THE Independent

Thursday,
MARCH 6, 2025

VOLUME LXII, NUMBER 10 *Your Local News Source Since 1963* SERVING DUBLIN, LIVERMORE, PLEASANTON, SUNOL



Hundreds of people turned out for demonstrations across the Tri-Valley the past week, including a crowd in Dublin on March 1 protesting using FCI Dublin to house immigrants for deportation. The crowd spread out to occupy all four corners of the intersection of Arnold Road and Dublin Boulevard. Other protests took place at the Dublin Tesla showroom on March 1, Las Positas College on March 3, and in the Livermorium Plaza on March 4. (Photo — Leah Silveira)

Tri-Valley Protesters Show Up in Force to Demonstrate Against ICE, Administration

Gatherings Were Put on By Several Different Groups Across the Region

By Ruth Roberts

REGIONAL — Hundreds of protesters gathered in Dublin last weekend near the site of the shuttered women's federal prison to denounce the government's stated plans to possibly reopening the facility and turning it into a detention center for immigrants.

The demonstration was one of at least four such gatherings that took place in the Tri-Valley this week. The various groups declared their opposition to the federal government's immigration crackdown, its targeting of transgender students, Tesla CEO Elon Musk's involvement in mass firings of federal employees, and other issues.

FCI Dublin closed in 2024 following a class action suit by prisoner advocates alleging years of abuse and mismanagement in the dilapidated and aging facility. The abuse the inmates suffered was so bad the prison became known as the "rape club." Inmates were relocated to other prisons across the country. The suit was settled with a consent decree that was approved by a federal judge on Feb. 25.

The demonstration on March 1, held near the prison at the corner of Dublin Boulevard and Arnold Road, drew people from around the Bay Area. The protesters ultimately occupied all four corners of the intersection. Many held signs reading "Block ICE" and "Dignity not Detention", as supporters drove by honking their horns and shouting encouragement. Several advocates set up along the crowd-

(See PROTESTS, page 6)

Livermore

City and Airport Will Build Tech Center

Aviation Innovation Hub Will Focus on Developing New Aircraft and Clean and Quiet Technology

By David Jen

LIVERMORE — Plans to draw clean-aviation businesses and expertise to Livermore Municipal Airport now have the backing of the City of Livermore.

The city announced last week the establishment of an Aviation Innovation Center at the airport, which will attempt to attract both startups and established companies working in advanced aviation by offering dedicated research and development space at the airport for the first time, said Innovation & Economic Development Director Brandon Cardwell.

"The center will offer low-cost facilities and specialized equipment coupled with business networking opportunities. That will be the basis of the program. The airport is a unique differentiator for technologies that need access to aviation infrastructure," said Cardwell, referring to industry developments such as electric vertical take-off and landing aircraft, which emit no carbon or lead and run significantly quieter than their fossil-fuel counterparts.

In December, Livermore transferred oversight of the airport from its Public Works Department to Innovation & Economic Development, which had been conducting a long-term assessment of economic development at the airport. Placing all airport-related activity under one municipal roof was seen as a key step in pursuing partnerships with technology industry businesses.

In a statement from the city,

(See AIRPORT, page 6)



The 11th annual Livermore Valley Half-Marathon was held in wet weather on Sunday, March 2. More than 600 runners ranging in age from 2 (with a parent along to help) to 82 crossed the finish line. (Photo — Leah Silveira)

Livermore

Alameda County Aims to Change Land Use In South Livermore Plan for Wineries

Adjusting 'Clustering' Rules Could Allow More Destination Venues

By Larry Altman

LIVERMORE — The Alameda County Planning Commission on Monday unanimously approved a plan that proponents of turning the South Livermore Valley into a wine-tourism destination believe could entice businesses to make it a possibility.

The 6-0 vote to amend the South Livermore Valley Area Plan eventually will go to the county Board of Supervisors for final approval.

The proposal, advocated by the Tri-Valley Conservancy and supported by the city of Livermore, the Livermore Wine Growers Association and open space advocate Dick Schneider, puts into language the appropriate commercial uses for 150,000 square feet of land along the future sewer line approved by Livermore voters in November.

The plan amends SLVAP policies that laid out where homes and buildings could be built on each 20-acre parcel to allow multiple parcels to be enjoined with structures clustered in one area. Under the plan, 90% of the land must be used for grape growing. The specific plan currently disallows clustering.

The proposal also spells out what types of businesses and activities will be allowed, including a hotel with up to 140 rooms; tasting rooms; bed and breakfast inns with up to 14 rooms; a restaurant for up to 49 people; trail hikes and vineyard tours; a golf course pro shop; bicycle rental; hot air balloon rides; an art gallery and sculpture garden; a day spa, wine trolleys and tours; a wine museum; an artisan furniture workshop; truffle hunts; and a wine country gift shop.

The approved plan prohibits the killing and dressing of livestock, airstrips, cemeteries and crematories, hog ranches, radio and television transmission facilities, sanitary landfills or composting facilities, and privately owned wind electric generators.

In 2022, voters approved a measure that allowed clustering for agricultural buildings in the area covered by the SLVSP. Clustering allows a large parcel to be treated as a cluster of smaller parcels that allow a greater percentage of square footage to be developed. It also would help keep larger tracts of open space contiguous. The county commission's action on Monday adjusted the area plan so that com-

(See WINE COUNTRY, page 6)

Judge Accepts Decree with Former FCI Dublin Inmates

Court Rejects Government Request to Reverse Protections for Immigrant, Transgender Inmates

By Larry Altman

DUBLIN — A federal judge in Oakland on Tuesday formally approved the settlement of a class-action lawsuit that requires court-monitored protection for hundreds of former FCI Dublin inmates who remain incarcerated at other women's prisons nationwide.

Judge Yvonne Gonzalez Rogers signed off on the settlement despite a last-hour request from attorneys for the federal government to renegotiate the agreement, which was completed before President Donald Trump took office. The Trump administration took issue with two sentences in the 43-page document that it deemed "inconsistent with the new administration's priorities."

One paragraph pertained to transgender inmates being allowed to wear "gender-affirming clothing." The other said the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) cannot consider an inmate's immigration status to deny release.

"The request by the government to allow renegotiation is denied," Gonzalez Rogers said. "I am approving the request for final approval of this consent decree… There is always an opportunity to want more after a negotiated settlement, and that's why you get it in writing, and that's why we get it signed, so that you cannot go back. It is a very common occurrence for

(See DECREE, page 7)



Mozart's most famous opera, "Don Giovanni," opened last weekend at the Bankhead Theater. The Livermore Valley Opera production features Titus Muzi III (standing, center) in the title role and is directed by Rob Herriot. Performances are scheduled for 2 p.m. on Saturday, March 8 and Sunday, March 9. (Photo — Leah Silveira)

LVOpera Stages Mozart's 'Don Giovanni'

Youthful Cast Breathes New Life into Centuries-old Legend of a Libertine

By Christina Cavallaro

LIVERMORE — The Livermore Valley Opera brought the first of four performances of Mozart's tragicomedy, "Don Giovanni," to the Bankhead Theater stage on Saturday evening, March 1. This season, the remaining performances on March 8 and 9 will be 2 p.m. matinees instead of evening performances. Also new are many of the cast members including Meryl Dominguez and Cara Gabrielson, who play Donna Anna and Donna Elvira, respectively, two of the noblewomen seduced by Don Giovanni. Baritone Titus Muzi III makes his LVOpera debut in the title role.

Prior to a dress rehearsal, Stage Director Rob Herriot said of the largely newcomer cast, "It's really impressive because they actually bring to the table a knowledge as if they've been doing it for years. So that's been really, really interesting. They are a group of very good young singers, who are all very devoted to getting it right. And their voices are to die for."

"Don Giovanni" has long been considered one of the greatest operas of all time. It is a retelling of the Don Juan legend in two acts, with music by Mozart to an Italian libretto by Lorenzo Da Ponte. The story revolves around Don Giovanni, an arrogant nobleman driven by an insatiable need to seduce women. The timeless tale of one man's lust for women and power concludes with the chilling end that audiences have come to know, the nobleman's descent into hell.

"The moral of the story is of course wicked people will die as

(See DON GIOVANNI, page 7)

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Classifieds 11
Editorial.....4
Mailbox 4
Obituaries 9
Sports 10
Dublin School District Finalizes Budget, Cuts..... 2
East Bay Parks Renovates Pool at Camp Arroyo 2
Livermore Council Interviews Planning Commission Candidates..... 3
Local School Teams Fall Short in Championships 10
Livermore Resident Raises Funds, Sends Supplies to Ukraine..... 12

VISIT WWW.INDEPENDENTNEWS.COM FOR DAILY ONLINE NEWS

PET OF THE WEEK



SPUDS MACKENZIE

Meet Spuds Mackenzie, a puppy with a bold spirit and a smooth, easygoing charm. This lively dog will always be right by your side, whether it's watching you work or joining you on walks or at the dinner table. If you're looking for a refreshing burst of joy in your life, he is ready to be your cuddly companion! Call Valley Humane at (925) 426-8656 to arrange a meet & greet, or email info@valleyhumane.org to start the adoption process. (Photo courtesy of Valley Humane)

Dublin School Board Approves $6 Million Budget Cut

By Ruth Roberts

The Dublin Unified School District Board (DUSD) of trustees has approved its 2025-26 budget, which is expected to save the district nearly $6 million. The new budget removes the threat of the county taking over the district's finances. The board approved the cuts in two separate resolutions, one for each category of employees, during its regular meeting on Feb. 25. The vote was 4-1 in each resolution with Trustee Dan Cherrier voting against them.

The reductions mean 30.5 full-time equivalent positions (FTEs) will be cut for the next year. It's unclear how many of those positions are currently filled.

"This is the moment in the year when we are really transitioning away from what to do, to operationalizing that and figuring out how to do it," said Chris Hobbs, DUSD's assistant superintendent of business services. "I will be really, really clear that we are still in the process of understanding what the budget will look like … but these are the same numbers as January."

In December 2023, Hobbs reported that the district would be unable to maintain a required 3% budget reserve for the 2025-26 fiscal year. Consequently, the Alameda County Office of Education assigned the district a "qualified" status. To avoid this status, districts must maintain budget reserves of at least 3% for the current year and for the following two years.

A total of 16.27 full-time equivalent positions (FTEs) of certificated staff are being cut, mostly in middle and high schools. They include teachers of English, physical education, drama, foreign languages, music and other departments, especially if enrollment in those classes is low.

The district is also cutting 14.25 FTEs from classified services, which includes most non-teaching positions, such as account technicians, secretaries, custodians, facilities technicians and general education instructors.

Heather Campos, the assistant superintendent of human resources, told the board of trustees that many of these reductions might be reinstated through attrition, early retirement and additional revenue sources. The state has also not yet approved its final budget, which could change the amount the school district would receive.

The board voted to support the cuts with the caveat from DUSD Vice President Gabi Blackman, who said that if additional funding becomes available, the board will do its best to bring back as many custodians as possible. The cuts hit custodians the hardest, with five FTE positions being eliminated.

Cherrier, who was the lone dissenting vote, said he is against any cuts that hit the classroom and its students and that was the reason for his 'no' vote.

"Taking away positions that directly affect the quality of learning is to me a nonstarter," Cherrier said. "I think it's time we take a look at how we got here. To me, the entire responsibility rests entirely with this board and executive leadership. We dug this hole ourselves; we were presented with budget forecasts that clearly showed expected deficits and yet we kept increasing expenses beyond our means … some will say if we don't approve this, the state will come in and manage the district; well maybe they will do a better job, we obviously can't."

Board President Kristin Speck noted that Cherrier had several opportunities to express concerns over the cuts.

"So, we have been talking about these budget reductions the entire school year," Speck said. "You have been on the board along with us the entire school year and you decide at the last meeting when we have to vote on this to bring this up?"

"It would have been advantageous to have spoken up in many, many of the previous times we have discussed this," she continued. "I am not willing to not do something and let the state take over. If we don't take action, we will be in an even bigger budget crisis."

Trustees Carolina Martinez, Kristian Reyes and Blackman spoke in support of the vote, despite the acknowledged difficulties and ongoing challenges in laying off staff.

The annual operating budget for DUSD is $190.2 million. According to staff, the district is one of the lowest-funded districts in California. Funding is determined by student enrollment and attendance. In the 2022-23 fiscal year, the district received $11,167 per student in Local Control Funding Formula funding, which is only 79% of the state average of $14,099.

Additionally, one-time federal COVID-19 pandemic relief funds have now expired. Unfunded and underfunded mandates from state and federal governments, including rising costs for special education programs and services, continue to put pressure on the district's budget — an issue affecting many school districts across California. Although enrollment has been stagnant for some time, it is projected to decrease by approximately 260 students by 2030, which will also affect state funding.



Families and friends cheer on the runners in the 11th annual Livermore Valley Half-Marathon. The event was held on Sunday March 2. (Photo — Leah Silveira)

EBRPD Oversees Refurbishment of Camp Arroyo Pool

By Dawnmarie Fehr

The East Bay Regional Parks District (EBRPD) board of directors has voted to spend $275,000 to upgrade the pool at the Camp Arroyo Recreation Area.

Built in the early 2000s, the integrity of the pool has deteriorated, according to district staff, and has "cracked skimmers, pitted and stained plaster, substandard entry rails and a damaged pool deck."

An outside consultant was hired in 2023 to review all potential issues and provide recommendations for repairs. Since then, a design was completed and sent out for bid, with the lowest bid coming back from BNO Builders at $274,520. Money for the repairs will come from the pool fund.

Camp Arroyo Recreation Area is owned by the Taylor Family Foundation, maintained by EBRPD, and utilized by a variety of groups throughout the year. Nonprofit United Camps, Conferences and Retreats (UCCR) manages bookings for Camp Arroyo, and schedules programming year-round for educational, special needs and veterans' groups.

From September to June, schools book camps for students to come in and learn about the local environment by studying the web of life, aquatic environments and geology, among other topics.

"They come in for what they call science camp," said Heather Butler, spokesperson for UCCR. "They come for anywhere from three to five days and study what they are learning in the classroom in nature, and they do it hands-on."

Students, teachers and parents stay in cabins, eat community meals in the dining hall and visit the different areas of the park. Most camps include night hikes, nature walks, visits to the creek and large garden, and — when the weather cooperates — visits to the pool.

One group that especially loves the pool is Livermore-based Exceptional Needs Network (ENN). A nonprofit providing camps for children and young adults with special needs, ENN hosts three camp sessions at Camp Arroyo each year. With two sessions in the summer and one in the fall, ENN Director Rayna Blakley said the pool is one of the campers' favorite activities.

"Our campers absolutely love the pool," Blakley said. "During our camps, it's typically open about five hours each day, and the kids love it. It's always full."

ENN camps have a one-to-one ratio of campers and counselors, and campers can enjoy free time in the pool. Blakley noted even though it isn't part of a structured activity, the pool is made available to all ability ranges. It has steps with handrails on both sides, an inclined beach entry for those who aren't able to use steps, and a waterproof wheelchair for campers who cannot walk in on their own.

"Everyone has access and it's truly a beautiful thing," Blakley said.

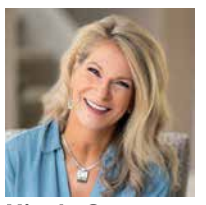
Approximately 30 nonprofits utilize Camp Arroyo and its pool each summer, some for the day and others for three to four days. The Taylor Family Foundation seeks to utilize the property to reach underserved populations, especially children in Northern California living with life-threatening and chronic illnesses, developmental differences and at-risk youth.

To book a science camp at Camp Arroyo, visit www.wolfschool.org. To learn more about ENN, visit www.ennetwork.org. For more information on Camp Arroyo, visit www.ebparks.org/programs/day-camps/camp-arroyo.

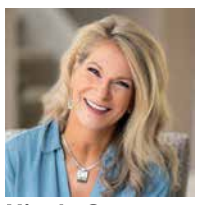

SOLD WITH MULTIPLE OFFERS ABOVE LIST PRICE!
The right marketing makes all the difference!
6180 Bella Oaks Court sold/closed for $2,461,800
4 bed plus office 3.5 bath ~3504 sq ft.
Call Linda today!

