



Students at Dougherty Elementary School in Dublin celebrate the Lunar New Year on Jan. 27, with performers from LionDanceME. Jan. 29 marked the beginning of the Year of the Snake in the traditional Chinese zodiac, which is widely shared and adapted among many Asian cultures. (Photo — Leah Silveira)

Pleasanton Schools

Pleasanton School Board Wrestles with Budget Deficit, Agrees to Deep Cuts

Trustees to Vote on Final Budget Recommendations in February

By Ruth Roberts

The Pleasanton Unified School District (PUSD) board of trustees is looking to cut \$5.56 million from its budget for 2025-'26 and another \$222,000 in 2026-'27 to get to a 3% reserve and maintain local control.

Like the Dublin and Livermore Valley school districts, Pleasanton needs to maintain a 3% reserve for the current and the next two years or else fall into "qualified" status, which means the Alameda County Office of Education could take over management of the district.

PUSD trustees held a budget workshop on Jan. 23 to discuss options for cuts, using a ranking system to identify what could be cut and what should be saved.

"In general, the trustee's ratings for options that directly impact-

ed the classrooms and student education ranked higher and administrative reductions outside of school sites, meaning district management, ranked lower," said Patrick Gannon, PUSD director of communication.

Months of input from the Budget Advisory Committee, PUSD staff, and several public meetings resulted in the board creating a metric for program rankings and the impact of each possible reduction on students and staff.

"We wanted a much more collaborative, census-driven process," said Justin Brown, PUSD board president at the meeting on Jan. 23. "At the end of the day, these cuts are unfortunately real and deep, and they impact people's lives, livelihoods, and professional careers, so we don't take it lightly."

PUSD funding has been falling

short of rising expenditures. Over the past four years, the district has tapped its reserve and one-time funds to cover costs, leading to deficit spending. By the end of the fiscal year 2024-'25, unrestricted reserves are expected to dip below the 3% minimum.

The budget cuts are the result of several factors, including that PUSD ranks in the bottom 5% in school district funding in California.

The district's total projected General Fund expenditures are \$215.4 million, which is a 6.5% decrease from the previous 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.

(See BUDGET, page 9)

Pleasanton

City Plan Points to Nearly \$300M in Water System Upgrades Over Next 20 Years

Increasing Number of Fire Emergencies Expected to Influence Rates

By David Jen

PLEASANTON — Several upcoming reports, detailing the city's ability to distribute water for residential, business and fire-fighting uses, will inform possible water-rate increases scheduled for city council approval in June. Any new increases would take effect in January 2026.

The city raised rates 30% in January 2024 and telegraphed that future increases were likely necessary to pay for continued

maintenance and upgrades.

A water system management plan, prepared by water consulting firm Carollo Engineers, and presented by city staff at the Jan. 21 Pleasanton City Council meeting, recommended building water-related capital projects, such as new pipes, pumps and storage tanks, totaling \$262 million over the next 20 years. It also suggested operations and maintenance improvements costing \$19 million over the same period, including \$12 million to

hire five additional full-time city employees.

To fund the projects, the city has initiated both a water-connection fee study and a water-rate study that will recommend any fee increases prior to the city council decision this summer.

Pleasanton serves about 22,000 water customers. The city operates 19 storage tanks, 14 booster stations and 3,500 fire hydrants connected by some 330 miles of piping, according to a city report.

(See WATER, page 7)

Area School Districts Prepare for Federal Immigration Sweeps

District Officials Commit to Protecting Students, But Legal Environment Unclear as Raids Begin

By Ruth Roberts

REGIONAL — Local school districts are preparing for what they see as threats to students who are immigrants and who may be undocumented.

In one of the new administration's first acts, President Donald Trump has reversed a previous policy prohibiting federal immigration authorities from conducting raids in sensitive areas, such as schools and churches. Local school districts in the Tri-Valley are grappling with the ramifications of what that might mean for their communities, students and families.

Within days of Trump being sworn in, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) personnel have

conducted sweeps and detained and deported an unknown number of individuals. It's not yet clear where all of the sweeps have taken place to date, with just one in California in Kern County confirmed.

During the Biden administration, ICE had a policy in place instructing immigration agents not to arrest or take enforcement actions near "sensitive locations," which include schools, hospitals and places of worship.

But all that changed on Jan. 21 with the sweep of an executive order that has local communities scrambling to keep up with potential new policies.

Currently, all school districts in California have "safe haven" policies that prevent ICE agents from coming

(See IMMIGRATION, page 6)



Veterans of Foreign Wars members raise the flag in Independence Park in Livermore on Jan. 25. The flagpole was the starting and ending location of the annual Race to the Flagpole run, a fundraiser for the Granada Boosters. (Photo — Doug Jorgensen)

Livermore Council Approves Cornerstone Housing Project

Questions Raised About Clustering, Building Height

By Larry Altman

LIVERMORE — The City Council on Monday approved the development of the 253-unit Cornerstone housing project despite concern that placing more than 100 apartments for lower income residents in a single five-story building at the site might stigmatize them and create a "ghetto."

The 4-1 vote, with Council Member Ben Barrientos in opposition, allows for development of the project spearheaded by Cornerstone Fellowship of Livermore and its executive pastor Chris Stockhaus on land owned by the church.

"Our core mission at Cornerstone is to help support everyone in the Livermore community, but especially those who are struggling

the most, especially those who are at the extremely low-income level and the very low-income level, through the various services that we offer," Stockhaus told the council. "One of the things we realized years ago that was at the top of the list of things most needed was housing."

The development on a 13-acre vacant site north of I-580 at Collier Canyon Road and Constitution Drive, includes 143 owned units and 108 rental apartments, most of the latter of which will be deemed affordable for low, lower, very low and extremely low-income households, salary distinctions that are determined by the county. The project, part of the city's Isabel Neighborhood Specific Plan to build 4,095 residences over the next several years, will include a

(See CORNERSTONE, page 7)



Jeremy Troupe-Masi, sommelier and owner of JTM Hospitality, welcomes participants to the second annual Tri-Valley R.I.S.E. small business accelerator expo on Jan. 21 in the Bankhead Theater. (Photo courtesy of Jason Kleist)

Event Puts Spotlight on Local Businesses

Tri-Valley R.I.S.E. Brings Together Hospitality Companies at the Bankhead

By Christina Cavallaro

LIVERMORE — The second annual Tri-Valley R.I.S.E. (Reaching & Inspiring Small Business Entrepreneurs) Small Business Accelerator Expo showed no time bringing the spirit of hospitality to the Bankhead Theater on the evening of Jan. 21.

The expo was spearheaded by sommeliers Jeremy Troupe-Masi and Savannah Vento-Chun, and local small business owner Matt Souza. All three are co-hosts of the Through the Grapevine (TTG) Tri-Valley food and wine hospi-

talidity podcast. The exuberant trio were introduced by comedian and author Faith Alpher before facilitating the evening's panel of keynote speakers that included Visit Tri-Valley CEO Tracy Farhad; Livermore Mayor John Marchand; Aimee and Bryan Wingen, owners of Wingen Bakery; Karl Wente of Wente Family Vineyards; and Sarah and Bill Niles, owners of the Michelin-rated restaurant Range Life.

Troupe-Masi kicked off the evening by saying, "This would never have happened if we didn't talk about the crazy things we

believed in. We want you to talk about the scary things you want to come true, because they just might. So here we are."

In 2023, the group hosted a smaller scale version of the business mixer at Almost Famous Wine Company in Vasco Row.

With the evening's emphasis on engagement, before the speaker portion of the program, the TTG organizers had cleverly armed the vendor booths that lined the lobby with thought-provoking questions to promote conversation. The room was abuzz with participants expounding on everything from

(See HOSPITALITY, page 8)

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PET OF THE WEEK



MAXIMUS

Maximus Decimus Meridius is a fearless feline who's ready to conquer your heart. At 11 pounds of pure confidence, Maximus strides through life like the commander of your future cozy kingdom. Maximus is looking for a home that appreciates his regal air and is ready for a loyal companion who knows he's worth it. If you're ready to add a little swagger and a lot of love to your life, call Valley Humane at (925) 426-8656 to arrange a meet & greet, or email info@valleyhumane.org to start the adoption process. (Photo courtesy of Valley Humane)

Shumway Named Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of Stanford Health Care

By Christina Cavallaro

After nearly six years at the helm of Stanford Health Care Tri-Valley in Pleasanton as president and CEO, Rick Shumway has taken on an even bigger leadership role for the academic medical institution. He announced on LinkedIn before the new year that he has been promoted to the role of vice president and chief operating officer of Stanford Health Care, effective January 2025.

“It’s been a pretty unbelievable run,” Shumway said. “And I’m really, really, really proud of what we’ve been able to accomplish.”

The list of changes implemented in the last five years is extensive. Under Shumway’s leadership, Stanford Tri-Valley oversaw physical expansions that include an ambulatory surgery center, clinics in Livermore and the purchase of Hacienda Lakes for future clinic space. A research office for clinical studies was established and residencies were brought into the Tri-Valley. A cardiovascular health clinic was opened in July 2022, one that includes a certified stroke center. The Byers Eye Institute was created in Livermore in 2023, and a cancer infusion center opened in 2024, among numerous other programs and services.

Shumway moved into his new role on Jan. 13,

taking the reins from retiring Chief Operating Officer Quinn McKenna, who had occupied the post since January of 2017. In his new position, Shumway will report directly to David Entwistle, president and CEO of Stanford Health Care since July of 2016.

As Shumway heads into a new chapter working out

Since 2015, it had operated as ValleyCare, part of the Stanford Health Care system. It then underwent an official name change in 2022 to become Stanford Health Care Tri-Valley.

Shumway said that when he looked back and thought about the big thematic accomplishments in the last five years, he saw Stanford Health Care

long-term viability no longer exists either, according to Shumway. He explained that the Stanford relationship was consummated because Valley Memorial Hospital was in such financial distress that the only option was to go find a partner.

The Stanford entity has nearly 500 faculty who practice in the Tri-Valley. More than \$700 million in capital investment has taken place over the past six years. Hundreds of millions of additional dollars are being planned for further growth and expansion of services in the area, Shumway added.

The affiliation with Stanford has also meant the Tri-Valley location has access to the academic and research capabilities of the greater Stanford university health care system.

“We have a very robust clinical research infrastructure that you can only find in Palo Alto and San Francisco in large academic settings. But now it’s in Pleasanton.” He explained that community members can access the latest cutting-edge clinical trials. In many cases, patients are able to receive the specialties and subspecialties here that you would be given if they were driving to Palo Alto.

Shumway confirmed a highly anticipated graduate medical education program will begin in July of this year.

“Our new family medicine residency program

will be training the next generation of physicians right here in Pleasanton. That stuff only occurs because of the core relationship we have as part of the Stanford Health Care ecosystem.”

Shumway’s new position as COO will include overseeing operations across all of Stanford Health Care, with responsibility for 19,000 employees, plus the network’s physicians and provider partners.

He will also be involved in the governance of Stanford Medicine Partners, the university’s medical foundation, and remain a board member at Stanford Health Care Tri-Valley.

“So the CEOs of those two organizations will have a direct connection to me in my new role, which is great because that allows me to keep a pulse on what’s going on and to really think about how we leverage the entirety of the health system in furtherance of very well coordinated service to our communities.”

Stanford Health Care is a nonprofit agency that generates many millions of dollars each year in community benefits. It invested more than \$1 billion for its fiscal year in 2023

to Bay Area communities, supporting a range of services from food donations to free training for medical professionals.

In the Tri-Valley, Stanford Health Care invested approximately \$46 million in community programs and benefits in 2024. Shumway said the organization will continue to work closely with Tri-Valley organizations, such as Three Valleys Community Foundation, Sunflower Hill and Open Heart Kitchen, among others, which are directly involved in specific issues within the community to ensure that individuals get the care they need.

“We really believe that’s all part of why we’re here.”

As Shumway and his family face the prospect of a possible move closer to his new office in Palo Alto, he said, “I believe the Tri-Valley to be legitimately one of the very, very best places in the Bay. And we have absolutely loved every minute of our time here. I’ve loved being involved in the community. The people here are so committed to making it what it needs to be for our current generations and our future generations.”



Rick Shumway, former CEO of Stanford Health Care Tri-Valley, has been promoted to chief operating officer for all of Stanford Health Care. (Photo courtesy of Stanford Health Care)

of Palo Alto, he reflects on the one he leaves behind. “When I came here, the (Tri-Valley’s) relationship with Stanford was in its nascent stage. It was not entirely clear how that was going to be leveraged or enhanced to bring what only a place like Stanford can bring to a community.”

Stanford Health Care Tri-Valley was originally established as Valley Memorial Hospital in 1961.

Tri-Valley as fully entrenched in the Stanford ecosystem, one of the primary strategic areas of growth, development and interest. He noted that earlier one could ask, “How does this fit into the Stanford rubric or the Stanford portfolio” and “What can Stanford do for this community?” Those questions don’t exist anymore, he said.

The question of its

Vaccination Rates Still Below Pre-Pandemic Levels

By Ruth Roberts

Vaccination rates in the U.S. for the most common childhood diseases have been declining since the COVID-19 pandemic, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). According to the agency, the trend is most prevalent among kindergartners although overall numbers for adults and older children are declining as well.

The CDC reports that vaccinations for kindergartners in the U.S. dropped during the 2023-2024 school year, with vaccination rates at 92.3% for the DTaP vaccine and 92.7% for the MMR vaccine. This marks a decrease from 93.1% last year and 95% pre-pandemic.

In Alameda County, the numbers are a bit better, with 97.2% of kindergartners up to date on their vaccines, and 95.4% of Alameda County child-care facilities current with their vaccine records. The Alameda County Health Department attributes the higher vaccination rates in the county to community outreach programs and better access to vaccines for all residents.

A statement on the county Public Health Department website says that

the Immunization Program is dedicated to improving the community’s knowledge of and access to vaccinations. “Everyone, especially infants and toddlers, should continue to receive their immunizations on time and maintain their immunization schedule to decrease the risk of getting sick from diseases that are preventable with vaccines.”

But elsewhere, health professionals are expressing worry over the risk of disease outbreaks, as the number of children receiving vaccine exemptions has reached an unprecedented level in 40 states and Washington, D.C., with several of those states reporting exemptions that surpass 5%, according to the CDC. This increase is largely attributed to a disruption in routine health-care during the pandemic, limited access to care, misinformation spreading about vaccines and distrust in public health. Non-medical factors, including religious or philosophical beliefs, also play a role.

When asked for comment, the CDC said it was pausing on mass communications and public appearances that are not directly related to emergencies or critical to preserving health.

“This is a short pause to allow the new team to set up a process for review and prioritization,” CDC Public Affairs Specialist Ryan Sloane wrote in an email to The Independent. “There are exceptions for announcements that HHS divisions believe are mission critical, but they will be made on a case-by-case basis.”

