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In Dublin

Teachers Continue Fight for Pay Hike

By Dawnmarie Fehr

DUBLIN — Contentious contract negotiations between teachers and the Dublin school district for the current school year are ongoing and the two sides will meet again next week.

Dublin teachers are pushing the district to increase their pay by 9%, according to a recent statement from the Dublin Teachers Association (DTA).

In addition to the pay hike, DTA is asking the district to cover 100% of single medical insurance policy premiums, and 90% of family policy premiums.

The Dublin Unified School District's (DUSD) counteroffer of a 2% pay increase has been rejected by the DTA, and after two meetings – one in May and one in October – the two sides are not close to reaching an agreement.

See TEACHERS, page 8

Ron McNicoll

Longtime Tri-Valley Journalist Dies at 84

By Dawnmarie Fehr

Ronald "Ron" Noel McNicoll, a longtime journalist and poet, died Nov. 9 in Walnut Creek from heart failure, according to a family member.

He was 84.

The Pleasanton resident worked at The Independent, reporting, and writing for many decades first as a reporter and then as a freelancer.

Born in Omaha, Nebraska, he went to college in Minnesota, earning his master's degree in teaching at the University of Minnesota before heading west to settle in Berkeley.

But instead of teaching, he opted to write for The Berkeley Barb, an alternative newspaper popular in the 1960s.

He rented a basement apartment in Berkeley from Cecile Isaacs, who said he

See JOURNALIST, page 8



Educators with the Dublin Teachers Association hosted a rally in front of Dublin Unified School District's offices on Nov. 14 ahead of their planned bargaining meeting scheduled for Tuesday, Nov. 28. The group says management's refusal to bargain in good faith is disrupting student success. (Photo – Doug Jorgensen) *(See photo gallery at www.independentnews.com/multimedia)*

Dublin Jail

Feds Install More Cameras In Jail To Fight Staff Misconduct

By Larry Altman

DUBLIN – Officials working to fix the "toxic" environment for female inmates at the federal women's prison in Dublin have installed 385 cameras inside the facility in areas where corrections officers sexually abused inmates for years, court documents filed last week said.

Attorneys for inmates, however, say the action and others taken to clean up the troubled Federal Correctional Institute (FCI) Dublin are not enough. Complaints, they said, are still coming in.

The report of the upgrade from 198 cameras is included in a lengthy U.S. Attorney's Office affidavit that lists many of the efforts over the last two years to reverse course. At least eight corrections officers and staff members, including the prison's warden and chaplain, have been prosecuted for abusing their power and taking advantage of female inmates.

"Bureau of Prisons (BOP) has had to confront a troublesome culture of sexual abuse among some Dublin staff members, but BOP has worked diligently alongside Department of Justice — for example, the FBI, Office of the Inspector General — to excise that cancer," wrote FCI Dublin executive assistant

See JAIL, page 8

Livermore Lab Scientists Named American Physical Society Fellows

By David Jen

LIVERMORE — Two Lawrence Livermore National Lab scientists received international recognition last month for their contributions to physics.

The American Physical Society (APS) named Manyalibo "Ibo" Matthews, division leader of the LLNL Materials Science Division, and Frank Graziani, director of the LLNL High Energy Density Science Center, as 2023 APS fellows through their peer-election process.

Matthews was selected "for pioneering research in optimizing metal 3D printing and laser materials processing," in which very thin layers of fine metal powder are deposited and selectively melted by a laser to build up a desired shape.

Compared to traditional metal manufacturing, 3D printing allows the creation of intricate, internal structures, such as lattices and channels, that are otherwise infeasible.

Matthews joined the lab in 2006, where he has served as a program group leader in LLNL's National Ignition Facility, in addition to his work in the Materials Science Division.

Of the fellowship, Matthews said, "I'm truly humbled and honored to be named an APS Fellow, and I'm very grateful for all the support I've received from LLNL and my colleagues."

Although Mathews began his career in applied physics, he was drawn to "tabletop" science, where "you're using probes and microscopes and things that are all within your grasp," he said. "You can go to a lab, deposit a sample, change the parameters, take the sample

See SCIENTISTS, page 8

Sunol Glen Unified

Recall Drive Moves To Oust Two School Board Members

By Larry Altman

A group called United for Sunol Glen has launched a recall drive of Sunol Glen Unified School District Board President Ryan Jergensen and Trustee Linda Hurley following their votes to ban on school property special-interest flags, including the Pride flag.

"Trustees Jergensen and Hurley have lost the trust of the greater Sunol Glen community by shutting down civil discourse and demonstrating repeatedly that their priority is not the success and well-being of our school, its students and our town." according to a statement on the group's website.

Jergensen received an official "notice to recall" last week, the same day he dropped a request to obtain a civil harassment order against former school board member Denise Kent Romo. Jergensen's harassment order claimed that Romo had made statements resulting in threats to him and his family.

Addressing the recall campaign, Jergensen said this is happening because "we tried to take a stance that would allow the administration and the school board to focus on education, focus on the kids and not be litigating between different groups and their different flags. But one group is really not happy with that and wants to try to change the democratic process and recall us."

Hurley could not be

See RECALL, page 8

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Most Attendees at Workshop Oppose Breaking City UGB

By David Jen

LIVERMORE — A proposal to break the city's urban growth boundary (UGB) met resistance at a General Plan update workshop last week, with a large majority of the workshop's participants opposing development outside the boundary.

The General Plan update process seeks to guide the city's growth, land use, sustainability and land conservation through 2045. As part of the process, the City has proposed annexing about 1,100 acres of county land along Greenville Road, as well as reworking allowed uses in four focus areas within the city.

The focus area called East of Greenville "is included as a potential new job area due to feedback received from the GPAC (General Plan Advisory Committee), business and commercial brokerage community, and direction from the City Council giv-

See PLAN, page 9



The future of property east of Greenville Road, Livermore's urban growth boundary, was debated at a community workshop organized by the city last week. The property, shown above, is being considered for industrial and commercial development. Attendees weighed in on the controversial plans. (Photo – Doug Jorgensen)



A family enjoys a treat and a selfie during their visit to the opening of Ululani's Shave Ice in Livermore. The popular Hawaiian franchise opened at the Shops of Livermore on Nov. 11. (Photo – Doug Jorgensen) *(See photo gallery at www.independentnews.com/multimedia)*

Ululani's Gourmet Hawaiian Shave Ice Brings Its Aloha to Livermore

By Christina Cavallaro

LIVERMORE — A new Hawaiian shave ice shop in Livermore was so overwhelmed with customers that they had to close their doors for a day to give workers a rest and to restock.

One of Hawaii's most popular dessert spots, Ululani's, debuted its newest storefront on Jack London Boulevard earlier this month with hula dancers out front. They were greeted by a fan-frenzy of long lines, people taking selfies and a level of enthusiasm fit for Disneyland or a Taylor Swift concert.

"It was really crazy. It was a 2 hour and 15-minute wait," said David Yamashiro, co-owner and CEO with his wife Ululani. "And there wasn't a single complaint."

No stranger to throngs of customers, Yamashiro figures Ululani's has served roughly 8 million people since opening in 2008 on Maui in seven locations, two of which burned down in the Lahaina fires in August.

Some of their shops on Maui sell upwards of 1,000 shave ice a day. The new Livermore location sold around 800 on their opening day, he said.

If a fluffy soft snowball and the best ice cream of your life were mixed together, that would pretty much describe an Ululani shave ice.

That is then topped with one (or several) of their 40-signature cane sugar and fruit juice syrups. They range from classics like coconut, mango, and passion fruit to more exotic flavors, such as tamarind, calamansi

See ULULANI'S, page 9

PETS OF THE WEEK



BOUNCY BLAZE!

Blaze is an energetic and endearing adoptable pup, ready to join your family's adventures. This cuddly canine is as cool as they come. Blaze loves playtime gets along well with other dogs, and is a true kid-friendly companion. Visit valleyhumane.org to learn more or email info@valleyhumane.org to start the adoption application process. (Photo – Valley Humane Society)

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Annual Mony Nop Turkey Drop Kicks Off Holiday Season of Giving

By Hannah Ferguson

Thanksgiving Day was a little brighter for many thanks to the Tri-Valley Haven's 8th Annual Mony Nop Turkey Drop.

Last week, hundreds of people donated turkeys, cash and gift cards to the group to help the less fortunate on Thanksgiving.

The Tri-Valley Haven is an organization that provides help for "mainly women victims of domestic violence and sexual assault, but they also offer assistance to low-income households, disabled people, and seniors," said Reney Parag, Tri-Valley Haven's food coordinator.



Sophie Mao, Bochan Huy and Mony Nop participate in Nop's 8th Annual Mony Nop Turkey Drop on Sunday, Nov. 19 in Livermore. The annual event benefits Tri-Valley Haven's Holiday Program. *[See photo gallery at www.independentnews.com/multimedia]* (Photo – Doug Jorgensen)

The donations were distributed at Asbury United Methodist Church in Livermore.

"Everyone deserves to have a holiday meal and unfortunately it's hard for some people to come across," Parag said.

Mony Nop, the sponsor of the event, is a former refugee so he personally connects with people who have restricted access to food. He grew up for 6 years in a war and 5 years in refugee camps in the fields of Cambodia.

Nop started the event 8 years ago to give members of the community an opportunity to "give in a small way," he said.

Nop's goal is to ensure nobody goes hungry especially during the holidays because "it's not a good feeling to go to bed hungry and we don't want that in our community," he said.

The Tri-Valley Haven provides a helping hand to more than 3,000 people during their annual holiday program.

Tri-Valley Haven Requests Gift Cards For Holiday Program

Tri-Valley Haven (TVH), which provides food, housing, and support services for the victims of domestic and sexual assault, poverty, and homelessness, is asking the community to donate $20 gift cards to Safeway and Walmart for its annual Holiday Program.

The Livermore-based nonprofit said it expects to help more than 3,000 Tri-Valley residents over the holidays.

Gift cards can be dropped off between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, at the TVH Community Building, 3663 Pacific Ave.

The nonprofit is also asking for donations to help fill holiday stockings for children and adults, including winter socks, mittens, hand sanitizer, crayons, puzzles, and small games and crafts. All donations should be dropped off by Monday, Dec. 11.

Financial donations can also be made on the TVH website, at trivalleyhaven.org.

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Utilities Commission Approves 12.8% PG&E Rate Increase

By David Jen

PG&E customers will pay, on average, 12.8% more for their energy bills beginning January 1, 2024.

The rate increase, unanimously approved by the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) last week, came amid accusations of price gouging and mismanagement against the large investor-owned utility company.

"As far as we're concerned, they have not met any of the needs of California," said Jessica Tovar, of the Local Clean Energy Alliance, to the Commission. "They have incinerated communities, killed people, (and) already raised rates multiple times. For you to consider that again is turning your back on already struggling ratepayers in California."

PG&E, a regulated monopoly, provides gas and electric service to roughly 17 million people, or about 43% of the state's population.

The commission adopted an alternate proposal put forth by Commissioner John Reynolds that pared down PG&E's initial request. Under the adopted proposal, the typical household will pay an extra $32.68 per month, compared to the additional $38.73 per month hike proposed by PG&E.

Commissioner Reynolds' alternative also directs funds to underground 1,230 miles of power lines and install 778 miles of covered conductors to harden the system against wildfires, compared to the 200 miles of undergrounding and 1,800 miles of covered conductor proposed by PG&E.

The proposal marks PG&E's first general rate case since it emerged from Chapter 11 bankruptcy in 2020. The utility filed for bankruptcy in 2019 due to crippling financial obligations from its involvement in the 2018 Camp Fire wildfire in Butte County, for which it pleaded guilty to 84 counts of manslaughter. Eighty-four people died in that fire.

"The alternate proposed decision strikes a careful balance between a myriad of competing and important interests in an extremely important and complex area," said Commission President Alice Reynolds, referring to concerns around the affordability, feasibility, reliability and safety of the utility's electrical grid.

But customers pleaded to stave off the rate hike given the high inflation rates seen across the board during recent years.

"They talk about safety, but it's not safe when elderly and struggling families turn their heat off in the winter and the air conditioning off in the summer," said Jeff Smith, who spoke at the meeting.

The commissioners acknowledged the new burden on ratepayers even while supporting the rate increase.

"As we see in this case, rates that we are asking ratepayers to pay are increasing at a rate that will become unaffordable in the very near future if we don't find mechanisms to better control cost," said Commissioner Darcie Houck.

Houck continued to call the pattern of increases "not sustainable."

Other initiatives in the proposal included $1.3 billion toward wildfire mitigation through vegetation management, and $2.5 billion for system upgrades, such as building electrification and electric vehicle support.

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County Wildlife Crossings Project Moves Forward

By Dawnmarie Fehr

A local advisory committee met recently to discuss the process of building three wildlife crossings along Tri-Valley freeways in places where wildlife and domestic animals are commonly killed.