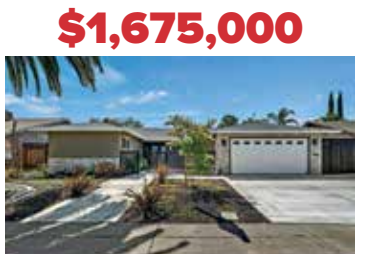
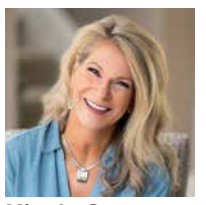
Linda Diaz Futral
Broker/Realtor
925.980.3561
linda@lindafutral.com
www.lindafutral.com
License #01257605
LUXICOR REAL ESTATE

PENDING FALLBROOKE BEAUTY

2488 ANCONA CIRCLE • LIVERMORE
3,668 SQ FT • 9,877 SQ FT LOT
5 BEDROOM • 4 ½ BATH
BONUS ROOM • 4 CAR GARAGE
8 DAYS ON MARKET
MULTIPLE OFFERS

Nicole Sweeney
Realtor
925.518.2142
nicole@nicolesweeneyhomes.com
CA DRE #01965816
Results That Move You
LEGACY REAL ESTATE & ASSOCIATES

JUST SOLD $1,695,500

825 ROMA STREET • LIVERMORE
3 BEDROOM • 2 BATH
1,967 SQ FT • 8,641 SQ FT LOT
8 DAYS ON MARKET
MULTIPLE OFFERS
$107,500 OVER LIST PRICE

Nicole Sweeney
Realtor
925.518.2142
nicole@nicolesweeneyhomes.com
CA DRE #01965816
Results That Move You
LEGACY REAL ESTATE & ASSOCIATES

JUST SOLD $1,675,000

1935 EVANS ST. LIVERMORE
3 Bedroom 2 ½ Bath
1809 Sq Ft 7,700 Sq Ft Lot
10 DAYS ON MARKET
MULTIPLE OFFERS
$76,000 OVER LIST PRICE

Nicole Sweeney
Realtor
925.518.2142
nicole@nicolesweeneyhomes.com
CA DRE #01965816
Results That Move You
LEGACY REAL ESTATE & ASSOCIATES

LIVERMORE VALLEY arts
LiVE AT THE BANKHEAD

TÉADA
ST. PATRICK'S DAY CELEBRATION
MAR 17 | 7:30 PM
GET TICKETS NOW! LivermoreArts.org | 925.373.6800



DUBLIN GUINNESS
RENEWAL by ANDERSEN aloft DUBLIN-PLEASANTON STANFORD BLOOD CENTER
JAZZERCISE EMPOWER MARTIAL ARTS Stanford MEDICINE Health Care Tri-Valley
The St. Patrick's Day Celebration is bartable bart.gov/bartable
culture pop soda Little Scissors
DUBLIN EVENTS APP | CITYOFDUBLINCA
WWW.DUBLINSTPATS.COM

Council Selects Livermore Planning Commission Members

By Larry Altman

The Livermore City Council on Monday selected a former Chamber of Commerce president and a Livermore Downtown Inc. board member to serve on the city's Planning Commission.

Nadine Horner, a Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory retiree who served as the chamber's president from 2002 to 2004, and Charity Steele, a strategic planning consultant, were selected from a field of seven candidates to fill two open positions. They will serve until March 1, 2029.

The five-member Planning Commission advises the elected City Council on the adoption and ongoing review of the city's General Plan for the physical growth of Livermore. Commissioners also make decisions or recommendations on zoning and subdivision of lands and other development projects.

Steele and Horner replace former commissioner Steven Dunbar, who was elected to City Council, and Daniel Leary, whose term on the commission ended on March 1.

In her application and resume, Horner described herself as a problem solver with exceptional interpersonal and business communication skills. She wrote that she brings long-standing relationships with the City of Livermore staff and elected leaders.

"I look forward to bringing more affordable housing to our city," Horner wrote. "As a planning commissioner I would encourage buildings and projects to be environmentally sustainable."

At LLNL, Horner served as senior advisor in the Office of Government and External Affairs from 2022 to 2024, and as external relations officer in public affairs from 2004 to 2022. Her responsibilities included serving as primary contact for community leaders, state congressional representatives, educational institutions and non-governmental organizations. Horner said she spearheaded LLNL's largest community outreach program, the Helping Others More Effectively (HOME) Campaign, which raised funds for nonprofit agencies.

Horner wrote on her resume that while serving at the Livermore chamber, she reinvigorated the organization, restored its credibility and achieved profitability for the first time in its history.

Horner's community activities included working with the Tri-Valley Education Collaborative, the Bankhead Theater's Rae Dorough Speakers Series, the Rotary Club of Livermore Valley, the Valley Dance Theater, the Las Positas College Foundation, the Pedrozzi Scholarship Foundation, the UNCLE Credit Union, the Chabot-Las Positas Community College District.



Nadine Horner (center) and Charity Steele (right) were sworn in March 3 as Livermore's two new planning commissioners. (Photo — Dennis O'Keefe)

In Steele's application, she said she is "committed to listening carefully to the community, staff, and fellow commissioners to ensure that each project is fully understood before decisions are made."

"Where flexibility exists, I will work to enhance projects in ways that align with Livermore's vision for sustainability, inclusivity, and smart growth," Steele said. "The flexibility of my business enables me to dedicate the necessary time and focus to this role, ensuring each project receives the attention it deserves. Ultimately, my goal is to support the Planning Commission in conducting meticulous reviews, providing the City Council with the thorough groundwork needed to make informed decisions on a project's compliance that support Livermore's character and future."

Steele cited her experience as a board member with Livermore Downtown Inc., serving on committees to oversee budgeting, event creation, business support, and fundraising initiatives. As a board member at Akiva Systems, she provides strategic advice on ethical and professional practices in innovative technology solutions. Steele has worked as CEO for TreSource since 2020, spearheading the development of resources and mentorship programs to support professionals in service-based industries.

Steele wrote that at Livermore Downtown Inc., she has worked with city leaders, local business owners and neighbors to support tourism and keep downtown vibrant.

"I'm deeply connected to Livermore's unique character, and I seldom miss an opportunity to enjoy all it has to offer," she wrote. "Whether it's hiking in the hills, biking by the creek, or walking my pups around May Nissen park, I have a strong adoration for how much natural beauty is woven into our town. Downtown holds a special place in my heart too. I love that I can take a short walk from my home to enjoy downtown Livermore, where the blend of old and new comes to life."

The other candidates were Neal Pann, an architect who previously served on the planning and historic preservation commissions; commercial tradesman Mark Thompson, who is a member of the Livermore Pleasanton Fire Department Community Emergency Response Team; General Plan Advisory Committee member Asa Strout; LLNL deputy director Stephanie Shang, who chairs the GPAC; and Andrew Paterson, information system security engineer at LLNL.

In the first round of voting, Councilmember Ben Barrientos voted for Horner and Steele; Steven Dunbar voted for Strout and Steele; Kristie Wang voted for Horner and Strout; Vice Mayor Evan Branning voted for Strout and Steele; and Mayor John Marchand chose Horner and Steele. Steele led with four votes and was appointed. Strout and Horner tied with three.

On the second round of voting, Barrientos, Wang and Marchand voted for Horner, while Branning and Dunbar chose Strout. Horner was appointed.


Creek Hill Farm
Horseback Riding Lessons, Training, Boarding, Breeding, Sales
925.337.5375
creekhillfarms.com

RETZLAFF Estate Wines
WINE TASTING AND PICNIC TABLE RESERVATIONS
FRIDAY - MONDAY 12-4:30
NOW IS THE TIME TO MAKE YOUR EASTER AND MOTHER'S DAY WINE TASTING AND PICNIC RESERVATIONS
LIVE MUSIC & CATERER ON SITE MOST WEEKENDS
Make your online reservation at
RetzlaffVineyards.com

Pleasanton Scout Earns Top-Rank Eagle Badge

Connor Robitaille, a member of Troop 948 in Pleasanton, will receive his Eagle Scout badge, the highest rank in the Scouts BSA program, at a court of honor on Sunday, March 23.

Robitaille is the son of Elizabeth and Greg Robitaille of Pleasanton and a junior at Amdor Valley High School (AVHS).

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

For his Eagle project, Robitaille designed and led a team of two dozen Scouts and adult leaders in building a gaga ball pit and benches at Valley Christian Elementary School in Dublin. Gaga is a variant of dodge ball played with a softer ball.

In addition to Scouts, Robitaille is on his high school's swim team and was chair of the AVHS "Every 15 Minutes" program to prevent teen drinking and driving.

Troop 948 is sponsored by GraceWay Church.

Edward Jones > edwardjones.com | Member SIPC

Your life. Your money. Your terms.
Whether it's investing some extra income, preparing a future for your family with your retirement secured, or saving for a home or education costs, we're here to coach you through it.
We're ready when you are. Contact us today.

Erin Trayner
Financial Advisor
2156 W Grant Line Rd
Suite 225
Tracy, CA 95377
209-835-1005
MKD-8652E-A AECSPAD 2667909

join us
Dementia Support Group
Second Wednesday of Every Month
5:00 PM to 6:00 PM
THE WATERMARK AT ROSEWOOD GARDENS
ASSISTED LIVING
MEMORY CARE

Caring for a loved one experiencing memory loss or dementia can be difficult and emotional. We invite you to join our monthly support group to talk about challenges, share experiences, and lend support to one another in a safe and welcoming setting. At The Watermark at Rosewood Gardens, we are committed to providing excellent resources and support for you and your loved one.
Call 925-488-2203 to RSVP.
35 Fenton Street • Livermore, CA 94550
rosewoodgardens.watermarkcommunities.com
A WATERMARK RETIREMENT COMMUNITY℠
RCFE LICENSE #019200708 2406-WRG-8003A

EDITORIAL

As the Economy Begins to Turn Downward, We Should Rally Behind Local Businesses

Government and business are often supportive of each other in words, if not deeds. But when they actually work together on imaginative new projects, good things can happen for everyone.

Because of the uncertainty for businesses triggered by federal actions, creative collaboration is particularly important now.

All of us should celebrate the City of Livermore's agreement to establish an Aviation Innovation Center at Livermore Municipal Airport. While the airport's fixed base operator Five Rivers Aviation has sought such a development plan for several years, a key step greasing the wheels came when the city transferred oversight of the airport from its Public Works department to its Innovation & Economic Development department.

The agreement is expected to encourage development of clean technologies, such as emissions-free airplane fuel and electric vertical take-off-and-landing air taxis. Turning Livermore into a hub for such next-generation technology is likely to have a big economic impact.

Another major step involved the Alameda County Planning Commission's recommendation to the Board of Supervisors this past week to adjust the South Livermore Valley Area Plan to allow "clustering" of commercial development. The technical move was encouraged by the wine industry, because it would allow larger commercial facilities to be built, including a hotel, or smaller bed-and-breakfasts, plus ancillary activities like tasting rooms, shops, and other businesses all close together. It would have the added benefit of ensuring that open space would be preserved in larger pieces, instead of being scattered among smaller parcels.

Voters had approved the clustering of agricultural and commercial buildings in the 2000 election, allowing larger facilities to be built. However, because of a misinterpretation of the ballot measure, no action was taken.

In 2022, voters approved increasing the size of agricultural buildings, not commercial buildings, enabling mid-sized wineries to be built in South Livermore. The move before the county would finish the job by clustering commercial square footage, so that larger buildings could be developed, such as a resort hotel. Again, nothing happened due to a typographical error in the East County Area Plan. The Planning Commission's fix, drafted in partnership with the Tri-Valley Conservancy, enables the county to move forward with the clustering that was originally intended, so that a midsize hotel could be built in South Livermore. In the grand scheme of things, these actions — a bureaucratic reorganization or correcting the land use code — might seem minor, but the downstream effects could be quite significant.

Moving forward with an Aviation Innovation Center would allow the Livermore airport to fulfill its promise of being a hub for clean technology and advanced aviation solutions. Being able to build a larger Tri-Valley wine country hotel could boost tourism and provide more revenue for our local wineries.

And our local economy can use all the help that it can get, especially as we stare down the specter of tariffs, widespread federal layoffs and the withdrawal of federal funding in countless areas of our economy.

This week the Trump administration imposed 25% tariffs on Canadian and Mexican imports and raised the 10% tariffs on Chinese goods to 20%. Even if they don't last long, they'll do considerable economic damage.

All three countries have responded with tariffs of their own on U.S. goods. Businesses don't like uncertainty. As with previous announcements from the administration, many companies are still trying to figure out how they'll be affected.

Sherri Souza, the CEO of the Livermore Valley Chamber of Commerce, said she thinks people are still in shock. "It's all happening so quickly, and people's heads are spinning," she explained.

Other businesses are similarly in a processing mode: Livermore-based Triple S Metals, for example, which exports recycled scrap metal to both Mexico and China, hasn't seen immediate effects on its business operations, a company spokesperson reported.

But the wine industry is also bracing for impact; several of our larger vineyards export some of their product. Canada, for example, is a major buyer of California wine. The Tri-Valley industry could be seriously harmed by the effects of new tariffs. Vineyards in Alameda County alone produced more than 14,000 tons of wine grapes in 2023. Overall wine sales in California have been turning downward in recent years, with reports of grapes being left on the vine in San Joaquin Valley, for instance.

The economics of the industry favor larger scale commercial operations, especially when it includes winemaking as a source of tourism to draw in more visitors to the Tri-Valley. Tourism benefits our downtown businesses, as well as our wineries. The more we work together, the more successful we can be. The Livermore Valley Wine Community recently formed the Global Artisan Vintners Alliance with eight other smaller winemaking regions both in the U.S. and around the world, to foster that cooperation between business and government.

We should anticipate further economic disruption. That makes it even more imperative to support our local businesses and industries. Shopping downtown is a good idea, as is having a glass of Livermore cabernet franc with dinner. Even taking flying lessons helps our airport businesses. However, we also need to ensure our local governments and commercial interests are doing everything they can to work together.

The progress being made at the Alameda County level to boost wine tourism, and the City of Livermore to expand technology and aviation is to be celebrated. We're going to need more wins like these in the future.

MAILBOX

Mailbox Guidelines:
Opinions voiced in letters published in Mailbox are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of The Independent. Anonymous letters will not be published. All letters are required to have the name(s) of the person(s) submitting them, city of residence and phone number, for verification purposes. Letters may not contain advertising. Abusive letters and letters containing ad hominem attacks may be rejected or edited. Letters are subject to verification and may be edited for clarity at the discretion of the editor. We reserve the right to decide whether or not the letter will be published. Headings for all letters may be edited at the discretion of the editor to properly reflect their content. A headline will be added to letters received without one. Frequent letter writers may have publication of their letters delayed or not run at all. Letters should be limited to 400 words or less and should be sent by email to letters@independentnews.com or submitted using the form below. The letters to the editor deadline is Monday at 8 a.m. If you wish to submit a letter pertaining to a special event or meeting taking place on a Monday before any given Thursday print edition — and you would like your letter to run that week — please contact the editor (newsroom@independentnews.com) as soon as possible on Monday to discuss the content and publication options. Otherwise, all letters submitted after 8 a.m. on Monday must hold until the following week.

American Muslims Begin Month-Long Fast of Ramadan

Abdul Awwal, Pleasanton

On March 1 (or 2*), the Muslim community in the Tri-Valley and around the world began the month-long fast of Ramadan. Ramadan is the ninth month on the Islamic lunar calendar during which Muslims abstain from food, drink and other sensual pleasures from dawn to sunset. The fast of Ramadan is performed in order to learn discipline, self-restraint and generosity while obeying God's commandments. Fasting (along with the declaration of faith, daily prayer, charity and pilgrimage to Mecca) is one of the "five pillars" of the Islamic faith. Those exempted from fasting include travelers and the sick or ill persons. The Quran mentions that fasting was ordained for other faith communities as well.

Throughout the month, Muslims participate in special prayers and exchange visits for sunset meals (around 6 p.m.), or iftars. Individual families gather for suhoor (sahoor before 5:30 a.m.), the pre-dawn meal. Each part of the Muslim world has its own special foods that are eaten during Ramadan.

Muslims in this month also renew their relationship with the Quran, Islam's revealed text. In the Islamic Center of Livermore, there will be a special nightly prayer, where the entire Quran will be read from memory by Hafiz (one who memorizes the entire Quran) during the night prayer. If you have never heard Quran recitation, you can contact the Islamic Center of Livermore and listen to the nightly prayer as a guest for as long or as little as you like.

When the fast of Ramadan is completed, the entire community gathers for the most joyous Islamic holiday of the year, which starts with communal prayers on the Eid-ul-Fitr (eed-al-fitter) holiday.

*Note: Because the beginning of Islamic lunar months depends on the actual sighting of the new moon, the beginning of Ramadan may vary by one day.

PG&E Rates

Owen Brovont, Livermore

The other day, I received a notice in the mail from PG&E of a program it called "Budget Billing." PG&E claims that "Budget Billing evens out your monthly charges and helps you avoid seasonal spikes. Your energy costs over the past 12 months will be averaged to determine your new monthly payment amount. This will continue to adjust each month." Looking at the diagram on the notice, it surely appears that the fluctuations in the monthly charges are "smoothed out" across the year, so that in the summer the air conditioning spike and in the winter the heating spike would appear to be reduced, but it also shows that during the spring and fall, when the weather is generally milder and the monthly charges are significantly reduced, the rates are raised. To maintain its income rate, PG&E increases the cost of the milder months service to achieve the actual total income goal for the entire year.

