

Pleasanton Weekly

NONPROFIT LOCAL NEWS FOR
THE TRI-VALLEY

VOL. XXVII, NUMBER 27 • JULY 31, 2026

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WHAT A WEEK



By JEREMY WALSH

Wheels turns 40

Hello, Ruby Monday was how the Tri-Valley public transportation community greeted this week.

The Livermore Amador Valley Transit Authority — which operates Wheels buses in Pleasanton, Livermore and Dublin — celebrated its 40th anniversary with a birthday bash that drew more than 250 people to the Livermore Transit Center that afternoon and evening.

“Forty years is a long time for any organization, and continued success shows the ongoing value that public transit offers to communities,” Executive Director Christy Wegener told me by email Tuesday. “It also is a credit to LAVTA and its employees over the years that they have been able to adapt to the community’s needs and adopted new services and technologies with expansion.”

“From a few buses, Wheels now offers Bus Rapid Transit with its 10R and 30R routes, provides more amenities with shelters, lighting, and amazing transit hubs like the historic 1892 Southern Pacific Railroad Depot that is the Livermore Transit Center,” Wegener said. “Wheels has also expanded to offer paratransit services, and has incorporated technology to make customer trip planning and operations dispatch easy and accurate.”

The partner agency was formed in 1985 when the three cities said “there’s no time to lose” to improve the public transit landscape in the Tri-Valley. (Yes, that’s another reference to The Rolling Stones song that jumped into my mind the moment I looked up the 40th anniversary gemstone).

“Previously AC Transit provided limited services, and this new entity gave the communities more control and flexibility,” Wegener said of the joint powers authority we know today as LAVTA.

“Creating the Tri-Valley bus system enabled more local input on the routes/services and resulted in an increase in service from what was provided previously,” she added.

The agency launched its bus service in July 1986 with four fixed routes in Pleasanton and Dublin using nine leased buses.

“In December of 1990, 34 new buses were delivered by the GILLIG Corporation, now LAVTA’s neighbor in Livermore,” Wegener said. “In 1991, LAVTA moved to a new Maintenance, Operations, and Administration facility, still its home at Rutan Court in Livermore. In 1998, it opened its transit hub at the Livermore Transit Center.”

Wheels now has 16 local fixed routes, 60 vehicles, and supplemental school

and paratransit services. Reliability, stability and sustainability remain the focus as the agency aims to solidify a reputation as transportation residents in an ever-changing world can rely on every day.

“Ridership is looking good, with stable passenger counts that let us plan for the future,” Wegener said.

She pointed to the record-setting Saturday ridership on the Fourth of July this year (more than 7,100 passengers across all routes) and the continued growth of the Summer Youth Ride Free program, now in its fourth year (with youth participation up from 15,000 to 35,000 since it started). The free ride program extends through August to entice students to consider taking public transit to school.

LAVTA is implementing several route and schedule changes starting next Saturday (Aug. 8) in part because of the new academic year — to accommodate things like updated school boundaries in Pleasanton, particularly the Del Prado neighborhood, and increasing attendance at Emerald High School in Dublin.

Looking ahead, the agency’s main project is its new headquarters on Atlantis Court in Livermore, with key funding from the federal government.

“LAVTA received \$63.95 million in federal Low-No (Emission) funding to support future transit facilities and operations,” Wegener said. “The infrastructure upgrades will improve service reliability, reduce emissions, and allow for expansion of transit service throughout Tri-Valley communities.”

Funding will be the buzzword in the Bay Area this fall for public transit, as the break-even “nothing’s gained and nothing’s lost” approach for such a government service hasn’t been attainable post-pandemic.

Wheels is among the transit agencies that would receive new, ongoing funding if the much-debated sales tax measure passes across five counties in the November election — although it would get a smaller slice of the pie compared to the likes of BART and AC Transit.

I’ll be interested to see what approach LAVTA takes to the public awareness campaign (and its supporters for the political campaign) for the sales tax measure.

BART leadership’s initial ploy of threatening to severely cut service, especially on the ends of lines outside of Oakland and San Francisco, if the sales tax fails didn’t sit right with many people in the Tri-Valley.

But I get BART’s blackmail strategy. Scare tactics often work at the polls.

Ain’t life unkind? ■

About the Cover

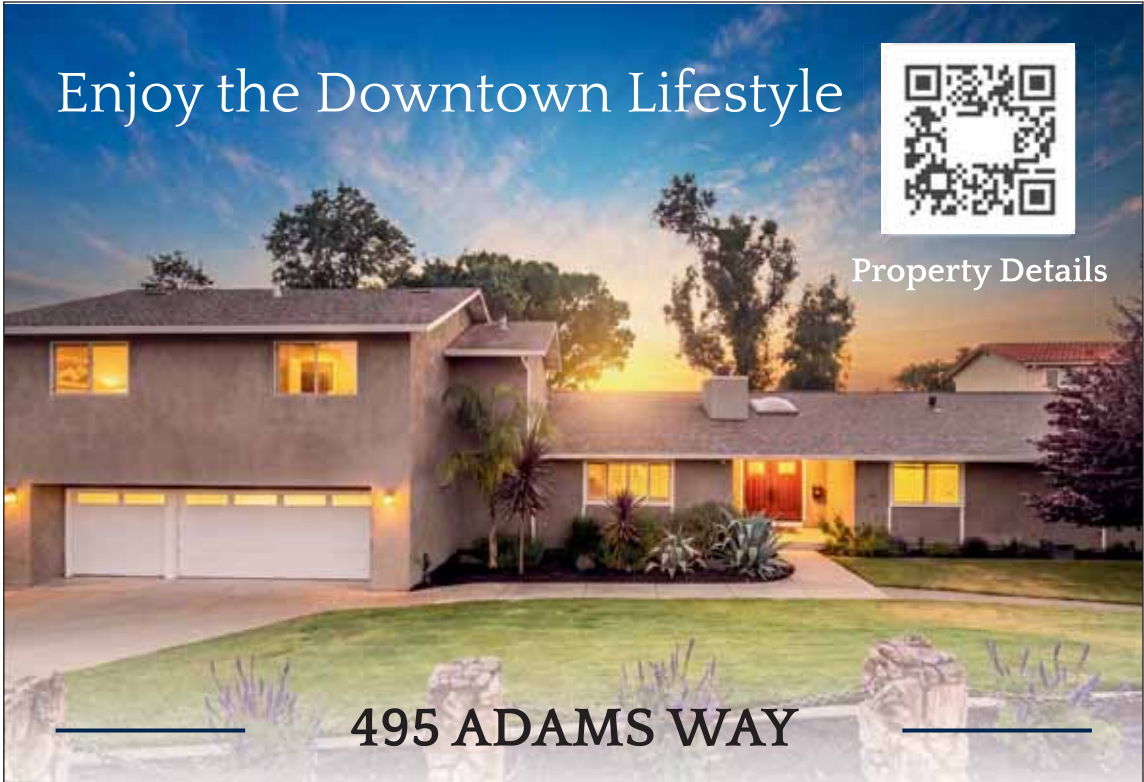
Pleasanton resident JD Sanchez blasts a backside indy grab at a private vert ramp in Livermore. Photo by Bryce Kanights. Cover design by Mary Watanabe.

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When you're invited to someone's home for dinner, what do you think is an appropriate 'hostess gift' to bring?



Daniel Grant
Delivery driver

I would say it depends on the circumstances. If it's a party where alcohol will likely be served, I bring beer or wine. If it's some other kind of party, my wife and I bring a delicious appetizer, like her homemade Filipino lumpia. Lumpia are like spring rolls. My wife is from the Philippines and the lumpia she makes are totally awesome.



John Wilson
Marketing executive

A bottle of Champagne always works. You really can't go wrong with that. It sets a happy and festive tone for the evening, whether it's opened before or after dinner. But if the hosts specifically request beforehand that we bring something specific, of course that's exactly what we bring; whatever it is that they want.



Kathy Peck
Retired flight attendant

I typically bring a bouquet of flowers. I don't bring wine because the hosts usually already have an idea of what kind of wine they would like to serve. And flowers are always appropriate. Who doesn't love to be the recipient of a bouquet of flowers?



Cynde Meyer
Retired (and loving it!) teacher

I usually give the host(s) a jingle ahead of time, to ask whether they'd like me to contribute something specific to the evening. If they don't, the fallback is a nice bottle of wine that will pair well with whatever the hosts' meal is going to be.

—Compiled by Nancy and Jeff Lewis



Shawn Evans
VP of performance

I always bring flowers and a bottle of wine. They are always an appropriate hostess gift and clearly express gratitude for being invited over to their home to share a happy occasion.

Have a Streetwise question? Email editor@PleasantonWeekly.com

The Pleasanton Weekly is published every Friday by Embarcadero Media Foundation, 5506 Sunol Blvd., Suite 203, Pleasanton, CA 94566; (925) 600-0840. Mailed at Periodicals Postage Rate, USPS 020407.

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DIGEST

TVNPA award noms

The Tri-Valley Nonprofit Alliance is currently accepting nominations for its 2026 Power of Giving Impact Maker Awards, which recognize the contributions of nonprofits, individuals and corporations who make a meaningful difference in the Tri-Valley.

"We invite you to nominate the people and organizations whose philanthropic work, leadership, and community impact deserve to be celebrated," TVNPA states on its website. "Whether it's a grassroots nonprofit, an inspiring changemaker, or a business leading with purpose, help us shine a light on their achievements."

Nominations will be accepted until Aug. 14. Honorees will be revealed during the Power of Giving Celebration on Nov. 12 at the Bankhead Theater in Livermore.

For more information or to submit a nomination, visit www.tvnpa.org.

School supply drive

The Livermore Police Department is hosting a donation drive through early August to collect school supplies for local students and teachers.

Dubbed Stuff the Cruiser, LPD seeks new items such as notebooks, paper, dividers, folders, binders, mechanical pencils, colored pencils, rulers, erasers, staplers, post-its, disinfectant wipes, tissue boxes and flash drives.

Donors can help stuff a police cruiser with items from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday (Aug. 1) outside of the Walmart located at 2700 Las Positas Rd. Otherwise, supplies can be dropped off until Monday (Aug. 3) in the front lobby of the police department at 1110 S. Livermore Ave.

LPD is also accepting Amazon gift cards through its Community Outreach Unit at CommunityOutreach@livermoreca.gov.

BBQ fundraiser

The Pleasanton Community of Character Collaborative will be hosting its seventh annual barbecue and auction fundraising event next month, which raises money for the Juanita Haugen Memorial Scholarship fund.

The fund honors the legacy of Haugen, a former school board trustee, by recognizing several Pleasanton Unified School District high schoolers for their "exceptional character traits and community volunteerism."

According to a flyer for the event, the fundraiser is set to start at 5 p.m. next Saturday (Aug. 8). Food, drinks and live entertainment will all be provided.

To purchase tickets and view the entire auction catalog, visit communityofcharacter.org. ■

Residents, city officials give gratitude for quick response to large wildfire

LPFD, police, other emergency staff met with overwhelming applause at council meeting

By Christian Trujano

The Pleasanton City Council opened Monday's rescheduled meeting with public recognition for the city's first responders and emergency services personnel for their efforts during last week's wildfire that threatened the south side of town.

Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department Chief Aaron Lacey, Pleasanton Police Chief Tracy Avelar and city emergency services manager Leo Lopez each heard directly from councilmembers as

they expressed how thankful they were for everyone's quick response to the "Little Fire," which burned roughly 1,007 acres to the southeast of the Ruby Hill neighborhood after igniting on the afternoon of July 21.

"The severity of this event, for what it meant to Pleasanton, cannot be understated," Pleasanton Mayor Jack Balch said during Monday's meeting.

After thanking all of the first responders and city employees who helped keep the city running while

emergency crews got some rest, Balch fought back tears as he recounted his visit to the evacuation shelter that was set up at the Pleasanton Senior Center that first day.

"One of the starkest things as mayor is to see beds being set up in our Senior Center," Balch said. "You only see that on TV. You only see it in other places. So when it's happening in the city that I represent, it was a stark reminder that emergencies can happen anywhere."

Last week's fire was reported to

have started just before 4 p.m. July 21. The so-called Little Fire quickly grew to a couple hundred acres in the matter of hours.

As the evening continued, it grew to just under 1,000 acres, which prompted residents in the Ruby Hill neighborhood and some surrounding neighborhoods to evacuate. Other areas in the northwestern portion of Sunol near where the fire originated were also ordered to evacuate.

See **WILDFIRE** on Page 10

Gupta running for City Council

Second candidate enters race for open District 3 seat

By Christian Trujano

Pleasanton resident and business advocate Reena Gupta launched her campaign for the City Council District 3 seat a bit differently than typical candidates.

Instead of letting people know what issues she thinks should be prioritized by the council, she is letting the people help decide what her priorities should be if elected this November.

"I want to help ensure Pleasanton remains a place where our children can build their futures and one day raise families of their own," Gupta said. "That means strengthening our economy, protecting our quality of life, and working together to solve today's challenges while preparing Pleasanton for tomorrow."

She becomes the second person to join the race to succeed Councilmember Julie Testa in representing District 3 on the city's southwest side. Former Pleasanton school board Trustee Jamie Yee announced her council bid in April.

A native of India, Gupta moved



Reena Gupta

See **GUPTA** on Page 6



COURTESY PUSD

This demolition work is part of the overall Amador Valley High School renovation project, funded by Measure I.

Demolition underway at Amador

Small gym, wrestling room going first; theater next

By Christian Trujano

The Pleasanton Unified School District's contracted construction crews broke ground on the Amador Valley High School campus renovation project this summer and have now begun demolishing the small gym and the wrestling room this week as they make their way to the Amador Theater.

The work is part of the district's overall plan to construct the new athletic and performing

arts facilities at the school, which was one of the marquee projects funded by Measure I, the \$395 million general obligation bond voters approved four years ago.

While the demolition of the nearly century-old theater — which some residents initially opposed years ago when the renovation plans were announced — has been delayed, the district is expecting the construction team to begin tearing it down sometime in the near future.

"The Amador Valley theater

holds so many memories for our students, staff, alumni, and community, and we recognize the significance of this moment," Superintendent Maurice Ghysels told the Pleasanton Weekly in a statement.

"At the same time, this project represents a transformative investment in future generations of students, made possible by the support of our community for Measure I," Ghysels added. "I'm

See **DEMOLITION** on Page 9

PUSD paying \$60,000 to settle civil rights complaint

Ex-custodian alleged wrongful termination after being denied work accommodations during pregnancy

BY CHRISTIAN TRUJANO

The Pleasanton Unified School District is set to pay \$60,000 as part of an agreement to resolve the civil rights case brought by a former custodian who said she was illegally fired after requesting accommodations at work during her pregnancy.

The settlement agreement, which does not identify the complainant, was announced last week by the California Civil Rights Department — the state agency that enforces civil rights laws in California.

“There’s no excuse for firing someone because of their pregnancy,” CRD Director Kevin Kish stated in the press release.

“California law is clear that pregnant workers have the right to ask for accommodations and take time off,” Kish added. “Employers have a responsibility to all of us to ensure the civil rights of their workers are protected. If they don’t, our department is always prepared to take action.”

According to a press release July 22 from the department, even

though the district is not admitting fault, the settlement agreement also stipulates that PUSD must conduct a comprehensive review of its anti-discrimination and pregnancy disability leave policies, and must provide training to staff working in human resources.

