

Swalwell Lawsuit Moving Forward

By Larry Altman

Tri-Valley Rep. Eric Swalwell’s lawsuit that accuses Donald Trump of instigating the Jan. 6, 2021 attack on the U.S. Capitol can move forward following a court ruling that denied the former president’s bid to have it thrown out.

The U.S. District Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit Court earlier this month rejected Trump’s claim that presidential immunity shielded him from liability from lawsuits filed by Swalwell, Capitol police officers, and other lawmakers who claim he put their lives in jeopardy by rallying a crowd to break into the Capitol building as legislators gathered to count the Electoral College votes to make Joe Biden’s presidential victory official.

“The unanimous ruling by an ideologically diverse panel of judges — including a Trump appointee — sends a strong message that Trump cannot hide from the damage he inflicted on January 6, 2021,” Swalwell’s attorney, Philip Andonian, told The Independent. “We are eager to get to the merits of our case and to hold him accountable.”

Trump’s attorneys argued that he could not be sued because his speech at the rally on the morning of Jan. 6 was conducted as the president about matters of public concern. Trump’s attorneys have made the same arguments in the criminal case indictments against him in the U.S. District Court.

In the civil matter involving Swalwell and others, the three-judge panel dismissed Trump’s argument, saying presidential immunity did not cover a president running for a second term. In the 67-page ruling, the judges said a president running for a second term was not carrying out the official duties of a president when speaking at a rally funded by his reelection campaign.

The court left open the

(See SWALWELL, page 5)



Department of Energy Secretary Jennifer Granholm announces the inertial fusion funding opportunity at LLNL’s Ignition Day Event in May, while (l-r) DOE Under Secretary for Nuclear Security and NNSA Administrator Jill Hruby, LLNL Director Kim Budil and U.S. Rep. Zoe Lofgren look on. The LLNL STARFIRE hub formed this month will use some of this funding. (Photo courtesy: LLNL)

Protests Stop Dublin Jail’s Mental Health Site Expansion

By Larry Altman

DUBLIN — Community protests have indefinitely halted plans to build an \$81 million mental health building at Santa Rita Jail in Dublin.

Although Alameda County officials faced criticism for failing to use \$54 million in state money earmarked eight years ago to help build the facility, they finally decided to discuss it at a Dec. 12 Board of Super-

visors special meeting.

But days before, California Public Works officials asked county leaders to pull the matter from the agenda.

In Sacramento, state Public Works Board members, who also would have to sign off and fund most of the plan received criticism from Alameda County residents about the potential jail expansion.

H.D. Palmer, a deputy director at the California Department of Finance, said

community activism opposing the idea prompted the decision to pull back.

In the week leading to the Board of Supervisors meeting, Public Works Board members, their legislative advisors, and board staff “received numerous letters expressing opposition to moving forward with the item at this time.”

Public Works board members control money matters related to state construction projects.

(See JAIL’S, page 5)

Pleasanton Water Plan to Address Maintenance and Contamination

By David Jen

PLEASANTON — The city has begun a review of its water responsibilities by developing a Water System Management Plan intended to help leaders better plan for future expenses.

The need to address deferred maintenance in the water system, such as pipe replacements and booster pumps, played into the city’s reasons for a 30% water-rate increase last month. The rate hike goes into effect on Jan. 1, 2024.

At last week’s City Council meeting, City Manager Gerry Beaudin blamed the rate increase on the city’s prior lack of a plan, as well as drought conditions, and the COVID-19 pandemic, which delayed a water-rate study.

“We got into a situation that was a bit of a bind; that’s what we’re trying to avoid going forward,” he said.

City leaders expect the plan to be completed in April. The plan will review the city’s entire water business, “including administration, planning, operations and maintenance, capital improvements, resources, and financing,” according to a city report.

Pleasanton’s water enterprise currently includes 20 storage tanks, 14 pump stations and more than 300 miles of piping to serve the city’s 22,000 water customers. While the city had previously sourced this water from a combination of the Zone 7 Water Agency — the regional water provider — and its own groundwater wells, forever-chemical contamination in the area’s aquifer began shutting down city wells in 2019.

As a result, the city currently gets its water only from Zone 7. A plan to drill two new wells in a clean part of the aquifer is expected to be completed within

(See WATER, page 7)

Four-Year Study Period

\$16M Given LLNL To Help Fusion Energy Progress

By David Jen

LIVERMORE — The momentum behind fusion power, ignited by a breakthrough event at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) last year, will continue to build with newly established programs dedicated to bringing fusion to the grid.

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) announced this month \$42 million in funding for three multi-institutional and multi-disciplinary hubs aimed at making commercial fusion

power a reality. Of this, \$16 million will support a LLNL-led, four-year program called the Science and Technology Accelerated Research for Fusion Innovation and Reactor Engineering (STARFIRE) hub.

Tammy Ma, leader of the LLNL hub, described the hubs as a way for the U.S. to maintain its world leadership in inertial fusion.

“We really need to capitalize on ignition and the leadership that we have in inertial fusion,” she continued. “It’s very rare to have

(See STARFIRE, page 6)

Former Lab Scientist Honored with Climate Communication Award

By Jeff Garberson

Ben Santer, the eminent climate scientist who spent most of his career at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, was honored earlier this month at the Commonwealth Club in San Francisco for his years of effort informing the public about the status of climate research and the rising threat of warming.

Climate One, a nonprofit organization that publishes and broadcasts up-to-date climate information, presented him with the Stephen Schneider Award for Outstanding Climate Communication.

Schneider, who died in

2010, was one of America’s best known climate scientists. He consulted for seven presidential administrations and was an avid communicator, contributing to print and broadcast media on environmental and climate topics.

Santer is known internationally for developing methods of identifying the fingerprints of human influence on climate change and distinguishing them from natural phenomena, like variations in the weather or cyclical changes in solar output.

In addition to his pioneering scientific work, he

(See SCIENTIST, page 7)



Ben Santer



Andy Wang walks along Greenville Road in Livermore looking for garbage. Wang, an online social media influencer, cleans up illegal dumping sites in the Bay Area. See full story on page 2. (Photo – Doug Jorgensen)

‘Shamrock Hills’ is Chosen as the Name for Dublin’s New School

By Dawnmarie Fehr

Dublin’s newest school will be named Shamrock Hills, following a vote by the school board earlier this month.

This school name was one of three final options presented to the Dublin Unified School District (DUSD) board in October, and the one recommended by a naming committee. More than 600 people submitted potential school names, with 237 unique submissions.

Shamrock Hills was approved by the board with trustees Dan Cherrier and Gabbi Blackman voting against it. Cherrier cast a

no vote because he wanted a different name, and Blackman was against the name because she felt it doesn’t represent a true geographical area one could point to on a map.

The board also voted to name the yet-to-be-built theater at Emerald High School the Catherine Kuo Performing Arts Center in honor of the former school board member who was struck and killed by an SUV at Fallon Middle School in 2021.

Though some discussion during the Dec. 12 meeting centered on naming the school after Catherine Kuo, her husband, Trustee Willaim Kuo, said

he had discussed the possibility with his children and family.

The board voted unanimously – with the exception of Trustee Kuo, who abstained – to name Emerald High’s theater after Catherine Kuo.

DUSD Superintendent Chris Funk said community outreach indicated district families were in favor of remembering Catherine Kuo by naming a facility after her and a staff recommendation to select the theater.

Trustee Kuo said naming the theater after his late wife was representative of who she was – a musician and fan

(See SCHOOL, page 6)

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PETS OF THE WEEK



PURRGATHORAS

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The Trash Man Cometh: Livermore Resident Cleaning up Bay Area Litter

By Christina Cavallaro

Andy Wang is glistening with sweat in a neon green reflective vest. It's 4p.m. on a Friday and he has already cleaned up litter along the dirty roadways in Antioch and Byron.

Now he's gearing up to embark on what he calls "scouting" at the intersection of Greenville Road and Patterson Pass Road in Livermore.

Armed with an orange plastic bucket and a few small tools, he walks on the side of the busy road to scout for trash. He needs to see just how much garbage he'll need to collect on a return visit.

For the past two years Wang, a Livermore resident and engineer at the lab, has been cleaning up illegal dumping sites all over the Bay Area and sharing the process through time-lapse videos and before-and-after photos with a growing audience on Instagram and Reddit under his social media handle, Penguinweather.

In a conversation with The Independent, Wang, who grew tired of seeing all the trash along Interstates 580, 680 and 880, elaborated on why he spends his free

time plucking plastic water bottles and fast-food containers from the roadways.

"It's just sad. I know public works in Oakland, SF and other cities are inundated. If I can make their job a little easier where they can just grab the bags, it could save time and money and help the community. I'm not Elon Musk," he said. "I don't have a lot of money, but I can do something that doesn't require that."

Wang said he also finds the collection of trash calming—a way of putting order to things. It also gives him time to think about solutions to the growing litter problem.

"At the end of the day, I'm not trying to judge people. I'm just trying to figure out solutions," he said. "Because we're all humans and we're all affected by it," he said, gesturing to the wrappers, bottles, and broken bits of Styrofoam sticking to the dead weeds along Greenville Road.

One solution he believes is being underutilized is the free bulk trash pickup service offered twice a year to all residents through city public works departments.

"It boggles my mind, because they literally come and grab it for you, and we already pay for it through

our taxes."

Wang said there is art in seeing beauty restored to an illegal dumping site that was once just dirt covered

in trash. "It's great to see nature come back and even flowers start to grow."

Wang, an electrical engineer and programmer at

the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, says there is also a science to his approach of trash collection.