The Altamont Landfill and Resource Recovery Facility Open Space Advisory Committee heard from Katherine Boxer of Alameda County's Resource Conservation District (RCD) last Friday about how and where to build the crossings.

Possible locations include one west of Livermore, one east of Dublin, and one south of Pleasanton, either on Interstate 680 or Highway 84.

Funded by a $7 million grant from the state's Wildlife Conservation Board to RCD, the East Bay Wildlife Crossings project is in its first phase. The Altamont advisory committee supplied the funds to photograph the animals. This resulted in the identification of areas for viable crossings to be built. The photographs enabled RCD to provide the grant, which is now making the wildlife crossings a reality.

The team is currently looking at data detailing wildlife habitats and movement, thanks to a series of cameras set up throughout the hills surrounding the Tri-Valley. These cameras capture images of wildlife, domestic animals and people, helping researchers identify feasible locations for crossings. Another factor planners will consider is a map of animal collisions and fatalities on the freeways.

The goal of the crossings is to allow wildlife the freedom to move around safely without the danger of being hit by a vehicle. Boxer said it is important for conservated lands in the East Bay to be continuous so animals can move through them, rather than being separated.

"If you have fragmented lands, you are going to get less biodiversity in the genetics," Boxer said. "Species that are cut off from one another are going to decline in their genetic health."

Boxer noted different species will tolerate different kinds of crossings. While mule deer are unlikely to utilize an underpass, mountain lions don't seem to be put off by them.

Project Manager Sasha Dansky discussed the steps of going through CalTrans for the necessary approvals for the construction of freeway crossings. Approvals can take up to seven years before construction can begin.

Before the CalTrans hurdle is crossed, RCD must decide on the locations for the three crossings. Factors such as existing roadways, topography, soil conditions, utilities and habitat are all taken into consideration.

"This is all taking place by the mid part of next year, which gets us to the start of the CalTrans process," Dansky said.

Species expected to benefit from the crossings include mountain lions, bobcats, and tule elk, as well as the locally endangered California red-legged frog, tiger salamander, and the Alameda whipsnake.

On a different matter, the advisory committee was also scheduled to discuss payment for ecosystem services as a proposed priority in reviewing applications for funding of property acquisition, but the topic was pushed to a future meeting due to time constraints.

The next meeting of the Altamont Landfill and Resource Recovery Facility Open Space Advisory Committee is set for Jan. 19, 2024.

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Jergensen Drops Case Seeking Restraining Order Against Critic



Ryan Jergensen



Denise Kent Romo

By Larry Altman

Sunol Glen Unified School District Board President Ryan Jergensen abruptly dropped his pursuit of a permanent civil harassment order against former board member Denise Kent Romo, saying her "high-priced lawyer" threatened him with lawsuits to break him financially.

Jergensen, who obtained a temporary order in September when he claimed Kent Romo's statements online spurred threats against him and his family, was scheduled for a hearing last Wednesday in Alameda County Superior Court.

Instead, Jergensen asked the judge to dismiss the case.

"I received a temporary restraining order (TRO) against Denise Kent Romo after she spread lies and misinformation about me online, which I believe led directly to the death threats against my wife, my children and me," Jergensen said in a statement issued to The Independent.

"In response to the court granting a TRO against her, Denise hired a large Los Angeles law firm to represent her," Jergensen's statement continued. "Denise's Los Angeles-based attorney threatened me with lawsuits designed to put extreme financial pressure on my family."

The dispute between the two followed Jergensen's Sept. 12 vote to ban special-interest flags, such as the Pride flag, on school property.

Jergensen and fellow trustee Linda Hurley voted in favor of the ban, sparking outrage from the community. Kent Romo spoke out against the ban. Her husband, trustee Ted Romo, cast the lone vote against the resolution.

Kent Romo, who served on the board from 2016-2021, did not respond to a text message seeking her comment. Her attorney, Erin Brianna Bernstein, declined to respond to The Independent. In a court document filed earlier this month to oppose the civil harassment order, Bernstein argued that Kent Romo never "physically threatened, assaulted, or otherwise harassed" Jergensen.

"Mr. Jergensen's complaints largely surround emails and comments made at public hearings, wherein Ms. Kent Romo strongly disagreed with Mr. Jergensen's vote in favor of removing Pride flags from Sunol Unified School District properties," the attorney argued. "Such communications, however emotional or strongly felt, are within the core communications protected by the First Amendment, as well as Article 1 of the California Constitution and cannot be the basis of a restraining order absent actual threats of violence."

Jergensen filed for the TRO against Romo on Sept. 18 after receiving emails from other people that included the suggestion that he protect his children. Judges normally grant TRO requests immediately and schedule a hearing to rule whether to make the order permanent.

In his application for the order, Jergensen accused Kent Romo of attacking him electronically and at school board meetings. He asked that she be kept a reasonable distance from his home, church, school, and workplace and restrained from speaking publicly about him and his family.

Listing evidence, Jergensen included a Sept. 13 email in which Kent Romo called him a failure as a leader and questioned whether he would retaliate by sending Proud Boys — a hate group linked to the Jan. 6 insurrection in the U.S. Capitol — to her front door.

"Are those your friends? Because it appears so," Kent Romo wrote. "Are both you and Linda linked to hate groups?"

The application said Kent Romo then posted publicly, "Who is ready for a recall of Ryan Jergensen and Linda Hurley?"

"Both have ties to hate groups," Kent Romo wrote, accusing three people who attended the board's Sept. 12 meeting of being members of hate groups.

Jergensen wrote that he responded that there was no evidence linking anyone she mentioned to hate groups.

"Please, kindly, remove your untrue words about me that you are spreading, including on Facebook," Jergensen said. "Please, I implore you to stop slandering my name in public. Please be the example of kindness that you purport to espouse."

He added "I can forgive."

In response, Kent Romo wrote back. "I stand by what I said. And I'm not looking for your forgiveness. Only accountability."

After the public display, Jergensen said disturbing messages arrived in his emails from other people, including a threat about hunting Christians and another suggesting he and his wife hide. Another questioned whether he had life insurance "because this weekend might be your last."

Jergensen blamed Kent Romo for whipping up hysteria that provoked others to make threats.

In her attorney's court filing, Kent Romo denied attacking him. The brief includes her own correspondence with him and said that after Jergensen discussed the board's action on Fox News, she received "numerous hateful and otherwise obscene messages."

Citing numerous court rulings about protected speech, Kent Romo's attorneys identified her statements as political criticism of an elected official and said his application for the civil harassment order lacked evidence that she intended to inspire violence.

"Ms. Kent Romo's comments in public, via email, and online all center around her criticism of Mr. Jergensen's anti-Pride vote and her legitimate concerns regarding Mr. Jergensen's ties as an elected official to groups like Moms for Liberty and Gays Against Groomers. (This is) core political speech, even where inartful or forcefully concerned."

Library to Offer Workshops on Making Parols

The Livermore Public Library and the Livermore Filipino-American Organization will host two workshops on making parols, traditional Filipino holiday lanterns, on Sunday, Dec. 3.

The star-shaped lanterns are typically made of bamboo and Japanese paper and illuminated with candles or oil lamps.

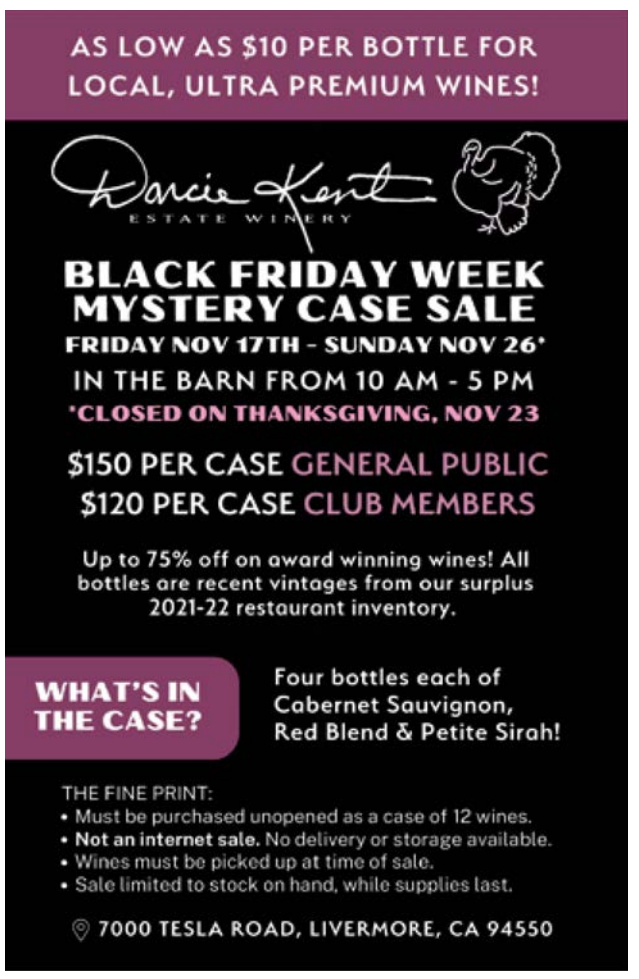
The free workshops will be held from noon to 2 p.m. and 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. at the Civic Center Library, 1188 S. Livermore Ave.

The library will provide all materials, although participants are urged to bring their own glue guns, clear tape, and scissors.

The register for either session, call 925-373-5500.

The workshops are sponsored by Friends of the Livermore Public Library.







EDITORIAL

Decades of Community Support

During this season of gratitude, caring and sharing, we want to tell our readers why we at The Independent are so thankful for the opportunity to provide you—for 60 years now—with Tri-Valley news.

The Independent has strived to offer the Tri-Valley stories about vineyards, ranchlands and open space; the arts at the Bankhead Theater, Bothwell Arts Center, Firehouse Arts Center, Amador Theater and Emerald Glen Amphitheater; science at our two national laboratories and area tech companies; local businesses; education and sports at district schools and Las Positas College; the environment; obituaries; as well as social justice, including ways to help the disadvantaged, particularly the homeless.

We cover people making significant strides and contributions. We give a voice to the voiceless, keep watch over government officials, and feature community events on our pages. But we couldn't do it without the support that you have provided for decades.

For example, years ago, we weathered a boycott because the community backed us. Earlier, our first editor, Dana McGaugh, had told Publisher Joan Seppala that The Independent needed to provide news and editorials that benefit the community as a whole. She and The Independent staff concurred. That meant that advertisers with specific commercial interests who disagreed with us on an issue might pull their ads.

Indeed, that is what has happened to us here and there, and in 1972, a full boycott. An opposing newspaper organized it to drive us out of business because we opposed the rapid population growth Livermore was experiencing. The 10% growth a year was placing schools on double sessions and devastating the city's budget.

Because of the abrupt loss of advertising, The Independent was overdrawn at the bank every day. Residents rose up from the community to loan us money to cover the overdraft and keep us afloat. Over time, we regained our footing and paid it all back.

Support from the community continues today. Every week, scores of emails, letters to the editor, press releases and phone calls give us information to pass on to the public. Residents in Dublin, Livermore, Pleasanton, and Sunol keep us apprised of events, meetings, community happenings and crime incidents that otherwise, we may not have known about.

We are grateful for all those who have supported us in the past, and those who are doing so today. We hope that during this season of gratitude, you will hear our heartfelt thanks, and remember the importance of watchdog journalism, the Fourth Estate, and freedom of the press — all embodied in newspapers like The Independent.

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.

The Expanding Oppression in Gaza, Palestine, and Israel

Greg Scott, Livermore

"Are you antisemitic?" (Ellen Raber, "Relearn World War II History," Mailbox, 11/16/2023)

No, is the answer to Ellen Raber's slanderous, unfounded smear.

"I won't be spending any time responding to you." (Raber, ibid.)

At least Ellen Raber knows a precept to implementing authoritarian rule and fascism. There is no response to be had for those deemed inferior. There is no discussion, dialog, or other opinion. The "facts" are through illogical reason by authority often leading to power by violence.

"The ideal subject of totalitarian rule is not the convinced Nazi or the convinced Communist, but people for whom the distinction between fact and fiction (i.e. the reality of experience) and the distinction between true and false (i.e., the standards of thought) no longer exist." (Hannah Arendt, "The Origins of Totalitarianism," 1951)

As those in Gaza starve, we in the United States approach the holidays and most of us are not hungry and celebrate around food. The Holocaust gave license to slaughter more than 5,000 Palestinian children as part of 13,000 Palestinian civilians killed in Gaza as retribution to the Hamas rampage of murders and kidnappings last October 7th? Aren't these all war crimes?

"You don't seem to even know that the majority of the lands that were designated "Palestine" were given to Egypt and Jordan. Israel represents a small area of that land given to the Jews after over six million Jews were exterminated in the concentration camps." (Raber, ibid.)

