

Livermore, Dublin

Cities at Odds Over Land Use

By Larry Altman

LIVERMORE – Livermore’s City Council on Monday discussed the possibility of annexing a 180-acre parcel of unincorporated land that separates its northwestern boundary from the City of Dublin to keep it as open green space between the two cities.

There’s just one problem: Dublin is also looking at the so-called Crosby Properties in Doolan Canyon north of the 580 Freeway for possible commercial development that would help fund the estimated \$160 million plan to extend Dublin Boulevard through the area east to Las Positas College.

Both cities want the extended roadway to improve traffic flow, along with a green buffer. But it appears for the moment, as Livermore Councilman Evan Branning said, the two municipalities have different visions of how to get there.

Dublin is eyeing development, while Livermore is not.

“We’re speaking past each other or in some way the communication is not working well,” Branning said. “My task for our staff is to continue to work with Dublin to find a compromise agreement. I think there is something that we can do

(See CITIES, page 12)

In Pleasanton

Violent Crime Down; Property Crime Spikes

By David Scholz

PLEASANTON — A significant rise in property crimes for the first part of the year was among the notable trends cited in the Pleasanton Police Department’s bi-annual report released last week.

The report, which was presented to the Pleasanton City Council on Oct. 3, shows that violent crime was down, yet property crime was on the rise for the first seven months of this year.

Police Chief David Swing said that the overall ebbs and flows of crime trends are

(See STATS, page 6)



Esther Girgis likes what she sees while attending the Egyptian Festival at St. Mary and St. John Coptic Orthodox Church in Pleasanton. [See photo gallery at www.independentnews.com/multimedia] (Photo - Doug Jorgensen)

\$10B To \$20B County Bond

Proposed Affordable Housing Measure to Be Discussed at Community Town Hall Meeting

By Larry Altman

REGIONAL – Tri-Valley residents will be able to offer their opinions next month at an East County Community Town Hall Meeting to discuss a proposed Bay Area-wide ballot measure that would raise \$10 billion to \$20 billion for affordable housing construction.

The Bay Area Housing Finance Authority (BAHFA), a government agency established to deal regionally with a crisis that has increased homelessness and made buying a home impossible for many residents, will decide by June whether to place the bond measure on the ballot. If put before voters, residents in Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, San Francisco,

San Mateo, Santa Clara, Solano and Sonoma counties will weigh in.

“Voters consistently tell us that the thing that they are most concerned about overall is homelessness and housing affordability in the Bay Area,” said BAHFA Director Kate Hartley. “We know from very rigorous research that all of our communities are struggling with a housing shortage problem. And it’s not just homelessness that we’re struggling with. It is a general lack of affordability, so that we have millions of Bay Area residents who are rent burdened and severely rent burdened.”

Alameda County Supervisor David Haubert, whose 1st District includes Livermore

and Pleasanton, has scheduled the town hall meeting for 6 p.m. Nov. 9 at the Pleasanton Public Library. Haubert said he has not formed an opinion on the measure, which would appear on the November 5, 2024, ballot, but Supervisor Nate Miley, whose 4th District includes Pleasanton, said he strongly supports the idea.

“I really do think this is a bigticket item that could be transformational for the Bay Area, because we do look around at the cost of housing in other places outside of the Bay Area and then particularly outside the state,” Miley said. “We just have to get a better handle on this, and I think this helps us to move in that

(See MEETING page 5)

Sunflower Hill Expands into Dublin

By David Jen

DUBLIN — A non-profit organization that assists with housing for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities is building a 60-unit affordable housing project in Dublin.

Sunflower Hill revealed plans for Grace Pointe on roughly 2 acres in the Dublin Centre on Tassajara Road between Dublin Boulevard and Central Parkway.

Dublin Mayor Melissa Hernandez said the city has a strong commitment to helping those with intellectual and developmental disabilities through several

community organizations that provide early intervention services to strong inclusive programs in schools and work program.

“We want to send a strong message that Dublin is a place where all are welcome,” she said in a statement.

