

Dublin

City Asks For More Affordable Housing

By Ruth Roberts

DUBLIN — To assist in increasing their Regional Housing Needs Allocation numbers, the Dublin City Council told the applicant of the proposed Dublin Commons community to plan for more affordable housing in the development and to allow some rental units to be converted into for-sale models in the future.

“What I would ask for is to create a flexible provision in here (the agreement) that allows for renewed evaluation based on changes in economic timing,” Mayor Michael McCorriston during the Sept. 3, City Council meeting. “I would like to have ground-work set up with an agreement that we will be looking at this on a recurring basis ... I don’t know how you are going to

(See COMMONS, page 8)

Journalism Threatened Across U.S.

Solutions Include New Law, Local Support

By Christina Cavallaro

PLEASANTON — News media across the United States are in a state of crisis, according to a new documentary presented last Friday by the Embarcadero Media Foundation and Three Valleys Community Foundation. Embarcadero, a newly created nonprofit organization, owns the Pleasanton Weekly, Livermore Vine and Dublin-San Ramon. The two foundations screened the documentary, “Stripped for Parts: American Journalism at the Crossroads,” at Firehouse Arts Center in Pleasanton and hosted a panel discussion afterward to highlight the disappearance of local news media in many cities and towns.

“It’s a brave new world for journalism,” said Tim Hunt, who spent 39 years with the Tri-Valley Herald in Livermore before its demise in 2011. He now writes a column for Embarcadero. He recalled the Herald’s

(See JOURNALISM, page 8)



A confusing start of the school year left several Livermore High School students with schedule conflicts. Elimination of a zero-period and the switch to a semester calendar led to more limited elective options for some students. Music Director Justin Enright (back, right) leads many of the school’s ensembles. (Photo — Doug Jorgensen)

Livermore

LHS Jazz, Theater Saved For Now

Switch to Semesters, Nixing Zero-Period Led to Schedule Chaos

By Ruth Roberts

LIVERMORE — The music will play, and the shows will go on at Livermore High School (LHS) this year thanks to an adjustment in class schedules by the district office.

Despite a rough start to the new year for the popular jazz band and theater programs, Torie Gibson,

the new Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District superintendent, assured students and families that accommodations would be made for all who want to participate in the popular electives.

Students in drama or jazz band class found themselves in the midst of confusing scheduling conflicts. These were in part due to a dis-

trict-wide switch from trimesters to semesters and the district deciding to adhere to a state law that mandated later start times. The district complied with the law this year by eliminating zero-period classes, which were held before the statewide official start time of 8:30 a.m.

The problem for the theater arts program started with the scheduling of dra-

(See JAZZ BAND, page 7)

Two Arrested in Dublin High School Locker Room Assault on Student

By Ruth Roberts

Two former Dublin Unified School District (DUSD) students have been arrested in connection with an attack on a Dublin High School student last month.

An 18-year former DUSD student was arrested on suspicion of felony assault, child abuse and trespassing charges, according to the Dublin Police Services. Another former DUSD student, 17, was also booked on felony assault charges.

The 18-year-old suspect is believed to be known to the victim. The 17-year-old suspect has a family connection to a female student and her mother, who had also been under investigation, according to police.

“At this time, it appears there were previous conflicts between the victim

and the female student, and the female student and her mother confronted the victim regarding these conflicts,” Dublin police said in a statement. “The female student and her mother were not involved in the physical attack and, at this time, it does not appear the mother coordinated the attack.”

As of Friday, the 18-year-old suspect has been booked into Santa Rita Jail. The 17-year-old was issued a citation and will make a later appearance in court.

On Aug. 23, a 14-year-old Dublin High student was followed into the locker room by several individuals who assaulted him. A coach and students who were in the locker room stepped in and stopped the attack, and the suspects fled the scene.

The victim’s mother,

who’d posted a statement on her Facebook page, did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Dublin Police Services’ School Resource Officers are leading the investigation and are continuing to identify the additional suspects, locate further video footage, and gather witness leads, as well as determine a motive for the attack.

“We thank the Dublin Police Services for their ongoing work and view these arrests as a positive development in this case,” Chip Dehnert, DUSD’s public information officer said in an email to The Independent.

The case remains under investigation. Anyone with information, including video footage, or who witnessed the incident is encouraged to contact Dublin Police Services at 925-833-6670.

Santa Rita Sued Over Jail Death

Inmate’s Mental Health Issues Were Ignored Before Cellmate Killed Him

By Larry Altman

DUBLIN — The mother of a mentally ill El Cerrito man filed a wrongful death suit last week against Alameda County alleging he was brutally killed at the Santa Rita Jail just 46 minutes after deputies placed a convicted sex offender with a history of violence in his cell.

Erica Edgerly charges in her lawsuit filed in U.S. District Court in Northern California that Alameda County sheriff’s deputies knew from previous detentions that her son, Yuri Graham Brand, 39, suffered from schizophrenia, but failed following his Sept. 8, 2023, arrest to place him in mental health housing. Brand, who was

arrested for breaking into a Piedmont house, squatting for two days and eating food, instead was placed in the general population.

Five days later, deputies locked Bryson Levy, 33, of Oakland, who had a history of violent sexual assault and use of weapons, in a cell with him, the lawsuit charges.

“This is a tragic yet easily preventable consequence of inattention and what appears to be very sloppy work on behalf of Santa Rita jail, which has resulted in untold harm and carnage to our community,” Edgerly’s attorney, Adanté Pointer, said. “This is the 68th person that has lost their life in Santa Rita jail, many under ques-

(See JAIL, page 8)



Former American Idol star Katherine McPhee headlined and sang hit songs during the Brilliance at the Bankhead Gala on Saturday, Sept. 7. The annual event is a fundraiser for Livermore Valley Arts. See story on page 2. (Photo — Doug Jorgensen)

Pleasanton

Council OKs Bandstand Renovation in Lions Wayside, Delucchi Parks

Work May Delay Summer Concerts in 2025

By David Jen

PLEASANTON — Downtown Pleasanton’s public venue for live, outdoor music will receive an upgrade following a unanimous city council decision last week to build a new bandstand and larger lawn area at Lions Wayside and Delucchi Park.

Project plans describe a new half hexagon steel

structure facing southwest onto the lawn of Lions Wayside Park. Roughly 50 by 25 feet, the new bandstand will include a colonial red metal roof, surrey beige powder-coated frame, and ornamental railings along the sides and rear.

The city expects construction to begin this month and run through May 2025, with the new

(See BANDSTAND, page 8)



The BMX Bike Fest came to downtown Pleasanton on Sept. 7. Top riders performed their stunts on a custom-built course. The event was sponsored by the Pleasanton Downtown Association. (Photo — Doug Jorgensen)

Livermore

Council Changes Arroyo Vista Project To Add Parks, Support Services

By Larry Altman

LIVERMORE — The City Council on Monday approved changes to a portion of the 435-unit Arroyo Vista residential project, removing a pedestrian bridge to save money, adding two pocket parks for residents, and allowing for three-story single-family homes.

In a unanimous vote, the modified agreement first approved in 2017 will require Trumark Homes LLC to

contribute \$2 million to the city’s Community Benefit Fund and Social Opportunity Endowment Fund. Trumark Homes purchased the project from the original developer, Summerhill LLC.

Grading has begun on parts of the two-parcel site on 29 acres southeast of Arroyo Vista and Las Positas Road. The Arroyo Seco Flood control channel flows through the site.

The changes approved Monday affect 86 sin-

gle-family homes to be built on the western parcel, which will be allowed to rise from two-story structures to three. A pedestrian bridge over the channel was eliminated from the plan because of an estimated \$73,000 annual price tag to the city to maintain it.

In addition to the pocket parks, the developer plans improvements including underground utilities.

The Livermore Planning Commission voted in July to recommend that the City

(See ARROYO, page 7)

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PET OF THE WEEK



MR. MOPS

Mr. Mops is sure to sweep you off your feet. With fluffy white curls and the softest fur around, you might confuse this sweet fella for a living, breathing blanket! This cozy canine is ready to find a family. If you’re ready to let Mr. Mops add a little sparkle to your home, visit valleyhumane.org to learn more or email info@valleyhumane.org to start the adoption process. (Photo courtesy of Valley Humane)

Former Lawrence Livermore Leader Dies in New Mexico Car Crash

By Ruth Roberts

Charles McMillan, a former Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory official and retired director of the Los Alamos National Laboratory, died in a car accident Friday, Sept. 6, in New Mexico where he lived. He was 69. Los Alamos Police Department officers responded to a 911 call reporting a two-vehicle accident around 5:15 a.m. last Friday, along New Mexico Route 502, according to the department’s press release. First responders arrived a few minutes later and began treating three victims on the scene. A

22-year-old female was treated for minor injuries. McMillan was taken to Los Alamos Medical Center and later pronounced dead. The incident remains under investigation. McMillan started his career as an experimental physicist at Lawrence Livermore in 1983. Among various research and management positions, he played an important role in establishing the Stockpile Stewardship Program, was part of the early subcritical experiments program, and later became the leader of the project to extend the life of W80 warheads, and later the B Division leader, where he directed several lab pro-

grams related to the nation’s stockpile of nuclear weaponry. He also worked



Charles McMillan

in the lab’s Accelerated Strategic Computing Initiative, which shaped ef-

forts in high-performance computing and advanced code development. “My thoughts and sympathy are with Charlie’s wife and family,” Lawrence Livermore Director Kim Budil said in a statement. “Charlie was a wonderful colleague and important mentor to many, including me. He brought great passion and intellect to everything he did, from his leadership in our nuclear deterrence mission to his more recent engagement on AI. He has left an indelible mark on both LLNL and LANL as well as the broader national security community.” After more than 20

years, McMillan left Lawrence Livermore for Los Alamos in New Mexico, where he worked on the Trinity supercomputer, ensured the long-term viability of the nuclear weapons stockpile, supported Mars exploration initiatives, aided global efforts to develop an HIV vaccine and produce life-saving medical isotopes. He was named director at the Los Alamos lab in New Mexico in 2011 and retired in 2017. “On behalf of the entire Laboratory, I would like to express deepest sympathies to the McMillan family and to the many current and former employees who worked closely with

Charlie and knew him well,” Los Alamos Director Thom Mason said in a statement. “His work had an important impact on our mission and that of Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory and helped set the stage for success in many critical areas of focus, like AI. We will certainly miss his enthusiasm and passion for our work, but the loss of Charlie as a mentor, colleague and friend is a greater tragedy.” McMillan was a graduate of Washington Adventist University in Maryland and earned a doctorate from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

American Idol Star Shines at Brilliance at the Bankhead Gala

By Christina Cavallaro

Katherine McPhee, star of film, television, Broadway and recording, wasted no time in engaging the packed audience inside the Bankhead Theater with her singing prowess, charm and sense of humor. The elegant star in a rosy, pink satin gown filled the room to the rafters with her beautiful voice. Then she brought everything down to Earth, gracefully and literally, when she slithered her way to the stage floor on her stomach to croon Karen Carpenter’s “Close to You” to audience members in the front row. McPhee first burst onto the scene in 2006 during a successful run on Season 5 of “American Idol,” which made her a household name. She headlined the Brilliance at the Bankhead gala last Saturday night, a fundraiser for Livermore Valley Arts. The cabaret-style performance weaved in per-

sonal stories of McPhee’s career and life with her husband, 16-time Grammy Award-winning musician, composer and producer, David Foster. McPhee’s musical selections paired perfectly with the Livermore-Amador Symphony. Together, they helped raise more than \$525,000 for the Livermore Valley Arts, said Executive Director Chris Carter. “That’s the challenge, finding the artist to go with the orchestra,” said Anne Giancola, visual arts and education manager at Livermore Valley Arts. McPhee and conductor, Lara Webber, shared a visually playful rapport the audience loved, as they dramatically waited for each other to break into a musical reprise. McPhee recounted the story of her experience with husband Foster on another singing competition, the Fox network’s “The Masked Singer.” She told the audience they’d

said no a bunch of times to doing the show, because they “didn’t want to wear the silly costumes,” but eventually they acquiesced. They were dressed as a banana split, with McPhee dancing as the ice cream, and Foster as the banana. “We had a fricking blast,” she said. She sang “Cry Me a River” over and over, the song Foster had chosen, and won every time during the season. Then, they came to the semifinal round, when for the first time, she insisted on choosing their song, “Singing in the Rain.” She said the song “got us kicked off.” The crowd roared with laughter as she launched into the losing tune. Before the main musical event started inside the theater, music flowed across the Bankhead Plaza from the East Bay Jazz High School All-Stars, while attendees enjoyed drinks and dinner al fresco. Now in its ninth year,

East Bay Jazz is a competitive pre-professional music academy that includes big band and combo ensembles directed by founder Spencer Sussman and supported by Livermore Valley Arts. The program, Giancola said, “wouldn’t exist if we didn’t support it. It’s amazing. We would love (even) more support for them.” McPhee continued to entertain guests throughout her performance with celebrity stories and anecdotes. “I have very fond memories of American Idol” she said, “but there was one song in particular,” written by Foster, “that Simon (Cowell) said after I sang it—to never sing it again.” The audience erupted in laughter as she sang a rendition of Whitney Houston’s “I Have Nothing.” “I love the spirit of this place, this beautiful theater that all of you have contributed to and (in which you) are keeping the arts alive.” She turned to the symphony and said, “I cannot even be-

lieve you guys volunteered to do this,” which brought huge applause from the auditorium. She later quipped about joining the winner of the ‘Trip to Tuscany’ auction item. “I’m available,” she said. “Just come talk to me after the show, I can contribute to dinners and whatnot.” McPhee closed out the evening with a charmed performance of Donna Summer’s “Last Dance.” Throughout the entire auditorium, audience mem-

bers rose to their feet and cheered as she floss-danced her way off the stage to the standing ovation.



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Livermore Residents Celebrate Seven Decades of Happy Marriage

By Christina Cavallaro

When Ann and Rudy Johnson moved to Livermore in 1956 it was the epitome of a one-horse town. “There was one stoplight down at the flagpole when we moved here,” said Ann in the soft southern drawl of her birthplace Raleigh, North Carolina.

Her husband Rudy chimed in, “It was a nice little town, and I was used to a small town.” Johnson hails from Spring Hope, North Carolina, population 1,000 when he was growing up there. “And it was bigger than the town she lived in.” He said, smiling at his wife.

The young couple married in 1954 and moved to Livermore with their 6-month-old daughter Cynthia. Ann later gave birth to their son Mark, and they now have two granddaughters. They lived in town at first before eventually moving to the more rural outskirts off Marina Avenue, where they’ve lived for the past 50 years. “I liked it,” Ann Johnson said. “At that time, we only had one car” — a 1954 Plymouth — “and it was easy to drive anywhere you wanted to go.”

Like many people who came to Livermore during that Cold War era, Rudy Johnson was drawn here for a job. “I went into the Air Force and took a test and scored high enough that they made me a chemical engineer — I thought a 10th grader could have passed it,” he joked.

