

Eden Housing Approval of Referendum Confirmed

CA Supreme Court Finalizes Case

By David Jen

LIVERMORE — The California Supreme Court declined last week to review the Court of Appeal’s ruling on the referendum advancing the controversial Eden Housing project in downtown Livermore.

This settles the decision that an agreement between Eden and the City of Livermore is subject to the referendum initiated by community group Move Eden Housing (MEH) and other Livermore voters.

“The matter is now final,” wrote the Supreme Court.

Richard Ryon, a Livermore resident and plaintiff in the lawsuit challenging the city and Eden, said, “Move Eden Housing and all of us who promoted and signed the referendum petition protesting the city’s resolution nearly two years ago are pleased to see that the California Supreme Court saw no need to review the Court of Appeal’s decision.”

Depublication Requests

In addition to deciding that it would not take up the MEH case, the Supreme Court’s June 12 decision declined requests to depublish the entire Court of Appeal’s decision filed in May by the City of Livermore and Eden Housing, along with law firms Bell, McAndrews & Hiltachk, LLP and Nielsen, Merksamer, Parrinello, Gross & Leoni, LLP, which specialize in election law.

A separate request by Eden to publish a previously unpublished section of the appellate court’s opinion was also denied by the Supreme Court.

The Eden Housing Project

Eden Housing has proposed to build two buildings totaling 130 affordable housing units and develop an estimated 0.7-acre public community park in downtown Livermore between Railroad Avenue and Veterans Way, and L Street and a planned K Street fire lane.

The Livermore City Council passed in May 2022 a resolution that approved an agreement to transfer the project site owned by the city 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

(See REFERENDUM, page 5)



Contestants of Nathan’s Famous Hot Dog Eating Contest devour hot dogs on June 15 during the Alameda County Fair’s opening weekend. The men’s division was won by returning champion Derek Hendrickson, who consumed 27 hotdogs, while the women’s was won by Tundra Childress, who downed 12 hotdogs. The winners will compete in Nathan’s July 4th International Hot Dog Eating Contest at Coney Island, New York. (See more photos on page 10.) (Photo – Doug Jorgensen)

Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory Supercomputer-Developed Cancer Drug Is First to Begin Clinical Trials

By Eli Ramos

LIVERMORE — Three supercomputers from the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) were instrumental in developing a novel cancer treatment that will go into clinical trials this month.

The FDA approved the drug in December 2023, which will now be used to treat non-small-cell lung cancer. LLNL teamed up with BridgeBio and the Frederick National Laboratory for Cancer Research (FNL) to develop BBO-8520, a small-molecule cancer drug that targets KRAS mutations, which are

protein errors involved in many cancers that were previously considered “undruggable.”

This drug is what’s known as “first-in-class”, which means no other drug targets the specific binding site and protein in the cancers that the team is studying. KRAS genes are a subset of the RAS gene family, which cancer researchers have been studying for decades. RAS genes mainly encode proteins central to cell signaling. Mutations of these genes are implicated in 30% of cancers, including pancreatic, lung and colorectal cancer.

BridgeBio, a biotechnol-

ogy company based in Palo Alto, partnered with FNL and LLNL to research treatments for these stubborn KRAS genes.

Small-molecule drugs, such as BBO-8520, are made to target RAS proteins and bind to them, which turns them off like a switch. Sometimes though, RAS proteins will find a way to turn on again, which is what makes them so difficult to treat. But BBO-8520 differs from existing drugs by binding to the KRASG12C mutation, which scientists have been targeting in the last few years. Instead of just turning off the switch, the drug inhibits the function

(See DRUG, page 5)

Dublin School District First in Area to Pass Artificial Intelligence Resolution

By Eli Ramos

DUBLIN — Following a school board resolution last week, the Dublin Unified School District (DUSD) must adopt a formal, district-wide policy on artificial intelligence (AI) to eliminate possible inequities between classrooms. To date, teachers have applied policies that differed from classroom to classroom.

“The resolution is a steppingstone for where we would like to go, to develop a board policy and administrative regulation,” said Dave Wildy, the chief

technology officer at DUSD.

The board passed the resolution 3-2 on June 11, with Trustees Kristin Pelham, Kristin Speck, William Kuo, and student Board Member Anika Yu voting yes, and Trustees Gabi Blackman and Dan Cherrier against the resolution. Both Blackman and Cherrier believed that such a policy would be too restrictive in the rapidly evolving space.

According to the resolution, “(Because) AI has become ubiquitous and readily available on multiple platforms, it is urgently

important that students and teachers develop critical thinking skills and digital literacy knowledge to make informed decisions.” The resolution goes on to say that the board should adopt a unified policy promoting AI literacy and regulating AI use in order to ensure equity in classrooms.

The resolution was developed by Wildy; Sheri Sweeney, the director of curriculum and instruction at DUSD; and Deeksha Vaidyanathan, who will be a senior at Dublin High School in the next academic

(See INTELLIGENCE, page 6)

Electric Bills Poised To Increase Despite Lower Energy Costs

By David Jen

REGIONAL — Lower electricity generation costs will be mainly offset by other costs paid to large utilities next year, according to Ava Community Energy, the Tri-Valley’s community choice aggregation (CCA).

Directors shared worries about customer confusion over why their bills might continue to rise.

“It puts us in an odd position,” said Ava Director and San Leandro Mayor Juan González III at Ava’s June 12 Board of Directors meeting. “We have falling revenues at the time that everyone’s bills are going up.”

CCAs serve as intermediaries between consumers and electricity generators.

By aggregating the electricity demand of residents and businesses, CCAs aim to negotiate contracts with generators for cleaner and cheaper power than what consumers may otherwise be able to buy from large investor-owned utility companies, such as PG&E.

Ava serves as a CCA for Alameda County and the City of Tracy.

In California, electricity customers who choose to buy their electricity from generators other than investor-owned utilities must continue to pay an exit fee, known as the Power Charge Indifference Adjustment (PCIA). Intended to prevent exiting customers from saddling a utility’s remaining customers with the cost of long-term energy contracts,

(See ELECTRIC, page 5)

Pleasanton Schools

District to Face Cuts in A Year to Stay Solvent Will Rely on Reserve for FY 2024-25

By Dawnmarie Fehr

PLEASANTON — With projected revenues of \$205 million and expenditures of \$213 million, the Pleasanton Unified School District (PUSD) is facing a budget deficit that needs to be addressed in the coming year, according to a staff presentation last week.

Staff said, at the June 13 PUSD board meeting, that the district will draw on its reserves — which are currently higher than

the state-required 3% — to remain solvent this year.

“The district is facing significant fiscal challenges in the next few years,” said Ahmad Sheikholeslami, PUSD assistant superintendent of business services.

The staff report stated that the district’s challenges are a result of declining revenues at the state level, the end of one-time funding, declining enrollment in Pleasanton schools, and rising operating costs for the district, including insurance,

(See PLEASANTON SCHOOLS, page 6)



Dog-human teams of performers demonstrate the Canine Stars Stunt Dog Show, new to the Alameda County Fair this year. (See story on page 7.) (Photo – Doug Jorgensen)



African dance ensemble Cheza Nami helps Pleasanton celebrate Juneteenth at the Firehouse Arts Center on June 15. The event also included the Pleasanton Unified School District’s step team and storyteller Brother Ben Tucker. (Photo – Doug Jorgensen)

Christian Youth Theater Establishes Permanent Residency at Bankhead

By Christina Cavallaro

LIVERMORE — The Christian Youth Theater (CYT) of the Tri-Valley has established a permanent residency at the Bankhead Theater, the first youth theater company to have ever been offered such an opportunity. The Bankhead is managed by Livermore Valley Arts (LVA).

But make no mistake; this company, these kids and their families have put in the work to earn their spot, said CYT artistic director, founding board

member and show director Kristin Baer-Werder, who is affectionately referred to by cast and crew as “KW.”

The group debuted their first official show, “The Wizard of Oz,” as residents of the Bankhead on Thursday evening, June 13, to kick off a six-show run that ended in a matinee on Sunday, June 16.

But before the Bankhead stage dream became a reality, the group had to be “what you might call ‘tenacious,’” said Baer-Werder. “We’re a company that just kept finding a way.”

The group has per-

formed in churches and schools all over the Tri-Valley, but really showed their thespian mettle during the pandemic. On June 15, 2021, the day the physical distancing and capacity restrictions in California were lifted, they built a stage out of wooden pallets and performed in a field in Livermore. It was over 100 degrees outside. Three hundred guests arrived and were seated in misting tents to watch CYT’s “Peter and the Starcatcher.”

“We just went for it,” said Baer-Werder.

CYT is an after-school

(See BANKHEAD, page 6)

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Classifieds	10	Nonprofit Panelists Discuss Housing Challenges	2
Editorial	4	Fallon 580 Land Use Changes Recommended	2
Mailbox	4	Pleasanton Reviews Progress of Its Five-Year Strategic Plan	7
Obituaries	9	The Alameda County Fair Opens With Some New Surprises	7
		Livermore Schools Share Goals, Budget Plans for Next Year	8
		PUSD Names Interim Superintendent	8

PETS OF THE WEEK



ARCHER

Archer is an amiable little guy who adores afternoon naps, adventuring around the neighborhood, and ample sunbathing sessions in the backyard. Always attached to his favorite foster human, Archer is an absolute angel who’s anxiously awaiting a loving family where he can get all the attention (and belly rubs) he craves. Visit valleyhumane.org to learn more or email info@valleyhumane.org to start the adoption application process. (Photo – Valley Humane Society)

Nonprofit Panelists Discuss Housing Challenges

By Ruth Roberts

The State of Housing in the Tri-Valley was the topic of a panel discussion hosted by the Tri-Valley Non-Profit Alliance (TVNPA) at its regular monthly meeting on June 13. Held at the Bankhead Theater in Livermore, the session offered varied perspectives and challenges faced by local agencies working to serve those in need.

The six-member panel included Sharan Amany with Tri-Valley Haven, Christine Beitsch-Bahmani of City-Serve, Open Heart Kitchen's John Bost, Kim Curtis with Goodness Village, Patrick O'Brian of Valley Reach and Marc Ross with Interfaith Housing.

While each agency addresses different populations with varying needs, they all agree that the challenges to finding affordable, stable housing, especially for vulnerable populations such as seniors and the unhoused, are great.

"Our clients are domestic violence survivors, so there is a lot of trauma when our clients come to us," said Amany. "It's hard to maintain a job ... and the lack of affordable housing is huge."

CityServe's Beitsch-Bahmani agreed, adding that the dearth of affordable housing is perhaps the greatest challenge for the clients she serves.

"There is a lack of inventory," she said. "We could be working with someone, helping them get on those waitlists, but they could be waiting for up to seven years. ... When you are trying to support someone while they are waiting, it's an obstacle for our team."

Kathy Young, TVNPA CEO and president, later told The Independent, "It's much more cost effective to invest in keeping people in their homes than it is after they've left their homes."

Tri-Valley REACH provides housing for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities who can live independently.

"The challenge is we need to get away from the one-size-fits-all in the various affordable housing programs and get to something that deals with the issues on a case-by-case basis," said O'Brian.

Interfaith Housing is developing a new project in Livermore on Pacific Avenue, and Ross said that the path to getting the dollars in

place is circuitous at best.

"Our current estimate (cost for the project) is about \$54 million," said Ross, "That's about \$629,000 per unit for 79 units ... The City of Livermore has allocated \$7.6 million for the project, and we have about six Section 8 vouchers, but we need significantly more." Vouchers come from HUD (Department of Housing and Urban Development) and typically pay about 70% of a tenant's rent.

As budget cuts and federal funding decreases continue, nonprofit organizations are scrambling to make ends meet.

"Private developers are not going to build affordable housing if it is not profitable, so cities rely on the county; the county relies on the state; and the state relies on the federal government to give us subsidies, which are not enough," Bost explained. "When we hear the sort of messaging that 'well, the nonprofits are just interested in funding,' I'm like, 'Yeah, we are.' We just hustle all the time. Sixty percent of my job is just finding the next funding source."

Young said, "One of the problems that we have is that

nonprofit wages are kept so low that it's hard to hire well qualified people to do the jobs that are needed."

She went on to explain that wages are kept low because people focus only on programs and "don't want to invest in overhead."

"You can't have programs without people to run them," continued Young. "If you want to have impactful programs, you need to have qualified people to run them."

Even if there were enough affordable housing, said Bost, there is still much to be done to help stand people up on their own.

"I see people experiencing a profound lack of hope," said Bost. "People often present as angry and really, they are just incredibly frustrated after having tried and tried and tried to climb out of this challenging place they find themselves in, and they don't have the heart to try one more time."

Goodness Village works with people with chronic illness or mental health struggles. Often, said Curtis, they don't have an income or medical coverage.

"We're able to help them ... but one of the barriers of

that is the mistrust that might have happened in their past lives or even another organization that wasn't able to help them are challenging," she said. "(And) our perceptions of what people who are homeless are, or what they deserve, or the disbeliefs and opinions of people as a

society. And until that shifts, we are going to have some problems."