"Given"? According to whom? The "Palestine" I am referring to is the Palestine of 1922 British mandate. Great Britain was vastly weakened by World War II and lost interest in Palestine after the extreme right-wing Zionist terrorist group Irgun bombed the King David Hotel on July 22, 1946. Ninety-one individuals were killed and forty-six injured.

A partitioning of Palestine, U.N. Resolution 181, followed in 1947. With two-thirds of the occupants being Arab, 56% of British mandated Palestine went to Zionists, who a short time later colonized 78% of British mandated Palestine. A civil war ensued. Israel was formed in 1948 after the "Nakba", when 750,000 Palestinians were forced from their homes, including 250,000 Palestinians going to Gaza. There was no "giving" as Ellen Raber refers to. The reader is free to check these facts.

Criticizing Zionism and Israel's murderous actions is not anti-Semitic, otherwise many Jewish individuals would be considered anti-Semitic. I will bow neither to pro-Israeli nor pro-Palestinian propaganda.

Uphold Democracy

Janice Flanzbaum, Pleasanton

I am writing this letter out of concern for the democratic process and for the anti-semitic sentiment which is growing across the globe. Did you know there is an Alameda County Democratic Central Committee (ACDCC)? The Alameda County Democratic Central Committee's passing of the Israel-Gaza Resolution, and similarly the City of Richmond, is condoning and supporting not just hatred of Israel but hatred of people who follow the Jewish faith. Jewish children in our schools and colleges are feeling threatened, scared, and alone. The Jewish community across the world is deeply affected by the horrific acts of terror, rape, murder and kidnapping inflicted on the Israeli kibbutzes near the Gaza border by the ruling Hamas. The November 1st Zoom meeting of the ACDCC was appalling, chaotic, with disorderly conduct and a forced resolution. Committee members stated there was inadequate time to carefully consider and review all the statements included in the resolution and to fact-check the citations. Most members present advocated for a ceasefire and strong language against Israel's actions towards Gaza. Others felt the resolution was one-sided without acknowledging the surprise attacks by Hamas and the BRUTAL killing of over 1,400 innocent, civilian Israelis, plus 240+ kidnapped. There were challenges identifying committee members attending on Zoom and unmuting those whose turn it was to speak. The recording secretary did the roll call and counted the votes. After finishing roll call and votes, the recording secretary commented there were members whose response was not heard but it didn't matter because a majority of yes votes had already been achieved. One attendee impersonated Eric Swalwell's alternate to cast a vote. I have been a member of a board with by-laws and found this action very disrespectful to those whose votes did not get heard or counted. Isn't it supposed to be recorded for the record? How is that democracy? I am disappointed at the number of elected officials absent. As a member of the Democratic Party, I want to feel I have a voice. Educate yourself and show your voice by voting for committee members who uphold the ideals and integrity of democracy on the Democratic presidential primary ballot.

Open Space, Not Commercial/Industrial Development

Jean King, Livermore

Livermore citizens value open space and prefer it to commercial development. Two open space areas are under consideration for development. One is open space to the west, north of I-580 between Dublin and Livermore. The second area is the open space to the east, South of I-580, between Greenville Road and the aqueduct.

At the Nov 13 Livermore Council Meeting, the City Staff gave the results of a recent city-wide poll with questions related to the open space area to the west. The poll results showed a high level of support for maintaining open space between the two cities with a majority of residents supporting maintaining this area as open space.

The majority of respondents support the Dublin Boulevard Extension project (DBE) and were more likely to support the roadway connection if the surrounding land remained as open space. However, respondents were much less likely to support the DBE project if commercial and industrial development were constructed. The poll results showed that there is limited support for commercial and industrial development with landscape screening applied to the site.

The city has not had a poll of the residents about industrial development of the open space east of Greenville Road. The response of the attendees at last week's public workshop for the General Plan Update showed strong support for retaining that area as open space.

Preserve Livermore's urban growth boundary and open space.

Ask City Council to Act Now

Donna Cabanne, Livermore

The Livermore Airport Commission voted 4 to 0 to require the Fixed Base Operator (FBO) to sell unleaded aviation fuel at Livermore Airport (LVK). We commend the Airport Commission for their timely and important recommendations. In addition, the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) and the Tri-Valley Air Quality Climate Alliance (TVAQCA) concur that "now is the time for the City of Livermore to fund the installation of unleaded av fuel stations at LVK."

At least seven California airports now sell unleaded aviation fuel: Hayward, Oxnard, Reid-Hillview (San Jose), San Carlos, San Martin, San Monica, and Watsonville. In addition, unleaded av fuel is sold at Denver, CO; Naples, Deland, Sebring, FL; Muncie, Anderson, Michigan City, IN; Falmouth, Great Barrington, MA; Marshall, MI; South St. Paul, Stanton, MN; Georgetown, Wauseon, OH; Smoketown, PA; Waco, TX;

East Troy, Franksville, Prairie Du Sac, Pulaski, Portage, Phillips, Cumberland, Neillsville, WI.

If 35 airports can sell unleaded av fuel, why can't Livermore?

A second tank exists at the airport for unleaded av fuel and/or the city can purchase a new 8,500-gallon tank using Airport Enterprise Funds. FAA grants are also available for additional fuel tanks.

The Livermore City Council will consider the Airport Commission's recommendations on December 11th. Please ask the council to require the FBO to start selling unleaded aviation fuel at LVK. The price difference between leaded and unleaded av fuel would be about one dollar more per gallon. A dollar a gallon difference is not much to ask to protect the health of Tri-Valley children and residents. Ask the City Council to act now to reduce lead air exposure for all.

Why the City of Livermore Will Not Buy Garaventa Hills

David Jonas, Livermore

An article in the Nov. 9 Independent suggests the city of Livermore can buy the Garaventa Hills site (GH) and conserve it as open space. For the following reasons, that scenario is a non-starter.

GH owners have exercised their prerogative to sell the land to the buyer of their choosing, housing developer Lafferty Communities, with whom the owners have entered a binding contract.

If the GH owners were to sell to Livermore, they would breach that contract, an egregious violation that would expose both the owners and Livermore to litigation and significant financial penalties.

As the article references, $20+ million in conservation funds are available to Livermore. However, use of those funds for any purchase is subject to two key constraints

- There must be a willing seller. In the case of GH, there is not.
- The land must be purchased at conservation prices, which in the Tri-Valley is approx. $15k / acre. According to the article, Lafferty is purchasing GH's 32 acres for $15m - $20m, or approx. $550k / acre. Paying more than 30 times the going rate for open space would be a gross misuse of the city's conservation funds, and the committees that oversee the funds would likely reject the purchase.

GH is inside the urban growth boundary, conforms to the city's north Livermore plan, is zoned for precisely the type of development that Lafferty will build, and the project's EIR meets or exceeds all required environmental mediations. I hope residents welcome their new neighbors and support the city's prudent stewardship of conservation funds.

False Equivalences

Stephanie Ericson, Dublin

"How can you condemn Israeli violence against Palestinians without condemning Hamas attacks on Israeli civilians on Oct. 7?"

Of course, almost everyone who is critical of Israel's horrendous violence against innocent Palestinians DOES condemn that Hamas attack, even if not constantly repeated in every discussion on Gaza.

But the horrific larger-scale catastrophe on the ground in Gaza continues and worsens each day. US longstanding support of and military aid to Israel and its delayed weak public calls of Israeli "restraint" requires US citizens to condemn these war crimes and our government's complicity.

Moreover, the Hamas attacks are mostly discussed in isolation from the context of Israel's historical repeated violence against Palestinians. This violence includes military attacks and a 16-year blockade, crippling Gaza's economy, its access to clean water and many other necessities of life, causing about 50% unemployment.

So, let me ask, how can anyone condemn Hamas violence without condemning an illegal military occupation, a devastating blockade and severe restrictions on travel? Without condemning the denial of critical imports to sustain life and livelihood? Without condemning the routine use of collective punishment since 1967?

Israel's actions, past and present, and the ensuing misery, may be Hamas' greatest recruitment tool.

Livermore Valley Chamber of Commerce Welcomes New CEO



Sherri Souza

Sherri Souza joins the Livermore Valley Chamber of Commerce as its new Chief Executive Officer and President. Jody Amos, owner of Amos Productions and Altamont Limo, chair of the Livermore Valley Chamber of Commerce made the announcement to attendees at the recent Chairman's Circle Reception at Murietta's Well.

"I am so pleased to confirm Sherri to the position of President/CEO," said Amos. "Sherri has been serving as Interim President/CEO for the last 10 months due to a medical leave of absence of Dawn Argula, our former President/CEO. Upon Dawn's recent resignation, the Executive Committee diligently researched the options for the Chamber and decided that Sherri brings to the Chamber her experience as a business owner, volunteer leader, and previous LVCC board member experience and has a long term passion for the work of the Livermore Valley Chamber. Her favorable reputation in the community is an important asset to the Chamber and will assist in strengthening Livermore Valley Chamber of Commerce moving forward."

A long-time Livermore resident, Souza's experience is inclusive of industrial sales, retail management and, most recently, having served 20 years as a local Realtor and independent broker in Livermore, serving 15 of those years as a volunteer leader in the real estate industry.

Accomplishing a State Presidency for California and then a National Presidency with the National Women's Council of Realtors based out of Chicago, Sherri has the skills and abilities to lead the Chamber staff to new horizons.

"I am thrilled to have this opportunity to lead the LVCC organization," said Souza. "Its members represent the most respected businesses and organizations in their fields. The business connections and partnerships that have been created by the efforts of the Chamber is inspiring and we hope to continue the expansion of this mindset and grow the Chamber beyond our wildest dreams. It is an exciting time to be a part of this Chamber."

One Week Until The 3VCF State of Giving Gathering

There is still time to sign up for the Three Valleys Community Foundation [3VCF] State of Giving Gathering, a community-focused event dedicated to celebrating the spirit and strength of philanthropy. The in-person event will take place on Tuesday, Nov. 28, 2023 at 4:30 p.m. at the Mertes Center for the Arts on the Las Positas College campus, located at 3000 Campus Hill Drive, Livermore.

The evening will include an overview of the state of philanthropy in the region and will spotlight individual donors, sponsors and corporations who've invested in the community. 3VCF community-benefit funds and successful 2023 initiatives will also be highlighted.

Keynote speaker, Alex Briscoe, the principal of California Children's Trust (CCT) and behavioral health leader and advocate, will set the stage for the 2023 grant focus area of mental health and wellness. The evening will culminate with the awarding of the 2023 Community Impact Grants to nonprofits working to improve the quality of life for all in our Three Valleys region.

The 3VCF State of Giving Gathering is the ideal opportunity to connect, learn, and be inspired.

For ticket information, visit https://bit.ly/3G9qSYP



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Zoom Hearing Set to Present Wheels Schedule Changes

The Livermore Amador Valley Transit Authority (LAVTA) will hold a Zoom-based public hearing at 4 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 4, to get input on proposed changes in the Wheels bus service.

LAVTA staff recently recommended several changes, based on the results of the agency's monthlong Wheels in Motion public outreach campaign in September, to better align bus services with revised Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) commuter train schedules.

The changes would adjust the frequency of Wheels bus services and would restore or introduce new routes to areas that currently lack service.

Among the proposals are an increase in frequency on Route 15 to every 20 minutes during peak hours and hourly during midday, and a decrease in peak service frequency on Routes 1, 3, 8, and 14 to every 40 minutes.

Routes 10R and 30R would run every 20 minutes and Route 10R service would be extended an additional hour, until midnight.

LAVTA is also proposing to introduce local service to central Dublin and southwest Livermore every 40 minutes during extended peak hours and to resume hourly service on Route 2 in East Dublin, resume limited peak service on Route 11 to east Livermore, and resume limited peak express service on Route 580X between downtown Livermore and BART. It is also proposing to extend Route 70X to the Hacienda Business Park.

To access the online Zoom meeting, go to zoom.us/j/86244532120. ID: 862-4453-2120; password PH1362. Audio of the meeting can be accessed by phone at 669-900-6833, using the password 554060.

For more information, go to weelsbus.com.

Livermore Library Recognizes Its Top Volunteers for 2023

The Livermore Public Library has announced the winners of four Volunteer of the Year awards for 2023.

Del Eckels, a retired engineer and former researcher with Lawrence Livermore National Laboratories, has been named the library system's 2023 Volunteer of the Year.

Since the fall of 2022, Eckels, who is also a musician, has volunteered up to four mornings a week to support the early-learning story time programs at the Civic Center, Rincon, and Springtown branch libraries, playing percussion instruments, providing sound effects, and generally creating "mayhem [by] blowing bubbles, shaking parachutes, and shooting water blasters" to capture and extend the attention span of young listeners, according to the library.

