



Members of the Lion Dance Company of San Francisco performed a dragon dance to welcome the Lunar New Year during Dublin High School's tree-lighting ceremony on Dec. 11. (Photo — Doug Jorgensen)

New Sen. Jerry McNerney Sees Region as Center for Innovation in Science, Tech

2025 Priorities Include Capitalizing on Intellectual and Financial Resources

By Chris Winters

REGIONAL — The new state senator representing the Tri-Valley is going to Sacramento with a list of tasks he'd like to accomplish in his first four-year term.

Jerry McNerney is an old hand at legislative action. The Democrat spent 16 years in Congress representing districts that straddle Alameda and San Joaquin counties. He initially lived in Pleasanton but moved to Stockton when his Congressional district was redrawn to exclude his home. He chose not

to run for re-election in 2022 after serving eight terms in Washington, D.C.

With a new wave of redistricting, the new 5th District of the California Senate includes all of the Tri-Valley and San Joaquin County. McNerney moved back to Pleasanton after leaving Congress.

He holds a Ph.D. in mathematics from the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque, where he was born. So it comes naturally to him that several of his priorities reflect a focus on science and technology.

AI Development

As artificial intelligence (AI) technology continues to develop at an increasing rate, McNerney wants to balance development with safety.

"First of all, we want to make sure that California is a place where people can feel like it's an innovation center," McNerney said. "And so that means that whatever laws and regulations we propose should be something that does not, at the very least, discourage innovation."

Government at all levels is trying to keep up with the accel-

(See MCNERNEY, page 6)

Lawrence Livermore Lab Develops New Drug to Better Treat Fentanyl Exposure

Initial Testing Shows Subetadex Can Last Longer in the Body Than Naloxone

By Jessica Zimmer

LIVERMORE — Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL), more widely known for its research in fusion energy, made a different sort of announcement in October: scientists at the lab had developed a new treatment for exposure to fentanyl, the synthetic opioid at the heart of the U.S.'s addiction crisis.

Subetadex is a chemical compound that strongly bonds with fentanyl molecules and remains in the body longer than naloxone, the most commonly used treatment for acute fentanyl overdoses.

Naloxone is often marketed under the brand name Narcan as a nasal spray. Emergency respond-

ers sometimes need to administer a number of doses of naloxone to stabilize a patient who is overdosing. Subetadex can require fewer doses.

Another advantage of subetadex is that it can be taken or administered before or after fentanyl exposure and can work on its own and in tandem with other treatments, including naloxone.

Carlos Valdez, LLNL chemist and principal investigator on the project, said, "The impact of subetadex would be enormous, as it would provide another layer of protection against these highly lethal opioids, (a treatment) that could be co-administered with other treatments already in place," Valdez said. "(Then) they all can work synergistically and in unison

to protect the public."

Improved measures for fentanyl exposure are in demand. Approximately 70% of U.S. overdose deaths in 2023 involved fentanyl, both alone and in combination with other drugs, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. When misused, fentanyl can lead to a slowdown in breathing or respiratory arrest — meaning the patient stops breathing altogether.

According to the LLNL researchers, a patient would need to receive only one dose of subetadex over the course of 10 to 12 hours to remain alive. By contrast, a person would typically need several doses of naloxone over a four-hour period to stay alive. That's because the drug remains

(See SUBETADEX, page 7)

Dublin Chosen for New Event Center

Visit Tri-Valley to Build 5,000-Seat Arena for Sporting Events, Performing Arts and Culture

By Ruth Roberts

LIVERMORE — Visit Tri-Valley (VTV) has announced plans to build a 5,000-seat multi-use, state-of-the-art event center in Dublin near the Dublin/Pleasanton BART station.

"Visit Tri-Valley has been dreaming of this project for years and is thrilled to be finally bringing it to life," said Tracy Farhad, VTV's CEO. "We couldn't be more excited about the proposed location, the support we've received from all of our stakeholders, and the lasting positive impact this iconic facility will have on the entire Tri-Valley."

The proposed project, spearheaded by VTV, the marketing organization that promotes tourism in the Tri-Valley, will be located on

the corner of Martinelli Way and Arnold Road, next to the Dublin/Pleasanton BART Station and adjacent to Highway 580. The event center is a collaborative effort between the City of Dublin, VTV and Alameda County, which owns the parcel earmarked for the project.

The location was identified by VTV following an intensive year-long study and vetting process between JLL Global Tourism and Destination Advisory, a district-wide task force and the VTV board of directors. Farhad said VTV hopes to "either break ground and/or complete the project by 2027."

VTV announced plans last September to build the 100,000-square-foot facility to showcase the region as a destination location. According to VTV, the multi-use venue

(See EVENT CENTER, page 5)



Valley Dance Theatre, accompanied by its pit orchestra, is presenting "The Nutcracker" at the Bankhead Theater in downtown Livermore through Dec. 22. See showtimes and buy tickets: <https://valleydancetheatre.com/the-nutcracker>. (Photo — Doug Jorgensen)

U.S. Rep. DeSaulnier Hopes to Work With GOP in Next Term

10th District Democrat Acknowledges Partisanship, But Plans to Deliver Results in Transportation

By Larry Altman

LIVERMORE — U.S. Rep. Mark DeSaulnier, preparing to enter his sixth term in the U.S. House of Representatives, said he was still coping with his party's loss to Donald Trump and voters' choice to put Congress entirely in Republican hands.

Referring to conversations with his colleagues, the Democrat said, "We were all talking about this — the stages of grief." He noted, "I don't think complete acceptance is a good thing."

But the veteran legislator, whose 10th Congressional District includes part of Dublin, added, "That's democracy."

"You have to have a two-party

system, and you need a divergence of opinions, and you work through them," he said. "It's particularly hard when the discourse is so strident. And in the 10 years I've been here, the 30-plus years I've been in elected office, I have to say there's not a symmetry between Democrats and Republicans in terms of that discourse."

Although he described the current oppositional tone as discouraging, DeSaulnier said he is "always willing to work with Republicans," some of whom he called personal friends.

"I often tell some of my Republican colleagues, 'I couldn't get elected in your district, and you couldn't get elected in mine, and that's the way the country works.

(See DESAULNIER, page 7)



Alameda County Supervisor David Haubert was sworn in to a new term on Dec. 12 in the Scott Haggerty Heritage House at the Alameda County Fairgrounds. He was sworn in by State Attorney General Rob Bonta, who is also an Alameda County resident. (Photo — Joy Liu courtesy of David Haubert)

Students Adopt Families for the Holidays

Livermore High Brings Back Program to Provide Gifts for Kids in Need

By Christina Cavallaro

LIVERMORE — As with so many things that got lost in the post-pandemic return-to-normalcy shuffle, so too, did a Livermore High School (LHS) program that had adopted families in need during the holidays since 2013.

From 2013 to 2019, the LHS Girls Soccer program, under the guidance of retired Head Coach Bob Montano, adopted one or two families each holiday season to ensure their children had a magical

Christmas experience.

Lori Mendoza was a parent helper of the girls soccer program during that time, when her oldest daughter played the sport.

Mendoza said she had loved the gift-giving program. "You can make some child's morning who might (otherwise) get maybe one thing, or nothing, and know they're going to see under their tree all these packages that were hand-picked with a lot of love and just excitement," she said. "And seeing our kids get excited about

it, knowing they're giving back to the community and helping make someone's Christmas that otherwise probably wouldn't have one, is the best part."

Mendoza is now employed at LHS as a physical education teacher and the assistant coach for the girls varsity flag football team. One of her first orders of business was to bring back the lapsed Adopt-a-Family program.

Prior to 2019, Adopt-a-Family operated on a much smaller scale. "I think we did maybe

(See ADOPTION, page 8)

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PET OF THE WEEK



HARRY POTTER

Harry Potter is still sporting robes and tie, as he hasn't been gifted any Christmas sweaters quite yet. Nevertheless, this magical tuxedo kitten is eager for a loving home in which to celebrate the holidays. A tad shy in busy environments, Harry Potter quickly transforms into a purring cuddlebug, and he enjoys having feline friends. Go on — ask Harry Potter to the Yule Ball — he's at Valley Humane Society's pet adoption center in Pleasanton. Visit valleyhumane.org to learn more, or email info@valleyhumane.org to start the adoption process. (Photo courtesy of Valley Humane)

Tri-Valley Haven Brings Gift-Giving Back to 3,000 People

By Ruth Roberts

Tri-Valley Haven (TVH) recently played Santa to more than 3,000 recipients of the group’s holiday gift-giving program. The annual event returned to its traditional model following a lull during the COVID years.

“This year we were thrilled to go back to providing gifts for our families,” said Christine Dillman, executive director of Tri-Valley Haven, who noted that TVH gave out gift cards in lieu of presents during COVID. “The families got to shop for free and select the gifts that were right for

them and their children. We also gave out rolls of wrapping paper to each family along with holiday food.”

Those 3,000 recipients could be individuals or families, and current or past clients of TVH, or individuals who had never made use of TVH’s services before.

Dillman said that the need for holiday assistance was significantly higher than in years past and praised the community for their generous donations. Individuals interested in the program signed up to be part of the holiday gift-giving in advance and then during a few days in December they were

invited to select gifts and assorted items to create their own holiday magic.

However, she added, the demand for help is ongoing.

“We will still need gifts after the holidays for the families in our shelters, and gift cards or cash donations are much appreciated,” said Dillman.

For more than four decades, Tri-Valley Haven has provided safe refuge for individuals and their families working to rebuild their lives while recovering from physical and mental abuse and homelessness. The nonprofit organization has strengthened people’s lives by building a culture of

personal empowerment for the vulnerable population.

There are many stories, Dillman said, of success, support and hope.

“One recent story is of a TVH resident who had just had a baby with her abuser and was feeling scared and trapped,” Dillman shared. “She felt there was no way of leaving her abuser with an infant and a teenager. She was referred to Tri-Valley Haven through an agency but was also worried about the conditions she was bringing her newborn into. She’d heard rumors about shelters being unsafe and unsanitary places to live.”

But when the resident arrived at Tri-Valley Haven’s emergency shelter she and her teenage son were overcome with joy. They couldn’t believe, said Dillman, that they were going to have their own room with a private bathroom — and for the first time in a long time she felt safe.

“She told her case manager multiple times that she was grateful for the accommodations,” said Dillman. “Because of TVH she was able to leave her abuser and feel safe while processing all the trauma she’d endured. She graduated from our program and is currently

safe and self-sufficient.”

Another client came into TVH’s domestic violence program through a 24-hour crisis hotline on the group’s website.

“We were able to provide a safe, emergency shelter and her abuser was not able to track her while she was at Tri-Valley Haven,” said Dillman. “So, for the first time in years, she felt peace. She was able to work full-time while in our program. She graduated and moved into her own, safe apartment with her two daughters.”

To donate or for more information, visit <https://trivalleyhaven.org>.

Blacksmith Square Buildings to Open in Summer 2025

By Vivien Wenneker

The expansion of the Blacksmith Square retail project in downtown Livermore will reach an important milestone next summer

when two out of the three new buildings will be open and ready for occupation.

The two buildings will add 13,200 square feet of new retail and restaurant space to Blacksmith

Square, according to Otis Nostrand, project manager for Red Bear Property Management, the owner of Blacksmith Square.

An expanded outdoor courtyard with a stage for live entertainment and fire pits around the existing shops will also open by summer of 2025. However, the third, three-story steel frame building, which includes plans for a second-story restaurant and a rooftop seating and dining area overlooking Stockmen’s Park below, will not be finished until the end of 2025.

Additionally, the 452-space parking garage on L Street, which began construction in fall 2022, is also now expected to open by the spring/summer of 2025. The garage’s opening is timed to correspond to the opening of the two buildings, said Stephanie Egidio, spokesperson for the City of Livermore.

The garage will include ADA, electric vehicle and bicycle spaces. According to the City of Livermore website, the garage will also include signs displaying real-time parking availability.

Nostrand says that the two new buildings in Blacksmith Square (re-

ferred to as buildings no. 3 and no. 4 in planning documents) will surround the original Blacksmith shop building on the corner of Railroad and Livermore avenues.

Those buildings are one-story, wood frame buildings, whereas building no. 5 requires more time to build, Nostrand said.

The two existing buildings (referred to as buildings no. 1 and no. 2.) house Swirl on the Square, Tap 25 and Sweet Hope Naturals, and will serve as a design reference point for the new buildings.

While the construction for building no. 5 on the corner of Livermore Avenue and Veterans Way is still in the beginning stages, Nostrand said that with weather permitting, the project will continue to move forward as expected.

“The city and the Livermore Downtown team have been great partners in keeping our project moving forward,” Nostrand said. “They’ve helped us keep downtown businesses

up to date on progress, as well as providing support to our existing tenants. I think it’s important to re-

mind the community to visit our current Blacksmith Square businesses while we’re under construction.”



Livermore Police officers, professional staff and volunteers participated in the 28th Annual Holiday Lights & Sounds Parade on Dec. 7. (Photo courtesy of the Livermore Police Department)

988 Crisis Lifeline Available

Cities in the Tri-Valley area are reminding residents that the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline is available to call at any time.

On its webpage, Dublin notes that the holidays can be stressful for many people,

including military veterans, those who have recently lost family members, or those who struggle daily with mental health issues.

