

Pleasanton Weekly

Fantastic
fiddling

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NONPROFIT LOCAL NEWS FOR THE TRI-VALLEY

VOL. XXVII, NUMBER 8 • MARCH 20, 2026

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ADVOCATING FOR ANIMALS

FOLLOWING VALLEY HUMANE SOCIETY
ON LOBBYING DAY IN SACRAMENTO

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Experience the Magic of Film... 2 Screenings on March 22 at the Vine Cinema in Livermore



**SUNDAY, MARCH 22,
4:00 PM**

“ETHAN BLOOM”

Comedy, 2025, English, 95 minutes

In this very funny comedy, a teenage boy wrestles with spiritual identity and first love. This film is appropriate for middle school through high school and adults.

**SUNDAY, MARCH 22,
7:00 PM**

“SODA”

Drama, 2024, 95 minutes, Subtitled

1956. A beautiful seamstress moves to a neighborhood in a rural part of the country. Rumors about her having been working with the Nazis in a concentration camp shake up the town. But Shalom, a former resistance fighter, is torn between his passion for her and his commitment to his wife. This riveting and suspenseful film won 10 international awards.

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WHAT A WEEK



BY JEREMY WALSH

'Her Words, Her Light'

Pleasanton photographer Nina Pomeroy is in the midst of a new portrait and podcast project to capture personal connection in this age of increasing isolation and inauthenticity — “real women, with real stories, in their most honest light”

“What started as a spark turned into something much bigger — a space that honors women for who they are, not just how they look,” Pomeroy told me about her project, dubbed “Her Words, Her Light”.

“My goal is to have these portraits on exhibit to empower and encourage others to share their stories,” she said. “What has meant the most to me is the honor of witnessing each woman share her vulnerabilities — and being trusted to capture them in a way that feels powerful and unexpected.”

“Her Words, Her Light” leverages Pomeroy’s portraiture skills; her signature style is the black-and-white cinematic photos of clients she captures in her Nina Pomeroy Agency, Inc. studio on First Street in downtown Pleasanton. But the project goes beyond the lens, with subjects invited to share their journey and insights with others via podcast.

“I grew up watching my mother and grandmother — strong, incredible women — but like so many, their stories weren’t always fully seen or documented. That stayed with me,” Pomeroy said. “In my work as a photographer, I began noticing the same thing — women showing up feeling like they had to fit a certain mold instead of being fully themselves.”

“That’s where the idea came from: creating a space where women could be both seen and heard, on their own terms. From there, I decided to pair portraiture with storytelling and inviting women whose stories felt meaningful and honest,” she continued, adding:

“Each session became more than a photoshoot. It was a conversation and a moment of reflection.”

Pomeroy offered the opportunity to specific women she knew, with about a dozen participating in the initial wave in recent months. Their participation fee included the photoshoot, a fine art print of the portrait and a podcast feature still to be recorded.

“When she brought this project to my attention, it immediately moved me,” said Anna Ruotolo, a mortgage adviser and branch manager based in downtown Pleasanton.

Ruotolo said she spoke with Pomeroy during the shoot about her experiences as a first-generation

American, a Stage 3 breast cancer survivor, a real estate professional, and a mother and wife.

“The idea of bringing women into the light to share their stories — and capturing that strength and authenticity through photography — felt really powerful,” Ruotolo told me. “Too often women tend to stay in the background or hide parts of their story, and this project creates a beautiful space for them to be seen and heard.”

Dr. Shahira Haidary, a chiropractor with an office on Peters Avenue downtown, was drawn in by knowing Pomeroy and how she worked as an artist behind the lens.

“I naturally don’t like being photographed. I’m not sure of many people who do feel comfortable in front of a camera,” Haidary said. “When I walked in, Nina’s infectious smile calmed my nerves immediately.”

“She made me feel comfortable. Comfortable enough to be seen, that is,” Haidary added. “And as we took photographs, I found the story of my journey towards becoming the woman I am today pouring out effortlessly.”

Susan Houghton was inspired by the storytelling aspect of Pomeroy’s project. “Not that my story is all that important to tell, but rather that it was coming at somewhat of an inflection point in my life,” she told me.

“My mom is now deceased, but she did something very similar when she was in her 60s — she had some very nice photos made of her. I cherish them and I am glad she chose to do it,” recalled Houghton, well-known in the Tri-Valley as founder and board president of Sunflower Hill and board director for the Three Valleys Community Foundation.

“I am usually very critical of how I look in photos — but somehow these photos are different,” she confided. “It’s almost like it is our moment in time. Time that often goes too quickly.”

“The pics did not disappoint,” Houghton added. “I’ve seen many of the photos she’s taken of the other women and I think it is almost like you’re looking into their souls, their histories, their lives. Oh the stories we could all tell!”

Audiences will get to hear them soon, although the final logistics are still in the works. Pomeroy said she’s setting up the interview-recordings to start next month, with the podcast to be available on Apple and Spotify. She is also planning to secure exhibition space to display the portrait prints later this year. ■

About the Cover

Valley Humane Society President and CEO Melanie Sadek speaks to participants in the fourth annual Animal Advocacy Day in Sacramento on March 3. Photo by Christian Trujano. Cover design by Kristin Brown.

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SUMMER

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Garden Explorers Summer Camp

Hagemann Ranch | 455 Olivina Ave.
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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

Do you feel like you get enough exercise?



Matt Callister

Victim advocate

I feel like I should get more exercise, for sure. Especially because I love to drink beer. But my work just keeps me way too busy to get any more exercise than I already am able to get.



Carrie Barnewitz

Project specialist

Yes, I do think I get plenty of exercise. I go for a great, 4-plus-mile run six out of seven mornings of every week of the year. I feel like I have to do that in order to offset my caloric intake of food and beer. Because I really like to eat and drink.



Adrian Ordaz

Construction manager

Actually, no, I don't. I never go to the gym, I never work out or exercise either outdoors or indoors in order to stay fit. I get my exercise by doing/drinking 12-ounce curls of beer. Works for me!



Esther Pfothenhauer

Retired

I do believe I get sufficient exercise! I have an indoor gym at home so that I can work out and exercise regardless of the weather. I also attend yoga classes regularly because they keep me agile, limber and social. And I dance salsa and swing every single weekend with my lovely companion.



Rich Doberstein

Retired

No, actually. I do go to the gym twice a week, to participate in a few classes that help me to maintain my general health. But I really feel as though I should get even more regular exercise, whether it's outside or inside, and even though I go dancing every single weekend with my beautiful, delightful, 82-year-old widowed girlfriend.

—Compiled by Nancy and Jeff Lewis

Have a Streetwise question? Email editor@PleasantonWeekly.com

The Pleasanton Weekly is published every Friday by Embarcadero Media Foundation, 5506 Sunol Blvd., Suite 203, Pleasanton, CA 94566; (925) 600-0840. Mailed at Periodicals Postage Rate, USPS 020407. The Pleasanton Weekly is mailed upon request to homes and apartments in Pleasanton. However, in order to continue delivering you the news you depend on, we encourage you to become a paid subscribing member. Go to www.PleasantonWeekly.com/join to start supporting the Pleasanton Weekly today.

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DIGEST

Women in Business

The Tri-Valley Nonprofit Alliance, in partnership with Visit Tri-Valley and the Livermore Valley Chamber of Commerce, will be hosting the third annual Women in Business Symposium next Wednesday (March 25) at the Livermore Bankhead Theater.

The event, which encourages both women and men to attend, will bring together some of the Tri-Valley's "most accomplished women leaders for meaningful connection and practical insight".

"Whether you are growing your career, leading an organization, or exploring new opportunities, this event is designed to spark ideas, expand networks, and celebrate leadership across sectors," according to a TVNA newsletter.

Tickets cost \$60 for the event. For more information, visit www.tvnnpa.org.

Pickleball event

Goodness Village, a nonprofit that supports unhoused individuals in the Tri-Valley by offering tiny homes in a community in Livermore, will be hosting a pickleball tournament next Saturday (March 28) in order to raise money for the organization's ongoing work.

According to the nonprofit, the tournament will cost \$50 per person and is open to all skill levels.

"Exact format is dictated by attendance with expectations (of) having round-robin match play followed by bracket play for all participants," according to the event description.

The event will take place at Livermore's May Nissen Park, located at 685 Rincon Ave., from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Visit www.gvlivermore.org for more information and to purchase tickets.

Spring book sale

Thousands of affordable books, DVDs, CDs, vinyls, games and other donated items will be up for grabs during the Friends of the Pleasanton Library's Spring Book and Media Sale, which takes place at the Pleasanton Public Library from March 25-28.

"Each sale raises nearly \$15,000 to fund important library programs, services, and special community needs," the organization stated. "Every purchase directly supports resources that benefit residents throughout the Tri-Valley."

The event begins Wednesday with member early access at 11 a.m. The public sale starts at 2 p.m. Thursday and Friday hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. On Saturday the final shopping hours are 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., followed by a "Fill-a-Bag Sale" from 1 to 3 p.m. ■

PUSD slides into worse deficit; admin hopeful of turnaround

'We do believe that through vigilance in our spending ... we can improve the ending fund balance'

By Christian Trujano

The Pleasanton school board reviewed and approved the district's second interim budget report last week, which shows a \$3.3 million deficit that the administration is working to clear in order to move out of the negative certification category with the county.

According to staff, the wider variance from the roughly \$2.5 million ending fund balance projection in the first interim report was mainly due to increases in costs like salary, benefits and other compensation, which makes up about 91% of the district's expenditures in the unrestricted side of its budget.

But even with the nearly \$1 million of additional costs that the district has to address in order for Pleasanton Unified School District's budget to return to a positive certification with the Alameda County Office of Education — it's had to submit the last two budget reports as negative certifications — staff remain hopeful that the district's finance will eventually level out this year.

"The second interim (report) does show a slight deterioration from the first interim ... but we do believe that through vigilance in our spending for the remainder part of the year, we can improve the ending fund balance," Ahmad Sheikholeslami, assistant superintendent of business

services, said during the March 12 meeting.

"As our financial picture improves and we're able to clear that negative balance, we can return to a positive certification," he told the Board of Trustees. "We believe it's possible, depending on the state budget, to achieve that at some point in the coming fiscal year."

Over the past year and a half, PUSD has been dealing with financial challenges, which continue to be highlighted during these budget reports.

According to PUSD, declining enrollment, less money from the state and higher costs for operational supplies and services are all just some of

the reasons why the board has had to make tough fiscal decisions.

The board recently approved over \$11 million in reductions across many departments, a move that has received negative feedback from the community so much so that parents have organized a "Save our Schools Rally" at the Ken Mercer Sports Park this Saturday. Starting at 3 p.m., participants will voice their concerns over the millions of dollars worth of cuts to services and staff positions.

And as detailed in last week's budget report, other increases in expenditures have negatively impacted the district's finances. This comes off the

See DEFICIT on Page 9

Dublin welcoming East Bay's sole H Mart store next week

'Our community has been waiting for this moment'

By Jude Strzemp

The largest international supermarket chain in the U.S. is set to open its doors in Dublin next week.

Located at 7884 Dublin Blvd. in the Dublin Retail Center, H Mart is known for offering fresh produce, meats, seafood, frozen foods and pantry staples geared toward Asian cuisine, as well as health and beauty products.

The "one-stop shopping experience" will feature a food hall with dining options such as Oh K-Dog & Egg Toast, Kyodong Noodles, Chodang, BBQ Chicken, Daeho and Tous Les Jours, supermarket officials said in a statement this week announcing the store's opening date. The supermarket will also include cultural spaces.