Dr. Thomas Ken Lew, clinical assistant professor of medicine at the Stanford School of Medicine, and an attending physician at Stanford Health Care Tri-Valley Hospital in Pleasanton, said the number of adult patients he is seeing this flu season has increased. Lew says at least one-fifth to one-quarter of the patients he treats are in dire medical distress because they did not receive their flu shots.

“Every winter, we see a surge of respiratory viruses that make the community very sick, and this year is no exception,” Lew said. “In fact, there seems to be a fairly dramatic uptick in hospitalizations of patients getting very ill from the flu and RSV this year.”

“The patients I round on in the hospital are sick with these viruses, requiring oxygen machines, breathing treatments, and anti-virals,” he said.

“Their risk of getting intubated or dying is not low ... Those that did receive the vaccine still can get sick but typically don’t get as sick as the unvaccinated. All the more reason to protect yourself and create herd immunity.”

The World Health Organization emphasizes the importance of maintaining high vaccination rates because the level needed to achieve herd immunity differs for each disease. For instance, approximately 95% of a population must be vaccinated against measles to ensure herd immunity, which means that the remaining 5% benefit from the fact that the virus cannot spread within a fully vaccinated community. In the case of polio, the required vaccination threshold is around 80%. However, the specific percentage of the population that needs to be vaccinated against COVID-19 to initiate herd immunity remains uncertain.

For more information, visit <https://bit.ly/4ga8VsJ>.

McNerney Introduces Legislature to Expand Incentives for Green Projects

State Sen. Jerry McNerney, D-Pleasanton, has introduced legislation to increase funding for a tax-incentive program designed to encourage California manufacturers to invest in environmentally friendly projects and technologies.

“SB 86 will ensure that California continues to incentivize green projects, while also boosting the state’s clean energy sector,” McNerney said. “Plus, the bill will help California become a national leader in fu-

sion energy, a potential game-changing clean technology.”

SB 86 would extend the program, known as the California Alternative Energy and Advanced Transportation Financing Authority Act, indefinitely and would increase available funding from \$100 million to \$300 million annually. It would also expand the program to include nuclear fusion projects.

Created by the Legislature in 2010, the program has incentivized 256 projects in more

than 40 counties, resulting in an \$11 billion investment in clean technology and environmental projects and creating or retaining 115,000 jobs, according to the state.

The program, currently set to expire in January 2026, “has played a vital role in helping California achieve its climate goals, protect our environment, create green jobs, and stimulate the economy,” according to McNerney, who chairs the Senate Revenue and Taxation Committee.



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EDITORIAL

The Community Has to Stand Together Against Mass Deportations

The deportations didn’t even wait for President Trump to be sworn in. In the first week of January, Border Patrol agents detained 78 people near Bakersfield. There have been reports, and even more unconfirmed rumors, of other ICE raids across the country.

While the latest sweeps are garnering attention, the numbers of daily arrests have been fairly consistent so far: approximately 275-300 people per day.

What’s changing is the intent, and the egregiousness of some of the actions being taken. At first, Colombia turned back military deportation flights, prompting Trump to threaten tariffs to get them to resume. Other deportees arrived in Brazil on Jan. 24 in handcuffs, with some reporting mistreatment at the hands of the U.S. officials on board.

And it seems the raids are being targeted more broadly (if “targeted” is even the right word anymore): CNN, citing Navajo Nation officials, reported at least 15 Indigenous people in Arizona and New Mexico have been stopped, questioned or detained.

Historical memory is short. Indeed, people seem to have forgotten the first Trump administration, when he separated families in detention, jailed innocent migrants, and oth-

erwise displayed extreme cruelty toward non-citizens.

Local officials are taking a strong position, with school officials noting they are working to keep schools safe, supportive and welcoming for all students. Pleasanton Police Chief Tracy Avelar, who is also president of the California Police Chiefs Association, has explicitly stated that it has never been the role of local police to enforce immigration law. California Attorney General Rob Bonta has also said the Trump administration can’t use state and local law enforcement for its immigration enforcement efforts.

But since the inauguration, Trump reversed a policy dating from 2011 that prevented Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents from approaching people in “sensitive” locations, such as schools, churches and hospitals. The new administration also is overturning a policy to avoid “collateral” arrests, meaning detaining someone for immigration violations who was encountered while the agent was pursuing someone else for more serious criminal violations.

Have grocery prices come down yet? We shouldn’t expect them to: California’s Central Valley provides roughly one quarter of the United

States’ food supply and employs approximately 350,000 farmworkers, according to a study from UC Merced, drawing on Census data through 2019. The U.S. Department of Labor estimates that approximately half of those farmworkers are undocumented.

Local community groups have responded, ramping up efforts to provide advice and legal aid in many counties. Alameda County Immigration Education Legal Partnership is in the process of setting up a hotline. In the meantime, people are asked to report sightings of ICE activities, or if someone known to them is detained, to Centro Legal de la Raza at 510-437-1554 during weekday work hours.

California has been in Trump’s crosshairs before. What we need to prepare for is a much more aggressive campaign against our communities — not just undocumented immigrants, but those with residency status, and other communities of color and minority racial, ethnic, sexual, religious and gender groups. Saying our schools are welcoming is one thing — what happens when ICE agents show up with a warrant may be another thing altogether. And students aren’t protected once they leave school grounds.

We need to keep a watchful eye on the activities of ICE and other federal government officials in our communities and report them to Centro Legal and other migrant rights organizations. We also should publicly call out abuses of power, and support efforts to provide legal assistance, financial help and other aid to targeted families and individuals.

In the meantime, what may be the largest problem emerging is a climate of fear. There have been anecdotes of people becoming too afraid to show up at work, to buy groceries, to seek medical care. The end goal for the harsh immigration crackdowns is ultimately to deter people from immigrating in the first place.

In 1933, newly elected President Franklin D. Roosevelt said the only thing we have to fear is fear itself. That’s because fear can make us do terrible things to one another. Even when we later went to war against fascism in Europe, we rounded up and put Japanese Americans in concentration camps at home.

We need to resist returning to that earlier, darker period, and stand up for the people who are right now facing new levels of fear and oppression.

MAILBOX

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Compassionate Super Bowl Snacks

Lucas Nelson, Livermore

As Super Bowl Sunday nears, it’s worth considering the staggering number of chickens sacrificed for a single day of indulgence—an estimated 375 million, just for wings. This annual tradition, though beloved by many, comes at a great cost to animals, the planet, and even our health.

Fortunately, there’s a kinder and equally satisfying alternative: plant-based wings. Made from ingredients like tofu, seitan, potatoes, or even cauliflower, these options pack all the flavor without harm to animals. Brands like Blackbird, Gardein, and Daring offer ready-to-enjoy wings, while homemade cauliflower “wing” recipes are easy, delicious, and crowd-pleasing.

This year, why not make your Super Bowl spread one of compassion and sustainability? By swapping traditional chicken wings for plant-based alternatives, you’ll score a win for animals and the environment, all while enjoying a

healthier take on a game-day favorite.

Unleaded Fuel Adoption

Thomas Gray, Livermore

As some people have been pleading for the Livermore Airport to install an unleaded fuel tank and push for quicker adoption of unleaded aviation fuel, I (along with a few others) have been explaining that the changeover is complicated and risky.

Now the FAA is investigating reports of GAMI’s G100UL fuel (the unleaded fuel “holy grail” for folks pushing for its adoption) causing aircraft and engine damage.

It will take time and testing to determine what damage is simply the result of aircraft or engine aging, and what damage is a result of the new fuel.

This letter is not to say, “I told you so,” but I will reiterate what I’ve written in previous letters: availability isn’t a barrier to unleaded fuel adoption. The biggest barrier is the availability of engines, engine modifications, and the time and ex-

pense of those changes. In my opinion, the focus should be on helping aircraft owners and manufacturers test and deploy modifications allowing the safe use of unleaded fuel.

The FAA and other organizations are trying to find solutions, but it will take time and patience. It might be a trite saying in aviation, but that doesn’t make it any less true: “It’s better to be on the ground, wishing you were in the air, than vice versa.”

Stupid Should Smart

Paul Stone, Dublin

Like many Californians, I have personally donated to the fire relief effort in SoCal. However, California should not receive one red cent from the feds unless it is bound by a blood oath to use the money for relief and fire prevention only.

If not, Newsom and his ilk will use the fed money toward the hapless high speed rail project, failed homeless programs that exacerbate the problem, wealth transfers to people who are in the state illegally and other progressive pipe dreams. I give my word as a Stone on this.

The situation in SoCal is, to a great extent, due to the utterly foolish policies of the utterly feckless Democrat-controlled legislature over decades. They should be held accountable by the voters next time around. Otherwise, they will continue their ideologically driven idiocy. Stupid should smart!

Parenthetically, a recent amendment to a California fire relief bill that would have set aside a billion dollars for fire prevention was defeated with every single assembly Democrat voting against it. Typical. Remember that in ‘26.

The Inhumanity Toward the Vulnerable

Greg Scott, Livermore

At the large Nazi death camps, Auschwitz-Birkenau, about 50 survivors attended the eightieth anniversary of their liberation by Soviet forces. More than 1.1 million souls were murdered there from 1942 to 1945, including more than 1 million Jews.

An Italian survivor, Lili-ana Segre, 94, didn’t attend the ceremonies in Poland and honored the anniversary in Rome. In January 1944, Segre was shipped from Milan to

Auschwitz-Birkenau. Since November 7, 2019, Segre has been under police protection after receiving numerous social media insults and threats - giving an idea of existent true anti-Semitism and far-right ascendancy. (Note: I don’t hyphen anti-Semitism in deference to the Israeli historian Yehuda Bauer (1926 - 2024), unless it is a direct quote. Contrary to Bauer, I give pronoun respect to the Semite demographic.)

The history of the Holocaust needs telling, along with the history of the Nakba, where 750,000 Palestinians were forced from their homes and hundreds of Palestinian villages were completely destroyed. (References: (1) “The Holocaust and the Nakba: A new Grammar of Trauma and History,” edited by Bashir and Goldberg, 2019. (2) https://forensic-architecture.org)

What have we learned from the Holocaust? “Ignoring a genocide [by Israel on Palestinians] or pretending it is not happening is not a ‘difference of opinion.’ It is a racist ideology.” (Rupa Marya, “Moving From Colonial Liberation Medicine in a Time of Genocide,” January 26, 2025. Note: Dr. Marya has been suspended from medical practice at the University of California San Francisco (UCSF) for her views on the situation in Palestine. The wealthy Diller family (Prometheus Real Estate Group) is a major donor to UCSF and to the Canary Mission, a pro-Zionist propaganda organization.)

The Holocaust chant is “Never Again!” We have apparently learned very little from the European Holocaust. Americans and Israelis are supporting and implementing horrendous genocide of Palestinians. We Americans think this violence on foreign lands is not coming home. The same subjectivity of “others” that the Germans had toward the Jews from the beginning of the 20th century through World War II is manifesting itself here with the subjectivity toward illegal immigrants, Palestinians, Arabs, Muslims, homeless, homosexuals, transsexuals, Jews, and other vulnerable.

The subjectivity toward the vulnerable is not from “very fine people on both sides.” (President Trump, Mark I). Tragically, partially through

racism leading to genocide, former Chancellor Heinrich Brüning, excuse me, former President Biden has delivered the subjective President Trump to the White House.

Trump’s Reforms

Jim Adams, Livermore

President Donald’s approach to governing reminds me of an old Turkish proverb: “The forest was shrinking, but the trees kept voting for the axe because the axe was clever and convinced the trees that, because his handle was made of wood, he was one of them.”

Cornerstone Development Waivers

Jean King, Livermore

At Livermore’s Monday city council meeting, the plan on the agenda for the Cornerstone development in the Isabel area of north Livermore proposed a large number of waivers that eliminate many of our important housing standards. Instead, the city should have offered to work with the developer and the community to keep the number of low-income housing, and still maintain our longstanding residential requirements without any need for waivers.

A waiver should not be given so that the Scenic Corridor will be violated with a 70-foot, 5-story housing building. The character of our city must be maintained.

Also, the City is not following the rules for Inclusionary Housing that set standards for Affordable Housing.

Inclusionary housing, by its very name, means including affordable units within market rate units, integrating affordable residents with market rate residents and not separating affordable residents in separate housing.

The affordable housing in Cornerstone doesn’t follow those Inclusionary standards. If it were following the standards, there would be no difference in the units. Affordable units would be integrated with the market housing. Eleven waivers were granted, four related to building design and view protection, and seven related to comparability of the affordable for-rent and for-sale units with the for-sale market rate units.

In Cornerstone, the affordable rental housing is isolated

by itself in below standard housing.

The rules on minimum gross floor areas, as well as requirements that affordable units be comparable in unit mix and type, economically equivalent to a project’s market rate homes, and integrated throughout the development, are not being implemented.

One of the waivers stated that the 50 sq. ft. of private open space in the Affordable housing is not required.

For the Affordable units, the size of the units, number of bedrooms and number of bathrooms don’t match the market units.

The proportion of bathrooms to bedrooms for all affordable units is not equal to the Market units.

There is inequity in the parking for the Affordable units.

For Market rate housing, the ratio of parking spaces/units is approximately 2/1.

For the Affordable units, the ratio of parking spaces/units is approximately .5/1, which is the required “minimum”. Since when is the “minimum” good enough for the disadvantaged?

Where are the Affordable residents and guests going to park?

The Council should not be supporting this development as proposed with all the waivers that violate our design standards.

Do not “Dublinize” our town. .

Inauguration Weekend Was Awesome

David Ott, Pleasanton

I was fortunate to attend President Trump’s inauguration weekend celebration in Washington D.C. with my family and friends. The weekend had the buzz and excitement of a Super Bowl, and the winners were certainly the American citizens. President Trump has done more to make our country safe again in the first week following his inauguration than Biden has done in four years.

As we have seen in the past four years, the Biden administration was an existential threat to the freedom and democracy of the United States. His policies almost ruined America and certainly made the world

(See MAILBOX, page 5)

THE Independent

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Dan Nichols, a singer/songwriter and composer of modern Jewish music, will perform at Congregation Beth Emek in Pleasanton at 8:30 p.m. on Saturday, March 1. Born in Indiana, Nichols' family converted to Judaism when he was 7. He served as a cantorial soloist at Congregation Micah in Brentwood, Tennessee, and was a founding member of the band Eighteen, featuring rock music with Jewish themes and Hebrew prayers. He now performs at synagogues, Jewish community centers and Jewish youth camps. (Photo courtesy of Dan Nichols)

MAILBOX

(Continued from page 4)

unsafe with the war in Russia and Ukraine and the terrorism in the Middle East. Iran was allowed to continue their terrorist attacks throughout the region, which was a direct result of the Biden administration appeasement policies and with their removal of the economic sanctions which allowed Iran to be flush with cash.

