Valley Craft Cocktail Competition is growing for its third year in downtown Livermore.

The special event, which supports the nonprofit Pacific Chamber Orchestra, is offering more cocktails, food, tickets, silent auction items and a reconfigured layout for better spacing when it returns to Bankhead Plaza on the first Saturday of May, according to organizers.

“This third year is all about originality,” PCO music director Lawrence Kohl told the Pleasanton Weekly.

“Guests will sample 21 completely unique cocktails crafted exclusively for TVC3 — one-night-only creations you won’t find on any menu,” Kohl said. “The first two years sold out, and the excitement keeps building. It’s inventive, it’s competitive, and the audience gets to vote, which makes the whole evening feel electric.”

Kohl noted that the Craft Cocktail

Competition “is fun, but its impact is serious” for PCO, a resident company at the Bankhead Theater that puts on concerts and music education programs in the area.

“With arts funding under pressure, community-driven events like this allow us to continue bringing live music into schools and onto our stages,” he added.

The event is set to run from 4:30-6:30 p.m. May 2, although purchasing a premium ticket will earn early entry at 4 p.m. Attendees — capped at 400, up 10% from last year — will be able to sample 21 original cocktails from local mixologists at festively decorated booths across the outdoor plaza, many of which will have small-bite food pairings from downtown restaurants.

The lineup is slated to feature Azotea, Commonwealth, Crush’d Wine Bar & Kitchen, Demitri’s Taverna, Honeycomb Cocktail Lounge, Hops and Sessions, Market Tavern,

Mornings on First, Nightcaps at Rosetta, Pivot Craft & Sport Bar, Rebel Kitchen & Libations, Rosemarino, Sabio on Main, Sauced BBQ & Spirits, Sidewinder Spirits Co., Sons of Liberty Alehouse, The Black Cat, Espresso, The Bourbon Pear, The Fat

Pigeon and Hop DeVine, and The Syndicate.

The top awards, including Mixologist of the Year, will be awarded by designated judges — but attendees can get in on the mix, as “Sip. Sample. Vote.” will be

the spirit in the air with Audience Favorite and Best Table Display awards handed out by the people.

“TVC3 showcases creativity and friendly competition at its best,” said Jennifer Haus of Keller Williams Tri-Valley, which is a lead sponsor for the event. “You can feel the energy and community spirit the moment you walk in.”

The Craft Cocktail Competition falls one weekend after PCO’s premier concert of the spring.

The orchestra will perform “the gorgeous melodies and sunny disposition” of Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky’s “5th Symphony”, along with a rendition of American composer Edward MacDowell’s “2nd Piano Concerto” accompanied by renowned pianist Jon Nakamatsu, on April 25 in Lafayette and April 26 at the Bankhead.

Tickets for the cocktail event are \$80 standard and \$150 premium. For more information, visit TVC3.info. ■



EMBARCADERO MEDIA FILE PHOTO

The Watermelon Chili Paloma by Megan Patrone of Hop Divine was one of the featured cocktails at the inaugural Tri-Valley Craft Cocktail Competition in 2024.



PHOTOS BY SOPHIA SUCATO

Rehearsals less than two weeks before opening night of CYT Tri-Valley's production of "A Midsummer Night's Dream", which opens March 12.

CYT Tri-Valley bringing Shakespeare to next generation

Full weekend of 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' coming up at Bankhead in Livermore

By JEREMY WALSH

Shakespeare's famous forest frolic with feisty fairies is coming to the Bankhead Theater next week.

CYT Tri-Valley's production of "A Midsummer Night's Dream" is the first time diving into the Bard's world for many of the performers in the youth troupe — which has been inspiring, educational and even a bit nerve-racking for the teen actors ahead of opening night Thursday.

"I wasn't sure I'd understand the plot, but it's been exciting

discovering the deeper meaning behind the words," Andrew Shirk, who plays Theseus, said in a press release. "And even if every phrase doesn't make sense, the energy of the cast carries the story. We've put so much care into this show, and it really shows on stage."

"This is my first Shakespeare production," added Samantha Chu, who plays Hippolyta. "I didn't expect the humor to feel so modern. It may be wrapped in a different style of English, but people have always been people — and we still laugh at the same human things."

A comedy written by Shakespeare in the late 16th century, "A Midsummer Night's Dream" follows four young Athenians who flee into the forest after dark and become tangled up in the enchanted world Oberon, king of the fairies, and his servant Puck.

"With royal weddings, rustic players, and fairy intrigue, the play celebrates imagination, transformation, and the wonder of love," CYT Tri-Valley officials noted. "The production uses Shakespeare's original script and setting while making the story lively, relatable, and accessible

for modern audiences."

Directed by Kristin Baer-Werder with original music composed by teaching artist Rita Baird, CYT Tri-Valley's production is presented by the local theater company's all-teen conservatory, NextStage — with all actors between 13 and 18 years old.

"Playing Oberon challenged me to adopt different mannerisms as a young woman portraying a powerful man," Grace Mancini said. "He's jealous and conceited, which makes him complicated and very fun to play."

Lizzie Chandler, who portrays Titania, added, "A Midsummer

Night's Dream' is such a fun story and still so relatable. Even with the challenges of the language, I've loved immersing myself in it. If you think you wouldn't like Shakespeare, we might surprise you. This show has something for everyone."

The CYT Tri-Valley production opens at 6:30 p.m. next Thursday (March 12) and continues with four more shows through next Sunday (March 15) in the Bankhead Theater in downtown Livermore. For tickets and more information, visit cyttrivalley.org. ■

Hitchcock meets Monty Python at Village Theatre

'The 39 Steps, Abridged' sees four actors play 100+ characters in 'spy story turned slapstick comedy'

By JEREMY WALSH

A fast-paced and funny adaptation of a classic thriller will see "spies, secrets and split-second costume changes" coming to the historic Village Theatre in downtown Danville throughout the month.

Sixth Line Studios and the Danville town government are presenting "The 39 Steps, Abridged" for their first collaborative production, a unique blend of Alfred Hitchcock and Monty Python overtones heightened by just four actors playing more than 100 characters combined.

"This production is a Hitchcock thriller/spy story turned slapstick comedy for the stage," producing artistic director Katie Rubin told DanvilleSanRamon on Monday.

"Audiences can expect to laugh, to be on the edge of their seats, and to have surprisingly fun and new experiences while watching this action-packed wild ride of a comedy. They can look forward to four actors



JEREMY WALSH

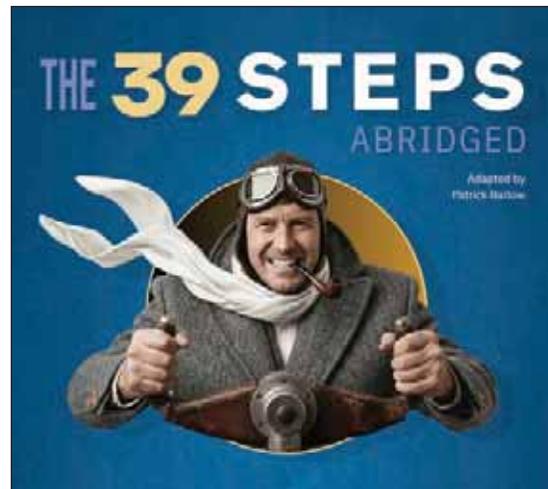
The historic Village Theatre and Art Gallery in downtown Danville.

playing dozens of roles in a playfully quick-witted way," Rubin added.