But what the Budget Billing program really does is hide the spikes and increased charges during the milder months. Some may claim this is manipulative and say it is simply a clever method to hide the fact that PG&E rates are outrageous in comparison with the 10 western states, to the east as far as Utah. Excluding California, the average rate across these western states is $13.50 per kilowatt hour! That means that the PG&E rate is 242 percent higher than the average rate that the ten western states charge. PG&E charges $32.68* per kilowatt hour — and PG&E has already announced another rate increase in 2026! These rates fall heaviest on the lower income citizens of its service areas with the attendant discomforts it will worsen.

In California, the rate payers have very little recourse since they do not exert any direct control over the rates that PG&E charges for supplying energy to its users. It appears that PG&E's rate payers need to open dialogues with their state representative to reverse PG&E's policies and activities.

*www.chooseenergy.com/electricity-rates-by-state/

Cutting VA Staff will Not Help Veterans

Larry Rogers, Livermore

In 2017, I helped my father apply for a VA Aid and Attendance pension. It took about eight months from the date of his application to when it was finally approved. Since then, the VA has annually requested and reviewed his eligibility to ensure his pension payments were proper and that there was no fraudulent activity associated with his benefits. When my father passed away last year, the representatives at the VA helped ensure our family received the correct funeral and burial benefits.

I can't believe that VA staff reductions will help shorten the time to approve benefits applications. Nor can I believe that removing VA staff will improve the delivery of services to families. Cynically, I can believe that recent staffing cuts at the VA are intended to delay and effectively reduce the benefits provided to veterans.

Removing employees who administer programs thus delaying payments while claiming benefits are not impacted is particularly dishonest. Removing staff who combat fraud is a shortsighted and false savings.

I cannot believe that the VA will be more effective and efficient in delivering benefits to veterans by cutting support staff.

Zelenskyy Blew Up the Peace Deal

David Ott, Pleasanton

Zelenskyy committed one of the biggest blunders in diplomacy history, especially considering his country is on the eve of destruction. The U.S. and Ukraine were just minutes away from signing the economic partnership agreement last week, when Zelenskyy blew up the deal by being disrespectful and combative. His economic partnership was the stepping stone to end the war and secure peace in Europe.

On Feb. 12, Treasury Secretary Bessent met with Zelenskyy in Kiev to sign the economic partnership agreement. After a 45-minute volatile discussion with Zelenskyy doing most of the yelling, Zelenskyy refused to sign the deal but said he would sign the deal a few days later in Munich when he was to meet with Vice-President Vance. For whatever reason, Zelenskyy did not sign the deal in Munich either and instead asked to come to Washington DC to sign the agreement.

On Feb 28., the economic partnership agreement was to be signed, but Zelenskyy blew up the deal. It has been reported that some democratic leaders urged Zelenskyy before the meeting to stand up to Trump in public. This is the worst thing that you can do during a negotiation, especially when it so important for your war-torn country where hundreds of thousands of men, woman and children have died and will continue to die until peace is secured.

Zelenskyy failed to understand that with the economic partnership agreement with the U.S., the security of the deal would automatically come. The U.S. would plan to invest hundreds of millions of dollars to mine the minerals and other natural resources with the use of heavy equipment and manpower supplied by the U.S., so by default the US would ensure the security of the agreement between the two countries.

Zelenskyy was supposed to be coming to the U.S. to ask for help. Instead, he used the public meeting to be disrespectful and pick a fight with the U.S. Major blunder. Zelenskyy must now apologize, restore the diplomatic relationship and sign the economic partnership agreement. The war must stop and peace must be restored in Europe.

Zelenskyy and Europe think that they can negotiate with Putin and end the war, but this is a fantasy. The only way the war ends is with the U.S. negotiating a deal with Russia and that starts with the economic partnership agreement with U.S. and Ukraine.

We Are In for a Rough Ride

Richard Andrews, Livermore

Today, Friday, I watched the most lie filled Oval Office news conference since Richard Nixon said, "I am not a crook". The Felon in charge, and his lap dog JayDee, rudely tried to bully the Duly Elected President of the Ukraine, while fawning up to the War Criminal & Murderer Putin, like he was some saint. It was juvenile and disgraceful behavior at best. It was as if I was in Lilliput watching the courtiers trying to impress the King by being the most obsequious.

This is right after I read the Letters from Thursday with two MAGA faithful waxing eloquently about how the Felon in Charge was being such a great leader, and all that. It makes me wonder if either of these people have had any classes, or read any books about The Constitution or how America became the Great Experiment it is.

Pray for America, people... the Birds of Prey are after our country.

Happening Quicker

Nicky Neau, Livermore

This morning at about 7 a.m. my son-in-law, who works for the IRS by training small rural offices to help taxpayers, was called by his superior to abort his travel to Montana just as he was going through the TSI line at the airport.

All government travel — at least my direct info is the IRS — has been canceled summarily.

This is the Nazi/dictator way — Hitler destroyed the German democratic constitution in 53 days. This may be happening quicker.

First they come for "those people" — the so-called dispensable ones. Now they are coming for you.

Already some Republicans in Congress are realizing that it's their own constituents who are losing their Medicaid and other social services. OOPS!!

Welcome to MAGA World, Russia Version

Rosario Milelli, Pleasanton

Question for you, the reader. How would you react if you were Zelensky, and Trump and his sycophants engaged in the following before you even came to meet with Trump?

Trump repeatedly stated Ukraine started the war, obviously false.

Trump repeatedly stated Zelensky was a dictator, obvi-

(See MAILBOX, page 5)

Corrections

A story on page one of the Feb. 27, 2025, edition of The Independent omitted Pleasanton Vice Mayor Jeff Nibert's opinion to mixed-use development in the proposed East Lakes housing development. He supported making the project an age-restricted development.

A story on page six of the same issue misstated the role played by Texas A&M University with Lawrence Livermore National Security. The university is affiliated with the group, but is not a co-manager of the company or the lab.

THE Independent
INLAND VALLEY PUBLISHING CO.
PUBLISHER: Joan Kinney Seppala
EDITOR: Chris Winters
ASSOCIATE PUBLISHER: David T. Lowell *(In Memoriam)*
EDITOR: Janet Armantrout *(In Memoriam)*

THE INDEPENDENT (USPS 300) is published every Thursday by Inland Valley Publishing Company, 2250 First St., Livermore, CA 94550; (925)243-8000. Mailed at Periodical Postage Prices at the Livermore Post Office and additional entry office: Pleasanton, CA 94566-9998. THE INDEPENDENT is mailed upon request. For more information or to sign up visit www.independentnews.com. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Independent, 2250 First St., Livermore, CA 94550.

Advertising and subscription rates may be obtained by calling (925)243-8000 during regular business hours or by emailing info@independentnews.com.
Editorial information may be submitted by emailing editor@independentnews.com

www.independentnews.com



Jason Reyes, managing partner of Calson Management, brought his family to the groundbreaking of a new assisted living community at 1202 Concannon Blvd. in Livermore on Feb. 27. The 128-unit, 130,000-square-foot housing development will be located in The Well at Sunset mixed-use project. (Photo — Leah Silveira)

MAILBOX

(Continued from page 4)

ously not, since he was elected.

Trump repeatedly stated Europe's aid was a loan, unlike the U.S. aid given freely, obviously not true. Trump was publicly rebuked by France's and the U.K.'s leaders while meeting with Trump.

Trump falsely claimed the US Aid was $300 billion, obviously not, it was $90 billion. On par with Europe's aid.

Trump demanded that Ukraine hold elections, while in a state of war, when Ukraine's constitution states that elections can't be held while in a state of war.

Trump stated Zelensky had a 4% approval rating while actually it exceeds 50%, while Trump's latest is 47.9% (538 data).

Prior to the meeting, Trump was extorting hundreds of billions in Ukraine's minerals, holding a gun to the head of Ukraine in exchange for possible U.S. support.

Trump's team met with Russian counterparts to negotiate a deal without Zelensky being consulted. The going-in position was that Russia would keep all the territory they occupied and more.

Just after Russia invaded Ukraine in Feb. 2022, Vance, then a candidate for U.S. Senate, said: "I gotta be honest with you, I don't really care what happens to Ukraine one way or another."

Based on the above facts, how would you expect the Trump Zelensky meeting to go. To me the blow-up was a setup. Vance also disrespected the office by interjecting his opinion; what gives him the right to interrupt two presidents?

One question: Is Trump suffering from dementia (he is constantly confusing his facts), or is he simply a pawn of Putin? The above mirror Russian disinformation; I don't know, but what other explanation is there?

Trump doesn't want peace, he wants Ukraine to surrender, total appeasement to Russia. Trump is the modern-day Neville Chamberlain.

But the sad reality is that Trump has sided with Putin. His alignment with Putin is remarkable. He has invited Putin to the U.S., Putin an acknowledged war criminal. Trump stated he is working economic development deals with Putin. Trump is offering "golden visas" to Russian oligarchs.

Putin is the winner, America the loser, and the Ukraine tragedy continues.

When "Them" Becomes "Us": The Blue Rose Resistance

Greg Scott, Livermore

"Walk down the street of any city, any afternoon, and look around you. What you've got to remember is what you're looking at is also you. Everyone you're looking at is also you." (James Baldwin)

I choose Blue Rose for its ascribed significance of resilience, uniqueness, and mystery — fitting for our times. My inspiration is the White Rose non-violent resistance of Nazi Germany in 1942-43. I stand to resist the immoralities and ethical bankruptcies of President "Demagogue Donald" Trump and company and also the corrupt, deleterious Democratic Party who gave us President Trump (twice). Our only salvation is standing up to the Mafia Economy run by the Mafia State and to bring about something better.

"To create a minimum standard of life below which no human being can fall is the most elementary duty of the democratic state." (Walter Lippmann)

We are failing on both the "minimum standard" and "democratic state" accounts, which isn't new. It didn't arrive suddenly with a President Trump. It has been going on in what was British-mandated Palestine for a century: it didn't start with October 7, 2023. AntiSemitism didn't commence with White Supremacists shouting "Jews will not replace us" in Charlottesville, Virginia in August 2017.

"You had many people in that group other than neo-Nazis and White nationalists. The press has treated them unfairly. You also had some very fine people on both sides." (President Trump, Mark I, August 15, 2017)

War criminal Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu declares President Trump the best of friends. President Trump is the best of friends of Jews given the above comments? That perpetuates the big lie that Israel is a Jewish state. It is not: Israel is a Zionist apartheid state, which is no democracy. (Cypel, "The State of Israel vs. The Jews," 2020)

"Fascism" comes from the Latin word "fasces" meaning a bundle of wooden sticks with an axe in it, bound by leather straps. It was used by ancient Romans as a deadly weapon or to threaten. In the 20th century "fascism" is a principle of ruling by violence or by threatening violence.

The latest fascism in the United States didn't begin with President Trump. Review the repression under President "Genocide Joe" Biden's Administration of largely peaceful protests against genocide in Gaza.

"Do not be indifferent when any minority is discriminated against." (Marian Turski)

It's time for a new political party of Blue Rose Resistance!

I'm from the Government…

Patricia Munro, Livermore

In 1986, Ronald Reagan famously quoted the aphorism: "The nine most terrifying words in the English language are: 'I'm from the government and I'm here to help.'" That statement shows profound ignorance of the role of government in the United States as stated in the Preamble to the Constitution — which those of us of a certain age memorized in eighth grade:

"We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America."

That statement — not the pledge of allegiance and not the national anthem — are the core of what government does. Government at local, state, and federal levels manages emergencies, funds transportation projects, research, housing grants, education, and works to ensure safe food, air, and water, and much more. Every aspect of our society is touched by the government — by people with expertise and experience doing invisible work for the common good.

Much of the work is invisible, necessary, annoying, and takes a long time. Ensuring clean water is essential —and taken for granted. Competent building inspectors ensure that buildings won't fall down or burn down, yet getting buildings inspected can delay a project. Building a community can take a decade or more.

So much of the above is taken for granted that it is hard to see the important role government plays in creating communities that thrive — as Livermore has done.

The current dismantling of the federal government will have profound effects on local government's ability to do its work. For example, the federal government, under HUD, provides money for housing and human services. If that money vanishes, fewer people will receive those services. If there is less money from the federal government for roads, water, and health, we are all at risk. None of this is obvious, but all of it is about the common good and goals stated in the Preamble.

A Disastrous First Six Weeks

Dan Fahey, Livermore

All Americans should be outraged at what's happening in the first weeks of the Trump administration.

Trump is trying to turn American journalism into what Putin enjoys in Russia, where there is no oversight or criticism of what the Kremlin is doing, just fawning praise for the authoritarian Putin. Trump has sidelined an important media company, the Associated Press, for accurately referring to the Gulf of Mexico instead of calling it by Trump's pet name, the Gulf of America. Trump has kicked out long-time respected news organizations from important access points to the administration in favor of fringe right-wing outfits. Voice of America journalists are under investigation for accurate reporting that is critical of Trump or his administration. NPR and PBS are under investigation by the FCC.

Trump pardoned all violent January 6 criminals, a truly vile and disgraceful act that disrespects the heroic Capitol Police officers who defended the Capitol, scores of whom were injured and some who died as a result of that day.

Department of Justice prosecutors and FBI agents, connected to legitimate investigations of him and January 6 criminals, have been fired and/or demoted just for doing their jobs.

On the third anniversary of Russia's unprovoked invasion of Ukraine, instead of standing on the side of Ukraine and our allies all over the world and supporting a resolution condemning the invasion and supporting Ukraine, we voted with Russia, Iran, North Korea and other outlaw regimes against the resolution. Truly shameful.

Now we have the disgraceful display at the White House of two cowardly, vile, bullies, Trump and JD Vance, berating Volodymyr Zelensky, a wartime president who has for three years courageously led his country in defending against the invasion by a much larger and powerful country. It was a grotesque act by two scoundrels who don't have the combined courage that Volodymyr Zelensky has in his little toe. Every patriotic American should feel shame and embarrassment by the actions of their president and vice-president in their treatment of a truly heroic leader and U.S. ally who is fighting for democracy for his country and other countries Putin has put a target on.

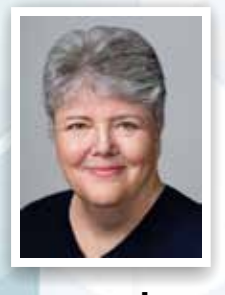
And let's not forget the chaos and destruction Elon Musk and his highly suspect enterprise, DOGE, created. It smells to high heaven and has

(See MAILBOX, page 6)

You are invited to a talk on Christian Science

Finding where God is seen and felt: What's church got to do with it?

Have you ever thought about God as goodness? And God's creation, including you and everyone else, as a natural extension of that goodness? There is a direct connection between this foundational way of viewing the world and the idea of church.



By Emra Farkas, CSB

Christian Science practitioner and teacher

Saturday March 8, 2025, at 2:00 pm at our church!

First Church of Christ, Scientist

263 S N Street (@Third), Downtown Livermore

925-447-2946

Contact by email: lecture@christiansciencechurchlivermore.com

THE PARKVIEW

A Community for Supportive Senior Living

IN THE HEART OF PLEASANTON



Our compassionate team delivers personalized, attentive care in a nurturing environment, offering 24/7 support and assistance with daily activities to ensure comfort and well-being.

Schedule a personalized tour today!

925-701-8613 • theparkview.org

100 Valley Avenue, Pleasanton, CA 94566

License #015601283 Equal Housing Opportunity Proud member of the ESKATON family

Specializing in Fireplaces that beautify your home for over 40 years!

Gas & Wood Fireplaces
Gas, Wood & Pellet Inserts
Free-Standing Stoves
Sales & Installation of our Products Only



23585 Connecticut Street, Unit 15, Hayward M-F 9-5, Sat 10-4 510 471.5601 JerrysFireplaces.com

PROTESTS
(Continued from front page)

ed sidewalks with guitars, singing folk songs such as "Blowing in the Wind" and "Give Peace a Chance."

Courtney Hanson with the California Coalition for Women Prisoners (CCWP), one of the organizers of the event, said the protest was designed to raise awareness of the administration's plans to detain and house immigrants at the closed prison.

"We are here today at a rally led by survivors of the federal correctional institute of Dublin, which is now closed, and we are with immigrant justice advocates demanding that the federal government halt its plan to reopen the prison as an ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) detention center," Hanson said. "We know they are taking concrete steps to make that happen; they have had ICE visit here, so, unfortunately, the clock is ticking."

Pleasanton's Vice Mayor Julie Testa attended the demonstration with her 87-year-old mother, Maxine, to voice concerns over the possible reopening of the prison.

"Today's protest is an empowering gathering," said Testa. "We are united in our purpose, calling for justice, compassion and the dignity of every human being. We stand against the inhumane practices of ICE detention centers."

Virginia Galvan of Benicia said she came to the rally for two reasons.

"As a retired nurse, when I heard that the feds were reopening the prison for detainees and immigrants, with all the problems with the mold and asbestos out there, as someone in the medical field, I had to say 'no.' And of course, for the immigrants to be housed there is not acceptable."

