

Pleasanton Weekly

NONPROFIT LOCAL NEWS FOR THE TRI-VALLEY

Swalwell resigns in sex abuse scandal

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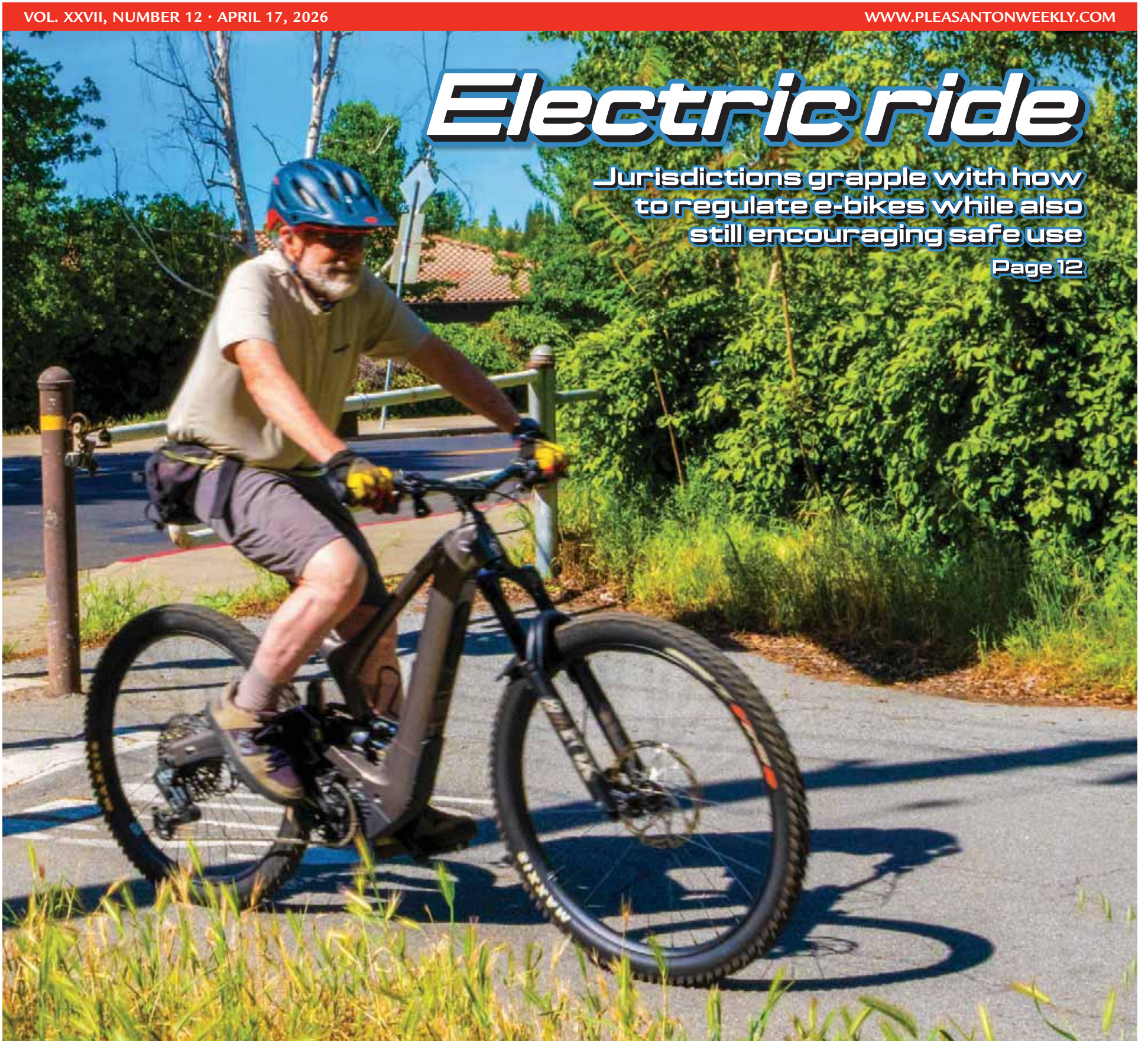
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Electric ride

Jurisdictions grapple with how to regulate e-bikes while also still encouraging safe use

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WHAT A WEEK



By JEREMY WALSH

On 'Conversations'

Engaging with people is the most effective way to promote an organization, showing them the service, program or product you offer, opening up about your past, present and future, learning from their experiences and connecting with them on a human level.

It's a role I've had to get used to embracing as I climb the ladder in my career — an old-school journalist who'd prefer to just do a great job with a given article or newspaper, let the outcome on the page do the talking and move on to the next assignment to continue strengthening that reputation.

Sharing our story is especially important now that we are a non-profit journalism foundation. And I had a great opportunity to do just that with this month's episode of "Conversations" with Mel McKay on Tri-Valley Community Television, the local access station for Pleasanton, Livermore and Dublin — which is celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2026.

I recapped the history of the Pleasanton Weekly, LivermoreVine.com and DanvilleSanRamon.com, highlighted our coverage and its impact on the Tri-Valley, and discussed our parent company's conversion to a 501(c)(3) nonprofit in 2024.

My central pitch was this: At Embarcadero Media Foundation, our mission is to provide high-quality local journalism that informs and connects the residents of our communities. Our rigorous, non-partisan reporting helps people understand what's happening in their city government, schools, public institutions and local economy. Producing this work takes time, expertise and investment, which is why community support is so important to sustaining our work.

Airing now on TV30, TV28 and TV29 on Comcast and AT&T U-verse cable TV as well as streaming on tv30.org and Tri-Valley TV's YouTube channel, the episode featured separate, six-minute hits with myself and three other nonprofit leaders.

Also sharing with McKay about their services and programs were Gabrielle Welk, executive director of the Pleasanton Downtown Association; Christine Beitsch-Bahmani, CEO of CityServe of the Tri-Valley; and Lisa Tromovitch, executive and artistic director of SPARC Theater.

Though I've covered TV30 and interacted with their staff and supporters for years, the taping on March 23 was the first time I'd ever been in their studio on the edge of downtown Pleasanton — let alone mic'd

up and in front of the camera on "Conversations".

"It's a match made in media heaven!" McKay, known for her morning radio show on 101.7 FM in the Tri-Valley, told me when I returned the favor with an email interview last week. "TV30 continues to inspire me with the level of high quality programming, hyper focused on the Tri-Valley, which is a significant portion of our listening area for KKIQ."

She's been hosting the show since 2017 and continues to be inspired by the stories she hears and the opportunities to grow, crediting Tri-Valley TV Executive Director Melissa Tench-Stevens for support over what will soon be a decade of hosting.

"The format is similar to 'Helping Your Hometown', but 6 minutes per segment rather than 1 minute on the radio. I love to talk so that was thrilling to go deeper," McKay said.

"However, I felt so awkward on camera. I made several wardrobe mistakes, I was flat out evil to myself. I pondered quitting. I decided to concur it instead. I learned to be kinder to myself and I continue to look for ways to improve as a host," McKay added. "I am grateful to Melissa for seeing something in me, I did not."

McKay gets to speak with so many Tri-Valley folks and figures on "Conversations", but I managed to pull out of her that her favorite interviews are the Ambassadorog features with Valley Humane Society's President/CEO Melanie Sadek and the winning pooches.

"I adore dogs and can't stop smiling whenever I get a fluffy, furry guest, and their parents are fun too," the host said.

"Conversations" is among a handful of recurring shows on Tri-Valley TV, alongside familiar offerings like "Slipstream", "Slice of Life", "Mayors Report" and "Tri-Valley Sports Final". The station also broadcasts public meetings of cities, school districts and Zone 7 Water Agency, and it will produce "Election Specials" this fall and holiday celebration coverage in the winter.

"We strive to be a connection to residents of our cities about a myriad of things, including, services that are free or low cost that our cities or nonprofits are offering, local news and sports, entertainment, coverage of public events and act as a source for emergency readiness and emergency information," Tench-Stevens told me by email.

"Tri-Valley Television is more than just a TV station, it's the pulse of our community," she added. "At the end of it all, TV30 is devoted to our positive quality of life throughout our communities." ■



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Pleasanton Weekly

About the Cover

While e-bikes can be helpful modes of transit for many safe riders, dangerous use of the device and e-motos continue to draw the attention of health care professionals, public officials and police departments in the Tri-Valley. Photo by Sophia Sucato. Cover design by Paul Llewellyn. Vol. XXVII, Number 12

SUMMER

CAMP CONNECTION

Adventure Kids Summer Day Camp

Pleasanton & Danville | AdventureKid.org

Adventure Kids Summer Day Camp offers an exciting and affordable way for children ages 6-14 to explore the outdoors and make the most of summer. Campers enjoy a dynamic mix of supervised activities, hands-on learning, and non-stop fun. Each day brings a new adventure, from thrilling trips to Six Flags Discovery Kingdom and local waterparks to favorites like mini golf, go-karts, laser tag, beach outings and more. Kids build confidence, form lasting friendships, and create unforgettable summer memories in a safe, engaging environment designed for adventure and discovery.

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Kids and teens will build smart robots, design AI-powered space drones, and launch high-altitude balloons into the stratosphere. They'll bring their ideas to life by creating magical games and animated worlds, then step inside them using Holographic AR.

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KidzKraftz.com

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Hagemann Ranch | 455 Olivina Ave.
Livermore | (925) 800-1042
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 9am-2pm at Sunflower Hill Garden in Livermore. Sessions: June 1-5 and July 13-17. Campers will enjoy a variety of engaging outdoor activities, including: hands-on gardening, crafts, cooking activities, and movement-based games and exercises. 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!

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! 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
- 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.

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StratfordSchools.com/Summer

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Stratford School has designed the perfect summer camp experience for your child, complete with the fun, enriching activities they love and the essential safety measures you expect.

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 feature 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. Extended-day options are also available. Give your child a summer filled with wonder, exploration, and discovery!

Streetwise

ASKED AROUND TOWN

What do you enjoy about working?



Jocelyn Mejía *Server*

I enjoy getting to know my customers and being able to make their day better. Even if they're having a hard time or bad day, when they come to eat at my restaurant, I'm able to help them to relax and feel better, and to just generally improve the complexion of their day. That is something that makes me feel really good.



Ben Coplan *Medical doctor*

I've always loved using my brain and all of my abilities in order to help others. In particular, I enjoyed being a pediatrician and keeping children healthy and making them healthier over the course of their entire childhoods. I also loved having children as patients because children naturally and easily tell the truth about what is going on with their bodies.



Saritha Byrapuneni *Physical therapist*

I love being a one-on-one, hands-on helper and improving the quality of my patients' lives. I also enjoy getting to know my patients and learning about their diverse personalities, cultures and backgrounds. I also like that I learn a lot about self-care for myself by treating my patients and seeing and learning what works for them.



Shane Bohan *Realtor*

I love that my job constantly connects and engages me with the best and brightest people, and enables me to showcase the Tri-Valley and all of the distinguished properties it has to offer. I also have an insatiable appetite for information and knowledge, so I love that through my work, I'm always learning something new, that often benefits my clients.



Ireland Cox *Book sales*

I love communicating with my customers and co-workers, and being the first person to be able to access and read the newest books as they come in. I also really enjoy being able to help people and guide them, in order to find exactly whatever it is that they're looking for book-wise.

—Compiled by Nancy and Jeff Lewis

Have a Streetwise question? Email editor@PleasantonWeekly.com

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DIGEST

Phantom at Firehouse

Franc D'Ambrosio, a world-renowned Broadway actor best known for his years of playing the role of the phantom in the critically acclaimed musical *The Phantom of the Opera*, will be performing at the Firehouse Arts Center in Pleasanton this weekend.

According to the Firehouse website, the actor will be blending iconic Broadway hits with timeless jazz standards as he reimagines some of his favorite performances from musicals like *West Side Story* and *My Fair Lady*.

The show will take place at the Firehouse on Saturday (April 18) starting at 7:30 p.m. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit www.firehousearts.org.

Mr. Amador shows

The Mr. Amador nonprofit organization, which is led by Amador Valley High School boys, will be hosting its annual show next week at the Amador Theater.

For \$20, members of the public can watch as the students compete in a number of performances including talent shows, skits and other presentations.

All of the proceeds from the event will help support and fund vital medical care, programs and services at the George Mark Children's House, a pediatric palliative care center in San Leandro that provides comprehensive care for terminally ill children and services for their families.

The event will take place on Thursday (April 23). There will be two shows; one at 5 p.m. and another at 7 p.m. Tickets are available in person and online at www.amador.futurefund.com.

Opera match

After an anonymous donor pledged a \$100,000 matching gift to honor the organization's 35th anniversary, Livermore Valley Opera decided to further invest in the future of the arts in the Tri-Valley through a new matching challenge.

According to the organization, the 35th Anniversary Matching Challenge stipulates that from the beginning of April until July 31, every new or increased donation to the organization will be matched dollar-for-dollar, up to the full \$100,000 donation.

"Every eligible gift made during the campaign period will help unlock the full \$100,000 match and strengthen LVO's ability to bring transformative artistic experiences to the region," reps said.

To learn more, visit www.livermorevalleyopera.com/match. ■

Swalwell resigns, suspends campaign amid sexual abuse allegations

Governor sets August special election to replace Tri-Valley congressman mired in national scandal

By CIERRA BAILEY AND JEREMY WALSH

Tri-Valley Congressman Eric Swalwell, once a rising star in the Democratic Party on the national stage, suspended his campaign for California governor and resigned from Congress this week — days after being hit with multiple allegations of sexual assault and misconduct.

The seventh-term representative and former Dublin councilman, who was a leading contender in the gubernatorial race weeks away from the primary election, continues to deny accusations of serious

wrongdoing but heeded the call from the growing chorus of one-time allies, former staffers, opponents and others telling him to step away after abuse allegations started to come out last Friday.

"I am deeply sorry to my family, staff and constituents for mistakes in judgement I've made in my past," Swalwell said in a statement posted to X on Monday afternoon. "I will fight the serious, false allegation made against me. However, I must take responsibility and ownership for the mistakes I did make."

"I am aware of efforts to bring an

immediate expulsion vote against me and other members. Expelling anyone in Congress without due process, within days of an allegation being made, is wrong," he wrote. "But it's also wrong for my constituents to have me distracted from my duties. Therefore, I plan to resign my seat in Congress."

Gov. Gavin Newsom on Tuesday set a special election for Aug. 18 for someone to complete the remainder of Swalwell's term through 2026. Meanwhile, nine candidates are on the June 2 primary election ballot vying to succeed Swalwell in

Congress for the full term beginning in January 2027.

Swalwell's ascending political career with sights set on Sacramento took a sudden nosedive Friday afternoon when the San Francisco Chronicle reported a former district staff member's accusations of sexual assault and misconduct. CNN soon followed a story that included three other women claiming varying levels of sexual misbehavior by Swalwell in the past.

Another accuser came forward

See **SWALWELL** on Page 11

Lawsuit alleges EV to blame for crash that killed family of 4

Relatives seek to hold VinFast accountable for fiery wreck along Foothill Road in 2024

By CHRISTIAN TRUJANO

The parents and grandparents of a family of four who died two years ago in Pleasanton after the electric car they were driving crashed and caught on fire on Foothill Road have filed suit, alleging the company knowingly sold and distributed a defunct and dangerous vehicle.

The complaint for damages and demand for jury trial, submitted April 1 on behalf of the deceased family's relatives, alleges that VinFast — the vehicle's manufacturing company that is based in Vietnam — was negligent in allowing the VinFast VF8 electric vehicle to be sold and distributed even after it knew certain features of the car were faulty, which led to the deaths of the parents and children of the George family.

"As a direct and legal result of the negligence and carelessness of Defendants, described herein, Plaintiffs herein have been deprived of kind and loving children and grandchildren, and of their love, companionship, comfort, care, assistance, protection, affection, society, moral support, financial support, training, and guidance," stated the lawsuit, filed by the Walkup, Melodia, Kelly & Schoenberger law firm.

In response to the new complaint, Van Nguyen — VinFast's media relations manager — told the Pleasanton Weekly that the



CHUCK DECKERT

Flowers placed in front of the oak tree on Foothill Road where the George family died after crashing into the tree in April 2024.

company is aware of the 2024 fatal crash and has cooperated with the authorities, but it has not yet been formally served with the lawsuit even though it was aware of its recent filing.

"Should the lawsuit be served, VinFast will file and answer, and defend itself," Nguyen said in a statement Tuesday.

On April 24, 2024, Pleasanton residents Rincy George, 41,

Tarun Cherukara George, 41, and their two children Rowan, 13, and Aaron, 9, died in a single-vehicle crash on Foothill Road near Stoneridge Drive around 9 p.m. Police at the time said evidence from the scene indicated that the VinFast VF8 electric vehicle hit a roadside pole, went airborne and struck a large oak tree that night

See **CRASH** on Page 6

Beaudin picked to lead Alameda

City manager leaving after 4 years at helm, if contract approved

By JEREMY WALSH

Pleasanton City Manager Gerry Beaudin has been selected as the top candidate for the same position in his former city of Alameda, signaling the end of his tenure after four years leading the city administration in Pleasanton.