"The 39 Steps", an international espionage thriller set in Britain, was made famous by film director Hitchcock in 1935 — adapted from the 1915 spy novel of the same name

by Scottish writer and diplomat John Buchan. Playwright Patrick Barlow reimagined the tale as mystery meets comedy for the modern age with his 2005 stage adaptation.

The marriage of genres made Barlow's abridged version — "a fast,



COURTESY TOWN OF DANVILLE

Promotional poster for the Sixth Line Studios and Town of Danville production of "The 39 Steps: Abridged."

funny, short, easy watch for a wide swath of audiences" — the perfect choice for the debut production in Sixth Line Studios' new partnership with the town, according to Rubin.

"We also wanted to bring entertainment and fun to our audience

at a time when the bigger picture of our world is often much heavier and darker than any of us would prefer," she said.

The Danville play stars actors Teddy Spencer, Danny Georgiev, Ashley Garlick and Jackson Goldberg.

Town officials noted that the venue itself adds to the feel and fun of the production, since the Village Theatre had solidified its early reputation as a go-to destination for special events and film screenings by the time the Hitchcock movie was released.

"The 39 Steps: Abridged" opens this Friday (March 6) and continues with 15 more shows through March 29. An opening night reception from 6-7 p.m. is set to feature live jazz music, complimentary small bites and beer and wine for purchase.

The production is best suited for ages 12 and up, town officials said. For tickets and more information, go to danville.ca.gov/tickets. ■

Community Pulse

POLICE BULLETIN

Jail credits policy changes for helping save inmate lives

Santa Rita Jail staff last year saved the lives of 336 inmates who were either suspected of overdosing, had suicidal thoughts, or experienced medical emergencies, according to statistics released Tuesday by the Alameda County Sheriff's Office.

That number jumped from the previous year, 2024, where the jail staff saved 250 lives, the sheriff's office stated in a press release.

"Sheriff (Yesenia) Sanchez has made improving the quality of life at Santa Rita Jail a top priority," the press release states. "Over the course of both years, staff administered Narcan 55 times, preventing potentially fatal outcomes."

According to the sheriff's office, Sanchez has implemented and amended several life-saving policies at the jail. The office worked with Wellpath — a private, for-profit medical provider — and several other organizations like the Alameda County Behavioral Health Services to "strengthen services and improve conditions for those in our custody."

The jail also recently implemented a new mail delivery process where all non-privileged mail now has to be sent to Pigeonly Corrections' mail processing center in order for it to be delivered to inmates. According to the sheriff's office, this helps limit the amount of contraband entering the jail and also helps "enhance the safety of incarcerated individuals and staff".

"Postal mail can be exploited to introduce contraband and illicit substances into correctional facilities, posing significant health and safety risks," the ACSO press release states. "In recent years, the Sheriff's Office has responded to multiple fentanyl exposure incidents linked to mailed substances."

The office went on to say those drug exposure incidents required emergency responses and, in several



CHP-DUBLIN

The aftermath of an emergency rescue effort to free a driver who became trapped after crashing down a ravine along Mines Road in unincorporated Livermore on Monday night.

cases, required life-saving intervention, which is why the updated mail process was an important measure that reduces the risks of narcotics going into the jail, while also maintaining "meaningful communication between incarcerated individuals and their loved ones."

"The Alameda County Sheriff's Office recognizes the importance of maintaining personal connections between individuals in our custody and their families," sheriff's officials said. "The new process carefully balances institutional safety with the need for timely, reliable correspondence."

— Christian Trujano

Driver airlifted after crash

Emergency crews rescued a driver trapped inside their car after it careened down an embankment and landed on its side in a flowing stream in unincorporated Livermore late Monday night, according to authorities.

California Highway Patrol officers arrived at about 9:15 p.m. to the scene on Mines Road, about 14 miles south of the Livermore city limits. The driver of a BMW sedan lost control for unknown reasons, with the car veering off the rural road and going down into a ravine.

With the driver unable to get themselves out, firefighters conducted a complex nighttime rescue effort including technical rope systems and a

partial roof removal, according to the Alameda County Fire Department.

"The driver was safely extricated, lifted up the embankment, and transported to a waiting REACH helicopter. Early signs point to a positive outcome," ACFD stated on Facebook.

"This crash is a good reminder to slow down, always wear your seatbelt and drive responsibly!" CHP-Dublin officials added in a separate Facebook post.

— Jeremy Walsh

Walmart settles for \$100M

Walmart agreed last week to a \$100 million settlement to resolve allegations that the company violated federal and state competition laws by misrepresenting how drivers for its San Bruno-based delivery service would participate in customer tips and delivery fees.

The settlement accompanied a complaint filed in federal court in San Francisco by the U.S. Federal Trade Commission, 10 states and the Alameda County District Attorney's Office. The settlement is subject to approval by the court.

The plaintiffs alleged that Walmart misrepresented how much drivers would earn through tips, base pay, and incentives for deliveries, causing drivers to lose millions of dollars in expected earnings. At issue were a number of practices that caused drivers to believe they would be paid more for trips than they were actually paid.

According to the terms of the settlement agreement, \$79 million (including sums already paid) will be used to pay drivers. And \$11 million will be paid to the states and Alameda County. The remainder will be directed to the FTC and used for driver reimbursement.

A statement from Alameda County District Attorney Ursula Jones Dickson said that California drivers will receive in excess of \$1 million from the settlement. The DA's office has a consumer protection operation and has previously sued Walmart and other large retailers on environmental matters.

The settlement was the result of an investigation into the manner in which Walmart paid drivers who drove for Spark Driver, a so-called "last mile" delivery service owned and operated by Walmart. Spark is operated from Walmart's Global eCommerce headquarters in San Bruno.

Spark drivers are independent contractors — gig employees — who bid for the opportunity to make deliveries for the company.

Spark was started by Walmart in 2018 in order to deliver groceries and other products to customers at their homes. Unlike delivery services such as DoorDash or Uber Eats, customers do not order through Spark, but directly from Walmart. Walmart then fulfills deliveries by using the Spark platform to offer deliveries to independent drivers on a competitive basis.

According to a Walmart release in 2022, "We now have thousands of independent contractors who choose to drive on the Spark Driver platform, making it the largest delivery provider for Walmart. Today, nearly three-quarters of delivery orders have been fulfilled by drivers on the Spark Driver platform — reaching 84% of U.S. households."

The complaint alleges that drivers decide whether to accept delivery offers after being shown a screen that advises what they will make from the delivery. The complaint identifies a number of areas where drivers were paid less than they expected as a

result of Walmart's practices.

The challenged practices include Walmart quoting that a driver will receive a full tip when it is actually split among drivers each delivering part of an order, or that the driver will receive a full tip for a group of batched deliveries when one or more of the deliveries is later removed from the batch.

Walmart also allegedly misrepresented the amounts drivers would receive when Walmart doesn't collect the expected tip from a customer.

In addition to the dispute concerning tips, the complaint identified misrepresentations in the calculation of "base pay" and "incentive earnings" that drivers would be paid for a delivery.

The complaint alleged that "Walmart executives knew drivers were not receiving the tips that Walmart advertised in their offers, but for years refused to address the issue."