In a statement to the Pleasanton Weekly, PUSD safety and communications coordinator Susanne Frey confirmed the custodian no longer works at the district. She also reaffirmed the district’s commitment to following the agreement’s stipulations.

“Pleasanton Unified School District is committed to providing a respectful and equitable workplace and complying with all applicable employment and civil rights laws,” Frey said. “The District resolved this matter without admitting wrongdoing and will complete the policy review and training required under the settlement ... Because this involves a confidential personnel matter, the District cannot comment further.”

According to its press release,

the state department received a complaint against PUSD back in 2025. The complaint came from a former custodian who alleged she was “unlawfully denied work accommodations for her pregnancy and ultimately fired because of her request”.

‘There’s no excuse for firing someone because of their pregnancy.’

Kevin Kish,
Director of CRD

“According to the complaint, she let her supervisor know that she was pregnant and provided a medical note explaining her need for accommodations, including cutting back on her time standing and walking, avoiding bending at the waist or twisting her spine, and limiting the weight of objects lifted to no more than 20 pounds,” the state department stated.

Under California state law, employers must “reasonably

accommodate your medical needs related to pregnancy, childbirth, or related conditions”.

After sharing her accommodation needs, the worker alleged that her supervisor “immediately notified her that they did not have any work for her until after her baby was born”.

“A human resources staff member later confirmed that she had been terminated because the school district could not accommodate her — even though a male custodian was allegedly put on light duty after a non-pregnancy related disability,” the state department stated.

Upon receiving the complaint, the CRD conducted an investigation and gave PUSD the opportunity to resolve the allegation via mediation, which led to the settlement agreement in question.

Without admitting wrongdoing the district, as stipulated in the agreement, agreed to pay \$60,000 to the complainant — about \$40,000 will go to the former employee to compensate for “non-economic damages” while the other \$20,000 is to cover her

attorney fees.

The money must be paid within 60 days of the settlement agreement being approved by the school board, according to the agreement.

The agreement also states that PUSD will conduct a “comprehensive review of its antidiscrimination and pregnancy disability leave policies to ensure compliance with state law” and will issue any revised policies, if necessary.

In addition, PUSD must also provide training to the former custodian’s supervisor and human resources staff on “civil rights laws, with an emphasis on pregnancy disability protections”. Lastly, the district agreed to report to the state department regarding compliance with the terms of the agreement.

In exchange for all these stipulations, the complainant will have to close their complaint with the CRD and agree to not take any further legal action against PUSD based on the allegations. Both parties signed the settlement agreement toward the beginning of this month. ■

GUPTA

Continued from Page 5

to Pleasanton in 2011. She credits her “passion for community” to her upbringing in her native country where she grew up under a “multigenerational household with four families and 21 cousins living under one roof”.

“Living with so many people taught me that everyone brings different perspectives, but the best solutions come when we listen to one another, collaborate and work toward a shared goal,” Gupta said. “That’s the kind of leadership I want to bring to Pleasanton.”

Gupta is a small business owner, a technology entrepreneur and

an author who also advocated for more women returning to the work force through her Mom Relaunch Foundation, which has “helped over 250 women rebuild their professional lives”.

Aside from her business ventures, Gupta has also spent years supporting efforts to improve the city’s economy through her

involvement in the Economic Vitality Committee, where she helped develop the city’s Economic Development Strategic Plan. It was during that time where she heard from several people that she should throw her name in the race for a City Council seat.

But for a long time, she felt it wasn’t the right moment to do so. That, however, changed this year when not only did she see the need for someone like her in public office, but there was now an open seat with Testa terming out.

After deciding she was going to run, Gupta said she decided to begin her candidacy campaign a bit differently than most other candidates. She started asking residents a simple question: “Do you know what’s happening at city hall and how it impacts your daily life?”

“Most people tell me, ‘Not really,’” Gupta said in her press release. “That convinced me the first step isn’t asking people for votes. It’s making it easier for people to understand what’s happening, share their ideas and become part of the conversation.”

She said that’s why she created a community engagement platform which provides easy-to-read summaries of what is going on during upcoming City Council meetings and where people can voice their concerns and opinions. She uses artificial intelligence to summarize all of those concerns and brings

them to the City Council meetings where she then reads them during public comment.

She told the Pleasanton Weekly that even if she doesn’t get elected, one of her main goals throughout her campaign is to increase civic engagement. In fact, the only thing she is currently using to promote herself are these business cards which have a QR code that takes people to her community engagement platform.

“My goal is to start serving before I’m elected,” Gupta said. “My vision is to foster collaboration among residents, businesses, nonprofits, city staff and my fellow councilmembers so that together we can solve problems, make better decisions and build a stronger future.”

Gupta’s other biggest objective, if elected, is economic vitality. She said Pleasanton has a lot of assets — the Stoneridge Shopping Center, business parks, hotels — that are being underutilized. So, instead of pursuing things like tax increases, she said the city needs to focus on activating those assets which would in turn attract more visitors, more businesses and more revenue.

“A strong economy and vibrant communities are not competing goals,” Gupta said. “One makes the other possible.”

More information on Gupta’s platform will be available soon on her campaign website, www.reenaforpleasanton.com. ■

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Dublin council nixes hotel tax ballot measure

After proposal fails to secure four votes, vice mayor decries outcome as ‘tantamount to malpractice’

By JUDE STRZEMP

While neighboring Pleasanton is taking a similar measure to voters this November, the Dublin City Council balked last week at putting a hotel tax increase on its citywide ballot after facing pushback from local hoteliers.

The measure proposed a 4% bump to the transient occupancy tax in Dublin, implemented by 2% step increases in July 2027 and 2028 for a total of 12%. Military families would have been exempt from the rate increase — a special consideration for the city with Parks Reserve Forces Training Area located in Dublin.

Revenue was slated to go toward the city’s general fund for essential services with a structural deficit predicted in 2030-31, according to city officials.

The potential measure failed following a tense discussion at its July 21 regular meeting, falling short of the four affirmative votes needed from the dais. Landing at a 3-1 tally in favor, Mayor Sherry Hu opposed the item and Councilmember John Morada abstained.

“I believe that some of the arguments that I’m hearing tonight from my colleagues are disingenuous and I believe that a very small handful of

politically connected people to some of your campaigns are having an outsized influence,” Vice Mayor Jean Josey said.

Kicking off the discussion, Councilmember Michael McCorriston expressed support for the tax bump amid the structural deficit projected for the future.

“This is a tiny increase and we’re doing it thoughtfully. We’re doing it in tiers,” McCorriston said.

The current 8% tax rate was established in 1984, according to city staff. The 4% tax increase for stays of 30 days or less at any of the six hotels in the city, or locations such as inns, tourist homes and motels, would increase general fund revenue by an estimated \$700,000 annually at full implementation.

Councilmember Kashef Qaadri also endorsed placing the measure on the ballot in part to level the city’s hotel tax with rates in Alameda County.

Tri-Valley jurisdictions range from 6.50%-8%, but the median rate in the county is 12%.

“We’re in a healthy fiscal position,” Dublin City Manager Colleen Tribby said during the meeting. “This is really about providing essential services now and for the long-term.”

Local hotel operators, however,

generally do not support the increased tax, city staff said.

Among those to oppose the tax rate increase were two of the three speakers during public comment.

“The Hotel Industry is still reeling from the effects of COVID,” Dublin Chamber of Commerce CEO Inge Houston said in a statement following the council decision. “Rates are down, occupancy is down and expenses for insurance, utilities and staffing have skyrocketed. This is not the time to add more of a burden to our hotels.”

On the other side of the argument, Dublin business owner Mike Grant expressed support for increasing the hotel tax as a way to pay for city services.

“These motels are getting the benefit of the taxpayers in town,” he said. “We’re the one picking the bill up for all the ambulances, the fire and everything like that.”

In line with hotel operators, Hu expressed opposition to the potential rate increase.

“A few dollars do matter,” Hu said. “We want our hotel businesses to thrive.”

According to research presented by city staff, moderate increases to hotel tax do not cause a measurable change in hotel occupancy, revenue, average

daily room rate or hotel employment.

On another note, Morada questioned whether a structural deficit was truly impending.

“Some of the arguments that are being made here are conjecture,” Morada said. “We’re forecasting a deficit, but we’ve been forecasting the deficit for two city managers, even prior to the one that we have today, so please tell me at which point the reality of this deficit is actually going to surface.”

Reflecting on the oppositional stances, Josey scolded Hu and Morada.

“I am appalled that two of you would have asked staff to bring us this measure and to do this much work, and ask them to do additional research ... and to have not considered the research that they brought to us,” Josey said.

Council had given related direction to staff at multiple meetings prior to July 21, according to the staff presentation.

“For us not to even ask our residents what they want us to do is tantamount to malpractice for the five of us,” she added.

Morada maintained his position.

“If somebody could just simply tell me where that gap is today and the probability of that happening and how

that could impact us at this moment ... then prove it. Do it right now,” Morada added.

Staff provide an annual budget update and projections, Josey replied.

“We think it’s a conservative, but reasonable model,” Tribby added regarding the ten-year forecast.

As for its budgeting measure, the city has already implemented cost-cutting actions such as decreasing contributions to pensions, cutting off the retiree health plan and pegged salaries at “certain rate,” Tribby said.

Meanwhile, the city expects a dip in revenue from development as the city reaches build-out, she added.

“I feel terrible for staff that we have put them through the amount of research we asked for, that to me, seems like that request was for show,” Josey said.

During the final vote, the motion received 3-1 support with one abstention. However, the council did not place the proposed measure on the ballot because doing so required an affirmative vote of two-thirds.

Facing more immediate budget concerns, the Pleasanton City Council unanimously approved a resolution at its July 7 meeting to place a similar measure on the November 2026 ballot in its city. ■

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Metal 3D printing company opens production facility

Velo3D campus in Livermore to provide components for defense, aerospace, energy sectors

By JUDE STRZEMP

Fremont-based company Velo3D has primed its first facility in Livermore where it is set to manufacture 3D-printed metal parts for strategic industries.

Spanning nearly 289,000 square feet, the new campus dubbed Forge 1 is set to be among the largest metal additive manufacturing facilities in North America, according to company officials.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony for Forge 1 was held July 15, but the company is poised to begin operations in phases as its systems are installed.

"Forge 1 is much more than a new production facility," Velo3D CEO Arun Jeldi said in a statement announcing the campus opening. "It represents our commitment to helping customers and our nation build a stronger, more resilient



COURTESY VELO3D

Velo3D this month revealed to the public the site of its metal additive manufacturing facility in Livermore.

manufacturing foundation."

Velo3D created Forge 1 in response to growing demand from industries such as aerospace, defense and energy to scale up the production of pertinent metal parts

domestically.

At the new campus, there is about 270,000 square feet of production space and infrastructure to support over 40 large-format metal additive manufacturing systems, according

to Velo3D officials. These systems will print 3D metal components.

Velo3D can expand its fleet of systems to over 100 systems, according to company officials.

Overall, work at Forge 1 is set to support machine assembly, production-scale printing, post-processing, inspection, quality assurance and customer acceptance, Velo3D officials said.

Between the company headquarters in Fremont and Forge 1, located at 711 Challenger St., Velo3D officials expect to operate a total of up to 125 metal additive manufacturing systems.

The company's headquarters in Fremont will continue to serve as the locus of research and development, applications engineering, process development, customer collaboration and qualification, according to the statement.

Velo3D's investment in Livermore creates high-skilled manufacturing careers, strengthens the local supply chain and generates tax revenue that supports essential community services, Livermore Mayor John Marchand told Livermore Vine.

"It also reinforces Livermore's position as a city where innovation gets built and where companies developing the next generation of manufacturing technologies choose to invest," Marchand said in an email interview. "That's a win not only for our residents today, but for Livermore's long-term future."

Velo3D is the only original equipment manufacturer in the large-format laser powder bed fusion market founded and based in the U.S. with hardware manufactured and software developed in the country that also creates systems deployed in the U.S. and internationally. ■

Livermore to roll out \$2.5M sidewalk repair project

Concrete slicing work set to correct over 90% of walkway hazards in city

By JUDE STRZEMP

The city of Livermore is poised this summer to begin a \$2.5 million project to repair over 450 miles of privately maintained, uneven walkways across the city.

Dubbed the sidewalk slicing project, the initiative is set to smooth over 90% of the sidewalk hazards in the city, beginning with the city's central zone this summer, followed by Springtown this fall, northwest Livermore this winter and the remaining areas by next summer.

The Livermore City Council

greenlit the project and associate funding via unanimous tally during its Monday regular meeting.

"This project allows us to quickly enhance the existing quality of life in our community," Mayor John Marchand said in a statement announcing the project approval. "By making this investment, the City is virtually eliminating a backlog of sidewalk repairs that could otherwise take years for residents, business owners, and City staff to resolve."

As part of the city's asset management program, Livermore officials

discovered about 16,000 sidewalk deflections adjacent to about 11,000 properties in the public sidewalk network, according to a staff report prepared by Livermore associate civil engineer Christopher Ferrel.

Property owners have historically been responsible for sidewalk maintenance, but the city is stepping in to foot the bill of "eligible slicing repairs," according to the statement by city officials.

City staff determined that sidewalk slicing was the most cost-effective method of addressing 15,000 of

the sidewalk deflections. Using the method, sidewalk panels do not need to be removed and replaced.

"Slicing these deflections will improve pedestrian safety, connectivity and ADA accessibility while significantly reducing the need for full sidewalk replacement," Ferrel said. "The concrete slicing work will correct over 90% of Livermore's sidewalk hazards and significantly reduce costly trip-and-fall liability exposure."

In total, the project is set to address 461 miles of uneven walkways, including about 390 miles in residential neighborhoods, 40 miles in commercial areas and 31 miles in industrial zones.

The remaining 1,000 deflections will require full sidewalk repair or replacement, Ferrel said.

"City staff will continue working directly with property owners to address these remaining locations," according to city officials.

During the meeting Monday, Councilmember Evan Branning expressed his excitement about the project.

"It costs less than we thought it would. It's covering more of the sidewalk than we thought it would. It's making the city a much nicer place for everyone," Branning said.

The sole public commenter on the item also expressed support for the initiative.

Funding for the project and a related contract amendment came before the council as a consent item, which are typically considered uncontroversial and passed with a single motion.

As part of the council's supportive vote, it agreed to reappropriated funds from the State Gas Tax Fund 560 (\$500,000) and Alameda

County Measure BB (\$450,000) for the Bluebell Drive bridge repair at Altamont Creek project as well as county Measure F (\$750,000) for the downtown sidewalk and miscellaneous ADA improvements project.

The repair and improvements projects are anticipated to begin in 2028 and funding will be appropriated to each in the 2027-2032 capital improvement plan, according to Ferrel.

In addition to the reappropriations, the council gave permission to the city manager to amend a contract agreement with Precision Emprise, LLC, operating as Precision Concrete

Cutting, for on-call concrete cutting services. The contract amount increased to \$4 million, up from \$1 million, and was extended to Dec. 30, 2030, according to Ferrel.

Although the additional contracted authority is \$3 million, staff estimate that \$2.5 million will be sufficient for the slicing work.

Prior to the sidewalk slicing project, the city has addressed nearly 9,000 uneven sidewalk locations and installed or upgraded over 200 curb ramps of city-maintained infrastructure since 2020.