The Alameda City Council revealed Beaudin as its choice for city manager in a staff report released last week for the April 21 regular meeting, at which a proposed contract with Beaudin will be considered for approval. His employment agreement in Pleasanton requires 30 days' notice, which could put his last day on the job during the third week of May.

"Alameda is an innovative, progressive, and welcoming community, and I am grateful for the opportunity to return as City Manager. The community is truly a place where everyone belongs, and Alameda shows limitless potential," Beaudin said in a subsequent press release issued by that city.



Gerry Beaudin

See **BEAUDIN** on Page 10

Deported Livermore father loses immigration case

Attorney for Miguel Lopez vows to continue fighting for his return to United States

By JUDE STRZEMP

A Livermore man deported to Mexico last year saw his immigration case terminated this month in the U.S. District Court per the statute of limitations.

Miguel Lopez, husband and father of three, was removed from the country last year after appearing at a courthouse in San Francisco for a routine immigration check-in.

Having lived in the U.S. for over 27 years, Lopez worked at a winery in Livermore and had been attempting to gain legal residency for nearly two decades, according to a legal order by District Judge Trina Thompson.

Since his detainment nearly a year ago, Lopez has remained in Mexico, according to his attorney Saad Ahmad. In his absence, members of the local community have organized displays of support calling for his return home.

Most recently, Lopez filed a legal claim in May 2025 alleging that a decision by the Board of



COURTESY ROSA LOPEZ

Miguel Lopez (left) was deported last year to Mexico.

Immigration Appeals in 2014 — overturning a previous approval of his application for cancellation of removal — was an abuse of discretion under the Administrative Procedures Act and violated his right to due process under the Fifth Amendment.

Thompson determined April 3

that Lopez had filed late under the six-year statute of limitations, denying his motion for summary judgement in favor of defendants now-former U.S. attorney general Pamela Bondi and others.

Ahmad plans to challenge the decision in appellate court based on circumstances that he said

suspended the filing timeline.

“Instead of guiding this Court on a steady path towards the clear equities of this case, current immigration law and the applicable statute of limitations leave (Lopez) without relief from any error (Bondi et al.) may have committed in whisking him out of the United States,” Thompson said in the order.

“We came very close to success,” Ahmad told Livermore Vine. “We believe that if this claim had not been dismissed on jurisdictional ground, we would have prevailed.”

Lopez was first apprehended by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security in October of 1996, according to the April order. Shortly after, he was deported from the U.S. by order of an immigration judge.

He reentered the U.S. without inspection — records are inconsistent regarding when he reentered — and he applied for an adjustment in status during February 2007 with U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Services. His application was denied because “he had made a false

claim to U.S. citizenship in attempting to enter the United States years earlier,” according to the order.

During September 2007, the DHS initiated removal proceedings against Lopez, but he applied for cancellation of the removal.

DHS filed for a motion to dismiss the proceedings, as the served notice to appear was “improvidently issued” because Lopez had been previously removed from the U.S. pursuant to a valid removal order, DHS argued.

An immigration judge during November of 2012 granted Lopez’s application to cancel the removal order as a “nonpermanent resident noncitizen,” the order states.

During 2014, DHS challenged the immigration judge’s decision at the BIA, which sustained DHS’s appeal and dismissed Lopez’s removal proceedings.

Two years later, an officer of the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement served Lopez with a

See **LOPEZ** on Page 11

CRASH

Continued from Page 5

before the car caught fire twice.

Following the crash, the Pleasanton Police Department stated it believed the force of the impact with the oak was the main factor for the family’s death and not the fire. Nevertheless, officers and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration’s special crash investigations unit began working to determine the actual cause.

Authorities have released no new information about the investigation.

But according to the new civil complaint, the incident might have been caused due to faulty safety features like the vehicle’s advanced driver assistance systems (ADAS), which is designed to help drivers avoid crashes.

“When activated, these ADAS features, including Traffic Assist,

Highway Driving Assistance, Lane Keeping Assist, Adaptive Cruise Monitoring, and Emergency Lane Keeping Assist, are designed to exert direct control over the vehicle’s lateral and longitudinal motion, including steering inputs and speed modulation in order to maintain lane position and avoid hazards,” the complaint states. “In such circumstances, the systems are intended to provide safe, stable, and predictable control inputs consistent with maintaining the vehicle within its lane and under control.”

But instead of keeping the family safe, the complaint alleges that the assistance systems like the “Lane Keeping Assist”, which provides automatic steering and braking to keep the vehicle within the proper lane, and other components of the car might have actually caused the vehicle to lose control.

“In the moments before the

collision, the back of the subject vehicle began to fishtail,” the complaint states.

“A witness to the collision saw the subject vehicle move to the left before abruptly veering off the road to the right, all in a matter of seconds,” according to the lawsuit. “The subject vehicle hit a pole, hit a tree, and then burst into flames, causing the deaths of (the George family).”

The complaint also noted how several other VF8 owners experienced similar issues with the vehicles assistance systems and how on Sept. 10, 2024, the NHTSA opened a preliminary investigation into the vehicle manufacturing company after receiving reports that the Lane Keeping Assist system “has difficulty detecting lanes on the roadway, provides improper steering inputs and is difficult to override by the driver.”

“As of December 2024, NHTSA

has received 28 complaints about the VinFast VF8,” the complaint states. “Of these complaints, 9 relate to forward collision avoidance, 14 relate to lane departure, and 10 relate to steering.”

The Weekly previously inquired about the NHTSA investigation and a spokesperson for the agency said on Jan. 7, “Special Crash Investigation remains open, and NHTSA generally does not comment on open investigations.”

In addition to the number of complaints submitted to NHTSA on how the electric vehicle’s Lane Keeping Assist feature “aggressively jerks the vehicle when it detects a lane departure” or how it “does not work in direct sunlight”, the complaint also pointed out how former Tata Technologies engineer Hazar Denli spoke out against the electric vehicle company in a December 2024 BBC News story.

According to the complaint, Denli — who led the engineering team that worked on the VinFast VF8’s front suspension and chassis — voiced his concerns about “improperly designed components in the vehicle’s chassis and suspension system.”

“Mr. Denli reported that while running tests on VinFast cars in February and March 2023, components snapped off the cars on two occasions and failed on another two occasions,” the complaint states. “These components failed at around 15,000 miles when they are normally expected to last for over 90,000 miles.”

The lawsuit further states that Denli shared how the failure of the chassis component creates a “risk

that under stress, such as hitting a pothole at speed, the wheels could become misaligned, causing the car to veer to the left or right without prompting, and the driver could lose control.”

The complaint alleges that because the company knew of these issues, there was negligence on part of VinFast as an overall company and the other named defendants, which include the company’s wholesale, distribution and anyone who might have had something to do with the sale, manufacturing and distribution or marketing of the vehicle.

The relatives’ lawyers argue the defendants were “negligent and careless in their design, manufacture, testing, marketing, sale, and maintenance” of the vehicle involved in the fatal crash, as well as for “failing to provide adequate instructions and warnings to protect against injuries occurring as a result of the design, manufacture, testing, marketing, sale, and maintenance” of the car.

“The actual and potential risks, hazards, and dangers of the subject vehicle, described herein, presented a substantial risk of injury and death when the subject vehicle was used or misused in an intended or reasonably foreseeable way,” the complaint alleges. “Said defects were a substantial factor in causing the collision.”

The plaintiffs demand a jury trial and seek unspecified damages. There is an initial case management conference scheduled for this case on Aug. 31 at 2:30 p.m. in Hayward, according to the Alameda County Superior Court portal. ■



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Districts join coalition to increase state funding base

Raise the Base pushes to provide 'adequate and equitable base funding for all students'

BY CHRISTIAN TRUJANO

All school districts in the Tri-Valley are now part of a statewide coalition of districts, teacher unions and other school organizations who are asking state legislators to consider raising the base level of funding for public schools in California.

Pleasanton Unified School District Superintendent Maurice Ghysels explained how the initiative is not only trying to strengthen the state's funding formula for school districts at a time when virtually all of them are facing mass budget cuts due to things like declining enrollment, but it is looking to do so without burdening taxpayers.

"This is, basically, to increase our (Local Control Funding Formula) base grant and secure additional state funding for Pleasanton students and not (have to) increase local taxes," Ghysels said during the Feb. 26 Board of Trustees meeting.

In 1988, California voters approved Proposition 98, a constitutional amendment which establishes a minimum annual funding requirement. It essentially determines how much money is guaranteed to schools and colleges based on state and local taxes.

"Each year's Prop. 98 guarantee is calculated based on a percentage of state General Fund revenues or the prior year guarantee adjusted for K-12 attendance and an inflation measure," according to the California Budget and Policy Center website. "Since some of this information is not available until after the end of the state's fiscal year, the legislature funds Prop. 98 at the time of the annual Budget Act based on estimates of the Prop. 98 minimum funding level."

But then, in 2013, the state also implemented the Local Control Funding Formula.

The way LCFF funding works is districts get a certain base grant for different grade spans. On top of that, districts can also receive additional supplemental funding and add-ons for unduplicated disadvantaged students, transitional kindergarten and other similar components.

Both the LCFF and Prop 98 work together in the sense that the funding formula determines how the Prop 98 money is divided among school districts. According to the state's Legislative Analyst's Office, the LCFF focuses on providing more funding for disproportionately disadvantaged students such as low-income, English learners, foster kids and those who need special education.

"Out of the \$104.1 billion General Fund Proposition 98 funding provided to K-12 education in the 2025-26 budget, \$84.5 billion (81%) is provided through LCFF for school districts, charter schools, and (county offices of education)," the LAO stated in a January 2026 report. "Schools pay for most of their general operating

expenses (including employee salaries and benefits, supplies, and student services) using these funds. Over half of the remaining \$19.6 billion is provided through two categorical programs for special education (\$6.1 billion) and the Expanding Learning Opportunities Program — which funds before/after and summer school programs (\$4.6 billion)."

For years, this formula has been the state's primary public school funding system. But because LCFF funding is allocated to school districts based on the average number of students in class each day throughout the year, school leaders across the state have become increasingly concerned about how declining enrollment, along with other inflationary costs, are affecting their finances.

At PUSD, in particular, district leaders have been very vocal about how LCFF funding is just not keeping up anymore with their growing expenditures.

"The district ranks in the bottom decile statewide in per-student funding, largely because fewer students qualify for additional state funding targeted to low-income students, English learners, and youth in foster care," the district said in a statement to the Weekly. "At the same time, growth in LCFF base grant funding has not kept pace with rising operating costs such as salaries, pensions, special education services, insurance, and utilities, which are particularly significant in high-cost regions like the Bay Area."

That's why PUSD, along with every other school district in the Tri-Valley — and dozens more across the state — have joined a growing initiative called Raise the Base, which is seeking to increase the dollar amount of base grant funding per student.

"Strengthening the LCFF base grant, as proposed through the Raise the Base initiative, would help sustain core academic programs and student services that all students rely on, while also increasing targeted funding for students with greater needs because this additional funding is calculated as a percentage of the base," the district stated. "In this way, Raise the Base is intended to support both adequate and equitable school funding."

The initiative was first launched toward the end of 2025 by David Roth, superintendent of Buckeye Union School District in El Dorado Hills, as a way to challenge how the LCFF currently works.

"The problem is that since the LCFF has been implemented ... we have (had) a number of very inflationary issues occurring within schools," he said. "Schools face unique inflationary factors that the public often isn't aware of."

These inflationary factors, which have been pointed out by PUSD employees plenty of times over the past few years, include higher pension

costs, salaries and benefits, increased insurance premiums, and overall supplies and materials.

However, one of the main inflationary costs that continually affects PUSD and virtually every other school district in the state is declining enrollment.

"These structural pressures are further intensified by declining enrollment, driven by lower birth rates statewide and amplified locally by the high cost of living," according to the district. "Since the 2018/19 school year, Pleasanton Unified has lost approximately 2,000 students, reducing ongoing state funding by an estimated \$24 million, as LCFF funding is largely tied to student attendance."

And even though PUSD has implemented millions of dollars in spending reductions and is now looking to finalize over \$11 million of budget cuts for the following school year, given the enrollment trends it will continue to be difficult for the district to address these financial pressures.

That's why, according to Roth, there needs to be a larger shift in how the LCFF works.

"As we're thinking about how we fund schools, we have to think about maintaining balance between adequacy and equity," Roth said. "We need to be addressing both."

The change to the formula, as proposed by the Raise the Base initiative is fairly straightforward: instead of focusing on new taxes or expanding Prop 98, the state should allocate any new dollars or revenues to the LCFF base grants.

"I'm not talking about cutting anything," Roth explained. "What I am suggesting as we go forward: don't create new grants, when dollars come into Prop 98 put them into the LCFF on the base and just focus every new dollar that comes into Prop 98 that's intended to go to public schools ... Those dollars need to be focused on those base grade span grants."

He came to this conclusion after diving deep into the data and researching the vast funding disparities seen across school districts in the state. However, he also noted that disparity alone is not the only issue.

"It's that when the inflation is so significant, and the base revenues aren't keeping up with that, well then we find ourselves — and I would say virtually every district in the state finds themselves — at this moment in time inadequately funded," Roth said.

But he said raising the base, as proposed under the statewide initiative, will at least help begin addressing these funding challenges.

"The only proposal that addresses adequacy and equity in a balanced manner, sufficiently benefiting all districts while maintaining a commitment to ensuring students with greater need receive greater resources, is the (Legislative Analyst's Office) proposal to raise base funding levels

by 7.24%," Roth noted in the Raise the Base website.

The analyst office's report to which Roth referred came out in January, outlining how a 7.24% base increase would proportionately increase funding for all districts.

He also noted how raising the base would not have any negative effects on disadvantaged students.

"It would address both adequacy and at the same time, it would remain equitable if they were to raise base grants right now," Roth said. "If they choose not to do that, then ... districts will not be able to maintain — and have not already, in many cases, been able to maintain — base programming."

According to Roth, the Raise the Base coalition is still in its early days of advocacy as school districts like PUSD begin communicating the initiative with their communities. Over the next couple of weeks and months,

PUSD leaders said they will continue to raise awareness regarding the initiative and begin talking with legislators in order to start getting support in Sacramento, especially as the state gets ready to select a new governor.

PUSD has already scheduled meetings later this month with two local legislators, State Senator Jerry McNerney and Assemblymember Rebecca Bauer-Kahan.

"Our public schools are the foundation of thriving communities, and ensuring they have the resources they need is one of my top priorities in Sacramento," Bauer-Kahan told the Weekly in a statement Monday. "I deeply respect the work that PUSD and the Raise the Base coalition are doing to spotlight the real funding gaps our schools face every day. I am committed to being a partner to our local districts as we fight for the resources our kids deserve." ■

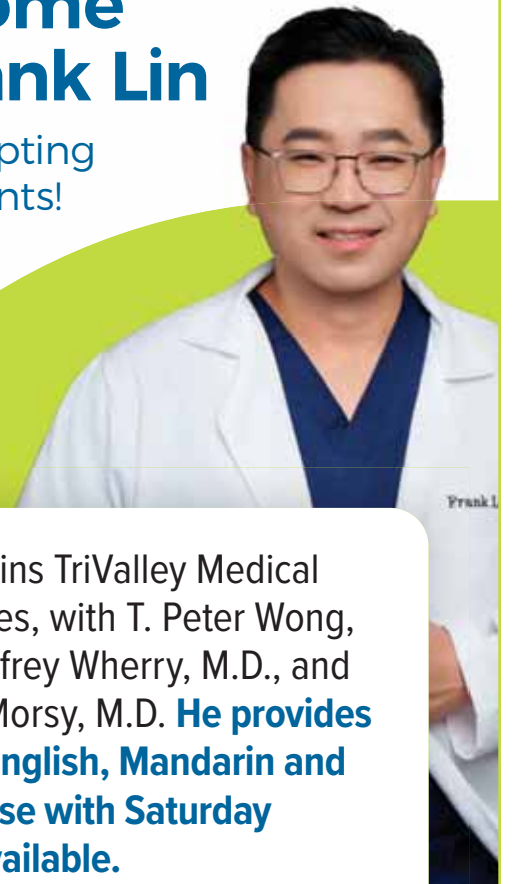


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Two candidates vying for county education board seat

Area 7 incumbent Cook-Kallio, challenger Shanbhogue discuss priorities, values ahead of primary

By Christian Trujano

The race is set for Area 7 of the Alameda County Board of Education this June as Pleasanton incumbent Cheryl Cook-Kallio will look to maintain her seat while challenger Sangeetha “Sandi” Shanbhogue of Dublin seeks to bring a new perspective to the dais.

There are seven trustees on the board, each representing a specific area in the county. Area 7 covers Dublin, Pleasanton, Sunol and Livermore.

“I am honored that the people of the TriValley have trusted me to represent them in the past and I will be honored if they choose to do that again,” Cook-Kallio told the Weekly in an emailed statement.

