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A crowd of students from Granada and Livermore high schools held a march through downtown Livermore on Feb. 11 to protest against ICE and the federal government's plan to deport immigrants. Many of the students are citizens and children of immigrants, and said they were concerned their parents could be taken away. The crowd swelled to more than 200 at times during the demonstration. (Photo — Doug Jorgensen)

Livermore

City Approves Solar Power Deal with Ava

Agreement with Ava Community Energy Will Install Solar Panels and Batteries on Five City Buildings

By Larry Altman

LIVERMORE — The City Council on Monday unanimously approved a plan to place solar panels and battery storage systems on five public buildings, generating enough electricity that could save $2.1 million over 25 years.

The 5-0 vote will authorize a Renewable Energy and Storage Power Purchase Agreement with Ava Community Energy to install solar photovoltaic systems on top of the carport shading 36 parking spaces at City Hall; on the carport above about 20 spaces at the Police Station; on the roof and carport at the Civic Center Meeting Hall; on the carport at the Water Reclamation Plant; and on the roof at the city's maintenance facility.

Battery systems will be included to store the generated power for use, and during outages at all facilities but the Water Reclamation Plant.

"The systems will provide several benefits to the city, including improving energy resilience by providing backup power during emergencies," Tricia Pontau, Livermore's sustainability program manager, told the council. "It lowers our reliance on generators, and several of the sites will also include solar carports that provide the additional shade in our parking lots."

JP Ross, Ava's vice president of local development, electrification and innovation, told the council that Livermore is one of six cities working with

(See SOLAR, page 6)

Online Forum for Immigrant Communities Focuses on Rights and Available Resources

County Supervisors Host Event in Response to ICE Raids, Trump's Actions

By Ruth Roberts

REGIONAL — Alameda County officials hosted an online forum this week to ease anxiety among the area's immigrant population and provide useful information about their rights and laws.

The "Immigration and Refugee Know Your Rights Town Hall," presented by Alameda County Supervisors David Haubert (District 1), and Elisa Marquez (District 2) and moderated by Alameda County Field Director Kathy Kimberlin, was held on Feb. 10. The forum was held in response to the large number of actions taken by the Trump administration to arrest and deport undocumented immigrants, including raids by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officials. The two-hour forum was translated into six languages — Chinese, French, German, Farsi, Vietnamese and Hindi — and featured presentations from the Alameda County Public Defender's Office, the Immigration Institute of the Bay Area, Centro Legal de la Raza and the Alameda County Office of Education (ACOE).

"Tonight is about sharing resources and help," said Haubert. "We want everyone to know that we in Alameda County care about you, care about your situation and we are here to provide information, resources and comfort to those experiencing anxiety and stress."

Marquez echoed Haubert's statement. "In times like these, it

(See IMMIGRATION, page 6)



A bittersweet homecoming: Jalen Stokes, who transferred from Dublin High School to Dougherty Valley last year, was back in Gael territory for a game against his former team on Feb. 7. Dublin scored an upset victory over the visiting Wildcats, 64-61. **(See story on page 10)** (Photo — Doug Jorgensen)

Dublin Centre Developer Granted Request To Pay In-Lieu Fees for Affordable Housing

City Council OKs Project 4-0, Is Accused of Being Friendly to Developers

By Ruth Roberts

DUBLIN — The Dublin City Council has unanimously agreed to allow the developer of the planned Dublin Centre project to pay $1 million in in-lieu fees to reduce the number of affordable housing units required on the East Dublin property from 63 to six.

The item was on the council's consent calendar for the Feb. 4 regular meeting, but was pulled so Mayor Sherry Hu could recuse herself because she lives within 500 feet of the project. The broad scope of the project was agreed to in June 2024.

Dublin Centre, owned by Landsea Homes Corp., is a mixed-use project to be built on 79 acres between Tassajara Road and Brannigan Street north of I-580.

Fifty acres of the property are slated for 500 market-rate residential units, plus 105 rental accessory dwelling units (ADUs). The other 29 acres will feature 58,000 square feet of retail and commercial space, a two-acre public park and a community center. According to the City of Dublin, Landsea has secured all its planning approvals and has applied for a grading permit.

The original agreement approved in 2022 required Landsea to provide 63 affordable housing units, 12.5% of the total, which is the amount required by California's housing laws. That figure breaks down to 60%, or 38 units, set aside for moderate-income households and the remaining 40%, or 25 units, for low-income families. Both of those figures are the minimum amount required by law. In addition, the law permits developers to build just 40% of affordable for-sale units in exchange for an in-lieu fee.

As a way of paying the in-lieu fee, Landsea has offered $1 million and will donate 1.88 acres of the land to the city so that it can become the future site of an affordable housing project which will serve developmentally disabled people. This development will have 100 rental units on the corner of Dublin Boulevard and Brannigan Street. The $1 million fee will go into the city's affordable housing fund to help first-time homebuyers purchase one of the units in the project.

Dublin's in-lieu impact fee is $9 per square foot of space for multifamily rental units, which for 1.88 acres would come to $737,000. Dublin's fee is also

(See DUBLIN CENTRE, page 6)

Lab and Startup Company Team Up on Fusion Materials

Focused Energy, a German American Company, Is Developing Innovative Fuel Pellet Materials

By David Jen

LIVERMORE — Commercial fusion technology — what the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) says could deliver "a supply of safe, clean and relatively limitless energy" — took another step forward last week with the announcement of a new joint project between the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory and fusion startup Focused Energy.

The year-long project, funded through the DOE's Innovation Network for Fusion Energy program, will explore the use of wetted foam to hold liquid fuel within the pellets used in fusion reactions.

Specifically, the lab (LLNL) will run computationally intense 3D modeling of how the foam reacts to the laser shots the lab uses to initiate fusion. The results can then be applied in later, cheaper models that look at the effects of impurities within the foam, said LLNL physicist Elijah Kemp. The results will also be published in scientific journals.

The German American company Focused Energy was spun off from the Technical University of Darmstadt, Germany,

(See FUSION, page 7)



Stylist Elese Holton prepares Jenna Rhodes's hair and makeup for the 'Night to Shine' dance on Friday Feb. 7. Classic Images salon in Livermore and other businesses donated their services to the annual prom for people with special needs. (Photo — Leah Silveira)

Local Businesses Support 'Night to Shine'

Salons, Barbers Donate Services to Annual Prom for Special Needs People

By Christina Cavallaro

REGIONAL — Night to Shine Tri-Valley held its seventh annual prom night experience for people with special needs, their parents and caregivers on Friday, Feb. 7 at Blue Oaks Church in Pleasanton.

The Night to Shine event is hosted each year on the Friday before Valentine's Day by churches across the globe as part of the Tim Tebow Foundation, established by the former NFL quarterback in 2010.

This year's Feb. 7 prom-style evening was held in 821 host churches in 62 countries around the world. Open to anyone living with disabilities, ages 14 and older, each event is unique to its location, but some activities shared by all are a red carpet entrance with paparazzi, shoeshines, limousine rides, karaoke, gifts, a catered dinner, a Sensory Room, a Respite Room for parents and caregivers, dancing, and king and queen "crownings" for all guests.

But this year, one of the event's most popular activities, pre-prom haircuts and makeup, was on the verge of extinction in the Tri-Valley until some salons stepped in and volunteered their services for free. Until last year, the event was sponsored by local Tri-Valley churches but held at the Alameda County Fairgrounds where all of its many buildings were put to use.

"Then when COVID hit, it just messed it all up," said Jaynee Spence, a hairdresser at Classic Images salon in Livermore who has been volunteering her time at Night to Shine since its inception seven years ago. Her granddaughter, Alissa Madrid, volunteers alongside her, and works as a hairstylist as well, specializing in catering to clients with special needs.

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PET OF THE WEEK



BOB MARLEY

No human, no cry — Bob Marley is here to make sure everything's gonna be all right. A laid-back legend, he's all about One Love, good vibes, and belly rubs. You can find him Jamming with his friends in Kitty City. He may be quiet, but he'll have you saying "Is This Love?" every time he curls up next to you. Ready to Stir It Up and bring Bob Marley home? 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)

Livermore Planning Commission Takes Up General Plan Revisions

By David Jen

The planning commission agreed last week with the recommendations of the General Plan Advisory Committee (GPAC) on policy updates that will go into the city's next general plan.

At its Feb. 4 meeting, the commission considered policies guiding Livermore's public services, including those concerning childcare, healthy food access, and aging adults; its infrastructure, which includes improvement priorities; and mobility, which includes transit-oriented communities, connectivity barriers and transportation technology.

Each element forms a section of Livermore's general plan.

The city began its general plan update process in 2021 and plans to adopt the new plan, meant to guide city activities through 2045, later this year. The 19-member GPAC considered policy revisions over a series of meetings between July and November last year. The city will publish its draft general plan this summer, which will include its complete set of goals and policies.

Public Services

When GPAC met in September 2024 to discuss the city's public services policies, its recommendations included asking the city to incentivize childcare programs and facilities through collaborating with outside organizations, providing tax breaks and waiving permitting fees. It also sought to encourage the development of new facilities for both children and aging adults.

Alan Burnham, a GPAC member speaking for himself, asked the planning commission last week to include in its updated plan how to prepare for the loss of buildings currently used for social services. The issue, he said, centers on "how one is going to deal with the fact that these places are either inadequate now or to be torn down, and how is the city perhaps planning jointly with the county to make sure that we have the infrastructure that we need for those purposes."

GPAC also recommended policies that promote access to healthy food by supporting local farmers, community gardens and other community-supported agriculture and expanding food pantries.

Infrastructure

In the area of infrastructure, planning commissioners agreed with the GPAC's focus on environment and sustainability as the city tries to anticipate the effects of climate change over the next 20 years. On top of policies around topics highlighted by GPAC, such as agricultural resilience and increasing the city's potable water supply, Vice Chair Tracy Kronzak said that the South Livermore area needed more than just an upcoming sewer line extension, but "a whole bunch of things that have been itemized in the South Livermore Valley Plan."

Commissioner Daniel Leary, who expressed surprise at some residents' lawn-watering behavior, asked the city to add education programs on water efficiency.

Mobility

Vehicle sharing, expanded bicycle infrastructure, and electric bicycle and scooter sharing numbered among the mobility topics recommended by GPAC last October.

Commissioner Jacob Anderson said the previous general plan's mobility element didn't go far enough, noting that Interstate 580 acts as a barrier between Livermore communities that city policies do not address. Part of the combing update, said Anderson, should "make sure identified issues from the old general plan are also getting updated and fixed."

Kronzak said that, with climate change and global warming increasing, the need for providing ways for people out in public to cool off deserved greater attention. "From a policy perspective, considering how cooling factors into mobility is going to become more urgent than we've articulated here," Kronzak said.

The planning commission will consider policies around land use, community identity and economic development at its Feb. 18 meeting.



High School Junior Honored for Charity Work

By Ruth Roberts

Rabia Badar, a 17-year-old Dublin resident, was recently honored by the Dublin City Council for her charitable work in the Tri-Valley. But for the high school junior who has raised thousands of dollars for those in need, the honor is all hers.

"I just want to thank you all for the recognition," said Rabia during the council's Feb. 4 regular meeting where she was presented with a city proclamation. "I think it is important to give back to the community."

Rabia, a regular volunteer at the Dublin branch of Open Heart Kitchen, was recognized for raising $4,200 over the course of a month, which translates into nearly 10,000 meals for the Alameda County Food Bank. She was also honored by the council for her work collecting nearly $15,000 for laptop computers for Afghan refugees in the Tri-Valley and surrounding areas.

Rabia learned of the need for computers through the Muslim Community Center (MCC) of the East Bay in Pleasanton where her family attends the mosque. Rabia will hand out the laptops at the next MCC community bazaar on Feb. 23.

"Many times, the refugee families come to the States with just the clothes on their backs," said Seema Badar, Rabia's mother. "So MCC collects donations of new and gently used clothing and other items to give to the families."



Rabia Badar (Photo courtesy of Seema Badar)

Rabia attends Averroes High, a private school in Fremont, and it was there that she organized a community service club called Junior Civitans (which is not affiliated with the service group Civitans International). It was under the umbrella of her club that her charitable projects were formed.

Badar said she is proud of her daughter for her compassionate nature and said she is setting a great example for her younger brother as well as for youth in the community.

"It's a great feeling to have your kids giving back to the community and showing mercy and compassion for those around them," Seema Badar added. "This a strong part of our faith and values. My own father was always giving back to the community and it's something he passed down to all of his children. I wanted his legacy of giving to be passed down to my children as well."

Rabia says it is a legacy of which she is very proud.

"My mother has always served the community and shown so much love and compassion to those around her — she is my inspiration," Rabia said. "From a young age I have watched her take care of the homeless by doing blanket drives or food drives … there is so much she has done and this work has left a lasting impact on me on how important it is to care for those around you who are in need."

Next up on her 'to-do' list is a class trip with the Civitans to Los Angeles to assist those impacted by last month's fires. The group has collected $1,346 in the past two weeks and will purchase supplies for distribution. The students will hand-deliver the items during their visit the week of Feb. 17.

For more information on the Los Angeles project, or to donate, visit bit.ly/4hIOc0n.





Park District to Hold Campfire and Sunset Hike Program at Del Valle

The East Bay Regional Park District will host a campfire program at Del Valle Regional Park in Livermore on Sunday, Feb. 13.

After enjoying s'mores around a fire at the visitor's center and a discussion on local wildlife and the night sky, naturists will lead guests on a short hike at dusk. The visitor's center will also be open during the program from 4 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

The program is free, but there is a $5 parking fee.

The district reminds parkgoers that temperatures can be chilly after the sun goes down and recommends warm clothing.

LARPD Hosts Adaptive Recreation Social

LARPD and Sunflower Hill join forces on February 14 from 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m for a Valentine's Day hangout at Robert Livermore Community Center, 4444 East Ave. Participants 18 years old and up will have the opportunity to socialize and have fun enjoying various activities such as cookie decorating, card making, music and games. Advance registration is required for participants and tickets are $10. Admission is free for caregivers. For additional information please contact Makenna Nation (mnation@larpd.org; 925-373-5731). Olivia Christensen will be the representative present from Sunflower Hill.