H Mart arrives in the Tri-Valley following more than four years of development and anticipation, with the next closest store located in San Jose.

"Our community has been waiting for this moment, and we're excited to finally celebrate H Mart's opening together," Dublin Mayor Sherry Hu said in the statement.

"This store brings new energy, new experiences and a place for residents to gather, explore and enjoy," she added. "I have a feeling it's going to become one of my go-to stops."

Since the supermarket's founding in 1982 in Queens,



JEREMY WALSH

Following years of anticipation, H Mart is set to open March 26 within the Dublin Retail Center.

N.Y., the business has expanded to more than 100 locations in 18 states, including five warehouse centers and processing facilities.

Officials attribute the chain's success to their sourcing of fresh ingredients while being value-minded.

"Our market is all about celebrating the richness and variety of Asian cuisine, making it easier than ever to find the flavors you love, right here at home," H

Mart President Brian Kwon said in the statement.

"H Mart is excited to bring an authentic taste of Asia to your neighborhood, and we hope our customers share in our enthusiasm.

The supermarket is set to open at 10 a.m. next Thursday. Customers can expect grand-opening events and giveaways. Regular hours of operation are from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily. ■

Candidate lists come into view

Zone 7 board seats, Alameda County posts, state and federal reps

By Christian Trujano, Jeanita Lyman and Jeremy Walsh

Election season is underway for the local candidates in this year's June primary, with the filing deadline having passed last week for county and state election officials.

Residents in Pleasanton, Livermore and Dublin will be choosing from among eight candidates for four at-large positions on the Zone 7 Water Agency Board of Directors. The board is made up of seven directors who oversee the agency that provides flood control for the Alameda County part of the Tri-Valley and serves as the potable water wholesaler for the area.

Three incumbents are not running for reelection on the ballot. Director Dennis Gambis, who has served on the board since 2018 and had a long career working at the agency, confirmed to the Pleasanton Weekly that he would be stepping down after this term.

Director Cathy Brown, who was elected in 2024 to serve on a two-year term after former director Olivia Sanwong left the board prior to her four years being up, did not file papers to run in the election. Director Dawn Benson did pull papers, but her filing was listed

See CANDIDATES on Page 7

As recruitment begins for next general manager, records reveal more on infighting at East Bay Parks

Acting GM Korten remains at helm after plan to hire interim falls through

BY JUDE STRZEMP

The East Bay Regional Park District has started the hunt for a permanent general manager following an unsuccessful attempt to appoint an interim leader to succeed Sabrina Landreth.

Posting the job listing earlier this month, the park district's Board of Directors was initially poised to consider welcoming retired general manager Robert Doyle back to the role from Jan. 14 to Feb. 6, coinciding with Landreth's formal separation from the district.

It remains unclear why the board voted unanimously to backtrack from considering his appointment during the January meeting, as the board did not discuss the decision in open session. EBRPD has continued to operate under acting general manager Max Korten since.

Questions also remain regarding the circumstances surrounding Landreth's departure, which saw her step away abruptly in November with a resignation date of Feb. 6. She filed a tort claim against the district last month with allegations such as gender-based discrimination, harassment and retaliatory conduct by board directors.

Documents recently secured by the Pleasanton Weekly via public records request have begun to shine light on the heated internal conversations that occurred during the months leading up to Landreth's resignation.

"Culture change with the Board continues to be a huge lift," Landreth wrote in one email. "I have stopped the preferential hiring of the past, but some of these Directors want to continue the same bad practices and force me to appoint an internal candidate that does not meet the MQ's."

Appearing within over 1,000 pages of records were email conversations between Landreth and the elected directors regarding the hiring of a board clerk.

The subject rose to public attention during the board's Oct. 21

meeting wherein Landreth sought the board's approval to hire Kelly Clancy for the position. The item was on the board's consent calendar, typically composed of topics considered routine and passed with a single motion.

Clancy, a former San Leandro city clerk, had accepted the offer and was scheduled to begin the role at EBRPD on Nov. 3.

Prior to the meeting, the selection process involved third-party recruitment firm Ralph Andersen & Associates. It kicked off the process with a job announcement in July 2025 and screened applicants for minimum qualifications, according to a presentation by EBRPD deputy general manager Allyson Cook. The firm conducted interviews and recommended finalists for further consideration out of 33 applicants, according to a staff report prepared for the Oct. 21 meeting by Landreth and Allison Brooks, assistant general manager of external affairs.

Landreth and Brooks then conducted interviews of the two finalists, the staff report states.

"Following these interviews, the General Manager selected Kelly B. Clancy as the most qualified and best fit for the organization," the staff report states.

During a presentation before the board Oct. 21, Cook explained the importance of utilizing a third-party recruitment firm for critical positions to "preserve the integrity of the recruitment process."

Cook also acknowledged the board's desire to be included at the front end of recruitment, something she said would be implemented in the future.

Multiple board members expressed discontent with the process,

including Director Dennis Waespi and Board President John Mercurio.

The Board Executive Committee should have been involved to refer one or more candidates to the board, per the board operating guidelines, Waespi said. "I don't have any problem with our candidate," he said. "It's just the process."

The clerk is an appointee of the general manager, Cook reiterated.

Mercurio expressed a desire for all board members to meet Clancy, a sentiment Director Colin Coffey echoed.

"We offered that — to have her meet with each of you. It's even in writing and that was declined... so this is 100% on the board," Landreth replied. "For this now to happen on the spot is really disconcerting. Not just for us, but frankly for the entire workforce."

Mercurio later acknowledged his receipt of a proposed meeting date of Oct. 16.

"I apologize for letting that slip through, but I didn't follow up on that," he said.

The board has not been bypassed in the hiring process because Mercurio gave his approval of Clancy, according to Jessica Romeo, human resources assistant general manager.

However, Mercurio proposed tabling the decision until the board's Nov. 4 meeting.

"Whether we approve her today or we approve her on the fourth, it's not going to matter in terms of the fact that we approve her," Director Elizabeth Echols said. "It's a foregone conclusion, and she's an excellent candidate."

Ultimately, the decision was tabled for the next meeting via 5-2, with Echols and Director Luana España casting dissenting votes.

About one month prior to the meeting, Landreth addressed the board via email Sept. 22 with a status update on the recruitment of a board clerk amid "several questions and side conversations".



Sabrina Landreth



AMADOR VALLEY
OPTOMETRIC

Dr. Inning Chen

Optometrist

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During her four years as general manager, Landreth said, she has requested from human resources that the recruitment of most executive-level and critical positions are handled by a third-party recruiter.

The method ensures nationwide outreach and "fairness and equity to avoid the appearance of favoritism", Landreth wrote.

"As you know, this is very different from how these positions were often filled before my time, when people were just direct-appointed without any legitimate process," she added.

EBRPD does not typically disclose the identity of internal candidates seeking a promotion, Landreth wrote. But she was aware of "conversations between the Board and the Clerk's team" about an internal candidate, she wrote.

"As we have cautioned, it is very important that such discussions do not occur during an open recruitment to ensure we protect the integrity and confidentiality of the recruitment," she explained.

The internal applicant was screened out for failing to meet the position's minimum qualifications, Landreth added.

"The Park District does not have discretion as to whether to move a candidate forward if they are not minimally qualified and they must be rejected as was done with several other external candidates," she added.

About an hour later, Mercurio acknowledged Landreth's email.

"I can see the broad benefits of a third party hiring process. I am very anxious, as is, I'm sure, the rest of the board, to learn of the candidate that

has been selected," he wrote.

The following week, Landreth emailed Mercurio Sept. 30 to report on conversations allegedly held with Coffey.

Some board members support the direct appointment of an individual for whom there is "strong loyalty and fondness", Landreth wrote. While the individual's name is redacted from the Sept. 30 email, Landreth identified them as being the same subject of her Sept. 22 correspondence.

Landreth also recounted Coffey's warning that there was a "strong possibility" the board would not approve the preferred candidate at the Oct. 21 board meeting.

"I do not do direct appointments, especially for someone that does not meet the minimum qualifications, as that is a thing of the past here, but if the Board wants to vote as a body to direct me to do otherwise and appoint someone who does not meet the minimum qualifications, that is within your right to do so in a public meeting," Landreth told Mercurio.

"We have a highly qualified candidate and I sincerely hope we don't ruin our opportunity to bring in a Clerk that I know will be in great service to you and the Board," Landreth added.

A few hours after contacting the board president, Landreth shared the three-part email chain — her update to the board, Mercurio's reply and her secondary contact to Mercurio — with BHI Management Consulting founder Brent Ives.

"The Boardmembers are speaking (complaining) amongst themselves

See PARKS on Page 9



PTSCA

Sister city seeks exchange students

The Pleasanton-Tulancingo Sister City Association is recruiting local families who want to participate in this summer's student exchange program. A reciprocal exchange, students from Tulancingo, Mexico will stay in Pleasanton homes from June 14-28 and Pleasanton students will make the return voyage from June 28 to July 12. All teen participants will be in "an immersed, safe family household" and the program is "a great chance to immerse yourself in the Spanish language and country culture, and share yours", association president Jorge Victoria said. Only one local student has registered so far; the deadline is March 31. Contact Victoria at javictoria45@gmail.com or 925-989-6882 to learn more.

CANDIDATES

Continued from Page 5

as incomplete upon the incumbent candidate deadline of March 6.

The lone Zone 7 director to successfully file for a reelection bid was Sarah Palmer, a Livermore resident who has served on the board since 2006 and has a career background in biochemistry and the medical diagnostics industry.

As far as the seven challengers go, there are two familiar individuals vying for the open seats. Seema Badar, a Dublin resident with a background in community volunteering and non-profit leadership, and Alan Burnham, a longtime Livermore resident and chemist who worked at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory for 35 years, will both be throwing their hat in the race once again after doing so unsuccessfully in 2024.

The five newcomers on the ballot are Jim Lehrman, a Pleasanton resident who is also a professional geologist and certified hydrogeologist; Patricia Muga, a real estate appraiser; business owner Rishabh "Rish" Rao; Sean Roberts, a computer engineer; and Heidi Turner-Zika, an information security officer, according to the county registrar of voters and individual campaign websites.

Elsewhere in Tri-Valley ballots, Alameda County's appointed District Attorney Ursula Jones Dickson is competing to earn the seat outright

against former DA Pamela Price, who was recalled in November 2024, and trial attorney Gopal Krishan.

A candidate for county office could win the position outright by getting more than 50% of the votes cast, otherwise the top two finishers in June would advance to a runoff in November.

Two Alameda County Superior Court judgeships are being contested on the ballot: civil rights attorney Cabral Bonner against consumer protection attorney Michael P. Johnson for judicial Office No. 13 and administrative law judge Patricia Miles against trial attorney Selia Warren for Office No. 19.

Another 25 judge positions up for regular election saw only the incumbents file, so they won't appear on the ballot.

Incumbent Cheryl Cook-Kallio, a former Pleasanton councilwoman, is facing Sangeetha Shanbhogue, who is listed as a parent/homemaker, for Alameda County Board of Education 7th Trustee Area, which encompasses the Tri-Valley.

For county education board seats outside of the Tri-Valley, Area 4 Trustee Aisha Knowles is being challenged by Joseph Grcar, Mark Harvey and Luis Reynoso while Berkeley school board member Ana Vasudeo was unchallenged for Area 1.

Alameda County Superintendent of Schools Alysse Castro is unchallenged on the ballot.

Neither county Board of Supervisors position on the ballot in 2026 covers the Tri-Valley, but one incumbent does have challengers among those out-of-area races.