The nationwide, 24-hour 988 system went into effect in 2022 and can connect

callers to the nearest crisis center for immediate counseling and referral to a local mental health service.

More than 200 crisis centers are part of the network.

For more information, go to 988lifeline.org.

Lions Club Reveals 2025 Theme For Student Speaker Contest

The Livermore Lions Club will hold its annual Student Speaker Contest on Sunday, Feb. 16, with the winner advancing to the next level in the statewide competition.

The theme for the 2025 contest is “Artificial Intelligence: Friend or Foe?”

The contest is open to Tri-Valley high school students who will be asked to give 5- to 10-minute speeches.

Students who win during the first two stages of the five-level California Lions Clubs Student Speaker competition will win cash awards.

Winners at the district, area and state championship levels will receive scholarships worth \$4,500, \$6,500 and \$10,000 respectively.

Students will deliver the same speech as they advance.

For more information or to enter the local contest, call 805-405-8742.

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Pleasanton Schools Brace for Budgetary Reserve Shortfall

By Ruth Roberts

The Pleasanton Unified School District (PUSD) board, in a 4-0 vote, unanimously approved the district’s first interim budget report with a qualified certification during its regular meeting on Dec. 12. A qualified certification means that the district may not meet the Alameda County School Board’s requirement to maintain 3% reserves for 2024-’25 and the following two years.

“A qualified certification is a red flag,” said Ahmad Sheikholeslami, the district’s assistant superintendent of business services. “It is telling us that we need to be careful and that we need to make certain changes ... This report is a reflection of

our budget (from the end of October) and it tells us that we may not meet our required 3% reserves. We are estimating we will end the year at 2.94%.”

Sheikholeslami added that the 3% reserve is the minimum required by the county but is far from optimal for a school district.

“A 3% reserve will only sustain a district for 10 working days; beyond that, the district will run out of money,” Sheikholeslami said.

Maintaining only the minimum reserve level falls short of the ideal situation, he added. “Best practices would be 10%.”

Skeikholeslami added that PUSD’s financial situation is due to several factors including declining

enrollment and the loss of one-time funding during the pandemic, plus the rising cost of benefits for retired staff and no school bonds to offset costs.

“Revenues are not keeping up with expenditures and the pandemic dollars helped mask that,” said Skeikholeslami. “As a result, we have been going into savings to balance the budget.”

According to the staff report, the district’s total First Interim General Fund revenue is \$208.7 million, of which \$39.3 million, or 18.8%, is from restricted sources. The district depends heavily on state funding, with the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF)/Property Tax making up 78.6% of the total income.

The district’s total projected General Fund expenditures are \$215.4 million, which is a 6.5% decrease from the previous fiscal year when it peaked at about \$230 million. About 85% of district expenditures are allocated to salaries and benefits. This percentage has increased from prior years due to increases in salaries and medical benefits as well as the spending down of one-time funds. To maintain the minimum 3% reserve, the district will need to make \$5.56 million in reductions in 2025-’26 and another \$222,000 in 2026-’27.

The first interim report is one of two updates to the district’s 2024-’25 Adopted Budget. The board of trustees was required to certify

the budget for the current and two following fiscal years when the budget was adopted in June, and during the two interim reporting periods in December and March. Since June, when the budget was adopted, the state enacted its 2024-’25 budget, PUSD’s financials for the prior fiscal year were closed out and balances carried forward into the current year.

According to district staff, those updates now include changes to beginning balances from the 2023-’24 unaudited actuals (financial reports that summarize a school district’s financial activities for a fiscal year before they are audited) and any carryover funds, staffing costs, increased health benefit costs and expenditures

from Proposition 28 (which provides art and music funding). Updates also include an increase to employees’ estimated cost of living adjustments for 2025-’26, from 2.93% to 2.46%; revisions to the budget based on special education staffing; staffing increases to the district’s transitional kindergarten program, and other reductions if they become necessary for 2025-’26 and 2026-’27.

The board will revisit its adjustments to the budgets in January when Governor Gavin Newsom releases the state’s proposed budget.

To view the entire report, visit bit.ly/3ZGrsXo.

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The Bankhead Theater to Host Last of Holiday Shows

The Livermore Valley Arts (LVA) lineup of holiday shows to end the season at the Bankhead Theater will welcome the klezmer-rock band Mostly Kosher on Monday, Dec. 23, and conclude with Jeff Bordes and

Friends on New Years Eve. Mostly Kosher is a seven-piece klezmer-rock band that fuses ritual Jewish instrumentation with rock ‘n roll.

The show will reflect a history of modern protest

music, tracing the themes of social justice, human dignity and mutual understanding. LVA is also calling the show a “pre-Chanukah Party” with dreidels, gelt, and donut holes for everyone in the audience.

Tickets to the 7:30 p.m. show start at \$25.

Jazz trumpeter Jeff Bordes, a 1997 graduate of the Berklee College of Music in Boston, will take the stage on New Year’s Eve. Bordes is a local favorite, having launched his career as a teenager growing up in Pleasanton. He has been playing since his early years with such esteemed artists as Jon Faddis, Branford Marsalis, Alex Acuna, Giovanni Hidalgo, Tom Petty, Steve Earle, Stevie Nicks, among many others. In addition to performing, Bordes teaches jazz in the Bay Area and is a freelance writer.

Tickets for the 8 p.m. show, “Jeff Bordes and Friends: Swinging in the New Year,” start at \$100.

LVA will also hold a Winter Break Art Camp for kids ages 6 to 15 at the Bothwell Arts Center, 2466 Eighth St., Livermore Dec 30, 31, 2024 and Jan 2 and 3, 2025. 10 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. for \$280. Scholarships are available.

Tickets for all shows and events are available online at livermorearts.org, at the Bankhead box office, or by calling 925-373-6800.



Jazz trumpeter Jeff Bordes will ring in the New Year at the Bankhead Theater on Wednesday, Dec. 31. Tickets for the 8 p.m. show start at \$100. (Photo courtesy of Jeff Bordes)

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EDITORIAL

The Region Is Poised to Become a Center of Innovation

2025 is going to be an auspicious year for the future of our economy. A new administration in Washington, D.C., is promising to upend numerous financial and political systems and structures that we have long depended on. At the same time, Gov. Newsom and the new legislature in Sacramento are looking for ways to safeguard the progress we’ve made on emission reductions, clean technology, transportation, and electrification.

It’s impossible to predict what will happen on the national front, but California is in a prime position to keep moving forward. The Tri-Valley’s new state senator, Jerry McNerney, is going to Sacramento with 16 years of experience crafting policy as a member of Congress. And his fields of expertise — AI development, transportation policy, clean power — are areas of growing capacity in this region.

The twin research powerhouses of Lawrence Livermore National

Laboratory (LLNL) and Sandia National Laboratories showcase projects in many fields: nuclear defense, drug development, artificial intelligence, supercomputers, advanced materials manufacturing, high energy physics, decarbonization, and so on.

But it’s hard to overstate the importance of achieving sustainable fusion power. Fusion is the same process that causes the sun to shine. Capturing that power promises a future of electricity generation without carbon emissions here on Earth. LLNL researchers passed a major milestone for the first time in 2022, once they achieved a reaction that produced more energy than was needed to initiate it.

There are still obstacles to confront, not least of which is the economics of fusion: the costs of producing the fuel pellets and the requisite power to initiate fusion ignition needs to drop by several orders of magnitude to make com-

mercial fusion a reality. We are still a decade away, at least, from affordable fusion power.

The real economic impact of the labs can be measured in their ability to spin off their research to the private sector. Approximately \$7.1 billion has been invested in fusion projects worldwide, most of it in the form of private capital, according to the Fusion Energy Association, a trade group comprising dozens of private companies.

That includes more than \$100 million invested so far in Livermore’s Longview Fusion Energy Systems, which is developing an electricity generating plant based on the same inertial confinement fusion demonstrated successfully at the lab. Founded by a former LLNL project manager, the company hopes to have a commercially viable product available in the 2030s.

But we’re also moving forward as a region on several other

fronts — on hydrogen power, for example: It forms the backbone of the coming Valley Link rail system, connecting the San Joaquin Valley to the Bay Area through the Tri-Valley. McNerney helped shepherd the initial phases of that project through Congress, and U.S. Rep. Mark DeSaulnier, whose district includes Dublin and Contra Costa County, has been continuing that work. DeSaulnier recently obtained a \$3 million appropriation for the Livermore Amador Valley Transportation Authority to build another hydrogen storage tank for emissions-free buses.

The future is always uncertain. But there’s a lot we can do to try to shape that future for the benefit of our region, our state and the world. The Tri-Valley is in a good position to help guide that development. You could even say that the future in the Tri-Valley is bright — as bright as the sun.

MAILBOX

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Santa's Gone Vegan! Lucas Nelson, Livermore

Dear Friends,
This year, I’m embracing the spirit of giving in a new way — I’ve gone vegan! After centuries of milk and cookies, I’ve decided it’s time to swap dairy for creamy oat or almond milk and enjoy plant-based cookies. My decision is about more than snacks. I’m also retiring my reindeer and upgrading to an eco-friendly electric sled to

reduce my carbon footprint and give my hardworking friends the peaceful life they deserve.

Going vegan improves my health, helps fight climate change, and saves thousands of animals each year. It’s a gift to myself, the planet, and all living beings. If I can make this change, anyone can!

This Christmas, I’ll be spreading compassion along with cheer — and I hope you’ll join me in creating a kinder world. It’s easier than ever to go vegan.

Warm wishes for a joyful and compassionate season!

Yours truly,
Ol’ St. Nick

Please Just Stop Bruce Fiedler, Dublin

The day before Thanksgiving, I hurried out early in the morning to see if the sky had fallen. After all, those in opposition to the construction of the Pleasanton Costco had for seven years predicted traffic and pollution and who knows what other calamities if the store was allowed to open. It opened. The sun still shone.

Those in opposition brought lawsuits and there was a public vote, and in the end, there was a new Costco in Pleasanton. One result of the delay was a 50% increase in cost (The Independent, Dec. 12, p.2). Also, Dublin and Pleasanton Costco members had to drive an additional fourteen miles to and from Danville or Livermore for those seven years. Talk about increased traffic!

I suspect that those responsible for the delay might possibly have been the owners of gas stations along Hopyard Road who did not want customers opting for lower-priced Costco gas.

This episode brings to mind another endeavor that has long been approved, but has been delayed, delayed, delayed in much the same manner, but in Livermore. Of course, I refer

to the effort to MOVE the Eden Housing complex to somewhere north of Railroad Avenue — possibly to Martinez?

I have looked for another suitable location that has the same easy access to grocery stores, transportation, and local shops. Absent condemning a block of houses or businesses — a move sure to be opposed by people being turfed out of their homes or livelihood — I don’t think it can happen.

I am a regular reader of the Mailbox, and as far as I can see, not one of the MOVERS has actually identified a better location for this kind of housing, nor discovered the significant additional funds necessary to accomplish such a change. By delaying construction, they have guaranteed that, like Costco, it will cost lots more and possibly eliminate this as a housing choice for that group of people it was designed to serve.

So, MOVERS, you need to come up with a new address and a benevolent contributor to donate all that extra money. But if this is all just a smoke screen and an effort to keep certain persons out of Livermore, then please just stop.

Christmas in Gaza, Palestine, Israel, and the Levant Gregg Scott, Livermore

As America and the West celebrate the joys of Christmas, the horror show of the Israeli genocide and ethnic eradication in Gaza, and the Levant war battles, continue after brutal Hamas attacks on October 7, 2023. Presently, in the conflagration, more than a hundred Palestinian civilians — predominantly women and children — may be killed in Gaza on any single day and northern Gaza hasn’t received any food shipments in more than sixty days. There is little to be cheery about for Palestinians, and little outrage relative to the inhumanity of their treatment, which the United States has supported. Is this in accordance with the teachings of Jesus?

Bethlehem, located in the illegally Israeli occupied West Bank Area A, was the biblical birthplace of Jesus. What would Jesus think about the huge razor wire-topped concrete walls of apartheid, in His place of birth, separating the illegal Israeli settlers from the Palestinians?

Lebanon has been ruthlessly bombed by IDF (Israel Defense Forces). More than 80,000 pounds of explosives were used on a city block to kill the Hezbollah leader Hassah Nasrallah, with essentially no regard for the myriad civilian deaths that occurred. For the most part, Americans could care less. Try to watch a YouTube video of the catastrophe in Gaza, the West Bank, and Lebanon and it will be probably censored from viewing. We are not allowed to see the truth of this death and destruction in the land of free speech and freedom of the press?

Israel will allow no ceasefire in Gaza. If there was, the world couldn’t be stopped from entering and seeing the war criminality of the genocide and ethnic elimination. Already, IDF has killed more than 137 journalists, and imprisoned 43 of them. Those incarcerated join the greater than 10,000 Palestinians that are essentially hostages — some as young as 12-years-old or younger — who can be killed, maimed, tortured, and/or raped in their detainment. The United States, being on the United Nations Security Council, once again recently vetoed a ceasefire in Gaza. The sadistic inhumanity of the killing, wounding, starvation, and denial of other essential needs is beyond words.

“Peace” and “Good Will” ignore the Palestinians, who had nothing to do with the Holocaust, where six million Jews were murdered by Europeans. In 1947-1948, 750,000 Palestinians were forced from their homes, and few of those, including Christian Palestinians, ever returned — even for Christmas.