Pleasanton Introduces Fees for Athletic Fields, City Staff

Fees Expected to Bring In $61K Per Year; City Will Also Drop Fees for Suspended Library Privileges and Photocopies

By David Jen

Residents using the city's sports fields or hosting special events will face new fees beginning this summer, following a unanimous city council approval on Feb. 4. The update to the city's fee schedule also removes some library fees.

While groups co-sponsored by the city previously enjoyed cost-free use of the city's athletic fields, the city will charge $3.75 per hour, per field for natural-grass fields beginning July 1. For the synthetic fields, the rate will be $6 per hour, per field beginning Nov. 1, 2026. The city staff expect the new fees to bring an additional $61,000 in annual revenue to the city.

"We really wanted to come in low and we wanted to start with enough time that teams can incorporate this into their registration cost," said Heidi Murphy, director of library and recreation. Murphy added that the city staff expects a further fee increase of 5% annually in the coming years.

The city is in the midst of a process to cut an estimated $13 million annual budget deficit. A committee was appointed in January to meet six times to formulate recommendations to the council in March.

Members of the Pleasanton RAGE girls soccer club raised concerns that several years of increases would render the city's fields less attractive for sporting events.

Dublin currently charges $7 per hour, per field for natural grass use, while Livermore charges $17, according to a fee study conducted by municipal financial consultants NBS. For synthetic fields, Dublin charges $26 per hour, per field, and Livermore charges $66.

Sean Fogarty, RAGE president, pointed to the partnerships that his and other co-sponsored groups have entered into with the city, leading to community investments including $2 million toward the Stanford Sports Complex and $500,000 for Val Vista Park.

"The fee comparisons being presented tonight fail to acknowledge this unique public-and-private partnership, something that sets Pleasanton apart from the neighboring cities," said Fogarty.

In response, Councilmember Craig Eicher suggested that the council approve only the first year of fees for city fields and revisit any subsequent increases next year, which the council adopted.

"I don't think that sports leagues' prior contributions to the city go unnoticed; we're very aware of the partnerships that we've gotten into," said Eicher. "This is about the economics of where we're at today, which is why we need to make some changes, although I don't think we need to make drastic changes in this area at this time."

Pleasanton spends $1 million per field every 10 years to replace the field, according to the study.

Councilmember Matt Gaidos asked the soccer club to return with an analysis on how the increases would affect the club's viability.

In addition to sports fields, the city will begin charging for city staff and equipment time, such as for police officers, street closures or event-related landscaping services, as well as for standby services from the Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department during special events, ranging from $137.66 per hour for a battalion chief to $632.76 per hour for a four-person truck company. These costs will be passed on to event organizers.

At the Pleasanton Public Library, patrons will no longer be charged fees for suspended borrowing privileges or photocopies.



Preschoolers paint and draw together at a crafts table at the Museum on Main, part of the pre-literacy Reading Time program. (Photo courtesy of Pleasanton's Museum on Main)

March Theme for Museum Preschool Program Is 'Tricky Leprechauns'

The theme in March for the Museum on Main's free monthly reading program for preschoolers will be "Tricky Leprechauns."

The pre-literacy Reading Time program meets 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. the second Wednesday of every month and is open to children from 2 to 5 years old and their families.

Programs begin with parents or guardians reading to their children, followed by a craft project.

"We aim for the reading time and craft-making to be a semi-structured, low-pressure learning experience for preschoolers," said Rachel Brickell, director of education for the Pleasanton museum. "Mostly, we want preschoolers and their families to feel comfortable in the museum and have fun learning in our space. We love to see these kids return for our third-grade programs and sometimes later as teen volunteers."

Future themes include "Wonderous Weather" on April 9, "Create a Collage" on May 14, and "On the Farm" on June 11.

For more information, go to museumonmain.org.

Started in 2010, this popular program for preschoolers encourages a love of reading, inspires creativity, and improves fine motor skills through theme-related crafts.

The group setting allows preschoolers to build social skills and meet new friends.

Gaza Medical Evacuee to Describe Ordeal

A young medical evacuee from Gaza, Farah, who lost an eye and a leg in the fighting between Israel and Hamas, will describe her ordeal at the Muslim Community Center-East Bay (MCC) Prayer Hall in Pleasanton from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 14.

The MCC will also stream the presentation at mcceastbay.org/live.

The MCC, 5724 W. Las Positas Blvd., is working with Heal Palestine, a nonprofit that is helping Palestinian children affected by the fighting to rebuild their lives, including bringing injured children to the U.S. for medical treatment.

The United Nations said last month that more than 13,000 children in Gaza have been killed in the war and 25,000 injured. Another 25,000 children have been hospitalized for malnutrition, according to U.N. agencies.

An estimated 70% of all structures in Gaza have been damaged or destroyed in the fighting, including more than 245,000 homes.

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LEISURE CARE

EDITORIAL

Livermore Takes a Step in the Right Direction on Solar Power

The Livermore City Council this week signed an agreement with Ava Community Energy to install solar panels on five municipal buildings. The project, which will come with no outlay of cash from the city, could save the city $2.1 million over 25 years.

It's a modest step, but one in the right direction. Livermore has had a climate action plan in place since 2012 and updated it in 2022 after California set an ambitious goal to reduce the state's net greenhouse gas emissions to zero by 2045. That's consistent with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's target of limiting the global average temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels — but even that amount will have deleterious effects on the climate.

Both Dublin and Pleasanton also have climate action plans. They'd do well to follow Livermore's lead on this issue. Livermore should also look for more opportunities to increase solar power generation in the city.

Ava Community Energy is a Community Choice Aggregator, a local public entity that sources electricity from cleaner sources and at better rates than if the customer were to buy it straight from Pacific Gas & Electric. Ava serves most of Alameda County, plus Tracy, with plans to expand to Stockton and Lathrop this year. (The City of Alameda runs its own electrical utility service.)

As far as residents of the county are concerned, Ava is about as good as it gets: their regular utility service is a little cheaper than PG&E, although their 100% renewable mix is a little more expensive.

What's missing, and where the roadblock to progress truly lies, is in Sacramento. In December 2022, the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) reduced the amount individual solar users were paid when they exported surplus power back to the grid, a controversial policy known as net metering. The next year, the commission did the same for customers with more than one meter, such as apartment building owners or school districts.

California's power mix has the highest percentage of solar power in the country with nearly 41,344 megawatts of installed power generation in 2023, according to the California Energy Commission. The commission also reported that solar accounts for 17% of the state's overall power mix, including imported power. Overall, more than half the power mix is composed of renewable or greenhouse gas-free sources.

But natural gas remains the highest component of the mix, with 36.5%. And while we can't do much about other states' policies that favor carbon-based fuels, California can still lead the way — solar power, in the sun-drenched Golden State, is a major part of the solution. Our aggressive climate targets may not be aggressive enough once we factor in the trend to move backward in some states, and in the federal government.

Last November, Gov. Gavin Newsom vetoed a bill that would have reversed the CPUC's vote to lower the reimbursement rates for solar power on multi-meter buildings. So far, individual solar consumers haven't even had the chance to catch a break.

The large utilities have been in favor of these changes. Some have benefited not just from the commission, but also from the state's acceptance of their ongoing rate hikes. PG&E's rates rose 48% between 2019 and 2024.

Our cities can install solar panels on their own buildings. Some cities can form their own utility districts, and maybe we should in the Tri-Valley as well. Individuals can install solar in their homes, if they can afford the equipment and can get the permits. If we're serious about climate change, we need to be doing everything we possibly can to speed up our transition to a future free of fossil fuels.

Our legislature should rebalance the power equation in favor of solar uptake, and rein in the profiteering of the state's largest private utilities. Our policies must encourage us to rapidly adopt solar power — not as a luxury for those that can afford it, but as a basic service available to all Californians.

MAILBOX

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Pleasanton Icon Honored by Saint Mary's College

Ben McEntee, Pleasanton

Saint Mary's College announced their 2025 Distinguished Alumni Awards, and one of Pleasanton's most eminent educators, Neil Sweeney, was awarded with the SMC Golden Gael Award. Neil and his fellow SMC 1950 classmate, Tom Hart, started their careers in Pleasanton in the early 1950's. Tom Hart specialized in elementary education and Neil specialized in secondary education where he taught English and coached football at Amador High School. Neil went on to become a vice-principal at Amador High School and he was the founding principal of Foothill High School. Neil and his wife Beverly have eight children and all of them attended Pleasanton Elementary and graduated from Amador High School. All of the children graduated from college and all have enjoyed successful careers in education (naturally), law and business. Congratulations to Neil for being awarded the SMC Distinguished Alumni Award, and thank you and your family for your valuable contributions to the City of Pleasanton.

Effects of the Recent Executive Order

Kathryn Hayes, Livermore

I am writing to help readers understand the effects of the recent executive order that placed federal research grants under review for DEI components. Although the "pause" in federal funding was "paused", the administrative review of grants continues, with the threat of pulled funding. I received from the National Science Foundation (NSF), where I have several grants to research science education: "All NSF grantees must comply with these Executive Orders…by ceasing all non-compliant grant and award activities. …this may include, but is not limited to … any other grant activity that uses or promotes the use of DEIA principles and frameworks."

There are so many issues here. First, the administration has not defined DEIA, nor placed bounds on what this might mean. If we hire a Black person, is that a problem? How about if we showcase a "diversity" of scientists to students, some of whom are women? I was recently directed to not say anything about Black History Month. Is that DEIA?

Second, when we wrote these grants, we were ASKED to address DEI. Researchers spent hundreds of hours crafting grant proposals in direct response to federal Requests for Proposals (RFPs) that explicitly required addressing DEI considerations. Is it right to penalize researchers for including elements that were mandatory components of the original grant requirements?

Third, federal research grants represent contractual agreements between the government and research institutions. The arbitrary termination of these contracts midstream would result in the waste of billions of taxpayer dollars as experiments halted midcourse would yield unusable data.

Finally, let me illustrate the human cost: Imagine my grants are cancelled because they have DEIA (which of course they have because I was asked to address it in the proposal). Among my grant-supported staff is a researcher and mother of two who develops essential science education curriculum, a promising postdoctoral scholar conducting innovative research on improving science education, and a single mother of two who has provided vital support to these grants over many years. These folks, like thousands of others across the country, will lose their jobs due to this abrupt policy change.

This policy threatens to undermine America's position as a global leader in research and innovation. Whether you support Trump or not, I know the Tri-Valley supports good, solid research. Please write your representatives (and Trump's office) to establish clear guidelines and ensure that research projects currently underway can continue to completion.

A Simple Solution to the Extension of Dublin Boulevard

Richard Langlois, Livermore

Livermore and Dublin have had a clear understanding for many years that both cities would contribute to a Dublin Boulevard extension, as long as this land continues to be outside the urban growth lines of both cities, and free from development.

I do not want to be harsh, but Dublin has unilaterally violated this agreement. Dublin has passed a ballot measure giving them the right to annex the land, develop the land, and hired a consultant to facilitate this process. They have been even more disrespectful of Livermore by expecting us to pay for part of this road. Mayor Marchand has correctly said that we will not contribute a penny to the road if the land could be annexed and developed.

I would like to suggest a simple solution. I assume that the current Livermore end of the frontage road is on Livermore property. We have the right and responsibility to build a permanent concrete barricade with end of road safety signs. Then Dublin is free to build an expensive road to nowhere (no connection with Livermore) if they want to develop this property, or they can return to the original historical agreement between the cities to keep this land free from development. Sounds harsh, but it is a suitable response to Dublin's violation of our agreement.

Wasteful Government Spending Will Soon End

David Ott, Pleasanton

Over the past four years, the wasteful federal government spending has been at an all-time high. This excessive spending has caused the worst inflation in over 40 years. The first order of business to curb inflation is to cut excessive spending and reduce the size of the bloated federal government. This will also help to reduce federal taxes.

Over the past four years, the size of the federal government has grown to the largest number of employees in the past 30 years. In addition, the efficiency of the government is at an all-time low and the wasteful spending is at an all-time high. The lack of transparency and accountability for the spending could be considered wasteful in the best case and embezzlement, money laundering and fraud in the worst case.

With the recent appointment of DOGE, every area of the federal government will be analyzed and reviewed to get our government back to being efficient, effective and successful. The size of our government will be reduced to the minimum necessary levels. Spending will be scrutinized so that the wasteful spending will be stopped.

Recently, one effort from DOGE has uncovered how corrupt the USAID spending has been. USAID was started years ago with all good intentions, but over the years it has been exploited by many people in the government to funnel money to illegitimate and unworthy causes and in some cases to their own pockets. There has been no oversight and accountability in this spending. Once DOGE's actions are complete, the USAID will resume to the legitimate and necessary recipients.

This common sense approach towards our government will improve the efficiency, and best it will reduce the taxes, for the American people and one day soon will lead to a balanced budget. This will energize the private sector which will create new jobs for all American citizens and lead to a strong economy. Who in their right mind would be against efficiency, cost savings, lower taxes and a strong U.S. economy? Only the corrupt and power-hungry politicians. The embezzlement, money laundering and corruption must stop.

We all should be delighted that the wasteful government spending will finally come to an end. It is a breath of fresh air to have this common sense approach and it is long overdue. Prosperous days are in America's future. Thank God!

Fire Prevention Funding

Kathy Woofter, Livermore

In response to Paul Stone's anti-Gavin Newsom letter, I would like to present a different perspective. I was a wild land firefighter in the summer of 1984 when there was very little funding for firefighting efforts, let alone fire prevention. We were told that any help would be few and far between, and that any air support from water dropping planes or helicopters would be very limited.

Fast forward to 2018, and by then my main job was in fire prevention, weed abatement, and vegetation/brush removal. In the years since, Governor Newsom has poured lots of money into Cal-Fire to hire more firefighters and to purchase more fire engines and water dropping planes and helicopters, and has funded many abatement and brush removal projects throughout the state of California. I applaud Governor Newsom's commitment to funding both firefighting AND fire prevention, and my personalized California firefighter license plate says it all: ABATE.