In addition to the monetary component of the settlement, Walmart agreed to an injunction against the disputed practices and to operate an "earnings verification program" that will check whether drivers are receiving what is represented to them. Walmart will report to the FTC for the next 10 years on the operation of the settlement.

The complaint and settlement have been assigned to U.S. Magistrate Laurel Beeler of the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California.

According to court records, no hearing has yet been set for the court's consideration of the settlement. ■

— Joe Dworetzky,
Bay City News Service

PET OF THE WEEK

Fly away with Fruit Bat

Meet your new favorite creature of the night: Fruit Bat! This little wonder is proof that the sweetest things come in small packages, just like the tropical fruit his namesake loves. He's thriving in foster care with dogs, cats and humans, soaking up playtime and politely charming everyone he meets like the social butterfly (or should we say, social bat) he is. If you're ready to let this young adult dog win your heart and hang around your home, adopt Fruit Bat today! Call 925-426-8656 or email info@valleyhumane.org to get started.



VALLEY HUMANE SOCIETY

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.

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BY GABRIELLE WELK

The Power of One: Protecting the downtown we love

Pleasanton has always been an extraordinary community. For nearly 30 years, I've had the privilege of calling this town home. I've watched neighbors rally around one another, support local schools and nonprofits, show up at community events, and invest in the place we all care about.



Our generosity and civic pride are what make Pleasanton special, and I truly believe we have the power to make an even greater impact together.

As executive director of the Pleasanton Downtown Association, and as a longtime resident, I want to share something important about our downtown. Every single storefront in downtown Pleasanton is a small business. There are no national chains absorbing losses. There are no corporate safety nets.

Behind every counter is a local

owner, a family, and a livelihood tied directly to the choices we make as consumers. These are our neighbors.

Here's what that means in real terms:

- One \$50 sale can cover utilities for part of the day.
- One private event booking can help cover payroll for the week.
- One new regular customer can represent thousands of dollars in long-term stability.

Those aren't exaggerations. That is the math of small business. Unlike large corporations with layered financial protection, small businesses operate on narrower margins. Individual transactions carry weight. A steady flow of local support can mean the difference between stability and uncertainty.

That's why I believe so strongly in The Power of One:

- One decision to grab lunch downtown.
- One choice to purchase a birthday gift locally instead of online.
- One meeting or celebration hosted at a locally owned venue.

From the customer's perspective, it may feel like a simple purchase. But from the other side of the counter, it represents security, sustainability and sometimes relief. Now imagine the collective impact.

If every Pleasanton resident committed to just one local purchase each week that might otherwise go elsewhere, the ripple effect across our downtown would be transformational. Strong businesses reinvest locally such as hiring staff, enhancing storefronts, supporting community events, and contributing to the character and vitality we all value.

At the Pleasanton Downtown Association, we are also working diligently behind the scenes to strengthen the overall downtown environment.

We hear the community. We are listening carefully and we are not turning away from the real conversations and actions that need to be taken. We're committed to making thoughtful changes that people can feel and see in our downtown right now.

Our team is small, with just three dedicated Pleasanton locals working every day in the office, but we are mighty, focused and deeply invested in making meaningful progress. We are hungry to help move positive change forward just like you.

And while that work continues, this is something every one of us can do right now.

Downtown vitality does not happen by accident. It is built intentionally by neighbors who understand that where we choose to spend our dollars shapes the future of our town.

I am personally committing to do my part and am asking our community to join me because in a small business ecosystem, one truly counts.

One purchase, one decision, one neighbor choosing local. That is how we protect the downtown we love together. ■

Editor's note: Gabrielle Welk is the executive director of the Pleasanton Downtown Association.

GUEST OPINION

BY JIM LEHRMAN

Proposed new wells will spread PFAS plume

Zone 7 Water Agency plans to drill new wells in southwest Pleasanton near the leading edge of an enormous plume of PFAS, a.k.a. "forever chemicals", underlying the Tri-Valley. And they're pushing Pleasanton to join them.

New groundwater modeling commissioned by Zone 7 appears to be very accurate in predicting groundwater levels based on historical data, but this is not the same as predicting PFAS plume movement. The model doesn't show how the PFAS plume grew from nothing 50 or 60 years ago (from recently confirmed sources) to its current titanic size: six miles long and two miles wide.

A model that can't reproduce the historical plume movement is not useful in predicting future plume movement. This plume is now within a couple tenths of a mile from the proposed well locations, so the risk of further spreading, especially with increased pumping, is substantial. In fact, PFAS has already been



detected at the proposed Hansen Park well site.

Yet Zone 7 continues to assert that the new wells will be PFAS free for at least 20 years. Zone 7 previously claimed there were faults or other geologic barriers that would prevent PFAS from moving to the proposed locations. However, at a recent public meeting, Zone 7's own consultant indicated that there are no significant barriers.

This recent turnaround casts doubts on Zone 7's credibility regarding PFAS plume movement predictions.

Why would Zone 7 minimize the risk of spreading PFAS to the proposed new wells? Are they stuck on a 20-year-old plan for new wells developed before PFAS was known to be a problem? Have they run out of ideas for new sources of water?

They say that if PFAS is found in the new wells, then they'll treat the water to remove it, but at what cost?

Water is essential to life and society needs water to thrive. So how can this need be met here, especially in times of drought? The big push for new wells came because old wells were shut down due to high PFAS concentrations.

To their credit, Zone 7 is treating

water from their old wells to remove PFAS, and they plan to treat additional wells as their budget allows. Pleasanton's old wells were also shut down due to PFAS, but they have no plans to treat that water.

Zone 7 is adept at treating water; Pleasanton is not. Pleasanton has stated that they don't want to be in the water treatment business. But Pleasanton's well locations are in the heart of our groundwater basin and capable of producing all the water sought by installing the proposed new wells.

Pleasanton and Zone 7 should work together to produce water from Pleasanton's well locations for the good of current and future Tri-Valley residents.

Pleasanton has the rights and Zone 7 has the expertise to treat the water. This would go a long way to

control and shrink the PFAS plume, remove PFAS from our groundwater basin and produce clean drinking water when needed, as in times of drought. This is the type of agreement Pleasanton and Zone 7 should be working on, not plans that would risk spreading the plume and making the ultimate cost of cleanup even greater.

This is not a new idea. Pleasanton originally planned to treat their wells when PFAS was discovered there but was convinced by Zone 7 that drilling new wells in southwest Pleasanton would cost less. Yes, maybe cheaper in the short term, but more than likely much more costly in the long term. ■

Editor's note: Jim Lehrman, a resident of Pleasanton since 1988, is a professional geologist and certified hydrogeologist licensed by the state of California.

Submit letters to the editor of up to 250 words and guest opinion pieces up to 550 words with a short bio to editor@PleasantonWeekly.com. Include your name, address and daytime phone number so we can reach you. We reserve the right to edit contributions for length, objectionable content, libel and factual errors known to us. Anonymous letters will generally not be accepted.

Submitting a letter to the editor or guest opinion constitutes a granting of permission to the Pleasanton Weekly and Embarcadero Media Foundation to also publish it online, including in our online archives.

For more information contact Editor Jeremy Walsh at (925) 600-0840.