“The new development will offer one-, two- and three-bedroom units, with rents coming in between 20 and 60 percent of the area median income,” said Sunflower Hill Executive Director Jen Lenard-Benson.

Grace Pointe will also include enrichment services, such as a teaching

kitchen, meditation garden and art gallery for its residents and the public.

Sunflower Hill began its housing program for those with intellectual and developmental disabilities in Pleasanton three years ago.

But the demand for units currently exceeds availability by a wide margin, said Lenard-Benson. With 250 applicants, the Pleasanton waitlist has overwhelmed its 30-unit capacity.

“Our folks, when they move in, they move in for life,” said Lenard-Benson. “We’re obviously incredibly grateful to the City of Dublin and Mayor Melissa

(See SUNFLOWER, page 7)

Electricity Rate Changes are Being Challenged

By David Jen

REGIONAL — Proposed changes to how California utilities will bill electricity have spawned concerns over how they will discourage energy conservation and affect lower-income households.

The California Public Utilities Commission will decide on Oct. 12 how its Net Energy Metering program, which compensates rooftop-solar users for the power they generate, will apply to multiple-meter customers, such as apartment owners, schools and farmers.

The proposal would disallow “self-consumption” among these users, preventing tenants, schools or separately metered farm equipment from offsetting the power bought from the utility with the power generated on site, explained Van Rainey, the environmental leader or Livermore Indivisible.

Instead, the new accounting system would

characterize all consumed power as coming from the utility, billed at the full retail rate, and all generated power as exported to the utility, sold at the lower wholesale rate.

“Because green energy is becoming so much more prolific, in the state of California especially, (the utilities) feel that they’re losing significant profits from people’s ability to generate their own electricity,” said Rainey.

The CPUC has described the change as a way to encourage battery storage among multiple-meter customers and thereby improve the overall reliability of the grid.

Instructions for commenting at the upcoming meeting can be found at bit.ly/indy_cpucmeetings.

New Income-Based Charges

Another change before the commission will affect electricity ratepayers whether

(See UTILITY, page 6)

Senator Glazer to Leave Legislature After a Decade

By Larry Altman

REGIONAL — State Sen. Steve Glazer recently announced that he will not seek another term next year, though leaving his post representing the Tri-Valley was not his first choice.

Glazer, a 66-year-old Democrat, said he is not certain a state term limits measure approved by voters in 2012 would allow him to serve a full four-year term, if elected in 2024. He said he does not want to be the test case for something that would require a lawsuit and a court decision.

“I would love to run for reelection,” Glazer said. “I love serving in the Senate.”

The issue is Prop. 28, which 61% of California voters approved in 2012 to limit the number of years a person can serve in the state legislature. Among its provisions, no legislator can serve more than 12 years combined in the Assembly and the Senate. The measure closed a loophole in a previous term limits rule that didn’t count years a



Steve Glazer

legislator served following a special election to fill an open seat. Those years now count, meaning Glazer already has 10 years in the books, too much for another 4-year term.

Voters sent Glazer to the California Senate in 2015 in a special election to fill the seat formerly held by Mark DeSaulnier, who was elected in 2014 to serve in Congress.

Glazer, served the remainder of DeSaulnier’s

(See GLAZER, page 9)



Bucky Heard and Bill Medley of the iconic Righteous Brothers perform Thursday night at the Bankhead Theater in Livermore. (Courtesy of Bankhead Theater)

Bill Medley of The Righteous Brothers Takes The Stage With Bucky Heard Thursday

Staying Power a Testament to Their Loyal Fans

By David Scholz

LIVERMORE — A career in music, like many other professional paths, neither follows a straight trajectory nor guarantees success. The career of The Righteous Brothers embodies that reality.

But, Bill Medley, the surviving half of the famous R&B duo with top chart hits like “You’ve Lost That Lovin’ Feelin’” and “Unchained Melody,” always knew that their audience wouldn’t abandon them as

long as they stayed true to themselves and the music.