A Question for Republicans

Allie Felker, Livermore

In the past three weeks, the Trump Administration has taken bold steps to further its agenda. You may agree with these actions. You may believe that reducing government waste and creating efficiency is necessary. My question for you is this: do you stand for the Constitution, or do you abandon it? Do you agree with the rule of law, or do you feel illegal actions are necessary?

I grew up in a conservative household. I was homeschooled and read the U.S. Constitution cover to cover during my High School Civics class. When I was 14 years old, I took a trip to the U.S. Capitol where I had the privilege to view some of the treasured documents that promised liberty, freedom, and democracy for this great nation.

Rule of law, balance of power, and the voice of the people are some of the most pivotal frameworks of democracy. Subverting the rule of law is never necessary. It sets a dangerous precedent for our future. Garnering power for a single branch of our government upsets the framework of our constitution. Do you stand for our country and the principles it was founded on, or do you abandon them in service to efficiency and wealth?

(See MAILBOX, page 5)

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On Feb. 4, City of Livermore staff, including representatives from Human Resources, Livermore Police and Public Works, hosted a table at the Livermore High School Career Pathways Preview event at Livermore High School. The event exposed high schoolers to jobs with the city. (Photo courtesy of the Livermore Police Department)

MAILBOX

(Continued from page 4)

Articles on Pleasanton Unified Schools

Mark Levitch, Pleasanton

I did find the dynamics of the Feb, 6 articles on PUSD interesting, showing the page one top of the fold article that explained the required cutting of custodians, staff members and summer school, in order to save 6 million bucks annually due to severe budget constraints. And then to read the article on the following page regarding AVHS getting green lighted for an 85 million dollar refresh of its small gym and theatre, I found that to be a head shaker, given I am a tax paying homeowner. Which seems to be the more prudent, critical need, choosing from proverbial Column A, versus Column B?

Trump Decrees

Daniella Karo, Pleasanton

The Democrats are in shock at the speed and number of President Trump's executive orders. Elon Musk is seriously, and pro bono, working fast and furious, eliminating pork in federal spending. USAID is eliminating over 10,000 jobs and retaining only 300 to oversee the international relief spending. And this is only the beginning! And the Democrats are screaming and throwing temper tantrums! Saving money only for erstwhile projects helping our needy citizens is not part and parcel of the Democrats plan, but for spreading their woke ideology beyond our border, there's no limit! And all the noise and smoke they are producing ends up being just that. A revolt is taking place for smarter, more frugal, and better ways of running this country where until now money left the front door faster than what was coming in. And President Trump, who also is working overtime pro bono, is making sure that his plans are being executed in a speedy way. Expect more to come, stop whining and enjoy the ride.

The Eternal Darkness of Generative Artificial Intelligence (GenAI)

Greg Scott, Livermore

"The current path of [generative] AI is neither good for the economy nor for democracy, and these two problems, unfortunately, reinforce each other." (Daron Acemoglu and Simon Johnson, "Power and Progress: Our 1000-Year Struggle Over Technology and Prosperity," 2024. Acemoglu, Johnson, and Robinson won the 2024 Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences.)

You wouldn't think the above is true by the hundreds of billions to trillions of dollars spent, and the planned increase in those investments in GenAI by businesses - not that these companies care much about democracy, or safety. None of these organizations have a viable business plan for profitable GenAI versus their capital outlays. It's all about the pretense of economic and political power.

The status quo bubble in GenAI has popped - burst by DeepSeek of the People's Republic of China. It doesn't matter to the arrogant tech titans; they are doubling down. Such colossal resource squandering has rarely been witnessed in human history.

DeepSeek has built a GenAI large language model (LLM) - the basis of chatbots - with less than 3 million hours of computer training time. At $2 an hour on an Nvidia H800 GPU (Graphics Processing Unit), that is less than $6 million. With DeepSeek achieving comparable chatbot performance, this is a fraction of the expense of teaching industry leading LLMs, which can be tens of millions of dollars or more, and can take months to accomplish with computer networks running millions of billion billion FLOPS (floating point operations per second) for months. The electrical energy required is enormous and climate disruptive.

What the tech titans appear to have forgotten, or never learned, is the history of technology. Around 1715, Newcomen invented a steam engine to pump water out of the mines that the English were madly digging for coal. This steam engine consumed massive amounts of fuel to operate. A little over a half century later, James Watt put a condenser and other accoutrements on this steam engine, which resulted in far less fuel consumption. This is considered the start of the First Industrial Revolution.

What do we ingenious humans do? We come up with an idea, then we improve it by accomplishing more from that idea with fewer resources. Then we use the more efficient idea to kill fellow humans over resources and power. GenAI is used for some good. Predominantly now, however, GenAI's prowess is in warfare. Oh, so clever!

Insensitive Hitler-like POTUS

Larry Preszler, Livermore

Once again Trump displays his total lack of humanity in his recent remarks of the D.C. plane crash. He gave a few words of scripted condolences and then goes into a tirade of DEI or anyone else he wants to blame. This is his personality, and his followers seem to think this behavior is ok. This is the type of person Fred Trump raised. Lie, cheat, (on taxes especially) and deny without any humility.

On another note, one of your letters to the editor says that Biden ruined the economy. This is so untrue. His administration did so many good things. True, inflation was bad. But the writer, and many others, seem to conveniently forget about the COVID pandemic, which caused inflation. Your precious felon, Donald Dumb Dumb, wouldn't have done any better and probably worse. Concerning the shrinking tax base, if Don and his billionaire friends would pay their fair share of taxes, our national debt would decrease. Meanwhile, middle-income people will pay more and more AND be afraid of losing their jobs. Notice who was on the stage at his inauguration, all billionaires who want to get richer like autocrat Don.

Correcting the Record Again

David Jonas, Livermore

In a recent letter, Jean King criticizes Livermore's City Council for granting waivers and concessions to Cornerstone, a residential housing development to be built on the grounds of the Cornerstone Church. Council's formal approval allows Cornerstone to incorporate certain specifications into the project that do not comply with Livermore's building code.

Ms. King neglects to mention a critical fact that invalidates the basis of her complaint: In approving Cornerstone, City Council followed state law; to have voted against it would have violated that law. SB330 requires California cities to approve qualifying waivers and concessions for projects with a high concentration of low to extremely low-income residents. As an approved SB330 project, Cornerstone is legally entitled to receive the waivers and concessions it requested, and the city is obligated to grant them.

In effect, the city has no control over Cornerstone, as it's being developed under the auspices of a state law that supersedes local building code. Ms. King should be thankful the project will be five stories tall instead of more, and that 11 waivers were granted instead of an unlimited number, both of which the developer could have demanded.

Despite Ms. King's harsh critique of the quality of Cornerstone's affordable housing units, I'm confident a family of four with an annual income of approx. $47,000, the type of family eligible to live in Cornerstone, will view their new home as a big upgrade over their current living situations.

I'm also confident the prevailing sentiment in our community will be gratitude towards Cornerstone Church for designating the site for a critically needed humanitarian purpose, and jubilation for Cornerstone's future residents.

The persistent opposition to affordable housing by the Move Eden Housing cohort is disheartening, particularly when accompanied by dishonest attacks against City Council. Ms. King's omission of SB330 from her letter is striking, since she attended the council meeting that addressed Cornerstone, in which the SB330 was openly discussed. In a previous letter, Ms. King accused Council of allowing developers to skirt the city's inclusionary housing requirements, but didn't acknowledge that developers can pay in-lieu fees as an alternative to building affordable units. In-lieu fees are a key revenue source for financing affordable housing. Such misinformation serves only to confuse and divide the community.

MEH appears to oppose housing anywhere, whether downtown or north of 580. Perhaps it should rebrand as Make Affordable Housing Go Away.

How Am I Going to Pinch Pennies?

Paul Stone, Dublin

How am I going to pinch pennies if there aren't any pennies to pinch?

It's a bad idea for Trump to get rid of the U.S. one cent piece. I understand it costs more to produce the penny than what it's worth, but some things can't be bought. Such as tradition. Our coinage is part of the fabric of U.S. history.

And seems to me prices will go up. Gallons of gas are partly denominated in pennies, in which numbers constantly fluctuate. Now they will fluctuate in nickels.

Bad idea, Mr. President. And I voted for you. Please stick to, "Drill, baby, drill." We're all on board for that.

Do Something!

Ann Britton, Livermore

I did not believe it could happen here! We are losing our democracy! He is breaking Constitutional laws over and over again. No surprise, as once an unrepentant felon, who has not paid his debt to society, always a felon. Problem is, he's president.

An unelected Musk has taken over the Treasury and he can shut down Social Security checks, Medicare, Medicaid (most

(See MAILBOX, page 6)

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THE Independent

We're Hiring: Managing Editor

We're looking for an individual who will be able to provide editorial leadership for our weekly newspaper. This is a full-time position that requires solid journalistic skills and ethics, a creative approach to story generation, and the ability to lead a team in a deadline-driven workplace. Some night or weekend work is required to keep pace in a dynamic news environment.
The ideal candidate will possess a blend of leadership and investigative fervor, with a deep-seated love of community-focused journalism.

Duties:

- Develop and assign stories to a stable of freelance writers and staff
- Edit stories for AP style and readability
- Write editorials and news stories
- Coordinate with writers and photographers for imagery and event coverage
- Maintain an active planning calendar for upcoming events
- Maintain and grow a network of freelance reporters and contributors to ensure coverage of key beats
- Assist with page layout and proofreading

Qualifications:

- A seasoned journalist with a strong ethical and moral code
- Editing experience, including AP-style copy editing
- Management experience with professional communication skills, both within the community and among staff
- Organized and adept at juggling multiple projects simultaneously, including publishing the current paper while simultaneously planning future editions
- Excellent time management skills
- The ideal candidate would also benefit from a keen eye for effective imagery and page layout, curiosity about everything from land use law to nuclear physics, a drive to hold the powerful to account and a passion for accurate and fair news coverage.

To apply, send a resumé, a cover letter detailing your experience and interest in the position, and a few recent examples of your writing and editing (in PDF format) to jobs@independentnews.com.

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Livermore HistoryMobile Needs Volunteer Docents

The Livermore History-Mobile, operated by the Livermore Heritage Guild, needs volunteer docents to help with third-grade presentations.

Housed in a converted recreational vehicle, the hands-on mobile museum is filled with artifacts from the early days of Livermore to the present.

The mobile museum visits all public elementary schools in Livermore and several private schools in April and May.

Docents are needed to conduct tours of the artifacts inside the mobile museum and to oversee activities outside for third graders waiting their turn. Three docents are needed for each school visit.

A docent's day usually begins at 8:30 and ends between noon and 2:30 p.m., depending on the number of third-grade classes, according to program coordinator Nancy Mulligan.

Docents are asked to commit to three days or more each week.

"The response of the children is amazing," Mulligan said. "We find them to be so attentive, thrilled by actually handling the artifacts, and so interested in everything. The kids love being in a 'touch me' museum."

For more information about becoming a docent, contact Mulligan at n.mulligan@comcast.net.

Rotary Foundation Accepting Community Grant Applications

The Rotarian Foundation of Livermore is now accepting applications for its annual Community Grant Program.

The foundation awards grants of up to $10,000 to nonprofit groups that contribute to the health and wellbeing of the Livermore community.

Applications are due by Saturday, March 1. To apply online, go to rotarianfoundationlivermore.org.

Grants will be awarded in April.

The foundation was created in 1987 by the Rotary Club of Livermore and the Rotary Club of Livermore Valley.

IMMIGRATION

(Continued from front page)

is essential that our community feels empowered with accurate information," said Marquez. "We stand by our immigrant and refugee communities regardless of their backgrounds."

Approximately 60 individuals signed onto the forum, with questions about ICE, immigration statuses and resources. The identities of the public attendees were kept anonymous for their protection.

"You all have rights, and we are here to help you," said Raha Jorjani, who runs the Immigration Representation Unit at the Alameda County Public Defender's Office. "If ICE approaches you on the street or a police officer approaches you, they don't need a warrant to speak to you." But she also stated that when an ICE or police officer speaks to you, you have the right to not respond.

"If they do come to your home," Jorjani added, "officers must present a legal and valid warrant. A valid warrant must have the resident's name and address spelled correctly, and it must be signed by a judge — a regular criminal court judge, not an immigration judge."

Jorjani added that if officers come to a home, the resident should not immediately open the door. Instead, ask the officers to slide the warrant under the door or hold it up to the glass so that the warrant can be read, and to take a photo of the warrant.

"Make sure you are complying with the laws of this land, because not doing so can cause bigger problems," Jorjani said. "Even minor criminal offenses can have huge, terrible consequences. Any arrest or charge or conviction will impact your immigration status."

If individuals find themselves in need of legal assistance, the attorneys at Centro Legal de la Raza can help. The nonprofit organization can assist with issues such as tenant rights and landlord obligations, said David Hall, an attorney with the organization.

Landlords cannot ask you about your citizenship status unless the tenant lives in federally subsidized housing, Hall said, and landlords also cannot enter a home without proper, written notice or phone confirmation.

Several online questions during the forum focused on student safety on district campuses and in the classroom.

Sailaja Suresh, deputy chief of strategy with the ACOE, said that over half of the students in Alameda County live in a household where at least one parent is an immigrant.

"This is important to us, we understand," said Suresh. "No one is allowed to enter a school campus unless they have a judicial warrant; it's the same laws that apply to the general public … families also need to understand that schools do not collect or share immigration information on students to anyone."

Suresh encouraged families to ensure the schools have updated contact information on their students in case of a problem, and in turn, make sure each family knows all the school phone numbers and contacts.

For individuals or families who need help with their immigration status, the first step is to get in touch with reliable, knowledgeable sources. Sara Fain of the Immigration Institute of the Bay Area said her organization is a good place to start.

"Right now, it is important to know your rights and the best way to keep yourself safe is to get immigration status if you are eligible," Fain said. "If you don't know if you are eligible or not, we can help you determine that."