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PLEASANTON PREPS

By DENNIS MILLER

Amador boys finish third in NCS basketball playoffs

Also: Granada wrestler Martin wins CIF state title in girls' 120-pound division

The Amador Valley boys' basketball team kept their season alive by knocking off Liberty 57-43 to take third in the North Coast Section Division I playoffs.

After falling 53-50 in the semi-finals to Granada, the Dons faced a huge game with Liberty for third place and a spot in the CIF State Basketball playoffs.

Dante Ventura scored 17 points to lead the Dons in the win, with Jaylen Smith adding 12. Elijah Stanley had nine to round out the top scorers for Amador.

In the loss to Granada, Smith scored 17 for the Dons, with Stanley adding 14, and Cade Krueger chipped in 10.

See the story below for the CIF tournament information.



CIF Basketball

On the girls' side of the tournament, Carondelet — by virtue of the Cougars' 50-49 win over San Ramon Valley in the NCS Open final — was seeded No. 4 and the Wolves No. 5.

If you do the math, that meant the Cougars would be hosting the Wolves in the first round on

Wednesday night. It was going to be the fourth time the two sides met this year, with San Ramon Valley holding a 2-1 lead.

The winner will play at top-seeded Mitty on Saturday night.

In the Boys' Open play, De La Salle was seeded fifth and set to play at No. 4 Modesto Christian. The winner will play at top-seeded Riordan on Saturday night.

D-I play was set to start Tuesday night with No. 7 Daugherty Valley hosting Destiny Christian (10) at 7 p.m. The winner will play the winner of Lincoln (15) at Clayton Valley (2).

In D-II play, Granada (3) was hosting Clovis (14) and Amador Valley (7) playing Serra (10). Both games were set for Tuesday night, with results pending as of press time.

The Amador-Serra winner would play the Sacramento (2)-Bullard (15) winner. The winner of the Granada-Clovis game would play the winner of the Oakland Tech (5)-Milpitas (11) game. Those games were set for Thursday night.

CIF Soccer

In the girls' tournaments, Carondelet was seeded No. 8 and set to open at No. 1 Gregori on Tuesday night. The winner would face the winner of Saint Francis-Buchanan on Thursday.

In the D-II event, No. 5 Amador Valley was at No. 4 Mitty. The winner would be at the winner of the Davis (1)-Las Lomas (8) game on Thursday. San Ramon Valley (7) was at Vista Del Lago (2).

The winner of that one would face the winner of Cardinal Newman (3)-St. Ignatius (6).

In boys' play, Monte Vista (7) was at Granite Bay (2) in D-I play. The winner would take on the winner of Clayton Valley (3) against Everette Alvarez (6).

In the D-II tournament, San Ramon Valley (8) was at Clovis (1), with the winner facing the Vintage (4)-Turlock (5) winner on Thursday.

De La Salle (2) was hosting Leigh (7), with the winner taking on the

Hillsdale (3)-Berkeley (6) winner.

CIF Wrestling

Standout Granada wrestler SJ Martin capped a 37-2 senior year by taking the girls' 120-pound state title Saturday in Bakersfield and giving the vaunted Matadors' program its first-ever CIF individual championship in the sport.

In addition to the state title by Martin, teammate Maile Nguyen also found a spot on the medal platform, finishing sixth at 105 pounds.

"It was a really good weekend," said Sean Jackson, one of the Granada wrestling coaches.

The top-seeded Martin plowed through the competition. She opened with a pin of Tatiana Colmenero of Gilroy in 59 seconds. That followed with a pin of Kenzie Herrera of Reedley in 57 seconds.

In the quarterfinals, she pinned Mariana Gonzalez of Buchanan in 1:17, then advanced to the finals with a pin of Eliana Garcia of Northview at the 2:13 mark.

Once in the finals, Martin came through with a 12-0, majority decision of Ava Ebrahimi of Poway. ■

To contact contributing sports writer Dennis Miller about his Pleasanton Preps column, email acesmag@aol.com.

'One League, One Valley'

SRVLL set for first opening day after merger

By JEREMY WALSH

Youth baseball players, coaches and organizers in the northern part of the San Ramon Valley are getting ready for opening day this weekend, the region's first in its new era of Little League.

San Ramon Valley Little League absorbed the Tassajara Valley Little League last fall, a merger that widened SRVLL's boundaries back to its original reach when founded in 1959 and expanded the 2026 participant count to more than 1,000 players and coaches for a spring season with nearly 800 games scheduled between now and May, league officials said.

"This merger not only reunites two leagues, but two communities, and ensures a great future for youth baseball in the area under a refocused, unified mission: to create the most meaningful and memorable youth sports experience across the communities of Danville, Alamo, and Diablo," SRVLL President Greg Isom and Nate Grimm, who would be the final president in TVLL history, said in a joint statement Nov. 7.

The two leagues, which came to be when TVLL formed in 1992 to separate youth baseball

in that part of the Valley away from SRVLL, began working closely together coming out of the COVID-19 pandemic to host combined seasons.

"During this partnership, SRVLL flourished both in growth and on the field," the presidents said in their announcement. "This would not have been possible without TVLL's support; however, despite integrating more and more each year, the two leagues still operated independently, causing increased operational challenges and contrasting priorities due to our differing circumstances."

Isom and Grimm said it became clear during 2024 that merging was the best path forward, and the two entities embarked on the lengthy review and approval process. After each league voted to support the deal, the proposal advanced through California District 57 and then Little League Baseball offices in Williamsport, Penn. — with final clearance coming Nov. 7.

"This united community was the San Ramon Valley Little League I remember as a kid, before TVLL became its own league in 1992," Isom said in a follow-up "President's Letter" on Dec. 23.

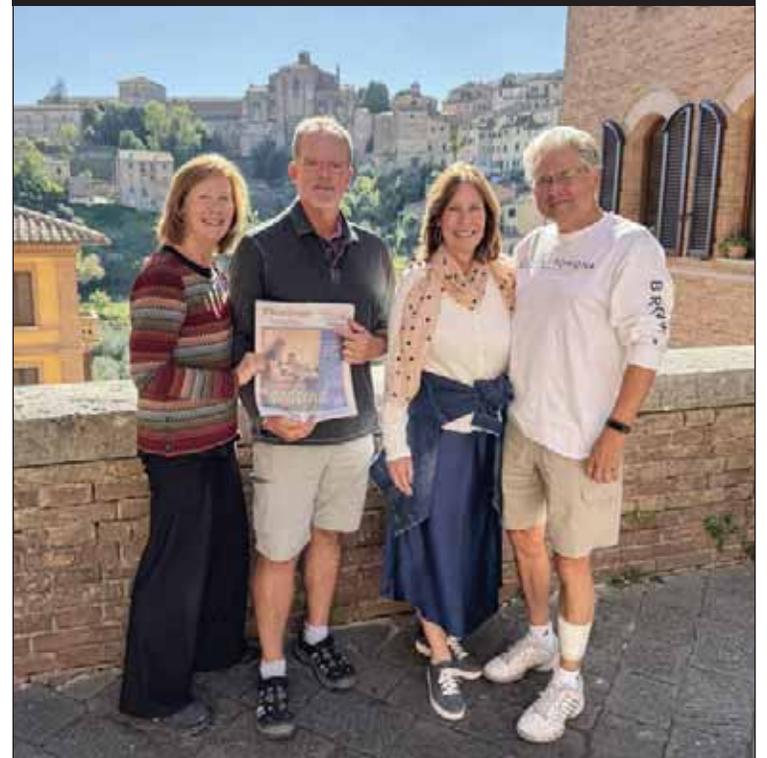
"Games were played from Alamo to Blackhawk, and everywhere in-between. Downtown Danville restaurants were dotted with SRV hats every weekend after games. And orange and blue clad players waved championship banners as they paraded down Hartz Ave. every Fourth of July."

