

## Niles Canyon Trail Trail Project Continues Forward

### Traffic and Privacy Concerns Remain

By Ruth Roberts

SUNOL — A draft environmental impact report (EIR) for the Niles Canyon Trail project is available for public comment now through the end of May. The release of the draft EIR is the next step for a project led by the Alameda County Public Works Agency.

When complete, the six-mile Niles Canyon Trail will serve walkers, bikers and equestrians. The trail will wind through the canyon terrain, paralleling Alameda Creek and the Niles Canyon Railway. In Phase One, the pathway will be 10-foot wide, paved and accessible to all. A bridge will also link the trail to Palomares Road, creating a safe crossing over State Route 84. To accommodate user parking, the project features staging areas in downtown Niles, Palomares Road and a new parking area to be constructed by the East

(See TRAIL, page 5)

## Alameda County DA Reduces Charges in Deputy Case

### Victims' Families Express Outrage

By Larry Altman

DUBLIN — Alameda County District Attorney Pamela Price has dropped special circumstances charges against a former sheriff's deputy accused of killing his girlfriend and her husband in their Dublin home. Price's action has outraged the victims' family.

Price's decision means Devin Williams Jr., 25, if convicted, will no longer face a sentence that would send him to prison for life without a chance at parole. Instead, he could face 50 years to life in prison with the possibility available for early release on parole.

"This is a travesty of

(See DEPUTY, page 8)



Dublin's new Emerald High School, the county's first new comprehensive high school in 50 years, will provide students with the latest facilities when it opens this summer. (See story on page 10). (Photo – Doug Jorgensen)

## Pleasanton City Council Approves High-Density Hopyard Housing Project

### Accepted Despite Resident Worries Over Character and Costs

By Ruth Roberts

PLEASANTON — The Pleasanton City Council has approved a controversial plan to develop a high-density housing project on Hopyard Road near the Valley Trails neighborhood. The approval came despite neighborhood concerns over the project's density, parking and an additional \$250,000 potentially required from the city's affordable housing fund.

During a nearly five-hour meeting on April 16, the council voted 4-1 to move forward with an amended version of the original proposal approved by the planning commission on March 13.

Catalyst Development Partners, LLC originally ap-

plied in 2022 with the City of Pleasanton to demolish Harvest Valley Christian Church and its adjacent daycare on Hopyard Road near the Valley Trails neighborhood. This proposal would have replaced the buildings with 57 attached condominium units consisting of 48 three-story townhomes and nine low-income apartments on the three-acre lot. The lower-income apartments would have met some of the city's inclusionary zoning requirements.

By 2032, Pleasanton must meet its state-mandated Regional Housing Needs Allocation goal of 5,965 new units, 2,758 of which are targeted for lower-income households.

But a flood of requests

from area neighbors asked for an alternative to the project, as many believed it would bring down property values in the area, increase traffic and harm the small-town feel of the city. In response, Catalyst reduced 55 units: 47 three-story townhomes and eight low-income apartments that can be rented or sold at the market rate of \$375,000 per unit to low-income residents.

Under this agreement, the city would contribute \$100,000 per unit to bridge the affordability mark of 100% AMI (Affordable Median Income), if the developer could not get the full \$375,000 purchase price per unit. With this option, the city would provide deeper affordability by offsetting costs

(See HOPYARD, page 7)

## Dublin Unified School District

### Emerald High Athletics Find Appropriate Competition Outside of the Tri-Valley

By Dawnmarie Fehr

DUBLIN — Dublin's new Emerald High School (EHS) will not join neighboring high schools in the East Bay Athletic League (EBAL). Instead, its administrators have opted to participate in the Bay Valley Athletic League (BVAL), situated in East Contra Costa County, at least for the time being.

As one of the most competitive leagues in the North Coast Section, the EBAL is made up of 12

schools, including Dublin High School, Livermore's and Pleasanton's high schools, and De La Salle High School in Concord. Leaders at Emerald were concerned about finding equitable competition for their fledgling teams in such an environment.

Emerald competed independently this year, finding games where they could. As part of the BVAL, they already have a schedule in the works for the next school year.

Since EHS will only

have freshmen and sophomore classes next year, they will not be able to field varsity teams. This could be an issue with other schools by creating a hole in the varsity schedule. And because the EBAL is large, schools have less flexibility in their schedules.

When BVAL invited EHS to join their ranks, EBAL President Bob Spain supported Emerald joining Bay Valley. He said his league was prepared to make adjustments in the

(See ATHLETICS, page 5)

## Federal Correctional Institution Dublin

### Rushed Prisoner Transfers Raise Closure Concerns

Attorneys Allege Inhumane Treatment

By Larry Altman

DUBLIN — Attorneys have asked a federal judge to halt the sudden transfer of female prisoners from Federal Correctional Institution (FCI) Dublin, alleging they have been subjected to strip searches, forced to sit in shackles for hours, and given limited access to food, water and bathrooms as officials work to shut down the institution.

In a court filing on April 19, attorneys for the California Coalition for Women Prisoners requested that Judge Yvonne Gonzalez Rogers impose a temporary restraining order (TRO) to stop the Federal Bureau of Prisons (FBOP) from shipping inmates to other facilities — some as far as

Illinois — and allow a special master she appointed to monitor the process.

"FBOP's sudden decision to clear out FCI Dublin's over 600 residents on a week's notice has wrought chaos to a population that, as this Court has found, is already at risk of imminent and serious medical injury, including lack of treatment for serious medical ailments, psychological distress, and risk of suicide," attorney Kara Janssen wrote in a motion filed April 19 in U.S. District Court in Oakland. "This urgent crisis is entirely of FBOP's own making."

It was not immediately clear at press time if Rogers had scheduled a hearing.

FBOP Director Colette Peters announced on April

(See TRANSFERS, page 6)



As part of Dublin Pride Week, the city held its annual Volunteer Day on April 20 at Emerald Glen Park, providing opportunities for residents to give back to their city. (Photo – Doug Jorgensen)

## PUSD Executives Turn Down 'Me Too' Raises

### Action Responds to Budget Difficulties

By Ruth Roberts

PLEASANTON — Pleasanton Unified School District (PUSD) Superintendent David Haglund, along with the district's executive staff, have turned down the annual salary increase known as a "me too" raise in a show of support to the district and its financial challenges.

A "me too" clause is an agreement written into some school district contracts, which stipulates that when one group receives a raise or increase in benefits, all employees automatically receive the same increase — hence the "me too" language. The idea behind the clause is to create consistency in salary increases throughout a district.

(See RAISES, page 7)



California State Parks hosted a tour of the Alameda-Tesla property last week, set to become a new state park unit in the next few years. (Photo – David Jen)

## Indigenous Histories Could Influence Upcoming Alameda-Tesla State Park

By David Jen

REGIONAL — California State Park and Recreation commissioners, along with members of the public, got a look at the upcoming Alameda-Tesla state park last week, as the property continues through its multi-year process of entering the state park system.

Clint Elscholz, acting district superintendent of the Diablo Range district, welcomed the group in a converted hay barn next to the district's headquarters, itself a former ranch house. The district's presentation and subsequent property tour provided a sense

of the location's history and current conditions ahead of Alameda-Tesla's classification this year.

Classification will determine the range of conservation, recreation and management activities that are appropriate for the park. It will decide whether Alameda-Tesla becomes a state recreation area, focused on outdoor recreational opportunities; a state park, which would preserve natural, scenic, ecological and cultural areas; a state reserve that would preserve ecological associations, unique biotic characteristics, geological features, scenic qualities or cultural resources; or a state

historical unit, which would preserve objects of historical, archeological and scientific interest.

Alexandra Stehl, deputy director of the state parks' strategic planning and recreation services division, said, "Classification does help lead us in developing and deciding what type of activities and level of intensity is appropriate on property. We want to make sure we get that classification right first, before we move forward with planning."

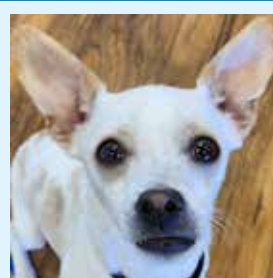
The property is considered the boundary between the Northern Valley Yokuts and the Ohlone Native American people.

(See ALAMEDA-TESLA, page 7)

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## PETS OF THE WEEK



### NUGGET

This little Nugget is a snuggle champ who loves cuddling under the covers. He's a friendly fellow who gets along with dogs, cats, and humans alike. Let Nugget be a golden addition to your family. Visit valleyhumane.org to learn more or email info@valleyhumane.org to start the adoption application process. (Photo – Valley Humane Society)

# Pleasanton Diverts Capital Project Funds to Storm Repairs

By Ruth Roberts

Various Pleasanton city sites damaged by a series of storms two winters ago will be repaired using money originally earmarked for city-wide improvements.

The Pleasanton City Council approved approximately \$18.9 million from the city's Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) fund to pay for multiple repair projects, including those at the East Vineyard Road

detention pond, Oak Tree Farm, Alviso Adobe Park and Augustin Bernal Park.

Additional projects that are necessary to ensure the safety of streets and trails, but do not qualify for federal funding, are on Sassafras Court, Puri Court, and at Sycamore Creek.

"Severe winter storms from December 2022 to March 2023 caused damage throughout the city," according to a city report. "These weather events resulted in risks to the

health, safety, and welfare of persons and property due to flooding, downed trees, loss of power and property damage."

A sanitary sewer lift station known as S-14 was also flooded during a January 2023 storm, requiring new conduit, wiring and concrete pad.

While the city worked with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services

(OES), and the city's on-call consultants to clear debris and restore the damaged sites before the 2024 rainy season, some of the measures were only temporary, and the more severely damaged sites now require permanent repair.

At its April 16 meeting, the council agreed to hold off on several approved projects, which use the CIP fund, in order to subsidize the sewer projects, while maintaining a balanced mid-term budget.

The deferred projects include an update to the Ken Mercer Skatepark, the renovation of the Century House, an upgraded HVAC system and pool deck at the Delores Bengtson Aquatic Center, annual median landscape renovation, park and trail pathway resurfacing, and various park renovations, among other projects.

While the city will receive FEMA reimbursement for several of the repair and replacement

projects, the reimbursement only covers 75% of the total project cost; it is unknown when reimbursement funds will be received. The estimated costs for the necessary stormwater system improvements, including the city's portion of the FEMA projects, range between \$9.5 million and \$16 million. According to staff, the city is still collecting reimbursements for the 2017 storm events.

# LLNL Physicist Tammy Ma Shares Fusion Goals at TED Conference

By David Jen

Livermore's dreams of bountiful clean energy took to the stage last week at the 2024 Technology, Entertainment, Design (TED) conference in Vancouver, Canada.

Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) plasma physicist Tammy Ma shared during her "Trailblazers" TED talk the lab's latest efforts to bring fusion power to the commercial power grid.

"When we make fusion energy a reality, energy will become so plentiful that it will no longer be a limited resource," said Ma. "This will change the world as we know it. When energy becomes essentially unlimited — there are unlimited ways to use this energy — every country will be energy independent; standards of living will rise around the world; and we'll be able to use energy in creative new ways as well."

Ma listed energy-intensive technologies — such as high-yield vertical

farming in stacks, desalination and direct carbon capture — that would become more economically viable in solving the world's food, water and climate problems if cheap, abundant electricity were available.

In December 2022, LLNL's National Ignition Facility (NIF) achieved its namesake ignition milestone, demonstrating a net-positive fusion reaction.

"For the very first time in history, we generated a controlled fusion reaction in the laboratory that generated more energy than went in with the lasers to start," said Ma.

A year later, the Department of Energy awarded \$16 million to an LLNL-led group tasked with accelerating the commercialization of fusion power.

"Harnessing fusion energy is one of the greatest scientific and technological challenges of the 21st Century," said U.S. Secretary of Energy Jennifer M. Granholm at the time. "We now have the confidence

that it's not only possible, but probable, that fusion energy can be a reality. The scientists in these hubs will be the vanguard of game-changing and planet-saving breakthroughs."

Led by Ma, and known as the Science and Technology Accelerated Re-



Plasma Physicist  
Tammy Ma

(Photo courtesy: LLNL)

search for Fusion Innovation and Reactor Engineering (STARFIRE) hub, the four-year project will establish workforce initiatives and develop early-stage supply chains in order to lay the groundwork for prototype com-

mercial power plants based off the NIF laser-confinement design.

Ma said there are already new fusion startup companies popping up across the globe.

STARFIRE works alongside continued development at NIF, such as recent work by LLNL staff scientist Alison Browar developing shadow cone blockers that shield optical defects from intense laser light. While microscopic surface damages previously grew with each laser shot, the new shields protect those areas from further growth, extending the life of the optic and increasing the number of shots fired between required maintenance.

Nuclear fusion — the process of merging two atomic nuclei into a single, heavier one — releases a vast amount of energy without carbon emissions, long-lived nuclear waste or risk of a runaway reaction.

"One single pound of fusion fuel has the same amount of energy as 5,000 barrels of oil or 3.5 million

pounds of coal," said Ma, adding that there is enough fusion fuel on Earth to last 30 billion years at today's power usage levels. "If you ask me, I'd call that energy security."

Fusion at NIF burns deuterium, a form of hydrogen that occurs naturally in seawater.

The 10-story NIF, which has a footprint roughly the size of three football fields, amplifies the power of 192 laser beams as they travel through a mile of optics before converging on a single target about the size of a peppercorn. The resulting shock on the target is enough to fuse atoms.

"This laser is a thousand times more powerful than the entire U.S. electrical grid," said Ma. "It's the most energetic laser in the world. ... With our giant laser, we can actually create miniature stars right here on Earth."

Since ignition, NIF has repeated the feat four times, with the latest and largest reaction conducted on February 12, where 5.2 megajoules of energy were

produced using 2.2 megajoules of laser energy.

But, "in order to move toward that fusion energy future, we'll have to figure out how to harness this energy in a working fusion power plant," said Ma.

Charged with safeguarding the nation's stockpile of nuclear weapons, LLNL has worked toward producing controlled fusion reactions for some 60 years. While NIF has since demonstrated ignition, the facility was never designed as a power plant, but rather as a way to study nuclear fusion reactions without the detonation of nuclear weapons.

Ma's team now works to leverage NIF's accomplishments to build a fusion power plant connected to the commercial grid.

# Haubert Awards Scholarship Funds to Four School Districts

The school districts serving Livermore, Dublin, Pleasanton, and Fremont have each received \$50,000 from Alameda County District 1 Supervisor David Haubert to be used for scholarships for graduating seniors.

The funds are part of the Enhancing Vision 2026 initiative, a three-year program established

by the board of supervisors in 2018 and later extended through 2025.

Under the program, administered by the county Health Care Services Agency, each of the five supervisors is allocated \$1 million a year for projects designed to create a more healthful, safe, and resilient environment for children and their fami-

lies, with an emphasis on eliminating homelessness, poverty, and hunger.

Haubert's office said the scholarships are designated for students in District 1 who are in foster care, homeless, come from low-income families, or who would be first-generation college students.

The scholarships can be used to attend trade

schools, community colleges, or four-year universities.

"I'm proud to support these students with resources they deserve to assist them in achieving their educational aspirations and gaining the knowledge and skills to successfully join the future workforce of our community," Haubert said.

Each of the school districts will decide which students receive scholarships and for how much.

Those districts are the Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District, Pleasanton Unified School District, Dublin Unified School District, and Fremont Unified School District.