For additional information and resources, visit the Institute at https://iibayarea.org/, Centro Legal de la Raza at https://www.centrolegal.org/, the public defender's office at https://publicdefender.acgov.org/, the county Office of Education at https://www.acoe.org/, or Supervisor David Haubert's office at https://district1.acgov.org/.

SOLAR

(Continued from front page)

Ava on similar solar projects with their public buildings. The others signing contracts are Berkeley, Fremont, Hayward, Oakland and San Leandro.

Ava is in the final stages of signing its contracts with its developers. It will seek permits and order equipment, with the plan for Livermore to have everything installed in early 2026, he said. Ross cautioned the council that issues with tariffs and supply chains could affect the timeline.

The council's decision to go forward follows a council vote in 2022 to pursue a solar plan with Ava that included assessing what upgrades might be necessary in public buildings to install the systems. Livermore's City Council passed a Climate Action Plan in that same year with a goal of the city reaching carbon neutrality by 2045.

Under the agreement, Green Bridge, a commercial-scale renewable energy investing and development firm, will operate as the project owner with Gridscape, a local developer with experience developing solar and storage microgrids for public agencies, as a partner. The firms will finance, install, own, operate and maintain the solar and battery systems.

The agreement includes no upfront capital costs for the city, which will make monthly payments to Ava of about 20.5 cents per kilowatt hour of energy used, and about $10 for every kilowatt stored. The city also will pay Gridscape for the costs of electrical upgrades and improvements that need to occur.

Although the California Public Utilities Commission in 2023 reduced the compensation rates that new solar panel owners receive for exporting excess solar energy to the grid — a controversial policy known as Net Metering (NEM) 3.0 — Ava and city staff negotiated the agreement before the changes took effect, grandfathering the Livermore sites in under the earlier higher rates, as long as the equipment is installed by April 2026.

Two residents during the public comment period spoke against the plan. David McGuigan said $2.1 million in savings over 25 years was not enough.

"Somewhere along the line, somebody's making a lot of money, and it ain't people in Livermore," he said.

Greg Scott called the renewable energy source an addition, but not a replacement for fossil fuels.

"We're consuming more and more energy," he said. "We're not solving the problem, because we're not conserving energy, and we're consuming ever more."

Former City Councilmember Trish Munro called the solar agreement a "step in the right direction" when it was uncertain how much overall progress against climate change can be made at this time.

"I appreciate the local aspect to it," Munro said. "I appreciate the fact that we make progress one step at a time."

In voting in favor of the agreement, Mayor John Marchand said the city was saving money without a capital investment.

"I think that's something that everybody can get behind," he said.

Council Member Ben Barrientos said the plan to put solar panels at the police station will help provide shade for police vehicles, including an automobile with a $20,000 bulletproof window being destroyed by the sun.

"I think it's win-win," Barrientos said. "We will save. We will get another source of energy, and we'll protect the vehicles for the police to work."

Council member Steven Dunbar agreed, saying the agreement was in the city's best interest. He cited protecting vehicles under the panels, and the ability for city buildings to use the backup power during emergencies.

"Hopefully we don't have those, but they do occur," he said.



Gaels in the house! Students packed the Dublin High School gym on Feb. 7 to cheer on the boys basketball team. The Gaels hosted Dougherty Valley, and Jalen Stokes, who transferred from Dublin last year, in a rivals match up. Dublin pulled off a stunning upset, 65-61. (See story on page 10) (Photo — Doug Jorgensen)

Livermore Lab's Science on Saturday To Focus on Space Telescopes

Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory will host a Science on Saturday program on space telescopes for middle and high school students at the Mertes Center for the Arts at Las Positas College in Livermore from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. on Feb. 15.

LLNL scientists Megan Eckart and Natalie Hell will discuss their work using space-based x-rays observatories to study distant stars and galaxies. They will be joined by Stan Hitomi, an LLNL faculty scholar and former science teacher with the San Ramon Valley Unified School District.

The program and parking are free, but registration is required. To register, go to st.llnl.gov/sci-ed/science-on-saturday.

Students will have an opportunity to tour the Las Positas campus following the presentation.

On Feb. 22, the Science on Saturday presentation will be "The Carbon Garden: Sowing Seeds for Carbon Capture," with LLNL scientists Kari Finstad and Shannon Brown, joined by Erin McKay, an LLNL faculty scholar and science teacher at Tracy High School.

Registration for Science on Saturday programs opens the Tuesday before the presentation.

MAILBOX

(Continued from page 5)

goes to elderly folks in rest homes), etc. He also has control of all your personal data! What is the wealthiest man in the country doing with our money and data? Musk has crypto, as does the president; do you understand it? Nobody understands it! It's a Ponzi Scheme! What if Musk makes our treasury buy his crypto with our FDIC-backed dollars? How are you going to pay rent or buy increasingly more expensive food and eggs with crypto play money?

What fresh hell does our current president have in store for us? I urge everyone who understands the danger we are in to do something! Wear a button, put up a lawn sign expressing your opinion against this overturning of our democracy, talk to a neighbor, email the president, email your senators and congressmen! As Michelle Obama said, "Do something!"

LA Fires Spook Tri-Valley Residents

Eloise Hamann, Dublin

The Santa Ana winds were a factor in the disastrous LA fires. Their speed helped fire jump from home to home and prevented helicopters from flying over and dropping water or other fire deterrents. LA was under-prepared, and Tri-Valley residents fear their communities may be playing with the same box of matches.

All three Tri-Valley cities have taken note, reviewed their plans for fire disasters, and reported them at recent city council meetings. Residents can visit the cities' websites and watch the councils' discussions.

Pleasanton's meeting highlights included Zone 7's willingness to go to the wells if necessary and utilize goats for weed abatement. Residents and leaders of schools, hospitals, and public buildings were urged to design escape strategies. Cooperation between Tri-Valley cities and Alameda County exists, and this will be reviewed and strengthened. Those in attendance at the Pleasanton meeting, as well as the council, had few questions.

By contrast, at their Jan. 14 meeting, four Dublin citizens raised concerns about preparedness, including escape plans for a large fire. A rancher on the East side of Dublin pointed out that the Diablo Wind was as dangerous as the Santa Ana Winds. The tall grass on ranch property close to homes turns brown by July. They asked about checking electrical lines and fire hydrants, and believe the increased density of Dublin's population made their concerns critical. (California needs 250,000 more homes for its residents and has set goals for each city.)

Mayor, Sherry Hu, responded that fire preparedness would be addressed at the Jan. 21 meeting. That meeting designated four escape sites, two public meetings, connections with surrounding communities, and the county of Alameda. The nearest public meeting was full.

Livermore's meeting minutes at which fire preparedness was discussed is not yet available as I write this. However, the three Tri-Valley Cities will work together in case of any disaster.

Due to climate change, our world is becoming less livable, and unfortunately, we cannot guarantee everyone's safety from disasters. There is no earthquake department. All we can do is plan with our neighbors and be as individually prepared as possible.

DUBLIN CENTRE

(Continued from front page)

significantly lower than Livermore's $39.94 per square foot for 10 units or less; larger developments don't have an in-lieu option. Pleasanton's $69.19 for multifamily rental developments is also lower.

Landsea proposed the alternative compliance method in 2022, with an offer to provide just six deed-restricted (meaning buyers can accrue equity) townhomes designated for moderate-income households in the current project. The city council has the discretion to approve or deny proposals of alternative compliance methods to meet inclusionary zoning regulations. In-lieu fees are not unusual in California and are generally paid into a housing trust fund and used — often along with other local funding sources — to finance affordable housing developed off-site.

Tom Evans, a Dublin resident who was the only member of the public to speak during the public comment period, took issue with the council's rubber-stamping of the in-lieu fees option.

"I guess this (agenda item) is just a reminder that developers tend to be more valued than young families," said Evans. "Why would our city leaders do this? They seem to do this repeatedly. Our city keeps denying this time after time. My point is that the city is not nice to homebuyers, but it is nice to developers, and it is my hope at some point that we will find a better balance."

Vice Mayor Jean Josey disagreed with Evans's assessment. Referring to the deal cut more than two years ago, Josey said, "It's been a hot minute since we negotiated this item but first, I take issue with the public comment in that we will only produce six affordable units.

"Taken as a whole, we felt this was a better use of the developer agreement process and the things we wanted out of this," she added.

Dublin Centre homes will offer several models, including single-family detached homes and attached townhomes. Amenities will include smart home automation, such as Wi-Fi-enabled entry door locks and thermostats, garage door opener controls, light dimmer switches and doorbell cameras.

The project will also feature a large community swim center and water park, as well as a central gathering area. The community is adjacent to a planned entertainment district, close to Grand Paseo, Emerald Glen and Fallon Sports parks, which are within walking distance of several schools and the Iron Horse Trail.

According to Landsea Homes, the project is expected to open for sale in late 2025.

NIGHT TO SHINE
(Continued from front page)

The original organizers of Night to Shine withdrew, and with them went use of the fairgrounds. The whole event moved over to the nearby much smaller Blue Oaks Church in 2024. The church had previously been used for the hair and makeup stations for the event.

"That's where we would go and take all our stuff," Spence said. "And even the barber would take a couple of chairs from his shop and cut the guys' hair. And we would be doing the girls' hair and makeup. Well, the church is pretty small. So it's nothing like the fairgrounds, with all those buildings. So we can't do hair (at Blue Oaks) anymore because they need every room, because they have a karaoke room, a game room, a dance room."

When Spence and Madrid signed up in 2024 to help out again with hair and makeup they were told via email a month before the prom that those pre-event perks had been canceled.

"Nobody decided to be a leader. They said, 'We're not doing hair and makeup at all.' And I was like, oh my gosh, the girls loved it so much. It's so much fun doing their hair and makeup. So I was devastated."

Spence volunteered on the spot to be in charge, but there wasn't enough time last year to salvage the glamour sessions. "When this comes around again, I'm in," she told them. "Just let me do this. I can do this."

And what she did was call upon other local hair stylists and salons to volunteer their time and space so this year's prom-goers wouldn't miss out on the pampering experience, this time in an actual salon.

From 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the day of the event, Classic Images salon and Barber Emporium serviced the Livermore appointments and Pleasanton's Nine Two Five Salon took care of clients near that city. Each of the salons closed for the entire day to accommodate their Night to Shine clients at no cost to them whatsoever.

"It's just so fun," said Spence. "And we love it, and they tell you what they want and they're just smiling. A lot of them can't talk, or they'll come in a wheelchair where they can't even move. And you do their hair and makeup, and you can just see them being so happy. I can't tell you how wonderful this event is. And it's free! It doesn't cost them one penny."

Spence said next year she will make that point even clearer.

"A lot of the participants didn't know it was free. And they asked me what it cost," she said. "Because I know they had over 400-plus people signed up to go to this event at Blue Oaks Church, and out of that only like 100 something signed up for hair and makeup and the men's haircuts."

"I'm not doing anything like anybody else has ever done, I just wanted it hosted in a salon because it just makes it so much funner for the kids," Spence added. "It's easier for the stylist too. At a salon you have all of your stuff there. Why move it all to a room when you can just do it at a salon."

For more information visit ntstrivalley.org or email info@ntstrivalley.org



Stylists at Barber Emporium on Third Street in downtown Livermore help men get ready for 'Night to Shine,' a prom for special needs people that was held on Feb. 7. The businesses donate their services. (Photo — Leah Silveira)



The Oakland Interfaith Gospel Choir will kick off the summer season with a Juneteenth performance on Saturday, June 21, that will take a musical journey through the history of gospel music. (Photo courtesy of Livermore Valley Arts)

LVA Announces the Bankhead Summer Series Show Lineup

The Livermore Valley Arts (LVA) summer season at the Bankhead Theater will get underway on Saturday, June 21, with a performance by the Oakland Interfaith Gospel Choir.

In honor of the Juneteenth federal holiday, the choir will trace the history of gospel music, from the dark days of slavery to the Freedom Songs of the Civil Rights movement and music today.

Tickets for the 8 p.m. performance start at $25 and are available at livermorearts.org, by calling 925-373-6800, or at the Bankhead Theater box office, 2400 First St., Livermore.

LVA's summer season will also include the return of comedian Maria Bamford on Friday, June 27, a Taylor Swift tribute band on Saturday, Aug. 2, and The Great Dubois, which bills itself as "The World's Most Unique 2-Person Circus Show," on Saturday, Aug. 9. The summer season will wrap up with matinee and evening performances by comedian Vicki Lawerence with "Vicki and Mama: A Two-Woman Show" on Saturday, Aug. 16.

Bamford has also appeared in several television comedies, including a recurring role on "Arrested Development" and the lead role in the Netflix series "Lady Dynamite." She has also voiced characters on several animated films.

"Are You Ready for It? A Taylor Swift Experience" is a two-hour recreation of Swift's 2018 record-breaking "Eras Tour," with a live band and all the costume changes.

The Great Dubois, who appeared in the 2017 film, "The Greatest Showman," based on the life of P.T. Barnum, offer a fast-paced, family-friendly show featuring juggling, unicycle and aerial stunts, and magic.

Lawrence co-starred on "The Carol Burnett Show" from 1967 to 1978, where she created the character of "Mama." She later starred in the TV spinoff, "Mama's Family." She has also appeared on stage, hosted a daytime talk show and was a staple on TV game shows.

All shows are scheduled for 8 p.m. (with an additional matinee for Vicki Lawrence at 3 p.m.), with tickets starting at $25.

FUSION
(Continued from front page)

in 2021; it has secured an additional location in Redwood City. The company plans to complete a pilot fusion power plant delivering power to the grid by 2037. Focused Energy announced last October plans to build a laser development facility at another yet-to-be-determined Bay Area location to attract talent and build off the work at the lab's National Ignition Facility (NIF).

In 2022, LLNL's National Ignition Facility became the world's first facility to achieve what is known as ignition, where a fusion reaction produces more power than was used to start it. When running, NIF fires a laser split into 192 beams from all directions at a fuel pellet the size of a peppercorn, causing it to implode and start a fusion reaction.