Responding to Thomas Soules David Jonas, Pleasanton

In a letter to The Independent, Thomas Soules says he’s “very disappointed” that Kristie Wang, his victorious opponent in the D4 City Council race, stated that voters she engaged with while campaigning “expressed a lot of interest in seeing our city move forward with its plan (downtown),” including Eden Housing.

Mr. Soules is disappointed with Ms. Wang because her assertion is at odds with the sentiment Mr. Soules claims voters expressed to him. According to Mr.

Soules, he found “almost unanimous support for moving Eden Housing...”

In other words, Mr. Soules insinuates that Ms. Wang misrepresented what voters told her. He even goes so far as to suggest that Ms. Wang must have campaigned “on a different planet.”

Those who know Ms. Wang give more credence to the possibility that she is an extra-terrestrial than she is lying. Mr. Soules can rest assured that Ms. Wang is entirely of this world and possesses unassailable earthly integrity.

The election outcome offers the ultimate attestation of which candidate’s Eden Housing messaging resonated more sympathetically with D4 voters. To put it kindly, Mr. Soules lost to Ms. Wang by a decisive margin.

Mr. Soules also states that the recent EH court ruling offers “a chance for the new council to listen to the people,” thereby amplifying the oft-repeated, extremely egocentric belief that MEH are “the people,” when in fact they are a few people among many others with opposing views.

Unless, of course, Ms. Wang is being untruthful. Or needs to phone home.

A Long Four Years Ward Kanowsky, Pleasanton

We’re more than a month away from the inauguration and our president-elect and Time Magazine’s Person of the Year is wasting no time in retreating from the signature promise that put him into office: “I’d like to bring them (prices) down. It’s hard to bring things down once they’re up. You know, it’s very hard.” It was just last August, at his New Jersey golf course next to a table of groceries, that our future president vowed, “Prices will come down. They’ll come down and they’ll come down fast.”

Shortly after breaking from his key commitment to the working class voters who got him elected, the next billionaire leader of the free world appeared at the opening bell of the New York Stock Exchange where he promised Wall Street that he would cut corporate taxes, again, from 21% to 15%. (He cut them from 35% in his first term.) And just to remind everyone — the first tax cut did not trickle down to workers and their families. It went into the pockets of wealthy stockholders and

company executives. So when the hedge fund manager who was at the bell ringing ceremony says the new tax cut will raise wages and increase job growth, I would urge skepticism.

Donald Trump, our next president, sticking it to the working class while lifting up big corporations and his billionaire buddies. Sound familiar? He’s just getting started and he hasn’t even stepped foot into the Oval Office yet. It’s going to be a long four years.

Doesn’t the Election Count? Steve Goods, Livermore

I read with some perplexity Mr. Soules letter in the Independent (Dec. 12, 2024) where he bemoans the position of the new District 4 Council member with respect to downtown development. He suggested that Kristie Wang “must have engaged folks on a different planet” than he did.

No, Mr. Soules, she walked the neighborhoods just like you and engaged District 4 residents such as myself. I attended two of her outreach meetings and most all of the many dozens of people who were present expressed either outright support for the City’s ongoing efforts to complete the downtown plans or at least to get on with it and to be done with the unending legal roadblocks thrown up by a handful of deep-pocketed individuals who hide behind (and fund) an ever-increasing number of three letter “citizens groups” that recycle the same tired issues.

Mr. Soules, you lost the District 4 seat by 23 percentage points. Does that not suggest something to you about how the district residents actually feel about the principal issue you ran on?

Japanese Atomic Bombing Survivors Group Wins Nobel Peace Prize Dasha Orel, Livermore

Dec. 10 was Human Rights Day, and Livermore-based Tri-Valley CAREs would like to publicly congratulate the Nihon Hidankyo, a Hibakusha group, who was awarded this year’s Nobel Peace Prize in October by the Norwegian Nobel Committee.

This is especially significant to our local community: Tri-Valley CAREs has been organizing an annual commemoration for

(See MAILBOX, page 5)

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EVENT CENTER

(Continued from front page)



Visit Tri-Valley has proposed building a 5,000-seat event center to draw in major sporting events, and also serve as an arts and culture hub for the Tri-Valley. The group plans to build the facility in Dublin. (Image courtesy of Visit Tri-Valley)

will host high-profile sports tournaments, entertainment events and corporate gatherings, as well as retail and community-gathering opportunities.

“We are thrilled that Visit Tri-Valley has chosen Dublin as the future home of their state-of-the-art Multi-Use Event Center,” Michael McCorriston, Dublin’s mayor, said in a statement. “This facility will not only enhance our city’s standing as a premier destination for sports, entertainment, and

corporate events, but also bring significant economic benefits to local businesses and communities throughout the entire Tri-Valley. We look forward to seeing this vision come to life and welcoming visitors from near and far.”

The cost of the project and how it will be paid for are yet to be determined, said Farhad, who added that the funding of the project will be a collaborative effort among stakeholders and is set to be announced during

the third phase of the project. Phases 1 and 2, which are now completed, were expected to be presented to the Dublin City Council on Tuesday, Dec. 17, after this article’s deadline.

Phase 1 includes the feasibility study and market research plan drawn up by a 22-member steering committee and including more than 100 interviews as part of the project’s 5-Year Destination Strategic Plan. Phase 2 offers a rough estimate of the costs

of the project, and details on all potential site locations that had been under consideration.

Dublin Mayor-elect Sherry Hu praised the plans for the proposed center and the opportunities it will offer Dublin and the Tri-Valley.

“Thanks to Visit Tri-Valley for their incredible outreach work for the region,” Hu said. “This project will bring more activities for our residents, exciting events, new visitors, and fantastic opportunities for local businesses. Together, we’re taking Dublin to the next level. As the new mayor, I’m thrilled to partner with Visit Tri-Valley to turn this vision into a reality.”

In the coming weeks, MTV will be pursuing a Memorandum of Understanding with the City of Dublin in collaboration with Alameda County.

For more information, visit bit.ly/4fgfw4s.

MAILBOX

(Continued from page 4)

the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki for the past 30 years at the gates of the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. This event is upheld in order to keep the lessons of the past alive in our neighborhoods, and to pay respects for those who have suffered. At the Laboratory, nuclear weapons are actively being developed; the very same that Nihon Hidankyo says pose a danger by their very existence.

This long overdue prize commemorates the Hibakusha for their decades-long effort towards peace, and a nuclear-free world. With the increase of nuclear arsenals across the globe, many of the Hibakusha — some well in their 90s — fear that their histories may be lost to time. This Nobel Peace Prize, given 79 years since the initial bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki took place, serves as a reminder of the Second

World War, and the visceral, gut-wrenching reality that Japan experienced.

“I am infinitely saddened and angered that the ‘nuclear taboo’ threatens to be broken,” noted Tanaka, one of three chairpersons of Hidankyo, referring to the thousands of ready-to-launch warheads. Under the guise of keeping peace and earning global recognition, many countries — including the United States — have been actively preparing and stockpiling nuclear weapons.

A budget for over \$125 billion has been funneled into America’s latest weapons project: the Sentinel. This plan, which consists of revamping all 450 ICBMs belonging to Minuteman III, is presumed to be near completion in 2030. While the Nihon Hidankyo warn us about the dangers of nuclear arsenals, our country is simultaneously outlining fresh plans to increase the stockpile.

Boosters to Hold Its 16th Annual Fundraising Race to the Flagpole

The Livermore-Granada Boosters, a nonprofit organization that supports athletic programs at Livermore and Granada high schools, will host the 16th annual Race to the Flagpole on Saturday, Jan. 25.

The annual fundraiser will include a 5K run/walk, a 10K run, and a 1-mile fun run through the 850-acre Sycamore Grove

Park in Livermore.

The event is open to runners and walkers of all ages and ability and features an opening ceremony with the VFW Post 7265 color guard at Independence Park, just north of Sycamore Grove. Check-in for runners and walkers at Independence Park is 6:45 a.m., with the 10K run starting off at 8:45 a.m., the 5K run/walk at

9 a.m., and the fun run at 10:15 a.m.

All participants will receive a commemorative T-shirt, medal and post-race refreshments. This year’s shirt design features a tribute to Livermorium, the element discovered at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory.

To register, go to livermoregranadaboosters.org.

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Season of Light: Dublin High School invited the community to the lighting of its 70-foot-tall sequoia tree on the school grounds on Wednesday, Dec. 11. A student group also organized a ceremony welcoming the Lunar New Year for the Asian student body. (Photo — Doug Jorgensen)

Editor of a Local Art Association Newsletter Retiring after 38 Years

Norma Webb is stepping down after 38 years as editor of *The Portfolio*, a local arts newsletter published by the Livermore Art Association (LAA) and Pleasanton Art League.

An artist herself, Webb is known for her paintings of Livermore Valley’s rolling hills and lush landscapes, several of which are on display at the Livermore Art Association Gallery in the Carnegie Building.

She also co-founded the LAA’s annual outdoor painting event, “Paint Livermore.”

This month will be her last newsletter.

Children’s Theater to Present Matinee Fairy Tale Musical Revue at Firehouse

Audience members are encouraged to wear their favorite ugly sweaters and over-the-top holiday attire for a matinee showing of the musical revue “Once Upon a Time Step” at the Firehouse Arts Center in Pleasanton on Sunday, Dec. 22.

The film, featuring song and dance numbers from “Cinderella,” “Aladdin and the Lamp,” “That’s Our Snow White,” “and “Jack and the Beanstalk,” will be followed by a live show with Santa and his elves presented by the East Bay Children’s Theater.

Tickets to the 2 p.m. presentation are \$23 for adults and \$17 for children 12 and under. Tickets are available online at firehousearts.org.

The film and stage show will last about 60 minutes. There will also be a prize for the ugliest sweater.

MCNERNEY

(Continued from front page)

erated pace of AI development. As of 2024, at least 40 bills have been proposed in Congress addressing various facets of AI. While in the U.S. House of Representatives, McNerney was the co-chair of the Congressional AI Caucus and co-sponsored the AI in Government Act of 2020, which was incorporated into the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 and signed into law by President Joe Biden. The legislation authorized the creation of an “AI Center of Excellence” within the U.S. General Services Administration to help adopt AI technology and develop competency and cohesion among other government agencies.

McNerney acknowledges the disruptive nature of any new technology, and that legislators will need to work to mitigate possible harmful outcomes. “I don’t want to see AI causing people to lose their jobs and massive dislocations,” he added. “I want to make sure that when AI is used that there are humans involved, so to speak.”

Related to AI is the presence of Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) and Sandia National Laboratories in McNerney’s district.

“They have a tremendous amount of expertise in technology, AI especially,” he said. “So what I want to see happen is that kind of technology spin off into research and jobs created in our region.”

Fusion Power Generation

McNerney also sees a huge opportunity in fusion. LLNL achieved worldwide recognition in 2022 for achieving fusion ignition — getting more energy out of a fusion reaction than was put into it. The technique developed at LLNL is known as inertial confinement fusion; the researchers fire high-powered lasers at a tiny spherical fuel pellet, which forces the hydrogen atoms to fuse together into heavier elements and release energy.

As of 2024, 45 companies around the world are developing various technologies for fusion power generation, according to the Fusion Energy Association. That includes Longview Fusion Energy Systems in Livermore, which is building on the inertial confinement technology developed at LLNL. The industry has attracted at least \$7.1 billion in investments, with most of that coming from the private sector.

According to McNerney, “These guys are sniffing an opportunity to make a good business in a good industry,” he said, noting that Sam Altman, the founder of OpenAI, has invested half a billion dollars of his own money in fusion power.

At a recent conference on fusion power in San Diego that McNerney organized, he noted there was a lot of excitement about the progress being made in fusion, despite the engineering and economic challenges that come with the new technology. “I want to see California become the fusion energy capital of the country,” he said.



Jerry McNerney

Water Agencies Host Conservation Art Contest for Tri-Valley Students

Several local water agencies are sponsoring the first-ever Water Conservation Art Contest for students in kindergarten through high school.

The contest is sponsored by the Zone 7 Water Agency, California Water Service, Dublin San Ramon Services District, and the cities of Livermore and Pleasanton.

It is open to students living in or attending a school in Livermore, Dublin, Pleasanton, or the Dougherty Valley area of San Ramon.

The theme for the inaugural competition is “Habitat Heroes: Transforming Lawns into Vibrant Native Gardens.”

Organizers encouraged students to let their imagination “go wild” by creating artwork “showcasing how replacing thirsty lawns with California native plants can conserve water, support biodiversity, and build healthier habitats.”

“This contest empowers students to use their creativity to inspire change in our community,” said Zone 7 General Manager Valerie Pryor. “By creating art that showcases the beauty and benefits of native gardens, students will help inspire families to consider replacing their lawns with sustainable habitats that conserve water and support local wildlife, encouraging a deeper connection to the environment, and a lasting impact on water conservation.”

Students can submit visual artwork of any form, according to contest organizers, including painting, drawing, ceramics or sculpture, digital illustration, video or animation, and photography. Entries must be no larger than 24 inches square.

The deadline to submit entries is March 3.

In April, members of the Tri-Valley community will have an opportunity to vote for a grand prize winner from among contest finalists. The grand prize winner will receive an iPad.