This bid marks the second run for the county seat by the former Pleasanton City Council member and retired Fremont teacher, having won the election in 2022 following the departure of former Area 7 representative Yvonne Cerrato.

Shanbhogue, a Tri-Valley parent and homemaker, has been involved in the Dublin Unified School District for the past few years. She tried a write-in campaign for the California State Assembly District 20 seat in 2024 but lost.

“I am running for this seat to provide a voice for parents and students and to bring attention to these races,” Shanbhogue said. “Voters should elect me as a representative of students, taxpayers, parents, and caregivers.”

Cook-Kallio

A 40-year teacher who specialized in high school civics, Cook-Kallio served on the Pleasanton Partnership



Cheryl Cook-Kallio



Sangeetha Shanbhogue

in Education Foundation board, the California Civic Learning Task Force Advisory Board and the Teacher Advisory Board for Justice Sandra Day O'Connor's iCivics Foundation, according to her biography listed in the county office website. She also served on the Pleasanton City Council from 2006 to 2014.

When asked about the importance of the Alameda County position, Cook-Kallio explained how the county board differs from other school boards in that it mostly operates as an appeals board, which she said is an important role to undertake.

She said the board typically weighs in on disputes at a local level and holds hearings on interdistrict transfers appeals, expulsion appeals and accountability issues regarding charter schools.

When charter school renewals get denied, those cases can also get appealed to the county board.

She also noted how the county office of education has pathway programs for teacher credentialing, which addresses local issues like staff vacancies, paraeducators and students who are looking to enter certain trades.

“Making sure students are well served is at the very root of what we do,” Cook-Kallio said.

In light of these responsibilities, Cook-Kallio emphasized the importance for Tri-Valley voters to select the most qualified representative for the seat, a role she maintains she is best equipped to hold based on her experience in education and governance.

“I believe that I have the skills and the experience to understand the role of a trustee,” she said. “I understand how schools operate and the challenges they face when dealing with the uncertainty of funding year to year.”

“My long-time interest in government and public policy is an asset when making some very difficult decisions,” she added.

If reelected, Cook-Kallio said some of the things she would like to see happen are expanding the teacher residency program and the paraeducator certification programs, which would help students by filling staffing vacancies, lowering class sizes and supporting students with special needs.

She also said she would like to continue to make positive strides in alternative education, continue holding charter schools accountable and increase communication between school districts and their corresponding Board of Education trustees.

“That direct line of communication is very helpful especially when dealing with at-risk students,” Cook-Kallio said. “I want to continue our work in making schools a safe place for all students.”

Shanbhogue

Shanbhogue is a mother of two school-aged children and has lived

in the Bay Area since 2022.

While she currently describes herself as a homemaker, Shanbhogue noted her master's degree in computer applications and her past work as a software developer, data analyst, business analyst, and project manager as reasons why she would be qualified for the county board position.

“My professional experience helps me analyze complex issues and data effectively,” Shanbhogue told the Weekly in an emailed statement.

She also highlighted how active she has been within the Dublin school community and how over the past four years, she has been closely following developments in the school district on topics such as equity-based grading.

“I attended all equity grading committee meetings and budget meetings for two years, spoke at board meetings, and gave an interview to California Insider on the topic,” Shanbhogue said. “I also stay in regular contact with parents on issues affecting students and have submitted (California Public Records Act) requests to better understand district decisions and improve transparency.”

When asked about the importance of the county board seat, Shanbhogue noted how the race typically gets overshadowed even though the position itself is “impactful and shapes major decisions like curriculum standards, discipline rules, equity initiatives, approving

budgets, superintendent oversight, school closures, charter schools, and responses to mental health, class sizes, teacher pay, and safety.”

As far as her priorities go, Shanbhogue said if she is elected she is committed to reducing spending and ensuring funds are used responsibly. She also said she supports teachers receiving fair salary increases and reducing spending on consultants.

“There should be accountability for how money is used and the outcomes it produces,” Shanbhogue said. “My goal is to bring common sense and pragmatism to decisions related to equity, education, mental health, and overall student welfare.”

Other priorities and commitments include finding common ground on polarizing issues, focusing on “improved outcomes and not performative empathy” for underserved populations and meeting with parents and educators in order to listen to their concerns so that they can develop policies that will truly help them.

She also noted how she is not seeking endorsements from unions or political parties.

“I am committed to keeping politics out of the classroom and ensuring that every student — regardless of ability — is respected and supported to succeed,” Shanbhogue said. “This combination of experience and involvement makes me well qualified for this role.” ■

County supes oppose reopening FCI Dublin

By Tanay Gokhale / Bay City News Service

The Alameda County Board of Supervisors unanimously adopted a resolution last week to oppose the reopening of a shuttered prison in Dublin for any correctional operations, including the detention of immigrants.

Supervisors David Haubert and Elisa Márquez introduced the resolution in response to reports that the federal government might repurpose the defunct federal correctional institution as an immigration detention facility.

According to a letter submitted by Haubert and Márquez to the board on March 17, the Federal Correctional Institution in Dublin was a low-security women's prison that was closed in 2024 due to staff misconduct, inadequate oversight and infrastructure issues.

One of the major reasons for the closure of the facility was the rampant sexual abuse of the incarcerated women at the hands of prison guards.

“Since the closure of FCI Dublin,” the letter stated, “Credible reports and public speculation have suggested that the federal government

or federal contractors may be considering reactivating the site for detention or correctional operations. These operations include, but are not limited to, the use as an immigration detention facility operated by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.”

In April 2025, Haubert, as board president, sent a letter to officials at the Federal Bureau of Prisons and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, expressing opposition to the rumored repurposing of FCI Dublin in his hometown.

At the April 7 meeting, Haubert pointed to the systemic issues that led to the closure of FCI Dublin as potential safety risks for any individuals detained there.

“This (resolution) is symbolic because the federal government can do whatever it wants to do. But this is an expression of our community that we do not want this,” Haubert said.

The board heard public comment on the resolution for over an hour, and all the speakers supported the resolution.

When the motion was put to a vote, it passed unanimously. ■

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CD14 candidates face off in forum ahead of primary

Local priorities, Swalwell scandal, war in Iran and immigration among subjects of discussion

By JUDÉ STRZEMP

Candidates in the crowded primary race for Congressional District 14 went head to head during an online forum this past Sunday to share their priorities and positions on local and national issues.

In attendance were Democrats Aisha Wahab, Melissa Hernandez, Carin Elam, Rakhi Israni and Matt Ortega, as well as Republican Wendy Huang. Dublin resident Dena Maldonado, a Republican on the ballot, bowed out Sunday afternoon. San Leandro City Councilmember Victor Aguilar Jr., a Democrat, and newcomer Suzanne Chenault, listed with no party preference, did not respond to invitations to join the debate.

Subjects on the table for the livestream forum hosted by the Pleasanton Weekly and Livermore Vine included local goals, the sudden scandal embroiling the current congressman, budgetary priorities, the current administration's approach to immigration enforcement and the Iran war.

The candidates are competing on the June 2 ballot to claim one of the two spots in the November general election to represent District 14, including Livermore, Pleasanton, Dublin, Hayward, Union City and Fairview and parts of Fremont, San Lorenzo, Castro Valley and Mountain House.

The position was previously held by Eric Swalwell, who resigned Tuesday amid sexual assault allegations. A separate special election to complete the remainder of Swalwell's current term has been scheduled for Aug. 18. The candidate list for that ballot is not yet set.

Sunday's forum gave the primary election candidates the chance to introduce themselves and set their campaign's part.

Pleasanton resident Elam said she is in the congressional race to protect democracy. Elam is equipped with a master's degree in governance and launched Women to Win for the promotion of Democratic women vying for Congress.

"I'm not a career politician. I am a representative of our beautiful Bay," Elam said.

Hernandez is a former Dublin mayor and current president of the BART Board of Directors — the first Latina to hold either role — as well as health care director for the Alameda County District 1 Supervisor's Office.

With her leadership in the region, Hernandez said she has brought new infrastructure and jobs. In Congress, she plans to prioritize lowering the cost of building new housing and helping grow small businesses. She also aims to expand affordable health care.

Hernandez also cited endorsements from the "majority" of mayors, county supervisors, city council members and community leaders. "They know that I will be

effective in Washington, D.C. and that I will deliver on my promises to you," Hernandez said.

Huang, a hi-tech retiree and former caretaker of her children, who are now grown, said she is running for Congress to "challenge dirty politics". She immigrated to the U.S. as a teen, attended college and currently lives in Union City.

"As taxes, regulations and the cost of living soar, working families are struggling," Huang said. Accountability is needed for billions of dollars of tax fraud and sexual abuse by powerful individuals, the Republican added.

Israni introduced herself as an educator, attorney, business owner and mother.

As the founder of an educational company initially located in Fremont with over 20 years of working with students, Israni said she is inspired by the youth. She expressed her goals including lowering the cost of living, strengthening infrastructure and the educational system.

Small business owner and union member Ortega, a current Tri-Valley resident, said he was compelled to run because democracy is under threat and the economy is weakened.

"This administration's knee is on our neck, while the wealthy and powerful pick our pockets," he added. Ortega said he will be the candidate to take on the "most corrupt administration in history" and the "far-right".

The final candidate was Wahab, California state senator for District 10, which includes Hayward, Fremont, Milpitas, Sunnyvale and Santa Clara. As the only candidate endorsed by the Democratic Party, Wahab said she has a track record for delivering for the district.

"As a state senator, I have tried very hard to ensure that we have down-payment assistance, that we protect our democracy, that we make our community safer — I plan to do the same in Congress," Wahab said.

Following introductions, the forum transitioned to the question-and-answer portion of the night.

On the subject of top priorities for the district while in office as well as spending priorities, Huang said she plans to focus on economic growth and public safety.

In the wealthier areas of District 14, constituents are concerned about job opportunities, she said, while the less affluent areas are concerned about crime. Huang said she wants to ensure that law enforcement is supported.

Step one of budgeting is stopping the waste, fraud and abuse of taxpayer dollars, Huang said.

"If we just can stop the flow of these taxpayer fraud, we have a lot more money to go around to prioritize American citizens first," Huang said. "When we talk about America first, we have to make sure its American citizens and law-abiding residents first and that's a big

difference between my 'American first' and my opponents, Democrats' 'American first'."

Israni said she is focused on investing federal dollars in local infrastructure and education. Investing money in infrastructure will grow the economy, create jobs and improve the quality of life for the people who live and work in the district, she said.

"The foundation for our growth here in the Bay Area is our educational system," Israni said. "We need strong schools. We need better support for our students and we need clearer pathways into colleges, careers and the workforce."

As for Ortega's goal in Congress, he aims to protect people from the current administration.

Ortega called for higher taxes to the wealthy, lowering the U.S. defense budget and a transition to Medicare for all as well as federal programs for child care and the construction of single-family homes and apartment complexes that transition to private ownership to "fill the gap where the market has failed".

Ortega also proposed reestablishing enhanced Affordable Care Act subsidies and reinvesting in Medicaid, following cuts made via the One Big Beautiful Bill Act.

Wahab said she puts "humanity first" with priorities of social services, social security, mental health, food security, individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, food security, infrastructure, housing and education. She said she also values investing in the labs and advanced manufacturing in the district.

"Once we take care of America first, and make sure that everyone feels comfortable and secure ... our businesses also are stronger because they know stability means a better economy," Wahab said.

Elam said her main platform addresses jobs and health care with bipartisan solutions.

She also noted the issue of a contracting nature of the job market amid the artificial intelligence boom, a problem she aims to address through collaboration with leaders in the technology sector through methods such as training or public-private partnerships.

Too much money is spent on border security and wars, Elam added later. Instead, Elam said she supports investing in schools, science, non-fossil fuel energy as well as a transition towards universal healthcare.

"We have to help people," Elam said. "One of the biggest burdens they have right now is worrying about healthcare premiums."

Hernandez said her priority is affordable health insurance, child care and housing.

"We definitely have to bring back funding that has been cut in all different arenas by the Big Beautiful Bill," Hernandez said.

The hopefuls also addressed the

approach being taken by President Donald Trump's current administration as well as the rumored reuse of Federal Correctional Institution Dublin as an immigration detention center. FCI Dublin was closed during 2024 amid findings of systematic sexual abuse and exploitation at the facility as well as other harmful conditions.

Israni said she prioritizes eliminating per-country caps on employee visas as well as establishing permanent protection for undocumented immigrants who arrived in the U.S. as children, dubbed Dreamers.

Ortega condemned Trump for committing "horrific acts" like "throwing kids into cages" and "snatching grandmas off the street".

Ortega expressed opposition to opening FCI Dublin and expressed a desire to abolish the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement. "Very few of these actual detainees have any violent convictions, let alone any convictions," he said. "In addition to that, they've been recruiting ICE agents with white supremacist propaganda."

Hernandez agreed that FCI Dublin should not be reopened, but she said it is unlikely for ICE to be abolished.

Hernandez suggested revamping the process to gain citizenship for faster processing and a pathway for Dreamers to gain citizenship. She also encouraged working with nearby countries to stop illegal immigration.

Participants were also asked about their position on U.S. military action in Iran and Congress' role in addressing the conflict's impact on gas prices and the overall economy.

Wahab expressed opposition to the war, calling it a "reckless decision".

"Humanity needs to be our leading voice," she said. "I believe in deescalation and making sure that we lead with diplomacy first and humanity first," Wahab said.

"We need a strong national security, but strength also means discipline and diplomacy," she later added. "We have not exercised that enough in the last two decades of regime-change warfare and regional wars that literally have only fueled inflation and punishes working people."

Elam argued that Trump has no respect for the U.S. Constitution.

Huang said she opposes all foreign wars that do not pose an immediate threat to the U.S.

"Given the media has lied to us all the time, we have no idea what is the truth anymore," Huang said.

Describing herself as a moderate Republican, Huang said she is willing to work with Democrats on the issue but called on the minority party to work with the president instead of just criticizing him.

"It's always the people who suffers. It's the people paying higher prices. It's the people who dies. It's our tax dollars going to fund these wars," Huang added.

To view the full forum, including the candidates' positions regarding AI regulation, environmental policies, restoring the public trust after the Swalwell scandal and their ability to work through differences, watch the recording on the Pleasanton Weekly's YouTube page. Hosted via live webinar by the Pleasanton Weekly and Livermore Vine, the forum was moderated by publisher Gina Channell Wilcox and associate publisher-editorial director Jeremy Walsh. ■

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TriValley Medical Associates opens Pleasanton office

Practice moves to bigger space with goal to better serve growing needs of patients

BY CHRISTIAN TRUJANO

TriValley Medical Associates recently moved from its office in Dublin to a larger facility in Pleasanton in order to better serve its patients, the health care organization announced.

According to a press release from the independent family medical practice, the new office — located at 6155 Stoneridge Drive, Suite 101 — first opened its doors in February. This facility now serves as the second location, with offices also located in Livermore.

“Our goal is to continue to serve

the ever-changing needs of our patients and grow as our community grows,” said TriValley Medical Associates owner and co-founder T. Peter Wong in the press release. “That meant we needed a bigger, more modern space.”

The practice is part of the larger Hill Physicians Medical Group — a network of independent doctors in Northern California.

They joined the medical group nearly 20 years ago and have since been able to expand medical services to include “care management, pharmacy consultation, a

virtual care network and urgent care services,” their statement said.

Now, thanks to the larger space, Wong said they will also be able to expand hours of operations into the weekend.

“We know the community is busy with work, school and other activities,” Wong said in the press release. “By adding Saturday and evening hours, we hope to better serve all our patients, not just those who can take time during traditional work hours.”

In addition to Wong, the medical practice is led by two other

doctors: co-founder Jeffrey Wherry and newer addition Frank Lin.

Lin has over 20 years of experience in the medical field, according to a March 13 Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce press release announcing that Lin had joined the team. He specializes in family medicine and will be taking on patients during normal working hours, evenings and on Saturdays at both the Pleasanton and Livermore offices.

“Dr. Lin brings a wealth of knowledge and many years of

experience caring for East Bay patients,” Wong stated in the chamber press release. “He is multilingual and highly regarded by patients and former colleagues and we are honored to welcome him to private practice.” Both Lin and Wong speak English and Taiwanese — Lin also speaks Mandarin.

“I believe primary care should feel like a true partnership, where the precision of medical sciences meets the heart of a lifelong healthcare relationship,” Lin stated in the chamber press release. “We are your medical home.” ■

BEAUDIN

Continued from Page 5

He declined further comment when contacted by the Pleasanton Weekly on April 9.

It wouldn't be the first time Beaudin left Pleasanton for Alameda. He worked as Pleasanton's community development director during 2015 to 2019 before taking a higher position that August in Alameda as assistant city manager. He held that second-in-command role for just over 2-1/2 years, returning to Pleasanton in spring 2022 as city manager.

This time around, Beaudin would be leaving for the opportunity to lead a city closer to Oakland, where he and his family live, and receive a pay bump of nearly \$40,000.

Presuming Beaudin is hired in Alameda as recommended, the Pleasanton City Council would face a critical decision in the coming weeks on who will lead the City Manager's Office in the short term after Beaudin's departure and how to go about recruiting for a long-term successor.