Debbie Callahan, the target design lead at Focused Energy, said, "Think of each little part of the (pellet) sphere as being a rocket, and so it's going to jet inward, and its neighbor is going to jet inward, and you get a spherical compression, which then gets you to the temperatures and densities that you need for fusion, if you do it right."

NIF, however, was initially designed to conduct nuclear weapons experiments and not to generate power. While NIF is capable of firing roughly one shot per day, a power plant must fire around 10 shots per second to produce enough power to be commercially competitive on the grid, said Callahan. The industry therefore needs new methods to manufacture fuel pellets at lower cost and an unprecedented pace.

Callahan hopes that the use of foam to hold the liquid fuel within pellets, instead of freezing the fuel in place as NIF currently does, will speed up the manufacturing process.

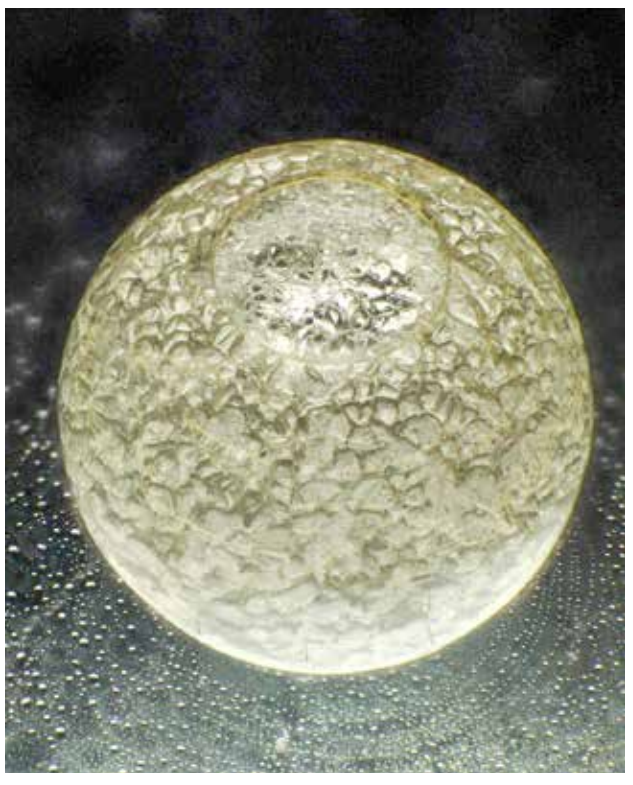
"However, you're now adding a new thing to the system, which is this foam, and there's not a lot of experience with how this affects what we're trying to do," she continued.

The partnership involves scientists' time from both Focused Energy and LLNL, as well as use of LLNL's computers, to develop a simulation model of the foam's properties.

Kemp said that NIF previously conducted wetted-foam experiments that helped establish the idea's feasibility. "Furthermore, the NIF is currently the only laser capable of exploring these direct drive wetted foam concepts/designs at full scale, so these early experimental studies are providing invaluable insights into the potential risks/benefits of additively manufactured capsules."

Callahan added that private companies within the nascent fusion industry now bring an agility unavailable to national labs.

The advantage, Callahan said, is that Focused Energy can move more quickly than a government lab. "We can take risks; we don't have all the bureaucracy. But we also want to use the expertise that you can from the lab or university."



Foam-shelled fuel targets such as this one, which is about the size of a peppercorn, may speed up fuel manufacturing enough to make nuclear fusion a viable commercial power source. A German American company, Focused Energy, is teaming up with Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory to test the materials as a viable design for fuel pellets. (Photo — Fabian Christ, Focused Energy)

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Storyteller to Share African Folklore

Storyteller Muriel Johnson will share true tales and folklore of African and the African diaspora at the Dublin Public Library from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 23.

Johnson is a professional storyteller and early childhood educator who incorporates songs, rhythmic chants, humor and character voices in her interactive presentations.

This is a drop-in program for Black History Month, suitable for all ages, and registration is not required.

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County Fire Department Briefs Dublin On Evacuation Plans, Fire Response

By Ruth Roberts

Being prepared in the case of an emergency can quite literally mean the difference between life and death. That was the message received by the Dublin City Council recently during a presentation from the Alameda County Fire Department (ACFD).

"Emergency preparedness is not a short race, emergency preparedness is an ongoing effort," said Bonnie Terra, ACFD division chief, during the council's regular meeting on Feb. 4. "So, what I want everyone in the community to know is that we are going to do our part, and I want your help. I want your buy-in to help us help you."

The ACFD is hosting two emergency preparedness events on Thursday, Feb. 20, at The Wave Community Room, and on Thursday, Feb. 27, from 6 -7 p.m., at the Shannon Community Center, Ambrose Hall. Although the event at The Wave is already at capacity, city staff is looking into having the meeting recorded and/or presented via Zoom.

Terra's talk comes on the heels of the recent wildfires in Southern California where ACFD sent 27 mutual aid firefighters to assist with the blazes. She reiterated to the council that planning for any potential emergency is key.

"Because there are so many emergencies there are so many possibilities no one can assure everyone's safety all the time," Terra said. "But what we can do is address everything we know and make sure we are all doing our part. So, how can the public do their part? By staying informed and being prepared."

Suggestions for planning include creating a go-bag.

"Make sure you and your family have a plan and a go-kit," said Terra. "And if you're not feeling safe, regardless of the situation, don't wait for someone to tell you to evacuate, just leave."

Other suggestions include having residents stay up-to-date on emergency protocols via Dublin's city website, getting PEP (Personal Emergency Preparedness) and CERT (Community Emergency Response Trained) training, and knowing their evacuation site designation. The zoned sites also help first responders and emergency services know where residents are in case of an emergency, and assist residents in understanding when and how to evacuate.

"I hope every time I see a citizen they start telling me their district zone number," Terra joked.

Alameda County, in conjunction with the City of Dublin and Dublin Police Services, established evacuation zones within the city based on neighborhoods as well as evacuation centers. The city's evacuation locations are the Shannon Community Center, the senior center and The Wave waterpark. There is also a local map online for people to find their emergency zones.

"This has been in place for quite some time and is there as a resource," Terra said. "Everyone can go online and find their zone."

Councilmember John Morada asked Terra what protocols are in place for emergency zones, such as where he lives, that house diverse populations.

"My district is one of the most diverse districts," Morada said. "Do we have multi-language courses for those who are not native English speakers? And what about age-appropriate presentations?"

Terra responded that there were community go-bags available in five different languages and additional languages could be added if needed.

"There are also some (first responders) who come into the schools to help students understand and be prepared for all emergencies, but there is no age limit to the workshops so they (students) can attend those if they want," said Terra.

The ACFD serves nearly 73,000 residents in the community. With three fire stations, three engines and one truck, all the stations are Advanced Life Support capable, said Terra, meaning each response team comes with a paramedic to assist in stabilizing critically ill patients before transporting them to the nearest hospital. The regional dispatch center provides immediate access to additional ACFD resources as needed and offers automatic aid with neighboring Livermore/Pleasanton Fire, Camp Parks Fire and San Ramon Valley Fire.

In addition, the ACFD is part of the local and California Mutual Aid systems and has two fire code administrators on staff.

Councilmember Michael McCorriston asked Terra about the experience of the ACFD firefighters who went down south.

"I appreciate the fact that we have a hub here and resources," McCorriston said. "One of the things that impressed me is that we went to Southern California and that was a contribution that was very special to us … did the team come back with any lessons or thoughts? I was just wondering if any takebacks apply to our region here."

Terra said that their teams are studying to see how the fire response down south might apply to a similar situation in Northern California, where wildfires are also a constant danger.

"We are all going to have to look at what 100-mile-per-hour winds look like here," said Terra of the Los Angeles area firestorms. "Lessons learned are that we will come back and continue to adapt and improve."

Terra added that she would come back to the council and residents at a future time with relevant information.

For more information on evacuation zones in Dublin, visit https://protect.genasys.com. More information can be found on the websites for ACFD (https://fire.acgov.org), the City of Dublin (www.dublin.ca.gov), Alameda County Alert (AC ALERT) (www.acalert.org), Pacific Gas and Electric (www.pge.com/addressalerts). To receive alerts from local cities (via the NIXLE service), text your ZIP code to 888777.



The East Bay Park and Recreation District recently installed dedicated gates at Del Valle Regional Park for mountain bikers to keep them separate from pedestrians and horseback riders. (Photo — Doug Jorgensen)

Five Teens Arrested After Livermore Shooting and High-Speed Chase

Five teens were taken into custody on Jan. 28 after an altercation between two groups of teens led to a shooting in downtown Livermore and a subsequent high-speed chase.

At approximately 3 p.m. that day, Livermore Police officers responded to reports of a shooting near Chestnut Street and North I Street. Officers learned that a group of juveniles in an Infiniti with no license plates had exchanged words with two other juveniles, ages 15 and 16. The suspects then exited the vehicle and chased the two teens over a fence.

During the chase, one suspect armed with a hatchet threw it at the victims. A confrontation followed, during which at least one shot was fired. No one was struck, and the suspects drove off.

Through witness statements and neighborhood surveillance footage, investigators were able to identify four suspects. Ramey arrest warrants were issued.

Later that evening, an off-duty Livermore Police officer spotted the suspect vehicle in Livermore and followed it to Tracy while notifying on-duty officers. With the assistance of the Alameda County Sheriff's Office helicopter, ALCO 1, officers tracked the vehicle as it traveled to Stockton.

The San Joaquin County Sheriff's Office and California Highway Patrol (CHP) were alerted. When San Joaquin County Sheriff deputies attempted a traffic stop, the suspects drove off at speeds reaching 140 miles per hour on I-5 near March Lane in Stockton. The pursuit continued onto westbound I-205, where deputies deployed spike strips, successfully disabling the vehicle west of Tracy. The four occupants were taken into custody without further incident. Three of them were identified as suspects in the Livermore shooting.

A fourth suspect in the shooting case was arrested separately during an unrelated "disturbing the peace" incident.

Investigators believe this incident is gang-related. The five suspects, ranging in age from 15 to 17, include three from Livermore, one from Pleasanton, and one from Stockton. They are currently in custody at the Alameda County Juvenile Hall and are under investigation for multiple felony charges, including possession of a stolen vehicle, willful discharge of a firearm in a grossly negligent manner and assault with a deadly weapon. One suspect had an outstanding warrant for his arrest. The case has been forwarded to the Alameda County District Attorney's Office for review.

Anyone with additional information regarding this incident is urged to contact the Livermore Police Department's anonymous tip line at (925) 371-4790.



TRI-VALLEY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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.

Thursday, February 13
STUDENT EXCHANGE IN PLEASANTON SISTER CITY
Enhanced summer opportunity for high school students. Experience a three-week exchange in Pleasanton's sister city in an immersive, safe family orientated environment coordinated by the Pleasanton/Tulancingo Sister City Association. Very affordable and a chance to practice/improve your Spanish and immerse yourself in the real culture of our neighbors to the south. June 8 to 29 in Pleasanton, June 29 to July 20 in Tulancingo, Mexico. Exchange information presentation on Feb. 13, 7 p.m. at the Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce, 777 Peters Ave. Questions? Contact Jorge at 925-989-6882, or visit ptsca.org.

Sunday, Feb. 16
LIVERMORE JAZZ SOCIETY HOUSE CONCERT
The Harvey Wainapel Quartet will present a mix of original jazz compositions, creatively re-arranged standard tunes, tunes they believe SHOULD be standards, plus some Brazilian spice on Feb. 16, from 2 to 4 p.m. The quartet features Adam Shulman (piano), Doug Miller (bass), Bryan Bowman (drums), and Harvey Wainapel (woodwinds). To request a seat, email info@livermorejazzsociety.org, or go to www.livermorejazzsociety.org. If seats are available, you will receive the concert address by email. Advance notice is highly recommended. For Livestream info, refer to the website 'Events' page. The 'suggested donation' is $20 per person.

Wednesday, Feb. 19
HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS AND TEENS
A special workshop for parents and caregivers. Do you worry about your teen's dating life? Join us for a free session on supporting healthy teen relationships, including safe dating and understanding teen dating violence. Facilitated by licensed psychologist Dr. Shilpa Kapoor and Shailaja Dixit, Executive Director of Narika, a local support organization for domestic abuse survivors. Registration is encouraged, but drop-ins are welcome as space allows. Chai and refreshments provided. At the Dublin Library, 200 Civic Plaza, from 6 to 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, Feb. 23
ECKANKAR LIGHT AND SOUND SERVICE
Open your hearts to love with gratitude at a free Eckankar Light and Sound Service on Feb. 23, from 11 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. At the Ridgeview Commons Apartments cafeteria, 5200 Case Ave., Pleasanton. "Gratitude is the secret of love."

Saturday, March 1
DRESS A GIRL AROUND THE WORLD
Make simple dresses for girls in third world countries! The next monthly Sew-Fest is on March 1, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., at Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 1020 Mocho St., Livermore. Bring your sewing machine or serger, iron, ironing board, scissors, along with your helping hands. Come for an hour or all day! (Please bring a bag lunch if you plan to stay all day.) Cheerful cotton fabric donations are always welcome. Contact Suzanne Beck, 925-352-8447, or suzbeck@yahoo.com for questions or kits that you can sew from home.

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.

Friday, March 7
YOUTH EXCELLENCE IN ARTS COMPETITION APPLICATION DEADLINE
Pleasanton Cultural Arts Council's Youth Excellence in Arts (YEA!) Awards applications are open for Pleasanton High School aged students to apply by March 7, 2025. Applications are available on the PCAC website: PleasantonArts.org. The categories for the competition include music, literary and visual arts, and the "Say Yes to Music" category. Cash awards and grants are given in each category by an adjudication process.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

OBITUARIES

Celebration of Life

Bradley Thomas Tucker
Oct. 22, 1963 – Jan. 26, 2025



Bradley Thomas Tucker of Tracy, California, unexpectedly passed away peacefully at his home on Jan. 26, 2025. Brad was born in Detroit, Michigan on Oct. 22, 1963. He was married to the love of his life, Jennifer Ann Tucker.