# Three Valleys Opens Yandell Scholarship to Applications

Three Valleys Community Foundation (3VCF) is now accepting applications for the first David Yandell Living Legacy Service Scholarship, which honors a longtime Amador Valley High School (AVHS) teacher and counselor who retired in 1997.

The \$10,000 scholarship is open to AVHS students who will be graduating this spring.

Keith Yandell established the scholarship last year to honor his father, David Yandell, with a \$10,000 contribution to a donor-advised fund managed by 3VCF.

The younger Yandell, a senior executive with San Francisco-based DoorDash, and his siblings, Renee Yandell and Curt, Kent, and Karen Rocca, all graduated from AVHS.

"As the son of an educator, I value and appreciate the sacrifice and contribution of public educators and the importance of educational opportunity beyond high school," Keith Yandell said when the scholarship was announced last fall. "This is my way of honoring my father and his legacy as well as giving back to Amador, which has given

my family so much."

3VCF said the scholarship is to recognize outstanding student leadership and service to AVHS and the larger community.

Although David Yandell retired almost three decades ago, he and his wife Rose have maintained their ties to AVHS.

"We are proud that our five children graduated from Amador Valley High School and became valuable members of their respective communities," the elder Yandell said when he first learned that his youngest son had created

a scholarship in his honor.

3VCF is a Pleasanton-based nonprofit that helps individual donors and philanthropic organizations manage their community donation efforts, including donor-advised scholarships.

In a LinkedIn post, 3VCF said the Yandell scholarship would go to an AVHS student "demonstrating financial need and/or whose parents or guardians have worked in the field of education."

Applications must be received by May 10. For more information, email [jfried@3vcf.org](mailto:jfried@3vcf.org).

# LHS Music Program Earns Top WorldStrides Festival Award

Livermore High School (LHS) received the Festival Sweepstakes Award for best comprehensive music program at a WorldStrides Onstage Heritage Festival last month in Anaheim.

LHS entered eight ensembles, with 154 student musicians, in the festival, competing against 35 ensembles from seven states.

The LHS band, orchestra, and choir ensembles received 23 awards, including six solo awards, in addition to the Festival Sweepstakes Awards.

"The students performed with passion and excitement," said Justin Enright, instrumental music teacher and head of the high school's Performing Arts

Department. "Multiple adjudicators mentioned that what they most appreciated about our students was their undeniable love for music. That's all we can ask for."

Enright received the Instrumental Sweepstakes Award.

The Honors Chamber Orchestra was named Outstanding Orchestra Group in the competition for receiving the highest overall orchestra score, while the Honors Jazz Band was named Outstanding Band Group for top overall band score.

Maestro Awards for solo performances went to Michael Zhang, playing piano for the Honors Chamber Orchestra; CJ Scorsone, playing bass clarinet for the Honors Symphonic Band; and Honors Jazz Band members Tu Han Huynh, vibes, Connor Chu, tenor sax, Tanmay Patki, vocalist, and Francis Nguyen, piano.

The school's Concert Percussion Ensemble, Honors Chamber Orchestra, String Orchestra, Honors Jazz Band, and Honors Symphonic Band all won Gold Award for first place in their divisions. The Concert Band received a Silver Award.

The Honors Chamber Orchestra, Percussion Ensemble, Honors Jazz Band, and Honors Symphonic Band also received Instrumental Adjudicator Awards for scoring 92 points or

higher in the judging.

The Chamber Choir and Mixed Choir, under the guidance of vocal music teacher Brendan Lodge, also received Gold Awards in their divisions and both earned Adjudicator Awards, scoring 95 points or higher.

"When you listen to their performances, it's hard not to be blown away by the talent of our students," said Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District Superintendent Chris Van Schaack. "Livermore High has built an incredible music program, and the results of this competition are a reflection of the dedication, commitment, and strive for excellence that our music students and educators share."

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# LLNL Team Looks to Disrupt Chinese Rare Earth Monopoly

By David Jen

While many carbon-reduction solutions depend on China's monopoly of rare earth elements, a team at Lawrence Livermore National Lab (LLNL) has been at work to establish a complete rare earth supply chain here in the United States using an innovative biological method.

Rare earths are integral to technologies, such as wind turbines, batteries, consumer electronics and military applications. An electric vehicle, for example, needs some 375 pounds more of these minerals than a conventional car.

In order to stay on track toward our mid-century climate goals, the world will need to increase production of these minerals by a factor of six over 2020 levels before 2040. The increased demand will be largely driven by improvements to power grids and their need for battery storage, wind power and solar power, said LLNL staff scientist Dan Park at a Las Positas College (LPC) talk last week.

"This projected demand far outstrips the current supply," said Park.

China currently produces about 60% of the world's rare earths, but

refines some 90%, as other countries send their materials to China for refinement, according to the International Energy Agency.

Park said, "This poses a national security challenge, a vulnerability that could be exploited during times of geopolitical conflict."

In 2010, for example, China restricted rare earth exports to Japan over a fishing dispute, causing global prices to skyrocket.

Park is one of over 150 people in the lab's bioscience and biotechnology division. His team has worked on using biological processes to concentrate rare earths from raw, mined

or recycled materials. The team's experiments have shown that some bacteria that naturally include rare earths in their diets can be used to help separate out the valuable minerals from surrounding materials.

Rare earth mining has, in the past, severely damaged ecosystems in China, introducing acids, heavy metals and radioactive materials into water supplies.

The shift to clean energy in the U.S. was made possible by the ecological damage of mines in China, said Park.

While the higher environmental standards and wages in the U.S. have

made it difficult for conventional, solvent-based refinement methods to take hold here, Park hopes that the cleaner biological processes will serve as a promising avenue for domestic rare earth refinement.

The bacteria-based approach may also open up lower quality rare earth sources, such as coal fly ash — the byproduct of burning coal — or recycled consumer electronics.

His team now works to improve the bacteria's ability to separate one rare earth from another, and to scale the process up into commercially viable volumes.

Park's talk was part of the LLNL-LPC Science & Engineering Seminar Series. The 17-year-old program provides a forum for lab scientists and engineers to share their work with students and the Tri-Valley community. Other recent talks in the series have touched on topics such as using ground-penetrating radar for explosive hazard detection and investigating the origin and evolution of the solar system.

Do you want more from Glenn White?

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# Foothill, Amador Valley in National Civics Competition Top 10

Competitive civics teams from two Pleasanton high schools finished in the Top 10 at the We the People National Finals in Washington, D.C.

Foothill High School finished third and Amador Valley High School was seventh among 48 teams from across the country.

Grant High School from Portland, Oregon, finished in first place.

We the People is a national program sponsored by the Center for Civic Education that provides a curriculum for teaching the principles of constitutional democracy in grades four through high school. The

annual program culminates in mock congressional hearings for high school students at the state level and the national finals with students testifying before a panel of judges.

The two Pleasanton schools advanced to the national finals, held earlier this month, after Amador

Valley placed first and Foothill second in state competition in February.

The Foothill team, coached by U.S. history teacher Graham McBride, included Valentina Avalos, Elias Benard, Patrick Bennett, Peter Bennett, Betty Chang, Hassaan Chaudhary, Jocelyn Chong, Caitlin Dainas, Riya Datla, Faith Hughes, Jordan Jakubowicz, Fatima Kanamkandy, Akhil Karthik, Siddarth Kota, Natalie Lai, Sareena Mann, Sarah Masih, Arya Nair, Tejas Prakash, Joshua Skrzypczak, Sydney Stark, Hritvik Tripathi, Lilian Vancleave, James Wang, Hannah Weir, Alexander Wong, Luke Yamashita, Nabecha Zafar, and Katherine Zhang.

The Amador Valley team, coached by English teacher Stacey Sklar, included Hayden Caty, Aditya Dawar, Abi Dawit, Ishmeet Dhillon, Julianna Diwa, Runab Dixit, Alana Hicks, Sumanth Janjanam, Anika Parkhi, Atheeth Ravikrishnan, Fengyi Ruan, Owen Short, Noah Simpson, Shambhavi Singh, Sophia Stomhagen, Shreya Than-

dapani, Zoe Wagner, Emma Wang, Arya Yalamanchi, and Selena Yan.



Civics teams from Pleasanton's Foothill and Amador Valley high schools, above, have finished in the top 10 at the We the People National Finals in Washington, D.C. (Photo courtesy of Pleasanton Unified School District)

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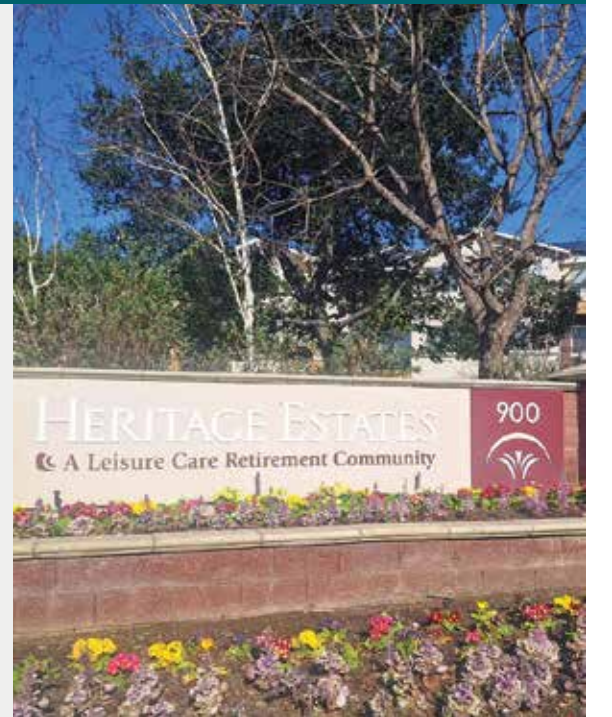
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# EDITORIAL

## Harsh Conditions During Prison Closure Need Oversight

A change in management has been long overdue at the Federal Correctional Institution (FCI) Dublin women's prison. With a history of sexual abuse and whistleblower retaliation against inmates from its corrections officers, a warden and a chaplain, the infamous prison has warranted drastic measures to correct its treatment and management of prisoners.

Last month, the FBOP replaced former FCI Dublin Warden Arthur Dulgov with Nancy T. McKinney, who was previously the FBOP Senior Deputy As-

sistant Director for its Western Regional Office.

Reports last week from the California Coalition for Women Prisoners (CCWP) suggest that a poorly managed shutdown, currently underway at the prison, may be exacerbating the very abuses the shutdown was intended to stop. Prisoner emails to their attorneys tell a story of limited access to food, water and bathrooms during long hours in temporary holding cells as management routes some 600 inmates to their new locations around the country, including Illinois.

The rushed closure, announced by the Federal Bureau of Prisons (FBOP) on April 15, came only a few days after a U.S. District Court judge appointed Wendy Still as a special master to provide oversight of the institution. Following the closure announcement, FBOP also attempted to prevent Still from reviewing prisoner records as they were transferred out of Dublin.

The timing of events seems like an attempt to avoid the oversight and transparency afforded to the special master role.

Hopefully, they have nothing to hide.

For these reasons, on top of the obvious need to maintain humane conditions throughout any prison closure, we support the CCWP's request to pause the prison closure and allow a special master to monitor the process. Let the court-appointed oversight role do its job.

Ideally, the closure will be temporary, and FCI Dublin's prisoners will be back in Dublin soon, once the issues that have previously plagued management and staff are ferreted out.

## MAILBOX

### Mailbox Guidelines:

Opinions voiced in letters published in Mailbox are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of The Independent. Anonymous letters will not be published. All letters are required to have the name(s) of the person(s) submitting them, city of residence and phone number, for verification purposes. Letters may not contain advertising. Abusive letters may be rejected or edited. Letters are subject to verification and may be edited for clarity at the discretion of the editor. We reserve the right to decide whether or not the letter will be published. Headings for all letters may be edited at the discretion of the editor to properly reflect their content. A headline will be added to letters received without one. Frequent letter writers may have publication of their letters delayed. Letters should be limited to 400 words or less and should be sent by email to [letters@independentnews.com](mailto:letters@independentnews.com) or submitted using the form below. The letters to the editor deadline is Monday at 10 a.m. If you wish to submit a letter pertaining to a special event or meeting taking place on a Monday before any given Thursday print edition — and you would like your letter to run that week — please contact the editor ([editor@independentnews.com](mailto:editor@independentnews.com)) as soon as possible on Monday to discuss the content and publication options. Otherwise, all letters submitted after 10 a.m. on Monday must hold until the following week.

### Invitation to Awareness Through Art

Julie Wild, Livermore

This Saturday, April 27th, a powerful art exhibit will take place in Livermore (Stockmen's Park 12-4 p.m.) that the community is invited to. It brings art from local children, which helps to tell the stories of Palestine. Paintings, drawings, poems, calligraphy and more. Many of the young artists will be on hand to share what compelled them to create art for this exhibit and there will also be artwork from the children of Gaza.

At a time when things can feel divisive, art reminds us all of our shared humanity and allows children a voice when they're often not given a chance to express how they feel.

Those that attended previous exhibits stated that they left with heavier hearts, but also more hopeful hearts. Let's show our support for these very special artists this Saturday.

### Participate in the Airport Planning Process

Rahn Becker, Livermore

A reminder to take your opportunity to submit your comments to the city about the airport planning process. I discovered it by accident when I went to the city's website. It takes a few minutes and must be submitted by April 30. This is a good chance to be part of the planning process.

### A Thank You from the Pleasanton Cultural Arts Council

Kelly Cousins, President of the PCAC Board, Pleasanton

The Pleasanton Cultural Arts Council wishes to thank those who attended and supported "A Night in Paris" fundraiser on April 13th. The profits will be used to continue our educational programs. A special thanks goes to the event's sponsors Lynn and Joan Seppala, Wente Vineyards, Community Health Education Foundation (CHEF), NCL, Jean King, IPAC Inc., Insperity HR Services, Uncle Credit Union, The CoolTones Big Band, On the Vine Catering and Alameda County Supervisors Nate Miley and David Halbert. Other community contributors, in-kind donors and local businesses who supported the fundraiser also helped to make the Parisian night one to remember. PCAC also wishes to thank Mayor Karla Brown who presented a special Proclamation recognizing April as "Arts, Culture and Creativity Month" on behalf of the Pleasanton City Council at the event.

The Pleasanton Cultural Arts Council's mission for over 44 years as a nonprofit has been to encourage, support, and promote the arts in Pleasanton schools and the local community to reflect our cultural diversity and inspire all. Visit [PleasantonArts.org](http://PleasantonArts.org) to learn more about our nonprofit.

Thank you for keeping the arts a vibrant part of our community.

### Social Media Addiction is a Land Use Problem (Partially)

Matthew Aini, Dublin

In a time when major social media platforms like TikTok are coming under increasing scrutiny for their role in social media addiction among younger generations, many people understandably find themselves asking: How did we get here?

As players in the attention economy, social media are competitors to other digital platforms and

physical businesses in acquiring a child's limited attention budget. While algorithms and UI are major pull factors for people to allocate their time and attention, the push factors are often under-discussed in understanding how youth behavior has shifted over time to be more online and consequently more socially isolated. In my view, the biggest of these push factors is land use — specifically, the lack of access to a "third place" for children today compared to generations past.