"With the confidence of an experienced grandparent, he greets familiar faces by name, engages caregivers, coos at babies, and serenades them with a calming overture as staff busily prepares for class," the library added.

Hana Kriplani, a student at Granada High School, was named the library's Young Adult Volunteer of the Year for 2023.

Kriplani volunteered during the summer, regularly helping with the crafts and Music and Movement story time programs for younger children at the Rincon branch. According to the library, Kriplani "clearly demonstrated she wanted to do her best, with enthusiasm, and make library programs the best they could be. [She] was fantastic to work with and showed real initiative."

Julie La Blanc, the owner of Cornerstone Legal Document Services in Livermore, was named 2023 Volunteer of the Year in support of Literacy.

La Blanc has volunteered with the library's Literacy Program, tutoring adult learners, since 2018, helping one student pass her U.S. citizenship test and another to get his driver's license. She has also led a series of weekly meetings with adult learners and other volunteers to read the books selected for the Livermore Reads Together program.

Jan Bennett was named 2023 Volunteer of the Year for the Friends of the Livermore Public Library, a nonprofit organization founded to support the public library.

Bennett has been a member of the organization since 2016, volunteering in the group's bookstore, helping to organize monthly book sales, and coordinating with library staff to sort through donated books. She has also been a board member for the past two years.

LPC to Hold Auditions for Romantic Comedy

The Las Positas College (LPC) Theater Arts program will hold auditions for its spring production of "She Loves Me" on Wednesday, Dec 13.

Set in Budapest in 1934, the romantic comedy musical tells the story of two perfume shop workers, Georg and Amalia, who are constantly at odds with one another. Unbeknownst to them, they are also each other's secret "lonely heart" pen pals.

The musical is an adaptation of the 1937 stage play "Parfumerie" by Hungarian playwright Miklos Laszlo, which was also the inspiration for Hollywood's 1998 romantic comedy "You've Got Mail," starring Tom Hanks and Meg Ryan.

"She Loves Me" was first performed in 1963, and according to director Dyan McBride, has "achieved a sort of cult status."

The play "unfolds in a sweet, intelligent fashion," McBride said. "It is a bonbon of a show."

The auditions are open to all community members 15 and older, with no experience necessary. The college is also offering scholarships for demonstrated need.

Rehearsals will begin the middle of January and will run from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays through March 6.

There will be occasional Saturday sessions for choreography rehearsals.

Performances at LPC's Barbara F. Mertes Center for the Arts in Livermore are set for Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays, March 15 through March 24.

For more information or to schedule an audition, go to tinyurl.com/jd44j5c5, or contact LPC Theater Arts coordinator Titian Lish at tlish@positascollege.edu.

Insurance Agency Holds Warm Coat Drive

The Gene Morgan Insurance Agency in Livermore is holding its annual Warm Coat Drive to benefit those in need now through Friday, Dec. 15.

The agency is asking that new or used coats in good condition be dropped off at its downtown Livermore office, 2020 Fourth St. Coats for children are especially needed.

The office will be open from 9 a.m. to noon and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. hours are 9-12, and 1-5 p.m., Monday through Friday. After-hours drop-offs can be arranged by calling 925- 447-2565.

For more information, contact Stacie Logan at 925-447- 2565 or stacie@genemorganinsurance.com. The Gene Morgan Insurance Agency in Livermore is holding its annual Warm Coat Drive to benefit those in need now through Friday, Dec. 15.

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For more information, contact Stacie Logan at 925-447- 2565 or stacie@genemorganinsurance.com.



Robin Lawton and Cindy Hamer welcome the holiday season as they participate in the Earlier Than the Bird event in downtown Livermore on Saturday, Nov. 18. The traditional kickoff to Black Friday is sponsored by Livermore Downtown Inc. and draws crowds of pajama-clad shoppers in pursuit of the perfect gift. *[See photo gallery at www.independentnews.com/multimedia]*
(Photo – Doug Jorgensen)

Santa Poses for Photos At Stoneridge Mall

Santa Claus has arrived at Stoneridge Shopping Center in Pleasanton and will be posing for family pictures through Christmas Eve, Sunday, Dec. 24.

The Santa Photo Experience will be open from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday through Saturday, and from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Sundays.

The morning of Sunday, Dec. 3, is being reserved for children with special needs. Caring Santa will run from 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

Pet owners are encouraged to bring their furry friends for photos with Santa from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 10.

Reservations are encouraged. To reserve a time slot, go to tinyurl.com/4u2xx7f8.

The mall will also be collecting for the Marine Corps Reserve's Toys for Tots program from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 15.

City of Pleasanton Unveils New, Updated Website

Pleasanton has launched a new website that it says will offer a more user-friendly experience for residents, visitors, and anyone looking to know more about what is going on in the city.

Key features, according to the city, include streamlined access to city departments and municipal services, up-to-date news and announcements, interactive maps, a feedback portal, and a user-friendly search function.

"We are excited to present our new website to the community," said City Manager Gerry Beaudin. "This digital upgrade aligns with our commitment to transparency, accessibility, and the convenience of our residents and business owners. It will be a valuable resource for anyone engaging with the city."

The new website, cityofpleasantonca.gov, went live on Thursday, Nov. 16.

Pleasanton said the website aligns with the city's 5-year strategic goal of leveraging technology for more efficient and effective use by city staff and to provide the public with information, services, and resources in one online location.

The city said some features may look different than they did on the old website, including the way users access City Council meetings and agenda reports, but all the former features are still available.

An integrated agenda management system will also mean that upcoming council, commission, and committee meeting agendas and agenda packets can be accessed from the website homepage.

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

Her Vineness



Laura Ness

A Compendium of Grateful Thoughts from Some of Livermore's Winemakers

By Laura Ness

In late November, when the hills have turned countless shades of amber, rouge and cinnamon, I reflect on the beauty vineyards bring to our lives, and on the importance of the Livermore wine community, a constantly evolving symbiosis of talented and passionate people who have gathered here to tend their fields and their dreams. It sets the stage for the season of gratitude.

Linda Ault of Cedar Mountain, the wine brand she and her husband Earl ran for over 3 decades, told us, "I'm grateful for the pleasure of being able to enjoy wine with fine food and fellowship. Cherish this always."

Steve Norman of Del Valle can relate, having lost his wife Barb last year. "I am grateful for community. This community is always here to lend support through both the good times and the tough times, and I am so grateful for that."

Darin Winton of Cellar 13 is grounded in the knowledge that living with a grateful heart is the key to enrichment. The Cherokee word for gratitude, "Aliheliga," is the name of his blend of Merlot and Cab Franc, in honor of his heritage. "I am grateful for my amazing group of friends and family. I'm a rich man."

Connie Vandevanter of Pruett Farms, who was with Retzlaff for 20 years, shares, "I'm grateful for another trip around the sun."

GM and winemaker at Las Positas, Brent Amos, says, "I am grateful for the friendship and camaraderie of the wineries of Livermore, as well as the loyalty and support of our devoted Livermore wine enthusiasts."

Longtime Livermore winemaker, Julian Halasz of Darcie Kent and Almost Famous, thanked his winemaking team, technology advances and fruit quality. "Given how the late season shaped up, we all should be very grateful!! Most importantly, I'm grateful for the talent that surrounds the wine industry!"

Aaron Luna of Fenestra notes, "I'm most grateful for family, health, and community. Becoming a father two years ago has brought me so much love, joy, and a different perspective on life."

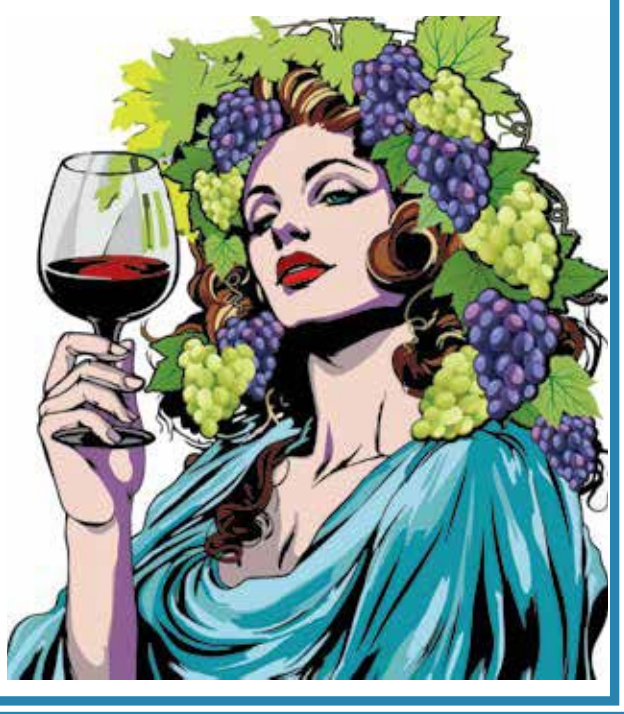
At Longevity, Phil Long, too, reflects on the importance of family: "I appreciate the blessing of being able to work with my son, Phil Jr, and his sons, Conor, 9, and Caden, 6." He also expressed gratitude for his fiancée Elizabeth.

Winemaker Meredith Sarboraria confesses to being wiped out from the intense, long harvest at Rodrigue Molyneaux. "I'm thankful for my home, my health, and my friends and family. Boring, but true!"

Exhausted, but keen on vintage 2023, Rosie Fierro of Rosa Fierro Cellars says, "I am most grateful that my son and daughter-in-law have moved back to California and that I am going to be a grandma in the New Year!"

Darcie Kent reflects on the season's hardships, saying, "Mother Nature can be a bitch. But as I worked alongside my husband in the vineyards dropping everything but the most perfect bunches, I felt like I was in a chapel, the morning light illuminating the leaves and grapes as if they were stained glass. The beauty makes the work easier."

Let's raise a glass of Livermore wine as we wish Happy Thanksgiving to all.



Three Valleys Names Awardees

Shawnda Bost, operations director at Open Heart Kitchen (OHK), received the Unsung Hero award last week from the Tri-Valley Nonprofit Alliance (TVNA) last at its annual Power of Giving: Salute to Impact Makers program.

Bost joined the staff of the Livermore-based nonprofit, which provides hot meals to the homeless, seniors, and other residents of the Tri-Valley area, in 2010.

Susan Houghton, who serves on the board of the Pleasanton-based Three Valleys Community Foundation, received TVNA's Lifetime Achievement award.

Houghton is also a portfolio manager for the Livermore Lab Foundation and was founder of Sunflower Hill, a Livermore-based nonprofit that develops independent-living communities and provides support services for adults in the Tri-Valley area with physical and intellectual disabilities.

Sunflower Hill also received an Excellence in Impact award this year in the Under $1 million category, while Axis Community Health received the Excellence in Impact award in the over $1 million category. Axis Community Health is a health center that offers medical, dental, behavioral, and nutrition services at locations in Livermore, Pleasanton, and Dublin.

The Power of Giving award for Arts and Culture went to Livermore Valley Arts (LVA), which operates the Bankhead Theater and the Bothwell Arts Center in Livermore. LVA also sponsors the Rae Dorough Speaker Series and the Bankhead Presents performances.

The award for Corporate/Philanthropic Partner went to Sensiba LLC, a Pleasanton-based accounting firm.

TVNA was founded in 2014 to support other nonprofit organizations in the Tri-Valley.

Symphony to Perform Two Holiday Concerts at Bankhead Theater

The Livermore-Amador Symphony will perform two holiday-themed concerts at the Bankhead Theater in downtown Livermore on Saturday, Dec. 2.

First will be the symphony's eighth annual, free-admission Family Concert at 3 p.m., featuring music from "Beauty and the Beast" and a medley of Christmas carols and songs celebrating Hannukah.

The Valley Dance Theatre will also perform several dances from its annual production of "The Nutcracker."

"It's a short, fun program designed for the young and the young at heart," says the symphony's music director and conductor, Lara Webber.

While admission is free, tickets are still required and are available by going to livermorearts.org or calling 925-373-6800.

Following the concert, sponsored by Livermore Valley Arts, the symphony will host its annual hands-on musical instrument "petting zoo" for children in the theater lobby.

That evening, at 8 p.m., the symphony will continue its celebration of the holiday season with a Winter Tales concert featuring the 1883 Karelia Overture by Jean Sibelius, the 1927 Trittico Botticelliano by Ottorino Respighi, and the Hansel and Gretel Suites by Engelbert Humperdinck, first performed in 1893.

Webber will provide brief commentary during the concert in lieu of the usual prelude talk.