Brad and Jen knew each other as children. Their love story began on a "boat under a bridge" where they reconnected as adults and fell in love. Their journey together revolved around raising their children and creating a family life together. Brad was very proud of the accomplishments of his children. He was an amazing husband, father and grandfather.

Brad was funny! He had a sense of humor that brought laughter to all who surrounded him. He was bigger than life and filled up a room with his personality, charm, and charisma.

Brad led a full multifaceted life. He was a successful businessman whose warmth and wit made him a favorite among those who worked with him. He was always known for going the extra mile for his customers.

Brad came from a musical family. His mother, Joann, was a singer in a band for many years. Brad's main instrument was playing drums. He was in a band with his brother Brian, called Rewind "That 80's Band", where they focused on an 80's theme, complete with costumes from that era. For several years Brad also contributed his time and talents to the Sunday worship team.

Brad had another side business as a DJ and wedding officiant. Music, coupled with his quick wit and likability, made him very popular among the brides and grooms.

Brad was a very spiritual man, who loved God and practiced God's words by leading in example. He talked the talk and walked the walk. He was a humble, non-judgmental, compassionate, god-fearing man who lived life to the fullest and who was an inspiration to all who knew him.

He is survived by his wife, Jennifer Ann Tucker; children from his first marriage, Clayton Tucker (Jessica), Haley Tucker, Logan Tucker and Zachary Tucker (Charlotte); stepchildren Daniel Harden (Stephanie) and Lexi Fuller (Jason); father, Thomas Tucker; brothers, Randol Tucker (Kathy), Brian Tucker (Areli), and Todd Tucker (Melissa); grandsons Connor, Tristen, Logan and Brodie, and granddaughter Charlotte. In addition, he is survived by numerous other aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews and cousins. He is preceded in death by his beloved mother, Joann Tucker, who he is with now in heaven where they are singing and playing music together with the angels.

Services will be held at the Graham Hitch Mortuary, 4167 First Street, Pleasanton, California, 94566 on Saturday, Feb. 15, 2025. Family and friends are welcome to come at 11 a.m., funeral service at noon. A celebration of life will immediately follow at Highland Oaks Recreation Center, 4530 Sandalwood Drive, Pleasanton, California, 94588. Services will also be available via youtube at: youtube.com/@goldenlegacyproductions

Scott Michael Coen
Jan. 4, 1960 – Dec. 13, 2024



Scott Michael Coen died unexpectedly on Dec. 13, 2024, at the age of 64. The family is saddened and shocked by his sudden death. He is survived by his wife Robin and his children Tyler, Alexandra and Jason.

Scott was born on Jan. 4, 1960, in San Francisco, California. He grew up in Cupertino, California, alongside his three siblings and attended Monta Vista High School where he excelled in both baseball and football. He was awarded an athletic scholarship to California State University Chico where he obtained a bachelor's degree in construction management. Scott continued the family tradition of working in the construction industry with his dad and brothers and cultivated a diverse background within the field through his passion and charisma.

While Scott's career kept him in the office planning projects and negotiating with vendors, he also loved to renovate and build things at home. From small projects to full interior remodeling, Scott's keen mind and imaginative spirit inspired him to know no limits.

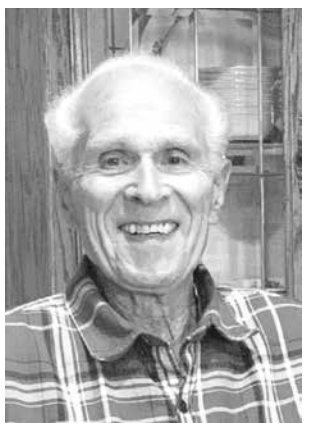
Scott was also passionate about all things sports-related. He would delight in watching nearly any game from curling to sumo wrestling, and always had comments to share. Scott loved his boat and going water skiing and fishing. He loved nothing more than sitting on the deck with his cat and reading a good mystery. He also loved koi fish and built his own pond and fought pitched battles with the racoons and heron to protect his fish.

Scott will be remembered for sharing his exuberant love of life and for the happiness he brought to his family and friends. He was a giving and wonderful husband. Scott raised three beautiful, vibrant children that have flourished in their personal and professional endeavors. His legacy will live on in their accomplishments and tenacity for life.

We will be celebrating Scott's life on Saturday, Feb. 22 at 11 a.m. at the Callaghan Mortuary, 3833 East Avenue, Livermore, California. After the service, there will be a luncheon at Uncle Yu's at the Vineyard, 39 S. Livermore Ave., #125, Livermore, California, 94550. Please RSVP to rmccoy629@gmail.com if you are able to attend.

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

Daniel (Dan) Angelo Chiolis
Jan. 9, 1935 – Jan. 18, 2025



Daniel (Dan) Angelo Chiolis, aged 90, passed away at his home on Jan. 18, 2025, in Pleasanton, California. He was born on Jan. 9, 1935, in Price, Utah, to Angelo and Ida Chiolis. Daniel was the youngest of three children, with an older sister, Katherine, and the oldest, his brother Richard.

At age seven, Dan moved with his family from Price to San Jose after his father's death. He grew to adulthood in San Jose, graduating from James Lick High School. After two years serving in the U.S. Army and a short time playing minor league baseball in Louisiana, he returned to San Jose and worked at various jobs while studying at San Jose City College and San Jose State University. He earned his bachelor's degree in physical education with a minor in Spanish and his master's degree in physical education. His goal was to become a teacher. It was during this time that he met Cathy Manley, whom he married in 1962.

Dan and Cathy Chiolis moved to Pleasanton, California in 1968 with plans to raise a family, pursue Daniel's teaching career, and purchase a home. They adopted two children: Lisa and Steven. He would become a beloved and active teacher at two high schools: Dublin High School and Foothill High School. He taught physical education, Spanish, and social studies, and successfully coached many soccer and golf teams. With Cathy, he purchased a home in Pleasanton in 1969, where he lived the remainder of his life, enjoying his growing family, pursuing his interests in classic cars, music, politics, and exploring his Greek heritage.

Dan is survived by his wife of 63 years, Cathy; his brother Richard; his sister-in-law Marilyn and brother-in-law Chip; his two children, Lisa and Steven; his daughter-in-law Melissa; his four grandchildren, Jessilyn, William, Danika, and Maia; his seven great-grandchildren, Leanne, Emerie, Zayden, Zoey, Zack, Rayah, and Fae; his nephews Mark Chiolis and Dan Stalker; his nieces Eileen Tetreault and Nancy Kacey, and many great- and great-great nephews, nieces, and cousins.

We are filled with gratitude for his full and giving life.

Kendra Martha Shayna Silberman
March 24, 1987 – Dec. 5, 2024



It is with the utmost sadness that we announce the unexpected passing of our beloved Kendra, age 37, on Dec. 5, 2024, in Paris, France.

Kendra was born in Sacramento, California on March 24, 1987; her family moved to Livermore when she was three months old, so Livermore is the only hometown she claimed. She attended Valley Montessori School and Livermore public schools, graduating from Granada High in 2005. During her school years she delighted in being active, participating in school and other activities including Girl Scouts, 4-H (especially cooking projects), band, drum line, individual and team sports, and the student business club DECA. As a teenager she worked for a succession of local businesses to support her car.

Kendra was proud of her Jewish heritage and upbringing, attending Sunday School from a young age and Hebrew School at Congregation Beth Emek in Livermore. We celebrated her Bat Mitzvah in 2000. Her Jewish colleagues in Europe called her a cherished member of their community and eulogized her thusly: "Kendra brought light, warmth, and kindness to all her interactions…her presence enriched the lives of everyone who had the privilege to know her."

Kendra earned degrees from Las Positas College and a BS degree in Business Administration from California State University, East Bay. She excelled at her chosen career "helping businesses work better." She was at turns an Office Manager, Administrative and Executive Assistant for companies in San Francisco and Silicon Valley. In 2019, she joined Uber's administrative team in Sunnyvale, transferring to Uber France in 2022. Paris was her base, but her job entailed interfacing with Uber administrative personnel throughout Europe, with whom she developed many meaningful friendships. She was a founding member of a European staff newsletter and co-led their Executive Assistant Mentorship program. In a short space of time she became highly regarded by her colleagues; one wrote, "You were so much more than just a colleague, you were a friend and a bright presence in all our lives."

In her 30s she was bit by the travel bug, visiting many cities in the U.S., and taking cruises to Alaska, Mexico and in 2024 on the Mediterranean from Italy to Spain. She saw sights in France, Belgium, Poland, Israel and England. Among her favorite places to visit were museums, zoos, botanical gardens, and Michelin-star restaurants, 20 and counting. She loved gourmet food, chicken nuggets, and Taco Bell.

Family was important to Kendra and she made a point of visiting her more distant relatives when she travelled. She adored family get togethers, especially at the holidays. Her favorite holiday was Thanksgiving.

Kendra is survived by her parents, David Silberman and Martha Conaway Claassen of Livermore, sister Caitlin Silberman (Jim), niece Evelyn, uncles James, Charles Jr. and Paul, aunts Bette, Angie and Terri, many cousins and good friends. She was predeceased by grandparents Charles and Christiane Conaway, Evelyn and Gilbert Bell, Ceil and Bernard Silberman, stepfather Fred Claassen, aunts Judith and Aleta and beloved cousins Travis and Jory.

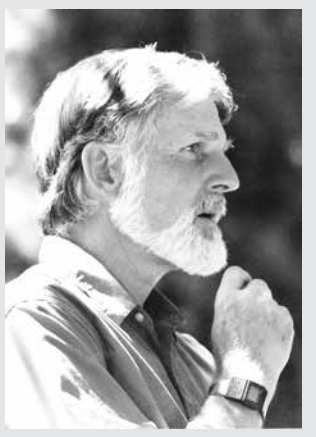
There are no words that can truly capture the shock and sorrow her passing has left with her family and friends across the globe.

Funeral services will be held on Thursday, Feb. 13, 2024, as follows: Interment at 11 a.m. at Rose Lawn Cemetery, 1240 North Livermore Ave. in Livermore, and a memorial service at 1:30 p.m. at Congregation Beth Emek, 3400 Nevada Court in Pleasanton. The memorial service will be live-streamed; see www.bethemek.org/live for details.

In lieu of flowers, a memorial donation may be made to World Central Kitchen, wck.org/donate or the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, www.ushmm.org/support.

Celebration of Life

Robert Wesley Taylor
July 5, 1932 – Nov. 1, 2024



Robert Wesley Taylor (Bapa, Bob, "Hobo Bob") was a man of endless curiosity, wit, and boundless generosity. A geologist, chemist, winemaker, mischief-maker, and lifelong learner, he had a way of making the world feel both larger and more intimate at the same time. He was an incredible storyteller—not just of grand adventures or scientific discoveries, but of the small, everyday moments often overlooked. He found humor and meaning in the mundane, weaving the details into something richer and more memorable.

He read constantly and was always eager to discuss an obscure fact, a piece of history, or a discovery — whether about the latest scientific breakthrough or an archaeological wonder. It was never about showing off; for Bob, learning was life's greatest privilege. His curiosity truly did keep him young, and his patience made him a natural teacher, always willing to explain, discuss, or simply wonder aloud.

Bob's brilliance was recognized by the academic and scientific communities. He earned a degree in chemistry from UC Berkeley before pursuing a PhD in geochemistry at Penn State. His sharp mind took him across the world—from conducting research at the Max Planck Institute in Göttingen, Germany, to working on solar coal gasification in the south of France. He and his brother, Lenard, shared a fascination with the Great Flood of 1862, which led to a published report and a presentation at the Fortnightly Club. Later, his career brought him to the prestigious Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, where his contributions left a lasting impact.

Bob spent 50 amazing years with the love of his life, Gloria Retzlaff Taylor. Together, they built a life rooted in integrity, creativity, and love. Gloria's sophisticated grace and striking energy captivated Bob, who was raised Seventh-Day Adventist, and introduced him to the finer things in life: drinking European wines, culture, and the arts. Their shared spirit of wonder extended to their children, Aaron and Noah Taylor. As a family, they lived in France and Germany, embarked on remote whitewater rafting trips, and enjoyed many camping trips amongst the towering redwoods.

Gloria's ambition knew no bounds. One day in the early 1970s, she came home and declared, "Bob, let's start a winery!" And Retzlaff Vineyards was born, one of California's first organic vineyards. It became both a labor of love and a love of labor for the Taylor family, a testament to their vision, hard work, and inspiring partnership.

Bob's feminist spirit was ahead of its time. By the age of 25, he had decided women were not just more interesting but better company, and most of his closest friends remained women throughout his life. He admired their intelligence and strength and carried that respect with him everywhere. One of his favorite stories was attending a wine institute dinner in Washington D.C., where guests were asked to sit with lawmakers. Without planning, he spent the evening dining and chatting with Ruth Bader Ginsburg. We can't imagine a better duo.

Bob had a sharp, witty sense of humor and a mischievous streak that never faded. Well into his 80s, he could be found riding his Vespa through mountain roads or, to his family's horror, onto the Bay Area freeways. He never did get a traffic ticket in over 70 years of driving.

His warmth extended far beyond his immediate family. He welcomed friends and strangers alike with open arms, whether through inspiring conversation or enjoying his famous crepes and waffles at the winery.

If you knew him, you adored him. If you knew of him, you admired him. And if you were lucky enough to sit with him, you left learning something new and extraordinary.

Ever the adventurer, he is reunited with his true love, Gloria, and onto their next great journey.

Bob is preceded in death by his beloved wife Gloria, his best friend and brother Lenard Taylor, and many dear friends. He is survived by his siblings Wilard Taylor and Dorothy Steinert, sons Aaron and Noah Taylor, and daughters-in-law Salomé and Faera Taylor. The light of Bob's life are his grandchildren, Izzy, Annette, Payton, Wynden, and Owen Taylor.

Bye bye for now brilliant Bapa. Rest in paradise and explore in wonder.

Celebration of life planned for April 27, 2025.