Those sweet sounds will again emanate from the stage when The Righteous Brothers in its current iteration, with Medley paired with long-time friend Bucky Heard, bring their harmonies to Livermore’s Bankhead Theater, Thursday at 7:30 p.m.

The breakout for Medley and the late Bobby Hatfield came in 1963 when Medley’s “Little Latin Lupe Lu,” was a regional hit for the pair. The growing popular-

ity brought opportunities to open for the likes of Rolling Stones and The Beatles on their first U.S. tours.

But with the public’s musical interests ever changing and an understanding that the business was already reinventing itself to the latest sound, it turned out that The Righteous Brothers were not necessarily the flavor of the moment anymore.

“We never took it personally,” said Medley.

“We just kept doing

(See BILL MEDLEY, page 6)

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PETS OF THE WEEK



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(Photo - Valley Humane Society)

Board President Files Restraining Order After Online Threats

By Larry Altman

Sunol Glen Unified School District President Ryan Jergensen has obtained a temporary restraining order (TRO) against a former school board member, saying her online posts following his vote to ban the Pride flag on school property spurred threats to harm him and his family.

Jergensen filed for the TRO against Denise Kent-Romo on Sept. 18 after receiving emails that included a suggestion that he protect anything he loves, including his children.

“I’ve received more than just a couple very threatening emails,” said Jergensen. “People saying, ‘perhaps we should start hunting Christians,’ ‘You and your wife should hide,’ and someone saying, ‘I hope you have good life insurance because this weekend might be your last.’”

Kent-Romo, whose husband is current school board member Peter “Ted” Romo, did not respond to emails sent to her and her husband, or to text and phone messages during business hours Wednesday. However, after this article was published online, she responded via text message, saying she was in New York with family. Kent-Romo, who served on the board from 2016-2021, accused The Independent of writing a “hit piece” without fact-checking.

“I certainly do have a lot to say, however I suppose things will have to be one-sided for the moment as I have not even been served with a notice and I don’t feel comfortable responding without seeing it. Maybe this was planned,”

Kent-Romo wrote. “I am confident in the facts and the truth and a good moral compass.”

Kent-Romo served on the board from 2016-2021. According to the order signed last month by Alameda County Judge Jenna Whitman, Kent-Romo must stay 100 yards away from Jergensen, his wife and three children through Oct. 10, when Whitman will hold a hearing in her courtroom on the matter.



Denise Kent Romo

“Now that I’ve said that, will I find Proud Boys at my door to attack me in your honor? Are those your friends? Because it appears so.”

The measure, which targeted the multicolored LGBTQ Pride flag, stirred controversy, prompting some parents and residents to threaten to file lawsuits, recall board members and pull their children from school.

Jergensen said that al-



Ryan Jergensen

though Kent-Romo has the right to speak under the First Amendment, messages posted publicly that claimed he is a member of hate groups, whipped up others, who sent him emails, including one that said “you may need to hide your kids, your wives, your husbands and anything you love.”

In an online posting, Kent-Romo called for a recall of Jergensen and Hurley.

“Both have ties to hate groups,” Kent-Romo wrote in her posting, which Jergensen included in his TRO application. Kent-Romo linked them to two people, one of whom she said was a coordinator with the Proud Boys.

“These types of public comments online go be-

yond just disagreeing with policy,” Jergensen told The Independent. “They are beyond the pale. They are unacceptable and are inciting people with lies.”

Jergensen said he has invested in security to protect his family but declined to discuss it. He said people protesting the ban recently outside the district’s school singled out his wife for comments as she walked their children onto campus.

Jergensen said his decision to ban all flags other than the U.S. and California flags was not an action against the LGBTQ community. He said instead of litigating what groups could fly flags in the district, it was better not to allow any other flags. The board’s decision, he said, was a policy to “to get people to focus on what unites us, rather than focusing on individual groups or beliefs and focusing on what divides us.”

“The board did not make this a controversy. Our effort was to fly the American flag, which is the most inclusive flag that we have in this country,” he said. “It unites one nation, indivisible. It stands for freedom.”