But he was 22 and wanted to get married. When he signed the contract, the military told him that the first two people who did this type of work only lasted 6 months in the job; the next two made it a couple years before being reassigned. “They told me, ‘You won’t live past 60 years old (in this job)’” Rudy Johnson recalled. “Well, people

(then) were only living to be about 65 years old, so I thought, I can get married, and they will pay me for her (Ann) and I said, ‘Man, that’s a bargain,’” he laughed. “And here I am, almost 93.”

As a nuclear officer in the Air Force, he’d acquired the U.S. Department of Energy’s Q Clearance, the security access authorization required to deal with top secret restricted data, so the military encouraged him to go work for the new Livermore campus of what was then simply called Sandia Laboratory, which had about 1,000 employees at the time and was managed by Sandia Corp., a subsidiary of Western Electric. The Lawrence Livermore Laboratory had only just been established a few years earlier in 1952.

“I had a new bride and so I said all right.” He began a 34-year career at Sandia, earning a master’s degree in chemical engineering along the way, before retiring in 1991.

His work life may have been intense, but his home life was very loving and fulfilling.

Ann said she had no idea about her husband’s potential diminished life span from years of handling nuclear material.

“Everything he did was supposed to be top secret, so he didn’t discuss work at home. I didn’t realize how bad and how dangerous it was,” she said.

The couple just celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary on August 10th. “We feel fortunate to have each other because so many of my friends, my age and even younger, are alone,” Ann Johnson said. “And I feel so fortunate that I still have him after all these years.”

But every great story has a beginning, and theirs almost ended before it began. It started when the former Ann Glenn begrudgingly

agreed to go on a double-blind date with her now husband because she thought tickets to the Ice Follies were in the cards. “I really wanted to go to the Ice Follies,” she said laughing. “So that wasn’t a very nice thing (of me)

but as it turned out karma followed me.” The boys couldn’t get the tickets. “So I was stuck.”

The date didn’t turn out so well. Ann Johnson and her friend decided to make the fellows dinner. “So I come out with a

plate of biscuits, and he says, ‘Oh, canned biscuits I see.’ And I said, ‘No, what makes you think that’s canned biscuits?’” And he proceeded to count them, 10 in all. He worked at a grocery store, so he knew there were ten in a can.

“I don’t know, it just struck me wrong and I thought, ‘Well, I’ll never date this guy again.’”

“And here we are,” he added.

Despite the bumpy start, Ann Johnson remembers exactly when she fell in love with her now-husband. It was when she was trying to break up with him and he let her know he wasn’t about to let her go, she said. “‘I found a good thing and I don’t intend to let it slip through my fingers,’” she related him saying. “And that’s when

I knew I wanted to marry this guy. I fell in love with him right then.”

“He was very romantic,” she added.

“I was?” he asked. “I don’t remember.”

Ann Johnson credits her husband’s loving ways to his own parents.

“His dad was so sweet to his mother, and I told him, ‘If you’re half as nice to me as your dad is to your mother, I’ll be a happy wife.’ And he said, ‘I’m planning to be better.’ And he kept that promise.”

Johnson likes to tell people he married a younger woman. “She’s only 92,” he chuckled.

“It’s gone by faster than I expected,” his wife added. “I can’t believe we’ve been married for 70 years, but it’s been a good journey.”



Ann and Rudy Johnson have been married for 70 years. They first moved to Livermore in 1956 when Rudy went to work at the new campus of Sandia Laboratory. (Photo — Doug Jorgensen)

Library Offers Two Free Financial Literacy Classes

The Livermore Civic Center Library will offer a free class in October designed to help older members of the community recognize financial scams.

“Safe Banking for Seniors – Identifying and Avoiding Scams,” will be from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 5. The class will be led by Lynell Bevels, community lending officer at Umpqua Bank, who will discuss why seniors are targeted by scammers and how to

recognize and avoid financial fraud.

The library, 1188 S. Livermore Ave., will also offer a class from 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 26, on how a buyer’s credit rating can affect homebuying and other large purchases.

The class, “Understanding and Preparing Your Credit for Home Buying,” will be led by Jule Dildine, Napa-Bel Aire branch manager for Umpqua Bank.

Both classes are free. Registration is not required.

STEAM Academy to Hold Annual Roadrunner Run

The Marylin Avenue STEAM Academy, a Livermore elementary school that focuses on science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics, will hold its second annual Roadrunner Run fundraiser on Friday, Nov. 15.

Students will spend the day in various running, walking and community-building events, with the proceeds going to support the school’s STEAM initiatives, according to the school’s Parent Teacher Organization (PTO), which is also actively seeking financial support from local businesses and community members to cover costs of the Roadrunner Run.

Jami Morton, President of Marylin Avenue STEAM Academy PTO, added,

“We’re thrilled to host the Roadrunner Run again this year,” said PTO President Jami Morton. “We

rely heavily on the generosity of our sponsors to make events like this possible.”

Last year’s Roadrunner Run raised more than \$30,000, according to Morton, with the funds going to provide additional classroom resources.

Principal Joe Meunier noted that the Roadrunner Run “is more than just a fundraiser.”

“It’s a celebration of our school’s spirit and a wonderful opportunity to promote active, healthy lifestyles among our students,” Meunier said. “We’re looking forward to bringing our community together for this special event.”

Students at the former Marylin Avenue Elementary School receive hands-on laboratory science instruction twice a week, as well as full-time instruction from reading and math specialists.

SEPTEMBER 14

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EDITORIAL

We Need the Arts for Individual and Community Growth

The fall marks the start of many activities—the performing arts season and school year, for example. Less visible, fall also marks the start of the fundraising season. Arts, civic groups and social service nonprofits launch campaigns, apply for grants, and otherwise put out their hats asking the community to support their operations in the coming year.

Most nonprofits are reliant upon donations and grant funding to maintain operations. Without the generosity provided by the community, these organizations would struggle to survive.

For example, the Livermore High School music department is currently seeking to raise

\$30,000 through the Community Health & Education Foundation for the school year that just started. The money supports instrument purchases and maintenance, coaching, the work of putting on public performances... all things that California’s education budget can’t cover.

Even in good years, the donations that come in usually are enough just to get into the next year. Then it’s time for another fundraiser.

But we accept this status quo as if there are no other options. This points to a misaligned set of priorities: funding arts, schools, social service organizations and other nonprofit groups is often sacrificed in favor of business investments.

Years ago, we recognized the need to support more STEM education — science, technology, engineering and mathematics—for the U.S. to remain competitive on the world stage. But it’s only in recent years that we started, in some places, to add arts into the mix, changing STEM to STEAM.

Yet the arts are unique in that they fulfill a cultural need to learn and grow, enabling people and their communities to become better versions of themselves.

Our policymakers and leaders have long had a different set of priorities, catering to the desires of business and the investor class instead of the needs and personal growth of average

citizens. We need successful businesses to keep our economy strong, but we also need to support a value system that goes beyond acquiring wealth.

This isn’t a simple problem. Truly addressing the inequities faced by the nonprofit sector, as epitomized by arts funding, would require revamping our local, state and national priorities: changing who the tax code benefits, for example, and making sure federal and state appropriations are more fair.

We need to readjust that balance of priorities, to focus not just on economic growth, but on those aspects of society that everyone can share and enjoy, so that we can grow as individuals, and as a people.

MAILBOX

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Unlead Livermore Airport Donna Cabanne, Livermore

Did you hear?? UnleadLVK, a group of Tri-Valley residents, rallied Saturday at the entrance of the Livermore Airport (LVK) to support National Clean Air Day and to advocate for the sale of GAMI G100UL at LVK by 2025. National Clean Air Day aims to raise awareness of the negative effects of air pollution on human health and the environment. Lead in any form is toxic to human health; for this reason, leaded gas for cars was discontinued 28 years ago. Unfortunately, leaded aviation fuel is still used by thousands of small piston engine aircraft.

Five Rivers Aviation at LVK continues to sell thousands of gallons of leaded

aviation fuel. We urge the Fixed Base Operator at LVK to sell GAMI G100UL by 2025. GAMI G100UL is FAA approved, and can be safely used as a drop in replacement fuel for all piston engine aircraft and in any fuel tank. Livermore Airport offers Swift Unleaded 94UL aviation fuel, but that can only be used in 70% of piston engine aircraft.

The sale of GAMI G100UL at LVK will significantly reduce toxic lead emissions that affect airport workers, pilots, and residents living within a 1.5 mile radius of Livermore Airport. Flying a piston engine aircraft is a hobby, but breathing clean air is a human necessity. Leaded aviation fuel hurts humans, especially children. Help us clean up our air !!!

Ask Livermore City Council members to require the FBO to sell GAMI G100UL by 2025.

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Steven Dunbar for District 3! Kristie Wang, Livermore

Steven Dunbar is an excellent candidate for Livermore City Council. He exemplifies the next generation of hard-working young professionals striving to put down roots in Livermore, while also emerging as a go-to expert on local issues.

I got to know Steven the same way many of us do — over a policy discussion. In my case, it was a question about bike lanes/paths near our schools, and Steven was recommended as the person to ask. It was good advice. He was informed, analytical, and laid out the pros and cons, seemingly off the top of his head. He did it all while exuding great enthusiasm for the subject.

Since then, I’ve had the opportunity to have many more policy discussions with Steven about a range

of issues, and he is always knowledgeable, thoughtful, and interested in any aspect of local policy. If there is something he doesn’t know, he’s quick to find the answer and add it to his repertoire. He’s someone who will not only read every page of the packet in preparation for meetings, he will know how to utilize the information and represent our City well at regional meetings. He has a genuine interest in serving our community, as evidenced by his years of service on our Planning Commission.

Livermore is home to many types of people, and it’s important that our city leadership reflect that diversity. Steven is young and recently bought his first home in Livermore after years of saving and sacrificing. He will give voice to the realities and challenges faced by those just starting out and working to gain a foothold in Livermore.

We are fortunate to have someone at his stage of life who is experienced and ready to serve. I urge District 3 residents to vote for Steven Dunbar for Livermore City Council.

Hello... Anybody Home? Vic Avila, Livermore

City Council, are you home? Are you listening? Are you aware of Livermore’s history and legacy? Earlier city councils safe-guarded Livermore’s agricultural past, its open space, its small-town feel, its cowboy/cowgirls, vintners and farmers past. But the current Livermore City Council has forgotten what Livermore is. City councils of the past avoided allowing urban sprawl to take over Livermore, a unique and priceless commodity in the Bay Area. But the current council wants to create urban sprawl in the heart of the most important portion of the city---DOWNTOWN. The quaint 19th century look and feel would then be tainted by urban sprawl from the Eden Housing Development, sitting next to a large parking structure, and across from 312 residences at Legacy Apartments.

The voters submitted a referendum, attempting to put the Eden Housing issue on the ballot, but the city council refused to accept it. The California Court of Appeal told the city to accept it.... but they still refuse. They probably know that voters would want the Eden Housing project relocated. We need council members that listen to the citizens, and not listen to their own agenda. Jeff Kaskey and Tom Soules, experienced community leaders, are candidates that will listen to voters. They are both highly qualified, have worked on many issues

over the years that are important to Livermore. Vote for them in November. Your conscience will be rewarded, and your property value will not go down due to urban sprawl.

Support Reelection of Karla Brown Neil Kripalani, Esq., Pleasanton

I have been a proud and happy resident of Pleasanton, California now for over 33 years.

Mayor Karla Brown is a diplomatic listener and balances multiple competing interests in a true executive manner.

She really cares, which matters the most. She is also kind and benevolent with disadvantaged populations and does her best to further those groups within our society.

Please join me and support her reelection as the Mayor of Pleasanton.

We Know What We Get with Tom Soules Doug Mann, Livermore

The nice things people say about Kristi Wang are probably true. I find her to be polite, cordial and not prone to confrontation.

The problem is, I have been trying since December to have her articulate any position, on any issue. She simply won’t do it. That’s why I prefer Tom Soules to be on the Livermore City Council.

With Tom Soules, you know what you’re getting. He doesn’t want more high-rise towers in the middle of downtown. He’ll protect that Urban Growth Boundary, increase government transparency, offer specific proposals for more affordable housing, hold people to account and he won’t try to raise taxes. Evasion is not in his DNA.

Since his opponent won’t take a stand, we can only surmise that she would do the same as her principal endorsers. They want Livermore to develop in ways more similar to how Dublin has done things. More downtown high rises, industrial development on agricultural land, unfriendly to the environment and higher taxes. We have to assume, lacking statements to the contrary, Kristi Wang agrees.

Working Together for Livermore’s Progress Jeff Kaskey, Livermore

I was bemused to see Trish Munro’s letter Aug 29, getting my positions entirely backward. As your District 3 Council candidate, I’d like to straighten that out.

I must first address her accusation that I speak ill of our City staff. Over the last few decades I have enjoyed working with staff in negotiations, collaborations,

requests for assistance and offering my time. They are the machine that keeps the wheels rolling while City Council discusses how to read the map. Some are personal friends, and all have my respect and appreciation.

Trish talks about the 2018 “collaborative vision for the 8.2 acres in Livermore’s City center” without remembering how we got there.

In 2016, the direction for Livermore’s City center was dense housing proposed by Lennar, with no public park or non-profit group space. With many others, I pushed back. So did the voters. The new 2016 council started a process of public engagement about how the downtown center should be developed. I was on Livermore’s Downtown Steering Committee, which created material for public input through a series of workshops. People with a wide range of opinions gave input for Downtown with a hotel as well as a community park, housing, public amenities and parking. I don’t recall either of the other District 3 Council candidates or Trish participating in that process with us.

Stockmen’s Park was not part of that process; it was negotiated outside of the view of both the Committee and the public workshops. That lack of transparency rendered some of the public input less relevant than it should have been. Still, Stockmen’s Park and space offered for non-profit science and arts groups are at least the start of a public space.

Trish claims I oppose the park, hotel and housing. The reality is that I simply did not support her or the developer’s view of them. With collaboration, we can continue to improve Livermore. We have a lot of residents with smart input on how our downtown, and our City, ought to move forward. As a Council member, I will not accuse them of opposing progress or dividing the community, but will listen respectfully to the range of opinions and lean on my Livermore experience to find solutions that consider each of the concerns and aspirations.

Connect on Jeff4Livermore.com

Vote Deena Kaplanis for LVJUSD School Board Stephanie Kessler, Livermore

I encourage you to vote for Deena in this upcoming election. She is a very qualified candidate to represent the families of Livermore; she is actively involved in the schools, truly cares about ensuring student achievement, school safety and is very passionate about keeping arts and music in our schools.

Please vote for Deena.