In addition to the sidewalk slicing project, the city is pursuing the downtown bluestone project to replace existing bluestone sidewalks with stamped concrete for improved durability and easier maintenance. About 15,000 square feet have been replaced so far with the remaining 46,000 square feet set for replacement beginning in 2028.

For more information about the sidewalk slicing project, visit the city website at www.LivermoreCA.gov/SlicingProject. ■

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Livermore couple opening butcher shop downtown

Upcoming storefront on Old First Street marks inaugural Traditions Meat Co.

By JUDE STRZEMP

A full-service butcher shop is set to open next year downtown Livermore.

The Traditions Meat Co. storefront is slated to be USDA-inspected, selling freshly cut meats that are non-GMO and sourced locally from animals that have been raised humanely without vaccines or antibiotics. It is also poised to sell ready-to-go sandwiches, stocks and broths, seasonings and in the future, cooked meats.

Livermore-based owners Cole and Domonique Minnis currently operate an e-commerce business by the same name. Noticing a lack of USDA processors near their hometown, the couple decided to open their first storefront in Livermore.

"You're wanting the best quality product you can get and also it's

about treating animals humanely," Cole Minnis said of the lineup of sustainably sourced meats at Traditions Meat Co.

The couple's journey to become business owners began with a mutual interest in the sourcing of meats.

They toured farms and bought meat directly from the sites, they told Livermore Vine.

"We had family and friends asking us where we were going and so we realized that this could become a business," Domonique Minnis said.

The couple kick-started Traditions Meat Co. in July 2023, operating online and at farmers markets in Livermore.

"It's been a great way to meet so many people in-person without having to take that big leap yet,"

Domonique Minnis explained.

By early 2024, the Minnises established a goal of opening a brick-and-mortar location.

"We took our time getting our business plan dialed in and a big hurdle for us was trying to find a location," she said.

Then they found the storefront at 2558 Old First St.

Upon opening the shop, they will be able to sell direct-to-business and process meat including for local ranchers and hunters.

The space was formerly home to longstanding businesses that vacated the property by August 2025, following the resale of the building. The departed businesses were Tri-Valley Cobbler, J & R Sports Supply and Pierson's Livermore Auto Stereo.

As Cole and Domonique Minnis



COURTESY MINNIS FAMILY

Traditions Meat Co. owners Domonique and Cole Minnis are planning to open their first storefront downtown Livermore.

gear up to open the shop during spring, they also plan to expand their presence at farmers markets in the Tri-Valley and along the Interstate 680 corridor. ■

Red Cross aims to address emergency blood shortage

Opportunities to give across Tri-Valley as all blood types needed, especially type O

By BAY CITY NEWS SERVICE

The American Red Cross has declared an emergency blood shortage this summer, for only the second time in the 145-year history of the organization.

They issued an urgent request nationwide for donations on Monday, asking people, including Bay Area residents, to book appointments to donate blood soon.

All blood types are needed, especially type O blood, which is under limited distribution to hospitals because the nonprofit currently has

less than a one-day supply on hand.

The Red Cross supplies about 40% of the nation's blood to hospitals and healthcare facilities for surgeries, cancer treatment, chronic illnesses and traumatic injuries.

"If just three more donors gave at each blood drive this summer, we could help the blood supply rebound and ensure hospitals have the blood products they need throughout the remainder of the season," said Paul Sullivan, a spokesperson for donor services at the Red Cross.

The Red Cross said thousands

of people have donated since the emergency was announced earlier in July, but donations still aren't keeping up with hospital demand.

Extreme heat, poor air quality and widespread foodborne illnesses are contributing to lower donor turnout this summer, according to the nonprofit.

There are many upcoming opportunities to donate blood across Alameda, Contra Costa, San Francisco and Santa Clara counties.

In the Tri-Valley, donations can be made daily at the Pleasanton

Blood Donation Center at 5880 W. Las Positas Blvd., Suite 34.

Standalone Red Cross donation drives are also set for this Friday (July 31) from 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Muslim Community Center in Pleasanton, 5724 W. Las Positas Blvd., No. 300; this Friday (July 31) from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the San Ramon Medical Center South Building, 7777 Norris Canyon Road; Aug. 7 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Dublin Civic Center, 100 Civic Plaza; and Aug. 13 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the San Ramon Valley Seventh-day

Adventist Church, 2260 Camino Ramon in San Ramon.

Appointments can be booked using the Blood Donor App, by visiting RedCrossBlood.org or calling 1-800-RED-CROSS. As a thank you, donors who give blood by July 31 will receive a Fandango movie ticket. In August, the Red Cross will instead offer donors a \$20 Amazon gift card. ■

— Story by Bay City News Service, with Embarcadero Media Foundation East Bay Division editorial director Jeremy Walsh contributing local donation information.

DEMOLITION

Continued from Page 5

incredibly grateful to our Facilities and Construction team for the care and coordination required to manage a project of this complexity."

The PUSD Board of Trustees first approved the \$85 million design-build agreement to construct the new athletic and performing arts facilities in January 2025. According to the district, the overall project budget is approximately \$95.8 million.

The scope of the project includes demolishing the existing theater in order to build a new performing arts center; modernizing the existing music building; remodel the existing competition gym into a practice gym and locker rooms; tear down the existing small gym; and construct a new competition gym.

Over this past summer break, the construction team from Blach Construction began renovating the existing locker rooms, installing new utilities and preparing

the existing gym and theater for demolition.

According to the construction team at the site, they were given the green light to begin demolition on Tuesday after they had to wait for PG&E to shut off power to the impacted structures. They said they had to wait until they were sure it was safe to begin tearing down that larger structure.

Sam Marquez, a project engineer at Blach Construction, said the goal with the theater's demolition is to knock it down on top of itself in order to create a ramp so that the construction crews can get up to the tower, which he described to be the "most difficult part" of the overall demolition.

"That thing is like a 12-inch thick concrete wall all the way around," he said, noting how that is the part they really want to get done before school starts.

He said after that, the hard part will be breaking up the concrete into manageable pieces and separating the rebar from those pieces in order for it all to be hauled

away. He said managing all that rubble will carry into the school year.

Marquez added that construction of the new gym and performing arts center will take place simultaneously throughout the school year.

"They're both going to be going on at the same time and it'll be fairly heavy construction up front," Marquez said. "But once the ... steel structure (goes in), I would say it starts getting a little bit less impactful noise wise and disruption wise."

But instead of demolishing the theater first, crews started with the wrestling room and part of the small gym Tuesday. The plan is to work their way up to the theater in the coming weeks.

According to PUSD safety and communication coordinator Susanne Frey, the order was done because of "safety reasons".

As far as the new structures, Marquez said they expect to begin constructing those sometime in the fall or winter. ■



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Futures Explored unveils new Pleasanton office

Go Group supports community programs for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities

By Emily Wang

Futures Explored has opened a new Pleasanton facility for its Go Group program, creating a larger space for participants to gather and connect with the community.

A grand opening was held June 23 to mark the new facility. The event included a ribbon-cutting ceremony and welcomed friends, families,

neighbors and supporters from across the East Bay.

Since 1964, Futures Explored has served adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Its programs include community connections, personal wellness, education and employment, as well as film and media.

The Go Group is designed to help people who want to be active in the

community. The program provides support and encouragement for participants to take part in activities such as employment, volunteerism, education on college campuses and travel training to access their communities independently.

The program also builds skills for independence through money management, cooking, exercise and

health, as well as health and safety preparation.

Marie Stapleton, a Futures Explored board member, said the new Pleasanton facility will allow the organization to enroll more participants in the Go Group.

She noted the new location is easily accessible from interstates 580 and 680, and the facility can be easily

reached by BART and Wheels. Such access will allow participants to explore new areas, meet new people and potentially partner with local businesses.

The Futures Explored Go Group office is located at 5990 Stoneridge Drive, Suite 106, in Pleasanton. More information is available at futures-explored.org. ■

VA hospitals get piece of \$4.8B fund for projects

Renovations coming to Palo Alto, Menlo Park, Livermore campuses

By B. Sakura Cannestra / Palo Alto Weekly

The Palo Alto VA Health Care System has a new slate of upcoming renovations funded by a \$4.8 billion nationwide maintenance package that include work at its Menlo Park, Livermore and Palo Alto campuses.

About \$2.2 billion of that funding has been allocated so far to VA

hospitals across the nation. The Palo Alto Veterans Affairs Health Care System announced six maintenance projects in a press release July 21, including renovating the Palo Alto campus' microbiology lab and repairing steam lines at the Menlo Park campus at 795 Willow Road.

"This funding allows VA Palo Alto to continue modernizing and

improving, so our facility remains safe, efficient, and equipped to provide high-quality care for our Veterans in (the) San Francisco Bay Area," Jean Gurga, executive medical center director of VA Palo Alto, said in the press release.

Other projects on the Palo Alto campus, located at 3801 Miranda Ave., will replace the air-handling unit in Building 7 and upgrade

radiology patient safety in Building 100's G-wing. Modernizations are also coming to the Livermore campus.

The Palo Alto VA hospital branch serves more than 67,000 veterans across Northern California and Nevada. The system has campuses in Palo Alto, Menlo Park and Livermore, and four outpatient clinics in San Jose, Capitola, Marina

and Fremont, totaling 600 beds.

The Department of Veterans Affairs announced the nationwide \$4.8 billion one-time maintenance investment in January, part of a push to improve and modernize healthcare infrastructure for patients. A press release from January calls it the VA's largest non-recurring maintenance investment in a single year. ■

WILDFIRE

Continued from Page 5

LPFD was one of the first agencies to respond before Cal Fire fully took over. According to Cal Fire, the Little Fire was fully contained as of Saturday night. No structures were burned down and no resident casualties — one firefighter suffered minor injuries, according to Cal Fire.

Lacey told the council over 6,000

people were evacuated from their homes and that close to 2,000 homes were threatened by the fire — the cause of which is still under investigation, according to Cal Fire.

He emphasized how none of the city's response would be possible without all of the training staff undergo to prepare for these types of emergencies. He closed by thanking the community for the outpouring of thank-you calls, emails and letters.

"Thank you very much for honoring us and recognizing us tonight," Lacey said during the meeting. "And thank you very much to the men and women of the Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department, specifically. You're rock stars, you're heroes and you've made me a very proud fire chief tonight."

Avelar spoke on how the police department handled neighborhood evacuations that day and how many officers worked overtime just in case the situation worsened and further action needed to be taken. She also thanked the community for their cooperation during a time of extreme stress.

Andra Cheung, a real estate agent in Pleasanton, said during public comment she was there representing the Chinese community in the city who wanted to express their gratitude toward the city's first responders. She read a letter from one Ruby Hill resident who was in China at the time of the fire and who was only able to stay updated via online posts and updates.

"My heart was in my throat when I watched the fire move closer to my home, knowing that I have no way to return (to) help," Cheung read from the letter. "I can never put into words how grateful I am for your timeless effort during those dangerous hours ... Because of your courage, your quick response and your dedication, the fire was contained and so many homes, including mine, were saved."

"You didn't just stop a fire," she continued reading. "You give families like mine hope and piece of mind."

A little over half a dozen Ruby Hill residents also spoke about their experiences having to evacuate



COURTESY LPFD

The "Little Fire" engulfed 1,007 acres between Pleasanton and Sunol on July 21.

their families and expressed how thankful they were for the city's response and reminded others how quickly things can change and to not take anything for granted.

Vice Mayor Matt Gaidos recounted how he was able to see the smoke from the courthouse in Dublin, where he works as a deputy district attorney, and how — after hearing and seeing footage from his daughter — he drove up and down his district area to talk to residents and help spread the word about what was happening.

He said he was particularly grateful for the fact that no structures were burned down and credited that largely on the firefighters and their quick response.

"Since I was little, this is the closest and biggest fire I've seen in the city of Pleasanton," Gaidos said.

Gaidos also recalled how he and Balch spent that first evening at city hall and the evacuation center

helping residents who were displaced. The council's regular meeting scheduled for that night was postponed due to the fire and rescheduled for Monday.

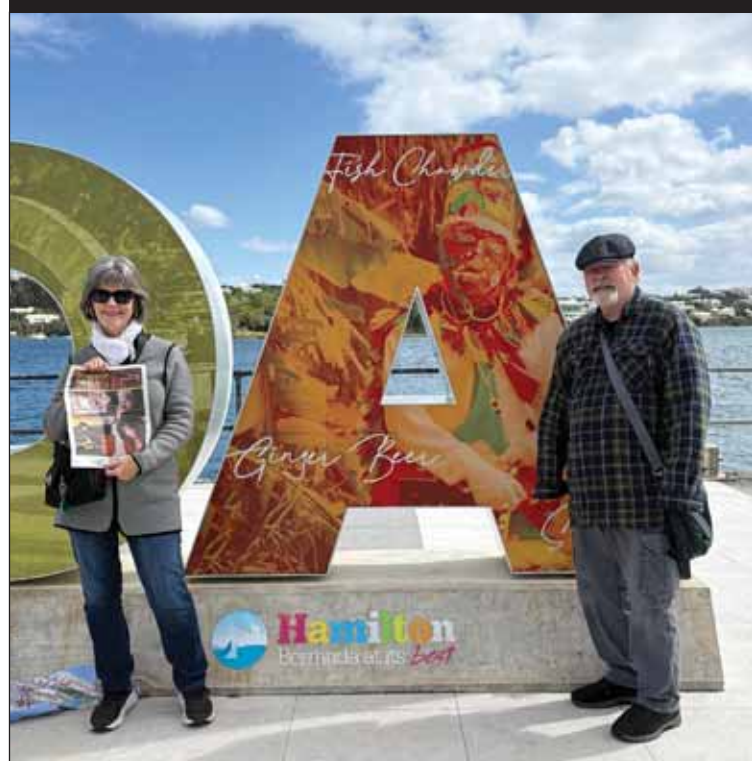
"I'm glad as a city, we were so prepared for it," he said.

Councilmember Jeff Nibert also thanked city employees for their quick work in setting up the evacuation center at the Pleasanton Senior Center, where he said over 60 people and roughly 20 pets sought shelter during the evacuation order.

"That was a testament to all of the emergency preparation that our city employees have undertaken in recent years," Nibert said.

Balch and others closed their comments with reminders for residents to sign up for the city's emergency alert system so that they can be notified and for residents to prepare or update their emergency plans. ■

TAKE US ALONG



Ooh, I wanna take ya...: Longtime Pleasanton residents Susan and Ron Wacek recently enjoyed a wonderful trip to Bermuda.

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

Sunflower Hill set for annual fundraising dinner

‘Roll Out the Red Carpet Gala’ coming to Castlewood in October

By JEREMY WALSH

Tri-Valley nonprofit Sunflower Hill is gearing up for its annual marquee fundraiser, a dinner and celebration event this fall that will help plant the seeds for the organization’s activities and accomplishments during the next year.

Branded this year with a Hollywood award show theme, the “Roll Out the Red Carpet Gala” has been scheduled for Oct. 3 in The

Club at Castlewood nestled among Pleasanton’s western ridgeline.

“We are incredibly grateful to our amazing community of donors and supporters whose generosity fuels our mission every day,” said Jennifer Oxe, development director for Sunflower Hill. “This is our biggest event of the year, and we are excited to celebrate.”