And yet, hope remains. "From cradle to grave, we're part of communities and our first responsibility is working for others," said Amny. "That is why we do what we do."

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Dublin Planning Commission

Fallon 580 Land Use Changes Recommended

By Ruth Roberts

The Dublin Planning Commission has moved the Dublin Fallon 580 project forward with the approval of several amendments and revisions to the plan during the commission's regular board meeting on June 11.

The project encompasses approximately 192 acres east of Fallon Road, north of Interstate 580 and along

applicant requested minor modifications to existing land uses, including the establishment of residential development standards and the subdivision of four existing parcels into 11 parcels to allow for a greater variety of land uses for more affordable housing and the public park. The project also includes public improvements and right-of-way dedications to the future Dublin

totaling 126 acres would be designated as general commercial/campus office space and would have no changes. Another parcel would also remain the same in its designation of parks/public recreation and would house a future 7.2-acre community park.

The 42.6-acre open space conversion involves two parcels. The applicant is asking the city to buy these

include 30 affordable units or, with in-lieu fees, 18 low-income units.

The commission unanimously approved the changes and praised the applicant's thoroughness and commitment to the project.

"I'm really pleased with the thoughtful application of this project," said Wahida Rashid, alternate commissioner.

Several members of local trade unions agreed with Rashid and echoed her sentiments during public comment.

One member of the public did not agree.

Dublin resident Flora Bai wrote to the commission prior to the meeting, "This massive, new construction will dramatically affect our neighborhood, leading to increased noise and overcrowded schools."

She continued, "Compared to the existing plan, the proposed plot subdividing changes would significantly reduce existing open space and eliminate the planned public/semi-public area. ... These modifications will likely lead to congestion in our neighborhood."

Vice Chair Matthew Aini addressed Bai's concerns.

"I just want to say flat out from the vision being presented here so far, I think it is a great benefit to views and access to nature," said Aini. "I think the public and community will benefit from this (project)."

The project changes will next come before the city council during an upcoming meeting.

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Applicants of the Dublin Fallon 580 project, the 192 acres north of Interstate 580 and east of Fallon Road, are asking for several land use changes for more affordable housing and a public park. (Map courtesy of the City of Dublin)

the future Dublin Boulevard Extension within Dublin's city limits.

GH PacVest, LLC, applicants of the project, aim to eliminate the public/semi-public land use designations and convert 42.6 acres of open space within the project to a parks/public recreation land use. They also plan to construct 238 residential units along with 3.3 million square feet of commercial/campus office space.

According to staff, the

Boulevard extension, as well as public improvements for residential parcels.

"It is important to note at this time there is no development," Neda Zayer, assistant community development director. "Additional discretionary approval to implement the projects for development would be through a future site development review permit, which is subject to the planning commission at a public hearing."

Five of the 11 parcels

sites and develop them to provide hiking and walking trails for the public.

Two more parcels are allocated to housing and would be designated medium-high density residential with 238 condominiums or townhouses on 13.7 acres with maximum building heights of 40 feet.

The applicant wants to move the final parcel, which sits in a public/semi-public designation and provide in its place 74 low-income units. Those units would

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Youth to Ride Wheels Buses for Free This Summer

Young children and teens will be able to ride free on Wheels buses throughout the summer.

The Livermore Amador Valley Transit Authority (LAVTA) said last week that its Summer Youth Ride Free promotion will make it easy for students on summer vacation to take advantage of activities in Livermore, Pleasanton, and Dublin, including summer camps, cultural and sporting events, and jobs.

LAVTA Executive Director Christy Wegener said about half of the bus service's regular riders during the year are youths going to and from school.

"It just makes sense to of-

fer this promotion during the summer months," Wegener said, "so that we can make it easy for students to keep riding over the summer. And for students who don't yet ride Wheels, it's a great opportunity to give the bus a try."

Evan Branning, an LAVTA board member and a teacher at Village High School in Pleasanton, added that "youth who learn to utilize transit understand its benefits and become our strongest advocates. They understand that public transit supports an environmentally responsible lifestyle and a sustainable future."

No passes or ID will be required, according to LAV-

TA. All young riders need to do when they board the bus is say "youth ride free."

The promotion, which began June 1, will last through Monday, Aug. 12, at which time LAVTA is planning another monthlong, free-ride promotion at the start of the new school year.

LAVTA, which operates the Wheels bus service, was created by Alameda County and the cities of Dublin, Livermore, and Pleasanton in 1985 to provide public transit in the Tri-Valley area.

For more information on Wheels, including routes and schedules, go to wheels-bus.com.

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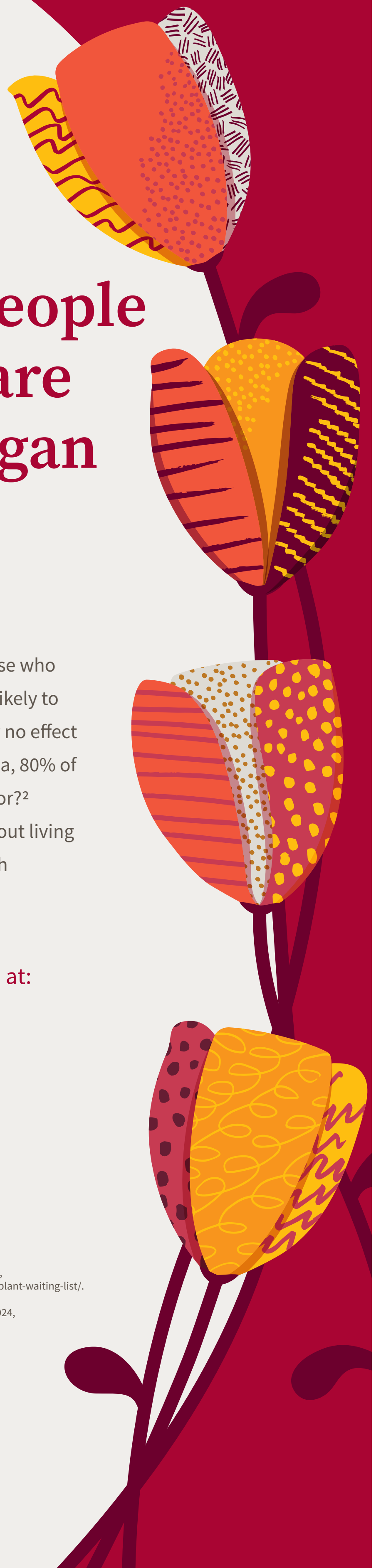
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1. "The Organ Transplant Waiting List," Donate Life California, accessed April 3, 2023, <https://donatelifecalifornia.org/education/how-donation-works/the-organ-transplant-waiting-list/>.
2. "State data," Organ Procurement & Transplantation Network, accessed May 22, 2024, <https://optn.transplant.hrsa.gov/data/view-data-reports/state-data/>



EDITORIAL

Dublin Should Increase Its Affordable Housing In-Lieu Fees

We applaud Dublin's recent decision to increase its affordable housing requirements imposed on developers looking to build new homes. Builders of for-sale units must now set aside 15% of their units as affordable, an increase from the previous 12.5% requirement.

But Dublin's in-lieu fees deserve a closer look. At \$15 per square foot for each market-rate for-sale unit, the fee comes in at less than half of what neighboring cities Pleasanton and

Livermore charge.

Dublin's fee equates to \$546,000 per affordable single-family-detached unit, while the cost to build the unit is \$619,928, according to a feasibility analysis prepared for the city. The result is a natural inclination for developers to pay the fee instead of actually building affordable housing.

The low fee also depresses contributions to the city's in-lieu-fee fund.

An increase in the affordable

percentage requirement carries little weight when the option to pay a relatively low fee is available as an alternative.

While in-lieu fees can fund off-site production of affordable housing, on-site affordable units, built along with the rest of the project, provide more certainty than money in an in-lieu-fee fund. Real homes sooner rather than later are needed.

The Tri-Valley Nonprofit Alliance recently sponsored a panel of area nonprofits that identi-

fied a lack of affordable housing as their primary challenge in serving vulnerable populations, including those who have suffered domestic violence, those who have intellectual or developmental disabilities and senior citizens. Here and throughout the state, we need more affordable housing.

We therefore urge Dublin to increase its in-lieu fee option to encourage more developers to incorporate on-site affordable housing in their projects.

MAILBOX

Mailbox Guidelines:

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The Endless Homeless Multicar Pileup

Greg Scott, Livermore

In the current Israeli-Palestinian war, there's an indiscriminate campaign against all Palestinians, not only Hamas. This has resulted in an enormous amount of civilian casualties and has displaced 1.7 million Gazans. Most of these Gazans will remain homeless indefinitely because their homes have been reduced to rubble. Moshe Feiglin, of Israel's Zehut Party, recently commented, "As Hitler said, 'I cannot live if one Jew is left.' We can't live here if one 'Islam-Nazi' remains in Gaza." Who has been acting like Nazis implementing lebensraum in what was British-mandated Palestine? When Israel was formed in 1948, more than 700,000 Palestinians were forced from their homes at gunpoint and more than 400 Palestinian villages were completely destroyed.

The savage homelessness by mostly economic displacement exists here in the United States. By metaphor, it is like witnessing a seemingly endless multicar pileup on the freeway. Far fewer cars are diverted than continue to join the accident. And so it is with homelessness domestically and locally, because we address homelessness as an individual problem when it is overwhelmingly a structural problem. By "structural" it is meant the market price of housing. The book, "Homelessness Is a Housing Problem," by Gregg Colburn and Clayton Page Aldern, 2022, makes a very strong case for this, although I disagree with the title.

At the Tri-Valley Non-Profit Alliance Anti-Poverty Collaborative (TVNPA APC) State of Housing for Vulnerable Populations in the Tri-Valley event last June 13, Christine Beitsch-Bahmani, representing CityServe of the Tri-Valley, made the understatement that homelessness is going to increase. It sure is, and we are not going to have the resources to house a fraction of them. From 2019, rents have increased on average 34.1% in the U.S., while wages have increased, on average 23%. As TVNPA APC panelist John Bost, representing Open Heart Kitchen expressed, those households that are cost burdened are a leading indicator of future homelessness. Cost-burdened is when the cost of housing for a household divided by the gross income for that household is 30% or more. More than half of all renters are now cost-burdened.

You bring the cost of housing down by industrially producing housing in a factory, like Volumetric Building Companies in their 577,000 square-foot facility in Tracy, which they bought from the Legacy Development bankrupt builder Katerra. Only 3% of residences in the U.S. are produced industrially. To lower housing costs, we need to increase factory-produced housing.

Flags, Flags, Flags!

Gerri Lonnberg, Livermore

How exciting it is to see so many rainbow flags proudly flowing in the breeze throughout this nation! It is so encouraging to see that so many are proclaiming the promise of God and His faithfulness to never flood the entire earth again by giving us the sign of the rain-

bow, (Genesis 9:11-13); it makes one so proud to be an American where we have the freedom to proclaim our God-given rights.

People Need Places to Live

Patricia Munro, Livermore

The 8.2 parcel of land purchased by the City of Livermore specifically to provide affordable housing represents — in theory — what can happen when different groups collaborate. The germ of the idea came about in fall of 2017, when seven groups with different needs came together to imagine a space for all. That plan included 130 units for affordable apartments onsite and 140 units for senior housing near the Livermore Library. The city council approved the concept in 2018, two years before the COVID pandemic. Livermore residents — as evidenced by who and what they vote for — support both the downtown concept and the plan itself.

Livermore residents understand that cities are stronger when there is housing for all income levels, from the most vulnerable to the most privileged. And yet, here we are, six years later, still waiting for that housing to be built.

It is not for lack of trying. Rather, the few people who vehemently oppose housing have thrown up one obstacle after another to prevent this worthy project from going forward, including lawsuit after lawsuit, and ballot initiatives of one kind or another. The project will go forward. Eventually there will be 130 affordable homes in Livermore. But those homes could already be built and occupied. That they are not now occupied is truly shameful. That the cost of building has likely doubled is shameful. And it was necessary to spend money to ensure this worthy project goes forward is shameful.

In the coming weeks, the Livermore City Council will be discussing one final piece for enabling this project to proceed. This is a moment to support Livermore values and this project. I urge you to do so.

Adding to the UGB Creates Risks

Fred Doss, Livermore

As a long-term resident of Livermore, I strongly support maintaining the current Urban Growth Boundaries (UGB) rather than the

proposed expansions.

Over the past 25 years, I have observed Livermore evolving from a friendly cowboy town in the far East Bay into a highly desirable unique small town. In spite of some recent controversies over the past few years, Livermore is still a highly desirable place to live and work. It maintains the look and feel of a distinct town rather than just a sign on a street designating a change into a different town.

Adding to our current UGB in the various ways that have been proposed creates risks. Although most of the proposed expansion areas are to be zoned either industrial or commercial, there is no guarantee that the state or county government would not mandate changes. The current push for more and more housing and the "builders remedy" could push urban sprawl beyond our control. The county approval of the cemetery development outside our current UGB into protected areas is only one recent issue.

While I support the existing UGB, I feel it is vital that a sphere of influence buffer is established and maintained between Livermore and Dublin. We should continue to be a distinct separate stand-alone town.