In his TRO application, he wrote that he told Kent-Romo in an email response that he had no ties to hate groups, and she had made him “fearful for myself, my kids and my wife.”

“Please, kindly, remove your untrue words about me that you are spreading, including on Facebook,” he wrote. “Please, I implore you to stop slandering my name in public. Please be the example of kindness you purport to espouse.”

He added that he “can

forgive.”

In response, Kent-Romo wrote “I stand by what I said. And I’m not looking for your forgiveness, only accountability.” She added: “When in a position of power, you are the bully not the bullied.”

Jergensen said that although he could say, “I don’t need this,” and walk away from his position, he has no plans to resign.

“As the old saying goes,

the only way for evil to triumph is for good men to do nothing,” Jergensen said. “So, we need to stand up for what’s right and encourage good people, law abiding citizens everywhere, to stand up for what’s right.”

According to the Sunol district, Superintendent Mollie Barnes was not authorized by the school board to discuss this issue with the media.



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Chamber of Commerce Celebrates Local Businesses

The Livermore Valley Chamber of Commerce recognized local chamber member businesses at its #LivValBiz Awards luncheon this week, highlighting the best, brightest and most promising members of the business community, according to Chair of the Chamber Board of Directors Jody Amos.

Held outdoors at the Purple Orchid Wine Country Resort and Spa, dignitaries, nominees and business leaders from the Livermore Valley attended the event.

“This event is all about celebrating the business community,” said Sherri Souza, the chamber’s interim president and CEO. “We were excited about hosting the awards again this year, recognizing the achievements of our local businesses, small and large. This year, we also included the graduation of our 2020 and 2023 Leadership Livermore classes in the celebration.”

2023 award recipients were recognized in one of six categories:

Dream Big Small Business Award – Ron Essex Photography

The business demonstrates an entrepreneurial spirit that reflects a com-

mitment to the Livermore Valley’s future; stands out for their exceptional business practices and community involvement; employs 50 or fewer employees; and must be a privately-owned for-profit entity. Franchises are not eligible. For more information, visit ronessexphotography.com.

Best in Hospitality Award – McGrail Vineyard and Winery

The business showcases Livermore Valley in a positive light; goes the extra mile in providing service to visitors; and enhances the visitor’s experiences and desire to return to the Livermore Valley. For more information, visit mcgrailvineyards.com.

Emerging New Business of the Year Award – Less Lethal California

This business is an emerging growth company that has demonstrated its ability to disrupt and have an immediate impact; has a capacity for creativity and innovation; experienced growth and established itself as a leader in its industry. For more information, visit lesslethalcalifornia.com.

Distinguished Large Business of the Year Award – (Tie)Las Positas College and Liver-

more Area Recreation and Park District

These businesses demonstrate innovative manufacturing concepts; exhibit strength in employee training; and demonstrate a commitment to the Livermore Valley through community engagement and support. For more information, visit laspositascollege.edu or larpd.org.

Non-Profit of the Year Award – Spectrum Community Services

This organization demonstrates a prevalent presence in the community; is innovative; builds relationships with the Livermore business community; and is a leader in the nonprofit sector. For more information, visit spectrumcs.org.

Excellence In Health Care – Stanford Health Care Tri-Valley

The business or organization exemplifies excellence in corporate citizenship by giving back to the community; possesses a corporate culture that enhances the lives of its employees; and stands out in the community for its community support and collaboration. For more information, visit stanfordhealthcare.org.

Ambassador of the

Year – Suzy Clifton, Altamont Limo

An Ambassador of the Chamber is the volunteer arm that assists at after-hours mixers and ribbon-cutting events. They help connect members and assist with member outreach. This award system is points based and determined by the ambassador group. For more information, visit altamontlimo.com.

Incorporated in 1937, the Livermore Valley Chamber of Commerce is a 501c6 membership organization representing 400 businesses and organizations. Its mission is to enhance the business environment and quality of life in the Livermore Valley through innovation, leadership, visionary programs and powerful connections. For more information, visit livermorechamber.org.