District 2 Supervisor Elisa Marquez is facing BART Director Liz Ames and business executive Rohan Marfatia. District 3 Supervisor Lena Tam will be on the ballot without an opponent.

None of the eight local ballot measures in the June election pertain to the Tri-Valley.

State and federal seats

Longtime California Democratic Assemblymember Rebecca Bauer-Kahan will once again seek reelection to the Assembly District 16 seat, which represents the cities of Alamo, Danville, Dublin, Lafayette, Livermore, Moraga, Orinda, Pleasanton, San Ramon, and Walnut Creek.

Bauer-Kahan has held the position since first being elected in 2018.

Two challengers put in to challenge the longtime assemblymember: Joseph Rubay, an Alamo businessman and perennial Republican candidate in District 16, and Chirag Kathrani, a civic technology entrepreneur and former San Ramon mayoral candidate who is running with no party affiliation.

Although the filing deadline had passed, a confirmed final list of qualified candidates for state and

federal races was not yet available, as of Friday afternoon.

Liz Ortega will be vying for reelection in the Assembly District 20 race, which represents Hayward, San Leandro, Union City, portions of Dublin and Pleasanton, and the unincorporated communities of Ashland, Cherryland, Fairview, and San Lorenzo.

Ortega, a Democrat, was first elected to the office in 2022.

She will be facing off against Muga, a Republican who is also running for one of the Zone 7 Board of Directors seats.

A third challenger, Grcar, also pulled papers but his filing was not complete, according to the registrar's office.

A total of nine candidates are vying for Congressional District 14 to replace U.S. Rep. Eric Swalwell as he competes in the state's crowded gubernatorial race. That list consists of Democrats Melissa Hernandez, Matt Ortega, Victor Aguilar Jr., Rakhi Israni, Carin Elam and Aisha Wahab, the latter of whom secured the party's endorsement during its convention last month.

Republicans Dena Maldonado and Wendy Huang have also pulled candidacy papers for the District 14 race, but the California Republican Party has not endorsed a candidate for that seat, according to its website. Suzanne Chenault is the only no-party candidate in the race.

Prospective candidates Reynoso, Alison Hayden and Raymond Liu were listed Alameda County Registrar of Voters' Office as having pulled papers for District 14 but failed to complete their filings in time. Abrar Qadir publicly launched a campaign, including a website, but was not on the county's list.

In Congressional District 10, U.S. Rep. Mark DeSaulnier — a Concord Democrat who has been in office since 2015 — filed to run for reelection. The Contra Costa County Election Division lists six other candidates including Democrats Josh Hamilton, Mitchell Maisler and Rob Rowland, Republicans Jeffrey Frese, Angela Griffiths and Katherine Piccinini.

Swalwell is among the 10 gubernatorial candidates from the two major parties on the ballot in the upcoming primary. The list also consists of fellow Democrats Katie Porter, Tom Steyer, Xavier Becerra, Tony Thurmond, Matt Mahan, Antonio Villaraigosa and Betty Yee, and Republicans Steve Hilton and Chad Bianco.

It remained unclear as of Friday whether the candidate lists for the two congressional seats and gubernatorial race were final. The secretary of state is set to release a final list of gubernatorial candidates on March 21.

The top two vote-getters in each state and federal race will advance to the ballot in November's general election. ■

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Dublin teachers, district reach deal to end strike

Ratification votes pending with DTA members, DUSD board; classes resume as usual this week

By JEREMY WALSH

Dublin teachers union and school district negotiators came to terms on a tentative agreement late last week to end the four-day strike — with compensation, class size and case load figures all the key parts of the deal.

Educators and other members of the Dublin Teachers Association returned to their regular posts on Monday, with last Friday previously scheduled as a “no school day” across the Dublin Unified School District. The new collective bargaining agreement must still be ratified by majorities of DTA membership and DUSD Board of Trustees.

“By forcing DUSD to invest in our students by decreasing class sizes and increasing compensation and healthcare to retain and recruit the best educators for our students, we’ve made important steps towards the schools our students deserve,” DTA President Brad Dobrzanski said in a statement just after 11 p.m. March 12.

“Our fight is not over. This student-centered agreement is a start to a larger conversation about the need to fully invest in students by reprioritizing Dublin Unified’s budget,” Dobrzanski added.

DUSD leaders also confirmed the deal in a separate statement issued after the two sides met behind closed doors for nearly 12 hours on Thursday, March 12.

“We are relieved to have reached a point of agreement that recognizes the hard work and dedication of our educators. I want to thank the DTA negotiations team for their professionalism, collaboration, and commitment,” said Matt Campbell, the district’s superintendent-in-waiting.

“Reaching this agreement required the District and the DTA to make difficult choices and move from our original positions to find common ground,” Campbell said. “While

neither side achieved everything it hoped for, the agreement reflects a balanced path forward that supports our educators while protecting the long-term stability of our schools and the students we serve.”

Key terms of the deal include a 2.3% ongoing salary raise for DTA members, retroactive to July 1; increased health benefits toward a path of fully paid coverage for Kaiser Premium single premium by January 2028; reduced class sizes for elementary school classes; smaller case loads for special education teachers; a new certificated librarian at Emerald High School; and a commitment to fund counselors at every elementary school through 2027-28.

According to the district, the new deal will cost about \$12.9 million over the life of the proposed three-year contract. DUSD typically offers compensation and other tangibles to other employee groups.

What that bill will translate to, in terms of budget reductions, remains unclear for a district that just two months ago approved more than \$6.6 million in ongoing cuts in response to fiscal concerns already on the books.

DTA membership will vote on the tentative agreement soon, although the exact date of the election has not been confirmed. If endorsed by a union majority, the matter would then head to the school board, most likely during the April 14 regular meeting, according to DUSD spokesperson Chip Dehnert.

In the meantime, Dublin teachers agreed to return to their classrooms starting Monday (March 16) to end what was the first strike in the history of the modern Dublin Unified School District, founded in 1988.

The two sides had been locked in tense contract negotiations for much of the 2025-26 school year before impasse was declared in November.

State-mandated mediation in January failed to yield a deal and the matter was referred in February to a fact-finding panel in February led by chair Gina M. Roccanova.

The heat ratcheted up when Roccanova’s report was released and the district agreed to fully back her recommendation on March 5.

The fact-finder’s proposal called for a 2.1% raise retroactive to July 1, a one-time bonus of 1% and charting a path to the district fully covering Kaiser single premium by 2028. Roccanova declined to act on specific class-size ratios but said the two sides should form a committee by June 1 to try to resolve the matter.

The union held firm in opposition to the neutral proposal newly pitched by the district, declaring on the night of March 5 that teachers would go on strike the following Monday, March 9, if an acceptable agreement wasn’t achieved.

The bargaining teams met March 6, 7 and 8, but could not reach an agreement that weekend to avert a strike.

Trading barbs March 8, leaders expressed disappointment at the lack of a deal and placed the blame in the other’s court.

“Dublin educators have had enough” was the union’s sentiment. “We call on management to agree to our student-centered proposals, which include smaller class sizes to ensure every student gets the individual attention they deserve, retaining and recruiting the best educators, and keeping a full-time counselor at every elementary school.”

“We were willing to compromise. We have compromised. We came to the negotiating table today ready to sign,” Campbell said that night. “The District’s current proposal reflects an effort to move toward resolution while still acknowledging the financial realities we face.”

By the morning of March 9, teachers and all other 700-plus members of DTA were off the job and on strike — many picketing outside of their schools — while each campus remained open with administrators, substitute teachers and retirees filling roles in the classrooms.

Superintendent Chris Funk, who taught a fourth/fifth grade class that first day, lamented that the union walked out and made students be “treated as pawns” in the labor dispute.

Funk, who is retiring at the end of the school year, has been a subject of consistent criticism from the union throughout negotiations, as have school board members. The trustees ultimately shifted Campbell, the assistant superintendent of educational services, to take over as the face of DUSD’s bargaining team last month after picking him to succeed Funk as superintendent effective in the summer.

“I’m very disappointed that they

chose to go on strike because a strike does not benefit anyone,” Funk told the Pleasanton Weekly on March 9.

The union, with support from the California Teachers Association, held a large rally in Kolb Park on the first afternoon of the strike. Prominent speakers included CTA President David Goldberg and U.S. Rep. Eric Swalwell, a Dublin High School alumnus who is now running for governor of California.

“I saw your strike lines today — that is a beautiful thing to see,” Goldberg told the crowd of teachers, parents and students. “At a time when people are being pitted against each other and our students are under attack, you’re standing up for our students and saying you’re willing to fight for them.”

Dublin public schools remained open to students each of the first three days of the strike, albeit on adjusted schedules. Breakfast and lunch were served, and extracurricular activities continued for kids who attended that day.

Dehnert said attendance data was confirmed for March 9, with 37% of students in class that day, but statistics for March 10-11 were still being finalized. “Although I don’t have data for the following 2 days, attendance was lower than what we saw on the first day,” he added.

Bargaining sessions occurred each day of the strike, including before and after the school board meeting on March 10, which saw a large DTA turnout outside the district headquarters and inside the boardroom.

The two sides went until 2:35 a.m. March 11 in the hours after the school board meeting, and then met for a full day later March 11, but to no avail. Students were not scheduled to be on campus for the rest of the week, with a staff development day originally set March 12 and a no-school day scheduled for March 13.

Another marathon bargaining session followed March 12, and the teams emerged at the end of the 12 hours with a tentative agreement in hand.

Under the proposed contract, which would cover 2025-26 through 2027-28, DTA members would receive an ongoing 2.3% salary increase retroactive to the beginning of the academic year. DTA frames the raise as a cost-of-living adjustment.

It also would also chart a path to the district fully covering the Kaiser Permanente single premium for DTA members by 2028 — 85% covered by July 1, 90% by Jan. 1, 2027 and 100% by Jan. 1, 2028.

How the deal translates to the salary table for teachers remains unclear publicly. During negotiations, the district said data showed Dublin teachers are among the most well-paid in the region, ranking second in total compensation at \$95,289 in salary and health-and-welfare benefits for

beginners, first for mid-career teachers at \$137,517 and second for near-retirement educators at \$159,387.

Class-size changes include reduced ratios at elementary schools of 24 students per teacher to 23 for kindergarten, 25 down to 24 for first grade, 26 down to 24 for second and third grades, and 28 down to 26 for fourth and fifth grades. Secondary school class ratios would switch from daily total student contact county to a class-based contact count for overage payments.

Speech and language pathologist caseloads would go down to 50 from 55, educational specialist loads would be 23 (down from 28) in secondary schools and high school physical education would have a maximum of 45 students per class.

Every elementary school — defined as a transitional kindergarten through fifth grade campus — would have a counselor funded through 2027-28, and a certificated librarian would be added to Emerald High, under the deal.

“These tremendous gains will make a significant impact on class sizes and the individual attention Dublin students deserve,” DTA officials stated in their press release. “DTA educators and the community remained united and made management and the board finally understand what educators have been saying all along — we must invest in our students.”

In the district press release, Board of Trustees President Kristin Speck thanked the community “for their patience and support throughout this challenging time”, acknowledging the fiery negotiations “have been frustrating and uncertain for many”.

“While no negotiated agreement fully reflects everything either party hoped to achieve, we believe the tentative agreement reached represents the compromise necessary to move forward together,” she said. “Our shared focus remains on our students and on restoring the stability, collaboration, and continuity that make our schools and community so strong.”