For those unfamiliar, the "third place" is anywhere you'd spend time outside of the home or work/school such as gyms, movie theaters, restaurants, etc. While the digital age has made getting the goods/services that most "third places" offer as easy as a few clicks, the worsening physical proximity to "third places" certainly hasn't helped. This is partially due to the sprawling nature of suburban communities but is also a part of shifting attitudes about how our kids get around. New generations of parents feel increasing concern and societal pressure to protect their children from safety threats related to crime and vehicular traffic, leading to kids walking less often from point A to point B and instead being driven around by parents or parents of friends. It's gotten to the point where the share of kids walking or biking to school has dropped by over two-thirds since the 60s. As a result, children today simply have less independence over how they control their free time in the physical world.

This situation isn't borne out of any mal intent, but the resulting convenience of screen time over parks, malls, and the like needs to be acknowledged. The independence and social value that kids get from in-person interaction is not only lacking in social media, rather, such platforms so often worsen these aspects while growing up. In that light, the status quo of social media has to change, but our relationship to third places must as well.

### Respect for Referendums

Hasan Hasan, Livermore

Each of us believes that we have a voice in our community and aside from elections, referendums are another way to communicate what we want to city officials. This is why referendums must be considered a respected tool by everyone.

It's good news that the court has honored our right to a referendum in its ruling in the Move Eden Housing lawsuit. Now we can vote on whether we want an open park or dense housing in the center of our downtown.

### The Gaza Genocide Leads to Regional (Possibly Nuclear) War

Greg Scott, Livermore

In Gaza, since last October 7th, more than 14,000 children, 12,000 women, and thousands of male civilians have been slaughtered by Israel Defense Forces (IDF). This is genocide and ethnic cleansing by Israel, not war. To dispute that assertion goes against the evidence from Internet communications traffic that the IDF has been unable to destroy or block, and also their inability to kill all journalists in Gaza — even though the IDF has murdered more than 125 of those journalists. The other conundrum for disclaiming the Gaza genocide is the eyewitnesses who have been part of humanitarian rescue efforts, and some of those, such as seven individuals with the World Central Kitchen, have been targeted and brutally annihilated by the IDF. The reader is free to view the children's corpses and conditions in the Rafah field hospital in pictures taken by Bay Area physician Dr. Mohammed Subeh. The United States is continuing genocidal complicity with recent congressional approval of \$26.38 billion for Israel.

By furthering this genocide and by bombing an Iranian embassy in Damascus, Syria, Israel is promoting regional war, so that the war criminal Prime Minister Netanyahu and his government may remain in power. The retaliation by Iran—with more than 300 drones, cruise missiles, and ballistic missiles—has only heightened tensions with Israel, which retaliated to Iran's retaliation by precision-targeted destruction of a Russian S-300 surface-to-air missile battery in Isfahan, Iran. The majority of the Iranian projectiles in the Iranian attack were eliminated by the U.S. military. Jordan and Saudi Arabia also contributed crucial roles to Israel's defense. Israel is being recklessly belligerent in the region, with coalition support.

The big problem here: Iran has a large supply of 60% purity uranium-235. U-235 is highly "fissionable," meaning that its nucleus is readily split by a

neutron and that splitting itself yields, on average, at least two neutrons that can split other U-235 nuclei. This is the basis of a chain reaction, which, if it grows exponentially, can lead to the "super-criticality" required for a nuclear fission weapon. Iran is highly motivated by the IDF genocide in Gaza to centrifuge its U-235 of 60% purity to nuclear fission weapons grade 90% purity.

President "Genocide Joe" Biden and his administration are so diplomatically incompetent that they do not restrain Israel from precipitating a potential regional nuclear war.

Jill Stein is the only antigeneicide, antiwar presidential candidate.

### Ask a Good Question

Patricia Munro, Livermore

This week Jews are observing Passover, the Jewish holiday that tells the story of how the Jews became a people through making the journey from slavery to freedom. It is a particular story of one people, but it is also a universal story of gaining freedom.

It began on Monday, April 22 (coincidentally Earth Day), with a Seder, a ritual meal structured around telling the story. That telling begins with the youngest child chanting four questions and the rest of the Seder being the response. While the four questions are scripted and particular, they open the door to other questions, to discussion, and to debate.

We are and have been in a polarized world where opinions are stated—often loudly. Where making assumptions about intentions, followed by taking offense, happens far too often (especially online). The antidote? Asking questions with an open heart and an open mind.

There is a story in the Haggadah (the book that guides the Seder) my family uses about the Nobel prize-winning physicist Isidor I Rabi. When asked why he became a physicist, he said that when he returned from school, his mother would not ask what he had learned in school, but rather, she asked: "Did you ask a good question today?"

Which, of course, leads to another question: "What makes a good question?"

A good question is brave because the questioner is willing to be vulnerable and reveal ignorance. A good question is about seeking knowledge for its own sake, not to score points in some "I'm

smarter than you" game. A good question leads to more curiosity and wonder. A good question ultimately leads to more freedom through understanding. Here's to asking good questions and to finding good answers along the way.

### AwAfool

Patricia Thorstad, Livermore

I often make leading and argumentative statements.

ALL-RIGHT!

Rebuttal to fellow Livermore by using rebuttal for/to David Ott: take out David Ott's name entirely, per Proofreader, Party of the First Part.

People, often, in my village, think, about me (large thought-bubble with at least 72 pt. type, any font that matches their personality, for lack of an answer), Hey, Calm Down!

"I can't calm down." Relax; "I can't relax." Take it easy; "I can't take it easy."

What I can do is live with it.

No fooling; I gave myself tinnitus from the furor. I'm better now.

My Mottoes: First: I don't bake, I freeze.

Secondarily: Smart, Funny, Pretty Hair.

Logic, Strength, Patience.

Strategic, Tactical, Practical.

Conscience, Consciousness, Agency.

Socio, Economic, Personal, as well as (my favorite) Act, Acting, Action.

Let me ask, logically: "Are you reasonable and non-reasonable?"

"Do you both believe and disbelieve the Big Lie?"

Come on, reveal the Third Secret.

Dante Alighieri illustrated the place between heaven and hell; this space applies, both, to serial-lazy writer and lazy-serial writers.

"Let's Limbo some more."

"Who, me? No, I'm good."

"Smarter, Funnier, Prettier Hair."

### Akbar's House of Faiths

Glenn J. White, Dublin

"Judge not, that ye be not judged. 2 For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again. 3 And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye? 4 Or how wilt thou say to thy brother, Let me pull out the mote

(See MAILBOX, page 5)

## TRAIL

(Continued from front page)

Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD) in Sunol.

Phase Two will go from Palomares Road to the Niles Canyon Railway Yard near Brightside, where approximately 25% of the Sunol Aqueduct will be reconfigured as part of the trail.

Phase Three will include the construction of a new trail from Niles Canyon Railway to Sunol. The project will include provisions of staging areas with sufficient parking to avoid impacts to surrounding neighborhoods from visitors' vehicles. Staging areas would be created at Niles, Sunol and Palomares Road. In addition, existing staging areas associated with the Alameda Creek Trail could support the need for parking.

It is this final phase that has drawn the most attention from Sunol and Pleasanton residents.

Andrew Turnbull, a longtime Sunolian, said he supports the trail project in general, but is concerned with certain parts of the plan.

"Phase Three into Sunol is the one we care about. My personal opinion is

(that) I was pretty good for the project until it was framed as a 'park and ride,'" said Turnbull, referring to the staging areas set to be implemented in Sunol.

But Kelly Abreu, an environmentalist with Mission Peak Conservancy, and a supporter of the project, said there is "no possibility" of any additional parking lots developing in Sunol.

"They already have a newly built parking lot that will accommodate the needs of the new canyon trail," Abreu added. "From the point of view of property values and quality of life, better access to regional parks like Pleasanton Ridge and to city parks like Livermore's Sycamore Grove and Holdener Park is a good thing for neighboring residents."

Robert Stevens, a project manager for the Niles Canyon Trail project, said officials hear the public's concerns and believe compromises are possible.

"Over the years ... the trail has been overwhelmingly popular with the community," said Stevens. "However, some folks in the Sunol community

would prefer the Phase Three segment of trail to end south of Niles Canyon Road at the water temple rather than downtown. This is an alternative included in the draft environmental impact report."

Connie DeGrange, a 40-year resident of Sunol, supports the project and is grateful for the updates in the EIR that address residents' concerns.

"My neighbors did not want the trail to travel in front of their houses," said DeGrange. "This draft EIR now proposes alternate pathways to the terminus in Sunol and subjects each of them to environmental review."

The possible alternatives include terminating the trail on the southern side of the Main Street and Niles Canyon Road intersection. Another stops the trail at the EBRPD Tyler Ranch Staging Area.

"I think the Niles Canyon Trail is a great project," DeGrange added. "The Niles Canyon is beautiful, and it would be a wonderful opportunity to walk, ride your horse, or bicycle through the canyon without the danger or

noise of highway vehicle traffic ... The trail is a real opportunity for Alameda County and for hikers all around the Bay Area."

Jamie Nagata, a 44-year resident of Pleasanton off Foothill Road, is cautiously optimistic that the trail will be a win-win for everyone.

"Most residents are not against the trail, but mainly (against) the impact it will have on Foothill Road, due to noise and air pollution from the thousands of vehicles that travel Hwy 84," said Nagata in an email to The Independent. "With a trail in front of our homes, we will definitely lose our privacy."

"I truly hope our representatives on the Board of Supervisors take into consideration the impact this trail will have on their constituents when they have to make a decision on the EIR. We do count."

Considerations in the draft EIR include air quality, cultural and biological resources, geology and soils, hazardous materials, land use, water quality, tribal considerations and transportation.

The public has until May 20 to comment on

the draft EIR. The report can be viewed at acpwa.org. Hard copies can also be obtained at the Alameda County Public Works Agency 399 Elmhurst Street, Hayward. Paper copies are also available for review during regular hours at the Niles Library, 150 I St., Fremont or at the City of Pleasanton Library at 400 Old Bernal Ave.

Glenn White contributes. Do you want to contribute?



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## ATHLETICS

(Continued from front page)

interest of Emerald's athletic program.

"It's about finding equitable competition for the kids," Spain said. "We are doing this with the best interests of the kids in mind. With students participating in sports, you want them to have a positive experience."

EHS officials said

leagues are not based solely on geography, but also on each school's level of competitiveness. Athletic directors and league officials said they work to find a place where student athletes can succeed.

As part of the BVAL, Emerald will not be the only school who doesn't

have a team in every sport offered, and they will face less competition than they would in the EBAL. However, Emerald teams will have to travel east over the 580 freeway and north on Vasco Road to Brentwood and Antioch for games, which can be difficult, especially on Fridays. Though

Spain pointed out it is no more difficult than traveling north on the 680 freeway to get to De La Salle.

Schools can revisit their league affiliation every three years and make changes. If it wishes to, Emerald could revisit its decision in three years, with a full complement of four classes, and petition to join its neighboring schools in the EBAL. But that is a decision its athletic director, principal and administrators will make when the time comes.

For now, schools in BVAL look forward to welcoming new competition and fresh venues. Nate Smith, athletic director of Brentwood's Heritage High School, said he is excited to welcome Emerald to the league.

"They bring some strength and competitiveness in some of the sports where Liberty High School and Heritage can use more," Smith said. "They bring a different level of competition. So, I think it's exciting to add more teams and athletes."



As part of the Bay Valley Athletic League, Emerald High sports teams will travel to Brentwood and Antioch for games. Above, a look at the school's new gym before it opens this fall. (Photo – Doug Jorgensen)

## MAILBOX

(Continued from page 4)

out of thine eye; and, behold, a beam is in thine own eye? 5 Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye." (Matthew 7:1-5)

I referenced the above passage in my previous letter (Corrections – 4/18/2024) because "Genocide Greg" Scott judges Biden as "Genocide Joe". Therefore, my judgment is based on Genocide Greg's own standard of judgment, which is the same standard that he measures others by; like judging President Joe Biden as "Genocide Joe". Also, Jill Stein is photographed dining with "Genocide Vlad" Putin and former NSA and General: Michael Flynn, a pro-Russian fascist and traitor to our country. Jill's not always that peaceful but also, maybe, she is that hypocritical.

"Formerly I persecuted men into conformity with my faith and deemed it to be Islam. As I grew in knowledge, I was overwhelmed with shame." – Akbar the Great.

The Muslim Mughal Emperor, Akbar, is well known for his religious tolerance: He abolished the Jizya tax on non-Mus-

lims, allowed forced converts to re-convert and invited priests of different faiths to discuss their religious beliefs. He even lectured the Persian Shah 'Abbas and the Spanish King Philip II on the values of tolerance.

Wouldn't it be nice if this could happen in our time? A place where all the folks of different faiths could come together and share their beliefs without disparaging those who are of a different faith? Who would be willing to contribute their thoughts and ideas and listen carefully with respect to others of different faiths, including the "true believers" and the agnostics and those in-between of various faiths? Could anyone today truly coexist with others of a different faith and contribute respectfully like in Akbar's House of Faiths? Or is it just talk and not anyone really being serious?

#### Oakland Airport Russ Greenlaw, Livermore

It seems to me that the flap over Oakland Airport adding "San Francisco Bay" to its name is so much hot air with little substance.

There is no end of airports with names which were expanded to gener-

ate more customers. Several examples are: "New York-Newark" (really in New Jersey); Fresno Air Terminal added "Yosemite" to its name despite being about an hour's drive from Yosemite and in a different county; Truckee airport became Truckee-Tahoe Airport and is in a county that does not touch Lake Tahoe; Reno added "Tahoe" to its name ignoring that there already is a Tahoe airport, which formerly did have airline service and is in a different state, although the county in which Reno is located does touch Lake Tahoe, some consolation.

It could be that snooty San Francisco does not want its polished image tarnished by seeing "Oakland" attached to it – they forget that Oakland airport was handling overseas traffic when there was no San Francisco airport at all. I recall an uncle and aunt leaving from Oakland in a Qantas double-decked Boeing 377 around 1950 when SFO was quite new and the routes hadn't changed. Amelia Earhart didn't leave from SFO on her ill-fated round-the-world flight. It wasn't there then. My parents flew from Florida to San Francisco about 1947 and the plane first landed at

Oakland, which was that route's original terminus.

If San Francisco wants to avoid tarnish on its image, perhaps it should clean up the mess that is there already, including the hundreds of daily car burglaries, rather than complain about the name of a nearby and far more senior airport.

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# Las Positas Swimming Teams Aim for Championship Success

By Phil Jensen

The Las Positas College men's and women's swimming teams have a number of standout athletes this season.

One of them certainly is Zach Zauhar-Kurr. The sophomore from San Leandro was ranked first in the state in an impressive five men's events in the April 8 3C2A state rankings. He led the state in the 200-yard freestyle (1 minute, 43.19 seconds), the 200 breaststroke (2:03.08), the 200 butterfly (1:51.80), the 200 individual medley (1:50.64), and the 400 individual medley (4:00.91). In addition, he was ranked second in the 100 butterfly (51.03).

"This season has been awesome ... I really enjoy the team," said Zauhar-Kurr. "It's probably the most fun I've had in all my swimming career."

Zauhar-Kurr was entered in the 200 IM, 100 breaststroke and 200 breaststroke at the Coast Conference Championships, which started on April 18 after this article's deadline. The plan was for him also to swim four relays, said coach Jason

Craighead.

"I have people put around with the goal of winning conference championships," said Craighead about choosing events for his men's team, which is short-numbered compared to other conference teams such as West Valley. "They will swim the events they can score the most amount of points."