All finalists’ artwork will be on display at public locations throughout the Tri-Valley in May for “Water Awareness Month.”

The Water Conservation Art Contest began as a collaboration between Livermore and California Water Service. This is the first year the contest has been expanded to encompass the entire Tri-Valley area.

For more information, go to <https://bit.ly/3VHNtNC>.



Last year’s winning art was created by Annapoorani Amarnath at Mendenhall Middle School. (Photo courtesy of Zone 7 Water Agency)

Electrification and Water Resource Preservation

Part of the reason why fusion power is generating so much excitement is that Californians are using more and more electricity, and the demand is only going to increase. Fusion power may be 10 years away before it can be successfully commercialized, but McNerney also sees potential in tapping offshore wind power on the West Coast, which will likely roll out more quickly than fusion. Other opportunities are emerging with innovative storage technology to help smooth over the demand peaks and troughs in the electrical grid.

In addition to more electricity, McNerney said we need to focus on providing more water for communities, agriculture and business. It’s expensive to expand reservoirs or build more pipelines and storage tanks, and it’s not clear who would be willing to foot a bill in the tens of billions of dollars. He is optimistic about solving the problem, because the subterranean geology of the San Joaquin Valley has the potential to store 1 million acre-feet of groundwater.

Coupled with more research on desalinization, and developing more efficiency in water usage, he believes we will eventually solve the region’s water issues.

“I think if we go down that path, and (develop more) water use efficiency, that we will have enough water. But in the meantime, we need to figure out how to get past the next five years. And that’s a challenge,” he said.

Tapping Into Regional Strengths

McNerney also hopes to see the Valley Link hydrogen-powered train service completed, preferably during his first term in Sacramento, to connect San Joaquin County to the rest of the Bay Area through the Tri-Valley. As a member of Congress, he helped secure funding for the initial phases of the project, and he hopes that the project will be maintained.

“But if the federal government cuts off funding for that kind of thing, then how are we going to manage to move forward?” he asked.

Gov. Gavin Newsom and the legislature are preparing for that, even if it’s still unknown to what extent the state will need to make up for federal cuts.

“I can tell you that people don’t want to see California be hampered by lack of federal support on these projects,” McNerney said. Given the region’s wealth of intellectual and financial resources, McNerney sees the challenge of how to use those assets to solve the major problems facing us today, rising demand for electricity and water, but also larger issues like homelessness and climate change.

“I think we can make a difference in the relatively short term here, but also the long term,” he said. “Those are big challenges, and I think we can get some real progress on things.”

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Umoja Foundation Honors Las Positas College Program Leader

The Umoja Community Education Foundation has awarded Savannah Richardson, campus program coordinator at Las Positas College (LPC), the Program of the Year Award for 2024.

The Umoja program provides tutors and faculty support to ensure that African American students at the community college complete required courses to transfer to a historically Black four-year college or university (HBCU) within one year or transfer to a California college or university in two years.

The Sacramento-based foundation's Program of the Year Award honors a campus coordinator who demonstrates exceptional leadership and service in advancing enrollment and community engagement within their program, according to LPC. There are Umoja programs at more than 70 community colleges in the state.

Umoja is the Swahili word for "unity."

Richardson, who grew up in Livermore, earned her high school diploma through the San Ramon-based Venture Independent Studies program before enrolling at Las Positas.

She earned a bachelor's degree in sociology in 2019 after transferring to the University of California, Riverside, where she was also a student Umoja ambassador and secretary for the Umoja club. After graduating, she stayed on as an admissions counselor for the school's Black/African American Recruitment Unit and served as secretary for Riverside's Black Alumni Chapter.

Richardson describes returning to LPC earlier this year as coordinator for the school's Black Cultural Resource Center and the Umoja

program as a "full-circle moment."

"Being able to lead and support in the space that I was advocating for more than five years ago is an incredible honor," Richardson said.

Jeanne Wilson, LPC vice president of student services, said Richardson's "dedication to fostering a welcoming, supportive environment for Black students is truly inspiring. Her leadership and passion exemplify what it means to nurture a community that empowers students to thrive."



Livermore native Savannah Richardson receives the Umoja Program of the Year Award for leadership. (Photo courtesy of Las Positas College)

DESAULNIER

(Continued from front page)

So let's figure out how we maintain our respect for not just our differences, but more importantly, the people who sent us here, who are a reflection of those differences," DeSaulnier said. "In that context, you can do things."

A member of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, DeSaulnier said he will continue to work to bring federal funding to the Tri-Valley for transit and other projects. In October, he delivered a check for more than \$3 million to the Livermore Amador Valley Transit Authority (LAVTA) for an extra hydrogen fueling tank to support the authority's zero-emission buses.

DeSaulnier also presented a nearly \$200,000 check in October to Dublin officials to pay for security cameras around parks and schools.

He said he will continue to work to bring federal dollars to the Tri-Valley for the Valley Link train system to connect the San Joaquin Valley to the Bay Area. He called the Transportation and Infrastructure committee one of the least partisan in the House.

During President Trump's first term, when the president had control of both houses of Congress, his administration tried to punish urban areas and redirect transportation funding to rural locations. DeSaulnier said he hopes that does not happen again.

"I'm concerned that there might be more of that, but in the long run, on transportation project infrastructure, I have a very good relationship with the current chair of the committee, (Missouri Republican) Sam Graves," he said. "So, I'm hopeful. But I'm also aware that we went through some things that were not so bipartisan the last time we had this situation, where they had control of both houses and the White House. Having said that, we did work through a lot of those things, Republicans and Democrats."

DeSaulnier said Republicans "would be foolish" to make the transit connection between the San Joaquin Valley and Bay Area a partisan issue, because it will benefit residents in both Democratic and Republican-leaning districts on both sides of the Altamont Pass.

"The more we can connect the urban areas with the valley, the better it is for people who have been forced out of high-cost housing areas into the valley," the congressman

said. "So my expectation is that they would not cut any funding for transit and transportation in places like the Altamont Pass."

Following redistricting in 2020, DeSaulnier's primarily Contra Costa County district absorbed a significant portion of Dublin. That meant he inherited FCI Dublin, the women's federal prison scarred by staff sexual abuse of inmates that resulted in eight criminal prosecutions. In April, the Federal Bureau of Prisons closed the facility and transferred its 605 inmates to other institutions around the country. This month, the bureau announced the prison will not reopen. A class-action lawsuit filed against the government ended with a settlement last week that hopes to protect the former inmates of FCI Dublin wherever they are in the U.S.

The consent decree must still be approved by a federal judge. The agreement will allow the former inmates a court-appointed monitor, attorneys, and counselors to monitor and report instances



Mark DeSaulnier

of abuse, restore early release credits lost when the inmates were transferred, limit the use of solitary confinement as a punishment for minor disciplinary charges, and release as many inmates to halfway houses or home confinement as soon as possible, so they will be closer to their families.

DeSaulnier, who called for investigations of FCI Dublin's sudden closure, which resulted in turmoil for many inmates, said that he will continue to monitor the Bureau of Prisons. DeSaulnier said he was concerned that bureau officials moved inmates out of the Bay Area to institutions in rural communities without strong media presence and oversight. He said he suspects the problems at FCI Dublin are endemic within the federal prison system.

"I think probably the Bureau of Prisons realized that it's easier to run a horrible facility in places where they don't have good press, a very active ACLU and other nonprofits trying to protect people's rights and bringing

lawsuits," he said. "What happened in that facility is unconscionable, and my fear is that it continues to happen, and maybe similar or worse, in other places in the country. So, there's a group of us that are going to stay on it. I wish we could get some Republican support, because we don't have any right now."

DeSaulnier said he believes his party is ready to fight for its policies, but it has to "do something different this time." He said, "There doesn't seem to be the resistance model this time, as it was the first time (Trump) got elected."

"I'd rather serve in a more pleasant time," DeSaulnier said. "But the country's gone through phases like this, and people of good conscience in Congress and around the country (with) different political perspectives (have) stuck to it and respected one another."

He added that Democrats need to talk to working people and not patronize them or take them for granted.

"I'm not going to attempt to do it. I'm going to do it," he said. "I'm just going to get a group of people who have lots of labor experience and working roots to go around the country and just listen. Go to union halls in Ohio and Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, and just say, 'OK, we're just here to listen. Where did we screw up? How do we get you back?' Because if the American working class is not feeling empowered and positive, our country doesn't work."

AVQ Donates 800 Quilts

For the second year in a row, Amador Valley Quilters (AVQ) has donated more than 800 handmade quilts to Bay Area nonprofit organizations.

AVQ members celebrated their achievement at their annual Holiday Tea on Saturday, Dec. 14, which included a display of many of the quilts and comments from the nonprofit recipients.

Sixteen organizations received quilts this year, according to AVQ,

including Building Futures with Women and Children, Eden Hospital, Family Emergency Shelter Coalition, Highland Hospital, Livermore Police Giving Tree Program, Livermore Horizons, Pleasanton Police, Loved Twice, Shepherd's Gate, Sleep in Heavenly Peace, Stanford Valley Care Hospital, Tri-Valley Haven, Agape Villages, Native American Cultural Center, Pacifica Senior Living and White Pony Express.

SUBETADEX

(Continued from front page)

in the body for only about two hours — the patient could still succumb to the fentanyl in their system when the naloxone wears off. Fentanyl stays in the body for between two and four hours.

Subutex might also be effective to treat exposure to other synthetic opioids, especially carfentanil, the researchers state.

Up until 2023, LLNL was provided financial support for the drug's development from Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA). DTRA is a defense and combat support agency within the U.S. Department of Defense focused on countering weapons of mass destruction. Often the Defense Department will support research or programs in other governmental agencies that might have military applications.

LLNL has patented the drug, but it will still need to go to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for approval.

After a new drug application is approved, it usually takes about four to five years for the drug to reach the market.

"(The timeline for) this might be shorter. It is a drug for an acute treatment and not for a chronic one," said Valdez.

LLNL has not identified any toxic or adverse effects for subutex use yet. Valdez said rapid rollout and use would easily be achievable.

"It is quick to manufacture and can be done in a large-scale production, as the ingredients are cheap and commercially available," said Valdez.

How Subutex Works

Subutex is a host molecule shaped like a donut. It traps guests, or smaller molecules like fentanyl, inside itself and keeps the opioid out of the bloodstream. To avoid becoming sick, a person must have a higher concentration of subutex than fentanyl in their blood. The body gets rid of the subutex-fentanyl pair through urination.

Subutex has to be administered as an injectable drug, which would require additional training to those assisting victims of exposure. In contrast, naloxone can be administered as either a nasal spray or an injectable drug.

Valdez said subutex

caused no adverse effects a day after treatment in animal testing.

The Lab's Project Goals

LLNL wanted to discover a more effective treatment than naloxone and develop that substance into a drug for medical personnel and law enforcement officers dealing with opioid overdose cases.

Subutex may come to market faster than the usual route. It is similar to an existing drug called sugammadex, which is sold by Merck under the brand name Bridion and used to counter some effects of medical anesthesia. The lab's initial toxicity studies show subutex's safety level is similar to that of sugammadex.

At present, LLNL does not envision subutex as a tool for long-term addiction management, nor as a

treatment for individuals who are regularly exposed to opioids.

"(Subutex is) more of an acute-type treatment than a chronic-type treatment," Valdez said. "I would think the guidelines, especially from the FDA, would be very different in both cases. (For long term use), you would (be) taking any side effects, as minimal as they are, into serious consideration."

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Livermore Sanitation

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Holiday Service Schedule
CHRISTMAS WEEK & NEW YEAR'S DAY
WEEK: If your regular collection day is **Wednesday, Thursday, or Friday**, your service will be one day later.

DECEMBER 23 - 28, 2024					
If your collection day is:	Mon. 23	Tues. 24	Wed. 25	Thu. 26	Fri. 27
Your Holiday collection day will be:	Mon. 23	Tues. 24	Thu. 26	Fri. 27	Sat. 28

DEC 30 - JAN 4, 2025					
If your collection day is:	Mon. 30	Tues. 31	Wed. 1	Thu. 2	Fri. 3
Your Holiday collection day will be:	Mon. 30	Tues. 31	Thu. 2	Fri. 3	Sat. 4

Holiday Tree Collection
Livermore Sanitation will collect trees from January 6-17, 2025.

PLEASE REMEMBER:

- Put your tree at the curb by 6am on your regular service day during the dates listed above.
- Make sure the stand, lights and decorations have been removed.
- Cut tall trees into pieces no longer than six feet.
- NOTE:** Flocked trees cannot be composted. Please contact us for disposal options.

CALL OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION
925-449-7300 www.LivermoreSanitation.com

Harvest Park Middle School Honored for Special Education

By Ruth Roberts

Harvest Park Middle School in Pleasanton has received top honors for its innovative and inclusive approach to special education.

The Golden Bell Award, an annual award presented by the California School Board Association, recognized Harvest Park for its transformative program which fosters equity, inclusion and academic success for students with Individualized Education Plans (IEPs). An IEP is a specialized plan for students with disabilities.

“When a student comes to Harvest Park, we want

them to feel safe and inspired, which requires trust,” said Russell Campisi, Harvest Park’s principal. “Our families have to believe that we are advocating for them from a position of high expectations and care. This entails that more students, who receive special education services and support, would be in general education settings at higher rates, experience improved academic outcomes, and have greater connectivity to students and staff.”