For his part, Campbell said, “Reaching this agreement required the District and the DTA to make difficult choices and move from our original positions to find common ground. While neither side achieved everything it hoped for, the agreement reflects a balanced path forward that supports our educators while protecting the long-term stability of our schools and the students we serve.”

Looking ahead, Campbell added, “After a difficult period for our community, I am personally committed to doing the work necessary to rebuild relationships, restore trust, and move toward a renewed sense of unity as we focus together on serving our students.” ■



SOPHIA SUCATO

Dublin St. Patrick's Day Parade

The community turned out to kick off early St. Patrick's Day celebrations in downtown Dublin Saturday at the annual parade and festival. Audience members decked out in green lined the sidewalk to view the procession featuring local community groups, student groups, nonprofit organizations and elected officials. Some celebrated from cars with the honking of horns, while others marched on foot and waved to spectators.

Danville-raised filmmaker scores historic Oscar

Autumn Durald Arkapaw becomes first woman to win Academy Award for Best Cinematography

By JEANITA LYMAN

Danville has been in the national news this week as the hometown of the first woman, and first woman of color, to win an Oscar for Best Cinematography in the nearly century-long history of the Academy Awards.

Autumn Durald Arkapaw, who was raised in Danville and graduated from San Ramon Valley High School in 1996, celebrated not just a career milestone with her first-ever Oscar win on March 15, but a historic milestone for the Academy when she received the award for her work as director of photography on “Sinners”.

In addition to her filmmaking skills being recognized by the award,

Durald Arkapaw’s acceptance speech itself led to a cinematic moment as she asked all of the women in the audience to stand up “because I wouldn’t be here without you all, and I truly mean that”.

“I have felt so much love from all the women on this whole campaign and gotten to meet so many people, and I just feel like moments like this happen because of you guys,” she continued.

Durald Arakapaw — who is of Creole and Filipina descent — broke two records with her win, becoming the first woman of color to be nominated in the category and the first woman ever to win it in the Academy’s 98-year history.

Born in Oxnard, Durald Arkapaw’s family went on to move to the San

Ramon Valley when she was a child, where she attended local schools before going on to study art history at Loyola Marymount University then cinematography at the American Film Institute, where she graduated in 2009.

“Danville has long valued the arts as an essential part of a vibrant and connected community,” said Danville Mayor Newell Arnerich, who was elected to his first term on the Town Council shortly before Durald Arkapaw’s graduation in the 1990s.

“We are honored to count Autumn among our own, and we look forward to seeing her continued success on the world stage,” he continued. “Congratulations, Autumn — your hometown is cheering you on.”

Although Durald Arakapaw’s

time at the district was years before SRVUSD Superintendent CJ Cammack came on board, Cammack called her win a “terrific achievement by an SRVHS graduate.”

“Sinners” itself had already made history before this year’s Oscars ceremony, racking up a total of 16 nominations and breaking the all-time record for number of nominations garnered for a single film. The film took home four of those awards total, with Michael B. Jordan earning Best Actor for his dual role playing twin brothers, Oakland native Ryan Coogler earning Best Screenplay and Ludwig Göransson earning Best Score.

In addition to thanking women in film during her acceptance speech, Durald Arkapaw pointed to support from her family and her ongoing

collaboration with Coogler — who she worked with previously on 2022’s “Black Panther: Wakanda Forever” — as critical elements that had made her journey to the win possible.

Durald Arkapaw first rose to widespread prominence at the start of another ongoing collaboration with Gia Coppola in the latter’s directorial debut “Palo Alto” in 2013, and most recently on 2024’s “The Last Showgirl”.

“Her achievement is a powerful reminder that talent, creativity, and determination can open doors and redefine what is possible,” Arnerich said. “For our students here in the San Ramon Valley, Autumn’s success serves as a national example that global impact can begin right here at home.” ■

DEFICIT

Continued from Page 5

heels of the first interim budget report in December where PUSD had to submit its budget to the county with a negative certification, which led the county and state to send financial experts to aid the district in addressing its financial issues.

This latest interim budget report, which uses the most recent budget data, is the second of three updates to the district’s 2025-26 budget.

Some of the new information showed adjusted expenditures where salaries and benefits increased by nearly \$750,000.

When asked about that specific expenditure increase, Sheikholeslami said that since covid, there has been a trend of more employees going on sick leave, meaning more substitute teachers need to be hired, which raises the overall costs. Sheikholeslami said during budget development for next year, staff will aim to account for those absences better.

Board members also reviewed some of the other hefty expenditures that the district has had to account for when reviewing its finances, including notable costs to special

education services and utility costs.

“When I first came here our total water bill was around like \$500,000. Now it’s close to \$900,000,” Sheikholeslami said, adding that in 2019 the district spent about \$2.7 million for utilities and now, they are spending over \$5 million.

Trustee Charlie Jones suggested bringing up the idea of some sort of subsidy or reduced utility rates deal with the city, which Sheikholeslami said would be something they could discuss at the next PUSD and city liaison committee meeting.

In regards to special education costs, staff said that is one expenditure that they can never accurately estimate because of many different factors like students being placed in special education late or in the middle of a school year. That’s why staff said they try to minimize surprise costs by being more conservative when projecting those expenditures.

Board President Kelly Mokashi also spoke on the special education topic and how those costs can be, as she put it, exorbitant. She noted how the district also can’t really hire employees for specific services, which means that they have to hire

costly contractors — another notable expense according to the presentation — to provide individual services for specific students in special education.

“That’s where a lot of our special ed costs are coming,” Mokashi said.

“When you have high intense needs students who require very specialized services ... sometimes we cannot hire in house people to provide that specific service,” Ed Diolazo, deputy superintendent and assistant superintendent of student services, said during the meeting.

He said that at the end of the day, those students need those specific services and additional staff, which will cost money. But he also said that it doesn’t help that the state isn’t doing much to aid the district when it comes to special education.

“We just are not getting the funding,” Diolazo said. “What does that mean; we dig into (the) general fund.”

But last week’s meeting wasn’t all negative.

Apart from going over certain increases in revenue, staff noted that they are working to bring in more money into the district. Some examples include bringing in new tenants at the district office, expanding

the Kids Club program and potential grants from the state that could offset the entire negative ending fund balance.

Sheikholeslami said the district is expecting one-time money that will help, it’s just that they don’t really know when that money will come in or how much it will be.

“It may end up being \$3 million,” Sheikholeslami said.

A parcel tax is also another revenue generating idea that the district continues to toss around as being one of the best ways to address its loss of revenue.

Superintendent Maurice Ghysels also pointed out that the district has been working on a revenue-generating dashboard which will come to the board for review on March 26.

Despite all of that, many board members were still very wary about the district’s ongoing fiscal challenges and said they all need to think more long term about PUSD’s fiscal health in order to avoid being in the same situation in the future.

Jones specifically said they need to address declining enrollment — one of the main reasons for PUSD’s financial status — by possibly bringing in more kids and their families from other districts, which is something that the district has already been looking into. However, he said that won’t be possible without some help from the city.

“We need revenue generators and the city needs more housing,” Jones said. “That’s just the reality.”

“At the end of the day, I would just reiterate with the board, part of our goal is to really work with the district for the long-term strategic planning so that we’re not kicking the can down like we did a few years ago with the one time funding because at the time we validated it and now we’re all saying that was a mistake,” Mokashi said.

“We know there’s been challenges in the past in this community,” she added. “At the end of the day ... we do have to be smarter and more strategic (in the) long term.” ■

PARKS

Continued from Page 6

instead of coming directly to me,” Landreth added. “This is a great case study for how we need to improve trust, communication and professionalism of this body.”

A couple weeks later during the board’s Nov. 4 meeting, directors voted 5-0 approving Clancy’s hiring. Olivia Sanwong and España abstained, citing a perceived issue with the selection process.

During closed session of the same meeting, Landreth was poised for her performance evaluation. There were no announcements out of closed session.

Two days later, Landreth announced her resignation.

Some of her colleagues responded to the news, expressing sadness to see her go and sharing positive experiences working with her.

“I’m so sad, disappointed, frustrated, etc. to hear it. I wish we could have supported you better, helped to educate and allay the board’s concerns offline, etc.” EBRPD design manager Clay Simmons wrote to Landreth Nov. 7. “Thank you for your public service and strong example of leadership.”

In a separate email, EBRPD facilities manager Juancho Flores said, “I’ve never work(ed) for someone like you that’s supportive and had

the integrity and vision to make any agency a better place.”

Four months later, the district is starting the process to move on. According to EBRPD spokesperson Jen Vanya, the job listing for a permanent general manager was posted March 2.

The park district is offering an annual salary ranging from about \$359,000 to about \$473,000, depending on experience and qualifications, the listing states. The application period is set to close on the evening of March 30.

The most qualified individuals will be invited to interview with the full board, tentatively scheduled for their May 5 board meeting. ■

TAKE US ALONG



Mom Book Club: A group of Pleasanton moms who met when their kids attended Alisal Elementary School years ago continue their friendship with a monthly Mom Book Club, bonding over hours of conversation, cups of hot tea, glasses of wine and charcuterie boards. Last fall they celebrated three of their birthdays with a weekend getaway featuring a glass fusion activity and Italian lunch in Benicia, a hotel stay in Lafayette (shown), a Caribbean dinner in Walnut Creek and a farm to table brunch in Danville. From left: Julie, Amy, Mindy, Joana, Sarah, Beth, Ha, Hiroko and Sophia.

Community Pulse

POLICE BULLETIN

Erratic driver killed in crash off freeway ramp, CHP says

A Livermore man died after his car flipped out of control down an embankment at a freeway exit in his hometown late on St. Patrick's Day, according to authorities.

The situation unfolded just before 8:45 p.m. Tuesday on westbound Interstate 580. The California Highway Patrol was called to the scene of a solo-vehicle crash at the Isabel Avenue-Highway 84 off-ramp, where a 2003 Audi A4 convertible overturned into the brush next to the freeway, according to Officer Tyler Hahn.

The initial investigation indicates that the driver of the Audi was speeding at 90 mph on the freeway that night, Hahn said.

"The Audi made an aggressive maneuver to pass a slower moving Honda. In doing so the driver of the Audi lost control and launched off the off-ramp over-turning down the south side embankment," Hahn added. "Alcohol impairment is unknown currently and is pending further investigation."

The decedent was identified as 45-year-old Livermore resident Jonathan Michael Walker, according to the Alameda County Coroner's Bureau.

The driver of the Honda, who was not publicly identified, stopped at the scene and provided a witness statement to officers, Hahn said. The circumstances of the fatal crash remain under CHP investigation.

The off-ramp was closed for more than three hours for the investigation and cleanup at the scene, according to Hahn.

— Jeremy Walsh

Inmate dies at jail hours after hospital visit

A 37-year-old Oakland woman was found dead in Santa Rita Jail last week, a day after she fell unconscious in a holding cell but was returned to lockup, the Alameda County Sheriff's Office said.

Kenyonna Farr was discovered unresponsive about 3:42 a.m., the sheriff's office said. She was pronounced dead at 4:18 a.m. March 13.

Farr had been taken to a hospital March 12 after she was found not responsive inside a holding cell while awaiting transportation to court about 7:20 a.m., the sheriff's office said.

"Deputies immediately began life-saving measures and she was transported by ambulance to a nearby hospital," the sheriff's office said. "At approximately 12:30 p.m., Ms. Farr was cleared by medical personnel for further incarceration and was subsequently transported back" to Santa Rita Jail.

Farr had been arrested March 10 by Oakland police on a court order violation, the sheriff's office said. She had been booked into the jail about 4:45 p.m. that day.