As a Livermore Dad, VandenHeuvel Has My Vote

Ryan Bicker, Livermore

I am voting for Christiaan VandenHeuvel for the Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District Board. I urge my fellow Livermore residents to vote for him as well. I’ve known Christiaan personally for over 25 years and had the privilege of working with him professionally for 19 of those years. This extensive personal experience has given me deep insights into his character and capabilities. He is highly qualified to serve on the LVJUSD School Board. I have seen Christiaan repeatedly demonstrate his commitment to all individuals’ success and his ability (and desire) to listen to everyone. This commitment to hearing all perspectives will allow him to discover what our students, families, and teachers need, and to advocate for them with clarity.

As a long-time LVJUSD parent with three children in the district — a high schooler, a middle schooler, and an elementary student — I will confidently vote for VandenHeuvel. As a family friend, he genuinely cares about my children’s success. When our families are together, he commonly asks them for updates on school, sports, or simply how they are doing as people! As a father, having a voice like his in my children’s lives is a tremendous gift. As a board member, I know he will give all our district’s children this gift of interest and concern as he works for their success.

Christiaan’s voice on the LVJUSD Board is not just beneficial; it’s crucial. His ability to listen, seek common ground, and prioritize our students’ needs will serve our community well. Please join me in voting for VandenHeuvel for the LVJUSD School Board. Your vote is vital in ensuring the best for our kids!

Jennifer Flynn Is the Right Person for the School Board

Brenna Polanco, Pleasanton

Jennifer Flynn is dedicated to restoring trust between Pleasanton teachers and the school board.

Having taught in Pleasanton for nearly a decade, I’ve witnessed many teachers leaving Pleasanton schools in search of a district that not only pays better, but will treat their employees with respect. To retain our top educators, we must rebuild trust between the district, school board, and teachers. I believe Jennifer Flynn is the

(See MAILBOX, page 5)

THE Independent

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A memorial to Tom Burnett, the former chief operating officer of Thoratec Corp., was placed outside his former workplace in Pleasanton. Burnett was a passenger on United Airlines Flight 93, which was hijacked on Sept. 11, 2001, and crashed into a field near Shanksville, Pennsylvania. A memorial has been placed every year since 2003 along Franklin Drive, what is now called Tom Burnett Lane. (Photo — Doug Jorgensen)

MAILBOX

(Continued from page 4)

right person to achieve this. I've had the pleasure of working with Jen and can attest to her unwavering support for teachers. She consistently ensured I had necessary classroom resources and worked tirelessly to ease teachers' burdens. I'll always appreciate her assistance with organizing a field trip for my grade level. She navigated numerous financial and logistical challenges. This included calling the bus company so many times that Jen was on a first name basis with the receptionist! Her support was crucial to the trip's success and to my sanity. We need an advocate on the school board we can rely on, and Jennifer Flynn is that person. For more information on her campaign, visit: votejenflynn.com.

Is Affordable Housing Affordable?
Thomas Soules, Livermore

There is a lot of discussion about affordable housing these days. But what does affordable housing mean? Is a temporary City sponsored reduction in rent of \$200 to \$500 per month versus market rents affordable housing? HUD defines affordable housing as housing that costs less than 30 % of your gross salary. Further Section 8 housing guarantees that your rent will never be more than 30 % of your gross income. For those low-income folks lucky enough to get Section 8 housing, this is great, although the renter is likely trapped in his/her Section 8 housing forever. It is also great for the landlords who receive the difference between that 30 % and market rates from the great money printer, the Federal Reserve. This of course creates more inflation making it even more difficult or impossible for even moderate-income earners to afford housing. The only way to get off this hamster-wheel is to help low and moderate-income folks buy a home. The Federal Reserve cannot print houses. If the low income earner can buy a house, he/she is no longer trapped and can take advantage of the inflation we all know, and not have to wor-

ry about his/her rent rising. I support anything we can do to help make home ownership affordable for low- and moderate-income workers.

Tara Boyce for Livermore School Board
Britney Levin, Livermore

This letter is to endorse Tara Boyce for Livermore School Board. Since the day that my husband and I moved to Livermore three years ago, Tara and her family welcomed us to the neighborhood with open arms. We noticed right away what a wonderful mom she is to her two sons. Tara is loving but firm, and she sets boundaries with her kids while letting them explore their curiosities and be themselves. This translates to being a great school board member because Tara truly cares about not just her kids, but ALL kids. We joke that she is the mayor of our neighborhood because she engages with all of the families around us, always lending a helping hand or an ear to listen. I have watched Tara fight for her son's education to ensure that he is getting the support that he needs at school, working with various stakeholders throughout the LVJUSD system to get the answers that all students deserve. As a teacher myself and parent of a future Livermore student, I believe any district would be lucky to have someone like Tara on their school board.

The Essence of a Free Society
Owen Brovont, a 58-year Livermore Resident

Your town is an extension of your home – it is up to you what kind of changes you desire and will permit. As citizens of Livermore, you elect town's people to represent your views. You are not passive recipients of what your "elected representatives" inform you of what changes they have decided to make! They are not elected with the idea that they will create plans to guide the development of the town, then inform you of what they intend to do. You are supposed to guide them by advising them of what you want and what you expect.

If they continue to essentially ignore the choices voiced by the people, they must be replaced by those who understand their roles in local government, and will openly and honestly make their best efforts to fulfill them.

Our current mayor has been in office for more than 10 years, far longer than is healthy for a moderate sized developing town like Livermore. During his time in office, he has supported and shepherded significant changes to both the blueprint and the character of Livermore, and he continues to fight for their implementation despite mounting concern and vocal opposition. That seems to be a contradiction of how a city government is supposed to function. It remains the responsibility of all Livermore's citizens, not just the well-heeled special interests, to decide if the direction of Livermore's development has been consistent with their wishes, or is in need of some changes to its leadership.

Jan and I are supporting Tom Soules for City Council, District 4, and recommend Jeff Kaskey for City Council, District 3.

Re: Publishing Lies Again
Bob Codeglia, Livermore

I'd like to take a moment to respond to Thomas Gray's own Mailbox submission in the Sept. 5, 2024 edition of The Independent, regarding his idea of censoring the ongoing postings by one David Ott. Thomas, I, too, am tired of seeing these untruths being posted repeatedly in our local paper, by a small group of the same letter writers, but I wanted to remind you of a couple of points... things that I've also had to remind myself of lately. First, we still have the First Amendment, which protects an American citizen's right to "free speech"... whether or not we agree with another person's viewpoint. Unless and until we cease to be a democratic republic, we can all thankfully still speak our minds, and, as difficult as it is to read some of these postings, it would be wrong for The Independent to "censor" anyone's free speech, espe-

cially when what the poster says is not agreeable to another. The right to a "free press" is also enshrined in the First Amendment, and there's a reason that the concept of free speech was the very first Amendment made; it was most important to our founding fathers at the time, who wanted to be able to speak without fear of retribution, and, it's still a major doctrine of what newspapers and reputable journalists adhere to. Secondly, perhaps you'd consider doing what I've been doing these last few months? That is, whenever I peruse the "Letters to the Editor" section, I simply IGNORE the writings of some of these more vitriolic writers... meaning, I don't even read them, after first looking at the name of the writer. I've decided that they're not worth my time. Writings like that, with their rambling untruths, baseless blaming and finger-pointing, etc. no longer get even a first look by me.

Instead, I will make my voice, and my opinion, known at the ballot box come this November, and I hope that you will join me in doing so as well!

Kristie Wang for City Council
Shana Peele, Livermore

Kristie Wang is a leader Livermore needs on its City Council. Her dedication, intelligence, and unwavering commitment to justice have already made a significant impact on our community. Kristie's fierce advocacy against Big Tobacco's efforts to target our children with flavored vaping products is a prime example of her tenacity. Despite the odds, she led a successful, grassroots campaign to ban these harmful products in Livermore, protecting our youth and demonstrating her ability to take on powerful interests.

Kristie has shown her commitment to the city of Livermore through her involvement in community building as well as through service on the Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District (LVJUSD)

School Board. She is known for being thorough, a good listener who shows up and stands up to support the best interests of the city and its people, and for employing a collaborative, problem-solving approach. Whether advocating for underserved communities or championing equity, Kristie consistently acts with integrity and care. She intends to help Livermore address issues like affordable housing and infrastructure maintenance so that young people have a chance to live here and raise their families.

Kristie is not motivated by personal ambition but by a genuine desire to improve the lives of Livermore residents. Her decision to run for City Council was made with careful consideration of the community's needs, reflecting her conscientious approach to public service. She is ready to apply her extensive experience and networks to serve as a strong representative for District 4, collaborating with fellow council members and regional leaders to ensure Livermore continues to flourish.

Although I cannot vote for Kristie as I am not in District 4, I strongly encourage those who can to do so. Livermore will benefit greatly from Kristie Wang's leadership on the City Council. She is the advocate our community needs to ensure justice and equity for all.

Vote for Steven Dunbar for City Council
Bob Carling, Livermore

I became acquainted with Steven Dunbar when I was elected to City Council in 2016. Steven often came to City Council meetings to speak on matters being discussed on the council agenda. He was always well informed and thoughtful in his remarks, supporting issues focused on housing for all, preserving the environment, and improving the quality of life for all Livermore residents. Steven's commitment to Livermore is evidenced in his appointment to the Asset Management Outreach Committee and then to the Planning Commission. Steven is the only City Council candidate in this election with integral knowledge and experience in balancing the complexity of challenging infrastructure issues and providing the best outcomes for everyone. Further, Steven wants to see Livermore become a leader in combating climate change through advocating for accessible bike lanes, electric vehicle charging stations, and planting of native species to reduce water requirements,

(See MAILBOX, page 6)

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**STOP THE SPREAD OF TOXINS
IN OUR GROUNDWATER SUPPLY**

PLEASE READ THE INFO AND SIGN THE PETITION
TO STOP DRILLING NEW WELLS THAT WILL PUMP MILLIONS OF GALLONS OF WATER PER DAY AND EXPAND THE PLUME OF TOXIC PFAS¹

- Zone 7 and the City of Pleasanton are moving ahead with new production wells located west of a massive PFAS² plume that underlies much of Livermore and Pleasanton
- An average of 20% of local water supply comes from our Groundwater (50% in 2022, a drought year). Currently most production wells in Pleasanton are shut down due to high PFAS levels³
- Consciously spreading PFAS contamination is likely a violation of our environmental laws⁴
- The ultimate cost of spreading PFAS contamination could be >\$100MM due to increased volume of tainted groundwater and lawsuits from affected parties
- Any purported cost savings from installing the new wells would be short-term and short-sighted
- The alternative to new wells, treatment of existing wells to remove PFAS, is a much better option because it provides clean water and shrinks the toxic plume, rather than expanding it

**Stop the new production wells,
investigate and clean up PFAS sources⁵**

Figure 1
PFAS Concentrations
2023 Water Year
Livermore Valley Groundwater Basin

Proposed New Groundwater Supply Wells:
• Zone 7
• City of Pleasanton

Groundwater Gradient: →

PFAS Concentrations (µg/L)
1000+ 2023
100-1000 2023
10-100 2023
1-10 2023
0.1-1 2023
0.01-0.1 2023

SCAN AND CLICK TO SIGN

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www.change.org/p/protect-trivalley-s-water-prevent-further-spread-of-toxic-pfas

¹ per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances
² PFAS are a family of very toxic chemicals ("Forever Chemicals" as they do not break down over time)
³ concentrations above USEPA maximum contaminant levels (MCLs)
⁴ Clean Water Act (CWA), Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act, Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA)
⁵ Jacobs, 2020, PFAS Potential Source Investigation, Technical Memorandum prepared for Zone 7

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MAILBOX

(Continued from page 5)

just to name a few of his city-wide interests. Steven has both experience and youth to be a positive voice in moving Livermore forward for many years to come. His commitment to a vibrant Livermore will be made through his dedication to examining all potential changes through a prism that includes all voices. A vote for Steven Dunbar for City Council in District 3 is a vote for a better Livermore! Vote Steven Dunbar!

Tufts for Livermore School Board
Lori Souza, Livermore

The leadership on our school board is one of the most important elected roles in our community. We need to vote for candidates who have meaningful experience with students, parents and administrators and with a proven track record of delivering effective results.

That's what we have with Maggie Tufts. She has direct and current experience working to provide student successes through her work at the Pedrozzi Foundation and the Quest Science Center.

There are a lot of candidates running for the school board in Livermore, but the choice is clear. Maggie Tufts stands out as the best prepared of all those who are running.

Please join me in voting for Maggie Tufts for Livermore School Board.

Jeff Kaskey - Not a Politician
Nancy Mulligan, Livermore

I met Jeff Kaskey years ago when he was President of the Livermore Heritage Guild. In the years since, I've found him to be that unusual person who not only does his best in everything he tackles but puts his whole self in. He loves Livermore and shows it by all the things he does for the residents of this city. As the President of the Heritage Guild, he sponsored the Legacy Home Tour in 2008 — an outstanding and still remembered project showcasing Livermore's vintage homes. His next project was the Livermore HistoryMobile, which today visits all the third grades in Livermore to teach Livermore's history and establish pride in our community. He not only helped with the renovation of the donated RV, turning it into a museum on wheels, but he also helps out as a docent at several of the schools. The kids just love him as his energy brings history alive, and he knows how to engage the kids. He then took on the project of the Hagemann Ranch, helping with manual labor and tours of the site. Midway school restoration was something he'd championed for a long time, and it will soon be accomplished. He is very smart and understands the nuances of things. He has his hands in so many pies, but none of them ever feel slighted. In everything he does, you see how caring he is; he is very respectful of opposing opinions and tactfully is able to listen and respond in ways that people feel heard. He loves Livermore and uses his boundless

energy to make the community of Livermore even better than it already is. He is not a politician — he's the person we all wish our politicians could be. If you want someone in our council who will listen to your concerns, take your opinions into his consideration, never belittle you and always vote for whatever is in Livermore's best interests, Jeff is your man. He's not running for office to make himself more important — he's running because the people who know him best have urged him to run, because we need someone like him on our City Council. Vote for Jeff Kaskey! You'll be glad you did.

Tara Boyce for School Board
Dan Fahey, Livermore

I am writing to express my support for Tara Boyce for LVJUSD Board. Tara would be a fierce and passionate advocate for Livermore's schools and students. And as the mother of two kids attending Livermore schools, Tara has skin in the game.

Tara has an MBA in finance and owns her own firm specializing in helping businesses work more efficiently. Since schools are regularly working with tight budgets and seemingly in constant need of more money, Tara's skills in this field would perfectly blend with this position and greatly benefit the schools and students of the LVJUSD.

Tara has been endorsed by numerous groups and individuals, including LVJUSD board members and Livermore City Council members. You can see these endorsements and learn more about Tara by going to her website at taraboyce.com.

I've seen the passion, tenacity, and fearlessness Tara has in advocating for her own kids; let her bring these qualities and more to the LVJUSD Board by voting for her this November.