"For kids across the entire Valley, SRV gave meaning to their childhood and memories that lasted a lifetime," Isom added. "And now, in 2026, that SRV is back ... On paper, SRV has never been bigger."

The excitement of the first season as a reunified SRVLL — under the slogan, "One League, One Valley" — is set to be on display this Saturday (March 7) at Los Cerros Middle School in Danville for the opening day festivities — or as Isom described it, "The best Little League Opening Day ceremony in Northern California, featuring prizes, games, and every team in action across the entire San Ramon Valley."

Isom and other SRVLL leaders did not respond to email questions asking for additional context on the merger and preparations for the 2026 season and beyond. ■

TAKE US ALONG



An unforgettable, extraordinary journey: Kimba and Joel Warford, together with Linda and Paul Dentler, treated the Pleasanton Weekly to an unforgettable adventure in the fall of 2025 — cycling through the breathtaking landscapes of Lake Como, northern Italy and Switzerland, then meandering through the timeless charm of Siena and the picturesque Tuscan villages, and finally culminating in the coastal beauty of Croatia. "It was a journey as unforgettable as it was extraordinary," they said.

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

Public Notices

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME

File No. 609088

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): CREME AND PETALS 3725 Carlwyn Court Castro Valley, CA 94546 FILED IN ALAMEDA COUNTY ON: 09/04/2024 UNDER FILE NO. 609088 REGISTRANT'S NAME(S): BRITNEY HUANG 3725 Carlwyn Court Castro Valley, CA 94546 THIS BUSINESS WAS CONDUCTED BY An Individual.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Alameda County on February 03 2026. (PLW Feb 20, 27, Mar 6 and 13, 2026)

UNITY CLEANING GROUP FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No.: 621187

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

1.) UNITY CLEANING GROUP , located at 2350 Saratoga Street, Unit 112 Alameda, CA 94501, ALAMEDA County.

This business is conducted by: a Limited Liability Company.

The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are): 29.5 LLC

2350 Saratoga Street, Unit 112 Alameda, CA 94501

State of Incorporation/Organization: CALIFORNIA

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

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on March 02 2026.

(PLW Feb 27, Mar 6, 13 and 20, 2026)

OLDEN MILL FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No.: 620955

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

1.) Olden Mill , located at 678 Concord Pl, Pleasanton, CA 94566, Alameda County. Mailing Address: PO BOX 1106 Pleasanton, CA 94566

This business is conducted by: a Limited Liability Company.

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

678 Concord Pl

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 February 19 2026.

(PLW Feb 27, Mar 6, 13 and 20, 2026)

3RDGEN BUILDING SYSTEMS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No.: 621112

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

1.) 3rdGen Building Systems , located at 1230 4th st, Berkeley, CA 94710, Alameda County. This business is conducted by: a Corporation.

The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are): 3RDGEN HOME SERVICES

1230 4th st

Berkeley, CA 94710

State of Incorporation/Organization: California

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

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on February 25 2026.

(PLW Mar 6, 13, 20 and 27, 2026)

DMC SOUNDS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No.: 621113

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

1.) DMC SOUNDS , located at 2452 MISTLETOE DR, HAYWARD, CA 94545, ALAMEDA County.

This business is conducted by: an Individual. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are): KRISHNEEL CHAUDHARY

2452 MISTLETOE DR

HAYWARD, CA 94545

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

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on February 25 2026.

(PLW Mar 6, 13, 20 and 27, 2026)

COUNTRY COWBOY COFFEE FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No.: 620794

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

1.) Country Cowboy Coffee , located at 4299 Valley Ave, Pleasanton, CA 94566, Alameda County. Mailing Address: 413 4th Street Petaluma, CA 94952

This business is conducted by: a Limited Liability Company.

The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are): WISE & WHETSTONE COFFEE LLC

413 4th Street

Petaluma, CA 94952

State of Incorporation/Organization: California

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

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on February 11 2026.

(PLW Mar 6, 13, 20 and 27, 2026)

VITALITY BOWLS LIVERMORE VITALITY BOWLS LIVERMORE #020 FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No.: 621003

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

1.) Vitality Bowls Livermore , 2.) Vitality Bowls Livermore #020 , located at 2175 First Street Livermore, CA 94550, Alameda County.

Mailing Address: 751 Los Pinos Ave Milpitas, CA 95035

This business is conducted by: a Limited Liability Company.

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

751 Los Pinos Ave

Milpitas, CA 95035

State of Incorporation/Organization: CA

Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above

on 02/04/2026

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on February 20 2026.

(PLW Mar 6, 13, 20 and 27, 2026)

FLIGHT NAILS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No.: 621058

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

1.) Flight Nails , located at 7284 San Ramon Rd, Dublin, CA 94568, Alameda County.

Mailing Address: 27611 Miami Ave Hayward, CA, 94545

This business is conducted by: a Limited Liability Company.

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

27611 Miami Ave

Hayward, CA, 94545

State of Incorporation/Organization: California

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

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on February 24 2026.

(PLW Mar 6, 13, 20 and 27, 2026)

SYNERGY HOMECARE CA60 FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No.: 621006

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

1.) SYNERGY HOMECARE CA60 , located at 4049 FIRST STREET SUITE #223, LIVERMORE, CA 94551, ALAMEDA County.

This business is conducted by: an Individual.

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

ALTAMONT SUPPORT SERVICES LLC

4049 FIRST STREET SUITE #223

LIVERMORE, CA 94551

State of Incorporation/Organization: CALIFORNIA

Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above

on FEBRUARY 1, 2026

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on February 20 2026.

(PLW Feb 27, Mar 6, 13 and 20, 2026)

ARCIMUSE FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No.: 620723

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

1.) ARCIMUSE , located at 351 Oak St, Ste 295, Oakland, CA, 94607, Alameda County.

This business is conducted by: an Individual.

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

OMAR LALDIN

351 Oak St, Ste 295

Oakland, CA, 94607

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

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on February 09 2026.

(PLW Feb 20, 27, Mar 6 and 13, 2026)

SUNGLOW MOBILE FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No.: 620562

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

1.) SUNGLOW MOBILE , located at 8257 MULBERRY PL DUBLIN, CA 94568, ALAMEDA County.

This business is conducted by: an Individual.

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

YAN TING LI

8257 MULBERRY PL

DUBLIN, CA 94568

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 January 30 2026.

(PLW Feb 20, 27, Mar 6 and 13, 2026)

STARFISH CIRCLES FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No.: 621074

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

1.) Starfish Circles , located at 5227 Crestline Way, 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):

CONTRIBUTIONISM LLC

5227 Crestline Way

Pleasanton, CA 94566

State of Incorporation/Organization: California

Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above

on 02/20/2026

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on February 24 2026.

(PLW Mar 6, 13, 20 and 27, 2026)

CHOCOLATE FISH COFFEE ROASTERS LIVERMORE FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No.: 620823

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

1.) Chocolate Fish Coffee Roasters Livermore , located at 847 E Stanley Blvd Livermore, CA 94550, Alameda County.

