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Livermore

2023 Update Reports on City Progress

By Larry Altman

LIVERMORE — Livermore officials on Monday reported the city's accomplishments in 2023, spotlighting projects to create housing, install bike lanes, repair sidewalks, and provide help for residents needing housing, legal aid and health care.

During its City Council meeting, the city unveiled its 2023 Strategic Plan Annual Update, a 25-page report listing achievements in a range of city functions from public safety and emergency preparedness to housing, transportation, infrastructure, climate action and graffiti.

"It shows things are getting done, things are getting built, and people are investing in their community," Mayor John Marchand said.

The report also outlined successes in the city's library system, including increased use and registrations for library cards since the pandemic, well attended literacy and summer reading programs, and cultural festivals.

"There's been a big transformation in the last few years," said Council member Brittni Kiick. "It's really cool to see things highlighted that were just an idea a few years ago, like transforming our

(See REPORTS, page 8)

Dublin

Center Plans Seek Design Approval

By David Jen

DUBLIN — Plans for a new park with views of Mt. Diablo, hundreds of new homes, restaurants, shops and a community center are moving forward in eastern Dublin.

The Dublin Planning Commission on Feb. 13 will review plans to build out 50 acres of undeveloped land between Tassajara Road and Brannigan Street north of Dublin Boulevard. A public hearing will allow residents to submit comments about the project.

The Dublin Centre project is being developed by Landsea

(See CENTER, page 6)



The Tyler Ranch Staging Area, accented by the remnants of the Foothill Farms barn, is shown above. This newly opened park area provides access to the southern portion of Pleasanton Ridge and Sunol Ridge, connecting them with trails to Robertson Ranch, Palomares Canyon and other remote parkland. (Photo – Doug Jorgensen) *(See photo gallery at www.independentnews.com/multimedia)*

Park District Celebrates 90 Years

By Christina Cavallaro

The East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD) ushers in its 90th anniversary year, but has in no way rested on its laurels as the largest regional park district of its kind in the nation. It has continued to remain a dynamic and ever-evolving parks and recreation district, constantly adding and making improvements to the 125,000 acres of parklands, 55 miles of shoreline and more than 1,300 miles of trails in Alameda and Contra Costa counties that it manages.

Its latest crowning jewel was the completion of the Tyler Ranch Staging Area this past December, which provides new public access to more than 18 trails across 2,800 acres of protected open space on the Tyler Ranch and Robertson Ranch properties, part of the Pleasanton Ridge Regional Park.

From the new staging area, visitors can now enjoy the Sunol Ridge Trail and Tyler Ranch Trail.

The newly accessible parklands offer panoramic views of the Bay Area, including the San Francisco Bay, Mount Diablo, Brushy Peak, Mission Peak, Mount Umunhum, and Mount Tamalpais.

Construction of the staging area and trail began in September 2021. The park district acquired the 1,476-acre Tyler Ranch property in 2009, and the 1,368-acre Robertson Ranch property in 2012. Funding from California State Parks and Alameda and Contra Costa counties' 2008 Measure WW helped pay for the project.

EBRPD's story goes all the way back to the late 1920s as the economic boom and the Jazz Age were coming to a halt, and thousands of acres of watershed land in the East Bay Hills suddenly became available. Civic leaders came together with a vision: preserve the land forever, and balance environmental conservation with public enjoyment.

To garner support, they enlisted renowned landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted Jr. and National Park Service's Chief Naturalist Ansel Hall to survey the watershed lands for potential park use. The resulting 1930 Olmsted-Hall report titled "Report on Proposed Park Reservations for East Bay Cities" brought national credibility

(See PARK, page 7)

Pleasanton

Equity Task Force Moves Forward

By David Jen

PLEASANTON — Diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) continue to factor into the city of Pleasanton's goal of becoming the region's employer of choice, according to a city report.

Since the first calls for a strategic DEI plan in 2019, the city has completed an organization-wide assessment, convened a city-staff task force, and created a DEI action plan to help define a model workplace.

Vice Mayor Julie Testa recalled listening sessions during 2020 where residents asked what the city was doing to bring attention to DEI, she explained, "This being a council priority really came from our community. (It took) a while to get to it, (but) I'm glad we're getting it done."

The action plan consists of four strategic priorities: embedding a culture of DEI, creating a DEI training plan, focusing on hiring and retention, and aligning the broader community with the city's DEI mission.

"When you have a strong culture, it's easy to hire people,; it's easy to hold on to people," said Lamont Browne of Triangle Advising Group at last week's City Council meeting. Browne said the opposite also holds true if employees or applicants feel they cannot be "their best selves" at work.

(See EQUITY page 9)

Change Sought for County Ambulance Response System

By Larry Altman

REGIONAL — Alameda County officials have opened the bidding process for a new ambulance service contract, asking prospective providers to create a system that would make it unnecessary to transport all patients to emergency rooms.

The idea, said Lauri McFadden, emergency medical services (EMS) director for the county, is to eliminate the "one size fits all approach," where every patient who calls 911 is taken to a hospital, even if that is not required.

McFadden called the idea a "significant shift in how we're approaching 911 ambulance response." Residents in Livermore, Pleasanton, Dublin and Sunol all receive ambulance service through the county's contract, currently with Falck Northern California.

"The new system is designed to deliver the right care at the right place based on the patient's acuity, which can mean that in some low-acuity cases patients will receive medical and other treatment at places other than the county's emergency rooms," McFadden told The Independent. "The county hopes this will help reduce the impact of the time ambulances must wait between calls."

McFadden said the new approach will enable health professionals to provide necessary care, whether in a hospital emergency room, at

(See AMBULANCE, page 6)

Public Comment Period Has Begun

Draft Habitat Plan Now Available for Aramis Industrial Solar Project

By David Jen

LIVERMORE — The Aramis Clean Energy Project has shared its plans to address environmental damage that could be brought about by its upcoming utility-scale solar development.

Located about 3.5 miles north of I-580 where North Livermore Avenue meets Manning Road, Intersect Power plans to build some 400 acres of solar panels and five acres of battery storage. The resulting power plant will power up to 25,000 homes, according to Intersect Power, the project's applicant.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFW) announced last week the availability of two draft environmental reports — an Environmental Assessment and Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) — for the project. The HCP will accept public comments through Feb. 16.

"Habitat conservation plans are one tool we can use

(See ARAMIS page 7)



The future site of the Aramis solar project off of Manning Road is pictured. The project will cover some 400 acres of North Livermore agricultural land with solar panels. Its plan for mitigating wildlife impacts is open for public comment until Feb. 16. (Photo – Doug Jorgensen)



The Pleasanton Downtown Association is deciding whether to revise its First Weekends on Main Street program. Community members gathered on the street last summer when it was closed to cars and trucks. (File Photo – Doug Jorgensen)

Downtown Pleasanton Weekend Street Closures up for Debate

By Christina Cavallaro

PLEASANTON — The Pleasanton Downtown Association is once again reviewing plans for the loved-by-some, loathed-by-others First Weekends on Main Street program that closes the downtown area to vehicular traffic from late Friday afternoon through Sunday night once a month . during the warmer months.

Discussion will include the possibility of reducing the frequency of the closures, and the length of time the street is shut down. After considering input from downtown residents, retailers and other business owners, the timeframe was amended last year by the Pleasanton City Council from ten weekends in 2022 down to six in 2023, starting in May and ending in October.

According to a popular Pleasanton community Facebook group, many residents feel the weekend pedestrian-only streets are one of the things that make Pleasanton life special and gives it what one contributor describes as a "European feel", with families out strolling and live music playing. However, other residents find the weekend shutdowns a nuisance and a hindrance to getting errands done and generally consider the area a part of town to avoid.

One resident notes, "This has a huge impact on the businesses there, because you can't get to them. Take a queue from Livermore – their downtown is far more user-friendly for businesses and patrons alike and Main Street (First Street) in Livermore has lost none of its old town charm."

The program was first introduced in 2020 by the Pleasanton Downtown Association, so that businesses in the area could continue

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PETS OF THE WEEK



MEET FOLIAGE!

Brighten up your wintry days with a touch of green: Foliage is a 6-month-old burst of sunshine ready to add warmth and cheer to your home. This playful and affectionate kitty is the perfect remedy for these rainy days- he'll bring a splash of joy into your life this season! Visit valleyhumane.org to learn more or email info@valleyhumane.org to start the adoption application process. (Photo – Valley Humane Society)

Rite Aid Closes Last Store in Livermore

By David Scholz

LIVERMORE - Rite Aid's wave of closures has claimed the second of its two Livermore stores. The Murrietta Boulevard business is now winding down to its last day on Jan. 29.

The Philadelphia-based drug store included the Livermore location at 968 Murrieta Blvd. in its latest bankruptcy filing on Jan. 16, where it announced 45 more locations would close.

The shuttered 1350 North Vasco Road location was the first one to be identified for closure as part of an early December court filing, and it went dark Dec. 14.

Rite Aid spokesperson Catherine Carter said factors in deciding which stores to close include lease and rent considerations, local business conditions and viability, and store performance.

This move leaves just one store at 2819 Hopyard Rd. in Pleasanton as the lone Rite Aid still operating in the TriValley area. Alamo, Tracy, San Leandro and Union City are nearby cities where Rite Aid still has a presence.

Rite Aid's shedding of its national retail pharmacy footprint of more than 2000 stores started last October when it filed for bankruptcy in the face of declining sales, $4 billion of debt and thousands of lawsuits that accused the chain of illegally filling painkiller prescriptions tied to the nation's well-publicized opioid problem.

In prior public statements, the company advised that prescriptions for customers of the affected stores will be transferred to a nearby Rite Aid or other drug stores "so that there is no disruption of service."

As for store associates, they reportedly are being given opportunities to transfer to other Rite Aid locations where possible. Carter noted approximately 75% of store associates so far have reportedly accepted opportunities to transfer to locations if their store has been or is part of the ongoing store closures. Local store management declined to say how many are employed at the Murrieta Boulevard site or their prospects at other nearby stores in the chain.

Sherri Souza, CEO and president of the Livermore Chamber of Commerce, laments the closure of the location, the latest in a line of big box locations now empty in the community. She was not aware of what might go into the various locations.

"You are not just a person standing in line, you are a neighbor," she said of customers doing business at the Livermore store. She said that this made the Murrieta Boulevard Rite Aid a "comfortable" shopping experience.

Sadly, Souza is not surprised by the company's decisions. She observed that over time the area became "over saturated" with pharmacies, citing others, like Walmart, who have moved in and bringing with them buying power to offer more for less.

Her concern now is the public's perception that may begin to take root when they see large anchor store fronts in the area staying empty.



The Rite Aid on Murrietta Boulevard in Livermore will close on Jan. 29 following the company's bankruptcy filing. (Photo – Doug Jorgensen)

Pleasanton Foundation Gifts Final Grant Monies to Culinary Angels

A Pleasanton-based nonprofit that has awarded more than $1.1 million to cancer patients in Alameda and Contra Costa counties over the last 15 years has given its remaining $65,000 in assets to Culinary Angels.

The Sandra J. Wing Healing Therapies Foundation announced last fall that it would be closing in December with the retirement of its founder, Sandra J. Wing.

Last week, the foundation presented its final grant, in the form of a $65,000 check, to Culinary Angels, a Livermore-based nonprofit that provides nutrient-rich meals for Tri-Valley residents undergoing treatment for cancer.

More than 100 foundation supporters gathered at the Palm Event Center in the Vineyard in Pleasanton on Thursday, Jan. 18, to honor Wing, who formed the foundation in 2009 after dealing with her own double cancer diagnosis and treatment.

The foundation focused on helping cancer patients pay for secondary treatments to alleviate the side effects of chemotherapy and radiation treatments, including acupuncture, therapeutic massage, and meditation.

Over the years, according to the foundation, it awarded nearly 2,300 individual grants of $500 each and covering more than 16,000 therapy sessions.

Wing said she began thinking about retirement in 2020 and instead of searching for a successor, the nonprofit's board of directors opted to dissolve the program.

The foundation stopped fundraising efforts in 2020 and awarded its final grants in May 2023.

Wing added that gifting the foundation's final assets to Culinary Angels was an easy decision.

"I have known [Culinary Angels founder and executive director Lisa McNaney] since 2016 when she came to me and introduced her nonprofit to the Tri-Valley," Wing said. "We serve the same group of people, and both of us have had first-hand experience surrounding cancer."

Open Heart Kitchen Launches New Facilities at the Vineyard

By Ruth Roberts

After years of planning and several unforeseen obstacles, Open Heart Kitchen (OHK) rolled out its new production kitchen and dining room to the public this week at its location inside The Vineyard Resource Center in Livermore.

"Open Heart Kitchen now has a permanent home for its modern commercial kitchen that will support meal production for all of our programs throughout the Tri-Valley," said Denise Boulter, OHK's development director.

Meals at OHK are free and open to anyone who comes through the center's doors. Tables are available Monday through Friday from noon to 5 p.m., and the dining room can accommodate up to 100 visitors at a time.

"We have lots of room to grow and that's very exciting," said OHK Executive Director John Bost.

The launch on Jan. 22 picked up where two years of COVID and damage from an on-site fire, left off. Located on the property of the Vineyard Christian Fellowship on North Livermore Avenue, a fire in the church's kitchen in 2017 followed by the arrival of COVID in 2019, stalled plans for OHK's expansion.

"The sit-down kitchen and to-go menus were really the bread and butter for Open Heart Kitchen pre-pandemic, but when COVID hit, all that went away and we shifted to emergency situations," said Bost, who added that temporary sites were set up in Danville and at the Robert Livermore Community Center.

Ground was eventually broken on the new site at The Vineyard in April 2022. The project was supported by the cities of Livermore, Pleasanton and Dublin, along with former Alameda County Supervisor Scott Haggerty. For OHK's part of the $25 million project, $2.25 million was raised from 40 OHK individual donors, including the Fremont Bank Foundation and the Senior Assistance Foundation Eastbay.

"What's unique about the Vineyard Resource Center (located on the property of The Vineyard Christiam Fellowship) is that we can provide free meals in concert with other supportive services to help folks become more self-sufficient and economically stable," said Boulter. "To my knowledge, there is no other such supportive housing center in the Bay Area that also has professional food assistance on site."

The new kitchen and dining room are just one of many firsts at The Vineyard. This week also marked the opening of onsite shower and laundry facilities, along with a 20-bed shelter. The beds will be open every night from now through the end of June. Depending upon available funding, Bost is hoping the shelter will expand into a year-round program.

There are also 23 permanent supportive apartments currently occupied on site. All of the facilities – kitchen, dining room, overnight shelter, showers and laundry – are available to those who live on the property, as well as those who don't.

"The dream of The Vineyard is to reduce the amount of travel one would have to do to access services," said Bost. "We want to pack as many services as possible into one spot."