President Trump's common-sense approach is such a breath of fresh air. He secured the U.S. border on day one and followed up with arresting a deporting over 700 hardened illegal alien criminals that the Biden administration had allowed to enter the country illegally. Biden's sanctuary policies and those of the Democrat controlled cities and states has allowed these illegal alien criminals to roam free throughout America for the past four years causing murder, rape, drug trafficking and more. These 700 illegal aliens were already wanted for murder, rape, drug trafficking, gang activity and more crimes in their country of origin and then continued this mayhem in the United States. Why would anyone think that having open borders which allows these types of criminals into our country is a good thing? A recent New York Times opinion poll showed that 88% of respondents were in favor securing the border and deporting the illegal criminals.

Thank God for President Trump and his commonsense approach for the benefit of the American citizens. The next four years will be filled with the commonsense approach

on a wide variety of topics and policies and will provide safety, security and prosperity for America and for the rest of the free world.

Thank You for Helping Make A Difference
Jerri Long, Pleasanton

Multiple thanks to The Independent for your help in publicizing the Make A Difference for Pleasanton Festival. We appreciated the advance article, which undoubtedly was part of the reason we set a record of over 700 attendees on Jan. 18 (plus more than 100 volunteers behind the exhibit tables.)

We were surprised and pleased to have an excellent follow-up article, by Ruth Roberts, with photos by not-totally-retired Doug Jorgensen. And we appreciated the mention in Christina Cavallaro's "Heart of the Valley" column.

New this year was advance online sign-up for student community service hours. 142 individuals signed up for the 202 volunteer slots (some serving more than one slot). There were four hands-on projects: a hundred hand-made cards were created to send to local military personnel serving far from home; 300 pounds of crayons were sorted by color, to be melted down to make fresh crayons to be distributed to children in hospitals; 4,500 sets of safety pins were prepared for use at the Thanksgiving Day Turkey Burn, for the bibs participants attach to their clothing (saying "I am thankful for..."); and 15 fleece blankets had fringe cut and tied,

plus animal chew toys were braided. Teen volunteers also signed up to help with set-up and clean-up, plus other tasks during the festival, for a total of 252 hours of service.

In addition, for the first time, those entering the exhibit hall had the opportunity to quickly put together hygiene kits for distribution to homeless and other neighbors in need. This was especially popular for families with young children, who could experience how they, too, could make a difference in other people's lives. There were 300 kits assembled.

Many exhibitors expressed gratitude, not only for the opportunity to recruit volunteers, but also for the chance to meet people from other organizations who have found positive ways to make a difference. For those unable to attend the event, we encourage a visit to MAD4P.org, where they can see a listing of participating non-profit organizations, plus their mission statements and contact information.

We could not have the Make A Difference for Pleasanton Festival without the sponsorship of the City of Pleasanton, Pleasanton Unified School District, Pleasanton Community of Character Collaborative, AC-CUSPLIT Make A Difference Programs, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, and Karlsson & Lane Accountancy Corporation. Thanks again for your help.

A Crime Against Humanity
Jim and Mary Ann Hannon
Livermore

Deportation of millions of

illegal immigrants for crimes as small as shoplifting has begun. Mass deportations will require identifying the deportees, capturing them, interning them, and deporting them to live, be persecuted, and killed in conditions unworthy of human beings. Some states (e.g., Missouri) propose rewards for identifying illegal residents and establishing bounty hunters to catch them.

These deportees are real people: men, women, and children whom we see every day in stores, in schools, even down the block. Their mass deportation fits the description of a CRIME AGAINST HUMANITY. President Trump may drive this, but it will be done in the name of citizens of the United States of America (in OUR name) and require our participation. IT SHOULD NOT BE DONE.

Claims were often made or implied supporting mass deportations, but very real costs: e.g. horrendous impacts on the deportees were treated as trivial; significant costs to us, the citizens of the U.S. were seldom mentioned.

Some costs of the mass deportations to us:

- financial costs (e.g. the billions for the deportation process itself, the taxes lost, the sales lost, the contributions to social security lost);
 - loss-of-services costs (e.g. landscape maintenance, construction, agriculture, health care lost);
 - societal contributions lost (e.g. insights, innovations and companies created by industrious, intelligent people);
 - legal norms destroyed (e.g. violations of the constitution by deporting citizen children with families; use of the U.S. Army in the U.S. to apprehend the immigrants; establishment of the police state, bounty hunters and citizen informants needed to support mass deportation).
 - destruction of social norms (e.g. loss of belief in the inalienable right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness; erosion of morals as we turn a blind eye to the excesses bound to occur in a mass deportation process that meets the description of a "crime against humanity" and mimics the U.S.'s treatment of Mexicans in the 1930s and the Japanese in the 1940s). In short, we lose our belief that our nation has a moral compass.
- So, what can be done:
- Increase awareness of injustice, inhumanity, and immorality of mass deportation with friends and acquaintances here and elsewhere.
 - Speak out against draconian mass deportation in public forums whenever possible.

- sible.
- Support organizations that mount legal challenges to mass deportation.
 - Urge our legislators to hold up appropriations for mass deportation efforts and implement sensible, humane, effective immigration.

Climate Resiliency, Part Two: Extreme Weather
Patricia Munro, Livermore

Developing Resilient Landscapes and Habitats

Livermore's Climate Action Plan includes initiatives to protect biodiversity, deal with extreme heat, and mitigate the effects of wildfires. The Climate Action Plan includes both long-term investment in changing the environment and short-term actions for emergencies.

Biodiversity: Protecting biodiversity means preserving open space and expanding native habitats—essential habitats for local wildlife. It also means supporting ecosystem health through improving natural water cycles and soil quality. Increasing the native landscaping minimizes water use and maintenance costs. In addition, Livermore loves its open spaces—these initiatives not only are good for the environment, but they also increase Livermore's quality of life—providing places to play and connect with nature.

Extreme Heat: The danger of extreme heat—with or without drought—increases year by year, so preparing for it is critical. Increasing green spaces and planting trees lowers temperatures. In the built environment, using reflective materials can also lower temperatures. Both tactics can decrease the strain on ener-

gy grids and reduce cooling costs.

The Effects of Wildfires: Increasing biodiversity is critical for the long term, yet wildfires burn fuel—vegetation and worse. And, though wildfires are regional, cities can reduce their impact. Therefore, part of the climate actions plan includes ways of mitigating wildfire locally: managing vegetation, creating defensible spaces, and investing in early warning systems all help minimize the severity of a fire. When — not if — fires happen nearby, minimizing the effects of smoke through filtration becomes important.

Livermore's Climate Action Plan addresses the ways that the City can respond over the areas for which it is responsible. On a smaller scale, each of us enacts these steps as well. On a much smaller scale!

Taking Issue
Daniella Karo, Pleasanton

Donna Anderson informs us in her letter to the editor "Alienating Our Neighbors" that as a teacher and an American patriot, she is ashamed and embarrassed by Donald Trump calling names

(See MAILBOX, page 6)



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Library to Host Program on African American Sorority

The Livermore Public Library will host a live virtual program about the history of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 20.

Alpha Kappa Alpha was the nation's first intercollegiate African American sorority, founded at Howard University in Washington, D.C., in 1908.

Started by nine women at the historically Black university, the sorority now includes more than 1,000 chapters in the U.S.

with 360,000 members.

Panelists for the virtual presentation, part of the library's Black History Month programming, will include Tina Jones Williams, Melissa Hawkins and Maya Mosley.

Williams, a storyteller and folklorist, has been a member of the Alpha Kappa Alpha San Jose Chapter for 22 years. A graduate of the University of Texas at Austin. She is a member of the National League of American Pen Women and a contributor to the South

Berkeley Legacy Project.

Hawkins, a graduate of Alabama A&M University and National University in San Diego, is digital implementation manager for Pleasanton-based Blackhawk Networks. She has been a member of the Silicon Valley-based Eta Rho Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha since 1996.

Mosley is Far Western Region Northern California Cluster Coordinator for Alpha Kappa Alpha. A graduate of Northeastern

University in Boston, she also served as president of the sorority's Delta Zeta Omega Chapter in San Francisco the past two years.

To watch the presentation, use the link us02web.zoom.us/j/87403730236. For more information, call 925-373-5500.

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Popular Comedian Rita Rudner Brings Solo Show Back to Bankhead Theater

Las Vegas favorite Rita Rudner will return to the Bankhead Theater in Livermore for an evening of comedy on Friday, Feb. 28.

Rudner holds the record for the longest-running solo female comedy show in Vegas history, selling more than two million tickets, and was named Las Vegas Comedian of the Year nine straight times. She has also starred in several HBO specials.

Rudner last appeared at the Bankhead Theater in 2022.

Tickets for the 8 p.m. Bankhead Presents performance start at \$65.

The Bankhead will also welcome Stewart Copeland, former drummer for the Brit-

ish rock band The Police, for a Rae Dorough Speaker Series' presentation, "Have I Said Too Much," at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, March 5.

Copeland is a seven-time Grammy Award winner. He was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame as a member of The Police in 2003, the Modern Drummer Hall of Fame in 2005, and the Classic Drummer Hall of Fame in 2013.

In 2016, Rolling Stone Magazine ranked him as the 10th Greatest Drummer of All Time.

Copeland has also composed numerous soundtracks for movies, television programs and video games, and

has published books on music and sports, and a memoir, "Strange Things Happen: A Life with the Police, Polio, and Pygmies."

Tickets to "Have I Said Too Much: The Police, Hollywood, and Other Adventures" start at \$25,

Also on tap in March is composer, pianist and singer Michael Feinstein with a tribute to the late Tony Bennett at 8 p.m. on Friday, March 7.

In the 1990s, Feinstein, a platinum-selling musician, began working to preserve America's musical heritage from the 1920s through then 1950s.

The Library of Congress appointed him to the Na-

tional Recording Preservation Board in 2000, and in 2007, Feinstein founded the Great American Songbook Foundation. In 2010, PBS aired a three-part television documentary, "Michael Feinstein's American Songbook, that depicted the history of popular American music up to 1960, along with Feinstein's own life and career.

Tickets to "Michael Feinstein in Because of You: My Tribute to Tony Bennett" start at \$95.

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



Rita Rudner will perform her one-woman comedy show at the Bankhead Theater on Friday, Feb. 28. (Photo courtesy of Livermore Valley Arts)

MAILBOX

(Continued from page 5)

and ridiculing world leaders during his presidency. Yet, missing from her letter is her total lack of outrage and embarrassment by former president Joe Biden calling 70+ million Americans (yours and mine) who supported Donald Trump, "Garbage"! I remember being appalled and embarrassed for all of my neighbors who were so shamefully diminished. Ms. Anderson takes issue with President Trump expressing his desire to acquire Danish Greenland, a strategically located island of national interest to USA. As a reminder, the U.S. acquired Alaska from the Russians in 1867 for a price, and Hawaii in 1890s from the Brits. She also takes issue with Trump's desire to return the Panama Canal to the USA as it was built by Americans with our dollars, and is now under Chinese control! As for President Trump renaming the Gulf of Mexico the "Gulf of America", we all agree that geographically speaking, that would indeed be more accurate!

I encourage Ms. Anderson to stop being ashamed and embarrassed by President Trump, as he is trying hard to "Make America Great Again" and improve the lives of all of us, including our national security!

Citizenship Reform is Possible

Pierre Pierre, Pleasanton

U.S. Citizenships being sold abroad for \$50-100K is viewed as tawdry and repugnant by the overwhelming majority of Americans. There is also widespread dissatisfaction with a system that splits the immigration status within a family on account of a birth.

Those who insist an Amendment is needed might ask themselves:

"How did Native Americans finally obtain U.S. citizenship?" In passing the 1924 Indian Citizenship Act, Congress overruled the 14th Amendment's 1884 Supreme Court interpretation (Elk vs. Wilkins). This 1924 statute illustrates how Congress has the power to re-define pathways to citizenship as ideas and circumstances change over time. That historical precedent clears the way for legislation this year based on five guiding principles:

- all U.S. citizenships given under the previous birthplace system are sacrosanct
- a future effective date giving states and localities plenty of time to adapt
- Every newborn inherits same nationality and U.S. immigration status from parents
- A new dependent neonate visa is made available to non-citizen parents (with an automatic grace period) documenting their

infant's nationality and permission to be in the U.S.

• Newborns to permanent legal residents receive a permanent resident visa, and eligibility to be naturalized concurrently with parents as a natural born citizen, or after 18th birthday, to obtain that same status by citizenship oath.

Skeptical about bipartisan support? Do you realize how strongly the idea of parents gifting U.S. citizenship to their baby will resonate among open-minded Dems?

If we demand Congress stick to these five principles, we can push a bipartisan bill over the finish line. If crafted responsibly (covering all situations), when brought before the Supreme Court, I expect it will not only be upheld, but it will delight the Justices that Congress took up its role (Article 1, Section 8) — tweaking pathways to citizenship for coming decades.

What to call it? Why name it the thing being phased out (birthright citizenship) when we're establishing something new and exciting?

The Citizenship Inheritance Act.

Undercutting Freedoms and Endangering Our Planet

Ward Kanowsky, Pleasanton

In his first hours as president, Donald Trump signed a barrage of executive orders,

taking over 200 actions undercutting our freedoms and endangering our planet. Specifically, he:

- pardoned 1,500 convicted January 6 insurrectionists, some who severely injured Capitol Police officers.
- withdrew the United States from the Paris Agreement, leading to more fossil fuel drilling and accelerating climate catastrophe, while wildfires continue to ravage Southern California
- shut our doors to refugees and asylum seekers fleeing violence, and illegally tried to end birthright citizenship, which is protected in the Constitution.

Many of these plans will fall flat in the courts and in Congress. They will also face severe backlash from voters, including those who elected him, as he ignores the key issue that put him in office: his promise to bring down high prices. Next up on his Project 2025 agenda: cuts to Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, and the Affordable Care Act.

And, oh yeah, tax cuts for billionaires — those guys in the second row at his inauguration had a really good day, staying warm inside the Capitol rotunda while the MAGA faithful who travelled to DC on their own dime were left

out in the cold and had to settle with "commemorative" tickets.

Meeting Our Candidates

Kyoko Takayama, Livermore

Please let us meet our Democratic Assembly District Delegate candidates.

I have sent out a questionnaire to candidates who are running an Assembly District Election Meeting (ADEM: adem.cadem.org), and I am hoping they will answer so that I can publish the answers online at go-hub.us/2025/01/25/adem25/.

If we are serious about electing our delegates, we should vote on candidates knowing who they are, what they did, why they are running and how they are planning to contribute. California Dems website is posting candidates' names, sexual identities and statements, but candidates have very few opportunities to meet their district Democrats. Since the delegates will have a vote to make decisions and to gain opportunities to serve official roles in the California Democratic Party, we deserve more from the party who claims to protect democracy.

I probably know more candidates than a regular voter; still my reach is limited.

If you know candidates, please encourage them to answer the questionnaire at forms.gle/PsdcXL4XNT-kqZCBB6.