This business is conducted by: a Limited Liability Company.

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

Z FAM VENTURES LLC

185 W Santa Clara Dr

Mountain House, CA 95391

State of Incorporation/Organization: CA

Registrant began transacting business under

the fictitious business name(s) listed above

on 02/13/2026

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on February 13 2026.

(PLW Feb 20, 27, Mar 6 and 13, 2026)

ALTAMONT AUCTIONS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No.: 620585

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

1.) ALTAMONT AUCTIONS , located at

11099 BRITTANY LANE DUBLIN, CA 94568,

ALAMEDA County.

This business is conducted by: a Limited Liability Company.

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

KR FARMS LLC

PO BOX 608

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 February 02 2026.

(PLW Feb 27, Mar 6, 13 and 20, 2026)

TOTALLY NOTARY AND VEHICLE REGISTRATION SERVICE FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No.: 621123

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

1.) Totally Notary And Vehicle Registration Service , located at 205 Main Street, Suite J, Pleasanton, CA 94566, Alameda County.

Mailing Address: 6806 Corte Nuevo Pleasanton, CA 94566

This business is conducted by: an Individual.

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

HELEN BERENICE WARDALE-MOGAN

6806 Corte Nuevo

Pleasanton, CA 94566

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

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on February 25 2026.

(PLW Mar 6, 13, 20 and 27, 2026)

BETWEEN US BOUQUETS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No.: 620729

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

1.) Between Us Bouquets , located at 5180 Golden Rd, Apt. 88, 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):

RAUSHAN LLC

5180 Golden Rd, Apt. 88

Pleasanton, CA 94566

State of Incorporation/Organization: New Jersey

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

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on February 10 2026.

(PLW Feb 20, 27, Mar 6 and 13, 2026)

LITTLE J MAGNETS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No.: 620056

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

1.) Little J Magnets , located at 4625 Mirador Dr, Pleasanton, CA 94566 , Alameda County.

This business is conducted by: an Individual.

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

DIANA MEHANNY

4625 Mirador Dr

Pleasanton, CA 94566

Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above

on 12/25/2025

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on January 09 2026.

(PLW Feb 13, 20, 27 and Mar 6, 2026)

CHASE ELECTRIC FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No.: 620650

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

1.) Chase Electric , located at 1048 Serpentine Ln #302 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):

HENNINGS ELECTRIC LLC

1048 Serpentine Lane #302

Pleasanton, CA 94566

State of Incorporation/Organization: California

Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above

on 02/01/2026

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on February 04 2026.

(PLW Feb 13, 20, 27 and Mar 6, 2026)

KHADIJA'S CREATIONS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No.: 620443

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

1.) KHADIJA'S CREATIONS , located at 2061 HAGGERTY DR, Dublin, CA 94568, Alameda County.

This business is conducted by: an Individual.

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

KHADIJA SAYEED

2061 HAGGERTY DR

Dublin, CA 94568

Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above

on JANUARY 25, 2026

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on January 27 2026.

(PLW Feb 27, Mar 6, 13 and 20, 2026)

ANT HILL GUITARS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No.: 621023

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

1.) ANT HILL GUITARS , located at 1222 Victor Ave, San Leandro, CA 94579-1147, Alameda County.

This business is conducted by: an Individual.

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

JOSEPH BALL

1222 Victor Ave

San Leandro, CA 94579-1147

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

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on February 23 2026.

(PLW Mar 6, 13, 20 and 27, 2026)

IMPACTO GARDENING SERVICES FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No.: 619973

The following person (persons)

Public Notices

Continued from previous page

THE HOT SPOT STUDIOS UNION CITY FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No.: 620705

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: 1.) The Hot Spot Studios Union City , located at 31868 Alvarado Blvd, Union City, CA 94587 , Alameda County. This business is conducted by: a Limited Liability Company. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are): VISIVISA LLC 36292 Cedar Blvd Newark, CA 94560 State of Incorporation/Organization: California Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above. This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on February 06 2026. (PLW Feb 13, 20, 27 and Mar 6, 2026)

TOTALLY NOTARY FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No.: 621124

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: 1.) Totally Notary , located at 205 Main Street, Suite J, Pleasanton, CA 94566, Alameda County. Mailing Address: 6806 Corte Nuevo Pleasanton, CA 94566 This business is conducted by: an Individual. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are): HELEN BERENICE WARDALE-MOGAN 6806 Corte Nuevo Pleasanton, CA 94566 Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on August 18, 2025 This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on February 25 2026. (PLW Mar 6, 13, 20 and 27, 2026)

OLD CHARM INTERIOR FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No.: 620161

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: 1.) Old Charm Interior , located at 503 Centre Ct Alameda, CA 94502, Alameda County. This business is conducted by: an Individual. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are): JIUXIN XIONG 503 Centre Ct Alameda, CA 94502 Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on Jan. 14, 2026 This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on January 14 2026. (PLW Feb 13, 20, 27 and Mar 6, 2026)

MD LASER SPA FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No.: 620295

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: 1.) MD Laser Spa , located at 531 Main Street Pleasanton, CA 94566, Alameda County. This business is conducted by: a Corporation. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are): ROBERT F. GRAY MD INC. 1921 Armondo Ct Pleasanton, CA 94566 State of Incorporation/Organization: CA Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 01/01/2004 This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on January 21 2026. (PLW Feb 13, 20, 27 and Mar 6, 2026)

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA FOR THE COUNTY OF ALAMEDA Case No.: 26CV171294 TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner: Yanting Liao and Wing Tai Tse filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: LAWRENCE JIAHUA TSE to LAWRENCE JIAHUA LIAO ADELIN JIALING TSE to ADELIN JIALING LIAO

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: 4/24/2026, 9:00AM, Alameda branch 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: 2/20/2026 Thomas Nixon JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT (PLW Mar 6, 13, 20 and 27, 2026)

SUMMONS

(CITACION JUDICIAL) NOTICE TO DEFENDANT:

(AVISO AL DEMANDADO):

HUAN FU ZENG, and DOES 1 TO 10. YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF: (LO ESTÁ DEMANDANDO EL DEMANDANTE): MINJIA JOHN CHANG

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 DÍAS 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 más 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 queda más 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 podrá quitar su sueldo, dinero y bienes sin más 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 ó más 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 desechar el caso.

The name and address of the court is: (El nombre y dirección de la corte es): Alameda County Courthouse 1225 Fallon Street, Oakland, CA, 94612

CASE NUMBER: (Número del Caso): 25CV139716

The name, address, and telephone number of plaintiff's attorney, or plaintiff without an attorney, is: (El nombre, la dirección y el numero de telefono de/ abogado de/ demandante, o de/ demandante que no tiene abogado, es): NICEFORO L. AVILA, JR. 300 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, Suite 228, Oakland, California 94612 Telephone: (669) 800-9035

DATE (Fecha) : 08/27/2025 Chad Finke, Executive Officer/ Clerk of the Court

Clerk, by (Secretario) A. Gospel, Deputy (Adjunto) (PLW Mar 6, 13, 20 and 27, 2026)

NOTICE OF DEFAULT PROVE-UP HEARING

Case No. 24CV057827

Notice is given that ROBIN JOLIN and JERRED JOLIN, Plaintiffs, have filed a quiet title action concerning real property located at 991 39th Street, Oakland, CA 94608 (APN: 12-952-23-2) with the Superior Court of California, County of Alameda.