The “unforgettable night of glamor” will feature a red-carpet arrival, paparazzi-style photos, a gourmet

dinner, live and silent auctions, a keynote message from Sunflower Hill board member John Lengyl and VIP interviews by Kari Hall, NBC Bay Area meteorologist and autism advocate, according to organizers.

Money raised will help Sunflower Hill in its ongoing efforts “dedicated to creating ‘places and spaces’ where individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities can live, learn, work and thrive”, according to the nonprofit.

In addition to ongoing activities at its Sunflower Hill at Irby Ranch residential community in Pleasanton and Sunflower Hill Garden at Hagemann Ranch in Livermore, the organization has been focused this year on advancing its new housing development with 48 affordable units in Lafayette as well as its two projects in Dublin — 20 set-aside units at Francis Ranch and 60 affordable apartments at Grace Pointe.

The nonprofit also recently wrapped up its summer camps that saw about 60 adults and teens with I/DD participate, led the distribution of \$500,000 in Alameda County Measure W housing funds and installed two new shade structures at the garden thanks to funding from the city and Rotarian Foundation in Livermore.

For tickets and more information about the gala, go to sunflowerhill.org. ■

\$30 minimum wage qualifies for countywide ballot

By KILEY RUSSELL /
BAY CITY NEWS SERVICE

A group advocating for a \$30-an-hour minimum wage in Alameda County announced Friday that the signatures it collected to place an initiative on the November ballot have been certified by county officials.

The Alameda County Registrar of Voters’ Office also confirmed Friday that the Alameda County Living Wage for All coalition has gathered enough valid signatures from registered voters to place the measure on the ballot.

The coalition said in a news

release that it collected more than 100,000 signatures throughout Alameda County “and the certified petition exceeded the required threshold at 106%”.

The coalition is part of the national One Fair Wage campaign, which aims to establish a living wage at the federal level, in eight states and the District of Columbia.

“Workers built this campaign themselves, without the corporate firms that usually run ballot campaigns, and gathered every signature by hand. This is what democracy looks like,” said Saru

Jayaraman of One Fair Wage.

In addition to One Fair Wage, the coalition includes the Black Organizing Project, an Oakland-based community organization, Trabajadores Unidos Workers United, a Bay Area-based immigrant worker center, and United Auto Workers Region 6.

Organizers say that if approved by a majority of voters in November, it will be the first \$30 an hour minimum wage in the United States.

It would take effect next July and apply only to employers in the unincorporated parts of the county, not those doing business inside any

city boundary, although the group is working to put a similar initiative on an Oakland ballot.

The “Living Wage For All” measure would require corporations with more than 100 employees and revenue of more than \$1 billion to raise their hourly minimum wage to \$30 by 2030.

Firms employing between 25 and 100 people would have until 2035 to raise their minimum wage to the same level, while those with fewer than 25 employees would have until 2037.

It would require annual increases of at least 3%. The initiative

also includes a provision that would allow workers subjected to illegal retaliation or wage theft to recover triple the amount of lost wages.

Supporters say the Alameda County Board of Supervisors must now vote to put the measure on the November ballot and expect them to do so at their Aug. 4 regular meeting.

On the day of that vote, the coalition will hold a news conference in front of the Alameda County Administration Building in Oakland to rally support for their initiative. ■



Pleasanton Weekly is sponsoring the city of Pleasanton’s Concert in the Park music series.

On Friday, August 21st, in Lions Wayside Park, the Diablo Fugitives will be performing rock covers starting at 7 p.m. Arrive early to set up lawn chairs and picnic blankets.

Stop by and say “Hi”! Enjoy this free music series and visit our booth. Several of our reporters, editors and staff will be there to talk to local community members.

Keep us in your community. Donate to local nonprofit journalism today! The Pleasanton Weekly greatly appreciates every reader, and we look forward to serving you quality journalism and supporting the local community.

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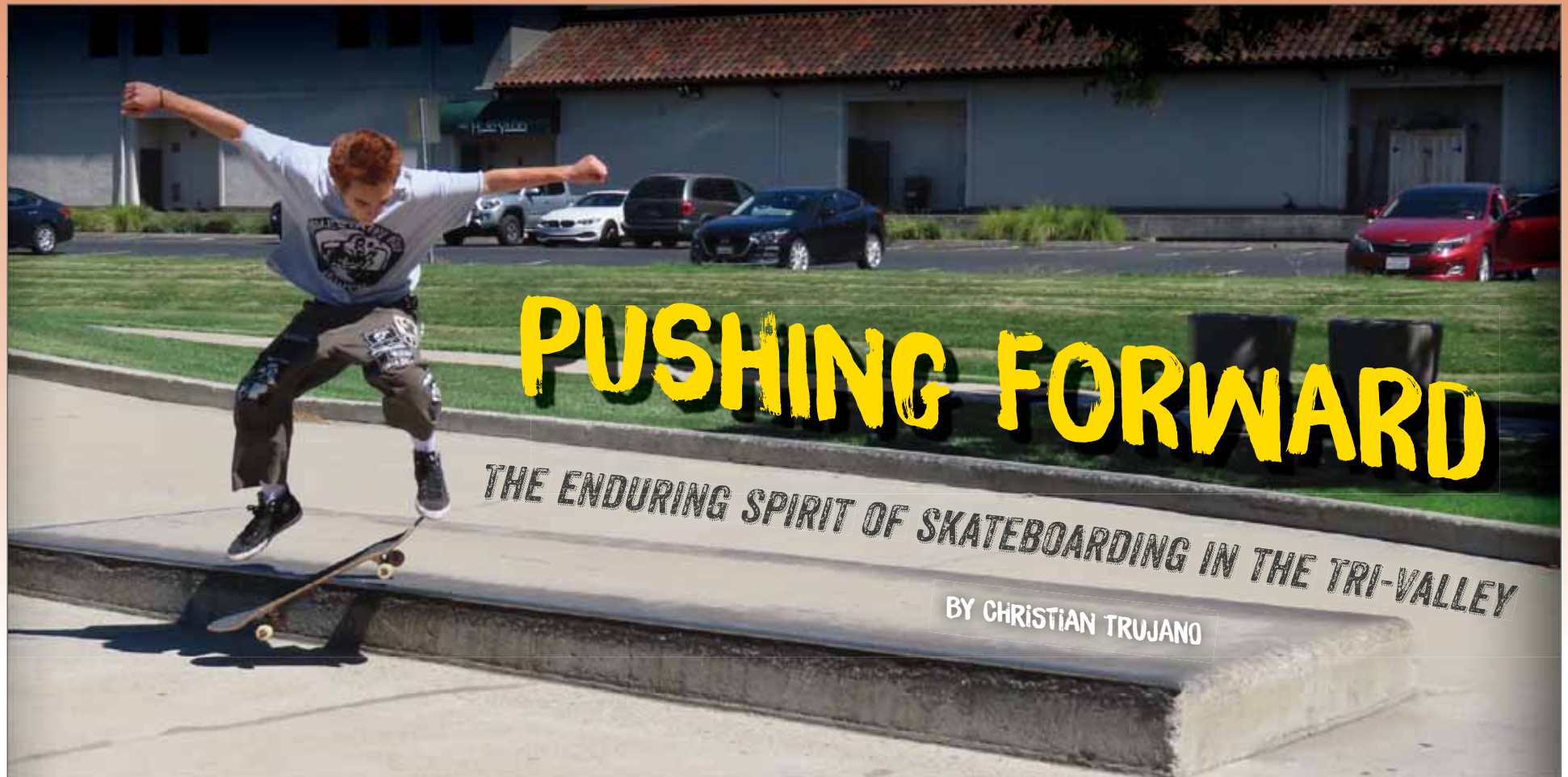
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PHOTOS BY CHRISTIAN TRUJANO

Above: Pleasanton resident Joaquin Harder jumps into a backside noseslide at one of the ledges at the Ken Mercer Sports Park. Below: Jake Hammer practices his ollie at the San Ramon Skatepark, which he says is usually empty.

For decades, skateboarding was seen as a subculture of kids running around with a piece of wood on four wheels damaging public property and overall running amok.

Yet as the years passed by, more and more people began accepting skateboarding for what it can truly be: a sport that builds confidence, social skills and a willingness to never give up. Now, skateboarding is included in the Olympics and more cities continuing opening up skate parks across the country.

In the Tri-Valley, despite its deep ties within the skateboarding community and the handful of parks scattered across the region, skateboarding can feel like a dying scene as more kids wanting wheels seem to gravitate toward scooters and e-bikes.

"It's pretty disheartening," Jake Hammer, a San Ramon resident, said in regard to how few skaters he sees at his local skate park. "San Ramon Skate Park, there's never anyone."

Still, that hasn't stopped Hammer and other local skaters from having a good time and honing their skills at the parks they do have, even if they might not be the best in the world.

"Even though we don't have the best parks ever, they're still a bunch of skaters always skating the parks," JustinDaniel Kamanakai Sanchez

— better known as JD — told the Pleasanton Weekly.

The history of skateboarding is a rather long one that started back in the 1950s and '60s when surfers and others during that time made make-shift skateboards out of surfboards and other tiny pieces of wood. They would typically nail or drill roller skate wheels on these pieces of wood and skate down hills or along the beach.

It was during that era that Laura Turner DeMott, who made a name for herself in the sport as a teen in the Bay Area and later made her home in Pleasanton as an adult, became the first girl or woman to ever appear in a skateboarding magazine. DeMott was inducted into the International Skateboarding Hall of Fame in Southern California in 2014.

As the years progressed, so did skateboarding. Boards became wider, skaters started launching themselves several feet in the air and the invention of the kickflip all helped bring skateboarding to where it is today.

And as the sport grew in popularity, so did the demand for skate parks. But for suburban and rural areas, both of which are in the Tri-Valley, finding those parks can be a little more difficult, especially if you don't have a car and need to take a two-hour bus ride between each park.

Still, that hasn't stopped many of

the local skaters from keeping the skateboarding scene alive and from making a name for themselves.

One of the skaters who is looking to do the latter is Sanchez, a competition skater who has earned second place during past X Games competitions, including recently in Sacramento.

Sanchez was originally born in Hawaii before his family moved to Cordelia — a city located just south of Fairfield — where he lived for most of his life. He and his family relocated to Pleasanton around four years ago.

Sanchez said he first started skating when he was around 6-1/2 years old after he saw his dad skating one time at the park.

"I was like dang, I kind of want to try that," he said. "Ever since that day, I've been hooked."

For Sanchez, moving to the Tri-Valley was the best thing that could have happened for his skating career because of a vert ramp his friend owns. He said his dad, who was a carpenter, helped build the ramp around spring of last year with some other guys.

Vert ramps are large ramps where

skaters launch themselves several feet in the air — commonly associated with people like Tony Hawk and other skateboarding legends from the '80s and '90s.

Sanchez said being able to practice at the ramp has helped tremendously to train for his competitions.

"Having this ramp nearby really helps step up my game for sure," he said.

But not everyone in the Tri-Valley has access to ramps like that, nor do they prefer to skate those types of obstacles.

For others like Joaquin Harder, a



**'HAVING THIS RAMP NEARBY REALLY HELPS
STEP UP MY GAME FOR SURE.'**

JD SANCHEZ



COURTESY LARPD

Crowds of skaters, scooter riders and cyclists test out the new pump track located at the Sunken Gardens Skate Park in Livermore.

**‘THE SKATE CULTURE OUT HERE IS
DEFINITELY STILL BOOMING.
YOU ALWAYS SEE SKATERS SKATING,
WHICH IS SICK.’**

JD SANCHEZ

But sometimes, it's not just about having the perfect skate park. It's about the community.

Over in San Ramon, Hammer said the fact that his local skate park is almost always empty usually forces him to make the trip over to San Francisco or other parts of the Bay Area because he wants to be around other skaters.

“I prefer to be there or like Fremont ... because there's actual people there,” Hammer said.

He said the overall skate scene and culture in the Tri-Valley is “pretty dead”.

And that's the thing about skateboarding. Residents might assume that skaters would prefer an entire skate park to themselves — in some cases it might be true — the same way a soccer player or basketball player would like field or court space to practice solo.

But for skaters, having others around them, even if they might be strangers, helps build that sense of community. One might see another skater trying a trick and offer words of encouragement, others might see a beginner struggling and help them out.

Or, just having other skaters in the park might make someone push themselves because they see so many others doing the same.

In somewhere like San Ramon, Hammer said apart from maybe one or two other locals like himself who come out once a week, he really only sees younger kids on their bikes or e-bikes and not

many skaters. Meanwhile in San Francisco and Fremont, he said the difference is pretty drastic because he'll see mostly little kids on skateboards rather than bikes.

And while Harder said there can be up to 10 locals at Ken Mercer Sports Park skating, that usually only happens on the weekends.

Both Harder and Sanchez said they have hope in keeping the culture alive in the Tri-Valley.

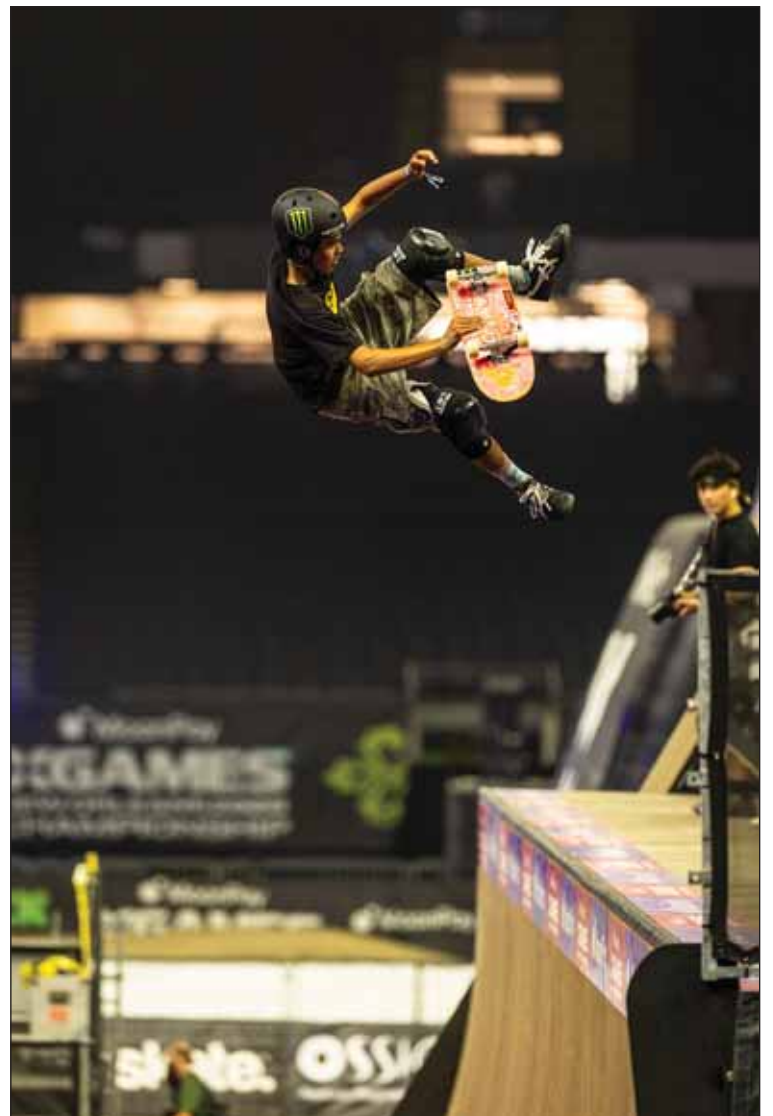
Sanchez said while he feels like the sport is seen mostly as an afterthought for most of the cities and they might not have the best infrastructure at the moment, it hasn't stopped skaters from making the best out of what they do have around them.