I understand the history of caucus elections. I praise the party for adding electric voting during the pandemic. However, now most Assembly Districts have over 100K registered Democrats. I would love to see a candidates' forum online. We certainly know how to do these things. It makes it easier to learn about the candidates and eventually makes the ADEM more accessible. If we want to get fellow voters excited and vote in elections, they also should be included to form the party in every way possible. We need to make our fellow Democrats feel included and valuable to support Democratic candidates in every election. And the ADEM is no exception. Elections have consequences, and unless you are under a rock, we all are feeling that at the moment. Democracy is messy and lots of work, but together we should be able to make it work. Let's start with the ADEM. You can register at ademelections.com/register/mail to vote electronically through Jan. 31 (Friday) noon, and for in-person voting through Feb. 23. Let's make the Democratic Party better by participating in the ADEM.

IMMIGRATION

(Continued from front page)

onto school campuses without a federal warrant. Whether or not those policies will survive the new administration's approach is unclear.

"While we cannot predict or control changes in federal laws, we want to reaffirm our district's core value that all kids are our kids," said Torie Gibson, Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District superintendent in a letter to the district's families prior to the inauguration on Jan. 20. "We are deeply committed to maintaining our schools as safe, supportive and welcoming environments for all students and families."

According to the Migration Policy Institute, a nonpartisan think tank that studies the movements of people worldwide, one in 10 children in California have at least one undocumented parent and about 130,000 students in public schools are undocumented themselves.

It was not clear how many Tri-Valley residents are undocumented.

School officials in Tri-Valley school districts report their attendance numbers have remained steady over the past week and are urging students to continue to attend classes and remain calm.

"I thank you in advance for staying in school, remaining respectful, and engaging in meaningful dialogue," Chris Funk, Dublin Unified School District superintendent, wrote in a letter to the district's families on Jan. 17 ahead of the inauguration.

Maurice Ghysels, Pleasanton's interim superintendent, said the district will follow all established protocols as they navigate the fluid situation.

"We are committed to providing safe and supportive

learning environments for all, because it is vital to our vision that every student will be a resourceful, resilient, responsible and engaged world citizen," said Ghysels. "Pleasanton Unified schools have clear policies and procedures on responding to immigration enforcement that were approved in 2022. We will continue to monitor and follow state and federal guidelines to support the safety and wellbeing of our students."

For Arianna Velasco, originally from Brentwood, the latest immigration news is like Groundhog Day, a repeat of the first Trump term. Velasco was born in the U.S. to parents who were in the country under Temporary Protected Status after being forced from their home in El Salvador by war and gang violence.

"Back then he (Trump) didn't have the Senate or House on his side, but now he seemingly does and it's scarier this time around," said Velasco, whose parents eventually received their permanent status. "I can only imagine the fear now. While we are relieved to not be in the same position this time, we definitely feel that this is not a safe administration."

Velasco, now studying law in Seattle, is considering going into immigration law when she graduates. She says she has received many questions over the past few days from frightened individuals and she has advised them to be prepared. "I tell them to connect with their local organizations, get legal assistance and be aware of what your options are and what your current status is," Velasco said. "I would also urge people to not be impulsive; don't leave the country and then try to come back in, but do be proactive and do things like take a photo of your

passport and know where all your important documents are."

During an Association of California School Administrators (ACSA) online discussion this week, a panel of ACSA directors and education attorneys tried to address and assuage educators' fears.

Reg Leichty, a partner and founder of Foresight Law + Policy, an education law firm, who spoke during the ACSA meeting, said that in order for a president to issue an executive order, he must have inherent authority, which are powers not specified in the Constitution, and which Trump does possess.

"But it doesn't mean that they (executive orders) can't be challenged in court as unlawful," said Leichty. "Obviously it will be challenged, as it should be."

California Attorney General Rob Bonta said this week in a statement that the Trump administration could not use state and local law enforcement for its federal immigration enforcement efforts, and local police officials agree.

Tracy Avelar, Pleasanton's police chief and president of the California Police Chiefs Association, said in a statement released on behalf of the association that crime, not immigration status, should govern police activities. "Expected changes in federal immigration enforcement policies have caused fear throughout our immigrant communities, including confusion and uncertainty as to what role local police may play in these new directives," Avelar said. "It has never been the role of local police to enforce federal immigration law, nor should it be our responsibility ... At the same time, we do not believe our laws should shield dan-



A few openings remain for the 14-week Community Police Academy starting Wednesday, March 5, according to the Livermore Police Department (LPD). The academy, which meets on Wednesdays from 6 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., is open to anyone 18 or older who lives or works in Livermore. Those enrolled in the program will learn about patrol procedures, de-escalation and the use of force, dispatch functions, criminal investigation, and other aspects of law enforcement, including the city's Horizons Family Counseling program, according to the LPD website. They will also have an opportunity for a ride-along with a patrol officer and a sit-along with a dispatcher. The program is free. For more information, go to police.livermoreca.gov. (Photo courtesy of the Livermore Police Department)

gerous individuals or restrict our agencies and officers from investigating and apprehending serious or violent offenders."

Captain Miguel Campos with Dublin Police Services said that for now, it is business as usual.

"We do not and will not enforce immigration laws nor will we be working with ICE or any other entity who enforces immigration laws."

Joshua Whiteside, senior counsel with Lozano Smith, a public agency law firm in Walnut Creek, added during the ACSA meeting that while this is something people anticipated was possible under a second Trump administration, it has left school administrators looking for answers.

"The initial reaction is 'What are we grappling with? What comes next? What are districts' rights?'" Whiteside said. "State officials have told us that for immigration to come into the schools, they are going to need a judicial warrant ... How does this actually become

reality on a school campus where ICE agents are showing up asking for records to interview individuals?"

Unfortunately, there are more questions than answers during these first days of the new administration, but Whiteside said that the Department of Justice released a memo this week stating that the Supremacy Clause, which means the Constitution and federal law are supreme, is still law, and threatened state and local officials with prosecution if they don't cooperate.

"Immigrants have a right to go to school, but it looks like the federal government is going to respond to school staff if lawful warrants are not adhered to," he said.

What that means for frontline school staff and students is unknown.

"The tough answer is we don't have the answers today," said Edgar Zazuta, the ACSA's executive director. Zazuta suggested that individuals adhere to the current laws and check

with the governor's office and the nonprofit Immigrant Resource Center and other organizations for updates and information.

Shay Galletti, superintendent of the Sunol Glen Unified School District, said she is doing just that.

"My main goal right now is to educate myself on district policies and the law so that I can educate my staff and protect the students," she said. "Really, our focus today is how to keep them (students) safe so they can feel safe and so they can learn and grow."

For more information:

Association of California School Administrators: <https://acsa.org>

Governor's website: <https://www.gov.ca.gov/>

State Attorney General's office: <https://oag.ca.gov/>

California Department of Social Services: bit.ly/40Nm0nA

Centro Legal De La Raza website: bit.ly/4gfH1Bh

WATER

(Continued from front page)

In addition to the fee studies, Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department Chief Joe Testa said the area’s first community risk assessment will be released next month. The assessment, which compares the fire department’s deployment capacity against the community’s expected risks, shows an increasing trend in calls for service. It anticipates a 38% increase in calls in 10 years compared to today’s volume, continued Testa. With the recent fire devastation in the Los Angeles area in mind, Testa said, “It has been our experience that the frequency and intensity of incidents in our area are increasing. It’s not just something that’s happening in the Sierras or in Los Angeles.”

As examples, Testa cited the SCU Lightning Complex fires, which burned 394,000 acres across six counties in 2020 including Alameda County. He also mentioned the 2022 wildfire along Pleasanton Ridge, which remains the city’s highest wildfire risk.

Pleasanton’s five fire stations work in tandem with Livermore’s five stations through a joint-power agreement. The city also maintains a “no charge, no questions” automatic-aid agreement with Alameda County, said Testa. Beyond the county, the city participates in a state-wide mutual aid system that reimburses expenses. Through that system, 11 LPFD firefighters are cur-

rently deployed to the Los Angeles area wildfires.

“That same resource is available to us if we ever need it,” said Testa. “I hope we don’t.”

While the city of Livermore shares the fire department with Pleasanton, Livermore’s water rate schedule is fixed through the end of 2027.

Based on a city analysis completed in May 2024, Pleasanton Public Works Director Siew-Chin Yeong said that the amount of water flow in the city’s distribution system available to fight fires is enough to “handle urban fires with one or two structural fires at a time. It is not designed for catastrophic emergencies as we have seen in Southern California.”

The analysis also called out the city’s dependency on the Zone 7 Water Agency for all of its water. Because Zone 7 serves the cities of Dublin, Livermore and the Dougherty Valley area in addition to Pleasanton, a regional emergency could cause Tri-Valley cities to compete for the same water supply.

Although the state also allows Pleasanton to pump 3,500 acre-feet of groundwater per year, the city has not used this quota since the end of 2022 due to contamination by forever chemicals in the area’s aquifer.

As a result of the contamination, the city is exploring new groundwater wells in southwest Pleasanton in partnership with Zone 7. Contractors began drilling exploratory test wells in Del Prado Park, Tennis Park and Hansen Park last December and will present a feasibility study considering full production wells in July.

Leo Lopez, Pleasanton’s emergency services manager, encouraged residents and businesses to prioritize emergency planning by signing up for alerts and warnings, familiarizing themselves with evacuation routes and developing communication plans during emergency scenarios. Further resources are available on the city’s website at <https://cityofpleasantonca.gov/emergency-preparedness>.

Dublin Seeking to Fill Commission Vacancy

Dublin is seeking to fill a vacancy on the city’s Planning Commission.

The Planning Commission serves as an advisory body to the Dublin City Council on matters of planning, zoning and land use and meets at the council chambers, 100 Civic Plaza, at 7 p.m. on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month.

The commission is comprised of five members who serve four-year terms and two alternates who serve two-year terms. The current vacancy is for a term ending in December 2026.

The deadline to apply is Friday, Jan. 31.

Applications are available on the city’s website, dublin.ca.gov.

Haubert Hosts a Town Hall on Foster Families

Alameda County Supervisor David Haubert will host a Tri-Valley Town Hall at the Dublin library, 200 Civic Plaza, on Tuesday, Feb. 25, to encourage community support for foster families.

Staff from the Alameda County Department of Child and Family Services will discuss the need for foster families and how to become what are now referred to as “resource parents.” Resource parents and former foster youth will also discuss their experiences.

Haubert, who represents District 1, launched an initiative in 2024 with social service agencies, educational institutions and local nonprofits to strengthen the foster family program in the county. This is the second in a planned series of town hall sessions.

“As our district strives to provide nurturing and safe environments for children in need, it is essential to engage with foster families to understand

their challenges, celebrate their successes and provide valuable resources,” Haubert said.

District 1 includes Dublin and parts of Livermore, Sunol and Pleasanton.

Organizers are encouraging prospective resource parents, child welfare advocates, community leaders and individuals interested in mentoring or tutoring youth to attend the town hall, from 5 p.m. to 7:15 p.m.

The meeting is free and open to the public, but registration is required.

To register, email lindsay.knight@acgov.org.



Firefighters from multiple agencies contained a fast-moving three-alarm vegetation fire in Dublin that charred 248 acres on Aug. 9, 2019 and threatened Doolan Canyon. Pleasanton firefighters are concerned an increase in wildfires will place increasing demands on water supplies. (File photo — Doug Jorgensen)

Dublin to Hold Emergency Preparedness Sessions

Dublin and the Alameda County Fire Department will hold free emergency preparedness training sessions at The Wave, 4201 Cen-

tral Parkway, on Thursday, Feb. 20, and the Shannon Community Center, 11600 Shannon Ave., on Thursday, Feb. 27.

City and fire officials will discuss emergency alerts, fire safety, what to pack in a “go-bag,” and family exercises to enhance preparedness.

Both sessions will run from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Registration is required. To register, click on the announcement at dublin.ca.gov.

CORNERSTONE

(Continued from front page)

2 1/2-acre public park and a half-acre pocket park, along with a lighted, multi-use trail.

Although Assistant City Manager Paul Spence said Livermore’s ordinances require that affordable units be dispersed throughout a project, Cornerstone and its partners, Trumark Homes and The Pacific Companies, utilized state density waiver laws to override the local rules to put all of the affordable units in one building.

“Under state law, the developer has the opportunity to do that. And they’ve done that in this case,” Spence said.

Questioning that plan, Barrientos said he did not want to use a word that commonly describes what clustering lower-income housing in one location can create.

“I’ve seen areas where they become clustered and they kind of get run down quickly,” Barrientos said. “I just don’t want people to go through ‘We know what this part of town is.’ You know what I mean?”

Resident Julia Wild, however, speaking during the public comment period, used the word Barrientos kept to himself. She also said building a five-story building could open the door for more.

“Ben didn’t want to say it, but it becomes a ghetto,” Wild said. “We genuinely have to think about when you place all the low income in one building.”

Vice Mayor Evan Branning, who voted for the development, said the project’s design is part of Cornerstone’s plan to maximize the number of units

available for lower income people.

“We have struggled, every city in the state has struggled, to build housing at those levels,” Branning said. “And every expert unanimously agrees that housing at those income levels is the solution to our homelessness problem.”

Branning said the building will be the first for the area with more to follow.

“It’s going to really build up the neighborhood and give it a feel,” Branning said. “I don’t want us to look at that building and say it’s out of place and point fingers and stigmatize the building or the people inside of it. I want us to understand that this is the start of a neighborhood that really will incorporate all income levels, all different job types, all of the different people that make Livermore wonderful.”

Affordability distinctions are determined by the Area Median Income, which is currently \$155,700 in Alameda County. Mayor John Marchand pointed out that means a family of four with an income of \$120,000 is deemed “low income.” Marchand called that “astounding.”

In supporting the plan, Marchand and Council Member Kristie Wang said the project was needed in Livermore, where teachers in local schools would find themselves in the low-income category. Wang added that the city had no choice but to approve a project where state rules override local decisions.

Council Member Steven Dunbar said he did not believe the building’s residents would be stigmatized because it will house a range of salaries from \$31,000 for a single “extremely low income” person to more than \$150,000 for a family.

“It will be a very diverse building in its income range, but also in many other ways as well,”

Dunbar said. “I don’t have any reason to believe that there would be a stigma attached to who lives in that building.”

In addition to clustering the affordable units, the developer received 11 other waivers of regulations for the project, including those that govern the city’s three-story height limit, design and parking standards, and scenic view protection. Cornerstone’s developer cited California’s Housing Crisis Act of 2019 to request the 11 waivers of various codes in Livermore’s General Plan, the Livermore Development Code and the Isabel Neighborhood Specific Plan.

“How many waivers is the city going to give that violate our design standards?” resident Jean King wrote in a letter to the council. “Do not support this development. Do not approve this development with all the waivers. Do not ‘Dublinize’ our town,” King wrote.