Andy Wang, who cleans up garbage at sites throughout the Bay Area, determines what equipment and resources will be needed for a future clean up here along Greenville Road in Livermore. (Photo – Doug Jorgensen)

"I collect data, and not to brag, but I've gotten pretty good at figuring out where to look for trash." He looks at satellite images and 311 service center requests (the system in place in many cities for citizens to report on non-emergency issues) to determine where illegal dumping is happening. He also makes calculations about the numbers of bags of trash he collects. Overall, he said the number is going down in the areas he frequently visits, but there's still way too much discarded trash.

There are other benefits to his trash collection project. Sometimes people bring out water or a snack and thank him. Some even offer to help collect a bag or two. Afterwards, he said they'll tell him, "I'll make sure to keep this space clean."

Wang's newest trash frontier is the adoption of a freeway. Caltrans has given him the greenlight to start safely cleaning up parts of Interstates 680 and 880 early next year. They are in the process of creating a sign with his name on it.

"It's good to just get out and explore—one step at a time, or as I say, 'one trash bag at a time.'"



Cindy Kaza

Psychic to Appear at Tommy T's

Cindy Kaza, a self-described psychic medium and co-host of "The Dead Files" on the Travel Channel, will be at Tommy T's Comedy House in Pleasanton for "two days of fantastic, evidential and heart-centered messages" in January.

According to Kaza, she had her first psychic experience when she was 10, waking up in the middle of the night to see a friend who had died in a car accident days earlier standing by her bed. At the time, she thought it was

just a dream, but after several similar experiences, Kaza says she began to understand her psychic abilities.

Kaza has also appeared in several episodes of "The Holzer Files," "Lost in the Wild," and "Portals to Hell," all on the Travel Channel.

She will be at Tommy T's, 5104 Hopyard Road, at 3:30 p.m., Sunday, Jan. 14, and at 7 p.m., Monday, Jan. 15.

Tickets start at \$25 and are available at tinyurl.com/bddptd9s.

American Red Cross Offers Incentives for Blood Donors

The American Red Cross is hoping to entice more people to give blood during the holidays by offering donors a long-sleeve Red Cross T-shirt now through Friday, Jan. 5.

Those who donate during January, which is National Blood Donor Month, will be entered in a drawing for a trip for

two to Super Bowl LVIII in Las Vegas on Sunday, Feb. 11.

According to the Red Cross, holiday gatherings, travel, and seasonal illnesses affect blood donations and put a strain on the nation's blood supply.

To schedule a blood donation, go to RedCross-blood.org.

Alameda County School Districts Show Improvement in Key Measurements

Six Alameda County school districts have improved sufficiently in key performance measurements over the past year that they no longer qualify for Differentiated Assistance from state, according to the California Department of Education (CDE).

Differentiated Assistance is a second level of state support for local school districts designed to address the underlying causes of poor student outcomes, including academics, attendance, and suspension rates.

"We are thrilled that six school districts in Alameda County no longer require Differentiated Assistance," said Alameda County Office of Education (ACOE) Superintendent Alysse Castro. "This achievement reflects the dedicated efforts of local teachers, staff, and administrators, working closely with ACOE staff, to assess strengths and weaknesses and develop recommendations, including resource allocation and strategic planning in order to accelerate student progress."

Those districts showing improvement include the Dublin Unified School District and the Pleasanton Unified School District, along with the Alameda Unified School District, Berkeley Unified School District, Castro Valley Unified School District, and the Emery Unified School District.

The CDE said Dublin and Pleasanton both showed improvements in

attendance and lower suspension rates for African American students.

Alameda showed improvement in academic achievement for homeless students; Berkeley also showed improvement in attendance and lower suspension rates for homeless students, along with improved attendance for students with disabilities.

Emory recorded improved attendance, lower suspension rates, and better academic performance for African American students; Castro showed improved attendance for students with disabilities.

Overall, Alameda County schools saw a 1.1% decrease in chronic absenteeism, according to the CDE, with the biggest decline among migrant students, followed by Pacific Islander and Filipino students. Overall, the average number of days absent decreased from 16.2 to 15.3 percent.

According to the CDE, students in Alameda County also outperformed the state average in all three content areas measured by the Smarter Balanced assessments tests during the 2022-23 school year, including English language literacy, math, and science.

More than 106,000 Alameda County students in the third through eighth grades, and 11th grade, in 18 school districts and 51 charter schools

took the assessment tests. The CDE said 56% of county students showed grade-level mastery of English, 47% showed mastery in math, and 41% in science.



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THE Independent

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

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

LVA on Pace for Record Membership, Revenues

Livermore Valley Arts (LVA) is on pace to achieve record membership and revenues during its 2023-2024 season, the nonprofit organization that operates the Bankhead Theater and the Bothwell Arts Center told the Livermore City Council earlier this month.

Several Bankhead Presents performances this fall have been sellouts. In addition, LVA said projections for 26 of the 35 remaining mainstage presentations and Courtyard Concerts scheduled for this winter and spring will exceed expectations in both attendance and revenue, surpassing the 2022-2023 season.

According to the nonprofit's annual report for the 2022-2023 season, the second full year since the COVID-19 pandemic, LVA had income from ticket sales, donations, and in-kind contributions of \$3.76 million. Out of the 68 Bankhead Presents performances, 12 were sold out.

Expenses for the fiscal

year, which ended June 30, 2023, were \$3.79 million, with 78% going to programming, 16% for administration, and 6% for fundraising.

In the last four fiscal years, LVA has shown an operating profit of \$1.25M. The current season and fiscal year run through June 2024, but the nonprofit is already reporting a record number of member households, 1,073. The annual Brilliance at the Bankhead fundraising gala in September also brought in a record \$675,000 to cover operating expenses and LVA's educational initiatives.

LVA said featured exhibits at the UNCLE Credit Union Art Gallery at the Bankhead Theater attracted more than 2,500 visitors this fall, while more than 6,500 participated in the 22nd annual ArtWalk in October and 4,000 attended the first-ever ComicCon at the Bankhead Plaza in July.

Thousands more participated in free cultural events



Headliners, such as Jason Alexander, have put LVA on course to achieve record membership and revenues during its 2023-2024 season. (Photo Courtesy: LVA)

at the plaza supported and promoted by LVA.

With six months remaining in the current fiscal year, LVA said it is continuing to cultivate new community partnerships, including the Tri-Valley Theater Company's production of "Legally Blonde: The Musical" over three weekends in January.

In addition to the Bankhead Presents performances sponsored by LVA, more than three dozen resident theatrical companies call the Bankhead Theater home, attracting an audience of nearly 70,000 in 2022-2023, according to the annual report.

This coming February, the East Bay Jazz High School All-Stars, a pre-professional music academy, will be "in residence" with JazzReach, a nationally recognized program that teaches and promotes jazz, culminating in a performance on Wednesday, Feb. 14, with the nonprofit's Metta Quintet.

LVA is also promoting a new genre, podcasts, presented on stage with a live audience, including a scheduled episode of "History That Doesn't Suck," also in February.

At the start of the current fiscal year, LVA adopted a five-year plan focusing on financial growth and

organizational stability, artistic vitality, community outreach and inclusion, and educational programs designed to develop a life-long audience.

The strategic plan and the annual report are available online at livermorearts.org.

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City Ramps Up Parking Enforcement Downtown



Livermore is stepping up its enforcement of downtown parking spots, including here along First Street. Fines will begin at \$55 and could increase depending upon the violation. (Photo – Doug Jorgensen)

By Dawnmarie Fehr

The City of Livermore and the Livermore Police Department (LPD) are actively enforcing long-established parking time limits in the downtown area.

According to a statement released on social media, Legion 13th Security, under

the supervision of LPD, will be checking parking times and issuing tickets with fines of \$55 or more, depending on the violation.

"We know parking is limited due to construction downtown, and we encourage downtown business owners and employees to park in long-term parking spaces so

nearby spaces can remain free for customers eating at restaurants or patronizing any other downtown businesses," the statement said.

The city hopes a strong parking enforcement plan will ensure the timely turnover of parking spaces, increasing availability for downtown patrons.

LPD spokesperson Azenith Smith said the city is increasing enforcement now due to construction of the L Street Garage impacting parking in the downtown corridor.

City officials said the enhanced parking enforcement is also in response to feedback from merchants about the need to ensure parking availability on First Street and other prime downtown locations during the holiday shopping season.

Downtown merchants rely heavily on seasonal revenue and vehicles that sit in timed spaces all day limit the ability for new customers to easily access retailers and

restaurants.

"Because the intention of the parking enforcement is to encourage good parking behavior and not as a revenue generator for the city, the enforcement will begin with warnings instead of citations," said a statement from the city manager's office.

Pedrozzi Foundations Accepting Scholarship Applications in January

The Mario Pedrozzi Scholarship Foundation will begin accepting scholarship applications for the 2024-2025 school year on Monday, Jan. 1.

Applicants must have graduated from a Livermore Joint Unified School District high school or be on track to graduate this spring, and plan to attend a community college, four-year college, or graduate school.

The scholarships are also to students from other high schools who were residents of Alameda County when they graduated and have been accepted to St. Patrick's Seminary and University in Menlo Park, California.

Applications will be accepted through Friday, March 1.

The Pedrozzi Foundation also accepts scholarship applications for vocational programs year-round, including ABC NorCal Tool Scholarships in partnership with the Northern California Chapter of the Associated Builders and Contractors trade association.

However, the foundation urges high school seniors interested in career or vocational programs to also apply by March 1.

The foundation was created after Mario Pedrozzi, a Livermore businessman, left nearly \$8 million to the community when he died in 2002. Since the first scholarships were announced in 2008, the foundation has awarded \$6.1 million to 1,670 students.

Scholarships are for at least \$1,000 per year, but some recipients may receive more due to financial need or if they receive a donor-funded scholarship. Undergraduate students may receive up to four years of funding, while community college, vocational program, and graduate students are eligible for two years of funding.

There is no age limit and graduates are eligible to apply no matter how long ago they completed high school.