The program, three years in the making, was a collaborative effort among teachers, administrators, district personnel and fam-

ilies who played an integral role in the program’s success. Renovated special day classrooms, advanced professional development for staff and personalized support for students created a learning environment of inclusion and support, which increased the ability of IEP students to work alongside their general education peers in the least restrictive environment.

The school’s inclusive practices have led to a dramatic improvement in long-term student outcomes, including increased opportunities for students to fulfill A-G requirements as they transition to high school. A-G courses com-

prise 15 classes necessary for college admission.

Meeting A-G requirements and high school graduation requirements are two separate achievements. In many California high schools, students don’t need to complete the A-G requirements to receive a high school diploma. But for those who do take the A-G courses, said Anaité Letona, program supervisor for the Pleasanton Unified School District (PUSD), the process for attending California colleges or universities is streamlined and better positions college-bound students for acceptance.

“When students with

disabilities take classes that are self-contained courses, meaning only students with IEPs are in the class, those classes are not transferable to a four-year university, and it takes them off the A-G track unless they take classes in summer school that are A-G eligible,” Letona added. “The self-contained classes can be used for diploma credit and a community college transfer, but students who want all options available to them may not have them when some or all of their classes are self-contained.”

According to PUSD staff, this year nearly 90% of 6th-grade students with

IEPs at Harvest Park are learning in general education settings for the majority of their day, which includes access to electives and extracurricular activities.

“We are incredibly proud of our entire Harvest Park community for their dedication and hard work that led to this statewide honor,” said Maurice Ghysels, PUSD interim superintendent. “Fostering a culture and learning environments where each of our students belongs with equal access to opportunity is paramount to PUSD and we are grateful to Harvest Park for their leadership in making this possible.”

ADOPTION

(Continued from front page)

\$150 to \$175 for each kid,” Mendoza said. Back then, only the varsity and junior varsity soccer girls participated.

On Sunday, Dec. 15, Mendoza and 60 kids from LHS Athletics descended on the Target store in Livermore for a shopping spree.

“This year I’ve taken on my biggest challenge,” she said. The program now has triple the number of participants it had at its inception. The girls varsity and JV flag football teams; girls frosh, JV and varsity soccer teams; as well as the boys varsity and JV basketball teams shopped together en masse for five children in three Livermore families.

The students had a budget of \$250-\$300 per child, and after the shopping trip, ended the evening hand-wrapping their selected gifts back at Livermore High.

Mendoza said that the purchases would include one outfit, a warm coat and some non-perishable food items for the family, plus some more fun items from wish lists provided by the children.

“These kids don’t ask for a lot. I mean their lists are super-simple,” Mendoza said. “So we just kind of know their likes and then go from there and try to build them up.”

The five kids on this year’s list range in age from 11-16 years old.

LHS varsity flag football player and team captain Elizabeth Ezell, looked over the wish list before heading to the store. “I felt like I was a kid again. And knowing that I could give another kid, who maybe can’t get that, is super fun.”

Mendoza read aloud,

“The 16-year-old wants a pink digital camera. She says she loves the color pink. One of the 11-year-old girls says she likes everything Hello Kitty. Oh, this will be fun to shop for — one of the boys is into Marvel.” That list included Venom action figures, a Venom 3D hoodie, and anime characters.

“It’s a lot of fun,” Mendoza said, “but sometimes teaching is a tough profession. But when you get to do things like this...” She paused before continuing: “I always say if you can impact one kid in your class (you) know that you made a difference. And now our student athletes are going to impact five kids outside of school.”

“I think that’s pretty fun for them and hopefully teaches them a little bit of a

life lesson too,” she added. “Think about others, be

kind and grateful for what you have. Clearly these are

situations where kids don’t have a lot.”



Aletheia Lollis (left) and Ella Abey were two of several Livermore High School athletes who took part in the Adopt-a-Family program, relaunched this year after a four-year hiatus. (Photo — Doug Jorgensen)

The City Shifts Oversight Of Livermore Airport

Livermore has transferred oversight of the Livermore Municipal Airport from the Public Works Department to the Innovation & Economic Development Department (IEDD).

With the reorganization, IEDD will “explore new strategies to enhance the airport’s role as a unique economic development asset, with a focus on business development and revenue generation while addressing community concerns related to aircraft noise and leaded fuel,” according to a news release.

The Public Works Department will continue to concentrate on its core responsibilities, including water and wastewater service delivery, environmental services, maintenance and asset management, according to the city. “We are confident this realignment will strengthen our service delivery and our economic development efforts while continuing to address community concerns related to aircraft noise and transition to clean fuel,” said City Manager Marianna Marysheva.

Library Offers Free Basic Computer Skills Help

Starting Jan. 7, the Livermore Civic Center Library, 1188 S. Livermore Ave., will offer free basic tech help for adults from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. on Tuesdays.

A volunteer will be available to help with basic computer skills, including

uploading and downloading files, creating an email account, using Microsoft Office and Google suites, and basic internet searching and browsing.

This is a drop-in program and registration is not required.



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TRI-VALLEY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Now through Dec. 24
LOCAL 55 TOY DRIVE FOR UNDERPRIVILEGED CHILDREN
The Alameda County Fire Department's Local 55 is collecting new, unwrapped toys for underprivileged children this season. Gifts can be dropped off at several locations in Dublin through December 24: Station #16 — 7494 Donohue Dr.; Station #17 — 6200 Madigan Rd.; Station #18 — 4800 Fallon Rd.; Alameda County Fire Department Administration Offices — 6363 Clark Ave.

Now through Dec. 30
TRI-VALLEY TRAVELING ARTISTS EXHIBIT
Local artists (TVTA — Tri Valley Traveling Artists) are displaying their work at the Livermore Community Library at 1188 Livermore Ave. This show features a variety of media and scenes through the eyes of the artists as they travel both locally and far and wide. Mon.-Thurs. 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Fri. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Sat 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sun. 12 to 6 p.m.

Thursday, Dec. 19
FIBER FRIENDS
On the third Thursday of the month at 7 p.m., the Livermore Public Library will host Fiber Friends at the Civic Center Library, Community Rooms A & B. Participants are encouraged to chat with fellow crafters and work on their craft projects, knitting, sewing, crochet, cross-stitch, etc. Fiber Friends is geared towards adults. For more information, please call 925-373-5505, or visit the library's website at library.livermoreca.gov.

Thursdays, Dec. 19 | Jan. 16
MOBILE MEDICAL OUTREACH UNIT VISIT
The VA Palo Alto Health Care System's Mobile Medical Outreach Unit will be at the Civic Center Library parking lot, located at 1188 S. Livermore Ave., from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the third Thursday of every month. Medical providers will offer examinations, consultations, and referrals to veterans. Veterans who are not enrolled or are uncertain about eligibility for health services can visit the outreach team for help with their questions. Veterans can also apply for VA Health Care online by visiting www.va.gov/health-care/apply/application/introduction. For additional program information, call 925-373-5500, visit library.livermoreca.gov.

Saturday, Dec. 21
HANUKKAH PARTY
Join the Tri-Valley Cultural Jews' Hanukkah Celebration on Dec. 21 at 5 p.m. in Pleasanton. Celebrate the festival of light with crafts and games, candle lighting, and potato pancakes called latkes for all! Please bring your favorite latke topping and a dish to share. See www.trivalleyculturaljews.org, or contact culturaljews@gmail.com or 925-399-8029 with any questions. Free to members, suggested \$15 donation per non-member adult if you are able. TVCJ is an accepting, welcoming, diverse community affiliated with CSJO.

Saturday, Dec. 28
BLUES PERFORMER CHRIS CAIN
Guitar virtuoso, vocalist and songwriter Chris Cain will perform live at the Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Blvd., Pleasanton, on Dec. 28, at 7 p.m. Cain, once known as “one of the greatest guitarists you’ve never heard,” is now celebrated by fans and fellow musicians alike as being among the blues’ most talented and exciting players. Tickets are \$33. See www.firehousearts.org for more info.

Monday-Friday, Dec. 30 through Jan. 3 (no class Jan. 1)
WINTER BREAK ART CAMP
Livermore Valley Arts will hold a Winter Break Art Camp for kids ages 6 to 15 at the Bothwell Arts Center, 2466 Eighth St., Livermore, on Dec. 30, 31, 2024 and Jan. 2 and 3, 2025 from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

for \$280. Bothwell will provide all of the art materials and a snack in the morning and the afternoon. Scholarships are available. Go to livermorearts.org/event-calendar for more info.

Thursdays, Jan. 9 | Jan. 16
SQUARE DANCING WITH CACTUS CORNERS
Cactus Corners is a nonprofit offering free introductory square-dancing lessons to new dancers on Jan. 9 and Jan. 16 from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Anyone age 8 and up is invited (younger ages considered based on maturity). This is a great activity for the entire family to have fun and make new friends! At the Sunrise Mobile Home Park Clubhouse, 856 Sundial Circle, Livermore (in Springtown). For more information and to be placed on the class notification list, email Margaret at mmiller1435@gmail.com or call 925-447-6980.

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

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

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

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

Dublin Police Assign Extra DUI, Foot Patrols for Holiday Season

Dublin will assign additional police patrols to heavily trafficked commercial areas to reduce crime during the holiday season.

Dublin police said the Holiday Crime Suppression Details would include officers on foot and bike patrol, along with marked and unmarked vehicles.

There will also be an added emphasis on driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs,

according to the police. Dublin police are also encouraging shoppers to lock their cars, not leave packages or shopping bags in plain sight, and park in well-lit areas. Women should carry purses under their arms and men should carry wallets in an inside coat pocket or front pants pocket.

Shoppers should also be cautious about strangers who may approach them, and to

have their car keys in hand when they return to their cars, according to the police. They should also always check to be sure no one is hiding inside before getting into their cars.

Suspicious activity, including potential “porch pirates” stealing delivered packages, should be reported to the police department by calling either 9-1-1 or the non-emergency number, 925-462-1212.

Restrooms Installed at Sycamore Grove Picnic Area

The Livermore Area Recreation and Park District (LARPD) has installed two new restrooms at the Sycamore Grove Ranger Station Picnic Area near the Arroyo Road entrance.

The area in the Veterans Park section of Sycamore Grove is used for the LARPD’s Summer Nature Camp and several outdoor classroom programs.

“These restrooms will be an added convenience for the participants in our environmental education programs, which serve over 3,300 people annually,” said Recreation Supervisor Joseph Benjamin. “They’ll also support the many ranger-led weekend programs that take place throughout the year.”

Benjamin said the picnic area also hosts small group rentals, including birthday parties, scout groups, and school events.

“The new restrooms give us opportunities to explore ideas and programs that weren’t realistic before,” Benjamin said. “Making the picnic area at the ranger station an even more appealing destination for education, recreation and special events.”

OBITUARIES

Ruth Curtis Bauman April 10, 1933 – Nov. 26, 2024

Ruth Curtis Bauman, 91, of Livermore, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, Nov. 26, 2024. The youngest of Carl and Mollie (Tension) Curtis’ three children, Ruth was born on April 10, 1933, in Mt. Vernon, Indiana.

Along with her parents, she grew up on the family farm in rural Mt. Vernon with her brother Holbert and sister Miriam. Her family also had an orchard, The Curtis Orchard, locally known for their delicious apples and peaches.

While attending Mt. Vernon High School, Ruth met Jim Bauman, a multi-sport athlete. They began dating and after they both graduated from Mt. Vernon High School in 1951, they were married in November of 1952. Ruth furthered her education, and graduated from Lockyear Business College in Evansville, Indiana.

Ruth worked at the Fuhrer-Ford Milling Company in Mt. Vernon until Jim was drafted into the Army during the Korean War. He was stationed at Camp Atterbury, Indiana, and then transferred to Fort Carson in Colorado.

After serving in the



Army, Ruth and Jim lived in Chicago, Illinois, and Fort Worth, Texas, before moving to Livermore in 1960. Ruth and Jim both worked at Sandia National Laboratories, Ruth as an Administrative Assistant and Jim in the Weapons Subsystem Division. Ruth stepped away from the workforce when their son, Kurt, was born.

Ruth loved animals, especially cats, and except for a short period of time, she always had a cat or two to take care of. She also was a skilled gardener and had many beautiful rose bushes that she was proud of.

Exercising was important to Ruth, and she went to the gym regularly up until the last few years. She continued to walk regularly at her favorite place, Sycamore Grove Park, until April of 2023.

Ruth and Jim loved to travel, especially to Hawaii. They made many trips there over the years, with their favorite islands being Kauai, Maui, and the “Big Island” of Hawaii.

She is survived by her nephew, Stephen Baker, his wife, Cindy, and her great niece Hayden, and great nephew Parker, all of Columbia City, Indiana, and great nephew Nathan (Kaitlyn) Baker, of Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Additionally, Ruth was preceded in death by her husband, Jim Bauman, and son, Kurt Bauman, whom she loved deeply. She was also preceded in death by her sister Miriam Baker, and brother Holbert Curtis.

A special thanks to Patty O’Leary, the staff at A New Haven Care Home—Hampton Place, and the staff of Hope Hospice for the exceptional loving care and compassion given to Ruth.

There will be no service. Donations in Ruth’s memory may be made to Sycamore Grove Park or the Valley Humane Society.