Ryan Ridosko, a Granada High School graduate, was ranked second in the state in the 200 freestyle (1:43.66), the 400 IM (4:09.35), the 200 backstroke (1:55.54), the 500 freestyle (4:40.73) and the 200 IM (1:54.75) in the April 8 rankings. The sophomore was also fourth in the 1650 freestyle (16:41.60).

Other Las Positas men in the top 12 in individual events in those state rankings included Dublin High School graduate Logan Borelli in the 200 backstroke (third, 1:55.67), 100 backstroke (eighth, 53.86) and 400 IM (11th, 4:17.70). Jay Jani is 10th in the 200 breaststroke (2:13.48) and Zauhar-Kurr is ninth in the 100 breaststroke (59.12). Jani is a Foothill High

School graduate.

In addition, Las Positas was ranked second in the 400 medley relay (3:30.02) and the 800 freestyle relay (7:07.72), and fourth in the 400 freestyle relay (3:12.65).

The Las Positas women's team is paced by Samantha Fehr. The Liberty High School-Brentwood graduate was ranked first in the state in the April 17 rankings in the 100 breaststroke (1:07.54) and was fifth in the 200 breaststroke (2:33.42).

"I would describe this season as one of growth and learning," said Fehr in an email to The Independent. "I have learned a lot from my coaches and teammates about racing, teamwork and properly taking care of myself as an athlete. Because of these things, I have become a stronger, faster and more experienced swimmer overall."

Another Las Positas woman in the top 12 in the April 17 state rankings was Mackenzie Duffin (12th in the 1650 freestyle, 19:30.53). Duffin is a Livermore High School graduate.

In addition, both Las Positas' 200 medley relay

team (1:56.21), and its 400 medley squad (4:22.23) were ranked 10th.

The men's and women's diving teams have also qualified two athletes apiece for the state championships with top-eight finishes in Northern California at the Coast Conference/NorCal Championships on April 13. The 3C2A state swimming and diving championships are May 2-4 at Orange Coast College-Costa Mesa.

In the men's competition,

Zachary Ulrich won the Coast Conference 1M title and placed fourth overall for Northern California with a score of 169.85. The sophomore was also second in the 3M Coast Conference competition and sixth overall (158.50).

Ilya Krasnyy placed third in the Coast Conference in both the 1M (151.50) and 3M (116.40) men's competitions. The sophomore was also seventh overall in the 1M competition.

In the women's competition, Sarah Dorn won Coast Conference titles in both the 1M (213.75) and 3M (198.65). The freshman was also second in NorCal in both events.

Annie Holm placed second in the Coast Conference in both the 1M (174.75) and 3M (129.05) women's competitions. The freshman, a Livermore High School graduate, was also fifth place overall in the 1M competition.



Both the men's and women's swim teams at Las Positas College have produced notable athletes this season. Above, Samantha Fehr practices last week in preparation for the Coast Conference Championships. (Photo - Doug Jorgensen)

# Amador Valley Boys Lacrosse Team Keeps Playoff Hopes Alive

By Phil Jensen

The Amador Valley High School boys lacrosse team stayed eligible for the North Coast Section playoffs with a dominating 21-1 win over Dublin on April 19.

Non-league championship teams need an even record — overall or in league or against teams in its NCS division — in order to be considered for the NCS playoffs. The Dons' victory over the Gaels evened their overall record at 6-6 with a week to go in the regular season.

"We have really good goaltending, our defense has played really well," said Amador Valley coach John Honea about his squad, which allowed only two shots on goal against Dublin and none in the first half.

With the victory over Dublin, Amador Valley also

improved to 3-4 in East Bay Athletic League play.

"Their enthusiasm has been great," said Honea

about his squad. "They've been really, really intense this year."

Hunter Selkow and

Owen Heck led a balanced Dons scoring attack with four goals apiece. Sebastian Diligent and Alex Santana

added three goals apiece, and Brady MacIsaac and Braden O'Donnell each had two goals.

Selkow, a junior attacker, had a game-high five assists. The lefthander also plays hockey, Honea said. "He brings a little extra tenacity to the field."

For Dublin, which fell to 1-11 overall and 0-7 in the EBAL with the loss to Amador Valley, Jayden Fujisawa produced the Gaels' goal.

The Dons took charge right away against the visiting Gaels on April 19, scoring eight goals in the first quarter and seven in the second. Selkow had three goals in the first quarter and the majority of his assists in the second quarter. Heck added three goals in the first half and Diligent had two.

Amador Valley broke a four-match losing streak with a 20-3 victory over

Dougherty Valley on April 16. The Dons have already equaled their entire win total for last season.

This week, Amador Valley hosted Monte Vista on April 23 before finishing the regular season against visiting Foothill on April 26 at 7 p.m. Entering this week, Monte Vista was tied for second in the EBAL with a 6-1 record (13-3 overall) and Foothill was 8-7, 3-4. Last year, Monte Vista reached the NCS Division I semifinals.

Dublin finishes the season with a road game against Dougherty Valley on April 26 at 7 p.m.

Entering this week, De La Salle led the EBAL with a perfect 7-0 record (13-5 overall). Monte Vista and San Ramon Valley were tied for second with 6-1 marks, and Livermore was fourth with a 5-2 record.



Amador's Jalen Alami carries the ball in the Dons' game against the Gaels on April 19. The Dons won 21-1, keeping them eligible for the North Coast Section playoffs. (Photo - Doug Jorgensen)

## TRANSFERS

(Continued from front page)

15 that she was shutting down FCI Dublin, an institution given the nickname "rape club" because of its recent scandalous history of rampant sexual abuse of inmates by corrections officers, a warden and a chaplain.

Facing a class action lawsuit and criminal charges against her officers, seven of whom have gone to prison, Peters said the facility would be closed at least temporarily. She described the facility as "not meeting expected standards," but did not provide the public with a timeline for the closure.

According to Janssen's motion for the TRO, the closure apparently began immediately. On April 15 and in the days that followed, inmates sent emails to their attorneys, describing mistreatment as officers informed them to pack their bags and be ready to move.

"They are shipping us out, not letting us send our property home," one inmate wrote in an email dated April 16. "They are treating us all like pieces of dirt on the ground. It is completely inhumane."

"It's chaotic here at Dublin every hour," another inmate wrote on April 18. "The anxiety level is on high alert. The first group that left ... were not medically cleared. The Feds don't even know what and how to do things. We are already packed. Some get sent to medical for clearance, dressed and then sent back to the units. We are treated as animals and are not even allowed to use the

restrooms during clearance. Today one (FCI) Dublin officer said, 'It's your guys' fault that Dublin is closing.'"

The FBOP's action to shut down the prison came weeks after FBI agents raided the building. At the same time, the FBOP replaced the institution's warden and top management after Rogers accused them of retaliating against inmate whistleblowers. It also occurred just days after Rogers called the facility a "dysfunctional mess" and appointed longtime prison official Wendy Still to serve as a special master to provide oversight of the institution. It was the first time a special master was appointed to monitor any federal prison.

When the FBOP then announced it was closing FCI Dublin, Rogers ordered that Still be allowed to review all inmates' records before they were transferred to other institutions to protect their constitutional rights.

FBOP attorneys pushed back on that requirement in a court filing, calling it untenable and a de facto way to keep the prison open. Attorneys added that Rogers did not have jurisdiction to impose such a requirement.

FCI Dublin officials, meanwhile, set out to start moving prisoners. In their emails, inmates said prison guards ordered them to pack and were throwing their property away.

"This is my first time in federal prison. I've never been through this, and I was planning for a long stay at Dublin," one inmate

wrote on April 18. "I'm scared, overwhelmed, nervous of what's going on. The guards are treating me and talking to me like I'm not even a person."

Janssen wrote in her filing that more than 20 women were removed from their unit to be shipped out. They had limited access to food, water and a bathroom, and at one point were placed in a single holding cell until they were returned to their dorm seven hours later.

"Another group of people sat on a bus, shackled, for over three hours straight before unloading," Janssen wrote. "One woman shared that after she was pulled for transfer on Monday, she was strip searched and forced to remove her tampon in front of two officers. She was not provided any materials to clean herself with, or any menstrual products for the journey, and sat in the bus bleeding on herself for hours before being returned to her dorm. She has not had access to her belongings or clean underwear for four days."

In their TRO motion, attorneys said Rogers might not have the power to prevent the prison's closure, but she did have the authority "to ensure that the process is carried out in compliance with relevant federal laws and in accordance with constitutional standards."

Federal court records did not show any response to the TRO motion from FBOP attorneys by Monday. FBOP officials declined comment.

# Haugen Scholarships Awarded to 11 High School Seniors in Pleasanton

Eleven Pleasanton high school seniors have been awarded Juanita Haugen Memorial Scholarships this year by the Pleasanton Community of Character Collaborative (CCC).

The nonprofit CCC said the \$1,000 scholarships, named for a former Pleasanton United School District board president, were awarded based on "character and service."

Applicants were asked to explain how their actions as students and community members reflected the six characteristics espoused by the organization: com-

passion, honesty, respect, responsibility, integrity, and self-discipline.

Five students from Amador Valley High School received scholarships, including Ishmeet Dhillon, Ajay Reyes, Matteo Gable, Madeline Zhang, and Jessi Oropeza.

Five students from Foothill High School also received scholarships, including Elias Benard, Jake Grijalva, Peter Bennett, Colin Harrison, and Valentina Avalos.

David Peregrina was the sole recipient from Village High School.

Haugen, who died of

cancer in 2007, also created the Pleasanton Community of Character Collaborative, which includes members from the city, school district, Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce, and other nonprofit groups working to encourage a community culture based on shared values.

The scholarship recipients will also be honored at the CCC's annual luncheon and fundraiser at Veterans Hall on Wednesday, May 15. Tickets for the luncheon are \$45.

To read more about each of the recipients, go to [communityofcharacter.org](http://communityofcharacter.org).

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**HOPYARD**

(Continued from front page)

through the city's Affordable Housing Fee subsidies.

City Manager Gerry Beaudin outlined the proposal to the council.

"The developer takes the project down to 100% AMI, essentially putting more money into the project, and then when the home is purchased, it would be purchased for 100% AMI and then we take our low-income funds and purchase the additional 20% AMI so it can be locked into 80% for decades to come," said Beaudin. "It's not money flowing to the developer; it is helping the homebuyer."

Vice Mayor Julie Testa expressed concerns about putting dollars from the city's \$14 million affordable housing fund into a for-profit development.

"So, if we are considering putting these incredibly precious dollars into this project, are we allowed to ask to see the developers profits and

loss?" asked Testa.

Beaudin said no, the law did not allow for the review of a developer's profit margins.

"But the challenge of this application is really that the developer proposed a project and ultimately made modifications to address some neighborhood concerns," Beaudin added. "By modifying the project, the affordability suffered ... so in order to maintain neighborhood concessions, what we are trying to do now is put some affordability back into the project... That leaves us with a choice to get it back to the deeper affordability it was originally at or leave at 100%. It's a policy question about getting eight units at 80% AMI, versus eight projects at 100% AMI."

For many residents in the audience, the reduction in units was simply not enough.

"I've been here almost 50 years," said Valley Trails

resident Richard Martinetti. "And that project is like putting 10 pounds of something into a five-pound bag. You're twisting everything to try and make it work ... it's not really feasible; it's just not."

Despite the project providing a yet-to-be-determined number of parking spaces, resident Marta Sada was unconvinced they would be sufficient.

"I live in Valley Trails," she said. "My concern is mostly about parking ... when you add over 100 cars coming into the (new) neighborhood, they are basically going to overflow into where I live."

Kristin Springer, whose home is directly across from the planned development, told the council that while she was resigned to the project coming, she hoped they would choose the second, 55-unit option.

"I am one of the houses

most affected by this project," said Springer. "I've read the laws and I know what you are under ... I ask that you not approve Option 1 (the 57-unit proposal) because that would be terrible for my property values and family. I ask you to look at Option 2. It's going to be hard for the community (to) accept it, but I also know if we can bring teachers into the community...if that's an option we can consider, it makes me feel better."

Mayor Karla Brown asked Bruce Myers, senior vice president/principal at Catalyst Development Partners, who was at the meeting, if he could reduce the project from three stories to two.

"Unfortunately, there is a numbers game we are trying to play as the developer on this project, not the least of which is based off of the general plan and zoning issues, which are already in place,"

said Myers. "The developer did not propose the designation. In fact we are arguably doing less than we could on the site."

"And if we flat-out reject it?" asked Brown.

"Well, that puts us in a difficult position," Myers answered. "I hope you can see by my efforts thus far on the project, that the last thing I am trying to do is threaten the city, but if push comes to shove, well, it's certainly on the table ... I am trying to avoid that by everything I have done already within my power."

During a five-minute recess, Beaudin met with the developer to try and negotiate a lower baseline for the council to support the project. In the end, the motion passed 4-1, with the agreement that \$250,000 from the city's affordable housing fund would help backfill any gaps should the housing price not perform

at \$375,000 based on 100% AMI. The deal would also sunset in five years from the date the permits were pulled.

Testa was the dissenting vote.

"I don't think it is appropriate to put our affordable housing dollars into a for-profit project and I don't understand why the risk falls to the city, as opposed to the developer who is benefiting so much from the state laws, so no," she said.

Glenn White contributes. Do you want to contribute?

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**RAISES**

(Continued from front page)

"Foregoing the 'me too' increase was an acknowledgment of where the district is financially by our senior leadership," said PUSD Director of Communications Patrick Gannon. "With rising costs and shrinking revenue, we will need to look at significant reductions in the next two years. Savings must be identified wherever possible

to minimize the impact of these reductions on our community."

According to Transparent California, a website that lists school district employee salaries, Haglund received a base pay of \$355,579.20 in 2022, the latest listings available. With benefits and other pay — which could include items such as car allowances, meet-

ing stipends and incentive pay — Haglund's total compensation was \$440,853.42.

"Me too" clauses are primarily for classified staff, including office employees and custodians, because they are typically paid less. But in many cases, the contracts of upper-level administration, such as superintendents, are also included in the clause.

Teacher unions naturally feel ambivalent over the clause, as it supports staff raises, but also adds to what are already high-paying executive positions.

Association of Pleasanton Teachers President Cheryl Atkins said she was pleased with Haglund's decision and said the move was a positive step toward building trust between the district and its union.

"In Pleasanton, there has always been a practice of both unions getting the same," said Atkins. "Administrators ... don't have a union, they are 'at will' employees but they too have always been given a 'me too.' This keeps everyone on the same playing field and acknowledges everyone the same. None of these employees are making what upper management makes — \$250,000-\$400,000 — so 'me too' on their already hefty salary is not fair and equitable."

But not all school districts have the "me too" provision.

According to Chip Dehert, Dublin Unified School District's (DUSD) public information officer, the DUSD does not have the "me too" stipulation.

"Our superintendent and his executive staff (assistant superintendents) do not get 'me too' raises," he said. "They all have individual performance reviews."

In 2022, according to Transparent California, DUSD Superintendent Chris Funk received a total compensation package of \$386,155.48.

In the Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District (LVJUSD), where the "me too" clause is applied, retiring Superintendent Chris Van Schaak received a "me too" bump last year.

"Yes, we do have a 'me too,'" said LVJUSD Public Information Officer Michelle Dawson. "Our employee compensation contracts were settled last year, so we do not have any new information to share. Our last compensation negotiation involved increases to all employees."