May Your Festivities Be Filled with Joy

Manzur Murshed, Pleasanton

I am writing to draw attention to the significant spiritual period currently underway for Muslim Americans as we find ourselves amidst the blessed first ten days of the Islamic month of Dhul-Hijjah. This sacred time holds profound importance for Muslims worldwide, particularly for those undertaking the pilgrimage of Hajj this year.

During these days, Muslims engage in a myriad of virtuous acts, including recitation of the Quran, fasting, additional prayers, meditative remembrance of God (dhikr), supplication (du'a), and acts of charity. These practices serve to deepen one's connection with the divine and foster a sense of spiritual renewal.

Of utmost significance is the upcoming Day of Arafah, which marks the pinnacle of the Hajj pilgrimage. On this day, pilgrims gather on the plain and hillside of Mount Arafat in Mecca, engaging in supplication, seeking forgiveness, and reflecting upon the teachings of Islam. It is a day imbued

with divine mercy and forgiveness, as evidenced by the prophetic sayings that fasting on Arafah expiates the sins of the past and coming year.

This year, the Day of Arafah falls on Saturday, June 15 or Sunday, June 16, depending on differing opinions regarding the lunar calendar. Following this auspicious day is Eid ul-Adha, a joyous occasion that commemorates the sacrifices of Abraham and his family. Celebrated with communal prayers, gatherings, and acts of charity, Eid ul-Adha serves as a time for reflection, gratitude, and unity within the Muslim community.

It is important to note the variance in the dates of Arafah and Eid ul-Adha, reflecting the diversity of perspectives within the Muslim community regarding the lunar calendar. Regardless of the date observed, the essence of these sacred days remains unchanged — a time for spiritual devotion, communal celebration, and acts of compassion.

As Muslim Americans mark this holy period, I extend warm wishes to all those celebrating Eid ul-Adha; may your festivities be filled with joy, blessings, and unity.

No On the Pleasanton City Council's 0.5% Sales Tax

David Ott, Pleasanton

The Pleasanton City Council is using scare tactics to ramrod a permanent 0.5% sales tax increase to the citizens. The city council has made some minor concessions to reduce the budget, and they can find more savings by simply placing a few of the very expensive capital improvement projects on hold. These projects can easily fund the \$13M budget shortfall and then when the economy recovers and the normal tax base returns, the city can move forward with the improvement projects. Please remember that an increase to the sales tax is permanent, as in forever, and it would be far better to place a few of the capital improvement projects on hold temporarily. Do not be fooled by the scare tactics and urge the city council to place some of the capital improvement projects on hold. No new taxes!

If You Live

Patricia Thorstad, Livermore

Lady Libertas; from sea to shining sea; USO's near train stations; "The Greatest Generation," in-

cluding ones like Susan Mayall.

I heard her testament about "the Blitz" long, long ago, at church.

A century ago: Teddy doesn't run and lives to regret it; the Great Influenza epidemic, with the "unsuitably-applied" misnomer "Spanish Flu" kills only an estimated 675,000 dead (National Archives/The Flu Pandemic of 1918) in the United States, far less than our own pandemic dead of the 21st Century

I use the word "only" as a statistical term. The unfortunate consequence of both pandemics, one century apart, is the folks gone can't contribute to the family as they once could.

The word "unfortunate" is defined and illustrated by the surviving matriarch or patriarch of a struggling multi-generational family: when one, or the last one goes, the pensions and social security checks are lost to their progeny.

How about having +/-one-third of your family income destroyed as a consequence of your loved one(s) contracting a deadly communicable disease? Some don't have to imagine.

I'm dancing in the streets, having my whole family survive the insurrection, the pandemic, and the post-insurrection, so far.

Watching the dark comedy-drama "Catch 22," faithful to Joseph Heller's book (lots of dialogue pre-written by the novel), I loved the two questions, well, three actually, that Orson Wells asks as the general: "Where is his underwear?" and "What about a chair? Doesn't anyone know what a chair is?!"*

Carry on, Patricia: besides those scenes from the movie, I pondered, "What's the catch?"

I thought it may be the old man's explanation of how to survive a European war politically.

Eventually, for me, I've found his warning to be the answer (about plans, designs, and dreams) only happening: "... if you live."

*Two-for-three answers: "In the laundry, sir." and "A chair for dad's gir...for the lady!"

FYI, fence fascists: Flag field forever flows far-port, whether displayed on an angled staff or a horizontal display. This is flag protocol, not my words: Port is left and starboard is right. Otherwise, people might rightly, or wrongly, conclude that you are doing a "Mrs. Alito."

Sunflower Hill to Feature Garden at Fundraiser

Sunflower Hill, a non-profit organization that provides housing and support services for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities, plans to focus attention on its instructional garden at Hagemann Ranch in Livermore during its annual fundraising gala in September.

"If you've been to our garden, you know how truly extraordinary it is," said Janeen Rubino-Brumm, Sunflower Hill board president. "Our gala will celebrate the garden's beautiful spirit and enchantment."

Sunflower Hill started the garden in 2015 to provide therapeutic, vocational,

and life-skills training for those it serves. Over the years, the one-acre garden has also become a source of organically grown food for other local nonprofits.

"Last year we harvested 62 different crops and more than 3,800 pounds of produce, eggs and flowers," said Kristen Barker, Sunflower Hill's educational garden manager. "Over the last decade, we've donated more than 50,000 pounds. We are delighted to work closely with local nonprofits to provide our harvest, absolutely free of charge."

Among the nonprofits receiving donations of food from Sunflower Hill are

Tri-Valley Haven, Shepherd's Gate, Culinary Angels, the Heritage Estates Senior Center, Open Heart Kitchen, and Hope Hospice.

"Without Sunflower Hill and their garden produce, Tri-Valley Haven's food pantry would be without produce at critical times," according to Christine Dillman, executive director of Tri-Valley Haven.

"Their produce is vital," Dillman added. "It allows families in great need to select healthy items grown locally."

Sunflower Hill also operates several residential housing communities, including Sunflower Hill at

Irby Ranch in Pleasanton, which opened in 2020.

Last year, the nonprofit announced plans to develop a new, 60-unit community, Sunflower Hill at Grace Pointe in Dublin.

The Sunflower Hill fundraiser, "The Enchanted Garden," is set for 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 21, at the Blackhawk Museum in Danville.

The evening will include wine, hors d'oeuvres, dinner, raffles, and live and silent auctions.

Early bird tickets at \$175 or \$1,200 for a table are available online at sunflowerhill.org. Ticket prices increase on Aug. 1.



Program participants Jennifer Thomas, left, and Scott Tessler, right, help with a weekly harvest at Sunflower Hill Garden at Hagemann Ranch in Livermore. (Photo courtesy of Sunflower Hill)

DRUG

(Continued from front page)

completely — more like removing the switch entirely.

The Role of Supercomputers

Felice Lightstone, the principal investigator of this project at LLNL, explained that the project wouldn't have been possible without high-performance computing. LLNL supercomputers Ruby, Quartz and Lassen significantly lowered the cost and shortened the timeline of drug development. Later this year, LLNL will have another three supercomputer systems — El Capitan, RZAdams and Tuolumne — added to their roster, bringing their total number of Top500 supercomputers to 14.

"The beautiful thing about high-powered computing is that a chemist can want to make one change, and we can test that in simulations to say which changes would likely be the best ones," said Lightstone. "There are so many paths to creating a chemical

entity; you might go down a path and realize far down the line that it doesn't work. So, with high-powered computing, chemists can see solutions they may not have thought of on their own."

Usually, drug development timelines can take tens of years. LLNL and BridgeBio synthesized this drug in seven. They also didn't have to synthesize every single compound thanks to computer simulation. The number in the name BBO-8520 represents the number of compounds that the team thought up for this kind of treatment. Other drugs may have code numbers well into the tens of thousands.

Over the seven years of development, the teams from LLNL and BridgeBio collaborated weekly, which Lightstone says aided the process significantly. "We were incorporated as one of their own, which breeds a lot of trust and success in this kind

of collaboration. It's difficult otherwise, if we're just tossing things over the fence and waiting. In our case, we got to hear all the ups and downs, which helped us make critical changes to chemical entities," she said.

Those critical changes included designing a tight fit between the drug and its target, modifying the compounds for safety during the animal testing phase, and predicting whether the changes that the chemists and biologists wanted to make were optimal.

Lightstone noted that this was truly a "proof of principle" for the mission of the Department of Energy (DOE) laboratories. "We at LLNL have an expertise in high-powered computing and we knew we wanted to go into drug design," said Lightstone. "The goals of the DOE include enhancing operations through high-powered computing, and this shows that it can and should be used

for drug design." BBO-8520 is one of the first drug candidates from the DOE to reach clinical trial.

In her 25 years at LLNL studying small molecules, Lightstone marveled at the success of this project. Her team got to work on a major mission of the DOE, implementing codes and methodologies, working with a pharmaceutical company towards a goal, and improving the application of a new tool.

Lightstone and her team have high hopes as the drug enters clinical trials. "I'm excited that I got to contribute to this, because I think that this drug can potentially save lives," she said. "After a career at LLNL, that would be an amazing accomplishment — some of our biggest computers in the nation could be used to help and save so many people. So, I have my fingers and toes crossed for that."

ELECTRIC

(Continued from front page)

PCIA assigns a different set of costs to different customers depending on when they leave the utility. It also fluctuates based on the changing cost of energy.

"It's still possible that if we stabilize rates, (customer) costs are still not stable, because they face the PCIA charge that goes up and down depending on where power prices actualize," said Ava CEO Howard Chang.

While a PG&E forecast filed last month revealed lower energy costs in 2025 resulting from "overcollection" earlier this year, the savings will likely be erased

by rising PCIA costs, according to Chang.

"Typically, we wouldn't see this type of movement in that filing," said Chang. "The reason why that movement was so significant is because the actual energy prices between January and April of 2024 — the few months that we just passed, the winter months — were very, very soft in terms of actual energy prices."

A mild winter in both California and throughout the country, coupled with a good supply of natural gas, led to historically low natural gas prices that kept

energy prices subdued, continuing Chang.

González voiced the need to make clear the different bill components.

"I think that people in the public look at their utility bill; they don't look at their generation bill," said González. "I just think that we need to find a way to actively communicate what's happening here. Because I think PG&E may tout that their generation prices are going down, or something like that, and then people say, 'How are things with Ava?' and they see their bills go up."

Ava now expects a \$42.2

million surplus for the next fiscal year beginning July 1. In comparison, Ava had expected a \$138.8 million surplus for the next fiscal year prior to PG&E's May forecast. It had budgeted a \$179.5 million surplus in fiscal year 2024.

The extra funds will be allocated to a budget surplus waterfall that first replenishes reserve funds before taking the form of credits for California Alternate Rates for Energy (CARE) and Family Electric Rate Assistance (FERA) customers, and finally as credits for non-CARE/FERA customers.

REFERENDUM

(Continued from front page)

limitation on liability for up to \$4.3 million for cleanup of contamination at the site, and a \$5.5 million city payment to build the park. Livermore's planning regulations for the site require the developer to provide public open space as part of a multi-family housing project.

According to Ryon, the community favored instead a larger, creative community park on the site located in the center of the city that the council had chosen for Eden. Ryon stated that community members wanted to relocate the housing units just across Railroad Avenue to the north.

MEH submitted to the city in July 2022 a referendum petition signed by over 8,000 individuals — above the required minimum of 5,702 signatures — that sought to put the city council's resolution approving the proposed Eden development to a public vote.

But 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 not legislative.

Legislative actions establish policies, while administrative actions execute them. Administrative actions cannot be referred, only legislative actions.

When brought before the Alameda County Superior Court in August 2022, Superior Court Judge Michael Markman

ruled that Weber had acted appropriately. MEH then took its case to the appellate court.

In March, the California 1st District Court of Appeal overruled Markman's ruling and issued an opinion that the clerk must process the resolution, because she did not have the legal authority to determine whether or not it was administrative.

City Manager Marianna Marysheva told The Independent, "The city's election official resumed processing the resolution when the Appellate Court opinion was final."

Earlier this month, the Alameda County Registrar of Voters verified that the referendum petition contained a sufficient number of valid signatures by Livermore voters to qualify for the ballot.

Marysheva noted, "The city council is expected to take action in response to the referendum at its meeting on June 24, 2024."

MEH attorney Winston Stromberg said, "The Court of Appeal's opinion serves as an important reminder that local government cannot annul the rights of the people by refusing to process a validly submitted referendum. As the Court of Appeal made clear, if a city questions whether a referendum is legal, it can turn to a judge to make that decision — it cannot let city staff hijack the process."

Eden Housing declined to comment on the Supreme

Court's decision.

The appellate court chose not to publish the section of its opinion that characterized the \$7.8 million loan and the \$4.3 million liability cap as administrative acts, reasoning that the \$5.5 million payment for the park rendered the entire city resolution to be legislative and therefore subject to referendum.

City Attorney Jason Alcalá told The Independent, "The decision could mislead readers into believing an entire resolution can be challenged, rather than just the legislative acts, which is likely to lead to confusion and increased litigation."