Those spots also include meeting rooms and office spaces for supportive services, such as case management, health and wellness, social service counseling and housing referrals.

The permanent supportive housing on-site is owned and managed by the Housing Consortium of the East Bay (HCEB). HCEB acquired the site in October 2018.

Now that the new kitchen and dining facilities are in place, Bost says the real work will begin.

"Walking alongside people, helping to make their lives easier is an ongoing job …and that is all driven by the volunteers, and that will be ongoing," said Bost. "What keeps me awake at night is not how to serve them, but how to do it better. That is the challenge."

For more information on OHK and The Vineyard, visit www.openheartkitchen.org/vineyard, or call OHK at 925-580-1616.



Steve Bonham (front) and Jun Wong serve clients at Open Heart Kitchen's new location in The Vineyard Resource Center on North Livermore Avenue. The modern production kitchen and dining room opened on Jan. 22, offering free meals Monday through Friday from noon to 5 p.m. to those in need. (Photo – Doug Jorgensen)

Rincon Library Offers Homework Help

The Livermore Public Library's Rincon branch, 725 Rincon Ave. in May Nissen Park, is offering free help with homework for students of all ages.

Adult volunteers are available to help with math or reading from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m., Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursday, and from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. on Wednesdays.

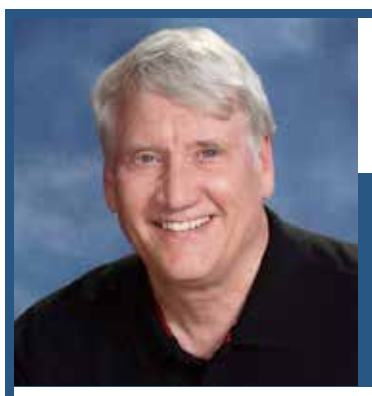
The library's dedicated Homework Help space also includes computers and printers reserved for student use.

The library also provides pencils, pens, paper, highlighters, markers, calculators, rulers, glue, flashcards, and resource books.

The Homework Help program will run through May 23.







ALAN BURNHAM
for Zone 7 Director
A fresh perspective on fresh water

My experience will enable me to help choose the best options for:
A more resilient water system
More reliable water supplies
& Protecting our groundwater storage

MY BACKGROUND IN BRIEF:
- PhD in Chemistry
- 35 years at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory
- 8 years at Stanford University
- Operate a business to provide affordable space for nonprofits
- Founded Quest Science Center
- Member of:
  - Livermore Valley Chamber of Commerce
  - Livermore General Plan Advisory Committee
  - Innovation Tri-Valley Committee - Housing & Infrastructure

ENDORSED BY:
David Haubert, Alameda County Supervisor
John Marchand, Mayor of Livermore
Karla Brown, Mayor of Pleasanton
Melissa Hernandez, Mayor of Dublin
Dennis Gambs, Zone 7 Director



Teaching water hydrology with David Lunn

alanburnham4zone7.com

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Faith And Remembrance: 35th Anniversary of Ilene Misheloff's Disappearance

By Christina Cavallaro

DUBLIN— This month marks 35 years since 13-year-old Ilene Misheloff vanished while walking home from school in Dublin.

The Dublin police and the FBI continue to investigate when tips come in; the case remains unsolved.

And sadness weighs heavily in the hearts and minds of many residents in Dublin this time of the year.

Misheloff went missing on Jan 30, 1989, on her way home from Wells Middle School, according to the City of Dublin's "Ilene Misheloff Disappearance" website devoted to the case.

Former Police Chief Garrett Holmes said she was last seen at approximately 3 p.m. walking alone on Amador Valley Boulevard near Village Parkway.

She was dressed in a charcoal gray pullover "Esprit" polo sweater, a charcoal gray skirt with horizontal stripes and black low-top Keds sneakers. At the time of her disappearance, she had braces, pierced ears and freckles on her cheeks and nose.

Her key fob was found near the entrance to John Mape Park, the route she normally took home, but she was never seen again.

For more than 30 years on Jan 30, the community held a candlelight vigil and walk to keep Misheloff's memory alive and to keep pressure on police to continue investigating. The vigil, though, was canceled indefinitely following the death of Ilene's mother, Maddi, in 2020 from cancer. Ilene's father said it would have been too emotional without his wife present.

The Independent spoke with Rabbi Raleigh Resnick, a spiritual leader of the Tri-Valley's Jewish community, who participated in the vigils before they ended. The girl was of Jewish faith and had recently celebrated her Bat Mitzvah with her twin brother, Brian.

Resnik didn't know Ilene, but became involved in the vigil because he was moved by the story and the fact that her parents were trying to get the word out about their missing daughter.



Ilene Misheloff's father, Mike Misheloff, stuffs envelopes with his daughter's missing person poster just a few days after the girl went missing while walking home from school in Dublin. Jan. 30 marks 35 years since she vanished. (Independent file photo)

"I joined (the walks) not as a rabbi, just as a citizen and as a resident of the Tri-Valley, who was moved and motivated by the story. So that is my personal connection," he said.

In an article published in the Independent in 2021, Ilene's father, Michael Misheloff, said for all the last three decades, his wife kept Ilene's bedroom just the way it was when she vanished. The family never moved; he only disconnected their landline phone in the last couple of years. He said he wanted the number to stay the same in case his daughter was trying to reach him.

His wife, he said, never gave up hope of finding their daughter, even when his own doubts led him to believe it was unlikely that she was still alive or that her remains could be located.

Resnick said he is moved and motivated by parents who push past the notion of hope and instead lean fully into the power of faith and trust that there will be a positive outcome to long and grueling decades of not knowing what happened to their child.

"It's not just a Hollywood fictional movie. We all know stories where this does end beautifully," said Resnick.

Cases like the kidnapping of Jaycee Lee Dugard come to mind. She was abducted in 1991 and remained missing for more than 18 years until 2009. when she was discovered alive on the UC Berkeley campus after years of being held captive by convicted sex offender Phillip Garrido.

On August 24 and 25 of that year, Garrido visited UC Berkeley, accompanied by two girls, who were discovered to be the biological daughters of Garrido and the missing Dugard. The unusual behavior of the three sparked an investigation that led Garrido's parole officer, Edward Santos Jr. to order Garrido to take the two girls to a parole office in Concord on August 26. Garrido was accompanied by a woman who was eventually identified as Dugard.

"We can encourage people to trust," said Resnick. "Who knows, maybe someone will see this story. Someone will say something to somebody somewhere."

In the absence of a candlelight vigil and walk, Resnick offered the community an alternative.

"On this anniversary, it's a day of introspection and everybody should try being a little bit better today than they were yesterday. If someone calls their mother and says, 'I haven't talked to you in a few weeks. I was thinking about you and I'm doing this in honor of the miracle that we're waiting for ... (Ilene Misheloff's) safe return.' That's beautiful."

Anyone with information on the Misheloff case can contact Dublin police Sgt. Craig Evans at 925-833-6670. Tips can be anonymous.

Student Exchange Program Seeking Host Families

ASSE International Student Exchange Programs (ASSE) is recruiting Tri-Valley families interestng in hosting foreign-exchange students.

ASSE, a nonprofit based in Laguna Beach, California, works with students in 50 countries worldwide, including Europe and the Far East. Exchange students are between 15 and 19 years old and selected based on personality and academic achievement.

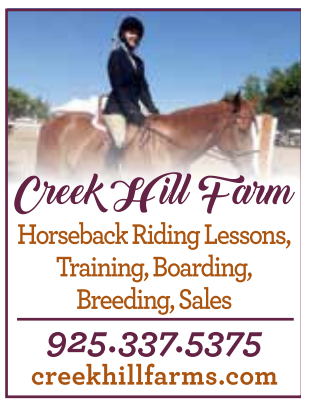
ASSE said host families, including couples, single parents, or individuals, can choose students from a variety of backgrounds, countries and personal interests. The students typically spend a semester or an entire school year with their host family.

ASSEprovides full health, accident, and liability insurance.

Families interested in the program should email Elena Iannotti, ASSE western regional director, at asseusawest@asse.com or call 800-733-2773.

ASSE also ASSE offers U.S. student the opportunity to learn another language and culture by spending a school year, semester, or a summer with a host family in another country.

For more information, go to asse.com.







EDITORIAL

Pleasanton's Interest in Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Is Commendable; We Look Forward to Its Next Steps

Much remains for our communities to address diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI), and so we welcome Pleasanton's continued progress in this area, specifically the inaugural meeting of its DEI task force this month.

We also congratulate the city's recently received Helen Putnam Award for its Alternative Response to Mental Health program. The partnerships between police and mental-health clinicians that have focused on de-escalation techniques, have significantly reduced the Police Department's percentage of psychiatric holds.

But nearly four years have passed since Minneapolis police murdered George Floyd and a wave of DEI introspection swept across the country. Within that time, a commensurate amount of progress seems lacking.

DEI is still as important to the community as it was in 2020. We urge that city resources — whether they be funding for the city's deferred DEI-manager position or staff time for a faster cadence to the city's surveys and meetings — be allocated to reflect this priority.

Care should also be taken to follow appropriate metrics as we move forward.

The relative ease of measuring diversity — for example with statistics on ethnicity, age or gender — too often shifts attention away from the less tangible ideas of equity and inclusion. Workforce inclusion should include a person's feelings of belonging, of being valued, and having enough psychological safety to take risks.

A diverse workforce does not necessarily lead to equity and inclusion. We therefore ask the city to look beyond static diversity snapshots when developing the key-performance indicators that will gauge its DEI efforts. Instead, let us ask what is the employee turnover rate, and promotion rate, when broken down by protected classes? More importantly, how do employees describe their feelings of trust, belonging, and decision making?

We look forward to what the task force comes up with on how to implement and track Pleasanton's DEI plan.

MAILBOX

Mailbox Guidelines:
Opinions voiced in letters published in Mailbox are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of The Independent. Anonymous letters will not be published. All letters are required to have the name(s) of the person(s) submitting them, city of residence and phone number, for verification purposes. Abusive letters may be rejected or edited. Letters are subject to verification and may be edited for clarity at the discretion of the editor. We reserve the right to decide whether or not the letter will be published. Headings for all letters may be edited at the discretion of the editor to properly reflect their content. A headline will be added to letters received without one. Frequent letter writers may have publication of their letters delayed. Letters must be submitted by someone living in or from the Tri-Valley; they must not offer medical advice from unconfirmed professional sources or contain libelous or inappropriate content. Letters should be limited to 400 words or less and should be sent by email to letters@independentnews.com or submitted using the form below. To be considered, letters must be received by 10 a.m. on the Monday before publication.

Forests Need Harvesting
Russ Greenlaw, Livermore

I came across an Independent article from June wherein some LLNL modelling purported to show that the increase in summer wildfire burn areas were due to anthropogenic climate change.

Those of us who work in the forest, as I do with 600 acres of forest in the family for 140 years, observe that our forests have become grossly overgrown in recent decades, my own included, due to government obstruction of harvesting since about 1970, not formerly in effect.

Self-styled environmentalists seem to think that forests are static systems, always full of mature trees like a park. In reality, a forest is dynamic, always changing, kept thinned. Trees and brush need to be removed by harvesting (formerly done) lest they burn (what happens now). There is no third choice.

Not only do government agencies obstruct harvesting in a counter-productive manner, by having done so for 50 years the supply of lumber mills, log buyers, loggers and truckers had dwindled so as to make it difficult to impossible to keep a forest thinned to be healthy, growing, and fire resistant. Just two years ago, the State Board of Forestry reduced the minimum large tree count from 100 per acre to about 40, a reduction which will require decades to show effect.

Back to the article which, near the end, admitted that other factors have a role, such as fuel buildup: dear ivory-tower researchers — fuel is everything! Everyone who has built a campfire has figured out that for a bigger campfire one needs MORE FUEL! One-degree warmer air is meaningless, and there had been no decrease in average rain in northern California over my nearly 80-year lifetime. With forest fuel loads double or triple what is natural, big wildfires are the new normal — thank government for this. The government is obstructing my harvesting right now; I cannot remove dead pines without state permission that is not obtainable.

I possess a published book of Sierra Nevada photos, from many locations in the 19th century and recently of the same locations — clearly showing a sparse forest everywhere in the late 1800s, and dense, overgrown forest everywhere now. Anthropogenic climate change? NO.

Forget your climate change, we need a change in government attitudes so as to encourage forest thinning through harvesting, which, by the way, IS both carbon sequestering and wildlife promoting. Forest fires, whether of natural or human cause, are neither.

Celebrate Martin Luther King
David Ott, Pleasanton

As we celebrate Martin Luther King, we should remember that his dream for the U.S. was to "live in a nation where people will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character." The racial division that is constantly promoted by the progressive left Marxist democrats and the mainstream media is a disgrace to Martin Luther King. The radical dems divide us with their fear tactics and rhetoric in order gain more power and control (a Marxist tactic.) Never before in America have there been so many opportunities for all people to advance and to be successful. Do not fall for the false divide that they create. The U.S. was founded on our God-given right that we are ALL created equal, and we must continue to believe and protect that principle.

Keep Good People in Office
Robert Yates, Livermore

I want to be represented in Washington by someone who will protect our rights as Americans, and our interests here in the Tri-Valley area. A person of integrity and courage to stand up for what's right against lies, slander, violence, and threats of violence. Thank heaven, most voters here agree with me that Congressman Eric Swalwell is the right man for the job. Please let's do all we can to keep good people in office.

Listening Is a Two-way Street
Alan Burnham, Livermore

Last week, Julie Wild criticized my proposal to shift the open forum comment to the end of the meeting. Unfortunately, she confused two unrelated issues.

The basic issue was that the agenda of the January meeting was a continuation of the five-item agenda from the previous meeting, of which only two items were covered due to time. However, due to a procedural error in December, the January meeting was considered a new meeting requiring an open forum. This procedural error was not explained to anyone prior to my raising a point of order. I was not opposed to the open forum per se but having it at the end would allow more time for speakers to address the remaining focus areas. Consistent with my point, the January meeting was closed in such a way that an open forum is not required for the February continuation. However, speakers will be able to talk longer about the very important fifth agenda item—Midtown.

Ms. Wild claimed that I do not want to hear opinions I do not agree with. In fact, I have talked extensively to people on both sides of the Greenville issue. After Doug Mann criticized me for not wanting to hear him about that focus area, he proceeded unknowingly to say the same thing I submitted to the previous meeting: it does not make sense to develop a general plan under the assumption that Greenville annexation will occur given that any potential voter approval is more than a year off and not assured. We talked at length after the meeting, and I am willing to talk to anyone about any aspect of the general plan.

Of course, other speakers said the same thing they had said multiple times before, which at best does not advance the discussion, and at worst, repeats statements that are factually incorrect. One said that the City Council did not listen to the people about downtown development, when in fact, the opponents lost every election held during that process. Perhaps the real issue here is that some people do not want a vote on the Greenville expansion because they are afraid, they will lose.

