

Eden Asks For Ruling to Be Modified Request Denied

By David Jen

LIVERMORE — Eden Housing submitted a request last week to publish in full the Court of Appeal’s March 6 opinion that the city’s resolution approving an agreement with Eden is subject to referendum. The court, however, maintained that the opinion’s one unpublished section “does not meet the standards for publication” and denied the request.

According to the request, the publication would have provided more clarity for future affordable-housing projects navigating legal challenges similar to Eden’s.

“Eden is once again reminded that each step in the entitlement and transactional process can be challenged by relentless housing opponents,” wrote Eden in its March 25 request, referring to a community group’s referendum disputing the city resolution authorizing the Eden Housing Downtown project. “Clarifying which steps and which actions are

(See EDEN, page 6)

DSRSD, Livermore Wastewater Rules Could Raise Costs Tri-Valley Recycling Already Diverts Nitrogen from Bay

By Larry Altman

REGIONAL — Livermore and the Dublin San Ramon Services District (DSRSD) are setting standards in the Bay Area’s efforts to protect the San Francisco Bay from environmental degradation by pioneering water recycling programs. In addition, that could save them from paying for mandated upgrades to wastewater treatment facilities.

Wastewater agencies anticipate stricter regulations coming from the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board, aimed at reducing the nitrogen levels in wastewater, which could cost an estimated \$11 billion to upgrade existing treatment plants across the Bay Area region.

(See WASTEWATER, page 7)



“Women in Business” Moderator, Livermore Valley Chamber of Commerce President Sherri Souza (center), led a thought-provoking conversation at the Bankhead Theater on March 28 with panelists from local political and business sectors. (Left to right) Carolyn Wenthe, Chairwoman of Wenthe Estates; Marianna Marysheva, Livermore City Manager; Deborah Haldeman-Wells, Cemex Director; and Nan Ho, Las Positas College Vice President of Academic Services. (See story on page 3.) (Photo courtesy of Ron Essex Photography)

City of Pleasanton

Mayor Gives State of the City Speech; Outlines Economic Hurdles Ahead

By Ruth Roberts

PLEASANTON — The City of Pleasanton will face some economic challenges and difficult financial decisions in the coming years, but it will emerge as “One Pleasanton” — a city committed to its community and the residents who live and serve there.

That was the message last week from Mayor Karla Brown who gave her annual State of the City address at the Palm Event Center in Pleasanton.

The two-term mayor, fighting a cold but still in high spirits, spoke to the crowd of local businesses, residents, and community organizations

on March 26 during the Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce annual event.

“As you can tell my voice is a little scratchy. Here is what I will pass on in words of wisdom,” joked Brown. “Don’t hang around germ-y children before you are going to give the State of the City address.”

Turning to more serious subjects, Brown said flat growth in the areas of property, sales and hotel taxes combined with the continued growth of expenses, such as inflation, pensions, and infrastructure maintenance, has forced the city council to make the “very tough” decision to increase water rates, for example. Underfunded

mandates from the state, such as those around low-income housing, have made the situation worse.

Forever chemicals found in the city’s wells forced the closure of all three wells last year. The city is now looking to construct two new wells at a cost of \$25 million dollars. The project will take several years to complete and grant funding is being sought for the project.

But it won’t be enough to pay for the new wells and additional city needs, said Brown. As such, the council is considering putting a half-percent sales tax increase on the November ballot, which would bring an additional \$10

(See MAYOR, page 5)

Federal Correctional Insitution, Dublin

Judge Sentences Dublin Jail Guard to 6 Years in Prison for Abusing Inmates

By Larry Altman

DUBLIN — A former correctional officer at the scandal-plagued women’s prison in Dublin was sentenced last week to spend six years in prison for sexually abusing five female inmates.

Nakie Nunley, 48, became the seventh correctional officer ordered to prison in connection with an investigation into sex crimes against prisoners at FCI Dublin during the last few years.

Nunley, of Fairfield, pleaded guilty in September to four counts of sexual abuse

of a ward, five counts of abusive sexual contact, and one count of making false statements to investigators. He admitted to victimizing five women and lying to federal detectives while working for UNICOR, a trade name for the Federal Prison Industries program that manages prison labor. The victims worked at the UNICOR call center, authorities said.

“Nakie Nunley egregiously exploited his authority by sexually abusing multiple incarcerated women and then retaliating against those who blew the whistle,” Deputy At-

torney General Lisa Monaco said. “The Justice Department will hold accountable officials who abuse their authority to harm those they are sworn to protect and will not tolerate retaliation against victims.”

In addition to the five victims in the criminal indictment, Nunley admitted to sexually abusing two other inmates and inappropriate conduct with multiple other prisoners. In addition to sexual acts, Nunley wrote sexual notes to one of his victims and made sexual comments to multiple additional victims, prosecutors said.

(See FCI, page 6)

Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory

Renewable Natural Gas to Help Grid Stability, Storage

By Larry Altman

LIVERMORE — Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL), Southern California Gas Company and the technology firm Electrochaea have partnered on a plan to add grid-scale storage in the form of synthetic natural gas.

The idea is to create a bio-reactor that would transform excess solar- and wind-generated electricity and biogas — methane generated from waste products — into renewable natural gas (RNG).

While spikes in power usage have led to power outages in recent summers, instances of too much renewable power have also strained the power grid. Such scenarios force grid operators to curtail renewable generation to avoid damage to the grid.

More than 1.5 million megawatt hours of renewable electricity were curtailed in California in 2020, effectively throwing away enough energy to power 100,000 homes for a year because the grid lacks suitable storage mechanisms to hold onto surplus energy for later use, according to LLNL.

By converting excess renewable power into RNG, the fuel can then be transported through existing natural gas infrastructure or stored indefinitely, as needed.

Combustion of RNG adds no new carbon to the atmosphere because the carbon to create the RNG came from the atmosphere to begin with. Fossil natural gas combustion, on the other hand, releases carbon that was previously stored underground.

(See GAS, page 6)

Livermore Valley Joint Unified Schools

Superintendent Chris Van Schaack to Retire

By Ruth Roberts

LIVERMORE — Superintendent Chris Van Schaack, leader of the Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District. (LVJUSD) since 2022, has announced he will be retiring at the end of the school year.

“I’m ready to explore some other areas of interest,” said Van Schaack, 61, in an email to The Independent. “I have a long list of things I’d love to do, and I figure it’s time to start checking some of them off. Baseball games, traveling to historic sites, and taking care of my physical health are among the things at the top of my list.”

Van Schaack, a Livermore resident with a blended family of five adult children, has been an educator for over 37 years, 30 of which were spent in the LVJUSD. He began his career with the district in 1994 as a high school teacher and baseball coach. He went on to serve as an elementary and high school principal, and in 2011, was named Director of Student Services and Special Education. In 2017, he became

the district’s Deputy Superintendent before taking over the helm in 2022 from retiring Superintendent Kelly Bowers.

“I’ll forever cherish the years I’ve spent working alongside so many amazing educators and simply, good people,” said Van Schaack in a press release announcing his departure. “They have been a second family for nearly all my adult life.”

LVJUSD Board President Emily Prusso said Van

(See SUPERINTENDENT, page 7)



LVJUSD Superintendent Chris Van Schaack (Photo courtesy of Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District)



Triangular crayons created by the Crayon Initiative from recycled crayons are being donated to hospitals nationwide. (Photo – Lara George Photography)

Nonprofit Sends Crayons to Children In Hospitals Rather Than Landfills

By Christina Cavallaro

LIVERMORE — Bryan Ware of Danville was out for dinner with his wife and kids at a local eatery back in 2011. As he watched his young sons coloring on the menu with crayons from the restaurant, he wondered where all those crayons ended up once the customers were gone. It turns out that, due to health reasons, they just get thrown away. And those discarded art supplies end up in landfills, creating a huge waxy mess that never biodegrades.

A self-proclaimed supply-chain guy, Ware began repurposing the thrown-out crayons to create more joy in the world. He collected, sorted and melted down the old crayons to give them new life in a fresh, colorful, wrapper-free form. And the Crayon Initiative, currently in its 10th official year as a nonprofit, was born.

The nonprofit has now teamed up with a Livermore retirement community to connect the residents with children in hospitals in a relationship that benefits everyone.

Ware has created an or-

ganization that now sends free crayons to kids in hospitals all over the country. With the help of an occupational therapist, he gave his new crayons a unique chunky, three-sided design that makes it easy for kids to grip and prevents them from rolling off the hospital trays.

“The only thing that probably slows them up is the money. I know they are trying to get grants and that kind of thing,” said Nancy DenBroeder, activity director at Heritage Estates Retirement Community in Livermore.

(See CRAYONS, page 7)

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PETS OF THE WEEK



BAZINGA

Shout “Bazinga” and raise a Vulcan salute to Sheldon Cooper. Like his namesake from The Big Bang Theory, he’s an intelligent cat who craves routine and comfort. Sheldon is particular about touch and socialization, but will thrive with the right group of friends. Visit valleyhumane.org to learn more or email info@valleyhumane.org to start the adoption application process. (Photo – Valley Humane Society)

Livermore Park District Sets New Goals and Priorities

By Ruth Roberts

A reduction in weddings and a hard look at deferred maintenance in the Livermore Area Recreation and Park District (LARPD) number among the district's updated mission and new strategic plan. The LARPD board unanimously approved the three-year plan last week.

LARPD Chair David Furst told The Independent he was excited about the pullback in weddings.

"We used to do a lot of weddings and we realized they are not really a part of our vision or mission statement," said Furst. "There is a lot of wear and tear on the facilities, and we wanted to focus more on the parks and recreation. We are focusing on quality of life for all of our residents."

Also in the plan are ways to address the district's aging facilities. With over 40 parks in the LARPD, there is always an abundance of maintenance needed, but not always the cash to make them happen.

"Yes, we have a very long list of maintenance that needs to be done," Furst said. "A lot of our fields and playgrounds are getting old and some are not up to ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) standards, so we have made a plan to identify a few each year and take care of them."

But with no other income sources other than property taxes and service fees — swim classes for children for example — the board, with an annual operating budget of around \$26 million, may be looking someday at going out

for a bond. The last time the LARPD went out for a successful bond was in the 1990s, said Furst, and it was a joint venture with the City of Livermore and the school district.

"Parks need to be re-done; fields need to be replaced ... down the road it might be time to ask the public again for their help," he said.

For now, however, the board is focused on its new strategic plan and the positive impact it will have on the community it serves.

Developed every three to five years, the LARPD plan is designed to assess the district's overall goals, long-term plans and financial forecast.

"It's really kind of a road map for us and the community," said Furst. "It's the highest level of planning

for the district and is also a way for the district to take a pause every few years and ask, 'Who we are, where are we going and where (in the future) do we want to be?'"

As such, the LARPD uses its road map to implement its core missions. While the over-arching goals are concise, the detail of each goal remains fluid, said Furst, who added that many of them revolve around funding.

"The plan offers a review of the district overall and outlines its long-term needs, the cost to meet those needs and plans to obtain the needed funding," said Furst.

The core principles of the strategic plan include maintaining quality facilities, offering diversity-rich programs, sustaining a motivated, well-support-

ed staff, identifying additional funding sources and continuing outreach to the community.

And while the details are still being cemented, Furst said the plan will serve the community well now, and in the years ahead.

"The Strategic Plan will help lead to a bright future for the residents of the

LARPD service area."

Founded in 1947, the LARPD is an independent local government agency, approved by voters, which serves the areas east of Dublin and Pleasanton in Alameda County.

For additional information or updated information on the strategic plan, visit larpd.org.

Pleasanton

Drunk Driving Demonstration Teaches Students

By Ruth Roberts

The Every 15 Minutes program came to Foothill High School in Pleasanton last week during a two-day event designed to showcase the consequences of driving while impaired or distracted.

Juniors and seniors from Foothill and Village high schools participated in the emotionally charged opening event. The program takes them through a deadly mock car accident involving students from the schools and follows it over the course of two days as "deceased" students are mourned by family, faculty and friends.

"This program is an important reminder for students of the dangers of driving while under the influence of any substance," said Patrick Gannon, Pleasanton Unified School District's director of communication. "We

are grateful to the California Highway Patrol, our other partner agencies, and

the Foothill and Village students and staff for making this impactful event



Juniors and seniors participated in the Every 15 Minutes program this week outside of Foothill High School in Pleasanton. The event highlighted the deadly dangers of driving while under the influence of drugs or affected by distractions. (Photo – Doug Jorgensen)

possible."

The event was attended by local first responders, including the Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department, the California Highway Patrol (CHP), Alameda County Coroner and Valley Care Medical Center.

The program is dramatic and emotional; and purposely so. Teenagers are constantly reminded throughout the two days about the choices they must make involving alcohol and how others are permanently affected by their decisions. While teens know the statistics, many believe it will never happen to them.

When the program began in 1995, the name "Every 15 Minutes" referred to the fact that one alcohol-related death/crash occurred every 15 minutes, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

Residents of all Ages

Science Poetry Contest Applicants Encouraged to Submit Their Entries

Livermore is now accepting entries for its eighth annual science poetry contest, "Poetry in a Test Tube."

Residents of all ages are eligible to submit a poem of any style or length. However, the poem must relate to the contest theme of "science."

There are four age divisions: youth (kindergarten to fifth grade), middle school,

high school, and adult.

First, second, and third-place entries in each division will receive \$75, \$50, and \$25, respectively.

All entries must include the author's name, address, phone number, title of the poem, and contest division. Students should also include grade and school.

Entries should be emailed to LivermorePoetLaureate@gmail.com

Peggy Schimmelman at poet_laureate@livermore-ca.gov. Students are asked to use a personal email address, rather than their school email address.

Entries will be accepted through Friday, April 5, with an awards ceremony and poetry reading at the Livermore Civic Center Library, 1188 S. Livermore Ave., on Thursday, April 18.

Bankhead Explores Music from India, Mexico

The Bankhead will welcome on Sunday, April 7, the San Francisco-based Nava Dance Theater for "Rogue Gestures/Foreign Bodies."

The Nava Dance Theater uses the classical Indian dance known as Bharatanatyam to explore the intersections of racism, feminism, and identity.

Inspired by the oral histories of Indian nurses who immigrated to the U.S. due to labor shortages, the current show, "Rogue Gestures/Foreign Bodies," examines how South Asian immigrant women were treated following passage of the 1965 Immigration and Nationality Act, which eliminated immigration quotas based on national origin.

Tickets to the 3 p.m. performance start at \$35.

America's first all-female mariachi band, Mariachi Reyna de Los Angeles, will take the stage on Saturday, May 4.