The superintendent salary for Van Schaack, who took the role after 2022, was unavailable. Kelly Bowers, who was the district's superintendent in 2022, received a total compensation package of \$412,782.62, according to Transparent California.



Ryan Biggee, a junior at Quarry Lane School in Dublin and a member of Troop 941 in Pleasanton, has earned his Eagle badge, the highest rank in the Boy Scouts of America program. For his project, Biggee led a team of 19 Scouts and four adults in refurbishing 32 fire hydrants in and around downtown Pleasanton for the city's Public Works Department. (Photo courtesy of the Biggee family)

**ALAMEDA-TESLA**

(Continued from front page)

Assembly Bill 52, passed in 2015, requires that public agencies consult with area tribes during a project's environmental review process to help identify cultural resources.

"We have really tried to work hard with the tribes whose ancestral land this is to identify (those resources)," said Amanda Blosser, State Parks cultural resource program manager.

Blosser's team conducted its first cultural survey in 2008 and has updated it about every five years since. The work has identified evidence of Native American settlements in multiple locations within and around the property. The most recent survey is still in progress and expected to complete in time for the classification process and general plan.

Firefighters have also collaborated with the Tamien Nation, a nearby tribe, to develop the park's burn plan. The plan, a written guide for lighting prescribed burns to prevent larger fires, helps to benefit both cultural and natural resources.

A description of the property's wildlife, including a small herd of tule elk, coyotes, bobcats, gray fox, and listed species, such as the California red-legged frog and tiger salamander, also added to the value of the tour.

Elizabeth McGuirk, chief deputy director at California Department of Parks and Recreation, said, "I think this

is one of the most important things we do in park planning, which is public outreach and public participation."

Located between the cities of Livermore and Tracy along the Diablo Range, the property's 3,100 acres of steep, oak-studded hills were acquired by California State Parks more than two decades ago with the original intention of extending the 1,300-acre Carnegie State Vehicular Recreation Area immediately east of the property.

But legislation passed in 2021 looking to protect Tesla's cultural and archeological Native American features, its biological diversity and its history as a mining town, designated the property as a distinct unit within the state's park system. It prohibited off-highway vehicles.

"We sit right in between two counties of Alameda and San Joaquin and so this park property has a potential to serve very diverse needs in communities throughout California, especially as we know our Central Valley is severely lacking in parks and recreation spaces," said McGuirk.

The area served as the Tesla coal mining town, founded by John Treadwell, between 1890 and 1905. The mine ranked as the state's largest coal producer while in operation, according to author and historical researcher Dan Mosier, who spoke on the tour.

"That made Tesla the second largest town in this part

of Alameda County after Livermore," said Mosier. The coal operation also established its own railroad along the present-day Tesla Road, which later became a part of the Western Pacific Railway Company.

State Parks is currently in the process of outreach

and collecting data for the classification process. It will provide a classification recommendation in the fall, before the commission makes its decision. The park's final formation steps, its general plan and environmental impact report, are expected to be adopted in 2027.

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## DEPUTY

(Continued from front page)

justice,” said Christopher Dolan, attorney for the family of Maria Tran, 42, and her 57-year-old husband, Benison, who were killed on Sept. 6, 2022. Dolan added that Williams will get to be visited by loved ones “and one day will be roaming the streets again. The Tran families will never again see or hold Benison or Maria.”



Devin Williams

Authorities said that Williams was in a relationship with Maria Tran and that the murder was motivated by the love triangle.

Price’s office did not respond to a request from The Independent for information about why her office reduced the charges last week, originally filed by her predecessor against Williams. But Price, a former civil rights attorney, made it clear during her campaign for her post in 2022 that she was against the death penalty and believed no one should go to prison without a chance of release. Last year, Price also issued a directive to her prosecutors that they should not add so-called enhancements to criminal charges that could add years or even decades to basic prison terms.

Williams is charged with shooting the Tran family with his service revolver at their home in the 3100 block of Colebrook Lane. Police said they were shot in their heads and necks, “execution style.” Their son, Brendon Tran, was home at the time, along with Maria Tran’s mother, Kimanh Le.

Williams fled, but later surrendered to Dublin police near Fresno. Prosecutors charged Williams with two counts of murder with special circumstances, accusing him of committing multiple murders and fleeing to avoid arrest. Nancy O’Malley was the district attorney at the time. A special circumstances conviction can result in a minimum sentence of life in prison without the possibility of parole, or a maximum of the death penalty.

O’Malley also charged Williams with special allegations, or sentence enhancements, that accused him of committing great bodily injury and using a firearm, which could add several years to the minimum sentence for a first-degree murder, which is 25 years to life.

Williams pleaded not guilty to the charges and was held at Santa Rita Jail.

The Alameda County Sheriff’s Office fired him.

Shortly before Williams’s preliminary hearing was set for court in March, Price’s office asked Alameda County Superior Court Judge Paul Delucchi to drop the special circumstances charges that O’Malley had filed. The decision angered the Tran family. Delucchi declined to reduce the charges.

That prompted Price to refile the case without them.

In a statement, Price called the homicides “an unthinkable tragedy for the Tran Family.”

“There is nothing I can say that will relieve the pain and anger they’re feeling with the loss of their loved ones,” Price said. “What I can say is those two counts of murder that Mr. Williams faces carry with them a minimum of decades of time and potentially a lifetime in prison.”

Price’s sentiment did not placate the Tran family and their attorney, who accused Price of giving a “sweet-heart deal” to law enforcement. Dolan said Price has had difficulty developing a working relationship with police.

Maria Tran’s sister, Jenny Wong, said in a statement that Williams now has a chance of a life after a limited prison sentence, while her mother and nephew are sentenced to a life “forever plagued with the gruesome circumstances of Benison’s and Maria’s death.”

“District Attorney Pamela Price’s reputation precedes her. She is not just soft on crime; she is weak when it comes to protecting our community,” Wong said. “It is well known that she and the police and sheriff’s department have had a strained relationship. We are left with the unpalatable impression that this action, dropping the enhancements, is a peace offering to law enforcement.”

In supporting her policies, Price — who also previously worked as a defense attorney — said she believes all defendants deserve a chance at parole, and that sentencing enhancements disproportionately affect people of color. About 53% of voters picked her in the November 2022 election.

Last year, she drew the ire of Livermore Police Chief Jeramy Young, who was upset that Price did not file sentencing enhancements against a violent parolee who severely beat a robbery victim at a Livermore shopping center. Young wrote to Price, encouraging her to refile the case, but Price declined, telling him in a letter that she was “committed to a justice system that is fair, equitable and effective.” Price said she recognized that the Livermore crime was shocking and unacceptable, but said longer sentences do not

improve public safety and she had been elected to institute criminal justice reform.

Price’s policies previously angered Lorie Mohs, whose 26-year-old son, Blake Mohs, was shot to death when he tried to stop

a suspected shoplifter at the Home Depot store in Pleasanton in April 2023. Price’s office charged Benicia Knapps with murder, but did not add enhancements or special circumstances allegations.

Shortly after Price took

office in early 2023, opponents began a recall campaign. Last week, the Alameda County Registrar of Voters announced it had validated 74,757 signatures on petitions calling for a special election to remove Price from office.

The count was about 1,500 more signatures than were needed.

The Alameda County Board of Supervisors is now required to schedule an election and is expected to do so at its April 30 meeting.

## TRI-VALLEY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## FREE SMOKE ALARMS AND INSTALLATION

In the event of a structure fire, a smoke alarm can make the difference between life and death. The American Red Cross offers free alarms and installation to all residences. The Red Cross can also provide educational resources to prevent and prepare for a home fire. To learn more, visit [SoundTheAlarm.org/NCCR](http://SoundTheAlarm.org/NCCR) or call 510-595-4573.

Thursday, April 25

## STATE OF THE COUNTY WINE COUNTRY LUNCHEON

Livermore Valley Chamber of Commerce presents the State of the County Wine Country Luncheon, with Supervisor David Haubert. April 25 from 12:30 to 1:30 (11:30 a.m. check-in.) At Garre Vineyard & Winery, 7986 Tesla Rd. \$85 (\$75 LVCC members). Featuring topics relevant to the economy and presented by well-known experts in their field. To sponsor this event, contact LVCC at 925-447-1606 or see [www.livermorechamber.org](http://www.livermorechamber.org).

Saturday, April 27

## SOUL OF MY SOUL ART EXHIBIT

Soul of my Soul is a family friendly exhibit which takes the visitors on a profound journey of collective grief. This event raises awareness about what is happening in Palestine, allows our community to process their grief, and gives our children an artistic outlet and voice. The artwork displayed is created by children in our community. There are art projects for children, music, and spoken word/poetry by local youth. At Stockmen’s Park in Livermore from 12 to 4 p.m.

Saturday, April 27

## POLENTA AND CHICKEN CACCIATORE DINNER FUNDRAISER

Held at St. Augustine’s Church Hall, 3999 Bernal Ave. in Pleasanton. Tickets are \$45 / children 12 and under \$15. Doors open at 6 p.m. Dinner includes antipasto, salad, rolls, dessert and wine and prizes. Rsvp by April 19: contact Toni at 925-557-6552 or [manzettitoni7313@gmail.com](mailto:manzettitoni7313@gmail.com) (no tickets sold at the door). Proceeds benefit the Tri-Valley Scholarship Program and other ICF charities.

Saturday, April 27

## HUMANIST PASSOVER SEDER

Join Tri-Valley Cultural Jews’ Secular, Humanist Passover Seder on April 27 for a 5 p.m. ceremony and a 6:30 p.m. potluck in Livermore. Come celebrate freedom from slavery, with songs, wine (or grape juice) and stories of liberation. In-person and Zoom options available. TVCJ is an accepting, welcoming, diverse community of Cultural Jews and their families, affiliated with CSJO. Email [culturaljews@gmail.com](mailto:culturaljews@gmail.com) or call 925-399-8029 for more information.

Wednesday, May 1

## AAUW SCHOLARSHIPS, DEADLINE TO APPLY

The Livermore-Pleasanton-Dublin branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) awards scholarships each year to qualified female applicants who will be in their 3rd or 4th year of college for the upcoming academic year. The deadline to apply is May 1. Visit [lpd-ca.aauw.net](http://lpd-ca.aauw.net)

Thursday, May 2

## NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

To be held at the Alameda County Fairgrounds Amphitheatre at 4501 Pleasanton Ave. on May 2 at 6 p.m. Reception and dinner at 5 p.m.

Thursday, May 2

## BOOK PRESENTATION, “THE ALAMEDA COUNTY SHERIFF’S OFFICE”

From its beginnings in the 1800s, when faced with challenges such as cattle rustling and the likes of outlaw Joaquin Murietta, to the anti-war demonstrations, kidnappings, and natural disasters of the 20th century, the Alameda County Sheriff’s Office has always been ready to respond. Using archival photographs and documents, historian Steve Minniear will bring the past to life during this presentation based on his recently released book, Alameda County Sheriff’s Office. The presentation will take place at the Dublin Library from 6:30-8 p.m. at 200 Civic Plaza in Dublin.

Thursday, May 2

## SUPPORT DUBLIN’S YOUTH AND SENIORS AT THE 10TH ANNUAL DUBLIN BENEFIT CONCERT

On May 2, at 5:30 p.m., the City of Dublin’s Youth Advisory Committee will showcase talented Dublin youth and senior performers at the annual Dublin Benefit Concert, to be held at the Emerald Glen Park Amphitheater (4201 Central Parkway) during the Dublin Farmers’ Market. Come out and cheer on the performers. Donations will be accepted to provide financial assistance to Dublin youth and seniors, whose household income levels meet specific requirements.

Sunday, May 5 / Monday, May 6

## AN AFTERNOON AND EVENING WITH MEDIUM CINDY KAZA

Renowned psychic medium and co-host of the Travel Channel’s “The Dead Files,” Cindy Kaza will be appearing at Tommy T’s Pleasanton for two days of fantastic evidential and heart-centered messages on May 5 at 3:30 p.m. and May 6 at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$25-35. Info and tickets can be found at [tommyts-com.seatengine.com/events/88189](http://tommyts-com.seatengine.com/events/88189).

## Livermore Amador Valley Garden Club Meeting

**When:** Thursday, May 9, 6:00 to 8:00 PM  
**Where:** Crosswinds Church, 1660 Freisman Rd, Livermore. We will be in the Farm Theater in the red building.  
**May Meeting: Creating Pollinator Corridors with Native California Plants**

Carol Garberson will talk about how increasing native plant biodiversity in gardens and other landscapes will provide food and nectar resources for a variety of native pollinators. She will describe how she created her own “caterpillar garden.” She will also address the importance of ensuring that such native plant diversity is not limited to isolated pockets, but rather becomes part of larger corridors and how that can be accomplished.

Thursday, May 9

## LIVERMORE AMADOR VALLEY GARDEN CLUB MEETING

May’s meeting, “Creating Pollinator Corridors with Native California Plants”, led by Carol Garberson, will cover such topics as how increasing native plant biodiversity can provide food resources for a variety of native pollinators. The meeting will be held Thursday, May 9 from 6-8 p.m. at the Crosswinds Church, 1660 Freisman Rd., Livermore, in the Farm Theater (in the red building).

Thursday, May 16

## ALTERNATIVE FAMILY SERVICES GOLF TOURNAMENT

Come to a fun golf tournament at Callippe Golf Course in Pleasanton that will support children and youth in foster care. Your swings will help send kids to summer camp, enriching their lives with unforgettable experiences. The tournament will include prizes, a buffet, an auction, and more. For sponsorship or individual golf information, please contact Angie Taylor at 510-988-3006 or [Ataylor@afs4kids.org](mailto:Ataylor@afs4kids.org). Shotgun start at 10:30 a.m. Registration opens at 8:30 a.m.

Thursday, May 16

## TVC’S 15TH ANNUAL UNCORKED SHOWCASE

Tri-Valley Conservancy presents its 15th Annual Livermore Valley Uncorked Showcase on Thursday, May 16th, at the Bella Rosa Event Center at Garré

Vineyard & Winery starting at 5:30pm. Celebrate the best local wines and support land preservation in the Tri-Valley. This reception-style event promises an unforgettable experience celebrating the best local viticulture paired with delectable cuisine and a live musical performance from Sugar Bear. Early Bird Special: Save \$10 before March 25. For more information or to purchase tickets, visit [TriValleyConservancy.org](http://TriValleyConservancy.org), or email [lvuncorked@trivalleyconservancy.org](mailto:lvuncorked@trivalleyconservancy.org).

Saturday, May 18

## DRESS A GIRL AROUND THE WORLD

Make simple dresses for girls in Third World countries. Group meets once a month. Next Sew-Fest is Saturday, May 18, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Trinity Lutheran Church, 1225 Hopyard Rd., Pleasanton. All kinds of sewing needed. Please bring machine or other supplies. If you can’t make the Sew-Fest but would like to sew, please contact us for kits that you can sew from home. Questions? Suzanne Beck, 925-352-8447 or [suzbeck@yahoo.com](mailto:suzbeck@yahoo.com).

June 3-9

## LIVERMORE RODEO

Join the Livermore Stockmen’s Rodeo Association in celebrating Livermore’s rich ranching history and warm western heritage during Rodeo Week, June 3-9. See the world’s top cowboys and cowgirls competing in bronc riding, barrel racing, roping, bull riding and much more. Information about the rodeo, mixer, cowgirl luncheon, the rotary club’s rodeo parade and tickets for the 106th Annual Livermore Rodeo on June 8 and 9 are now available at [LivermoreRodeo.com](http://LivermoreRodeo.com). Tickets are NOT sold through any other sites. A limited number of parking passes and mixer tickets are also available online.