To be clear, I have not yet seen a proposal worth voting on because the process is not far enough along to define the end result. There will be plenty of time over the next year to debate Greenville issues at great length.

Explore the Concept of the Afterlife
Abdul Awwal, Pleasanton

I once participated in an interesting book club discussion that explored the concept of the afterlife. One of the statements made in the book club, surprisingly, echoed the following: "And they argue, 'There is nothing beyond our worldly life. We die; others are born. And nothing destroys us but ˹the passage of˺ time.'

Yet they have no knowledge ˹in support˺ of this ˹claim˺. They only speculate." This is taken from chapter 45 of the Qur'an, verse 24. The concept of the afterlife is common in most major religions of the world. One of the important aspects of this concept is that it provides accountability for one's actions in this life. In Islam, this accountability comes in two forms: 1) accountability to God and 2) accountability to God's creation. It is said that if one fails to perform his duties to God, God may forgive that person. However, if someone wrongs another person, he may not be forgiven until the one he wronged forgives him. When one looks at the current and ongoing war in Palestine or wars in the past in Bosnia, Myanmar, or the Holocaust, it becomes apparent that none of the perpetrators of these wars exercised a consciousness of the afterlife. It may be that in the religions of these perpetrators, their scholars have de-emphasized the accountability of the afterlife or somehow dehumanized the opponent. As a result, the perpetrator may exercise free reign in committing those atrocities. Scholars of any religion cannot simply evade their responsibilities by making things up, forcing the afterlife to obscurity. I would like for readers to explore the concept of the afterlife and how it could lead to a balanced society with justice and peace.

Cast Your Vote for Kristie Wang
Bob Carling, Livermore

I met Kristie Wang several years ago when she and two other parents brought to my attention the danger of vaping in our high schools. They were seeking my support for a city-wide ban of all flavored vaping fluids and associated paraphernalia. Kristie had obviously spent a great deal of time researching the dangers of vaping and I found their proposal to ban the purchase of vaping materials was well-grounded. Since that first meeting, I have enjoyed getting to know Kristie better and have observed her dedication and commitment to our community. I supported her candidacy for school board and can now offer my unconditional endorsement for city council from District 4. She is always well-prepared, thoughtful, and devoted to improving the quality of life for all residents of Livermore. Please cast your vote for Kristie Wang, candidate for city council from District 4.

Renters...
Patricia Thorstad, Livermore

Renters/Workers Unite! (err, meaning, I meant... Voters Unite!)

Why? Why? Why? Why? Why? Why? Because the Christian-Nationalist on the Supreme Court, four liars and two others; they get two votes.

This also came to mind at the time: Mr. Pelosi had just been assaulted in his own home in San Francisco, for political "unreasoning" by his and Nancy's part by a guy once from here.

Ever been bludgeoned in the head? I've been hit in the head. It hurts and it hurts for a long time. The truck cab ceiling and my skull connected; concussed but not fractured like Paul Pelosi on Oct. 28, 2022.

I wrote this at and for the 2022 Midterms. I remain the bulwark against fascism on Lenore and I got nothing better to do.

Unopen Forum
Doug Mann, Livermore

I was at the GPAC meeting where Zone 7 candidate and committee member Alan Burnham attempted to halt public comments during Open Forum. It was a highly objectionable tactic for those of us who came to speak, particularly about the importance of preserving our urban growth boundary.

After speaking with Mr. Burnham at length later on, his action does have an explanation of sorts. His position that Open Forum should not have been on the agenda has some merit, as strict adherence to regular order at the previous meeting could have kept it off. However, it WAS on a duly posted agenda, and abruptly removing it at the meeting would have been a second violation of regular order. Two wrongs still do not make a right.

Ordinary people with busy lives made the effort to participate and contribute. I would hope a public apology is in the works (if not, it is overdue) for what could plausibly be just an episode of unintentional insensitivity by a freshman candidate exerting an overly strict interpretation of protocol in favor of committee convenience. Maybe then we should forgive him for what ended up being a clumsy but ultimately victimless error and get on with the more urgent chore of debating which people will be best suited for the Zone 7 Water Agency.

Why Is This Happening?
David Truckner, Livermore

I have been homeless for 13 years with my wife, and finally housing came about for us at the Vineyard 2.0, with it being only 18 studios and five one bedrooms (and a two bedroom for the manager.) I am totally disabled, and I'm wondering why the management would have me living upstairs. I am 100% permanently disabled and my wife takes care of me. I cannot do the stairs and do not understand why others that are not disabled got the bottom floor. I also want to mention that there are two of us and we are the only married couple, yet they put us in a studio. Why, why, why are others that are just one person getting one-bedrooms? I am just curious to know why this would be happening?

Livermore's Strategic Plan: A Reintroduction
Patricia Munro, Livermore

At the Jan. 22, 2024, Livermore City Council Meeting, city staff presented an update to Livermore's Five-year Strategic Plan, from 2023-2028. The update is 25 pages of short bullet points representing the work of almost 500 city employees who, together with community partners, help make Livermore the city so many of us love. The update is worth reading (find it in the agenda packet) but reviewing what the Strategic Plan (because let's be real—how many people remember it from last year?) comes first.

The plan reflects Livermore's values and priorities, using input from, among other sources, the National Community Survey, the General Plan, the Climate Action Plan, and the Financial Plan. Like any organization, Livermore has limited resources—time, people, money—and the strategic plan provides a framework to make decisions about allocating those resources.

The City's vision underlies the Strategic Plan. It is: "We strive to create a safe, healthy, welcoming city for all our diverse community members: residents, visitors, and businesses. We envision a future that honors our shared history and respects our environment as we seek equitable access to opportunity for all." That vision leads to five organizing principles, called Community Pillars. As stated in the Plan, they are:

1. A Safe Community that Thrives: Support facilities, design programs and ensure compliance with regulations that create a healthy, resilient, and engaged community that is prepared, safe, and housed.

2. An Economy that Prospers: Encourage a thriving business environment that results in a strong, diverse,

(See MAILBOX, page 5)

MAILBOX

(Continued from 4 page)

resilient economy and supports community prosperity.

3. Environmental Stewardship: Preserve and protect Livermore's climate and environment for future generations and become a municipal leader in sustainability, reducing and drawing down greenhouse gas emissions, and encouraging sustainable development.

4. Inclusive and Inviting Places and Spaces: Create inclusive and inviting natural and built places and spaces for contemplation, play, arts, and connection while celebrating our history and encouraging community pride.

5. A City that Works: Foster an organization that is fiscally sustainable, innovative, effective, and efficient; provides excellent public services; invests in professional development and well-being of employees in alignment with the community and organizational values; and responsibly invests in the city's infrastructure.

Each of these pillars has goals and objectives that are being implemented by the city's nine departments. Each of them is worth more explanation, which will follow in the coming weeks.

Kristie Wang for Livermore District 4 In 2024

Gina Bonanno, Livermore

In 2024, voters in Livermore District 4 will have the opportunity to elect a new councilmember. I couldn't be happier that Kristie Wang has announced her candidacy for this seat!

Kristie possesses all the qualities necessary to be an outstanding councilmember: intelligence, a strong work ethic, the ability to listen and collaborate, a rational approach to problem solving, and compassion.

Over the years I have seen the positive impact Kristie has made in our community across a wide range of roles. Particularly notable was as a leader of the successful anti-vaping campaign which paved the way for other cities across the nation to follow. More recently have been her contributions as an incredibly hardworking trustee on the Livermore Joint Unified School District board. She served on the school board during a very challenging time and always acted with the best interests of the students in mind. In addition, for many years Kristie has been an active member of several non-profit organizations focused on important community issues.

I was honored to serve with Councilmember Carling for two years and thank him for his dedicated service to this community. There couldn't be a better choice than Kristie to succeed him. I hope all voters in District 4 will join me in supporting Kristie Wang for council in 2024.

Losers!

Carol Chargin, Livermore

On Jan. 14, 2024, The East Bay Times, page A11, ran a story about a British D-Day survivor, Bill Gladden, who was celebrating his 100th birthday. But he was really looking forward to June 6, the 80th anniversary of the D-Day landings. Mr. Gladden stated that while the British and the Allies won the war, the cost was high as so many youngsters gave their lives and lie in foreign graves. Today we have a candidate for President who labels those youngsters as suckers and losers.

My father, a school administrator in a small Colorado town, was too old to be drafted into WWII, so he enlisted and was scheduled to teach mathematics at a military school. His school board would not release him from his contract, which posed a dilemma as he had plans to obtain his Ph.D. If he ignored his school board, he would likely not be accepted into a Ph.D. program. He remained in Colorado where he was an administrator, a teacher, a coach, and a driver of young people to their athletic events. He told stories of families losing every male in the family. Families were not required to sacrifice the last male in the family, but they chose to as they wanted to defend our democratic republic. Many were recent immigrants from Poland, Italy, Germany, England, and Wales. They were the miners, railroad workers, and the hired help on farms. Many were underage. These young people gave their all for this country, their lives.

Now this candidate labels these young people who sacrificed their lives as losers. He thinks he is clever, so he doesn't pay his contractors but tells them to sue him. When he was running for President the first time, I checked and learned he was involved in over 1,800 lawsuits. Is this a sign of a good businessman? Later the number of lawsuits was over 4,000. Many of this candidate's businesses fail, including his gambling houses. He's proud to be a sexual predator.

I hope that the greed in this country is not so blinding as to lead to the election of a man who is turning himself into a messiah. He only cares about his ego and the wealthy. People who work with their hands are dirty under their fingernails. Research to learn the truth about this candidate. Were your relatives who died to preserve our democratic republic losers?

Kristie Wang for City Council

Emily Prusso, Livermore
LVJUSD Board President

It is with mixed emotions that I write to endorse my esteemed colleague and friend, Kristie Wang, in her bid for Livermore City Council. While she will be an amazing representative of Livermore on the City Council, I will miss her advocacy and support on LVJUSD's school board.

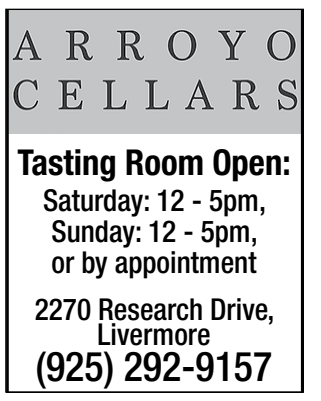
I have had the privilege of working closely with Kristie, and I can attest to her unwavering commitment to putting students first. Besides her governing role on our board, Kristie helps write policy, volunteers to help students with writing, attends many school functions and events, and brings outside stakeholders to support our kids (whether it's math tutors from the lab, anti-vaping advocates, or Quest Science Center to bring science and engineering to our classrooms.) Kristie is always the first to volunteer, the first to arrive, and the last one to leave.

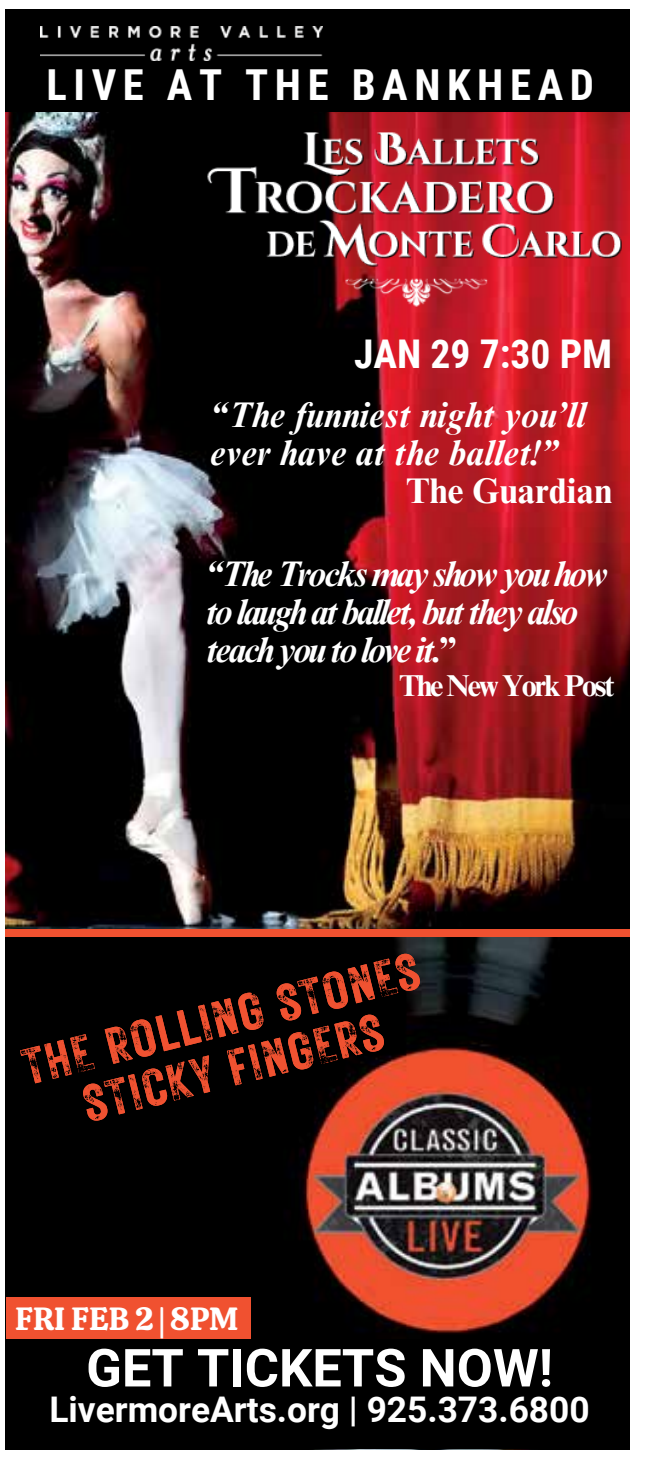
In a landscape where political ideologies often create divisions, Kristie stands out as a dedicated advocate who sets aside personal politics to find common ground. Despite our ideological differences, Kristie and I have successfully collaborated on initiatives that may be deemed politically contentious, always with the best interests of Livermore students at the forefront.

What truly sets Kristie apart is her willingness to listen, her open-minded approach, and her ability to think beyond political affiliations. She consistently demonstrates a commitment to representing diverse voices (including diversity of thought) within our community, ensuring that all perspectives are considered in decision-making processes.

Kristie's track record on the school board speaks volumes about her dedication to fostering an inclusive and supportive educational environment. As she steps forward to run for City Council, I am confident that she will bring the same passion, diligence, and collaborative spirit to the broader issues facing Livermore. I would be remiss if I didn't mention Kristie's personal qualities; she is a remarkable mother, an unwavering friend, and her kindness and compassion for others is unparalleled.