Pleasanton Mayor Jack Balch offered no comment April 9 when asked for reaction to the news, citing the fact Alameda's public process is still pending.

With no special meetings currently on the calendar, the Pleasanton council's next regular session is scheduled for April 21, the same night Beaudin's contract is up for final ratification in Alameda.

Balch and Councilmember Julie Testa were on the dais the last time Pleasanton faced a city manager vacancy — when Nelson Fialho retired in November 2021 after 17 years at the helm. The council at that time opted to elevate the assistant city manager to interim city manager for nearly six months while it conducted a full recruitment process that saw Beaudin rise to the top.

A key factor for Pleasanton leaders could be timing with the upcoming municipal election, when the mayor's seat and two council positions will be on the ballot

— and whether the permanent replacement would be chosen by the current council or by those on the dais after the November election.

Beaudin faced similar friction during his tenure in Pleasanton. He was ultimately hired in April 2022 by a City Council that would then see one seat turn over in that November's election. Three more seats on the council changed hands, including Balch ascending to mayor, in 2024.

‘The community is truly a place where everyone belongs, and Alameda shows limitless potential.’

Gerry Beaudin,

Alameda city manager finalist

Beaudin found himself a poster child for public criticism during the lead up to that election, from residents advocating against the Measure PP sales tax while challenging the city administration's budget projections of an ongoing deficit of more than \$10 million per year.

The 0.5% sales tax fell at the polls in November 2024. A third-party review of city finances ordered by the new council in early 2025 backed the budget methodology and 10-year fiscal forecast from Beaudin's team, but questioned how effectively the admin communicated information to the citizenry.

Months later, Beaudin would guide the city through a contentious budget cycle with millions in cuts for the 2025-26 fiscal year, with library reductions later endorsed by the council generating much of the public pushback. After approving the budget and wrapping up the accounting for 2024-25, Pleasanton reported an unexpected \$7 million surplus, with staff citing mainly one-time development funds.

“There's going to be people who are in the community wondering

why we have a surplus and it's really important to recognize that we budget conservatively and we do it on purpose so that we don't have to draw in reserves at the end of the fiscal year,” Beaudin said in November. “We also want to proactively ensure that we have cashflow throughout the year.”

He also navigated prolonged negotiations with the police, fire and city employee unions, as well as tense public debates about water rate increases and about his own compensation, during his time as city manager.

Beaudin ushered in Pleasanton's first-ever Citywide Strategic Plan, Water System Management Plan and Sewer System Management Plan, with a stormwater plan and an organizational assessment still in the queue. Longtime construction projects like Lions Wayside Park renovations and public infrastructure related to the new Costco store finished under Beaudin's watch, and an overhaul of a major section of West Las Positas Boulevard is on tap this summer.

It remains to be seen whether Beaudin, the council and the Pleasanton community will discuss any potential cuts needed for the 2026-27 budget year during April and May, or if those conversations will happen after he leaves. A final decision is also pending from the council about whether to place a hotel tax increase measure on the ballot this November, a move Beaudin has backed.

Regionally, Beaudin's title as the longest-tenured city manager in the Tri-Valley — with his fourth anniversary due on May 23 — is poised to be given to Marianna Burch in Livermore, if the Alameda vote goes as recommended.

Beaudin's contract, with an annual salary of roughly \$383,000, is listed near the top of the consent agenda for the Alameda City Council's regular meeting April 21, with open session scheduled to begin at 7 p.m. at Alameda City Hall on Santa Clara Avenue. His first day of work would be June 30.

Alameda Mayor Marilyn Ezzy

Ashcraft said she and the council are “delighted to warmly welcome Gerry Beaudin back” into the fold.

“Gerry is an innovative manager and excellent communicator who brings a wealth of experience in complex land use and organizational projects, and a passion for public service, to Alameda,” she said in the press release. “He will be a valuable partner to the City Council and City staff, as well as to our residents, businesses, and visitors. We can't wait to reintroduce new City Manager Gerry Beaudin to the Alameda community!”

The council had most recently discussed its city manager vacancy in closed session April 7, later emerging by publicly reporting that direction was given by a 4-0-1 vote on the hiring of a permanent leader. Councilmember Tony Daysog abstained.

Beaudin's name became public two days later, with the release of the council's next agenda featuring his proposed employment agreement.

The contract includes an annual salary of \$383,111, an amount that requires council approval to increase its city manager salary range by 1%. That pay rate is higher than the \$343,512 Beaudin currently makes in Pleasanton.

He would receive an additional assurance that his salary would always be at least 5% above that of any member of Alameda's executive management compensation plan.

Beaudin would also get a 12-month severance package if terminated without cause, \$550 per month in car allowance, 3% in deferred compensation contribution by the city (just under \$11,500 annually), and other benefits like health insurance, leave accruals and holiday pay, including the ability to cash out two weeks of vacation and eight administrative leave days per year.

“I am delighted to be selected by the Mayor and City Council and look forward to collaborating with City leadership, the City's talented executive team and staff, and connecting with the broader community,” Beaudin said in the press release.

He would take the reins from Interim City Manager Adam Politzer, the former Sausalito city manager who has led Alameda on a temporary basis since Jennifer Ott left to return to Hayward in December.

Ott was city manager in Alameda for just under three years, starting in January 2023 as the permanent successor to Eric Levitt, who departed for Fullerton in Southern California. Beaudin, Ott's former No. 2, was one of several staffers to serve as interim city manager in Alameda during 2022.

A native of Canada with degrees from Queen's University and the University of Toronto, Beaudin also had prior professional experience with the cities of Toronto, Los Altos, South San Francisco and Mountain View. ■

PET OF THE WEEK



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SWALWELL

Continued from Page 5

Tuesday alleging being raped and possibly drugged by Swalwell in 2018.

“He raped me, and he choked me. And while he was choking me, I lost consciousness. And I thought I died. I did not consent to any sexual activity,” Lonna Drews told reporters at a press conference at the office of her lawyers in Beverly Hills.

The House Ethics Committee had announced a day earlier that it had opened an investigation into the allegations made public on Friday.

According to House rules, having an affair or a sexual relationship with a staffer who is reporting to you is grounds for immediate expulsion. However, with Swalwell vacating his seat, the investigation will be set to end as the House Ethics Committee does not have authority over anyone who is not a member of Congress.

Backlash came swift for Swalwell last Friday and in the days following. A number of Democrats and Republicans alike issued similar statements after the news broke, condemning Swalwell, withdrawing support for his gubernatorial campaign and calling for him to resign from Congress.

Swalwell has denied the serious allegations in multiple statements posted to social media over the past week, including verbally in a video message where he denounced the claims as “flat false”.

He made references to unspecified past “mistakes in judgment”

that he apologized for to his family, supporters and colleagues. He suspended his campaign for governor on Sunday, and announced the next day that he would resign from Congress — a move he followed through on Tuesday.

He posted another statement by attorney Sara Azari on his behalf on Tuesday afternoon after Drews’ press conference.

“These accusations are false, fabricated and deeply offensive — a calculated and transparent political hit job designed to destroy the reputation of a man who has spent twenty years in public service,” Azari wrote.

“The timing, nature, and coordinated rollout of these vile and heinous allegations speak for themselves. This is neither about justice, nor the truth. This is a ruthless and shameless attempt to smear Congressman Swalwell,” she added.

Toward the end of the statement, Azari vowed to help Swalwell fight the allegations and to take legal action against “those responsible for orchestrating this reprehensible campaign of lies”.

Swalwell has not to date been charged with a crime. The Manhattan District Attorney’s Office confirmed to CNN and other national media on Saturday that it had opened an investigation into an allegation against Swalwell.

Additionally, one of Drew’s attorneys, Lisa Bloom, said Tuesday she would be filing a complaint with the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Office with evidence including text messages between them and journal entries where Drews recounted



JUDE STRZEMP

Rep. Eric Swalwell was among the attendees of Dublin Teachers Association rally March 9.

the alleged 2018 incident.

Alameda County District Attorney Ursula Jones Dickson, whose department oversees prosecutions in Swalwell’s home district, said she was “deeply troubled” by the news reports.

“All allegations must be fully investigated by the appropriate authorities, with independence and transparency. Now is a time to hear from anyone impacted. The voices of victims and survivors should always be heard, and I’m listening,” Jones Dickson said Saturday. “I am closely monitoring this situation, and should there be a legal process from a case originating in Alameda County, I will act with full transparency to determine the most appropriate path forward.”

Jones Dickson also rescinded her prior endorsement of Swalwell’s bid for governor and cast aside

his endorsement of her election campaign — one of countless local, state and federal officials to quickly distance themselves from the suddenly embattled congressman.

The chorus of criticism included Swalwell’s own senior staff for both his congressional and campaign teams who released a joint statement Saturday, as well as a group of 55 former staff members who co-signed their own scathing statement with “heavy hearts and unwavering resolve” Sunday.

“To our colleague: you are not alone. We see you. We stand with you. We are deeply sorry that we did not know what you were enduring, and we carry the weight of that with us,” the former staffers wrote Sunday. “Your bravery in speaking out has given voice to what many victims have feared to say, and we are grateful for your courage. We are appalled by his actions and stand firmly with you and every victim who has come forward.”

The written statement was signed by a who’s who of past Swalwell workers, including former Dublin mayor, district office director and deputy chief of staff Tim Sbranti; longtime campaign consultant Lisa Tucker, who left Swalwell’s campaign last year; 2022 Pleasanton City Council candidate Dean Wallace, a former legislative and campaign staffer early in Swalwell’s tenure; and Josh Richman, the former Bay

Area political insider who left journalism to join the congressman’s office from 2016 to 2022.

They implored that they believed their former colleague, saying her allegations were “serious, credible, and demand accountability” and calling on their one-time boss to voluntarily leave Congress and the governor’s race.

The former staffer told the Chronicle and CNN that in 2024, several years after she left his team, they reconnected at an event and Swalwell then raped her in his New York City hotel room, forcing sex with her when she was too intoxicated to consent.

She alleged to the news outlets another incident in 2019, when she was his staffer, in which Swalwell had nonconsensual sex with her while intoxicated in his congressional district. The woman, whom no news outlet has named publicly, also claimed Swalwell asked her to perform oral sex in a parking lot while on the job and engaged in sexually explicit conversations on the social media app Snapchat.

CNN reported the three other women described varying degrees of sexual misbehavior, including sending unsolicited nude photos through Snapchat — an app whose messages are automatically deleted. ■

Editor’s note: Information from CalMatters and Bay City News Service reporting was used in this story.

LOPEZ

Continued from Page 6

notice of intent/decision to reinstate prior order from 1996. The reinstatement was finalized during November 2018.

One month later, Lopez appealed the BIA decision with the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. The court determined that it lacked jurisdiction because the BIA’s decision was not a removal order.

Further, the Supreme Court denied a request in May 2023 by Lopez for review of the Ninth Circuit judgment.

Two years later during May 2025, Lopez filed an instant action against Bondi and then-DHS secretary Kristi Noem. Lopez alleged that the BIA decision to terminate his removal proceedings in 2014 violated the Administrative Procedures Act and his right to due process under the Fifth Amendment.

According to Ahmad, Lopez did not receive judicial review of the BIA’s decision, as he was entitled to.

The following month, Lopez filed a motion for temporary restraining order to stay his deportation to Mexico, pending a resolution to the case on merit.

Thompson granted the stay June

7, 2025. But three days later, the court was informed that Lopez had already been deported to Mexico, according to the order.

“My life has changed completely,” Rosa Lopez said of time without her husband.

His absence is visible at family dinners, outings and their son’s senior year of high school, she explained to Livermore Vine on Monday.

“We’re still praying. Hopefully, there’s still that opportunity for him to come home,” Rosa Lopez said.

On April 3, the main issue at hand was whether Lopez’s civil action against the U.S. was filed within six years of alleged injury.

As recounted in the order, Lopez argued that the cause of civil action occurred July 19, 2022 when the Ninth Circuit dismissed his petition for review.

Lopez argued that the operative complaint was timely because he appealed the BIA decision in the Ninth Circuit Dec. 6, 2018. The Ninth Circuit should have transferred the action to a district court, he is stated as arguing.

However, Noem argued that the injury took place Oct. 23, 2014 when the BIA terminated Lopez’s proceedings — an argument

Thompson agreed with.

According to the order, Lopez’s claim for judicial review under the Administrative Procedures Act is time-barred because he filed his complaint with the claim May 8, 2025.

Thompson found that there were no circumstances for Lopez to be exempt from the statute of limitations.

“Current law persuaded (Lopez) to channel his claims through a bureaucratic labyrinth which deprives so many Americans-to-be of a prompt remedy when agencies inevitably make mistakes,” Thompson wrote. “Such obstacles impose heavy burdens on all non-citizens seeking permanent status in this country.”

“Yet, misplaced foresight, delays, and unforeseen circumstances cost an entire family financial stability and will result in generational trauma,” she added.

“The Ninth Circuit will resolve this,” Ahmad said. “They will review the Administrative Procedures Act and see that there were exceptional circumstances that should have tolled the six year deadline.”

“We are not quitters. We’re going to continue to fight this,” Ahmad told Livermore Vine. ■

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Jurisdictions grapple with how to regulate e-bikes while also still encouraging safe use

BY JUDE STRZEMP

Ecommute. Exercise. Leisure. Electric bicycles have gained popularity in recent years for a variety of uses, including in the Tri-Valley where residents can be seen riding across the region.

But along with the rise in e-bikes — as well as their street-illegal counterparts — have come safety concerns and injuries.

Local and state officials have responded with a variety of hyper-local ordinances and laws aimed at improving the safety of riders and the larger community.

In a recent display of regional collaboration, representatives from more than 20 East Bay jurisdictions, school districts and law enforcement agencies gathered last September for a roundtable discussion to talk through their issues and ideas surrounding electric-power bikes.

Led by the town of Danville, the e-bike safety working group drew Tri-Valley representatives including those from Livermore, Pleasanton, San Ramon and East Bay Regional Park District.

“E-bikes are not in themselves inherently a problem,” town spokesperson Jenn Starnes said. “The lack of regulation, the lack of required training for kids getting on these bikes that can go 20 miles per hour - That’s the problem.”

“We’re trying to make a rational decision that doesn’t paint too broad of a brush,” Starnes said. “But unfortunately, until we get some, state-level guidance and legislation on this, we do have to look at things like limiting where e-bikes can ride.”

Under the California Vehicle Code, there are three categories of e-bikes — all have fully operable pedals.

Class 1 e-bikes have a motor that assists up to 20 mph, pedaling required. Class 2 e-bike’s assist also operates at speeds up to 20 mph, but

its motor can assist without pedaling.

The motor assist on Class 3 e-bikes operates until 28 mph is reached, pedaling required. Operators of Class 3 e-bikes must be 16 years or above and all riders must wear a helmet.

Anyone under 18 years of age must wear a helmet while riding a bike, whether it is motorized or not.

“E-bikes really create connections for folks. It really empowers people to go further, longer, haul cargo, attack the hills,” said Justin Hu-Nguyen, co-executive director of mobility justice in advocacy group Bike East Bay.

For Sharon Piekarski, member of the Bicycle, Pedestrian and Trails Committee in Pleasanton, purchasing an e-bike has helped her keep pace with a local cycling group dubbed the Pleasanton Pedalers.

“Bicycling is what I enjoy,” she said, noting destinations such as the grocery store and gym. “It’s just fun, especially with an e-bike, because you’re not working as hard.”

E-bikes have also become part of the Tri-Valley’s tourism industry.

Among the local attractions are e-bike tours and tastings by Concannon Vineyard and Pedego Electric Bikes. The trips consist of riding a rental e-bike through the estate vineyard and paved trails in the Livermore Valley.

“Outdoor activities are essential for destinations to set themselves apart from everyone else, and it is such a unique and fun way to explore the area,” Visit Tri-Valley community relations manager Justin Bower said via email

interview.

Also operating as a store,

Pedego Electric Bikes Livermore co-owner Jim Buck said customers commonly use their e-bikes as a motor vehicle

replacement or for recreation.

“Most traditional bikes are hanging on a hook in the garage collecting dust and spider webs,” he told the Pleasanton Weekly in an email interview. “E-bikes tend to be used more often and without concerns about the path’s unknown challenges.”

But not every electric or motorized bicycle is an e-bike, as some vehicle lookalikes do not fit under any class laid out in the California Vehicle Code.

Dubbed “out-of-class” devices, e-motos and off-highway electric motorcycles, the vehicles do not abide by any category of e-bike based on their wattage or speed.

E-motos are illegal to ride on public streets or sidewalks statewide and may only be ridden on designated off-road areas or private property with owner permission.

E-scooters and otherwise motorized scooters are prohibited on sidewalks by the state’s vehicle code, except when necessary to enter or leave a property.

Complicating the landscape of e-bikes and e-motos is the state’s “ambiguous” definition of an e-bike’s 750-watt limit, according to a study by the Mineta Transportation Institute published last December dubbed “Exploring Electric Bicycle Safety Performance Data and Policy Options for California.”