Tuesday, June 11 (start date)

## TRI-VALLEY EXECUTIVE EDUCATION PROGRAM

The Tri-Valley Executive Education Program combines a mix of group meetings and speaker workshops used to help members improve collaboration, increase alignment, and cultivate professional growth. Held by Vistage Inside group, a unique skills development program designed to support emerging and established growth focused leaders within the Tri-Valley, delivered by Steve Lanza, Tri-Valley Advising Principal and Vistage Group Leader. A six-class series will be held at Hawthorn Suites by Wyndam in Livermore from June 11, 2024, through April 2025, classes are 9 a.m.- 4 p.m. To learn more about the program, contact Steve Lanza 510-734-4070 or [steve.lanza@vistagechair.com](mailto:steve.lanza@vistagechair.com). To sign up, contact Sherri Souza at [ssouza@livermorechamber.org](mailto:ssouza@livermorechamber.org).

## ONGOING VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

## TOPSCIENCE

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

## ONGOING EVENTS

## FARMERS MARKETS

## 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.

## Thursday Night Livermore Farmers Market

Now through to Oct. 10 at Carnegie Park, 2155 Third St., downtown Livermore, from 4 to 8 p.m. See [www.livermorefarmersmarket.org](http://www.livermorefarmersmarket.org).

## Thursday Evening Dublin Farmer’s Market

The City of Dublin partners with Pacific Coast Farmers’ Market Association to operate the weekly market on Thursdays, 4-8 p.m., through September 26. Opening night on April 4 will kick-off with Multi-Cultural Night, featuring performances from Riar Academy of Performing Arts, WeDance, Pallen’s Martial Arts, and Hana Makana Lani. Themed nights will continue the first Thursday of each month. Arts and crafts for kids will be available at the City of Dublin booth.

## 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 Road, in Livermore. For more information, visit [uucil.org](http://uucil.org).

## GRIEF WORKSHOPS

The death of a loved one is unlike any other loss. Although there is no right or wrong path, these are stepping stones that are part of each grief journey, and we will explore them in this eight-week series workshop. This will be held at St. Elizabeth Seton Church, 4001 Stoneridge Drive, Pleasanton April 4, 11, 18, 25 and May 2, 9 and 16 at 7 p.m. Pre-registration is required. Space is limited. A one-time \$20 donation is requested. For more information and to register you can call Barbara at 925-846-3904, or see [catholicsofpleasanton.org](http://catholicsofpleasanton.org) and scroll down to Grief Ministry and tap on the box. This workshop is open to all, regardless of religious affiliations.

## 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, with a short business meeting and a program. The DAR was founded in 1890 and is headquartered in Washington, DC. 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. Its members are descended from the Patriots who won American independence during the Revolutionary War. For more information, visit [jhl.californiadar.org](http://jhl.californiadar.org) or email [jane.everett@sbcglobal.net](mailto: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. There, discover a church that believes that all people are children of God and are of sacred worth. This community practices loving neighbors in daily life. The church has Sunday School and nursery care, and worship is followed by a fellowship time with bagels, beverages, and great conversation. The church is located at 4743 East Ave., in Livermore. For more information, visit [asburylive.org](http://asburylive.org).

## WINGS-WOMEN IN GOD’S SPIRIT

WINGS-Women in God’s Spirit is a faith enhancement group of multi-generational Catholic women who meet Oct. through May on Thursday mornings at 9:30 a.m. at St. Charles Borromeo, 1315 Lomitas Ave., in Livermore. The organization now includes the Catholic women of both Livermore and Pleasanton at St. Charles Borromeo, St. Michael, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton and St. Augustine. Attendees can enjoy a variety of engaging speaker presentations and topics, small group sharing, fellowship and more. All are welcome. For more information, visit [stcharleslivermore.org/wings](http://stcharleslivermore.org/wings).

Email non-profit events to [calendar@independentnews.com](mailto:calendar@independentnews.com) for newspaper calendar and visit our website [www.independentnews.com](http://www.independentnews.com) to promote all events online.

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## Clean Water Program Accepting Grant Applications

The Alameda County-wide Clean Water Program is inviting community groups to apply for grants of up to \$6,000 for projects that help prevent stormwater pollution and protect the water quality of watersheds, creeks, and San Francisco Bay.

The program is a joint effort led by Alameda County, Alameda County Flood Control and Water Conservation District, Zone 7 Water Agency, and 14 cities, including Dublin, Pleasanton, and Livermore.

The program will award \$30,000 in grants from \$500 to \$6,000 each during the next funding cycle. The deadline to apply is Friday, May 10.

Past projects have included such activities as organized litter cleanup, creek restoration and wildlife habitat enhancement projects, and

community art and multimedia outreach efforts. Grants have gone to educational groups, youth organizations, homeowner associations, environmental groups, and other community nonprofit organizations.

For more information, or to download an application packet, go to [cleanwaterprogram.org](http://cleanwaterprogram.org).



Litter cleanups are among the types of projects funded by grants from the Alameda Countywide Clean Water Program. (Photo courtesy of Mary Spicer)

## Shining Light Preschool Celebrates 25th Anniversary

Shining Light Preschool (SLP), operated by Valley Community Church in Pleasanton, is celebrating its 25th anniversary.

The school offers programs for children from 2 to 5 years old, including a Year to Grow program as an option to transitional kindergarten.

The school enrolls 10 to 12 students per class, with a child-to-adult ratio of 6 to 1, including parents who are asked to serve as a classroom helper once a month.

"At Shining Light Preschool, we believe in providing more than just education," Director Kelly McIntosh, who started the preschool program in 1999. "We offer a home away from home for your little ones. Our goal is to create a safe, loving environment where children can explore, learn, and grow in their faith while having fun along the way."

SLP is now enrolling students for Fall 2024.

For more information, or to schedule a tour of SLP, go to [shininglightpleasanton.com](http://shininglightpleasanton.com).

## OBITUARIES

### CELEBRATION OF LIFE

#### Ray Dean Hill

March 23, 1936 – April 11, 2024

Ray Dean Hill, 88, surrounded by his loving family went to be with the Lord on April 11, 2024, at his home in Livermore, California. Ray was born on March 23, 1936, in Carter, Oklahoma to Geraldine and Raymond Hill. In 1956 he graduated from the University of Arizona with a degree in Mechanical Engineering. He married his high school sweetheart, and love of his life, Vera Lee Black on August 23, 1956, in Hayden, Arizona.



Ray is survived by his spouse of 67 years, Vera, his son Alan (Christine) of Winston-Salem, North Carolina, his daughter-in-law Nicola of San Jose, and his daughter Laura (Rob) Hanscom of Livermore; brother-in-law Charles Rhodes of Arizona; grandchildren: Jennifer (Sam), Jeremy, Danielle (Jake), Jason, Jamie (Ralph), Tyler (Jaimie), Jessica and Nathan; great-grandchildren: Trenton, Taryn, Logan, Teagan and Kennedy, and many

nieces and nephews. He is preceded in death by his son Glen Hill, sisters Glenda Griffith and Patsy Phelan, and his grandson Jason's fiancé, Shelby. A celebration of life will take place on Saturday, April 27, 1:00 p.m. at Callaghan Mortuary (3833 East Avenue, Livermore). Reception to follow at Cedar Grove Community Church (2021 College Ave. Livermore). All friends and family are welcome. In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to a charity of your choice.

Ray retired from Chicago Bridge & Iron as a Vice President. He and Vera enjoyed traveling. They lived internationally in Hong Kong, Singapore and Australia. Ray was a man of strong faith, a family man, an avid golfer, a skilled woodworker and car enthusiast. He served as Vice President and Board Member at Castlewood Country Club in Pleasanton. He was also dedicated to service and community at Cedar Grove Community Church. He wholeheartedly loved his family and friends.

### Richard R Freeman Nov. 13, 1944 – March 25, 2024

Richard "Rick" Reiling Freeman of Livermore, California passed away at home on Monday, March 25, 2024, at 79 years old. Rick was born in Corpus Christi, Texas and grew up in Seattle, Washington, where he met his wife of 56 years, Lynne. Rick is survived by Lynne and his sons Mark and Stephen, his five grandchildren; and his siblings Thomas Freeman, David Freeman, and Patricia Wilson. Rick was deeply committed to both his personal and professional life. He was a loving husband, father, and grandfather as well as a world-renowned scientist, teacher and mentor. Beyond the people in his life, he loved the outdoors, his dogs, reading, and volunteering, had traveled to every continent, and was an avid consumer of knowledge in all domains. He was a remarkable man with a heart as vast as his intellect; his impact reached far and wide, touching, influencing, and changing many lives.



Ramsey. Throughout his illustrious career he held many positions including Postdoc and Lecturer at MIT, department head at Bell Laboratories, the Edward Teller endowed Professor and Applied Sciences Department Chair at the University of California Davis, Deputy Associate Director of the Lasers program at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, Dean of the College of Math and Physical Sciences and Distinguished Professor of Math and Physical Sciences at the Ohio State University, and Affiliated Professor at the University of Washington. He was an author of more than 350 peer-reviewed papers, held 6 patents, wrote the

textbook "Electromagnetic Radiation", and advised more than 30 PhD students.

In the scientific community, Rick was larger than life, a light to follow. His many contributions include work on ultrafast VUV sources and lasers, lithography, strong-field atomic physics like the "Freeman resonance", high energy density physics, and leadership in the pursuit of fast ignition inertial fusion energy. Rick inspired those around him to reach farther with his one-of-a-kind blend of confidence, humor, infectious enthusiasm, quotability, high standards, and unrelenting pursuit of truth. And his infallible BS detector. Freeman's First Law: "You can't tweak zero" and "you have to be willing to bet on yourself" are among the many Rick-isms that those he influenced carry with them still. Rick was committed to the idea of leaving the world a better place than he found it and by all accounts he succeeded. Hemingway wrote that "every man has two deaths, when he is buried and the last time someone says his name." For the many who encountered and loved Rick, he will pass only once.

### CELEBRATION OF LIFE

#### Daniel Paul Volponi

Nov. 10, 1967 – March 13, 2024

Daniel Paul Volponi, 56, was born November 10, 1967, at St. Mary's Hospital in San Francisco, the sixth son of Peggy and Jack (Dr. John) Volponi. Dan enjoyed the status of being the youngest in the family and quickly developed a lively sense of humor and a bit of a free spirit.



Like his brothers, Dan attended St. Michael's School in Livermore, and later Livermore High School. In high school, Dan enjoyed a variety of sports including weightlifting and football. Following high school, Dan attended Chabot College and later University of San Francisco where he earned a degree in Warehouse Management. Dan was working at UPS while in college, initially starting out on the overnight crew sorting packages and later becoming a delivery driver. His senior project at USF developed a system to improve communication between the loading crew and delivery drivers. Dan was particularly proud when his program was subsequently adopted by UPS. Dan loved his time at UPS and got to know all the regulars on his routes quite well. Dan also gained an encyclopedic knowledge of the entire East Bay and could accurately give directions for the "best route" anywhere in the area.

Holidays, especially Christmas, were always a special time of year for Dan. He enjoyed all the festive activities of the season and carrying on family traditions. He kept the holiday spirit alive throughout the year, sometimes leaving a few favorite decorations out all year. Cooking was another favorite hobby for Dan, and he developed a chili recipe that won First Place at the Livermore Chili Cookoff.

Although he experienced a variety of struggles throughout the later part of his life, he always tried to be as helpful and caring as possible to those in his life and joined family celebrations wherever possible. Recently he had begun the road to recovery from a recent illness, but ultimately, God had other plans. Dan passed away peacefully on March 13, 2024 in Livermore. A private funeral and celebration of his life were held on April 13 at St. Michael's Church in Livermore.

Dan is survived by his five brothers, Joe, Jim, John, Tom and Jerry and their families.

Those interested in a memorial gift, may consider helping others through a donation in Dan's name to the NAMI-Tri Valley ([www.namitrivalley.org](http://www.namitrivalley.org))

### CELEBRATION OF LIFE

#### Charles Francis Smith

August 8, 1936 – March 26, 2024

Charles (Chuck) Smith of Brentwood, California, was born on August 8, 1936, in Casper, Wyoming, to Charles F. Smith and Ila B. Smith. He passed away on March 26, 2024, at the age of 87 years.



Chuck grew up in Whiting, Indiana. Following the death of his mother, his father was remarried to Bernice W. Smith, who raised Chuck and his sister, Leigh. He excelled in high school band and was an Eagle Scout.

He attended college at Purdue University, where he was a member of the Phi Kappa Tau Fraternity and was a proud member of the Purdue Marching Band (go Boilermakers!). Chuck graduated in 1958 with a BS in Chemistry and then went on to earn his MS in Chemistry at Purdue in 1960. Chuck married the love of his life, Ann Abbott Smith, in 1960, before moving to California. He then attended the University of California, Berkeley, where he earned his PhD in Nuclear Chemistry, in 1963. Chuck and Ann raised their family in Livermore, California. He worked his entire career at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) as a nuclear chemist, retiring in 1993. The couple moved to Brentwood in 1998.

Chuck was an avid musician and played trombone for many decades with groups including the Livermore-Amador Symphony, Livermore Musical Theater, the Pleasanton Community Band, Pleasanton Playhouse, the Cool Tones, the Stony Ridge Ramblers, the Brentwood Community Band, the Delta Community Band, and the Delta Jazz Orchestra. He also enjoyed camping, bird watching, travelling, playing bridge and watching sports. Chuck was known for his wonderfully dry sense of humor.

He is survived by his wife, Ann Smith, his sister, Leigh Clayton, his children, Karen Gardner (m. Steven Gardner), Sheryl McCormack, and Steven Smith (m. Christina Zanotto), grandchildren Nicole McCormack, Megan McCormack, Cami McCormack, Adriana Zanotto-Doyle and Gabriela Smith.

A celebration of life will be held on April 27, 2024, at 11:00 a.m. at the Summerset I Clubhouse, 1675 Crispin Drive, in Brentwood, California. In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to the Brentwood Music Foundation, 3130 Balfour Road, Ste. D #197, Brentwood, California 94513.

### Leonora "Boo" Gonsalves March 18, 1936 – April 14, 2024

After a long life of bringing happiness and joy to others, Leonora M. "Boo" Gonsalves, long time resident of Livermore, California, passed away to be with her Lord on April 14, 2024. Boo had a deep faith in God and was an active member of St. Michael's Catholic Church in Livermore. She took great pleasure in

offering instruction to those seeking to be baptized into the Catholic faith. She served as a lay minister, taking communion and offering comfort to home-bound parishioners, and volunteered when needed to assist at St. Michael's Rectory. One of her greatest joys was instructing children on their First Communion. She

loved children, cats (especially "Mosie Toes"), dogs ("puppy toes") and sharing a nice glass of wine with her many friends.