I wholeheartedly endorse Kristie Wang for City Council and encourage you to consider supporting her candidacy. Her ability to bridge divides and work towards the betterment of our community is precisely what Livermore needs.









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On Saturday, Jan. 13, 71 family members and friends of Joan Mumma of Livermore gathered to honor and celebrate her 90th birthday. The guests included her husband, Doug, and two daughters, Jennifer Mumma and Janet Hoover, along with their husbands, Mark and Bruce. The guest list included her four grandchildren, two great grandchildren along with many nieces and nephews. Mumma moved to Livermore in 1958 after their marriage. She taught special education in the Livermore school system for many years. (Photo courtesy: Doug Mumma)

AMBULANCE

(Continued from front page)

the scene, or by connecting the patient to other care outside the emergency response system. Patients not needing hospitalization could be connected to a care provider on the phone or referred to a service that would deploy mental health providers.

"Our goal is really to be able to offer the appropriate level of care for each unique call," McFadden said.

According to the county's "Request for Proposal (RFP)" issued Jan. 11 to open the bidding process for a new ambulance service contract, the EMS system will "appropriately prioritize" lower acuity 911 calls where a life is not threatened.

"Not all EMS callers are necessarily patients who require EMS," the document says. "Many 911 calls involve situations that are not life threatening and do not require an immediate EMS response or indeed any emergency response at all." The change would free up ambulances for true emergencies, it says.

During the last year, Livermore and Pleasanton officials have criticized Falck Northern California for delays in responding to calls to assist Livermore Pleasanton Fire Department. According to LPFD data, Falck failed to meet expected response times 7.2% of the time on calls requiring a priority response — those with lights and sirens — from May to September.

Livermore City Manager Marianna Marysheva and Pleasanton City Manager Gerry Beaudin recently wrote a letter to Falck officials to express their concerns and met with them as well.

The issue of response times is occurring at the same time the county opened the process for other EMS companies to bid for the contract. Falck's contract expires in 2025. In a statement to The Independent, the city managers did not directly comment on whether they believe the change in policy would improve emergency response times.

"The cities of Livermore and Pleasanton receive EMS service through a contract with Alameda County," Marysheva and Beaudin said in a statement. "The county received input from partner cities in the development of the RFP that includes a system redesign for all emergency medical response/transport. The cities are looking forward to service improvements through this new contract. "

Potential providers have until August to submit their applications. Whoever wins the job, which would be determined by the Board of Supervisors, would take over service between April and July 2026.

McFadden said in most cases, ambulance providers bill a patient's insurance for the cost of transport. Not requiring a trip to the emergency room could save the patient money.

"While cost savings to the consumer may certainly be a byproduct of the RFP, it was not a driving factor in its design."

McFadden called the system design change unique in California. She said it was developed through a multiyear process that included public meetings.

CENTER

(Continued from front page)

Homes with plans to build a mixed-use development with 500 homes, 58,000 square feet of retail-commercial space, a two-acre public park, and a community center.

Principal Planner Amy Million said the Planning Commission will decide what the buildings will look like, as well as the site plan and the tract maps, which will determine how to subdivide the property.

Plans call for three-story single family and townhomes built with modern materials and building forms, said Million. Homes will be built with stucco, cement-like siding and metals paired with gabled, shed or flat roofs.

A two-acre "grand paseo" park — a scenic promenade — will anchor shops and restaurants in the development. A variety of grand-paseo uses, such as recreation, gardening and meadows, will complement views of Mt. Diablo.

Along Finnian Way,the city explored the use of shophouses, buildings that combine homes with businesses. With small commercial spaces at street level and residential spaces above and behind them, 40 shophouses will help activate the commercial area, said Million.

Residents, during last week's meeting, asked about the affordable housing included in Dublin Centre, as well as any needs assessments supporting demand for the new development.

While the project includes a 3.8-acre site set aside for affordable housing, that project will undergo its own review process, likely with a separate developer, apart from what will be presented to the Planning Commission next month, said Million.

A new community center along Tassajara Road near the Finnian Way extension will also be treated separately.

Million was unable to offer details on expected demand for future homes and businesses.

Plans for a Top Golf location — the high-tech sports bar, driving-range chain — included in the SCS preferred plan south of Dublin Boulevard, have not yet received pre-application approval, said Million.



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Pal-art.com

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PleasantonBand.org

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SPECTRUM Community Services, Inc/Meals on Wheels
2621 Barrington Ct.
Hayward, CA 94545
510-881-0300
SpectrumCS.org

St. Vincent de Paul Society
c/o St. Michael Church
458 Maple St.
Livermore, CA 94550
925-758-0126

Sunflower Hill
info@sunflowerhill.org
925-800-1042
SunFlowerhill.org

The Blankenship Program - AEMTAC
1863 Altair Ave.
Livermore, CA.
925-895-7059
mtac-alamedaeast.org/blankenship-project

The Taylor Family Foundation
P.O. Box 2450
Livermore CA, 94551
925-455-5118
TTFF.org

Three Valleys Community Foundation
5960 Inglewood Drive, Suite 201
Pleasanton, CA 94588
info@3vcf.org
www.3VCF.org

Tri-Valley Animal Rescue
P.O. Box 11143
Pleasanton, CA 94588
TVAR.org

Tri-Valley Community Television Foundation
4663 Bernal Ave., Suite B
Pleasanton, CA 94566
925-462-3030
TV30foundation.org

Tri-Valley Conservancy
1457 First St.
Livermore, CA 94550
925-449-8706
Trivalleyconservnacy.org

Tri-Valley Haven
3663 Pacific Ave.
Livermore, CA 94551
925-449-5842
TriValleyHaven.org

Tri-Valley Nonprofit Alliance
P.O. Box 2467
Livermore, CA 94550
TVNPA.org

Tri Valley Reach
P.O. Box 5564
Pleasanton, CA 94566
TriVallyReach.Org

Tri-Valley Repertory Theatre
P.O. Box 1445
Pleasanton, CA 94566
info@trivalleyrep.com
Trivalleyrep.org

Tri-Valley Seek and Save
P.O. Box 701
Livermore, CA 94551-0701
(925) 895-1041
TriValleySeekandSave.org

ValleyCare Charitable Foundation/Stanford Health Care-ValleyCare
1111 E. Stanley Blvd.
Livermore, CA 94550
925-373-4560
GiveValleyCare.org

Valley Concert Chorale
P.O. Box 286
Livermore, CA 94551
Valleyconcertchorale.org

Valley Dance Theatre
2247-B Second St.
Livermore, CA 94550
925-243-0925
Valleydancetheatre.com

Valley Humane Society
3670 Nevada St.
Pleasanton, CA 94566
925-426-8656
ValleyHumane.org

Wiesner Memorial Senior Fund
4444 East Avenue
Livermore, CA 94550
925-989-1765
info@wiesnerfund.org
wiesnerfund.org

FREE NONPROFIT LISTING FOR LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS.
If you would like to be added please email kim@independentnews.com

PARK

(Continued from front page)

to the effort and is largely considered the founding document of the East Bay Regional Park District.

Four years later, in the thick of the Great Depression, civic leaders placed a measure on the ballot to establish the Park District and tax themselves 5¢ for every $100 of property owned for land preservation. The measure passed on November 4, 1934, by a resounding 71 % – even during trying times and economic instability, when gas felt exorbitant at 10 cents a gallon and a can of soda cost a nickel.

Despite the economic pressures, on June 4, 1936, the district purchased enough land from East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD) to create its first three parks—Upper Wildcat Canyon (Tilden), Temescal and Roundtop (Sibley). Redwood Park and Roberts Park followed.

In 1953, EBMUD opened its sixth park (Chabot), inching closer to the Tri-Valley. During the 1950s, a major shift in the region's population occurred as postwar cities expanded, and more residents began moving into the suburbs and outlying unincorporated county areas. East Bay cities were providing city parks, but the counties with their mostly rural populations did not have taxpayer support for funding county parks.

Park advocates in southern Alameda County began to see that the only way to get their own regional park was to annex to an agency that could levy a small tax on both city and county property. So, they joined the East Bay Regional Park District that had been established in 1934 during the height of the Great Depression.

In 1962, William Penn Mott, Jr. became EBRPD's next general manager. Mott's first order of business at the park district was to reorganize and plan for the future. That same year Sunol Regional Wilderness Preserve was founded.

The Forward 1964-1969 Plan was developed by Mott and his staff in 1963 to identify the park projects that were needed to serve all East Bay residents, even those outside of the district's boundary.

By 1967, eight new regional parks had been added with park visitation, staffing, and park acreage more than doubled.

Alex Miller, a former reporter and editor for The Independent from 1989-1994, reported on the issues surrounding the park district in the early 1990's when developers saw an opportunity to build luxury homes in the oak covered hills above Pleasanton.

Miller said that at first, a few residents were opposed, but many were unaware of the proposed project. Then, a long development battle with the City of Pleasanton ensued, largely held during late night meetings with the Pleasanton Planning Commission.

Ultimately, activists in 1992 were successful in putting a referendum on the ballot and Pleasanton Ridge was preserved with 86% of the vote.

Miller said, "Whenever I visit the Livermore-Amador valley and drive east along 580, I am reminded of the beauty along Pleasanton Ridge and how preserving that space has enhanced Pleasanton's attractiveness as a leading Bay Area city."

Park District General Manager Sabrina Landreth invites the public to celebrate the district's 90th anniversary all year long through a series of events and programs, including a community birthday celebration on May 11.

"Join us in celebrating the Park District's 90 years of milestones and history of environmental conservation and positive experiences in nature,'' she said.

There will also be monthly naturalist-led "Explore Your Parks" adventure programs, among other community events, which include:

Celebrating Black History Walks

Thurgood Marshall Regional Park (Concord)

Sundays in February, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

In honor of Black History Month, tours will explore the southern end of the new Thurgood Marshall Regional Park – Home of the Port Chicago 50, where attendees can learn about the natural and human history of the land. Registration required.

Winter Walk

Carquinez Strait Regional Shoreline (Port Costa Staging Area)

Feb 23 (Fri), 9 a.m.-noon

Take in the spectacular views of Carquinez Strait and look for signs of spring's approach along this rolling, paved trail. Heavy rain cancels. Drop-in program; no registration is required.

Additional events and programs will be announced throughout the year, including details of the district's May 11 birthday celebration. www.ebparks.org/calendar



A ribbon cutting ceremony for Valley Dance Theatre's recent expansion was held earlier this month at the Livermore Ballet School on Second street. The school, which has been serving the Tri-Valley for decades, added a third studio and completed other needed renovations. (Photo – Doug Jorgensen)

ARAMIS

(Continued from front page)

to balance species recovery with responsible renewable energy development," said USFW field supervisor Michael Fris in press material. "Our partners can contribute to the recovery of listed and at-risk species by conserving key habitats and taking steps to limit the impacts of construction and solar panel management on the landscape."

Beyond general impact-avoidance measures — such as environmental-awareness training for construction workers, vehicle precautions and erosion control — the plan focuses on five listed species in the area: the monarch butterfly, California tiger salamander, California red-legged frog, San Joaquin kit fox and the golden eagle.

Ground disturbances will be limited to the dry months between May and October to minimize effects on salamander and frog populations, if the plan is approved. For the kit foxes, surveys will be conducted of existing dens and the project will either avoid or relocate these habitats.

Electrical-pole retrofits, designed to prevent the electrocution of eagles who use the poles for roosting, perching and nesting, will be added. Still, the plan concedes that one golden-eagle breeding territory "could be lost due to the project when considered in conjunction with cumulative development in the region."

The draft plan also proposes to conserve 453 acres of habitat at Vieira Ranch, a 3,500-acre cattle ranch in eastern Alameda County.

Local community groups have denounced the project, saying the damage of an industrial project in a scenic, open-space area rife with wildlife cannot be outweighed by the limited renewable energy added by Aramis solar.

"This project is an example of attempting to save the environment by destroying the present environment," said Chris O'Brien of the group Save North Livermore Valley (SNLV). "North Livermore is full of many species, which will be severely damaged forever by this project. (This) project is not needed to obtain California's green-energy goals."

California's 1st District Court of Appeal rejected SNLV's appeal last August to overturn the county's approval of Aramis. The appeal argued that the project would invite commercialization of North Livermore and that it violated the aims of Measure D, the voter-approved law limiting development outside the county's urban growth boundary.

Following the public comment period, the USFW will consider the project application, associated documents and public comments for possible issuance of an incidental take permit that would allow the project to capture, kill or otherwise harass the listed animals.

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CLOSURES

(Continued from front page)

operating during the COVID pandemic. Restaurant businesses were given parklets to allow dining to continue outside and spill into the streets as needed and wanted. The weekly program was then rebranded in 2022 to a monthly program with special Saturday activities and programs.

Jaime Zile, owner of J'aime Bridal, has been publicly vocal about the challenges her business has faced as a result of the weekend closures. She says that the closures may have made sense then, but not so much now.

She explained, "Of course, the first two years, it was amazing and magical, but people weren't taking off for Tahoe for the weekend. People weren't vacationing during the summer." Now, those outdoor tables are empty again—and in their wake, a circuitous mess of detours and roadblocks that cause the bridal clientele to arrive frazzled for their appointments at her store.

A main point of her frustration lies in the fact that the restaurants have gotten their city-granted parklets and increased their square footage for free. "She explains, "They now have another 20 tables with the parklets and they're not adding another 20 tables to the street."

So, in essence she says, the streets are being blocked and access to businesses hindered, while the restaurants who were meant to be benefiting the most from theclosure are not using the extra space on the street.

Laura Brooks, interim executive director of Pleasanton Downtown Association, admits they've also noticed the attendance has changed over the last few years since the program's inception. They've spent the last several months analyzing feedback gathered from surveys and aim to announce plans for 2024 in the next couple of weeks. "At the end of the day,'' she notes, "we're just a staff of three people. We're fine to do whatever people want us to do. We want to make sure it's working as best as possible, and that people are really enjoying it."

However, she said coming to consensus has been difficult.

"If you're a retailer, you see it one way; if you're a restaurant owner, another way; a medical provider with clients on Saturday, you see it a certain way, too. And everybody's experience is valid," Brooks acknowledges.

Conner Close, long-time manager of Gay Nineties Pizza, says he's not a fan of the downtown weekend closures.

"I think the city's heart is in the right place, but trying to get people to come walk downtown really hurts us." Since 50% of Gay Nineties Pizza's business is take-out, when the street is closed, people avoid driving downtown and end up going elsewhere for their pizza.

"We never complain to the city formally or anything, because I'm sure that some of the businesses really do benefit from it," says Conner. "The little gas station probably hurts the most of any business though, poor guys."

Fred Nichandros, owner of the Workbench True Value Hardware, shares a similar sentiment.

"In our particular business (the closures) aren't helpful. We're selling things people want to take home in their car, like a gallon of paint." So, they want to bring their car to the store.