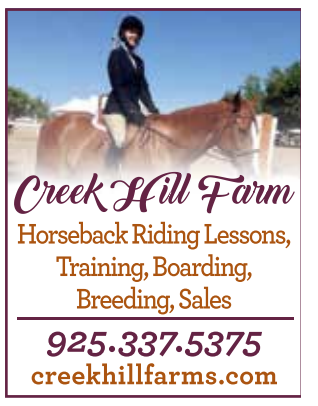


The Valley Dance Theatre will perform several dances from its annual production of "The Nutcracker" at the Bankhead Theater in Livermore on Saturday, Dec. 2.
(Photo courtesy of Livermore-Amador Symphony)

There will also be a complimentary wine and sparkling cider reception in the lobby following the performance.

Tickets to the Winter Tales concert start at $28, with anyone 21 or under admitted free.

Tickets are available at the Bankhead box office, 2400 First St., at livermorearts.org, or by calling 925-373-6800.











RECALL

(Continued from front page)

reached for comment.On its website, United for Sunol Glen did not identify the people behind the recall effort. It states it is composed of teachers, parents and past school board members.

A recall document filed with Alameda County lists the group's bank account as "Recall School Board Trustees Jergensen and Hurley" at a San Jose location.

The treasurer is listed as Jordan Eldridge and the assistant treasurer as Matthew Dalton, both from San Jose. The officers are listed as Kelly Goldsmith from Fremont; Rebecca Radulovich of Alamo; Diana LaVigne from Fremont; and Sunol residents Neil Davies, Margaret Carpenter, Erin Choin, Chris Bobertz, Matthew Sylvester and Guin Van Dyke.

"There are outside people that are pushing this," Jergensen said. "I think it's disappointing that there are people from outside our community that are trying to sway the way things go and sway the democratic process."

Nick Mirman of Cunningham Mirman Public Affairs, who represented Jergensen in the restraining order case, is also working with him on the new recall campaign.

Mirman stated in an email to The Independent, "It's newsworthy that people outside the community are leading an effort to remove a duly elected school board member in a town they don't even live in and can't vote in."

"It would be like a group of residents from San Joaquin County leading a recall effort in Alameda County," Mirman said in the email. "It also reinforces what Jergensen has been saying all along — this political movement against the board majority has been instigated by and led by non-Sunolians."

Recall campaign member Matthew Sylvester, however, disputed that argument. Sunol residents or people with children who have attended or attend the school are making the decisions regarding the recall, he said. The treasurers from outside Sunol are working pro-bono for the group because they have expertise in political campaigns, he added.

"It's just to make sure any donations we get or anything we're spending is all legit," Sylvester said. "We're making sure all our ducks are in a row…It's disingenuous to even point that out."

Citing its grounds for recalling Jergensen and Hurley, United for Sunol Glen accused Hurley and Jergensen of violating board bylaws and state laws, exposing the district to costly litigation; disrespecting school staff and the community; failing to abide by board member code of ethics; and "enacting policy with callous indifference to the impact it has on the mental health and well-being of vulnerable students," according to the group's website.

Sylvester said the move to start the recall campaign goes beyond the flag decision. Now it's about bad governance, he said, including refusing to let people speak their minds.

Sylvester, the father of a Sunol kindergartener, said Jergensen cuts people off when they speak at meetings, and doesn't look at people when they talk. He said Jergensen was rude to staff, including shutting down Superintendent Molleen Barnes when she was speaking in favor of flying the Pride flag.

"This is why we're forced to recall, because there's just been so much mismanagement of their power, of their position," Sylvester said. "They're not listening to anyone. They're doing their own agenda because they have the majority."

The issue stems from Barnes' decision to put up an LGBTQ flag at the district's school in June, which is known as Pride month. The flag was later ripped down and a measure was put on the school board agenda to discuss which flags should be allowed to be displayed.

During a controversial meeting Sept. 12, Hurley and Jergensen voted 2-1, with Trustee Ted Romo opposed, to allow the flying of only the United States and California flags.

Although opponents called it a decision to ban the Pride flag, Jergensen and Hurley have said the decision was to prohibit the flying of any flags other than the U.S. and California flags to avoid controversy.

"We tried to do something that was making a decision to treat everyone the same," Jergensen said. "We hope that everyone will feel welcome and equally treated in our school and that everyone can feel united, that there can be one nation, instead of dividing us up into small subgroups and fighting."

The issue, however, proved controversial in heated meetings and gained national attention as an anti-LGBTQ act. Jergensen denied that was the case and pointed out that if someone wanted to fly an Israeli or Palestinian flag, that would be prohibited under the policy the Sunol school board has now adopted.

United for Sunol Glen said it was preparing its petitions for signatures and would notify the public when it is ready. The group needs valid signatures from 30% of registered voters in Sunol to move forward with the campaign, according to the Office of the Secretary of State.

SCIENTISTS

(Continued from front page)



Frank Graziani



Manyalibo "Ibo" Matthews

down the hall, do some measurements, and understand the properties of the material you just made."

The career of the other recognized LLNL scientist took a different turn. Graniani said that he joined LLNL when Vasco Road had no houses, Dublin was almost nonexistent and traffic along the I-580 was thin. His interest in high energy density science led him to study the interiors of giant planets, the fusion reactions of stars, and the inertial-confinement fusion capsules of NIF.

"Livermore (Lab), where I've been for 34 years, has provided a wonderful place for somebody like myself, who's interested in doing interdisciplinary science — big science — but also being able to be flexible and change one's career every 7 to 10 years," said Graziani.

The APS cited his contributions to understanding non-ideal plasmas, his leadership in the National Boost Initiative, and his education of the broader high energy density physics community as reasons for his fellowship. The National Boost Initiative is a multi-national laboratory, multidisciplinary effort aimed at answering important scientific questions underlying nuclear weapons operation.

"It's a great honor to have the APS fellowship," said Graziani. "I do want to acknowledge my various students, and postdocs, and my colleagues, who I worked with over many, many decades, and who in many ways have helped me attain this award."

More recently, Graziani has explored the physics of quantum computers, which promise a "paradigm shift" in how programs can be written and run.

Starting in 1921, the APS fellowship recognizes significant advances in physics or in applying physics to science and technology. Society elects at most half a percent of its membership to the status annually.

JOURNALIST

(Continued from front page)

also performed in a children's radio program she produced each Saturday morning for KPFA.

Isaacs said McNicoll's talent with words drew both parents and children to the show.

"He would make these great connections and plays on words in the script," she explained. "He could find the humor in anything."

During the time he lived in Isaacs' basement, Isaacs and her husband raised their six children. The family shared holidays with McNicoll, exchanged gifts and considered him part of their family.

McNicoll began reporting for The Independent in 1967, four years after the paper was launched, when then-editor Pete Winslow hired him over several other candidates after reading McNicoll's poems.

McNicoll loved poetry. Although he wrote mostly for himself, his work culminated in the published collection, "Sail Away, Silvery Moon."

McNicoll reported for The Independent until 1975, and then went on to freelance for several Bay Area papers, covering city council and school board meetings. He came back to The Independent as a freelancer in 1996 and kept Tri-Valley residents updated with his clear insight and humorous takes, said Independent founder and Publisher Joan Seppala.

He covered everything from water and health issues to feature stories until he retired at 82 in 2021.

McNicoll never married or had children, but stayed connected with those who mattered to him, using his dry sense of humor to draw people in.

McNicoll particularly liked entertaining listeners with the April Fool's Day story he wrote for The Independent in 1969.

In the story, McNicoll wrote, "President Nixon



Ron McNicoll

was closing down Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory because voters failed to approve a parcel tax for its continued operation."

The day the story hit the street, people pummeled The Independent with phone calls fearing they were losing their jobs.

McNicoll recalled, "When you write for a highly literate audience, you assume they get the joke. C'mon, a parcel tax supporting an immense installation like LLNL?"

President Dwight Eisenhower had died a few days before April Fool's Day and the lab, a federal facility was required to close on April 2. When people showed up for work, the lab looked as if it had permanently shut down.

As punishment for causing so much fear that the lab was shuttering, The Independent was threatened over the phone with a lawsuit.

McNicoll recounted that after a few days, "we figured out that the call was a hoax. They out-fooled us."

While McNicoll had a light side, he was also a formidable reporter who could take a complex state issue and localize to the Tri-Valley.

"His wealth of knowledge provided a deep understanding of regional matters," said Seppala. "He particularly focused on Tri-Valley water issues, early on bringing to the public an awareness of the dangers that likely water shortages and contamination would create."

Dennis Gambs, vice-president of the Zone 7 Water Board recalled, "We were so fortunate to have Ron cover the water business. He understood the complexity and did such a good job of explaining it to the community. He was very professional. The community benefited from his coverage of Zone 7, and so did we."

Robert Frank, McNicoll's last editor, said that he was known to work nights and into the weekends.

"He knew the context and the players. I trusted his judgment. He was always a pleasure to work with," Frank said.

Seppala noted, "Ron's personal values underlying his work as a journalist were profound."

In The Independent's 50th Anniversary magazine, McNicoll paid tribute to Bob Several, his early editor. His words to Several were not only praise for his supervisor but also an expression of his own true values.

McNicoll wrote, "Your writing showed more than a sense of justice. It was a true compassion for others. And tying it all together has been your integrity. I can't really describe what integrity means, but I know that you have always been rock-solid in the basic core of your beliefs, and that, too, has helped people, and helped the paper," he wrote.

Seppala concluded, "Ron will continue to be honored, not only for the positive impact of his reporting on the Tri-Valley, but also for the depth of his character and feelings."

McNicoll is survived by his second cousin, Matt Nolan of Pleasanton. Arrangements are being performed by Hull's Walnut Creek Chapel.

TEACHERS

(Continued from front page)

The next bargaining session is scheduled for Nov. 28.

DTA believes Dublin educators should be paid a salary allowing them to live in Dublin. The association held a rally last week to raise awareness of its work.

DUSD spokesperson Heather Campos said the district's offer allows for fiscal solvency, while continuing to provide "one of the best total compensation packages for educators in Alameda County."

"We are committed to working with our labor partners to reach a new contract that both parties can proudly support," she said.

Campos also said the district has increased teacher salaries by 18.25% since 2018.

DTA President Allison Malone said her group has cancelled two negotiation sessions because Campos affirmed the district would not increase its offer. Nevertheless, the teachers' association and school district do plan to meet on Nov. 28.

Malone called the district's offer a "pay cut" and said she hopes management will work to "retain and recruit the best educators." She also cited an increase in state funding of 8.22% per student as the reason for DTA's demanding a 9% pay raise.

"DTA members expect a serious counteroffer from management at our November 28 negotiations session, or we'll need to discuss the need for state intervention to help reach an agreement," Malone said.

JAIL

(Continued from front page)

Morgan Agostini in a document filed Nov. 13 in U.S. District Court in Oakland.

The affidavit is the federal government's response to a class-action lawsuit filed in August against the BOP. Eight women and the California Coalition for Women Prisoners (CCWP) allege that the BOP and its officials allowed FCI Dublin staff to rape, drug and grope inmates, made degrading comments against them, took and shared explicit photos of them, forced women to undress to be released from their cells, and targeted immigrants with threats of deportation.

The document is an effort to convince a federal magistrate that federal officials are working to improve conditions at the facility, which drew the attention of the U.S. Congress and resulted in changes at the top of the nationwide BOP administration system.

FCI Dublin, one of more than 130 federal prisons across the United States, is a low-security facility that houses about 635 women inmates.

Kara Janssen, an attorney for San Francisco law firm Rosen Bien Galvin & Grunfel, which filed the lawsuit on behalf of inmates, said that despite what BOP attorneys contend has been done at the facility, her office is still receiving complaints from women incarcerated there. The misconduct and violations of inmates' rights will continue, Janssen said, until a judge appoints a Special Master to oversee the institution's reclamation, not leaving it up to BOP officials.

"We have continued to hear many instances of inappropriate strip searches that are used to intimidate people, that are very invasive," Janssen said. "We continue to hear about officers bursting in on people when they are showering, insisting on coming into their cells when they are changing. And we have heard of some additional ongoing relationships on sexual issues with staff as well."

Janssen said some of the officers who were the subject of complaints have returned to prison and continue to harass people who reported them.

"The decades of misconduct at BOP have shown that there needs to be an outside independent agency to come in to oversee what needs to be done to actually stop this from going into the future," Janssen said.

The government's written response, however, contends BOP officials have taken numerous steps to fix the institution's problems, including placing 19 FCI Dublin staff members on administrative leave following sexual abuse allegations, disciplining workers and removing them.