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

Celebration of Life Muriel Roberta Boyd June 27, 1934 – Nov. 28, 2024

Muriel Roberta Boyd, a cherished mother, devoted wife, and accomplished professional, passed away peacefully on Nov. 28, 2024, in her home in Danville, California. Born in San Francisco, Muriel spent her formative years in the Sierra foothills, nurtured by her parents, Robert and Grace Sinclair, alongside her older brother, Stanley.

In February 1954, Muriel married her high school sweetheart, Richard “Buzz” Boyd, embarking on a lifelong journey of love and partnership. Their early years were marked by Buzz’s service in the Korean War, after which Muriel supported his academic pursuits while raising their children, Gregg and Kathy. Together, they shared a commitment to the medical field, contributing in various capacities over the years.

Muriel was a woman of creativity and entrepreneurial spirit. She delighted in arts and crafts with her children and engaged in home-based ventures, including Avon, jewelry sales etc. Her passion for financial planning emerged in the late 1970s, leading her to become a respected advisor



in Contra Costa County. Her dedication to her clients was matched only by her devotion to her family, as she eventually stepped away from her career to care for Buzz during his battle with a Parkinson’s type disease.

In her later years, Muriel required similar care, which she received in the comfort of her home, surrounded by the love of her family, caregivers and her beloved cat who brought her much joy.

Muriel is survived by her brother Stanley Sinclair, daughter Kathy Boyd Little, son Gregg (Joka), grandchildren Christopher (Sydney), Michael (Demi) and John Angus Little, step-grandson Jordan Dekker and great-grandchildren Amara and Elijah. She was predeceased by her husband, Buzz, in 2010. Her legacy of love, creativity, and dedication will be fondly remembered by all who knew her.

Please join us for Muriel’s celebration of life at St. Timothy’s Episcopal Church in Danville on Saturday, Feb. 1, at 1 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a contribution in Muriel’s name to UCSF Benioff Children’s Hospitals.

Claire E. Harris Aug. 20, 1924 – Dec. 4, 2024

Claire E. Harris born on Aug. 20, 1924, in the San Francisco Bay Area, and went to be with her Lord on Dec. 4, 2024, at the age of 100.

Claire will always be one of the most beautiful souls the Lord has ever welcomed back home. She is survived by her children, Pamela Harris LaFitte of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, Michael Harris of Phoenix, Arizona, and wife Lori, Cindy Harris Schwartz of Benton, Louisiana, and husband Steve, Peter Harris of Marshall, Texas, and wife Trudy, and Diane Harris of Spearfish, South Dakota, and husband Paul. She has 11 grandchildren: Melissa Schwartz deLaunay, James Schwartz, Stephen Schwartz, Erica Moore, Lauren LaFitte Marschall, Zach Harris, Lindsay Harris Nettles, Daniel Harris, Hayley Harris Fitzgerald and Chase Harris. She also has 15 great



married Bill Harris and they raised their family. Bill and Claire moved to Shreveport, Louisiana, in 1970 where they spent 30 years having an amazing life playing bridge, playing tennis, attending their Gourmet Club festivities and living life to the fullest. They then lived in Henderson, Nevada, for 15+ years, and after Bill’s passing in 1999, Claire spent her last years living in Baton Rouge with her daughter Pam. We want to say a special Thank You to Raven, Stephanie and Sandra.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to St. Jude the Apostle Catholic Church at www.stjudecatholic.org and/or the Alzheimer’s Association.

A visitation and rosary will be held 10 a.m. on Monday, Dec. 16, 2024, followed by Mass at 11 a.m. at St. Jude Catholic Church in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Celebration of Life Peter (Pete) W. Snyder Dec. 9, 1934 – Oct. 13, 2024

We are deeply saddened to share the passing of our father, Peter (Pete) W. Snyder, on Oct. 13, 2024. The family will honor Pete’s extraordinary life with a Celebration of Life on Jan. 10, 2025, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Shannon Community Center, in Dublin, California.

Pete was born on Dec. 9, 1934, in Des Moines, Iowa, to Claire and Ann Snyder. He was the youngest of three boys, joining older brothers Harlan and Craig. In the 1950s, Pete proudly served in the U.S. Army, stationed overseas in Japan for 2½ years.

On Sept. 8, 1956, Pete married his life partner, Priscilla Edna Rich, and together they raised five children: Gary, Sheri, David, Jon and Brian. Later in life, their family grew to include 12 grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren. Pete and Priscilla cherished their travels, forging lasting friendships around the world. They lived for a time in Nerja, Spain, and welcomed many family and friends to visit. No matter where they were, family was always at the heart of their lives, and their passion for community service was ever-present.

Pete worked more than 40 years in the automotive parts industry in Oakland and San Leandro supporting the growing area’s commerce and service industries. He was also an active member of the San Ramon Valley (Danville) Congregational Church for many years.

Pete’s life was defined by service. In the early 1960s, he was a founding member of the San Ramon Valley “Host” Lions Club, which later became the Dublin Lions Club. Pete was elected District Governor of Lions District 4-C3, serving from 1978 to 1979, and remained an active and lifelong member of the Lions.

Pete also served on the Murray (Dublin) School District Board of Trustees for five years, including a term as board chair. However, his most enduring legacy is his leadership in the



incorporation of Dublin as a city. In 1980, he spearheaded the efforts to incorporate Dublin, and in 1982, he became the city’s first mayor. Pete served a total of 13 years on the city council, 11 of those as mayor. During his time in office, he played a pivotal role in shaping the community, including the development of the Dublin Civic Center and bringing BART (Bay Area Rapid Transit) service to the area.

Following his time on the city council, Pete was elected to the BART Board in 1996, serving until 2004, including a term as board president in 2002. He was also involved in a variety of other organizations, including the American Public Transit Association, the Tri-Valley Community Fund, the Dublin Fine Arts Foundation, the Congestion Management Agency, and the Association of Bay Area Governments.

Pete was an active member of the Martin C. Kauffman, 100 Club of Alameda County, serving on the board for many years and as president from 2004-2005.

Pete was widely admired for his integrity and character. A longtime friend of his, quoted in a local newspaper article, said, “When I think of Pete, I think of someone so honest and with such integrity. I can trust him implicitly, and I think everyone in the city can. He’s just a straight arrow.”

Pete lived an exceptional life, setting an inspiring example for all of us. We miss him dearly and will carry his memory in our hearts forever.

In-lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to Martin C. Kauffman, 100 Club of Alameda: checks can be mailed to 4900 Hopyard, Suite 100, Pleasanton, CA 94588; or www.100clubalamedacounty.org/page-18110; or Hospice of the Foothills: checks can be made to Foothills Compassionate Care, 11270 Rough and Ready Hwy, Grass Valley, CA 95945 or foothills-cares.org/donate.

Celebration of Life Francisco (Frank) J. Cadena Nov. 5, 1945 – Dec. 4, 2024

Frank J. Cadena, age 79, of Livermore, passed away peacefully on Wednesday, Dec. 4, 2024, at home. Frank was born Nov. 5, 1945, in Mexico City, Colonia Roma. His mother Rogelia (Sally) Cadena relocated to Porterville, California, where she married the man Frank would know as his father, Frank Loyola. Frank Cadena would make Porterville his childhood home.

While in Porterville, Frank excelled in baseball in both Babe Ruth and at Porterville High as a pitcher. However, the Vietnam War would interrupt his baseball career and junior college education. Frank served on the helicopter carrier “USS Tripoli” before being honorably discharged. Frank would return to college receiving a bachelor’s in arts at San Diego State University.

While in San Diego, Frank pursued a graphic arts career for several years until joining the Federal Corrections Agency. Frank moved to Livermore working at correction facilities in Livermore and Dublin for 23 years. He met the love of his life while living in Livermore. He married Jane Cadena and they made their life together for over 40 years.



Frank enjoyed gardening, drawing his signature single line caricatures, and spending time with his grandson, Alex.

Frank was also an avid Bay Area sports fan passionately following the Warriors, Giants and 49ers, as well as Notre Dame football due to Jane’s Indiana roots.

Frank and Jane also loved eating out. They could be seen frequenting many local eateries.

Frank was preceded in death by his mother, Rogelia “Sally” Loyola, father, Frank “Pancho” Loyola, his brother, Bobby Ruiz, his sister, Sylvia Mabalot, and nephew, Gerardo Javier “Jerry” Loyola who bore Frank’s middle name.

Frank is survived by his wife, Jane Cadena, stepsons, Todd and Jack Hurley, his brothers, Danny Mabalot (Janie) of Bakerfield, and Gerardo “Jerry” Loyola (Maria) of Watsonville, and sister, Yolanda Baradet (Rob) of Kingsburg, and several nieces and nephews.

Frank will be honored with a celebration of life on Saturday, Dec. 28, 2024, 12:30-4 p.m., at Emil Villas Family Barbecue Hickory Pit, 3064 Pacific Ave., Livermore, California.

Dublin High Girls Basketball Team Is Efficient in Victory

By Phil Jensen

The Dublin High School girls basketball team put the emphasis on the word “team” in their 44-27 nonleague victory over West-Tracy on Dec. 11.

Dublin’s first 16 points were scored by five different players. The host Gaels, who improved to 2-0 with the win, also finished with seven players who scored four points or more.

“Team basketball is what we preach,” said Dublin coach Jose Alvarez. “One thing we do is that all of our sets are designed for anybody to score. ... every set maybe has five to seven options, and anybody can score in those options.”

The Gaels’ leading scorer was senior Zoya Nomani, who scored all of the Gaels’ 11 points in the fourth quarter. She finished with 14 total points, all in the second half.

“She can knock down two or three 3’s in a row,” said Alvarez about Nomani, who had a trio of 3-pointers in the fourth quarter and four overall. “She’s one of our better shooters.”

The Gaels have only one starter and four total returners from last season’s 17-13 team. Sophomore Gaia Lembo is the returning starter, and junior Aanya Pandia and seniors Bhagya Gajula and Nomani are the other returners. The Gaels also have six underclassmen on

its 12-player roster.

Dublin will soon have some extra firepower. Addison Leomiti, a junior transfer from Amador Valley, will be eligible to play for the Gaels later this month, said Alvarez. Leomiti was a second-team all-East Bay Athletic League selection last season.

Against West, Dublin passed and defended well. It had assists on 14 of its 17 field goals, led by Lembo with four. The Gaels also had 15 steals, paced by Nomani with five.

Dublin bolted out to a 6-0 lead on 3-pointers by freshman Jessica Verdier and Gajula, who also had a team-high seven rebounds. The Gaels, who never trailed, led 14-6 at the end of the first quarter and took an 18-8 lead with four minutes, 20 seconds left in the half on a basket by freshman Rayn Hazen. Dublin led by at least nine points the rest of the way.

On Dec. 14, Dublin defeated KIPP-King-San Lorenzo 72-27 at the Dublin Winter Invitational to improve to 3-0.

Dublin hosted Mission San Jose-Fremont on Dec. 18 after this article went to press.

Football

Amador Valley’s fantastic season ended just five points short of a state championship, as Frontier-Bakersfield edged the Dons 18-14 on Dec. 13 at Long Beach City

College in the California Interscholastic Federation Division 3-AA title game.

The Dons, who finished with a 10-5 record, fell behind 6-0 on the first play of the second quarter. However, Amador Valley blocked the point-after-touchdown kick.

Then less than three minutes later, the Dons took the lead over Frontier, who ended the season with an 11-4 record.

On a fourth-and-three play, Amador Valley quarterback Tristan Ti’a threw a 33-yard touchdown pass to McKay Kenitzer. Ti’a then ran for a two-point conversion and an 8-6 Dons advantage.

But Frontier answered back with a 77-yard touchdown run by RJ Green. Even though its two-point conversion was stopped by the Dons, Frontier led 12-8 with 4 minutes, 54 seconds left in the second quarter. The Titans tacked on another touchdown with 16 seconds left in the first half to lead 18-8.

Amador Valley cut Frontier’s lead to 18-14 in the third quarter on a 24-yard touchdown pass from Ti’a to Anthony Harrington. But the two-point conversion pass failed, and neither team scored the rest of the game.

This season will be a memorable one for Amador Valley, which won both its first North Coast Section title and CIF Northern Regional championship game in program history.



Dublin freshman Jessica Verdier and junior Aanya Pandia jump for a rebound in the Gaels’ non-league game against West High School from Tracy on Wednesday, Dec. 11. [See photo gallery at [independentnews.com/multimedia/](https://www.independentnews.com/multimedia/)] (Photo — Doug Jorgensen)

New Bilingual Preschool Approved Amid Competitive Market

By David Jen

Plans for a new preschool in north Pleasanton highlighted a dwindling student base in the city last week, as nearby schools voiced concerns over the added competition.

The planning commission unanimously approved, through its consent calendar, a conditional use permit for the Fei Xiang Bilingual School at its Dec. 11 meeting. Located within the Owens Drive loop west of Johnson Drive, the project proposes to repurpose an existing building to operate a preschool for up to 93 stu-

dents, ranging in age from 18 months to 5 years old, with eight teachers. Along with a lobby, six daycare rooms, bathrooms, offices, indoor playroom and break room, the project also plans to convert 10 parking spaces into a 1,364-square-foot, fenced outdoor play area.

James Feng of the Loving Tree Academy, located about a quarter of a mile from the proposed project, said that the new preschool would give an unfair business advantage to an existing afterschool program located in the same plaza that is also part of Fei Xiang.