Boo retired from Lawrence Livermore Laboratory. Prior to her work at the lab, she worked for the Alameda County Sheriff's Department, Santa Rita. Boo enjoyed the final 21 years of her life with her beloved

fiancé, Barry Camara. Boo was predeceased by her husband, Ron Gonsalves, parents Mary and Antone Cunha, her brothers, Anthony "Tony" Cunha and Joaquin "King" Cunha and sister-in-law, Berniece. She is survived by her daughter, Rene Curtis (Michael), three grandchildren and four great grandchildren, her nieces, Ly-

nette White (Patty Largent) and Kimberly Cunha (Scott), her nephew Richard Cunha (Maria), and her goddaughter, Paige Barrett (Rick). Boo was a wonderful and devoted friend. She was quick to adopt others into her extended family, but most of all Phil Ammendolia (Laura), who was like a son to her. Her loving, positive nature,

warm smile, and delightful sense of humor will be missed by all who knew her. If you met Boo, you loved Boo!

Services May 1, 2024. 10 a.m. Rosary followed by Mass at St. Michael's Church in Livermore, followed by graveside service at 1 p.m. at Holy Sepulchre, in Hayward, California.

# Dublin School District Offers Tour of New Emerald High

By Ruth Roberts

Emerald High School will welcome the Class of 2027 onto its new campus this August, but media and school staff enjoyed a first look last week with a guided tour from Principal Francis Rojas.

Located on a 23-acre lot on Central Parkway in Dublin, the \$374 million school is the first comprehensive high school built in Alameda County in over 50 years. Foothill High School in Pleasanton was the last one, which opened in 1973.

Between 2010 and 2020, enrollment at the Dublin Unified School District (DUSD) grew 92%. Overcrowding at Dublin High School spurred the decision to build another high school.

"This community has needed a second high school for a long time," said Rojas. "We want to make sure Emerald High School reflects the wants and needs of the community it serves."

The excitement was tangible for staff and faculty who toured the campus. One teacher spotted her new classroom and ducked in for a closer

look, while others explored the new labs and lecture halls — all freshly carpeted and painted. The weight room, outfitted with the latest in strength training equipment and workout gear, was on shiny display; the initials EH, for Emerald High, were prominently displayed on the machinery and free weights.

"The perks of building something from the ground up," Lopez said, gesturing around the room, "is that you get to buy everything new. ... I had never bought new weight room equipment before."

Thomas Moore, assistant superintendent of facility planning and construction, has been one of the primary boots-on-the-ground supervisors of the project. For him, the first day of school will be a good one.

"I just can't wait to see the hallways filled with kids," he said.

The thoughtfulness and collaboration that went into the design of the new school were on display in the spacious student union, the 2,400-seat collegiate-level gymnasium and the multi-colored matching couches and

furniture throughout.

"Two years ago, when we started all this," said Jaime Roberts, a math teacher at Emerald, "I remember coming out here when they were just pushing dirt around, and then the steel beams came in ... I remember thinking, 'How are they going to get all this here?' ... And now, here we are."

Oluwafunmilayo Minett, a freshman at Emerald High School and part of the design team for the new high school, also took the tour with the group.

"This is the fourth time I have been on this campus and every time it gets more and more surreal," she said. "I try to get involved in Emerald ev-

ery way I can. ... I can't wait to get here in August."

Paid for with funding from Measures H and J and Proposition 51, the school is built around two, three-story academic towers and will be developed in three phases. The recently completed Phase 1 includes the administration building, student union, visu-

al and performing arts center, the library, gym and locker rooms. Classroom Tower 1, a 137-seat lecture hall, eight tennis courts, and a sports field and track are ready for the first day of school as well.

"We have really built this to last in the next century," said Lopez.

Phase 2 will feature an additional academic tower, a visual and performing arts extension, and 3,885 seat stadium bleachers. This phase is anticipated to be completed in 2025.

The final Phase 3 addition will include the 600-seat Catherine Kuo Performing Arts Center, named after the DUSD trustee who died in 2021. Anticipated completion is August 2026.

Emerald High School started this school year in portable classrooms at Dublin High School, but in August approximately 950 freshman and sophomores will open the new campus. Each following year, a new class will be added to the campus, ending the 2026-2027 school year with four full classes on site. The campus will eventually accommodate up to 2,500 students.



Emerald High Founding Principal Francis Rojas helped lead a tour for media and staff last week of the new school. The facilities are slated to open to a freshmen and sophomore class this fall. (Photo – Doug Jorgensen)

# Local Groups Receive Grants From the Nonprofit Alliance

The Tri-Valley Nonprofit Alliance (TVNPA) has announced a dozen first-round grant recipients for 2024.

"We are so proud of all the nonprofits doing great work to positively impact lives here in the Tri-Valley," said TVNPA President Kathy Young. "We want to shine a spotlight on all of them so everyone understands their impact on this community. We are thrilled to be able to support their work with these grants."

Grant recipients included: Exceptional Needs Net-

work, Livermore, to send 25 children with autism, down syndrome, and other developmental disabilities to Camp Arroyo this summer.

Mental Health Connections, Concord, for its Connections House food security program.

Alan Hu Foundation, Pleasanton, to support its Mental Health Lecture Series.

Little Miracles, Pleasanton, to provide baby supplies and clothing for parents in need.

Marylin Avenue STEAM Academy PTO, Livermore,

to redo the Marylin Avenue Elementary School garden.

Monthly Miracles, Pleasanton, to provide car-repair services for homeless or housing-insecure residents.

Reins in Motion Foundation, Livermore, to support the acquisition of a new therapy horse for special needs riders and veterans.

Teen Esteem, Danville, to help fund school-based mental health education and prevent substance abuse, physical and emotional self-harm, and suicide.

Ballistic United Soccer Club, Pleasanton, to support the club's Get on the Bus program, which provides afterschool tutoring, snacks, and transportation to local soccer fields.

Sleep in Heavenly Peace, Livermore, to provide beds and bedding for children in need.

Pleasanton Art League, for the organization's annual youth art show competition.

Saint Bartholomew's Episcopal Church, Livermore, to support the church's Big Heart Garden and purchase a new

security system.

TVNPA said the grants, totaling \$30,000, were funded through the organization's Tri-Valley Nonprofit Fund. Individual amounts were not announced.

"As we wrap up the first round of our 2024 TVNPA grants, we're feeling really thankful and proud to have been a part of the incredible work done by so many nonprofits in our community," said TVNPA Board Chair Marti Sutton. "This year is also TVNPA's 10th anniversa-

ry, and we're setting our sights on raising even more funds for the TVNPA grants. We want to reach even more organizations next time."

Founded in 2014 as a "regional convener," TVNPA provides skills training, workforce development, and organizational resources for other nonprofits in the Tri-Valley area.

The TVNPA is a partnership between TVNPA and the Community Health & Education Foundation formed in 2019 to support safety-net service organizations.

# LEGAL NOTICES/CLASSIFIEDS

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### LEGAL NOTICES

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 604325**  
The following person(s) doing business as: Luxy Flow, 2027 Harrington Ave, Oakland, CA 94601. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 2/28/2024. Signature of Registrant/s: Kevin Truong, Director. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 27, 2024. Expires February 27, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 5877. Published April 4, 11, 18, 25, 2024.

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 605033**  
The following person(s) doing business as: Animata Scientific, 1272 Rincon Ave, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Jay Salmonson, 1272 Rincon Ave, 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: Jay Salmonson, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 22, 2024. Expires March 21, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 5878. Published April 4, 11, 18, 25, 2024.

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 604422**  
The following person(s) doing business as: Well-Being LifeForce Systems, 1553 Alice Street Apt 217, Oakland, CA 94612 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Diana Romo, 1553 Alice Street Apt 217, Oakland, CA 94612. 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: Diana Romo, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 4, 2024. Expires March 3, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 5879. Published April 4, 11, 18, 25, 2024.

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 604767**  
The following person(s) doing business as: Quantal Technology, 1225 Riesling Circle, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): David Farley, 1225 Riesling Circle, 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: 02/12/2024. Signature of Registrant/s: David Farley, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 13, 2024. Expires March 12, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 5880. Published April 4, 11, 18, 25, 2024.

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 604654**  
The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Capital Mortgage Group; 2. DNR Capital Real Estate; 3. Sheeno General Construction, 6690 Amador Plaza Rd Suite 250, Dublin, CA 94568 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Diane Riise, 3533 Ashbourne Cir, San Ramon, CA 94583. 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: 3/7/2024. Signature of Registrant/s: Diane Riise, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 8, 2024. Expires March 7, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 5881. Published April 4, 11, 18, 25, 2024.

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 605106**  
The following person(s) doing business as: As Duct Systems Cleaning, 344 20th St #N8, Oakland, CA 94612 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): AAA Enterprises, LLC, 344 20th St #N8, Oakland, CA 94612. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s: Angel Altamirano Vasquez, Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 26, 2024. Expires March 25, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 582. Published April 4, 11, 18, 25, 2024.

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 605099**  
The following person(s) doing business as: Sparkling Clean Mobile, 2275 Stonebridge Rd, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Lorrin Huerta, 2275 Stonebridge Rd, Livermore, CA 94550; Joel Huerta, 2275 Stonebridge Rd, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by a Married Couple. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s: Lorrin Huerta, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 26, 2024. Expires March 25, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 5883. Published April 4, 11, 18, 25, 2024.

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 605102**  
The following person(s) doing business as: All Bay Limousine,

gal No. 5886. Published April 4, 11, 18, 25, 2024.

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 604994**  
The following person(s) doing business as: J Mason Home Service, 11501 Dublin Blvd, Ste 200, Dublin, CA 94568 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): J Mason Home Renovation LLC, 11501 Dublin Blvd, Ste 200, Dublin, CA 94568. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s: James R. Abernathy Jr., Manager. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 21, 2024. Expires March 20, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 5887. Published April 4, 11, 18, 25, 2024.

**NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: Raul Fernando Castro Case No. 24PR069188**  
To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of **Raul Fernando Castro**. A Petition for Probate has been filed by: **Richard David Castro**, in the Superior Court of California, County of ALAMEDA. The petition for probate requests that **Richard David Castro** be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent. The petition requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority. THE COURT REQUIRES ALL PARTIES WHO WISH TO ATTEND THE HEARING ON THE BELOW DATE AND TIME, INCLUDING THOSE WHO WISH TO STATE OBJECTIONS, TO APPEAR BY AUDIO OR VIDEO TECHNOLOGY. THE PARTIES SHOULD CONSULT THE COURTS WEBSITE FOR THE SPECIFIC TELEPHONIC AND VIDEO APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE. THE PARTIES MAY ALSO CONTACT THE PROBATE CLERK AT probateclerk2@alameda.courts.ca.gov. PARTIES MUST BE PRESENT AT LEAST FIVE (5) MINUTES BEFORE THE SCHEDULED HEARING TIME. A hearing on the petition will be held in this court as follows: **May 6, 2024, 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: Kelsey L. Kern Ogden Law Firm, PC 1535 J Street, Suite A Modesto, CA 95354 Telephone: (209) 524-4466** The Independent, Legal No. 5888. Published April 11, 18, 25, 2024.

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 605330**  
The following person(s) doing business as: Prachie Studio, 31297 Santa Rita Way, Union City, CA 94587 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Prachi Shah, 31297 Santa Rita Way, Union City, CA 94587. This business is conducted by an individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s: Prachi Shah, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 4, 2024. Expires April 3, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 5889. Published April 11, 18, 25, May 2, 2024.

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 605203**  
The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Fred N SayDee; 2. Fred and SayDee, 4078 Standord Way, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Roxanne Portillo, 4078 Standord 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: 3/29/24. Signature of Registrant/s: Roxanne Portillo, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 29, 2024. Expires March 28, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 5890. Published April 11, 18, 25, May 2, 2024.

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 604504**  
The following person(s) doing business as: Tri-Valley Tracy Jobs, 1368 Capri Court, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Kinnect Consulting, LLC, 1368 Capri Court, 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: Shirley Louis, Owner. This statement was filed with

the County Clerk of Alameda on March 6, 2024. Expires March 5, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 5891. Published April 11, 18, 25, May 2, 2024.

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 604721**  
The following person(s) doing business as: Jump Around Party Rentals, 263 Martin Ave, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Geoffrey Pi-Gonzalez, 263 Martin Ave, 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: Geoffrey Pi-Gonzalez, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 12, 2024. Expires March 11, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 5892. Published April 11, 18, 25, May 2, 2024.

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 605192**  
The following person(s) doing business as: Par 5 Golfing, 7022 Village Pkwy, Dublin, CA 94568 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Par 5 Golfing LLC, 7022 Village Pkwy, Dublin, CA 94568. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s: Ishrat

## HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF LIVERMORE NOTICE OF REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

### RFP No. P24002

Fee Accounting Services

*AGENCY CONTACT PERSON*

**Sarah Ramler, Executive Director**  
Telephone: (925)447-3600 x208  
E-Mail: sarah@livermoreha.org  
TDD/TTY: (800)545-1833 x917

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*PRE-PROPOSAL CONFERENCE DEADLINE TO SUBMIT QUESTIONS PROPOSAL SUBMITTAL RETURN*

*PROPOSAL SUBMITTAL DEADLINE*

**NONE SCHEDULED**  
**Monday, May 13, 2024, 3:00 PM PT**  
**Attn: Sarah Ramler, Executive Director**  
**3203 Leahy Way, Livermore, CA 94550**  
**Wednesday, May 22, 2024, 3:00 PM PT**

[SECTION 3, MINORITY- AND/OR WOMEN-OWNED BUSINESSES ARE ENCOURAGED TO RESPOND]

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N. Zahid, Managing Partner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 29, 2024. Expires March 28, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 5893. Published April 11, 18, 25, May 2, 2024.

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 605201**  
The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Premier Beer And Sake; 2. Premier Signs, 25509 Industrial Blvd., Unit G8, Hayward, CA 94545 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Premier Pos LLC, 25509 Industrial Blvd., Unit G8, Hayward, CA 94545. 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: 3/29/24. Signature of Registrant/s/: Richard Huo, Managing Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 29, 2024. Expires March 28, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 5894. Published April 11, 18, 25, May 2, 2024.

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 604670**  
The following person(s) doing business as: Globocoatings, 2484 Regal Dr., Union City, CA 94587 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Frank Zepeda IV, 2484 Regal Dr., Union City, CA 94587. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Frank Zepeda IV, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 11, 2024. Expires March 10, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 5895. Published April 11, 18, 25, May 2, 2024.

**ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME**  
Case No. 24CV070547

**SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF ALAMEDA**

**TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:**

**Petitioner:**  
Ana Margarita Vega Rodriguez  
1390 Capri Court  
Livermore, CA 94550  
filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:

**Present Names:**  
Madeline Patricia Brown

**Proposed Name:**  
Madeline Patricia Brown-Vega

**THE COURT ORDERS**  
that all persons interested in this matter appear before this

court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.

**NOTICE OF HEARING**  
Date: 05/16/2024  
Time: 10:00 AM  
Dept: 14

The address of the court is: **Alameda County Administration Building 1221 Oak Street Oakland, CA 94612**  
A copy of this Order To Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation printed in this county: The Independent Newspaper 2250 First Street, Livermore, CA 94550

Dated: 4/5/2024 /s/: By Milagros Cortez, Deputy Clerk. The Independent, Legal No. 5896. Published April 18, 25, May 2, 9, 2024.

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 605210**

The following person(s) doing business as: Synergy.AI, 3014 Calle De Mesa, Pleasanton, CA 94566 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Synchron Energy Systems LLC, 3014 Calle De Mesa, Pleasanton, CA 94566. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 2/1/2024. Signature of Registrant/s/: Bryan S. Lewis, Manager. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 1, 2024. Expires March 31, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 5897. Published April 18, 25, May 2, 9, 2024.