Mariachi Reyna was formed in 1994 by the internationally renowned Jose Hernandez, who also formed Mariachi Sol de Mexico. In a cultural music environment where songs are usually written by men, from male perspectives, Mariachi Reyna

has gone on to inspire other all-female mariachi bands.

Tickets to the 8 p.m. Mariachi Reyna performance start at \$35.

The shows are part of the Bankhead Presents

performances sponsored by Livermore Valley Arts. Tickets are available online at livermorearts.org, at the Bankhead Theater box office, 2400 First St., or by calling 925-373-6800.

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Emergency Funds OK'd for Amador High Repairs

Work Also Allocated for Damage at Pleasanton's Foothill High School

By Ruth Roberts

The Pleasanton Unified School District (PUSD) board approved an emergency resolution last week to make the needed repairs to the Amador Valley High School small gym that was damaged during a fire last month.

The PUSD has allocated \$395,000 for the restoration, which will come from its Routine Restricted Maintenance fund. The work will be performed by Restoration Management Company. The funds will later be restored from the district's property insurance liability coffers.

On March 17, a two-alarm blaze at Amador Valley High School destroyed most of the school's 100-year-old small gym. No injuries were reported, and the cause remains under investigation, according to the Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department.

"Safety authorities responded very quickly to a fire alarm set off by smoke in the Amador Valley High School small gymnasium," said David Haglund, PUSD superintendent, in a previous statement to the community. "We are grateful for the quick response of staff and authorities."

According to the staff report, the condition of the gym puts students, staff, and contractors in danger of

pairing the small gym when it was still, in all likelihood, slated for demolition, PUSD Director of Commu-

given the many variables including state approval that we don't control timelines for."

with The Independent that there was no decision yet as to where sports teams will practice in the interim.

A separate resolution was also approved during the March 28 regular board meeting to repair damage to a sewer leak in the music room and adjacent offices at Foothill High School. The water damage was discovered on Sept. 27 of last year. The cost of repairs, which will also be performed by Restoration Management Company, is estimated at \$83,000.

"Emergency work to remediate the leak and sewer spillage and repair the damaged walls and carpets (is) necessary at the project site in order to avoid danger to health and damage to property," according to the staff report.

The dollars for the restoration work on the Foothill campus will also come out of the district's Routine Restricted Maintenance fund and will later be replaced with PUSD's property insurance.

The emergency resolution on both campuses allows the district to begin work without having to go through the bidding process.



The Pleasanton Unified School District board passed an emergency resolution to pay repair costs for a March 17 fire in Amador Valley High School's small gym. The funds will come out of the district's Routine Maintenance Fund. Above, crews begin clean up. (File Photo – Doug Jorgensen)

bodily injury and/or death and was thereby considered an emergency.

The district had considered tearing down and rebuilding the gym before the fire. Measure I, approved by voters in 2022, provides \$395 million for various district projects, including replacing Amador's small and large gyms.

While some trustees questioned the logic of re-

nications Patrick Gannon told The Independent that the fire repairs are covered by the district's insurance and not an added expense.

"We will have to evaluate the need for additional work with the plans underway related to Measure I athletics and performing arts center," added Gannon. "The groundbreaking and completion dates for construction are hard to predict

Additional assessment and planning work will be needed to determine repairs to the small gym, or next steps. The current plan is to stabilize the damage and to reopen the non-damaged areas as soon as possible.

The aging gym was typically used for sports practices as a secondary facility, and for students during lunch time. Gannon said in an earlier interview

Women in Business Hold Discussion at Bankhead

By Christina Cavallaro

A unique conversation about women in business — that wasn't entirely about business — unfolded at the first Women in Business Symposium at the Bankhead Theater last week.

The panel of women was comprised of Cemex Director Deborah Haldeman-Wells, Las Positas College Vice President of Academic Services Nan Ho, Livermore City Manager Marianna Marysheva, Livermore Valley Chamber of Commerce (LVCC) President Sherri Souza, and Wente Family Estates Chairwoman Carolyn Wente. Together, they dove into how women's experiences in business are inherently different from men's. The conversation often turned to how women recognize themselves in the world and how to recognize opportunity.

The event was presented by the LVCC; Souza moderated the panel.

Souza asked the women whether they had ever experienced "imposter syndrome," that is, the doubting of the skill levels, talents or the opportunities they've afforded themselves. Ho said, "Absolutely. ... I don't know the specific citation, but if a woman looks at a job description and it has 30 skills that you need to have, a woman believes she needs to match every single one of them, and not just match, but excel. I think there's a gender difference there. Men may not feel they need to match every single one of those. It's more like, 'Oh, I

like the title. I'll go for it.'"

Souza asked the panel if they had ever felt like giving up.

Haldeman-Wells was the first to respond. "No!" she said with such conviction the audience applauded.

Wente agreed. "I grew up with a mentality, you just go do it. And you never stop and there's always something else to do. If you just say, 'Oh God, it's never gonna work,' well, that's not going to get you anywhere."

Haldeman-Wells shared a time of extreme loss in her life, when a span of 12 months included the deaths of her father, beloved horse and family dog, as well as the loss of her job, a business, and a relationship that ended in divorce. In addition, her car was stolen.

"But I don't sit idle, and I never ever thought about giving up on anything," she said. "I just thought, 'Okay, well that didn't work or that happened. Pick yourself up and figure out another way.' There's no giving up. It's just, what do I have to do to keep moving forward?"

Souza asked Marysheva if she'd always wanted to be a city manager.

"No," Marysheva said with a laugh. "But it's interesting how we find our path. Be curious. Be open-minded. Don't give up, as you said Debbie (Haldeman-Wells). Something I tell my teenage children: find your passion. Find your sense of purpose. It may take a few years, a few different career choices until you get to that sense of purpose."

Marysheva said she

found hers as a 19-year-old student who came to study at San Francisco State from a country in Central Asia. While she found one of the greatest cities in the world, she also found poverty, homelessness, drug addiction and people without the most basic opportunities in life. Her desire to help gave her a sense of her role in life and sense of her own purpose.

Prior to the symposium, Souza described for The Independent the importance of the event.

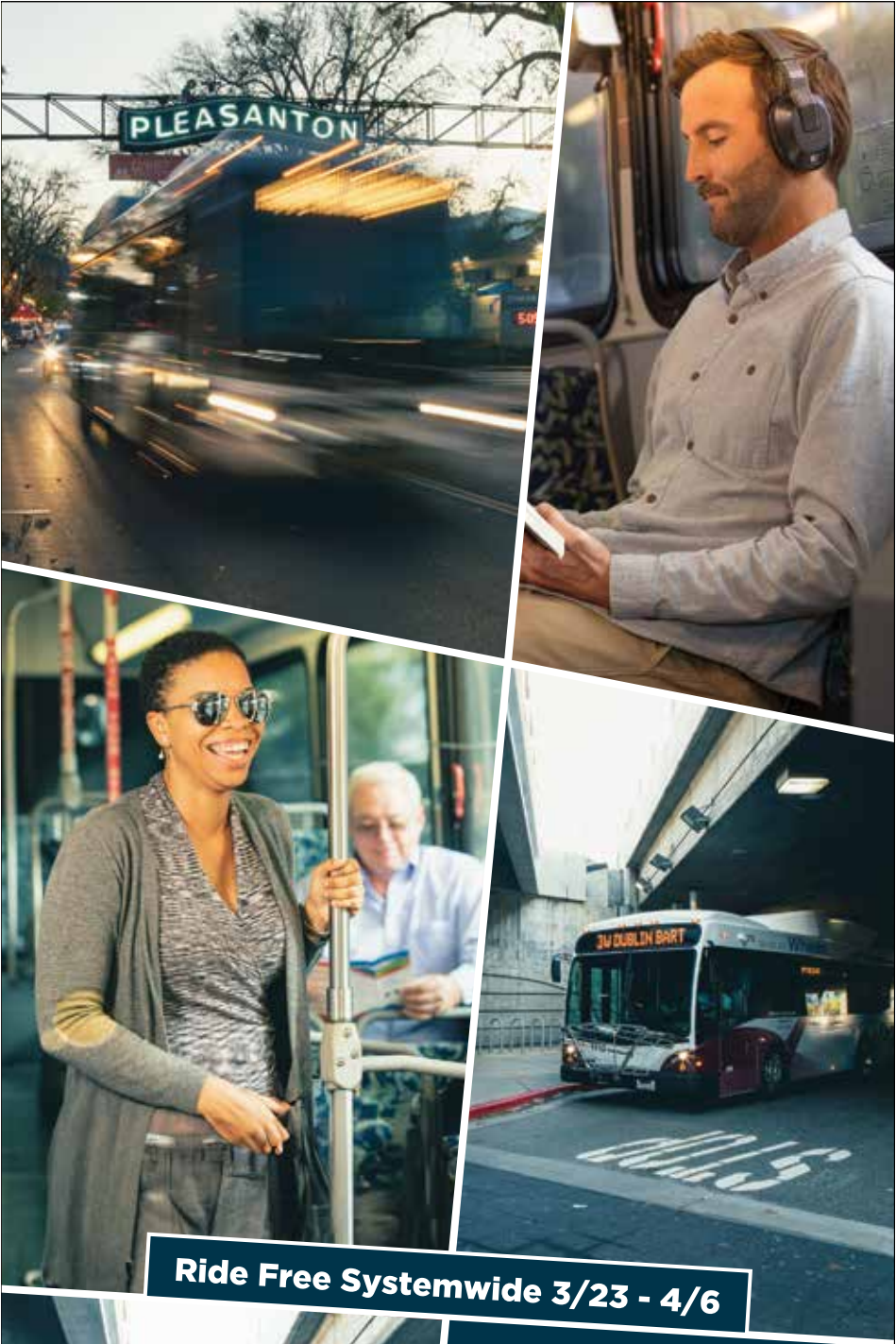
"This is the first time we've done this," she said. "I think it's something that needs to be done. More conversation and women supporting each other, overcoming obstacles and sharing ideas. And in this current political climate, we need to align and strengthen."

She cited a historical fact she'd read during women's history month that shocked her. It wasn't until 1974, when the Equal Credit Opportunity Act passed, that women in the U.S. were granted the right to open a bank account on their own without a signature from their husbands.

"That wasn't that long ago. I'm a life-long feminist and I will fight for my rights till the bitter end," she said.

In the final minutes of the symposium, when public questions were asked, Ho commented on growing businesses, "We have so much talent here in Livermore and the Tri-Valley and we do many partnerships. There's something magical about everyone knowing

each other, so that you understand what the resources are. So I think as you decide what it is you need, we have an incredible talent pool that may actually be there ready for you. And they are coming in and they want to stay here. They want to live here. They want to work here. So you don't need to recruit from outside. They're already here."



Ride Free Systemwide 3/23 - 4/6

LAVTA Seeks Community Members for Accessibility Advisory Committee

The Livermore Amador Valley Transit Authority (LAVTA), which operates the Wheels bus system, is seeking individuals interested in serving on a committee that advises the joint-powers agency on accessibility issues facing seniors and residents with disabilities.

LAVTA was created by Alameda County and the cities of Livermore, Pleasanton, and Dublin in 1985 to provide public transportation in the Tri-Valley area.

It also operates a door-to-door Dial-a-Ride bus program and taxi-reimbursement program for

those who qualify under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

The Tri-Valley Accessible Advisory Committee (TAAC) is comprised of individuals representing the county, four cities, and local social and human services agencies.

LAVTA is currently looking for one member and one alternate to represent Dublin, two members to represent Livermore, one member and one alternate to represent Pleasanton, one member to represent Alameda County, and three members and an alternate from the social and human

services community.

The committee meets six times per year, typically from 3:30 p.m. to 5 p.m., according to LAVTA. Committee members receive a free LAVTA fixed-route bus pass. ADA eligible committee members receive free Dial-A-Ride service to and from TAAC meetings.

Committee members must reside in the city they represent and use LAVTA transit services. To apply, call 925-455-7555 or download an application form at wheelsbus.com. Applications must be submitted by Friday, April 19.



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EDITORIAL

Tri-Valley Manages Wastewater Better Than Others

Assessing early on how we can manage our wastewater may save the Tri-Valley significant costs in the coming years.

In July 2022, an algal bloom began in the San Francisco Bay near the City of Alameda. It later expanded into the largest bloom recorded in history, reaching into the South Bay and San Pablo Bay; it lasted through Labor Day week-end. The invasive algae depleted oxygen levels and killed a large number of fish — as many as 10,000 fish in Oakland’s Lake Mer-

ritt, which is connected to the bay.

Blooms of the same algae, although smaller, followed in the summers of 2022 and 2023.

The Bay Area Clean Water Agencies (BACWA) now look to manage future blooms by controlling the amount of nutrients reaching the bay. Human effluent, rich in nitrogen, fuels these algal growths. Enhanced nutrient removal systems at our wastewater treatment plants would reduce nutrient flows to the bay.

While BACWA estimates such

upgrades would cost the region more than \$11 billion, the Dublin San Ramon Services District (DSRSD), which provides wastewater services in Dublin, San Ramon and Pleasanton, said it began reducing its nutrient flows some 20 years ago. Its recycled water program keeps those nutrients out of the bay while also serving as a drought-resilient water supply for local irrigation uses.

Livermore has been reducing the amount of nitrogen released into the bay for decades by re-

cycling water.

We thank both DSRSD and Livermore for their leadership in this area.

We also urge BACWA to seriously consider recycled water programs as an alternative to treatment plant upgrades for reducing nutrient flows to the bay. Recycled water offers multiple benefits to our drought-prone area, and if it also helps stave off algal blooms, it should be recognized as a viable alternative to just nutrient removal.

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. 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 must be submitted by someone living in or from the Tri-Valley; they must not offer medical advice from unconfirmed professional sources or contain libelous or inappropriate content. Letters should be limited to 400 words or less and should be sent by email to letters@independentnews.com or submitted using the form below. To be considered, letters must be received by 10 a.m. on the Monday before publication.

Livermore Airport Land Development Event
Felicia Ziomek, Livermore

Livermore Airport undeveloped land (and surrounding available, undeveloped land) will be getting developed.

Attend a drop-in Open House to learn more details, provide your feedback and opinions on future development you’d like to see, and provide your opinions on current operations, as well as suggested improvements at the airport.

The City is holding this Open House to get community input and concerns prior to finalizing future airport (and surrounding area) development plans. The proposed plans will be given to the city council this June. Your input matters! Please drop in and convey your perspectives and concerns of residents who live near the airport. You will be especially impacted by development that occurs in this area.

And submit your feedback to: AirportDevelopment@livermoreca.gov

When: Tuesday, April 9, 4pm-7pm, at Livermore Airport, 680 Terminal Circle.