"Hopefully, they're helping some other people. We'll just take one for the team," he said with a laugh.

Zile, however, is having a hard time laughing. "I cannot tell you how much sleep I've lost over this, like just rolling through my head and thinking of different arguments. What can I do differently?" But her 20-year business is solid, and she has worked hard to make it so, with a robust social media following and $20,000 revenue days. Her business itself doesn't need help now, but its accessibility to customers is a concern.

Nicandros wonders if the people being helped by the closures are restaurants, and if so, how to evaluate how much it's helping them versus how much it's not helping others.

Zile too says she would like a statistic of how many restaurants last year utilized the street beyond their parklet. It's frustrating for her to look outside her door and see Main Street largely empty, but still blocked off to her customers. She does say that the 700 block, where she is located, is very different from the 400 block. The restaurants on the 400 block are utilizing the street more.

"The first restaurant to utilize the street closure (before the 400 block) is OYO," she says. But Brava right across the street from her is not utilizing the street at all."

"I've talked to Armand (with Brava) and he's like, 'my kitchen's not big enough, we've got enough here' (with the parklets)."

Main Street Brewery on the other hand does use the street, sort of, Zile says. "They have some folding tables and a tarp. And they'll sometimes have a concert there."

However, Zile doesn't understand why they need to use the street in front of their business. "They could have four spots in front of their place with a parklet and have a band play there."

They've never applied for a parklet.

"Plus, they have a massive backyard and could do concerts there. But all Main Street is closed from the 700 block to the 900 block for them. It's so frustrating for me to look down there and see nothing or maybe they'll have a band there on Saturday night."

Zile says she remains hopeful that other avenues will be considered.

"Bring back First Wednesdays. It was glorious and didn't impact us on a whole Saturday or a whole Sunday."

One 30-year resident of Pleasanton waxed nostalgic on Facebook about her fond memories of First Wednesdays during the summer months.

"The (Main) street was closed,. There was a band at the Inklings parking lot (back when it was leased by Round Table),. A few wineries were pouring wine and a couple of breweries would pour beer. It was great. It attracted lots of business on a Wednesday night. One First Wednesday in August there was a pooch parade. Fun times back then."

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LIVERMORE VALLEY Opera
presents
a Gala Benefit!
Ya'll come join us — I'll betcha never seen or heard anything like it!
3 REDNECK TENORS
Saturday February 17, 2024, 7 pm
Bankhead Theater, Livermore
Tickets on sale at LVOpera.com

REPORTS

(Continued from front page)

turf. Sometimes it's hard to remember all of the little good things that we do as a city together. When you piece all of those little squares together, you can really see the major changes we've made."

Council members encouraged city officials to disseminate the document through social media for residents to read. It will be linked to the city's website.

Here are some of the highlights in the report:

On public safety, the city hired a crisis intervention specialist to assist Livermore Police Department officers in handling emergency crisis assessments. The city held numerous community events, including National Night Out. City leaders are working on ways to improve ambulance response times.

On housing issues, the California Department of Housing and Community Development certified the city's 2023-2031 Housing Element, which listed areas in the city that can be used to build needed housing. The city also completed construction of Vineyard 2.0, a 23-unit permanent supporting housing project; obtained $862,000 in state funds to aid the homeless; secured a $7 million federal loan to pay for half of the units in phase one of the Pacific Avenue Senior Apartments; and funded 15 projects totaling more than $1 million under the city's Housing and Human Services grants process.

The city provided legal support for 42 residents facing eviction; answered more than 600 inquiries about affordable housing, rent increases and landlord/tenant disputes; executed agreements for 40 new affordable for-sale housing units for median and moderate-income, first-time home buyers in Livermore; and provided rental subsidies and support for 12 unhoused families with children enrolled in the Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District.

The city also saw the first residents move into Legacy Livermore, a 222-apartment development. Staff reviewed final maps for the Arroyo Vista West and East tracts, which will include 86 single-family detached homes, 241 townhomes and 108 apartments in the Las Positas Road and Arroyo Vista area. Staff continued progress with developments that build out the Isabel Neighborhood, and the city council approved the Wine Country Inn, a 30-room hotel.

Additionally, the city partnered with CityServe of the Tri-Valley, so that dozens of people obtained vital documents, veterans services, shelter options, permanent housing, physician and mental health care, addiction treatment and employment help. The city also provided $483,806 in federal funding for the Tri-Valley Haven emergency shelter rebuild.

On transportation issues, crews resurfaced six miles of roads; installed four miles of buffered bike lanes; installed safety improvements at seven intersections; completed the I-580/Vasco Road Interchange Project; and in addition to repairing trails developed a new one at the west end of Robertson Park.

City staff also worked with the Tri-Valley San Joaquin Valley Regional Rail Authority on the proposed Valley Link passenger rail stations for the first segment of new rail from Dublin to Mountain House; and identified funding to relieve traffic congestion at the El Charro Road/Fallon Road/ 580 Freeway interchange near the San Francisco Premium Outlets.

In neighborhoods, the city said it resolved more than 90% of all cases involving graffiti, abandoned shopping carts, overgrown vegetation, illegal dumping and illegal structures; worked to prevent illegal sideshows; increased patrols to prevent firework use and seized 30 pounds of illegal fireworks. The council also updated Livermore's sign ordinance to prevent signs from being placed in the public right of way.

In Livermore's downtown, the city improved landscaping, curbs, parking zones, trellis structures, streetlights and about 500 sidewalks locations; approved construction of the Farmers Union restaurant at Livermore Avenue and Second Street; continued construction of the L Street Parking Garage with 452 spaces; and approved plans for the Blacksmith Square Expansion Project.

Dealing with the city's infrastructure, the city amended Livermore Municipal Airport policies to require unleaded fuel service in two years; simplified airport noise reporting online; adopted a new airport hangar leasing and development policy; inspected more than 47,000 trees; developed an annual tree maintenance budget; and identified more than $420 million in funding for 146 infrastructure projects over the next five years. Workers conducted maintenance on the water system, including fire hydrants and sewer pipe inspections. The city also received approval to repair 2022-23 storm damage in creeks, trails and slopes through the city with Federal Emergency Management Agency funding.

At City Hall offices and in neighborhoods, staff conducted more than 10,650 inspections of residential, commercial, and industrial projects; served over 4,000 customers at the permit counter; issued nearly 3,100 permits and 628 plan reviews for various projects; and issued addresses for 461 new homes, accessory dwelling units and businesses.

To prepare for a disaster, the city held emergency preparedness training exercises and six community outreach events; and wrote emergency preparedness guides in English and Spanish that are available through the city, schools and parks.

On climate action, the city completed a project to detect underground leaks, saving 23 million gallons of water a year and converted 27,800 square feet of city property from turf to low water use landscape.

The city also reopened the Daybreak Labs, which provide space for life sciences, deep tech research and development facilities to help startup companies.

In other moves Monday, the City Council voted 4-0, with Vice Mayor Bob Carling absent, to award a $394,000 contract to Grade Tech, Inc. of Livermore to link Montage Trail with Collier Canyon Road. The project should be completed by June.

The City Council also authorized a $116,800 loan to Tri-Valley REACH, Inc. to rehabilitate a 3-bedroom home at 772 Camden Common to be used for shared housing for the developmentally disabled.

During the presentation on the library, Councilmember Ben Barrientos asked whether the Springtown library branch could open more than two afternoons a week.

"Some people ask if we can open the doors a little bit longer, maybe after school," Barrientos said. "I know some kids will gravitate to it and use it, and maybe some parents."

Library Board Chair Richard Hunt said the board was in favor of expanding library hours, but "all that requires is money."



Livermore Police support dogs Tater and Murphy turned one this month. Since they joined the Livermore Police Department in April, the sweet Australian Labradoodles have provided support, comfort and love to police department employees and community members. From their "Books with Badges" library appearances to visiting schoolchildren and seniors, to assisting young children who've witnessed violent crimes these support K9s are an instrumental part of the Livermore Police Department.

(Photo courtesy: Livermore Police Department)

TRI-VALLEY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday, Jan. 28
EXPLORE HAGEMANN RANCH
Come explore National Historic Site, Hagemann Ranch, at your own pace. Learn the history and visit the animals. Livermore Heritage Guild docents will be available to answer questions and lead tours. Always free and family friendly. Jan. 28 from 1-5 p.m. Located at 455 Olivina Ave. in Livermore.

Wednesday, Jan. 31
LUNCH AND LEARN EVENT: YOUR NEXT LAB SPACE
At the "Lunch and Learn Event: Your Next Space Lab Understanding the Post-Incubator Expansion Process," you can find out how to navigate the challenges of expanding your company into private space when its success hinges on the lab space build out. Hear from Jim Crew, a seasoned project management expert and Principal at Crew Universal, alongside Managing Director of Science & Technology, Ray Doyle and Senior Associate, Lauren Anderson from WB Engineers+Consultants, in this session tailored for biotech startups looking to take the next step beyond the incubator. This free event will take place on Jan. 31, from 12 to 1 p.m. at 7683 Southfront Rd., Suite 230, in Livermore. Register here: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/your-next-lab-space-understanding-the-post-incubator-expansion-process-tickets-788694104297?aff=newsletter&utm_medium=email&_hsmi=288933717&_hsenc=p2ANqtz-_WzpiAkrJGMG_M2D2QPLoECTjS-y7GvNcptBQ0fLav7tpCQVU_rJo0skHSmDiaEDuS4v6HL

Sunday, Feb. 4.
LUNAR NEW YEAR CELEBRATION CONCERT
Join us for a Lunar New Year Celebration and enjoy an afternoon with popular classical Chinese music performed by graduates from the XingHai Conservatory of Music, one of the most prestigious music institutions in China, and classical Chinese dance performances by the Eva Dance Academy.
The Dublin Senior Center Lunar New Year celebration is brought to you by Inspiration Studios, XingHai Conservatory of Music Alumni Association, Eva Dance Academy, Breaking BEARiers Youth Leadership Club, and the Dublin Rotary Club . This free event will take place on Feb. 4, from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Dublin Senior Center located at 7600 Amador Valley Blvd.

Sunday, Feb. 4.
TRINITY CONCERT SERIES PRESENTS MARK AND CINDY LEMAIRE
This program features Mark Lemaire, vocalist, composer, and guitarist, and his wife, Cindy. Mark's unique guitar style features masterful fingerpicking, slap-and-tap harmonics, "picchiettando" style, hand percussion, and a delicate touch that charms, intrigues, and moves. In addition to Mark's solo guitar pieces, the duo harmonies with Cindy Lemaire are so perfectly matched that they seem like one voice. They sing of the vicissitudes of love and the strange surprise of middle age creeping up on us. Sunday, Feb. 4, at 5 p.m.
at the Trinity Lutheran Church, located at 1225 Hopyard Rd. in Pleasanton. Suggested contribution: $20; students and children are free. All contributions are appreciated and go to support the artists and the ongoing concert series.

Wednesday, Feb. 14
BACS VALLEY WELLNESS CENTER TO OFFER COVID-19 VACCINE CLINIC

Bay Area Community Services (BACS) and the Alameda County Health Care Services Agency is offering COVID-19 and flu vaccines on Wednesday, Feb. 14, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., at the BACS Valley Wellness Center, located at 3900 Valley Ave., Suite B, in Pleasanton. No appointments or ID's are required. Vaccines are for anyone five years of age and older. Call (510) 268-2101 with inquiries.

Saturday, Feb. 17
TRI-VALLEY WRITERS CHAPTER OF THE CALIFORNIA WRITERS CLUB
Michelle Chouinard, USA-Today and Publishers Weekly Bestselling Author, will present "Making Metaphors and Other Stylish Moves" at the Tri-Valley Writers meeting on February 17 at 2 p.m. M.M. Chouinard is the author of the Detective Jo Fournier thrillers. She will share insights into the publishing business and the importance of persistence. The presentation will take place in Room 2470 at Las Positas College, 3000 Campus Hill Dr. in Livermore. Check-in begins at 1:30 p.m. There is a two-step RSVP & payment process: 1) email your RSVP to treasurer@trivalleywriters.org 2) Register at www.trivalleywriters.org/speaker-meeting-registration-and-payment. CWC adult members, $10; nonmembers, $12; CWC student members (ages 14-22,) $5; student nonmembers, $8.

Wednesday, Feb. 21
LIVE MUSIC IN LIVERMORE
The Chris Bradley Band will be playing traditional jazz (New Orleans style) from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Old Mexico Bar & Grill located at 1848 Portola Ave. in Livermore. The family-friendly restaurant offers a dance floor, a large bar, and plenty of parking. There is no cover charge. Live music will be playing on the third Wednesday of every month.

Saturday, Feb. 24
CRAB FEED BENEFITTING HOPE HOSPICE
A Crab Feed Benefitting Hope Hospice will take place Feb. 24 at the Shannon Center, 11600 Shannon Ave., in Dublin. The evening will include a 5 p.m. social hour with a cash bar, a 6 p.m. dinner, and a 7:30 p.m. dessert auction. $90 per person / $900 for a table of 10. Call 925-829-8770 for more information.

March 2, 3, 9, 10
LVO PRESENTS MOZART'S "THE MAGIC FLUTE"
The Tri-Valley's own professional opera company, Livermore Valley Opera (LVO), will present Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's The Magic Flute, a fairy tale for all ages, at the Bankhead Theater. It offers an engaging opera experience that promises to take the audience on an unforgettable journey into a world of Mozart's incredible imagination. Performances will be held March 2 at 7:30 p.m., March 3 at 2:00 p.m., March 9 at 7:30 p.m., and March 10 at 2:00 p.m. at the Bankhead Theater, 2400 First Street, Livermore, (925) 373-6800. Tickets can be purchased at www.LVOpera.com. Tickets for adults are $20-$105; $20 for ages 20 and younger; $40 for ages 21 to 40. Included in the ticket price are pre-opera talks held one hour prior to curtain time. LVO's traditional artist's reception is held in the lobby immediately following each performance.

Saturday, March 16
LIVERMORE HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATIONS CRAB FEED
Livermore High School Alumni Associations will be holding its 12th annual crab feed on March 16 from 6 to 10 p.m. (doors open at 5:30.) Dinner will include crab, pasta, salad, bread & dessert (chicken is available with pre-order instead of crab.) There will be a live and silent auction, no-host bar, dancing, games and lots of fun! To purchase tickets, go to https://lhsaa-520620.square.site/.
The funds raised will help support Livermore High School. Please email lhsalumniassoc@gmail.com with any questions.

ONGOING VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

TOPSCIENCE
TOPScience is a group that partners with elementary school science teachers to enhance learning for both students and teachers. It is an opportunity to pass on skills and knowledge while having fun and contributing to schools in Livermore. For more information or to volunteer, contact Art Krakowsky at artkr@sbcglobal. net or (925) 455-0486.