Applicants will be notified in May whether they will receive a scholarship and schol-

arship money will be sent to an applicant's school by July 31.

To apply online, go to pedrozzifoundation.org.

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State Urges Drinkers to Plan Ahead During Holidays

Businesses that sell alcoholic beverages are being reminded to check identifications carefully over the holidays to prevent underage drinking.

The California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) is also urging those who drink, and their family members, to have a plan in place to get home safely.

"We want everyone to get home safe this holiday season," said ABC Director Joseph McCullough. "Remember to

make a plan before you celebrate. ABC licensees can also help keep communities safe by carefully checking identifications and ensuring customers are not overserved."

ABC suggests that those who choose to drink designate a sober driver, use public transportation, or a ride-hailing service.

ABC said its agents will be assisting local law enforcement to monitor compliance and increase public safety.

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EDITORIAL

In Support of Fusion Energy

It is time to get excited about fusion power. Amid growing extreme-weather events worldwide, a team at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) has embarked on a quest to bring clean, commercial fusion power to the grid. Capitalizing on the National Ignition Facility’s ignition breakthrough last year, the newly formed Science and Technology Accelerated Research for Fusion Innovation and Reactor Engineering (STARFIRE) hub at LLNL will, over the next four years, establish public-private partnerships to kickstart the industry by advancing reactor designs, the fusion supply chain and its workforce.

The U.S. Department of Energy announced this month \$42 million in funding for three multi-institutional and multi-disciplinary hubs aimed at making commercial fusion power a reality. Of this, \$16 million will support the STARFIRE hub. The push comes not a minute too soon. The Fifth National Climate Assessment, released last month, tells the story of our nation moving toward carbon neutrality, but far too slowly. Our mid-century climate goals require a greenhouse-gas reduction of 6% per year, but we have only managed a 1% average annual decline be-

tween 2005 and 2019, according to the report. Commercial fusion power, which emits no greenhouse gases, can fill a gaping void in our clean-power portfolio. Unlike many renewable-energy sources, it could provide non-varying baseload power that could be ramped up or down at will. With compact footprints and no harmful emissions, fusion power plants could be located closer to where the power is needed, reducing transmission losses and costs. Its fuel is abundant. It could change petroleum politics. Compared to traditional nuclear power plants, which rely on fission reactions for power, fusion power produces no long-lived nuclear waste. It presents no risk of nuclear meltdown and cannot be used to produce nuclear weapons. With the help of LLNL’s achievements, the U.S. has established itself as the preeminent leader in the inertial fusion space. STARFIRE, along with two other hubs like it, will seek to expand that international prominence, safeguarding our energy security along the way. We continue to congratulate LLNL’s accomplishments and are certain the lab will continue the breakthroughs in scientific achievements while pursuing this stewardship mission.

MAILBOX

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Livermore U12 Girls Rec Soccer League

Joe Washington, Dublin East Bay Referee Association

I’ve been a youth sports official for over 40 years, and I’ve yet to have a more enjoyable experience than I did this fall with the U12 girls recreational soccer league in Livermore. I looked forward to every Saturday I was available to work. I’m not as nimble as I once was and would tell the players that there would be times when I would need their help to tell me who touched the ball last before it went out, especially on the 4th or 5th game of the day. The kids rose to the occasion, and we had no issues throughout the year. The team names and banners were terrific, whether it was the Pythons, Swifties, Flaming Hot Cheetos, or the Rubber Ducks. The custom socks for each team were equally wonderful. Each of the teams had a genuine spirit to them that grew as the season went on. It was a terrific feeling when the players on the Rubber Ducks saw that they had an extra snack bag after one game, and they shared it with me after a lopsided defeat, no less. In a time where much of the focus is on how poorly referees are treated and how to fix the shortage of people willing to take on the job, I want to point out great situations where they exist. I was sad that I was not able to referee the final games of the season, so I was hoping The Indepen-

dent could relay my gratitude and warmest holiday wishes to all of the players, coaches, and their families. I hope to see them on the field next year.

SB-2 Blocked by Federal Judge

Mike Grant, Dublin

Just this week, a Federal Judge blocked a law that was going into effect Jan 1, 2024. It would have restricted legally qualified concealed weapon holders from places they could carry a gun. Governor Newsom and Attorney General Bonta wanted to ban the right to carry at your church, in parks, on public transportation like Bart, restaurants and just about any place that normal people go each day. So what they told the news was this would help keep the public safe from all these people carrying guns. This is such a lie and that’s why the Federal judge blocked the law from going into effect. To get a CCW permit, you must pass a very detailed background check. This Requires a Live Scan that the DOJ does with a background check to see if you have anything in your past that would restrict you from owning or carrying a handgun in public, Then you must pass a phycology exam, take firearms classes on safety and a shooting test. This process could take up to a year or longer before you would be issued the permit. Then after all that, you will be required each “year” that you attend a class that goes over gun safety and the laws of CA with regards to where you can carry your handgun legally. The last thing is you will be required to shoot a test for proficiency with your handgun and have a passing score. All this is required each year in CA. So if you think that people are going to the vending machine at the 7/11 or a gas station and buying this permit you are misinformed. These Democrats tell you they want to keep you safe, so ask them why is crime up in CA 22% across the state in one year? It’s not the law abiding citizens out doing these crimes. It’s the criminals who are the ones out robbing the public. The Democrats will look at you like a deer in headlights when you confront them with this question. Criminals don’t care what laws are passed and don’t plan to follow them. This is why Car jackings are up, Smash and bashes up on business, home invasions are up, assaults on senior citizens are up 15% and crime on Bart is out of control. Is it safe in Oakland?

The General Plan Review
David Rounds, Livermore

Last week the General Plan Advisory Committee

(GPAC) started reviewing the public input about the five focus areas that contain most of the changes that are going to be recommended to update the General Plan. The East of Greenville focus area took most of the evening, in part due to the significant citizen objections at the meeting about including East of Greenville in the revised General Plan. The primary reason for our objections was that including East of Greenville would require the city to move 1,100 acres of open space into the City Limits, zoning that area for industrial development. The GPAC went ahead and approved keeping the East of Greenville area in the General Plan review. I believe doing this is a huge mistake. Here are my reasons why this is a mistake. 1. The City has done an admirable job for the last 20+ years of keeping to the mandate of Prop. D to grow within the city limits. This laser focus on in-fill growth has made Livermore the exciting city it has become. Including East of Greenville requires the breaking of the urban growth boundary and expanding the size of the city by 10% which will completely change current focus on infill growth. With most new industrial growth east of Greenville, the City will no longer have to focus on keeping our town compact, exciting and livable. Developers will just sprawl to the east. 2. Someone must really want this to happen because the population growth and requisite job growth numbers that the GPAC is using to “justify” breaking the urban growth boundary (UGB) are suspect and based on theoretical projections that far exceed current published projections from ABAG. 3. This plan, if approved by the City Council, will require a vote of the citizens of Livermore to break the UGB. The likelihood of such a vote actually passing is at best 50/50. When it does not pass, what happens? The General Plan review as it stands is dependent on using east of Greenville for industrial growth. Does failure at the ballot box mean that the city will have to reconvene a new GPAC committee to alter the plan to stay within current city limits? They should do this work now so residents can see what the General Plan will look like using current city limits and without covering 1,100 acres of open space with industrial development.

Esteen Should Have Been Reappointed
Ward Kanowsky, Pleasanton

Jennifer Esteen, candidate for the Alameda County Board of Supervisors in the upcoming March election against 22-year incumbent Nate Miley, was just

removed from her role on the Alameda Health System Board of Trustees, a position she held for three years, where she was the only registered nurse. Miley voted to remove Esteen, rather than recusing himself from the decision. The Board of Supervisors reapointed all other appointees to the health system - each of whom are middle-aged males, including the person appointed to replace Esteen. Her removal came the day after she made a public statement supporting a ceasefire in Gaza. While a direct connection between the public statement and her removal may be conjecture, the optics are bad in the current environment. It’s unfair and unethical that Esteen wasn’t reapointed. Miley should have recused himself from the vote since he and Esteen are candidates for the same office in an upcoming election. Unfortunately, Miley and the Board of Supervisors are not bound to a code of ethics that would provide guidance for such apparent conflicts, a situation that has existed for nearly a decade. In June 2023, the Alameda County Grand Jury recommended for the second time since 2015 that the Board of Supervisors adopt an ethics policy. Their report stated, “Alameda County’s lack of an ethics policy and code of conduct specific to the County indicates that ethical government is not a priority.” Miley’s vote to remove Esteen bears out this statement. In a press release following her dismissal, Esteen stated, “The supervisor knows my voice is desperately needed and my work as Vice President of the Board was leading to major positive changes. What feels even worse is that I am the youngest member of the Board, still working full time as a public health nurse and psych nurse which affords me a diversity of opinion that is sorely needed and was often commended by my fellow trustees, staff and members of the public.” The “heart” of the Alameda Health System mission is “Caring, Healing, Teaching, Serving All” – continuing to drive innovation, change and growth as it promotes wellness and eliminates health care disparities. Achieving this starts at the top with leadership from the Board of Trustees. When young, Black, queer nursing professional women like Esteen are removed from the boardroom, how can diverse marginalized communities receive the healthcare they need and deserve?