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 605349**

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Latin Bowls; 2. Gilda's Catering Experts, 223 Swallowtail Ct, Brisbane, CA 94005 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Gilda Centeno Vergara, 223 Swallowtail Ct, Brisbane, CA 94005. 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/: Gilda Centeno Vergara, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 5, 2024. Expires April 4, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 5898. Published April 18, 25, May 2, 9, 2024.

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 605329**

The following person(s) doing business as: Protein Research, 1852 Rutan Drive, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Berkeley Nutritional Manufacturing Corp, 1852 Rutan Drive, 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: 3/9/2009. Signature of Registrant/s/: Matt Galeazzi, Controller. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 4, 2024. Expires April 3, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 5899. Published April 18, 25, May 2, 9, 2024.

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 605365**

The following person(s) doing business as: Sofia's Design Studio, 2571 Walker Place, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Sofia Moufarrej, 2571 Walker Place, 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/: Sofia Moufarrej, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 5, 2024. Expires April 4, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 5900. Published April 18, 25, May 2, 9, 2024.

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 604952**

The following person(s) doing business as: Good Forever, 4101 Dubillin Blvd Ste F107, Dublin, CA 94568 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Peiyi Tan, 4101 Dubillin Blvd Ste F107, 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/: Peiyi Tan, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 20, 2024. Expires March 29, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 5901. Published April 18, 25, May 2, 9, 2024.

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS**

**NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 605514**

The following person(s) doing business as: Aroma Cafe, 1900 Franklin Street, Oakland, CA 94612 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): VG Bay Inc, 136 Royal Court, Vallejo, CA 94612. 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/: Thao Nguyen, CFO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 11, 2024. Expires April 11, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 5902. Published April 25, May 2, 9, 16, 2024.

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 605563**

The following person(s) doing business as: Springtime Creations, 10816 Rugby Ct, Oakland, CA 94603 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Sprint Melody Schoenhuth, 10816 Rugby Ct, Oakland, CA 94603. 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: June 1988 (Washington State). Signature of Registrant/s/: Spring Melody Schoenhuth, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 15, 2024. Expires April 14, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 5903. Published April 25, May 2, 9, 16, 2024.

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 604950**

The following person(s) doing business as: San Leandro Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram Fiat, 1444 Marina Blvd, San Leandro, CA 94577 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): San Leandro Car Stop LLC, 1444 Marina Blvd, San Leandro, CA 94577. 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/: Carlos Hidalgo, Managing Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 20, 2024. Expires March 19, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 5904. Published April 25, May 2, 9, 16, 2024.

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 605594**

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Mr. Handyman; 2. Mr. Handyman Serving Livermore - Pleasanton, 4047 1st

Street Suite 207, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Bittmore Holdings Inc., 1280 Geneva Ct, Livermore CA 94551. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Brian Bogie, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 16, 2024. Expires April 15, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 5905. Published April 25, May 2, 9, 16, 2024.

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 605636**

The following person(s) doing business as: Specialized Dental Hygiene, 569 Cedar Drive, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Karina Ballesteros, 101 E Vineyard Ave #119, 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/: Karina Ballesteros, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 17, 2024. Expires April 16, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 5906. Published April 25, May 2, 9, 16, 2024.

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 605456**

The following person(s) doing business as: Auspicious Intelligence, 43092 Coit Ave, Fremont, CA 94539 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Shih-Chieh Hsu, 43092 Coit Ave, Fremont, CA 94539. 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/: Shih-Chieh Hsu, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 9, 2024. Expires April 8, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 5907. Published April 25, May 2, 9, 16, 2024.

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 605544**

The following person(s) doing business as: TSP Capital, 851 81st Ave, Suite 227, Oakland, CA 94621 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Trevor Anthony Paszkiewicz, 8511 81st Ave, Suite 227, Oakland, CA 94621. 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/: Trevor Anthony Paszkiewicz, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 12, 2024. Expires April 11, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 5908. Published April 25, May 2, 9, 16, 2024.

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**NOTICES /ANNOUNCEMENTS**

We are pleased to announce our new website: **Agnostic-Christianity.com** which will launch on April 25, 2024.

**Agnostic-Christianity.com** is where various faiths including Christian, Muslim, Atheist, Buddhist, Hindu, etc. come together to discuss their similarities, differences and questions about our own faith and the faith(s) of others regarding history, local, state and national politics and education while providing an engaging interactive experiences through our open forums. Visit **Agnostic-Christianity.com**

**NOTICES**

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

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## What is Agnostic Christianity?

Agnostic Christianity is where various faiths including Christian, Muslim, Atheist, Buddhist, Hindu, etc. come together and discuss their similarities, differences and questions about our own faith and the faith(s) of others. Ask questions, give answers, do both or simply read in silence at: [www.agnostic-christianity.com](http://www.agnostic-christianity.com)

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## PUBLIC NOTICE

### Notice of Availability (NOA) of a Draft Subsequent Environmental Impact Report (SEIR) and Public Hearings for the Valley Link Rail Project

The Tri-Valley - San Joaquin Valley Regional Rail Authority (Authority) as Lead Agency is issuing this Notice of Availability (NOA) to advise other agencies and the public that a Draft Subsequent Environmental Impact Report (SEIR) for the proposed Valley Link Rail Project is available for review and comment. The SEIR, pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), analyzes potential environmental effects associated with revisions to previously analyzed improvements included in the Valley Link Rail Project Final EIR approved by the Authority on May 12, 2021.

**Proposed Project and Location:** The Proposed Project would establish a new passenger rail service along a 22-mile corridor in Northern California between the existing Dublin/Pleasanton BART Station in Alameda County and the proposed Mountain House Community Station in San Joaquin County. The Proposed Project includes the construction and operation of four new stations: Dublin/Pleasanton Station; Isabel Station and Southfront Road Station in Livermore; and Mountain House Community Station. The Proposed Project would provide an all-day bi-directional passenger rail service at frequent intervals using zero-emission multiple unit vehicles. The alignment would be constructed within a combination of the existing I-580 freeway median, the existing transportation corridor owned by Alameda County (formerly Southern Pacific Transcontinental Railroad alignment), existing Caltrans right-of-way (ROW) adjacent to westbound I-580, and new ROW to be acquired for the Proposed Project.

**Areas of Potential Impact:** The Draft SEIR has determined that construction and operation of the project could result in potentially significant impacts to aesthetics, agricultural resources, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, paleontological resources, greenhouse gas emissions, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, noise and vibration, and transportation and traffic. However, mitigation measures described in the Draft SEIR would reduce these potentially significant impacts to less-than-significant levels.

The Authority is seeking comments from agencies, stakeholders, and the public regarding the environmental effects analyzed in the SEIR. The Draft SEIR is available for review on the project website: [www.getvalleylinked.com](http://www.getvalleylinked.com). Copies of the Draft SEIR are also available for review at the following locations:

- Livermore Public Library  
1188 S. Livermore Avenue  
Livermore, CA
- Mountain House Branch Library  
201 East Main Street  
Mountain House, CA

**Public Hearings:** Open Forum Public Hearings will be held in-person at two locations in the Project corridor:

- Wednesday, May 8, 2024 - 6:30 p.m. until 8:00 p.m.  
Robert Livermore Community Center  
4444 East Avenue, Livermore, CA
- Thursday, May 9, 2024 - 6:30 p.m. until 8:00 p.m.  
Mountain House Community Services District  
251 E. Main Street, Mountain House, CA

At these hearings, attendees will have the opportunity to ask questions, learn more about the Proposed Project, and provide written and verbal comments that will become part of the public record.

One Virtual Public Hearing for the project will also be conducted:

- Wednesday, May 15, 2024 - 2:00 p.m. until 3:30 p.m.

The Virtual Public Hearing will provide an informal opportunity for attendees to learn about the Proposed Project and ask questions. However, official comments must be submitted in writing by mail, email, or through the online comment submission form on the project website. Please visit [www.getvalleylinked.com](http://www.getvalleylinked.com) to learn how to join the virtual hearing and to access additional project information.

If you will require language assistance services at these hearings, please call (925) 667-4013, 48 hours prior to the date and time of the hearings.

**Written Comments:** Written comments on the Valley Link Rail Project SEIR will be accepted until 5:00 PM on June 6, 2024. Please send written comments to:

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

Your comments may also be sent by email to [comments@valleylinkrail.com](mailto:comments@valleylinkrail.com) (please include "Valley Link Project" in the subject heading), or through the online comment submission form provided on the project website: [www.getvalleylinked.com](http://www.getvalleylinked.com).

**For Further Information:** Visit our project website at [www.getvalleylinked.com](http://www.getvalleylinked.com) or contact us by email at [comments@valleylinkrail.com](mailto:comments@valleylinkrail.com) and include "Valley Link Project" in the subject heading.

Si necesitará servicios de asistencia con el idioma en estas reuniones, llame al (925) 667-4013, 48 horas antes de la fecha y hora de la reunión.

如果您在这些会议上需要语言协助服务, 请在会议日期和时间内 48 小时致电 (925) 667-4013.

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# Community Arts Leader Kelly Cousins Receives Pleasanton Mayor's Award

Kelly Cousins, president of the Pleasanton Cultural Arts Council (PCAC) and a board member for the Livermore Performing Arts Center (LVPAC), received the Mayor's Award this month from Pleasanton Mayor Karla Brown at the city's annual Commission and Committee Recognition Dinner.

Cousins has "contributed more than 33 years

of volunteer time to the arts in Pleasanton and the Tri-Valley," Brown said at the dinner. Her focus "has been on the development of partnerships among the local community groups and city agencies, to expand visual and performing arts opportunities for students and their families, as well as embrace our cultural diversity."

"Wherever the arts are

in the Tri-Valley, you will find" Cousins, Brown added.

Cousins, a child psychologist with a doctorate from the California School of Professional Psychology at Alliant International University in San Francisco, has been with the PCAC for more than 10 years and with the LVPAC for nine.

She also volunteered for eight years on the Pleasanton Library Commission and was a member of the city's Human Services Commission, along with several city task forces, including East Pleasanton Specific Plan, Cultural Arts Master Plan, and Youth Master Plan Implementation Committee.

Cousins is president of the nonpartisan informational website, PleasantonVoters.com, and spent

28 years as an educational psychologist with the Newark Unified School District.



Mayor Karla Brown, right, presents the Mayor's Award to Kelly Cousins, left. (Photo courtesy of City of Pleasanton)

The recognition dinner was held April 11 at Casa Real at Ruby Hill Winery.



The nonprofit Shri Nanasahab Dharmadhikari Pratishthan (DSNDP), named after an Indian spiritual leader and social reformer, helped clean up Emerald Glen Park in collaboration with the Dublin Parks and Community Services Department. The April 13 cleanup was part of a nationwide effort called "People in the Parks." (Photo courtesy of DSNDP)

## Tri-Valley Celebrates Passover

Passover, a Jewish celebration of the Israelites' liberation from slavery in ancient Egypt, began on April 22 and will run until April 30. For many, the holiday represents a time to be grateful for all the goodness in our lives.

As part of the celebration, the Tri-Valley Cultural Jews (TVCJ) will host a secular humanist Passover Sedar and potluck on Saturday, April 27. The event will hold a ceremony starting at 5 p.m. that

will include poetry and songs in English, Hebrew and Yiddish. A potluck will follow beginning at 6:30 p.m. The community asks that guests bring a dish to share.

Those interested in attending should contact TVCJ through their website at [trivalleyculturaljews.org](http://trivalleyculturaljews.org) or by calling (925) 399-8029.

TVCJ also hosted a Passover family day on April 21 that involved matzoh making, crafts and music at their Jewish Culture School

in Pleasanton as part of the week-long celebration.

The TVCJ is a diverse community of cultural Jews and their families, affiliated with the Cultural and Secular Jewish Organization, that serves the greater East Bay area with holiday celebrations and other secular activities.

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## Valley Concert Chorale Conductor to Step Down in May

After 25 years with the Valley Concert Chorale (VCC), Artistic Director John Emory Bush will conduct his final concert, titled "Something on the Lighter Side," at Resurrection Lutheran Church in Dublin on Saturday, May 11.

Bush announced last week that he would be leaving the choir.

"Though I just celebrated this 25-year milestone with VCC, I think it is the right time to pass the baton to someone else who can carry the organization forward," Bush said. "VCC is strong and membership increased dramatically this season. The singers' dedication of time and talent is impressive. I believe the future is bright and I will be very proud to look and listen from afar."

VCC said it would begin a search for a new director this summer. In the meantime, Jerome Lenk, principal organist and director of music and liturgy at Mission Dolores Basilica in San Francisco, will serve as VCC's interim director.

Bush began directing VCC in 1998.

Although he moved to Dallas two years later, he continued to commute to Livermore on an almost

weekly basis to lead the chorale for the next 23 years.

"There are so many highlights with wonderful memories," Bush said. "Early on, we did complete

performances of Handel's "Messiah," with orchestra, to sold out houses as well as Mozart's "Requiem" and Orff's "Carmina Burana" at the Bankhead Theater. I

remember patrons ... after the concerts saying they did not know they had access to such wonderful performances right here in the Tri-Valley."

Bush also organized festivals with composers-in-residence, including Morten Lauridsen, a National Medal of Arts recipient, in 2014, and Latvian composer Eriks Esenvalds in 2017. More than 200 singers from California State University East Bay, San Jose State University, and Amador Valley High School participating in festival concerts in San Francisco and the Tri-Valley.

Bush has a master's degree from the Juilliard School in New York and was music director and conductor for the San Francisco Concert Chorale for 18 seasons. He was also director of music and organist at St. Matthew's Episcopal Cathedral in Dallas from 2000 to 2010 and is currently director of music and organist at First United Methodist Church in McKinney, Texas.

Bush's final concert with VCC on May 11 will feature a salute to singer and jazz pianist Nat King Cole and the musical world of Walt Disney, along with selections from Billy Joel, Simon and Garfunkel, the Beatles, and Elton John.



Artistic Director of the Valley Concert Chorale, John Emory Bush, is leaving after 25 years with the choir. (Photo courtesy of John Emory Bush)

## Rapper E-40 to Perform at Alameda County Fair

One of the Bay Area's best-known rappers, E-40, will return to the Alameda County Fair in Pleasanton this summer, along with several other acts scheduled for the Big O Tires Concert Series from Friday, June 14, to Sunday, July 7.

Earl Tywone Stevens, who made his rap debut as E-40 in 1986, was born in Vallejo, California, and continues to live in the Bay Area. Over nearly four decades,

he has released 26 studio albums.

He will perform on June 20, according to the Alameda County Agricultural Fair Association.

Also appearing will be country music star Hunter Hayes, who won the Country Music Association award for New Artist of the Year in 2012, following the release of his self-titled debut in 2011.

The album, which reached No. 1 on Billboard's

Top Country Albums, sold more than a million copies. "Wanted," a single from the album, sold more than 3.5 million copies.

His ninth studio album, "Red Sky," was released in 2023 and represents Hayes' first foray into pop music.

He is scheduled to perform on Friday, July 5.

The party band Fast Times is slated to appear on Saturday, July 6.

The Fair Association said

it would announce the full slate of concerts by the end of April.

Admission to the concerts, which run nightly from 8 p.m. to 9:15 p.m., except July 4, is not included in the general fair admission.

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