Details to follow.

Dublin Boys Basketball Team Upsets Rival Dougherty Valley

By Phil Jensen

As Dublin High School students poured onto their basketball court following the boys basketball game Feb. 7 against Dougherty Valley, it was apparent what the Gaels team had accomplished.

"All year we've been doubted," said Dublin senior Miles Pollard about this season. "We didn't really let anybody outside impact what we have going inside."

Dublin defeated its rival, Dougherty Valley, which included the Gaels' star from last season, Jalen Stokes. Dougherty Valley was tied for first in the East Bay Athletic League with two other teams entering the game, but Dublin upset the Wildcats 64-61.

"We made the plays when we needed to make the plays," said Dublin coach Tom Costello. "I'm just proud of our guys. I've said it from the very beginning, I just love coaching a group of team players."

The Gaels finished in fifth place in the EBAL regular season with a 6-3 record (22-4 overall). Dublin has a first-round bye in the EBAL tournament before hosting a second-round matchup on Feb. 11 after this article's deadline. The winner of the Feb. 11 game traveled to face No. 4 De La Salle on Feb. 12 for a third-round game. The semifinals are on Feb. 13 and the championship game is on Feb. 15.

Stokes, who transferred to Dougherty Valley before the start of this school year, had 16 of the Wildcats' 31 points in the first half, which ended tied. But Dublin went on a pivotal 12-0 run in the third quarter and didn't trail after that, although the game was close for much of the fourth quarter. Meanwhile, the UC Davis-bound Stokes was limited to only seven points in the second half and finished with 23.

"Our guys were motivated," said Costello when asked about his team's defensive strategy against Stokes in the second half. "After practicing with him and against him for three years, there wasn't much of a scouting report on my side. They came up with it themselves, and it was pretty effective."

Dublin outscored Dougherty Valley 24-13 in the third quarter, spurred by 11 points from junior Jaiden Jones. "He takes tough shots, he makes tough shots," said Costello, who also said that Jones "did a lot of good things for us on the defensive end as well." He finished with a team-high 10 rebounds to add to his 16 points in the game.

Dougherty Valley, which finished the regular season 19-7 and 7-2 in the EBAL, scored the first points of the second half on a three-pointer by Stokes. But a layup by Dublin's Anthony Knight started the aforementioned 12-0 run, which culminated with a putback by Jones with 3 minutes, 46 seconds left in the third quarter for a 43-34 Gaels advantage.

Dublin's lead grew to 15 points at 55-40 on a three-pointer by Jordan Morganstein with 26 seconds left in the third quarter, but Dougherty Valley produced the last four points of the quarter and continued to chip away at the lead in the fourth. It became a one-possession game on a three-pointer by the Wildcats' Kenny Cloud with 3:55 left, and Dublin didn't have more than a five-point lead the rest of the game.

Dougherty Valley narrowed Dublin's advantage to 62-61 with 56 seconds remaining on a layup by Cole Roque. But Dublin continued to work the ball around on offense and forced Dougherty Valley fouls. Morganstein made two free throws with 22.4 seconds remaining and Dougherty Valley was 0 for 2 from the field on their final two shot attempts, both three-point tries.

Pollard gave the Gaels a huge lift in the first half with five three-pointers. He finished with a team-high of 18 points.



Dublin Junior guard Jaiden Jones scored 16 points and had 10 rebounds in the Feb. 7 matchup against rival Dougherty Valley. The Gaels gained a lead in the second half and kept it to the final buzzer for a 64-61 win. (Photo — Doug Jorgensen)

"We talked about moving the ball all week," said Pollard. "In league, I've been in a little shooting slump, but my teammates put their full confidence in me (against Dougherty Valley), believed in me to make shots, got me the ball in my spots and I knocked them down."

Cameron Anderson added 10 points and a game-high two blocks for the Gaels.

Tough Opponents Knock Las Positas Men's Basketball Team Out of First Place Slot

By Phil Jensen

In a battle between the two top-ranked California community college men's basketball teams on Feb. 5, Las Positas bolted out to an 11-point lead over visiting City College of San Francisco with 10 minutes remaining in the first half.

But the Hawks struggled to hold a four-point advantage at halftime, then got blitzed by CCSF in the first eight minutes of the second half on their way to an 80-61 loss.

"We thought we defended pretty well in the first 10-ish minutes. We didn't really like the way we finished the half. … Then when their defensive intensity picked up in the second half too, we just didn't do a good job of adjusting to that," said Las Positas coach James Giacomazzi. "They turned up their pressure and they went into a little bit more denial … and we had trouble against that pressure and we haven't so far this year."

Entering the game, Las Positas was ranked first in the state and CCSF was second according to the CCCMBCA Jan. 27 poll. But the Hawks lost their first game of the season on Jan. 29 (69-68 to Skyline). Las Positas beat CCSF 81-69 in the teams' first game on Jan. 10.

Against host Chabot on Feb. 7, Las Positas' skid continued. The Gladiators held a 14-point lead at halftime and proceeded to win 90-77.

Las Positas enters this week with a 21-3 overall record and a 7-3 Coast Conference-North mark. The Hawks played Canada on Feb. 12 after this article went to press, and will host Ohlone on Feb. 14 at 7 p.m.

On Feb. 5, CCSF outscored Las Positas 23-2 in the first eight minutes of the second half to take a 51-34 lead. The Rams led by at least 13 points the rest of the way.

Las Positas had three double-figure scorers: Jorren Edmonds (12), Mecca Okereke (10) and Elijah Mobley (10), who was in foul trouble for much of the second half after picking up his fourth foul with 16:40 to play. Okereke, a 6-foot-7 sophomore, added a game-high eight rebounds and Edmonds had six rebounds, three assists and two steals. CCSF's Ray-John Spears led all scorers with 23 points.

Against Chabot, Mobley had 19 points and a team-high seven rebounds. Jaden Woodard came off the bench for 19 points, including 7 for 10 field-goal shooting. Elliot Mobley added 15 points and led the Hawks in steals (four) and assists (four). Damian McAlister was Las Positas' fourth double-digit scorer with 10 points. Chabot had three players with more than 20 points, led by Marcellus Edwards (22).



Elijah Mobley, a sophomore guard for Las Positas College, goes in for a layup during a Feb. 5 game against visiting City College of San Francisco. Mobley scored 10 points in the game, and later scored 17 during a Feb. 5 game against Chabot College. (Photo — Leah Silveira)

Amador Valley Shuts Out Foothill High in Regular-Season Finale

By Phil Jensen

Under very challenging conditions, the Amador Valley High School girls soccer team defeated rival Foothill 2-0 on Feb. 6 to clinch third place in the East Bay Athletic League regular season.

The game was played during very heavy wind toward the north side of the field and frequent hard rain. Dons coach Grant Matsumoto was very pleased with his team's performance entering this week's league playoffs.

"They came with a great mindset and were able to play arguably for me, stylewise, their best game of the year," said Matsumoto about his team. "When we play the way that we want and we keep the ball on the ground and move it, we're a hard team to beat."

Amador Valley, which finished the EBAL regular season with a 6-3 record and entered this week 7-3 overall, hosted No. 6 California High in the first round of the league playoffs on Feb. 11 after this article's deadline. The winner travels to play No. 2 San Ramon Valley on Feb. 13. The final is Feb. 15. Amador Valley is the defending EBAL playoff champion.

Foothill, which finished the regular season with a 7-4-4 overall record and a 3-4-2 EBAL mark, earned the No. 5 seed in the EBAL playoffs and played No. 4 Monte Vista on Feb. 11 in the first round. The winner will play on the road against No. 1 Carondelet on Feb. 13 in a semifinal matchup.

"We didn't match their energy," said Foothill coach Jason Wescott about Granada in the Feb. 6 game. "The conditions were really bad. We had a tough time the second half working out of the back … They took advantage of the wind more than we did throughout the game."

Amador Valley scored the eventual game-winning goal on the first shot of the game. Kaia Hoyman controlled the ball near the Foothill goal line to the left of the goal, then sent a short pass to the middle of the field and senior Yulia Ikuta fired a hard shot into the net at the 9 minute, 35 second mark of the 80-minute match.

Another senior produced the final goal of the game. Keira Barker slammed a 25-yard kick from the left side of the field into the top right side of the net at the 43.47 mark.

Amador Valley outshot Foothill 9-3 in the game. Foothill goalkeeper Anjali Mody had three saves in the game while Amador Valley goalie Sara Reni had two.



Amador Valley senior Kaia Hoyman (center) set up the first and game-winning shot from Yulia Ikuta in the Dons' 2-0 win over Foothill, amid hard wind and rain on Feb. 6. Senior Keira Barker (right) scored the team's second goal. (Photo — Doug Jorgensen)



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LLNL Studying Impact of Wildfire Smoke on Brain Cells

Researchers at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) have published a study on the effect of wildfire smoke on the blood-brain barrier, which protects the brain from harmful substances.

The study, published in The International Journal of Molecular Sciences, evaluated the responses of two types of endothelial brain cell cultures when exposed to eucalyptus wood smoke extract over the course of 24 hours.

Eucalyptus trees are of particular interest because of their highly flammable, oil-rich leaves and bark, as well as the high levels of toxicity they release when burned.

These factors, combined with their abundance and large size across California, with some reaching between 150–200 feet tall, pose significant threats, according to LLNL. Exposure can cause molecular and cellular changes in the brain associated with cognitive and neurological dysfunctions, including Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease and dementia.

Concern about long-term health impacts of smoke inhalation is also on the rise following the devastating fires that swept through Los Angeles in January.

LLNL said previous studies focused primarily on understanding the effect of wildfire smoke on the lungs and heart. This was the first study to investigate the immediate effects of wood smoke on brain endothelial cells, which line the blood — brain barrier.

The research team found that wood smoke exposure induces immune responses in the brain, leading to an increased production of interleukin-8, a protein often linked to neuroinflammation, that is released in response to injury or trauma in the body. Researchers also reported evidence of a significant decrease in some of the tight junction markers — a protective component of the blood–brain barrier that seals the space between endothelial cells.

The team said more study is needed to test the impact of longer exposure to wood smoke and other types of smoldering biomass on non-endothelial brain cells.

LLNL worked with the Environmental Protection Agency on the study. Co-authors of the study from LLNL included Dorothy You, Bria Gorman, Noah Goshi, Nicholas Hum, Aimy Sebastian, Heather Enright and Bruce Buchholz.

LEGAL NOTICES/CLASSIFIEDS

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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 Haywood, 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, Feburary 6, 13, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 611903

The following person(s) doing business as: Age 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 22, 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 Kanjl, 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, Feburary 6, 13, 20, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 612159

The following person(s) doing business as: Preferred Truck and Equipment, 6175 Southfront Road, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Pleasanton truck and Equipment Repairs, Inc., 3110 Bush Road, Pleasanton, CA 94566. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 7/1/2014. Signature of Registrant/s/: Gina M. Cardera, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 30, 2025. Expires January 29, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6276. Published February 6, 13, 20, 27, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 612131

The following person(s) doing business as: Sew in Love, 5429 Brookdale Ave, Oakland, CA 94619 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Jennifer Collins, 5429 Brookdale Ave, Oakland, CA 94619. 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/: Jennifer Collins, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 30, 2025. Expires January 29, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6277. Published February 6, 13, 20, 27, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 612082

The following person(s) doing business as: Huneeus Law, 46 Rock Lane , Berkeley, CA 94708 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Alejandro Huneeus, 46 Rock Lane, Berkeley, CA 94708-1310. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 7/1/2024. Signature of Registrant/s/: Alejandro Huneeus, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 28, 2025. Expires January 27, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6278. Published February 6, 13, 20, 27, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 612101

The following person(s) doing business as: It'll Do, 2315 Central Ave, Suite 122, Alameda, CA 94501 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Shear Terror LLC, 2315 Central Ave, Suite 122, Alameda, CA 94501. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 1/14/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: Zachary Snyder, Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 29, 2025. Expires January 28, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6279. Published February 6, 13, 20, 27, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 612085

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Air Mail Travel, Co.; 2. Air Mail Travel, 129 Lake Ave, Piedmont, CA 94611 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Air Mail Travel Co., LLC, 129 Lake Ave, Piedmont, CA 94611. This business is conducted by a Limitted 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/: Simone Anne Lang, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 28, 2025. Expires January 27, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6280. Published February 6, 13, 20, 27, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 611808

The following person(s) doing business as: MC & Associates Tax and Financial, 735 Anna Maria ST, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Melissa Cook, 735 Anna Maria ST., 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: 1/11/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: Melissa Cook, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 15, 2025. Expires January 14, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6281. Published February 6, 13, 20, 27, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 611824

The following person(s) doing business as: Shakthi Logistics, 7940 Creekside Drive, Dublin, CA 94568 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Reboot Aqua Inc., Dublin, CA 94568. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 1/15/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: Raghavendra Swamy Nagari, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 15, 2025. Expires January 14, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6282. Published February 6, 13, 20, 27, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 612037

The following person(s) doing business as: Sierra Oak Counseling Inc., 4725 1st ST, Suite 266, Pleasanton, CA 94566 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Sierra Oak Counseling Inc., 4725 1st ST, Suite 266, Pleasanton, CA 94566. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 1/6/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: Jennifer Green, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 27, 2025. Expires January 26, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6283. Published February 6, 13, 20, 27, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 611980

The following person(s) doing business as: Tamara the Lactation Consultant LLC, 556 S I Street, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Tamara the Lactation Consultant LLC, 556 S I Street, 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: 1/13/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: Tamara Thurston, Managing Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 24, 2025. Expires January 23, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6284. Published February 6, 13, 20, 27, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 611746

The following person(s) doing business as: Dumpling Haus, 3442 Livermore Outlets Dr., Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Tea Heart Inc., 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/: Fengyan Huang, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 13, 2025. Expires January 12, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6285. Published February 6, 13, 20, 27, 2025.