Livermore High School student Megan Belk took first place and \$250 in the 2025 Livermore Post 47 American Legion Oratorical Contest this month and will move on to the American Legion District 10 competition, held in Livermore, on Saturday, Feb. 8. Anthony Edwards, also from Livermore High School, finished second and received \$150. The students are shown above with Post Commander Roy Warner (left) and Post Adjutant Bill Bergman. (Photo courtesy of David Lukins)

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Livermore Winery Makes History At Chronicle Wine Competition

By Dawnmarie Fehr

Livermore’s Las Positas Vineyards (LPV) made history when it’s 2023 Albariño Estate Reserve wine won first place in the White Wine Sweepstakes category at the San Francisco Chronicle Wine Competition. This is the second year in a row that a Las Positas wine took home a top award.

The competition, held earlier this month, ranks wines from all over North America. Las Positas Vineyards is the first winery to secure back-to-back wins in the white wine category. Last year the winery’s Estate Verdelho won the top prize.

LPV general manager and winemaker Brent Amos said his team was “thrilled” to be taking home the win for the second year in a row.

“Las Positas is dedicated to the marriage of old-world craftsmanship and new-world pioneer spirit in the production of our wines,” Amos said. “We are proud to bring visibility to the area and make our longtime customers happy they have been with us so long.”

In total, Livermore-based wineries brought home a record 211 awards across the

competition. In addition to LPV’s top placement, three other local vintages were awarded Best of Class, with 23 more winning Double Gold.

“The entire Livermore



(Photo Courtesy of Livermore Valley Wine Community)

Valley wine region is honored to have our wines recognized by a leading industry competition and their distinguished panel of judges,” said Brandi Lombardi, executive director of the Livermore Valley Wine Community. “Bringing home a record number of wins this year is a true indication of the hard work and dedication that our winemakers bring to their craft and quality wines that they are making.”

The Livermore Valley has a long history of producing award-winning wines, and Amos’s Albariño grapes were some of the first of their kind to be planted in the area. He said the grape has Spanish and Portuguese roots and he thought it would do well in Livermore’s warm climate.

“We took a chance and put it in the ground,” Amos said.

Amos noted 2024 was an “amazing year” for white wines, especially the Albariño. After harvest, the grapes are fermented in neutral oak barrels for a short time, then bottled quickly to retain their fresh, crisp flavors.

LPV’s tasting room is located at 1828 Wetmore Road, in Livermore. For more information, call 925-449-9463 or visit www.laspositasvineyards.com.



The annual Race to the Flagpole run was held Saturday, Jan. 25, starting and ending in Independence Park in Livermore. The one-mile, 5k, and 10k run is a fundraiser for Granada Boosters’ scholarship program. (Photo — Doug Jorgensen)

Park District Receives Grant Aid to Bolster Cybersecurity Capabilities

The Livermore Area Recreation and Park District (LARPD) has received a \$234,030 grant from the state to bolster its cybersecurity and technological infrastructure.

LARPD said upgrades to network connectivity, data systems, and cybersecurity capabilities would enhance

operational efficiency, protect sensitive data, and improve service to the public.

“This grant is a significant step forward for LARPD,” said David Weisgerber, community outreach supervisor. “These improvements go beyond protecting our systems. They help us provide better, more reliable services to our

community. By investing in our infrastructure, we’re ensuring that LARPD can continue to meet the needs of Livermore area residents today and into the future.”

The funds come from the State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program, administered by the Office of Emergency Services.

TRI-VALLEY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Ongoing Mondays

SING WITH THE BOWWAY CHORUS

Join a no-audition chorus on Mondays at 7 p.m. located at the Asbury United Methodist Church at 4743 East Ave. Rehearsals began the week of Jan. 13, but there is still an opportunity to join. In this unique session, songs from previous favorites will be sung. Come to find out if your favorite song will be included! New voices are welcome. Visit the East Bay Musical Society website at www.eastbaymusicals.org/sing-with-us for more information.

Friday, Feb. 7

AMERICAN RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

The City of Dublin will host an American Red Cross Blood Drive on Feb. 7, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., in the Bray Community Room at the Dublin Civic Center (100 Civic Plaza). There is a critical need for blood donors. Every donation collected can save up to three lives! To make a donation, visit RedCrossBlood.org, and use the sponsor code, “DublinCommunity,” or zip code 94568, to find Dublin’s blood drive. You may also call 800-733-2767 to register. The City of Dublin hosts regular blood drives at the Dublin Civic Center on the first Friday in February, April, June, October, and December.

Saturday, Feb. 8

PIANIST DANIEL GLOVER PERFORMS THE MUSIC OF SPAIN

Experience a special musical event when concert pianist Daniel Glover performs the music of Spanish composers in his program “Spain’s Golden Age of Nationalism” to benefit the Valley Concert Chorale. Mr. Glover’s programs are always entertaining and educational as he shares the history and analysis of each piece he performs. On Feb. 8 at 7:30 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church, 2020 Fifth St., Livermore. Tickets are \$30. Children and high school and college students are free. Advance tickets may be purchased at www.valleyconcertchorale.org, or call 925-866-4003 for more information. Proceeds from the performance will benefit the Valley Concert Chorale.

Saturday, February 8

EUCLID QUARTET

Del Valle Fine Arts welcomes back the Euclid Quartet on Saturday February 8 at 7:30 pm in the Bankhead Theater. One of the most highly regarded reputations of any chamber ensemble of its generation, the multinational mix of violinists Jameson Cooper and Aviva Hakanoglu, violist Luis Enrique Vargas, and cellist Justin Goldsmith is celebrating their 27th season. Euclid Quartet has earned many notable awards, most recently a top prize at the Osaka International Chamber Music Competition. Their concert will include Schubert’s much-loved “Death and the Maiden” quartet, works by Haydn and Mendelssohn, and a contemporary riff on Haydn’s quartet by Caroline Shaw, an award-winning American composer. Complimentary after-concert reception. Youth are always FREE. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St, Livermore. Tickets at the box office, 925-373-6800 and website www.livermorearts.org/events/euclid-string-quartet

Saturday, Feb. 8

ELKS LODGE VALENTINE’S DINNER AND DANCE

A Valentine’s dinner and dance (w/live music) will be held at the Larkspur Event Center located in the Livermore Pleasanton ELKS Lodge will be held on Feb. 8. Come for an evening of great dinner, live music, lots of raffle prizes plus dancing. A no-host bar will open at 5 p.m., prime rib dinner served at 6 p.m., and dancing from 7 to 9 p.m. Pre-pay by Feb. 4 for \$50 (pre-sale) or \$60 at the door (if space is still available). Contact the ELKS Lodge at 925-455-8829 or secretary2117@comcast.net. Located at 940 Larkspur Drive, in Livermore. All proceeds support the ELKS Lodge Community Programs

Saturday, Feb. 8

MARDIS GRAS THEMED BINGO

St. Michael’s Golden Friends and Italian Catholic Federation Br. 285 will be holding a benefit fundraiser on Feb. 8 at St. Michael’s Church Hall, 326 Maple St. in Livermore. Doors open at 10 a.m., bingo starts at 10:30. \$15 per bingo card and light lunch / \$10 for additional cards / \$5 TK-8th grade. RSVP by Feb. 4 at noon to Suzanne at suzibg@sbcbglobal.net or Virginia at virginia1153@comcast.net.

Monday, Feb. 10

GATHERING AND VERIFYING YOUR FAMILY’S ORAL HISTORY

Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society presents Sara

Cochran, who will define what oral history is and talk about strategies to interview your family; then, go through the process of verifying a family story. At Congregation Beth Emek, 3400 Nevada Court, Pleasanton, on Feb. 10 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. No charge – visitors welcome. Attend in person or via Zoom. For additional information, contact Tom Mathews, program chair, at program@L-AGS.org.

Thursday, Feb. 13

ALL ABOUT CITRUS TREES; FROM SELECTION TO HARVEST

The Livermore Amador Valley Garden Club will hold a meeting discussing the growing and care for citrus trees; a brief overview of the varieties and benefits of growing edible, fragrance and ornamental varieties. On Feb. 13, 6 to 8 p.m., at Crosswinds Church, 1660 Freisman Rd., Livermore, at the red Farm Theater Building.

Saturday, March 1

RONNIE BAKER BROOKS RECORD RELEASE

Award-winning blues rock guitarist, songwriter and vocalist Ronnie Baker Brooks will celebrate the release of his Alligator Records debut album, Blues In My DNA, with a live performance at the Almost Famous Wine Company in Livermore, 2271 S. Vasco Rd., on Saturday, March 1, at 7:30 p.m. Ronnie, son of legendary multiple GRAMMY Award nominee Lonnie Brooks, delivers an up-to-the-minute masterpiece. The album, the fifth of his career, is firmly rooted in the blues with Ronnie incorporating his own brand of rock, funk and soul to the mix. “I just play what I feel,” he says. “It’s all from the heart.” Tickets are \$33.85-\$59.47. See www.almostfamouswine.com for complete performance information.

Saturday/Sunday, March 1-2

54TH ANNUAL DAFFODIL SHOW

The Northern California Daffodil Society (NCDS) is holding its 54th annual daffodil show in the Seasons Room at Alden Lane Nursery, 981 Alden Lane, Livermore. The show is free and open to the public on March 1 (1 to 5 p.m.) and March 2 (10 a.m. to 4 p.m.) This is a judged show and is accredited by the American Daffodil Society. Any gardener with beautiful, correctly named daffodils is welcome to enter by bringing their cut flowers at 8 a.m. on March 1, when members can assist new exhibitors. For further information, visit the NCDS web site at daffodil.org.

ONGOING EVENTS

SATURDAY PLEASANTON FARMERS MARKET

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

SUNDAY LIVERMORE DOWNTOWN FARMERS MARKET

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

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

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

DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION (DAR) CHAPTER MEETING

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

HOSPITALITY

(Continued from front page)



Co-hosts of the Tri-Valley Through the Grapevine hospitality podcast from left to right, Jeremy Troupe-Masi, Matt Souza, and Savannah Vento-Chun facilitated conversation between small business creators on the Bankhead stage at the second annual Tri-Valley R.I.S.E event on Tuesday, Jan. 21. (Photo courtesy of Natalie Partida)

dream job wishes to best pieces of professional advice ever given. Answers to questions earned them raffle tickets and a chance to win prizes from a list of local businesses.

The information booth of the popular Tri-Valley meal prep and delivery service, ChefDebbie, felt like a kitchen island at a dinner party where everyone gathers. Eponymous owner Debbie Casey shouted above the crowd around her, “This is a Tuesday night; this is insane. I’m so impressed with this community.” A former Wall Street executive turned private chef, she added, “This is a community that stands behind its small businesses. There’s a lot of support. And I feel it and I know my peers feel it. And then giving back that support to the community as well is such a gift. So, I’m really glad to be a part of this.”

The theme of gratitude, support and giving back carried over into the speaker portion of the night.

The owners of Wingen Bakery got started out of their home with a cottage license in 2020 after their newborn daughter Waylynn was diagnosed with a terminal genetic disorder. Aimee Wingen said, “We’re here tonight to talk more about inspiration, the hopes for Livermore and everything ahead.”

A native of Livermore and 2004 graduate of Granada High School, Wingen told the audience she left her hometown and spent years moving from city to city trying to find her place in the world.

She eventually found it, and her future husband Bryan, at a restaurant in Oakland called Homeroom. “I began to see that the food industry wasn’t just about cooking, it was about

community. It was a place where people could relax, connect and just be themselves. There was so much heart in the space, and soon enough I was hooked.” She jumped out of the corporate world and into the kitchen. “It’s just really amazing what can happen when you take a leap, right?” Wingen made her way back to Livermore to work at Range Life as their sous chef.

Today, she and husband Bryan own and operate Wingen Bakery that has become a downtown Livermore community gathering place. A transplant from Colorado, Bryan Wingen said, “Livermore has become home for me. Brandon Wood (owner of the Cheese Parlour) said it best, ‘We struck gold here.’ I’ll keep that in my heart. It’s very inspirational here. People are coming from San Francisco wanting to be a part of what we’re all doing. We have such a strong community backing us, we can’t fail.”

Karl Wente, a fifth-generation wine grower, chief brand and supply officer, and community liaison for Wente Family vineyards added to the idea of the compounding power of community.

“Ultimately, getting involved in the community — high tide raises all ships — enables the maker space.” He also planted an interesting thought seed regarding his family’s Beyer Ranch property. “It’s been empty my whole darn life. I have a dream that we can set it up where people can come in, low barrier of entry, there’s a co-op winery, new co-op breweries where you can bring people who care about good food, good wine, good music, good things, that elevates everything that we do.”

Michelin-rated Range Life restaurant owners Sarah

and Bill Niles opened their doors in 2018 are looked to as hospitality royalty by many in the small business community. The duo come from notable Bay Area restaurant lineage and concluded the evening’s lineup of speakers.

When asked how much they focus on the success they’ve already achieved, Bill Niles said, “If you’re focused on that, maybe you’re not focused on the things that matter. And if you do focus on the right things, that (success) should hopefully be the result.”

Sarah Niles added, “You really look for the rewards in a lot of different places other than financial success because, when you’re a business owner, it’s a long game. But we find a lot of reward in the hard work and in the details.”

Bill Niles stressed the importance of relationships as a key to success on so many levels and buying direct from vendors. “I spend a lot of time, not just like choosing the right thing, but choosing something from someone so that I’m continuing to do business with them so that, in the same way a regular (customer) buoys a restaurant much of the year, as a regular buyer from someone, we are buoying that individual producer.”

Troupe-Masi thanked the audience on behalf of him and his Through the Grapevine hosts.

“We were very interested in playing our part in galvanizing the regional voices in hospitality,” he said. “You are the amazing people that make that up. We wanted to be spokespeople and cheerleaders for all the amazing things that we’re doing here. We have every reason to believe that the Tri-Valley, and Livermore, is a destination worth traveling to.”

Foothill DECA Students Capture First Place at Development Conference

Five Foothill High School DECA members captured first-place honors in roleplaying competitions at the DECA Northern California Career Development Conference this month at the Marriott San Ramon.

Elise Chou and Tanvi Powar finished first in Sports & Entertainment Marketing Team Decision Making (STDM), Michael Liu and Ritvik Misra were first in Buying & Merchandising Team Decision Making, and Agastya Kuluvalli finished first in Apparel and Accessories Marketing.

DECA is a program for high school and college students interested in careers in marketing,

finance, hospitality and management. Seventeen DECA teams from Northern California high schools competed in the development conference.

Several other Foothill students finished second or third in their divisions, as the Foothill DECA program earned 43 top 10 awards.

Second-place honors in the STDM roleplaying competition went to Yohan Du and Vedit Suri.

Taking third place in roleplaying competitions were Prisha Bhandari and Anishka William in Marketing Management Team Decision Making, Rithwik Gangam in Automotive Services Marketing, Joshua Joo in Hotel

& Lodging Management, Rishab Pandhe in Marketing Communications, and Brandon Yeh in Sports & Entertainment Marketing.