Loving Tree is another

bilingual afterschool program that currently serves about 100 students ranging from kindergarten to sixth grade. Feng reasoned that students graduating from the new preschool would naturally feed into Fei Xiang’s afterschool program.

Both Loving Tree and Fei Xiang offer bilingual education in English and Chinese.

Feng also raised concerns around increased parking and traffic, as well as safety issues around locating a playground in a parking lot.

Seema Abdi of the En-Grace Montessori Academy, another English-Chinese bilingual preschool located

about a mile away, boiled down the new preschool’s impact to one of enrollment.

“We’re already down on enrollment due to TK (transitional kindergarten) lowering their age limits,” said Abdi. “Another preschool is going to put more pressure on us. ... If you don’t have enrollment, layoffs are going to happen.”

The Pleasanton Unified School District (PUSD), facing its own financial challenges, announced this month expanded eligibility dates for students beginning either transitional kindergarten or kindergarten in the 2025-2026 school

year. Children who turn 4 years old on or before Sept. 1, 2025, will now be eligible for transitional kindergarten, and children who turn 5 years old on or before that date will be able to attend regular kindergarten.

PUSD enrollment peaked during the 2018-2019 school year, leveled off the following year and has since suffered declines between 1.3% and 2.8% per year.

The district, which receives state funding based on enrollment, has projected annual deficits between \$3.8 million and \$4.4 million. Projections also show its

general fund reserve dropping below the state-required 3% as early as the 2025-2026 school year without any corrective actions.

At last week’s meeting, however, planning commissioners clarified their role when considering projects.

“We do not have the mandate or the authority to dictate the economics behind a business, unfortunately,” said Commissioner Anurag Jain.

Chair Matthew Gaidos added, “It’s not within the purview of the commission to not approve a business because it will compete with another one.”



Justin Kirk has been added to the cast of “Selected Shorts” that will be returning to the Bankhead Theater on Sunday, Feb. 2. Kirk, best known for his role in the HBO miniseries “Angels in America,” will join comedian Wendie Malick and Bay Area native Richa Moorjani. Kirk also starred in the Showtime dark comedy series “Weeds.” Tickets for the 3 p.m. matinee performance start at \$25 and are available online at livermorearts.org or by calling 925-373-6800. (Photo courtesy of LVA)

Livermore Educators Group Donates Books to Encourage Early Literacy

The Zeta Mu chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma, through its Cuddle Up and Read project, recently donated 360 books to Axis Community Health Medical Clinic to encourage early literacy.

Families will be given six wrapped books when they bring newborn babies into an Axis Community Health clinic for a six-month checkup, according to the Livermore-based

Zeta Mu chapter.

Delta Kappa Gamma is an international society for professional women in education.

Co-President Susan Canfield said the Zeta Mu chapter believes in the Cuddle Up and Read project, which encourages parents to hold their babies while they share pictures and read to them.

“It’s a very worthwhile early literacy project to serve our community,” Canfield

said. “We’ve been looking for a project like this for a long time.”

Research shows that reading to pre-school children stimulates brain development and language acquisition, promotes communication skills and improves school readiness.

For more information about the ongoing project, contact Canfield or co-president Sue Carling at presidentdkgzeta@gmail.com

Earthquake Risk and Simulation Presentation to Be Held at Library

David McCallen, head of the Critical Infrastructure Program at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (LBNL), will discuss the risk of earthquakes in the San Francisco Bay area at the Livermore Civic Center Library, 1188 S. Livermore Ave., at 2 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 12.

His presentation, “Transformational Advanced Computer Simulations for Enhanced Understanding of Earthquake Risk in the San Francisco Bay Area,” is

free and open to the public. Registration is not required.

Over the past six years, scientists and engineers at LBNL and Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory have developed a new earthquake simulation (EQSIM) model that encompasses the entire San Francisco Bay Area.

McCallen will provide an overview of the new simulation capability utilizing the world’s fastest supercomputers, including insights into regional risk and the

implications for earthquake resilience.

Traditional risk assessments have relied on historical earthquake ground motion measurements to predict future impacts. The new EQSIM utilizes detailed computer models to simulate complex earthquake processes from the initiation of fault rupture through seismic wave propagation through the earth to the final interaction of seismic waves with critical infrastructure.

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Alan Hu Foundation Now Accepting College Scholarship Applications

The Alan Hu Foundation began accepting applications for college scholarships to be awarded for the 2025-2026 school year from Saturday, Dec. 14.

The deadline to apply

is March 9.

The scholarships are open to high school seniors from the Livermore, Pleasanton and Dublin public school districts who plan to pursue college majors in fields sup-

porting mental health, including psychology, psychiatry, neurosciences, nursing, education and school counseling. The scholarships, up to \$1,000 each, are also open to students who plan to train

as first responders, including emergency medical technicians and those attending police or fire academies.

The scholarships were created in memory of Alan Hu, a student at Amador

Valley High School who died by suicide in 2018, and Sarah Rahman, a Fremont resident who also died by suicide after battling mental health issues.

The goal of the Pleasan-

ton-based Alan Hu Foundation is to promote mental health by raising awareness and removing the stigma surrounding psychiatric disorders. For more information, go to alanhufoundation.org.

LEGAL NOTICES/CLASSIFIEDS

www.independentnews.com



LEGAL NOTICES

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 610045

The following person(s) doing business as: Jell Design Studio, 1077 Cragmont Ave, Berkeley, CA 94708 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Elle McDougald, 1079 Cragmont Ave, Berkeley, CA 94708. 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: 9/15/2024. Signature of Registrant/s/: Elle McDougald, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 18, 2024. Expires October 17, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6207. Published November 28, December 5, 12, 19, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 610654

The following person(s) doing business as: The Space Between Counseling Services, 2150 Portola Avenue Ste D #2048, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Lindsey Sauter, 2150 Portola Avenue Ste D #2048, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 11/1/2024. Signature of Registrant/s/: Lindsey Sauter, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 15, 2024. Expires November 14, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6208. Published November 28, December 5, 12, 19, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 610674

The following person(s) doing business as: Guns Unlimited Repair, 8035 Iglesia Dr, Dublin, CA 94568 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Mike Grant, 8035 Iglesia Dr, Dublin, CA 94568. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 9/15/1977. Signature of Registrant/s/: Mike Grant, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 18, 2024. Expires November 17, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6209. Published November 28, December 5, 12, 19, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 610427

The following person(s) doing business as: Kaashi Bazaar, 4225 Garibaldi PL, Pleasanton, CA 94566 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Mishita Anil, 4225 Garibaldi PL, Pleasanton, CA 94566. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/:

Mishita Anil, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 4, 2024. Expires November 3, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6210. Published November 28, December 5, 12, 19, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 610684

The following person(s) doing business as: Omegachiro Heals, 1474 Buena Vista Ave, Livermore, CA 94550-9630 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Christina Danskin, 1474 Buena Vista Ave, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Christina Omega Danskin, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 18, 2024. Expires November 17, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6211. Published November 28, December 5, 12, 19, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 610688

The following person(s) doing business as: Level Up Wellness and Physical Therapy, Inc., 3645 Grand Ave, Suite 203, Oakland, CA 94610 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Level Up Wellness and Physical Therapy, Inc., 3645 Grand Ave, Suite 203, Oakland, CA 94610. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 4/2021. Signature of Registrant/s/: Hilary Nakao, Owner/Secretary. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 18, 2024. Expires November 17, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6212. Published November 28, December 5, 12, 19, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 610744

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Ms. Livermore; 2. Ms. Livermore Real Estate, 1772 5th Street, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Ikonni Inc., 1772 5th Street, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 12/1/23. Signature of Registrant/s/: Belia Martinez, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 20, 2024. Expires November 19, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6213. Published November 28, December 5, 12, 19, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 610704

The following person(s) doing business as: American Academy of Emerging Science, 101 E. Vineyard Ave, Suite 119-108, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): American Emerging Science Association, 101 E.

Vineyard Ave, Suite 119-108, 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/: Peter Yang, Manager. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 19, 2024. Expires November 18, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6214. Published December 12, 19, 26, 2024, January 2, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 610838

The following person(s) doing business as: GMB Business Services, 1822 El Prado Drive, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Gwyn M. Bailey, 1822 El Prado Drive, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Gwyn M. Bailey, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 25, 2024. Expires November 24, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6215. Published December 12, 19, 26, 2024, January 2, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 610780

The following person(s) doing business as: Elite Rehab Services, 960 Shorepoint CT, Unit 203, Alameda, CA 94501 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Sonal Pathak, 2101 Shoreline Drive, Unit 265, Alameda, CA 94501. 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: 11/20/2024. Signature of Registrant/s/: Sonal Pathak, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 22, 2024. Expires November 21, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6216. Published December 12, 19, 26, 2024, January 2, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 610779

The following person(s) doing business as: 131-133 Carlisle ST Condo Association, 2136 Vintage LN, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Raymond Schuder, 2136 Vintage LN, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 11/22/2024. Signature of Registrant/s/: Raymond Schuder, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 22, 2024. Expires November 21, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6217. Published December 12, 19, 26, 2024, January 2, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS

NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 610786

The following person(s) doing business as: Eat Food Consulting, 2506 Eagle Ave, Alameda, CA 94501 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Erika Thornton, 2506 Eagle Ave, Alameda, CA 94501. 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/: Erika Thornton, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 22, 2024. Expires November 21, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6218. Published December 12, 19, 26, 2024, January 2, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 610983

The following person(s) doing business as: Be Still and Know Books by Julia Hallmark, 779 Hanover ST, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Julia M. Hallmark, 779 Hanover 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: 12/3/2024. Signature of Registrant/s/: Julia M. Hallmark, Sole Proprietor. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 3, 2024. Expires December 2, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6219. Published December 12, 19, 26, 2024, January 2, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 610968

The following person(s) doing business as: Third Lens Marketing, 5436 Ruth Ave, Oakland, CA 94601 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Third Lens LLC, 5436 Ruth Ave, Oakland, CA 94601. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Jeff Rahn, Owner/Manager. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 3, 2024. Expires December 2, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6220. Published December 12, 19, 26, 2024, January 2, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 610963

The following person(s) doing business as: Mr. Plumbing, 7026 Koll Center Pkwy, #211, Pleasanton, CA 94566 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Mr. Plumbing LLC, 7026 Koll Center #211, Pleasanton, CA 94566. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 12/3/2024. Signature of Registrant/s/: Najib Rahmatti, Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 3, 2024. Expires December 2, 2029. The

Independent, Legal No. 6221. Published December 12, 19, 26, 2024, January 2, 2025.

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME ORIGINAL FILE NO. 603449

The person(s) listed below have abandoned the use of the following fictitious business name(s): Zzan, 5333 Adeline ST, K23, Oakland, CA 94608. Registered by the following owner(s): Joy - JK Corporation, 643 Post ST, San Francisco, CA 94109. The fictitious business name statement was filed on 1/18/2024 in the County of Alameda. This business was conducted by a Corporation. Signature of Registrant/s/: Sangin Kim, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 18, 2024. The Independent, Legal No. 6222. Published December 12, 19, 26, 2024, January 2, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 611083

The following person(s) doing business as: Beets Hospitality Group, 316 Stealth CT, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Beets Catering Inc, 316 Stealth CT, 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: 10/20/2008. Signature of Registrant/s/: Read Phillips, Vice President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 9, 2024. Expires December 8, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6223. Published December 19, 26, 2024, January 2, 9, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 611085

The following person(s) doing business as: Casa Real, 410 Vineyard Ave, Pleasanton, CA 94566 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Beets Catering Inc, 316 Stealth CT, 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: 02/08/2007. Signature of Registrant/s/: Read Phillips, Vice President. This statement was

filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 9, 2024. Expires December 8, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6224. Published December 19, 26, 2024, January 2, 9, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 611161

The following person(s) doing business as: Healing Needles, 2557 Mowry Ave, Suite 21, Fremont, CA 94538 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Di Kang, 2557 Mowry Ave, Suite 21, 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: 6/7/2019. Signature of Registrant/s/: Di Kang, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 12, 2024. Expires December 11, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6225. Published December 19, 26, 2024, January 2, 9, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 610714

The following person(s) doing business as: Rice N' Spice Indian Supermarket, 1522 Holmes ST, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Varaha Solutions LLC, 237 Stickle DR, 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/: Sreenivasa Rao Mutte, Manager. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 19, 2024. Expires November 18, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6226. Published December 19, 26, 2024, January 2, 9, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 610899

The following person(s) doing business as: Pain Medicine Consultants, a Division of BASS Medical Group, 2324 Santa Rita RD, Suite 6, Pleasanton, CA 94566 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): BASS Medical Group, 2637 Shadelands DR, Walnut Creek, CA 94598. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced

to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 10/23/24. Signature of Registrant/s/: Rajiv Nagesetty, CFO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 27, 2024. Expires November 26, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6227. Published December 19, 26, 2024, January 2, 9, 2025.

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME ORIGINAL FILE NO. 569626

The person(s) listed below have abandoned the use of the following fictitious business name(s): Bridge Tower Insurance Services, 6200 Stoneridge Mall Rd, Suite #300, Pleasanton, CA 94588. Registered by the following owner(s): Sallie R. Witt, 719 Travis Circle, Livermore, CA 94550. The fictitious business name statement was filed on 3/16/2020 in the County of Alameda. This business was conducted by a Individual. Signature of Registrant/s/: Sallie R. Witt, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 5, 2024. The Independent, Legal No. 6228. Published December 12, 19, 26, 2024, January 2, 2025.