The power of a motor can be defined by its continuous power, the maximum level of power that the motor can continually maintain, or its peak power, meaning the motor’s highest possible output.

Further, a wattage can refer to electrical

power or mechanical power, meaning the amount of power after loss by heat and friction, the report explains.

Additionally, users can modify the wattage of their e-bikes using methods that range from “quite simple” to “very difficult,” the report states.

“Controversially, some retailers market higher-power devices as meeting the standards for Class 2 electric bicycles” as the standards can be met with optional settings, according to the report.

Concerns about safety, vehicle classification

Sutter Health Eden Medical Center in Castro Valley, a regional center for emergencies, has seen a “concerning rise in serious injuries” connected to e-bikes, said Elyssa J. Feinberg, the center’s trauma and acute care medical director.

“We have treated 44% more patients over the past year for injuries related to e-bike accidents,” Feinberg told the Pleasanton Weekly via email interview. “These are not simply minor falls or scrapes — many of these patients present with significant trauma.”

Observed injuries include intracranial hemorrhages, skull and facial fractures, rib fractures, collapsed lungs, and major orthopedic injuries such as fractures to the clavicle, wrist, hip, and femur, according to Feinberg.

“These injuries are occurring across all age groups, from adolescents to older adults, but the increasing number of younger patients involved is particularly concerning,” she said.

However, according to the study by the Mineta Transportation Institute, the number of incidents related to conventional bikes outnumbered those related to e-bikes in most regions of the United States.

Regarding its own research, “Some fraction of the reported ‘electric bicycle’ incidents have been incorrectly labeled as such, and this share may represent a very large fraction of all



Given the rise in electric bicycle usage in recent years as well as injuries and accidents accompanying the e-bikes and e-motos, local jurisdictions are on a mission to educate the public about safe practices while also setting and enforcing rules of ridership. (Left and right photos by Sophia Sucato; center photo courtesy EBRPD)

reported electric bicycle incidents,” the institute acknowledged.

Livermore City Councilmember Steven Dunbar, a longtime cyclist, offered further granularity on the subject of safety.

“There’s statistical safety about how many crashes there are and then there’s comfort,” he said. “Sometimes where you think it’s very uncomfortable, it might actually be statistically not pretty safe.”

Locally, e-bikes and e-motos have generated headlines across the Bay Area with a fatal accident last month in San Jose and Walnut Creek parents charged with misdemeanor child abuse following their son’s e-moto crash.

In Livermore, police have seen e-bike takeovers, high-speed sidewalk riding and fleeing from police, according to Lt. Marc Plute.

“Teens think it’s cool, but one stunt, one bad choice, can lead to injuries, arrests or worse,” Plute said in an eight-part educational video series about electric vehicles.

Dublin Police Services Capt. Miguel Campos noted several “reoccurring concerns” in Dublin, including inconsistent use of helmets and other safety gear, traffic law violations, conflicts with pedestrians on sidewalks, high speed use where riders may not have the experience to do so safely, a lack of parental awareness as well as modified or illegally operated vehicles.

“Many micro-mobility devices are altered to exceed legal speed limits or fall into different classifications, creating enforcement and safety challenges,” Campos explained.

What’s being done?

As recently as Jan. 1, a new state law came into effect to define and regulate e-motos.

Under Assembly Bill 586, e-motos are subject to the same requirements as off-highway motor vehicles in California — operators must wear a helmet and each vehicle that is not registered under the vehicle code must display an identification plate or DMV-issued device.

AB 875 permits a police officer to impound for at least 48 hours an out-of-class electric vehicle that is capable exclusively of providing power above 20 mph when the operator is not licensed to operate the vehicle. The impound rule also applies to Class 3 e-bikes being operated by a person under 16 years old.

AB 875 has “provided clarity” on tow authority, San Ramon Police Cpl. Maksim Zubko told the Weekly.

In addition to statewide rules surrounding e-bikes, hyper-local efforts have been made to improve safety for e-bike riders and the larger community.

In the city of Dublin, sidewalk riding of e-bikes and other micro-mobility is prohibited unless the path is designated for shared use, as of Nov. 20, 2025. An exception also applied for riders entering or exiting a property.

Sidewalk riding of e-bikes is also banned in Livermore, according to Plute.

Under Danville’s municipal code, it is prohibited to ride e-bikes on sidewalks in any business district, according to the town website.

Meanwhile, there are no explicit bans on riding e-bikes on sidewalks in Pleasanton within the city’s municipal code.

Additionally, the city of San Ramon does not currently have municipal codes on e-bike use, Zubko told the Weekly.

Separate rules apply on trails within EBRPD.

Class 1 e-bikes are permitted on all trails where regular bikes are allowed, accounting for most trails in the park district. Class 2 e-bikes are permitted on all paved regional trails, such as the Iron Horse Regional Trail and Shadow Cliffs to Del Valle Regional Trail, according to the district website. However, Class 3 e-bikes and e-scooters are not permitted in EBRPD or its trails.

E-bikes, like non-motorized bicycles, must obey the 15 mph speed limit, slowing to 5 mph when passing other trail users.

While it’s illegal to ride an e-scooter or class 3 e-bike in EBRPD, it’s “very hard” to put an officer on the spot in those situations, EBRPD Police Capt. Terrence Joseph Cotcher told the Weekly.

“We focus a lot of our effort on the speed and the misuse of the trails,” he added, noting that traveling over 15 miles per hour increases the likelihood of a “negative outcome” such as a solo crash or collision.

In addition to enforcement of the rules, police departments in Tri-Valley cities have undertaken the job of educating the public about e-bikes safety and rules.

Among the efforts, Tri-Valley law enforcement

agencies have created community engagement events and online video series about e-bike safety, rider requirements and the consequences of dangerous riding.

“Many riders, and parents, are simply unaware of the laws, safety expectations, and real risks associated with these devices,” Campos told the Weekly.

Offering video content allows for greater reach and accessibility to safety information, Campos explained.

“Our goal is to equip the community with the knowledge they need to make safe decisions before a tragedy occurs,” he added.

According to Feinberg, there is a strong correlation between lack of helmet use and injury severity.

At Eden Medical Center, less than half of patients treated in 2025 from e-bike accidents were wearing helmets, she added.

“These devices require the same level of respect, caution, and safety measures as other motorized forms of transportation,” Feinberg said. “Increased awareness, strict adherence to helmet use, and appropriate supervision — especially for adolescents — are essential steps in reducing these injuries and protecting our community.”

Many jurisdictions in the Tri-Valley have also launched projects to create individual transportation safety action plans to improve roadway safety.

“The issue of reckless e-bike riding had gotten bigger, faster than we were able to respond to it and so we wanted to get all the heads in the room and have everybody chat about this issue,” Danville’s Starnes said of the working group.

In terms of the group, the goal is not to overreact. E-bikes are a great way for people to get around and can be safe for a lot of people, Starnes said.

Regionally, Assemblymember Rebecca Bauer-Kahan (D-Orinda) is among those who also have their eye on e-bike safety.

Bauer-Kahan announced in February her introduction of the E-bike Accountability Act.

If enacted, the legislation would require registration of Class 2 and Class 3 electric bicycles and display of a license plate. Riders would also be required to possess proof of their ownership of the bike with documentation matching the serial number of the bicycle.

“There are a lot of e-bike riders who are

riding bikes legally, who are obeying traffic stops ... sharing the road kindly,” Bauer-Kahan told the Weekly. “And then there are people we know who are not — who are speeding, who are doing wheelies.”

Police are currently faced with a “no-win situation” to either pursue a rider — an unsafe practice — or let the rider go, according to Bauer-Kahan.

“There really just needed to be some accountability, that it couldn’t be anonymous to be riding these vehicles that can travel at such high rates of speed, that are sharing the road with pedestrians,” Bauer-Kahan said.

Display of a license plate and vehicle registration would enable police officers to more easily identify riders exhibiting unsafe behavior or violating traffic laws, according to a statement by the office of Bauer-Kahan.

“I think putting these license plates on the bikes will be a deterrent for unsafe and illegal behavior, and it may just stop altogether,” she added.

The expected cost of registration would be “minimal,” she said, citing a \$4 price to currently register off-highway bikes.

However, Bike East Bay has publicly opposed the act for allegedly countering traffic safety, sustainability and equity goals, as stated on its website.

The real danger facing bike riders is “outdated street design and heavy vehicular traffic,” organization officials wrote on its website.

According to Hu-Nguyen, the act also improperly targets Class 2 and Class 3 e-bikes when the real issue is e-motos.

Bike East Bay member Piekarski expressed similar sentiments, arguing that the act is misdirected.

During an interview with Bauer-Kahan, she agreed that bicycle infrastructure needs addressing — as she supported on Mount Diablo — while also maintaining that the regulations are necessary.

“I don’t disagree that we need safer infrastructure to support our active transportation riders,” she replied. “We also need accountability for riders that are not operating these bikes safely.”

Having ridden around the Tri-Valley, Piekarski, 78, said she’d like to see infrastructure improvements for cycling.

“We need to do a lot more to make all ages and abilities feel comfortable,” Piekarski added. “Even though I feel safe, I know there’s a whole lot of people that don’t and don’t ride because of that.”

In the Tri-Valley, there is a lack of protective infrastructure for bike riding, Hu-Nguyen said.

Livermore, however, was recognized as a bicycle-friendly community by the League of American Bicyclists.

In recent years, the city’s bike-ability has improved, Dunbar noted.

The work continues in Livermore to address bike-ability, such as updating design guidelines for future corridor trails to, by default, have wider paths with bicycle and pedestrian-separated striping or separate paths where possible, he added.

As for rules surrounding e-bike usage, it’s a balance between having regulations in place and not being punitive, Dunbar said.

“The end goal is to make sure everyone’s safe regardless of how they’re getting around,” Dunbar said. ■

Tennessee Williams classic up close and personal

'The Glass Menagerie' at Bankhead's Stage Door Lounge, San Ramon's Front Row Theater

BY JEREMY WALSH

An intimate presentation of American playwright Tennessee Williams' classic tale of family dynamics, "The Glass Menagerie", is coming to the Tri-Valley next month.

The SPARC Theater company is first producing the emotional play in the Stage Door Lounge at the Bankhead Theater in Livermore from May 1-3, followed by a weekend run at the Front Row Theater in San Ramon from May 9-10.

"In a world where so much of our connection happens through devices, there's something profoundly powerful about sharing space with a story like this," Lisa Tromovitch, SPARC's executive and artistic director, said in a press release. "This production invites audiences not just to watch, but to feel the play in a direct and immediate way."

The production is directed by Gary Armagnac, and stars Emilie Talbot as the matriarch Amanda Wingfield, Eliot Hall as Tom Wingfield, Isadora Zucker as Laura Wingfield and James Crutcher as Jim, the gentleman caller.

"Set in 1930s St. Louis, 'The Glass Menagerie' follows Tom Wingfield as he reflects on his family's fragile world — his overbearing mother, Amanda; his painfully shy sister, Laura; and the quiet heartbreak that defines their lives. Through memory and longing, the play explores timeless themes of hope, responsibility and escape," SPARC reps recount.

The Stage Door setup at the Bankhead aims to create a uniquely personal atmosphere for the audience.

"Cafe tables with seating for two make up the front row. Floor and



GREGG LE BLANC / CUMULUS LIGHT PHOTOGRAPHY

Isadora Zucker as Laura Wingfield in SPARC Theater's May 2026 production of Tennessee Williams' "The Glass Menagerie."

riser seating wrap around the family's living room on three sides. A small bar is available adjacent to the seating area to complete the communal atmosphere," said Ruth Egherman, director of marketing at the Bankhead.

Show times in Livermore are 7:30 p.m. May 1-3, along with 2 p.m. matinees May 2-3. "The Glass Menagerie" will then move to San Ramon for a 7:30 p.m. performance

May 9 and a 2 p.m. matinee May 10.

The production arrives in the middle of SPARC's 20th anniversary season, following the Science@ Play program in March that included a script generated by artificial intelligence and before its Shakespeare in the Vineyard presentation of "Hamlet" in July.

The nonprofit theater company is also gearing up for its annual Shakespeare's Birthday Bash

fundraiser next Thursday (April 23) from 6-8:30 p.m. at 3 Steves Winery in Livermore.

The event is set to feature live music from East Bay Jazz, an improv demonstration led by Mark Duncanson, a "5-Minute Hamlet" presentation by Doyle Ott, the return of "Open Mic Sonnets" for community members, a silent auction, wine pull, dessert auction, "Raise the Paddle" donation effort

and food purchase.

"Reaching 20 years is a meaningful milestone for SPARC," Tromovitch said. "But it's also a moment to look forward. If live, professional theater is going to thrive in communities like ours, it requires continued investment and engagement."

To learn more about "The Glass Menagerie" or Shakespeare's Birthday Bash, go to sparctheater.org. ■

Pianist Nakamatsu performing with Pacific Chamber Orchestra

Concert of MacDowell and Tchaikovsky music comes weekend before cocktail competition fundraiser

BY JEREMY WALSH

Renowned concert pianist Jon Nakamatsu is set to play alongside the Pacific Chamber Orchestra for the first time next weekend.

The engagement, which includes shows in Lafayette and Livermore, will center on the music of American composer Edward MacDowell and Russian composer Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky.

"MacDowell's music is optimistic, expansive and heartfelt and distinctly American," said Nakamatsu,

a former gold medalist in the Van Cliburn International Piano Competition who has performed solo recitals at the Bankhead Theater and throughout the Bay Area. "I'm excited to bring his buoyant 'Second Piano Concerto' to my home audiences with PCO."

The concert program will culminate with the heroic arc encapsulated by Tchaikovsky's "Fifth Symphony" — "a captivating symphony of sweeping melody and exhilarating power", according to PCO reps.

"MacDowell and Tchaikovsky offer two distinctly life affirming works. One is spirited and lyrical, the other soulful and blazing. Both are exhilarating," PCO music director Lawrence Kohl said in a press release.

"Together, the concerto and symphony create an afternoon of Romantic sweep, radiant melody and emotional affirmation," PCO reps added.

The shows are set for next Saturday (April 25) at 3 p.m. in Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church in Lafayette and next

Sunday (April 26) at 3 p.m. in the Bankhead in downtown Livermore.

One weekend later, PCO is hosting its third annual Tri-Valley Craft Cocktail Competition in the Bankhead Plaza. Running from 4:30-6:30 p.m. May 2, the event with original drinks by local mixologists and small-bite food pairings from local restaurants is one of PCO main fundraisers of the year.

For concert and competition tickets, go to PacificChamberOrchestra.org. ■



NILES SINGER

Jon Nakamatsu will be in concert with Pacific Chamber Orchestra at the Bankhead Theater on April 26.

Hoobastank, Elle King, Collective Soul on fair concert bill

Banda Maguey, The Maine also join schedule; only two acts left to announce for summer series

By JEREMY WALSH

Putting together the x's and o's of the right game plan for the Big O Tires Concert Series is an opportunity for Alameda County Fair officials to shine each year, as they know the nightly concerts are the reason many people come to Pleasanton's summer showcase.

Five more acts were announced for the bill in recent weeks, leaving only two more performers left to reveal for the 2026 Alameda County Fair — which opens the weekend of June 19-21 and continues on Wednesdays through Sundays through July 12.

Hoobastank, the California-based rock band best known for its 2003 hit “The Reason”, will play on the first Wednesday night of the fair, June 24.

The rock theme will continue the next evening, with American band Collective Soul (of “Shine”, “December” and “The World I Know” fame) bringing their resonant live act to the stage in Pleasanton on June 25.

Headlining Fiesta at the Fair on June 28 will be Banda Maguey, a regional band from



COURTESY ALAMEDA COUNTY FAIR

Collective Soul is set for June 25 for the 2026 Big O Tires Concert Series.

Jalisco, Mexico that became a household name in their home country and the U.S. during the technobanda rise of the 1990s.

Alternative rockers The Maine (“Into Your Arms” and “Everything I Ask For”) will play the July 3 concert. Fair officials noted the group built its reputation on “blending alternative rock with pop-rock influences” and “energetic live shows, anthemic sound and

emotionally driven lyrics”.

Four-time Grammy nominee Elle King, who jumped onto the scene with her 2015 hit “Ex’s & Oh’s” from her debut album, will perform her mix of country, rock and pop music July 9.

That leaves Friday, June 26 and Sunday, July 5 as the only dates without concert acts confirmed yet.



ROBBY KLEIN / COURTESY ALAMEDA COUNTY FAIR

Elle King is set to play the Alameda County Fair on July 9.

Fair officials have been slow-releasing the performer list since last fall. Bill highlights include The Gene Simmons Band (opening night, June 19), Lonestar (June 21), A Tribute to Demon Hunters (June 27), The Beach Boys (July 1), Flo Rida (July 8), Boyz II Men (July 10) and Cheat Codes (closing night, July 12).

For concert tickets and more information, visit alamedacountyfair.com. ■

Scratch the itch for stitch at annual Quilt Show

Member displays, vendor booths and preview of American 250th anniversary blocks

By JEREMY WALSH

The beauty and bond of the blocks are the common thread for the Amador Valley Quilters and their 19th biennial Quilt Show next weekend.