“Hope for Harrowing Times” Revisited
Richard Ernst, Livermore

I would like to comment on the Mailbox posting, March 26, entitled “Hope for

Harrowing Times”. While I honor the writer’s sharing his particular religious perspective, I’m saddened that he did so by disparaging the faith perspectives of others.

Our community is enriched with a wide variety of faith traditions. Though our theologies, histories, and devotional practices may differ, we share much in common — a commitment to love, kindness, generosity, justice, peace, serving those in need, and caring for the earth.

Our Tri-Valley is blessed by Interfaith Interconnect, a group whose mission is to enrich, inform, and educate our various faith communities with regard to the great diversity of faiths and cultures in our valley. Our faith communities are not in competition with one another, but rather aspire to live in mutual respect, and have a desire to learn from one another. It is in that spirit that our various faith traditions can together bring healing in our very divided world.

That spirit also seems to me more helpful than the letter writer’s closing assertion that one faith only equals heaven, while “unbelief” equals hell. In truth, are we not all pilgrims on one journey, seeking to promote love, peace, and justice in our communities and world?

Facts for Downtown Project
Maureen S. Hamm, Livermore

I am writing to correct some errors and misstatements that Mr. Soules made in his recent letter opposing the Eden Housing project long planned for Livermore’s downtown. Here are some facts:

The writer claims there are three alternative sites for Eden, but he is wrong. 1) The city-owned Pacific Avenue site has already been approved for low-income senior housing and will soon be in progress. You can contact Interfaith Housing Inc. www.ifhlivermore.org for more information. 2) The privately-owned Legacy Apartments are market rate, with studio apartments ranging from \$2,745-\$3,278, which is vastly unaffordable for our low-income neighbors. For more information, see www.legacylivermore.com/plans-availability. Legacy describes them as “luxury apartments,” and Mr. Soule’s claim that they could simply be converted to subsidized housing challenges reality and current laws protecting landowners from the unlawful taking of property.

And finally, his last unviable suggestion. 3) The privately owned properties on the corner of Railroad and L St. have small businesses and numerous non-profit tenants including the Tri-Valley Haven Food Pantry, their Thrift Store and the Tri-Valley Non-Profit Alliance which

provides space for other small non-profits. If you want to see the good work that these organizations do for our homeless and low-income neighbors, you can check out their websites.

Affordable housing takes years of planning. The City of Livermore has worked collaboratively to bring us Chestnut Square (for seniors and families), Avance (for developmentally disabled adults) and Vineyard 2.0 (for homeless people.) The Livermore Downtown project will be a worthy addition to the city’s commitment to provide affordable housing.

The Final Ten Days of Ramadan
Abdul Awwal, Pleasanton

We are in the final ten days of Ramadan. For a Muslim, these are very important days. Some follow the example of the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) and retreat into a space within the mosque for these days. This practice, also known as ‘itikaaf,’ allows one to experience intense meditation, contemplation, and connection with the Creator to gain a new outlook on life. The Qur’an was revealed in one of these nights, which is known as the Night of Power or Laylat al-Qadr. There is a desire for a Muslim to be able to spend this night in worship, as the Qur’an says (chapter or sura 97), it will be as if he worshipped for a thousand nights. After 29 or 30 days of fasting in the month of Ramadan, comes the biggest annual celebration for a Muslim, known as Eid al-Fitr. You can also find a U.S. postage stamp celebrating this holiday. It is the biggest celebration because there is a great struggle of fasting for 30 days to get to this day. Students will usually ask permission from their teachers to take the day off. If you have a Muslim co-worker, it will be nice to facilitate for them to take the day off and reschedule important meetings. If you have a Muslim co-worker, ask him or her how they celebrate this day. You will be surprised how it varies from country to country, but you may be able to experience the day if you find a holiday open house near you and get invited to celebrate.

A Larger Central Downtown Park and More Downtown Housing
Greg Scott, Livermore

We need to work together on a Livermore downtown plan that benefits all in Livermore and the region. Let’s get over the animosities and figure it out. The 4-story Eden Housing Project is better located on the north side of Railroad Avenue. This plan has a number of advantages, including a larger central downtown park that is

of greater overall aesthetics and attraction for everyone in Livermore’s central core area, and allows room for more units in the Eden Housing Project to meet increasing housing needs.

Do we really need to dig our heels in to counter the will of a large number of citizens and an appeals ruling from a court of law? Let’s move forward and realize we can have an improved situation with a change in the Eden Housing Project’s location and a park with more open area.

We in Livermore can do better than turning our downtown into a Fremont or a Dublin. The idea of an adequate open area in a central core has been intrinsic to American cities for over a century of legacies in urban core design. An example would be New York City’s 33,000-square-foot Zuccotti Park in the Financial District of Lower Manhattan, which has been used for events and community celebrations. Livermore, too, can have a comparable central core heritage and an additional event staging area.

It is crucial to a community to have well-placed, central, open gathering areas along with well-situated low-income housing. What we have in Livermore is an opportunity to build and landscape the downtown central core area in an enhanced fashion for many generations of enjoyment. This opportunity only occurs once.

What Does July 4th Really Mean?
Patricia Munro, Livermore

This past week the news dropped that Livermore will no longer hold the long running July 4th fireworks displays. The reasons for those changes are explained on the city website (www.livermoreca.gov/Home/Components/News/News/1016/3774) and they are compelling. Nevertheless, it is sad when a long-running tradition ends and worth a moment to remember the past. The fireworks displays have taken place at Robertson Park, the Sunken Gardens, downtown Livermore, and even—that one time—at Las Positas Community College. Some of us remember bringing toddlers who grew into teens and then adults with their own children to ooh and aah at the colors and creativity in the sky.

Yet, in recent years, fire in the sky — no matter how controlled and beautiful—evokes memories of other uncontrolled fires, of skies a strange and terrible orange. And so maybe it is time to reimagine the meaning of July 4th.

On July 4, 1776, the Second Continental Congress unanimously adopted the Declaration of Independence, making July 4th the

birthday of the United States. How do we celebrate birthdays? Taking stock of what we have done in the past year and how we have (or have not) lived up to our values, giving or receiving gifts from loved ones, and celebrating together with a party.

Translating an individual’s birthday celebration to celebrating a country’s birthday could look like:

Competitions or performances that focus on the values and themes expressed in the Declaration of Independence, either as aspirations for the future or reflections on the past.

Giving back to the US through service of some kind.

And the all-important party with music, food, and dance that represents the full range of the American experience.

Finally, having a place to tell each other individual American stories and, perhaps, keep those tales as a record for the future.

None of the above has the (literal) bang of the fireworks. But perhaps being together to work, play, and learn together is a truer way to celebrate the birthday of the United States.

Let Kids Be Kids
James Cable, Livermore

The article about e-bikes along the Arroyo Mocho Trail made me laugh for a number of reasons. First, for the most part, ebikes are not classified in California as motorized or motor vehicles. Second, when I grew up, we built bike tracks and jumps all the time. Don’t we want our kids to be outdoors and be creative? We have gotten way too structured about letting kids be kids. I love the environment and don’t want it damaged, but what the kids are doing is not a problem. There used to be a great set of jumps and tracks in that location 20 years ago. Then some overprotective lawyer had them removed because someone broke an arm and they were worried that the city would be sued. Losing the jumps was sad for all the kids and adults who regularly used them and was unnecessary. Mountain bikers have created trails all over this great country without causing environmental disasters. Lastly, can’t we all relax and realize that there are many ways to enjoy the outdoors? The thing that you do outdoors may bug someone else. So let’s stop getting our knickers in a twist and cheer on kids having fun and staying out of trouble.

Holy War
Glen White, Dublin

As a Christian who’s familiar with many religions from reading history, I know Jesus is the second greatest prophet in Islam after Mohamed (peace be upon

him). I hope Abdul Annwal (March 21) intentionally excluded that fact out of respect for Christians who do not view Jesus as a prophet, but as the Spirit made flesh in the Only Begotten Son (John 1:1-18) when Abdul used Jesus’s Islamic title: “The Spirit of God”.

I also hope he read my “Dreams” letter (March 21) describing the coming Darkness. I hope he understands that Abrahamic religions that have different names for our god, but one name for our enemy, Satan, have been seized by Satan because World War II was a race war and World War III is a religious war. Therefore, this Darkness is unlike WWII but like Star Wars, where the Dark Side of “the force”: Satan also fights against the Light Side of “the force”: God. The Darkness is purposely set in motion by evil fascists, who serve Satan, and the incredibly stupid “Useful Idiots”, who hate God as much as themselves.

I suspect Abdul is a righteous Jihadi, serving God and his Prophet (peace be upon him) as I am a worthless sinner trying to be a righteous crusader serving God and His Son, Jesus Christ. From reading Abdul’s ecumenical messages (March 28), I believe so. If so, I salute you, Abdul, in our common spiritual Holy War against Satan.

I don’t know if Putin, the evil genius and master spy, leaked Hamas’ Satanic plan to Netanyahu, assuring the Palestinian holocaust, Biden’s loss and America’s defeat in Cold War II where fascist Russia brings down American Democracy to install fascism. And that’s just the beginning of the Darkness. In Cold War I, Reagan defeated Soviet communism to introduce democracy. Unlike Putin, we didn’t follow up and were too stupid to keep democracy in Russia just like the Allies, after WWI, were too stupid to keep democracy in Germany.

“Useful Idiots” who haven’t learned the lessons of history are condemned to repeat them. Those who play the “Useful Idiots” have learned the lessons of history and are determined to repeat them. I’d rather be a religious nut than a “Useful Idiot” throwing a childish tantrum. They blame Democrats as Republicans laugh at them. Ask a Republican when she stops laughing so hard. It’s how Satan and fascism work together.

What’s a Postman?
Patricia Thorstad, Livermore

The little one asked this question after the people of her village talked about this man arriving there.

The second protagonist of this 1997 movie repeated this question to the first protagonist, this man with the leather

(See MAILBOX, page 5)



Dublin's Easter EggStravaganza brought egg-citement to all at Heritage Park. (Photo – Doug Jorgensen)

MAYOR

(Continued from front page)

million to the city annually to meet the community’s growing financial burdens. “In short, our city is facing some tough decisions,” she said. “The city’s revenues have not kept up with our increased costs and significant revenue needs.” In response, the city has created a survey to help gauge the community’s input on ways to maintain the city’s essential services, such as public

ty of good news to report. Offering what Brown called a “snapshot of the city,” the mayor, who is a 32-year resident, touched on topics such as housing and the city’s efforts to balance the state’s affordable housing demands with the community’s need to create a city enjoyed by all. “We know quality of life is closely tied to the ability to live in a home where you feel safe and secure,” said

in Livermore that Pleasanton has helped to fund. It offers shelter and respite for unhoused individuals and victims of abuse. She also applauded the city’s local diversity events, such Dia de los Muertos. “I’m proud to be a mayor of a community that helps ... and (proud) that we embrace a cultural diversity that creates One Pleasanton,” she said. The mayor went on to

History Series Highlights Livermore

Historian Alan Frank will give a presentation entitled “Livermore in the Wild Old Days” on Tuesday, April 30 at 7 p.m. in the Storytime Room of the Civic Center Library, 1188 S. Livermore Ave. Mr. Frank will discuss Livermore historical events that are not likely

to be found in history books. This presentation is part of Then & Now: Livermore Stories, a local history lecture series co-presented by the Livermore Public Library and the Livermore Heritage Guild. Registration is not required to attend this free program for adults

Dublin

Artists Call for Utility Box Art Designs

Dublin is accepting design proposals from professional artists or high school students working under the supervision of an art teacher or art professional for the city’s 2024 Utility Box Art Project. The project is a public-art program that adds “color and character to Dublin’s streets,” according to the city, while discouraging graffiti and vandalism. More than 50 traffic-signal utility boxes have been painted thus far. This year, the city will decorate four more utility boxes near the Parks Reserve Forces Training Area, also known as Camp Parks, and Dublin is encouraging artists to submit

proposals that honor Camp Parks’ past, present, and future. With an “Out of this World” theme this year, Dublin said artists should be “as creative as possible when developing mind-blowing images and designs ... unlike anything the city already has in town.” Artists whose proposals are selected by the city will receive \$1,000 for each utility box painted. Proposals must be submitted to recreation coordinator Shelby Perry by midnight, Friday, April 16. To review past designs, go to dublin.ca.gov/utilityboxart.



Pleasanton Mayor Karla Brown delivered her State of the City address last week at the Palm Event Center in Pleasanton. (Photo Courtesy: Nina Pomeroy Photography)

safety, road repair and maintenance, stormwater systems, parks and economic vitality. “No decisions have been made yet,” Brown added. “(But) to make our future plans possible and to offer quality city services, we are focused on funding our future through reduced expenses and belt tightening.” There was, however, plen-

Brown, who touted the city’s housing programs, such as local homebuyer programs that offer financial support for first-time homebuyers and the acceptance of accessory dwelling units on properties owned by residents as a way to keep people in town and in homes. Regionally, the city supports such programs as Tri-Valley Haven, a program

acknowledge the city’s life science businesses, such as Genentech and Unchained Labs, as vital components to the city and its future. On the topic of economic growth, Brown reassured the audience that Costco is on track to open at the end of the year, despite some weather-related delays to the project on Johnson Drive. She also drew

a correlation between the city’s growth and Pleasanton’s 130th anniversary as a city. “Our quaint little city turned 130 this year,” said Brown, who added that a celebration on June 21 will include a special concert downtown. She also praised the city’s outreach team that connects homeless residents with needed services. “If you are a resident, you will rarely see a homeless person in Pleasanton and that is the result of that outreach program,” said Brown. “This is a program that includes a licensed clinician on calls to reduce the need for police presence.” Brown said the program has been so successful that 72-hour holds, which allow a person with mental challenges to be involuntarily detained for a 72-hour psychiatric evaluation, have been reduced by more than 50%. The city’s climate action plan includes proposals to reduce greenhouse gases and emissions and to enhance the environment as it prepares for climate changes. One

of Pleasanton’s strategies involves the elimination of gas-powered leaf blowers to reduce carbon emissions. In closing, Brown said, “Looking to the city and the future, we will be focused on the residents’ priorities, including police services and fire protection, and ensuring reliable and clean drinking water and quality streets and roads and providing services to youth and seniors, along with a strong local economy. This is our shared future, when you work together as

One Pleasanton.” To take the city’s survey, visit cityofpleasantonca.gov.