ONGOING EVENTS

SATURDAY PLEASANTON FARMERS MARKET
Open Saturdays, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., at Main Street and West Angela Street. Seniors 60 and over are welcome for specialized shopping from 9 to 10 a.m.

SUNDAY LIVERMORE DOWNTOWN FARMERS MARKET
Open year-round on Sundays 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in downtown Livermore, on Second St. between J St. and L St.

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH
The Unitarian Universalist Church is welcoming to all. Join in on Sundays at 10:30 a.m. for music, singing, and conversation. The church is located at 1893 North Vasco Road, Livermore CA 94551. For more information, visit uucil.org.

DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION (DAR) CHAPTER MEETING

The local Josefa Higuera Livermore Chapter meets on the first Saturday of the month from Sept. to May, with a short business meeting and a program. The DAR was founded in 1890 and is headquartered in Washington, DC. DAR is a non-profit, non-political volunteer women's service organization dedicated to promoting patriotism, preserving American history, and securing America's future through better education for children. Its members are descended from the Patriots who won American independence during the Revolutionary War. For more information, visit jhl.californiadar.org or email jane.everett@sbcglobal.net.

ASBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Asbury United Methodist Church invites the community to join for worship at 10 a.m. on Sunday mornings. There, discover a church that believes that all people are children of God and are of sacred worth. This community practices loving neighbors in daily life. The church has Sunday School and nursery care, and worship is followed by a fellowship time with bagels, beverages, and great conversation. The church is located at 4743 East Ave., in Livermore. For more information, visit asburylive.org.

WINGS-WOMEN IN GOD'S SPIRIT
WINGS-Women in God's Spirit is a faith enhancement group of multi-generational Catholic women who meet Oct. through May on Thursday mornings at 9:30 a.m. at St. Charles Borromeo, 1315 Lomitas Ave., in Livermore. The organization now includes the Catholic women of both Livermore and Pleasanton at St. Charles Borromeo, St. Michael, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton and St. Augustine. Attendees can enjoy a variety of engaging speaker presentations and topics, small group sharing, fellowship and more. All are welcome. For more information, visit stcharlesslivermore.org/wings.

Email non-profit events to calendar@independentnews.com for newspaper calendar and visit our website www.independentnews.com to promote all events online.



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Livermore Girl Scout Awarded Gold, Helps Bat Conservation

Angelina Guzman, a member of Girl Scout Troop 31573 in Livermore, has earned the Girl Scout Gold Award, the highest award in Girl Scouting. She joined Girl Scouts 13 years ago as a Daisy and has previously earned the Bronze Award and Silver Award.

To earn the Gold Award, a Girl Scout must identify an issue, develop a plan to address the root cause, and lead a team to implement a take action project. About 6% of eligible Girl Scouts earn the Gold Award nationwide.



Angelina Guzman

For her project, Angelina led a team and built and installed three bat houses at Sycamore Grove Park. She also educated the public on the importance of bats in our ecosystem, bat conservation, and general facts about the bats in the local area. The highlight of her project is that the local bats now live in these bat houses.

Phanse Earns Eagle Badge

Neil Phanse, a member of Troop 948 in Pleasanton, has earned his Eagle badge, the highest rank in the Scouts BSA program.

To attain the rank of Eagle, a Scout must earn at least 21 merit badges, complete a community service project, and pass a board of review.

For his project, Phanse, the son of Satyajit and Geetika Jain Phanse, planned and built new garden beds for the culinary class at Village High School, an alternative school operated by the Pleasanton Unified School District.

Culinary arts teacher Evan Branning said the garden beds, currently planted in winter vegetables, allowed the school to expand its "Farm to Fork" program. He added that the five-day project presented a challenge because the beds were built on sloping terrain.



Neil Phanse

Phanse attends Foothill High School in Pleasanton, where he competes on the cross country and track teams and participates in the Model UN program. He also trains in Taekwondo.

Troop 948 is sponsored by GraceWay Church in Pleasanton. Phanse's father currently serves as scoutmaster.

Hope Hospice to Offer Dementia Programs for Patients, Caregivers

Hope Hospice, a Dublin-based nonprofit that provides support services for patients with terminal illnesses and their caregivers, will offer a series of free online programs this spring dealing with dementia and residential care decisions.

The one-hour interactive programs will be available through the Zoom web-conferencing platform.

At 10 a.m. on Thursday, Feb. 8, Hope Hospice will present a workshop titled "Can Dementia Be Prevented? Risk Reduction Strategies," which will include discussion about the role genetics play in developing dementia, lifestyle choices that can impact brain health, and medications for managing symptoms and possibly slowing cognitive decline.

On Thursday, March 14, also at 10 a.m., Hope Hospice will present "Making Decisions About Caregiving: Home vs. Facility," that will cover in-home and residential-care options and available community resources.

Hope Hospice will return to the issue of dementia on Thursday, April 11, with "Dementia Caregiving: A Family Matter." Beginning at 10 a.m., the workshop will stress the importance of open communication, empathy, and seeking outside support to decrease tension and strengthen family relationships while continuing to prioritize the needs of the dementia patient.

The discussion will shift to "Advocating for Your Loved One" on Thursday, May 9.

Hope Hospice said the program, starting at 10 a.m., would explain a family caregiver's rights and how to communicate effectively with healthcare providers, including tips for handling hospitalizations, understanding the discharge process, and planning for follow-up care.

To register for the webinars, or for information on additional Family Caregiver Education Series programs through 2024, go to hopehospice.com/family.

EQUITY

(Continued from front page)

They will leave their jobs or not apply.

Pleasanton has contracted with Triangle to provide DEI consulting services through June.

Browne, along with Deputy City Manager Alexa Jeffress, presented an update on the city's DEI efforts to the City Council last week, which included a survey, workshops and focus groups among city staff to develop the plan.

City Manager Gerry Beaudin cited Pleasanton's waived library fines and book mobile as examples of existing city projects already spreading its DEI values by increasing library access to more people in the community.

"The council approved a number of these actions in recent years," said Beaudin to the council. "We hadn't been necessarily framing it with an equity lens, but you're certainly doing some of the work, and you're seeing the results of this work."

Councilmember Jeff Nibert applauded the city's "constant, continuous improvements" and appreciated that its DEI actions were an effort of the entire city organization.

"I'm excited to see what the future brings and what it may hold in store for the rest of the city once we get our own house in order," said Nibert.

Councilmember Jack Balch asked staff to consider workforce influences beyond the city staff's immediate purview. The availability of affordable housing or childcare, he continued, influences feelings of inclusion and job decisions, but have not yet been included in the DEI plan.

"As we look at a generational workforce shift, attracting and retaining employees who potentially could be commuting super commutes, dealing with young children, family elements and challenges, I think we've got to broaden this if we want any success in it other than a strategic plan," Balch said.

The Bay Area's concentration of jobs and lack of affordable housing has led to super commutes — those that span more than 50 miles or take more than 90 minutes each way. Such treks fall heaviest on lower-income households, according to a Bay Area migration study between the University of Southern California, Occidental College, and the University of California, Davis.

When later asked about remote work, Balch told The Independent that Pleasanton has enjoyed some successes with employees working from home and sees it as another option with which to balance community and employee needs.

"I fully understand that some positions do not lend themselves to remote work, but other positions may, and as the City evolves as an employer, it'll need to continue to evaluate this with the focus on service to our community," said Balch.

Browne said the city's initial DEI focus will involve implementing the DEI strategic plan and task force, which will hold its first meeting on Jan. 30.

Jeffress also expects the city to share its list of key-performance indicators later this spring, which will be used to gauge the city's progress.

OBITUARIES

Florence B. Gordon
Feb. 11, 1920 — Oct. 24, 2023





Florence Burklund Gordon passed away peacefully on Oct. 24 at 103 years of age. Her daughters Marsha Henrietta Gordon Haines and Linette Gordon Smith were with her at her memory care home here in Livermore.

She was born Feb. 11, 1920, and raised in the small lumber mill town of Bonner, Montana. Life in that time and place was very different. She recounted the fun of dreaming about the pictures she saw in Sears-Roebuck catalogs and making doll clothes from leaves of chard from their garden. She told stories of the hand water pump in the back yard, where her family got all their water, trimming the wicks on the oil lamps and walking to school in the freezing Montana winters. During the Depression, the mill workers voted to decrease their own hours in order to save all their jobs and the mill. She experienced great changes during her lifetime.

Florence attended the University of Montana at Missoula where she also worked in the Registrar's Office. There she met Frank Gordon, a student who worked in the office too. They married in 1943 and she moved to Berkeley, California, where Frank was a grad student in the physics department. There he was asked by his professors to go to Oak Ridge, Tennessee to help with their initial establishment of the secret developmental laboratory. She joined him when housing was built and the spouses were allowed to move in. There they began their family. In 1952 they relocated to Livermore.

During the 1950s and 60s while raising their three daughters, she joined the PTA and the League of Women Voters and served with the Girl Scouts. She loved going to art and history museums and plays in San Francisco. The family enjoyed the many camping trips they took each year. During the early 60s, she organized her most ambitious sightseeing vacation for her family. She orchestrated a six-week road trip around the United States visiting historic and cultural cities and other locations. It was her dream to show her children the history and vastness of the United States. It was a trip to remember, and we want to express our gratitude for her efforts.

In the late 50s, she began working for Richard Stark, a Livermore historian and social activist. Later she worked for Nelson Fletcher at his architect's office and continued while he began his sports equipment store here in Livermore. She then worked for the Livermore School District Office for many years. After retiring, people will remember her familiar, smiling face as a volunteer greeter for nearly ten years in the gift store at Kaiser Medical in Livermore.

She was preceded in death by Frank Gordon in 2012, her husband of 69 years, and her daughter Deveny Gordon in 2008. She is lovingly remembered by her daughters Marsha Henrietta Haines and Linette Smith (David) of Livermore and her four grandchildren: Bhava Gordon (Paulette) of Patterson, Matthew Smith (Piper) of Redding, Emily Rohrbacker (Shawn) of Chico and Rachel Kopte (Timo) of Chiloquin, Oregon. She had eight great-grandchildren, Alekh and Samuel Gordon, Quinn and Cassidy Smith, Ruby and Meyer Rohrbacker, and Lilli and Dominic Kopte.

Services will be private, and we are grateful for her dedication to her family.

Barbara Leigh Miller
May 2, 1948 — Jan. 12, 2024



Barbara Leigh Conrad Miller passed away peacefully at home after a long illness, surrounded by family, on Friday, Jan. 12, 2024, at the age of 75.

She is survived by her husband, Peter Miller; her children, Bambi LeMieux (David), Jessica Farris (Tony), Jennifer Shewry (Ryan) and Dawn Reddoch (Matt Larson); her grandchildren, Beth Morton, Alec Crump, Joe Crump (Brittany), Derek Tidmarsh, Kyndra Buller, Taylor Wolfe, Nick Wolfe, Gentry Shewry, and Harper Shewry; great-grandchildren, Makayla, KeAun, Rosie, Dawson, Cole, Veda, Azariah and Ella; sisters, Susan Sciabbarrasi, Patsy Headley (Jerry †), Carol Cruickshanks (Donald); and many beloved nieces, nephews and cousins. Barbara was preceded in death by her parents, Robert and Minnie Lee Conrad of Richmond, Virginia.

Barbara was born and raised in Virginia. She moved to Hawaii, where she met the love of her life. After marrying, Barbara and Peter established a home in Livermore, California, where they lived happily for 27 years. Barbara, being a lifelong Lutheran, quickly found her church family at Our Savior Lutheran Church in Livermore. She trained as a Stephen's minister and served where she could at her church. Her faithful service, kindness and "heart of gold" drew Peter to baptism and membership, which gave Barbara tremendous joy. In addition to her Christian service, Barbara volunteered delivering Meals on Wheels throughout the Livermore area. Barbara was a volunteer at the polls for primary and general elections. She was passionate to encourage eligible citizens to vote. Barbara was a member of the Josefa Higuera chapter of the national organization Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR). She was a strong advocate for recognizing service to our country and was instrumental in the awarding of the American Patriot Quilt to the first civilian recipient. The award is a means to say thank you for the recipients' service, sacrifice, and valor in serving the nation.

Barbara's memorial service will be held at 11 a.m., Saturday, Jan. 27, 2024, at Our Savoir Lutheran Church in Livermore, with visitation to follow.

Sam Chakires
March 7, 1930 — Dec. 25, 2023



Life-long Livermore resident Sam Chakires passed away peacefully on Dec. 25, 2023, at the age of 93. Sam was born in 1930 in his family home on J Street, to Greek parents Christopher and Matina Chakires. He attended Fifth Street School and graduated from Livermore High in 1948. His family owned The Venice, a candy store in downtown Livermore where he worked after school. It was there that he learned to make the best tuna melts and foster his love of sweets.

After graduation, he worked in the carpentry field and helped build a few houses and complexes throughout Livermore. For a short time, Sam owned and operated Livermore Motor Sales, a used car lot in downtown. In 1964, he married Doris Volponi and together they soon welcomed and raised their two children. Sam had a long career at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory as a mechanical technician in the Weapons Division and retired in 1988.

During retirement, Sam put his carpentry skills to work and completed a full house remodel. He also joined the gym and made some wonderful friends. Sam enjoyed reading the newspaper, completing word search puzzles, following the stock market, playing bingo, and watching all the Bay Area sports teams. He owned various Street Rods during his life and attended many Goodguys shows in Pleasanton with his car buddies. Sam was a member of St. Charles Borromeo and The Elks.

Sam is survived by Doris, his devoted wife of nearly 60 years, son Chris Chakires (Holly), daughter Annalisa Anderson (Brent), and granddaughters Samantha and Sophia, who loved their Papa dearly. He was an amazing husband, father, and grandpa. He also leaves behind several in-laws, nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

He is preceded in death by his parents, brother Kyriakos Chakires, and sisters Mary Fotos and Julia Lembesis.

Sam was a kind man that enjoyed living a simple life. His family was his greatest treasure and spending time with them is what he enjoyed most. He will be deeply missed by all those whose lives he touched.

Livermore

Girls Soccer Team's Defense Shows Strength in Tie Match

By Phil Jensen

The Livermore High School girls soccer team's defense has been its strength this season, and an example of that was the 0-0 tie with visiting Dougherty Valley on Jan. 18.

Livermore, which had a 2-5-3 overall record and 0-2-2 East Bay Athletic League mark entering this week, had shut out three opponents and allowed two goals or less to five others. Against Dougherty Valley, Livermore goalkeeper Maddie Funk had seven saves and two other Wildcats shots were off mark. Funk was an all-EBAL honorable mention selection last season as a junior.

After the game, new Livermore coach Keith Miller talked about the defense's depth and leadership this season.

"We have quite a few players we can plug in there," said Miller, who also mentioned the phenomenal play of Funk. "We have five or six people that can play the four positions, so it's comfortable as a coach."