Billed as “a colorful celebration of creativity and craftsmanship”, the two-day “Quilted Treasures — Quilting with Friends” show will feature hundreds of local quilts on display, tables with quilting supply vendors, a fundraising raffle for the “A Garden of Diamonds” quilt and a sneak peek at blocks headed from the Tri-Valley to Washington, D.C., for the nation’s semiquincentennial.

“This show is a rare chance to see how a simple, analog craft can tell such a massive story,” AVQ spokesperson Colette L’Heureux

told the Pleasanton Weekly. “For our quilting community, it’s a week-end of pure creative fuel — they can find fresh inspiration in the gallery of over 300 quilts and then head straight to the vendors to grab specialty fabrics or artisan kits for their next project.”

“But for the public, it’s even more significant this year. Beyond seeing incredible local art, they’ll get a first look at the red, white and blue blocks our members are stitching to represent the Tri-Valley on the National Mall for the country’s 250th birthday,” L’Heureux said of the nationwide project, similar to the AIDS Memorial Quilt effort, tracking for July 4.

“It’s a beautiful reminder that in our high-tech world, there is

still nothing quite as powerful as something handmade with heart,” L’Heureux added.

An opportunity for AVQ members to showcase their recent works and highlight the group’s impact on their lives, the event will also be a chance for quilters of all skill levels to stock up on quilting essentials, artisan accessories, and specialty items and services, organizers said.

The Quilt Show is set for 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. next Saturday (April 25) and 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. next Sunday (April 26) in the gymnasium of Trinity Church Livermore, 557 Olivina Ave. Admission is \$10, with children 12 years old and younger free.

To help raise money for the guild and its activities, the quilt “A Garden of Diamonds” — hand-crafted by



COURTESY AVQ

A look back at the 2024 Quilt Show by the Amador Valley Quilters.

AVQ members, with a pattern by Sue Carter and Kaffe Fassett fabrics — will be raffled off. The drawing is scheduled for 2 p.m. next Sunday.

AVQ’s last Quilt Show, in 2024, had more than 800 people turn out, organizers said. For more information on the 2026 event, go to amadorvalleyquilters.org. ■

Guitar music of Latin America, Spain playing at DVFA show

Texas Guitar Quartet coming to Bankhead

By JEREMY WALSH

The Grammy Award-nominated Texas Guitar Quartet is set to be in concert next weekend at the Bankhead Theater in Livermore for the final show of Del Valle Fine Arts’ 2025-26 season.

The group of Isaac Bustos, Joseph Palmer, Jay Kacherski and Alejandro Montiel have performed worldwide and are known for their “dazzling virtuosity and joyful music making”, DVFA officials said. Their Grammy nod came in 2022 for Best Choral Performance for their work on the

ensemble for “The Singing Guitar”.

The Texas Guitar Quartet concert in Livermore will showcase the music of Spain and Latin America, including pieces such as Gioachino Rossini’s “The Barber of Seville (Overture)”, “Córdoba” by Isaac Albéniz, “Alborada del Gracioso” by Maurice Ravel, “Intermezzo” by Manuel Maria Ponce and a suite of selections from Georges Bizet’s “Carmen”.

The show is set for 3 p.m. next Saturday (April 25) in the Bankhead in downtown Livermore. Tickets are available at delvallefinearts.org or

livermorearts.org. The guitarists will mingle with the audience at a complimentary sparkling wine reception after the concert, according to DVFA.

Each concert-goer will receive a free “sunflower grow bag” with sunflower seeds, composted soil, magic grow drops and a “Verdant Reverie” CD to enhance plant growth, courtesy of DVFA, Fertile Groundworks and the Livermore-Amador Valley Garden Club. DVFA is also in the midst of a donation-matching campaign through April 30 via the Community Health and Education Foundation. ■



COURTESY DVFA

Texas Guitar Quartet will be in concert in Livermore on April 25.

Community Pulse

POLICE BULLETIN

Man with San Ramon ties among those charged in deadly fireworks explosion

Seven people — including an optician with San Ramon Valley ties and a Northern California sheriff's lieutenant — have been arrested in connection with an explosion at an illegal fireworks facility in rural Yolo County that killed seven last July.

The massive series of explosions at the farm near Esparto leveled buildings and storage structures and ignited a 78-acre fire in an agricultural area about 40 miles northwest of Sacramento.

Last Friday, Yolo County District Attorney's Office officials

announced murder charges for five people, along with conspiracy charges for those five plus two others allegedly involved in an illegal fireworks storage and wholesale operations known as Devastating Pyrotechnics, Devastating Pyro Displays and BlackStar Fireworks.

The businesses used property on a farm owned by Yolo County Sheriff's Office Lt. Samuel Machado and his wife Tammy, who also worked for the sheriff's office.

Facing seven counts of murder are Samuel Machado, Kenneth Kin Chee, Gary Chan Jr., Jack Lee and Douglas Michael Tollefsen.

The San Francisco Chronicle first reported last year that Chee, 48, was an optician at Costco who lived in San Ramon and previously resided in San Francisco. He was arrested while at Disney World Resort in Florida last week, according to KCRA.

They are also facing charges of conspiracy to possess explosive devices, possession of explosives and transportation of explosives, among other things, along with Craig Allen Cutright and Ronald John Botelho III, according to an indictment filed on April 3 in Yolo County Superior Court.

In a separate filing, Tammy Machado is facing charges of mortgage fraud, filing false tax returns, animal cruelty and child endangerment.

Samuel Machado is also facing charges of child endangerment, animal cruelty, tax fraud and illegal possession of assault weapons.

Last month, a scathing civil grand jury report found that the illegal fireworks business had been operating for years at the Machado property with the full knowledge of nearly a dozen county employees and political leaders, who fostered an atmosphere of permissiveness with regards to how the county oversees farmers and their land.

"Although numerous local officials, including Sheriff's deputies, fire officials, officials in the County building, code enforcement, planning and County Counsel's office, all knew about the fireworks businesses, none of them took any action," according to the report.

The report goes on to say it's possible that the county looked the other way, in part, because it was reluctant "to antagonize some



Kenneth Kin Chee

sheriff's officials by initiating an enforcement action on property owned by sheriff's department employees'.

It also found that while the Yolo County Board of Supervisors paid lip service to the need for reforms, there is currently no evidence that it has initiated any sort of thorough or systematic review of county processes or procedures.

The victims who died in the explosion were identified as Neil Justin Li, 41, of San Francisco; Christopher Goltiao Bocog, 45, of San Francisco; Jesus Manaces Ramos, 18, of San Pablo; Jhony Ernesto Ramos, 22, of San Pablo; Angel Mathew Voller, 18, of Stockton; Carlos Javier Rodriguez-Mora, 43, of San Andreas; and Joel Jeremias Melendez, 28, of Sacramento.

— Story by Kiley Russell of Bay City News Service. Pleasanton Weekly editorial director Jeremy Walsh added local details.

Cold case anniversary

The Alameda County Sheriff's Office is asking for the public's help in solving the 2005 killing of a man in unincorporated Hayward.

Kente Jones was 24 when he was shot on April 4, 2005 outside Quart House Liquors at 22596 Center St., the sheriff's office said.

Witnesses saw two Black males assaulting Jones in the liquor store parking lot near his vehicle. One fired multiple shots at Jones before fleeing.

Jones was taken by ambulance to Eden Hospital but didn't survive, deputies said.

Anyone with information is asked to contact the Alameda County Sheriff's Office Cold Case Homicide Unit at 510-667-3661. Witnesses may also provide anonymous tips at 510-667-3622.

— Bay City News Service



Kente Jones

Convict charged again

A San Ramon man is set to return to federal court this summer on child sex abuse charges alleged in a federal indictment earlier in the year and announced by the Department of Justice Monday.

Authorities allege that 28-year-old Ishaq Ikhara used internet gaming and chat platforms to "persuade, entice, and coerce" a total of nine children into engaging in sexual activity while he was on supervised release for an earlier conviction for possession of child pornography.

The nine alleged victims, all of whom were under 18 at the time of

the incidents according to the DOJ, were born from 2007 to 2014 with the alleged crimes believed to have been committed between 2022 and 2024, according to the indictment filed Feb. 11.

Ikhara was sentenced to time served plus 10 years of supervised release after being convicted for possession of child pornography in a New York federal court in 2023.

Last year, his probation officer alleged in a petition for summons of person under supervision that was transferred to the California Northern District Court that there were grounds to believe he was violating the terms of his probation and supervision, which included prohibitions against using any internet-connected device without court supervision.

Those grounds include a 2024 FBI report in which a father reported that his son was being solicited for sex in an online game by someone with various user names that included "Shaq", with correspondences also found via Snapchat, Discord, and text messages.

According to his probation officer and the courts, Ikhara also failed to register as a sex offender with the state registry as required as part of his supervised release, continued to use unauthorized devices for a variety of other purposes, and was resistant to in-person mental health treatment.

Federal authorities traced the username back to Ikhara via data shared by Discord and in subpoenas to Snap Inc. and Comcast, later conducting a forensic analysis of the victim's phone and an interview with the child that corroborated findings last March.

His supervised release was suspended in a detention order issued May 14, 2025 that remanded him to the custody of the U.S. Marshals Service to facilitate transportation to an Illinois detention center after determining that "no facility locally or in California" would accept him due to significant medical needs.

Ikhara has been in custody since June 30, 2025, according to the DOJ announcement Monday. The FBI's San Francisco Division is currently working to identify any additional victims.

"The FBI believes that Ikhara, who generally went by 'Shaq' and possibly sometimes identified as a minor male or female, continued to primarily target minor boys through online video games and various online communication platforms from about April 2021 through about March 2025," authorities wrote this week.

Anyone with additional information is asked to contact the FBI. The case is set for a status conference on July 30 at 9 a.m. ■

— Jeanita Lyman



Lorie Hawk

September 12, 1953 – March 30, 2026

Lorie Rohloff Hawk passed away March 30, 2026 after a brief illness. She touched many people with her kindness and generosity.

Lorie was born in Minnesota. The family moved to Arizona and she graduated from Prescott High School. She attended Brooks College of Fashion Design and later earned a bachelor's degree from University of Phoenix. Her career in retail necessitated a move to southern California. She eventually made her way up to Dublin where she met and married Curt Hawk. They settled in Pleasanton.

Lorie loved adventure, physical activity, and traveling. She became certified in scuba diving and she and Curt traveled to many exotic diving destinations. She was an avid crafter and delighted in gifting friends and family, not only with quilts, but with many of the other items she made on her prized serger sewing machine.

Beyond her travels and hobbies, Lorie's true calling was helping others, especially seniors. She found her professional home with Senior Support Program of the Tri-Valley where she worked for 25 years. Although retired, Lorie never stopped helping seniors. She was pleased to be recruited to the board of the Wiesner Memorial Senior Fund.

Lorie was preceded in death by her parents Ethel and Donald Rohloff. She is survived by spouse Curt Hawk, sister Ila Corona, her husband Michael, nephews Mason and Ryan, their spouses Brenda and Shannon, great nephew Mason, great nieces Madison and Nola, brother Dean and wife Vicki. She is also survived by her step children, Kevin Hawk, wife Nancy, Chrissy Hawk, and Debbi Logan, and many, many friends.

The family requests in lieu of flowers donations be made to the Wiesner Memorial Senior Fund wiesnerfund.org. 925-989-1765

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GUEST OPINION

By KATHRYN GRACE

We must support ‘Make Polluters Pay’ superfund

Between 1980 and 2024, California faced 46 extreme weather events. It's becoming routine — atmospheric rivers bringing winter floods, nearly year-round fire seasons.



With the dry, grassy hills surrounding our densely populated San Ramon and Danville neighborhoods, we are one lightning storm away from a disaster like the 2025 Los Angeles fires.

We've had some close calls here at home. The 2020 fires brought smoke and evacuations to the Tri-Valley. The 2023 flood in San Ramon closed streets, damaged trails, and displaced 13 households. And we felt it personally — watching cooling bills climb during heat waves, buying air filters to protect our families, paying more for insurance.

Just how much more? Realtor Robert Song says the average Danville home insurance premium in high-risk zones rose from \$1,500 in 2015 to over \$12,500 in 2025, and owners are spending tens of thousands more hardening their homes.

Those costs don't stop at our front doors. CalMatters reports that seven extreme heat events between 2013 and 2022 killed nearly 460

Californians and caused 5,000 hospitalizations. The economic damage: \$7.7 billion in lost wages, agricultural disruptions, power outages and infrastructure damage.

Every flood repair, every emergency response, every infrastructure fix comes out of city budgets — money that could go elsewhere. There's a commonsense fix, and it's gaining ground.

The “Make Polluters Pay” superfund would require fossil fuel companies to pay for the damage they've caused, infusing hard dollars into communities like ours. The superfund would make grant funding available to cities like Danville and San Ramon — money that could help repair damage, fix aging infrastructure, carry out climate

action plans, and support emergency services.

Imagine what that could mean for our cities — wildfire resilience programs, solar panels and energy storage, microgrid installation, cooling systems and support for firefighters on the front lines.

The “Polluters Pay Climate Superfund Act” is an opportunity to build something better. It could mean real jobs: local work in construction, clean energy installation, and climate resilience projects, with strong labor standards built in.

The Climate Center, a leading California clean energy policy nonprofit, estimates it could generate hundreds of thousands of good jobs statewide. That's money circulating right here at home.

And it's designed to ensure the most vulnerable aren't left behind. At least 40% of funds would go to communities most affected by climate change. The act's reach extends further, too, getting buildings off fossil fuels and putting electric buses on our streets. These aren't abstract priorities — they're already in the climate action plans Danville and San Ramon have adopted.

For too long, taxpayers have paid for disasters they didn't cause. The Superfund Act shifts that burden where it belongs — onto the fossil fuel companies that knew. They knew their products were driving the climate crisis. They concealed it for decades. And they kept profiting anyway.

That's where we come in. Danville

and San Ramon stand to benefit. You can help make it happen. Share this article. Talk with neighbors. Show up at a city council meeting and urge your city to pass a resolution supporting the “Make Polluters Pay” bill. Contact your state legislators. Join a local environmental or wildfire safety group.

Every voice matters. Every step counts. We can do this — for our kids, for our health, for our cities. ■

Editor's note: San Ramon resident Kathryn Grace is a member of the communications team for 350 Contra Costa Action, an all-volunteer and grassroots climate movement in Contra Costa County that motivates action for a healthy climate, sustainable clean energy and environmental justice for all.

Patricia Hill

October 13, 1946 - March 9, 2026

Patricia Ann Hill or “Pat” to her friends and family, peacefully passed away Monday, Mar 9, 2026 after a year long battle with ovarian cancer. She leaves behind a tremendous legacy in Pleasanton, having been the hairdresser to so many for over 50 years.

Born in Hayward, she grew up in Fremont, attending high school at both Washington and Mission San Jose. After graduating she enrolled in Beauty School where she found her true calling as a hairdresser. It was at this time she met the love of her life in Jerry Hill. After a brief courtship, they married on Feb 5, 1967. Once Jeff was born Jerry decided to buy a service station in Pleasanton. Jerry's Exxon became quite a notable hangout for several Raiders and A's players that lived in town. Once they established the business, they decided to move from Fremont to be closer to the station.

They bought a home in Vintage Hills in 1971 after Jennifer was born. Pat couldn't be happier. She had achieved the 3 things she wanted from life: Get married, have children and own a home.

She loved her weekly family get-togethers, gardening and slot machines. Cache Creek was her Disneyland!

Pat worked at several hair salons in her 52 year career, from Capwell's, Macy's, Hair Affair and Touch of Elegance. She loved her clients and loved her work, but most of all she loved her family, which will miss her terribly. She finally retired in 2017 to spend more time with family and take care of Jerry who's health was failing.

She was preceded in death by her father, John Patrick McGowan, mother Marian Souza, brother Michael McGowan and husband Jerry Hill. She is survived by her brother Bill, Daughter Jennifer Hoobing, Son Jeff Hill, daughter in law Brenna, 4 grandchildren: Abby, Zack, Lindsay and Maddie, and her dog Sparky.

Pat lived a full life, filled with pride and joy for her family and friends. She always wanted everyone to be happy and have a good time. She was a generous soul and will be terribly missed.



Michael John O'Rourke

December 13, 1949 - March 23, 2026

It is with heavy hearts we share that Michael O'Rourke has passed away on March 23rd at the age of 76.

Michael lived a full and vibrant life. He loved recounting his college pranks at Santa Clara University. He had a passion for scuba diving around the world and even taught lessons in Monterey Bay. A true aviation enthusiast, Michael often identified aircraft flying overhead to his family's delight (and eyerolls). He earned his helicopter pilot's license and proudly flew his first passenger flight in 1987.

Professionally, Michael began his career in marketing and went on to hold various roles in sales and business development, earning titles such as Director and Senior Vice President. Over the decades, he became a respected figure in Silicon Valley, known for his expertise in supply chain management, international relations, negotiation, and deep knowledge of electronic contract manufacturing.