Farr's death is under investigation. The cause and manner of her death will be determined by a forensic pathologist following an autopsy and toxicology testing, the sheriff's office said.

The death has been reported to the Alameda County District Attorney's Office. Under state law, the sheriff's office will also report the in-custody death to the California Attorney General's Office.

— Bay City News Service



CHP-DUBLIN

The investigation in the aftermath of a deadly crash at the Isabel Avenue off-ramp from Interstate 580 in Livermore on Tuesday night.

Attorney sentenced in huge solar fraud scheme

A Contra Costa County man was sentenced to over 11 years in federal prison last week for his role in what the U.S. Department of Justice said is the biggest criminal fraud scheme in the history of the Eastern District of California.

Lafayette attorney Ari Lauer, 61, got 11 years and five months in prison for "giving legitimacy" as outside counsel to the company DC Solar, which defrauded investors.

Lauer pleaded guilty in October 2025 to one count of conspiracy to commit wire and bank fraud, 12 counts of bank fraud, and 10 counts of wire fraud affecting a financial institution.

Six other people caught up in the scheme have been given federal prison terms and one other is awaiting sentencing.

The crimes at DC Solar were sophisticated and complex, but involved mobile solar generators (MSGs) that were mounted on trailers. DC Solar claimed they could provide emergency power to cell-phone towers and lighting at sporting and other large events. DC Solar reeled in investors by pointing out that there were generous federal tax credits to be had due to the green energy the MSGs offered.

According to the DOJ, investors would buy the MSGs without ever taking possession of them, paying a percentage of the sale price and financing the balance with DC Solar. Then the investors leased the MSGs back to the company, which in turn purported to lease them to third parties. A portion of the lease revenue was supposed to go to the investors and a portion would be used to pay the investors' debts to DC Solar.

Enter the Ponzi scheme. According to the DOJ, when the third-party leases generated little income, the company paid early investors with funds contributed by later investors. Generators were sold that didn't even exist — at least half DC Solar claimed to have manufactured — making it look like MSGs

existed in locations that they did not.

False financial statements and false lease contracts were created to keep the con going. Prosecutors determined that approximately 94 percent of the revenue claimed by DC Solar actually came from transfers of new investor cash.

Martinez residents Jeff Carpoif, 55, his wife Paulette Carpoif, 52, and their co-conspirators solicited investors to invest in the generators in large multimillion-dollar transactions using a variety of fraudulent techniques.

According to prosecutors, between March 2011 and Dec. 18, 2018, investors invested approximately \$759.4 million, and several financial institutions and other investors transferred \$152.7 million to DC Solar as part of related transactions for the purchase and lease of generators. In total, DC Solar closed transactions with investors that contributed more than \$912 million to purchase generators. Those transactions were purported to involve approximately 17,000 generators, at approximately \$2.5 billion in value.

On Dec. 19, 2025, the California State bar put Lauer on "involuntary inactive status" due to his conviction in this case.

In 2021, Jeff Carpoif was sentenced to 30 years in federal prison and ordered to pay \$790.6 million in restitution. The following year, Paulette Carpoif was given 11 years and three months in prison.

Several other co-conspirators were given hefty sentences and fines: Joseph Bayless of Martinez got three years in prison and a fine of \$481.3 million; the CFO of the company, Robert Karmann of Clayton, got six years in federal prison and a fine of \$624 million; Alan Hansen received eight years in prison; Ryan Guidry of Pleasant Hill was sentenced to six years and six months with a restitution amount of \$619,415,950.

Ronald Roach of Walnut Creek is due to be sentenced next month and is facing 10 years in prison for his role in the giant fraud. ■

— Katy St. Clair,
Bay City News Service

Ralph Ellis Marsh

October 23, 1944 – March 1, 2026

Ralph Ellis Marsh of Larkspur, CO, passed away on March 1, 2026, at age 81.

Ralph was born in Oakland, California, to Martha and Ralph Ellis Marsh. He was the eldest of three sons. During high school, Ralph played varsity football, which manifested in a lifelong love for the sport. After high school, Ralph enlisted in the Marine Corps, where he served from 1962 to 1966. After the Marine Corps, Ralph spent 35 years with the Federal Aviation Administration, where he worked as a manager for many years.

Throughout his life, Ralph remained dedicated to his community. Ralph served as the Director of Volunteering at Moreau Catholic High School in Hayward, California. While in Las Vegas, Ralph worked on the Use of Force Committee, partnering with the mayor in his years in the group. He also served as the HOA president while in Las Vegas. When he moved to Colorado, Ralph served on the house committee at the Perry Park Country Club.

The greatest joy in his life began when he met his wife, Kathy, when she was a receptionist under Martha. Ralph and Kathy married on August 26, 1967. Their daughter Michelle was born in 1976. Ralph was the greatest husband, father, and grandfather. He was an incredible cook, and his pizza nights and alphabet pancakes will be forever missed by his granddaughters. Ralph was a NASCAR instructor for the Las Vegas Race Experience. He loved traveling, especially with his family. Ralph was also an avid wine enthusiast, establishing his own label, Marsh Cellars, in the 1980s. Ralph is remembered for being kind, generous, responsible, sarcastic, and truly committed to his family.

Ralph is survived by his devoted wife of 58 years, Kathy Marsh; his daughter, Michelle Marsh Garcia; his three granddaughters, Ainslee, Kaylin, and Marissa Garcia; and his brother, Carl Marsh. He was preceded in death by his parents, Martha and Ralph Ellis Marsh, and his brother, Donald Marsh.

A celebration of life will be held on May 31, 2026, at 11 am at the Perry Park Country Club in Larkspur, Colorado.

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Fantastic Fiddling

'Natalie MacMaster & Donnell Leahy and The Celtic All-Stars' coming to Bankhead

BY CHRISTIAN TRUJANO

Celtic fiddling power couple Natalie MacMaster and Donnell Leahy, along with their children and some of the world's most talented Celtic musicians, are set to take the stage at the Bankhead Theater in Livermore this weekend as part of their first tour in the area in over 20 years.

The concert, titled "Natalie MacMaster & Donnell Leahy and The Celtic All-Stars", will be a journey through Celtic music, tracing its ancient origins and exploring its modern evolution and the connections between various national styles, according to Livermore Valley Arts.

"I can't believe it's been 20 years," MacMaster told the Pleasanton Weekly in an interview ahead of the show. "We're coming back, California."

Growing up in Cape Breton, an island located in Nova Scotia, Canada, MacMaster said she was constantly surrounded by fiddling. Not only was that style of violin playing very popular where she grew up, but her uncle was in fact a renowned Cape Breton fiddler and she also had two cousins who played.

But even after picking up the violin at the age of 9, MacMaster said she would have never imagined that fiddling would end up becoming her career.

"All the fiddlers had jobs," she said. "I never even thought about making this my life in that way."

In fact, she originally had plans on becoming a substitute teacher.

But, as she began to release albums at the age of 16, MacMaster started to gain some traction in the musical world. By the late '90s, she began playing prominent shows such as the Juno Awards show in Ontario, Canada.

"I didn't expect I'd be ever recording until I was well into my adult years," she said, adding that all of the encouragement she received early on in her career really gave her the confidence and motivation to pursue music as a career.

Since then, MacMaster has gone on to receive multiple awards, was nominated for a grammy and performed alongside many well-recognized musicians such as The Chieftains, Faith Hill and Carlos Santana.

She is also coming off the heels of publishing her memoir, titled "I Have a Love Story", which she said dives more into her journey becoming a world-renowned fiddler, as well as her relationship with fellow renowned fiddler — and her husband — Leahy, who is just as much of a musical powerhouse as MacMaster.

"This powerhouse couple has sold out over 1,000 shows in North America," according to an LVA press release. "Their combined careers have seen them record with a star-studded list of collaborators ... World-class performers in their own right, each has found time to tour and perform with some of the biggest names in music."

In her book, she said she offers an intimate look into her life and how she managed balancing her career with being a mother to seven children, all thanks to the love of those around her.

In regard to the Livermore show, MacMaster said that being someone who has deep ties to her Celtic heritage and culture, she really wants to revive Celtic music and delve into its history, while also showcasing it through a modern lens.

And even though MacMaster said it has been a while since she has performed on stage, she is excited for the tour and trusts her lifelong musical experience will carry her through each performance.

"It's fun, it's sweet, it'll make you cry, it'll make you laugh," MacMaster said of the upcoming show. "I just feel so fortunate to make music with such great people."

In addition to her husband and their daughter Mary Frances, MacMaster will be joined on stage by Scottish folk singer Karen Matheson OBE, four-time All-Ireland



COURTESY LVA

Celtic fiddler Natalie MacMaster will be performing at the Bankhead Theater this Sunday afternoon.

Champion banjo player Enda Scahill and acclaimed Scottish piper Ross Ainslie.

"Tri-Valley audiences will not want to miss this one-of-a-kind night filled with fiery fiddling, electrifying energy, and the heart and soul of Celtic music," the LVA press release stated.

The performance is set to begin at 3 p.m. Sunday (March 22).

In addition to the Celtic concert, the Bankhead will be closing out the month of March with a series of energetic and notable performances.

The venue will welcome the ABT Studio Company, billed as a showcase of the next generation of American Ballet Theatre performers, on Friday evening (March 20). The next day will feature two shows: a Del Valle Fine Arts concert featuring award-winning pianist James (Zijian) Wei at 3 p.m. and Winners of the San Francisco Comedy Competition at 8 p.m.

Next Thursday night (March 26), American actor, singer and dancer Matthew Morrison will return to the Bankhead for a "soul-stirring performance that blends music, dance, and raw vulnerability", according to the LVA website. "More than just a show, it's a journey into the heart of what makes us human, inviting the audience to explore their own authenticity and wonder."

The Seeds of Music Academy, a music school based in Pleasanton, will be hosting a showcase next Friday (March 27) that will feature an eclectic range of musical genres and artists ranging from rock bands like Led Zeppelin, to modern stars like Chappell Roan.

Then, to end the month, audiences next Sunday (March 29) will

be able to experience a performance of the award-winning production of "The Other Mozart", which brings to life the forgotten story of Nannerl Mozart — Amadeus' "equally

gifted sister whose genius was lost to history."

For Bankhead tickets and more information, visit www.livermorearts.org. ■

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Advocating for animals

Following Valley Humane Society on lobbying day in Sacramento

STORY AND PHOTOS BY CHRISTIAN TRUJANO

Nearly 100 animal advocates from across the state, including about a dozen from the Tri-Valley, met with legislators in Sacramento this month to talk about animal welfare bills that seek to address a myriad of issues such as illegal cockfighting, the overpopulation of cats and dogs and coexistence with wildlife.

The fourth annual Animal Advocacy Day, which took place on March 3, was sponsored by a number of animal welfare organizations, including the San Francisco Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SF SPCA) and Pleasanton's own Valley Humane Society (VHS).

"Today was a great opportunity to take really important animal welfare legislation directly to the legislators who serve our district and who serve all of California," Rebecca Burton, the marketing manager for VHS, told the Weekly following the event. "It was a really special opportunity that a lot of people often don't get."

Valley Humane President and CEO Melanie Sadek told the Pleasanton Weekly it was the organization's second year in a row sponsoring the event and the first time they had volunteers show up to advocate alongside VHS employees and herself.

"It's the first time where we've really done a push to get people to come up and kind of feel what it's like to have a say in the capitol," Sadek said.