Against Dougherty Valley, the starting defenders were seniors Savannah Battaion, Sydney Goodwin and Rachel Fuller, and sophomore Bella Hansen. Senior Eva Torrico and junior Makenna Smith were defensive midfielders, and junior Ellie Cowan was also impressive defensively at attacking. Livermore nearly scored on the last shot of the first half. Torrico, another all-EBAL honorable mention selection last season, sent a free kick toward the top of the goal from approximately 25 yards out. It bounced off the crossbar and appeared to bounce over the goal line, but the officials ruled that it bounced outside the line, and Dougherty Valley goalkeeper Aishwarya Agashe secured it.

Agashe, whose team had a 5-3-3 overall record and 0-2-2 mark in the EBAL entering this week, had five saves in the game. Livermore had eight shots on goal.

"We were super close to scoring there … it will be interesting to see on film whether that was in," said Miller immediately after the game. "I'm happy with the way we played. … moved the ball really well, created a lot of chances."

Miller was an assistant coach for the Granada boys team for the past two seasons before moving to Livermore High, where his daughter is now a freshman. He has also coached the West Coast Soccer Club.

Livermore played at Monte Vista on Jan. 23 after this article's deadline. It travels to face California High on Jan. 25, and hosts Carondelet on Jan. 27 and Amador Valley on Jan. 30. All three games are scheduled to start at 6:30 p.m.



Goalkeeper Madelyn Funk dives for the ball when the Livermore Cowboys Girls Varsity soccer team hosted the Wildcats of Dougherty Valley last Thursday; the match ended in a 0-0 tie. [See photo gallery at www.independentnews.com/multimedia] (Photo – Doug Jorgensen)



Dublin Gaels Cameron Anderson dunks the ball during a match up between the Gaels Varsity Boys basketball team and the Spartans of De La Salle. De La Salle won 46 – 43. [See photo gallery at www.independentnews.com/multimedia] (Photo – Doug Jorgensen)

Dublin Boys Basketball Team Edged by De La Salle

By Phil Jensen

DUBLIN – At the end of the third quarter on Jan. 19, the visiting De La Salle High School basketball team seemed to be in control of its game against Dublin with a 10-point lead.

But the Gaels rallied and trailed by only one point with 20.1 seconds remaining before De La Salle prevailed 46-43.

"I could not be more proud of my team," said Dublin coach Tom Costello. "We're relatively inexperienced as a varsity team, so we've got to go through these moments. That was a moment. We had the right guys taking the right shots, just didn't fall."

De La Salle, which was undefeated against Northern California competition entering this week, led 34-24 entering the final period started an 11-3 Gaels run over the next four minutes, 19 seconds and narrowed the Spartans' lead to 37-35. The Gaels' Jalen Stokes had six of those points and finished with a team-high 13 points. Bautista had all nine of his points in the fourth quarter, all on 3-pointers.

"I knew the door was going to bust open at some point. That's just kind of how we've been. We just have so much pride in ourselves," said Costello, whose team scored more than 65 points in 16 of their 21 games entering this week.

De La Salle had a 43-37 lead with 38 seconds left after two free throws by Leo Ricketts. However, Bautista answered less than eight seconds later with a 3-pointer. The Spartans' Arshawn Salkhi made it a four-point advantage with a free throw with 27.2 seconds remaining. But Bautista again sank a 3-pointer to cut the Spartans' lead to 44-43 with 20.1 seconds left. Two free throws by De La Salle's Ibrahim Monawar with 17.3 seconds remaining were the final points of the game

Dublin entered this week with a 17-4 overall record and 3-1 East Bay Athletic League mark. De La Salle improved to 18-3 overall and 4-0 in the EBAL with the win on Jan. 19.

Defensively, Dublin limited De La Salle to 22 points in the second half and only seven field goals. Entering this week, the Gaels held 12 opponents to less than 50 points this season, including five of their six opponents this month.

"From day one, this has the chance to be one of the best defensive teams I've ever had, and we've had some pretty good ones," said Costello, who has coached Dublin for more than 15 seasons. "We kind of took them out of what they wanted to do, so they had to go to their second or third option, and their second or third option ended up beating us, but I think I couldn't have asked for a better effort from a group of 15 guys."

De La Salle was paced in scoring by Braddock Kjellesvig with 16 points. Alec Blair added 15 points, and those were the only Spartans in double figures. The 6-foot-6 Kjellesvig also had a game-high 13 rebounds, and Blair added nine.

Dublin's Cameron Anderson backed up Stokes with 10 points and also had a game-high two blocked shots. Teammate Isaiah Wong had game-highs of seven assists and three steals.

The Gaels played San Ramon Valley on Jan. 23 after press time. Dublin hosts Amador Valley on Jan. 25 before traveling to face Granada on Jan. 27. All three games have 7:30 p.m. start times.

LEGAL NOTICES/CLASSIFIEDS

LEGAL NOTICES

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO.603021

The following person(s) doing business as: My Profit Gurus, 6436 Tiffany Common, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Harshavardhan K Jadhav, 6436 Tiffany Common, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by a General Partnership. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Harshavardhan K. Jadhav, General Partner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 26, 2023. Expires December 25,2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5727. Published, January 4, 11, 18, 25, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 602892

The following person(s) doing business as: DC Risk Solutions Inc., 22320 Foothill Blvd Suite 340, Hayward, CA 94541 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Integrated Payor Solutions Inc., 22320 Foothill Blvd, Suite 340, Hayward, CA 94541. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 12/16/23. Signature of Registrant/s/: Shawn Evans, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 26, 2023. Expires December 25,2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5728. Published, January 4, 11, 18, 25, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 602862

The following person(s) doing business as: Sugarcoated, 564 Sandalwood Dr., Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Olivia Leung, 564 Sandalwood Dr. Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Olivia Leung, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 18, 2023. Expires December 17,2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5729. Published, January 4, 11, 18, 25, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 602559

The following person(s) doing business as: K9 Karate Dog Training, 4070 East Avenue, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Lemerick Bonifacio, 4070 East Ave, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Lemeric Bonifacio, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 7, 2023. Expires December 6,2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5730. Published, January 4, 11, 18, 25, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 602937

The following person(s) doing business as: Heuristyx Neural Diagnostics, 7869 Foothill Knolls Drive, Pleasanton, CA 94588 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Shane Harrah, 7869 Foothill Knolls Drive, Pleasanton, CA 94588. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Shane Harrah, Founder/President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 20, 2023. Expires December 19,2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5731. Published, January 4, 11, 18, 25, 2024.

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME
Case No. 23CV057551

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF ALAMEDA

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:

Petitioner:
Jennifer Marie Curtice Weinert
742 Hayes Avenue Apt C
Livermore, CA 94550
filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:
Present Names:
Jennifer Marie Curtice Weinert
Maximilian Curtice Weinert
Proposed Name:
Jennifer Marie Curtice
Maximilian Weinert Curtice
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
Date:02/13/2024
Time: 9:30 AM
Dept: 14
The address of the court is:
Alameda County
Administration Building
1221 Oak Street
Oakland, CA 94612
A copy of this Order To Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation printed in this county: The Independent Newspaper
2250 First Street,
Livermore, CA 94550
Dated: 12/29/2023 /s/: A. Castaneda, Exec. Office/Clerk.
The Independent, Legal No. 5733. Published January 11, 18, 25, February, 1, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 602462

The following person(s) doing business as: Paul Johnston Sales and Leadership Consulting, 1681 Lodestone Road, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Paul Matthew Johnston, 1681 Lodestone Rd, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 12/05/2023. Signature of Registrant/s/: Paul M. Johnston, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 5, 2023. Expires December 4, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5734. Published, January 11, 18, 25, February 1, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 602372

The following person(s) doing business as: Blue Collar Workers LLC, 22690 Thelma St., Hayward, CA 94541 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Blue Collar Workers LLC 22690 Thelma St., Hayward, CA 94541. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above:



THE Independent

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The Independent is engaging freelance reporters to cover breaking news, government meetings, science and cultural topics and feature pieces in the Tri-Valley. Must have at least two years of experience writing for a newspaper or news website. Prefer candidates who live in the Tri-Valley, but will consider others willing to report in the region.

Please email Kristin@independentnews.com with your resume and at least 5 writing samples., with the subject line "Freelancer Application."

LEGAL NOTICES/CLASSIFIEDS

N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Santa Balbina Castillo, Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 30, 2023. Expires November 29, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5735. Published, January 11, 18, 25, February 1, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 603130

The following person(s) doing business as: JDV Trucking, 2250 96th Ave Apt 218, Oakland, CA 94603 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Jose David Villanueva, 2250 96th Ave Apt 218, Oakland, CA 94603. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Jose David Villanueva, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 2, 2024. Expires January 1,2029. The Independent, Legal No. 5736. Published, January 11, 18, 25, February 1, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 602919

The following person(s) doing business as: SL Dental Group & Specialty Group, 1436 Clarke Street, San Leandro, CA 94577 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Tin Dental Specialty Group, Inc, 1436 Clarke Street, San Leandro, CA 94577. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 11/01/2018. Signature of Registrant/s/: Clement Chan, Secretary. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 20, 2023. Expires December 19, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5737. Published, January 11, 18, 25, February 1, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 603002

The following person(s) doing business as: Valley Oak Dentistry, 489 N L St, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Dahiya Monika DMD, Inc., 489 N L St, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 12/05/2023. Signature of Registrant/s/: Monika Dahiya, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 22, 2023. Expires December 21, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5738. Published, January 11, 18, 25, February 1, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 603027

The following person(s) doing business as: Julie Anna's Catering and Food Truck, 680 Junction Ave 107, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Jessica Torres, 680 Junction Ave 107, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 12/01/2023. Signature of Registrant/s/: Jessica Torres, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 27, 2023. Expires December 26, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5739. Published, January 11, 18, 25, February 1, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 603197

The following person(s) doing business as: Patisserie By Simone, 2958 Pacific Avenue, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Patisserie by Simone LLC., 2958 Pacific Avenue, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 01/04/2024. Signature of Registrant/s/: Michael Ryan Baltzelle, Managing Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 4, 2024. Expires January 3, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 5740. Published, January 11, 18, 25, February 1, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 603114

The following person(s) doing business as: Chic N Chop Indian Cuisine, 4856 Swinford CT, Dublin, CA 94568 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Sandeep Chitkara, 4856 Swinford CT, Dublin, CA 94568. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 12/29/2023. Signature of Registrant/s/: Sandeep Chitkara, Business Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 29, 2023. Expires December 28, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5741. Published, January 11, 18, 25, February 1, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 603115

The following person(s) doing business as: First Step Preschool and Daycare, 4856 Swinford CT, Dublin, CA 94568 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Shalini Chitkara, 4856 Swinford CT, Dublin, CA 94568. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 12/05/2023. Signature of Registrant/s/: Shalini Chitkara, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 29, 2023. Expires December 28, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5742. Published, January 11, 18, 25, February 1, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 603237

The following person(s) doing business as: Cookie Express 2182 Buena Vista Ave, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Annette Mifsud, 2182 Buena Vista Ave, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 10/24/2013. Signature of Registrant/s/: Annette Mifsud, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 8, 2024. Expires January 7, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 5744. Published, January 18, 25, February 1, 8, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 603180

The following person(s) doing business as: Manacor Swim, 5455 Lawson CT, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Laura Tidwell, 5455 Lawson CT, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 10/01/2023. Signature of Registrant/s/: Laura Tidwell, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 4, 2024. Expires January 3, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 5745. Published, January 18, 25, February 1, 8, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 602974

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Beeline CNC; 2. Cafe Cabinets, 19428 San Miguel Ave, Castro Valley, CA 94546-3425 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Evan Andersen, 19428 San Miguel Ave, Castro Valley, CA 94546. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 12/15/2023. Signature of Registrant/s/: Evan Andersen, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 22, 2023. Expires December 21,2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5746. Published, January 18, 25, February 1, 8, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 602710

The following person(s) doing business as: the Whiskey Sundays, 2925 College Ave # 223, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): the Whiskey Sundays, 2925 College Ave 223, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Christina Cavallaro, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 12, 2023. Expires December 11, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5747. Published, January 18, 25, February 1, 8, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 603226

The following person(s) doing business as: Zebra Media, 2930 Domingo ave # 420, Berkeley, CA 94705 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Zebra Surf LLC, 2930 Domingo Ave Unit #420, Berkeley, CA 94705. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Douglas Leeds, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 8, 2024. Expires January 7, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 5748. Published, January 18, 25, February 1, 8, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 603193

The following person(s) doing business as: Color of Death, 1255 21st ST, RM 271, Oakland CA 94607 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): 1. Arno Hachaduryan, 24517 Margaret Dr, Hayward, CA 94542; 2. Zaid Johnson, 652 Haddon Rd, Oakland CA 94610; 3. Sayre Murrietta-Ackridge, 4029 Noriega ST, San Francisco, CA 94122. This business is conducted by a General Partnership. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Arno Hachaduryan, General Partner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 4, 2024. Expires January 3, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 5749. Published, January 18, 25, February 1, 8, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 603064

The following person(s) doing business as: Davideographer, 40640 High Street, Unit 614, Fremont, CA 94538 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): David Nguyen, 40640 High Street, Unit 614, Fremont, CA 94538. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 12/27/2023. Signature of Registrant/s/: David Nguyen, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 28, 2023. Expires December 27, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5750. Published, January 18, 25, February 1, 8, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 603214

The following person(s) doing business as: PassinGrass, 2150 Portola Ave, D298, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): PG Organix, LLC, 2150 Portola Ave, D298, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 01/17/2019. Signature of Registrant/s/: Jeremy Laine, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 5, 2024. Expires January 4, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 5751. Published, January 18, 25, February 1, 8, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 603149

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Skylark Properties; 2. Skylark Investment Group, 2351 Bartlett Street, Oakland, CA 94601 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Skylark Property Investments LLC, 2351 Bartlett Street, Oakland, CA 94601. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Bryce Gubler, Manager. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 3, 2024. Expires January 2, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 5752. Published, January 18, 25, February 1, 8, 2024.

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME

ORIGINAL FILE NO. 567815
The person(s) listed below have abandoned the use of the following fictitious business name(s). 1. Olivina Olive Oils; 2. Olivina Olives; 3. Olivina, 4533 Arroyo Road, Livermore, CA 94550. The fictitious business name statement was filed on 01-24-20 in the County of Alameda. This business was conducted by a Limited Liability Company. Signature of Registrants: /s/: Charles Crohare, Managing Director. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 11, 2024. The Independent, Legal No. 5753. Published, January 25, February 1, 8, 15, 2024.