Sol Mercado with Planting Justice in Oakland came out to support those without a voice.

"What brings me here today is that we cannot allow for another facility to open up. We are all immigrants, we are all human beings, and we cannot allow more separation of families," said Mercado. "We need to show up and support and speak for people who cannot speak for themselves."

Aimee Chavira, an FCI Dublin survivor and advocate with the Dublin Prison Solidarity Coalition, spoke during the event.

"At FCI Dublin, non-citizens were specifically preyed upon by staff, and we have every reason to believe that ICE would carry on that tradition of abuse, retaliation, and medical neglect," said Chavira. "The prison was closed for good reason and should remain closed."

Other participating groups included the Dublin Prison Solidarity Coalition, California Collaborative for Immigrant Justice, Dignity Not Detention Coalition, Interfaith Movement for Human Integrity, Tsuru for Solidarity, Kehilla Community Synagogue Immigration Committee, Detention Watch Network, NorCal Resist, Immigrant Legal Resource Center and more.

At the same time, another demonstration took place near the Tesla dealership on Amador Plaza Road in Dublin. The protest was formed by local activists working under the banner of a national "Tesla Takedown" movement. The movement encourages demonstrations at Tesla dealerships to highlight Musk's extreme slashing of federal government workers and programs.

LAS POSITAS COLLEGE

At Las Positas College (LPC) on Monday, March 3, students staged a peaceful walkout in support of the immigrant community and undocumented people. Dozens of students and administrators carrying homemade signs protesting ICE and the Trump administration's stance on undocumented residents, walked through several of the college's buildings and corridors, gathering supporters as they made their way through campus to a final destination in the front of the school.

Brittany Robles-Camacho, a student and one of the organizers of the event, said she was optimistic the protest would raise awareness and understanding of the high levels of fear in the community. LPC has a large Hispanic population, hovering around 30%, according to the college's website.

"We are here today to show the unity and solidarity of faculty and students, and we hope this serves as an educational experience that will highlight resources for students and allies," said Robles-Camacho. "While Las Positas has been declared a sanctuary campus (a college or university that protects undocumented students and their families from deportation), we have decided to hold this peaceful walkout as a demonstration for our community to show that there are people who stand with them."

Karin Spirn, an English instructor at LPC, said she joined the walkout as an act of solidarity.

"I'm here supporting our students who are immigrants and their rights to be here and not worry about deportation or harassment," said Spirn. "As an educator, it is stressful to think about the possibility of an ICE raid, which is something we haven't had to do before, so we are just here to stand up for the students."

LIVERMORIUM PLAZA

On Tuesday, March 4, more protesters gathered at Livermorium Plaza in Livermore for a rally voicing opposition to cuts to public education.

"We're here to preserve the Department of Education and protect our LGTBQ+ students and immigrant families," Joanne Morrison, who is on the steering committee for Livermore Advocates for Public Education.

The rally featured speeches by board trustees from local school districts as well as organizers from Indivisible.

The event was organized by LAPE and Livermore Indivisible, the local branch of a nationwide grassroots organization focused on justice and civic engagement. Livermore Councilmember Kristie Wang, a former school board trustee, spoke about the importance of the Department of Education for students and public schools. Other speakers included Julie Elfin, a special needs parent; special education teacher Ron Correll-Feichtner; and Charlie Jones, the first openly gay Pleasanton Unified School District board member.



Demonstrators covered all four corners of the intersection of Arnold Road and Dublin Boulevard, while another demonstration took place across town at the Dublin Tesla dealership. (Photo — Leah Silveira)



Students from Las Positas College walked out of class on March 3 to protest ICE's crackdown on immigrants. (Photo — Leah Silveira)



Protesters lined the intersection of Arnold Road and Dublin Boulevard on Saturday, March 1, to demonstrate against rumored plans to reopen FCI Dublin to house immigrants prior to deportation. (Photo — Leah Silveira)



Livermore Advocates for Public Education assembled in Livermorium Plaza on Tuesday, March 4, to object to plans by the Trump administration to dismantle the U.S. Department of Education, cut federal funding for public schools, target immigrant kids for deportation, and discriminate against LGTBQ+ students in the schools. (Photo — Doug Jorgensen)

AIRPORT
(Continued from front page)

Livermore Mayor John Marchand said, "Livermore's Aviation Innovation Center will reinforce Livermore's role as a regional innovation leader. By fostering opportunities for established and start-up businesses to introduce and test clean and quiet aviation options, we can help shape the future of air mobility, ensuring Livermore remains at the forefront of this rapidly evolving industry while remaining responsible to the surrounding community's concerns about noise and leaded fuel."

The program's first action revolves around a city-owned building at 180 Airway Boulevard, which may be renovated and repurposed as a research and development facility.

Last summer, electric-aircraft developer Archer Aviation announced plans for a network of short, air-taxi routes across the Bay Area. With vertiports in Livermore, South San Francisco, San Jose, Oakland and Napa, the flights aim to replace one-to-two hour drives with flights that take less than 20 minutes.

Livermore's Five Rivers Aviation, the fixed base operator at the airport, has partnered with Archer to serve as a terminal and provide electrical charging systems. Five Rivers owner Pete Sandhu said the first phase involves electrical upgrades to support Archer's aircraft.

As of last month, Archer has received three of the four Federal Aviation Administration certificates necessary for air-taxi operations using its piloted, four-seat, electric aircraft, named Midnight. The company is also beginning commercial production of Midnight aircraft, with plans to build 10 this year.

Sandhu's earlier development proposals foresaw the airport providing space or services for storing green hydrogen fuel for new aircraft or the future Valley Link train, providing or increasing hangar space for other agencies, including CalFire's firefighting aircraft and the East Bay Regional Park District's air ambulance service.

The green hydrogen proposal has not come together, with one potential green hydrogen supplier deciding not to come to Livermore. Zero Avia, a maker of hydrogen-powered aircraft engines based in the United Kingdom and Everett, Wash., was awarded a $3.25 million grant from the state of California in January 2024 to develop liquid hydrogen refueling trucks at the airport. The company has since relocated to Stockton, however. Sandhu says the proposals for CalFire and East Bay Parks are still being held up by a land use study that has been under way for the last two years. Cardwell added that the city maintains an active collaboration with Las Positas College and expects the new Innovation Center to be "a unique opportunity for students to get hands-on experience with aviation technology."

Sandhu also looked forward to new partnerships taking hold, saying that the Innovation Center "will help attract startup companies that have otherwise struggled to plant a flag in Livermore."

MAILBOX
(Continued from page 5)

corruption written all over it. Unfortunately, space limitations preclude that from being addressed here.

Fight, Fight, Fight!
Eloise Hamann, Dublin

I'm writing with high praise for the editorial titled Our Leaders Need to Lead, But We Need to Have Their Backs. A report from Senator Chris Murphy that occurred on Facebook is heartening to know that the Democrats in Congress are not sitting idly by waiting to be steamrolled. The budget bill was on the agenda with giant tax cuts for the wealthy and corporations, while paying for it with cuts to Medicaid, Medicare, SNAP, and other programs that support ordinary people.

There's a point in the discussion of the budget bill where any number of amendments can be made, and the Democrats made them. They proposed amendment after amendment well aware they'd never pass. However, the goal was to demonstrate to Americans who Republicans stand for. One amendment was no tax cuts for anyone making more than one billion dollars annually. No Republicans voted for it. One was to limit access to Americans' personal information. Nope! Protect the right to in vitro fertilization. Nope!

Amendments to protect programs for the general public continued. The goal was to show that Republicans are OK with kicking your parents out of a nursing home, denying food and healthcare for the poorest of children, but offering tax cuts to the most wealthy, making 850 times larger than the salaries of working people.

Senator Murphy calls what's going on a five-alarm fire and calls on everyone to know what's going on and make certain that we speak truth to power. Show up at rallies and town hall meetings, and fight, fight, fight!

Girl Scout Gold Awards
Lei Zhao, Suzanne Locklear, Pleasanton

On behalf of the Girl Scout Crossroads Service Unit, we are honored to invite you to a special celebration recognizing the remarkable achievements of our Gold Award recipients. This event will take place on April 13 at the Dublin Library at 2 p.m., where we will celebrate these outstanding young women who have made a lasting impact on our community through their dedication, leadership, and service.

The Gold Award is the highest honor a Girl Scout can achieve, earned by those who take on projects that address critical community issues with innovation and passion. These young leaders have worked tirelessly to create meaningful, sustainable change, and we would be truly grateful if you could join us in recognizing their contributions.

Please let us know at your earliest convenience if you will be able to join us. We sincerely appreciate your time and support in recognizing these remarkable young women.

Curtis Institute Ensemble Gives Bankhead Theater Concert

A chamber ensemble from the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia will perform at the Bankhead Theater in Livermore at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, March 22, sponsored by Del Valle Fine Arts.

The Curtis on Tour ensemble will be led by renowned violinist Roberto Díaz, who is also president of the private conservatory, and Grammy Award-winning guitarist Jason Vieaux, who is on the Curtis Institute faculty.

They will be joined by Curtis Institute students Emmalena Huning on violin and Ania Lewis on cello.

"It is a privilege to present this chamber group from Curtis, one of the elite music schools in the world," said Denise Leddon, president of Del Valle Fine Arts, a Livermore-based nonprofit.

The program will begin with "Suite Populaire espagnole" by Spanish composer and pianist Manuel de Falla, followed by Argentinian tango composer Astor Piazzolla's "Histoire du Tango" and an arrangement of "Oblivion."

The concert will continue with "Red Trees, Wrinkled Cliffs," a 10-minute musical journey by Zhou Tian, a Curtis alumnus, and inspired by classical Chinese landscape paintings, and conclude with movements from Niccolo Paganini's Guitar Quartet in A minor, inspired by 18th century Italian opera.

Although this will be the first Curtis on Tour concert at the Bankhead Theater, Vieaux also performed for the Del Valle Fine Arts Concert Series in 2016 and 2021.

Tickets to the concert start at $35, with discounts for college students. Students 18 and under are free but still must have a ticket. Tickets are available online at delvallefinearts.org or at the Bankhead Theater box office.



Ensemble includes (left to right) Curtis student Emmalena Huning, president Roberto Díaz, student Ania Lewis and faculty member Jason Vieaux (Photo courtesy of Del Valle Fine Arts)

WINE COUNTRY

(Continued from front page)

mercial buildings that serve visitors, such as hotels or shops, could also take advantage of clustering.

Eleven people spoke at the Planning Commission's meeting in Hayward. All supported the move.

Gina Bonanno, a former Livermore City Council member serving on the Tri-Valley Conservancy (TVC) board of directors, called the wine industry an important component of the region's economy.

"These urgently needed changes will increase the economic viability of our viticulture industry, and they will enhance Livermore Valley as a wine growing agri-tourism destination," Bonanno said. "But just as important to me, as a long-time resident who greatly values the unique beauty of the Livermore Valley, these changes will help ensure the preservation of our agricultural and open spaces."

Rebecca Spector, TVC's executive director, cited a 2023 joint TVC and UC Davis study that said the region needed the sewer system and infrastructure to attract mid-sized vineyards and hotel and spa resort operators to survive.

"One of TVC's goals is to ensure that the goals of the South Livermore Valley area plan are realized, and this includes achieving a critical mass of 5,000 vineyard acres, and for the area to be recognized as a premier wine growing region," Spector said.

Dick Schneider, a co-author of Measure D, a voter-approved measure to protect open space and enhance agriculture, said the plan to cluster buildings was important for land preservation.

"When you cluster development in one area, you get a lot more contiguous open space for open lands, for agriculture, or just general open space," Schneider said.

Resident Mark Triska said clustering was important for commercial development to bring people to Livermore wine country.

"We want to be more like Paso Robles, like Napa, and like Sonoma, and attract things like a hotel resort, restaurants," he said. "We've been working on this project for many, many years…. We really believe it's time to adopt these changes."

Karl Wente, whose family has grown grapes in Livermore since the 1880s, said the region needed more midsize wineries to survive. He called the economic situation dire for vineyards without more commercial development.

"You're going to see more piles of vines out there," Wente said. "You're going to see the acreage just go down. Economics doesn't support it. I'm not going to say this is going to be an end-all-be-all to save us, but this is a good incremental step in the direction of getting the free market to incent, putting vineyards in the ground right as we're pulling them out."

Commission Chair Marc Crawford said he was concerned that one developer might apply to use all of the 150,000 acres allotted in the plan, creating a massive resort and leaving no land for anyone else.

Triska, a TVC board member who grows wine grapes and has a four-acre truffle orchard, assured him that was not likely.

Since 1993, Triska said, the area had only 30,000 square feet of commercial development: the 10-room Purple Orchid Inn, and the Poppy Ridge golf course, shop and restaurant.

"Anything from 30,000 feet to 60,000 feet would be a big development for our valley," Triska said. "We're not worried at all about the 150,000-foot thing."

DON GIOVANNI

(Continued from front page)

they lived and so he gets dragged to hell at the end by women," Herriot said. "Which is very satisfying. His character isn't very far from some well-known people in the world today. And so that makes that part of the journey kind of interesting."

Herriot noted that Da Ponte, who also wrote the librettos for Mozart's "The Marriage of Figaro" and "Così fan tutte," both of which are considered lighter fare than Don Giovanni, had a very different approach to creating characters.

"He made them very well-rounded and psychologically complex. And from a director's point of view, that is the best thing possible because you get to dig into these characters and figure out what they're thinking at every moment. What's motivating them to do what they do? In the Don's case, he is this guy who has his lust for power. It doesn't get any more real than that, right?"

In an interview with Muzi prior to opening night, the 28-year-old baritone from Wisconsin shared his approach to playing a philandering brute character who skews opposite to his own personality.

"We ended up just kind of joking about who's in office right now," he said. "And also, especially with these past two weeks of not even just him but his cohorts too, I've been trying to really approach this from a point perspective of, 'This is my Giovanni and not someone else's.'"

"Because I'm not that sort of person," he added, laughing. "I've been told before by mentors of mine that I'm almost aggressively nice and kind. Maybe it's my midwestern sensibility."

To prepare for the role, Muzi studied superheroes. "You know, 'with great power comes great responsibility.' I consider this kind of a responsibility to myself, and to my castmates to not only take it seriously but also enjoy it."

And from the moment Muzi steps foot on stage, he brings with him a palpable energy the audience can feel immediately.

"Titus is the perfect Don Giovanni, physically," said Herriot. "He is a very beautiful man. And he is one of those people that has a charm and sort of a charisma, but he's a very good actor so he can play that despicable, violent, turn-on-a-dime kind of character."

Herriot prefers not to use the term "seduction" to describe the Don's actions but rather "brute force."

He said he chose to push the limits with the "Catalogue Aria" midway through Act I, in which Giovanni's reluctant servant Leporello reads gleefully from the equivalent of his little black book about the many women who have been conquered in each of several nations. "And there's something so old boys club and wretched about that. And I think it helps to make the character a little darker," said Herriot. "The thing about this opera is that it's a fantasy, right? We watch this guy, we recognize him, and then we watch him die. And I'm not saying that that is a thing, but it's a fantasy, right? We all love to hate this character, and when he's punished by the supernatural, we somehow feel catharsis. And that feels good."

Muzi, who portrays a man who seems to continuously emit pheromones, as he explained it, has given a lot of thought to the idea of magnetism when used for evil versus good. "People are naturally drawn to him (Don Giovanni), and so it's really like, yes, he's in a position of power because he's nobility. But he's in a position of power and knows he has power over others, regardless of whether or not they like him."

That position allows him to wield that power in myriad ways to his desired end — his own desires.

"I think Abraham Lincoln also had that magnetic quality from what I've read about him," Muzi added. "Even though he was this commanding figure, it was the way he addressed people and spoke with them. That's how he was able to cross party lines even and build bridges."

Whatever one's particular feelings are about the character of Don Giovanni, it is impossible not to be engaged on some emotional level by the Livermore Valley Opera's take on this classic.

"It's a big sing and a lot of famous baritones have made their careers doing Giovanni," Muzi said "And so I'm just grateful to Livermore and (LVOpera Artistic Director) Erie (Mills) and that this is my first place to do it. And so I really hope to do many more, but I'm taking advantage of the time I've been given with it now."

The opera is sung in Italian with English supertitles. Performances are accompanied by the Livermore Valley Opera Orchestra.

Remaining performances are scheduled for 2 p.m. on Saturday, March 8, and Sunday, March 9.

Tickets are available at livermorevalleyarts.org or by calling 925-373-6800.

Ticket prices are $25-$110 and include a pre-performance talk one hour prior to curtain time. LVOpera will host an artist reception in the Bankhead lobby following each performance.

For more information, go to livermorearts.org.

DECREE

(Continued from front page)

people to want to renegotiate. But the answer is, 'No, you do not get to do it.'"