Tara Boyce Will Get My Vote
Julie LaBlanc, Livermore

Tara Boyce will get my vote for the Livermore Valley Joint Unified School Board of Trustees. I have known Tara Boyce for well over a decade. Not only does she have two young children that actually attend a school within Livermore, she has learned how to navigate their learning growth and opportunities to suit their specific needs. With young children enrolled here, she has a long-term interest to fulfill the mission of our district so that all students succeed. She wants to advocate for other children throughout our district. Her ability to listen critically, apply logic and restraint to come up with an appropriate solution is one of her many strengths. As a successful businessperson, Tara Boyce knows that hard work pays off and she is ready to step up and fill this vital position.

Another much needed skillset is her MBA and strong financial work experience. LVJUSD is experiencing a severe budget crisis

once again. She has spent her career helping companies find creative ways to overcome their obstacles — and that is just what we need in Livermore right now. Tara Boyce is committed to making sure the students and families in Livermore have excellent educational experiences. Vote for Tara Boyce!

Jen Flynn for Pleasanton School Board
Gigi Culy, Pleasanton

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for Jen Flynn, a candidate for the Pleasanton School Board in District 4. Having known Jen for over five years, both as a fellow parent and a co-worker, I can confidently say she is one of the most compassionate and competent individuals I have ever met.

Jen has demonstrated exceptional skill and dedication, while managing the school's front office. Her ability to handle every challenge with grace and efficiency is truly remarkable. If Jen committed to a task, it was completed not only on time, but to the highest standard. Her passion and work ethic are evident in everything she does.

Jen is a leader who consistently prioritizes what is best for students and teachers. Her forward-thinking approach and unwavering commitment to education make her an ideal candidate for the school board. I firmly believe that Jen will bring the same level of excellence and dedication to the board as she has shown in her previous roles.

I wholeheartedly endorse Jen Flynn for the Pleasanton School Board. Her leadership will undoubtedly propel our district forward.

Building the Housing that Was Promised
Robert Koelle, Livermore

To get the signatures for their petition, Move Eden Housing showed everyone a pretty picture of a park, and nothing else. No plan, no financing, no explanation of how this could come about. Because it can't. It should have included all the liabilities that will be incurred if the City of Livermore ditches the Eden Housing project: millions in funding to buy the Lucky's site that will have to be paid back by the City, because the money was earmarked for affordable housing. Millions lost by Eden Housing that Alameda County provided for this project. Millions more needed for condemning the land across Railroad Ave. Millions more needed for infrastructure upgrades for that site, that have already been made at the Lucky's site.

Then California Attorney General Rob Bonta will file his lawsuit, like he has against Huntington Beach, Elk Grove, and other cities that have reneged on their affordable housing commitments. The housing has been in the City's plan for fifteen years now. The City will spend money to defend itself, then lose, and have to build on the Lucky's site anyway, assuming we're not

bankrupt by then.

Tom Soules supports "higher penalties to developers for not building below-market housing units" according to the press coverage. What about penalties for cities like Livermore that don't build the housing they've promised, and have received money for? Please support candidates like Kristi Wang and Steven Dunbar for city council, who aren't indulging absurd fantasies.

Elect Boyce and VandenHeuvel to School Board
Aimee Thompson, Livermore

Our elementary schools have established a practice called "WINN" time, which stands for What I Need Now. What our district (LVJUSD) needs right now are the skills and knowledge that Tara Boyce and Christiaan VandenHeuvel bring to the table.

Boyce, the parent of two elementary students at Junction, has an extensive background in finance, managing large budgets. In her current profession she assists companies with finding and implementing financial efficiencies. With LVJUSD's qualified budget and \$4.5 million structural deficit, Boyce has the skills needed to help find solutions keeping cuts away from the classroom.

VandenHeuvel, the parent of one current LHS student and two LHS graduates, is a leader with experience in community building and communication. A regularly expressed concern is the need for clear, transparent communication in the school district. VandenHeuvel has the skills and tools to assist LVJUSD with implementing clear communication strategies.

Both candidates support transparent communication with a student centered, data driven focus.

Boyce and VandenHeuvel have both earned the endorsements of Livermore Education Association, Livermore Advocates for Public Education, current LVJUSD Trustees Craig Bueno, Steven Drouin and Kristie Wang, current City Council members Evan Branning and Brittnei Kiick, and the Building and Construction Trades Council of Alameda County. The election of Boyce and VandenHeuvel will be a WIN for Livermore students.

Vote for Tara Boyce
Maddie McCan, Livermore

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for Tara Boyce's candidacy for the school board. Having met Tara through our boys' soccer team a few years ago, I was immediately struck by her warmth and dedication. Our shared experience as parents of boys the same age created an instant bond, and it quickly became clear that Tara is a person of deep commitment and integrity.

As a fellow diverse family member, I understand the importance of having representatives on the school board who are not only empathetic but also proactive in creating inclusive and safe environments for all students. Tara embodies these qualities in every aspect of her life. She has a remarkable ability to connect with people from all backgrounds and genuinely listens to their needs and concerns.

Tara's vision for the school board is grounded in her belief that every child deserves to feel supported and valued in their educational journey. Her dedication to fostering safe spaces for all students, regardless of their background, is exactly what our schools need. We can trust that Tara will advocate for initiatives that ensure every student is given the opportunity to thrive.

I have seen firsthand how Tara's heart and values guide her actions. She is driven by a genuine desire to make a positive difference in the lives of our children. Her commitment to education and her understanding of the unique challenges faced by diverse families will make her a powerful advocate on the school board.



The Livermore Police Department welcomed Officer Darin Anderson to the force. A Granada High School alumnus, Anderson began his career three years ago with the Concord Police Department. In the future, he hopes to join the East County Tactical Team and the Livermore Crime Prevention Unit. (Photo courtesy of the Livermore Police Department)

In supporting Tara, we are not only backing a candidate who is deeply invested in our community, but also endorsing someone who will be a steadfast ally for our children. I am confident that Tara will bring the same passion and dedication to the school board that she has shown in every aspect of her life.

I believe Tara will be an outstanding advocate for all students and a valuable asset to our school board.

Vote for Deena Kaplanis
Fabian Moreno, Livermore

I am writing this as a concerned and caring parent for the campaign of Livermore School Board candidate Deena Kaplanis. I see her committed to enhancing the performance of Livermore Schools by improving test scores and keeping schools safe for everyone. We would greatly appreciate your vote for her in November. Please take a moment to get to know about this great leader: drdeenak4lvjUSD.com.

Kaplanis Undesirable Candidate
Gail Sayers, Livermore

Two weeks ago, Julie Wild wrote a simple letter to this paper titled, "Transparent Candidates Needed". That's true. Livermore voters deserve transparency and integrity from the candidates for whom they will vote to entrust the education of every single student in our school district.

Deena Kaplanis is not a desirable candidate for that very reason. Ms. Kaplanis' children do not attend Livermore public schools. They attend a private Evangelical Christian school. The conflict created by the teachings of that school and the state curriculum for public schools is insurmountable. For a simple example, on one side, the religious doctrine that God created two sexes, male and female, and the nonsectarian fact that gender identity is an individual decision along a continuum are profoundly oppositional to one another. That's just one aspect of the deep personal conflict between religious doctrine and California state standards that a very religious board candidate will face if elected. Deena Kaplanis will find it extremely difficult to stand up for the students of our district who find themselves identifying along a continuum of gender identity that is outside of her singular religious beliefs. If she says she will, she is not being transparent with the voters in Livermore.

Jeff Kaskey Not Good for District 3
Asa Strout, Livermore

With Labor Day behind us, election season has officially kicked into overdrive and there is something very important to know. Jeff Kaskey is not good for District 3 and he is not good for Livermore. He is only good for his own self-interest.

Need proof? Look no fur-

ther to when he was a member of the Downtown Steering Committee. When the public called out the fact that around 75% of the members all resided downtown and called for more membership from across the city it was Jeff Kaskey who said "Why shouldn't those who live downtown make the decisions for downtown?"

Does that sound like the voice of someone who will speak for our neighbors along East Avenue or our friends who live within the Charlotte Way corridor? No, that is the voice of someone who will only speak for their selfish, and self-interested, needs.

If you live within District 3 and want your voice heard in the City Council, do not vote for Jeff Kaskey.

Vote for someone who will truly represent you and your neighbors. Vote for Steven Dunbar.

Be Kind to Your Cow
Paul Stone, Dublin

I concur with much of what Lucas Nelson wrote in his Mailbox letter, "Animals Don't Get Labor Day Off" (Aug. 29, 2024). I don't eat meat or seafood, and I, like Mr. Nelson, am an animal lover. It grieves me when I see any animal suffering.

Yet God, in Genesis 9:3, greenlighted the eating of meat by humankind. Surely though, He cannot be pleased by the oftentimes inhumane living conditions and slaughtering methods utilized in the meat processing industry.

Why do innocent animals suffer and die at all? It all stems from our first parents rebelling against God's one clear-cut command not to eat of the fruit of one tree in Eden. He had told Adam that on the day you eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you will die. Adam and Eve died spiritually the day they ate. Later, they died physically.

Their curse has been inherited by each of us. All have sinned, therefore all die. Though animals didn't sin, they were affected by the fall.

All this points to One who was slaughtered as an innocent lamb, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Only faith in His shed blood can bring any of us: the atheist, the agnostic, the Baptist, the Buddhist, the Catholic, the Muslim, the Jew, the Jain, the Hindu, the New Ager, the old-ager, and everyone else, into a right standing with an infinitely holy God.

I once had a bumper sticker that read, "Don't be caught dead without Jesus." So, praise the Lord and pass the tofu!

Rebutting the Torrent of Lies
Glenn White, Dublin

Thomas Gray laments the fact that the Independent doesn't fact check the lies of

(See MAILBOX, page 7)

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MAILBOX

(Continued from page 6)

Trump’s supporters (Sept.5, 2024). Unlike their news articles, it is not the Independent’s job to fact check lies presented as opinions in the Mailbox. However, it is an obligation to their readership that those who rebut the lies are given an opportunity in the Mailbox. Mr. Gray has been given an opportunity and he does an excellent job rebutting the relentless torrent of lies spewing from Republicans from so many sources. I salute both the Independent and Mr. Gray for their service to the community and to the truth.

We learned from the Dominion lawsuit against Fox News that Fox deliberately lies to its audience because Fox News boss Rupert Murdoch’s testimony, under oath in the lawsuit, acknowledged that Fox and its prime time anchors endorsed the Trump lie that the election was stolen because Fox felt it would lose viewers and, therefore, money if Fox presented the truth to viewers who thrive on lies. The Trump base isn’t just conditioned to believe only lies by Fox, but also the moral sewers that are the MAGA churches that have been lying for decades to their congregations about the Bible calling abortion murder (it doesn’t) and also that Sodom and Gomorrah were destroyed because they were gay:

“Behold, this was the iniquity of thy sister Sodom, pride, fullness of bread, and abundance of idleness was in

her and in her daughters, neither did she strengthen the hand of the poor and needy. And they were haughty, and committed abomination before me: therefore I took them away as I saw good.” (Ezekiel 16:49-50).

The Sodomite abomination of a society based on Tea Party Republican values was encouraged by Frank Graham and Satan’s Evangelists during the Republican Convention and was heartily accepted by their remarried divorcees who, unlike married gays, actually do mock Christian marriage:

“And he saith unto them, Whosoever shall put away his wife, and marry another, committeth adultery against her. And if a woman shall put away her husband, and be married to another, she committeth adultery.” (Mark 10:11-12)

The Republican base are Satan’s children that have been brainwashed with the ‘big lie’ technique of repeating lies until they’re believed to be true by their Satanic MAGA churches:

“Ye are of your father the devil ...for he is a liar, and the father of it.” (John 8:44)

Tara Boyce Belongs on LVJUSD School Board
Cathy Rainey, Livermore

Tara Boyce will be an excellent addition to the Livermore School Board. She has the educational preparation and career experience that will be an asset to the finan-

cial and operational challenges the district will face in the near future. With a BA in economics and an MBA in accounting and marketing, Tara will be able to put her knowledge to good use helping the district navigate a budget deficit that carries over to this school year. Tara has worked with large corporations and organizations on their structural frameworks over the years. As LVJUSD has two newly hired cabinet members on the district’s administration team, Tara’s expertise in this area will also serve our district. Having knowledge and degrees is important when aspiring to lead a school district, but having a huge heart is essential as well. Tara’s volunteer experience with Agape Resources, Bay Area Crisis Center, and Tri Valley Haven shows her compassion for and understanding of the difficulties faced by families in our neighborhoods. I hope you will vote for brains and heart on our school board and cast your vote for Tara Boyce this election.

Deena Kaplanis for School Board
Angela Butherus, Livermore

Please vote for Deena Kaplanis for school board! Deena is the most qualified candidate for this position. She is actively involved in the schools, she participates in all school functions, she represents the community of Livermore and truly cares



The Museum on Main in Pleasanton hosted a free family day celebrating Uyghur culture on Saturday, Sept. 7. (Photo — Doug Jorgensen)

about the children and families of Livermore. She has my vote, and I hope yours too!

Mathematical Error
Martin Baron, Dublin

Reading the editorial and front page article from Aug. 22, 2024: “Housing Board Pulls \$20 Billion Bond”... it’s stunning and shocking that “BAHFA admitted to making a (\$241,000,000) mathematical error” in actual cost. What?

It’d be interesting to know more about how and when this “error” would’ve been disclosed after this bond was passed. Further ...how that deficit would be funded.

And more, how much more “the owner of a home assessed at \$600,000” would then pay?

And 580! Can it accommodate more traffic? Even today, it’s backed up, stopped.

Certainly, affordable housing has merits, but in the hands of those who can’t count.?

Or worse, mis-guided? This project needs deep assessment and attention.

Recycling in District 3
Dennis Scott, Livermore

I am so fed up with people coming into our neighborhood on Wednesdays to

salvage through our recycle containers. According to the police, there is nothing they can do, and the sanitation company has no control of the situation. The recycle program was developed to assist in keeping our garbage pickup costs lower, while the sanitation company would increase their revenue through recycling. We have people park their vehicles, ride their bikes and fill the vehicles with recycling taken out of our containers throughout the night. I can imagine this occurs throughout the city all week in all the districts. This not a good look and should not be

JAZZ BAND

(Continued from front page)

ma and choir courses this year during the same period.

The move also affected drama students from Granada High School who often participated in theater activities before school hours.

On Aug. 23, LHS junior Greta Fick-Furlotte launched a Change.org petition asking for district officials to add an extra school period to the regular eight-period day to make room for theater production rehearsals which students have received course credits for in the past. By adding an extra period, students and families believed it would give additional time for rehearsals, allow for more participation and eliminate the need for students to choose between academic courses required for graduation, and participation in the program’s musicals and plays.

“We all love that Livermore High School has a strong reputation for its mu-

sical and theatre programs,” students said in a letter posted on the petition page. “However, the challenge of timing theatre productions to fit within the rigid school day is limiting our ability to foster creativity and develop high-quality performances. Meeting for only an hour and a half every other day does not create a successful environment to cultivate the beautiful musicals and plays we aspire to produce.”