He added that a true, skater-owned skate shop would greatly benefit the skate scene in the Tri-Valley because of how they serve as a community hub for local skateboarders. Skate shops also typically have sponsorship deals with local skaters who wear and represent the shop's brand in exchange for merchandise.

Livermore used to have Street Science Skate Shop — Sanchez said he used to go there all the time for its mini ramp — but it has since closed.

Sanchez said maybe if the skate park at Ken Mercer ever gets built, one option could be to open a shop in the Hopyard Village shopping plaza right next to the park.

“The skate culture out here is definitely still booming,” Sanchez said. “You always see skaters skating, which is sick.” ■



PHOTOS BY BRYCE KANIGHTS

Top right: JD Sanchez said being able to skate his friend's private ramp in Livermore has helped step up his own game over the past year. Above: Sanchez practices his bag of tricks during the X Games New Orleans competition this summer.

Pleasanton resident who recently graduated from Foothill High School, they tend to skate the hidden street spots around town or the skate park at the Ken Mercer Sports Park, arguably the most prominent skate park in Pleasanton.

Even though there is another one at Val Vista Park, Harder said he mainly goes to Ken Mercer Sports Park, even though it might not be the most packed or pristine skate park, because it's almost more of a street spot.

“This is as street skating as you can get without leaving the park,” Harder said.

Harder said he thinks the park has one of the best ledges ever and an amazing quarter pipe where people can learn tricks.

Still, he and Sanchez said he would love to see the park get rebuilt into something bigger and better.

Both recalled the city of Pleasanton's plans to rebuild the skate park before it hit pause on the plans because of financial challenges with the city's budget.

“Hopefully that could get reignited and get built because that was an amazing plan,” Sanchez said, noting how Sports Park is located about five minutes from his house.

A similar project was considered in Danville, but the Town Council eventually decided to follow through with plans for a sports park that did not include the skate park.

However, one new addition to the skateboarding scene in the Tri-Valley that Sanchez did praise was the new pump track at the Sunken Gardens Skate Park in Livermore.

He said he already skated on the pump track a couple of times — he was there during its grand opening — and said it is really fun. He also said pump tracks in general are particularly good for beginners and anyone looking to get comfortable on a skateboard.

SpongeBob making a splash at the Bankhead



**Undersea musical brings colorful characters,
community and optimism to Tri-Valley**

By EMILY WANG

Bikini Bottom is headed for Livermore as Tri-Valley Theatre Company presents “The SpongeBob Musical” at the Bankhead Theater starting this weekend.

A family-friendly production with seven performances through Aug. 16, the musical play — inspired by the animated television series created by the late Stephen Hillenburg — follows SpongeBob SquarePants and his friends as a looming volcanic eruption threatens Bikini Bottom. With disaster approaching, they must come together to save their undersea world.

Brian Olkowski, artistic director of Tri-Valley Theatre Company, said audiences can expect more than just a stage version of a familiar cartoon.

“Audiences should expect a show full of heart,” Olkowski said. “Even though people may recognize the characters and comedy from the television series, this musical tells a story about community, resilience and finding hope when everything seems impossible.”

The Broadway adaptation was named Best Musical by the Drama Desk Awards and Outer Critics Circle and received 12 Tony Award nominations in 2018, according to

a press release from Livermore Valley Arts. The musical also features a score with songs by artists such as David Bowie, Cyndi Lauper, John Legend, Sara Bareilles, Steven Tyler and Joe Perry of Aerosmith, They Might Be Giants and Panic! At The Disco.

Olkowski said one of the surprises for audiences may be that the show is geared not only toward children.

“We’ve built a production that is energetic, funny, visually exciting and filled with unforgettable performances,” Olkowski said. “Whether you’re introducing your child to live theatre for the first time or you’re a longtime musical theatre fan, there’s something in this show for everyone.”

The production continues Tri-Valley Theatre Company’s work as a resident company of the Bankhead. Other past

productions included “Legally Blonde The Musical,” “The Music Man,” “Rock of Ages” and “The Addams Family.”

For “The SpongeBob Musical,” Arthur Mautner of Napa stars as SpongeBob SquarePants, with The T of Hayward as Patrick Star, Robert Lopez of Hayward as Squidward Q. Tentacles and Lucy Moore of Livermore as Sandy Cheeks. The cast also features

Jake Donaldson of Vacaville as Eugene Krabs and Zach Reinie of Campbell as Sheldon Plankton, along with performers from Livermore, Pleasanton, Hayward, Oakland, San Jose and other Bay Area communities.

Olkowski said watching the cast bring the characters to life with their own interpretations has been one of the most exciting parts of bringing the show to the stage.

“They capture the personalities audiences love without simply imitating the cartoon,” he said. “Every performer has found a unique way to make these

characters feel real on stage, bringing a lot of heart into the story.”

The production is directed by Danny Cozart, with choreography by Staci Arriaga and vocal and music direction by Jed da Roza. Julia Husch is the costumer, and AJ Amstrup and Olkowski are the producers. Amstrup also serves as the backstage manager, while Olkowski also serves as the stage manager.

The production is also intended as a celebration of local talent, with cast members, orchestra members, designers, technicians and volunteers from the community.

“Tri-Valley Theatre Company believes theatre should bring people together, and ‘The SpongeBob Musical’ does exactly that,” Olkowski said.

Performances are scheduled for 7 p.m. this Saturday (Aug. 1) and Aug. 15, and 1 p.m. this Sunday (Aug. 2) and Aug. 8, 9, 15 and 16. The matinee performance on Aug. 15 will include ASL interpretation, and Girl Scout Fun Patch events with post-show talkbacks are scheduled after the matinees on Aug. 8 and 15.

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



COURTESY TVTC

Cast of characters in Tri-Valley Theatre Company’s production of “The SpongeBob Musical”.

Livermore landmark inspires art exhibited across state

‘There is beauty everywhere,’ artist Carolyn Lord says

By JUDE STRZEMP

Livermore-based artist Carolyn Lord is attracting attention statewide to an iconic gas station in the city’s downtown as the subject of paintings up for exhibition this year.

Dubbed “Day is Done” and “Mid-Century Moonlight”, the nocturne pieces depict the Googie-style gas station located at the intersection of First and L streets.

“There is beauty everywhere,” Lord told Livermore Vine. “Oftentimes it’s the quality of light, or the color, or how an artist will interpret it that then it creates something else.”

As an architecture enthusiast, Lord said she is drawn repeatedly to the gas station because of its style.

“It just delights me, visually,” she explained.

Known for having unusual elements such as “outrageous” rooflines, Googie architecture can be seen in motels, coffee shops and gas stations, she said.

This style was created post-World War II at a time of car culture and a lack of public concern about climate change, or what she termed climate chaos, according to Lord.

The era of disregard for climate and pollution has passed, she said, drawing a parallel between the era’s end and the sun setting in “Day is Done”.

“Let’s look for something more hopeful,” she added, suggesting a shift away from the use of fossil fuels.

“Mid-Century Moonlight”, on the other hand, is about the visual effect of color and light, she said.

It evokes a dreamy state, but is not as pointed towards environmental concerns, she added.

The colors of the “Mid-Century Moonlight” were inspired by late California artist Charles Rollo Peters.

Both pieces are 11-inch-by-14-inch oil paintings.

Currently on exhibition, “Mid-Century Moonlight” is set to be on display until Aug. 16 at the Triton Museum of Art in Santa Clara. The painting was accepted into the 2026 Salon at the Triton: 2D Art Competition & Exhibition.

“Day is Done” is scheduled for display from Aug. 6 to Sept. 18 in Laguna Beach at The Laguna Plein Air Painters Association’s Annual “From Dusk to Dawn” juried nocturne show. ■



COURTESY CAROLYN LORD
“Mid-Century Moonlight” is on exhibit at the Triton Museum of Art in Santa Clara.

COURTESY CAROLYN LORD
“Day is Done” is set for display in Laguna Beach starting next week.



‘Evening Stories’ with three young published writers

6-year-olds sharing their books with public at Dublin Library event

By JEREMY WALSH

Three of the youngest authors in the Tri-Valley will be reading from their original picture books and engaging with residents at a special event next week at the Dublin Public Library.

“Evening Stories” at 5 p.m. Tuesday (Aug. 4) will feature 6-year-old Dublin writers Ayansh Maheshwari, Miraya Bajad and Aarna, who publishes only under her first name.

“I like making up fun stories and seeing my ideas turn into real books,” Maheshwari told the Pleasanton Weekly. “My favorite part is sharing them with other kids. I’m super excited to read at the library and see everyone having fun at storytime!”

Maheshwari has published two books — “Tag! You’re It!” and “Hungry Pig’s Adventures” — under his mom’s firm, The Sapling Press. The works are described as “fun, imaginative picture books full of playful friendship, bright storytelling and lighthearted humor that young children instantly connect with”.

Aarna’s book “celebrating kindness, teamwork and how helping friends makes every day better” is entitled, “Aarna and the Helpful Friends,” and Bajad’s book “Sia, Mira, and the Sticky Honey Surprise” tells of a “sunny picnic that leads to a garden full of bees, a sticky honey situation, and learning how to find fun and laughter in every situation”.

“Watching young children step into the role of published authors has been deeply moving and inspiring,” said Prachi Sharma, of The Sapling Press. “At this age, their imagination is completely uninhibited. Seeing them realize that their ideas, words, and creative visions can turn into real books sitting on a shelf — and that their voices matter — builds a level of confidence and joy that is truly priceless.”

The trio’s hour-long interactive presentation is set to take place in the picture book area of the library at 200 Civic Plaza. It is wheelchair accessible, and American Sign Language interpretation can be available with an advanced request through the library. ■



COURTESY THE SAPLING PRESS
Dublin resident Ayansh Maheshwari poses with his books, “Tag! You’re It!” and “Hungry Pig’s Adventures”.



Author goes to ‘Otter Space’ for book series debut

‘Pip & Pals’ follows adventurous animals in graphic novels designed for young readers

By RIYA UPADHYAYA

Pip, pip, hooray! Livermore author Jen de Oliveira recently released “Pip & Pals: Otter Space” — the first installment of her new, kid-friendly graphic novel series.

“Perfect for reluctant readers,” according to a press release from de Oliveira’s publisher, “Pip & Pals” features cartoon friends, kid humor and vibrant illustrations, plus positive messages about friendship and identity.

“Because it’s a comic, the visuals help tell a lot of the story,” de Oliveira said. “I think this makes the book accessible to all kinds of readers, and it may feel

less intimidating for kids who are overwhelmed by a lot of text on a page.”

The graphic novel series centers around Pip, a playful, adventurous otter who loves to explore with her friends.

“I’m from the Bay Area, where we have both river otters and sea otters nearby, so I definitely thought an otter would make a fun and cute main character!” de Oliveira told the Pleasanton Weekly. “But once I started developing Pip’s character and thinking about ‘Otter Space,’ it became a story about self-acceptance and finding one’s place.”

de Oliveira is a writer, cartoonist, and former elementary school teacher. Alongside “Pip & Pals,” she’s currently working on another graphic novel series, “Nummi Chums,” releasing in 2028, according to her website. The next books in “Pip & Pals” are in the making.

“I can’t reveal the title yet, but the second book will be out next summer,” she said. “It’s another silly adventure and introduces a new friend, but there’s also an ecological theme in the story. I’m excited to continue Pip’s adventure and hope readers will have fun reading it!” ■



COURTESY JEN DE OLIVEIRA
Livermore author Jen de Oliveira just published the first installment in her new “Pip & Pals” graphic novel series.

Community Pulse



Bill E. Eastman

December 1, 1940 – June 29, 2026

William (Bill) Ellis Eastman was born on Dec. 1, 1940 in St. Louis, MO. He passed away peacefully in the hospital on June 29th, 2026 at 85 years old with family close by his side. Bill was a cherished husband, father, father-in-law, grandfather, great-grandfather, uncle, pet parent, and friend. His essence, presence and sense of humor will deeply be missed.

Bill started his path in Southern California in the 1950's. He served in the U.S. Marine Corps and received undergraduate and master's degrees from Pepperdine University and the University of Southern California. Bill had a long and distinguished career as a police officer in Culver City, CA until he was hired as Police Chief in Pleasanton, CA. in 1981. His service as Pleasanton's Police Chief was just shy of 20 years before his retirement. Bill also served several years as President of the California Police Chiefs Association as well as the Chairman of boxing for the California State Athletic Commission, a position appointed by Governor Wilson in the 1990s.

Bill took his 34 + year career in public service very seriously. He was a no-nonsense, intelligent leader that strived to keep the streets of Pleasanton safe for all who lived and visited there while he served as chief. Bill was instrumental in positioning Pleasanton to become a safe and thriving community to live in while enormous population growth was taking place during the 80s and 90s.

His family can attest that Bill wholeheartedly took it upon himself to see that victim's rights were of the forefront of his efforts to bring perpetrators to justice. There is a certain toll that takes place that no one sees outside of law enforcement. He took crimes against his citizens extremely personally, that happened on "his and his department's watch". Tina Faelz and Vannesa Lei Samson were high-profile cases but to Bill, this was personal as if they were his own daughters. This bothered him exponentially and only

increased his will to seek justice for the victims and their families.

He taught the importance of taking responsibility and accountability for one's own actions and was always there to help others, be it an elderly lady who fell and hit her head, to the elderly who couldn't find their vehicles in the Stoneridge Mall parking lot to the mistreatment of children and animals. He was truly a man who rested on his beliefs and principles and had a complete propensity towards justice on and off his watch.

To those of whom truly knew him, he was a loving, passionate and devoted family man. He was pragmatic in his approach to everything he took on; this included his sense of humor. It was keen, it was fast and sharp and often caught you off guard. He was always the life of the party taking things a bit too far but nonetheless it would often conclude to be the funniest thing you have ever witnessed in your life, which is what he strived for. Bill had a profoundly serious side but then it was offset by this sense of humor that would show itself in a completely unguarded way.

Along with his comedic side, Bill was also highly creative and an avid artist that loved to teach his daughters how to draw when they were young. Bill also built his own bike seats for his daughters so that they could enjoy riding along with him on the strand in Manhattan Beach, CA.

As an enthused writer, he had a supreme gift when it came to the written word as his mother, Zetta did. He spent many hours crafting police novels as well as also authoring books on America and it's principles for his grandchildren to read.

Bill is survived by his wife DiAnn, daughters Jennifer and Erica, sons-in-law Darrin and John as well as 7 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren. Bill's life was a testament in putting others before himself in service. He is now in eternal peace. Matthew 5:9: "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God".

PAID OBITUARY

POLICE BULLETIN

Court assessing competency of man charged with murdering his mom

A high-profile criminal case involving a son accused of stabbing his mother to death in their Pleasanton home over a year ago has been suspended while the defendant undergoes a mental health assessment.