In written testing, Natchiket Bidarkundi and Niyanth Kanakasabapathy finished second in Sports and Entertainment Marketing Operations Research.

Earning third-place honors in the written portion of the two-day conference were Allen John in Integrated Marketing Campaign — Product; Misra, Ryan Pushkarina and Liu in Integrated Marketing Campaign — Event; and Ishaan Vijaywargiya in Business Growth Plan.

“Even before the com-

petition, I was confident in our success thanks to all the hard work and effort everyone put into training and preparation,” said Misra, a junior at Foothill and director of training for the student-run DECA program. “I can’t wait to see what we can accomplish at State.”

The top five students from each of the roleplaying categories and top four in the written testing from the Northern California, Silicon Valley and Southern California district conferences will advance to the State Career Development Conference, which will be held Thursday, Feb. 27, through Sunday, March 2, in Anaheim.

Library to Host a Black History Month Art Exhibit, Trivia Night

An “Art of the African Diaspora” exhibition, curated by Oakland artist TheArthur Wright, will be on display at the Livermore Civic Center Library, throughout February in honor of Black History Month.

This is the fourth year that the library has hosted a Black History Month art exhibit.

The library will also host an Artists Reception at noon on Saturday, Feb. 22, with hors d’oeuvres from the Pleasanton Catering Company.

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

In addition, on Feb. 13, the library will, in collaboration with Tri-Valley for Black Lives, host a Black History Month Trivia Night at the Civic Center Library, starting at 6 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 13.

Trivia questions will focus on the contributions of African Americans to the United States.

The free, drop-in event is sponsored by Friends of the Livermore Public Library and considered family friendly. Refreshments will be served, and winners will receive prizes provided by local Black artists and businesses.

The library is located at 1188 S. Livermore Ave. For more information, call 925-373-5505 or go to library.livermoreca.gov.

AVHS Seniors Can Apply for David Yandell Legacy Scholarship

The Three Valleys Community Foundation (3VCF) is now accepting applications for the David Yandell Living Legacy Service Scholarship for the 2025-’26 academic year.

Offered in partnership with Amador Valley High

School (AVHS), the \$10,000 scholarship goes to an AVHS graduating senior who demonstrates leadership, service and commitment to their school and community.

Priority is given to applicants demonstrating finan-

cial need or whose parents work in education.

The scholarship honors longtime AVHS counselor and teacher, David Yandell, known for his dedication and service. Yandell is now retired and lives in Livermore with his wife, Rosie.

His youngest son, Keith Yandell, a 1997 AVHS graduate and chief business officer at Door Dash, established the scholarship through a Donor Advised Fund managed by the 3VCF.

“As the son of an educator, I understand the

importance of supporting students and their educational journey beyond high school,” Keith Yandell said. “This scholarship ensures my father’s commitment to service and leadership continues to positively impact exceptional, service-orient-

ed Amador students.”

This is the second year the scholarship will be awarded.

To apply, go to 3vcf.org or the AVHS Scholarships and Financial Aid webpage. The deadline to apply is March 31.

2025 Pedrozzi Foundation Scholarships Now Open for Application

The Pedrozzi Foundation is now accepting 2025 scholarship applications from students who are either graduating or have graduated from the Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District.

The scholarships can be used for tuition, books or living expenses while attending a community

college or four-year university, or while enrolled in vocational training program.

Students who were residents of Alameda County when they graduated from high school and are now attending St. Patrick’s Seminary & University in Menlo Park, California, are also eligible.

The annual scholarships are for at least \$1,000, but some recipients may receive more due to financial need or if they receive a donor-funded scholarship.

Undergraduate students may receive up to four years of funding, while graduate students are eligible for two years of funding.

The foundation was cre-

ated after Mario Pedrozzi, a Livermore businessman, left nearly \$8 million to the community when he died in 2002. Since the first schol-

arships were announced in 2008, the foundation has awarded \$6.6 million in scholarships to over 1,800 students.

Applications for most Pedrozzi scholarships are due by Friday, Feb. 28. To apply online, go to pedrozzi.org.

Civic Library Hosts Poetry Reading

The Livermore Public Library will hold a Verse on the Vine poetry reading at 3 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 23, as part of its Black History Month celebration.

Guests will include former San Francisco poet laureate Devorah Major, winner of the Regina Cop-

pola International Literary Award in 2022, and James Cagney, author of “Black Steel Magnolias in the Hour of Chaos Theory,” a collection of poems exploring identity, family, loneliness and the expectations of masculinity, which won the PEN

Oakland Josephine Miles award in 2019.

Livermore Poet Laureate Peggy Schimmelman will host the reading at the Civic Center Library, 1188 S. Livermore Ave.

The program is free, and registration is not required.

Pleasanton Seeks Help in Planning AAPI Cultural Celebration Series Event

Pleasanton will celebrate Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month at the Firehouse Arts Center on Friday, May 17, and is inviting community members to help plan the event.

The program, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., will honor

and showcase the history and traditions of the Asian American and Pacific Islander communities, including a story time, music, and arts and crafts.

Volunteers are needed to help plan the event, host booths or cultural perfor-

mances, or provide onsite support.

To get involved, contact Rachel Prater at rprater@cityofpleasantonca.gov by Monday, Feb. 24.

The event is part of the city’s Cultural Celebration Series.

BUDGET

(Continued from front page)

Enrollment since 2018-’19 has declined by approximately 1,680 students, resulting in a loss of \$18-\$19 million in state funding. One-time COVID-19 funding and grants have also expired. Meanwhile, inflation, salaries and the cost of benefits have increased.

In addition to rising costs and lowered income, the spending down of one-time funds has brought to a head the need to reduce costs.

At the top of the list, trustees leaned toward laying off some full-time employees, such as the executive secretary for curriculum and instruction, a special education administrative secretary and the consolidation of duties of the communication specialist with the superintendent’s receptionist. Other potential reductions included district school site secretaries and a school nurse. Professional development programs and a reduction in classified staff’s calendar year were also discussed.

The board was hesitant to cut 5.5 full-time positions from the Regional Occupational Program, a career training program for students. Nor did they want

to eliminate one paid day a year for all certificated and classified staff in 2026-’27, or cut two full-time employees, which would lead to the elimination of midweek staggered A/B periods for middle schoolers. The district’s popular music program was also on the list of items to save.

Despite a nearly five-hour meeting, the trustees did not complete their discussion of potential cuts and programs to save and agreed to meet again yesterday to finish the analysis. The board is required by law to have a working budget in place by Feb. 13 at their regular meeting.

Most of the public comments at the Jan. 23 workshop meeting were from district staff supporting their positions and staff.

“I am the executive secretary of curriculum who assists seven people on a daily basis,” said Ryan Kelly. Without my assistance the work would not get done ... we lost five positions last year; however, we continue to support all 15 school sites, as well as provide professional development.”

Mohamed Abdalla, a longtime Pleasanton resident, asked the board to spare any cuts to the reading specialist programs.

“I came to support that no budget cuts happen to the specialists for reading intervention,” said Abdalla. “I come from a family where my mother doesn’t read or write in her language, but she made sure I went to a school that taught that.”

Debi Patterson, the attendance secretary at Hearst Elementary School, outlined the importance of her position and staff, which on any given day involves sick children, teacher requests and onsite requirements, sometimes all at once.

“This is what we do every day at all our school sites, and while we all understand (about the budget), we also understand that being responsive is imperative,” said Patterson.

The board was expected to continue discussions during a special meeting on Jan. 29 and vote on final cuts during its regular Jan. 30 meeting, at 6 p.m. in the district office, 5758 W. Las Positas Blvd.

OBITUARIES

Celebration of Life

Reynold (Ray) Valentine
Jan. 23, 1943 — Dec. 21, 2024

Reynold (Ray) John Valentine passed away unexpectedly after a brief illness, with his loving family by his side, on Dec. 21, 2024.

Ray was born Jan. 23, 1943, to John and Marguerite Valentine. He was raised in Oakland and San Leandro, California. He was an Eagle Scout in his youth. He graduated from Oakland High School in 1960 and attended Laney College and was soon recruited by Lawrence Livermore Laboratory for the Machinist Apprenticeship Program. He spent the next 40 years from Apprentice to Senior Supervisor and retired in 2001. Ray was a very devoted husband to his wife Carolyn for 57 years and a loving father to son Darrin and daughter Lynette. Ray loved supporting his kids in sports and many other activities of their lives. Ray showed his Siberian Husky and



conversation on any given subject. He loved YouTube to find or fix anything he could. He was a very remarkable man and loved by all. Ray is survived by his loving wife Carolyn, son Darrin and daughter Lynette Rovasio (Ken), grandchildren Taylor, Lexis, Bryton Valentine and Gareyn Rovasio, and many nieces and nephews and cousins. He will be dearly missed by his family and everyone who knew him. Ray will be remembered for his devotion to family, his strength, humility, grace, dignity, his vibrant interests, and the joy he brought to those who knew him. May his memory bring comfort to all who mourn his passing.

Ray will be honored at a celebration of life on Friday, Feb. 14 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Celebration Church, 1135 Bluebell Dr., Livermore, California.

Celebration of Life

Mary Kempster Mowbray
Oct. 10, 1936 — Dec. 2, 2024

Mary Mowbray, age 88, went to be with the Lord on Dec. 2, 2024. She was born on Oct. 10, 1936, in Van Buren, Arkansas, the third of five children, to George E. and Doris L. Kempster. In 1947, the family relocated to Alameda, California, where Mary attended Alameda High School. She later moved to and spent the majority of her life in Livermore, California.

Loving wife to Thomas R. Mowbray for 35 years until his death in 2007; mother to three children: Tony, Michelle, and Sherry Wang; sister to Rosa Garcia, Martha McGuire, Betty Neill and George E Kempster; sister-in-law to Virginia Bodnar; aunt and great-aunt to many nieces and nephews; god-mother of three; devoted



friend, confidant and second mother to many; kind to all.

Mary loved her faith, family and friends. She enjoyed going to estate sales and antique shows, buying and selling at various flea markets, traveling, studying and listening to music. Her greatest joy in her life was when she came to know Jesus Christ as her Savior in 1978, and when

she was able to become a mother to the three Wang children in 1980. Her joy was complete when she was with family and friends, celebrating her faith, and loving her bible study group; a group of women who became the backbone of her life.

Mary was buried privately with her husband, Tom, on Dec. 19, 2024. Family and friends are invited to a celebration of life memorial service on Saturday, Feb. 1, 2025, at 2 p.m., at Blue Oaks Church, located at 7139 Koll Center Parkway, Pleasanton, CA 94566.

“To my family, my friends: Thank you for making my life all one could ask for. I love you and pray God’s blessings on each one of your lives.”

Livermore Boys Soccer Team Shuts Out Foothill

By Phil Jensen

The Livermore High School boys soccer team had only scored four goals in their previous three games entering the Jan. 23 matchup with visiting Foothill.

However, the Cowboys found the back of the net multiple times against the Falcons, as they built on a one-goal halftime lead to a 3-0 victory at the final.

“We needed this win, and we needed this performance,” said Livermore coach Dario Fabian. “We always try to force the mistake up high and get closer to the goal to create the scoring opportunities.”

All three of Livermore’s goals were shot inside the goalie box, and the Cowboys outshot the Falcons 15-5 in the win. Livermore improved to 3-2 in East Bay Athletic League play with the win, while Foothill fell to 0-4-1 in league play (5-9-2 overall).

The only goal of the first half occurred at the 16 minute, 39 second mark of the 80-minute match. Mohammed Sajad stole a pass and deposited the ball in the right side of the net.

Livermore, which held an 8-2 first-half shot advantage, doubled its lead in the second half at the 47:57 mark of the game. Foothill goalkeeper Chris Kachkouche made a diving stop of a Livermore shot, but the Cowboys’ Trevor Crouch was able to clean up the rebound and push it into the net.

The final goal of the game occurred at the 61:30 mark of the match. Livermore senior forward Mason Franks scored off an assist by Sajad.

Livermore’s victory over Foothill took some of the sting out of a 4-2 loss to Dougherty Valley on Jan. 21, a game in which the last three of Dougherty Valley’s goals were scored in the last 10 minutes. Cash Philbrick

and Sajad produced the Cowboys’ goals. Philbrick also had an assist, as did Malik Guenouche. Foothill tied Monte Vista 1-1 on Jan. 21.

Livermore enters this week with a 7-7-2 overall record after a 2-1 victory over visiting Las Lomas-Walnut Creek on Jan. 25. The Cowboys trailed Las Lomas 1-0 at halftime, but Franks tied the game on an assist from Elijah Delgado, who produced the winning score after receiving a pass from Crouch and juking a defender. Las Lomas fell to 6-6-3 overall.

The Cowboys played California High on Jan. 28 after this article’s deadline. Livermore hosts De La Salle on Jan. 30 before a road game at Monte Vista on Feb. 4. Foothill hosted De La Salle on Jan. 28. The Falcons travel to face San Ramon Valley on Jan. 30 and California High on Feb. 4. All games are scheduled to start at 6:30 p.m.



Foothill senior Vedant Mehta and Livermore senior Alessandro Jude Martz fight for the ball in a Falcons home game on Jan. 25. Foothill won 50-41, with Mehta scoring nine points in the game. (Photo — Doug Jorgensen)

Foothill Aided by Quick Start In Win Against Livermore

By Phil Jensen

The Foothill High School boys basketball team got a fast start against visiting Livermore on Jan. 24, and held on despite a Cowboys comeback to win 50-41.

“They left it all on the court,” said Foothill coach Tommy Cech about his team. “Tonight, we were able to come out with a win and I feel good for my guys that their hard work paid off in that fashion. ... Their effort and attention to detail was high all night.”

Foothill, which improved to 12-10 overall and 1-4 in the East Bay Athletic League) took an 11-2 lead in the first five minutes of the game and held an 18-5 advantage at the end of the first quarter. Livermore, which fell to 14-8 overall and 0-5 in EBAL play, outscored the Falcons in the second and fourth quarters, but was unable to totally make up the deficit.

“I thought we did OK. We started off slow. The second, third and fourth quarters, we played up to our capabilities,” said Livermore coach Mike Tripp. “I thought Foothill played hard. They got after it and they were ready. Just have to move on from here.”

Tripp is starting his second stint as the Cowboys coach. He led Livermore for 11 seasons until 2001, then coached at Washington-Fre-

mont for 22 seasons. Tripp said that he retired from the Fremont Unified School District after 40 years as an employee, and he lives in Livermore.

Foothill’s 11-2 lead in the first quarter was powered by scoring from four players, including four points by junior Tyler Bodensteiner. Vedant Mehta, the only returning starter from last season for Foothill, produced a team-high five points in the quarter.

But Livermore had an 8-0 run at the start of the second quarter to cut Foothill’s lead to 18-13. Dylan Wherry and Alessandro Martz both had four points in that run. Wherry, a 6-foot-5-inch junior, finished with a game-high 22 points and nine rebounds.