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MAILBOX

(Continued from page 4)

jacket sporting details this little child-girl had never seen: epaulettes, appliqué patches, extreme wear. David Brin wrote “The Postman” years ago, which became a major movie that was criticized for the messianic theme it couldn’t help having with the Actor Kevin Costner heavily involved in the production. This adult-girl has another question: What’s a Proletariat? Is that the system the Soviet Union created to differentiate it from communism? Draft 1: Proof-Reader Number 2’s Advice, my first Ukrainian friend: Wrong; find proletariat and replace with communist; the communist society is an ideology, whereas proletariat is a social class. You well explain that you do not believe, under a communist system, and, it is most likely, that the govern-

ment will benefit from “your talents” and not yourself. Proof-Reader Number 1, my first husband. So, if I lived in Soviet Russia as a teenager, having the same history, being a very accurate typist at my local newspaper, as a communist, the editor, Bob, the head communist, might have offered me a “better” opportunity for a career than me leaving for college after high school. He might have recognized the talent that I had at graphics (check, in America, a graphic artist, after college,) or my writing ability. My friend Susan, who commuted and worked at the newspaper with me on Saturdays, told me years later that I was a good writer, which I didn’t recognize until she complimented me on it. So the chance opportuni-

ty of leaving my home to go on to additional schooling with my friend Susan, and actually co-opting her career, would have been stifled in a communist system. With it, you are supposed to recognize your inherent talents are not yours, they are the state’s. And there you go... the Russian oligarchy has absorbed Czarist Russia’s humanity and made it a servant of their enterprises, which were despoiled to the point that Russian boys and men were co-opted into the “training mission” into Belarus more than two years ago. Timeline (defense.gov): Entry 1, page down, down, down: Feb. 24, 2022; Russia invades Ukraine. Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin III orders (immediate) deployment of 7,000 U.S. military personnel...

Bringing Back the Annual Natives Garden Tour to Include Livermore

Five gardens in Livermore will be on this year’s Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour on Saturday and Sunday, May 4 and 5. The showcase gardens belong to Laura Cornet and Brad Buehler, Maria and David Dawson, Carol and Jeff Garberson, Carol and Don Hardesty, and Jennifer Hurley and Dan Gaff. The 20th annual tour of native plant gardens will get underway with online tours and talks on Saturday and Sunday, April 6 and 7, with in-person tours the follow-

ing weekend. The tours will also showcase green-home features, according to tour organizers. More than 50 gardens and green-homes in Alameda and Contra Costa counties are participating in this year’s virtual and in-person tours, which are free and open to the public. Conservationist and author Douglas Tallamy, a professor in the Department of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology at the University of Delaware, will give the keynote speech on April 6, fol-

lowed by two days of online tours featuring native plant gardens that attract birds, bees, and butterflies, and talks by gardening experts. Green-home features will include such technology as solar panels and backup batteries, heat pumps for heating water and both heating and cooling the house, and induction ranges. The in-person tours will be the following weekend between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. To register for the event, or for more information, go to bringingbackthenatives.net.

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Pam Tillis to Lead Off Spring Concerts at Bankhead Theater

Pam Tillis, the daughter of country music icon Mel Tillis, and her Acoustic Trio will perform at the Bankhead Theater in Livermore on Wednesday, April 10.

Tillis began her career as a pop singer in the 1980s, before following her father into the country genre, reaching the Hot Country Songs top 40 for the first time with “Don’t Tell Me What to Do” in 1990.

She won a Grammy Award for Best Country Collaboration in 1999 for “Same Old Train,” performing with such country stars as Clint Black, Merle Haggard, Earl Scruggs, Randy Travis, and others.

She was also named Female Vocalist of the Year in 1994 by the Country Music Association and was inducted into the Grand Ole Opry in 2000.

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

Another music legend, Roger McGuinn, frontman and founder of The Byrds, will take the stage at the

Bankhead on Friday, April 12.

McGuinn is best known for his vocals on such ‘60s hits as “Turn, Turn, Turn,” “Eight Miles High,” and “Mr. Tambourine Man,” and his solo version of the “Ballad of Easy Rider” from the 1969 film, “Easy Rider.” He also released a series of solo albums in the 1970s, following the breakup of The Byrds.

Tickets for the 8 p.m. “Songs and Stories with Roger McGuinn” start at \$25.

Following McGuinn appearance, on Saturday, April 20, the Bankhead Theater will welcome Paula Cole, whose Grammy-nominated single, “Where Have All the Cowboys Gone?” reached the Billboard Hot 100 Top 10 in 1997. She received the Grammy Award for Best New Artist in 1998.

Another of Cole’s hits, “I Don’t Want to Watch,” was the theme song for the popular teen drama “Dawson’s Creek,” which ran from 1998

to 2003.

Her latest studio album, “Lo,” her first collection of entirely original songs in a decade, was released earlier this year.

Tickets for “An Evening with Paula Cole” begin at \$25. The show begins at 8 p.m.

Moving into May, Roy Rogers and The Delta Rhythm Kings are scheduled for 8 p.m. on Friday, May 10.

Rogers, born in Redding and raised in the Bay Area, is best known for his virtuoso work on the slide guitar.

During the ‘80s, he played with John Lee Hooker’s Coast to Coast Band and produced the Grammy Award-winning album, “The Healer.” He also formed the Delta Rhythm Kings in 1980.

Tickets for the 8 p.m. performance start at \$25.

Closing out the spring concerts presented by Livermore Valley Arts will be an afternoon Mother’s Day performance on Sunday, May 12, by award-winning composer and pianist Jason Lyle Black.

Black, who grew up in Livermore, will take the audience on a journey across musical genres, from Broadway classics to iconic movies themes to classical masterpieces, season with comedic stories like “Songs Not to Play at People’s Weddings and Funerals.”

Tickets to the 3 p.m. performance, “From Blockbusters to Broadway 100 Hits,” begin at \$25.

Tickets for all shows in the 2023-2024 Bankhead Presents season are available online at livermorearts.org, by calling 925-373-6800, or at the Bankhead Theater box office, 2400 First St.



Pam Tillis (Photo courtesy of Livermore Valley Arts)

EDEN

(Continued from front page)

beyond popular challenge is of direct relevance to the entire affordable housing industry and to the thousands of families hoping to find housing in this state.”

Referendum organizers were pleased with the court’s denial, but had concerns that the city may try to circumvent a vote on the referendum.

“We remain skeptical that the city will move forward with the referendum. The city appears to want to avoid hearing the will of the community,” said Richard Ryon, a Livermore resident who served as a plaintiff in the lawsuit against the city and Eden, and who helped file the referendum on behalf of the community group Move Eden Housing (MEH).

Eden Housing proposes to build two four-story apartment buildings on the site bounded by South L Street, Railroad Avenue, the extension of K Street and Veterans Way in downtown Livermore. The project would provide 130 affordable housing units, ranging from one to three bedrooms, and develop a public community park in between the buildings.

The Livermore City Council passed in May 2022 a resolution that approved an agreement to transfer the project site to Eden Housing. The agreement included a \$7.8 million 3% interest loan from the city to Eden to be paid over 55 years for purchase of the property, a limitation on liability for up to \$4.3 million for cleanup of contamination at the site, and a \$5.5 million contribution to develop a park.

MEH contended that the project, as proposed, would harm the character of the city’s downtown and suggested moving the development just north of Railroad Avenue, where the prospective site could support even more housing units.

MEH submitted a referendum petition to the city in July 2022 signed by 8,053

voters — above the required minimum of 5,702 signatures — that sought to put the city council’s approval to a public vote.

Livermore City Clerk Marie Weber, on the advice of City Attorney Jason Alcalá, declined to verify the signatures at the time, reasoning that the city council’s approval was administrative and therefore not subject to a referendum.

Legislative actions establish policies, while administrative actions execute them.

Weber’s decision prompted MEH to take its case to the Alameda County Superior Court that August. Superior Court Judge Michael Markman sided with the city, ruling that Weber had responded appropriately.

But last month, the California 1st District Court of Appeal overruled Markman and issued an opinion that the clerk must process the resolution, because she did not have the authority to make the legal determination that it was administrative. In addition, the court ruled that in fact, the resolution was legislative and therefore subject to a referendum.

While an unpublished section of the Court of Appeal opinion characterized the \$7.8 million loan and the \$4.3 million liability cap as administrative acts, the opinion found the \$5.5 million payment for the park rendered the entire city resolution to be legislative and therefore subject to referendum.

Eden’s March 25 request sought to publish the section of the opinion regarding the administrative interpretation, thereby making it available for citation in future litigation.

Linda Mandolini, Eden Housing CEO, said, “The law should be making it easier to build affordable housing. No one should have to suffer the unnecessary delays that have been inflicted on this project. The city acquired this land

with funding designated for affordable housing, put in place all of the necessary zoning to build it as affordable housing and selected a developer to build affordable housing and then continued to unanimously vote to support it. These homes would be occupied by now if the lawsuits hadn’t gotten in the way of our capacity to build them. Eden Housing will continue to work with the city to find a path forward.”

If the referendum signatures were verified, the city will have the option to either put the resolution approving the Eden Housing project on the ballot for Livermore voters to decide, or to repeal the resolution.

Ryon said, “We suspect that the city will attempt to evade a vote on the referendum by repealing the resolution that approved the loan and by adopting a different resolution approving a new version of the loan that removes the park funding component, in order to argue that the new agreement is not legislative. Such an action would circumvent the will of Livermore’s voters and we urge the city council not to do this.”

Ryon added that the Elections Code prohibits the city from reapproving an action challenged by the referendum for at least one year following a repeal or vote.

“This rule prevents cities from undermining voters’ constitutionally protected rights to referendum by simply re-adopting a piece of legislation that is essentially the same, but no longer subject to a vote,” said Ryon. “We hope the city does not take this course.”

“We think Livermore can develop a better downtown plan that will meet the needs of the community to build a remarkable park in the heart of the city, and also provide even more affordable units just across the street. We need to bring the community together with a downtown plan that is a win for everyone.”



Pleasanton’s Museum on Main and the Pleasanton Art League opened their annual showcase with “Imagination Expressed 2024”. Above art work: Mishra, The Beginning, MATSYA. (Photo courtesy of Pleasanton’s Museum on Main and the Pleasanton Art League)

GAS

(Continued from front page)

“This technology is not just an innovative approach to energy generation; it has the potential to be a versatile solution that aligns with California’s vision for carbon neutrality by 2045,” said Jawaad Malik, chief strategy and sustainability officer at what is commonly known as SoCalGas.

Simon Pang, a materials scientist at LLNL’s Materials Science Division, will head the two-year, \$2 million project. He said the hope is to “enable decarbonization of the natural gas grid.”

Once renewable electricity is used to separate hydrogen from water, the project enlists microbes to combine that hydrogen with carbon dioxide from the air to create methane, the key component of natural gas.

SoCalGas, which serves 21 million customers in Central and Southern California, provided about \$1 million to the project, which is also funded by the U.S. Department of Energy.

If developed, the technology could increase the amount of RNG pro-

duced from carbon dioxide sources, including landfills, dairies, fermentation facilities, and anaerobic digesters that break down food scraps, fats, oils and greases, industrial organic residuals and sewage sludge.

“We’re still in the scale up and piloting phase,” Pang said. “We’ve demonstrated proof of concept. We know that we can put in carbon dioxide. We can put in electricity, along with the microbes, and they will turn it into methane. We’re doing that in the lab at a small scale. What’s needed is to make a size that actually produces enough methane that somebody could actually use.”

If successful, the single unit producing both hydrogen from electricity and then methane from hydrogen would demonstrate cost efficiencies necessary for larger-scale applications.

The produced gas could eventually be used to fuel a natural gas-powered vehicle, or flow through pipelines to heaters and appliances that currently use natural gas, said Pang.

“It’s likely going to be more expensive, even in the long term. But you know, the benefit is that we’re not getting the fossil natural gas out of the ground,” Pang said. “It depends on what we value as a society. If we want to be able to avoid getting stuff out of the ground, then we may have to pay a little bit more for this.”

Joining SoCalGas and LLNL is Electrochaea, a firm headquartered in Germany that provides technology to produce synthetic methane.

Doris Hafenbradl, the company’s chief technology officer and managing director, said the company is committed to “contributing to a secure, affordable, and environmentally friendly energy supply now and in the future.”

“The new, highly efficient single stage bioreactor is an essential asset in this endeavor,” Hafenbradl said. “We are excited to collaborate with SoCalGas and Lawrence Livermore, our esteemed long-term partners who are undisputed leaders in their respective fields.”

FCI

(Continued from front page)

According to officials, Nunley threatened one victim who made a complaint against him, telling her she could be transferred to another prison. He told another inmate that if she wanted to stay at UNICOR, she had to pull down her underwear and bend over. When she did, he slapped her buttocks.

U.S. District Court Judge Yvonne Gonzalez Rogers imposed the sen-

tence in one of several cases she has overseen. The case list includes the institution’s former warden and a chaplain, along with other correctional officers.

FCI Dublin is a low-security women’s prison with about 635 inmates.

Rogers, who serves at the federal courthouse in Oakland, is also overseeing a class-action suit filed on behalf of inmates by the California Coalition for

Women Prisoners. Rogers paid an unannounced visit to the prison in February and said she will appoint a special master to monitor the troubled facility that became notorious in recent years for sexual abuse allegations against its staff. Last month, officials at the Federal Bureau of Prisons assigned a new warden and administration to the institution.

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Chase Spruill (Photo courtesy of the Livermore-Amador Symphony)

Symphony to Present Spring Concert April 13

The Livermore-Amador Symphony will present its spring concert, “Butterflies and Brahms,” on Saturday, April 13, at the Bankhead Theater in downtown Livermore.

The 7:30 p.m. program will open with “D’un matin de printemps,” or “Of a Spring Morning,” the last orchestral work completed by French composer Lili Boulanger before her death

in 1919 at the age of 24.

Violinist Chase Spruill will also join the orchestra to perform the “Butterfly Lovers Violin Concerto” by Chinese composers He Zhanhao and Chen Gang.

Based on a Chinese legend of lost love and written for Western orchestras, the composition features a violin solo played using traditional Chinese techniques.

The orchestra’s music

director and conductor, Lara Webber, describes the composition as “a perfect balance of Western harmony with the sounds and melodies of Chinese traditional opera.”

After the intermission, the orchestra will play German composer Johannes Brahms’ final symphony, Symphony No. 4, first performed in 1885.

Webber calls the symphony “a towering compo-

sitional achievement that truly captures the sum of [Brahms’] incredible musical genius and skill.”

Prior to the concert, Webber will discuss the selected pieces in an “Inside the Music” talk in the Bankhead Theater lobby from 7 p.m. to 7:15 p.m. The orchestra will also host a complementary reception in the lobby following the performance.

Tickets start at \$28 with 21 and younger admitted free.

Tickets are available online at livermoreamadorsymphony.org or at the Bankhead Theater box office, 2400 First St.

The symphony is a nonprofit organization that presented its first concert in 1964. It presents four concerts annually, as well as a fundraising “Pops” concert in the fall.