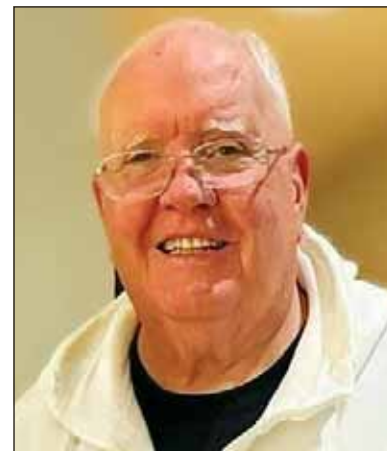
In his later years, Michael cherished time spent traveling with his family. Maui held a special place in his heart, though he also enjoyed trips to Key West, Pinecrest, and Spokane. Once retired, he developed a strong commitment to volunteer work, contributing his time to PGA Tour events in Monterey and Carmel Valley, where he especially enjoyed driving professional and celebrity golfers. He also volunteered with the California Highway Patrol, wearing his badge with great pride.

Michael will be remembered for his kindness, quick wit, sharp instincts, and natural leadership—along with a wonderfully unexpected whimsical side. He was a man who could command a boardroom, yet just as easily be found cruising with the top down, blasting “Girls Just Want to Have Fun.”

He is survived by his wife, Janis; his daughters, Erin and Colleen; and his siblings, Kevin and Kathy.

A memorial service will be held on April 25 at 11:00 AM at Graham-Hitch Mortuary in Pleasanton, California.

In honor of his passion for volunteering with the California Highway Patrol, the family kindly requests that, in lieu of flowers, donations be made in his memory.



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PLEASANTON PREPS

BY DENNIS MILLER

Tri-Valley teams prepare for playoff push

Also: Livermore softball sweeps way to championship in hometown Stampede tournament

There is nothing like a rainy weekend and The Masters on TV to have time to sit around and think about the chaos of the spring postseason that is looming large.

It's not here yet, but it's coming and it will be chaos — but wonderful, exciting chaos. The East Bay Athletic League excels in spring sports, and if you're not aware, there are a lot of prep sports in the spring.

For the record, let's run through them. There are baseball, softball, boys' volleyball, boys' and girls' lacrosse, track and field, swimming and diving, badminton, boys' tennis, boys' golf and stunt (cheerleading).

And all have their postseasons that take place around the same time. Now do you understand the chaos?

But as I said above, it's a wonderful,

exciting time for prep sports fans as we run into a time of year when the EBAL athletes will compete for North Coast Section titles, and in some cases potential NorCal or CIF state titles. Following is the scheduling for the spring postseason. Clip this out and post it so you can keep track. They start sooner than you think.

Swimming/diving: The EBAL meet is set for May 1-2, with NCS taking place May 7-9 at the College of Marin. The CIF State Meet is May 14-16 at the Clovis Swim Complex.

Badminton: The NCS team tournament is set for May 13 at James Logan. The NCS individual tournaments are May 16, with the Division I at Washington High and the D-II event at Newark Memorial High. The NorCal tournament is May 23.

Baseball: NCS playoffs take place

May 19-30. CIF NorCal is June 2-6. Yes, that is after school gets out for some EBAL schools.

Boys' golf: The NCS D-II tournament is May 11 at Baywood in Arcata, with the D-I event on May 18 at Windsor. The CIF NorCal tournament is May 26 at Poppy Ridge in Livermore, and the CIF State Championship is June 3 at the San Gabriel Country Club.

Lacrosse: The boys' and girls' tournaments are May 5-14 at various school sites.

Softball: The NCS tournament runs from May 19-30, with the CIF NorCal tournament runs June 2-6.

Boys' tennis: NCS singles/doubles tournament is May 8-9, with the NCS team event running from May 12-16. The CIF NorCal team tournament is May 22-23 and the CIF team tournament is May 30.

Track/field: The NCS Area meets — the EBAL is in the Tri-Valley meet — is scheduled for May 16 at Foothill. The NCS Meet of Champions, where the athletes qualify for state, is set for May 22-23 at Dublin High. The CIF Championships are May 29-30 at Clovis High.

Stunt: The NCS event is sent for May 1-2 at Heritage High in Brentwood. The CIF Invitation meet is set for May 29-30.

Boys' volleyball: The NCS tournament is May 5-14, followed by the



COURTESY LHS

Livermore High celebrates winning the 2026 Livermore Stampede softball tournament.

NorCal tournament from May 19-23. Finally, the CIF Championship matches are set for May 30.

Livermore Stampede

Last week, we highlighted the Livermore Stampede and how it is arguably the best prep softball tournament in Northern California.

And now Livermore High stands on top after the Cowboys took the Championship Flight title.

The Cowboys beat Casa Grande (11-2), Eagle (5-3) and Sheldon (7-0) to finish first in their pool. In the semifinals they took down South Bay powerhouse Willow Glen 1-0 to advance to the championship game.

In the championship game, they faced another traditionally loaded

team in Saint Francis and took the title with a 2-1 win.

Kaci Norton, who was our Playbook's Fast Five participant two weeks ago, was picked as the Most Valuable Player of the Stampede.

Norton gave up seven hits, one run and struck out eight batters in the semis and final.

In the championship game, Laine Macosky had a home run for the Cowboys, and she scored the lone run in the semifinals. Gianna Willes drove in the game winning run for Livermore in the semifinals. ■

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.

Local athletes to run Boston Marathon on charity team

Dana-Farber Cancer Institute aims to raise \$8.75 million

BY JUDE STRZEMP

A trio of runners from the Tri-Valley are taking part in the Boston Marathon next week as part of a fundraiser benefiting cancer research.

Set to race for the team are Luc Peterson of Livermore, Natalie Sardinia of Danville and Lisa Vilhauer, who splits her time between Danville and Carnelian Bay near Lake Tahoe.

Each impacted by cancer, these runners are among over 500 participants this year in the Dana-Farber Marathon Challenge, the largest and longest-running charity team for the Boston Marathon.

The Dana-Farber participants aim to raise a total of over \$8.75 million for the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, a center missioned with research and clinical care as well as education, community engagement and advocacy. All of the funds are slated for the institute's Claudia Adams Barr Program in Innovative Basic Cancer Research.

Set for Monday (April 20), the 130th Boston Marathon spans 26.2 miles of Massachusetts.

"We are all impacted by cancer in one way or another; every mile from Hopkinton to Boston will be a tribute to the survivors, the fighters, and the loved ones we've lost," Vilhauer said.

First-time Boston Marathon runner, Vilhauer said she overcame cancer with the help of

Dana-Farber's Claudia Adams Barr Program.

While training for her 17th marathon, Vilhauer was diagnosed Aug. 1, 2025 with ductal carcinoma in situ, Stage 0 breast cancer.

"I had to immediately pause my training to face a different kind of endurance test — surgery and radiation," she told the Pleasanton Weekly via email interview.

Vilhauer completed treatment last November and restarted her marathon training.

"This time I am returning to the start line with a profound new perspective," she explained.

"I chose to run the Boston Marathon as part of the Dana-Farber Marathon Challenge because I am a direct beneficiary of the science they pioneer," Vilhauer added. "Their work saves lives, including mine."

Sardinia, who is also making her debut in the Boston Marathon, said she was motivated by her mom to participate.

Her mother has been fighting Stage 4 colorectal cancer for two years.

"She defies the odds every single day, showing a fighting spirit that has amazed even her doctors," Sardinia said.

Although it can be challenging for her mom to attend races, she is set to attend the Boston Marathon.

"The thought of her waiting for me at the end, is my ultimate motivation," Sardinia told



COURTESY DANA-FARBER INSTITUTE

Left: Luc Peterson (left) trains with encouragement from his father-in-law ahead of the Boston Marathon. Right: Natalie Sardinia was motivated to run in the marathon by her mom, who has been fighting cancer for two years.

Pleasanton Weekly via email interview. "I want to run for her, to show her that her fight has inspired me to do hard things."

Also seeing his family impacted by cancer, Peterson's father-in-law was diagnosed with leukemia about a year and a half ago.

His father-in-law received treatment at Dana-Farber and around that time, Peterson participated in his first marathon in 10 years, he said.

During April 2025, his father-in-law received a stem cell transplant from Dana-Farber, Peterson said.

"It went very, very well and he's doing

fantastic now," he added.

Peterson went on to apply for the challenge to give back to Dana-Farber.

"I want to say thanks," Peterson said of his mindset in applying. "Thanks for supporting my family and my wife's family."

Since the Dana-Farber Marathon Challenge began in 1990, it has raised over \$140 million for the Claudia Adams Barr Program.

For more information about the Dana-Farber Marathon Challenge or to contribute to the runners' fundraisers, visit danafarber.jimmyfund.org. ■

Public Notices

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME

File No. 596776

The following person(s)/registrant(s) has/ have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name(s). The information given below is as it appeared on the fictitious business statement that was filed at the County Clerk-Recorder's Office. FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME(S):

YCD STUDIO

1323 61st St.

Emeryville, CA 94608

FILED IN ALAMEDA COUNTY ON: 03/31/2023

UNDER FILE NO. 596776

REGISTRANT'S NAME(S):

TASKIN E YENER

1323 61st St.

Emeryville, CA 94608

THIS BUSINESS WAS CONDUCTED BY An Individual.

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

(PLW Mar 27, Apr 3, 10 and 17, 2026)

ABREW REPAIR AND CONSTRUCTION

ABREW CONSTRUCTION

ABREW REPAIRS

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No.: 620921

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

1.) ABREW REPAIR AND CONSTRUCTION ,

2.) Abrew Construction , 3.) Abrew Repairs ,

located at 1228 Quarry Lane Unit D

Pleasanton, CA 94568, Alameda County.

This business is conducted by: an Individual.

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

KEVIN ABREW

1228 Quarry Lane Unit D

Pleasanton, CA 94568

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

on 1/31/2006

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on February 18

2026.

(PLW Mar 27, Apr 3, 10 and 17, 2026)

GOLDEN HORIZONS

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No.: 621751

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

1.) GOLDEN HORIZONS , located at 1665

WYLMA WAY MODESTO, CA 95350,

STANISLAUS County, Mailing Address: 6005

TILLMAN COURT PLEASANTON, CA 94588

This business is conducted by: a Limited

Liability Company.

The name and residence address of the

registrant(s) is(are):

BROOKSIDE HAVEN LLC

6005 TILLMAN COURT

PLEASANTON, CA 94588

State of Incorporation/Organization:

CALIFORNIA

Registrant has not yet begun to transact

business under the fictitious business

name(s) listed above.

This statement was filed with the County

Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on March 23 2026.

(PLW Apr 3, 10, 17 and 24, 2026)

CAFFEINATED COWBOY

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No.: 621946

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

1.) Caffeinated Cowboy , located at 4299

Valley Ave 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):

WISE & WHETSTONE COFFEE, LLC

413 4th Street

Petaluma, CA 94952

State of Incorporation/Organization:

California

Registrant began transacting business under

the fictitious business name(s) listed above

on 03/20/2026

This statement was filed with the County

Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on March 27 2026.

(PLW Apr 17, 24, May 1 and 8, 2026)

DESIGN ELECTRIC

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No.: 622110

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

1.) Design Electric , located at 39 Wyoming St,

Pleasanton, CA 94566, Alameda County.

This business is conducted by: a Corporation.

The name and residence address of the

registrant(s) is(are):

PMN DESIGN ELECTRIC, INC.

39 Wyoming Street

Pleasanton, CA 94566

State of Incorporation/Organization:

California

Registrant began transacting business under

the fictitious business name(s) listed above

on 11/29/1994

This statement was filed with the County

Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on April 03 2026.

(PLW Apr 10, 17, 24 and May 1, 2026)

STUDIO4ALL

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No.: 621330

The following person (persons) is (are) doing

business as:

1.) Studio4All , located at 1100 Pacific Marina

Apt 207, Alameda, CA 94501, Alameda

County.

This business is conducted by: an Individual.

The name and residence address of the

registrant(s) is(are):

DANIELA LEMUS

1100 Pacific Marina Apt 207

Alameda, CA 94501

Registrant began transacting business under

the fictitious business name(s) listed above

on 2/20/2026

This statement was filed with the County

Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on March 06 2026.

(PLW Apr 17, 24, May 1 and 8, 2026)

BN LABS

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No.: 622098

The following person (persons) is (are) doing

business as:

1.) BN LABS , located at 4613 Shasta Ct

Pleasanton, CA 94566, Alameda County.

This business is conducted by: an Individual.

The name and residence address of the

registrant(s) is(are):

BENJAMIN NGUYEN

4613 Shasta Ct

Pleasanton, CA 94566

Registrant has not yet begun to transact

business under the fictitious business

name(s) listed above.

This statement was filed with the County

Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on April 02 2026.

(PLW Apr 17, 24, May 1 and 8, 2026)

EAST WEST CONSULTANT

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No.: 621842

The following person (persons) is (are) doing

business as:

1.) East West Consultant , located at 11324

Bay Laurel St Dublin, CA 94568, Alameda

County.

This business is conducted by: an Individual.

The name and residence address of the

registrant(s) is(are):

SHAINA SAEED

11324 Bay Laurel St

Dublin, CA 94568

Registrant began transacting business under

the fictitious business name(s) listed above

on 11/15/2025

This statement was filed with the County

Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on March 25 2026.

(PLW Apr 3, 10, 17 and 24, 2026)

VIA HOME AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No.: 621572

The following person (persons) is (are) doing

business as:

1.) Via Home And Community Services ,

located at 6701 Koll Center Parkway, Suite

250, Pleasanton, CA 94566, Alameda County.

This business is conducted by: a Corporation.

The name and residence address of the

registrant(s) is(are):

BEHAVIA THERAPY

6701 Koll Center Parkway Suite 250

Pleasanton, CA 94566

State of Incorporation/Organization: CA

Registrant has not yet begun to transact

business under the fictitious business

name(s) listed above.

This statement was filed with the County

Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on March 17 2026.

(PLW Mar 27, Apr 3, 10 and 17, 2026)

HELLO CONSULTING

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No.: 621537

The following person (persons) is (are) doing

business as:

1.) Hello Consulting , located at 19600

Stanton Avenue Castro Valley, CA 94546,

Alameda County.

This business is conducted by: an Individual.

The name and residence address of the

registrant(s) is(are):

HELEN COLE

19600 Stanton Avenue

Castro Valley, CA. 94546

Registrant began transacting business under

the fictitious business name(s) listed above

on March 9, 2026

This statement was filed with the County

Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on March 16 2026.

(PLW Mar 27, Apr 3, 10 and 17, 2026)

CARPEDIEM NOIR

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No.: 622027

The following person (persons) is (are) doing

business as:

1.) CARPEDIEM NOIR , located at 4600

TASSAJARA RD, APT 4211 Dublin, CA 94568,

ALAMEDA County, Mailing Address: PO BOX

10371 PLEASANTON, CA 94588

This business is conducted by: a Limited

Liability Company.

The name and residence address of the

registrant(s) is(are):

CARPEDIEM CLUB LLC

PO BOX 10371

PLEASANTON, CA 94588

State of Incorporation/Organization:

CALIFORNIA

Registrant has not yet begun to transact

business under the fictitious business

name(s) listed above.

This statement was filed with the County

Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on March 31 2026.

(PLW Apr 10, 17, 24 and May 1, 2026)

PHOENIX SCIENTIFIC CONSULTING

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No.: 621524

The following person (persons) is (are) doing

business as:

1.) PHOENIX SCIENTIFIC CONSULTING

, located at 420 CENTRAL AVE APT 211

ALAMEDA CA 94501, ALAMEDA County.

This business is conducted by: an Individual.

The name and residence address of the

registrant(s) is(are):

SWATI B NAPHADE

420 CENTRAL AVE APT 211

ALAMEDA, CA, 94501

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 13 2026.

(PLW Apr 3, 10, 17 and 24, 2026)

THE 680 GROUP

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No.: 622024

The following person (persons) is (are) doing

business as:

1.) THE 680 GROUP , located at 900 Main

Street, Suite 101, Pleasanton, CA 94566,

Alameda County.

This business is conducted by: an Individual.

The name and residence address of the

registrant(s) is(are):

DOUGLAS ALBERT BUENZ

900 Main Street, Suite 101

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 31 2026.

(PLW Apr 10, 17, 24 and May 1, 2026)

YCD STUDIO

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No.: 621214

The following person (persons) is (are) doing

business as:

1.) YCD STUDIO , located at 1323 61ST ST,

EMERYVILLE, CA 94608, ALAMEDA County.

This business is conducted by: a Corporation.

The name and residence address of the

registrant(s) is(are):

YCD DESIGN GROUP INC.

1323 61ST ST

EMERYVILLE, CA 94608

State of Incorporation/Organization:

California

Registrant began transacting business under

the fictitious business name(s) listed above

on 02/07/2026

This statement was filed with the County

Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on March 02 2026.