A hearing on the matter will be held as follows:

Hearing Date: May 12, 2026, Time: 10:00 AM Department: 24 Location: Rene C. Davidson Courthouse, 1225 Fallon Street, Oakland, CA 94612

Defendant: CASCADE FACTORS INCORPORATED and all persons claiming any interest in or lien upon the real property described above are hereby notified that unless you appear at the hearing and show cause why the relief sought in the complaint should not be granted, a judgment will be entered declaring that Plaintiffs are the owners of the property free and clear of any claim by Defendant.

Attorney or Party without Attorney: Robin Jolin 504 M Avenue, La Grande, OR 97850 Tel: (415) 652-5059 Email: robin@robinjolin.com (PLW Feb 27, Mar 6, 13 and 20, 2026)

The Pleasanton Weekly is adjudicated to publish in Alameda County.

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

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

For assistance email LegalNotices@PleasantonWeekly.com.

Calendar

POST CALENDAR ITEMS AT PLEASANTONWEEKLY.COM

Entertainment

LIVERMORE VALLEY OPERA Fickleness, laughter, betrayal and reconciliation all characterize the last of Mozart's three da Ponte operas with some of Mozart's most famous arias and glorious music. March 7-8. Tickets \$25-\$115. Visit livermorearts.org.

BEST OF SAN FRANCISCO STAND-UP COMEDY A new generation of comedic talent is set to take the stage from the producers of one of the longest running independent shows in America. 8 p.m., March 6. Tickets \$16-\$26. Visit firehousearts.org.

KINGS RETURN Returning to the Bankhead with their signature blend of rich harmonies and soul-stirring vocals, this Grammy-nominated a cappella group captivates audiences with effortless fusion of gospel, jazz, R&B and classical influences. 8 p.m., March 6. Tickets \$40-\$70. Visit livermorearts.org.

RONSTADT REVOLUTION: A TRIBUTE TO LINDA RONSTADT Fronted by acclaimed vocalist and stage performer Natalie Amaya, and featuring a stellar lineup of veteran musicians, Ronstadt Revolution delivers dynamic performances of both her English and Spanish-language hits. 7 p.m., March 7. Tickets \$38-\$43. Visit firehousearts.org.

CALICELTIC AT FIREHOUSE CaliCeltic returns to celebrate the release of their sixth album to deliver rollicking interpretations of traditional Irish songs alongside hilarious originals that explore Ireland and its ties to the San Francisco Bay Area. 7 p.m., March 13. Tickets \$27-\$30. Visit firehousearts.org.

VALLEY CONCERT CHORALE PERFORMANCE Valley Concert Chorale presents Millennium and Memory, An American Choral Celebration. 7:30 p.m., March 13, Lynnewood Methodist Church and 7:30 p.m., March 14, First Presbyterian Church. Visit valleyconcertchorale.org.

CCSEGER - A TRIBUTE TO BOB SEGER AND CCR CCSegeR performs the timeless music of Bob Seger and Creedence Clearwater Revival in a spectacular tribute show bringing high-energy sounds of these legendary rock icons to life with a powerhouse lineup of seasoned musicians. 7:30 p.m., March 14. Tickets \$33-\$43. Visit firehousearts.org.

Talks

LIVERMORE-AMADOR GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY Join this Zoom meeting where Kathryn Lake Hogan will discuss Finding Your Canadian Ancestors. Dive into Canadian records and piece together the missing details of family history. 7 p.m., March 9. Visit l-ags.org.

LIVERMORE-AMADOR VALLEY GARDEN CLUB Rose Loveall, Morningsun Herb Farm and mail order nursery, will discuss tea gardens, teaching about

growing, harvesting and brewing herbal and flower teas. Plants will be for sale. 6-8 p.m., March 12. Crosswinds Church, 1660 Freisman Road, Livermore, Red Farm Theater Building.

VERSE ON THE VINE: VOICES FROM THE RANGE Join for an afternoon of poetry and prose celebrating the spirit of the West, hosted by Livermore Poet Laureate Peggy Schimmelman. This event features acclaimed cowboy poets Wendy Brown and Jim Cardwell. 3-4 p.m., March 15. Livermore Civic Center Library.

Youth

LIBRARY HOSTS TEEN ART EXPOSITION SHOW AND CONTEST Livermore students and residents in sixth through twelfth grades may submit an original piece of art thru March 22 at the Civic Center Library. Works eligible for the exhibit are limited to 2-D visual media. Visit library.livermoreca.gov.

HIGH SCHOOL WRITING CONTEST Tri-Valley Writers sponsors an annual writing contest where winners are given cash prizes and read selections of their work at the awards ceremony. Open to students attending high schools in Pleasanton, Livermore, Dublin, San Ramon and Danville. Deadline March 22. Visit trivalleywriters.org.

HIGH SCHOOL JUNIOR & SENIOR ARTS AWARDS The High School Junior & Senior Arts Awards Program is designed to identify, recognize and encourage talented graduating high school students who reside in Livermore and/or attend a Livermore school with awards granted based on accomplishments in the Arts in school. Deadline April 6. For more information visit livermoreschools.org.

Scholarships

ALAN HU FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP The Alan Hu Foundation presents scholarship awards to Tri-Valley high school seniors whose college and career aspirations are in mental health fields. Application closes March 8. For more information visit alanhufoundation.org.

DAVID YANDELL LIVING LEGACY SERVICE SCHOLARSHIP The David Yandell Living Legacy Service Scholarship is a \$10,000 award presented annually to an outstanding graduating senior from Amador Valley High School who exemplifies leadership, integrity and a deep commitment to service within both the school and the broader community. Deadline March 9. Visit 3vcf.org.

CALIFORNIA RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOC. SCHOLARSHIPS The Tri-Valley chapter of the California Retired Teachers Association will award up to five \$2,500 scholarships to students in Pleasanton, Livermore, Dublin or San Ramon planning to become teachers or school counselors. Deadline March 14. Visit div85.calrta.org.

Real Estate

Espinola named Bay East president for 2026

New leadership team installed during inaugural ceremony at The Club at Castlewood

By JEREMY WALSH

Bill Espinola, of Parkview Realty in Hayward, is the new president for the Bay East Association of Realtors for 2026.

A Realtor for the past 25 years, Espinola sits on the association's Executive, Local Government Relations and Political Activities committees, as well as serves on the California Association of Realtors Board of Directors and has been actively involved in Bay East strategic planning activities.

"Espinola's vision for 2026 is to help strengthen the connection between real estate professionals and the public," Bay East officials said in a press release. "He wants to continue helping real estate professionals build consumer trust, improve public understanding of real estate, and reinforce the role Realtors play to uplift the communities they serve."

In his professional work and industry advocacy, Espinola is driven by the mindset that



Bill Espinola

"if there's one thing Realtors truly care about, it's the human beings involved in their transactions and the communities those people live in," Bay East officials added.

He was sworn in during the trade association's inaugural event at The Club at Castlewood in Pleasanton on Feb. 7. Joining Espinola as board officers are president-elect Viviana Cherman, of Elation Real Estate in Pleasanton; treasurer Paul Wong, of Fifty Hills Real Estate in Oakland; past-president Tracey Esling, of Compass in Berkeley; and CEO Tricia Thomas.