"If granted, depublishation would have no effect on the law of the case between the parties," continued Alcalá. "The city, Eden Housing, and the proponents are bound by the opinion either way. However, if granted the opinion would no longer be binding law on other public agencies in California. That said, the California Supreme Court denied the requests for depublishation last Wednesday."

The requests followed a separate Eden Housing request, submitted in March, to fully publish the court opinion. The Court of Appeal denied that request and the Supreme Court also denied further publication.

On the verified referendum, Ryon said, "As the rights of Livermore's voters have

been upheld, now the litigation challenging the City's refusal to process the referendum can come to an end. The Court of Appeal's opinion made clear that the City must comply with the law and process the referendum in full. We look forward to the City's action on the referendum and hope the City Council follows its legal obligations under the Elections Code."

Veteran to Receive Quilt of Valor at Annual Quilters Show

Beth Taylor, an Army veteran and member of Amador Valley Quilters (AVQ), will receive a Quilt of Honor at the group's annual quilt show, "Quilted Treasures XVIII: Together Again," at Trinity Church in Livermore on Saturday, June 22.

The Quilts of Valor Foundation, an Iowa-based nonprofit organization, was formed in 2003 to provide patriotic-themed quilts to military veterans "touched by war." There are now more than 600 affiliated groups nationwide with 11,000 members.

AVQ became affiliated with Quilts of Valor in 2013 and has presented more than 960 quilts to Bay Area veterans. Nationwide, the foundation and affiliated groups have presented quilts to more than 393 million veterans.

Taylor will receive her Quilt of Honor at 2 p.m.

AVQ's annual quilt show runs from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday.

The AVQ Quilts of Val-

or sewing group meets at Veterans Memorial Hall in Livermore, from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. every Monday.

For more information, go to amadorvalleyquilters.org.

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Livermore Valley Opera Offers ‘Opera in the Vineyard’

The Livermore Valley Opera (LVO) will present outdoor Opera in the Vineyard programs at the Garre Vineyard & Winery in Livermore on Sunday, June 23, and Sunday, Aug. 18.

LVO said each performance would include a different musical program designed to take guests “on a musical journey” while sampling Garre wines.

Both performances will also include LVO’s “Arias a la Carte,” with guests able to purchase musical selections from a menu to be sung at their table or seating area.

“Opera in the Vineyard has always been a popular event that has created a wonderful community of

music lovers,” said Raquel Holt, LVO founder and board member. “We are so excited that we can come together again to enjoy unique performances of opera arias, show tunes, and maybe even a little cabaret.”

Guests may bring their own picnic baskets or purchase charcuterie boxes at the winery.

Gates to the winery, 7986 Tesla Road, will open at 4:15 p.m., with the musical programs beginning at 5 p.m.

To purchase tickets or order a charcuterie box, go to livermorevalleyopera.com. Individual seating is \$80.

Ticket sales for the June 23 program close on June 20. Ticket sales for the Aug. 18 program close on Aug. 15.



Singers, from left to right, Hope Briggs, Salvatore Atti, Molly Mahoney and Ryan Bradford raise glasses at the June 2023 Opera in the Vineyard. (Photo - Barbara Mallon)

INTELLIGENCE

(Continued from front page)

year.

AI encompasses a wide variety of tools. In the classroom setting, it’s generally used to refer to two kinds of tools.

The first is generative AI, which describes tools like ChatGPT, where users enter a prompt to which the tool generates an answer. Since ChatGPT’s release in September 2022, it’s raised concerns about plagiarism and the ethics of using it, especially as it’s been proven that generative AI can “hallucinate” factually incorrect

responses.

Another AI tool is “human-focused AI,” which is more personalized to the user and can act like a personal assistant or a one-on-one tutor.

DUSD’s resolution asserts that embracing AI study tools responsibly, specifically human-centered AI, and ethically can “enhance student engagement, tailor instruction to individual learning styles, and support students with diverse educational needs.”

Vaidyanathan, who has

an interest in AI ethics and has been working on the resolution since August 2023, spoke during public comment. She said, “This resolution could hold immense potential if passed. We’re in favor of promoting flexibility and are looking to incorporate AI tools other than generative AI, like human-focused AI, such as QChat or Khanmigo. I believe AI is meant to be a tool to be used to our advantage, and a clear policy ... advocating for responsible and ethical AI in the class-

room ... is of the utmost importance.”

The trustees who spoke all said that artificial intelligence needed to be addressed in some way.

“Companies are rolling (AI) out and expecting employees to be more efficient,” said Speck. “Students need to know how to use these tools because employers will be expecting it.”

Blackman agreed that AI was here to stay, but that the resolution was flawed.

“Artificial intelligence is a lot more than just a tool,”

said Blackman. “It’s moving too fast to develop a resolution that will actually help you structure and train. By the time you’ve done that, the newest version is already out there.”

Blackman believes that there is no way that training will allow people to catch up with the rate of artificial intelligence. She stated teachers needed to be able to experiment rather than being “hemmed in” by the prescriptive language of a district-wide policy.

Cherrier said that he vot-

ed no on the resolution because of the third statement in the resolution. It states, “This creates inequitable conditions for students with different teachers in the same subject who have differing AI-use policies.” He said this was unfair wording for teachers who “think outside the box.”

The resolution’s authors will work with an AI subcommittee — a mix of staff, parents and guardians — to develop a board policy to present in early August.

PLEASANTON SCHOOLS

(Continued from front page)

utilities and staffing.

School officials said the proposed 2024-25 budget does meet the state-required 3% reserve, meaning it can be certified. However, unless changes are made, the next two years will not maintain those reserves, and therefore will not meet the requirements for a positive certification from the state.

Since the three-year outlook does not meet all requirements or show the district can meet its financial obligations, the budget must be submitted as qualified. This would mean additional

oversight from the Alameda County Office of Education, which could negatively impact interest rates on future bonds and loans.

Moving forward, the district will need to develop a detailed cost-reduction or revenue-generating plan to bring the reserves to the required 3%.

“It looks like we have our work ahead of us and some tough decisions to make,” said Trustee Steve Maher. “I know that we will deal with it, and we are not alone. Many districts are facing this now.”

Trustee Justin Brown said the board would need to be committed to finding a resolution, and noted they did have until November to do so.

“I want to call out the very real salary costs you mentioned,” Brown added, referencing the fact the district spends 87% of its budget on salaries and benefits. “Eighty-seven percent is unusual and represents the investment we’ve made in our employees, but also represents the issues we are having and the deficit.”

No action was taken on the item. The budget will be brought back to a future meeting for final board approval.

Measure 11

Also at the June 13 meeting, staff gave its annual update of Measure 11. The board voted on where to allocate the \$3.65 million saved on bond projects thus far.

The \$270 million Measure 11 bond was initially approved by Pleasanton voters in 2016, with the intention of funding var-

ious projects throughout the district. The budget and project list went through several iterations, and so far, \$3.65 million in savings have been realized on completed projects, including waterproofing replacement at the Pleasanton Middle School library, short-term backup power for district wide emergency communications, additional HVAC replacements district-wide, and water and energy conservation.

Those funds can now be reallocated to other projects, within the limits of the

bond language.

According to the staff report, savings were realized through aggressive bidding and savings as well as smart project management on the district’s part.

The bond was meant to repair and upgrade aging classrooms and facilities, provide modern learning and technology facilities, improve school site safety and security, improve water and energy efficiency and build a new school, although the bonds for the new school have yet to be issued.

BANKHEAD

(Continued from front page)

nonprofit theater arts training program for students ages 4-18. Since its founding in San Diego in 1981, it has grown to be the largest youth theater program in the nation, with branches across the country. Students have the opportunity to learn dancing, singing, acting, stagecraft and to audition and perform in Broadway-style musicals or work behind-the-scenes.

The local Tri-Valley branch will celebrate its 10th anniversary with a gala fundraiser at the Bankhead Theater on Thursday, June 27.

Nine years into CYT Tri-Valley, Baer-Werder said of its newfound Bankhead residency, “I mean, it’s just been hard to find the dates and to afford it, frankly. It took a lot of campaign fundraising to make it happen.” Now that they are a resident children’s theater company though, they do receive some benefits with that. So, costs aren’t as high as when they initially started out there.

“That’s one of the gifts of being a resident company,” she said. “And now we get to do all our shows here. Which is really thrilling.”

She also credits their sold-out production of Matilda, their first and only other show performed on the Bankhead stage last year, for catching the attention of Chris Carter, LVA executive director.

“We are very excited to have CYT as a resident company and partner serving our community through the arts,” said Carter. “I am personally very pleased that they have chosen Livermore and the Bankhead for their performance, and

am looking forward to the Wizard of Oz.”

CYT performed the Wizard of Oz nine years ago, but a lot has changed since then, namely the cast size. Back then it was a cast of 13. “This time,” said Baer-Werder, “we have 100 kids total and there are about 70 in the cast. But we also have about 15 who are doing crew. They do everything. They run the whole show.”

CYT also introduced a student orchestra a year ago, so there are 16 students playing the iconic score from the MGM film from the live orchestra pit just below center stage.

We got a sneak peak of the show at the dress-rehearsal before opening night. Baer-Werder said, “I’m sorry we’re late (starting the rehearsal). We’re waiting for the dog.” By dog, she meant Toto, played by real-life

canine actor, Milo. “These celebrities...” she joked.

Milo, aka Toto, the miniature poodle, is not professionally trained, but belongs to a supporter of the theater who is between jobs and so generously donated her time — and her dog — to the production, said Laura Panfilio, CYT’s social media coordinator and mother of three kids in the show. Panfilio said this kind of generosity is not unusual though.

“There are so many people that did hours and hours of volunteer work, because they were passionate about seeing this program take off in our community,” said Panfilio. “So, there are really a lot of parents and board members and, you know, other people who’ve really gotten us here. And I honestly don’t even think my kids fully appreciate how big of a deal this is.”

The quality of the sets, costumes, choreography and overall set management all comes from within the company. The woman who painted the sets is the mother of principal actor Henry Olfert, who played Uncle Henry, and whose sister is a stage manager.

Another mother handled all the creative choreography, including a scene wherein Dorothy is surrounded by cast members sprinting from one end of the stage to the other carrying huge diaphanous flags to convey the tornado that rips through Dorothy’s home.

The quality of the performances too was stellar. The production has double cast the roles of Dorothy with Kelilah Pape and Lylah Harvey. At the dress rehearsal, the young Harvey had the poise of someone much

older, even channeling some nostalgic qualities of a young Judy Garland, who portrayed Dorothy in the original MGM version of L. Baum’s enduring classic. Harvey’s ability to deal with the untrained Toto exhibited the experience of a much more seasoned actor.

Other standouts were the older actors who played the principal roles. They all commanded the stage with such presence and the well-timed humor of professionals; it’s therefore not a surprise that with the new residency, CYT will also launch a

new segment of the company called Next Stage for older teens, who clearly showed they have a capacity to take on more.

“The winter show will just be for teenagers,” said Baer-Werder. “A little bit more mature, more of a challenge, and more difficult for them, so they’ll get better and better.”

“The Wizard of Oz” seemed a fitting work for CYT’s official residency debut, with its oft-repeated moral of the story, “There’s no place like home.” And now, thanks to the Bankhead Theater, CYT has found a permanent one.



Left, the classic Wizard of Oz quartet graces the stage of the Bankhead Theater, while Dorothy, right, marvels at her ruby slippers. The Christian Youth Theater of the Tri-Valley, now permanent residents of the Bankhead, put on the Wizard of Oz production from June 13 to June 16. (Photos – Doug Jorgensen)



Pleasanton Reviews Progress of Its Five-Year Strategic Plan

By Larry Altman

Six months into the city's first five-year strategic plan to increase revenue, fund infrastructure projects, improve public safety and create a "community where everyone belongs," about half of the initiative's objectives are underway.

"Staff have been hard at work developing an implementation, which really defines what are the key tasks and projects and deliverables," Deputy City Manager Alexa Jeffress told the city council during its June 4 meeting.

Jeffress provided an update on the implementation of the strategic plan, approved Oct. 3, 2023, to identify what city staff should be focused on through 2028. It defined five goals: establishing fiscal sustainability, creating an effective organization, safeguarding the city, investing in infrastructure and public facilities, and improving "livability and community development."

Only Councilmember Valerie Arkin commented on the report, looking forward to increased city revenues.

"Hopefully it will translate into a more stable financial future for the city," she said.

According to an eight-page report issued by the city, here are some of the highlights so far:

Financial Sustainability

Since October, the city has updated its long-term financial forecast model, initiated a study to evaluate fees, begun development of an asset-management plan and is exploring a possible local sales tax measure to raise revenue.

Current projections show the city facing an annual \$13 million deficit for the next eight years, brought about by factors such as lagging retail activity, hotels still recovering from the pandemic, and increasing personnel costs.