WASTEWATER

(Continued from front page)

At the heart of the matter is the Bay Area’s struggle against harmful algal blooms, which have plagued the bay in recent years. These blooms deplete oxygen in the water, posing a threat to fish and other marine life. The blooms are fueled by nitrogen, a natural byproduct of human waste, which wastewater treatment plants work to minimize before discharging water into the bay.

Wastewater from Dublin and Pleasanton and part of San Ramon is processed at DSRSD facilities, while Livermore has its own treatment center.

The Bay Area-wide cost estimate depends on whether the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board imposes stricter regulations this year on the volume of nutrients, such as nitrogen, that are allowed to flow from wastewater treatment facilities into the bay.

The decision could come later this year, as the board issues a new watershed permit to Bay Area wastewater treatment agencies. Officials are focusing on ways to pre-

vent harmful algal blooms like those that occurred in the bay in 2022 and 2023, which depleted the oxygen available for fish.

“We know that by reducing nutrients (nitrogen), we’re not going to be able to stop algal blooms from ever happening, but the hope is we can reduce their magnitude and extent,” said Lorien Fono, executive director of the Bay Area Clean Water Agencies (BACWA), which includes the DSRSD among its members.

According to BACWA, just 14 of 37 Bay Area wastewater treatment facilities have enhanced nutrient removal, with others implementing upgrades. BACWA estimates that the necessary upgrades could cost the region over \$11 billion, or \$4,000 per household. The water board hopes to reduce nutrients flowing into the bay by 50% over the next decade.

Jan Lee, DSRSD’s general manager, said that the agency, in partnership with the East Bay Municipal Utility District, is already meeting the demand to reduce nutri-

ents sent out to sea with its recycling program. During the last 20 years, DSRSD has recycled 20 billion gallons of water, piping it for irrigation use at schools, golf courses, parks and other public spaces.

“It’s a source of sustainable, climate resilient, drought resilient supply, and the other benefit is it’s wastewater that’s not being discharged to San Francisco Bay,” Lee said. “During the summer months — which are the months that are the bay’s most vulnerable to the risk of algal blooms — we essentially recycle about 60 to 80% of our flow. The 60 to 80% of our flow stays in the Tri-Valley region.”

The remaining percentage is largely discharged during the winter and spring, Lee said.

“The water board is focused on the summer months, because the summer months are really when the concern is about the algal blooms in the bay,” Lee said. “The permit will regulate summertime discharges and this is why it matches up so well with our recycled water program.”

Lee said DSRSD hopes the water board will be flexible in how it issues nutrient requirements, instead of issuing a blanket order.

“If the water board comes down too stringently on these requirements, we might be forced to add (wastewater treatment) or improvements at the treatment plant, and that would be \$54 million,” Lee said. “So, we’re working very closely with the wastewater community and the water board to make sure this permit really supports recycled water programs as a strategy. We think that multi-benefit, recycled water projects are one of the most effective ways to address this nutrient issue. But we need flexibility in the permit.”

BACWA said it is committed to science-based strategies to reduce the nutrient levels in wastewater discharged to the bay, while balancing necessary upgrades at treatment plants.

Lee said DSRSD customers have already invested \$240 million over the years in its recycling program.

Cultural Arts Council Will Host ‘Night in Paris’

The Pleasanton Cultural Arts Council will hold a fundraiser, dubbed “A Night in Paris,” at the Veterans Memorial Building, 301 Main St., Pleasanton, from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. on Saturday, April 13.

The event will include Parisian-themed items for sale, silent

auction, tarot card reader, a cheese and baguette spread, and the big band sound of The Cool Tunes. Beer and wine will also be available.

The silent auction will end at 9 p.m., with the music and dancing continuing until 10 p.m. The Cool Tunes is an East Bay formed in 1997.

The nonprofit Pleasanton Cultural Arts Council supports public art and cultural events in the city, including an Arts in Action grant program for Pleasanton schools.

Tickets for the fundraiser are \$80 and are available online at pleasantonarts.org.

SUPERINTENDENT

(Continued from front page)

Schaack’s leadership during such challenging times as the pandemic and budget shortfalls will be sorely missed.

“Chris has been such an integral part of our district for so long that it’s hard to imagine him not being here,” Prusso said in the district’s statement. “He has navigated us through so much ...and has put us on a great path for continued success. We will greatly miss his wisdom and steady leadership, but respect and support his desire to enjoy other aspects of his life in

retirement.”

Board Clerk Kristie Wang echoed Prusso’s comments.

“Chris takes a data-driven approach to decision making and has led our district with a clear, steady hand,” Wang stated. “We have truly benefited from his leadership and have been fortunate to have him hold so many important roles in our district. We wish him all the best.”

Van Schaack said he was grateful for the opportunity to serve the Livermore community and was appreciative of the collective efforts of staff

and educational partners in shaping the district’s success. LVJUSD serves about 13,000 students in 18 schools.

“The best part about being here so long has been watching many of my former students return to our community and build amazing families and careers themselves,” he stated. “Knowing that I may have played some small role in their success is incredibly satisfying. Many now have children in our schools, and support us as parents, which is part of what makes Livermore so special.”

The LVJUSD board will begin the search for a replacement immediately and hopes to have a new superintendent in place by July 1, before the start of the 2024-2025 school year. A special board meeting was held last Saturday to discuss plans to fill the superintendent vacancy. Updates will be available online where the public can also share their thoughts on qualities they would like to see in the district’s next leader.

For more information, visit www.livermore-schools.org.

CRAYONS

(Continued from front page)

DenBroeder met Lori Deselms, Vice President of the Crayon Initiative Board of Directors, last year at the annual Make a Difference for Pleasanton Festival, a day devoted to volunteerism and community service networking. Deselms also volunteers for the Crayon Initiative.

“I’ve been going (to the festival) for a number of years,” DenBroeder said, “just trying to find something that the residents can do on an ongoing basis that gives a purpose every day.”

Heritage residents have done everything from tying fleece blankets to knitting hats, but when DenBroeder learned about the Crayon Initiative from Deselms that day, she knew she was onto something her residents would take to. “(Deselms) was talking about sorting crayons. And I heard it had been done in another memory care community in Pleasanton (Carefield).”

From that day forward, Heritage has been actively involved in supporting the Crayon Initiative. Residents

sort crayons, build crayon boxes, and even visit the warehouse periodically to load crayons into boxes, finding new purpose in life by meeting the therapeutic needs of children.

Deselms said, “To date, we’ve actually produced and shipped about 830,000 crayon packs to children’s hospitals across the United States. We like to translate that to 830,000 smiles from the pediatric patients we’ve been able to touch.” Their goal is to hit one million packs of crayons by the end of the calendar year.

DenBroeder said Heritage residents love this organization so much, and love the kids it supports. “I can’t tell you how many times I hear residents say, ‘It’s for the kids.’”

They got behind the Crayon Initiative with a frenzy, literally, as part of their Fitness Frenzy month in February, designed to encourage residents to be more active. It’s also a fundraiser where residents choose the charity of their choice. Heritage raised \$10,173.50,

which they gifted to the Crayon Initiative recently in a ceremony at the residence.

Deselms said her organization was astonished. “They raised over \$10,000. We were like holy moly, that’s just phenomenal.” One man pulled her aside to tell her that he and several residents opted out of a trip to the casinos and wanted to donate the money they would have spent on the excursion to the Crayon Initiative instead. “What a wonderful, selfless sacrifice, along with their gift of time. It’s very heartwarming.”

DenBroeder said it’s clear to her that the project brings as much value and sense of purpose to her residents, as the joy and therapeutic benefit it brings to the pediatric patients for whom the crayons are used to help alleviate the stress and anxiety they feel when hospitalized.

“Some residents have trouble with their eyes or their hands or have cognitive challenges. But there’s always a job they can do,” whether it’s sorting crayons

or box-building, she said. “And they’re working together. It will never be off the calendar, as far as I’m concerned. Every Thursday, we’re sorting and building boxes, and if something more is needed, then we’ll do it.”

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Suicide, Crisis Line Works to Improve Tri-Valley Response

By Sarah Peters

The suicide and crisis hotline, known as the 988 Lifeline, has been working to further its presence in the Tri-Valley and solve a technical issue with its operation here.

When individuals in Alameda County call the hotline from the 925 area code, a call-routing problem sometimes dispatches them to Contra Costa County, even though there are services available here.

“This does create a challenge, or confusion, in the Tri-Valley area where the 925 area code primarily goes to the Contra Costa crisis center, unless the phone is explicitly registered in Alameda County,” said Narges Dillon, director of Crisis Support Services with Alameda County Behavioral Health and the Alameda County Division of 988. “We partner closely with the Contra Costa center, and we know for a fact they are receiving some calls from 925 folks from Dublin, Pleasanton and Livermore.”

Alameda and Contra Costa County do share resources and work closely together, but the area code is inconsistent, an issue that Dillon and counselors have worked to resolve through attentive care, such as asking callers where they are located, and where they would like to be referred to for care.

The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) and other organizations have pushed for nationwide action on this issue in new legislation proposing

“georouting” based on physical location at the time of the call.

NAMI and 41 other organizations, in a March 20 letter, asked the Department of Health and Human Services and the FCC to make the change. “Because calls to 988 are currently routed to a call center based on area code and not physical location, 988 is limited in its ability to reach its full potential,” they wrote.

“Implementing a georouting solution for 988 would help improve the Lifeline’s impact to address immediate crises and connect those in need to the care they need to get well and stay well after a crisis.”

Marsha McInnis, president of NAMI Tri-Valley, said, “When you’re calling 988, make sure you ask where you are calling and let them know you live in Alameda County.”

There are 12 Lifeline call centers in California, but Dillon said, “The Bay Area is unique in that each county has its own designated 988 center.” In other locales, counties share.

More services are becoming available in the Tri-Valley, said Dillon. “Earlier in the 988 launch, which was two and a half years ago, there were less resources out there, so there was a sense of us feeling like we were scrambling to connect callers to truly local resources, as opposed to making them have to drive out to Oakland to seek services.”

Such services include referrals to local-based care, like Axis Healthcare

in Livermore for mental health counseling and psychiatric care.

Lifeline has been a valuable resource as a suicide and crisis hotline to help communities, as county statistics show a 40% increase in calls from its first year in 2022.

It is not solely used for crisis and individuals considering suicide. Rather, 988 also functions for emotional support for individuals feeling sad, isolated, and unsure of whom to talk to. Dillon shared that only about 10% of callers are in active crisis during a call. Counselors start by listening to the individual’s story, then conduct

a safety assessment and plan to ensure the caller is not in harm. The majority of callers work in collaboration with counselors.

A quarter of calls are actually third party, such as friends and family seeking support for how they can help their loved ones.

If needed, mobile crisis teams are available to visit in person. There is also a text component to 988, as individuals can text the mobile line as well.

While the technology component can cause challenges, Dillon shared two reasons how this can be resolved. First, additional investments can be made

in the Tri-Valley, such as with the 988-run mobile crisis teams, which dispatch behavioral health professionals when in-person responses are needed. Second, telehealth has risen since the 2020 pandemic.

Telehealth services “changed the dynamic,” as Dillon pointed out that in the past, telehealth visits for mental health used to be extremely rare. The organization has also worked to provide community education to reduce stigma, such as presentations at Livermore High School.

As stated, “Additional investments in Tri-Valley combined with telehealth

rising after the pandemic has changed the sense of scarcity that was there before.”

Resource services and support comes from places such as NAMI Tri-Valley and Axis Healthcare in Livermore. Lifeline often refers callers to Axis Healthcare for the Tri-Valley. Axis Healthcare offers free services such as urgent care, in person, or virtual care for mental health. This includes both those with insurance and without. Care can be long term or short term.

“Even if you’re not sure, it’s okay to call,” said Dillon. “We have people here 24/7.”



Tri-Valley wildflower season is in full bloom and expected to run until April 28. (Photo – Doug Jorgensen)

Library Hosts Program on The Art of Bonsai Trees

The Livermore Civic Center Library will host a program on the history and art of bonsai trees at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 25.

The program will be presented by Charles Harder, president of the Valley Bonsai Society, who will also demonstrate the initial styling of a bonsai tree.

Bonsai is the Japanese art of growing and shaping miniature trees in containers.

Harder formed the Livermore-based Valley Bonsai Society in 2008 to bring together local bonsai enthusiasts. For more information, go to valleybonsaisociety.com.



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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 smoke 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](https://www.SoundTheAlarm.org/NCCR) or call 510-595-4573.

CALL TO ARTISTS - OPEN STUDIO TOUR

Exhibit your work at the 3rd Annual Tri-Valley Artist Studio Tour on May 4 and 5. The tour is within five different cities - Pleasanton, Livermore, Dublin, Danville and San Ramon. If you are outside of these cities or your studio isn't appropriate for a tour, there are several group sites available (which fill up quickly). Learn more and sign up at [TVASTart.com](https://www.TVASTart.com).

Friday, April 5

AMERICAN RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

From 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., the City of Dublin will host an American Red Cross blood drive in the Bray Community Room (formerly known as the Regional Meeting Room) at the Dublin Civic Center (100 Civic Plaza). There are plenty of spots still available for those who wish to donate. To make a donation, visit [RedCrossBlood.org](https://www.RedCrossBlood.org). Search “Dublin Community” or zip code “94568” to register. You may also call 1-800-733-2767 for assistance. Every donation collected can save up to three lives. Donors may streamline the donation process by visiting www.redcrossblood.org/rapidpass on the day of the blood drive to complete the pre-donation reading and health history questions.

Saturday and Sunday, April 6–7

QUILT AND ART DISPLAY

Amador Valley Quilters at Alden Lane Out of the Boxers, a friendship group of the Amador Valley Quilters, will host a display of their unique art and challenge quilts on Saturday, April 6 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and on Sunday, April 7 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Please visit www.amadorvalleyquilters.org for more info.

Monday, April 8

LIVERMORE-AMADOR GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY PRESENTS JENNIFER HOLIK

This free program, Exploring the Greatest Generation, Adding Context to the Veteran’s Story, part 2 of 2 in military research will be held April 8 from 7 – 8:30 p.m. (Zoom call begins at 6:30) at Congregation Beth Emek, 3400 Nevada Court, Pleasanton. Jennifer Holik is a genealogical and military research expert, author of more than 20 books on those topics, and an intuitive healer specializing in inherited and war trauma, and ancestral healing. Learn more at www.ancestralsouls-wisdomschool.com. For additional information contact Tom Mathews at program@L-AGS.org.