The consent decree — a result of a lawsuit filed by the California Coalition for Women Prisoners and other inmate advocacy groups — will mandate protections for hundreds of women scattered to facilities across the country after BOP officials abruptly closed the scandal-plagued prison last April. Female inmates will have access to Wendy Still, a special master appointed by Gonzalez Rogers last year to investigate the horrors revealed at an institution that earned the nickname "rape club" because of rampant sexual abuse of inmates by guards and other employees.

To date, seven FCI Dublin employees, including guards, a chaplain and a former warden, have been convicted of sexual abuse charges. An eighth guard is awaiting trial next month.

Last April, as a continued focus was placed on FCI Dublin, BOP officials shut it down and moved its 605 inmates to other facilities across the country. Inmates quickly related stories of mistreatment during their transfers and notified the judge about retaliation in other prisons.

Dozens of inmates filed suit against the BOP, which negotiated the settlement to improve conditions. In addition, the BOP paid out $116 million in a separate lawsuit to about 100 women.

"This approach of settlement is an attempt to get something in place that may not be perfect but is something that both sides could live with to move forward in a positive direction," Gonzalez Rogers told female inmates attending the hearing online. Gonzalez Rogers advised them to go to Still to deal with personal issues that arise, including seeking release.

"There are different approaches for different issues, but with respect to what the monitor is responsible for, that would always be the first step," Gonzalez Rogers said.

The negotiated consent decree mandates oversight and remedies for issues related to staff sexual and physical abuse, retaliation, medical care, and case work. Key provisions include monitoring and public reporting; providing inmates with access to attorneys and counselors outside their institutions; limitations on solitary confinement; and release from prison as soon as it is practical. The BOP also will be required to publicly apologize to women sexually abused at FCI Dublin.

During the hearing, Kara Janssen, an attorney for Rosen Bien Galvan & Grunfeld, who represented the inmates, called the consent decree historic, "the first time that there will be court enforceable monitoring of the BOP across these facilities."

"We understand that it will not fix every issue in BOP, but it is a significant and meaningful step forward that provides much needed relief for our class members and expands upon the relief that has been previously ordered by this court to continue those protections," Janssen said. "We believe it is fair, adequate and reasonable."

Before the hearing, several former FCI Dublin inmates held a news conference to express concerns that women inmates continue to face abuse at other penal institutions.

"Those who are transferred from Dublin are still experiencing extreme retaliation," said Kendra Drysdale, a former FCI Dublin inmate who faced retaliation from jail personnel when she testified in court about abuses there. "They're even being denied toilet paper. That's how bad the retaliation goes."

Former inmate Sabrina Taylor said the abuse occurred at FCI Dublin for decades.

"The only way that we can come together and help not only the survivors of Dublin, but the women still impacted, is first the BOP can do massive releases of these people," she said. "I know that might sound scary to some people, but it's something that they can do. They can release these women who have gone through horrors into their communities so they can get the treatment and the care that they need."

Emily Shapiro, an advocate for the California Coalition for Women Prisoners, said former FCI Dublin inmates scattered about the country remain in solidarity. Shapiro said it was up to everyone to listen to "incarcerated survivors" to implement the consent decree and to make sure monitoring occurs, not just for them but for women jailed across the nation.

"Dublin was not unique. All federal prisons are harmful," she said. Because the BOP is built on a culture of negation, retaliation and neglect, she added, people will have to watch to make sure abuses don't continue here and elsewhere. "Right now, there are plans to turn the closed Dublin facility into an ICE detention center. So we really need everyone to continue to keep eyes on Dublin and show up to fight the plans to turn it into an ICE detention center."

The federal government announced in December that FCI Dublin would not reopen. But the Trump administration has indicated it might use the empty facility to house immigrants facing deportation. A demonstration took place near the prison on March 1, organized by the California Coalition for Women Prisoners, the California Collaborative for Immigrant Justice and other groups.

Happy St. Patrick's Day
Reed Plumbing
LIVERMORE, CA
(925) 371-5671
davidreed@dareedplumbing.com
LICENSE #601931



Dublin Honors Volunteers of the Year

By Dawnmarie Fehr

Dublin recently recognized citizens who are working to make a positive difference in their city.

During a ceremony held Feb. 19, the city announced the winners of its Volunteer Recognitions Awards, naming the 2024 Citizen, Young Citizen, and Organization of the Year.

Dan Colley earned the Citizen of the Year title for his extensive volunteer work with Dublin schools and the Parks and Community Services Commission. He donates his time as a mentor and judge for the Dublin High School engineering academy, and volunteers with his family at local park clean-up days.

"The thing I like most about Dublin is how much everyone cares about the city," Colley said. "They want it to be a great place and they're willing to spend lots of time to make it a great place."

Suhani Gupta, 16, was recognized as the Young Citizen of the Year for her work to raise awareness and respect for mental health. After experiencing difficulties with her own mental health, Suhani founded Neuro Health Alliance, a nonprofit dedicated to improving mental health and advancing the field of neuropsychiatry.

She said being recognized by the city meant a lot to her.

"It means I'm making an impact, whether it's volunteering with kids who are neurodivergent, or working with students on mental



Suhani Gupta (Photo — Ronav Gupta)

health," Suhani said. "That means the work is being recognized."

The city also named Sensory Wall Inc. its Organization of the Year for its work to design and install custom sensory boards in local schools. Sensory boards are devices designed to engage all of children's senses to foster cognitive and fine motor skills. They are especially useful for children with autism or other spectrum disorders.

The group also hosted a sensory holiday fair and community art showcase to raise funds for their mission and awareness of the importance of inclusive education.

According to a city press release, Colley, Gupta, and Sensory Wall were chosen because of their "significant contributions toward enhancing the quality of life for residents of Dublin during the previous calendar year."

In addition to these recognitions, Mayor Sherry Hu presented the Mayor's Award and the Mayor's Legacy Award to individuals she believes worked tirelessly on behalf of the Dublin community.

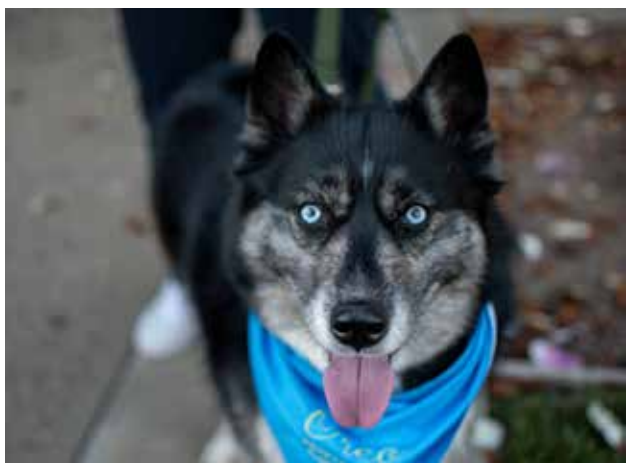
Susan Yan Tang was given the Mayor's Award for her work leading residents in the Annual Dublin Pride Week clean-up events, volunteering for Alameda County's Christmas toys and canned food drives and volunteering "countless hours" at the Sunflower Hill farming campaign.

"Beyond this, (Susan) has consistently demonstrated a deep commitment to community service by organizing winter clothing donations for those in need; writing heartfelt thank you cards to medical staff who worked tirelessly during the COVID-19 pandemic; and coordinating cultural celebrations in the City of Dublin," Hu wrote in an email to The Independent.

Alameda County Fire Department Division Chief Bonnie Terra received the Mayor's Legacy Award. Hu said she had the "distinct pleasure" of recognizing Terra, who worked to keep the Dublin community safe.

"Bonnie is not only the liaison Chief to the City of Dublin and attends and supports numerous community engagement events, but she also leads our very important disaster preparedness efforts," Hu said. "The trainings she provides during the city's annual Inside Dublin program have inspired countless community members to invest in their own readiness to face emergencies."

Award recipients were recognized at the March 4 City Council meeting. The Organization of the Year received a $500 cash prize, and a $300 donation was given to each of the Citizen and Young Citizen of the Year's favorite nonprofit organizations. Two finalists in each of the categories will also receive a cash prize in the amount of $200 for their favorite non-profit organizations. Information on all nominated individuals and groups can be found on the city's website at www.dublin.ca.gov/volunteers.



Oreo Budil was officially recognized as Livermore's new Ambassadog on Feb. 26. The 2025 Livermore Ambassadog program was made possible through the support of the community and Valley Humane Society's annual fundraiser, Tails at Twilight. (Photo courtesy of Kim Budil)

Siberian Husky Named Livermore Ambassadog

An energetic Siberian husky named Oreo has been appointed Livermore Ambassadog for 2025 by the nonprofit Valley Humane Society and Livermore Area Recreation and Park District.

As Ambassadog, Oreo will attend civic events and help promote a dog-friendly community.

"We are thrilled to see Oreo take on this role," said Valley Humane Society President Melanie Sadek. "Oreo embodies the values of compassion and companionship that guide our work, and we look forward to her contributions to our community."

Oreo is owned by Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory Director Kim Budil, who was presented a proclamation and official Ambassadog leash at last week's park district board meeting.

"We're excited for Oreo to represent Livermore as the 2025 Ambassadog," said Andrea McGovern, community outreach coordinator for the park district. "Oreo's energy and love for outdoor spaces make her a perfect fit for this role, and we look forward to her participation in local events."



The ribbon is cut on the new Livermore High School softball field on March 4. The team is now playing home games on campus for the first time in more than 20 years. (Photo — Doug Jorgensen)

Livermore Softball Celebrates Playing at Home Once Again

By Chris Winters

A ribbon was cut, a pitch was thrown, and the Livermore High varsity girls softball team experienced what had not happened in more than 20 years: a home game played at home.

When Livermore hosted College Park High School from Pleasant Hill on March 4, they played the game on a new field on the campus of Livermore High School. (The game ended after The Independent went to press. The team won its season opener at Aragon High School in San Mateo on Feb. 26, 16-2).

Starting in about 2001, the Cowboys played at the Ernie Rodrigues Sports Fields approximately a mile and a half away, said Livermore Athletic Director James Petersdorf. Four or five years ago, the team started playing at Junction Avenue K-8 School.

The new field on the Livermore campus is where the junior varsity baseball team used to play. The old field was replaced and re-oriented for its new users.

"It's the same area, but the field was completely gutted and turned," Petersdorf said.

Since the junior varsity and varsity baseball teams play on alternate weeks, the real question comes down to coordinating practice times. JV baseball will join JV softball and freshman baseball in playing at Del Valle Continuation High School.

"We're going to make it work," Petersdorf said.

The Livermore softball team made it all the way to the Division II North Coast Section Championships last year, only to lose 2-0 to Casa Grande High from Petaluma.

The Cowboys only lost two players from the team over the summer, Petersdorf said, so he's looking forward to a strong season.

"If they hit consistently, it's going to be really tough to beat them," he added.

Openings Remain for the 2025 Dublin Police Citizens' Academy

Dublin Police Services has openings for its 10-week Citizens' Police Academy program starting Wednesday, March 26.

Classes meet from 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. every Wednesday and cover topics such as crime scenes and evidence collection, gangs and drugs, emergency services, radio operations, and auto and residential burglaries. There will also be a tour of the Santa Rita Jail.

Participants must be at least 18 and live or work in Dublin.

There will be a graduation ceremony at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, May 28.

For more information, go to dublin.ca.gov.

Beth Emek to Host Purim Celebration

Congregation Beth Emek, 3400 Nevada St., Pleasanton, will host a Family Purim Celebration and Carnival from 9:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Sunday, March 9.

Purim is a celebration of how Esther, Queen of ancient Persia, and her cousin, Mordechai, leader of the Hebrews, saved them from a plot to kill all the Jewish people in the Achaemenid Empire.

The program will begin with a reading of the megillah, or the Book of Esther, followed by traditional Purim songs and a costume parade. The free carnival will start at 11 a.m. with games, slides and crafts.

Lunch will be available for purchase, including kosher hot dogs or vegetarian options, hamantaschen (a Jewish pastry) and potato chips.

For more information, email eddirector@bethemek.org or call 925 931-1055.

TRI-VALLEY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Friday, March 7
YOUTH ART COMPETITION ENTRY DEADLINE
The Pleasanton Art League's PAL's Pals 2025 Youth Art Competition is accepting entries now through March 7. Middle school and high school students can submit their art at www.pal-art.com/exhibits-events/call-artists. The exhibit reception and awards ceremony is Saturday, March 22, from 1 to 4 p.m., at the Museum on Main in downtown Pleasanton. Best of Show and Merit Awards will be given for both middle and high school entries. PAL's Pals 2025 will be on display through March 29. Contact Jean Batchelder at 970-581-7559 for more information.

Saturday, March 8
ELKS LODGE CRAB FEED
A crab feed will take place at the Larkspur Event Center located in the Livermore/Pleasanton ELKS Lodge at 940 Larkspur Dr. In Livermore on March 8. Join a memorable night of fun, dining, raffles and friendship. This is a public event. No-host bar opens at 4 p.m./dinner starts at 5 p.m. There will be a silent auction and wine barrel raffle during the event. Cost is $80 per person. Enjoy fresh Alaskan crab, pasta, garlic bread and dessert. You MUST purchase tickets in advance no later than March 3 (no sales at the door/no outside alcohol). Contact the ELKS Lodge at 925-455-8829 or secretary2117@comcast.net. All proceeds from the silent auction and raffle support the Livermore Pleasanton ELKS Lodge Charities.

Sunday, March 9
LADY K & THE KINGS OF SWING SPRING CONCERT / FEATURING THE EAST BAY HIGH SCHOOL JAZZ ALL-STARS
Lady K and the Kings of Swing is a Frank Sinatra-style big band, whose 16 members are some of the Bay Area's top jazz musicians. The band performs a wide variety of jazz classics with a slightly modern twist, making concerts informative and fun! This special concert will be featuring the East Bay High School Jazz All Stars Combo, an elite group of some of the Bay Area's most talented high school musicians. Both groups will perform separately as well as together. This will be a fun and memorable evening of classic jazz for music lovers of all ages! At Dougherty Valley Performing Arts Center March 9 at 7 p.m. For tickets go to: tickets.sanramon.ca.gov/eventperformances.asp?evt=150.

Monday, March 10
HCLC VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL REGISTRATION OPENS
The 2025 Holy Cross Lutheran Church VBS session runs June 2-6 from 9 a.m. – noon. More details and registration links can be found at www.holycrosslivermore.org/vbs.

Thursday, March 13
STATE OF GIVING GATHERING | CELEBRATING PHILANTHROPY
The second Three Valleys Community Foundaton State of Giving Gathering, a free community-focused event dedicated to celebrating the spirit and strength of philanthropy, will occur on March 13 at the Roundhouse Conference Center, a beautiful lakeside venue at Bishop Ranch, 2600 Camino Ramon, San Ramon. The event will be held in the Tahoe Auditorium. Community reception at 4 p.m. / program, keynote, and presentation of grant awards at 5:30 p.m. See 3vcf.org/events for more information.

Thursday, March 13
LIVERMORE/AMADORE GARDEN CLUB MEETING
A discussion by Carol Vander Meulen will highlight a selection of the plants on the U.C Master Gardener's brochures; especially those that thrive in the Tri-Valley's hot summers. At Crosswinds Church, 1660 Freisman Rd., Livermore, at the red Farm Theater Building on March 13 from 6 to 8 p.m.

Friday, March 14
PATRICK BALL | CELTIC HARP AND STORY
Patrick Ball is one of the premier Celtic harp players in the world and a captivating spoken word artist. In "Celtic Harp and Story", Patrick Ball rekindles the fire and wonder of an evening of Irish storytelling. He not only carries on two of the richest traditions of Celtic culture, but blends them in concert to create "a warm and magical performance. The concert will be held March 14, at 7 p.m., at Trinity Lutheran Church, 1225 Hopyard Road in Pleasanton. Tickets: $20 General; $5 student; twelve & under free; no one turned away! Reception with refreshments both at intermission and afterwards. For more details, contact Dwight Stone at 510-512-2623 or stonemusique@gmail.com.

Friday, March 14
Shamrock Gala
The St. Patrick's Day celebration kicks off with the Dublin Historical Society's Shamrock Gala on Friday, March 14, from 6-8 p.m. at the Shannon Community Center, 11600 Shannon Ave. The Dublin City Council, representatives from Bray, Ireland, and many others will join in for an evening of fun, kicking off St. Patrick's Day weekend in Dublin. $75 per person. For more information, email lauren.marriott@dublin.ca.gov.

Saturday, March 15
13TH ANNUAL CRAB FEED
Livermore High School Alumni Associations will be hosting their 13th Annual Crab Feed on March 15 from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. (doors opening at 5:30). Dinner will include crab, pasta, salad, bread and dessert (chicken is available with pre-order instead of crab). We will have a live and silent auction, no-host bar, dancing, games, and lots of fun! To purchase tickets, go to livermorehighalumni.com. The funds raised will help support Livermore High School. Your support is appreciated! Please email with any questions: lhsalumniassoc@gmail.com.