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: SHIRLEY ECKHART CASE NO.: 25PR108033

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of: **Shirley Eckhart** A Petition for Probate has been filed by: **Adrienne Padilla** in the Superior Court of California, County of ALAMEDA. The petition for probate requests that **Adrienne Padilla** 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 probate-clerk2@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: **March 5, 2025 at 9:45 A.M. 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.

Attorney for Petitioner Diana Lopez 1655 N. Main St., Suite 390 Walnut Creek, CA 94596 (925) 644-7905

The Independent, Legal No. 6286. Published February 13, 20, 27, 2025

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 611803

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

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 611804

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

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 612056

The following person(s) doing business as: WP Cattle Co., 6999 Arroyo Rd., Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Paul D. Banke, P.O. Box 55, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 04/1/1989. Signature of Registrant/s/: Paul D. Banke, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 28, 2025. Expires January 27, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6289. Published February 13, 20, 27, March 6, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 612164

The following person(s) doing business as: Stampede, 1790 First Street, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): 3-G Group, LLC, 2061 Pleasant View Lane, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Nick Hill, COO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 30, 2025. Expires January 29, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6290. Published February 13, 20, 27, March 6, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 612302

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

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 611964

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

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 611792

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

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 612217

The following person(s) doing business as: Feng Cha Teahouse, 6180 Jarvis Ave, Suite W, Newark, CA 94560-1263 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): East Bay Teahouse, 1376 San Lucas Dr., Pittsburg, CA 94565. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Amitpal Gill, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 3, 2025. Expires February 2, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6294. Published February 13, 20, 27, March 6, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 612179

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

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McNerney Bill Would Enlarge Composting at Vineyards

By Larry Altman

Tri-Valley State Sen. Jerry McNerney has introduced legislation that would allow farmers and winegrape growers throughout the state to compost large amounts of agricultural waste onsite, instead of having to ship it to composting facilities hundreds of miles away.

The legislation, SB 279, is in response to a ban that just took effect prohibiting nearly all green waste burning in the San Joaquin Valley because of pollution. Should it pass, farmers throughout California, including vineyards in South Livermore, can take part in the composting plan, McNerney said.

"It's a win-win," McNerney told The Independent. "We don't want a lot of burning because of the air quality issues. If we use ag waste to create compost, then you enrich the soil. So, you're saving these agricultural entities money from having to pay people to take their material away, and now they can use that to enrich their own soils."

McNerney, a Pleasanton Democrat whose district straddles the Tri-Valley in Alameda County and San Joaquin County on the east side of the Altamont pass, authored the bill because banning agricultural burning was necessary for the air quality in the San Joaquin Valley, which has some of the highest child asthma rates in the country. McNerney sits on the Senate Agriculture Commitee.

Farmers and vineyard owners create millions of tons of agricultural waste when they remove an old orchard or vineyard. Farmers in the San Joaquin Valley were allowed to burn the green waste, but legislation signed in 2003 set out to eliminate agricultural burning by 2010 because of the particulates sent into the air.

A provision in the law, however, gave the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District the option of postponing the ban's implementation if there



Jerry McNerney

were not any alternative. For years, the state granted extensions, while phasing in the order until the state Air Resources Board ordered a complete ban that took effect on Jan. 1, 2025.

Farmers, meanwhile, have had to pay companies to truck the waste away. McNerney said he hopes his bill will enable them to keep the waste onsite and use the compost they generate.

The bill will eliminate caps put into effect long ago that limited how much onsite composting could occur. Under the plan, local composting sites and farmers can compost up to 500 cubic yards of green waste, 400 more cubic yards that are currently allowed by law. Caps that limit sales and giveaways of compost material also will be increased to 5,000 cubic yards from 1,000.

"These caps are kind of a legacy," McNerney said. "They were created a long time ago by waste management, and they don't really have any purpose at this point. It's really a legacy issue that we're overcoming with the current needs."

McNerney said he was not aware of any opposition to the bill, one of his first in his new job as state senator for the 5th District. The bill is supported by Californians Against Waste, California Association of Winegrape Growers, Western Tree Nut Association, California Alliance for Community Composting, The Climate Center, and People Food & Land Foundation.

CalRecycle recently reported that California needs 50 to 100 new or expanded composting facilities to meet the state's mandates to dispose of organic waste through composting to keep the refuse from landfills.

McNerney said the change also will benefit community compositing programs, urban farms and school farms. Livermore vineyard operators also must deal with ag waste on a smaller scale, but the problem of disposing of it is similar to that found on larger farms in San Joaquin County.

"We want to make life for ag, for farmers, as easy as possible, because they do a lot. It's a hard job," McNerney said. "It's very demanding work, and we want to give them as much leeway as we can."

"Winegrape growers have long been committed to sustainability, including healthy soils and carbon sequestration through composting and other means," said Michael Miiller, director of Government Relations for the California Association of Winegrape Growers. "As California faces the reality that we need to remove tens of thousands of acres of vineyards this year, composting onsite is an option that is especially important in the Central Valley, where open ag burn is no longer an option."

East Bay Regional Park District Reducing Threat of Wildfires

As the area's largest landowner, the East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD) is conducting fuel-reduction efforts at several parks to reduce the risk of wildfire, including Camp Arroyo at Del Valle Regional Park south of Livermore.

The district "works yearround to reduce fire fuels to help keep parks and surrounding communities safe," said EBRPD Fire Chief Aileen Theile. "The goal is to reduce fire intensity to give firefighters a fighting chance when fires do occur."

Fuel-reduction efforts involve thinning trees and underbrush, including the use of fire to reduce the threat of fire.

The district uses an industrial carbonizer that can reach about 1,300 degrees Fahrenheit to reduce biomass to biochar, a carbon-rich charcoal-like material.

Because the process uses little oxygen, resulting in low greenhouse gas emissions, the carbonizer is considered a climate-friendly method of biomass disposal, especially compared to conventional open-pile burning or trucking waste to a disposal site.

In some areas, the park district also relies on annual goat, sheep and cattle grazing to help in fuels-reduction.

In addition to Camp Arroyo, a 138-acre children's camp and environmental education center, EBRPD said it is currently engaged in fuels-reduction efforts at Ardenwood Historic Farm, Garin Regional Park, Las Trampas Regional Wilderness, Bishop Ranch Regional Preserve, Cull Canyon Regional Recreation Area, Crockett/Port Costa Areas, Miller/Knox Regional Shoreline, Richmond/El Sobrante Areas, and Lake Chabot Regional Park.

"The large fuels-reduction projects underway at Anthony Chabot, Tilden Regional Park, and other regional parks in the East Bay are critical to wildfire safety and are already making a measurable difference in reducing wildfire risks," said EBRPD General Manager Sabrina Landreth.

Over the last four years, EBRPD has increased its budget for fuels-reduction projects from $2.2 million to $9.4 million. The number of park district fire personnel assigned to fuels-reduction efforts has grown from six in 2019 to 23 this year, according to the EBRPD.

"With the three elements required for fire — heat, oxygen, and fuel — one of the elements we can control is fuel, such as dry vegetation and hazardous trees," said Assistant EBRPD Fire Chief Khari Helae. That's why fuels reduction is so essential to preparing for the threat of potential wildfires. Many recent fires in the East Bay have shown the effectiveness of fuels reduction efforts."

AI, Robotics Activities Lead Off 'Livermore Reads' Events

The Livermore Public Library will host an afternoon of artificial intelligence (AI), robotics and engineering activities for children and adults from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, March 1.

The activities will be led by the Quest Science Center, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, the Livermore Flying Electrons, a radio-controlled flying club, and System Overload Robotics, a competitive robotics club and BSA Explorers post sponsored by the nonprofit Robot Garden at Livermore Municipal Airport.

The afternoon activities will kick off a month of events for the library's annual Livermore Reads Together program, which this year revolves around "The Wild Robot" by Peter Brown.

The novel, the first in a trilogy, tells the story of a robot that washes ashore on an uninhabited island and is accidentally activated by the local wildlife. As the robot, Roz, learns how to survive, she discovers friendship, compassion, and the meaning of life.

It is the first middle-grade book chosen for the library's community reading program.

Other activities include:

"The Future Is Now," an art show hosted by the Livermore Art Association in the Civic Center Library Art Gallery from March 1 through Sunday, March 30, with a reception from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, March 8.

A two-part crafts program to build a solar-powered rover for students in grades 4 through 6 from 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 13, and Thursday, March 20, at the Civic Center Library. The program is free, although registration is required. To register, call 925-373-5505. Students will need to attend both sessions.

A trivia contest at the Civic Center Library, open to all ages and hosted by the East Bay Regional Park District, testing knowledge of the wilderness, animals, artificial intelligence, and "The Wild Robot." The contest will use Kahoot!, a free trivia platform compatible with most internet-enabled devices.

A crafts program at the Springtown Branch Library from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Tuesday, March 18, for children in grades 1 through 5 to build their own robots using recycled materials. The program will be repeated at the Rincon Branch Library from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. on Friday, March 21. Registration is not required and all materials will be provided.

An "Under the Lens" STEM program, led by Livermore teens, on how to build a robotic hand from 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. at the Civic Center Library on Friday, March 21. The program is for students in grades 3 through 5. To register, call 925-373-5505.

A.P. Anderson, assistant librarian for research and instruction at East Texas A&M University, will give a Zoom-based presentation on "ChatGPT Unveiled: Understanding the Power, Risks, and Ethics of AI Language Models" at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, March 25. To access the presentation use: us02web.zoom.us/j/84171178999.

The San Jose State University School of Information will demonstrate emerging technologies at the Civic Center Library at 1 p.m. on Saturday, March 29.

For more information on upcoming events, go to library.livermoreca.gov.


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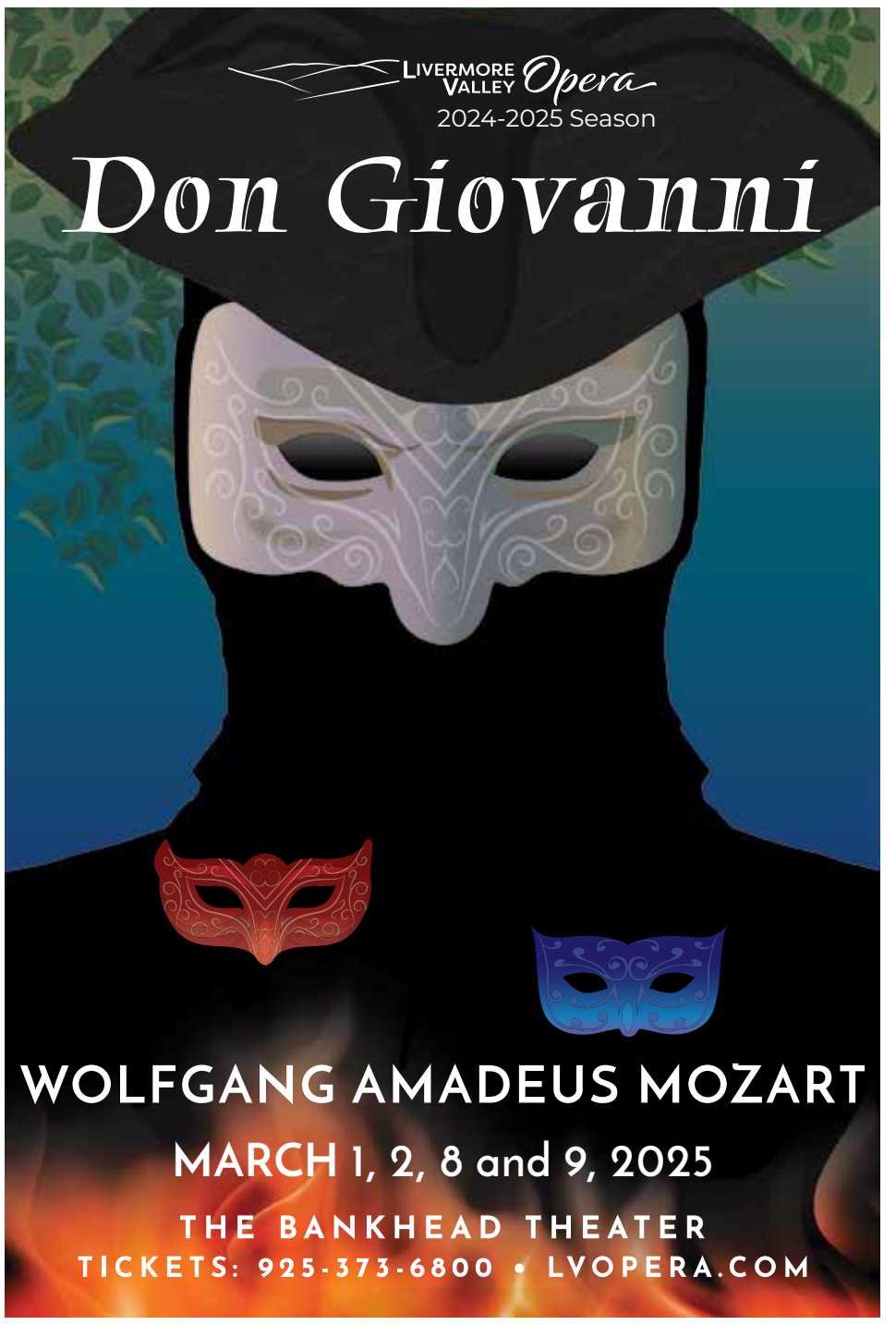
Pleasanton School Board Trustees To Host 'State of District' Breakfast

The Pleasanton Unified School District and the Pleasanton Partnerships in Education (PPIE) Foundation will co-host the sixth annual State of the District breakfast from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. on Thursday, Feb. 20, at the Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton.

The meeting will feature an address by Dr. Maurice Ghysels, interim superintendent of schools, and presentation of the 2025 PPIE Pillars of Pleasanton awards.

This year, the PPIE awards, which recognize local businesses for their support of Pleasanton schools, will go to Van Pelt Construction, Robert Half International, Vulcan Material Co., Katie Moe of Connect California Homes, the Jing Xue Team at Coldwell Banker, and Karen Braga of Karen's Yard Signs.

The State of the District is open to all community members. The deadline to register is Monday, Feb. 17. To register, go to ppie.org.


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