And while it was many of their first time doing this type of advocacy work at the state capitol, for many of the volunteers and participants at Animal Advocacy Day, they said they felt like it was their duty to show up and speak up for animals because they can't do so themselves.

"We live in a world where you have to be loud and what I'm learning is ... people don't realize the power that they have by speaking up," Shyamalima Karan, a Pleasanton resident and volunteer at VHS, told the Weekly. "As constituents ... you think your duty as a citizen just ends after you vote but, not really. Sometimes (legislators) need to hear what you have to say."

Participating organizations and their volunteers for the event included the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA), the San Diego Humane Society, Best Friends Animal Society and Humane World for Animals.

The day started in front of the VHS shelter in Pleasanton where 11 people got on the Black Tie Transportation bus and began the drive to the state capital. According to VHS, the bus ride was free, courtesy of the chauffeur company.

The group arrived in Sacramento around 9 a.m. at Westminster Presbyterian Church, where they checked in and attended a presentation from several animal welfare leaders who went over the details of the bills that the advocates would be discussing with lawmakers. They later walked over to the Annex Swing Space, located just across the street from the State Capitol, to meet in small groups with individual legislators and their staff members.

State Sen. Scott Wiener (D-San Francisco) and Assemblymember Chris Rogers (D-Ukiah) were among some of the people who spoke during the presentation about the importance of some of these bills.

Wiener in particular talked about Assembly Bill 2010, also known as the "Spay/Neuter Improvement for

Pets (SNIP) Act", which he is championing. According to the informational sheet handed to advocates to distribute to legislators, the SNIP Act updates regulations for high-quality, high-volume spay and neuter clinics, allowing them to operate in larger surgical spaces without the current requirement for a fully enclosed operating room.

"Current regulations require a separate surgical suite for aseptic procedures, a restriction that significantly slows high-quality, high-volume spay and neuter services and prevents the effective use of community clinics in underserved and rural areas," according to the information sheet.

Jennifer Scarlett, CEO of SF SPCA, said as a veterinarian who has performed countless spay and neuter surgeries throughout her career, bills like the SNIP Act are important because it allows the veterinarians to conduct surgeries in places just like the church where the opening reception for the Advocacy Day was held, a practice she said is critical to addressing the overpopulation problem in the state and stop shelters from being forced to euthanize animals — an act that shelters overwhelmingly are against.

"It is our only safe, effective and permanent humane way to stop the reproduction of dogs and cats," Scarlett said, adding that based on data, even with mortality rates, over the span of five years cats and dogs have the ability to produce anywhere from 7,000 to 10,000 babies.

Burton was one of the advocates who was particularly supportive of the SNIP Act.

"We do have an issue with access to care in the state of California and there's a veterinary shortage," she



Valley Humane Society's Canine Comfort therapy teams provide stress relief for advocates during the fourth annual Animal Advocacy Day on March 3 at the Capitol Annex Swing Space.

said. "So any opportunity to really bridge that gap is one that I support."

Another one of the Tri-Valley advocates who felt strongly about the SNIP Act was Liwen Cheung, a Danville resident and VHS employee. Cheung joined the advocacy group with her daughter after having heard about last year's Advocacy Day and feeling compelled to join this year's group.

As someone who works the front desk at VHS, Cheung said she gets a lot of calls from people inquiring about spay and neuter services for their own pets as well as feral animals.

"I didn't realize there were actually some barriers to getting

high-volume, high-quality spay and neuter clinics ... so I think that is one that I can really relate to," she said.

Advocates also spent the day seeking a legislator who would champion a \$5 million general fund budget appropriation in the 2026-27 state budget that would help implement Senate Bill 1233, which authorizes California veterinary schools to create specialized, high-volume spay and neuter certificate programs.

While the bill has already been approved, the funding needed to help launch these training programs at the University of California, Davis School of Veterinary Medicine and the Western University of Health Sciences College of Veterinary



Valley Humane Society President and CEO Melanie Sadek points to the first stop of the day and begins preparing the materials she will review with staff.



Nearly 100 advocates from across the state pose for a photo at the church before heading out to meet with legislators at the Capitol Annex Swing Space.



Advocates and legislative staff during the morning presentation in Sacramento.

Cruelty Act”. According to the advocacy information sheet, the bill would give law enforcement and animal control agencies additional tools to address illegal cockfighting, including abusive “fowl yard” practices that confine and condition roosters in ways that cause significant suffering.

“This bill will address gamefowl yards across the state and safeguard local communities from the cruelty, noise, avian disease and criminal activities linked to cockfighting,” according to the informational sheet. “Exemptions are included for legitimate poultry operations, hobbyists, and educational programs.”

The bill also excludes bantam chickens, which are not used as fighting birds.

According to the animal welfare leaders during the morning presentation, the bill imposes a “\$2,500 fine for each rooster exceeding a limit of 25 on any parcel of property while restricting their movement through tethers or solitary confinement”.

It was first introduced in 2025 and is currently in the Senate Agriculture Committee — it will be taken up for a vote in the summer.

“We view this bill as (being) one step closer to combating cockfighting in California and stopping this really inhumane treatment of these birds,” Jenny Berg, California state director for the Humane World for Animals nonprofit, said during the initial meeting with all the advocates. “These are (birds) raised and kept in really horrible conditions and we want to stop it before it grows and becomes this widespread problem across California.”

Sadek pointed out that the cockfighting bill was a particularly interesting one to have to deal with because it originally received a lot of opposition during last year’s California State Senate Committee on Agriculture meetings because many people were saying it would negatively affect farmers and others who simply owned a lot of chickens for non-cockfighting reasons.



Advocates from the Tri-Valley pose for a group photo at the Westminster Presbyterian Church in Sacramento before walking over to the Capitol Annex Swing Space.

However, according to Sadek, a lot of those who spoke up during last year’s committee hearings were in fact known cockfighters who were trying to put more pressure on committee members to amend the bill in their favor.

For Karan, one of the bills that really stood out to her was Senate Bill 1135, which aims to establish a permanent statewide wildlife coexistence program within the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW). The legislation would promote “humane conflict-prevention strategies to address growing human-wildlife conflicts”.

“The bill will require CDFW to rely on practices based in science and indigenous knowledge to pursue nonlethal conflict prevention, incident tracking, public education, tribal consultation, and partnerships with local governments, ranchers and community organizations,” according to the information sheet. “The bill also codifies and strengthens the state’s approach to wolf-livestock coexistence and compensation.”

Karan, who had been at the State Capitol just last month for the California State Parent Teacher

Association Advocacy Day representing Foothill’s Parent Teacher Student Association, said she recognizes the importance of speaking with legislators and advocating for things like coexistence with animals because those animals can’t speak for themselves.

“It can be a frustrating process, but you also have to stand up for what you believe in and if you believe in it enough, or strongly enough, you keep trying because giving up is not an option,” Karan said. “Especially when it comes to animals (because) they can’t speak for themselves. My fur baby cannot come here and ask for all of these things.”

She said that her own children grew up loving nature and having a desire to protect animals, which is why the coexistence bill means so much to her.

“We need to learn how to coexist because we have to share the world,” Karan said. “Just because (animals) are in our way, doesn’t mean that they don’t belong.”

The last bill that advocates brought up to legislators and their teams was Assembly Bill 1733, which aims to

for veterinarians and registered veterinary technicians who provide free spay and neuter services to shelters and rescue groups.

According to the information sheet, pro bono spay and neuter work is currently grouped under a self study category and by removing it from that category and allowing these veterinarians to receive continuing education credits by recognizing up to four hours of free spay and neuter support provided to shelters and rescue organizations, it encourages them to volunteer their services more in their communities.

After the long day of advocating, the group of Tri-Valley residents and VHS employees made the long trip back home where some of them reflected on their hard work.

Cheung was one of those who reflected toward the end of the day and said she appreciated being able to learn about the legislative process and was grateful to be a part of that process.

“It just made me realize that this is where change happens,” Cheung said. “It’s like ground zero and my daughter and I get to be a part of that. So that was very exciting.” ■

Medicine has not.

According to the advocacy informational materials, the funding request, would allocate \$5 million — half for each school — to help pay for faculty positions, facility retrofits, equipment, certification programs and low- or no-cost public spay and neuter services to train veterinary students and licensed professionals in efficient, high-volume techniques that “increase statewide sterilization capacity and deliver long-term public health and animal welfare benefits”.

Another bill that advocates presented to legislators and their staff members was Assembly Bill 928, also known as the “Cockfighting



Sadek addresses the entire group of Animal Advocacy Day advocates before they meet with legislators.



Sadek is joined by advocates from San Francisco and Pacifica to speak with a legislative staff member from the office of California District 13 Sen. Josh Becker.

AI could cause a Jobs Armageddon. We can't let it happen.

Not counting the pandemic, the U.S. job market last year sank to its lowest level since the Great Recession. The nation added only 181,000 jobs in 2025, down from 1.46 million in 2024.

Anemic employment numbers are continuing in 2026, with the U.S. economy shedding 92,000 jobs in February.

Many economists agree that President Trump's tariffs and immigration policies, along with persistently high interest rates, are partially to blame, but there is increasing concern that the rapid rise of artificial intelligence is also starting to harm the employment sector.

The situation promises to worsen, and the problem is: Companies using AI to replace workers is not a bug. It's a feature.

In fact, the potential for job losses due to AI is a significant driver of the stock market. Businesses and investors euphemistically call it "labor savings" or "reducing labor costs"

— because having fewer workers theoretically makes companies more profitable and a better investment.

Goldman Sachs predicts that companies will spend more than \$500 billion this year on capital expenditures for artificial intelligence and computer data centers, in part because of the potential to reduce labor costs — the single-largest expense for most businesses.

Artificial intelligence, to be sure, has tremendous potential to benefit our society, hastening advancements in health care, scientific research and clean energy. AI might even cure some forms of cancer in the next decade.

But it could also put millions of people out of work. Anthropic CEO Dario Amodei, who recently gained fame for his principled stand against the Pentagon's demand to use Claude for autonomous weapons and domestic mass surveillance, is predicting that AI could displace 50% of entry-level white-collar jobs in the next five years.

For many investors and businesses, that would be a lot of "labor savings". For the U.S. economy — and the people who will lose their jobs

— it would be a major disaster.

If Amodei's and similar predictions come true, about 10 million to 12 million U.S. workers could become jobless in the next half-decade, more than doubling the U.S. unemployment rate, potentially sending it above 10% — even higher than it was during the Great Recession.

Massive job losses, in turn, would have a cascading effect on our economy and society. Young workers who took on student loans expecting white-collar careers would face serious default risk, potentially triggering a consumer credit crunch. Consumer spending would also tumble, with restaurants, travel, entertainment, and retail all facing reduced demand, potentially causing even more job cuts.

That would put us on the road to a significant economic contraction and another recession. Just counting the loss of entry-level white-collar jobs alone, and assuming an average salary of \$60,000—\$80,000 for those positions, AI could cause roughly \$720 billion to \$960 billion in lost wages annually — equivalent to 3% to 4% of U.S. GDP.

Widespread unemployment can

also lead to social unrest. Plus, there are concerns about long-term unemployment, since workers who can't get entry-level job experience are unlikely to ever have professional white-collar careers.

This may sound like a "sky-is-falling", overly pessimistic scenario. And some argue that the threat of job displacement is overblown, accusing companies of "AI washing" — blaming recent job cuts on AI when they're actually due to other factors.

But there are warning signs that job loss due to AI is already happening. In addition to the dismal jobs numbers in the past 14 months, postings for entry-level jobs in the U.S. plummeted 35% between 2023 and 2025.