Saturday, March 15
FIREFIGHTERS LOCAL 55 ST. PATRICK'S DAY PANCAKE BREAKFAST
Enjoy a delicious hot pancake and sausage breakfast served fresh off the griddle by Alameda County firefighters from Local 55. The cost is $5 per person and the funds are used to support charitable efforts funded by Local 55. Start the morning before finding a seat for the Dublin Lions Club St. Patrick's Day Parade or heading over to the festival. Breakfast includes green pancakes, eggs, sausages, juice, and coffee. At Dublin Fire Station #16, 7494 Donohue Dr., from 7 to 10 a.m. Tickets at the door.

Saturday / Sunday, March 15 and 16
VALLEY CONCERT CHORALE CONCERTS
The Valley Concert Chorale, the Tri-Valley's premier chorus for over 60 years, has a new artistic director, Joseph Castro, who will make his debut in directing the chorale for two performances March 15 and 16. Both performances will feature Beethoven's Mass in C Major and Hegenberg's Songs from Silence. On March 15, 7:30 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church, 2020 Fifth St., Livermore and on March 16, 4 p.m., Trinity Lutheran Church, 1225 Hopyard Rd., Pleasanton. Tickets are $30. College students are $10 with valid student ID. Children K-12 are free. Advance tickets may be purchased at valleyconcertchorale.org or at (925) 866-4003.

Sunday, March 16
LIVERMORE HOUSE PARTY / NATALIE CRESSMAN & IAN FAQUINI
Livermore Jazz Society will be hosting Natalie Cressman and Ian Faquini, a duo encompassing their love of the Brazilian songbook, jazz, impressionism and sophisticated pop songcraft. Their original material features lyrics in Portuguese, French and English with sumptuous vocal harmonies accompanied by trombone and acoustic guitar. On March 16, from 2 to 4 p.m. Details at www.livermorejazzsociety.org/events. To request a seat, email info@livermorejazzsociety.org, or go to www.livermorejazzsociety.org/reserve-seats. Location to be emailed. Suggested donation: $20 per person.

ONGOING VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES
LIVERMORE HISTORYMOBILE
The Livermore HistoryMobile needs docents who are available during the day to guide and engage Livermore's third graders. These visits take place during the months of April and May when the schools are visited. The kids love being in a "touch me" museum; something exciting in our virtual age. The experience is very rewarding. If interested, please contact Nancy Mulligan: n.mulligan@comcast.net.

QUEST SCIENCE CENTER
Quest's vision is to connect everyone to the value of science. Volunteers are needed to facilitate science activities at community events. For more information or to volunteer, contact the Director of Education, Dan, at dgolub@quest-science.org.

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

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

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

DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION (DAR) CHAPTER MEETING
The local Josefa Higuera Livermore Chapter meets on the first Saturday of the month from Sept. to May. The DAR is a non-profit, non-political volunteer women's service organization dedicated to promoting patriotism, preserving American history, and securing America's future through better education for children. For more information, visit jhl.californiadar.org or email jane.everett@sbcglobal.net.

ASBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Asbury United Methodist Church invites the community to join for worship at 10 a.m. on Sunday mornings. This community practices loving neighbors in daily life. The church has Sunday School and nursery care, and worship is followed by a fellowship time. The church is located at 4743 East Ave., in Livermore. For more information, visit asburylive.org.

WINGS — WOMEN IN GOD'S SPIRIT
WINGS is a faith enrichment group of multi-generational Catholic women who meet October thru May on Thursday mornings at 9:30 a.m. at St. Charles Borromeo, 1315 Lomitas Ave., Livermore. Attendees can enjoy a variety of speaker presentations and topics, small group discussion, fellowship and more. All are welcome! See www.stcharleslivermore.org/wings for more information.

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

Livermore Lab Foundation Launches Campaign to Fund Internships

The Livermore Lab Foundation (LLF), a nonprofit organization that supports research at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL), has launched a month-long fundraising campaign to provide summer and academic-year internships for undergraduate and graduate students.

The foundation's fellowship program sponsors paid internships in such areas as fusion, life sciences, physics, carbon management, data science and industrial automation.

"This year, more than 150 students from across the nation applied," said Sally Allen, LLF executive director. "It was a record year for us, and many are tremendously qualified candidates who desire to become the next generation of STEM leaders. We would love to provide additional opportunities for these qualified students."

The program pairs students with a lab mentor and provides direct stipends of $15,000 for summer interns and $25,000 for academic-year internships.

Allen added that several community college students had also applied for internships.

"There are many STEM-related careers associated with two-year degrees," Allen said. "We would love to support additional local students interested in lab internships and hope that our community can become a 'Fellow Friend' to help us find the funds to do so."

For more information on LLF's 'Fellow Friend' program, go to livermorelabfoundation.org or contact Sally Allen at sally@livermorelabfoundation.org.

OBITUARIES

Carol Jean Taylor

Nov. 13, 1936 – Feb. 21, 2025



Carol Jean (Stockstill) Taylor, a beloved wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother, passed away peacefully with her family at her side in Sacramento, California, at the age of 88 on Feb. 21, 2025. Carol was born Nov. 13, 1936, to Eleanor (Pierson) and (Allen) Preston Stockstill, in Bakersfield, California.

Carol was raised in the Bakersfield area, where she met her future husband, Robert, during their sixth-grade year. Both attended Bakersfield High School. Post high school, Carol pursued nursing education at the Knapp School of Nursing at the Santa Barbara Cottage Hospital, graduating in spring 1957. Her career began at Bakersfield Memorial Hospital as a registered nurse.

On June 14,1958, Carol married Robert at Northminster Presbyterian Church in Bakersfield. That fall, they relocated to Culver City, where Robert completed his bachelor's degree at UCLA, and Carol worked in OB/GYN at St. John's Hospital in Santa Monica.

In 1959, Robert and Carol moved to Berkeley for Robert to pursue his PhD at UC Berkeley. Carol worked for a group of OB/GYN doctors up until the birth of their first son, Craig, followed by their second son, Eric, eighteen months later.

After Robert received his PhD from UC Berkeley in 1964, they moved to Silver Spring, Maryland, where they lived for over three years while Robert held a postdoc and then staff position at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda. In 1968, they relocated to Livermore, California, when Robert joined the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. Carol was a devoted mother and wife, spending countless hours supporting her sons as they played soccer, baseball, and wrestled. She also served for ten years as a registered nurse at the Veterans Affairs hospital in Livermore and subsequently earned her BS in nursing from Holy Names College in Oakland, graduating in 1984. Her final professional role was as a licensed counselor aiding nurses with substance abuse issues, prior to her retirement.

Robert and Carol moved to Roseville in 1996. She enjoyed travels with Robert and together they took several memorable trips to Hawaii, Australia, Europe, and Alaska. She also spent untold hours at many softball fields cheering for Robert as he played senior softball.

An artist at heart, Carol enjoyed painting, calligraphy, sewing, and flower arranging. She had an eclectic taste in music and liked to clean house with hard rock music blaring in the background. In her later years, she enjoyed spending time in the mountains and watching UFC mixed martial arts fights and cheering on her favorites.

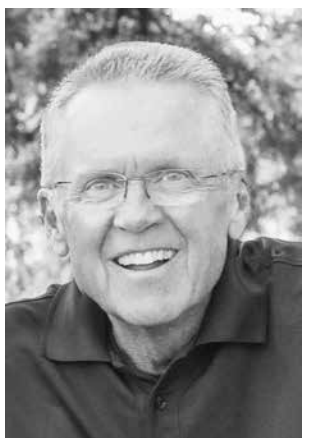
Preceded in death by her parents, Eleanor and Preston Stockstill, Carol is survived by her husband, Robert; her sons, Craig (Susan) Taylor and Eric (Karen) Taylor; her grandchildren, Patrick (Kimberly) Taylor, Zac Taylor, and Bailey Taylor; her great-grandchildren, Kimberly Taylor and Preston Taylor; and her sister, Janice Padgett.

A private service was conducted on March 5, 2025, in Bakersfield, California.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the UC Davis Comprehensive Cancer Center or a charity of your choice.

William (Bill) Andrew Ruge

March 2, 1952 – Feb. 12, 2025



William "Bill" Ruge, a former member of the Pleasanton community for 35 years, passed away peacefully on Feb. 12, 2025, at the age of 72.

Bill was born on March 2, 1952, in New York, New York. He was a 1974 graduate of Manhattan College, where he earned a B.S. in Business Administration. He later continued his education at Santa Clara University, obtaining an MBA.

Throughout his successful career in accounting and finance, Bill traveled the world and made many meaningful friendships along the way. After retiring, he and his loving wife, Patricia "Tish"; to whom he was married for nearly 50 years, moved to Vero Beach, Florida. There, they enjoyed life by the ocean and played golf year-round.

A lifelong sports enthusiast, Bill never turned down a round of golf, a game of "HORSE," or a chance to toss a ball in the backyard. He had a passion for coaching and volunteered for many years, mentoring young athletes in CYO basketball (both boys and girls), Pleasanton Little League baseball, and the First Tee Tri-Valley golf program.

Bill is survived by his wife, Patricia "Tish"; his son, William "Billy" (Erica); his daughter, Jacquelyn "Jackie" Garrigan (Bobby); and his late son, Christian. He was a loving grandpa to Caroline Garrigan, Nora Garrigan, and Ellis Ruge, cherishing time at the beach and on the golf course with "my girls." He also leaves behind his siblings Betty, Kathy, Dan, Patti, Trudy, and Tom, as well as many beloved nieces and nephews.

A funeral Mass will be held on Monday, March 24, at 10 a.m. at St. Augustine Catholic Church, 3999 Bernal Ave., Pleasanton.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Bill's honor to First Tee Tri-Valley, 4501 Pleasanton Ave., or a charity of your choice.

Kevin John Bracken

Jan. 15, 1967 – Dec. 26, 2024



Kevin John Bracken died unexpectedly on Dec. 26, 2024, in Hayward, California. He was 57 years old. Kevin, along with his identical twin brother, were born ten minutes before the first Super Bowl on Jan. 15, 1967, in Schenectady, New York. Kevin came into this world as a surprise; the doctor was convinced that he was delivering a single birth and then there came Kevin. He was preceded in death by his identical twin brother Kenneth Edward Bracken and Father Gary S. Bracken.

Kevin is survived by his mother Sherry Celenski Bracken, his fiancé Sheri McDaniels, brother David S. Bracken, nieces Kristen Bracken and Shannon Williamson, three great-nieces and one great-nephew, and several cousins.

Kevin moved to Pleasanton, California, at the age of four. As a young boy he enjoyed playing with his "neighborhood crew", swimming on the local swim team and playing baseball. Kevin graduated from Valley High School in 1985. Shortly after graduation, Kevin enlisted and spent five years serving in the U.S. Navy; he served on the U.S.S. Blueback submarine, known as the Silent Service, where he was a member of the crew who decommissioned the last diesel submarine in the U.S. Navy's fleet.

After his service, Kevin learned how to scuba dive. Kevin's father Gary lost his sight due to diabetes when Kevin was six. Kevin became his Dad's eyes, describing sunsets, baseball plays, and everyday things to him. As his father's health declined, Kevin was at his side, spending every night in the hospital with him. He was a true blessing to both his parents during this difficult time.

After his father's death, Kevin then took up skydiving. He became a Master Skydiver with over 1,000 jumps. Kevin loved the freedom of skydiving, sailing through the air and cherishing the views that only a small few do enjoy.

Kevin, even though an identical twin, was one of a kind; he would make us all laugh with his catch phrase, "Have you met me?"

Kevin will be dearly missed for his bravery, humor, deep thinking, love and compassion. We are grateful to all those that have supported and loved Kevin throughout his life. He will live on with his lifesaving gift of organ donation. Three individuals received lifesaving news of Kevin's gift of his liver and both kidneys on Christmas Day, 2024.

Services are March 22, 2025, 10 a.m., at CCOP (Catholic Community of Pleasanton), with a reception following at Highland Oaks Recreation Center, 4530 Sandalwood Dr., Pleasanton, California, 94588. *Please RSVP text for reception attendance to 925-819-9459 by March 18, 2025.

IN LOVING MEMORY

Hanne Brummond

1940 – 2025



It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of Hanne Brummond on Feb. 19, 2025, after a lengthy illness.

She was born in occupied Denmark during the war. As she grew up, she wanted to see the world. During her time in high school, she apprenticed with a local watchmaker. After high school, she went to Switzerland to further study watchmaking. She traveled to America in 1966 and began working in Oakland, California, as a watchmaker.

It was there she met Bill, her future husband. After they married, they moved to Livermore and started a family. Hanne became involved in many charities, including the Grape Escape run/walk and the Fair Preview. She was also very active in her church where she became a Stephan Minister.

Hanne is survived by her husband Bill, their children and grandchildren.

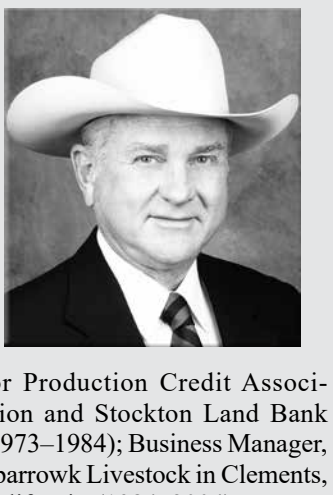
Join us in celebrating her life Saturday, March 15, 2025, 1 p.m., at Our Savior's Lutheran Church located at 1385 S. Livermore Ave., Livermore California.

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

Celebration of Life

Darrel Craig Sweet

April 12, 1947 – Feb. 15, 2025



It is with deep sorrow that we announce the passing of Darrel Craig Sweet, a lifelong resident and fifth generation cattle rancher of Livermore, California, who left us on Feb. 15, 2025, at the age of 78.

Darrel is survived by his wife Karen Larsen Sweet; daughter Melani Sweet (Bryan Kirkwood); son Eric Sweet (Michelle Ridolfi Sweet); grandchildren Blake Sweet (Bailey Kruger), Audrey Sweet and Riley Kirkwood; sister Sylvia Sweet Chatagnier; and brother Charles Sweet (Michelle). He is preceded in death by his beloved father and mother, Malvern and Jewell Sweet.

Born on April 12, 1947, at St. Paul's in Livermore, Darrel was the eldest child born to Malvern and Jewell Sweet after Malvern returned home from World War II. He and Jewell built their family home on Almond Ave. where Darrel grew up playing cowboy in the almond orchard and raising project cattle for 4H and FFA. There, he began a herd of his own. He loved ranching and riding horseback from an early age, which were nurtured by his family and other mentors, including Jim Coelho, George McNeely, and Gordon Rasmussen.

Darrel attended Fifth Street School and Livermore High School, Class of 1965. He received an associate degree in animal science at Modesto Junior College. On June 24, 1967, Darrel married Karen, his high school sweetheart, and the love of his life. They moved to Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo to study animal science.

Darrel and Karen began working in high school at the Alameda County Fair every summer where he later was Livestock Department Superintendent until 1989. Melani was born in San Luis Obispo in 1971, and they moved to the Noon Ranch near Mt. Hamilton where Darrel accepted the position as ranch manager. They moved back to Livermore in 1973, the year Eric was born. That same year, they purchased their ranch east of town, which had been part of the land purchased in 1867 by his ancestors.

In 1989, Darrel and Karen moved to the ranch, where they could tend to their cattle and enjoy the rural lifestyle full time. It became common for students, rangeland professionals, land use planners, and the media to visit Darrel and discuss conservation ranching.

Darrel's professional life included: Farm Credit System for Production Credit Association and Stockton Land Bank (1973–1984); Business Manager, Sparrowk Livestock in Clements, California (1984–2004); Owner, Sweet Livestock (1973–2025).

Darrel leaves a long legacy of ranching, land stewardship and rangeland conservation. Willing to "be at the table"

and work with organizations, Darrel was called upon to various leadership roles. These include: California Cattlemen's Association, National Cattlemen's Beef Association Executive Committee; Contra Costa–Alameda County Cattlemen's Association; Cattlemen's Beef Board, appointed by USDA Secretary (2010–2015); California Rangeland Trust, a Board of Directors founding member (1998–2015) and Emeritus Director (2015–2025); California Beef Council (Appointment of Secretary of Food and Agriculture; and for many years, Alameda County Resource Conservation District Board of Directors and Agricultural Advisory Committee (Appointment of Board of Supervisors). He participated in the formation of the California Rangeland Conservation Coalition and often assisted with its advocacy and outreach. Darrel was a proud member of the Rancheros Vistadores, Camp Los Vigilantes.

Darrel was lucky enough that both his work and his passions in agriculture were one in the same. Consequently, he traveled the country and abroad, integrating both business and vacations. He loved meeting and collaborating with the cattle industry community, where many long relationships were formed. For many years, Darrel and Karen flew his Cessna Cardinal to both meetings and vacations.