Representing the Voters
John Marchand, Livermore

In last week’s letter from Richard Andrews, he claims that I’m not lis-

tening to voters, or more specifically, to him. He apparently believes that he speaks for all voters in Livermore, presumably from all sides at the same time. To my recollection, he’s never spoken at a Council meeting or emailed me to provide an opinion on any issue. I know he didn’t apply for the General Plan Advisory Commission. They’re the group of local residents at whose recommendation the city is studying the east side of town. It must be remembered that the City Council cannot move the Urban Growth Boundary. Only the voters can do that. As is required by law, a study is being conducted to give the voters the information they will need to make an informed decision, a study that Andrews opposes. An important leadership skill is to cut through the noise and the loudest voices in the room to determine what is in the best interests of the community and the community’s position as a whole. Sometimes wealth can increase the volume. The “polls, letters and meetings” that Andrews references represent a miniscule but loud fraction of Livermore residents who are trying to hijack the narrative. As was the case with issues like the regional theater and BART in the downtown area; public meetings were deliberately stacked, and polls were manipulated by a wealthy minority to give the appearance of support. In the final analysis, the only poll that really matters is the poll at the ballot box. The last Council election was the most expensive in Livermore history. Over \$1.3 million dollars was spent supporting my opposition, outspending my campaign by 20 to 1. Over 90% of that money came from three wealthy individuals who were trying to buy the election. Those are very loud voices, indeed; but as the election results showed, they did not speak for the majority of the voters of Livermore. Yes, I do listen to my constituents, but when there are many sides to an issue, I must weigh the facts and do what is best for our community. That is what the majority of the voters elected me to do.

Resolution to the UGB
Doug Mann, Livermore

Heading into 2024, it’s time for new year’s resolutions. Livermore’s City Council made one in 2021, continued it in 2022, and they are on track to do it again. Their resolution is to break Livermore’s Urban Growth Boundary apart. You may recall there are 9 steps to the UGB destruction plan. 1- Council starts it; 2- forms compliant committee; 3- committee likes idea; 4- council rub-

ber-stamps it; 5- pay for a “study”; 6- “study” says it’s great; 7- publicity, white-washing; 8- ballot measure crafted; 9- you vote at the ballot box. Though step 3 is nearly complete, at the last committee meeting we discovered there is actually a member who doesn’t want to urbanize the agricultural land east of Greenville Road. He must have been appointed by mistake. His lonely suggestion that the area should remain open space didn’t get a single voice of support among the other 12 people. Now we know what we suspected from the beginning; this committee is driven to break the UGB - exactly what the Council wanted from the start. Saving the UGB will ultimately come down to your vote on a measure in an election. I’ll keep you posted as we move through the steps in 2024. That’s my resolution. Happy new year!

Water Storage
Paul Stone, Dublin

Ah, A Refreshing Hot Shower. Not! Thanks to our corrupt, inept, and bereft (of common sense) Sacto politicians (read Dems) who have done zilch in securing new water storage and whom the libs elect and unflinchingly re-elect, we will soon be forced to drink and bathe using treated sewage water. It will be fun to hear the wailings and whining’s of the libs when they take their showers and one day there’s a sudden power failure. Then the water will not be able to be treated and they will instead be treated to a faceful of you-know-what. E.coli for everyone! Good times!

Our Open Space Makes Livermore Unique
Jan Brovont, Livermore

Here goes the city again, trying to make Livermore something most of us DO NOT WANT. As you have probably heard, they want to move the UGB, Urban Growth Boundary, farther out. Do you care about the surrounding open space land around Livermore? Once they start moving it out, they will probably continue whenever they want. We will lose our small-town feel and look. Once the crack is made, the dike will come down. Our open space/UGB makes Livermore unique in the Bay Area. What other cities have open space around them? Very few if any. They just sprawl one city into the next and then there is no identity to be different than all the others. Look at the cities in the peninsula and how they roll one to the other. You can’t tell where one stops and where it goes to the other.

JAIL’S

(Continued from front page)

“Most of the opposition in the correspondence that was received concerned objections to the treatment of mental health issues within the confines of a jail, instead of in the community,” Palmer said. “Based on these concerns, the (Public Works) board decided to pull the item from the (Board of Supervisors) agenda in order to allow for more time to fully review the letters and the issues that were raised. Once these concerns are fully considered, the board will determine whether it is appropriate to place the item on a future meeting agenda.”

Proposed in 2015, the original plan proposed construction of a two-story, 40,000-square-foot building with holding cells, rooms for healthcare and mental health treatment, counseling for transitional and post-release substance abuse, and services for pregnant and female parents.

The state awarded the county \$54 million with the county to pay the rest of the \$61.6 million cost. But years passed with no action in Alameda County. Authorities acknowledged the suicide

rate in the jail became one of the highest in the nation.

Attorneys sued the county on behalf of inmates in federal court. County attorneys agreed they had a problem and settled the case, placing the jail under a consent decree and monitoring by a federal judge.

No money was paid to inmates, but during the next several years, the county must implement improvements to provide mental health treatment for inmates, improve staffing and increase the time inmates can spend outside of their cells.

Some families, however, have filed suit against the county alleging deputies failed to provide care for their loved ones while they were incarcerated.

During the summer, the Alameda County Grand Jury criticized the Board of Supervisors for failing to build the mental health care wing, which had risen in cost to \$81 million because of inflation and labor costs. The county’s taxpayer’s share in the eight years had gone up from \$7.6 million to \$19.4 million.

But opposition to the facility also had developed. For months, members of



The Arroyo Las Positas in Livermore’s Springtown neighborhood at sunset on Thursday, Dec. 21. The arroyo has filled up significantly due to the recent rainfall. (Photo – Doug Jorgensen)

SWALWELL

(Continued from front page)

opportunity for Trump to dispute its ruling as the case advances.

“When these cases move forward in the district court, he must be afforded the opportunity to develop his own facts on the immunity question, if he desires to show that he took the actions alleged in the complaints in his official capacity as President rather than in his unofficial capacity as a candidate,” the court wrote. “At the appropriate time, he can move for summary judgment on his claim of official-act immunity. Because our decision is not necessarily even the final word on the issue of presidential immunity, we, of course, express no view on the ultimate merits of the claims against President Trump.”

The court added that it was not addressing any of Trump’s other defenses, including a claim that his actions fell within the protections of the First Amendment, referring to the right of free speech.

“He could bring that issue before us in the future,” the court wrote. “We also do not opine on whether executive or other privileges might shield certain evidence from discovery or use as the litigation proceeds. Nor does our decision on a president’s official-act immunity from damages liability in a civil suit treat with whether or when a president might be immune from criminal prosecution.”

In a statement to the Associated Press, Trump’s campaign spokesman Steven Cheung called the decision “limited, narrow and procedural.”

“The facts fully show

that on January 6, President Trump was acting on behalf of the American people, carrying out his duties as president of the United States,” Cheung said. “Moreover, his admonition that his supporters ‘peacefully and patriotically make (their) voices heard,’ along with a myriad of other statements, prove that these Democrat Hoaxes are completely meritless.”

Swalwell, a Democrat who represents Livermore, Pleasanton and part of Dublin in Congress, joined with others in a lawsuit against Trump weeks after the Jan. 6 attack, accusing the ex-president of shattering the sacrament of the peaceful transfer of president power “through a campaign of lies and incendiary rhetoric which led to the sacking of the U.S. Capitol.” Swalwell, who was in the Chamber at the time, said he feared for his life, texting his wife, “I love you, and kiss the babies for me.”

Donald Trump Jr., former New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani and U.S. Rep. Mo Brooks, R-Alabama, who also spoke at the rally that morning, were previously dismissed from the lawsuit.

Trump’s attorneys can appeal the decision to the full D.C. Circuit court or to the U.S. Supreme Court. The decision was written by D.C. Circuit Court Chief Judge Sri Srinivasan, an appointee of President Barack Obama; with concurring opinions by Trump appointee Judge Gregory Katsas; and Judge Judith Rogers, who was appointed to the court by President Bill Clinton.

community groups Inter-faith Coalition for Justice in Our Jails, Restore Oakland and others protested decisions to renew plans for the jail expansion. In marches from Oakland to Dublin and at Supervisors’ meeting in November, members called for the \$81 million to be

spent on providing mental health treatment at community health centers instead of construction of a new jail facility where mental health services are provided.

Members of organizations opposed to the expansion praised the decision to halt the plans for now.

“We’ve expressed our outrage and opposition to this jail expansion for years, and at times, we feel like we’re shouting into the void,” said Kari Malkki of Restore Oakland. “Today, we’re proud to witness the impact of our community’s tireless efforts to demand

care, not cages, in Alameda County. Our coalition of mental healthcare workers, formerly incarcerated folks, and advocates will keep fighting until the county fully rejects the jail expansion and funds the essential health and housing resources we urgently need.”



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a Happy
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Gwynnevere Cristobal stars as Elle Woods in Tri-Valley Theater Company's upcoming production of "Legally Blonde: the Musical." (Photo courtesy: Bankhead Theater)

STARFIRE

(Continued from front page)

a particular technology where it's like, obviously, the U.S. is the leader.”

Fusion reactions, the same process within stars where atomic nuclei combine and release energy, could potentially provide an abundant, reliable power source free of carbon emissions, according to the DOE. President Joe Biden has set a goal of building several proof-of-concept fusion power plants in the next 10 years.

The three hubs, with the other two led by Colorado State University and the University of Rochester, will allow the DOE to cast a wide net in testing out different inertial fusion setups.

While LLNL's National Ignition Facility (NIF) uses an indirect drive technique, where laser energy indirectly compresses a fuel by first hitting an outer canister, other methods — such as shining lasers directly on fuel or alternating between heating and compression phases — also show potential on the path to commercial fusion power.

“I think the big goal after those four years is to really have done enough R&D (research and development) and enough thinking about the integrated system so that we can help the U.S. kind of pick the high potential paths,” said Ma.

In addition to the reactor technology, the hubs will help establish the supply chain and workforce necessary to support the nascent industry.

Today, the world simply cannot provide enough tritium fuel or laser-pumping diodes to build one full-scale fusion power plant, let alone a national portfolio, said Ma.

The hubs’ partnerships between national labs, universities and private companies will share expertise to accelerate the industry toward commercial viability. LLNL, specifically, will offer its decades of fusion experience in areas such as experimentation and computer simulations.