The Cowboys trailed by only six points (26-20) at halftime, but Foothill moved back to a double-digit lead at 33-22 with 4:32 left in the third quarter on a 3-pointer by Tyler Sum, who finished with 10 points. Jack Fowler scored eight of Foothill’s 13 points in that quarter and he finished with a team-high 14 points.

Foothill led 39-29 entering the fourth quarter and held a 45-33 advantage with 3:52 remaining on a basket by Bodensteiner. But Livermore cut the Falcons’ lead to eight at 46-38 with a jumper from the right elbow by Livermore freshman Amari

Chandler with 43.1 seconds remaining.

However, four straight free throws by Foothill (two by Mehta and two by Nathan Devi) in the next 21 seconds lifted the Falcons’ lead to 50-38. A three-pointer by Wherry with 3.6 seconds left were the final points of the game.

Bodensteiner finished with 10 points, five rebounds and a game-high four assists for Foothill. Mehta, who got into foul trouble in the first half, finished with nine points, including 6-for-6 shooting from the free-throw line. Devi had seven points, seven rebounds and a game-high three steals.

Chandler produced all 11 of his points in the second half for the Cowboys, who have no returning starters from last season’s team.

Foothill played De La Salle on Jan. 28 after this article’s deadline. The Falcons host San Ramon Valley on Jan. 31 and California High on Feb. 4, then end the regular season at Amador Valley on Feb. 7. All three games are scheduled to start at 7:30 p.m.

Livermore hosted California on Jan. 28. It travels to play De La Salle on Jan. 30. The final week of the regular season includes home games against Monte Vista (Feb. 4) and Granada (Feb. 7). All those games have 7:30 p.m. starting times.



Livermore junior Cash Philbrick dribbles fast in a Jan. 23 home game against Foothill. Livermore won 3-0. The team then defeated visiting Las Lomas 2-1 on Jan. 25, advancing to a 7-7-2 record overall, and 3-2 in the East Bay Athletic League. Foothill fell to 5-9-2 overall and 0-4-1 in EBAL play. Foothill next faces San Ramon Valley on Jan. 30 and California High on Feb. 4. (Photo — Doug Jorgensen)

Wearable Art Exhibit Opens at The Bankhead Theater Gallery

An exhibit exploring the intersection of fashion and fine art is now on display at the UNCLE Credit Union Art Gallery at the Bankhead Theater in Livermore.

The exhibit, “Adorned: A Celebration of Wearable Art,” reveals how everyday garments can be transformed into display-worthy masterpieces, and features bold contemporary designs, including three costumes by professional designer Becky Bodurtha, along with intricate handmade creations, and textiles from around the globe.

Bodurtha, who has designed costumes for New York and international stage productions, is a senior lecturer in the Theater and Performance Studies Department at Stanford University. She has a master’s degree in theater design from the University of Iowa.

The exhibit, which runs through Saturday, March

1, is free and open to the public. The gallery is open

1 p.m. to 5 p.m., Thursday through Sunday.



These “Walkabout” acrylic on leather boots were made for walking by artist and Livermore Valley Arts Visual Arts and Education Manager, Anne Giancola. (Photo courtesy of LVA)

Two Tri-Valley Cities Name Eicher, Wang to LAVTA Board of Directors

Pleasanton City Council member Craig Eicher and Livermore City Council member Kristie Wang have been appointed to represent their respective cities on the Livermore Amador Valley Transit Authority (LAVTA) Board of Directors for 2025.

LAVTA, which operates the Wheels bus system, is a joint powers agency governed

by a seven-member board of directors. Pleasanton, Livermore and Dublin each appoint two city council members to serve on the board, while Alameda County appoints a member from the board of supervisors.

Eicher, a former captain and interim chief with the Pleasanton Police Department, was elected to the

Pleasanton City Council in November. He joins council member Julie Testa in representing Pleasanton on the LAVTA board.

Wang, a former Livermore Valley Joint Unified School Board trustee, was elected to the Livermore City Council in November. She joins council member Evan Branning in representing Livermore.

LEGAL NOTICES/CLASSIFIEDS

LEGAL NOTICES

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 611493

The following person(s) doing business as: Fremont Hyundai, 43690 Auto Mall Cir, Fremont, CA 94538 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Dosanjh Family Automotive Retailing Group, Inc., 3640 Ste-

vens Creek Blvd, San Jose, CA 94538. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Inder Dosanjh, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 27, 2024. Expires December 26, 2029. The Independent,

Legal No. 6241. Published January 9, 16, 23, 30, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 611139

The following person(s) doing business as: Kona Tech Innovations, 2726 Kellogg Loop, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Latha Kona, 2726 Kellogg Loop, 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: 11/18/2024. Signature of Registrant/s/: Latha Kona, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 11, 2024. Expires December 10, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6242.

Published January 9, 16, 23, 30, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 611275

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Bartech; 2. Lanceco, 5461 Arlene Way, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Barsnick Technologies LLC, 5461 Arlene Way,

Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Bryce Barsnick, Manager. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 18, 2024. Expires December 17, 2029. The In-

dependent, Legal No. 6243. Published January 9, 16, 23, 30, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 611420

The following person(s) doing business as: Next-Level Executive Business Partners, 16944 Los Reyes Avenue, San Leandro, CA 94578 is hereby registered by the following

owner(s): Jessica Manzano, 16944 Los Reyes Avenue, San Leandro, CA 94578. This business is conducted by an individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 1/1/2024. Signature of Registrant/s/: Jessica Manzano, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 23,

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LEGAL NOTICES/CLASSIFIEDS

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2024. Expires December 22, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6244. Published January 9, 16, 23, 30, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 611510

The following person(s) doing business as: Field Knowledge Electric, 19577 Parsons Ave, Castro Valley, CA 94546 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Field Knowledge Corp, 19577 Parsons Ave, Castro Valley, CA 94546. 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: 12/30/2024. Signature of Registrant/s/: Aranzel S. Tulio, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 30, 2024. Expires December 29, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6245. Published January 9, 16, 23, 30, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 611509

The following person(s) doing business as: Aranzel S. Tulio, 19577 Parsons Ave, Castro Valley, CA 94546 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Field Knowledge Corp, 19577 Parsons Ave, Castro Valley, CA 94546. 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: 12/30/2024. Signature of Registrant/s/: Aranzel S. Tulio, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 30, 2024. Expires December 29, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6246. Published January 9, 16, 23, 30, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 611564

The following person(s) doing business as: Alpha Autoglass, 3985 First Street, Unit #H, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Muhammad Najim Mansouri, 3985 First Street, Unit #, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by an individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Muhammad Najim Mansouri, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 2, 2025. Expires January 1, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6247. Published January 9, 16, 23, 30, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 611326

The following person(s) doing business as: Sound Real Estate Investments LLC, 3121 Tokay Court, Pleasanton, CA 94566 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Sound Real Estate Investments LLC, 3121 Tokay Court, Pleasanton, CA 94566. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: dianne Laurence, Principal. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 19, 2024. Expires December 18, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6248. Published January 9, 16, 23, 30, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 611497

The following person(s) doing business as: AABCO Automotive Repair, 1200 Portola Ave, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Marks Industries LLC, 136 Norman CT, Tracy, CA 95376. 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/: Anthony Marks, General Manager. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 27, 2024. Expires December 26, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6249. Published January 9, 16, 23, 30, 2025.

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME ORIGINAL FILE NO. 554149

The person(s) listed below have abandoned the use of the following fictitious business name(s): Aabco Automotive Repair, 1200 Portola Ave, Livermore, CA 94551. Registered by the following owner(s): Aabco Automotive Repair Inc., 1200 Portola Ave, Livermore, CA 94551. The fictitious business name statement was filed on 1/16/2019 in the County of Alameda. This business was conducted by a Corporation. Signature of Registrants: /s/Annette Mifsud, Secretary. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 27, 2024. The Independent, Legal No. 6250. Published January 9, 16, 23, 30, 2025.

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER

ESTATE OF: Mark D. Leek
Case No. RP25PR105019
To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of **MARK D. LEEK**. A Petition for Probate has been filed by: **LAUREN KHAM**, in the Superior Court of California, County of ALAMEDA. The peti-

tion for probate requests that **LAUREN KHAM** be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent. The petition requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority. **THE COURT REQUIRES ALL PARTIES WHO WISH TO ATTEND THE HEARING ON THE BELOW DATE AND TIME, INCLUDING THOSE WHO WISH TO STATE OBJECTIONS, TO APPEAR BY AUDIO OR VIDEO TECHNOLOGY. THE PARTIES SHOULD CONSULT THE COURTS WEBSITE FOR THE SPECIFIC TELEPHONIC AND VIDEO APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE. THE PARTIES MAY ALSO CONTACT THE PROBATE CLERK AT probateclerk2@alameda.courts.ca.gov. PARTIES MUST BE PRESENT AT LEAST FIVE (5) MINUTES BEFORE THE SCHEDULED HEARING TIME.** A hearing on the petition will be held in this court as follows: **February 5, 2024, 9:45am in DEPT 202 Superior Court of California, County of Alameda 2120 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Berkeley, CA 94704** If you object to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney. If you are a creditor or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California Law. You may examine the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (Form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk. **Petitioner: LAUREN KHAM** The Independent, Legal No. 6251. Published January 16, 23, 30, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 611700

The following person(s) doing business as: Conway Research Laboratory, 248 Trevarno Rd, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Adam Company, 248 Trevarno Rd, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by an individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Adam Conway, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 9, 2025. Expires January 8, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6252. Published 16, 23, 30, February 6, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 611593

The following person(s) doing business as: Rainbow Auto Body Repair and Paint, 6421 Southfront Rd, Suite A, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Rainbow Mobile Autobody and Paint Inc, 6421 Southfront Rd, Suite A, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Lien Thi Kim Truong, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 7, 2025. Expires January 6, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6253. Published 16, 23, 30, February 6, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 611654

The following person(s) doing business as: The Premium Rx, 5409 Central Ave, Suite 19, Newark, CA 94560. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Lien Thi Kim Truong, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 7, 2025. Expires January 6, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6254. Published 16, 23, 30, February 6, 2025.

12/19/2019. Signature of Registrant/s/: Ruben Hernandez, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 3, 2025. Expires January 2, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6253. Published 16, 23, 30, February 6, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 611583

The following person(s) doing business as: 3D Auto Body & Repair Shop, 1131 6th Ave, Oakland, CA 94606 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): 3D Auto Body & Repair Shop LLC, 600 William ST, Apt 147, Oakland, CA 94612. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 1/3/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: Engdawork Getu, Manager. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 3, 2025. Expires January 2, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6254. Published 16, 23, 30, February 6, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 611507

The following person(s) doing business as: Bhindi Jewelers, 5944 New Park Mall Road, Newark, CA 94560 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Bhindi Jewelers San Fran, Inc, 18508 Pioneer Blvd, Artesia, CA 90701. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Dhanesh Bhindi, CFO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 30, 2025. Expires December 29, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6255. Published 16, 23, 30, February 6, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 610959

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Black House Kitchen; 2. Ability Design House, 2930 Domingo Ave #1315, Berkeley, CA 94705 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): C. House Ventures LLC, 2930 Domingo Ave #1315, Berkeley, CA 94705. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Chelsea House, Manager. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 2, 2025. Expires December 1, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6256. Published 16, 23, 30, February 6, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 611617

The following person(s) doing business as: Baltrak, 4598 Dublin Blvd, Dublin, CA 94568 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Rincon del Pino LLC, 4590 Dublin Blvd, Dublin, CA 94568. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Jatinder Singh Grewal, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 6, 2025. Expires January 5, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6257. Published 16, 23, 30, February 6, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 611654

The following person(s) doing business as: The Premium Rx, 5409 Central Ave, Suite 19, Newark, CA 94560 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): LAAVI Pharmacy, A professional Corporation, 5409 Central Ave, Suite 19, Newark, CA 94560. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Lien Thi Kim Truong, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 7, 2025. Expires January 6, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6258. Published 16, 23, 30, February 6, 2025.

No. 6258. Published 16, 23, 30, February 6, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 611651

The following person(s) doing business as: Victory Song Coaching, 2150 Portola Ave, Ste D, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Victoria Rashe, 2150 Portola Ave, Ste D, PMB 2028, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by an individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Victoria Rashe, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 7, 2025. Expires January 6, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6259. Published 16, 23, 30, February 6, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 611631

The following person(s) doing business as: Sparkle and Shine, 2602 Otis DR, Alameda, CA 94501 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Esperanza Mendez, 2602 Otis DR, 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/: esperanza Mendez, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 6, 2025. Expires January 5, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6260. Published 16, 23, 30, February 6, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 611580

The following person(s) doing business as: Hela Crafty, 854 S I Street, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Helena Bireley, 854 S I Street, 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/: Helena Bireley, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 3, 2025. Expires January 2, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6261. Published 16, 23, 30, February 6, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 611635

The following person(s) doing business as: Baldwin Motors, 10979 Crow Canyon Rd, Castro Valley, CA 94552 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Bobbye Baldwin Jr., 10979 Crow Canyon Rd, Castro Valley, CA 94552. This business is conducted by an individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Bobbye A. Baldwin Jr., Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 6, 2025. Expires January 5, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6262. Published 16, 23, 30, February 6, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 611697

The following person(s) doing business as: Morningside Builders, 10979 Crow Canyon Rd, Castro Valley, CA 94552 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Bobbye A. Baldwin Jr., 10979 Crow Canyon Rd, Castro Valley, CA 94552. This business is conducted by an individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Bobbye A. Baldwin Jr., Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 9, 2025. Expires January 8, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6263. Published 16, 23, 30, February 6, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 611691

The following person(s) doing business as: MG In Home Services, 1009 Murrieta Blvd Apt 47, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Mario A. Gomez Hernandez, 1009 Murrieta Blvd Apt 47, Livermore,

CA 94550. This business is conducted by an individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 1/1/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: Mario A Gomez Hernandez, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 8, 2025. Expires January 7, 2064. The Independent, Legal No. 6264. Published 16, 23, 30, February 6, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 611504

The following person(s) doing business as: Retzlaff Vineyards, LLC, 1356 S. Livermore Ave, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Retzlaff Vineyards, LLC, 1356 S. Livermore Ave, 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: 11/22/24. Signature of Registrant/s/: Aaron Taylor, Manager. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 27, 2024. Expires December 26, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6265. Published 16, 23, 30, February 6, 2025.

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME ORIGINAL FILE NO. 604825

The person(s) listed below have abandoned the use of the following fictitious business name(s): Retzlaff Vineyards, 1356 S. Livermore, CA 94550. Registered by the following owner(s): RW Taylor 1356 S. Livermore Ave, Livermore CA 94550. The fictitious business name statement was filed on 3/14/24 in the County of Alameda. This business was conducted by an individual. Signature of Registrants: /s/: Aaron Taylor, Executor. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 27, 2024. The Independent, Legal No. 6266. Published January 9, 16, 23, 30, 2025.