"For the first time in 130 years, the city is asking our residents to consider funding a term of about eight to 10 years with a new half percent sales tax," Mayor Karla Brown told *The Independent*. "The proposed sales tax will be 50 cents per \$100 spent, and food from the grocery store and prescription medicines are exempt. All of the tax revenue will go directly to run the City of Pleasanton. If the voters agree, with these funds we will address needed infrastructure repairs, continue to maintain a safe and beautiful community, and help to retain property values for our homeowners and businesses. Also, if the measure passes, we expect to replace some of the lost tax revenue that occurred during COVID."

The city council will also reconsider the city's develop-

ment impact fees to "ensure new developments and new residents pay their fair share," continued Brown.

Additionally, Pleasanton implemented a water rate increase to fund utility operations, approved a garbage rate increase and a vehicle impact fee that will raise about \$13 million a year for road maintenance.

Organizational Effectiveness

In January, the city created a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and Belonging task force to implement a DEI action plan. It also redesigned the city's website to make it easier to use and launched a program to "foster engagement between city departments and improve morale."

Infrastructure, Public Facilities and Sustainability

Pleasanton budgeted about \$17 million for capital projects, including the construction of Fire Station #3, repairing the library roof and replacing windows, and redesigning West Las Positas Boulevard.

It also began a project to develop an asset-management plan for maintenance, renovation repair and the replacement of infrastructure and public facilities.

Last October, the city council selected a water supply alternative project to construct two new groundwater wells away from

its existing wells contaminated with PFAS.

"Some critical water system and sewer system management plans are underway and targeted for completion at the end of this calendar year," Jeffress said.

Public Safety

In the area of public safety, the city reviewed its emergency preparedness plan, developed training for all employees on disaster preparedness, and implemented a plan to reduce the

city's cybersecurity risk.

The Pleasanton Police Department (PPD) hired eight officers, a crime and intelligence analyst, a records clerk, three community service officers, a maintenance assistant, and promoted a lieutenant and two sergeants.

Additionally, PPD assigned a beat officer to K-5 schools in the Pleasanton Unified School District and launched an "Alternative Response Unit" to respond to mental health-related

incidents.

Regarding the plan as a whole, Jeffress said, "The strategic plan doesn't stand alone in a vacuum. It's part of a process. It ties into the implementation planning, and it integrates with our budget process to sort of move through a continuous annual cycle in which we're constantly evaluating our priorities, updating our departmental work plans and implication priorities, and ensuring that those are aligned with our budget."



The Livermore Pleasanton Fire Department responds to a fire on Pleasanton's First Street on the afternoon of June 14. First Street was closed for about two hours to allow fire-crew and equipment access. The fire was confined to a garage, in which a vehicle caught fire. (Photo – Doug Jorgensen)

The Alameda County Fair Opens With Some New Surprises

By Christina Cavallaro

For a fair that has been around since 1858, the Alameda County Fair is still going strong. Striking a balance between the fresh and new and the tried and true, the fair that's ranked one of the top 50 in North America and the seventh largest in California keeps its crowds of devotees coming back each year for more.

According to Harry Davies, event manager with the Alameda County Fair, this

year's fair is expected to bring in anywhere from 450,000 to 500,000 people during its 18-day run from opening day June 14 to its close on July 7.

And what's the number one draw for all those fairgoers? Liz Rosinski, founder of Rosinski Communications LLC, said food tops the list of reasons people come to the fair each year, based on customer research and surveys.

"Everything on a stick," said Rosinski. She pointed to a square of pepperoni pizza

with a popsicle stick poking out of the crust. "Because then you can walk around." It's also about fried stuff. "One year we had a deep-fried orange drink — they still won't tell me how they did it," she said with a laugh.

This year's food game is taking it to the next level. Angel Moore, chief operating officer for the Alameda County Fair, explained that with over 100 vendors to keep patrons happy, "it would be more profitable for the vendors if

we had less of them."

Moore continued that the way to keep them motivated to stay creative and attract customers is to encourage them to use unique food through contests, such as this year's new "Foodie's Choice Awards." The contest will give guests the chance to vote throughout the month of June on their favorite food in two categories: "Crazy New Item" and "Red, White and Blue," which is the fair's theme for this year.

"In the fair world, you really want to stand out, because there can only be so many corn dog vendors, right?" said Moore.

She pointed to a table laden with some of the new contest offerings. It featured a juicy-looking wedge of watermelon — on a stick of course — wrapped in red, white and blue fruit leather and sprinkled all over with chamoy, Tajin and lime. Next to that were several plates of what looked like ordinary corn dogs, but one was filled entirely with melted mozzarella.

"I call that a grilled cheese hot dog," Moore said.

Next to that creation sat a similar looking one but with an actual hot dog inside, the outside batter made of churro to look like a corn dog. On the corner of the table was an open tin of SPAM, with SPAM "fries" spilling out and some SPAM sliders on a plate next to it. These creative morsels came from Boba King, who also has a drink in the contest called the Celebration Boba — a fluffy red and white whipped boba drink with a mini red, white and blue missile popsicle floating on top.

The fair's uniqueness

doesn't end at just food. There are creative cocktails. One is called "Mule is My Spirit Animal" that features George Dickel eight-year bourbon, a fair sponsor, for customers to try at the fair's Honky Tonk Saloon.

Attendees can vote via QR code at select vendor booths throughout the fair through June 30.

Crowds can rest assured that not all the fair fare is whacky and new. There are still the popular standards like cotton candy, funnel cake, turkey legs and global favorites such as elote, ceviche and gyros. And a new onsite pizza oven means customers can now get homemade, made-to-order pizzas, too.

Featured Shows

The trend toward the new peppered in with the classics is also true when it comes to featured shows, in addition to all the favorite activities, like the All-Alaskan Pig Races, horse racing, concerts and rides that fairgoers have come to love. Two new standouts are the Canine Stars Stunt Dog Show and the Raptor Show.

Carrie Caraher, president of the Canine Stars, known for their presence on the reality show "America's Got Talent," said of their debut at the Alameda County Fair: "We're super excited about this."

The dogs will be free-style dancing, playing frisbee, high-jumping and doing something called dock-diving, which is basically a long-distance jump competition for dogs into a large rectangular pool.

"In the heat of the summer,

it's definitely best for the dogs and their favorite thing to do," noted Caraher, while her colleague Macy Blatter's dog Tempo ran circle eights through Blatter's legs. When it was Tempo's turn to show what she could do, she broke out into a frenetic routine called "Freestyle Dancing" with her owner. It's a bunch of tricks choreographed to music. Tempo moved from weaving through Blatter's legs to leaping over her shoulders back and forth.

"She could do this all day long," said Caraher.

Equally exciting is the new raptor show. Jonathan Gonzalez of Raptor Events introduced Luna, a Harris hawk, and Marvin a Eurasian eagle owl. Gonzalez shared a little of what people can expect to learn.

"I talk about conservation," he said. "We teach about falcons, hawks, owls and what we can do to help birds of prey in the wild." The goal, he said, is to teach a little something and let people have a great time meeting these birds and seeing them in action. "We think it's so important to actually meet them. It's different on TV."

After both birds of prey have done many impressive tricks, observers can touch and pet Marvin, the owl who has huge mesmerizing bright orange eyes. "I have a lot of fun facts about owls," said Gonzalez. "If we had the same size eyes compared to our skull, we would have grapefruits for eyes."

For more information and updates, visit alamedacountyfair.com.



New this year to the Alameda County Fair is the Raptor Show, featuring falcons, hawks and owls in action. (Photo – Doug Jorgensen)

Tri-Valley Haven Seeks Volunteers To Join Its Victim Support Programs

Tri-Valley Haven (TVH) is recruiting volunteers for its support programs, including 24-hour crisis-line and victim-advocate services.

TVH provides shelter and support services for the homeless and victims of domestic abuse and

sexual assault.

Volunteers will be enrolled in a 10-week, state-approved violence and sexual assault advocacy training program starting Tuesday, July 9.

Participants will meet via Zoom from 6:30 p.m. to

9:30 p.m. every Tuesday and Thursday.

Volunteers must be at least 21, participate in a pre-training interview, and pay a training fee.

To fill out a volunteer application, go to trivalleyhaven.org/advocacy-training.

Livermore Library to Host 'Jazz and July'

The Livermore Civic Center Library will host four "Jazz and July" programs on consecutive Sundays next month.

The first program, on July 7, will feature the Oakland Jazz Choir performing hits from the bebop era to modern jazz.

The following three pro-

grams in the series will feature the Dave Rocha Quintet, a mainstay of the greater Bay Area jazz community for over 20 years, on July 14; the funky sound of Charged Particles, with guest saxophonist Tod Dickow, on July 21; and the smooth, new-school vibe of Ashley Jemison on

July 28.

The programs, underwritten by the Friends of the Livermore Public Library, are free and begin at 2 p.m. Registration is not required, although seating is limited.

For more information, go to library.livermoreca.gov or call 925-373-5500.

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Livermore Schools Share Goals, Budget Plans for Next Year

By Dawnmarie Fehr

The Livermore Joint Unified School District (LVJUSD) held a public hearing last week for its Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP), which describes the district's goals, actions, services and expenditures to support students. The plan also addresses state and local priorities.

At the district's June 11 board meeting, Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services Melissa Theide described the LCAP as a three-year plan, updated annually, that guides district spending. It includes high-level actions and expenditures to meet the three LCAP goals, which are to increase the percentage of students who graduate career and college ready, provide an engaging and safe environment to support learning, and to enhance parent and community engagement.

Of the three goals, Superintendent Chris Van Schaack said, "Our LCAP continues to prioritize those things that we believe are most critical for student success and safety. As we gather data that allows us to evaluate the effectiveness of our programs, modifications are made to spending. However, the goals remain consistent."

The LCAP provides funding for all students, with supplemental funding for those considered "high need," including students who are English learners, come from low-income homes, or are in foster care.

The plan will be submitted to the Alameda County Office

of Education by June 30 for final approval, said Theide.

Various stakeholders were engaged by the district to give input regarding the priorities and goals of the LCAP through a campaign conducted by district staff. Teachers, administrators, parents, students and community members were among those asked for their feedback in two committees appointed by the board in December 2023. The first committee was made up of parents and guardians of English learners, along with staff from each school site. The second committee consisted of parents and guardians representing a broader range of students from each school, as well as staff and administrators.

While teachers felt that their colleagues were respectful and dedicated to supporting English learners, they also voiced the need for smaller class sizes, more interventions for below-grade-level students, and the need for more social, emotional and behavioral support for students.

Parents and guardians recommended that the LCAP focus on mental health, support for academic counseling, support for English learners, and ongoing communication with parents.

After the presentation, board members thanked staff for their work, but did not offer any recommendations. Theide said public input can still be made in the form of questions or comments to Van Schaack, who will respond in writing.

Fiscal Year 2024-25 Budget

Following the LCAP hearing, the public hearing for the 2024-25 budget adoption was held, with a presentation by Assistant Superintendent of Business Services Teresa Fiscus.

The proposed budget includes assumptions from Gov. Gavin Newsom's May Revision Budget, as well as from the Department of Finance's revenue projections. District officials said it is challenging to complete the budget before the final details of the state budget are known and so the LVJUSD's budget is submitted as a placeholder, to be replaced by a 45-day revision after Newsom signs the state budget later this year. All items included in the proposed LCAP are incorporated into this budget.

With a beginning balance of some \$16.8 million, the budget estimates \$196 million in revenues and \$206 million in expenditures, said Fiscus.

She also discussed where the bulk of the budget will go.

"Staffing is the largest and most important piece of our budget," she said. "We spend 85.5% of our

budget on people, which is important, because students don't learn without teachers in front of them."

The budget was brought back to the board for adoption on June 18, after this story's deadline.

The district budget is

presented multiple times leading up to its adoption, so the public hearing last week was not the first time it was seen by the public. Van Schaack suggested this was why there was no public comment.

"We try to keep the com-

munity informed about our budget priorities throughout the course of the year, which tends to minimize any surprises at the end," he said. "Though we didn't get public comment last night, we've received plenty of input throughout the year."



The students of Livermore music teacher Kim Luty performed a piano recital Saturday, June 8 at Our Savior Lutheran Church. The program featured a variety of music and concluded with Livermore High School graduate Joy Ilagan performing Chopin's Fantasia Impromptu. From left: Joy Ilagan, Kim Luty, Mira Wood, Addie Estrada, Ailie Bissett, Adrian Wood, Sydney Biederman and Chloe Biederman stand together. (Photo courtesy of Kim Luty)

PUSD Names Interim Superintendent

The Pleasanton Unified School District (PUSD) Board of Trustees has appointed Maurice Ghysels, a former superintendent for two California school districts, to be interim superintendent for PUSD.

Ghysels will begin his duties on July 1 and serve as interim superintendent through June 30, 2025, or until the district hires a replacement for outgoing superintendent David Haglund.

Haglund, PUSD superintendent since 2017, announced his retirement in April.

Ghysels is a product of the Pleasanton school system, graduating from Amador Valley High School. His first job as a teacher was at his alma mater.

During a 30-year career in education, he was also superintendent for the Menlo Park City School District and the Mountain View Whisman School District, chief schools officer for the Santa Clara County Office of Education, and chief innovation officer for the Ravenswood City School District in East Palo Alto.