Last December, a NIF fusion reaction produced, for the first time ever worldwide, about 1.5 times the laser energy used to start the reaction. Since then, the LLNL facility has repeated the feat at least three times and boosted its energy gain up to 1.9.

Ma estimates that a commercially viable reactor will need to produce gains between 50 and 100 times greater than the energy injected to power the lasers, the rest of the power plant, and still have enough power left to export to the grid.

The next breakthrough milestone may come soon. “If we can get to gains of 15 or 16, that’s actually, on paper, enough to have a self-sustaining power plant, (although it’s) not enough energy to feed to the grid, but enough that the power plant could just run itself,” she said. “I do believe we can do that on NIF in the next couple years — just the scientific demonstration.”

SCHOOL

(Continued from front page)

of performing arts.

“My family and friends are honored and humbled to have this gesture bestowed on CKatherine’s legacy,” he said.

Kuo was appointed to fill his late wife’s unexpired term on the board, then

elected to a two-year term

in 2022. He now serves as vice president of the board. The new Emerald High School theater is expected to open next fall. Shamrock Hills is slated to open in the fall of 2026 to 1,100 TK to 8th grade students.

“Legally Blonde: The Musical” Takes Center Stage in January at the Bankhead

The Tri-Valley Theater Company (TVTC) will present “Legally Blonde: The Musical,” based on the novel by Amanda Brown and the 2001 film, at the Bankhead Theater in Livermore in January.

The musical tells the story of a perky UCLA sorority girl, Elle Woods, who enrolls at Harvard Law School to win back her ex-boyfriend, struggles against stereotype

and scandal, successfully defends a fitness queen accused of murdering her billionaire husband, and winds up class valedictorian.

After a short tryout in 2007 at the Golden Gate Theater in San Francisco, the musical moved to Broadway for a two-year run, followed by a national tour with the original cast. The musical has also been produced in at least 17

other countries, including a three-year run in London.

The TVTC production will star Gwynnevere Cristobal, from Tracy, as Elle Woods.

Opening night is 8 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 13.

Evening performances are also scheduled for Saturday, Jan. 20, and Saturday, Jan. 27. Matinee performances are scheduled for 2 p.m. on Sunday, Jan. 14, Sunday, Jan. 21, Satur-

day, Jan. 27, and Sunday, Jan. 28.

Tickets are \$45, with discounts available for students and military personnel. To purchase tickets, go to livermorearts.org or call 925-373-6800.

TVTC, previously known as the Tri-Valley Repertory Theater, is a resident company at the Bankhead Theater, operated by Livermore Valley Arts.

OUR LOCAL NONPROFITS NEED YOUR SUPPORT, PLEASE DONATE IF YOU ARE ABLE!

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Livermoreamadorsymphony.org/guild

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Hayward, CA 94545
510-881-0300
SpectrumCS.org

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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LLNL Physicist to Discuss “Oppenheimer” Movie and Its Historic Implications



SCIENTIST

(Continued from front page)

has gone out of his way to communicate with the public on the causes and dangers of climate change. He has spoken to general audiences throughout the U.S., including in Livermore. He has appeared on TV talk shows and video blog broadcasts, and he has authored several popular articles in publications like Scientific American and The Hill.

In announcing the award, Climate One said that Santer’s “efforts to share (climate) research with the world have been instrumental in shaping global climate action policy.”

Although he has received many awards for his scientific work, Santer told the Commonwealth Club audience that the Schneider Communication Award was meaningful to him on a different, personal level.

In 1995, as a junior staff scientist at LLNL, Santer came under fierce personal attack from the fossil fuel industry after his name was prominently associated with the first important scientific paper that found a “discernible human influence on global climate.”

The paper, part of the output of the second assessment of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), held in Madrid, represented the work of many scientists. But as lead author, Santer became the lightning rod for repeated personal attacks by fossil fuel supporters in the media and even in Congress.

Schneider also played a major role at the Madrid conference, where he had the foresight to tell Santer there that the finding of a “discernible human influence on global climate” would “change the world,” Santer told the Commonwealth Club.

After the IPCC meeting, Santer returned to experience a personal crisis as his marriage fell apart and he faced the possibility of losing custody of his son, whom his wife had taken to Europe.

As this happened, Schneider, then at Stanford, proved to be as valuable as a friend as he was perceptive as a scientist. Throughout the months that followed, Schneider offered vital personal support, hosting him at his home on the Peninsula and keeping his spirits up.

Without Schneider’s support, Santer told the Commonwealth Club, he might have left LLNL and given up his research career to live near his son in Europe.

As time passed, the international legal system restored his son to him.

Schneider died in 2010,

but Santer never lost his admiration and fondness for his late friend and supporter. He called Schneider “a first-rate scientist” who was “one of the best there has ever been” at “being able to communicate in plain English about the science of climate change.”

Similar praise was directed at Santer following the Schneider Communications Award.

According to Naomi Oreskes, Harvard professor of the history of science and herself a past Schneider Award winner, Santer “is a public science figure in the way Steve (Schneider) was.”

“Just doing the science is not enough. Dr. Santer is the Eagle Scout of this space, a man of great integrity.”

James Hansen, the well-known and outspoken NASA climate scientist, said that it “takes a mighty warrior with great courage and stamina” to “fight off the disinformation army -- Ben is that warrior.”

Kassie Siegel, director of the Climate Law Institute for the Center for Biological Diversity, thanked Santer for his work “on behalf of lots of other lawyers and activists who admire and depend on your work for ours.”

She noted that climate researchers can face two kinds of danger – the physical kind that comes with being “out there on the Greenland ice sheet,” and the reputational kind that comes with being attacked by the fossil fuel industry.

In receiving the Schneider Award at the Commonwealth Club, Santer commented that “the (research) work has been the reward,” that it has given him the “extraordinary privilege to work on issues that really matter...with brilliant women and men all around the world.”

Santer is a member of the National Academy of Sciences. He received his academic training in England, including a PhD in climatology from the University of East Anglia.

He spent several years at the Max Planck Institute for Meteorology in Germany, where he developed methods of detecting human fingerprints on the climate. He credits much of the intellectual inspiration for this work to Klaus Hasselmann, who years later would win the Nobel Prize.

Santer worked at LLNL from 1992 through 2021, making use of the Laboratory’s powerful computational resources as he further developed fingerprinting methods.

Today, he is affiliated with the Woods Hole

Tom Ramos, a physicist with Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL), will discuss the 2023 movie “Oppenheimer,” about J. Robert Oppenheimer and development of the first atomic bomb, and trace how Livermore ended up being the site of a nuclear weapons laboratory at Livermore’s Civic Center Library on Wednesday, Jan. 31.

Ramos, a graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, has been at LLNL for 42 years.

He was a member of the nuclear team that developed an X-ray laser for U.S. Strategic Defense Initiative in the 1980s and provided briefings for U.S. negotiators during the Strategic Arms Reduction Talks (START). He also created and ran the Counterproliferation Analysis and Planning System (CAPS) program for the Department of Defense.

He is the author of “From Berkeley to Berlin: How the Rad Lab Helped Avert

Nuclear War,” referring to the Radiation Laboratory established at the University of California, Berkeley that later became the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory. Oppenheimer was a professor at Berkeley and worked with the radiation program before being recruited by the government in 1942 to work on the top-secret Manhattan Project to develop the atomic bomb.

In 1952, the Radiation Laboratory established a branch in Livermore, focused on nuclear security work, that later became the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory.

In his presentation, Ramos will also discuss nuclear threats during the Cuban Missile Crisis in 1962.

The presentation is part of “Then & Now: Livermore Stories,” a local history lecture series sponsored by the Livermore Public Library and Livermore Heritage Guild.

The 7 p.m. program at the Civic Center Library, 1188 S. Livermore Ave., is free, and registration is not required.

Oceanographic Institution in Massachusetts, where he has continued his pioneering research as Fowler Distinguished Scholar in Residence.

Earlier this year, for example, he led an international team that published the clearest evidence to date of human influence on the climate as demonstrated by temperature patterns in the upper stratosphere.

By choice, he declines to seek federal funding for his research. While there were benefits to working at LLNL, such as association with highly talented co-workers, there were also burdens associated with shifting political winds at a federally funded national laboratory.

Santer has always felt it important to “speak science to power,” as he put it at the Commonwealth Club, but at LLNL he felt constrained in speaking out publicly during the time of the Trump Administration for fear that budget retaliation would endanger federally funded research programs and the jobs of his colleagues.

In addition, it is a relief not to be subject to repeated requests for years of data from “climate deniers” who have learned to weaponize freedom-of-information regulations that federal au-

thorities insist be honored no matter how burdensome.

Santer said he always supported research transparency, but the time-consuming demands were clearly designed to obstruct rather than enhance science communication.

WATER

(Continued from front page)

four years. Partnership opportunities with Zone 7 will be discussed early next year.

Jerry Brown of Waterology Consulting, which is currently working on the new management plan, said he hoped the plan would give the city more foresight moving forward to avoid surprises.

“It is important that the council and residents be exposed to the magnitude of what’s needed in the future,” said Brown.

Pleasanton Vice Mayor Jack Balch said he worried that further rate increases still loomed. Draft cost ranges, for capital improvement projects shared so far, total between \$135 million and \$210 million, which Balch said would necessi-

tate another 51% to 78% rate increase to fund.

City staff representative Tamara Baptista explained that the city has yet to perform a funding analysis and will soon conduct workshops and an analysis on how to fund the projects.

“This is just a first step,” she said. “This is a preliminary discussion at a very high level.”