The district office heard students’ complaints and agreed to add an additional period to the school schedule.

“In order to best accommodate students interested in participating in dramatic productions, we have moved the 7th-period courses of Theatre Productions, Stagecraft, and Advanced Theater Workshop to 9th period, after the regular school day,” Gibson wrote in a statement sent out to district students and families. “While

holding classes outside of our normal 8-period block schedule is not a precedent for the future, this was the best solution for both our students and staff in this case. I want to thank our administrators, teachers, and union leadership for their collaboration and compromise which allowed for this solution to be possible.”

Regarding the jazz band program, the main issue was that the new semester schedule resulted in not all students who requested jazz band getting into the second period class. According to school staff, because jazz band is only offered one period a day, students had to choose between taking jazz band or other courses being offered at the same time. Some worked with counselors to rearrange their schedules, while others stayed with the original schedule.

In the past, zero-period classes for jazz band were

offered, but this year, the new superintendent Gibson said no to zero-period classes, citing the state education code law’s starting time mandate.

Although exceptions and modifications can be made to the law’s restrictions, district staff agreed that one month into the start of the school year, changing to a zero-period class for jazz would be disruptive to students’ schedules.

The district did agree, however, that rehearsals for concerts or events could still be held before school; there just couldn’t be a formal class.

Gibson has not ruled out the possibility of implementing zero-period for jazz in some fashion for next year.

And because a jazz band class already existed during the eight-period day, the district did not consider adding a ninth period as they did with the drama program.

“That wasn’t the issue (double scheduling) with the jazz band, nor was a ninth period a plausible solution for the teacher or students,” said Michele Dawson, information officer at the district. “At no time was our jazz band director advocating for a ninth period. Jazz band is happening during the school day and any student who wanted it was given the option to have their schedule changed to accommodate. Some students opted not to make changes as they had other courses they did not want to change. Those were individual decisions made by students and their parents.”

“The overarching problem is that we (drama and music teachers) were both teaching outside of the school day and that gave students more time,” said Music Director Justin En-

right.

But in the end, Enright said that the district did as much as possible to make things right.

“I think for the moment this is a big band-aid to fix as much as we could now that we are into the semester,” said Enright. “I think we have figured out the best we can do for students this year and then we will plan with the administration for next year.”

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ARROYO

(Continued from front page)

Council approve the alterations.

During a council discussion, City Councilmember Brittni Kiick questioned whether the decision to include small rentable units within the single-family homes might lead to problems with the city’s rules for short-term rentals and Accessory Dwelling Units.

Garrett Hinds, Trumark’s director of architecture, assured her that was not the case for the innovation.

“The idea is the entitlement is just to be a place for someone in your family to live, or your child that goes up to college and comes home and needs a place to live for a couple of years. It’s not necessarily an ADU. It’s really more of a next-gen apartment that can be integrated into the house,” Hinds said.

During the discussion, resident Jean King questioned how many affordable units will be included in the

project for lower income buyers. City staff said the city’s affordable housing rules called for about 65. The developer will build 52 and pay in-lieu fees for the remainder.

City Councilmember Evan Branning, knowing King regularly advocates for more construction of affordable housing and less in-lieu fees, told her it was easier for developers to pay fees when the project was initially passed.

“You’ll be happy to know that since that time, we have tightened up the rules quite a bit,” Branning said. “If this project were being proposed today, they wouldn’t have the in-lieu fees. For projects at the time, they had the right to them.”

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Santa Rita Jail Rape and Burglary Suspect Found Dead in Cell

By Larry Altman

Detectives are investigating the death of a Santa Rita Jail inmate found unresponsive in his cell on Aug. 24.

Abrión William McElmore, 30, had been in custody since Sept. 9, 2022, when Alameda County Sheriff’s Office deputies arrested him on suspicion of numerous felonies, including forcible rape, assault, burglary, trespassing and drug offenses, ACSO Capt. Tya Modeste said.

A deputy called for help after finding McElmore unresponsive in his cell shortly after 12:30 p.m. Jail medical staff, paramedics and firefighters responded. Despite performing life-saving measures, they were unable to revive him. Firefighters pronounced him dead about 1 p.m.

The Alameda County Coroner’s Bureau is investigating McElmore’s cause of death.

Modeste said no other information was available.

An ACSO report on McElmore’s death described him as a homeless man known to the cities of San Lorenzo, Hayward and Castro Valley.

Alameda County Superior Court records showed he pleaded not guilty before Judge Colin Bowen on Oct. 27, 2022, to three counts of forcible rape, two counts each of forced oral copulation and assault with intent to commit a sex crime, and a single charge of first-degree residential burglary. He also faced a charge of receiving stolen property related to an alleged crime committed in 2014.

The charges included special allegations of multiple victims, violent conduct and prior convictions.

Court records available publicly did not indicate when McElmore was next scheduled to appear in court.

Records showed McElmore was sentenced to 49 days in Santa Rita Jail on Jan. 26, 2021, after he pleaded no contest to a misdemeanor assault charge. He also was placed on a year of probation. Following a parole violation, he was sentenced to 120 days behind bars on April 12, 2021, and served 61 of those.

Alameda County is under a federal Consent Decree in which a U.S. District Court judge is monitoring the ACSO’s efforts to improve mental health care and other living conditions at Santa Rita Jail. Alameda County agreed to the consent decree to settle a lawsuit filed on behalf of inmates in 2018.

Seventy inmates have died in the facility since 2014. The jail has a capacity of approximately 3,400 inmates.

McElmore was the second death in the jail in 2024, Modeste said.

JAIL (Continued from front page)

tionable circumstances, under circumstances that could have been easily avoided.”

Alameda County Sheriff’s spokeswoman Capt. Tya Modeste would not discuss the details of the suit.

“We can confirm that, as of this time, the Alameda County Sheriff’s Office has not received a lawsuit related to the tragic in-custody death of Mr. Brand,” Modeste said. “Further, the Alameda County Sheriff’s Office does not comment on pending litigation. Our thoughts continue to be with the family and loved ones of Mr. Brand during this difficult time.”

Levy, the lawsuit charges, was too much of a safety risk to share a cell with Brand and should have been placed in a restricted unit. Levy had earlier been arrested in Oakland on suspicion of vandalism and a parole violation.

Just 46 minutes after he entered Brand’s cell, deputies found Levy on top of Brand, suffocating him with a mattress. Brand was unresponsive and after life-saving attempts by deputies, paramedics and medical staff, he was pronounced dead 50 minutes later.

“They put a violent, crazy person in the room with him and then turn their back and just say, ‘Hey, do what you want,’” Pointer said.

Alameda County Superior Court records show prosecutors charged Levy with murder. On Aug. 9 Levy changed his original plea of “not guilty” to the charges to “not guilty by reason of insanity.” The case is pending.

Court records showed Levy had previously served



Yuri Brand

Since Brand’s death, his family has sought answers for what happened to him, including a serious wound to his tongue that is not included in the autopsy report, Pointer said. Brand’s tongue was cut from front to back and stuffed into his throat, the lawsuit said. His mother only discovered the injury later at the funeral home.

“Can you imagine a mother who goes to see her son after they’re surprised to find out that he’s passed away in custody, and ... what you find is what appears to be a mutilated body, and you’re just left holding the memories you have of your son and now the nightmares that you’re forced to deal with thinking about how this happened to your son,” Pointer said.

A toxicology report also revealed that Brand had not been given his medication for his mental health needs, according to the suit, which was “in direct contravention

of the Santa Rita Jail Consent Decree which requires the Jail to provide adequate mental health care to all incarcerated persons with mental health decrees.”

Pointer said it was not known whether Levy cut the tongue during the attack or if a medical examiner did so during the autopsy.

“I’ve just never seen this sort of defect, nor have I seen a body that had this type of condition where the coroner doesn’t include that in their report,” Pointer said.

Brand’s death occurred during the period where the ACSO is working to comply with a federal court’s consent decree to upgrade the jail’s mental health care delivery. The decree settled a lawsuit filed in 2018 on behalf of inmates who said the jail’s mental health services were vastly inadequate, leading to one of the highest suicide rates at jails across the United States.

Two more deaths have occurred in the jail since Brand died.

The lawsuit seeks damages for failing to protect Brand in custody, familial loss, civil rights violations and negligence and wrongful death.

Pointer said the lawsuit was filed in the hope of obtaining answers for Brand’s family.

“No mother should have to deal with this,” Pointer said. “You shouldn’t have to bring a lawsuit to get to the bottom of how your loved one lost his life. And just as importantly, your loved one should not lose his life because the facility that he’s in turns its back on him when he’s not in a position to defend himself.”

JOURNALISM (Continued from front page)

“heyday” when the paper was flush with resources and even had full time reporters covering the national laboratories. “When was the last time you read a story about the lab?” he asked the audience. He answered his own question: “When they finally achieved fusion.”

The 90-minute documentary follows the story of how hedge fund Alden Global Capital’s entry into the news publishing industry has decimated local newspapers, effectively snatching up financially strapped publications and pulling them apart, piece by piece and selling off the parts for profits.

In 2010, the New York-based hedge fund bought the Bay Area News Group, which publishes several local newspapers, including the East Bay Times and the San Jose Mercury News.

Northwestern University’s Medill School of Journalism, Media, and Integrated Marketing Communications has found that half of all counties in the U.S. now have no or limited access to reliable local news media.

The loss of news outlets across the country has created a crisis within the communities they serve, leaving behind news deserts, hollowed-out newsrooms and spotty coverage at best of important stories and issues.

“I don’t think anyone realized back in the day how good we had it,” Hunt said. “You look at it now and were it not for The Independent, (which is) family-owned, and the Embarcadero and their whole pivot to nonprofit,” the important stories within our communities would not be covered.

Solutions to the crisis can be found, the film’s director Rick Goldsmith said. “But it’s going to take

a lot of work. And it’s not just one person or a small group in the community; it’s the entire community that must put their minds and emotions and actions together to save journalism. Otherwise, it’s not going to survive, and democracy is going to suffer.”

The film ends on a hopeful note with journalists backed by the NewsGuild union rebelling against their venture capitalist owners in a battle to save, rebuild and reimagine local journalism in America.

Steve Glazer, who represents California’s 7th District in the state Senate, said the loss of local journalism is a “disaster affecting our democracy.” He outlined four possible solution areas or “buckets”: federal solutions, community and charitable foundations coming together to help save journalism, state government contributions, and lastly, holding the tech platforms accountable for the damage they have caused to the newspaper advertising industry.

Glazer suggested that while the hedge funds certainly created the current crisis, the problem goes beyond that to the devastating loss of newspaper advertising dollars at the hands of tech platforms like Google, Meta and Amazon.

And how they did it, he said, was without consent, as people innocently and unknowingly thought they were going on social media for entertainment, and when they did, their data was summarily extracted and used to sell advertising.

“And that’s my fourth bucket solution,” he said. “These platforms that have contributed to the hollowing out of newsrooms should pay a mitigation fee for the data they’ve extracted from all of us and never paid for.”

Embarcadero publisher Gina Channell Wilcox acknowledged the challenges of her 45-year-old legacy company’s recent transition from a for-profit company to a nonprofit one on Jan. 1, 2024. “It’s been rough. We used to cover all the city council meetings, planning commission meetings—the things that needed to be covered and now we have to be judicious,” she said. “It’s a sad reality.” The company now has three total reporters covering all the cities they represent, compared to the three they used to have for each city alone.

When news organizations have that kind of skeletal staff, there are damaging effects for communities, such as less cohesiveness and public engagement, Wilcox said.

That leads to less accountability for elected officials, she added, something even the Founding Fathers had the foresight to try and safeguard against in the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution.

“They envisioned a free press to keep tabs on the branches of government, which is why media is referred to as the ‘fourth estate,’” beyond the three traditional branches of government Wilcox said.

Glazer highlighted his bill in the most recent legislative session as one attempt to solve the problem. SB 1327 would have imposed a 7.25% tax on gross receipts of major tech companies that extract user data. The revenue would have been used to fund a tax credit for news organizations that employ full-time journalists.

The bill passed the California Senate in June, but didn’t gain enough support in the Assembly before Gov. Gavin Newsom cut a settlement deal with Google in August. The settlement would have Google pay \$55 million into a fund over five years that would fund the tech giant’s Showcase and Google News Initiative. The deal was hailed in some corners, but many advocates for local journalism said it fell short.

The Google settlement, Glazer said, “was a sellout with Google that allowed them to pay a paltry amount of money to say it’s no longer our problem anymore. But it still remains (one) in my view.”

Glazer added that while the government did not cause the problem of dying local news, it is important for government to solve it. “We’re not going to get a federal solution. We need to have our support on the local level. Buy subscriptions. Buy ads. Support your foundations that are contributing. But there is a state(-level) solution, which is to hold these platforms accountable for the damage that they have caused.”

BANDSTAND (Continued from front page)

lawn ready for use in July 2025. This timeline will conflict with Pleasanton Downtown Association’s 2025 summer concert series, but city staff said they will work with the PDA on alternate solutions, possibly running next year’s concert series into the fall.

Resident Doug Miller cautioned the city council about spending money on a construction project given the city’s current financial woes.

“It will not look good to be building something right now unless you folks do a good job of letting the public know what’s going on,” said Miller. “They’re hearing about a sales tax increase, and then they’ll be driving down First Street seeing construction going on.”

The project was originally introduced in the 1990s and included in a 2021 master plan at a cost between \$10 million and \$20 million. The council balked at that cost and in February 2023 decided to put the larger plan on pause and instead work within a \$1.9 million budget for just the bandstand renovation.

Integra Construction Services Inc. won the bidding process with a bid under \$1.3 million. Last week’s city council de-

cision also allows for a project contingency amount of \$127,000 and a \$31,800 agreement with Callander Associates for construction support services.

“These are dedicated park development impact fees,” said City Manager Gerry Beaudin. “They were collected specifically for this project. Relative to the overall city financial situation, these dollars cannot be spent in any other way other than to improve a park or to buy new park land.”

In July, the city council voted 4-1, with Councilmember Jack Balch against, to place the first ever tax measure in Pleasanton history on this November’s ballot. If passed, the measure, known as Measure PP, will increase the city’s sales tax rate from 10.25% to 10.75%.

While city staff estimated the rate hike will bring in \$10 million per year to help address Pleasanton’s \$13 million annual budget deficit, opponents, including Balch, believe that room still remains to trim city expenses.

“I just feel like we should be doing something different in a path forward,” he said at the July meeting.

Vice Mayor Julie Testa expressed some disappointment at the new bandstand’s

“industrial” aesthetic instead of a more traditional gazebo design floated at previous meetings.

“I thought that we had said that we were going to work on the architecture a bit, that it was only a concept at the time,” said Testa.

City landscape architect Matt Gruber explained that the structure’s acoustic properties led to the proposed design.

Les Duman, baritone sax player and manager of the CoolTones Big Band, applauded the design direction.