Darrel was honored to represent and advocate for the cattle and conservation community. He served as California Cattlemen's Association president in 2003–2004. He also served as President of the California Rangeland Trust. The California Chamber of Commerce named him as Livestock Man of the Year in 2013, which was the honor of his life. He was proud to be recognized for his leadership and dedication to the industry.

Darrel will be deeply missed by his family, friends, and colleagues across the industries in which he dedicated his life. Karen thanks them for being a part of Darrel's ride.

A visitation will be held at Callaghan's Mortuary (3833 East Ave., Livermore) from 5–8 p.m., Sunday, March 9, and a memorial service and celebration of life at Oasis Grove Church (2021 College Ave., Livermore) at 10:30 a.m. on Monday, March 10.

To honor Darrel, these are his charities of choice:

California Rangeland Trust, rangelandtrust.org/gift-opportunities. Select the Lone Star Ranch, owned by a family of conservation leaders and friends.

California Rangeland Conservation Coalition, carangeland.org/booth-sponsorship-opportunities.

National Kidney Foundation, www.kidney.org.

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

Amador Valley Girls Soccer Edged in NCS Division I Final

By Phil Jensen

The North Coast Section Division I girls soccer championship game was an epic battle.

Through two 40-minute halves and a 10-minute overtime session, the score remained nil-nil. But Monte Vista's Sahar Sartipi ended the game in the second overtime when her corner kick from the right side went off the Amador Valley goalkeeper into the net, and host Monte Vista won 1-0.

The win was Monte Vista's second NCS Division I title since 2019. It was the first time since 2002 that the Amador Valley girls soccer team competed in an NCS championship game.

"I thought we were the better group throughout the game, but soccer's a cruel game, it really is," said Amador Valley coach Grant Matsumoto, whose team outshot Monte Vista 18-6 in the game. "Hopefully we learn from it and move forward. … We still have regionals."

"We're super, super-proud of (the team) from the standpoint of where we thought we could be. This is where we thought we could be."

Amador Valley had an eight-game winning streak entering the match, and did not allow more than one goal in any of those games, including seven straight shutouts. The winning streak started after a 2-1 loss to Monte Vista on Jan. 30.

The Dons are the No. 6 seed in the California Interscholastic Federation Division I NorCal Regional and traveled to face No. 3 Rocklin in a first-round game on March 4 after this article's deadline. The semifinals are March 6, and the final is March 8, all with 5 p.m. start times.

Amador Valley, who were the No. 4 seed in the NCS Division I playoffs, controlled play in the first half on March 1, as it outshot Monte Vista 9-0. But 10th-seeded Monte Vista was only outshot 5-4 in the second half and 4-2 in the two overtime periods. The Dons had several good chances to score in the game, including a header by Maylen Montoya that barely missed going in at the 32:50 mark. Monte Vista improved to 10-5-3 overall with the win.

The host Dons controlled No. 9 Acalanes-Lafayette 2-0 in a semifinal game on Feb. 26. Alden Hofstede opened the scoring when she took a pass from Kaia Hoyman on the right side and sent the ball into the left side of the net from inside the 15-yard-line at the 34:24 mark.

"Honestly, it was supposed to be a cross, but, you know, it never hurts when the cross goes in the goal," said Hofstede, a senior. "It happens a lot."

The final goal of the game occurred less than three minutes later. Kailee Walker controlled the ball on the Acalanes goal-line and sent a pass to Mira Garuda, who kicked a one-touch shot into the net. Amador Valley outshot Acalanes 6-2 in the game.

Girls Wrestling

Granada's SJ Martin reached the California Interscholastic Federation state championship final in the 120-pound division before a loss to No. 1 seed Isabella Marie Gonzales of Clovis East, who achieved a pin at the 1:47 mark. Martin, the No. 3 seed, beat No. 2 Kylee Golz of Trabucco Hills-Mission Viejo 14-8 in the semifinals, and won her first three matches by at least seven points each in Bakersfield last weekend.

Another Granada wrestler, Maile Nguyen, placed fifth in the 125 division. She won her first two matches by double digits before a 6-0 loss in the quarterfinals to No. 1 seed Lilyana Balderas of Anaheim. But Nguyen, the No. 8 seed, avenged that loss by defeating Balderas in the fifth-place match.



Amador Valley High's girls soccer team had shut out every opponent during its playoff run. On March 1, they fell to Monte Vista 1-0 in the Division 1 NCS Championship game. (Photo — Doug Jorgensen)



Amador Valley's Claire Morgan fights for the ball in the NCS Championship game against Monte Vista. (Photo — Doug Jorgensen)



On Feb. 26, Amador Valley hosted Acalenes from Lafayette — Dons vs. Dons — in the semifinal for the Division 1 NCS Championships. Amador Valley won 2-0 to advance to the final on March 1. (Photo — Leah Silveira)

Granada Boys Soccer Falls in Its First NCS Title Game Since 1985

By Phil Jensen

The Granada High School boys soccer team battled hard against Archie Williams-San Anselmo in the North Coast Section Division II championship game on Feb. 28.

But on a free kick in the second half, the Peregrine Falcons' Jackson Richardson produced a perfect shot into the top right corner of the net for the eventual winning goal in a 3-2 victory over the Matadors.

"Archie is a very aerial team, lot of tall players, a lot of attacks," said Granada coach Rob Hansen. "They got that free kick … It was a great shot; it was a game-turner. We fought back; we had a few chances at the end."

"(The Matadors) put everything out on the field, they fought through everything … We accomplished a handful of goals at Granada. We got to the NCS finals, which we haven't done since 1985. We got a banner on our wall, whether it's first or second. We're in CIF (Northern Regional)."

Granada is the No. 3 seed in the California Interscholastic Federation Division III NorCal Regional. The Matadors hosted No. 6 Woodland in the first round on March 4 after this article's deadline. The semifinals are March 6 and the final is March 8, all scheduled to start at 5 p.m.

On Feb. 28, both the Peregrine Falcons' Jake Morrison and Richardson lined up behind the ball on a free kick 20 yards from the goal on the left side of the field at the 68:37 mark of the 80-minute match. Richardson took the kick, which sailed high into the net for the game-winning goal.

The second-seeded Matadors, who fell to 15-8-1 overall, had been on the offensive in the second half up to that point. Trailing 2-1 at halftime, Granada first appeared to tie the game on a goal by Amir Anwary, but an offsides call negated the score.

The Matadors did tie the score at the 54:10 mark on a header by Christopher Pratte. However, they weren't able to get a shot on the goal the rest of the game.

Granada took a 1-0 lead at the 11:08 mark when Zane Khairie darted in front of a defender to intercept a pass in the Peregrine Falcons' goalie box, then sent a quick shot into the net. But Archie Williams, which improved to 13-4-5 overall, produced two goals in a span of 2:12 to take the lead into halftime. Sean Chamberlin scored at the 38:20 mark, then Willy Finley gave fourth-seeded Archie Williams the lead in extra time. About three minutes after Pratte's goal, Khairie was injured, which was a definite blow to Granada.

The Matadors reached the championship game by winning a shootout in the semifinals against No. 3 Pittsburg. The Matadors' Joseph Guevara scored in regulation on an assist from Christian Franco, and after the game proceeded through two overtimes with the score tied at one, Granada's Jetshuoa Torres, Skyler Stuart, Khairie and Anwary all scored in the penalty kick shootout as the Matadors won 1-1 (4-3).

Boys Basketball

Dublin received the No. 7 seed in the CIF Division I NorCal Regional playoffs after a fourth-place finish in the NCS Open Division playoffs last week. The Gaels hosted No. 10 St. Ignatius-San Francisco in the first round of the CIF playoffs on March 4 after this article's deadline. The quarterfinals are March 6, the semifinals are March 8 and the final is March 11, all at 7 p.m.

In the NCS Open Division playoffs, the fourth-seeded Gaels (24-7) fell 47-37 to No. 2 De La Salle in a semifinal game on Feb. 26, then lost to No. 3 San Ramon Valley 59-56 two nights later in the third-place game. Against De La Salle, Dublin trailed by only four, 31-27, at the end of the third quarter. Against San Ramon Valley, Jaiden Jones led Dublin in scoring with 16 points and teammate Cameron Anderson added 12 points and 10 rebounds.

Amador Valley, the No. 6 seed in NCS Division I, was edged 49-47 by No. 2 Redwood-Larkspur in a semifinal matchup on Feb. 25. The Dons lost the third-place game to Clayton Valley Charter-Concord 59-47 on Feb. 28 and finished its season with a 21-11 record.

Boys Wrestling

Livermore's Asher Nischke reached the quarterfinals of the CIF state championship tournament in Bakersfield this past weekend before an 8-2 quarterfinal loss to Devin Alarcon of Clovis North in the 285-pound division. Nischke finished with a 2-2 record at the elite tournament.



Granada High's boys soccer team fought tough battles through the playoff season to reach the Division 2 NCS Championships, where they fell to Archie Williams 3-2. (Photo — Leah Silveira)

LEGAL NOTICES/CLASSIFIEDS

www.independentnews.com

LEGAL NOTICES

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 611803

The following person(s) doing business as: iii Safety LLC, 39120 Argounat Way, #234, Fremont, CA 94538 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): iii Safety LLC, 39120 Argonaut Way, #234, 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: 10/31/2022. Signature of Registrant/s/: Hoi Yan Ko, Managing Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 15, 2025. Expires January 14, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6287. Published February 13, 20, 27, March 6, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 611804

The following person(s) doing business as: Blue Sky Vacation, 1301 Stevenson Blvd, APT#112, Fremont, CA 94538 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Hoi Yan Ko, 1301 Stevenson Blvd, Apt#112, Fremont, CA 94538. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 11/1/2024. Signature of Registrant/s/: Hoi Yan Ko, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 15, 2025. Expires January 14, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6288. Published February 13, 20, 27, March 6, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 612056

The following person(s) doing business as: WP Cattle Co., 6999 Arroyo Rd., Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Paul D. Banke, P.O. Box 55, 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: 04/1/1989. Signature of Registrant/s/: Paul D. Banke, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 28, 2025. Expires January 27, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6289. Published February 13, 20, 27, March 6, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 612164

The following person(s) doing business as: Stampede, 1790 First Street, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): 3-G Group, LLC, 2061 Pleasant View Lane, 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/: Nick Hill, COO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 30, 2025. Expires January 29, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6290. Published February 13, 20, 27, March 6, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 612302

The following person(s) doing business as: Colorful Chaos By Jen, 1969 Chalon Glen Court, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s):Jennifer Bell 1969 Chalon Glen Court, 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: 2/4/2024. Signature of Registrant/s/: Jennifer Bell, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 5, 2025. Expires February 4, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6291. Published February 13, 20, 27, March 6, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 611964

The following person(s) doing business as: Tri Valley Auto Glass, 3688 Washington ST, Ste D, Pleasanton, CA 94566 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Gomes Custom Auto Glass, Inc. 3688 Washington ST, Ste D, Pleasanton, CA 94566. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 12/7/2024. Signature of Registrant/s/: Anthony Gomes, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 23, 2025. Expires January 22, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6292. Published February 13, 20, 27, March 6, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 611792

The following person(s) doing business as: Bread Srsly, 3310 Peralta Street, Oakland, CA 94608 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Bread Srsly, PBC. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 9/14/2023. Signature of Registrant/s/: Sadie Scheffer, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 15, 2025. Expires January 14, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6293. Published February 13, 20, 27, March 6, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 612217

The following person(s) doing business as: Feng Cha Teahouse, 6180 Jarvis Ave, Suite W, Newark, CA 94560-1263 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): East Bay Teahouse, 1376 San Lucas Dr., Pittsburg, CA 94565. 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/: Amitpal Gill, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 3, 2025. Expires February 2, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6294. Published February 13, 20, 27, March 6, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 612179

The following person(s) doing business as: Quality Housekeeping Services, 644 Heligan LN, Unit 2, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Ramon Prieto, 644 Heligan LN, Unit 2, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Ramon Prieto, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 31, 2025. Expires January 30, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6295. Published February 13, 20, 27, March 6, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 612352

The following person(s) doing business as: Glowing Reflections, 5688 Linden ST, Dublin, CA 94568 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Reshma Khatri, 5688 Linden ST, Dublin, CA 94568. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 12/1/2024. Signature of Registrant/s/: Reshma Khatri, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 6, 2025. Expires February 5, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6296. Published February 20, 27, March 6, 13, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 611990

The following person(s) doing business as: Fiesta Cart, 33141 - 7th ST, Union City, CA 94587-2126 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Neha, 33141 - 7th ST, Union City, CA 94587. 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/: Neha, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 24, 2025. Expires January 23, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6297. Published February 20, 27, March 6, 13, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 612395

The following person(s) doing business as: Viking Plumbing, 2572 Spyglass Hils Rd., Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Ronald L. Monk, 2572 Spyglass Hills Rd, 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: 9/28/1998. Signature of Registrant/s/: Ronald L. Monk, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 10, 2025. Expires February 9, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6298. Published February 20, 27, March 6, 13, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 612079

The following person(s) doing business as: Erikos Touch LLC, 1285 Gilman ST, Berkely CA 94706 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Erikos Touch LLC, 1285 Gilman ST, Berkeley, CA 94706. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 1/1/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: Eriko Johnson, Owner/President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 28, 2025. Expires January 27, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6299. Published February 20, 27, March 6, 13, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 612279

The following person(s) doing business as: Gluten Free Cards, 5654 Felicia Ave, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): David Kehn, 5654 Felicia Ave, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 1/1/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: David Kehn, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 5, 2025. Expires February 4, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6300. Published February 20, 27, March 6, 13, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 612271

The following person(s) doing business as: Benchmark Environmental Engineering, 21228 Cabot Boulevard, Hayward, CA 94545 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Forensic Analytical Consulting Services, Inc., 21228 Cabot Boulevard, Hayward, CA 94545. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 1/1/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: Fred Vinciguerra, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 5, 2025. Expires February 4, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6301. Published February 20, 27, March 6, 13, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 612402

The following person(s) doing business as: Alamo Landscape LLC, 1881 Collier Canyon Rd, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Alamo Landscape LLC, 696 San Ramon Valley BLVD, STE 335, Danville, CA 94526 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: 2/10/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: Marco Antonio Cisneros, Manager. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 10, 2025. Expires February 9, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6302. Published February 20, 27, March 6, 13, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 612448

The following person(s) doing business as: Clearpath Analytics Inc, 5421 Campbell Lane #404, Dublin, CA 94568 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Clearpath Analytics Inc, 5421 Campbell Lane #404, Dublin, CA 94568. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Amruta Vantipalli, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 13, 2025. Expires February 12, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6303. Published February 20, 27, March 6, 13, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 612308

The following person(s) doing business as: Stealth Street Partners, 289 Wright Brothers Avenue, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): 866, Incorporated, 289 Wright Brothers Avenue, Livermore CA 94551. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 6/22/2000. Signature of Registrant/s/: Ryan M. Callahan, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 5, 2025. Expires February 4, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6304. Published February 20, 27, March 6, 13, 2025.