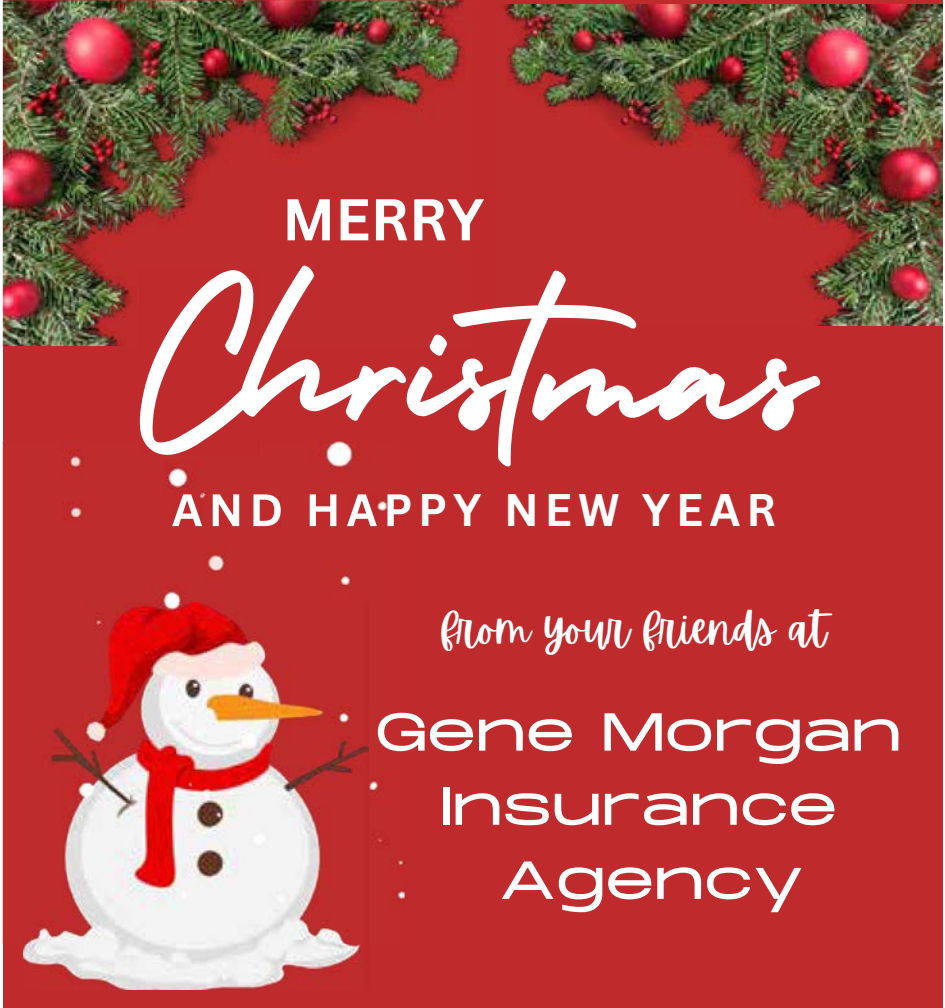
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Annual Seafood Event
Cioppino
Take home and enjoy
Saturday, January 20
Tickets (925) 454-1489
Order now through Jan 17: \$70 dinner for 4
Drive by pick up from 10am-1pm on Saturday, Jan 20
at The Singing Wine Maker, 5143 Tesla Rd., Livermore.
Delicious seafood stew chock-full of shellfish with tomatoes, wine, spices, and herbs. Each 64 oz container comes with a bread round.
Proceeds benefit Livermore Lions Club charities.

Wineries Collect Toys for Tots

The Livermore Valley Wine Community collected nearly 600 toys and \$2,400 in cash donations for this year’s Marine Corp Reserve Toys for Tots program.

That was then matched in a partnership with Pacific State Petroleum for a total of 1,190 new toys and \$2,400 to purchase more, according to the marketing organization.

The nonprofit, formerly known as the Livermore Valley Winegrowers Association, said the toys and cash donations were collected at various wineries over a two-day period earlier this month.

The donations will be added to other local Toys for Tots efforts and will be distributed by Marines to the children in the community.

The Toys for Tots program was started in 1947 by a Marine Corps Reserve unit in Los Angeles and became a national Marine Corps Reserve project the following year. It was taken over by the nonprofit Marine Toys for Tots Foundation at the request of the Marine Corps in 1991.

This was the 37th year that Livermore Valley wineries and winegrowers collected for the program.

“Holidays in the Vineyards is truly a tradition that is dear to locals and travelers from across the region,” said Brandi Lombardi, executive director for the Livermore Valley Wine Community. “Year after year, the event brings the community together to celebrate and support children across the Bay Area. We are proud to partner with Pacific States Petroleum once again for the Toys for Tots drive and are grateful to all of those who donated toys and cash gifts. This generosity will bring joy to many children this holiday season.”

Kaitlyn Huang Achieves Eagle Scout Status

Kaitlyn Huang has qualified to become an Eagle Scout and will receive the award at an Eagle Scout Court of Honor to be scheduled soon. Kaitlyn is the daughter of Kimberly Chang and Daryn Huang. She is a member of Troop 2998, sponsored by the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 6289 of Pleasanton, under the direction of Scoutmaster Michael Lennox.

For her Eagle project, Kaitlyn and her team made 80 blankets for Kaiser Permanente’s Cancer Center in Dublin, to give patients warmth and comfort during their treatment. Over 15 scouts and adults assisted in the project. She received little notes from patients expressing their gratitude.

Kaitlyn is a senior at Dougherty Valley High School (DVHS) in Dublin. She is interested in science and music and recently has taken up crocheting. She has been part of the leadership program at DVHS for 4 years and is part of the community outreach committee. She volunteers



Kaitlyn Huang

in the emergency department at Stanford Tri-Valley Hospital in Pleasanton and is an intern at the Chinese Community Health Resource Center. She has also participated in multiple medical-related programs

in hopes of gaining more exposure to the medical field. She has also been doing martial arts for nine years, has achieved a second-degree black belt and is a taekwondo and Kungfu instructor.

Livermore Library to Host Job Fair

The Livermore Civic Center Library, 1188 S. Livermore Ave., will host a job fair from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 16.

Job seekers are encouraged to bring their resumes and explore opportunities with local employers.

The Tri-Valley Career

Center will also review resumes and Ron Essex Photography will offer free business portraits for the first 50 job seekers.

The Opportunities Expo: Employment Resources and Job Fair is for those 16 and older, although children are welcome to attend with

their parents, according to the library.

Refreshments will be provided.

The job fair is sponsored by the Friends of the Livermore Library and registration is not required. For more information, call 925-373-5505.

OBITUARIES

James Beck Estes Apr. 19, 1986 – Jan. 9, 2023

James Beck Estes, beloved son, grandson, brother, cousin, and friend, passed away on Saturday, Dec. 9, 2023, after suffering from chronic pain, epilepsy, and other health problems for the past 15 years.

Jimmy was born in Walnut Creek, California. He spent most of his childhood and his adult life in Livermore, California. He was born with an omphalocele and spent the first month of his life in the hospital recovering from the repair surgery performed after birth. For the next 22 years of his life, he led a healthy and happy childhood with normal hopes and dreams like any young man. This easier time came crashing to



an end when Jimmy began suffering from chronic, debilitating, back pain, poorly controlled epileptic seizures, and other life-threatening illnesses after his sophomore year of

college.

Jimmy’s dry sense of humor will be missed.

Friends and family are invited to attend a Rosary service at 7 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 5, 2024, and a funeral Mass at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Jan. 6, 2024, both at St. Augustine Church in Pleasanton. A reception in the church hall will follow the funeral Mass.

In lieu of flowers, donations to the Epilepsy Foundation or your favorite charity would be appreciated.

James Albert Adams Nov. 1, 1950 – Oct. 14, 2023

James Albert Adams passed away at 72 years of age on Oct. 14, 2023, in Tracy, California.

James (Jim) was born on Nov. 1, 1950, in Livermore, California, the third of five children to John and Mildred Adams. He graduated from Granada High School in the class of 1970, and he enlisted in the United States Army, completing basic training in Fort Ord, Monterey County.

After returning from his service in Panama, he married Lynda Schopp of Livermore, California. They welcomed two sons, Eric and Greg. After divorcing Lynda, he later began a relationship with Carol Fierro.

Jim worked as a plumber pipefitter at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory until his retirement in 2012. Jim was a passionate craftsman who loved doing woodworking and rebuilding antique tractors. He could often be found in his shop doing projects. When his children were young, he was active in the Valley Vista 4-H Club. During



retirement he enjoyed going camping, visiting his grandchildren and attending family celebrations.

Early in life, Jim learned the importance of hard work and he instilled that same work ethic in his sons. His family meant everything to him, and he was very proud of their accomplishments.

Jim is preceded in death by his parents, John and Mildred Adams, and his brother Grant Adams. He is survived by his son and daughter-in-law, Eric and Stephanie Adams, and his grandchildren Finn and Marissa, of Salinas; his son Greg Adams of Tracy; Carol Fierro of Red Bluff; sister Beverly Barr, brothers Clay (Cheryl) and Robert (Angela) all of Livermore; and numerous nieces and nephews.

A celebration of life will be held in his honor, Saturday, Jan. 13 at 11:30 a.m., Basso’s Arena, 6030 Daginn Road, in Livermore. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to the American Red Cross California Gold Country Region.