CLASSIFIEDS

ANIMALS



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EMPLOYMENT

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UPDATED PUBLIC NOTICE NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (EA) FOR THE VALLEY LINK RAIL PROJECT

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA), as lead federal agency, and the Tri-Valley - San Joaquin Valley Regional Rail Authority (Authority), as project sponsor, are proposing the Valley Link Rail Project, which would establish a new passenger rail service along a 22-mile corridor between the existing Dublin/Pleasanton Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) District Station in Alameda County and the proposed Mountain House Community Station in San Joaquin County, California.

The FTA and the Authority are issuing this updated Notice of Availability (NOA) to advise other agencies and the public that the Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed Valley Link Rail Project is available for review and comment as of December 10, 2024; this date was previously anticipated to be December 6, 2024. The EA, prepared pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), analyzes potential environmental effects associated with construction and operation of the Valley Link Rail Project. The EA is available for review on the project website: www.getvalleylinked.com. Copies of the EA are also available for review at the following locations:

- Livermore Public Library
1188 S. Livermore Avenue
Livermore, CA 94550
Mountain House Branch Library
201 E. Main Street
Mountain House, CA 95391
- Tri-Valley - San Joaquin Valley Regional Rail Authority (by appointment only; please call (925) 667-4013)
2600 Kitty Hawk Road, Suite 103
Livermore, CA 94551

Proposed Project and Location

The Proposed Project would establish a new passenger rail service along a 22-mile corridor in Northern California between the existing Dublin/Pleasanton BART Station in Alameda County and the proposed Mountain House Community Station in San Joaquin County. The Proposed Project would provide an all-day bi-directional passenger rail service at frequent intervals using zero-emission multiple unit vehicles. The alignment would be constructed within a combination of the existing I-580 freeway median, the existing transportation corridor owned by Alameda County (formerly Southern Pacific Transcontinental Railroad

alignment), existing Caltrans right-of-way (ROW) adjacent to westbound I-580, and new ROW to be acquired for the Proposed Project.

The Proposed Project includes the construction and operation of four stations:

- Dublin/Pleasanton Station** would be constructed south of the eastbound I-580 freeway lanes in proximity to the existing Dublin/Pleasanton BART Station.
- Isabel Station** would be constructed within the I-580 median with adjacent parking on a 24-acre site along East Airway Boulevard south of I-580 and east of the Isabel Avenue I-580 overcrossing in Livermore.
- Southfront Road Station** in Livermore would be constructed within the I-580 median with adjacent parking located south of I-580 on a seven-acre site along Southfront Road between McGraw Avenue and Franklin Lane.
- Mountain House Community Station** would be constructed north of I-205 on an approximately 54-acre site west of Mountain House Parkway near the I-205/ Mountain House Parkway interchange in the Mountain House community.

Facilities to support the operations and maintenance and ancillary project activities are planned at three locations:

- The Altamont Maintenance of Way (MOW) Staging Area** would be constructed on a 10-acre portion of the Alameda County Transportation Corridor ROW, approximately 2,250 feet east of Dyer Road.
- The Mountain House Layover Facility (LF)** would be constructed on an approximately 75-acre site east of Mountain House Parkway and north of I-205 to support train layovers, storage, and light maintenance.
- Tracy Operations and Maintenance Facility/ Operations Support Site (OMF/OSS)** would be constructed on part of an approximately 200-acre property along West Schulte Road just west of the Owens-Brockway Glass Container Plant west of Tracy.

Potential Environmental Impacts

The EA has determined that construction and operation of the Proposed Project could result in potential impacts to

the following environmental resources: Aesthetics; Agricultural Land; Air Quality; Biological Resources; Cultural Resources; Environmental Justice; Geology, Soils, and Paleontological Resources; Hazardous Materials; Hydrology and Water Quality; Land Use and Property Acquisitions; Noise and Vibration; Transportation and Traffic; Utilities; and Indirect and Cumulative Effects. However, avoidance, minimization, and mitigation measures have been identified, where relevant, to avoid or reduce potential adverse impacts to meet federal requirements and/or state and local requirements.

Written Comments

Written comments on the Valley Link Rail Project EA document will be accepted from December 10, 2024, until 5:00 PM on January 10, 2025. Please send written comments to:

Tri-Valley - San Joaquin Valley Regional Rail Authority
2600 Kitty Hawk Road, Suite 103
Livermore, CA 94551

Your comments on the EA document may also be sent by email to comments@valleylinkrail.com (please include "Valley Link Project" in the subject heading), or through the online comment submission form provided on the project website: www.getvalleylinked.com. All comments must be received by 5:00 PM on January 10, 2025.

For Further Information

For the latest project updates and information about any additional public events and opportunities to comment, visit our project website at www.getvalleylinked.com, contact us by email at comments@valleylinkrail.com and include "Valley Link Project" in the subject heading, or visit us on X (formerly Twitter) (<https://x.com/ValleyLinkRail>) and Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/ValleyLinkRail>).

Language assistance is available upon request.

Se proporcionará asistencia con el idioma si se solicita llamando al (925) 667-4013.

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Students Isha Sahu and Abigail Sabado of Granada High were named Young Adult Volunteers of the Year for their service. (Photo courtesy of the Livermore Public Library)

Livermore Library Honors Volunteers

Gail O'Donnell, a volunteer with the Livermore Public Library since 2012, has been named Volunteer of the Year for 2024.

The library also announced that Isha Sahu and Abigail Sabado, Granada High School (GHS) students who created the library's Under the Lens program, were named Young Adult Volunteers of the Year.

Bob Gates, a retiree, was named Volunteer of the Year for the library's adult literacy program, while Joan Lange was named Volunteer of the Year for the nonprofit Friends

of the Livermore Library.

O'Donnell initially volunteered as a crafts coordinator and later became a coach and tutor for the Homework Help Center at the Rincon Branch Library.

When the Homework Center reopened in the summer of 2022, after being shut down almost two years because of the COVID-19 pandemic, she volunteered four days a week while the library recruited more volunteers.

Last year, Sahu and Sabado approached the Livermore Library about starting

a program to teach science to younger students, which became the Under the Lens program for elementary students, the library's first teen-led community program.

Over the course of the program, Sahu and Sabado have taught sessions on DNA, rockets, volcanos, the water cycle, neurons and the brain, roller coasters, boats and buoyancy, and the solar system.

The hour-long sessions are open to students in third through fifth grade.

Gates first volunteered for the library's adult literacy

program as a one-on-one tutor in 2021. More recently, he has also led a weekly English conversation group for adults learning the language.

Lange, a former elementary school teacher, is one of Friends of the Livermore Library's most senior bookstore volunteers, having started before the Civic Center Library was built more than 20 years ago.

The bookstore sells used and unneeded books to support library programs and even before she became a volunteer, Lange would purchase books for her students.

Where to Donate This Year to Area Nonprofit Organizations

By Ruth Roberts

People looking for ways to support their communities during the holidays have plenty of choices in the Tri-Valley. The nonprofit organizations listed below highlight ways the public can give back during the season of giving and beyond into the new year. For a more extensive list of area agencies in need of support, visit the Three Valleys Community Foundation's nonprofit directory here: <https://bit.ly/4InL2dy>

Asante Africa Foundation: This group works to support, educate and enhance the lives of young women in East Africa. Founded by three women, one who works in Silicon Valley and is a Tri-Valley resident, Asante Africa equips East Africa's youth to confront life's challenges with confidence, assert their rights, prosper in the global economy and catalyze positive transformative change. To learn more or donate, visit www.asanteafrica.com.

Assistance League of Amador Valley: The first chapter of this longtime organization opened its doors in Los Angeles in 1919. The Amador Valley chapter boasts 100 member volunteers who support eight community-based organizations in a variety of fields. Programs include birthday bags for children at area shelters; a book program for school-age children; donations to area food banks and more. To donate or volunteer, visit www.assistanceleague.org.

Axis Community Health: Established in 1972, Axis provides quality, affordable and accessible health care services to more than 15,000 residents in the Tri-Valley. Their services cover health care, mental health support and dental services to individuals across all age groups irrespective of financial status, language proficiency, sexual orientation, cultural background, living situation or insurance coverage. The group's focus is on serving individuals and families with incomes at or below 100% of the federal poverty line. To donate or for more information, visit <https://axishealth.org>.

CityServe of the Tri-Valley: Created by area churches in 2009, CityServe provides support services for seniors and families in need, and helps

coordinate services among government, faith-based organizations and other nonprofit groups. CityServe engages community members and partners to provide an extra level of support through programs for seniors, the unhoused and families and individuals in crisis. Understanding that it takes a village, CityServe believes in supporting all groups, organizations and wrap-around services to better assist those in need.

"Our team is really grateful for any donations or resources that can come our way because we are seeing multitudes of people (this season) and that's only one of our offices," said Christine Beitsch-Bahmani, the organization's CEO. "We are also collecting coats in our lobby for anyone that has an extra to spare." To donate or volunteer, visit <https://cityservecares.org>.

Culinary Angels: This group provides nutrient-rich meals and nutrition education to people with cancer and their caregivers. Meals are delivered free of charge throughout the Tri-Valley. The group believes that caregivers play a critical part in a person's ability to heal and recover, so they help relieve the stress and responsibilities that can often go along with this role. To donate, visit <https://culinaryangels.org>.

Livermore Lab Foundation: The Livermore Lab Foundation is a philanthropic partner to Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, providing mechanisms for public and private investments, grants and philanthropic gifts that support research, student fellows, STEM outreach, education and community initiatives. Their areas of focus and research include climate resilience, neuro disease, future STEM leaders/programs and fusion energy innovation.

"We welcome contributions at all levels, and each one is very meaningful to us," said Susan Houghton, LLNL's climate portfolio manager. "We are grateful to our community members who value an investment in the Lab's award-winning science and in the STEM workforce of tomorrow."

To donate, visit <https://livermorelabfoundation.org>.

Open Heart Kitchen: Founded in 1995 as a small, grassroots effort to address hunger in Livermore, Open Heart Kitchen now serves

free meals and groceries at multiple locations throughout the Tri-Valley. Through various programs including the Village Resource Center, pop-up food pantries and its senior meal project, Open Heart Kitchen works to ensure no one in need goes hungry.

"There is no better time to share your light with folks in our community through the gifts of your financial generosity and time," said John Bost, Open Heart Kitchen's executive director. "To our guests and clients, there may be no more meaningful and significant gift than knowing that there are people in this community who care about them, and who not only open their pocketbooks but also their calendars to get to know them and the stories of their lives." To donate, visit <https://www.openheartkitchen.org/holiday-gift-guide>.

Reins in Motion: The Reins in Motion Foundation is a therapeutic riding program in Livermore that connects special-needs children as young as 2 1/2 with horses to promote healing and growth in their daily lives. Clients benefit from physical, occupational and speech therapy as well as mental and emotional development. The nonprofit also offers Reins for Heroes, a program for local veterans which collaborates with the Taylor Family Foundation to take vets riding at Camp Arroyo. To donate or for additional information, visit <https://reinsinmotionca.com/>.

Three Valleys Community Foundation: Three Valleys Community Foundation works with donors and nonprofits to achieve their goals through inclusive leadership, thoughtful funding, informed giving, collaborative action and comprehensive grantmaking throughout the East Bay. They work with a variety of donors made up of individuals, families and corporations to support nonprofit organizations by connecting them with donors and other nonprofits to expand their reach and services. To donate, visit <https://3vcf.org/>.

Tri-Valley Conservancy: This group protects more than 5,000 acres of critical lands through a mission that includes safeguarding urban growth boundaries, conducting studies to support agricultural sus-

tainability and engaging the next generation with the drive to preserve the outdoors. The group's strategic plan was designed to respond to opportunities and address the challenges facing the Tri-Valley region. The plan provides goals and objectives that drive the group's mission. For more information, visit <https://trivalleyconservancy.org>.

Tri-Valley Nonprofit Alliance: This membership-based organization provides resources, education and co-working spaces for collaboration among more than 300 nonprofit organizations in the Tri-Valley. The group strives to strengthen organizations and enhance their impact by working and responding to one another to achieve the strongest outcomes for each group and those they represent. To donate, visit <https://tvnpa.org>.

Tri-Valley Reach: Established nearly 35 years ago, this organization builds inclusive communities for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities to live independently. The group does this by providing resources, education, activities, community and housing opportunities for individuals in the Tri-Valley. The program currently supports 42 individuals living in Livermore and Pleasanton. To donate, visit <https://trivalleyreach.org>.

Valley Humane Society: Since 1987, the Valley Humane Society has worked to save and improve the lives of dogs and cats. Valley Humane Society rescues and rehabilitates pets, promotes responsible caretaking and shares pets with people in

need of comfort and support. Its Home for the Holidays pet adoption promotion is offering discounted adoption rates through the end of December.

"As part of the campaign, we have collaborated with all area shelters to encourage adoption at this time of year, and are waiving all adoption fees," said Melissa Adkins, Valley Humane Society marketing manager. To volunteer, adopt

or make a donation, visit <https://valleyhumane.org>.



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