(PLW Mar 27, Apr 3, 10 and 17, 2026)

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF

NAME SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF

CALIFORNIA FOR THE COUNTY OF ALAMEDA

Case No.: 26CV179112

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:

Public Notices

Continued from previous page

SUMMONS

CASE No. CV427856

(CITACION JUDICIAL)

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT:

(A VISO AL DEMANDADO):

KEVIN SCOTT WEIGAND, JEFFREY M MOORE, MICHAEL A EVANS SR, HILDEGARD M EVANS, JAVIER CASTRO and ANTHONY ABADALLAH, and Does 1 through 100 , YOU **ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF:**

(LO ESTA DEMANDANDO EL

DEMANDANTE):

HIDDEN VALLEY LAKE ASSOCIATION

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 despues de que le entreguen esta citacion y papeles legates 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 formato legal correcto si desea que procesen su caso en la corte. Es posible que haya un formulario que usted pueda usar para su respuesta. Puede encontrar estos formularios de la corte y mas informacion en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California (www.sucorte.ca.gov), en la biblioteca de /eyes de su candado o en la corte que le quede mas cerca. Si no puede pagar la cuota de presentación, pida al secretario de la corte

que le de un formulario de exención de pago de cuotas. Si no presents su respuesta a tiempo, puede perder el caso por incumplimiento y la corte le podra quitar su sue/do, 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 llama, a un servicio de remision a abogados. Si no puede

pagar a un abogado, es posible que cumpla con las requisitos para obtener servicios legales gratuitos de un programs 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 /as Cortes de California, (www.sucorte.ca.gov) o poniendose en contacto con la corte o el colegio de abogados locales. AV/SO: Por ley, la corte tiene derecho a reclamar /as cuotas y /os castos exentos por imponer un gravamen sobre cua/quier recuperacion de \$10,000 6 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 name and address of the court is:

(El nombre y direccion de la corte es): Lake County Court
255 North Forbes Street, 4th Floor
Lakeport, CA 95453
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):
Jacqueline S. Vinaccia, Vanst Law, LLP 8880 Rio San Diego Dr. Ste. 800, San Diego, CA 92108 858 243 4299

DATE (Fecha): 10/23/2025

Krista D. LeVier, Clerk (Secretario)
Monica Ivceovich, Deputy (Adjunto)
(SEAL)

NOTICE TO THE PERSON SERVED:

You are served as an individual defendant. (PLW Apr 3, 10, 17 and 24, 2026)

SUMMONS Case No. 24CV-02877

(CITACION JUDICIAL)

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT (A VISO AL DEMANDADO): JESSE L. WOODRUFF, an individual

YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF: (LO ESTÁ DEMANDANDO EL DEMANDANTE):

WFG NATIONAL TITLE INSURANCE

COMPANY, a South Carolina corporation

NOTICE! You have been sued. The court may decide against you without your being heard unless you respond Within 30 days. Read the information below.

You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons and legal papers are served on you to file a written response at this court and have a copy served on the plaintiff. A letter or phone call will not protect you. Your written response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case. There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and more Information at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the court clerk for a fee waiver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and your wages, money, and property may be taken without further warning from the court.

There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may want to call an attorney referral service. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may be eligible for free legal services from a nonprofit legal services program. You can locate these nonprofit groups at the California Legal Services Web site (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), or by contacting your local court or county bar association. **NOTE:** The court has a statutory lien for waived fees and costs on any settlement or arbitration award of \$10,000 or more in a civil case. The court's lien must be paid before the court will dismiss the

case. ¡AVISO! Lo han demandado. Si no responde dentro de 30 días, la corte puede decidir en su contra sin escuchar su version. Lea la información a continuación. Tiene 30 DIAS DE CALENDARIO después de que le entreguen esta citación y papeles legales para presentar una respuesta por escrito en esta corte y hacer que se entregue una copia al demandante. Una carta o una llamada telefónica no lo protegen. Su respuesta por escrito tiene que estar en formato legal correcto si desea que procesen su caso en la corte. Es posible que haya un formulario que usted pueda usar para su respuesta. Puede encontrar estos formularios de la corte y mas información en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California (www.sucorte.ca.gov), en la biblioteca de leyes de su condado o en la corte que le quede mas cerca. Si no puede pagar la cuota de presentación, pida al secretario de la corte que le dé un formulario de exencion de pago de cuotas.

Si no presenta su respuesta a tiempo, puede perder el caso por incumplimiento y la corte le podra quitar su sueldo, dinero y bienes sin mas advertencia. Hay otros requisitos legales. Es recomendable que llame a un abogado inmediatamente. Si no conoce a un abogado, puede llamar a un servicio de remisión a abogados. Si no puede pagar a un abogado, es posible que cumpla con los requisitos para obtener servicios legales gratuitos de un programa de servicios legales sin fines de lucro. Puede encontrar estos grupos sin fines de lucro en el sitio web de California Legal Services, (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California, (www.sucorte.ca.gov) o poniéndose en contacto con la corte o el colegio de abogados locales. AVISO: Por ley, la corte tiene derecho a reclamar las cuotas y los costos exentos por imponer un gravamen sobre cualquier recuperación de \$10,000 mas de valor recibida mediante un acuerdo o una concesión de arbitraje en un caso de derecho civil. Tiene que pagar el gravamen de la corte antes de que la corte pueda desechar el caso.

The name and address of the court is (El nombre y dirección de la corte es):
COURT ADDRESS
Merced Superior Court, 627 West 21 st Street, Merced, CA 95340

(El nombre, la dirección y el numero de teléfono del abogado del demandante, o del demandante que no tiene abogado, es):

NAME, ADDRESS, TELEPHONE, Lori Hershorer, Hershorer & Henry, LLP; 26475 Rancho Parkway South, Lake Forest, CA 92630, 949.859.5600

DATE (Fecha): **DATE May 22, 2024**

CLERK NAME , Clerk, Kathy Cox by /s/ DEPUTY CLERK NAME , Deputy Clerk

(Secretario) (Adjunto)

NOTICE TO THE PERSON SERVED: You are served Jesse L. Woodruff, an individual (PLW Mar 27, Apr 3, 10 and 17, 2026)

The Pleasanton Weekly is adjudicated to publish in Alameda County.

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

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

For assistance email LegalNotices@PleasantonWeekly.com.

CALENDAR

Entertainment

PYTC CABARET AND ALL THAT JAZZ

From the razzle-dazzle of Chicago to the heart and humor of Cabaret, New York, New York, and beyond these teen performers bring these timeless songs to life with bold choices, strong storytelling, and plenty of style. 7 p.m., April 17. Tickets \$13. Visit firehousearts.org.

FRANC D'AMBROSIO Franc

D'Ambrosio's new show blends iconic musical-theater hits with timeless jazz standards reimagining beloved songs with unmistakable style. 7:30 p.m., April 18. Tickets \$33-\$43. Visit firehousearts.org.

COMMUNITY CONCERT BAND

The Community Concert Band performs at Valley Community Church, 3-4:30 p.m., April 19. Free, but donations are welcomed. 4455 Del Valle Pkwy., Pleasanton.

DINOSAUR WORLD LIVE Dare to experience the dangers and delights of Dinosaur World Live in this Olivier award-winning interactive show. 6:30 p.m., April 24. Tickets \$55-\$85. Visit livermorearts.org.

OVER THE RAINBOW BENEFIT

CONCERT The Alan Hu Foundation presents a benefit concert to raise mental health awareness and funds for the Alan Hu Scholarship Fund. 7:30 p.m., April 26. Trinity Lutheran Church, 1225 Hopyard Rd., Pleasanton. For more information visit alanhufoundation.org/benefit-concert.

AN AFTERNOON OR EVENING WITH

GRACE O'MALLEY Irish legend abounds with stories of Grace O'Malley (portrayed by Karen Vuranch), a pirate queen who sailed the high seas in the 16th century and fought against the conquest of Ireland by its powerful neighbor, England. 2 p.m. and 7 p.m., April 30. Firehouse Arts Center. Visit museumonmain.org.

Fairgrounds

TRI-VALLEY INNOVATION FAIR

Bring the family out for an exciting day filled with hands-on science, engineering and technology adventures and explore over 70 exhibits showcasing amazing discoveries and innovations from local companies, schools and community groups. 10

a.m. to 5 p.m., April 18. Visit alamedacountyfair.com.

ALAMEDA HOME & LANDSCAPE

SHOW Discover endless possibilities, innovative designs and seasonal trends at hundreds of exhibits from custom kitchens and baths, windows and doors, heating and air, roofing and floors, pools and spas, landscaping displays and more. April 24-26. Visit alamedacountyfair.com.

Gardening

GARDEN CLUB PLANT & YARD SALE

At the Livermore Amador Valley Garden Club Plant & Yard Sale get great prices on plants from members' gardens along with gently used pots and garden treasures. They pay the taxes. 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., April 18. 2450 Merlot Lane, Livermore.

SPRING GARDENING Join Brian, head of the Bedding Dept. at Alden Lane Nursery, for an informative walk and talk through the nursery. This free event is 1 p.m., April 19.

Fundraisers

A STARRY NIGHT GALA

A Starry Night is Pleasanton North Rotary's annual fundraising gala to raise money for various nonprofit organizations, a night of dinner, music, auctions, joy and giving. 5:30-9:30, April 17. The Club at Castlewood. Visit pnr-rotary.org/events.

WINGS OF HOPE GALA

Join Tri-Valley Haven's Wings of Hope: Light the Way Gala, an evening of connection, dining and entertainment to celebrate and raise support for the rebuilding of the domestic violence shelter. 5:30 p.m., April 17. Shannon Community Center. Visit trivalleyhaven.org.

CITYSERVE LADIES NIGHT OUT

Get dressed up and dance the night away to support an organization that makes a significant impact on the lives of individuals and families in the communities. Featuring a live DJ, photo booth fun, wine, tasty bites, signature cocktails and more. 7-10 p.m., April 18. Visit cityservecares.org.

PLEASANTON RUN FOR EDUCATION

Hosted by PPIE, the event includes a 10K, 5K, 2-mile run/walk and a 1/4-mile kids' challenge where proceeds support Pleasanton public schools. Event begins at 8 a.m., April 19. For more information and to register visit ppie.org/runford.

Employment

IT PROFESSIONALS NEEDED

Entry Lvl to Sr. Lvl (Mult. Pos.) – Bus. Analysts, Sys. Analysts, SW QA Analysts, DB Dev. & Engrs., IT Proj. Coord./Mgrs., & App./SW Programmers. Pleasanton, CA off. Trvl req'd to client sites nationwide locs. \$50k-\$190k/yr. Send resume, cvr. ltr. & sal. req. to: Flexon Technologies Inc., 6210 Stoneridge Mall Rd., Ste. 210, Pleasanton, CA 94588.

Embarcadero Media Foundation is an independent multimedia news organization looking for talented and creative people to produce outstanding journalism and results for our advertisers through print and online. Learn more at tinyurl.com/EMF-careers.

To advertise here please visit PleasantonWeekly.com/employment_ads/.

San Ramon upholds Orchards project approval

After hours of public debate, council rejects appeal over redevelopment plans for former Chevron HQ

By JEANITA LYMAN

One of the most prominent redevelopment projects for San Ramon's Bishop Ranch neighborhood is poised to continue moving forward following the City Council's decision last week to reject an appeal that was heard at a special meeting.

The discussion extended until late into the evening on April 7 as the council spent more than three hours hearing reviews of the Orchards project — which is set to replace the former Chevron Park site on Bollinger Canyon Drive with nearly 3,000 new housing units across multiple neighborhoods over the course of 20 years — as well as arguments from appellant Brian Swanson.

While the council and the appellant spent more than an hour in back-and-forth on a range of topics brought forward in the appeal, including conflicting interpretations of the California Environmental Quality Act and a traffic engineer's report prepared for the project, councilmembers remained unpersuaded by the end of the hearing that there were grounds to determine that the city's Planning Commission had made an error in its approval of the project earlier this year.

"I do believe the city did follow the appropriate law and process, and I thought the responses and the staff report point by point in the appeal were adequately explained," Mayor Mark Armstrong said ahead of that evening's vote.

"The city did not avoid an environmental review on this project," Armstrong continued. "The environmental impacts of the development at this site were analyzed as part of the General Plan 2040 EIR. State law specifically allows projects that are consistent with that plan and density to rely on prior environmental analysis unless there are project specific impacts that are unique to the site."

In addition to challenging the city's interpretation of CEQA and other relevant laws, Swanson argued that a likely increase in vehicle miles traveled and greenhouse gas emissions that were identified in the environmental impact report prepared for the current general plan meant that the Orchards project should be subject to "more care, not less," in his calls for further environmental review of the project.

"I respectfully ask the council to focus on whether the record demonstrates with substantial evidence why no further review is warranted for these approvals," Swanson said at the conclusion of his presentation on the appeal.

In response to a question from Councilmember Sridhar Verose on what level of analysis he believed would be sufficient for the project, Swanson said that modeling rather than screening would be needed to determine that.

"You need to do detailed modeling, detailed modeling especially when the previous EIR identified it as an issue," Swanson said. "Second, even if the modeling is done in detail, down to the nitty gritty, you need to make sure you're following through with

mitigation measures to try and attempt to reduce those potential environmental impacts."

"Relying on CCTA in its countywide jurisdiction here in San Ramon? That's not adequate, especially in the sense that Orchards is a complete transformation of use," he continued. "And it's even more rich that Chevron's departure and continued disinvestment in California was celebrated by many here in California. Yet, here we are in California locally determining whether the EIR checklist is adequate."

Overall, Swanson said that the issue with the project's application material and the city's process for approval was based on "not enough analysis, and conjecture," repeating calls for detailed VMT modeling.

"So you are telling me that for 20 years we need to have a crystal ball and figure out how the transportation evolves, based on that, we need to come up with an analysis and show you how, is that the expectation?" Verose asked.

"You need to do your best," Swanson said.

The applications approved by the planning commission in February were for the Orchards Master Plan and the Orchards Neighborhood District Development, the latter of which is for the first 358-unit housing project set to be built. While the master plan encompasses the other portions of the project that are set to be developed in the coming decades, city planning division manager Cindy Yee emphasized that each of those projects will be subject to their own environmental review processes.

"Any development plan application will have an environmental review associated with that," Yee said.

Swanson continued to argue that the city's approval of the project and others in Bishop Ranch was based on insufficient analysis, and a failure to account for existing traffic congestion and patterns.

"Camino Ramon looks like a more tidy Iran," Swanson said. "And there's been no cumulative impact analysis, no fiscal analysis, no absorption rate analysis."

While the council's decision that evening hinged on whether or not the planning commission had made any errors in approving the project applications, the conversation during questions and answers with Swanson and public comments later on wound up serving as a referendum on a wide range of complaints about traffic in the city, opposition to new housing developments, impacts of new development, and the city's internal processes.

"As we continue to develop this city, it's really disappointing to see all the trees that are getting cut down," said Kirsten Duratov, a San Ramon resident who spent decades working at Chevron, during public comment. "I heard they're all diseased. I don't think all the redwoods were. But I hope that you would consider in the future things to allow a little more space for trees so we don't have some of the development where there's literally five feet between the streets."

Duratov also echoed concerns about existing traffic issues in the city and the potential for more as housing inventory

increases and the population grows.

"Walking down from Bollinger is super dangerous, and I can't imagine what's going to happen when all this housing comes in," Duratov said. "I would love a walkable city. I'm still going to walk in the city, but I do think some of the concerns about traffic are an issue. And I really do ask that we could get more details on how all of this is going to work. It's terrible already."

Former mayor Greg Carr spoke in support of Swanson, and took issue with the framing of the staff report prepared for that evening's meeting in which the recommendation was to deny the appeal.

"I don't want them telling you or us," Carr said. "They make that determination and nobody's coming down. I thought somebody's making that appeal and they see that — if that was me, all hell would break loose, because that's not right. You deliberate and then you determine and direct staff. But not just go from deliberate to adopt. I've been seeing that since '87 with the planning people in this city and it's damn tiring."

Former councilmember Jim Blickenstaff said he would be consulting with attorneys from Greenfire Law, an environmental law firm in Berkeley that has challenged multiple housing projects in the city and the region,

"to get the definitive answer" on legal questions raised by Swanson's appeal.

Among Greenfire's clients is Citizens Against Market Place Apartment Development (CAMPAD), which the firm is representing in an upcoming appeal hearing next week arguing against a 2024 judge's ruling in favor of the city in a lawsuit brought by the neighborhood group after its own appeals of the Market Place redevelopment project were rejected by the city.

CAMPAD leader Susie Ferris-Inderkum said that traffic concerns about the Orchards project were parallel to some of the points raised by those opposing the Market Place project, and noted that a rejected appeal from the City Council is not the end of the story for those opposing projects in the city.

"This won't be the only appeal if you deny it," Ferris-Inderkum said. "There will be others, because the process of evaluation and approval for staff giving notices of exemption is a problem. It's a serious problem."

While the council ultimately voted to uphold the Planning Commission's earlier approval of the Orchards applications and reject the appeal, many of Swanson's other complaints are set to be heard in three different cases making their way through Contra Costa County Superior Court. ■

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