“I think the design itself is a good bridge between the modern design of the Firehouse (Arts Center) and the historic design of First Street,” said Duman. “Because no matter what, the firehouse is there. So rather than have just one thing that makes this statement that’s different from everything else, I see that bandstand as being a transitional piece that bridges the two.”

CoolTones has played at the current bandstand 30 to 40 times, and Duman participated in the project’s outreach process as well as speaking at last week’s meeting.

“If we’re going to do it, let’s do it right so it meets its purpose,” he said.

COMMONS (Continued from front page)

do it, but that’s what I want. I want to see some possibility of affordability, and I do mean “for sale.”

Dublin Commons, part of the city’s longtime vision for a cohesive downtown, is a \$1 billion-plus mixed-use development project. The developer, Hines Interests LP, is proposing a plan that encompasses 275,000 square feet of retail space, 535,000 square feet of research and development facilities and 1,510 multifamily residential units, including a minimum of 80 affordable housing units.

The developer came to the council with a proposal to transfer ownership of a 1.1-acre site to the city to develop a minimum of 80 units of affordable housing, along with 24 low-income

and 30 moderate-income units dispersed throughout the rest of the project.

Low-income housing is described as housing that costs less than 80% of a household’s gross income. Moderate-income units are defined as being set aside for people earning between 80% and 120% of the local median income.

But the council said they wanted to see more units of affordable housing.

“I feel like we gave direction to come back with a proposal and once again we are flipping it on its head,” said Councilmember Janine Thalblum. “I’m just not there. We need affordable housing and it seems like we just keep trying to find ways to shoot every project in the foot.”

The council unanimously agreed to keep the 1.1-acre parcel in the proposal along with the original allocation of at least 80 affordable units on the land. They also agreed to the 24 low-income units to be spread evenly throughout the rest of the project. In addition, they asked for 60 moderate-income units, up from the 30 the applicant offered, to also be evenly distributed across the development for a combined total of 164 additional units throughout the project.

In the end, Hines agreed to the council’s list of requests and said it would implement them into the plan. Hines will later return to the planning commission with the updated plan for their sign-off, before returning to the city council for final approval.



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Dublin Homicide Suspect Knew Victim Through Online Gaming

By Larry Altman

An Arizona resident charged with killing a 37-year-old man at a Dublin apartment knew him from online gaming, but the motive for the shooting remains unclear, police said.

Nicholas Ewing Paleveda, 38, of Yuma allegedly shot the victim, Michael Dalipe, in the head Aug. 23 outside the apartment he shared with his wife in the 5000 block of Hacienda Drive. Police said Paleveda drove nine hours to confront Dalipe at the front door. He identified himself as “Nick” when Dalipe’s wife answered the door.

“Michael came out and talked to him outside the door for a little while,” Dublin police Capt. Miguel Campos said. “They talked for 30 seconds or so before our suspect just pulled out a gun and, point-blank, shot him in the head.”

Paleveda drove away, but detectives identified him as a suspect from a social media site where he was linked to Dalipe, Campos said. Police found him in Barstow as he was headed home to Arizona.

Investigators obtained video of the crime but declined to discuss the nature of the conversation as they work to develop a motive.

Paleveda was charged with murder and was expected to appear in court Sept. 12. Campos said po-

lice recovered the alleged murder weapon along with clothing Paleveda wore while committing the crime.

Campos said the men had “some sort of digital relationship.” The men communicated on Discord, an app used to chat while competing online in video games.

“The victim was a big gamer, and apparently so



Michael Dalipe

was our suspect,” Campos said. “We have to assume that there was some sort of conflict or disagreement. Who drives nine hours from their home to shoot somebody in broad daylight at point blank range if there was no disagreement. So that’s kind of what we’re investigating right now.”

Dalipe’s wife, Cynthia, meanwhile, established a GoFundMe account that had raised nearly \$25,000 through Monday. She wrote that Dalipe was shot at their front door and died instantly. She called 9-1-1 and witnessed the aftermath.

“We were together for 20 years (2004-2024) and were high school sweethearts,” she wrote. “He was my rock, my best friend, my soulmate, and especially my caregiver as I have numerous health issues. He had a lot of gaming friends who were his second family.”

The money raised would help pay general expenses to help her recover following Dalipe’s sudden death.

“We’re all in shock right now and trying to pick up the pieces after this immense loss,” she wrote. “It’s now just me and our corgi.”

Dalipe’s wife wrote that she was “trying to focus on remembering the good times,” while understanding she faced a long court process.

The fundraiser can be found online at <http://bit.ly/3XCNgDJ>.

Police also were examining Paleveda’s past. He previously faced charges for attempting to shoot his roommate in Gainesville, Florida, in 2020. The gun malfunctioned and didn’t fire in that incident.

During the court process, Paleveda expressed views in which he indicated he considered himself a religious figure. Paleveda underwent mental competency exams. He pleaded to a lesser assault charge and was placed on probation in 2021.

Dublin Urges All Residents to Register for Emergency Alerts

September is National Preparedness Month and Dublin is urging residents to register for the Alameda County Emergency Alert (AC Alert) notification program.

AC Alert is a mass communication service that allows city and county authorities to telephone residents in targeted areas where immediate action may be required.

Contact information for traditional landlines is built into the AC Alert system, but cell phone numbers and email addresses must be registered to receive notifications.

Dublin is also urging families to have an emergency preparedness kit with food, water, tools and medical supplies for at least three to five days, as well

as a communications plan in case family members are separated during an emergency.

In addition, families should know their “evacuation zones.”

Alameda County has partnered with Genasys Protect to allow residents to track whether they need to evacuate in real time. Genasys Protect syncs with AC Alert.

Park District Introduces Rec Program for Those With IDD

The Livermore Area Recreation and Park District (LARPd) has launched an Adaptive Recreation program for children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD).

Rooted in recreational therapy, LARPd said the program is designed to foster positive social interactions, enhance physical health and develop social skills.

“Offering opportunities that haven’t been available before opens up a world of possibilities for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities to engage, connect and thrive within our community,” said Makenna Nation, LARPd recreation coordinator. “I look forward to seeing the positive impact these programs will have on

participants, their families and the community.”

LARPd said the program will include arts and crafts, physical fitness, yoga, hip hop dance classes, social events and pop-up activities tailored for individuals with IDD.

For more information, contact Nation at mnation@larpd.org or call 925-373-5731.

Michelle Pechette Named Assistant Superintendent of Livermore Schools

Michelle Pechette, former assistant superintendent for the Amador County Unified School District, has been named assistant superintendent of educational services for the Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District (LVJUSD).

LVJUSD said Pechette would provide “critical direction” for the district’s curriculum and programming and serve as a member of the superintendent’s executive cabinet team.

In addition to her recent role as assistant superintendent of educational services for Amador County, Pechette has been a teacher, elementary and middle school principal and director for early childhood education.

“I consider myself to be a collaborative leader as I greatly value building strong relationships with educators, parents, students and the community,” Pechette said. “I look forward to joining

a district that offers such a diverse range of educational programs and opportunities for students and working with the strong leadership team already in place.”

She has a bachelor’s degree in elementary education from Grand Canyon University and a master’s degree in curriculum and instruction from Concordia University.

Pechette is expected to join the LVJUSD staff in October.

Dublin Senior Receives Eagle Scout Award

Vedant Sagare, a member of BSA Troop 904 in Dublin, has been awarded his Eagle badge, the highest rank in the Scouts BSA program.

Sagare, a senior at Dublin High School, is the son of Trupti and Shrinivas Sagare.

To achieve the rank of Eagle, a Scout must earn

at least 21 merit badges and complete a community service project. For his project, Sagare organized a team of volunteers from his troop who put together 250 care packages, including emergency blankets, socks, utensils and other supplies, for Ukrainians impacted by the ongoing war with Russia.

After sending the care packages to Ukraine, the Scouts received a note back that said the supplies would go to help refugees forced to evacuate a city about 60 miles from the fighting.

Troop 904 is led by Scoutmaster Tim Gaddis and sponsored by John Knox Presbyterian Church.

OBITUARIES

Charles W. Hartman
June 30, 1932 – June 18, 2024

Charles W. Hartman, age 91, passed away peacefully in Davis, California after being in poor health for several months. He was born in Denver, Colorado to Fred and Marie (Krieger) Hartman. He spent his youth in Seattle, Washington and Sacramento, California with frequent trips to the Nebraskan family farm. Charles earned his Bachelor’s of Science at UC Berkeley

double majoring in Electrical Engineering and Physics. He then earned his PhD in Physics and worked an illustrious lifetime career at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. He was a loving son, father, and grandfather, avid naturalist, brilliant scientist, dedicated gardener, creative poet and world traveler. He will be deeply missed. Please join us in celebrating the life

of Charles on Saturday, Sept. 14 at 11 a.m. The service and reception will be held at:

Danville Congregational Church

989 San Ramon Valley Blvd., Danville, CA 94526

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to Heifer International (www.heifer.org), World Vision (www.worldvision.org) or a charity of your choice.

Marilyn (Alviso) Kingsley
Sept. 24, 1944 – Sept. 4, 2024

Marilyn (Alviso) Kingsley, wife, mother, grandmother, sister, friend and Child of God went home to be with Jesus the evening of Sept. 4, 2024, peacefully, at home, twenty days shy of her 80th birthday, following a courageous battle with cancer.

Marilyn was born in Livermore, California, Sept. 24, 1944, where she graduated from Livermore High School and married Larry Kingsley. She worked many jobs including waitressing at the Truck Stop, data entry at the Credit Union, security guarding at Sandia, decorating and working at the Alameda County Fair, and provided childcare at Kingsley Day Care for many



years as she raised her own four children.

She was an amazing gardener who also loved to paint, cook, bake, craft and sew.

This past summer she har-

vested over 550 tomatoes as well as countless cucumbers, beets, and squash.

Marilyn was preceded in death by her parents Manuel and Gladys Alviso. She is survived by her husband Larry, son Michael, daughters Gianna (Trevor), Kacey (Cory), Kelley (Ben), ten grandchildren and six great grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Hope Hospice, Pleasanton, California.

Adios Muchachos
Callaghan Mortuary is honored to be serving the Kingsley family. An online guestbook is available for condolences at www.callaghanmortuary.com.

Celebration Of Life

Donalyn Rees Cowden
Oct. 20, 1931 – Aug. 21, 2024

It is with great sadness that we share news of the death of our beloved mother, Donalyn Rees Cowden. Donalyn passed away peacefully with family by her side on Aug. 21, 2024.

Born in Columbus, Ohio, Donalyn spent many happy years growing up in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, with her parents Merlin and Mildred Rees, and sisters, Maralyn and Karen. She married Wayne Cowden in 1952 and together they were able to build a family and lifetime of love. As a little girl, she enjoyed playing in the loft full of sawdust at her grandfather’s planing mill and cabinet shop with her sisters and cousins. In the years to come, she helped her father promote his John Deere Tractor business at the Iowa State Fair and during college she was invited to sing on the radio.

After high school graduation, Donalyn attended Colorado Women’s College in Denver and earned her degree in Elementary Education from Colorado State College of Education in Greeley, Colorado. In 1980 Donalyn completed her Master of Education at St. Mary’s College, Moraga, California. She taught 5th grade at Alisal School and was a Reading and Resource Specialist and Special Education teacher for the Pleasanton School District for 35 years. She had many fond memories of her students and the time she taught in Pleasanton. She was grateful when students would reintroduce themselves to her after she retired.

Donalyn was a warm, thoughtful and extremely polite lady. She greatly appreciated any assistance she received from those around her. Martha, Craig and Paul were educated in social protocol such as how to set a table (including which utensil to use for what), writing thank you notes and to present ourselves in a positive light in any situation.

After retirement Donalyn and Wayne traveled extensively all over the world, which they enjoyed thoroughly. They acquired a home in Maui after visiting there for their 25th anniversary. The family continues to enjoy staying at “Grandma and Grandpa’s place”. They were gracious hosts, and she enjoyed teaching anyone who visited all about the flora and fauna of Maui, tide pooling and learning to say “humuhumunukunukuapua’a”. She really enjoyed spoiling



her grandkids!

Donalyn was proud that she participated in “deep water aerobics” for many years and worked as a volunteer at ValleyCare Hospital. She was a dedicated member of the P.E.O. Sisterhood Chapter WB, Pleasanton, a group passionate about supporting and motivating women through education. Donalyn is well known for her great dinner parties. Favorites included her beef stroganoff and meat fondue, with a multitude of dipping sauces, and the various ways she prepared the fresh abalone Dad brought home after his diving adventures. Family tradition always included the grandchildren making Cinnamon Brunch Rolls on Christmas Eve so each family could enjoy them on Christmas morning. She enjoyed camping and making sure her children visited as many landmarks as possible. A favorite was visiting the Hershey Chocolate factory in Pennsylvania. Always a teacher...

Her greatest love was her family. She leaves behind her daughter Martha Brown (Hal), Craig (Leigh) and Paul (Lori) and sister, Karen Olander (Ed). She was blessed with eleven grandchildren, thirteen great-grandchildren and many nieces and nephews and cousins. Donalyn will be greatly missed by all who knew her, and she cherished knowing everyone she met.

Contributions in her memory may be made to Alisal School PTA, 1454 Santa Rita Rd., Pleasanton, CA 94566, Attn: PTA Treasurer. Please include her name in the memo line. For P.E.O. contributions, please make payable to “P.E.O. Chapter WB” with her name in the memo line, and send to: Martha Brown, Treasurer, P.E.O. Chapter WB 5514 Edna Ct. Livermore, CA 94550. Contributions will benefit the SHINE fund. This fund has been created for need-based high school senior women for educational expenses their first two years of college or those who are attending a trade school or certification program.

A celebration of life open house will be held in honor of Donalyn on Oct. 27 between 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. Please RSVP to 925-872-2692 or brownhmmmt20@hotmail.com for details regarding location.

Wheels Reinstates Regularly Scheduled Downtown Pleasanton Rapid Service

The Livermore Amador Valley Transit Authority (LAVTA) has resumed its regular Rapid Service Wheels bus route (10R) through downtown Pleasanton, after a temporary detour onto Old Stanley Boulevard during the sum-

mer because of high traffic volume.

LAVTA is reopening westbound bus stops at First and Ray streets, Main Street and Vervais Avenue, and Peters and Mary streets.

However, LAVTA said the bus shelter at Neal

and First streets will remain closed until further notice, with the bus stop temporarily relocated to the north end of Lions Wayside Park.

For more information on Wheels bus service, go to wheelsbus.com.

Living Arroyos to Host Creek Cleanup Day

Living Arroyos, a multi-agency partnership led by the Alameda County Resource Conservation District, will host cleanup efforts at 10 sites across the Tri-Valley area for the annual Creek Cleanup Day, from 8 a.m. to noon on Saturday, Sept. 21.

The Living Arroyos partnership also includes the Zone 7 Water Agency, the Livermore Area Recreation and Parks District, and the cities of Dublin, Livermore, and Pleasanton.