Malcolm Tilley, who is charged with the brutal stabbing of his 71-year-old mother Marjory, is being evaluated pursuant to California state law to determine if he is competent to stand trial, according to the Alameda County District Attorney's Office.

Court documents show that two mental health professionals were appointed to the case on April 16. That was the same court hearing where the defense declared doubt about mental competency.

"The court is awaiting the doctors' reports regarding the defendant's competency to stand trial," deputy district attorney Louis Goodman told the Pleasanton Weekly.

Tilley's next court date, which is when the court expects to receive the doctors' reports, is scheduled for Monday (Aug. 3).

Tilley, now 32, made headlines last year when he turned himself into the Pleasanton Police Department on April 1, 2025 and allegedly confessed to stabbing his mother countless times in the neck. Police immediately rushed to their house on Alvarado Street to find the woman dead.

Tilley was subsequently booked into the Santa Rita Jail, where he has remained throughout his court proceedings over the past year.

After he was charged, more information came out about Tilley's relationship with his mother — whom friends remembered as a woman of deep faith and a devoted volunteer for the senior community in Pleasanton. But he described to officers how his mother had berated and emasculated him to the point where he "had enough", according to the initial police report.

The court case over the past year has been fluctuating between Tilley challenging his apparent confession and maintaining innocence to filing documents so that he could act as his own attorney.

The proceedings advanced to a preliminary hearing on Dec. 1 where Alameda County Superior Court Judge Toni Mims-Cochran found there to be enough cause to move forward with Tilley's felony charges, including first-degree

murder and special allegations of deadly weapon use and great bodily injury.

He was later arraigned and pleaded not guilty.

Since then, the case has been in the discovery phase where the court has subpoenaed records from different agencies like the Pleasanton Unified School District and CityServe of the Tri-Valley, court records show.

But now with Tilley's mental competency evaluation, those proceedings have been suspended while two doctors determine if he is capable of standing trial.

Monday's hearing on the evaluation report is scheduled for 9 a.m. at the East County Hall of Justice in Dublin.

—Christian Trujano

Weed dealing arrest

Livermore police reported arresting an Oakland resident earlier this month for allegedly possessing over 80 pounds of marijuana for sale.

The bust occurred on the afternoon of July 16 while police were conducting a traffic stop on North Livermore Avenue, according to Livermore Police Department officials.

The driver — identified as Haris Yonisi, 38 — allegedly told police there was marijuana in the vehicle. LPD subsequently found the bags of weed during a probable cause search, officials said.

—Jude Strzemp

Driver airlifted to burn unit after crashing into house

Authorities were continuing an investigation Tuesday into a dramatic scene in San Ramon the previous night in which a vehicle struck a home near Monte Video Elementary School and caught fire, resulting in the driver being airlifted for burn treatment.

Officers with the San Ramon Police Department joined San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District first-responders to the site of the collision on Foxboro Circle at approximately 9:09 p.m. Monday.

The preliminary investigation suggests the driver suffered a medical emergency prior to the crash, according to police.

The driver was transported by helicopter to UC Davis Medical Center after the scene unfolded. One of the vehicle's two passengers sustained minor injuries that were treated on the scene, according to police. The second passenger was uninjured, as were the home's occupants. No further injuries were reported.

The circumstances remain under SRPD investigation. ■

—Jeanita Lyman

Opinion

LETTERS

Communally

I'm a sophomore at Amador Valley High School. This summer, my friends and I launched an app called Communally to solve a problem we kept seeing in Pleasanton: families need help with everyday jobs like lawn care, babysitting and tutoring, and teens like us want to work but don't know where to start.

Communally is a neighborhood marketplace that connects the two. Every adult who posts a job verifies their identity through Stripe, payments are held safely until the job is done, and workers under 18 need a parent's approval before they can accept anything. Jobs only show up within a five-mile radius, so everything stays truly local.

We built the app ourselves and it's live on the App Store now, with our first jobs already completed here in Pleasanton. Our goal is simple: make it safe and easy for neighbors to help each other, and give local teens a real way to earn money and learn responsibility.

If you're a Pleasanton family that could use a hand, or a teen looking for summer work, check out communallyapp.com. We'd love your feedback too, we're students and we're still learning!

— Shaurya Grover

Vote for Aisha Wahab

For the Aug. 18 special election, I am voting for Aisha Wahab for U.S. Congress in California's 14th District.

As State Senate assistant majority leader, Wahab has demonstrated the legislative experience needed to tackle difficult problems and pursue practical solutions. She has shown a willingness to challenge powerful special interests while also earning respect from colleagues across the aisle through bipartisan legislation. Her record includes work on housing affordability, lowering costs, strengthening public safety and protecting our communities.

Beyond her legislative accomplishments, Wahab's personal story is inspiring. She rose from humble beginnings, worked hard through education and built a career in public service. She has taken time to meet with Tri-Valley residents, answer questions directly and listen to concerns. I have found her approachable, candid and refreshingly straightforward.

Wahab has also earned endorsements from a broad coalition that includes labor organizations, law enforcement groups, health advocates, Democratic state and local leaders, and newspapers such as the San Francisco Chronicle and the Mercury News.



MICK HANOU

Mick Hanou snapped this photo of detour signs pointing to each other at an intersection in Pleasanton in July 2026.

I received a campaign mailer from her opponent highlighting experience as a local mayor but omitting current service as BART board president. BART continues to face financial challenges, is seeking additional tax revenue, and has proposed service reductions affecting Tri-Valley stations. I believe voters should consider each candidate's complete public record.

I am voting for Aisha Wahab because I believe she is the strongest candidate to represent our district and will work in the best interests of our communities.

Vote in the Aug. 18 special election.

— Gerry Gire

Elect Henry to EBRPD

Our East Bay regional parks are true gems, allowing people of all capabilities, income levels, and interests to enjoy the outdoors and to learn. In November, we have the opportunity to elect a board member for Ward 5, and I am supporting Bruce Henry to replace the incumbent, Olivia Sanwong, who ran unopposed during the previous election.

As an almost daily user of our parks, I want a board that ensures our beautiful parks are managed well. I know firsthand how passionate Bruce is about our parks, since he is also a frequent user of the parks and has a goal of responsible, cost-effective management in a way that optimizes public safety and accessibility. Bruce is the elected chair of the Park Advisory Committee, an appointed body that advises the board through community perspective, so he has the in-depth knowledge needed to be an effective member.

As a former elected school board member, I know how important critical thinking is in making balanced, thoughtful decisions and ensuring sound fiscal policy and Bruce will provide that. As well, I am concerned voters did not get to vet our current Ward 5 board member, since she ran uncontested, and therefore has no mandate.

We should decide which

candidate best represents our needs. Bruce is my choice to do that, and I hope you agree when it comes time to vote.

— Mark Miller

Detour to nowhere

My wife and I were headed northbound on Valley and this was at cross-street Hansen on the east side (see photo). During dinner, what I thought would be funny was to put it in the Weekly, Take Us Along section, and caption it "Where to next?" ■

— Mick Hanou

Carol Ann Gibbons

December 20, 1939 – July 19, 2026

Rancho Bernardo / Livermore / San Ramon / Dublin, CA

Carol passed peacefully in her sleep after a rapid decline in health. Carol was born in Burbank, CA and first saw the world as a United Airlines stewardess. She hosted Senator JFK on one notable flight, circled the Globe on free passes, but left UA to start a family in Dublin, CA. She raised two sons, Greg and David and had five grandchildren, Tara, Josh, Ryan (m. Lauren), Matthew and Connor. From 1994 to 2014 Carol was a fixture in Tri-Valley residential real estate, working for Mason McDuffee and Prudential. She was always a top seller and loved working with young families. Carol enjoyed her success by travelling with close friends, mostly cruising Europe. Carol moved to San Diego in 2015 to be near her son David and his wife Robin and enjoyed many fun-filled adventures and cheering at her grandsons' various sporting events. Carol spent her last few years soaking up San Diego with her devoted partner Brendon. She was a friend to all and a wonderful grandmother, mother and mentor. Carol was one of kind.



PAID OBITUARY

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An online directory of obituaries and remembrances. Search obituaries, submit a memorial, share a photo.

Go to: PleasantonWeekly.com/obituaries

We're hiring a News Editor

The Embarcadero Media Foundation, the premiere news nonprofit in the Bay Area's Tri-Valley, has an immediate opening for the day-to-day editor of our East Bay Division, which includes LivermoreVine.com, DanvilleSanRamon.com and the 2025 CNPA General Excellence First-Place award winner Pleasanton Weekly.

The Weekly and its sister websites are the trusted hyperlocal news and information portal serving readers in Pleasanton, Livermore, San Ramon, Danville, Dublin, Sunol, Alamo and Blackhawk. The editor manages a dedicated team of reporters, freelancers and interns to produce a must-read daily Express newsletter for each site, and supports the Editorial Director in the publication of the weekly newspaper. The East Bay Division Editor is part of weekly management meetings and helps to plot the course of the organization as we work to build better communities through accurate, fair, contextual and engaging journalism.

This salaried position comes with excellent health benefits, two weeks of paid vacation and a retirement savings plan. The pay range is between \$70,000 and \$75,000 annually.

Requirements:

- 3-5 years of experience in daily journalism
- Bachelor's degree or higher in journalism or related field
- Knowledge of Google, Adobe and Microsoft tools
- Familiarity with WordPress platform preferred
- Understanding of issues of the Tri-Valley, Alameda County and Contra Costa County preferred.

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BILL NALE

2025 opening ceremonies at Little League Intermediate World Series in Livermore. The tournament returns to Max Baer Park for the week ahead.



PLEASANTON PREPS

By DENNIS MILLER

Little League Intermediate World Series starts Sunday

Behind the scenes with tournament director Bill Aboumrad during final days of prep

The 2026 Little League Intermediate 50/70 World Series rolls into Livermore this weekend, with the tournament taking place at Max Baer Park from Sunday through Aug. 9.

The tournament has been in Livermore since 2013, taking place every year, save for two years that it was not held due to COVID.

There will be 12 teams in the tournament, six teams from the United States, and six international teams.

Our local representative will be Bollinger Canyon Little League, the team that won the District 57 championship, thus securing the host team berth.

The tournament goes off like clockwork every year and the

community embraces the event. But few understand the work behind the scenes that makes the tournament go each year.

Bill Aboumrad is the tournament director for the event, and he puts in 11 months out of the year getting ready for the tournament.

I talked with him at 9 a.m. last Saturday and he was already a couple of hours into the day, working on the field, like he had been doing for the last couple of months.

"It's so rewarding," Aboumrad said of the tournament prep. "I get people out walking their dogs, thanking me and telling me how much they are looking forward to the tournament."

The teams arrive on Friday, with the opening ceremony set

for Saturday. The tournament gets underway Sunday with the team from Australia facing the team from the Asia-Pacific region at 9 a.m. Bollinger Canyon will face the Southeast representative at noon.

The championship game is set for next Sunday (Aug. 9) at 6 p.m. with the game being televised on ESPN.

If not for Aboumrad, the tournament may have been lost to Livermore several years ago.

"Little League was happy with inside the field, but they were not happy with outside the field," explained Aboumrad. "They wanted a better overall experience for the tournament."

Aboumrad took over as tournament director in 2022 and went right to work, bringing in an outside company to set up the peripherals for the event.

His tournament committee of seven to eight people makes the event run smoothly but the key is not cheap.

"The event costs about \$180,000 every year," Aboumrad said. "The city of Livermore gives us \$10,000 every year and Little League International gives us \$25,000."

Little League takes care of the flights, hotel and the transportation from the airport for the teams. The Livermore Area Recreation and

Park District provides the chalk and dirt for the field, which eases the maintenance of the ballpark.

After that, everything else falls on the tournament.

That's three meals a day, transportation to the hotel and the field, and entertainment for the players.

Aboumrad and his team have a hotel in Dublin where all the teams stay that also provides a hot breakfast and a lounge for the players.

The players get lunch at the field every day, and then the tournament team gets debit cards for the kids that they use for dinner each night.

Lunch is served in a player's tent at the Max Baer complex.

Aboumrad gets local businesses or companies to sponsor lunch each day, with employees from the respective organizations coming out to staff the lunch.

A local transportation company handles the transportation from the hotel to the fields and back.

He's also brought in a jumbotron for the tournament to enhance the player experience.

Everything adds up.

It's \$40,000 for transportation, another \$40,000 for tournament facilities, and \$40,000 for the debit cards so the players can have dinner each night.

"Making sure we get enough help

and getting the money are the two biggest things for us," Aboumrad said.

Secure the funding and everything is taken care of thanks to the team he's put together.

"Our team is so dialed in," he added "The volunteers go out of their way to make it the best experience for everyone."

It's an amazing event, one which not just the Livermore community, but the entire Tri-Valley embraces. If you haven't taken the time to come out for the tournament, you need to make a point of it.

The tournament runs on a three-year-contract with Little League. This the last year of the current contract for Livermore, but Aboumrad feels confident they will secure another three years.

"Other than the rodeo, it's the biggest event in Livermore each year," he said. "There is no cost for parking, no cost to get in."

For more information on the tournament, go to www.littleleague.org and click on the link for the Intermediate World Series. ■

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

Livermore native signs with KC Royals after MLB Draft

'This is something I've dreamed of since I was a little kid,' Tanner Griffith says

By JUDE STRZEMP
A baseball player from Livermore was drafted this month by the Kansas City Royals.

Centerfielder Tanner Griffith, 21, was selected in the 11th round at pick No. 329 on July 12. He signed with the Major League Baseball team one week later.

"It was a surreal feeling. This is something I've dreamed of since I was a little kid," Griffith said of learning he was set to be drafted. "To make that dream come true is something special."

The De La Salle High School graduate most recently played ball at Saint Mary's College in Moraga. But

Griffith said he has played baseball as long as he can remember.

"Since I was young, I always had a bat or a ball in my hand, just going around the yard, hitting or playing catch with anyone who would take the time to play with me," he told Livermore Vine.

Griffith played locally on the Livermore Longshots, De La Salle team and Diablo Valley Oaks through De La Salle, and he participated in the Little League Intermediate World Series hosted in his hometown Livermore.

Griffith attributes his athletic ability in part to playing an array of sports during his youth.

"My parents put me in every sport

I wanted to play growing up," he said.

Griffith played basketball, volleyball, soccer and of course, baseball.

"Anything he tried, he excelled at, so we knew that he was gonna be something someday," his mother, Donna Griffith, told Livermore Vine. "I don't know how far we actually thought, but he's a super athletic kid."

Since being drafted, Griffith has traveled to the Royals organization's offseason base in Arizona to begin practice routines.

"I'm looking forward to the journey that comes ahead," he said. "You get to play in a ton of different cities, a ton of different ballparks, with a ton of different guys from all over the country." ■



COURTESY GRIFFITH FAMILY

Tanner Griffith was drafted this summer by the Kansas City Royals, a team he also played for in Little League growing up in Livermore.

Exhibits

BOTHWELL TO BANKHEAD This exhibit offers a glimpse into the work of the resident artists who call the Bothwell home, showcasing an inspiring collection of paintings, sculpture, ceramics, jewelry, photography and more at the UNCLE Credit Union Art Gallery. Through Aug. 9. Visit livermorearts.org.

LOBBY EXHIBITION The Firehouse Arts Center presents HJ Chae's solo exhibition, Topography of the Reminiscence, in the foyer featuring 16 works of oil on canvas. Through Aug. 29.