And workers are increasingly worried. Employee concern about job loss caused by AI surged from 28% in 2024 to 40% in 2026.

Anthropic predicts that AI will cause the biggest job losses in management, business and finance, office administration, computer science, engineering and architecture, social sciences, the legal profession, and arts and media.

So what can we do about the potential Jobs Armageddon?

Unfortunately, it appears that the Trump administration is not inclined to put any guardrails on AI. Also, Anthropic appears to be the only major AI company concerned about job losses.

That means California must step up. In the Legislature this year, I have a bill, SB 947, that would bar companies from relying on AI to fire or discipline workers.

It's an important first step. But it's increasingly clear that we have more to do — perhaps by rewarding companies that hire and keep workers and use AI to improve their workers' productivity and job satisfaction, while preventing businesses from replacing people with machines and sending our economy into a tailspin. ■

Editor's note: State Senator Jerry McNerney (D-Pleasanton) authored the AI in Government Act while serving in Congress. He is also chair of the Senate Revenue and Taxation Committee and member of the Privacy, Digital Technologies, and Consumer Protection Committee.



LETTERS

Don't waste our solar power

It's springtime — the season of green hills, orange poppies, songbirds and solar power.

The California Energy Commission reports that in 2024, solar met 23% of the state's electrical energy demand. The fraction provided by solar in the spring is much higher, peaking on June 21 during the summer solstice.

During this period, electrical loads are low (not much air conditioning), creating an imbalance in overall grid electrical supply and demand. This results in wasted green energy, or solar curtailment (solar panels disconnected because there is too much power).

In March 2025, the California Independent System Operator reported 857 GWh of solar energy was curtailed due to oversupply in portions of the grid. That's enough energy to power 140,000 California homes for a year.

How can we help prevent wasting green energy? You may be able to reschedule some of your electrical loads to better match solar generation. For example, charge cars and batteries or run major appliances between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.

in the spring and fall when there's plenty of solar power and low system loads.

In contrast, try to avoid usage from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. when solar generation is decreasing and grid electrical loads peak.

You can track real time and historical renewable generation and electrical loads on CAISO's website at www.caiso.com.

You can find more energy saving tips on our website and learn about time-of-day energy rates on PG&E's and Ava Community Energy's sites. If you live in Livermore, you can sign up for an online energy audit at livermore resilienthub.com. In Dublin sign up at dublinclimatechallenge.org. Pleasanton does not yet participate in such a program.

— Tom Edmunds, co-chair, Tri-Valley Air Quality Climate Alliance

Empowering students through service and STEM

High school students across the Bay Area are often eager to volunteer and explore careers in science, technology, medicine and research, but many struggle to find meaningful opportunities that allow them to make a real impact.

To address this gap, we founded the Vidhai Foundation, a student-led nonprofit started by students

from Brentwood and Pleasanton that connects young people with community service and STEM learning opportunities. In just a short time, more than 180 students have joined our network of volunteers and participants.

Through our programs, students collaborate on projects in public health, technology, research and civic engagement while earning volunteer hours and developing real-world skills.

Some of our initiatives include building a youth mental health resource website, crocheting newborn hospital shoes and warm beanies for senior citizens to support hospitals and care centers,

organizing technology meetups with the DataRiders tech community (around 5,000 members), mentoring students interested in academic research and running public health awareness campaigns.

Our goal is simple: empower students to use their talents to serve their communities while developing skills that prepare them for future careers in science, medicine and technology.

We hope more students across the Tri-Valley and East Contra Costa areas will join us in creating a culture of youth leadership, service and innovation.

— Sadhana Arivoli, founder, Vidhai Foundation

PET OF THE WEEK



TRI-VALLEY ANIMAL RESCUE

Jump in with Jordan

Jordan is a happy-go-lucky senior pup who is looking for a new friend or family to share his golden years with! Come and meet him and see why the volunteers enjoy spending time with him at the East County Animal Shelter in Dublin. Jordan is an approximately 13-year-old, German Shepherd mix. He currently weighs around 80 pounds. He is already neutered and ready for his forever home! Visit Tri-Valley Animal Rescue at tvar.org.

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PLEASANTON PREPS



BY DENNIS MILLER



JOHN BAER

Undefeated CCOP basketball team captures league title

Also: Foothill boys' volleyball opens season; SRV boys and girls win state soccer crowns

The 4th Grade Girls' Catholic Community of Pleasanton basketball team recently capped off an extraordinary season, finishing undefeated with a 10-0 record in the West Diablo/Tri-Valley Gold league.

This victory marks the first time in

over a decade that a CCOP girls' team has secured a league championship.

In addition to their perfect league play, the team remained undefeated in tournament action, going 6-0 across the Thanksgiving and Christmas Top Flight tournaments.

The team's success also extended to

individual accolades as two players, Davina Murphy and Reiss Steinle, qualified for the state level in the Knights of Columbus free throw competition for the 9-year-old and 10-year-old divisions, respectively.

Foothill boys' volleyball

The first few weeks of play for the Falcons are in the books, and there's been some ups and downs.

Last week, the Falcons lost their East Bay Athletic League opener by a 3-1 final to Granada but then rallied back to take a 3-0 win over Dougherty Valley.

Foothill also took the Silver bracket at the Livermore tournament, going 4-1 for the day.

The wins came over Redwood Christian (2-0), Acalanes (2-0), Freedom (2-1) and El Cerrito (2-0). The lone loss of the tournament came to Washington (2-0).

The tournament highlights came from: Josh Salonga (45 assists, 26 kills, 24 digs), Jeremy Sun (31 assists, 30 kills, 22 service pts), Thomas Paduraru (16 kills, 8 blocks), Trey Elson (15 kills, 10 blocks), Wynter Alexander (23 kills, .350 hitting 8 digs) and Grey Garofalo (57 assists, 14 digs).

A couple of weeks ago, the Falcons finished a tough preseason going 1-3 to head into league play.

They lost 3-1 to both James Logan and Castro Valley the first week. Foothill then came home to the small



COURTESY CIF

Left: League-champion 4th Grade Girls' CCOP basketball team.

Above: San Ramon Valley High girls' soccer team won CIF D-II state title.

gym at Foothill — as the big gym is being upgraded.

The Falcons beat Mission San Jose 3-0 and then lost at Liberty 29-31, 19-25, 19-25.

Highlights came from: Salonga (17 assists, 8 kills, 3 aces v. MSJ), Sun (13 kills, 7 digs at Liberty), Paduraru (9 kills, 3 blocks v. Mission) and Garofalo (33 assists, 9 digs at Castro Valley).

SRV soccer teams win state championships

The improbable road run to a state title became a reality last Friday night when the boys' and girls' teams of San Ramon Valley claimed CIF State Division II soccer championships.

The girls' side went through the tournament paced by an insane defense. The No. 7 seed beat No. 2 seed Vista del Lago in a shootout after a 1-1 regulation final.

That was followed by a trip to Santa Rosa where the Wolves took down No. 3 Cardinal Newman 1-0. That put the team into the NorCal final where they beat No. 4 Mitty, also by a 1-0 final.

The win advanced the Wolves into the inaugural CIF State Championship game in Sacramento.

In the final the Wolves faced Westlake from Southern California, a team that had not allowed a goal in

the tournament.

The two sides battled through regulation without a goal being scored and into overtime they went, where freshman Morgan Van Puffelen scored the game-winner for San Ramon Valley. The freshman also scored the lone goal in the regional final game against Mitty.

The boys started the CIF NorCal regionals as the unlikely No. 8 seed in the eight-team field.

They went to Clovis and took out top-seeded Clovis 4-1 to start the tournament. Next up was a trip to Napa to take on No. 4 Vintage High, and the Wolves came through with a 2-1 win to advance to the NorCal finals.

This time it was the shortest drive of the tournament when the Wolves traveled to No. 6 Berkeley and a 2-1 win there sent the team to the state title game.

Last Friday it was a drive up 80 to get to Natomas High to face Mira Monte of Bakersfield. The Lions came in 25-1-3, but they were blitzed by the Wolves as SRV came away with the 4-1 win. ■

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

Livermore Fusion Soccer Club under new executive leadership

Cummings quietly took helm in January; reasons for ED turnover not immediately clear

BY JEREMY WALSH

Livermore Fusion Soccer Club has a new leader at the top, with Duane Cummings hired as executive director earlier this winter.

The club's Board of Directors cited Cummings' experience in business, soccer, and player and coach development among the reasons he has been given the reins of the wide-ranging organization that supports youth and adult soccer, futsal and its EDGE Performance Center.

"The Board is genuinely excited to bring a seasoned leader like Duane into the Fusion family. His leadership experience, passion for the sport, and commitment to youth development make him an outstanding fit for Fusion Soccer as we continue to grow and elevate our programs at all levels," the board said in a post on Facebook.

"His approach emphasizes not only athletic excellence but also character development, teamwork,

and resilience — qualities we value deeply in our club culture," the board added. "We look forward to the positive impact he will have on our community and on the success of our players both on and off the field."

Livermore Fusion Soccer Club quietly announced the appointment on Jan. 16 via the board's statement on social media — where the organization is active, posting almost on a daily basis — but the club's website does not appear to have any reference to Cummings. He is not listed on the executive board page, nor is he among the personnel referenced on the contacts page.

Board President Tony Sorensen declined multiple requests for an interview this month about Cummings'

arrival and the circumstances of how the executive director position became vacant before him.

Cummings acknowledged Livermore Vine's email but said he was too busy to speak. "Unfortunately my obligations to the club have my time booked from morning til night getting up to speed," he said March 9. "OF COURSE we are grateful for your interest in the organization and my arrival."

In its Facebook post, which included duplicative paragraphs, the board called out Cummings' "successful track record" with nonprofit and for-profit organizations, demonstrating "strategic vision, community building, and a supportive leadership style."

"Additionally, Duane's connection to soccer runs deep," the directors added. "He is a former professional soccer player and coach who has led teams to success, understands the dynamics of competitive youth athletics, and has a personal commitment to helping athletes realize their full potential." ■



Duane Cummings

Employment

Medallia, Inc. has the following position available in Pleasanton, CA:
Deal Desk Manager (MED-FV): Analyze the compliance of the deal from what was bought to what they are consuming, do a proper analysis & see what strategies can be approached not to churn, expand & renew. 100% Telecommuting permitted from anywhere in the U.S. Annual salary range: 130,042 - \$150,042.
Send resume to: hiring@medallia.com. Must reference job title and job code. Background checks required.

Systems Developer. Uvid Consulting LLC. Pleasanton, CA. Translate biz reqs into Jedox/EPM-based apps. Req.: Bach deg or frgn equiv in CS, IT, or Bioinformatics + 1 year exp. Exp to incl designing/implementing solutions w/ EPM tools (Anaplan, Oracle Hyperion, TM1). This is a telecomm pos w/ remote benefit from var unanticipated locs throughout the U.S. Send CVs to admin@uvidconsulting.com.

SOLUTIONS ENGINEERS Pleasanton, CA area. Handle IT Operations Mgmt, Security Info and Event Mgmt & Advanced IT Analytics for key enterprise customers. Telecommuting required. Domestic travel 80% of the time to meet with customers. One trip to India per year. Salary: \$274,456 per year. Send res to: Zoho Technologies Corporation, blood@zohocorp.com.

The Pleasanton Weekly offers employment advertising. If you wish to learn more about the employment advertising options, please visit PleasantonWeekly.com/employment_ads/.

Public Notices

Summons

Cross-Complaint

Case Name: Consolidated Electrical v. Soleeva, et al.