Since 2019, he has headed the Ghysels Group, a consulting and leadership development company for K-12 schools, while continuing to teach as an affiliate professor at Loyola Marymount University and serving as course facilitator for the Stanford University Graduate School of Education.

Ghysels has a doctorate in education, leadership, and organizational development from the University of San Francisco.

"We are thrilled to have Dr. Ghysels join the outstanding team that has been built at PUSD in this interim role," said PUSD Board President Mary Jo Carreon. "Dr. Ghysels brings a wealth of experience and unique perspective as a leader within public schools as well as an expert in advising educational leaders. We look forward to benefiting from his knowledge and leadership as the board prepares to work toward identifying a permanent superintendent next year."

The PUSD Board of Trustees appointed Ghysels at its meeting on June 13.

TRI-VALLEY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

June – Aug. 1

DUBLIN SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

The Dublin Summer Concert Series, held on Thursday evenings, 6 to 8 p.m. in the Emerald Glen Park Amphitheater (4201 Central Parkway) during the Dublin Farmers' Market, is offering a wide variety of musical acts (there will be no farmers' market or concert on July 4.) The concert series, sponsored by DUBS, a Dublin-based drum shop, will feature:

June 20 - Aki Kumar: vintage Bollywood meets American blues and rock 'n' roll
June 27 - The Peelers: "top 40" mashups and medleys cover band
July 11 - Notorious: current hits along with classics from the '70s, '80s, '90s, along with Motown, disco, R&B, soul, and classic rock
July 18 - The Big Jangle: Tom Petty tribute band
July 25 - Carnival: Santana tribute band
Aug. 1 - Wonderbread 5: current hits to classics from the '70s, '80s, '90s, and beyond

June – Aug. 20

TUESDAY TUNES FREE CONCERTS

Tuesday Tunes are family-friendly concerts on the Shea Homes Stage in front of the Bankhead Theater, hosted by the Livermore Cultural Arts Council. The free shows, scheduled for 6:45 to 8:15 p.m., include:

June 25: Evan Thomas Band - funky, soulful, blues
July 2: Death & Taxes Swing Band - 1940's big band swing
July 9: The Chris Bradley Band - traditional New Orleans Jazz
July 16: Frankie Bones Project - acoustic, folk, rock
July 23: Audio Illusion - classic rock, pop, blues
July 30: Jeff Bordes & Friends - jazz roots
August 6: East Bay Grooveline - funk, groove, Motown, R&B
August 13: LunaFish - classic rock 60's & 70's
August 20: The Hurricane Band - classic rock, R&B, country, and pop

Thursday, June 13

PRE-CANDIDATE WORKSHOP

Are you interested in running for public office? The City of Dublin will host a Pre-Candidate Workshop on June 13 at 7 p.m. in the Bray Community Room at the Dublin Civic Center, 100 Civic Plaza. City Clerk Marsha Moore will provide an overview of the election process. City Manager Linda Smith will discuss the responsibilities of the Mayor and City Council and the role of the City Manager. For additional information, contact City Clerk Marsha Moore at city.clerk@dublin.ca.gov or 925-833-6644.

Friday, June 21

WINE DOWN IN THE GROVE

The LARPD Foundation is holding its 3rd Annual Wine Down in the Grove Fundraiser on June 21 from 5:30 to 8 p.m. Enjoy an evening of great food, great friends, music, and giving back while raising money to expand funding to the Community Support Scholarship Program. There will be wine and beer tasting, a delicious buffet dinner by On the Vine Catering, a live and silent auction, live music performed by Tim Gomes, and historic site tours with LARPD rangers. At Ravenswood Historic Site, 2647 Arroyo Rd., Livermore. Tickets: \$100. See LARPD.org/Foundation for more info.

Saturday, June 22

HARMONY UNVEILED: THE SECRET MUSIC OF THE RENAISSANCE

Trinity Concert Series will present "Harmony Unveiled: The Secret Music of the Renaissance," a mesmerizing evening of vocal and instrumental masterpieces directed by Tim Salaver. Aréte Singers, an East Bay ensemble renowned for their innovative vocal performances, team up with RammDance for an evening of Renaissance music and dance. June 22 at 7:30 p.m. at Trinity Lutheran Church, 1225 Hopyard Rd., Pleasanton. Pre-concert talk at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$20; students \$5; children 12 and under free. No one will be turned away for lack of funds. For more information, contact Dwight Stone at stonemusic@gmail.com.

Saturday – Sunday, June 22-23

QUILTED TREASURES XVIII: TOGETHER AGAIN

Amador Valley Quilters will be holding their 18th quilt show at the Trinity Church, 557 Olivina Ave., Livermore. The two-day show will feature an exhibit of over 200 traditional, modern and art quilts; a raffle for the 2024 opportunity quilt, Yosemite Falls by Linda Schmidt; raffle baskets; Quilts of Valor presentation; and vendors with quilting supplies and products. A food truck will be available during the show. Hours are Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Sunday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. General admission is \$10; children under 12 are free. Free parking is available.

Sunday, June 23

LUKE CLINGERMAN & FRIENDS

Hosted by the Livermore Jazz Society, this show will showcase classic jazz standards, original compositions, and new arrangements of old tunes. Luke Clingerman and Friends is an ensemble that mixes various influences including jazz, film music, rock and funk. On June 23 from 2 to 4 p.m. More details at <https://livermorejazzsociety.org>. To request a seat, email info@livermorejazzsociety.org, or use the web form at: www.livermorejazzsociety.org/reserve-seats. If seats are available, you will receive an email with the concert address. Livestream will also be available.

June 24–28

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL/HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH

Children 4-10 years old are invited to "SCUBA: Dive into a Friendship with God" during our annual weekly summer event. Each day's fun happens from 8:30 a.m. – noon, Mon. – Fri., June 24-28. The cost is \$75 per child. Registration closes on June 12. HCLC is located at 1020 Mocho St. in Livermore. To register, visit 2024 VBS Participant Registration (breezechms.com). Call 925-447-8840 or visit www.holycrosslivermore.org for more info.

Saturday, June 29

DRESS A GIRL AROUND THE WORLD

Make simple dresses for girls in third-world countries. Meetings are once a month and the next Sew-Fest is June 29, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 1020 Mocho St., Livermore. Help with sewing, ironing, cutting; bring your sewing machine or serger, iron, ironing board, scissors, along with your helping hands. Come for as long as you want (please bring a bag lunch if you plan to stay all day!) Cheerful cotton fabric donations are always accepted. Kits that you can sew from home are also available. Contact Suzanne Beck, 925-352-8447 or suzbeck@yahoo.com for any questions.

Sunday, June 30

LINE DANCE SOCIAL

Line dance to your favorite tunes at the Dublin Senior Center's Hot Summer Days Line Dance Social on June 30 from 1 to 4 p.m. This event is for all skill levels. Even if you've never line-danced before, you'll enjoy the fun and camaraderie of learning to line dance. Beyond the physical benefits of staying active, line dancing offers a mental workout, too. Remembering steps, following patterns, and syncing movements to music engages the brain in a delightful dance of coordination and concentration. At the Dublin Senior Center, 7600 Amador Valley Blvd., 925-556-4511.

Sunday, June 30

CARS AND ENGINES EVENT

Everything "goes" at the Cars and Engines event on June 30 from 1-5 p.m. Create and launch a rocket, see working hit and miss engines, peruse vintage cars and fire trucks, and watch woodcarvers create beautiful works of art. The Sugar Bear Band will be performing, and the HistoryMobile will be open for tours. County Supervisor Haubert and his Chief of Staff, Shawn Wilson, will be on hand to talk with guests. Family-friendly and always free at Hagemann Ranch, 455 Olivina Ave., Livermore.

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

Now through 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 to 8 p.m., through Sept. 26 at Emerald Glen Park. The Summer Concert Series will run from June 6 through Aug. 1, 6 to 8 p.m. Themed nights will be held the first Thursday of each month. Arts and crafts for kids will be available at the City of Dublin booth.

GRIEF MEETINGS IN PLEASANTON

The death of a loved one is unlike any other loss. Although there is no right or wrong path, you can explore the stepping stones that are part of each grief journey in bi-monthly meetings at St. Elizabeth Seton Church, 4001 Stoneridge Drive, Pleasanton, on June 27, July 11 and 25, and August 8 and 22 at 7 p.m. For more information, please call Barbara at 925-846-3904. For a short video explaining the program and additional information, please see catholicofpleasanton.org and scroll down to Grief Ministry. Meetings are open to all regardless of religious affiliation.

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

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

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OBITUARIES

Ronald Darrell Sargent Jan. 27, 1943 — May 25, 2024



(Ronald) Darrell Sargent passed away peacefully at his home in Angels Camp on May 25, 2024 after a courageous battle with Parkinson's Disease. He was born January 27, 1943 in Fayetteville, Arkansas to James and Marjorie Tomlinson. The family soon moved to San Leandro, CA. Darrell spent the rest of his life in the Bay Area and Northern California.

He was proud to be the first member of his family to graduate from college and spent most of his professional career working with students in alternative education. He had particularly fond memories of Bohannon High School and Oakendell School. It was not unusual for former students to let him know that he made a difference in their lives. His love of education made him a voracious reader of history. Later in life, he took great pleasure in audiobooks.

For enjoyment Darrell liked to play adult soccer, tennis, water and snow ski. Two of his favorite sports stories were when he and his pals won the Nor-Cal Flag Football championship in 1973, and when he and his friend Ed lost in the Bear Valley tennis tournament to Beau and Jeff Bridges. Darrell's energetic and competitive spirit led him to become involved in girls' youth soccer in the Tri-Valley. He enjoyed coaching Laurie's team, the San Ramon Starfires, and girls' basketball and tennis at Calaveras High. He had a strong belief in the positive impact of team sports and their ability to empower young people. After his Parkinson's diagnosis, Darrell worked to maintain his strength and mobility by swimming and

becoming a member of Rock Steady Boxing, a class designed specifically for people with Parkinson's.

Throughout his life, even with Parkinson's taking its toll, Darrell kept his sense of humor and wit. He loved to tease those he cared about, often making a "smart-aleck" comment which was followed by his loud infectious laugh. Recently, four members of his hospice team were visiting. His wife said, "I don't know if you've been in a room with this many women before." His answer was, "Oh yeah, that's what you think," which caused everyone to join him in laughter.

Darrell's favorite pastime was having fun with his grandchildren, Brandon, Mason and Zara. He was the kids' beloved Poppi, funny, irreverent, sarcastic and with his own signature style, always dressed in shorts and a muscle shirt. When the grandkids were older, he loved watching them explore new endeavors. Darrell always had a faithful canine companion by his side, from Lady, Dusty, Snickers, Button, Bandit, to

Skye. His dogs brought him great joy and comfort.

Darrell will be missed by his loving wife, Cathy (Catherine) and her sisters and their families, daughter Laurie (Neil Lysons), granddaughter Zara, daughter-in-law Shannon Sargent, and grandsons Brandon and Mason. He will also be remembered by his brother Gary Sargent (Jan) and his family, stepsister Ann Malkie and her daughter Heather, Pam LaFaver, mother of daughter Laurie and son Darrell Damien, his nephew Sean Sargent and family, and all his Silva cousins. His friends Denise Combs, Elizabeth Weston, Tina Baca and Pat Faeth's stories about Darrell make us smile.

Darrell is preceded in death by his son Darrell Damien, his father James, his mother Marjorie, his brother Rick and Rick's wife Joanne, his stepfather Roy Sargent and half-sister Cheryl.

Our family would like to thank Hospice of Amador-Calaveras for their loving care of Darrell. They helped us and Darrell peacefully make this life-changing transition. We are extremely grateful to Rock Steady Boxing (RSB), especially coaches Laura Clark and Vance Mueller, for making us, and all the boxers feel part of a family, working together, encouraging each other, to fight Parkinson's.

We welcome donations in Darrell's memory to RSB of Jackson 12150 Industry Blvd. Jackson, CA 95642 - (209)223-9410 or Hospice of Amador-Calaveras - hospiceofamador.org. A private celebration of life for Darrell will be held in the future.

Gail-Marie Shearer Dec. 22, 1925 — Mar. 6, 2024



Long-time Livermore resident Gail-Marie Shearer died on March 6, 2024, at the Silverado Memory Care home in Berkeley. She was 98 years old.

Born on December 22, 1925, in Moorhead Minnesota, she grew up in Hawley, a small town in northern Minnesota. Her parents were of Scandinavian heritage. Her mother, Mildred Bergheim, was a schoolteacher before having children. Her father, Martin Bergheim, was a country doctor, but died in 1938 when Gail was 12. Gail and her younger sister Jeanne-Marie then went to live with their grandparents in Isanti while their mother, unable to find work again as a schoolteacher, started school in Minneapolis to train as a nurse. These abrupt life changes occurred during the Great Depression, which had a profound impact on Gail. Her parents lost most of their savings when the Bank of Hawley failed. Later in life, Gail would say that Franklin Roosevelt was her hero and always made sure that her bank accounts were FDIC insured.