According to the U.S. Attorney's Office – which has prosecuted corrections officers for criminal misconduct, but also represents the BOP in defending against the lawsuit – the BOP has made progress since the allegations came to light, including:

Forming a task force in March 2022 to inspect, monitor and make recommendations to FCI Dublin officials after speaking with inmates and staff, as well as providing ways for inmates to report sexual abuse and concerns about their safety;

Replacing the entire FCI Dublin executive team and managerial staff, including everything from top leadership to food and health services to chaplains and locksmiths. Thahesha Jusino, who took over as warden amid the turmoil in 2022, retired in September. Two associate wardens are serving as acting heads of the institution until a permanent replacement is named to take over on Jan. 6, 2024;

Instituting training specific to women prisoners, including providing trauma care and medical and mental health care, and investigating sexual misconduct;

Implementing confidential ways for inmates to report abuse to independent authorities outside of the BOP, including through emailing the Inspector General's office and contacting Tri-Valley Haven, a nonprofit that offers mental health services to abuse victims;

Allowing inmates to hold unmonitored phone calls with attorneys, and sending emails or letters that won't be read by authorities.

Janssen said her office will soon respond to the government's contentions in another court filing. The cameras are important, she said, but prison staff know where they are located, and which ones are working.

"If you're not monitoring them correctly, it doesn't matter what was caught on camera, because nobody's looking or cares," Janssen said. "This is a very basic thing they should have done a long time ago. But it is not a solution. The solution is BOP doing a meaningful real review of their policies, practices, the training practices, their hiring practices, and how they've dealt with misconduct."

Last week, former FCI Corrections Officer Andrew Jones, 36, of Pleasanton was sentenced to eight years in prison. Jones was the eighth FCI Dublin official charged with sexually abusing inmates since 2021. The group included a chaplain and the institution's warden, Ray Garcia, who was sentenced last year to 5 years and 8 months behind bars.

Jones pleaded guilty in August to sexually abusing three female inmates and making false statements. Prosecutors said he forced prisoners under his supervision to engage in sexual acts while working for him in the FCI Dublin kitchen. The acts occurred in a staff bathroom, a warehouse, and a room where kitchen utensils were kept.

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ULULANI'S

(Continued from front page)

(Filipino lime), leche with toasted coconut shavings, mango-habanero (speckled with Tajin seasoning) and something called "wet lemon peel."

"This one is way different," Yamashiro said, pointing to a small mound of pale green tea covered with a "snow cap", which is condensed milk and cream and little pieces of mochi on top. "You'll probably never try those flavors anywhere else," he added.

But it seems to be more than just the pursuit of a cool and tasty treat that brings people to Ululani's with such fervor.

"When you taste it, you know it's a quality product, but we deliver what we call 'alohatude' too," he said.

That has to do with a spirit of aloha, rooted in compassion for others and giving a person a sense that they are loved.

"So, aloha is on a deeper plane, but now we are serving people and that means aloha with our gratitude,'' he said.

Dublin resident Monica Geronimo-Shiu, Ululani's new Livermore franchise owner, entered the world of shave ice after visiting an Ululani's in Maui.

She recalled getting off the plane with a feeling that time had slowed down. "Just that aloha that you feel there, the hospitality, the culture, the music, the friendliness," she recalled.

And then she went into Ululani's Shave Ice, and it was a wonderful experience, because it reminded her of a Filipino dessert her late mother had loved called halo-halo.

For reasons still a mystery to her, she went onto the Ululani website and saw "franchise opportunities" and sent an inquiry and "that's how my journey all started," she said.

PLAN

(Continued from front page)

en consideration of the other Focus Areas inside City limits," according to an October Alternatives Evaluation Report from the City. The document explains that the area would be developed for industrial, commercial, research and development, and viticulture uses.

The report also identified public revenue as an objective of the land-use changes, calling out industrial and commercial uses specifically to fund future infrastructure, emergency services and quality of life.

The Greenville area currently falls outside Livermore's UGB. Since the establishment of the voter approved measure in 2002, the UGB requires the preservation of open space beyond the boundary. As a result, infill development is promoted within it Any East of Greenville development of industrial and commercial uses would require a vote of the people.

Participants discussed the five focus areas while split into eight tables, with a spokesperson from each table sharing their conclusions at the end of the meeting.

According to a number of attendees who talked with The Independent, six tables wanted no development in this location, table #6 supported the proposal, and table #2 expressed a divided opinion.

City staff did not confirm the tally by press time.

"We believe the City has not explored the many options for development within the urban growth boundary," said Livermore resident David Furst on the proposal. "We need to protect the urban growth boundary from attempts by the City and County to break it."

Others at the workshop, such as Ann Brown, felt unsure if the city's rising housing and industrial requirements could be met by the areas within the UGB alone. Brown also expected some displacement of industry over the next two decades and suggested that locating them at the city peripheries might help with heavy-truck traffic through the center of the city.

City staff argued at the meeting that annexation would actually serve to protect the area's open space.

"The City staffer told us that if Livermore does not annex the land east of Greenville, it would therefore be possible for the County to develop the land without input from the City," said Furst, adding that others in his workshop group questioned the County's ability to break the UGB in such a case. County land is also subject to its voter approved UGB that prohibits industrial and commercial development in this location.

The East of Greenville options mainly propose industrial uses, with little open space for the City to protect, if annexed.

Workshop participants also questioned whether a proposed wine-catalyst site within East of Greenville — designed to provide resources to support the wine region — required moving the UGB at all.

"There was agreement that the wine-catalyst area could be done outside the UGB, so there was no need to change for that," said Livermore resident Jeff Kaskey. "Also, the R&D concept seemed speculative — (with) no definition or plan — and could just as well go in other industrial areas. They seemed mostly intended to dress-up what would mostly be designated for industrial."

GPAC will next hold a preferred land-use scenario meeting on Dec. 13, with time for public comments and discussion.

Further information on the update process can also be found at imagineLivermore2045.org.

TRI-VALLEY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Now through Nov. 30
TRAVEL BLUES INTERNATIONAL PHOTOGRAPHIC SHOW
The Livermore Art Association presents its second solo artist exhibit at the Robert Livermore Community Center at 4444 East Ave. in Livermore. The theme is "Travel Blues," an international photographic show. On display are photos taken from around the world dominated by the color blue. Photographer Craig Varden has extensively travelled with family, the Navy, and with international business. The show is up all November at the Senior Center area Mondays through Fridays, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Sunday, Nov. 26
'SUNDAYS AT HAGEMANN RANCH' HOLIDAY CELEBRATION
Sundays at Hagemann this month is a holiday celebration including an arts and crafts bazaar featuring local artists. The adults can shop while the kids enjoy visiting with Santa and breaking a piñata. The Amazing Cervantes will cast a magic spell over the ranch while Greg Pane entertains with festive keyboard music. A colorful Diwali display and salsa dancing will add to the fun. Always free and family friendly. From 1-4 p.m. at 455 Olivina Ave. in Livermore.

Tuesday, Nov. 28
STATE OF GIVING GATHERING & COMMUNITY IMPACT GRANT AWARDS
In honor of Giving Tuesday, Three Valleys Community Foundation (3VCF) is pleased to present an annual impact report on giving in the Three Valleys region. Join in from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. for an early evening reception and program at the Mertes Center for the Arts, Las Positas College, where the 2023 Impact Grants to nonprofits working to improve mental health and wellness will also be awarded. All are welcome. For more information or to pre-register, email info@3vcf.org or visit 3vcf.org.

Friday, Dec. 1
VALLEY CONCERT CHORALE ANNUAL SING-IT-YOURSELF MESSIAH
VCC's "Sing-it-Yourself Messiah" is open to all singers of all ages in the community to join in singing Part I of Handel's great choral masterpiece, also known as the Christmas portion of "Messiah", which will conclude with a powerful rendition of the "Hallelujah Chorus". Singers are encouraged to bring their own copy of "Messiah," though there will be some copies available to borrow. The event is also open to those who wish to listen to the performance. Tickets are $15. Students K-12 are free. Advance tickets may be purchased by visiting the Chorale's website at www.valleyconcertchorale.org, or by calling the Chorale's information number at (925) 866-4003. Tickets also available at the door at Asbury United Methodist Church, 4743 East Ave., Livermore.

Saturday, Dec. 2
FREE FAMILY CONCERT
Livermore-Amador Symphony performs its annual Free Family Concert. Features will include music from Beauty and the Beast, holiday medleys of Hanukkah songs and Christmas carols, and Nutcracker excerpts with dancers from Valley Dance Theatre. It's a short, fun program designed for the young and young at heart. There is an instrument petting zoo immediately following in the lobby. Saturday, Dec. 2 at 3 pm. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. Tickets at the box office and at www.livermorearts.org/event-list.

Saturday, Dec. 2
WINTER TALES
Celebrate the season with Livermore-Amador Symphony's magical music and fairy tales. Sibelius's "Karelia Overture" depicts a grand castle built in the Middle Ages. Humperdinck's Hansel and Gretel Suite takes us back to our childhood adventures, fears and fantasies. Respighi's shimmering Trittico Botticelliano brings a warm glow to the dark days of winter and features music familiar to us in Christmas carols. Get your holidays off to a festive start with the sounds of the symphony! Saturday, Dec. 2 at 8 pm. Youth under 22 are FREE. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. Tickets at the box office and at www.livermorearts.org/event-list.

Friday, Dec. 8
BIG BAND ORCHESTRA AT THE ANNUAL HOLIDAY DANCESCAPE
Celebrate the holiday season with friends at the City of Dublin's annual Holiday DancEscape on Friday, Dec. 8, 6:00 to 9:00 p.m., at the Dublin Senior Center, 7600 Amador Valley Blvd. You'll dance the night away to the sounds of a live, big band orchestra, The Cool Tones. Tickets are $10/residents; $13/non-residents. Guests may also pay $15 at the door on the evening of the event. This event is for ages 21+.

OBITUARIES

Ron McNicoll



Ron McNicoll, a poet and longtime journalist, died Nov. 9 in Walnut Creek.

The 84-year-old Livermore resident was born in Omaha, Nebraska.

He earned a BA in English at the College of St. Thomas in Minnesota and an MA in Teaching at the University of Minnesota.

McNicoll began his newspaper career at the Livermore Independent in 1967 four years after its founding. He moved to a copy-editing position at the Contra Costa Times in Walnut Creek in the mid-80s. After Walnut Creek, he returned to The Independent and covered everything from city council meetings to water issues.

The Independent's editor Pete Winslow, a noted San Francisco poet, hired him over three other candidates after the two shared their poems, McNicoll wrote in a memoir.

Of himself, McNicoll said, "he is an impecunious reporter … and welcomes any fame or fortune you might throw his way."

He is survived by his second cousin, Matt Nolan of Pleasanton. Arrangements are by Hull's Walnut Creek Chapel.

Charlene Redmond
July 15, 1948 – Nov. 6, 2023



Charlene Redmond, of North Bend, Oregon passed away on Monday, Nov. 6, 2023, after reaching the age of 75. She passed peacefully with family members by her side.

Charlene was born on July 15, 1948, to Don and Virginia Peterson in Hilo, Hawaii. She graduated from Granada High in Livermore, California and went on to get her cosmetology license. Charlene had a strong work ethic and took immense pride in her accomplishments. She retired from The Mill Casino in North Bend, Oregon.

Charlene was preceded in death by her longtime partner, JD Harrison, who passed away in 2022. She is survived by her mother, Virginia Peterson and her brothers Brian and David Peterson. She also leaves behind her three children, Gyna, Jennife, and Robbie; as well as nine grandchildren and three great- grandchildren. Charlene was very loved by her family.

Family and friends are invited to attend a service followed by burial on Monday, Nov. 27, 2023. The viewing starts at 10:30 a.m., with formal service beginning at 12:30 p.m. at Fry's Memorial Chapel, followed by the burial at Tracy Public Cemetery. Flowers and condolences may be sent to 550 South Central Avenue, Tracy, California, 95376.

Judy Ann Silva
Mar. 9, 1948 - Oct. 14, 2023

Beloved mother and nana, born in San Leandro, California, Judy had lived in her Livermore home since 1973. She was preceded in death by her parents Frank and Jean. She is survived by her son James (Jennifer, grandchildren Emily and Christopher), daughter Kelly (Brent, granddaughters Madison, Mia, and Jossalyn), and sisters Jill (Steven, nephews John and Michael), and Jan (Jerry, nieces Kim and Michelle). Judy was an avid Warriors fan and never missed watching a game. She had a love for dogs, cats, and hummingbirds. She always enjoyed attending her grandchildren's sporting events and was often one of the most vocal fans in the crowd. Judy will always be remembered for her beautiful smile and her unconditional love for her family. In lieu of flowers, please send a donation to CalPaws dog rescue (https://calpaws.org/donate).