SUMMONS **Case No.** 25CV113630
(CITACION JUDICIAL)

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT (A VISO AL DEMANDANDO): ANIL KUMAR and ROES 1-25 inclusive
YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF: (LO ESTÁ DEMANDANDO) EL DEMANDANTE): SOLEEVA ENERGY, INC.

NOTICE! You have been sued. The court may decide against you without your being heard unless you respond Within 30 days. Read the information below.
You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons and legal papers are served on you to file a written response at this court and have a copy served on the plaintiff. A letter or phone call will not protect you. Your written response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case. There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and more information at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the court clerk for a fee waiver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and your wages, money, and property may be taken without further warning from the court. There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may want to call an attorney referral service. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may be eligible for free legal services from a nonprofit legal services program. You can locate these nonprofit groups at the California Legal Services Web site (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), or by contacting your local court or county bar association. NOTE: The court has a statutory lien for waived fees and costs on any settlement or arbitration award of \$10,000 or more in a civil case. The court's lien must be paid before the court will dismiss the case. ¡AVISO! Lo han demandado. Si no responde dentro de 30 días, la corte puede decidir en su contra sin escuchar su versión. Lea la información a continuación. Tiene 30 DIAS DE CALENDARIO después de que le entreguen esta citación y papeles legales para presentar una respuesta por escrito en esta corte y hacer que se entregue una copia al demandante. Una carta o una llamada telefónica no lo protegen. Su respuesta por escrito tiene que estar en formato legal correcto si desea que procesen su caso en la corte. Es posible que haya un formulario que usted pueda usar para su respuesta. Puede encontrar estos formularios de la corte y 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 quede 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 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 Superior Court – Hayward Hall of Justice
24405 Amador Street
Hayward, CA 94544
The name, address, and telephone number of plaintiff's attorney, or plaintiff without an attorney, is
(El nombre, la dirección y el número de teléfono del abogado del demandante, o del

demandante que no tiene abogado, es):
Kimberly G. Flores, Esq./Lindsay I. Walczak, Esq.
Berliner Cohen, LLP
548 W. 21 st Street
Merced, CA 95340
209-385-0700

(PLW Mar 13, 20, 27 and Apr 3, 2026)

MATTHEW A SCHULTZ CONSULTING
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 621389
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) Matthew A Schultz Consulting , located at 4653 DEL VALLE PKWY PLEASANTON CA 94566, ALAMEDA County.
This business is conducted by: an Individual.
The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):
MATTHEW A SCHULTZ
4653 Del Valle Pkwy
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 March 09 2026.
(PLW Mar 20, 27, Apr 3 and 10, 2026)

SONKKE
SONKKE, USA
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 621052
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) SONKKE, 2.) SONKKE, USA , located at 2 BENMORE DRIVE, HAYWARD, CA 94542, ALAMEDA County. Mailing Address: 4847 Hopyard Road STE #4-446 Pleasanton, CA 94588
This business is conducted by: an Individual.
The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):
ETHEL MATSHIYA-LAW
4847 Hopyard Road STE #4-446
Pleasanton, CA 94588
Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on February 24 2026.
(PLW Mar 20, 27, Apr 3 and 10, 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)

NUOC MAMI
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 621433
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) Nuoc Mami , located at 690 Fargo ave #12 San Leandro, CA, 94579 , Alameda County.
This business is conducted by: a Limited Liability Company.
The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):
RED RIVER MARKETING LLC
690 Fargo ave #12
San Leandro, CA, 94579
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 10 2026.
(PLW Mar 20, 27, Apr 3 and 10, 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)

CALIBRATE CHIROPRACTIC
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 621303
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) Calibrate Chiropractic , located at 533 Peters Ave Suite 100 Pleasanton CA 94566, Alameda County.
This business is conducted by: an Individual.
The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):
BRADLEY FRANCIS
533 Peters Ave Suite 100
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 March 05 2026.
(PLW Mar 20, 27, Apr 3 and 10, 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)

ARISTA EXTERIORS
ARISTA EXTERIOR SYSTEMS
ARISTA SIDING SYSTEMS
ARISTA DECKING SYSTEMS
ARISTA ROOFING SYSTEMS
ARISTA SIDING & DECKS
ARISTA SIDING & ROOFS
ARISTA SIDING & EXTERIORS
ARISTA EXTERIORS CORP
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 621396
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) Arista Exteriors , 2.) Arista Exterior Systems , 3.) Arista Siding Systems , 4.) Arista Decking Systems , 5.) Arista Roofing Systems , 6.) Arista Siding & Decks , 7.) Arista Siding & Roofs , 8.) Arista Siding & Exteriors , 9.) Arista Exteriors Corp , located at 5118 Monaco Dr Apt D, Pleasanton, CA 94566, Alameda County.
This business is conducted by: a Corporation.
The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):
ARISTA EXTERIORS CORP
5118 Monaco Dr Apt D
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 March 09 2026.
(PLW Mar 20, 27, Apr 3 and 10, 2026)

VARA BY KASH
VARA
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 621354
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) VARA BY KASH , 2.) VARA , located at 4133 Stanley Blvd Pleasanton, CA 94566, Alameda County.
This business is conducted by: an Individual.
The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):
JANICE JADWANI
4133 Stanley Blvd
Pleasanton, CA 94566
Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 03/09/2026
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on March 09 2026.
(PLW Mar 20, 27, Apr 3 and 10, 2026)

EAST BAY RETAIL SOLUTIONS
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 621043
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) East Bay Retail Solutions , located at 1087 Murrieta Blvd APT 330 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):
MAHER GENERAL TECHNOLOGY AND SERVICES LLC
1087 Murrieta Blvd APT 330
Livermore, CA 94550
State of Incorporation/Organization: California
Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on February 23 2026.
(PLW Mar 13, 20, 27 and Apr 3, 2026)

OLCZAK BUILD
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 621225
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) Olczak Build , located at 3308 Adeline St, Berkeley, CA 94703, Alameda County. Mailing Address: 6436 Irwin Court Oakland, CA 94609
This business is conducted by: a Corporation.
The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):
OLCZAK GENERAL CONTRACTORS INC.
3308 Adeline St
Berkeley, CA 94703
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 03 2026.
(PLW Mar 13, 20, 27 and Apr 3, 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)

PICO TRANSPORTS LLC
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 621316
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) Pico Transports LLC , located at 7292 San Ramon Rd 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):
PICO TRANSPORTS LLC
7292 San Ramon Rd
Dublin, CA 94568
State of Incorporation/Organization: California
Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 09/01/2025
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on March 06 2026.
(PLW Mar 13, 20, 27 and Apr 3, 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)

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)

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)

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)

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)

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)

Continued on next page

Public Notices

Continued from previous page

ALTIMONT 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)

ATAPSEWA

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No.: 620508

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

1.) ATAPSEWA , located at 3388 Hartwell Ct., Pleasanton CA, 94588, Alameda County. Mailing Address: 4682 Chabot Dr. #10012 Pleasanton, CA 94588

This business is conducted by: a Corporation.

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

SELFLESS HUB
4682 Chabot Dr. #10012
Pleasanton, CA 94588

State of Incorporation/Organization: California
Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 08/25/2021

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on January 29 2026.

(PLW Mar 13, 20, 27 and Apr 3, 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)

KHADJIA'S CREATIONS

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No.: 620443

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

1.) KHADJIA'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):

KHADJIA 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)

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA FOR THE COUNTY OF ALAMEDA
Case No.: 26CV173276

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:

Petitioner: BRITA MAGDALENA SCHORMANN filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:
BRITA MAGDALENA SCHORMANN to BRITA MAGDALENA JOHANSSON

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: APRIL 24, 2026, 9:00

A.M., HAYWARD BRANCH of the Superior Court of California, County of ALAMEDA located at 24405 AMADOR ST, HAYWARD, CA 94544.

A copy of this ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county:

PLEASANTON WEEKLY

Date: 02/26/2026

HON. MICHAEL RISHER

JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT

(PLW Mar 20, 27, Apr 3 and 10, 2026)

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA FOR THE COUNTY OF ALAMEDA
Case No.: 26CV175353

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:

Petitioner: ASHLEY BROWN filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:

ASHLEY MAY BROWN to ASH MAILEEN BRIGHT
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: 5/15/2026, 9:00 AM, HAYWARD HALL OF JUSTICE of the Superior Court of California, County of ALAMEDA located at 24405 AMADOR STREET, HAYWARD, CA 94544.

A copy of this ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county:

PLEASANTON WEEKLY

Date: 03/13/2026

MICHAEL MARKMAN

JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT

(PLW Mar 20, 27, Apr 3 and 10, 2026)

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

Case No.: 26CV173766

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:

Petitioner: Andy Lin filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:
AMELIA HWA LIN to AMELIA HWA TSAI-LIN
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: May 8, 2026, 9am, Hayward Hall of Justice of the Superior Court of California, County of Alameda located at 24405 Amador Street, Hayward, CA 94544.

A copy of this ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county:

PLEASANTON WEEKLY

Date: March 5, 2026

Thomas Nixon

JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT

(PLW Mar 13, 20, 27 and Apr 3, 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

ADELINE JIALING TSE to ADELINE 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)

NOTICE! CASE NUMBER: (Numero del Caso): 24CV103125 SUMMONS (CITACION JUDICIAL) NOTICE: TO DEFENDANT: (AVISO AL DEMANDADO): ANGELINA GONZALEZ and DOES 1 through 20. YOU ARE BEING SUMMONS BY PLAINTIFF: (LO ESTA DEMANDANDO EL DEMANDANTE): LOYA CASUALTY INSURANCE COMPANY. 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. Below is the name of Attorney & Court. AVISO! Lo han demandado. Si no responde dentro de 30 dias, la corte puede decidir en su contra sin escuchar su version. Lea la informacion a abajo. Tiene 30 DIAS DE CALENDARIO despues de que le entreguen esta citacion 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 telefonica no lo protegen. Su respuesta por escrito tiene que estar en forma legal juridical correcto si desea que procesen su caso en la corte. Es posible que hay un formulario que usted pueda usar para su respuesta. Puede encontrar estos formularios de la corte y mas informacion en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California (www.sucorte.ca.gov en la biblioteca de leyes de su condado o Referencia de abogados en la corte que le quede mas cerca. Si no puede pagar la cuota de presentacion, pida al secretario de la corte que le de un formulario de exencion de pago de cuotas. Si no presenta su respuesta a tiempo, puede perder el caso por y la corte le Predeterminadpodra quitar su sueldo, dinero y bienes sin mas advertencia. Hay otros requisitos legales. Es recomendable que llame a un abogado inmediatamente. Si no conoce a un abogado, puede llamar a un servicio de remision 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 poniendose 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 recuperacion de \$10,000 o mas de valor recibida mediante un acuerdo o una concesion 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 Attorney name and address of the court is: (El nombre y direccion de la corte es): ERIKA D. BALLOU, OF MARTINEZ AND DIETERICH, 7815 N. Palm, Suite 101, Fresno, CA. Phone: (915) 373-7898 . ALAMEDA COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT, (El nombre, la direccion y el numero de telefono del abogado del demandante, o del demandante que no tiene abogado, es): ERIKA D. BALLOU, ESQ. OF MARTINEZ & DIETERICH LEGAL GROUP, 7815 N. Palm, Suite 101, Fresno, CA. Phone: (915) 373-7898. ALAMEDA COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT, 350 McAllister Street Room 1295, San Francisco, CA 94102, Phone 510-891-6005. (PLW Mar 20, 27, Apr 3 and 10, 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 quede 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)

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