THE INDEPENDENT GALLERY EXHIBIT In Forming Figures, Thomas See explores both the how and the why of artistic expression creating works in both digital and traditional formats. Through Sept. 5. 2250 First St., Livermore.

MUSEUM ON MAIN EXHIBIT Visit the Museum on Main exhibit, Wicket Crazy: Cricket and the Tri-Valley, which explores how the game is played, the history of cricket and the local influence that cricket has on the community. Through Sept. 25.

HARRINGTON GALLERY EXHIBITION The Firehouse Arts Center lobby exhibit features the work of Marina Omelianenko on the Nancy Thompson Memorial Wall with a collection of 15 serene watercolors. Through Sept. 5.

FRESH WORKS JURIED EXHIBITION Bay Area visitors can expect to see approximately 80 works of oil, acrylic, watercolor, pastel, sculptures and more. All exhibited artworks are original, completed within the last year and not previously exhibited in Pleasanton. Through Aug. 1. Visit firehousearts.org.

Entertainment

CONCERTS IN THE PARK Join for Concerts in the Park, 7-8:30 p.m., July 31. In Living Cover, '90s and 2000s Covers. Lions Wayside Park.

THE LATE POUR COMEDY NIGHT Expect sharp stand-up, low lights, great wine and an intimate setting that keeps the laughs close and the pours flowing. 7:30-9 p.m., July 31. Visit concannon.wine/winery-events.

MEAN GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL EDITION Pleasanton Youth Theater Company presents this hilarious musical adaptation of Mean Girls where Cady must navigate friendships, rivalries and a revenge party that teaches her that you can't cross a queen bee without getting stung. July 31 to Aug. 1; Aug. 7-8. Tickets \$23. Visit firehousearts.org.

THE SPONGEBOB MUSICAL Tri-Valley Theater Company presents The SpongeBob Musical. Get ready for a hilarious, high-energy musical adventure that will entertain and delight all ages. 7 p.m., Aug. 1, 15; 1 p.m., Aug. 2, 8-9, 15-16. Tickets \$45. Visit livermorearts.org.

AN AFTERNOON OR EVENING WITH TINA TURNER Tina Turner, born Anna Mae Bullock in

Nutbush, Tenn., rose from humble beginnings and pushed through years of hardship, heartbreak and unrelenting challenge. Her extraordinary evolution is portrayed by Rebecca Marks Jimerson. 2 p.m. and 7 p.m., Aug. 6. Firehouse Arts Center. Visit museumonmain.org.

QUEST ON STAGE: THE AI REVOLUTION Join Kevin Roose and Casey Newton, hosts of the acclaimed New York Times podcast Hard Fork, for an engaging conversation about the technologies reshaping our world. 7:30 p.m., Aug. 14. Tickets \$25-\$90. Visit livermorearts.org.

LONG TIME - BOSTON TRIBUTE Long Time recaptures the celestial guitar sounds, heavenly harmony vocals and organ solos with space age accuracy. 6 p.m., Aug. 15. Tickets \$55. Visit wentevineyards.com/events.

OPERA IN THE VINEYARD Experience the magic of live music in the heart of the wine country with Livermore Valley Opera performing favorites and timeless Broadway melodies. Bring a picnic basket, sip local wines and soak in a summer evening. 5 p.m., Aug. 16. Garré Vineyard & Winery. Visit livermorevalleyopera.com

TUESDAY TUNES This free event presented by Livermore Cultural Arts Council is 6:45-8:15 p.m. at the Bankhead Plaza. Bring a blanket or lawn chair. Alcohol-free and family-friendly.

DUBLIN CONCERT SERIES This annual Summer Concert Series is held during the Dublin Farmers' Market. 6-8 p.m., Thursdays. Emerald Glen Park.

Business

THE JOB CLUB Join this zoom meeting every Monday for a supportive, energizing meeting designed for job seekers at any stage of their search. 12 p.m. Visit livermorechamber.org.

BUSINESS ALLIANCE MEETING These zoom meetings through the Livermore Chamber of Commerce are 8-9:30 a.m., the first Wednesday of each month. Visit livermorechamber.org.

PLEASANTON YOUNG PROFESSIONALS MIXER Pleasanton Young Professionals and Castlewood's Young Executive come together for their first mixer. 5-7 p.m., Aug. 6. 705 Country Club Road. Visit pleasanton.org.

Talks

ONLINE AUTHOR TALK WITH LIVERMORE PUBLIC LIBRARY This free, virtual series takes place each month and includes the opportunity for attendees to ask questions to the author. The Legacy of Julia Child's Kitchen with Smithsonian Curator Paula J. Johnson. 11 a.m., Aug. 4. Visit libraryc.org/livermoreca.

RETIREMENT YOUR WAY (20+) Retirement Your Way addresses three key questions that impact how to plan for retirement exploring flexible strategies, adaptable to

different ages and life stages. 5:30-6:30 p.m., Aug. 5. Robert Livermore Community Center. Free registration at larpd.org.

AMADOR VALLEY QUILTERS In this engaging combo slideshow and trunk show, Guest Speaker Jane Haworth will explore the dynamic world of fabric collage. Discover this growing trend and gain insight into her own creative journey. 1:30-4 p.m., Aug. 8. Pleasanton Middle School. Visit amadorvalleyquilters.org/Wordpress.

LIVERMORE-AMADOR GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY In this Zoom meeting, Christine Cohen presents Alienation of Affection - Divorce in the USA. She will discuss how information can be found in divorce records including marriage date and place, children and residences. 7 p.m., Aug. 10. Visit l-ags.org.

Outdoor Rec

BIRD EXPLORATION Join a guided walk of up to 2 miles and learn about what birds are doing in the summer months. Birders of all levels ages 8 and up are welcome. 9-11 a.m., Aug. 1. Sunol Wilderness Regional Preserve. Visit ebparks.org.

NIGHT HIKE WITH A RANGER Warm summer nights are the best for a nice walk-through Sycamore Grove. Join this one mile walk to see native nocturnal species like the Great Horned Owl. 7:30-8:45 p.m., Aug. 2. \$6. Register at larpd.org.

SUNRISE SURPRISE Beat the heat and join for a sunrise hike into Sunol Regional Wilderness to catch the end of the night shift as nocturnal animals head home for the night and others begin their day. 6-9 a.m., Aug. 8. Visit ebparks.org.

FLIGHT OF THE DRAGONFLIES Join at Sunol for a fascinating exploration of the dragonflies and damselflies that call the park home, then head out on a discovery walk to spot these incredible creatures in the wild. 10 a.m.- 12 p.m., Aug. 9. Sunol Regional Park. Visit ebparks.org.

Fairgrounds

STUSSY WAREHOUSE SALE This indoor, two-day event features an extensive collection of the popular skate and surf streetwear clothing brand's archived pieces, including limited-edition apparel, headwear and accessories. 12-7 p.m., Aug. 1-2. Visit alamedacountyfair.com.

BAMVILLE CARD SHOW Guests can expect 30,000 square feet of cards and over 250 vendors all under one roof, featuring unique inventory and collections not normally seen around NorCal. Aug. 15-16. Visit alamedacountyfair.com.

NORCAL BARBER EXPO The NorCal Barber Expo is Northern California's largest gathering of barbers, cosmetologists and beauty industry professionals offering guests live competitions, hands-on education classes, vendor exhibitions and brand activations. 8 a.m.-8 p.m., Aug. 16. Visit alamedacountyfair.com.

PET OF THE WEEK



VALLEY HUMANE SOCIETY

Shake 'n Bake

Despite having "wobbly cat" syndrome (cerebellar hypoplasia), Shake 'n Bake takes every opportunity to stir up trouble! It's a good thing her luscious, creamy white coating of fur and patchy sprinkle of pale orange and gray tip the scales in this adorable 4-month-old kitten's favor. Call 925-426-8656 or email info@valleyhumane.org to start the adoption process today.

Government

LVJUSD BOARD MEETINGS Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District board meetings are held in the boardroom at the district office, 685 E. Jack London Blvd. The next meeting is 6 p.m., Aug. 11. Visit livermoreschools.org.

PLEASANTON UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT Regular board meetings of the Pleasanton Unified School District are scheduled the second and fourth Thursday of each month and are open to the public. The next meeting is 6 p.m., Aug. 13. Visit pleasantonusd.net.

Seniors

BOCCE BALL AT DA BOCCERY Play bocce ball while enjoying happy hour food at Livermore's Da Boccery. 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Aug. 11. \$49R/\$54NR. Visit larpd.org.

CAPITOLA COASTAL TRIP Go in motorcoach style with LARPD and spend the day walking on the beach or just stretched out on a beach towel. Explore the shops and the Capitola Historical Museum and plan on a shopping stop at Gayle's Bakery on the way back. 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Aug. 27. \$76R/\$84NR. Visit larpd.org.

AMERICAN STYLE MAH JONGG Join for American Style Mah Jongg at the Pleasanton Senior Center, Tuesdays

and Fridays, 12:45-3:45 p.m. Drop-in fees apply.

KNITTING & CROCHET Knitting & Crochet at the Pleasanton Senior Center. 9-11:30 a.m., Fridays. Drop-in fees apply.

SPECTRUM MEALS ON WHEELS Spectrum Meals on Wheels provides home delivered meals (60+). For more information, call 510-881-0305 or visit spectrumcs.org.

PLEASANTON RIDES Pleasanton Rides is a door-to-door, shared-ride transportation service for Pleasanton Seniors (70+). For reservations and information, call 925-398-1045.

Support

COMMUNITY MEALS Open Heart Kitchen serves free meals that are nutritious and freshly prepared. Meals may be eaten in the dining room or taken to-go to share with family at home. Payment is never required. 12-5 p.m., weekdays, 450 N. Livermore Ave., Livermore. Visit openheartkitchen.org/community-meals.

OPEN HEART REFUGE Open Heart Refuge offers overnight shelter using an assigned-bed model. Check-in is 6-7 p.m., seven days a week where beds are assigned in advance; there is no nightly lottery. Clients may request to be added to the shelter waitlist by visiting the Vineyard Resource Center. Visit openheartkitchen.org/refuge.

Employment

Blackhawk Network, Inc. in Pleasanton, CA seeks **Engineering Manager**. Perform all phases of sw engg incl des, dev, testing, & deployment in an Agile sw dev env. Position permits telecommuting: applicant may reside anywhere in U.S. & reports to Pleasanton, CA office. \$213,512 to \$235,000/yr. Email resume to humanresources@bhn.com specifying job code 90588. EOE.

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.

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

Public Notices

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME

File No. 624001

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): GOAL LINE STUDIOS 5959 Coronado Lane Pleasanton, CA 94588 FILED IN ALAMEDA COUNTY ON: 06/11/2026 UNDER FILE NO. 624001 REGISTRANT'S NAME(S): JUMBO WALL, LLC 5959 Coronado Lane Pleasanton, CA 94588 THIS BUSINESS WAS CONDUCTED BY A Limited Liability Company. This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Alameda County on July 15 2026. (PLW Jul 31, Aug 7, 14 and 21, 2026)

LUMAE AESTHETICS & WEIGHT LOSS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No.: 624797

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: 1.) LUMAE AESTHETICS & WEIGHT LOSS , located at 4450 Black Ave Suite 100 Pleasanton CA, 94588, Alameda County. This business is conducted by: a General Partnership. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are): NAJIBA SALEH 271 N Palo Alto Ct Mountain House, CA 95391 SEEMA KHADIM 4450 Black Ave Suite 100 Pleasanton CA, 94588 Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above. This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on July 20 2026. (PLW Jul 24, 31, Aug 7 and 14, 2026)

ED'S AUTOMOTIVE FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No.: 624721

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: 1.) ED'S AUTOMOTIVE , located at 1809 Santa Rita Rd Unit I 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): ERT AUTOMOTIVE LLC 1809 Santa Rita Rd Unit I Pleasanton, CA 94566 State of Incorporation/Organization: California Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 08/01/2026 This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on July 15 2026. (PLW Jul 24, 31, Aug 7 and 14, 2026)

GOAL LINE STUDIOS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No.: 624731

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: 1.) Goal Line Studios , located at 5959 Coronado Lane, Pleasanton, CA 94588, Alameda County. This business is conducted by: a Limited Partnership. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are): CRIMSON BEAR 5955 Coronado Lane Pleasanton, CA 94588 State of Incorporation/Organization: CA Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above. This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on July 15 2026. (PLW Jul 31, Aug 7, 14 and 21, 2026)

REVOLVE INTEGRATIVE HEALTH FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No.: 624471

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: 1.) Revolve Integrative Health , located at 5720 Stoneridge Mall Rd #390 Pleasanton, CA 94588, Alameda County. This business is conducted by: a Corporation. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are): ABELLERA CHIROPRACTIC, PC 5720 Stoneridge Mall Rd #390

Pleasanton, CA 94588

State of Incorporation/Organization: CA Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 06/15/2026 This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on July 02 2026. (PLW Jul 31, Aug 7, 14 and 21, 2026)

SOMA PILATES LLC FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No.: 624419

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: 1.) Soma Pilates LLC , located at 1060 Bartlett Place, PLEASANTON, CA 94566, California County. This business is conducted by: a Limited Liability Company. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are): SOMA PILATES LLC 1060 BARTLETT PLACE PLEASANTON, CA 94566 State of Incorporation/Organization: CALIFORNIA Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above. This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on June 30 2026. (PLW Jul 31, Aug 7, 14 and 21, 2026)

BHARTI'S COOKING FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No.: 624776

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: 1.) Bharti's Cooking , located at 22003 Hoffman Way, Castro Valley, CA 94546, Alameda County. This business is conducted by: an Individual. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are): MANISH PARMAR 22003 Hoffman Way Castro Valley, CA 94546 Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 10/20/2025 This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on July 17 2026. (PLW Jul 31, Aug 7, 14 and 21, 2026)

PRIMROSE BAKERY FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No.: 624569

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: 1.) PRIMROSE BAKERY , located at 350 Main Street, ste D, 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): PRIMROSE BAKERY LLC 350 Main Street, ste D Pleasanton CA 94566 State of Incorporation/Organization: California Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 09/01/2014 This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on July 08 2026. (PLW Jul 31, Aug 7, 14 and 21, 2026)

WALLIS ASSOCIATES FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No.: 624591

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: 1.) WALLIS ASSOCIATES , located at 4900 HOPYARD RD, SUITE 100 PLEASANTON CA 94588, ALAMENDA County. This business is conducted by: a Limited Liability Company. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are): WALLIS LOGISTICS LLC 4900 HOPYARD RD, SUITE 100 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 July 09 2026. (PLW Jul 24, 31, Aug 7 and 14, 2026)

DYNAMIC COATING SYSTEMS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No.: 624369

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: 1.) Dynamic Coating Systems , located at 11501 Dublin Blvd., STE 200, Dublin, CA 94568, Alameda County. This business is conducted by: a Corporation. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are): DYNAMIC FOAM ROOFING 11501 Dublin Blvd., STE 200 Dublin, CA 94568

State of Incorporation/Organization: California Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on June 29 2026. (PLW Jul 10, 17, 24 and 31, 2026)