Gail's mother eventually found work in Portland, Oregon and Gail attended Reed College there, receiving a BA in 1947. She went on to earn an MS in Social Work from Bryn Mawr near Philadelphia in 1950. She married James Welles Shearer in Boston in 1951 and they established a home in Lexington, Massachusetts. She gave birth to sons James and Peter in 1954 and 1956. The family moved to Livermore in 1957 when her husband accepted a job as a physicist at what is now called the Lawrence Livermore

National Laboratory (LLNL). After renting for a few months, the family moved to a white colonial-style house on the corner of L and Sixth Street. In 1965, they moved to a former chicken ranch in south Livermore near the Concannon Vineyard and Gail helped to design a major addition to the small farmhouse on the property.

Gail assumed a traditional homemaker role during the 1960s but found time to volunteer as a social worker with a particular interest in low-income housing projects including the Leahy Square project in Livermore. She also helped organize the annual Halloween UNICEF benefit at the Livermore Recreation Center. The family enjoyed skiing, camping and Yosemite hiking. Her husband James was diagnosed with a brain tumor in 1983 and she helped care for him until his death in 1984. The next year, she started renting rooms in her house to LLNL visitors and ran this small bed-and-breakfast business for ten years. In 1987, she married another physicist, John Fletcher, who worked at LLNL until his retirement.

In 2000, Gail had a small vineyard of Syrah grapes installed on her rural property in the southern Livermore "wine country." She named it Tazetta Vineyard, after the flowers she enjoyed planting around the yard. Gail took on many home improvement projects over the years and loved being in her home and its surroundings. She was active in the local grape-growers association, the Spinning Wheel Antique Club, and other community organizations. Among other progressive charitable causes, Gail supported the performing arts and was a donor to the Livermore Valley Opera and Livermore-Amador Symphony, a community orchestra her first husband helped form. In 2004, she and John were prominent advocates for correcting the misspellings on a mosaic in front of the Livermore Public Library which was eventually done. Before John's death in 2012, John and Gail enjoyed hiking and travel, including cruise trips and visits to Europe and Australia, and they worked in the vineyard together.

Gail-Marie is survived by her sons, James Bergheim Shearer (Princeton, NJ) and his partner Mary, Peter Marston Shearer (La Jolla, CA) and his wife Susan, three granddaughters, and three great-grandchildren. No public services are planned. Donations in her memory may be made to the "Alameda County Community Food Bank," the "Gifford Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence" or the "Nature Conservancy," three of the many charities she supported.

spending time at his family cabin in the Sierras which he helped build with his father. His second passion was canoeing and building his own canoes.

It is so difficult to say "goodbye" to a man who is so loved and admired by family and friends.

It has been said often by many over the years that Alex is one of the best people they have ever known.

Alex's memorial reception will be held June 29, 2024, at 11:30 a.m. at the First Presbyterian Church in Livermore.

Alexander Brabson Cecil May 19, 1930 — June 15, 2024



Alexander Brabson Cecil passed away peacefully on June 15, 2024, at the age of 94.

He is survived by his wife Flora Alvarado, sisters Ann Guirao and Barbara Frech, daughters Hilary Van Zleer and Libby Cecil, sons Roger and Hugh Cecil, grandsons, Nicolas and Ian Van Zleer and Flora's children, Loretta Patterson, Carolyn Black, Ray Alvarado, Angie Witt-Thompson, Vivian Lefebvre and Jessica Rodenburg

In 1955, Alex began working at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory

(LLNL) as a programmer. He retired from LLNL in 1992.

Alex's first passion was

Patricia Wilma (Keenan) Poore April 9, 1939 — May 4, 2024



Long time Livermore resident, Patricia (Pat) Wilma (Keenan) Poore passed away May 4th, 2024. She was born on April 9, 1939, in Great Falls, Montana. She was an only child, born to Wilma Elizabeth (Schubert) Keenan and Earl Edwin Keenan. She grew up in Great Falls, Montana, and Henderson, Nevada. She attended Stephens College in Missouri, as well as the University of Arizona, Tuscon, where she got her degree in teaching. She later got her Master of Arts in Teaching from the University of California, Merced.

At the University of Arizona, she met Wendell Alfred Johnson. In 1962, they were married and moved to Livermore where Wendell worked at the Lawrence Livermore Laboratory as an electrical engineer. They started their family which included their three daughters. After they divorced in 1970, Patricia began teaching elementary school for the Livermore Joint Unified School District, where she taught for almost 30 years. She taught at Green School, Christensen, Sonoma, Rancho Las Positas and Joe Mitchell. She was a favorite teacher of her students and parents.

In 1977, Patricia married the love of her life, Kenneth Dale Poore and they celebrated their union at a gloriously

green St. Patrick's Day wedding ceremony on March 17th with family and friends. And yes, the bride was Irish, and she wore green.

Patricia was active in her faith and in her community. She was a member of the local Antique Club for over 50 years. She was involved with Bible Study Fellowship and led Community Bible Study for many years. She was part of a wonderful group of friends who called themselves the James Ladies, and they did Bible Study together for over 20 years. Patricia was a matriarch at Sunset Community Church and served in many ministries over the years. Her faith is what defined her life, and it is her legacy.

Patricia said she had lived a fulfilling life, blessed by her Lord Jesus Christ, her husband Ken, her family and friends, and her cats.

She loved holidays, family gatherings, and spending time in her yard. She enjoyed traveling and especially loved her family. She always smiled and laughed in the presence of her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She will be dearly missed.

Patricia is survived by her husband of 47 years, Kenneth Poore, her daughters, Cathleen Tennyson (Michael), Terrilynn Watkins (John), Kristin Johnson, and her beloved grandchildren, Matthew Tennyson, Holli Peel (Michael), Bethany Renzi (Barron), Cierra Richardson (Mitch), Kristianna Toma (Sam), Catelyn Pasut (Daryl), Hannah Tennyson, Johnathan (Brianna) Van Dusen, Karina Johnson, and Kaylee (Josue) Gomez, and her adored 14 great-grandchildren, Isabella Tennyson, Brayden Tennyson, Caleb Pasut, Gavin Pasut, Camryn Pasut, Harpey Renzi, Blake Renzi, Beau Renzi, Cash Richardson, Kennedy Richardson, Payton Billheimer, Emma Toma, and Anthony Gomez, and her closest cousins, Mary Galusha (David) and Joanie Neagal (Derald). She was dearly loved, and she will be missed.

Services will be held at Sunset Community Church at 2200 Arroyo Road, on June 22nd, at 2 p.m.

CELEBRATION OF LIFE

Lori Ann Jeffers-Hoffman
April 25, 1975 — May 22, 2024

Lori Jeffers-Hoffman passed away unexpectedly on May 22, 2024 at her home in Ainsworth, Nebraska. She was 49 years old.

Lori was born in Alameda, CA and was raised and attended school in Livermore, CA along with her older brother Billy Jeffers. After leaving school, she spent time working at her dad's party supply store and spent many years working for him at his furniture store, Valley Furniture in downtown Livermore.

Lori was predeceased in death by her husband Richard Che Hoffman who passed away in January of 2020 at the age of fifty. Lori then moved to Ainsworth, Nebraska to be close to her brother and his wife and children. She enjoyed the time spent with her nieces and nephews and would frequently come back to Livermore to visit with the grandchildren she had through her husband.

Lori was incredibly loyal to her friends,



loved music and always had a joke to tell which would follow with the most infectious laugh. There are no words to describe how greatly she will be missed by her family and friends.

She is survived by her brother William (Billy) Jeffers III, mother, Kathleen Lyons and stepfather Thomas Lyons, grandmother, Roberta Jeffers, father William Jeffers Jr., stepmother Stephanie Rose, stepsister Cynthia Brown, nieces, Karen Jeffers, Kathleen Jeffers, Alexandra Brown, nephews, William Jeffers IV, Jacob Jeffers, Matthew Jeffers and Nathan Brown and through her husband, grandchildren Dominic and Destiny.

A celebration of life will be held for Lori on June 29th at 1:00pm at the "Pine Street Bar" on Rincon Ave. in Livermore. We invite everyone who knows Lori to attend and pay their respects to the memory of Lori and the smiles that she put on everyone's face.

Park District Unveils Historical Landscape Photo Exhibit Online

As part of its 90th anniversary celebration, the East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD) has made available online a collection of landscape photographs taken of several parks from the 1960s through the early 1980s.

The photographs were selected from among more than 15,000 negatives donated to the district by the family of commercial photographer Martin J. Cooney in 2016.

The collection includes photographs of Del Valle Regional Park, Sunol Wilderness Regional Preserve, and Ohlone Wilderness

Regional Preserve south of Livermore, along with several other parks.

While Cooney's commercial studio in Oakland provided photographic services to the EBRPD, the district said most of the photographs in the collection were taken by Nancy McKay, who became Martin's apprentice while working in EBRPD's Public Affairs Department. McKay was the district's principal photographer for more than 37 years.

The "Park Landscapes" collection is the second Cooney photo collection made available this year on

the EBRPD website.

A "People in Parks" collection is also available on the district's "Celebrating 90 Years" webpage, with two more collections, "Park District Workers," and "Special Events" to be unveiled later.

Created by a public vote in 1934, the EBRPD opened its first four parks in 1938. It is now one of the largest regional park districts in the nation, with 73 parks encompassing 126,000 acres in Alameda and Contra Costa counties, including 55 miles of shoreline and more than 1,330 miles of trails.

The photo collections are available at ebparke.org.

Armchair Travelers Program to Focus on New Zealand

Livermore retiree Ann Reichert will present an Armchair Travelers program about her visit to New Zealand earlier this year at the Livermore Civic Center Library at 1:30 p.m. on Thursday, July 11.

Reichert spent three weeks in New Zealand with an Overseas Adventure Travel group that visited Auckland, Waiheke Island, Rotorua, Christchurch, Dunedin, Queenstown, Arrowtown, and the Bay of Islands. The group also hiked to the bottom of the Waimangu volcano in Bay of Plenty for a boat ride around Lake Rotomahana.

Her talk is titled, "New Zealand: Kiwis, Hakas, a Castle, and a Night on Milford Sound."

The presentation is free, and registration is not required.



The Alameda County Fair opened on June 14, heralding the Tri-Valley summer with its assortment of rides, food, events and shows. Above, the Alaskan Racing Pigs vie for first place around their track. Below, new, creative versions of fair cuisine, such as the SPAM “fries,” tempt fairgoers as they explore. Some 500,000 people are expected to visit before the fair closes on July 7. (Photos – Doug Jorgensen)



Nine Selected for Military Banner Program

Dublin is honoring six former members of the U.S. military and three active-duty members this year in its annual Military Banner program. Since 2018, the city has flown banners along Dougherty Road, near the Parks Reserve Forces Training Area (Camp Parks) with pictures of those being recognized, along with their name, rank and branch of service. The banners will

be flown for almost six months, from Memorial Day through Veterans Day. After they are taken down and cleaned, they will be presented to the honorees or their sponsors at a Dublin City Council meeting. Honorees are nominated by community members, who pay a \$200 sponsorship fee, and must be Dublin residents, former residents with a long-term, positive impact on the community,

or who have immediate family living in the city. This year’s active-duty honorees are Marisol A. Chalas and Dylan E. Wright, U.S. Army, and Jerome R. Manuel, Jr., U.S. Coast Guard. Former military honorees are George Habit, Jeff Knobbe, and Michael E. Mark, Army; Angelica Talosig Smith and Donald V. Colley, Navy; and William Brown Chew, U.S. Army Reserves.

Two Granada Little League Teams Capture Championships

Two Granada Little League teams won their division championships at the Tournament of Champions summer games earlier this month hosted by California Little League District 57. The Granada Hooks captured the AA minor league bracket defeating Danville 12-4 in the championship game, played in Dublin. The Granada Cardinals took the majors bracket with a 5-1 win over Tassajara Valley in Pleasanton. The Pleasanton Orioles were the AAA bracket champions with a 10-6 win over Tassajara Valley in Livermore. District 57 includes the Granada, Livermore, Pleasanton, Dublin, Danville, Bollinger Canyon, and San Ramon Valley Little Leagues. The Hooks defeated

Bollinger Canyon 2-1 in the opening round of the three-day tournament and followed that up with a 14-5 thrashing of Dublin to qualify for the AA championship game on Monday, June 3. The Cardinals defeated Tassajara Valley 5-3 and

Danville 4-0 to advance to the Majors championship. The Orioles defeated Danville 10-0 in the opening round of the AAA bracket and followed up with a 7-4 win over Bollinger Canyon to advance to the championship.



Granada Little League underdogs The Hooks win Tournament of Champions after a difficult season. (Photo courtesy of Elisa Sosa)

Church to Host Renaissance Concert

Trinity Lutheran Church in Pleasanton will host a Trinity Concert Series performance featuring the Areté Singers Network, a San Francisco-based ensemble known for innovative vocal performances, on Saturday, June 22. Areté Singers will be joined for “Harmony Unveiled: A Journey Through the Secret Music of the Renaissance,” by RammDance, a Bay Area modern dance company that will recreate elaborate Renaissance-period dances. RammDance will also perform a “concerto delle donne,” or consort of ladies, a popular type of female ensemble singers in Renaissance Italy. Trinity Lutheran Church, 1225 Hopyard Road, said the concert would include both sacred and secular works while delving into the evolution of harmony during the Renaissance period. Lutist

Matthew Xie will offer a pre-concert talk. Tickets are \$20 at the door and include the pre-concert talk at 7 p.m. and the concert at 7:30 p.m., although the

church said no one would be turned away because of a lack of funds. For more information, email Dwight Stone at stonemusique@gmail.com.