Joyce A. Robinson
July 30, 1924 - Nov. 5, 2023



Joyce A. Robinson, a long-time resident of Pleasanton, passed away on Sunday, Nov. 5, 2023, at the age of 99. Joyce was born in London, England on July 30, 1924, to Henry William Brewer and Emily Louisa Brewer. She was evacuated to Cornwall along with her younger sister Vera at the start of WWII, later returning to London where she lived and worked during the Blitz of 1940 and 1941. She had a successful career as an Executive Secretary and taught typewriting and business skill classes at the Woolwich Polytechnic in London. After travelling in Europe during her twenties, her adventurous spirit led her to North America, where she worked her way across Canada for two years before coming to the United States and falling in love with San Francisco. She immigrated to the United States in 1958 and met Al Robinson on a Sierra Club outing. They married in 1959, and in 1961 their first daughter was born, followed by a second daughter in 1964. Joyce and Al raised their children in various locations across the San Francisco Bay Area, moving to Pleasanton in 1977. Joyce's gifts during this time were mostly channeled into homemaking, parenting, church, and community activities, as well as two years working as the neighborhood Avon lady. Joyce was active in Gideons International for over 30 years, volunteered in the health library at the Valley Care-Stanford Auxiliary for 25 years, and worked alongside her husband as a poll worker for 20 years after Al retired, never missing an election. Travel was Joyce's passion and she loved exploring new places and learning about different cultures. During retirement, in addition to regular camping trips, she and Al took eight cruises covering Alaska, Canada, Mexico, the Mediterranean and the Far East. Joyce and Al were married just shy of 50 years when Al passed away in 2009. Joyce is survived by her daughter Gillian Aufricht and son in law Phillip Aufricht of San Jose, daughter Jacqueline Robinson-Ramorino and son in law Richard Ramorino of San Francisco, and her two grandchildren, Julia, and Jack Aufricht. A celebration of life is planned for Jan. 6, 2024, at 1:30 p.m. at Valley Community Church, 4455 Del Valle Parkway, Pleasanton, CA. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Gideons International.

Hope Hospice to Offer Workshops on Grief

Hope Hospice, a Dublin-based nonprofit that provides services for patients with terminal illnesses and their caregivers, will offer free, one-hour workshops on coping with grief on Thursday, Nov. 16, and Thursday, Dec. 14.

Hope Hospice said the workshops will address the feelings of loss and loneliness that may intensify around the holidays, and the anxiety people feel when others ask how they are coping.

The workshops will also address how to decide whether to attend holiday gatherings, how to prepare for those gatherings, and spending time alone to honor the memories of loved ones privately.

The workshops will be offered over Zoom. The November workshop will begin at 11:30 a.m., the December workshop will begin at 2 p.m.

To register, call 925-829-8770 or submit an inquiry form at HopeHospice.com/grief.

Pleasanton Library Announces Multiple Grants

Pleasanton has received three grants, totaling more than $115,000, to expand library programs for underserved members of the community.

The city said it received $43,776 to expand its adult literacy program and another $61,071 for its English as Second Language (ESL) program. Both grants came from the California State Library.

Pleasanton also received $11,915 from the Pacific Library Partnership, a regional library system, for the creation of a memory-kit resource program for older residents suffering from dementia or other cognitive decline and their caregivers.

Pleasanton said the grants would advance the ONE Pleasanton Strategic Plan goal of "building a community where everyone belongs."

Granada, Dublin Win NCS Cross Country Titles

By Phil Jensen

The muddy conditions and wet weather at the North Coast Section cross country championships on Nov. 18 didn't seem to bother the Granada and Dublin High School boys' cross country teams.

Both squads won section titles and are headed to the California Interscholastic Federation state championships on Nov. 25 in Fresno.

"The strategy was to be mentally tough out there … knowing that they had the inner strength to be able to handle those challenges," said Granada co-coach Noel Mattern about his squad.

Near the one-mile mark of the three-mile course at Hayward High School, Granada was already packed well near the front with three runners in the top eight and six in the top 15 in the 152-runner Division II boys' race. The Matadors battled and ended up with four runners in the top 13 and five in the top 19 to win the team title by 42 points with a score of 57. It was the Matadors' third straight NCS Division II title.

"I just wanted to go out hard and stay up there for as long as possible," said Granada senior Tanner Gray, who was the Matadors' top finisher in sixth place with a time of 15 minutes, 41.9 seconds. "Turns out I was able to stay up there the whole race."

Granada's other scorers were Eshaan Singh (ninth, 15:58.6), George Mikhael (10th, 15:58.8), Erik Bromley (13th, 16:09.6) and Jacob McLaughlin (19th, 16:22.0).

Dublin coach Chris Williams said his team's plan of attack in the Division I boys' race was "to make sure that we attack the really good footing stretches, the concrete stretches. We knew it was going to be rainy and muddy, and we wanted to make sure that we attacked that stretch, not get out too hard."

Those concrete stretches started in the second mile. Later, before the final long hill of the course in the last half-mile, Dublin had three runners in the top 10 and five in the top 15.

Dublin won with a score of 52 in a very competitive team race. There were four teams within 14 points of Dublin, including second-place California (62).

Aidan Stone led the Gaels with a fourth-place finish in 16:03.0. It is the first season of cross country for the senior. "Every race, he's been getting better and better and better," Williams said. "He's a tough kid … he liked the challenge."

Other scorers for Dublin were Tanish Zutshi (ninth, 16:24.2), Justin Feng (12th, 16:30.2), Rahul Dutta (13th, 16:32.0) and Tristan Gan (14th, 16:34.6).

Dublin also had two runners qualify for the state championships as individuals in the Division I girls race. Sabrina Noriega placed third in 18:58.4 and Melia Prenton was seventh in 19:28.5.

Granada's girls team also qualified for the state championships, placing third in the Division II girls race with a score of 75. The Matadors were paced by Jana Barron, who placed second in 18:53.4.

"I'm over the moon. I'm so excited," said Barron, a senior. "My strategy was to stick on Hailey (Gunderson, the eventual winner from San Ramon Valley in 18:41.6) and to see what happens from there."

Granada's other scorers were Sade Bumpus (eighth, 19:41.6), Evelyn Ruckmann-Barnes (20th, 20:12.2), Mia Lnenicka (21st, 20:15.4) and Abby Stein (24th, 20:26.6).

In addition, Amador Valley's Kacie Wong qualified for the state meet as an individual in the race, placing 13th in 19:47.7.



Granada High's Tanner Gary led the Matadors to a first place team win in the boys' Division 2 category at the NCS Cross County meet on Saturday, Nov. 18. ***[See photo gallery at www.independentnews.com/multimedia]*** (Photo – Doug Jorgensen)

Aquacowboys Raise Funds To Benefit Tri-Valley Haven

The Livermore Aquacowboys (LAC) Swim Team recently raised more than $3,600 during a swimathon to benefit Tri-Valley Haven.

The Livermore-based Tri-Valley Haven is a nonprofit organization that provides support services, including shelter, food, and counseling, for victims of domestic and sexual assault and homelessness.

The swimathon was organized by four LAC teammates, Josie Clark, Savannah Evans, Andre Valle, and Waseem Zeid, who are all seniors at Granada High School in Livermore.

LAC is a year-round competitive swim club.

In addition to raising money for local nonprofits, LAC has partnered with the Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District and Livermore Area Recreation and Parks District to offer free swim lessons to members of the community.

The swim club was formed in 2007 and now has more than 300 members between 5 and 18 years old.



The Livermore Aquacowboys, above, has raised $3,600 for Tri-Valley Haven. (Photo courtesy of Aquacowboys)

Library, Park District Sponsor Field Trip to Sycamore Grove

The Livermore Public Library and Livermore Area Recreation and Park District (LARPD) are cohosting a field trip to Sycamore Grove Park on Saturday, Dec. 2, including free bus transportation from the Civic Center Library and the Springtown and Rincon branches.

During the field trip, librarians will lead story times and craft projects, while park district rangers will lead nature-themed activities, including a scavenger hunt and hike. Those joining the field trip may participate in any of the guided activities or explore the park on their own.

Refreshments will be provided by the Friends of the Livermore Public Library.

The field trip is open to all ages.

Sycamore Grove, off Wetmore Road in south Livermore, is an 847-acre open space park that offers a network of hiking trails, including the Arroyo del Valle Trail, which is paved and suitable for strollers and bicycles.

The park also features a native plant garden, scenic viewpoints, and a pond with frequent wildlife sightings.

The field trip will run from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., with a 50-seat, wheelchair-accessible, chartered bus picking up and dropping off participants at each library location twice during the day.

The bus, sponsored by the LARPD Foundation, will begin picking up riders at the Springtown branch, 998 Bluebell Dr., at 10 a.m., then proceeding to the Rincon branch, 725 Rincon Ave., and the Civic Center Library, 1188 S. Livermore Ave., before heading to the park.

Riders can register for the bus at any library information desk or by calling 925-373- 5505.

Riding the bus, however, is optional.

Those who choose not to take the bus can still participate in all field day activities and do not need to pre-register. There is a $5 daily fee for parking at the Sycamore Grove parking lot.

For more information about the field trip, go to library.livermoreca.gov. For more information about Sycamore Grove Park, go to larpd.org.

Park District to Waive Fees for Green Friday

The East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD) will waive entrance and activity fees at all 73 district parks in Alameda and Contra Costa counties for Green Friday on Friday, Nov. 24.

The waivers include parking fees, fees for dogs and horses, and fees for launching boats and fishing, as well as free admission to Ardenwood Historic Farm in Fremont.

The waiver does not include state fees for fishing licenses and watercraft inspections, or concessions, such as the Tilden Merry Go Round and Redwood Valley Railway steam train at the Tilden Regional Park in Berkeley.

This is the ninth year EBRPD has celebrated Green Friday, the day after Thanksgiving, to encourage the public to explore regional parks.

The district is also sponsoring Green Friday hikes at several parks, including a 9 a.m. "Fall Scavenger Hunt" at Reinhard Redwood in Oakland, a 10 a.m. "History Hike Above the Mines" at Del Valle Regional Park in Livermore, and a 10 a.m. "Farm Chores for Kids" experience at Black Diamond Mines in Antioch.

There will also be a 10:30 a.m. "Meet the Bunnies" hike, a 11:30 "stilts" hike, and a 1:30 p.m. "Woodland Wonderland Hike" at the hike at the Sunol Wilderness Regional Preserve at 9 a.m. and a hike at Del Valle at 3:30 p.m.

EBRPD is the largest regional park system in the nation with more than 1,300 miles of trails for hiking, biking, horseback riding, and environmental education.

For more information about Green Friday, go to ebparks.org/green-friday.







LEGAL NOTICES/CLASSIFIEDS

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LEGAL NOTICES

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 601581

The following person(s) doing business as: The Comeback Cafe, 6009 Christie Emeryville, CA 94608 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Van B Ho, 950 International Blvd Unit A, Oakland CA 94606. 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/: Van B Ho, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 25, 2023. Expires October 24, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5658. Published November 2, 9, 16, 23, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 601138

The following person(s) doing business as: NBI Trading Co., 5775 Las Positas Rd, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): NSI Audio, Inc. 5775 Las Positas Road, 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: 9/28/2023. Signature of Registrant/s/: Mohammad Mahir Nabi, Presidnet. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on September 29, 2023. Expires September 28, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5659. Published November 2, 9, 16, 23, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 601445

The following person(s) doing business as: Aiken Underground, 1152 Stealth ST, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Platinum Underground, Inc., 1152 Stealth 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: 9/1/2023 Signature of Registrant/s/: Van Lisa De Freitas Sundberg, CFO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 17, 2023. Expires October 16, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5660. Published November 2, 9, 16, 23, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 601163

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. The Modern Boss; 2. Moms Elevate; 3. Thriving Moms in Business, 9850 Reimers Way, Dublin, CA 94568 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Jenny Vukovcan, 9850 Reimers Way, 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: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Jenny Vukovcan. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 2, 2023. Expires October 1, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5661. Published November 2, 9, 16, 23, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 601502

The following person(s) doing business as: S V Realty, 40472 Valencia CT., Fremont, CA 94539 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): S V Financials, Inc., 40472 Valencia CT, Fremont, CA 94539 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: 10/22/2008. Signature of Registrant/s/: Anand Vaidun, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 19, 2023. Expires October 18, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5662. Published November 2, 9, 16, 23, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 601535

The following person(s) doing business as: Construct-Zion, Inc., 101 Marlow Dr., Oakland, CA 94605 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Construct-Zion, Inc., 101 Marlow Dr., Oakland, 94605. 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: 12/3/2016. Signature of Registrant/s/: Claudia Menendez Ventura, CFO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 22, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5663. Published November 2, 9, 16, 23, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 601212

The following person(s) doing business as: Planta, 700 Main St., Pleasanton, CA 94566 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Nose Head LLC, 4150 Rennellwood Way, Pleasanton, CA 94566. 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/: German Ariel Carlucci, Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 4, 2023. Expires October 3, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5664. Published November 2, 9, 16, 23, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 601575

The following person(s) doing business as: Son Love Bridge, 5115 Muirwood Dr., Pleasanton, CA 94588-3633 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Two Pillars Mission, 5115 Muirwood Dr., Pleasanton, CA 94588. 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/: Sunghee Park, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 24, 2023. Expires October 23, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5665. Published November 2, 9, 16, 23, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 600987