TRI-VALLEY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Dec. 1 through Dec. 31 JESS COPEMAN’S “CALIFORNIA COLORS” OIL PAINTING EXHIBIT

The Livermore Art Association’s December show at the Robert Livermore Community Center will be “California Colors,” artist Jess Copeman’s oil painting collection inspired by the beauty of the California coastline. The show is up all through December at 4444 East Ave. in Livermore, Mondays through Fridays, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Sunday, Jan. 14 and Monday, Jan. 15 AN AFTERNOON AND EVENING WITH MEDIUM CINDY KAZA

Internationally renowned psychic medium and co-host of the Travel Channel’s “The Dead Files” Cindy Kaza will be appearing at Tommy T’s Pleasanton for two days of fantastic evidential and heart-centered messages. Sunday, Jan. 14 at 3:30 p.m. and Monday, Jan. 15 at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$25-35. Link to Afternoon and Evening info and tickets here: <https://tommyts-com.seatengine.com/events/81958>

Monday, Jan. 15 and Monday, Jan. 22 AUDITIONS FOR VALLEY CONCERT CHORALE

The Valley Concert Chorale, the Tri-Valley’s premier chorus, is seeking new singers for its upcoming March and May 2024 concerts in its season titled “Music to Soothe Your Soul.” The Chorale is seeking experienced singers with sight-reading skills who enjoy singing exciting and challenging music. The Chorale performs three concert sets a season with a wide variety of music ranging from classical to contemporary, and folk to jazz. The 15-minute appointment will include vocalizing (to determine range), reading from one page of a motet, and a clapping exercise. Singers must commit to the season with Monday evening rehearsals. Auditions are available by appointment by calling (925) 866-4003. Rehearsals and auditions will be held at the First Presbyterian Church, 2020 Fifth Street, in Livermore. More information about the Valley Concert Chorale is available at www.valleyconcertchorale.org

Wednesday, Jan. 17 WELCOME THE NEW YEAR WITH TRADITIONAL JAZZ FROM NEW ORLEANS

Come celebrate with live music, good food, a dance floor, a large bar, and great musicians coming from the entire Bay Area. The Chris Bradley Band will be playing and singing New Orleans jazz and music from the great American songbook at the Old Mexico Restaurant on Portola Avenue in Livermore, 7-9 p.m. Enjoy a happy night out for the entire family

Saturday, January 20 LIVERMORE LIONS’ ANNUAL SEAFOOD FUNDRAISER

Livermore Lions Club is now taking orders for its annual seafood fundraiser. This event features cioppino, a delicious Italian stew brimming with shellfish, tomatoes, wine, spices and herbs. Each 64-ounce container serves four and comes with a bread round. The cost is \$70 per order, and the deadline to order is Jan. 16. Drive-by pickup will be on Saturday, Jan. 20, from 10 a.m. until 1p.m., at the Singing Wine Maker, 5143 Tesla Rd. in Livermore. To order, call (925) 454-1489. Proceeds will benefit Livermore Lions charities and Lions Club International disaster relief funds.

ONGOING VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

TOPSCIENCE

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

ONGOING EVENTS

SATURDAY PLEASANTON FARMERS MARKET

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

SUNDAY LIVERMORE DOWNTOWN FARMERS MARKET

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

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

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

DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION (DAR) CHAPTER MEETING

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

ASBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

WINGS-WOMEN IN GOD’S SPIRIT

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



The Alameda County chapter of Sleep in Heavenly Peace, a nonprofit organization that provides beds for children sleeping on couches and floors, reported building 50 twin-size wood beds over a 6-hour period earlier this month. Chapter co-president Christy Curtis said more than 100 volunteers participated in the holiday bed build on Saturday, Dec. 2. The chapter said it has already delivered 500 beds, but still has requests for more than 200. For more information, go to shpbeds.org. (Photo courtesy: Sleep in Heavenly Peace)

Potentially Deadly Mushrooms Come With Fresh Winter Rains

With the return of winter rains, the East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD) is reminding visitors that the mushrooms popping up around the area may contain dangerous toxins.

While mushrooms are ecologically important and can look inviting, EBRPD cautions that two of the most toxic, the death cap, or *Amanita phalloides*, and the western destroying angel, or *Amanita ocreata*, can both be found in regional parks during the rainy season.

Both contain amatoxins, compounds that can be lethal.

If they are eaten, symptoms may not appear for up to 12 hours, beginning as severe gastrointestinal distress, and potentially progressing to liver and kidney failure if treatment is not sought immediately.

Animal owners should also contact a veterinarian immediately if they suspect their pet may have eaten a toxic mushroom, according to the park district.

The death cap is a medium to large mushroom that typically has a greenish-gray cap, white gills, a white ring around the stem, and a large white sac at the base of the stem.

The western destroying angel is a medium to large mushroom that usually has a creamy white cap, white gills, a white ring around the stem that can disappear with age, and a thin white sac at the base.

Both species are usually associated with oak trees, but the death cap, which is not native to California, has also been found growing around other hardwood trees.

While the death cap and western destroying angel are responsible for most cases of mushroom poisonings in California, deadly toxins can also be found in *Galerina* and *Lepiota* mushrooms, which also grow in the Bay Area.

Picking mushrooms is not allowed in East Bay Regional Parks.

To learn more about toxic mushrooms, go to ebparks.org.

EBRPD will also host a two-day "fungus fair" at the Tilden Nature Area in Berkeley, from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 20, and Sunday, Jan. 21, with guest speakers and hundreds of mushroom specimens.



The East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD) is urging the public, when visiting area parks this winter, to become educated as to what kinds of mushrooms are toxic, such as the Death Cap above, and which mushrooms are benign. (Photo courtesy: EBRPD)

LEGAL NOTICES/CLASSIFIEDS

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LEGAL NOTICES

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 601983

The following person(s) doing business as: Cross Over Dental Enterprises, 350 Sonic Avenue, Floor 2, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Streamline Billing, LLC, 350 Sonic Avenue, Floor 2, 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/: Porus Engineer, Managing Director. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 8, 2023. Expires November 7, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5710. Published December 7, 14, 21, 28, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 602255

The following person(s) doing business as: Upward Signing, 35111 Newark Blvd Ste F PMB 5093, Newark, CA 94560 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Amyllyn Nicanor, 35251 Lido Blvd, Newark, CA 94560. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 11/18/2023. Signature of Registrant/s/: Amyllyn Nicanor, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 22, 2023. Expires November 21, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5711. Published December 7, 14, 21, 28, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 602242

The following person(s) doing business as: Calabria Rentals, 5851 Annandale Way, Dublin, CA 94568 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Amol Tuli, 5851 Annandale 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: 11/6/2023. Signature of Registrant/s/: Amol Tuli, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 21, 2023. Expires November 20, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5712. Published December 7, 14, 21, 28, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 602307

The following person(s) doing business as: Premier Jazzman Limo, 36371 Magellan Dr., Fremont, CA 94536 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Canyon Limousine LLC, 1818 Gilbreth Rd., #240B, Burlingame, CA 94010. 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: 1/28/2017. Signature of Registrant/s/: Norman Ngan, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 27, 2023. Expires November 26, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5713. Published December 7, 14, 21, 28, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 601902

The following person(s) doing business as: Jorge's Fences, 241 N I Street, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Jorge Ramirez, 241 N I 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: 11/6/2023. Signature of Registrant/s/: Jorge Ramirez, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 6, 2023. Expires November 5, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5714. Published December 14, 21, 28, 2023, January 4, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 602407

The following person(s) doing business as: M J Financial, 1020 Alison Circle, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Moneshpal Singh Josan, 1020 Alison Circle, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 12/1/2023. Signature of Registrant/s/: Jorge Ramirez, Proprietor. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 1, 2023. Expires November 30, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5715. Published December 14, 21, 28, 2023, January 4, 2024

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 601838

The following person(s) doing business as: Pixie Dust and Pine, 6853 Massey Court, Pleasanton, CA 94588 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Tom Ling, 6853 Massey Court, Pleasanton, CA 94588. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 1/1/2023. Signature of Registrant/s/: Tom Ling, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 3, 2023. Expires November 2, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5716. Published December 14, 21, 28, 2023, January 4, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 601936

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Zageur; 2. Alameda CNC; 3. Redline Robotics, 248 3rd St., # 1167, Oakland, CA 94607 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Payne Capital LLC, 248 3rd St., # 1167, Oakland, CA 94607. 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/: Daniel Payne, Manager. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 6, 2023. Expires November 5, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5717. Published December 14, 21, 28, 2023, January 4, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 601840

The following person(s) doing business as: Cafe Brusco, 2000 University Street, Berkeley, CA 94704 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Cafe Torino LLC, 1729 Delaware Street Unit B, Berkeley, CA 94704. 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/: Alexis Rorabaugh, Managing Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 3, 2023. Expires November 2, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5718. Published December 21, 28, 2023, January 4, 11, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 602461

The following person(s) doing business as: Vogue Beauty Lounge, 46485 Mission Blvd, Fremont, CA 94539 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Arkas Flips LLC, 1877 Sioux Dr., Fremont, CA 94539. 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: 12/01/2023. Signature of Registrant/s/: Abhay Sachar, Manager. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 5, 2023. Expires December 4, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5718. Published December 21, 28, 2023, January 4, 11, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 602139

The following person(s) doing business as: 934 Motorsport, 37525 Glenmoor Drive #11, Fremont, CA 94536 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): 934 Motorsport LLC, 1252 Moonlight Way, Milpitas, CA 95035. 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/: Ali A. Tuwarish, Manager. This statement was filed with the County

Clerk of Alameda on November 16, 2023. Expires November 15, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5719. Published December 21, 28, 2023, January 4, 11, 2024.