The RammDance dance company focuses on dances of empowerment, feminine strength and transformation. (Photo courtesy of Courtney Ramm and Trinity Concert Series)

Girl Scout Arranges for Schools to Donate Surplus Food

Crystal Wang, a Foothill High School student and Ambassador Girl Scout, worked with the Pleasanton Unified School District this year to donate more than 2,000 pounds of surplus food from the California Universal Meals program to Open Heart Kitchen, a Livermore-based nonprofit that provides free meals and groceries to seniors and needy residents of the

Tri-Valley community. Starting in 2022, the California Universal Meals program requires public schools to offer breakfast and lunch to all students. According to Wang, that has resulted in surplus food being available almost daily at every school. “I decided to tackle the large issue of food waste for my Gold Award, specifically at schools,” Wang said.

Over a six-month period, Wang said, she arranged for the school district to donate more than 1,000 pounds of produce and 1,350 pounds of frozen food to Open Heart Kitchen. The Gold Award is considered the most prestigious award in Girl Scouting. Ambassador Girl Scouts is a Girl Scout in the last two years of high school.

LEGAL NOTICES/CLASSIFIEDS

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LEGAL NOTICES

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 606506

The following person(s) doing business as: Aerial Plant, 3216 Colebrook LN, Dublin, CA 94568 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Lauren Yang, 3216 Colebrook LN, Dublin, CA 94568. 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: 5/6/2024. Signature of Registrant/s/: Lauren Yang, General Partner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on May 17, 2024. Expires May 16, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 5954. Published May 30, June 6, 13, 20, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 606433

The following person(s) doing business as: Happy Lamb Hot Pot, 34396 Alvarado Niles Road, Union City, CA 94587 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Hot Pot Union City Corp, 34396 Alvarado Niles Road, 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: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Wei Zhang, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on May 16, 2024. Expires May 15, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 5955. Published May 30, June 6, 13, 20, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 606530

The following person(s) doing business as: Azotea Cocina & Cocktail Club, 2470 First Street #300, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Aviation LLC, 2470 First Street #300, Livermore,

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 606574

The following person(s) doing business as: Jet Restoration, 24547 Amador ST, #7, Hayward, CA 94544 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Aviation LLC, 2470 First Street #300, 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/: Melanie Dominguez, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 24, 2024. Expires April 23, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 5957. Published May 30, June 6, 13, 20, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 606619

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Bicicleta Brew; 2. Twin Arrow; 3. TWIN ARW, 1040 Laguna St., Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Twin Arrow LLC, 1040 Laguna St., Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Andrew Christopher Lopez, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on May 15, 2024. Expires May 14, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 5960. Published May 30, June 6, 13, 20, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 606680

The following person(s) doing business as: Berewino, 4590 Dublin Blvd, Dublin, CA 94568 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Rincon del Pino LLC, 4590 Dublin Blvd, Dublin, CA 94568. This business is

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 6065931

The following person(s) doing business as: Shop with a Smile, 1665 Chesnut ST, Apt 410, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Zameer Nabi, 1665 Chesnut ST, Apt 410, 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/: Zameer Nabi, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 30, 2024. Expires April 30, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 5959. Published May 30, June 6, 13, 20, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 606619

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Bicicleta Brew; 2. Twin Arrow; 3. TWIN ARW, 1040 Laguna St., Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Twin Arrow LLC, 1040 Laguna St., Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Andrew Christopher Lopez, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on May 15, 2024. Expires May 14, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 5960. Published May 30, June 6, 13, 20, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 606684

The following person(s) doing business as: TrueAspire Solutions, 4673 Richmond Ave, Fremont, CA 94536 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Trushar Patel, 4673 Richmond Ave, Fremont, CA 94536. This business is conducted by an individual. The date on which

conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Jatinder Singh Grewal, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on May 22, 2024. Expires May 21, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 5961. Published May 30, June 6, 13, 20, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 606619

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Sloppy Seconds; 2. Sloppy Jo's; 3. Lants on Fire, 2515 Cowan Way, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Lance Kuempel, 2515 Cowan Way, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Lance Kuempel, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on May 17, 2024. Expires May 16, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 5962. Published May 30, June 6, 13, 20, 2024.

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME Case No. 24CV073481

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF ALAMEDA

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:

Petitioner: Mary Noble-Tolla 6985 Hillstone Court Livermore, CA 94551 filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: **Present Name:** Margo Miriam Goodall Tolla **Proposed Name:** Thyme Miriam Goodall Tolla

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: 07/19/2024 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

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 606844

The following person(s) doing business as: TrueAspire Solutions, 4673 Richmond Ave, Fremont, CA 94536 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Trushar Patel, 4673 Richmond Ave, Fremont, CA 94536. This business is conducted by an individual. The date on which

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 606858

The following person(s) doing business as: Sister's House, 218511 Mission Blvd, Hayward, CA 94541 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): JC-MJK Corp, 2040 Fairbanks Street, San Leandro, CA 94577. 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/: Minh Kim, Director. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on May 29, 2024. Expires May 28, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 5965. Published June 6, 13, 20, 27, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 606841

The following person(s) doing business as: Well Animal Hospital, 2267 Las Positas Rd, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): G. Park Veterinary Corporation, 2267 Las Positas Rd, 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: 5/28/2024. Signature of Registrant/s/: Giyoung Park, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on May 28, 2024. Expires May 27, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 5966. Published June 6, 13, 20, 27, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 606638

The following person(s) doing business as: Cut Once Construction, 1315 Lambaren Ave, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Cut Once Construction, 1315 Lambaren Ave, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by an individual. The date on which the registrant

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 606604

The following person(s) doing business as: Moore Communication Speech Therapy, PC., 1263 Hollyhook Street, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Moore Communication Speech Therapy, PC., 1263 Hollyhook Street, 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/: Jordan Moore, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on May 21, 2024. Expires May 20, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 5967. Published June 6, 13, 20, 27, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 606122

The following person(s) doing business as: Colorful Films, 2500 Market St, Oakland, CA 94607 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Blind Films, 2500 Market St, Oakland 94607. 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: 2019. Signature of Registrant/s/: Maria Karpoukhina, Manager. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on May 6, 2024. Expires May 5, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 5968. Published June 6, 13, 20, 27, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 606638

The following person(s) doing business as: Cut Once Construction, 1315 Lambaren Ave, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Cut Once Construction, 1315 Lambaren Ave, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by an individual. The date on which the registrant

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 606794

The following person(s) doing business as: SoloVoice, 1175 Killarney St, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Sol Studio Productions, 1175 Killarney St, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 05/22/2024. Signature of Registrant/s/: Robert Solari, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on May 21, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 5970. Published June 6, 13, 20, 27, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 606575

The following person(s) doing business as: Perla Nutrition, 1569 Olivina Ave, # 137, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Perla Rivera Lugo, 1569 Olivina Ave, #137, 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/: Perla Rivera Lugo, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on May 20, 2024. Expires May 19, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 5971. Published June 6, 13, 20, 27, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 606638

The following person(s) doing business as: Cut Once Construction, 1315 Lambaren Ave, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Cut Once Construction, 1315 Lambaren Ave, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by an individual. The date on which the registrant

'Moms Demand Action' Group Holds Rally for Gun Control

The Livermore Valley chapter of Moms Demand Action, a national organization that lobbies for gun control legislation, held a Wear Orange Weekend rally at Lions Wayside Park in Pleasanton this month that organizers said drew more than 400 supporters. "We wear orange in honor of Hadiya Pendleton and the 120 Americans who are shot and killed, and the hundreds more who are wounded and traumatized by gunfire every single day," said Janie Dobbs, one of the leads for Livermore Valley Moms Demand Action. Pendleton was a

15-year-old high school student from Chicago who was shot and killed in 2013 while at a park with friends. The shooting attracted national media attention because Pendleton was on her school's majorette squad and had marched in the second inaugural parade for then-President Barack Obama just three weeks earlier. A Chicago gang member, then 23, was later convicted of the killing and sentenced to 84 years in prison. Investigators said the gunman believed he was shooting at rival gang members and that

Pendleton was not the intended victim. Speakers at the Moms Demand Action rally on June 8 included Pleasanton Vice Mayor Julie Testa, California Assemblymember Rebecca Bauer-Kahan, and Kenny Johnson, a survivor of gun violence, on behalf of the Life Goes On Foundation. Johnson is also a star player with the Golden State Road Warriors' wheelchair basketball team. Those attending the rally also wrote gun-safety messages in chalk on the sidewalks around Lions Wayside Park at 4401 First St.



More than 400 supporters of Moms Demand Action, a national organization that lobbies for gun control, gathered for a rally at Lions Wayside Park in Pleasanton. (Photo courtesy of The Livermore Valley chapter of Moms Demand Action)

Moms Demand Action was formed the day after a 20-year-old gunman opened fire at Sandy Hook Elementary School

in Newtown, Connecticut, in 2012, killing 20 children and six adults. The organization now has chapters in all 50 states.

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Pleasanton to Begin Library Lighting Upgrades

The Pleasanton Library has begun replacing approximately 500 fluorescent light fixtures with energy-saving LED lights. The project is expected to last through July. The library will remain open to the public during the project, according to the city, but areas of the

30,000-square-foot building may be closed temporarily as work is completed. The city said the interior light fixtures have not been upgraded since they were originally installed in 1988, when the library was constructed. The Pleasanton City

Council identified replacing the library's lighting system as a priority in its 2022-2023 work plan, along with replacing the library's roof, which was completed in May 2023. In January, the council approved spending \$1,270,000 to replace the lights, awarding the con-

tract to American Wholesale Lighting. The city said the new LED lights would reduce the library's energy usage by 54% while providing better quality lighting for patrons. The project also calls for installing new interior lighting controls. The city said the old control system, installed in 2011, is no longer functioning properly. The new system will be easier for library staff to access and offer improved zone control with LED dimming capability.

community members to gather, pursue their academic and personal interests, and freely access information." She added that "on occasion, poor lighting conditions have even affected library staff's ability to perform their duties, such as needing a flashlight to locate and reshelve materials in the evening hours. We are excited we will soon be able to offer a brighter and more inviting environment for library users."

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Sunday: 12 - 5pm,
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The Evan Thomas band, shown above at Almost Famous, will soon be hitting the Shea Homes Stages as part of Tuesday Tunes. With a foot stompin' style of the old Mississippi delta and Chicago Blues, the band will play the third concert of Tuesday Tunes on June 25 from 6:45-8:15 p.m. in front of the Bankhead Theater. The Livermore Cultural Arts Council sponsors the series. Evan Thomas' classic, electric blues soulful and cryin' guitar style is influenced by some of the great guitar players of our time. The band features Wally Schnalle on drums, George Franklin on bass, and Noel Catura on sax. (Photo courtesy of The Evan Thomas Band)

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Former Livermore Official Returns as Community Development Director

Former Livermore building official Brent Smith has been hired as the city's director of community development, returning to



Brent Smith has accepted the position of Livermore's director of community development. (Photo courtesy of the City of Livermore)

Livermore after two years in a similar position in Oakley. "I am thrilled to welcome Brent back to Livermore," said City Manager Marianna Marysheva. "His dedication to public service, combined with his leadership skills and passion for fostering community improvement, will undoubtedly drive Livermore forward. I am confident that Brent will bring a fresh perspective and a strong sense of collaboration to our team." In his new position, Smith is responsible for the city's Building, Engineering, Housing and Human Services, and Planning divisions. He started work on

May 2. After several years as a building inspector in Dublin and chief building official in Oakley, Smith, who has a bachelor's degree in management from Saint Mary's College of California, went to work for Livermore in 2014 as Permit Center manager. He was promoted to chief building official in 2016. He then returned to Oakley in 2022 for a two-year stint as community development director before returning to Livermore. He succeeds Paul Spence, who was recently promoted to assistant city manager.

Brilliance at the BANKHEAD
A Gala Fundraiser for Livermore Valley Arts

EXPERIENCE AN EVENING OF UNPARALLELED BRILLIANCE AT THE BANKHEAD STARRING *Katharine McPhee* with the Livermore-Amador Symphony
Saturday, September 7

Join us for our most spectacular fundraiser of the year, featuring the incomparable Katharine McPhee live on stage! Star of Broadway's *Waitress*, TV's *Smash*, and runner-up on the fifth season of *American Idol*, Katharine McPhee is a singer, actress, and songwriter who will delight the Tri-Valley with her enchanting and soulful vocal talents, alongside the Livermore-Amador Symphony.

Secure your tickets now and be part of this extraordinary celebration. Let's make a difference together, one sensational performance at a time!

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