The countywide creek cleanup program coincides with California Coastal

Cleanup Day.

To register for the program, go to livingarroyos.org/news and click on the California Coastal Cleanup Day link.

Volunteers can choose their cleanup site and will receive detailed information before the event.

Great Start for Amador Valley Boys Water Polo Team

By Phil Jensen

The Amador Valley High School boys water polo team returns all its starters from last year, and it has showed in the results, as the Dons won their first five games of the season.

Amador Valley has 12 seniors on its 14-player roster, including Landon Kenney, a second-team all-East Bay Athletic League selection last season.

When asked about keys to his team’s excellent start, Dons coach Ken Harmon said, “Defense, playing together, chemistry with the seniors. Everybody’s working hard.”

“The commitment’s there. They know it’s senior year, it’s the last year.”

On Sept. 5, the Dons improved to 5-0 overall with a 20-5 domination of host Livermore in the EBAL opener for both schools. Amador Valley scored the first seven goals of the game and led 8-1 at the end of the first quarter and 13-2 at halftime. By the second quarter, Amador Valley’s bench had been emptied.

There was a running clock throughout the second half.

Bryce O’Nesky led all scorers with seven goals, including two of the first four goals of the game, and passed for two assists. Kenney added five goals and a team-high three assists, and Anthony Sowul, another senior, tallied three goals for the Dons. Jason Grell started the game at goalie for Amador Valley and had seven saves in the first half. Colin Jennings replaced Grell in the second half and had five saves. Livermore’s Tyler Holm led the Cowboys with two goals, with teammates Jacob Niles, Braxton Monticelli and Blake Kelleher each adding one apiece.

The Cowboys fell to 0-5 overall with the loss, but they went 2-1 at the Sierra Shootout over the weekend to enter this week with a 2-6 record. Livermore beat Vintage-Napa 10-7 on Sept. 6, then after Freedom-Oakley beat the Cowboys 11-6 on Sept. 7, Livermore defeated Beyer-Modesto 12-8 later that day.

Amador Valley won a tournament at Newark Memorial on Aug. 31 with a 12-6 victory over James Logan-Union City. Kenney led the Dons with five goals, while O’Nesky added three goals and three assists. Amador Valley was extremely consistent in the tournament games, as it beat Castro Valley 14-9, Mission San Jose-Fremont 13-6 and Newark Memorial 14-6 before the championship victory over James Logan.

Harmon said one of his team’s goals is to win 20 games this season, which would eclipse the 19 wins that the squad had in 2015. “They want to make history at Amador,” Harmon said.

Another possible goal is a long run in the North Coast Section playoffs. Amador Valley has never won a boys water polo section title, and the furthest it advanced was the Division I semifinals in 2019.

The Dons traveled to face traditionally tough Las Lomas-Walnut Creek on Sept. 10 after this ar-



Amador Valley High senior Bryce O’Nesky scored seven goals, helping lead the boys’ water polo team to dominate Livermore last Thursday, 20-5. (Photo — Doug Jorgensen)

ticle’s deadline. Amador Valley is on the road to face California High School in a league match on Sept. 12 at 6 p.m., then hosts Castro Valley on Sept. 18 at 7:30 p.m. Livermore hosts Dublin on Sept. 12 at 6 p.m.



Livermore High School's Kamarri Robinson dodges a tackle in the first home game of the year last Friday. Livermore beat Castro Valley 36-18. Dubbed the Black and White game, it honored Scott Baswell, the team’s former defensive coordinator who died earlier this year. The Cowboys wore special black and white uniforms, and the athletic boosters sold memorial “Bas” T-shirts and sunglasses to raise funds for Baswell’s family. (Photo — Doug Jorgensen)

Pleasanton Museum Will Offer Annual Ghost Walk Tours

The Museum on Main (MOM) will hold its annual Ghost Walk, a two-hour tour of downtown Pleasanton’s “haunted” sites, over two weekends in October.

Tours will leave the museum, 603 Main St., every half hour from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, Oct. 11-12, and Friday and Saturday, Oct. 18-19.

Led by a team of “ghost hosts,” the tours will visit nine downtown locations said to be haunted.

Groups will be met at each location by actors from Pleasanton’s Creatures of Impulse teen improv group bringing

the city’s haunted history to life.

MOM said ghost hosts will also carry K2 Electromagnetic Field Meters to detect potential spikes in electromagnetic energy from ghosts, spirits, or other paranormal phenomena.

This is the 15th year the museum has offered the family-friendly tours during the Halloween season.

“Ghost Walk has successfully brought the haunted side of Pleasanton to life through the stories and experiences collected over the years from psychics, ghost hunters and downtown

merchants and workers,” said Rachel Brickell, the museum’s director of education. “It is a unique experience, more spooky than scary, with lots of atmosphere and no jump scares.”

The Ghost Walk tours will be held regardless of the weather, according to MOM, and guests are advised to dress accordingly. Most of the stops will be outside.

Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$15 for children 12 and under and are available online at museumonmain.org or by calling 925-462-2766. MOM is also offering a virtual Ghost Tour experience.

LVA Announces Five More Performances for Spring

Livermore Valley Arts (LVA) has added five more performances to its 2025 spring season at the Bankhead Theater, including a Rae Dorrough Speakers Series appearance by rock ‘n’ roll legend Stewart Copeland, best known as the drummer for the British band The Police on Wednesday, March 5.

The nonprofit LVA, which operates the Bankhead Theater in downtown Livermore, has also booked singer and pianist Michael Feinstein for a tribute to the late Tony Bennett on Friday, March 7; afternoon and evening appearances by English actor Cary Elwes, best known for playing the lead role of Westley in the 1987 comedy hit “The Princess Bride,” on Saturday, May 10; magician and improv artist Michael Carbonaro on Friday, May 16; and comedian Josh Blue on Friday, June 6.

Tickets for the additional Bankhead Presents shows go on sale to the public on Thursday, Sept. 12.

Copeland, born in the U.S., is a seven-time Grammy Award winner and considered one of the foremost drummers in rock ‘n’ roll history. The Police, the London-based band he formed with Sting and guitarist Andy Summers

in 1977, was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 2003.

In his Bankhead Theater appearance, “Have I Said Too Much: The Police, Hollywood, and Other Adventures,” Copeland will talk about his life as a performer and composer.

Feinstein is a celebrated cabaret singer and pianist who appeared in a series of Broadway concerts. He is also founder of The Great American Songbook Foundation, a nonprofit that preserves and promotes popular American music and jazz standards from the early 20th century.

He will appear with the Carnegie Hall Ensemble, a fellowship program for young classical musicians, for “Because of You: My Tribute to Tony Bennet.”

The performance will include such hits as “Because of You,” “Rags to Riches,” “The Best is Yet to Come,” “I Get a Kick Out of You,” “Stranger in Paradise,” and the Bennett signature, “I Left My Heart in San Francisco.”

Bennett, who sold more than 50 million records during his career, died in 2023.

“The Princess Bride: An Inconceivable Evening with Cary Elwes,” on May 10 will include a showing of the 1987 film, followed

by his personal stories about making a movie that has enchanted audiences for decades.

In addition to his role in “The Princess Bride,” Elwes also appeared in such Hollywood movies as “Robin Hood: Men in Tights,” “Glory,” “Days of Thunder,” “Hot Shots!,” “No Strings Attached.” and “The Saw” series of horror films.

Carbonaro, who rose to stardom with his hidden-camera “Magic Clerk” segments on “The Tonight Show with Jay Leno,” also starred in the “The Carbonaro Effect,” which continues in syndication, and played Andy Wilson in the 2006 comedy “Another Gay Movie.”

His magic show at the Bankhead is titled, “Lies On Stage.”

Last up will be Josh Blue with “The Freak Accident Tour.”

Blue won the “Last Comic Standing” talent competition on NBC in 2006 and followed up in 2021 with a third-place place finish on “America’s Got Talent,” also on NBC. In between, he has appeared at venues across the country, averaging more than 200 shows a year.

For show times and ticket prices, go to livermorearts.org.

Livermore and Dublin Libraries Will Hold Teen College and Career Fairs

The Livermore and Dublin public libraries are teaming up this fall to host free college and career fairs for teens.

The Dublin Library, 200 Civic Plaza, will hold its college and career fair from 5 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. on Monday, Sept. 30.

Representatives from more than two dozen colleges, trade schools, local agencies, and the military

will be available to answer questions, including course offerings, admission and financial aid, and college life in general.

The Livermore Civic Center Library, 1188 S. Livermore Ave., will hold its college fair at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 2.

The San Leandro Public Library will also hold a college fair on Tuesday, Oct. 1. Colleges, trade schools,

and other agencies joining in each of the college and career fairs may vary, so those interested in attending are encouraged to check each library’s website for a list of participating organizations.

For more on the Livermore library career fair, go to livermoreca.gov. The Dublin library website is aclibrary.org. For the San Leandro library, go to sanleandro.org.

LEGAL NOTICES/CLASSIFIEDS

LEGAL NOTICES

SUMMONS
(CITATION JUDICIAL)
CASE NUMBER
(Número del Caso):
24CV070947

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT (AVISO AL DEMANDADO): PENNYWEIGHT CRAFT BREWING LLC; CHRISTOPHER GUY aka CHRIS GUY; and DOES 1 through 10, inclusive

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

NOTICE! You have been sued. The court may decide against you without your being heard unless you respond within 30 days. Read the information below. You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons and legal papers are served on you to file a written response at this court and have a copy served on the plaintiff. A letter or phone call will not protect you. Your written response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case. There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and more information at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/self-help), your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the court clerk for a fee waiver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and your wages, money, and property may be taken without further warning from the court. There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may want to call an attorney referral service. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may be eligible for free legal services from a nonprofit legal services program. You can locate these nonprofit groups at the California Legal Services Web site (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/self-help), or by contacting your local court or county bar association. NOTE: The court has a statutory lien for waived fees and costs on any settlement or arbitration award of \$10,000 or more in a civil case. The court's lien must be paid before the court will dismiss the case. ¡AVISO! Lo han demandado. Si no responde dentro de 30 días, la corte puede decidir en su contra sin escuchar su versión. Lea la información de leyes de su condado o en la corte que le quede más cerca. Si no puede pagar la cuota de presentación, pida al secretario de la corte que le dé un formulario de exención de pago de cuotas. Si no presenta su respuesta a tiempo, puede perder el caso por incumplimiento y la corte le podrá quitar su sueldo, dinero y bienes sin más advertencia. Hay otros requisitos legales. Es recomendable que llame a un abogado inmediatamente. Si no conoce a un abogado, puede llamar a un servicio de remisión a abogados. Si no puede pagar a un abogado, es posible que cumpla con los requisitos para obtener servicios legales gratuitos de un programa de servicios legales sin fines de lucro. Puede encontrar estos grupos sin fines de lucro en el sitio web de California Legal Services, (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California, (www.suocorte.ca.gov) o poniéndose en contacto con la corte o el colegio de abogados locales. AVISO: Por ley, la corte tiene derecho a reclamar las cuotas y los costos exentos por imponer un gravamen sobre cualquier recuperación de \$10,000 ó más de valor recibida mediante un acuerdo o una concesión de arbitraje en un caso de derecho civil. Tiene que pagar el gravamen de la corte antes de que la corte pueda desechar el caso.

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210 Walnut Creek, CA 94598 925-927-3401
DATE (Fecha): 04/11/2024
Chad Finke, Executive Officer/ Clerk of the Court Clerk (Secretario), D. Franklin Deputy. (Adjunto)
The Independent, Legal No. 6081. Published August 22, 29, September 5, 12, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 608274
The following person(s) doing business as: Runestone Ranch, 19066 Mines Rd, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Runestone Ranch, 19066 Mines Rd, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Jonalyn Porter, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 29, 2024. Expires July 28, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6082. Published August 22, 29, September 5, 12, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 608435
The following person(s) doing business as: Electrical & electronic Services LLC, 3987 First Street, Suite E, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Electrical & electronic Services LLC, 3987 First Street, Suite E, 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/: Samuel Shyam, Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 6, 2024. Expires August 5, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6083. Published August 22, 29, September 5, 12, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 608580
The following person(s) doing business as: Evergreen Cemetery, 6450 Camden St., Oakland, CA 94605 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Evergreen Ministries, 200 Rollingwood Dr., Vallejo, CA 94591. 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: October 2023. Signature of Registrant/s/: Manuel Mendoza, Accountant. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 13, 2024. Expires August 12, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6084. Published August 22, 29, September 5, 12, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 608598
The following person(s) doing business as: 18 The Label, 1037 Germano Way, Pleasanton, CA 94566 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Prabhot Randhawa, 1037 Germano Way, Pleasanton, CA 94566. 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/: Prabhot Randhawa, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 14, 2024. Expires August 13, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6085. Published August 22, 29, September 5, 12, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 608681
The following person(s) doing business as: AthleticPro LLC, 188 Bluebell Drive, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): AthleticPro LLC, 188 Bluebell Drive, 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/: Prabhot Randhawa, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 16, 2024. Expires August 15, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6086. Published August 22, 29, September 5, 12, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 608202
The following person(s) doing business as: Child-led Family Group, 571 Jackson Avenue, Livermore, CA 9450 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Season Jones, 571 Jackson Avenue, 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: 7/1/2024. Signature of Registrant/s/: Season Jones, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 25, 2024. Expires July 24, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6087. Published August 29, September 5, 12, 19, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 608492
The following person(s) doing business as: Body N You, 1501 Buena Vista Ave #2523, Alameda, CA 94501 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Too Pro LLC, 1501 Buena Vista Ave # 2523, Alameda, CA 94501. 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/: Will Prorok, Managing Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 8, 2024. Expires August 7, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6088. Published August 29, September 5, 12, 19, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 608661
The following person(s) doing business as: Big White House Cellars, 2127 S Vasco Road, Unit D, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): JMC Cellars, LLC., 6800 Greenville Rd, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Jessica Carroll, Managing Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 15, 2024. Expires August 14, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6089. Published August 29, September 5, 12, 19, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 608544
The following person(s) doing business as: Hifiyak Co., 8014 South Lake Dr., Apt G., Dublin, CA 94568 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Kristen Hannah, 8014 South Lake Dr., Apt G, Dublin, CA 94568. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Kristen Hannah, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 9, 2024. Expires August 8, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6090. Published August 29, September 5, 12, 19, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 608667
The following person(s) doing business as: Scrumph, 6775 Golden Gate Dr., Unit 454, Dublin, CA 94568 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): San Francisco Bake-shop, 4847 Hopyard Road, Suite 4438, Pleasanton, CA 94588. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 12/23/2021. Signature of Registrant/s/: Lonny Ng, Fonder, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 15, 2024. Expires August 14, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6091. Published August 29, September 5, 12, 19, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 608806
The following person(s) doing business as: Air360 Photography, 4885 Shelton Street, Dublin, CA 94568 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Edic Sih, 4885 Shelton Street, 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: 8/21/24. Signature of Registrant/s/: Eric Sih, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 21, 2024. Expires August 20, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6092. Published August 29, September 5, 12, 19, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 608808
The following person(s) doing business as: Accentera Decor, 7475 Burnham Way, Dublin, CA 94568-1731 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Kristine Oo, 4101 Dublin Blvd Ste F-1013, Dublin, CA 94568-4603. 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/: Kristine Oo, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 21, 2024. Expires August 20, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6093. Published August 29, September 5, 12, 19, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 608685