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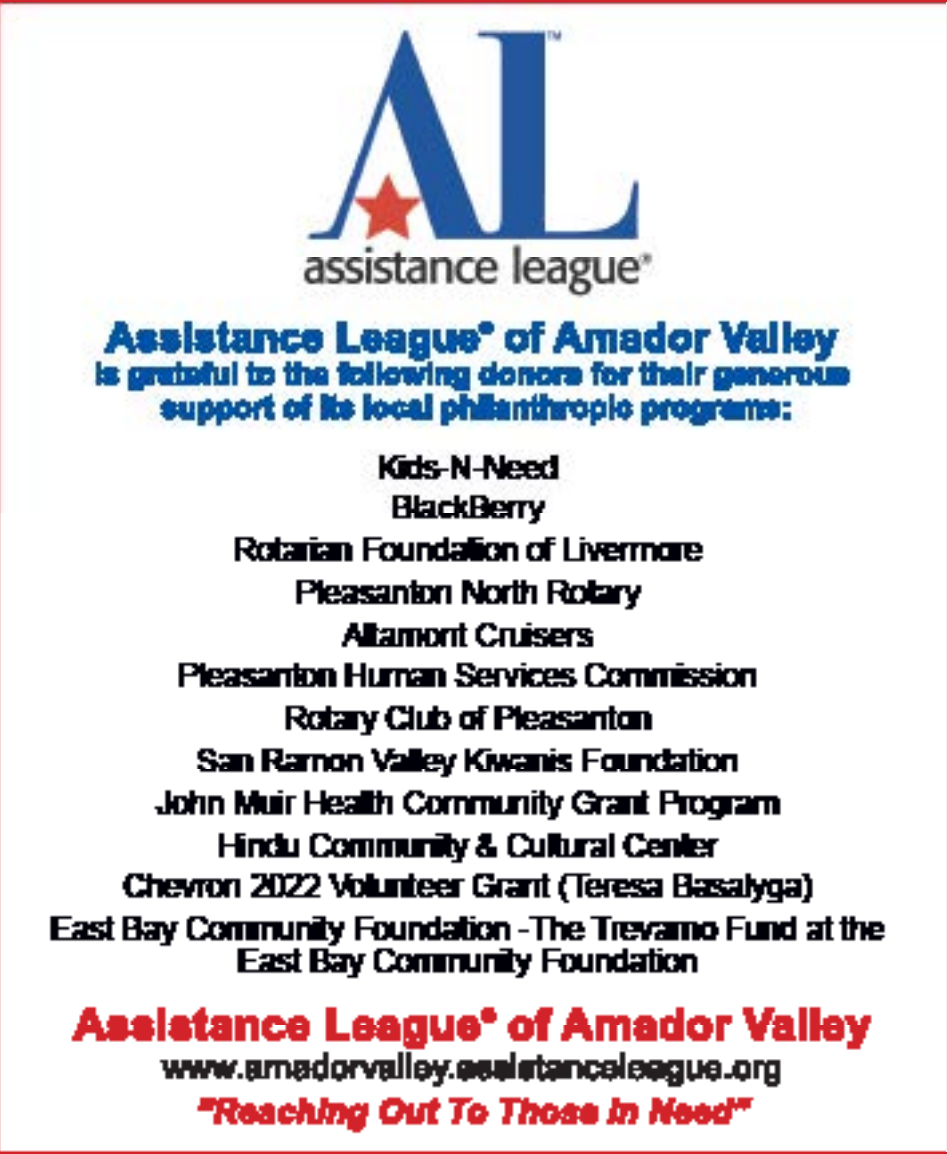
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EDITORIAL