Tuesday, April 9, 2024

DUBLIN BUSINESS GROWTH PROGRAM

The Dublin Chamber is pleased to announce a new program for Dublin businesses to grow their team and provide valuable training for emerging leaders. Instructed by Steve Lanza, Tri-Valley Advising, and program curriculum provided by Vistage, a nationally recognized advisory board for CEO’s & Business Owners. To be held at Hawthorne Suites, 1700 N. Livermore Ave. N Livermore. For more information, please contact Inge Houston at the Dublin Chamber at 925-828-6200 or inge@dublinchamberofcommerce.org.

Tuesday, April 9

VIRTUAL RECYCLING FORUM

Sadly, many plastics are no longer recyclable in Livermore. You can ask Sheila Fagliano of Livermore Sanitation which bin to use for specific items during Trash Talk II, a Zoom Chat at 7 p.m. on April 9 hosted by St. Bartholomew’s Episcopal Church. For a link to join the meeting, email recycleatlkl@icloud.com.

Monday, April 15

LIVERMORE JAZZ SOCIETY JAM SESSION

LJS is hosting a jam session on April 15 from 6-9 p.m. There will be a house piano, bass amp, and drum kit, as well as mics and sound gear. Attendance is open to all. If interested in attending, please send us an email at: info@livermorejazzsociety.org, and we will reply with the address.

Saturday, April 20

QUILTS OF VALOR FABRIC SALE FUNDRAISER

Non-patriotic cotton fabrics will be sold at \$3 per yard donation to benefit our AVQ QOV group. Also available will be cotton fabric scrap bags great for applique, baby quilt kits and darling panels. There will be a Big Shot Fabric Cutter with dies, overhead light fixture, notions and thread, beautiful books and other craft items. AVQ QOV is affiliated with Amador Valley Quilters Guild and VFW Post 7265. April 20 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Veterans Memorial Hall, 5822 So. L St. at 5th St. In Livermore. Enter at the 5th St. Ramp.

Saturday, April 20

PRESCRIPTION DRUG TAKE-BACK EVENT

Dublin Police will be participating in this year’s national prescription drug “Take-Back Initiative,” on April 20, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., in the parking lot at the Dublin Civic Center (100 Civic Plaza). Only prescription pills, tablets, capsules, and other solid forms of prescription drugs will be accepted, no questions asked. Intravenous solutions, injectables, and syringes will not be accepted. Residents may also recycle e-waste at the event.

Saturday, April 20

BAUBLES & BEADING JEWELRY WORKSHOP

Learn how to make great earrings, necklaces and bracelets for yourself or gifts at ‘Baubles & Beading,’ an instructive jewelry workshop on April 20 from 1 to 5 p.m. at St. Bartholomew’s Episcopal Church, 678 Enos Way, Livermore. A wide variety of beads and jewelry findings (such as

ear wires and necklace clasps) will be provided for a \$25 donation to the church. To reserve your place, email sbcbaubles@icloud.com.

Saturday, April 20

GUITAR DUO “THE QUITTERS” IN TRINITY CONCERT SERIES

The Trinity Concert Series in Pleasanton is thrilled to welcome virtuosos guitar duo The Quitters to the stage on April 20 at 7 p.m. The Quitters feature Stevie Coyle and Glenn “Houston” Pomianek, two phenomenal musicians with a wealth of experience and accolades. Together, The Quitters create a captivating blend of musical styles, featuring both acoustic and electric guitar work with dazzling virtuosity. The concert will be held at Trinity Lutheran Church, located at 1225 Hopyard Rd. in Pleasanton. Suggested donations are \$20 for adults, and free for students and children. No one turned away for lack of funds. For more information, contact 925-846-6363 or visit <https://trinitypleasanton.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 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

From April 11 to Oct. 10 at Carnegie Park, 2155 Third St., downtown Livermore, from 4 to 8 p.m. See 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.

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 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 or email jane.everett@sbcglobal.net.

ASBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Asbury United Methodist Church invites the community to join for worship at 10 a.m. on Sunday mornings. 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.

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.

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

Chamber Announces Wine Country Luncheon Schedule

The Livermore Valley Chamber of Commerce will host four Wine Country Luncheons this spring and summer, starting with Alameda County District 1 Supervisor David Haubert giving a state-of-the-county presentation at Garre Vineyard & Winery, 7986

Tesla Road, Livermore, on Thursday, April 25. Livermore Mayor John Marchand is also scheduled to give state-of-the-city update at a Wine Country Luncheon on Thursday, May 23, at the Robert Livermore Community Center, 4444 East Ave., Livermore.

“These luncheons are always extremely popular and often sell out,” said chamber President Sherri Souza. “It’s a great way to keep in touch with what is going on in the business community and to network. We look forward to another season of exciting discus-

sions in our beautiful wine country venues.” The chamber will also host a luncheon on work-force development at Concannon Vineyard, 4590 Tesla Road, Livermore, on Thursday, July 25, and a luncheon with Democratic Rep. Eric Swalwell at Wente

Vineyards, 5040 Arroyo Road, Livermore, on Thursday, Aug. 22. Luncheon tickets are \$75 for chamber members and their guests, and \$85 for nonmembers. For more information, or to reserve a seat, go to livermorechamber.org.

The chamber also announced that it would hold a Multi-Chamber Business Expo & Mixer at Garre Vineyard on Wednesday, Sept. 18. The chamber’s annual golf tournament is set for Friday, Nov. 1, at The Course at Wente Vineyards

PCO Serves Up Tri-Valley Cocktail Competition Fundraiser

The Pacific Chamber Orchestra (PCO) will host a Tri-Valley Craft Cocktail Competition at the Bankhead Theater Plaza in downtown Livermore on Saturday, May 4, to raise money for the non-

profit orchestra’s concerts and in-school programs. The competition will feature more than a dozen bartenders serving up creative concoctions while vying for cash prizes, trophies, and

mixology bragging rights. Participating bars will include Aloft Dublin, Altamont Beer Works, Azotea, Casa Orozco, Demitris, Sons of Liberty, Hops and Sessions, Jonny on the Spot, Sauced,

The Fat Pigeon, The Last Word, and Patxi’s Pizza. Tickets to the competition, which runs from 4:30 p.m. to 7 p.m., are \$65 and include samples of the bartenders’ creations and “tasty

bites” from local restaurants. Tickets can be purchased online at livermorearts.org or tvc3.info. In addition to presenting classical concerts at the Bankhead Theater and St.

Stephens Episcopal Church in Orinda, PCO annually sponsors programs for more than 4,000 elementary, middle, and high school students in Livermore, Pleasanton, Hayward, and Orinda.

Pleasanton Author Receives Online Literary Accolades

A children’s book by Pleasanton author Linda Drattell and co-author Eve Marie Little of Newark, “Who wants to be Friends With a Dragon?” was named a Distinguished Favorite for 2024 by the online Independent Press Awards. Co-written with Eve Marie Little and published in 2023 by Dorrance Publishing, the 42-page book is about a timid dragon who yearns to play with the children he sees around him and the boy who befriends him by inviting the dragon to his birthday party. Drattell also received a bronze award in poetry

this year from the online book review service, Reader Views, for “Remember This Day.” Reader Views Managing Editor Susan Violante called Drattell “an awesome poet.” “She presents readers with an amazing collection of both well-written and diverse forms of poetry,” Violante said. [She] can go very deep or as light as a feather, but her poems are always thought-provoking and inspiring.” “Remember This Day,” which examines the moral questions people face, was published last year by Finishing Line Press.

Winston Appointed Pleasanton ‘Ambassadog’

A miniature Australian shepherd named Winston is Pleasanton’s latest canine ambassador. The Pleasanton City Council officially appointed Winston “ambassadog” for 2024 on March 5, after his family outbid other dog owners for the honor at the Valley Humane Society’s annual Tails at Twilight fundraiser last October. “Valley Humane Society has been saving animal lives and supporting our community for more than 35 years, so we are pleased to participate with them in recognizing the Pleasanton ambassadog,” said Assistant City Manager Pamela Ott. “Having an official canine representative highlights our dog-friendly community, while recognizing a local

nonprofit and its efforts to save and improve the lives of Tri-Valley companion animals.”

The 3-year-old pup was adopted by Ruth Burke and her family in 2021. Pleasanton’s ambas-

sadog will participate in city events, including the annual Hometown Holiday Parade in December.



Pleasanton City Council chooses Ambassadog for 2024 (Photo courtesy of Chuck Deckert)

OBITUARIES

Keith Andersen Sept. 2, 1925 – March 31, 2024

Keith Andersen, longtime Livermore resident, passed away peacefully at the age of 98, on Sunday, March 31, 2024. Keith was born September 2, 1925 to Soren and Effie Andersen, in their home on North N Street in Livermore. Keith graduated Livermore High School in 1943, and enlisted in the US Navy, where he proudly served his Country as a Quarter Master 3rd Class until 1945. Upon completing his service, Keith returned to Livermore and married his wife, Ramona Regan, in 1947. Together they had two children, Thomas and Peggy. Keith worked as a backhoe operator for PG&E until he retired in 1988, after nearly 30 years. He also served the Livermore community as a volunteer fireman for 35 years, from 1947 to 1982. Keith was a founding member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Livermore Post #7265. As a member



of the VFW color guard, Keith participated in many community events and celebrations over the years, most notably Memorial Day ceremonies, and the annual Rodeo Weekend festivities. In his retirement years, Keith enjoyed traveling, golf, bowling, and tinkering in his yard and garage at his home on Jackson Avenue. Keith was extremely proud to be a lifelong Livermore resident. Due to health issues, he moved this

past December to Roseville to be closer to his daughter and family. Survivors include daughter Peggy and spouse (Gary), grandson Kevin, granddaughters and their spouses Jennifer (Jason), and Kimberly (Brad), 4 great grandchildren, Taylor, Tanner, Abigail, and Mason, as well as many nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends. Keith was preceded in death by his parents, brother Warner, wife Ramona, and son Tom. A memorial service will be held on Thursday, April 11 at 11:00 a.m. at Callaghan Mortuary, with graveside service to follow, at St. Michael’s Cemetery in Livermore. Online condolences can be left on the mortuary website at callaghanmortuary.com. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that memorial donations be made to VFW Post 7265 in Livermore.

Jacklynn Fiorio-Del Duco Nov. 16, 1950 – Feb. 22, 2024

Jacklynn “Jacki” Del Duco, nee Fiorio, passed away on Feb. 22, 2024, in Pleasanton, California, at the age of 73. She was born on Nov. 16, 1950, in Pleasanton, California. Jacki was known for her funny, kind, and generous nature. She had a passion for baking, cooking, painting, and crafting; hobbies that brought her joy and creativity throughout her life. She enjoyed spending time with her family and always loved celebrating holidays and special events. Her friendships, some lifelong, were also very important to her. She is survived by her daughter Gena Ruggeri, son-in-law



Dominick Ruggeri, grandson Rocco Ruggeri, daughter Tony Werner, and grandson Johnny Werner, her brother Gary Fiorio, sister-in-law Melinda Fiorio, and many nieces and nephews. Jacki was preceded in death by her hus-

band John Del Duco, father Jack Fiorio, and mother Patricia Fiorio. A resident of Pleasanton and later Livermore, Jacki attended Pleasanton Elementary School, graduated from Amador Valley High School in 1968, and attended Chabot College. She stayed involved in the local community including being a long-time 4-H leader. Her memorial service will be held on May 10, 2024, at 11 a.m. at the Veteran’s Memorial located at 301 Main St., Pleasanton, 94566. May her memory be a blessing to all who knew and loved her.

CELEBRATION OF LIFE Linda Whiteman Uhrenholt Aug. 9, 1951 – March 23, 2024

Linda Whiteman Uhrenholt, age 72, passed away peacefully on March 23, 2024 ending her courageous struggle with ALS. She is preceded in death by the love of her life Mark and their dogs Ziggy and Teddy Bear. A long-time resident of Walnut Creek, California, Linda grew up in Columbus, Ohio. She graduated from Upper Arlington High School in 1969 and Ohio State University in 1973. What a Buckeye fanatic she became with a California license plate that read “OHIOFAN.” People claimed she married Mark because he had four buckeye trees in his backyard and coached football!



Linda was a beloved science teacher for Livermore Unified school district and then an educational technology representative for PacBell/AT&T. During retirement she loved volunteering for the USS HORNET Aircraft Carrier Museum and the Contra Costa County Sheriff’s Office. Linda had a deep and abiding love for the times spent with family, relatives, and friends. She grew up enjoying time at her family’s cottage at Indian Lake, Ohio, and loved everything about boating and water. Give her a new recipe to try, and Linda was on it — from chocolate dinner parties to her many homemade ice cream flavors.

were good friends. Linda was blessed to have so many around her these past few years who cared deeply and served with strength and personal sacrifice. Linda did not want people to grieve her passing, rather to do as her mom once said: “Quit crying, smile, say a prayer, and go have something to eat or drink!” Those interested in a memorial gift might consider helping others through a donation in Linda’s name to the ALS Foundation (www.als.org). A celebration of life is scheduled for April 17 at 2 p.m. at Creekside Community Church in Alamo, California.

Celebrating Christmas, she spearheaded a tradition of having relatives dress in crazy outfits such as snowmen and Christmas trees. Linda loved dressing up her cement porch goose who even received fan mail from passersby! She had many a good time with her Ohio friends that she made along the way, sharing laughter, fun and wine! Linda is survived by numerous friends, classmates and family whose names would fill pages; she loved them all so very much. She extends a special thanks to all her Creekside Church family in Alamo who shared the love of Christ and her psychiatrist and psychologist who no doubt saved her mentally after Mark died. They too

Bridget Kavanagh Parks Dec. 13, 1944 - March 30, 2024

Bridget Kavanagh Parks, (nee Bridget Carroll Kavanagh), passed away at age 79 on March 30, 2024 in Port Charlotte, Florida, after a month-long battle with COVID-19. Bridget was born on December 13, 1944 in Bay City, Michigan, to the late Alicia Finn Kavanagh (nee Alicia Margaret Finn) and the late Joseph Daniel Kavanagh. She grew

up in Bay City and attended St. James High School. She later graduated from Winona State University, Winona, MN. Proud to support the mission of public radio, she made a career in development at several stations: Michigan Public Radio - WDET Detroit, Minnesota Public Radio - KLSE Rochester, and California Public Radio - KUOP Stockton.