FIND YOUR WAY

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No.: 624708

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: 1.) Find Your Way , located at 245 Perkins #66 Oakland, CA 94610, Alameda County. This business is conducted by: an Individual. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are): JEFF POLLET 245 Perkins St #66 Oakland, CA 94610 Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above. This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on July 14 2026. (PLW Jul 24, 31, Aug 7 and 14, 2026)

MOK1 AUTOS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No.: 624446

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: 1.) MOK1 AUTOS , located at 3537 First Street UNIT B Livermore, CA 94551, Alameda County. Mailing Address: 1085 Rosamund Dr San Ramon. CA 94582 This business is conducted by: a Limited Liability Company. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are): MOK LLC 1085 Rosamund Dr San Ramon. CA 94582 State of Incorporation/Organization: CA Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above. This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on July 01 2026. (PLW Jul 10, 17, 24 and 31, 2026)

RED BEAR MECHANICAL M2 FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No.: 624000

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: 1.) Red Bear Mechanical M2 , located at 5955 Coronado Lane, Pleasanton, CA 94588, Alameda County. This business is conducted by: a Corporation. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are): RB HOSPITALITY, INC 5955 Coronado Lane Pleasanton, CA 94588 State of Incorporation/Organization: CA Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above. This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on June 11 2026. (PLW Jul 17, 24, 31 and Aug 7, 2026)

VICTORIA LONDE LONDALAB FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No.: 624596

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: 1.) Victoria Londe , 2.) LondaLab , located at 3420 Andrews Dr APT#102 Pleasanton, CA 94588, Alameda County. Mailing Address: 2883 Hopyard Rd #1066 Pleasanton, CA 94588 This business is conducted by: an Individual. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are): VICTORIA HARTJOY 2883 Hopyard Rd #1066 Pleasanton, CA 94588 Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 06/28/26 This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on July 09 2026. (PLW Jul 17, 24, 31 and Aug 7, 2026)

A GOOD LENDER FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No.: 624499

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: 1.) A Good Lender , located at 4683 Chabot Dr. Suite 280, Pleasanton CA 94588, Alameda County. This business is conducted by: an Individual. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are): RODNEY LEE ROLOFF 4683 Chabot Drive, Suite 280 Pleasanton, CA 94588 Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 07/21/2006

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on July 06 2026. (PLW Jul 17, 24, 31 and Aug 7, 2026)

HELLO GOODBYE ELECTROLYSIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No.: 624376

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: 1.) Hello Goodbye Electroloysis , located at 431 30th St #140C Oakland, CA 94609, Alameda County. This business is conducted by: an Individual. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are): TY STERLING 431 30th St #140C Oakland, CA 94609 Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above. This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on June 29 2026. (PLW Jul 10, 17, 24 and 31, 2026)

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

Case No.: 26CV195839

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner: Kamal Boparai filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: KAMALJIT S BOPARAI to KAMAL BOPARAI THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing. NOTICE OF HEARING: August 21, 2026, 9AM, Hayward hall of justice of the Superior Court of California, County of Alameda located at 24405 Amador Street, Hayward, Ca 94544. A copy of this ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: PLEASANTON WEEKLY Date: June 29, 2026 Michael Markman JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT (PLW Jul 24, 31, Aug 7 and 14, 2026)

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

Case No.: 26CV199889

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner: Charry Noelle Chua Uy and Joshua Paul Clark, on behalf of minor child, Cara Jayne Amada Uy Clark, filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: CARA JAYNE AMADA UY CLARK to CARA JAYNE AMADA UY THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing. NOTICE OF HEARING: September 4, 2026, 9:00 a.m., Hayward of the Superior Court of California, County of Alameda located at 24405 Amador St., Hayward, CA 94544. A copy of this ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: PLEASANTON WEEKLY Date: July 20, 2026 Hon. Michael Markman JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT (PLW Jul 31, Aug 7, 14 and 21, 2026)

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

Case No.: 26CV196392

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner: Rohit Sharma filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: ROHIT SHARMA to ROHIT SHARMA RATTI THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the

hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing. NOTICE OF HEARING: August 28, 2026, 9:00 A.M., HAYWARD HALL OF JUSTICE of the Superior Court of California, County of ALAMEDA located at 24405 AMADOR ST., HAYWARD, CA 94544. A copy of this ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: PLEASANTON WEEKLY Date: JUNE 25, 2026 HON. MICHAEL MARKMAN JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT (PLW Jul 10, 17, 24 and 31, 2026)

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

Case No.: 26CV184909

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner: Julie Allison Johnson and Benjamin Kyler Sims filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: BENJAMIN KODA SIMS to BENJAMIN KODA JOHNSON-SIMS THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing. NOTICE OF HEARING: September 11,2026, 9:00AM, Hayward of the Superior Court of California, County of Alameda located at 24405 Amador Street, Hayward,CA 94544. A copy of this ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: PLEASANTON WEEKLY Date: August 4, 2026 Honorable Julie Wilensky JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT (PLW Jul 31, Aug 7, 14 and 21, 2026)

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: RUFUS E. WILLIAMS JR. CASE NUMBER: 26RP189133

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of: Rufus E. Williams Jr. A Petition for Probate has been filed by Carl E. Turner in the Superior Court of California, County of Alameda. The Petition for Probate requests that Carl E. Turner be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent. The petition requests the decedent's will and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. The will and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court. The petitioner requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority. A hearing on the petition will be held in this court on **September 11, 2026, at 10:15 AM** at: **Superior Court of California, County of Alameda, 2120 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Berkeley, CA 94704.** **Petitioner Contact Information:** Carl E. Turner 23 Eagle Pointe Drive, Augusta, GA 30909 Cell: (706) 267-2380 | Email: cturner98@comcast.net (PLW Jul 17, 24 and 31, 2026)

Place a legal notice at PleasantonWeekly.com/legal_notices/

Real Estate

HOME SALES

This week's data represents homes sold during May 18-22 for Pleasanton, Livermore and Dublin.

Pleasanton

- 3825 Brockton Drive** C. Lin to S. Anne for \$851,000
- 3080 Casadero Court** Watts Trust to Davigo Living Trust for \$835,000
- 7738 Fair Oaks Drive** Decarpentier Living Trust to K. & R. Naous for \$1,650,000
- 1448 Freeman Lane** E. & S. Bertch to C. & T. Chen for \$1,815,000
- 4129 Grant Court** E. Brown to S. & V. Dasari for \$3,620,000
- 7830 Medinah Court** Cosca 2001 Living Trust to Bassett Trust for \$1,877,000
- 601 Palomino Drive #D** D. Demar to Y. Bhatt for \$575,000
- 2379 Sandpiper Way** Bosma Living Trust to G. & I. Patel for \$1,670,000
- 2243 Segundo Court #2** Behiel Living Trust to B. McKee for \$450,000
- 2411 Skylark Way** A. & A. Woodward to Rathinasamy Living Trust for \$2,200,000
- 1164 Tiffany Lane** Streich Living Trust to S. & W. Wadhvani for \$1,225,000

Livermore

- 2235 4th Street** Vintage Investments to Smith Trust for \$725,000
- 820 Arbor Court** J. Potter to R. & J. Merlo for \$1,050,000
- 1481 Calle De Las Granvas** Gehlert Family Trust to S. He for \$910,000
- 2513 Chateau Way** Vaughan & Erickson Trust to Sorkin Trust for \$1,750,000

- 5569 Haggitt Oaks Avenue** Foreverhome Properties LLC to M. & L. Pace for \$1,235,000
- 713 Lido Drive** S. Liem to A. & M. Wilson for \$1,200,000
- 811 Lucille Street** Griggs Trust to K. & S. Antrim for \$1,100,000
- 63 Meritage Common #205** M. Amoni to H. Alvarez for \$607,000
- 2438 Merritt Place** S. Vargas to J. & D. Gillin for \$1,785,000
- 575 South O Street** Callahan Trust to D. & G. Weisbrod for \$1,600,000
- 1680 Sorrento Place** E. & M. Strauch to Sarvani & Chaitanya Trust for \$2,400,000

Dublin

- 6862 Baird Street** Anoop Living Trust to Roach & Sadasiv Living Trust for \$1,350,000
- 11752 Betlen Drive** S. Blanchard to J. Zhang for \$1,530,000
- 8280 Cardiff Drive** Dambrosio Living Trust to W. & D. Tam for \$1,118,000
- 5626 El Dorado Lane** Q. Zhou to K. & D. Han for \$1,000,000
- 7890 Firebrand Drive** C. & T. Huffer to M-1 Real Estate Holdings LLC for \$1,115,000
- 3290 Maguire Way #118** A. Pawlowski to S. Sybounheuang for \$395,000
- 6759 South Mariposa Lane** S. Madala to S. & G. Muralitharan for \$1,015,000
- 7487 Quartz Circle** J. Phillips to A. & L. Carreon for \$1,510,000
- 4022 Windsor Way** R. Sharma to R. & J. Sarda for \$1,015,000

Source: California REsource





1330 HILLCREST AVE., LIVERMORE

Brand New Listing!

Need bedrooms? This beautifully updated 5 bedroom, 2 bath single story home has the space you've been looking for and the upgrades you'll love. Located on the desirable southside of Livermore & the quiet end of Hillcrest, this move-in-ready home has been extensively updated with thoughtful improvements throughout. Enjoy a gourmet kitchen, solid oak hardwood floors, newer carpet, updated bathrooms, dual-pane windows, updated HVAC and ductwork, newer insulation, modern lighting, fresh interior texture and paint, and newer solid-core interior doors, baseboards, and front door. The improvements continue outside with coated exterior stucco, low-maintenance front and back yards with a drip system, newer fencing, an updated electrical panel, and a newer roll-up garage door with opener. Located just minutes from hiking trails, schools, restaurants, wineries, and so much more. Five bedrooms. Single-story living. Extensive updates. An exceptional Hillcrest location. This is the one you've been waiting for. Offered at \$1,299,888



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Call Brian Wright For a Complimentary Market Evaluation of Your Home.

Trade Traffic for Waterfront Living

Less than an hour from the East Bay, Delta Coves is attracting Bay Area homebuyers seeking a waterfront lifestyle surrounded by open space and natural beauty. Located on Bethel Island at the gateway to more than 1,000 miles of California Delta waterways, the private community features a swimmable lagoon, private boat docks and resort-style amenities. Homes by Blue Mountain Communities and Davidson Communities range from approximately 1,600 to more than 4,000 square feet, with prices from the \$500s to the \$2 millions. Residents enjoy boating, paddleboarding, fishing, fitness facilities, social events and year-round recreation on and around the water.

Read the spotlight

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REALTRENDS VERIFIED



RANKED #1 IN PLEASANTON BY SALES VOLUME*

#106

IN THE NATION*

#36

IN THE STATE*

92

TRANSACTIONS*

\$155.96M

SALES VOLUME*

\$2+ Billion
Combined Sales
Volume

1900+
Families Real Estate
Dreams Come True

\$155 Million
Sales Volume
in 2025

400+
5 Star Online
Reviews

#1
Compass Team in
the Tri Valley*

Top 1%
Teams in the
Nation**

4767 Del Valle Pkwy
Pleasanton



4 bed · 2.5 bath · 2,088 +/- sq ft
Listed at \$ 1,799,900

4183 Hall Court
Pleasanton



4 bed · 3 bath · 2,024 +/- sq ft
Call for details

2358 Crestline Road
Pleasanton



5 bed · 3.5 bath · 2,567 +/- sq ft
Listed at \$1,849,900

2533 Larrikeet Court
Pleasanton



3 bed · 2 bath · 1,722 +/- sq ft
Call for details

2764 Willowren Way
Pleasanton



3 bed · 2 bath · 1,724 +/- sq ft
Call for details

4820 Smith Gate Court
Pleasanton



4 bed · 2 bath · 1,800 +/- sq ft
Call for details

You deserve **MORE**. Selling your home is one of the most important financial decisions you'll ever make. You deserve a trusted advisor who understands the Pleasanton market, invests in preparing your home for success, and negotiates every dollar as if it were their own.

For more than **30 years**, I've helped over **1,900 families** throughout Pleasanton and the Tri-Valley achieve exceptional results through expert guidance, innovative marketing, and a true concierge experience.



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MORE McGuire Olson
REAL ESTATE TEAM

COMPASS

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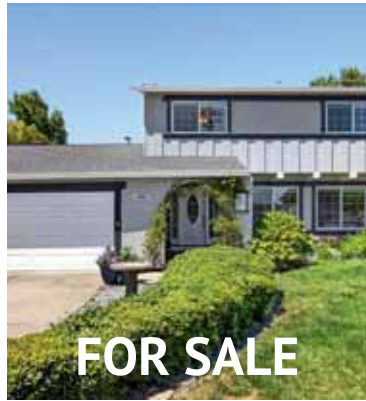
VENEMA HOMES

EXPERIENCE EXCELLENCE



FOR SALE

1841 PASEO DEL
CAJON, PLEASANTON
\$1,698,000



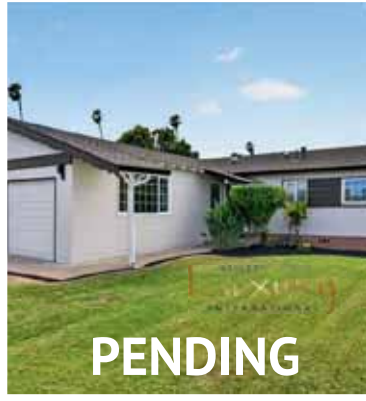
FOR SALE

3454 CUMBERLAND GAP
COURT, PLEASANTON
\$1,449,000



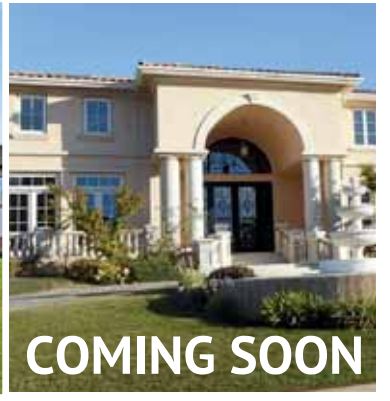
FOR SALE

112 MISSION DRIVE,
PLEASANTON
\$649,000



PENDING

5231 SILVER REEF DRIVE,
FREMONT
\$1,050,000



COMING SOON

1512 GERMANO WAY,
RUBY HILL
PLEASANTON

WHAT'S REPLACING CURB APPEAL? Your Home's Digital Front Door.

Today's buyers don't start at the front door. They start online.

Google search results for "who has sold most home in ruby hill pleasanton ca". The AI Overview snippet states: "Venema Homes, led by Liz Venema of Keller Williams Tri-Valley, holds the record for selling the most homes in Pleasanton's guard-gated Ruby Hill community. They have closed over \$243 million in combined sales volume within the neighborhood, making them the leading team for Ruby Hill properties." The snippet also mentions that the Venema Homes Team specializes in tracking both listed inventory and off-market "shadow inventory" in the neighborhood.

FOR SELLERS
MAXIMUM EXPOSURE
BEYOND THE MLS

Your home is showcased to high-intent buyers searching for local luxury experts.

FOR BUYERS
HYPER-LOCAL MARKET
INTELLIGENCE

Transparent data, neighborhood guides, and lifestyle insights so you can buy with confidence.

WHY IT MATTERS
TECHNOLOGY SUPPORTS.
PEOPLE LEAD.

Advanced search technology paired with boutique service and expert negotiation.

More Strategy. More Exposure. Better Results.
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