Lien Sale

Vessel and trailer lien sale is taking place on 12/29/23 at 8:00am at BOATMASTERS 5162 Preston Ave., Livermore, CA 94551. We are selling: 2008 CRESTLINER with EZ-Loader Trailer that were both last registered in California. Hull Identification Number: CRC35096G708 Vehicle Identification Number: 1L8TCCSB28A050116 License Plate: UH DELL CF 4597RN The Independent, Legal No. 5720. Published December 28, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 602836

The following person(s) doing business as: GL Pacific Products, 573 Lower Vintners Circle, Fremont, CA 94539 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Lan Gong, 573 Lower Vintners Circle, Fremont, CA 94539. 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/: Lan Gong, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 1, 2023. Expires December 14, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5721. Published December 28, 2023, January 4, 11, 18, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 602436

The following person(s) doing business as: Project Bay Home LLC, 2948 Chateau Way, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Project Bay Home LLC, 2108 N St Ste N, Sacramento, CA 95816. 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: 12/01/2023. Signature of Registrant/s/: Sarah Vanier, Officer. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 4, 2023. Expires December 3, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5722. Published December 28, 2023, January 4, 11, 18, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 602854

The following person(s) doing business as: Creative Supports, Inc., 7083 Commerce Circle, Ste A, Pleasanton, CA

94588 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): CSI Ergonomic Furniture, Inc., 7083 Commerce Circle Ste A, 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: 12/15/2023. Signature of Registrant/s/: Stephen Wolf, Vice President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 15, 2023. Expires December 14, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5723. Published December 28, 2023, January 4, 11, 18, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 602404

The following person(s) doing business as: My Peoples LLC, 8 Keswick Court, Oakland, CA 94611-2511 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): My Peoples LLC, 8 Keswick Court, Oakland, CA 94611-2511. 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/: Jonathan Hirsch. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 01, 2023. Expires December 01, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5724. Published December 28, 2023, January 4, 11, 18, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 602709

The following person(s) doing business as: KRTA LLC, 133 Misty Circle, Livermore,

CA 94550-2536 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): KRTA LLC, 133 Misty Circle, Livermore, CA 94550-2536. 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/: Venkatesh S. Varadha, Founder, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 12, 2023. Expires December 11, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5725. Published December 28, 2023, January 4, 11, 18, 2024.

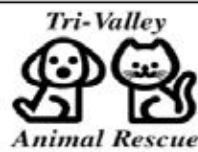
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 602018

The following person(s) doing business as: Pearle Vision, 3024 W Jack London Blvd #C3, Livermore, CA 94551-7609 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Lucid-eyez Inc., 8341 Chantrelle CT, Gilroy, CA 95020. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 11/09/2023. Signature of Registrant/s/: Preet Toor, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 9, 2023. Expires November 22, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5726. Published December 28, 2023, January 4, 11, 18, 2024.

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The Year in Review



The Arroyo Bike Path in Livermore at Concannon Boulevard experienced significant damage during the New Year's storm.



The Livermore Granada Boosters held their Race to the Flagpole event in January. The run started and finished at Independence Park in Livermore. The 5k and 10k courses were altered a bit this year due to storm damage at Sycamore Grove Park.



Livermore Valley Arts and Las Positas College joined in a Lunar New Year event in front of the Bankhead Theater in Livermore on Jan. 21. The festivities included Tai Chi lessons and a presentation of traditional Chinese dance and instruments by Xiaopei Chinese Dance.

In January, Sunol Glen Unified School District Superintendent Molleen Barnes explained how, during the storms, floodwater from Alameda Creek tore through her campus. The community raised funds and stepped in to help repair the damage.



Sunol Glen School students move a refrigerator during the Sunol Glen Flood Damage Cleanup Day on Feb. 4. The refrigerator was part of the debris that made its way onto the playground during the New Year's Eve storm. The event was hosted by the office of Alameda County Supervisor David Haubert.



Lane closures on Eastbound 580 stopped traffic for hours during storm weather in March. Caltrans worked to shore up a retaining wall that slid during the series of storms.



Granada's Nate Keaney jumps over the Norte Dame defense for 2 points during the CIF Division 1 title game on Friday, March 10. Granada lost to Notre Dame-Sherman Oaks, 67-58.



Members of the Hindu dance group Bombay Jam performed during the Holi Festival, or Festival of Colors, at Emerald Glen Park in Dublin in March. Holi is a popular and inclusive Hindu festival that celebrates spring, love and renewal.

An oak tree fell on the historic Lighthouse Baptist Church on Neal and Second streets in Pleasanton during March windstorms in the Bay Area. The tree landed on a portion of the church that is used as a nursery, but was empty at the time. The rest of the church was untouched and able to be used for services.



2023

January to June



The weekend rains stopped just before 7:30 a.m. and the start of the Livermore Half Marathon on Sunday, March 5. Over 2000 runners started from downtown Livermore and ran through the vineyards and rolling hills of south and east Livermore before returning downtown to completE the race.



The Cinderella Classic, a bicycle tour for women of all ages and abilities, winds through the Amador, Livermore, Diablo and San Ramon Valleys. The event kicked off at Las Positas College in Livermore.



Members of the Care First Community Coalition, along with families of those impacted by illness and incarceration, gathered on a Saturday in April at Santa Rita Jail in Dublin. The protesters called on elected officials to put an immediate end to placing those who have substance use issues and mental illness in correctional facilities.



The Riata Ranch Cowboy Girls displayed acrobatic vaulting and rope tricks during their specialty acts at the Livermore Rodeo on June 10 and 11. The 105th rodeo event was hosted by the Livermore Stockmen's Rodeo Association and sold out on both days.



A portion of the path adjacent to Stanley Boulevard in Pleasanton collapsed over the weekend, following another string of atmospheric river storms. The slide resulted in the closure of eastbound vehicular traffic.



A candlelight vigil was held Friday, April 28 in Pleasanton to honor Home Depot employee Blake Mohs, who was shot and killed during an attempted robbery at the Pleasanton store.

In April, the Dublin Library celebrated its 20th anniversary with a day of public events, including opening remarks from Mayor Melissa Hernandez, shown here, and Alameda County Supervisor David Haubert.



Tri-Valley Repertory Theatre opened “The Song of the Nightingale” at Pleasanton’s Firehouse Arts Center in April. The musical, based on a Hans Christian Andersen Tale, featured the character of Mei Lin, a kitchen maid, and her search for the elusive nightingale.



The Hispanic Heritage Celebration in May at the Bankhead Plaza in Livermore was made possible by Livermore Valley Arts, Las Positas College, Joya Studios and a Rotarian Foundation of Livermore 2023 Community Grant.



The Amador Varsity Boys’ Volleyball team proudly displays the NCS Championship plaque following their victory against the Foothill Falcons in the North Coast Section Division 1 Varsity Boys’ Volleyball championship on Thursday, May 11. Amador won 3 matches to 1.

In May, Livermore celebrated Livermorium Day in the Livermore Plaza to recognize the creation of element 116, which was named in honor of the city and a team of scientists from the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory.



Dublin High School Girls' Basketball Team Pulls Off a 66 to 35 Win

By Phil Jensen

At the end of the first quarter on Dec. 20, the Dublin High School girls basketball team was tied 12-12 with visiting Vintage-Napa in a nonleague game.

“We talked about picking up the tempo, picking up our defense a little bit more,” said Jose Alvarez, Dublin’s new coach who previously led Moreau Catholic-Hayward for several seasons, about what was talked about before the second quarter. “It’s finals week, so these girls have a lot of pressure on them, and I think that first quarter showed a little bit of nervousness.”

By the time the fourth quarter started, Dublin had a 27-point lead.

The Gaels produced a jaw-dropping 20 points in the second quarter and followed it up with 19 in the third. Vintage only scored three points in the third quarter and 14 in the second half in a 66-35 Dublin victory.

“Second half, we talked about the goals that we talked about pregame,” Alvarez said. “One of our biggest goals was to not allow them to get easy baskets,

which we didn’t do in the first quarter ... We feed off our defense and then we get easy baskets going the other way.”

Dublin improved to 7-1 this season with the victory. It also extended the Gaels’ winning streak to seven games, as Dublin lost its opener 62-60 to St. Mary’s-Berkeley on Nov. 25. The result of Dublin’s game on Dec. 23 at West-Tracy was not available at press time.

The Gaels return nine players from last year’s team that finished 10-13 overall and 2-8 in the East Bay Athletic League, including their two leading scorers against Vintage. Kenya Craven, a senior, scored a game-high 17 points. Sophia Ignacio, a junior and an honorable-mention all-EBAL selection last year, added 16 points. Aanya Pandia, a sophomore, had nine points for Dublin.

Dublin was balanced against Vintage, as it had 10 players who scored, 10 who grabbed rebounds, 11 who had steals and six who produced assists. Gaia Lembo, a freshman, and junior Zoya Nomani paced Dublin with six rebounds apiece, and Lembo also passed for a

game-high four assists. Sydney Muther, a senior, and Ignacio both had a game-high four steals.

Vintage bolted out to a 7-2 lead to start the game, but a drive for a basket by Craven started a 10-5 Dublin run to end the first quarter. The Crushers produced the first basket of the second quarter before the Gaels went on a 20-7 run in the final seven minutes of the first half. Pandia had seven of her nine points in the quarter and Ignacio added six points as Dublin held a 32-21 advantage heading into halftime.

A three-pointer by Craven just four seconds into the second half started a 19-3 Dublin scoring advantage in the third quarter. The Gaels increased their lead to 61-28 with four minutes, 36 seconds left in the game on an Ignacio layup.

Luna Aguilar paced Vintage in scoring with 12 points and also had five rebounds and two steals.

Dublin is hosting the Pearl and Platinum Divisions of the West Coast Jamboree on Dec. 28-30. The Gaels will be playing in the Pearl Division.



Dublin guard Sophia Ignacio jumps for the ball during the Dec. 20 game against Vintage-Napa at Dublin High School. Dublin won 66-35. [\[See photo gallery at www.independentnews.com/multimedia\]](#) (Photo – Doug Jorgensen)



Granada High's Madeleine Contreras kicks the ball away from the Matadors goal during a game against the Castro Valley Trojans on Dec. 21. Granada won 3-2. [\[See photo gallery at www.independentnews.com/multimedia\]](#) (Photo – Doug Jorgensen)



Gael's cheerleaders celebrate the team's success during the game against Vintage-Napa. (Photo – Doug Jorgensen)



Early morning fog shrouds Altamont Pass windmills and frames a historic farmhouse on North Flynn Road in Livermore. (Photo – Doug Jorgensen)



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