NOTICE OF PREPARATION of an Environmental Impact Report for the Alameda-Tesla Park Classification and General Plan Project

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the California Department of Parks and Recreation (State Parks), as the lead agency, is preparing an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the proposed Alameda-Tesla Park Classification and General Plan Project (proposed project). State Parks has prepared this Notice of Preparation (NOP) pursuant to Section 15082 of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines. This NOP informs agencies and the public that an EIR is being prepared to address potential environmental effects resulting from the approval and implementation of the proposed project. Publication of this NOP provides an opportunity for public comment on the potential environmental effects to be addressed in the Alameda-Tesla Park Classification and General Plan Project EIR. Additional information about the proposed project process is available at the project website: <https://alamedateslaplan.com/>. **SCOPING PERIOD** Due to limits mandated by State law, your response must be sent at the earliest possible date but no later than the close of the 30-day NOP review period at 5:00 PM on Friday, February 14, 2025. Please include "Alameda-Tesla Park Classification and General Plan Project EIR" as the subject and submit comments via by email: info@alamedateslaplan.com, or mail C/O Katie Metraux, OHMVR Division, California

State Parks, P.O. Box 942896, Sacramento, CA. 94296-0001.

SCOPING MEETING
State Parks will hold a virtual scoping meeting at 6:00 PM on Tuesday, January 28, 2025, to provide additional information about the Alameda-Tesla Park Classification and General Plan Project and EIR process and allow interested parties to comment on the scope and potential environmental effects of the project to be analyzed in the EIR. The meeting can be attended remotely via the Zoom platform at the following link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87331319353?pwd=xKbpKizbUgKC-5n0CTV112rbglbaep.1>, Meeting ID: 873 3131 9353. Passcode: 303972

The Independent, Legal No. 6267. Published January 23, 30, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 611728

The following person(s) doing business as: Juan Gonzalez Landscaping, 1540 Phlox Drive, Patterson, CA 95363 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Juan Gonzalez, PO Box 2007 Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by an individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Juan Gonzalez, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 10, 2025. Expires January 9, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6268. Published 23, 30, February 6, 13, 2025.

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME ORIGINAL FILE NO. 607159

The person(s) listed below have abandoned the use of the following fictitious business name(s): Mechanic King Auto Repair, 3687 Old Santa Rita Road, Unit 314, Pleasanton, CA 94588. Registered by the following owner(s): RJB Enterprises LLC, 3687 Old Santa Rita Road, Unit 314, Pleasanton, CA 94588. The fictitious business name statement was filed on 6/10/2024 in the County of Alameda. This business was conducted by a Limited Liability Company. Signature of Registrants: /s/: Raymond Hayward, Managing Member/President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 6, 2025. The Independent, Legal No. 6269. Published January 23, 30, February 6, 13, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 611903

The following person(s) doing business as: Agen In Place Wellness, 1048 Sherry Way, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Deborah Chestnut, 1048 Sherry Way, 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/: Deborah Chestnut, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 21, 2025. Expires January 20, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6270. Published January 30, February 6, 13, 20, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 611936

The following person(s) doing business as: All Family Customs, 6733 Ebensburg LN, Dublin, CA 94568 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Antonio Perez Jr., 6733 Ebensburg LN, Dublin, CA 94568. This business is

conducted by an individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Antonio Perez, Jr., Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 21, 2025. Expires January 21, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6271. Published January 30, February 6, 13, 20, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 611909

The following person(s) doing business as: Pinecrest Environmental Consulting, 6425 Telegraph Avenue, Apt 8, Oakland, CA 94609 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Pinecrest Research Corporation, 6425 Telegraph Avenue, Apt 8, Oakland, CA 94609. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 8/2/2017. Signature of Registrant/s/: Christopher Divittorio, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 21, 2025. Expires January 20, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6272. Published January 30, February 6, 13, 20, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 611849

The following person(s) doing business as: Devine Care Doula Services, 431 Thornally Dr, San Leandro, CA 94578 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Caroline Mugwe, 431 Thornally Dr, San Leandro, CA 94578; Agnes Kanji, 42247 Rosewood Common, Fremont 94538; Damaris Kithusi, 3130 Park Blvd, Apt e, Oakland, CA 94610. This business is conducted by Co-partners. 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/: Caroline Mugwe, Partner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 16, 2025. Expires January 15, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6273. Published January 30, February 6, 13, 20, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 611722

The following person(s) doing business as: Aura Enterprise, 5050 Hacienda Dr, Apt 1121, Dublin, CA 94568 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Deepali Kamdar, 5050 Hacienda Dr, Apt 1121, Dublin, CA 94568. This business is conducted by an individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Deepali Kamdar, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 10, 2025. Expires January 9, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6274. Published January 30, February 6, 13, 20, 2025.

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME ORIGINAL FILE NO. 581818

The person(s) listed below have abandoned the use of the following fictitious business name(s): Fremont Hyundai, 43690 Auto Mall Circle, Fremont, CA 94538. Registered by the following owner(s): DGDG 19, LLC, 911 Capitol Expressway Auto Mall, San Jose, CA 95136. The fictitious business name statement was filed on 8/24/2021 in the County of Alameda. This business was conducted by a Limited Liability Company. Signature of Registrants: /s/: Shaun Del Grande/ President/Memeber. This statement

was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 27, 2024. The Independent, Legal No. 6275. Published January 30, February 6, 13, 20, 2025.

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Lawrence Livermore Lab Collaborated with Local Companies on Asteroid-bound Gamma Ray Sensor

By Jessica Zimmer

A high-tech sensor designed and built at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) has now traveled farther than 250 million miles from Earth.

The high-purity germanium gamma ray sensor (HPGe), one of Lawrence Livermore Lab's newest instruments, is the result of years of partnerships between the lab and Tri-Valley design and fabrication shops. After its launch in October 2023 on a SpaceX Falcon Heavy rocket, the sensor is now traveling in space on a NASA mission to observe Psyche, a large metallic asteroid orbiting the sun between Mars and Jupiter.

The HPGe is part of a larger instrument, a gamma ray spectrometer, that is designed to determine the chemical composition of the asteroid. The lab built the spectrometer in collaboration with the Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory (JHAPL) in Maryland. The lab constructed the sensor and cryostat, a device to maintain a low temperature, while JHAPL built the flight electronics and integrated the spectrometer onto the spacecraft. The whole project was overseen by NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) which owns the mission. JPL developed and built the navigation systems, communications, thrusters and thermal management system for the spacecraft.

Understanding the irregularly shaped asteroid will provide more clues about its origin. Psyche appears to be the exposed core of a protoplanet, a body that long ago was in the process of developing into a planet. Gathering information about Psyche may explain how the cores of the terrestrial planets — Mercury, Venus, Earth and Mars — formed billions of years ago. Scientists also want to know if Psyche suffered a loss of its

mantle, the layer between its core and crust, because of collisions that took place during the formation of the solar system.

Morgan Burks, a physicist at the lab who headed the team that created the sensor, credits local contractors for their design and machining expertise in the development process. Geon-Bo Kim and Nathan Hines were other key members of the lab's team.

Titan, the largest of Saturn's 122 moons, and which has a thick atmosphere.

The lab has contributed four instruments for planetary science exploration, which have left or will leave the Earth-Moon system. This number includes the instruments on board NASA's MESSENGER mission to Mercury, the Psyche mission, the MMX and NASA's Dragonfly mission. The lab

as they were discovered. The final result was an instrument that is performing beautifully on its way to the asteroid belt."

Calderon gained experience working in the lab's laser program from 1980 to 1994. He then left the lab to found Pegasus Design, which he has now owned for 30 years.

Gallien of T&K Tool & Machine built parts for the HPGe with a 5-axis comput-

Built to Withstand Solar Storms

One of the challenges that the lab team faced was designing the sensor to function through solar storms. The sun goes through a natural 11-year cycle in which its magnetic field flips, meaning its north and south pole flip places. In the middle of this solar cycle, the solar maximum, the sun has the most sunspots and solar activity.

The storms that are active during the solar maximum produce flares and release intense waves of charged particles that can damage electronic equipment. These storms have the potential to degrade the sensor and reduce the quality of the instrument's readings.

"The spacecraft is the size of a small school bus. The sensor is the size of a coffee can," Burks said.

The spectrometer containing the sensor is mounted on a 6-foot-long boom extending out from the spacecraft. The position ensures the sensor has a clear view of the asteroid. It also distances the sensor from radiation that is generated by particles interacting with the spacecraft.

The craft will take its readings by getting close to Psyche, measuring its gravitational field and then coming in progressively closer. "The craft will do this in four cycles. It needs to get in

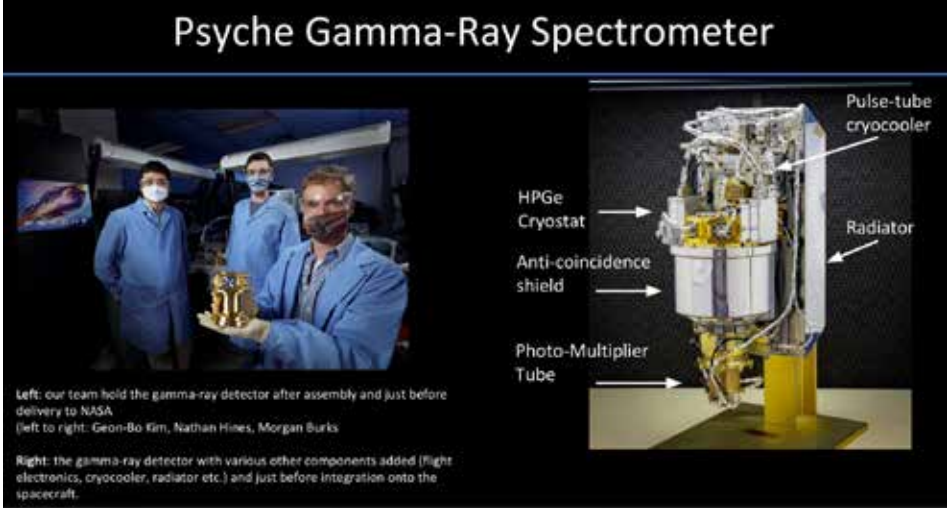
the closest orbit possible to the asteroid to get accurate data," Burks said.

The task is difficult because Psyche is not spherical. It is shaped more like a bumpy potato.

"The gravitational field of the asteroid is not close to uniform as it is on Earth. That means the spacecraft can be thrown out of orbit easily. We need to be careful with every step so the craft stays close to the asteroid," Burks added.

The Lab team is currently monitoring how well the sensor performs by turning on the spectrometer every six months and evaluating the instrument's performance.

"So far, we've done two check-ins, the first in April 2024 and the second in October 2024. The sensor is still offering high-resolution readings. The data is being prepared for release to the public through NASA's Planetary Data Server," Burks said.



The Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory team is shown above with the high-purity germanium gamma ray sensor and a diagram of the sensor. (Photo courtesy of LLNL)

"We've been developing the HPGe for approximately 25 years through numerous iterations," Burks said. "Through this, we've had the help of dedicated and talented professionals, including Steve Calderon, CEO of Pegasus Design Inc. and Tony Gallien, owner of T&K Tool & Machine, both in Livermore."

Pegasus assisted with mechanical design of the gamma ray sensor while T&K, a machine shop, built the cryostat and related parts.

As the lab examines the quality of readings from the sensor, it will be able to develop different versions of the instrument for two other missions, the Martian Moons Exploration (MMX), which involves a spacecraft that will explore the two moons of Mars, Phobos and Deimos, and NASA's Dragonfly, a rotorcraft that will land on

has contributed many more instruments for spacecraft that were launched into Earth's orbit in the last 25 years, which range in application from astrophysics to national security.

From Drawings to Prototypes

The creation of the HPGe began with the lab defining the proposed instrument's purpose, performance estimates and electronic requirements. Pegasus, a mechanical design firm, then helped design the instrument and subcontracted construction to machine shops.

"We assisted the lab in every stage of the design, from the initial prototypes to the design of the final flight instrument," said Pegasus' Calderon. "After each iteration, the lab would test the instrument. Then we would collaborate to fix various design or performance issues

er numerical control (CNC) machine, a tool that cuts across five different surfaces of a material.

"We made the housing for the sensor, a receptacle called a cryostat, out of aluminum. We also made a lot of test parts for this sensor. In addition, we polished the sensor before it was sent out for gold plating," Gallien said.

Gallien and the lab machined several components of the sensor during the early years of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Safety restrictions during (the early part of the pandemic) limited the number of personnel who could work in a facility at a given time. Psyche team members came to the lab one at a time to work on the design. Likewise, machinists like Tony worked alone to cut metal and weld pieces together," Burks said.

Axis Opens Integrated Care Clinic in Livermore

Axis Community Health has opened an integrated care facility in Livermore with six fully equipped den-

The 8,800-square-foot facility at 1686 Second St. is the nonprofit health care provider's sixth location in

enrollment assistance under one roof.

Axis said the facility can handle 18,000 patient visits

consultations.

The clinic is also expected to expand access to preventative health care, reduce wait times for essential medical services, and provide culturally responsive care to diverse populations.

"This integrated model allows Axis's medical, dental and behavioral health teams to collaborate seamlessly, resulting in better outcomes for patients," said Axis CEO Liz Perez-Howe. "By bringing these multiple services under one roof, we are able to address a patient's whole-person health."

The new Livermore facility officially opened on Monday, Jan. 6. Axis said approximately 40% of its patients live in Livermore.



The new Axis Community Health location offers many services, including primary care, dental care, and behavioral health support. (Photo courtesy of Axis Community Health)

tal work areas, eight medical examination rooms, and three mental health counseling spaces.

the Tri-Valley and the first to provide primary medical care, dental services, behavioral health support, and

annually, including 9,000 medical appointments, 6,800 dental procedures, and 2,200 mental health

The Alameda County Conservation District Promotes Ian Howell to COO

Ian Howell, a resource officer with the Alameda County Resource Conservation District (ACRCD) for 11 years, has been named the district's chief operating officer (COO).

In his new position, Howell will be responsible for managing the day-to-day operations of the district, working with recently appointed Chief Executive Officer Marilyn Harvey. Harvey was chief finance officer for the district before being named CEO earlier this month.

"Ian's leadership and extensive experience in resource conservation make

him an excellent fit for the COO position," Harvey said. "His proven ability to man-



Ian Howell (Photo courtesy of ACRCD)

age complex programs and build strong partnerships will continue to enhance our mission to promote sustainable land use practices and environmental stewardship in Alameda County."

Howell earned a master's degree in environmental studies from the University of Pennsylvania, according to his LinkedIn profile.

ACRCD is a nonregulatory special district charged with conserving natural resources, preserving wildlife and habitat, and improving rangeland and agricultural management. It is funded primarily through grants and project contracts.

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