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME

ORIGINAL FILE NO. 567816
The person(s) listed below have abandoned the use of the following fictitious business name(s). Olivina Ranch, 4533 Arroyo Road, Livermore 94550. The fictitious business name statement was filed on 01-24-20 in the County of Alameda. This business was conducted by a Limited Liability Company. Signature of Registrants: /s/: Charles Crohare, Managing Director. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 11, 2024. The Independent, Legal No. 5754. Published, January 25, February 1, 8, 15, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 603345

The following person(s) doing business as: Verivras, 1652 Spruce St., Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Yo Oh, 1652 Spruce St., Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Yo Oh, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 12, 2024. Expires January 11, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 5755. Published, January 25, February 1, 8, 15, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 603077

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Sonata Styles; DG Productions, 3159 Huntington CT., Castro Valley, CA 94546 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Declan Galli, 3159 Huntington CT., Castro Valley, CA 94546. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Declan Galli, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 28, 2023. Expires December 27, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5756. Published, January 25, February 1, 8, 15, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 603239

The following person(s) doing business as: Innovi Sales, 2425 French Oak Place, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Vincent A. Barletta, 2425 French Oak Place Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 05-01-2012. Signature of Registrant/s/: Vincent A. Barletta,, Principal. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 8, 2024. Expires January 7, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 5757. Published, January 25, February 1, 8, 15, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 603313

The following person(s) doing business as: Moku Hawaiian BBQ, 2488 Channing Way, Berkeley, CA 94704 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Moku2488 Inc., 2488 Channing Way, Berkeley, CA 94704. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Liang Liang Jiang, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 11, 2024. Expires January 10, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 5758. Published, January 25, February 1, 8, 15, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 602824

The following person(s) doing business as: Uday Studios LLC, 3451 Mirasol Ave, Oakland, CA 94605 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Uday Studios LLC, 3451 Mirasol Ave, Oakland, CA 94605. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Takai Ginwright, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 14, 2023. Expires December 13, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5759. Published, January 25, February 1, 8, 15, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 603378

The following person(s) doing business as: Check Center, 302 E 18th Street, Oakland, CA 94606 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Bricon Investments Inc., 8783 Davona Drive, Dublin, CA 94568. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Joan Evangelista, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 16, 2024. Expires January 15, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 5760. Published, January 25, February 1, 8, 15, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 603362

The following person(s) doing business as: Inflated Bounce House Rentals, 2320 Chateau Way, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Elizabeth Montiel, 2320 Chateau Way, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Elizabeth Montiel, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 16, 2024. Expires January 15, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 5761. Published, January 25, February 1, 8, 15, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 602973

The following person(s) doing business as: T&K Machine, 257 Wright Brothers Ave, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Anthony Gallien, Inc., 257 Wright Brothers Ave, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 6/01/1996. Signature of Registrant/s/: Karen Ross, CFO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 21, 2023. Expires December 20, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5762. Published, January 25, February 1, 8, 15, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 602996

The following person(s) doing business as: Nourish and Grow, 2128 8th ST., Berkeley, CA 94710 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Nourish and Grow, 2128 8th ST., Berkeley, CA 94710. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 8/01/2023. Signature of Registrant/s/: Catherine Murtha, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 22, 2023. Expires December 21, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5763 Published, January 25, February 1, 8, 15, 2024..

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 603386

The following person(s) doing business as: Aligned Life Independent Living, 18958 Standish Ave, Hayward, CA 94541 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Anita C. Paule, 1630 Jasmine CT, Tracy, CA 95376. This business is conducted by a Married Couple. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Anita C. Paule, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 16, 2024. Expires January 15, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 5764. Published, January 25, February 1, 8, 15, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 603253

The following person(s) doing business as: Better Fed Pet, 5700 Greenville Rd., Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Jason Ziganti, 5700 Greenville Rd., Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by a General Partnership. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Jason Ziganti, General Partner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 9, 2024. Expires January 8, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 5765. Published, January 25, February 1, 8, 15, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 603474

The following person(s) doing business as: Handy Tool, 7920 Wentworth Pl., Newark, CA 94560 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Emma Lara, 7920 Wentworth Pl., Newark, CA 94560. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 01/01/2024. Signature of Registrant/s/: Emma Lara, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 19, 2024. Expires January 18, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 5766. Published, January 25, February 1, 8, 15, 2024.

LEGAL NOTICE

Pursuant to section 21707 of chapter 10 to division of 8 of the business and professions code, notice is hereby given by the undersigned that a public lien sale of the following described personal property will be held at the hour of 9am on February 8, 2024. The sale will be conducted by John Cardoza, auctioneer, (209)667-5797, bond number 5860870, located at:
UNITS East Bay
6011 Las Positas Rd,
Livermore, CA. 94550
The items to be sold are generally described as follows:
Household/Miscellaneous goods
R0149 Dawn Smallwood
NB0712 Loretta Van Wegen
R0027 Danielle Patterson
B0564 Carol Van Wijnen
The Independent, Legal No. 5767 Published, January 25, February 1, 2024

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO.603315

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Olivina; 2. Olivina Olives; 3. Olivina Olive Oil; Olivina Ranch 4555 Arroyo Road, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Olivina, In., 2150 Portola Ave, Suite D269, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 01/01/2024. Signature of Registrant/s/: Charles Crohare, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 11, 2024. Expires January 10, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 5768. Published, January 25, February 1, 8, 15, 2024.

C L A S S I F I E D S

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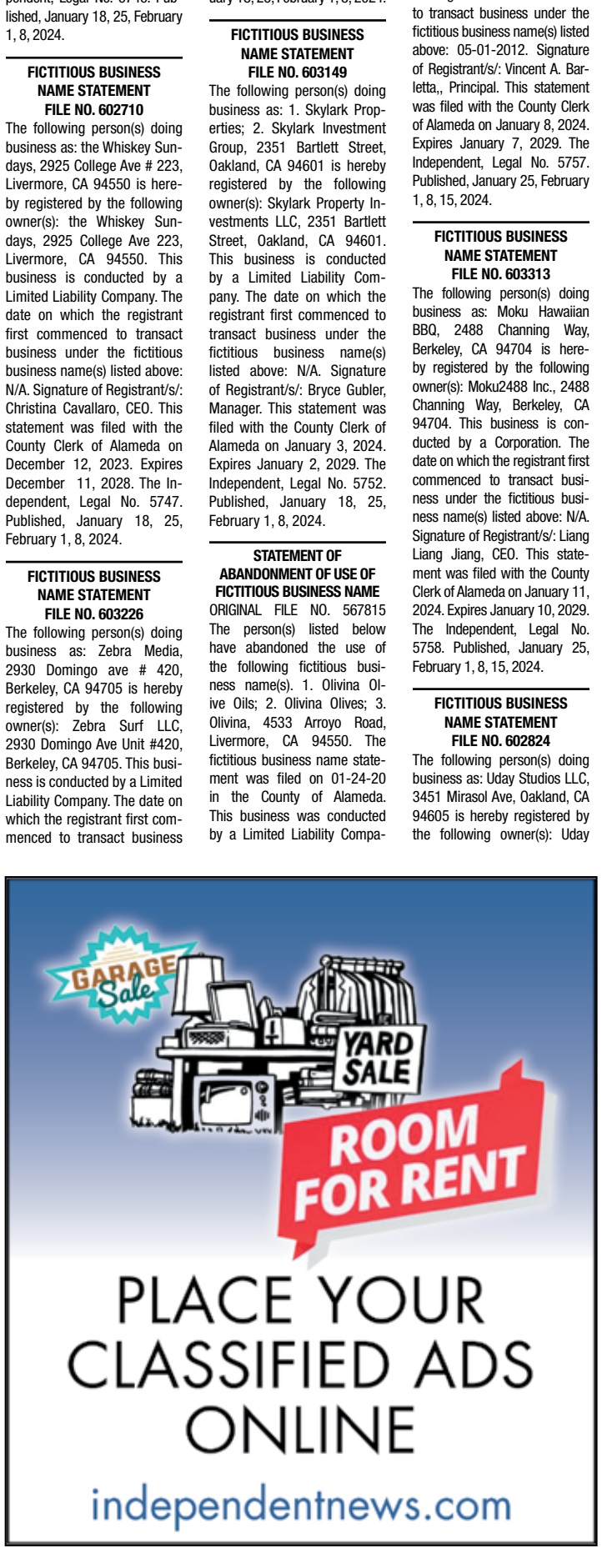
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Galbraith to Play a Brahams Guitar at Bankhead Theater



Paul Galbraith will perform at the Bankhead Theater on Feb. 3. The Scottish guitarist is best known for developing the eight-string Brahams guitar. (Photo courtesy of Bankhead Theater)

Scottish guitarist Paul Galbraith, known for developing the eight-string "Brahams guitar," will perform at the Bankhead Theater in Livermore on Saturday, Feb. 3, sponsored by Del Valle Fine Arts.

The Brahams guitar, also known as a cello-guitar, is designed to be held upright and features eight strings, a conventional resonating body, and an external box-shaped resonator. Galbraith developed the instrument in 1994, in collaboration with luthier David Rubio.

Galbraith is also known for his sensitive musical interpretations, as well as his unique instrument. Classical Guitar Magazine once noted, "Galbraith seemed to have transcended technique and established a personal connection with an inner source."

Galbraith has performed throughout Europe and North America, including three times for the "Great Performances" series at the Lincoln Center in New York. He is scheduled to receive the Guitar Foundation of America's Artistic Achievement Award for 2024 at its convention in June.

His performance at the Bankhead, 2400 First St., will include works by German composers Robert Schumann and Johann Sebastian Bach and Spanish composers Enrique Granados and Issac Albeniz.

Tickets for the 7:30 p.m. performance begin at $35.

Students 18 and under can obtain free tickets at the Bankhead box office or by calling 925-372-6800. Tickets for accompanying adults are $20. College students can also purchase tickets for $16.

To purchase tickets online, go to livermorearts.org.

Del Valle Arts is a Livermore nonprofit organization that presents chamber music concerts at the Bankhead. For more information, go to delvallefinearts.org.

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Wine Community Honors Wong as Member of the Year

The Livermore Valley Wine Community (LVWC) recognized Wai-Kin (Ken) Wong as its member of the year for 2023 at its annual membership meeting this month at the Del Valle Winery.

Wong, who owns the HLW Vineyard in Livermore and the HLW Winery in Fremont, also serves on the LVWC board of directors.

"It was my honor to recognize the hard work, commitment and countless hours Wai-Kin has contributed to LVWC over this last year," said Executive Director Brandi Lombardi. "He has been a member for nearly a decade and has been a much-needed voice and advocate for growers on our committees and board."

LVWC, previously known as the Livermore Valley Winegrowers Association, is a marketing and trade association.

The association also installed officers and board of director members for 2024 at this month's meeting.

Gina Molinaro-Cardera, with Garre Vineyard & Winery in Livermore, will serve as president, with Karl Wente, Wente Vineyards, as vice president. Other officers include Heather McGrail, McGrail Vineyards, treasurer, and Darcie Kent, Darcie Kent Vineyards, secretary.

Wong will also continue on the board, along with Bob Pruett, Pruett Farms Winery; Harrison Wood, Wood Family Vineyards; Heidi Rasmussen, Concannon Vineyard; Jeff Cranor, Nottingham Cellars; and Robin Repogle, Fenestra Winery.

They will be joined by affiliate members Brandon Wood, The Cheese Parlor, and Ian O'Leary, Spirited Packaging, and grower members Niki Wente, Murrieta's Well.

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Theater Group to Hold Fundraising Performance

The Royal Theater Academy, a Dublin nonprofit that stages full-cast musicals, will highlight the company's past, present, and future in a fundraising performance at Dublin High School on Saturday, Feb. 3.

The program, at 2 p.m., is being presented in partnership with the City of Dublin.

"I'm overwhelmed by the city's support and their efforts to grow the performing arts presence in Dublin," said Trenton Torrain, the theater company's owner and creative director. "The opportunity to work directly with the city where I live and grew up in, and to share my love of musical theater is an incredible honor."

Torrain said the program, dubbed "RTA's Musical Mashup," will include music and performances by company members and announcements about the theater group's future.

Tickets are $15 for adults and $12 for children and are available online at royaltheateracademy.com.

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Livermore Man Charged With Sex Crime With Minor

By Larry Altman

LIVERMORE — A Livermore man is facing molestation charges involving a 12-year-old girl he met on a social media app, court records show.

Roger Lee Rempfer, 41, pleaded not guilty on Jan. 16 in Alameda County Superior Court to multiple felony counts, including lewd act upon a child, oral copulation of a child under 14 years old, contacting a minor with the intent to commit a sex crime, and arranging a sexual meeting with a minor, according to court records.

Rempfer previously was freed on bail during a court appearance earlier this month.

Livermore police confirmed the charges against Rempfer, but declined to release information because the case involving a minor is now being handled by the Alameda County District Attorney's Office.

Police began investigating Rempfer last year when the girl's mother contacted police.

Police said Rempfer met the girl on Snapchat, where the girl mentioned her age and school during conversations.

Police arrested Rempfer outside his home on Columbine Avenue in Livermore after using a ruse that he was a victim of mail theft to get him to come outside.

During a search of his home, police found significant amounts of heroin, methamphetamine and cocaine. They also uncovered hydrodocone, Adderall, ketamine and psilocybin, according to published reports.

In addition to the child molestation counts, prosecutors charged Rempfer with multiple counts of possession for sale of a controlled substance; and possession for sale of illegal ketamine, records show.

Rempfer also pleaded not guilty to the drug charges, records show.

Rempfer's attorney's name was not available and online records do not show a phone number or email address for Rempfer.

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LVA to Host Jazz Concert for Valentine's Day

Livermore Valley Arts (LVA) will host a family-friendly Valentine's Day jazz concert at the Bankhead Theater at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 14.

The concert, "Sittin' In and Groovin' Out," will feature performances by the Metta Quintet, the resident ensemble of JazzReach, a New York nonprofit that promotes the teaching of jazz, and the East Bay Jazz High School All-Stars.

Now in its eighth year, East Bay Jazz is a competitive pre-professional music academy that includes big band and combo ensembles directed by founder Spencer Sussman and supported by LVA.

The Metta Quintet will open the concert before inviting members of East Bay Jazz to join them on stage.

"We want to spark curiosity about the magic that is the creative process, and we want to ignite young imaginations and stir in them an excitement about their own creative possibilities," said drummer and JazzReach founder Hans Schuman.

In addition to Schuman, the Metta Quintet includes saxophonists Greg Ward and Wayne Escoffery, bassist Rashaan Carter, and pianist Glenn Zeleski.

Schuman formed JazzReach in 1994, after selling an inherited Steinway Grand Piano. Since then, JazzReach has become a leading provider of live educational content for young audiences.

In addition to the Valentine's Day concert, JazzReach will provide instruction for music students at Las Positas College and members of East Bay Jazz throughout the week.

Tickets for the Valentine's Day concert start at $20 and are available at the Bankhead Theater box office or online at livermorearts.org.

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