A proud Michigander, she loved Detroit-style Coney and cheering for the Tigers & Lions. Her favorite times included watching and participating with her grandchildren in the activities they love; hanging out on the beach, preparing holiday meals, and crafting cocktails. A longtime Democratic and Women’s Rights supporter, she was an activist in a variety of local

and nationwide causes. Bridget is survived by her husband Ralph Zane Parks, Jr., with whom she retired to Cape Coral, Florida in 2012. Additionally she is survived by her daughters Moirasheen K Benz (Tim Woodward), Meghan C Benz (Edward Petryk III), and Gretchen S Benz; her stepson Stephen Parks Bell; her siblings Alicia (Gary) Bursac, Sheila

(Greg) Smith, John (Judy) Kavanagh, Patricia (Tom) Rainwater, Sarah (Jon) Webb; sister-in-law Regena Kavanagh; her beloved seven grandchildren, and untold nieces and nephews and greats. In addition to her parents, Bridget was preceded in death by her brothers; William P. (Mary Ann) Kavanagh, Joseph D. Kavanagh II., and Dudley J. Kavanagh.

No funeral or memorial service is immediately planned. Those who wish to honor her by making donations, the family asks you to consider donating in her name to these or similar charities: Planned Parenthood, EMILY’s List, or the Second Harvest Food Bank of Central Florida.

Dons Overcome Granada’s Matadors With Strategic Plays And Stellar Performances

By Phil Jensen

The Amador Valley High School boys volleyball team graduated eight seniors, including the East Bay Athletic League Player of the Year Nate Clinton, two other first-team all-league players and a second-teamer, from last year’s North Coast Section Division I championship squad.

But after a rough patch in mid-March this season, the Dons have won two of their last three matches, including an impressive 25-22, 17-25, 25-22, 25-8 victory over visiting Granada on March 28.

“Those boys have worked hard all season,” said Ross Yu, Granada’s new head coach. “We knew we had people who were ready to step up.”

Yu, who was an assistant varsity coach for the Dons the past two years, said that this year’s team has five players with starting experience and all the players are stepping into bigger roles. He also said that this year’s squad has a talented sophomore class. Yu, who also was Amador Valley’s

head junior varsity coach in 2021, was hired to be the head varsity coach after Erin McFall retired at the end of last season.

Amador Valley, which improved to 13-7 overall and 5-3 in EBAL play, took a 14-8 lead in the first set. But Granada (15-5, 6-2) came back, as an ace by Brody Manolopoulos tied the set at 19. However, a kill by Amador Valley’s Max Riter started a three-point Dons run, and the team led the rest of the set. The Matadors did narrow the score to 23-22 on a putback kill by Caleb Carroll, but Amador Valley produced the last two points of the set, including a kill by Nick Nayak.

Granada turned things around the second set and never trailed. A kill by the Matadors’ Joseph Yano gave his team a 15-9 lead, and the advantage grew to 20-10 in the set win.

“We knew it was going to be a tough match,” said Yu, whose squad lost to host Granada 25-20, 22-25, 25-20, 26-24 on March 14. “They have very

strong players all the way around.”

In the third set, a block for a point by AK Prakash gave Granada a 12-10 lead. But Amador Valley scored the next three points, including two service points by Ryan Bury, to take a 13-12 lead and never trailed after that. Granada did close the deficit to 23-22, but Bury, a sophomore outside hitter, came up big again with a hit for a point, then a service point from a Riter kill to end the set.

The fourth set was very one-sided. Amador Valley took a 3-0 lead at the onset, never trailed, and saw its lead balloon to 20-7 behind nine straight service points by Parker Brookhart, including three kills by Nayak and two by Riter.

“They took it to another level,” said Yu about his team.

“I didn’t like how we finished, for sure,” said Granada coach Rich Cortez, who also said his team is having a great season overall. “The last four or five points of the third set, we weren’t as aggressive. Ama-



The Amador Valley Dons won 3-1 against the Granada Matadors during their March 28 home game. (Photo – Doug Jorgensen)

dor absolutely was, and that carried over into the fourth, unfortunately.”

Riter produced 24 kills for Amador Valley in the match, and the junior also had three aces and 15 digs. Nayak added 18 kills, three blocks and five digs. Brookhart passed for 47 assists and had three aces, and Bury had 12 digs and

three kills.

For Granada, Prakash pounded 11 kills and had 13 digs, Manolopoulos had 10 kills and eight digs, and Carroll produced nine kills.

Both teams do not play until April 9 due to spring break.

Yu said his team was not affected by the fire that destroyed much of the inside

of the Amador Valley small gym and its roof on March 17. The team still has the large gym to practice and play in.

“The other sports coaches, the AD and I worked together to move things around,” said Yu, referring to practice schedules. “I think everybody (on the team) adjusted very well.”

Foothill DECA Captures 30 Top 10 Awards at State Career Conference

The Foothill DECA program captured four first-place awards at the recent State Career Development Conference held in Anaheim, along with more than 30 Top 10 awards.

DECA is an international program for high school and college students designed to develop finance, marketing, and management skills.

More than 2,200 students from 47 high schools, including 78 students from Foothill High School in Pleasanton, participated in the state conference, which tested their skills with roleplay challenges and written tests.

Foothill’s Akash Goda finished first overall in the Quick Serve Restaurant Management Series (QSRM) roleplay competition, while Pratham Chhabra was first overall in Sports and Entertainment Marketing roleplay and Rushil Sahai was first overall in the Automotive Services Marketing (ASM) Series.

The Foothill team of Michael Liu, Ritvik Misra, and Tejas Prakash finished first overall in the Integrated Marketing Campaign Product (IMCP) written competition.

Second place finishers: Quinn McCarn, ASM roleplay; Anishka Wil-

liam and Prisha Bhandari, Marketing Management Team Decision Making (MMTDM) roleplay; Aditya Gundimeda, Avaneesh Yendluri, and Matthew Tahir, Hospitality and Tourism Operations Research.

Third place finishers:

Misra, Retail Merchandising Series (RMS) roleplay, and the team of Ashwin Sriram and Pranesh Ragu, Travel and Tourism Team Decision Making (TTTDM) roleplay.

Fourth place finishers: Vedant Mehta, Human

Resource Management (HRS) Series roleplay; Dylan Lee, QRSM roleplay, and the team of Saahas Krishnamsetty and Mehta, Project Management Community Giving (PMCG), written.

Michael Tahir placed

fifth overall in Food Marketing Series roleplay, while Tahir, Ragu, and Sriram were also Stock Market Game qualifiers.

Next up for Foothill DECA is the International Career Development Conference, which will also be held in Anaheim this year, from April 26 to May 1.

This competition showcased participants’ skills in roleplay, written, and exam categories aligned with National Curriculum Standards in marketing, business management and administration, finance, and hospitality and tourism. DECA’s industry-validated events prepare students for college and careers.

With 78 students representing Foothill DECA, the stakes were high as success meant a shot at the prestigious DECA glass and qualification for the International Career Development Conference.

Foothill DECA secured over 30 Top 10 awards and 24 Top 5 recognitions amidst fierce competition.

Foothill DECA looks to its next major competition,

This amazing conference is the grand stage of DECA, with all 50 states and other countries participating. At this conference, members will test their

limits while competing with the best of the best. Foothill DECA will begin rigorous training this week and hopes to continue its streak of competitive success at the International level. To make financial contributions to support our team, to find more information, or to participate in a future DECA event, reach out at foothilldeca@gmail.com. About DECA Inc. DECA is a career and technical student organization that prepares emerging leaders and entrepreneurs who are interested in careers in marketing, finance, hospitality, and management. DECA enhances the preparation for college and careers by providing co-curricular programs that integrate into classroom instruction, apply learning, connect to business and promote competition. DECA student members leverage their DECA experience to become academically prepared, community-oriented, professionally responsible, experienced leaders. DECA is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit with more than 150,000 members in 4,000 high school and college chapters in all 50 United States, Canada, Guam, Puerto Rico, and Germany. For more information about DECA, visit <http://www.deca.org>.



DECA advisor Tami Raaker and her students (left to right) Pritika Premkumar, Deeksha Vajha, Mihira Monga, and Aarthi Hariharan show their DECA pride during awards ceremony. (Photo courtesy of Foothill DECA)

LEGAL NOTICES/CLASSIFIEDS



LEGAL NOTICES

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME
Case No. 24CV065663

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF ALAMEDA

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:

Petitioner:
Anupam Dhopade
518 Colusa Way
Livermore, CA 94551
filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:

Present Names:
Neev Anupam Dhopade

Proposed Name:
Vednt Anupm Dhopaadey

THE COURT ORDERS
that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is

timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.

NOTICE OF HEARING
Date:04/16/2024
Time: 9:30 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: 2/28/2024 /s/ A. Thomas J. Nixon, Judge of the Superior Court.

The Independent, Legal No. 5843. Published March 14, 21, 28, April 4, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 604487

The following person(s) doing business as: Janice & Co., 4900 Hopyard Rd., # 100, Pleasanton, CA 94588 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Golden Valley Mortgage Corporation, 4900 Hopyard Rd., #100, Pleasanton, CA 94588. 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: 3/5/2024. Signature of Registrant/s/: Janice M. Smith, Secretary. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 5, 2024. Expires March 4, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 5845. Published March 14, 21, 28, April 4, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 604524

The following person(s) doing business as: Gar-Cal Studio, 1056 Serpentine LN., Suite C, Pleasanton, CA 94566 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Angel Garcia - Gar-Cal Corporation, PO Box 24, 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/: Angel Garcia, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 6, 2024. Expires March 5, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 5846. Published March 14, 21, 28, April 4, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 604463

The following person(s) doing business as: Jeju Studio, 4600 Tassajara Rd, Apt 4405, Dublin, CA 94568 is hereby registered

by the following owner(s): Jintak Oh, 4600 Tassajara Rd, Apt 4405, 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/: Jintak Oh, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 5, 2024. Expires March 4, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 5847. Published March 14, 21, 28, April 4, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 604413

The following person(s) doing business as: Human Restaurant, 17383 Hesperian Blvd, San Lorenzo, CA 94580 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Sius Restaurant Inc., 15107 Shining Star Lane, San Leandro, CA 94579. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 11/00/1998. Signature of Registrant/s/: Denny Xiao, Secretary. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 4, 2024. Expires March 3, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 5848. Published March 14, 21, 28, April 4, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 27, 2024. Expires

FILE NO. 604367

The following person(s) doing business as: Exotic Express Market, 1613 International Blvd, Oakland, CA 94606 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Bay Body Stock LLC, 1613 International Blvd, Oakland, CA 94606. 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/: Rahatullah Hidayat, Member/Manager. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 29, 2024. Expires February 28, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 5849. Published March 14, 21, 28, April 4, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 604344

The following person(s) doing business as: Harps and Rain Studios, 554 Sonoma Ave, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Amin Assadi, 554 Sonoma Ave, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Amin Assadi, Principal. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 27, 2024. Expires

February 26, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 5852. Published March 21, 28, April 4, 11, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 604710

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Phase; 2. Phase Products, 1791 Sabre St., Hayward, CA 94545 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): WM Group Products LLC, 1791 Sabre Street, 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: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Michael Willelt, Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 11, 2024. Expires March 10, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 5853. Published March 21, 28, April 4, 11, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 604307

The following person(s) doing business as: My House Your House, 6399 Christie Avenue, APT 135, Emeryville, CA 94608 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Christina Ryan, 6399 Christie Avenue, APT 135, Emeryville, CA 94608; Kerl Mae Burnor, 6399 Christie Avenue, APT 135, Emeryville, CA 94608. This business is conducted by

an Unincorporated Association - other than a Partnership. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 1/13/2024. Signature of Registrant/s/: Christina Ryan, General Partner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 28, 2024. Expires February 27, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 5854. Published March 21, 28, April 4, 11, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 604476

The following person(s) doing business as: Golden Pacific Realty, 6500 Dublin Blvd, Suite 212, Dublin, CA 94568. This business is hereby registered by the following owner(s): BG Realty, 6500 Dublin Blvd, Suite 212, Dublin, CA 94568. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Bernard Laffer, Vice President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 5, 2024. Expires March 4, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 5855. Published March 21, 28, April 4, 11, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 604442

This business is conducted by

The following person(s) doing business as: Charity Works, 7087 Commerce Circle Unit D, Pleasanton, CA 94588 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): CharityWorks Auction Supplier, Inc., 1888 W Cavendish Dr., Castro Valley, CA 94552. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 11/13/2023. Signature of Registrant/s/: Lauren Klein, Secretary. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 5, 2024. Expires March 4, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 5856. Published March 21, 28, April 4, 11, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 604358

The following person(s) doing business as: NTA General Insurance Agency, 6602 Owens Drive, Suite 300, Pleasanton, CA 94588 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): National Transportation Associates, Inc., 6602 Owens Drive, Suite 300, Pleasanton, CA 94588. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 5/1/2016. Signature of Registrant/s/: Puneet Khurana, COO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda

LEGAL NOTICES/CLASSIFIEDS

www.independentnews.com



on February 29, 2024. Expires February 27, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 5857. Published March 21, 28, April 4, 11, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 604166

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Kinfolex Therapy; 2. Kinfolex Therapy, 3007 Telegraph Ave, Oakland, CA 94609 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Cameo Johnson, 3007 Telegraph Ave, Oakland, CA 94609. 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/: Cameo Johnson, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 21, 2024. Expires February 20, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 5858. Published March 21, 28, April 4, 11, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 604744

The following person(s) doing business as: Compass Rose, 450 Park St. # 102, Alameda, CA 94501 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Jessica O'Brien, 450 Park St #102, Alameda, CA 94501. This business is conducted by an individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 3/11/2024. Signature of Registrant/s/: Jessica O'Brien, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 12, 2024. Expires March 11, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 5859. Published March 21, 28, April 4, 11, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 604462

The following person(s) doing business as: BeamBearing, 3375 Edinburg Dr., Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Matthew Anthony Weingart, 3375 Edinburg Dr., 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/: Matthew Weingart, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 5, 2024. Expires March 4, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 5860. Published March 21, 28, April 4, 11, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 604289

The following person(s) doing business as: Precision Auto Stereo, 21181 Mission Blvd, Hayward, CA 94541 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Hassin, Inc., 406 W. Harder Rd., Hayward, CA 94544. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 7/1/2013. Signature of Registrant/s/: Hassina Zereh, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 27, 2024. Expires February 26, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 5861. Published March 21, 28, April 4, 11, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 604828

The following person(s) doing business as: Dancing Threads Collection, 1807 H. Santa Rita Road #143, Pleasanton, CA 94566 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Indus Organics, Inc., 1807 H Santa Rita Road, #143, Pleasanton, CA 94566. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 3/14/2024. Signature of Registrant/s/: Parma Chowdhury, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 14, 2024. Expires March 13, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 5862. Published March 21, 28, April 4, 11, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 604218

The following person(s) doing business as: Tri Valley Pest Control, 1242 Hillview Dr., Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Tri-Valley Services, 1242 Hillview Dr., 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/: Darren Jerdonek, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 23, 2024. Expires February 22, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 5863. Published March 21, 28, April 4, 11, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 604834

The following person(s) doing business as: Linizpro, 22281 Center St., APT 25, Castro Valley, CA 94546 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Jason Perez, 2221 Center St., APT 25 Castro Valley, CA 94546. 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: 3/11/2024. Signature of Registrant/s/: Jason Perez, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on

March 15, 2024. Expires March 14, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 5864. Published March 21, 28, April 4, 11, 2024.