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME
Case No. 24CV091706
SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF ALAMEDA
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:
Petitioner:
Jazzmine C. Wise
3314 Monaghan St
Dublin, CA 94568
filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:
Present Names:
Rileigh Wright
Proposed Name:
Rileigh Wise
THE COURT ORDERS
that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.
NOTICE OF HEARING
Date:04/18/2024
Time: 9:30 AM
Dept: 103
The address of the court is:
Wiley W. Manuel Courthouse
661 Washington ST.
Oakland, CA 94607
A copy of this Order To Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation printed in this county: The Independent Newspaper
2250 First Street,
Livermore, CA 94550
Dated: 2/5/2024 /s/: Han Tran, Judge of the Superior Court.
The Independent, Legal No. 6305. Published February 27, March 6, 13, 20, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 611962

The following person(s) doing business as: T4T Studio, 4121 Broadway, Oakland, CA 94611 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Jeordi Tyre, 4121 Broadway, Oakland, CA 94611. 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/: Jeordi Tyre, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 23, 2025. Expires January 22, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6306. Published February 27, March 6, 13, 20, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 612146

The following person(s) doing business as: Linen and Thread Co, 16991 Grovenor DR, Castro Valley, CA 94546 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Diana Cardenas, 16991 Grovenor DR, Castro Valley, CA 94546. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 1/25/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: Diana Cardenas, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 30, 2025. Expires January 29, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6307. Published February 27, March 6, 13, 20, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 612169

The following person(s) doing business as: Wonderbloom Therapy, 1811 Santa Rita RD, Ste 224, Pleasanton, CA 94566 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Kelly Shah, 1811 Santa Rita RD, Ste 224, 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: 2/1/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: Kelly Shah, Owner, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 30, 2025. Expires January 29, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6308. Published February 27, March 6, 13, 20, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 612474

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. TaxBeats; 2. TaxBeats Accounting & Tax Services, 4532 Jacodo PL, Dublin, CA 94568 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Hetal Amarseda, 4532 Jacodo PL, 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/: Hetal Amarseda, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 14, 2025. Expires February 13, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6309. Published February 27, March 6, 13, 20, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 612129

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Venus en Scorpio Ventures LLC; 2. Venus en Scorpio Coffee; 3. Venus en Scorpio Creative, 1401 21st, ST Suite R, Sacramento, CA 95811 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Venus en Scorpio Ventures LLC, 1401 21st ST, Suite R, Sacramento, CA 95811. 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/: Ingrid Ramon Parra, Managing Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 29, 2025. Expires January 28, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6310. Published February 27, March 6, 13, 20, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 612486

The following person(s) doing business as: Bustamante Concrete, 2322 Stonebridge Road, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Raul Bustamante, 2322 Stonebridge Road, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 5/21/2015. Signature of Registrant/s/: Raul Bustamante, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 14, 2025. Expires February 13, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6309. Published February 27, March 6, 13, 20, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 612553

The following person(s) doing business as: Friday Specialty Services, 3640 Grand Avenue, Oakland, CA 94610 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Irene Friday, 4200 Park Blvd, #235, Oakland, CA 94602. 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/: Irene Friday, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 19, 2025. Expires February 18, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6312. Published February 27, March 6, 13, 20, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 612547

The following person(s) doing business as: Pacific Green Funding, 29300 Kohoutek Way, Suite 110, Union City, CA 94587 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Adhi Financial Inc, 29300 Kohautek Way, Suite 110, Union City, CA 94587. 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: 5/16/2012. Signature of Registrant/s/: Ravi Selvaraj, CEo. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 19, 2025. Expires February 18, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6313. Published February 27, March 6, 13, 20, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 612566

The following person(s) doing business as: Dragon Therapeutics, 850 3rd ST, Santa Rosa, CA 95404 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Anne Szostek, 296 Park View Terr Unit 3, Oakland, CA 94610. This business is conducted by a General Partnership. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 2/15/25. Signature of Registrant/s/: Anne Szostek, General Partner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 19, 2025. Expires February 18, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6314. Published February 27, March 6, 13, 20, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 612382

The following person(s) doing business as: Naxiko, 4357 Crestwood ST, Fremont, CA 94538 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Naxiko, 4357 Crestwood ST, 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: 1/30/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: Fu Wang, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 7, 2025. Expires February 6, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6315. Published February 27, March 6, 13, 20, 2025.

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME ORIGINAL FILE NO. 586487

The person(s) listed below have abandoned the use of the following fictitious business name(s). Creekside Laundry, 20894 Mission Blvd, 20894 Mission Blvd, Hayward, CA 94541. Registered by the following owner(s): Cycle Spin Jr. LLC, 6845 New Melones Circle, Discovery Bay, CA 94505. The fictitious business name statement was filed on 2/15/2022 in the County of Alameda. This business was conducted by a Limited Liability Company. Signature of Registrants: /s/: Charles Shavies Jr., Owner/Manager. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 11, 2025. The Independent, Legal No. 6316. Published February 27, March 6, 13, 20, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 612602

The following person(s) doing business as: 1.Relan Real Estate; 2. EMC2E Universe Publishing, 3051 Quantum Dr. #4503, Fremont, CA 94538 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): R K Relan, Inc., 3051 Quantum Dr. #4503, Fremont, CA 94538. 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: 2/20/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: Rakesh K. Relan, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 21, 2025. Expires February 20, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6317. Published February March 6, 13, 20, 27, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 612265

The following person(s) doing business as: Julian Bond Financial Equity Research Institute, 1970 Broadway, Suite 350, Oakland, CA 94612 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Center for Responsible Lending, 301 W. Main Street, Durham, NC 27701, NC 27701. 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: 11/15/2024. Signature of Registrant/s/: Marcus Bowen, Treasurer. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 5, 2025. Expires February 4, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6318. Published February March 6, 13, 20, 27, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 612576

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Good Vybes & Brews; 2. Good Vybes Coffee & Tea, 412 Madison ST., Oakland, CA 94607 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Good Vybes & Brews LLC, 412 Madison ST., 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/: Konstantin Braverman, Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 19, 2025. Expires February 18, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6319. Published February March 6, 13, 20, 27, 2025

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 612692

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Nakamura Cellars; 2. Noria Wines; 3. Nafela Wines, 725-A Gilman Street, Berkeley, CA 94710 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Nori Nakamura, 725-A Gilman Street, Berkeley, CA 94710. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 10/1/2010. Signature of Registrant/s/: Nori Nakamura, Manager. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 26, 2025. Expires February 25, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6320. Published February March 6, 13, 20, 27, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 612699

The following person(s) doing business as: Miomomento, 31153 Bulmer ST. Union City, CA 94587 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Ricardo Gallo, 31153 Bulmer ST., Union City CA 94587. This business is conducted by a Married Couple. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Ricardo Gallo, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 26, 2025. Expires February 25, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6321. Published February March 6, 13, 20, 27, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 612513

The following person(s) doing business as: Perfect Harmony Properties, 541 N O ST., Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Barbara Lymberis, 541 N O ST., Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 1/1/2024. Signature of Registrant/s/: Barbary Lymberis, Broker. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 18, 2025. Expires February 17, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6322. Published February March 6, 13, 20, 27, 2025

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 612632

The following person(s) doing business as: Kin Phed, 4086 East Ave., Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Kin Phed Corporation, 4086 East Ave., 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/: Kin Phed, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 24, 2025. Expires February 23, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6323. Published February March 6, 13, 20, 27, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 612439

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Janice & Co.; 2. J and A Rose, 6754 Bernal Ave, Ste 740-258, Pleasanton, CA 94566 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Golden Valley Mortgage Corporation, 6754 Bernal Ave # 740-258, Pleasanton, CA 94566. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Janice M. Smith, Secretary. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 11, 2025. Expires February 10, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6324. Published February March 6, 13, 20, 27, 2025.

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME ORIGINAL FILE NO. 589398

The person(s) listed below have abandoned the use of the following fictitious business name(s). Next Venture Rentals, 8905 San Ramon Rd., Dublin, CA 94568. Registered by the following owner(s): Next Venture Rentals, LLC, 8905 San Ramon Rd., Dublin, CA 94568. The fictitious business name statement was filed on 5/31/2022 in the County of Alameda. This business was conducted by a Limited Liability Company. Signature of Registrants: /s/: Alex Minick, Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 27, 2025. The Independent, Legal No. 6325. Published February 27, March 6, 13, 20, 2025.

CLASSIFIEDS

ANIMALS

Tri-Valley Animal Rescue

Adopt a New Best Friend
TVAR
Tri-Valley Animal Rescue

Our current weekly adoption events include:
Saturdays - Dogs & Puppies at:
Dublin Petsmart
6960 Amador Plaza Rd. Hours:
10:00am to 1:00pm.
Visit our website:
WWW.TVAR.ORG, to see adoptable animals, volunteer opportunities, and how to donate.
Follow:
TRI-VALLEY ANIMAL RESCUE on Facebook, and Instagram

EMPLOYMENT

Operations Research Analyst @ Ronbow Corp in Livermore, CA

JD: Gather & query data; Analyze data & provide insights; Develop scalable data analytical systms; Analyze data for customer behavior & evaluate operations strategies; Built math model to test operational variables; Req. Edu: BA in Engineer (any), CS or closely related; Job Req: Min. 1 yr do e-commerce data anlysis for user behavior, trend, ROI. Min.1 yr use Google Analytics for sales data analysis, visualization, integration; Min.1 yr use Python & R to analyze data, optimize algorithms, develop predictive models; Min 1 yr use BigQuery or SQL for database admin; Min1 yr do qualitative & quantitive data anlysis; Min1 yr use BI tools ; Min 1 yr use HTML, CSS & JavaScript; $100k/yr. Email resume to:
hr@ronbow.com.

Curtis Instruments, Inc.
seeks Senior Product Engineers for its Livermore, CA location to design and debug electronic circuits, components and PCB assemblies for new product development and sustaining projects. Design, setup and run tests to ensure the design meets specifications. Telecommuting / work from home permitted within commutable distance. Up to 5% domestic travel required. Annual salary:
$191,506 - $201,081.
To apply, search by title and apply online at:
https://www.rehlko.com/careers

HELP WANTED

SERVICES

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

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

MERCHANDISE

FOR SALE

ESTATE/ GARAGE/ YARD SALES

FREE SECTION

LOST/ FOUND

NOTICES /ANNOUNCEMENTS

NOTICES

"NOTICE TO READERS: California law requires that contractors taking jobs that total $500 or more (labor and/or materials) be licensed by the Contractors State License Board. State law also requires that contractors include their license numbers on all advertising. Check your contractor's status at www.cslb.ca.gov or (800)321-CSLB (2752). Unlicensed persons taking jobs less than $500 must state in their advertisements that they are not licensed by the Contractors State License Board."

REAL ESTATE

LAND FOR RENT

OFFICE/HOUSE/CONDO / DUPLEX / APT RENTAL

HOUSE/ROOMS/RENTALS TO SHARE

BOAT / RV / RENTAL SPACE

Inland Valley Publishing Co.
Client Code:04126-00001
Re: Legal Notice for
Classified Ads
The Federal Fair Housing Act, Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and state law prohibit advertisements for housing and employment that contain any preference, limitation or discrimination based on protected classes, including race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin. IVPC does not knowingly accept any advertisements that are in violation of the law.



Livermore Resident Motivated by War to Help Ukraine

By Christina Cavallaro

Livermore resident Richard Andrews was first drawn to Ukraine in 1958, when he was a senior in high school in Sacramento and made friends with a young man from what was then a republic within the Soviet Union.

"He was in the U.S. with his family. They were part of the large population with Germanic heritage living in Ukraine that Stalin threw out of the U.S.S.R.," Andrews said. "I asked him where he was born and he said, 'Down in the Ukraine area and it's a name so long you wouldn't be able to remember it.' So I just knew Joe Wenninger was from the U.S.S.R. He spoke three languages and lived on a small farm in Rio Linda. He was a heck of a nice guy."

Andrews has since met other people over the years from Ukraine with whom he has formed lasting friendships.

"I've always had a soft spot for over there, even though I'm not from there at all. My family heritage is the British Isles. But I've read much about Ukrainian history. They are a wonderful people whom Putin has savagely attacked. I think all of America should do what they can to help, particularly, as our president has become Putin's lap dog."

Shortly after the 2022 Russian invasion of Ukraine, an attack that escalated the Russo-Ukrainian War begun in 2014 between the two countries, Andrews started working with a nonprofit in Rancho Cordova called the Ukrainian American House, which was founded in 2018. At first, he donated money until he was informed that the nonprofit's mission was largely focused on providing places to live for displaced Ukrainians.

So, he donated a bunch of furniture and took it to a family that had just moved to the United States.

He found donating physical goods more economical because he lives on a fixed income.



Richard Andrews (Photo courtesy of Richard Andrews)

It was all going well, until the organization told him one day that it could no longer take non-monetary donations.

"Well, I had all this stuff." But Andrews had nowhere to take it, so he did some research and discovered the nonprofit, Hearts for Ukraine, based in the South Bay. He was happy to learn that they did accept non-monetary donations.

"The fact they're taking things in kind really makes it a lot easier for me, because I got tons of stuff, but I don't have tons of money. It's hard to find anybody that takes donations other than cash, because (cash is) very easy to transfer."

The nonprofit Hearts for Ukraine, led by its CEO Eugene Tarasov, has sent $2.1 million in donated goods and $608,000 in cash to the country since 2022, according to its website, heartsforukraine.us.

The group collects clothing in good repair, medical supplies and other essentials and transports them in a shipping container as soon as they have one filled.

"So as often as I can, I accumulate things," Andrews said. "I'm getting as involved as I can, particularly as I find out what Putin's puppet in D.C. is doing. My wife is a wonderful crocheter and has crocheted afghans that we've donated over there. And I accumulate things I can get from Kaiser through my over-the-counter accounts."

Any money left over from the quarterly $60 over-the-counter stipend that Andrews receives from Medicare, he uses to buy first aid kits at $15 each. "I take four of those and throw them in the pile."

He said there was something he had been asked for recently by Tarasov that he was surprised to learn was needed. "Adult diapers, the Depends-type thing," Andrews said. "A lot of people are in hospitals, and they can't change them. Nobody thinks of that, but they need the adult diapers, so we're going to go get a bunch of generics from Costco."

Another often overlooked item, he said, is toys. "I think it's very important because of the hardship that people are under, that constant pressure. Having something that you can give to the kids (is) toys."

He recently included some jigsaw puzzles, coloring books, a cribbage board and a deck of cards in his shipment to Hearts for Ukraine.

These are "things that don't weigh a lot, but kids can enjoy. So entertaining things. People don't think about that particular part. ... It's the sidebar things."

Andrews, who has volunteered for other types of organizations as well, finds he gets more enjoyment out of helping other people than in doing something for himself.

"It's the way I'm hardwired. I can't take credit or blame for it," he said. "The disappointment about what's happening from Trump and his lackeys has left a very bitter taste in my mouth. So, I'm even getting more involved."

ARROYO CELLARS
Tasting Room Open:
Saturday: 12 - 5pm,
Sunday: 12 - 5pm,
or by appointment
2270 Research Drive, Livermore
(925) 292-9157



Seen from Cayetano Park, rolling hillsides blooming with wildflowers and striated with vineyards form a backdrop for Las Positas College. (Photo — Leah Silveira)

Dublin Literacy Project Chooses Picture Book

Dublin is celebrating literacy this month with its One City One Book project.

Public and private school students in Dublin are reading "Yayoi Kusama Covered Everything with Dots and Wasn't Sorry," by Fausto Gilberti.

The picture book tells the story of 95-year-old Japanese artist Yayoi Kusama, one of the world's most successful living artists.

The city-sponsored project is designed to unite the community through a shared reading experience. The emphasis this year is the value of picture books for all ages and the importance of reading aloud.

This project is funded by local businesses and organizations and supported by the Dublin Unified School District and the City of Dublin.

MILLER'S
AIR CONDITIONING and HEATING
WE SERVICE ALL MAJOR BRANDS!
Residential & Commercial
WINNER EAST BAY TIMES BEST IN EAST BAY 2024 READERS' CHOICE AWARDS
Serving The Tri-Valley Since 1960
925.447.3000
www.CallMillers.com Lic. #253756

Livermore Lions Club Announces Its 2025 Speakers Contest Winner

Rebecca Vincent, a junior at Liberty High School in Contra Costa County, won the Livermore Lions Club's annual Student Speakers Contest, held last month at the Odd Fellows Hall in Livermore.

Anthony Edwards and Sheeksha Venkat from Livermore High School were also finalists in the competition, which was open to high school students.

This year, students were asked to give a 5- to 10-minute speech on "Artificial Intelligence: Friend or Foe?"

Speeches were judged by Bob Cowgill, a retired telecommunication executive, Martie Muldoon, a retired teacher, and Lynn Plouse, a retired engineer.

THE Independent
We're Hiring:
Managing Editor
We're looking for an individual who will be able to provide editorial leadership for our weekly newspaper. This is a full-time position that requires solid journalistic skills and ethics, a creative approach to story generation, and the ability to lead a team in a deadline-driven workplace. Some night or weekend work is required to keep pace in a dynamic news environment.
The ideal candidate will possess a blend of leadership and investigative fervor, with a deep-seated love of community-focused journalism.
Duties:
• Develop and assign stories to a stable of freelance writers and staff
• Edit stories for AP style and readability
• Write editorials and news stories
• Coordinate with writers and photographers for imagery and event coverage
• Maintain an active planning calendar for upcoming events
• Maintain and grow a network of freelance reporters and contributors to ensure coverage of key beats
• Assist with page layout and proofreading
Qualifications:
• A seasoned journalist with a strong ethical and moral code
• Editing experience, including AP-style copy editing
• Management experience with professional communication skills, both within the community and among staff
• Organized and adept at juggling multiple projects simultaneously, including publishing the current paper while simultaneously planning future editions
• Excellent time management skills
• The ideal candidate would also benefit from a keen eye for effective imagery and page layout, curiosity about everything from land use law to nuclear physics, a drive to hold the powerful to account and a passion for accurate and fair news coverage.
To apply, send a resumé, a cover letter detailing your experience and interest in the position, and a few recent examples of your writing and editing (in PDF format) to jobs@independentnews.com.

Join us
for a free fraud prevention seminar on how to protect yourself online.
Thursday, April 3, 2025
5PM to 7:30PM
Bankhead Theater
2400 First Street, Livermore, CA 94550
GUEST SPEAKERS
KERRY REGO
Social Media Consultant, Author and Associate Faculty,
Santa Rosa Junior College
KUE LEE
Director of Targeted Outreach,
California Department of Financial Protection and Innovation (DFPI)
RSVP at
www.unclecu.org/fraud-seminar
Evening refreshments provided.
UNCLE CREDIT UNION