The following person(s) doing business as: Drol Painting and Decorating, 2120 W Ave 136th, San Leandro, CA 94577 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): David Rivera L., 2120 W Ave 136th, San Leandro, CA 94577. 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/: David Rivera L., Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 16, 2024. Expires August 15, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6094. Published August 29, September 5, 12, 19, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 608749
The following person(s) doing business as: Golden Valley Mortgage Corporation, 6200 Stoneridge Mall Rd., # 300-1283, Pleasanton, CA 94588 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Golden Valley Mortgage Corporation, 6200 Stoneridge Mall Rd., # 300-1283, 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: 5/2017. Signature of Registrant/s/: James T. Smith, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 20, 2024. Expires August 19, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6095. Published August 29, September 5, 12, 19, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 608618
The following person(s) doing business as: Casa Di Vita, 51 West Hornet Avenue, Alameda, CA 94501 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Zandi Design Inc., 101 Dublin Blvd, Ste F PMB 1008, Dublin, CA 94568. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 7/10/2024. Signature of Registrant/s/: Henry Chen, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 14, 2024. Expires August 13, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6096. Published August 29, September 5, 12, 19, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 608514
The following person(s) doing business as: TA Auto Sales, 44790 S. Grimmer Blvd., Ste 208C, Fremont, CA 94538 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Trebla LLC, 851 Burlway Rd, Ste 413, Burlingame, CA 94010. 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: 8/8/2024. Signature of Registrant/s/: Albert Tran, Director of Operations. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 8, 2024. Expires August 7, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6097. Published September 5, 12, 19, 26, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 608514
The following person(s) doing business as: JC Skye HR Consulting, 5690 W Cog Hill Terr, Dublin, CA 94568 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Judy Wu, 5690 W Cog Hill Terr, 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: 8/22/2024. Signature of Registrant/s/: Judy Tran, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 22, 2024. Expires August 21, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6098. Published September 5, 12, 19, 26, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 608624
The following person(s) doing business as: Achemblock, 26120 Eden Landing, Suite 1, Hayward, CA 94545 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Advanced Chemblocks Inc., PO BOX 1861, Burlingame, CA 94010. 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: 8/14/2024. Signature of Registrant/s/: Hongwang Du, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 14, 2024. Expires August 13, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6099. Published September 5, 12, 19, 26, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 608573
The following person(s) doing business as: RV Park Marketing Studio, 42314 Thyme Cmn, Fremont, CA 94538 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Clarity Marketing Studio LLC, 42314 Thyme Cmn, Fremont, CA 94538. 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/: Linda Phillips Blue, Owner/Director. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 13, 2024. Expires August 12, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6100. Published September 5, 12, 19, 26, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 608731
The following person(s) doing business as: Center for Sensible Housing Policy, 5258 Crestline Way, Pleasanton, CA 94566 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Peter D. MacDonald, 5258 Crestline Way, Pleasanton, CA 94566. 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: 8/1/2024. Signature of Registrant/s/: Peter D. MacDonald, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 20, 2024. Expires August 19, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6101. Published September 5, 12, 19, 26, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 608872
The following person(s) doing business as: Amia Bakery, 5409 Central Ave, Suite #15, Newark, CA 94560 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Khah Chan & Company, 17470 Murphy Ave, Morgan Hill, CA 95037. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Bryce Gubler, Manager. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 28, 2024. Expires August 27, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6107. Published September 5, 12, 19, 26, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 608925
The following person(s) doing business as: Tara's Organic Ice Cream, 3173 College Ave, Berkeley, CA 94705 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Sweets Society LLC, 3173 College Ave, Berkeley, CA 94705. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Terence Ching, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 27, 2024. Expires August 26, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6103. Published September 5, 12, 19, 26, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 608959
The following person(s) doing business as: Pimentel Place, 22648 2nd Street, Hayward, CA 94541 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Pimentel Place, L.P., 28000 Mission Blvd, Hayward, CA 94541. This business is conducted by a Limited Partnership. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Welton Jordan, VI of EAH, Inc.. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 28, 2024. Expires August 27, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6104. Published September 5, 12, 19, 26, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 608612
The following person(s) doing

business as: Abigail Energy Group, 4435 First St. Ste 360, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Victor Munoz, 4435 First St. Ste 360, 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: 8/14/2024. Signature of Registrant/s/: Victor Munoz, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 14, 2024. Expires August 13, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6105. Published September 5, 12, 19, 26, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 608930
The following person(s) doing business as: Zephyr Spectral, 6321 Tioga Pass CT, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Daniel Thorn, 6321 Tioga Pass CT, 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: 8/27/2024. Signature of Registrant/s/: Daniel Thorn, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 27, 2024. Expires August 26, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6106. Published September 5, 12, 19, 26, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 608977
The following person(s) doing business as: Eternal Breathwork, 2351 Bartlett Street, Oakland, CA 94601 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Skylark Property Investments LLC, 2351 Bartlett Street, Oakland, CA 94601. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Bryce Gubler, Manager. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 28, 2024. Expires August 27, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6107. Published September 5, 12, 19, 26, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 608863
The following person(s) doing business as: A Peng Investment, 2269 Haggerty Dr., Dublin, CA 94568 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Jianfang Peng, 2269 Haggerty Dr., Dublin, CA 94568. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Samantha Ngwen, Secretary. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 8, 2024. Expires August 7, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6112. September 12, 19, 26, October 3, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 608874
The following person(s) doing business as: Gundy Pet Services, 2497 College Avenue, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Elia Gundersen, 2497 College Avenue, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Regis-

trant/s/: Elia Gundersen, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 23, 2024. Expires August 22, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6109. Published September 5, 12, 19, 26, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 608657
The following person(s) doing business as: Pristine Pools Complete Pool Maintenance and Repair, 3989 1st Street Suite A, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Pristine Pools, Inc., 3989 1st Street Suite A, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 11/7/2014. Signature of Registrant/s/: Matthew K. Vieira, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 15, 2024. Expires August 14, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6110. Published September 12, 19, 26, October 3, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 608658
The following person(s) doing business as: Pristine Pools, 3989 1st Street Suite A, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Pristine Pools Renovation, Inc., 3989 1st Street Suite A, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 8/15/2024. Signature of Registrant/s/: Matthew K. Vieira, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 15, 2024. Expires August 14, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6111. September 12, 19, 26, October 3, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 608520
The following person(s) doing business as: CSN Parts, 86 W. Jackson Street, Hayward, CA 94544 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): CSN Parts, 86 W. Jackson Street, Hayward, CA 94544. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Samantha Ngwen, Secretary. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 8, 2024. Expires August 7, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6112. September 12, 19, 26, October 3, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 609077
The following person(s) doing business as: Metal Seeds, 378 Embarcadero West #526, Oakland, CA 94607 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Metal Seeds LLC, 378 Embarcadero West #526, 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/: Alejandro Ochoa, Manager. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on September 4, 2024. Expires September 3, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6113. September 12, 19, 26, October 3, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 608972

The following person(s) doing business as: First Choice Business Brokers #289, 4695 Chabot Drive, Suite 200, Pleasanton, CA 94588 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): SF Bay Business Sales, Inc., 100 South Murphy Avenue, Suite 200, Sunnyvale, CA 94086. 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: 7/1/2024. Signature of Registrant/s/: Eric Johnson, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 28, 2024. Expires August 27, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6114. September 12, 19, 26, October 3, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 608972

The following person(s) doing business as: First Choice Business Brokers #289, 4695 Chabot Drive, Suite 200, Pleasanton, CA 94588 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): SF Bay Business Sales, Inc., 100 South Murphy Avenue, Suite 200, Sunnyvale, CA 94086. 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: 7/1/2024. Signature of Registrant/s/: Eric Johnson, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 28, 2024. Expires August 27, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6114. September 12, 19, 26, October 3, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 608524

The following person(s) doing business as: Bay Area Blind, Shade, & Shutter, 24731 Garwood Glen Dr., Hayward, CA 94541 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Drew K Goodin LLC, 24731 Garwood Glen Dr., Hayward, CA 94541. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 5/28/2024. Signature of Registrant/s/: Drew K. Goodin, Managing member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 9, 2024. Expires August 8, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6115. September 12, 19, 26, October 3, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 608969

The following person(s) doing business as: Myungrang Berkeley, 2519 Durant Ave, Suite D, Berkeley, CA 94704 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Hot Dog Delight LLC, 2274 27th Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94116. 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 Truong, Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 28, 2024. Expires August 27, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6116. Published September 12, 19, 26, October 3, 2024.

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Pleasanton Schools Weigh Extending Super’s Contract

By Ruth Roberts

The Pleasanton Unified School District (PUSD) board of trustees is considering hiring Interim Superintendent Maurice Ghysels as a full-time employee until a new permanent superintendent is appointed. Ghysels’ current contract is set to expire at the end of September.

“We chose Dr. Ghysels because of his experience, and his ties to Pleasanton, and his ability to lead us during a transition period,” said PUSD Board President Mary Jo Carreon during the board’s Aug. 22 regular meeting. “But he is retired, which means he has a very limited number of days he can work for us.”

Ghysels, the former superintendent of the Menlo

Park City School District, has been working as interim superintendent since July. According to the California Education Code, as a retired superintendent working part-time, Ghysels’ salary cannot exceed \$74,733 a year, or he risks losing his pension.

Ghysels told the board he has been working approximately four days a week, sometimes more, and is fast approaching the limits of his contract. If he comes out of retirement, Ghysels can keep his position for however long it takes the district to find a new permanent superintendent. But if he isn’t rehired by the end of September when his contract expires and continues working without a contract, he will risk losing his retirement.

The board is faced with

three options: rehire Ghysels as interim superintendent, hire a new interim superintendent, or immediately hire a permanent superintendent.

Ghysels said he would



Maurice Ghysels

like to stay on and complete the work currently in progress, but it was clear to the board that he would need to be paid the same salary as the

former superintendent David Haglund.

Haglund abruptly retired in June, saying he needed to spend more time with his family. At the time he left, Haglund was making an annual base salary of \$265,000. Ghysels said he would need at least that much for a full-time position.

“We are in a time crunch,” Ghysels said during the board meeting. “I’m only saying this to put the elephant in the room on the table. I have been pretty much consistent with saying that it has to be full-time and it would have to be at the full compensation rate of the previous superintendent. That is what it would take.”

While the board seemed unanimously supportive of retaining Ghysels, concerns

over his salary remained. Even though a superintendent’s salary is written into the budget, PUSD is currently facing a \$10 million deficit, declining enrollment, loss of federal COVID recovery funding and the high cost of living.

“I think this is a difficult challenge,” said Trustee Kelly Mokashi. “Maurice has done an amazing job stepping up to the plate and he needs to be compensated appropriately.” She added that because of the budget deficit, the board had to move carefully. “We need to be very fiscally responsible.”

Carreon agreed there are financial considerations but added that the PUSD is grateful for Ghysels’ time and expertise.

“Any additional funds

needed for a superintendent are being closely looked at,” Carreon said in an email to The Independent. “He brings many years of experience as a superintendent, and we are lucky to have him as an interim.”

The board will host several town hall forums and conduct an online survey to gather public input on hiring a new superintendent. Those will be completed by the end of October, but the timing for hiring a new permanent superintendent is still uncertain.

The board is scheduled to meet again on Sept. 12 when a decision on next steps is expected to be taken.

To view the remaining schedule of PUSD community forums or to take the survey, visit bit.ly/3Zh3Lqg

Dublin to Require Low-Carbon Concrete in All New Projects

By David Jen

Concrete construction in the city will emit less carbon dioxide beginning January 1, 2025, when new building projects will be subject to Dublin’s new low-carbon concrete code.

In a unanimous decision at its Sept. 3 meeting, the city council introduced an ordinance requiring all projects that require a building permit and that use ready-mix concrete to use low-carbon concrete. Projects using bagged concrete, shotcrete, gunite, stucco and asphalt will be exempt.

Dublin Environmental and Sustainability Manager Shannan Young said she expects the switch to have little cost impacts on contractors and developers.

“It’s about cost parity, and in some cases, it can actually be a little less expensive,” said Young. “The cement (in traditional concrete) is more expensive than the other materials that can be added, generally.” She also said that

the low-carbon alternatives are already available locally.

Concrete is a composite material of aggregates — such as sand, gravel or crushed stone — bonded together with cement, which can be molded into many shapes.

But concrete production — including its related costs of mining, cement production and shipping — emits about 8% of the world’s carbon emissions, according to the Rocky Mountain Institute, a think tank that focuses on sustainability and resource efficiency.

Nelson Pureco, Dublin plan check engineer, said that during concrete production, “carbon dioxide is emitted from the energy used from the firing of materials, chemical reactions from the mixture when exposed to heat, as well as the transportation of materials.”

Efforts to reduce carbon emissions in concrete production have focused on minimizing the use of cement as a binder and instead using cement alternatives such as

fly ash, slag, or glass powders. Depending on the mix of materials in the concrete, cement production can account for up to 88% of the carbon emissions in the process of making concrete.

Had the requirement been in place in 2023, 339 of Dublin’s 2,903 issued building permits, or 11.6%, would have been subject to the new ordinance. Another 17.2% would have required further review to see if they qualified for an exemption.

The new ordinance includes provisions for contractors to ask for an exemption if the greener concrete results in a significant cost premium. City staff does not anticipate many contractors will choose to try to get exemptions.

“If there is (a differential), they could propose an alternate path of compliance by reducing carbon emissions in other areas of their project,” said Young.

City staff estimate that the city would pay an additional \$85,000 to \$140,000 per year

for the extra time needed to check plans against the new requirement and to perform compliance inspections.

Dublin adopted its most recent climate action plan in

September 2020, which set goals to reduce city greenhouse gas emissions by 40% below 1990 levels by 2030, and to reach carbon neutrality by 2045. The low-carbon

concrete code, according to city staff, falls under the plan’s measure to reduce embodied greenhouse gas emissions associated with building materials.

Dr. Chirag Pandya, board certified in Pulmonology, Critical Care and Sleep Medicine, has moved to a new location.

He has been serving the patients in the Tri-Valley area for the last 15 years and has held several leadership roles at Stanford Tri-Valley (ValleyCare) hospital.

Dr. Pandya specializes in asthma, emphysema/COPD, trouble breathing, lung infections, lung cancer, interstitial lung disease, snoring, sleep apnea, trouble sleeping (insomnia), narcolepsy and restless leg syndrome.

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