**SUMMONS
CASE NUMBER
24CV000842
NOTICE TO DEFENDANT:**
Plaintiff:
**UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN
CREDIT UNION
8033 Excelsior Dr.
Madison, WI 53717**
Defendants:
**TONY FATJON PANDOVSKI
5200 Iron Horse Parkway,
Apt. 252
Dublin, CA 94568, and
MIRELA PANDOVSKI**
THE STATE OF WISCONSIN
To each person named above as a defendant:

You are hereby notified that the plaintiff named above has filed a lawsuit or other legal action against you. The amended complaint, which is also served on you, states the nature and basis of the legal action.

Within 40 days after March 28, 2024, you must respond with a written answer, as that term is used in Chapter 802 of the Wisconsin Statutes, to the amended complaint. The Court may reject or disregard an answer that does not follow the requirements of the statutes. The answer must be sent or delivered to the Court, whose address is 901 N. 9th Street, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202, and to the plaintiff's attorney, whose address is 735 N. Water Street, Suite 205, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202. You may have an attorney help or represent you.

If you do not provide a proper answer within 40 days, the Court may grant judgment against you for the award of money or other legal action requested in the amended complaint, and you may lose your right to object to anything that is or may be incorrect in the amended complaint. A judgment may be enforced as provided by law. A judgment awarding money may become a lien against any real estate you own now or in the future, and may also be enforced by garnishment or seizure of property.

We are attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. Dated this 21st day of March, 2024.

DARNIEDER & SOSNAY
Electronically signed by Michael A. Sosnay
Michael A. Sosnay, Attorney for Plaintiff
State Bar No: 1059549
P.O. ADDRESS
735 N. Water Street, Suite 205
Milwaukee, WI 53202
(414) 277-1400
The Independent, Legal No. 5865. Published March 28, April 4, 11, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 605004

The following person(s) doing business as: Quality Construction Supply II, 602 8th Street, Oakland, CA 94607 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Luxury Building Materials Supply Inc., 2801 Bayview Dr., Alameda CA 94501. 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: 3/19/2024. Signature of Registrant/s/: Jimmy Ng, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 21, 2024. Expires March 20, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 5866. Published March 28, April 4, 11, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 604866

The following person(s) doing business as: Tri-Valley Adventure Travel, 3176 Rodeo Lane, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Cameron Miller, 3176 Rodeo Lane, 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/: Cameron Miller, Owner. This statement was filed with

the County Clerk of Alameda on March 15, 2024. Expires March 14, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 5867. Published March 28, April 4, 11, 18, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 604945

The following person(s) doing business as: Clear Green Sky, 6591 Altamont Creek Drive, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): James Green, 1452 North Vasco Road, #177, 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: 3/19/2024. Signature of Registrant/s/: Jimmy Ng, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 21, 2024. Expires March 20, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 5868. Published March 28, April 4, 11, 18, 2024.

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME ORIGINAL FILE NO. 566812

The person(s) listed below have abandoned the use of the following fictitious business name(s). Kiwin, 1066 Trojan Avenue, San Leandro, CA 94579. The fictitious business name statement was filed on 12/23/2019. This business was conducted by an individual. Signature of Registrant/s/: Xudong Li, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 19, 2024. The Independent, Legal No. 5869. Published March 28, April 4, 11, 18, 2024.

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME ORIGINAL FILE NO. 566813

The person(s) listed below have abandoned the use of the following fictitious business name(s). Sha Star, 1066 Trojan Ave, San Leandro, CA 94579. The fictitious business name statement was filed on 12/23/2019. This business was conducted by an individual. Signature of Registrant/s/: Chi Pang, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 19, 2024. The Independent, Legal No. 5870. Published March 28, April 4, 11, 18, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 604468

The following person(s) doing business as: My dad's Trading Cards, 4140 Emerald St., Oakland, CA 94609-2603 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Seamus Nelson, 4140 Emerald St., Oakland, CA 94609-2603; Joshua Nelson, 4140 Emerald St., Oakland, CA 94609-2603. This business is conducted by a General Partnership. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Seamus Nelson, General Partner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 5, 2024. Expires March 4, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 5871. Published March 28, April 4, 11, 18, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 604898

The following person(s) doing business as: Gina Crystal Gypsy, 33170 Alvarado Niles Rd, #1629, Union City CA 94587 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Melinda Dinh, 33170 Alvarado Niles Rd, #1629 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: 3/19/2024. Signature of Registrant/s/: Melinda Dinh, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 19, 2024. Expires March 18, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 5872. Published March 28, April 4, 11, 18, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 604844

The following person(s) doing business as: Wonderdnd Soul, 4313 Daffodil Way, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Priscilla Keeton, 4313 Daffodil Way, 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: 3/16/2024. Signature of Registrant/s/: Priscilla Keeton, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 18, 2024. Expires March 17, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 5873. Published March 28, April 4, 11, 18, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 604535

The following person(s) doing business as: Happy Shadow Studio, 12061 Pleasant way, Sunol, CA 94586 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Chris Sehenuk, 12061 Pleasant Way, Sunol, CA 94586. 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.

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that this is an Online Bid Process; only bids submitted through the online portal will be accepted. Please logon or register at <https://ezsourcing.acgov.org/>. RFQ #902446 Tray Sealing Machines - Vendor Outreach: Wednesday, April 3, 2024 at 10:30AM To Attend Online: Join via Microsoft Teams or Call-In (audio only): +1 415-915-3950 Conference ID: 504 517 635# Non-Mandatory Networking Bidders Conference: April 4, 2024 at 1:00PM To Attend Online: Join via Microsoft Teams - Meeting ID: 241 823 662 737 Passcode: afbt4or Dial-in by phone: +1 415-915-3950 Phone conference ID: 599 340 395# Response Due by 2:00PM on April 29, 2024 County Contract Kevin Bailey at (510) 208-9631 or via email: kevin.bailey@acgov.org. Specifications regarding the above may be obtained at the Alameda County GSA Contracting Opportunities Internet website at www.acgov.org. 4/4/24 CWS-3798863# The Independent, Legal No. 5875. Published April 4, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 604325

The following person(s) doing business as: Luxry Flow, 2027 Harrington Ave, Oakland, CA 94601 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Trek Trading International Inc., 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 28, 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 Life-force 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): Loring 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/: Loring 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, 33476 Alvarado Niles Road Suite 7, Union City, CA 94587 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): All Bay Limo In., 3556 Smith St., Union City, CA 94587. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 1/1/2009. Signature of Registrant/s/: Babar Mohammad, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 26, 2024. Expires March 25, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 5884. Published April 4, 11, 18, 25, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 605131

The following person(s) doing business as: Luxoral, 25369 Ironwood CT, Hayward, CA 94545 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Luxoral Dental Hygiene Practice at Edris Kareemzadeh, RDHAP, 25369 Ironwood CT, Hayward, CA 94545. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 3/26/2024. Signature of Registrant/s/: Edris Kareemzadeh, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 27, 2024. Expires March 26, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 5885. Published April 4, 11, 18, 25, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 604714

The following person(s) doing business as: Choice Tint, 4202 Stanley Suite A, Pleasanton, CA 94566 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Paulo Maldonado 468 Amoral Circle, Pleasanton, CA 94566. This business is conducted by an individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Paulo Maldonado, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on

March 11, 2024. Expires March 10, 2029. The Independent, Legal 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. 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.

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High School Student Application Detects News Bias

By Ruth Roberts

A team of Dublin High School students are changing the way consumers can evaluate their news with a computer application called Politica AI.

The team’s application recently took second place honors in the Congressional App Challenge (CAC), sponsored by Congressman Mark DeSaulnier. The CAC is a public initiative designed to encourage young people to learn how to code and promote an interest in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math education. In the eight years of the CAC, the program has yielded 46,928 applicants across all 50 states.

Developed by juniors Rohan Vi, Ayush Garg, Mohit Varikuti and senior Jimin Lim, Politica is a website extension that provides information through the power of artificial intelligence to help individuals detect biases and general false information in the articles they read online.

“It was super fun (the competition),” said Rohan. “We were not expecting to do as well as we did.”

The application is free,

simple to use and available to anyone with access to the web.

“We saw in our daily research for own essays and in keeping up to date with the latest news, that there is a lot of misinformation out there,

icon on their extension bar and start analyzing the article. Politica first provides a detailed but concise summary of the article, and also displays the reliability of the source itself, using widely used bias and factuality

content of the article itself, not just the source. It also offers reasoning for the rating, allowing for more direct analysis of the bias in the article.

GPT, or generative pre-trained transformer, is a

and explains falsehoods in the text.

But the app is not just for identifying biases in national or international news sources.

“Local news was also an aspect of journalism we felt was prone to bias,” said Jimin. “When we saw that a protest had broken out against our local news source, we realized that we had never questioned the validity or hidden agenda of our local news. Society critiques large news channels, such as CNN and Fox for their biased reporting, but change starts at a local level.”

While there are similar applications out there, Rohan said they are not as detailed as Politica.

“Current tools that help find biases, like Ad Fontes Media or Ground News, only give blanket statements about the source itself and don’t analyze the actual content behind them,” said Rohan. “We wanted to be able to identify unbiased reporting to build our own stances and viewpoints, rather than have them fed to us by the news.”

The self-taught developers continue to work on the app during computer science classes on campus and in their off time as well, hoping to streamline and perfect the simple, yet innovative application.

“We were inspired by other websites that used browser extensions to allow the user to use their app whenever and wherever they want. Politica was not designed around a web or mobile application, but after a plug-and-play extension, so that bias analysis would be naturally implemented into our users’ news reading workflow,” said Mohit.

The next steps for the team include working to get the word out about the app and expanding their reach to interested consumers.

“We are doing our best to let the public know about this,” said Ayush. “America has become so politized, and with it being an election year, we want to see how we can use this to inform and educate as many people as possible.”

For more information or to try out the app, visit politica-ai.tech.



(Left to right) Mohit Varikuti, Rohan Vij, Ayush Garg and Jimin Lin developed a computer application called Politica AI that detects news biases online. (Photo Courtesy: Rohan Vij)

and we wanted to find a way to figure out how and where there is bias so (people) can better identify that kind of stuff on the internet,” said Ayush.

Here is how it works: When users open an article, they can click on the Politica

ratings to assess the general stance of well-known sources.

The program also provides a bias rating for the article. This is done through a fine-tuned GPT-4 model, allowing for accurate predictions on the

machine learning model developed by OpenAI that can analyze large datasets and respond to prompts with answers based on knowledge gleaned from those datasets.

Politica additionally finds articles that talk about a similar topic and identifies

McPhee to Headline Livermore Valley Arts Fundraiser Gala Dinner

Broadway star and former American Idol runner-up Katharine McPhee, accompanied by the Livermore-Amador Symphony, will headline the annual “Brilliance at the Bankhead” fundraising gala on Saturday, Sept. 7, according to a Livermore Valley Arts (LVA) announcement.

The nonprofit LVA operates both the Bankhead Theater and the Bothwell Arts Center in downtown Livermore and sponsors a broad range of cultural arts outreach programs. The annual fall event is the organization’s largest fundraising event.

Born in Los Angeles, McPhee gained national recognition when she was runner-up to Taylor Hicks during the 2006 season of the televised “American Idol” singing competition.

Her first album, eponymously titled “Katharine McPhee,” was released the following year, debuting at No. 2 on the Billboard 200. The first single from the album, “Over It,” was certified gold by the Recording Industry Association of America in 2008, selling more than 500,000 copies.

McPhee would go on to release four more albums between 2010 and 2017.

She would also launch a film career in 2008, appearing in “The House Bunny,” a hit comedy starring Colin Hanks and Emma Stone. In 2011, she had a starring role in the less-successful horror film, “Shark Night 3D.”

McPhee also had lead-



Katharine McPhee

ing roles in “Smash,” a TV musical drama about a New York City theatrical group on NBC, from 2012 to 2013, and “Scorpion,” a spy drama that ran from 2014 to 2017 on CBS.

She made her Broadway debut in the musical “Waitress,” taking over the lead role of “Jenna” in 2018 through the end of the play’s

run in 2020.

“Brilliance at The Bankhead” will include a dinner provided by On the Vine Catering, raffles, and live and silent auction items. Tickets for the 6 p.m. gala at the Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., begin at \$300 and are available online at livermorearts.org.

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Dana Boyd and Sonja Reichenberg, shown above, are potting up plants for the LAVGC plant sale. (Photo courtesy of LAVGC)

Livermore Gardeners Club Brings Back Plant and Garage Sale

The Livermore Amador Valley Garden Club is having their annual Plant and Garage Sale on April 13 and 14 at 795 Newberry Street in Livermore from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. There will be hundreds of rea-

sonably priced plants and plant-related items available in addition to garage sale items donated by members. LAVGC supports our local community through this annual fundraiser. LAVGC maintains Hansen Park Rose

Garden on Holmes Street and produces thousands of pounds for local food banks through Eden Garden and Clare’s Garden, the Sensory Gardens in Pleasanton and SeedShare at the local libraries.

College Administrators Honor Chabot-Las Positas Chancellor

Chabot-Las Positas Community College District Chancellor Ronald Gerhard was awarded the Harry Buttimer Distinguished Administrator Award last month at the Association of California Community College Administrators (ACCCA) annual conference in Garden Grove.

Named for a founding member of the ACCA, the Buttimer award recognizes presidents, superintendent-presidents, or chancellors who have made outstanding contributions to their institutions.

Gerhard was named interim chancellor for the community college district

in January 2019, shortly after the resignation of former chancellor Jannett Jackson. He was named chancellor in April 2020.

“I am deeply humbled and profoundly honored to accept the Harry Buttimer Distinguished Administrator Award,” Gerhard said. “My career in higher education has been fueled by a desire to create the educational system that best serves our students and honors their sacrifice and perseverance. This award is an opportunity to reflect on the guidance and wisdom of mentors that steered me to this calling and to renew my commitment to the students we serve.”

The Chabot-Las Positas Community College District includes Las Positas College in Livermore and Chabot College in Hayward.

Gerhard was vice chancellor of business services before being named interim chancellor. He was also a former vice president of administrative services at Chabot College and vice chancellor for finance and administration at City College of San Francisco.

Gerhard is the third Chabot-Las Positas chancellor to receive the Buttimer award. Susan Cota received the award in 2006 and Ronald Kong received the award in 1999.

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