The following person(s) doing business as: Livermore-Amador Valley Garden Club, 1869 Third Street, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Diablo Foothills District of California Garden Clubs, Inc. , 1869 Third Street, Livermore, CA 94550. 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: 4/27/1998. Signature of Registrant/s/: Norma J. Foss, Treasurer. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on September 22, 2023. Expires September 21, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5666. Published November 2, 9, 16, 23, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 601689

The following person(s) doing business as: Beer Baron, 336 Saint Mary St., Pleasanton,CA 94566 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Judge Brothers LLC,1185 Orchid St., 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: 3/30/2016. Signature of Registrant/s/: Harpreet Singh, Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 27, 2023. Expires October 26, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5667. Published November 9, 16, 23, 30, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 601692

The following person(s) doing business as: Thirsty Agave, 2086 1ST Street, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Gopa Restaurant Group LLC, 1185 Orchid St., 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: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Harpreet Singh, Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 27, 2023. Expires October 26, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5668. Published November 9, 16, 23, 30, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 601691

The following person(s) doing business as: Fat Pigeon, 2223 1st Street, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Judge Family LLC, 1185 Orchid St., 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: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Harpreet Singh, Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 27, 2023. Expires October 26, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5669. Published November 9, 16, 23, 30, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 601766

The following person(s) doing business as: Jpar Iron Horse Referrals, 550 Main Street, Pleasanton, CA 94566 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Starkey Holdings, 550 Main Street, Pleansanton, CA 94566. 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: 10/31/2023. Signature of Registrant/s/: Erica Starkey, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 30, 2023. Expires October 29, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5670. Published November 9, 16, 23, 30, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 601465

The following person(s) doing business as: Faeella, 4908 Hibernia Drive, Dublin, CA 94568 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Fairy Frolics LLC, 4908 Hibernia Drive Dublin, CA 94568. 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/: Swapnal Ambekar, Managing Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 18, 2023. Expires October 17, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5671. Published November 9, 16, 23, 30, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 601815

The following person(s) doing business as: Hipot Capital, 25568 Crestfield Circle, Castro Valley, CA 94552 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Diya Zhao, 25568 Crestfield Circle, Castro Valley, CA 94552. 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: 11/1/2023. Signature of Registrant/s/: Diya Zhao, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 2, 2023. Expires November 1, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5672. Published November 9, 16, 23, 30, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 601811

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. WWW Express; 2. WWD, 1035 Mission CT., Fremont, CA 94539 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Vince Truong, 696 San Ramon Valley Blvd # 128, Danville, CA 94526. 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: 3/1/2021. Signature of Registrant/s/: Vince Truong, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 2, 2023. Expires November 1, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5673. Published November 9, 16, 23, 30, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 601782

The following person(s) doing business as: Serpico, 1764 National Ave, Hayward, CA 94545 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Serpico Landscaping Inc., 1764 National Ave., Hayward, CA 94545. 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/: Roshan Bhakta, CFO – Secretary. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 1, 2023. Expires October 31, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5674. Published November 9, 16, 23, 30, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 601200

The following person(s) doing business as: Refined Autos, 5285 Irene Way, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Refined Innovations LLC, 5285 Irene Way, 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/: Chaudhry Ahmed, Managing Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 3, 2023. Expires October 2, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5675. Published November 9, 16, 23, 30, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 601403

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Accounting by Brian and Stephen for Property Management; 2. ABS4PM, 7038 Dublin, CA 94568 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Brian Conway, 8075 Bethel Lane, Pleasanton, CA 94588; Stephen Conway, 8075 Bethel Lane, Pleasanton, CA 94588. 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: 10/16/2023. Signature of Registrant/s/: Brian A. Conway, General Partner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 16, 2023. Expires October 15, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5676. Published November 9, 16, 23, 30, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 601662

The following person(s) doing business as: Alta California Agave, 4462 Mines Rd., Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Michael D. Harris, 4462 Mines 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: 10/26/2023. Signature of Registrant/s/: Michael D. Harris, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 26, 2023. Expires October 27, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5677. Published November 9, 16, 23, 30, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO.601808

The following person(s) doing business as: Fused Permanent Jewelry, 102 Daisyfield Drive, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Anna Richardson, 102 Daisyfield Drive, Livermore, CA 94551; Laurie Hoyt, 32 Vintage Circle Unit 1143, Pleasanton, CA 94566. 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: 11/1/2023. Signature of Registrant/s/: Anna Richardson, general Partner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 1, 2023. Expires October 31, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5678. Published November 9, 16, 23, 30, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 601653

The following person(s) doing business as: 911 Restoration Bay Area, 6841 Village Parkway, Dublin, CA 94568 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Worldwide Restoration LLC, 6841 Village Parkway, Dublin, CA 94568. 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/: Rajat Mohan, Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 26, 2023. Expires October 25, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5679. Published November 9, 16, 23, 30, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 601685

The following person(s) doing business as: A1 Enterprises, 105 Rd. 12, Pleasanton, CA 94566 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Bay Area Sanitation, LLC, 3744 St. Francis Dr., Lafayette, CA 94549. 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/: Kurt Winter, Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 27, 2023. Expires October 26, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5679. Published November 9, 16, 23, 30, 2023.

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME ORIGINAL FILE NO. 569129

The person(s) listed below have abandoned the use of the following fictitious business name(s). Lavender Valley Ranch, 4462 Mines Rd., Livermore, CA 94550. The fictitious business name statement was filed on March 2, 2020 in the County of Alameda. This business was conducted by an Individual. Signature of Registrants: /s/: Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 26, 2023. The Independent, Legal No. 5680. Published November 9, 16, 23, 30, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 601723

The following person(s) doing business as: TLSC Handyman, 1033 Hollyhock ST., Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Anthony Canales, 1033 Hollyhock 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: 11/15/2021. Signature of Registrant/s/: Anthony Canales, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 30, 2023. Expires October 29, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5681. Published November 16, 23, 30, December 7, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 601796

The following person(s) doing business as: SLED, 1010 Glen Dr., San Leandro, CA 94577 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): San Leandro Education Foundation, 1010 Glen Drive, 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: 09/03/2008. Signature of Registrant/s/: Jill A. Raimondi, Treasurer. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 1, 2023. Expires October 31, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5682. Published November 16, 23, 30, December 7, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 601541

The following person(s) doing business as: Shutters Direct, 19077 Meekland Ave, Hayward, CA 94541 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Michael Conforti, 405 Pinenut St., Oakley, CA 94561. 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: 2018. Signature of Registrant/s/: Michael Conforti, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 23, 2023. Expires October 22, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5683. Published November 16, 23, 30, December 7, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 601818

The following person(s) doing business as: Castro Dental Care Dental Office of Elsa C. Castro, DDS, 39572 Stevenson PL. Ste. 129, Fremont, CA 94539 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Castro Dental Office P.C., 2104 Gomes Rd., Fremont, CA 94539. 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: 10/01/2023. Signature of Registrant/s/: Elsa C. Castro, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 2, 2023. Expires November 1, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5684. Published November 16, 23, 30, December 7, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 601804

The following person(s) doing business as: BEAM Professionals, 2600 Tenth St., Suite 700, Berkeley, CA 94710 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): PBK Architects, Inc., 11 Greenway Plaza, 22nd Floor, Houston, TX 77046. 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/: Christopher Cunico, COO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 1, 2023. Expires October 31, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5685. Published November 16, 23, 30, December 7, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 601914

The following person(s) doing business as: Wanah's Transport, 8640 Southwick Drive, Dublin, CA 94568 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Samir Zemaryalai, 8640 Southwick Drive, 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: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Samir Zemaryalai, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 6, 2023. Expires November 5, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5686. Published November 16, 23, 30, December 7, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 601795

The following person(s) doing business as: Gym Guards, 3620 Andrews Drive, 102, Pleasanton, CA 94588 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Mickey Cares LLC, 3620 Andrews Drive, 102, Pleasanton, CA 94588. 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: 08/01/2023. Signature of Registrant/s/: Mikhail Solomin, Managing Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 1, 2023. Expires October 31, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5687. Published November 16, 23, 30, December 7, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 601768

The following person(s) doing business as: Leslie's Cookies and Treats, 787 Barleta Lane, Livermore, CA 94550-7157 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Leslie Joan Tregear, 787 Barleta Lane, Livermore, CA 94550-7157. 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: 09/08/2023. Signature of Registrant/s/: Leslie Joan Tregear, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 1, 2023. Expires October 31, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5688. Published November 16, 23, 30, December 7, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 601875

The following person(s) doing business as: HLCMT, 1415 Pullman Way, Oakland, CA 94607 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Helen Ly Lee, 1415 Pullman Way, Oakland, CA 94607. 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/: Helen Ly Lee, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 6, 2023. Expires November 5, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5689. Published November 16, 23, 30, December 7, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 601475

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. The Urban Doll; 2. The Urban Doll Beauty; 3. Highly Illogical Human 1393 Solano Ave, Suite D., Albany, CA 94706 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): the Urban Doll LLC, 5501 De Marcus Blvd #133, Dublin, CA 94568. 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: 12/01/2022. Signature of Registrant/s/: Navita Manyisha, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 18, 2023. Expires October 17, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5690 Published November 16, 23, 30, December 7, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 602161

The following person(s) doing business as: Mobile PC Services, 1866 Sally Creek Circle, Hayward, CA 94541 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): John S. da Eira, 1866 Sally Creek Circle, Hayward, CA 94541. 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: 2003. Signature of Registrant/s/: John S. d Eira, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 17, 2023. Expires November 16, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5691. Published November 23, 30, December 7, 14, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 602085

The following person(s) doing business as: Jpar Iron Horse Referrals, 550 Main Street, Pleasanton, CA 94566 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Starkey Holdings Inc., 550 Main Street, Pleasanton, CA 94566. 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: 10/31/2023. Signature of Registrant/s/: Erica Starkey, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 14, 2023. Expires November 13, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5692. Published November 23, 30, December 7, 14, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 601512

The following person(s) doing business as: Spur X Brand Co., 12371 Tesla Road, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Carly M. Piazza, 12371 Tesla Road, 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: 11/14/2013. Signature of Registrant/s/: Carly M. Piazza, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 20, 2023. Expires October 19, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5693. Published November 23, 30, December 7, 14, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 601675

The following person(s) doing business as: Mission-Hope Day Program, Hayward, 21328 Mission Blvd, Hayward, CA 94541 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Mission Blvd Day Program LLC, 21328 Mission Blvd, 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: 10/28/2013. Signature of Registrant/s/: Jay Francis Y. Gamez, Managing Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 27, 2023. Expires October 26, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5694. Published November 23, 30, December 7, 14, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 602075

The following person(s) doing business as: Infinite Lynk, 2150 Portola Avenue Ste D #1081, Livemore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Kakazu, LLC, 2150 Portola Avenue Ste D # 1081, 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: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Jessica Lynn Kakazu, Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 14, 2023. Expires November 13, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5695. Published November 23, 30, December 7, 14, 2023.

LEGAL NOTICE – The business records of the following customers of ACCESS INFORMATION MANAGEMENT (or any affiliates of ACCESS) located at 5785 Las Positas Road, CA, Livermore CA 94551 have been abandoned: GEORGE COBB, MD. All records will be shredded 16 days after publication of this notice. Anyone claiming to have an interest in the records should contact Access Information Protected in writing at the following address: 500 Unicorn Park Drive, Suite 503, Woburn, MA 01801, Attn: Legal Department, Tel. No. (888) 869-2767 (Client Support); email: Collections@accesscorp.com.The Independent, Legal No. 5696. Published November 23, 2023.

CLASSIFIEDS

ANIMALS

CATS/DOGS

Tri-Valley Animal Rescue

Adopt a New Best Friend TVAR Tri-Valley Animal Rescue

Our current weekly adoption events include:

Saturdays – Dogs & Puppies at: Dublin Petsmart
6960 Amador Plaza Rd. Hours: 10:00am to 1:00pm.
Visit our website: WWW.TVAR.ORG, to see adoptable animals, volunteer opportunities, and how to donate.

Follow: TRI-VALLEY ANIMAL RESCUE on Facebook, and Instagram.

EMPLOYMENT

HELP WANTED

SERVICES

BE WARY of out of area companies. Check with the local Better Business Bureau before you send money or fees. Read and understand any contracts before you sign. Shop around for rates.

TO PLACE CLASSIFIED ADS go to bit.ly/Indy-Classifieds or call (925)243-8000

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FREE SECTION

LOST/ FOUND

NOTICES /ANNOUNCEMENTS

NOTICES

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OFFICE/HOUSE/CONDO / DUPLEX / APT RENTAL

HOUSE/ROOMS/RENTALS TO SHARE

BOAT / RV / RENTAL SPACE

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