Based in Pleasanton, Bay East serves and represents more than 5,500 residential and commercial real estate professionals throughout the East Bay in Alameda County.

The 2026 Bay East Board of Directors also features Nancie Allen, Compass, Fremont; Janella Anguiano, Century 21 Masters, Castro Valley; Joe Annunziato III, Annunziato Real Estate Inc.; June Burckhardt, Legacy Real Estate & Associates, Fremont; Don Faught, Compass, Pleasanton; Louis Heystek, Compass, Oakland; Tina Jackson-Walda, Suburban Homes Realty; and Delores "Dee" Johnson, Delores Dee Johnson Realty, Oakland.



PHOTO BY QUINN VO / BAY EAST

The 2026 leadership team for the Bay East Association of Realtors consists of (from left) Paul Wong, treasurer; Viviana Cherman, president-elect; Bill Espinola, president; Tracey Esling, immediate past president; and Tricia Thomas, CEO.

Filling out the rest of the board roster are Joe LoParo, KW Advisors, Alameda; Sharon Mancillas, KW Advisors, Alameda; Frank Quismorio, Realty Experts, Fremont; Geraldine Ramirez, Bay City Real Estate Group, Pleasanton; Eliane Selwan, JPAR Iron

Horse Real Estate Group, Pleasanton; Sinath Thi, Coldwell Banker Realty, Castro Valley; Paul Wong, Coldwell Banker Realty, Oakland; Garrick Yan, EXP Realty of California, San Ramon; and platinum affiliate director Trevor Frey, Supreme Lending, Brentwood. ■

SALES AT A GLANCE

Pleasanton (Dec. 15-19)

Total sales reported: 3
Lowest sale reported: \$478,000
Highest sale reported: \$1,215,000
Average sales reported: \$914,333

Dublin (Dec. 15-19)

Total sales reported: 13
Lowest sale reported: \$500,000
Highest sale reported: \$2,350,000
Average sales reported: \$1,164,615

Livermore (Dec. 15-19)

Total sales reported: 8
Lowest sale reported: \$656,000
Highest sale reported: \$1,600,000
Average sales reported: \$925,750

San Ramon (Feb. 2-6)

Total sales reported: 1
Lowest sale reported: \$1,250,000
Highest sale reported: \$1,250,000
Average sales reported: \$1,250,000

Source: California REsource

HOME SALES

This week's data represents homes sold during Dec. 15-19 for Pleasanton, Livermore and Dublin, and Feb. 2-6 for San Ramon.

Pleasanton

974 Clinton Place Blockmon Trust to Chang Family Trust for \$1,215,000
1200 Creek Trail Drive P. City to E. & S. Tawdros for \$478,000
3672 Glacier Court Vergara Mgmt LLC to 202501Wy-01 LLC for \$1,050,000

Dublin

2528 Amantea Way Martinson Living Trust to W. & L. Chang for \$2,350,000
7602 Arbor Creek Circle S. Stein to S. & S. Sudarshan for \$830,000
4379 Brannigan Street R. Yang to Kwong Family Trust for \$730,000
7345 Castle Drive J. & J. Bennett to R. Olvera for \$1,275,000
6312 Dandelion Road Brookfield Vine LLC to S. & K. Chen for \$1,200,000
6300 Dandelion Road Brookfield Vine LLC to A. Shah for \$1,325,000
7513 Donohue Drive S. Joo to C. & Y. Kim for \$760,000
5670 El Dorado Lane X. Sun to W. Handayani for \$1,190,000
7092 North Mariposa Court Zhang Trust to S. & H. Lakshmanan for \$1,170,000

6555 South Mariposa Court S. Kim to S. Owner for \$955,000

7718 Millbrook Avenue Aitchison Construction Inc to Bhandari Family Trust for \$1,300,000
7278 Prow Way M. Clark to Gaviola Family Trust for \$1,555,000
7020 Stagecoach Road #A Finley Living Trust to R. & M. Delrosario for \$500,000

Livermore

1622 Altamont Circle I. & C. Mekeres to S. & S. Nemapuri for \$1,600,000
161 Bellington Common #3 G. Purdy to R. & A. Sewal for \$656,000
3283 East Avenue Olsen Family Trust to N. & H. Pham for \$840,000
2151 Elm Street Booth Family Trust to M. & M. Lin for \$775,000
152 Heligan Lane #3 D. Decarle to B. Molina for \$685,000
655 James Street M. Gonzalez to Xu-Li Trust for \$775,000
564 Tyler Avenue A. Shenon to V. & J. Sequeira for \$1,100,000
338 Virginia Drive Kurtzer Trust to Rose Trust for \$975,000

San Ramon

756 Acorn Court Eagle Pacific Properties Inc to X. & J. Zhu for \$1,250,000

Source: California REsource

JUST LISTED IN LAGUNA OAKS



2577 ARLOTTA PLACE
ENTERTAINER'S DELIGHT!!
MUST SEE. This amazing updated home! Over \$900,000 in designer updates. On approx. 15,000 sq ft. flat lot at the end of a wonderful cul de sac.

Price \$3,588,000
CALL/TEXT CINDY for details/appointment.

OPEN SAT & SUN 1-4

SOLD - GOLDEN EAGLE PLEASANTON



2178 INVERNESS CT.
AMAZING 1-STORY GORGEOUS HOME!!
Price \$1,900,000.

COMING SOON - MARCH VINTAGE HILLS

4 bed, 2.5 bath, bonus.

kwLuxury
HOMES INTERNATIONAL

Each office is independently owned and operated.

Call/text CINDY for details



CINDY GEE
925.963.1984

CINDY IS ALSO A NOTARY

459 Main Street
 Pleasanton, CA 94566
 DRE# 01307919

cindygeesold@gmail.com

VENEMA HOMES

EXPERIENCE



EXCELLENCE



6433 Owl Way

4 bed | 2 Bath | \$1,595,000



3436 Smoketree Commons

2 bed | 2 Bath | \$589,000



1527 Honey Suckle Ct

5 bed | 6 Bath | \$4,995,000



4073 Stanley Blvd

5 bed | 3 Bath | \$2,195,000

Timing Is Everything

Spring Buyers Are Already Active

Strategic Sellers Are Already Positioned

The Difference Isn't Exposure,

It's Precision

Led by Liz Venema.

Powered by Venema Homes.



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COMING SOON



535 SAN GABRIEL CT, PLEASANTON
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COMING SOON



884 BONITA AVE, PLEASANTON
\$1,649,850

OPEN SAT & SUN



4262 TAMUR CT, PLEASANTON
\$2,199,000

OPEN SAT & SUN



337 TRENTON CIR, PLEASANTON
\$1,399,000

OPEN SAT & SUN



4019 RENNELLWOOD WAY
PLEASANTON \$1,399,000

OPEN SAT & SUN



253 FENNEL WAY, LIVERMORE
\$1,099,000

OPEN SAT & SUN



2128 ALEXANDER WAY, PLEASANTON
NEW PRICE - \$849,000

OPEN SAT & SUN



1989 OLD VINE PL, BRENTWOOD
\$1,699,000

NOW PENDING



JUST 4 DAYS ON MARKET!
6900 RIDDELL ST, PLEASANTON
LISTED AT \$2,799,000

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\$1.1 Billion In Total Sales

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