Utilities Commission Should Prioritize Consumer and Climate Interests

Two electricity-billing decisions before the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) stand to disrupt the clean-energy transition and overburden low- and middle-income households. The creation of the Virtual Net Billing Tariff will discourage rooftop solar among multi-tenant properties, while income-based fixed charges will shift costs onto lower-income and lower-usage electricity customers. The CPUC must guard the public’s interests in these decisions and adhere to its mission of providing clean, affordable services to California. Neither

of these proposals supports that mission. We must incentivize rooftop solar, which reduces transmission losses and costs, while increasing grid resilience. In addition, solar power, free of greenhouse-gas emissions, is a necessary component of our carbon-neutrality goals. Slashing the payments to multi-tenant solar generators will set back our decarbonization progress. We must also encourage energy conservation among users in our zero-carbon efforts. Adding fixed charges that levy customers regardless of whether they use

any energy at all opposes these efforts. The income structures for these charges, as proposed by investor-owned utilities, are tone-deaf to the financial situations of middle-income households. While we recognize the need to support the state’s energy infrastructure, especially through the energy transition, these suggested changes lean too heavily on lower-energy and lower-income users. In the interest of an equitable clean-energy transition, we ask the CPUC to maintain the incentives afforded to rooftop-solar users in the past in order to promote this valuable

resource. We also ask that the State Legislature repeal the income-graduated fixed charges in Public Utilities Code Section 739.9. This change, in addition to its damages outlined above, was adopted three days after it was received without any public hearing. Any rate changes of this magnitude require public input. The CPUC will decide on multi-tenant tariffs at their next meeting, which begins at 11 a.m. on Oct. 12. To express your opinion on either issue, see instructions at bit.ly/indy_cpuc-meetings.

MAILBOX

Mailbox Guidelines: *Opinions voiced in letters published in Mailbox are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of The Independent. Anonymous letters will not be published. All letters are required to have the name(s) of the person(s) submitting them, city of residence and phone number, for verification purposes. Abusive letters may be rejected or edited. Letters are subject to verification and may be edited for clarity at the discretion of the editor. We reserve the right to decide whether or not the letter will be published. Headings for all letters may be edited at the discretion of the editor to properly reflect their content. A headline will be added to letters received without one. Frequent letter writers may have publication of their letters delayed. Letters must be submitted by someone living in or from the Tri-Valley; they must not offer medical advice from unconfirmed professional sources or contain libelous or inappropriate content. Letters should be limited to 400 words or less and should be sent by email to letters@independentnews.com or submitted using the form below. To be considered, letters must be received by 10 a.m. on the Monday before publication.*

Speech for Honest Citizens

Jeff Katz, Livermore

I am a Jewish resident of Livermore, the son of a Holocaust survivor and nephew to my 95-year-old uncle who survived Auschwitz and Dachau. I am writing to express my disgust with the cowardly hate speech calls on Yom Kippur, the holiest day of the Jewish calendar, and to also express my opposition to suspending Zoom calls. This is exactly what the fascists, racists and cowards hope for, suppressing free speech of honest citizens, the same way they want to ban books like Germany did in 1934. Make no mistake, democracy is on the ropes, and fascism, racism and anti-semitism is on the rise. We must speak up, support democracy, and use the tools available to fight back and speak out against racist, bigoted hate speech while not suppressing the opportunity for honest citizens to fully participate in their government.

Unity Week: A Time to Fight Bullying

Trish Munro, Livermore

When I received my Livermore Community newsletter on Friday, I was excited. (Don’t subscribe? Go here: <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/su/tD04KXv> now and make it so!) This coming week is Unity Week, beginning on October 16. Sponsored by all three of Livermore’s governmental bodies (City, School District, and LARPD), this is a week to stand against bullies and for inclusion. The week began as a response to school bullying. More than one out of every five students experiences bullying every year and those experiences leave deep scars. They make what is a difficult time of life all the more painful. Yet, bullying doesn’t necessarily end with adulthood. It simply takes different forms: cliques, ignoring or belittling others. And, as we’ve sadly seen in recent weeks, bullying can be Zoombombing or attacking others for simply existing.

No matter how old or young, participating in Unity Week is a chance to pay attention to how we treat each other and how we can do better. Here’s how to participate:

1. On Monday, take the Unity Pledge here: <https://www.pacer.org/bullying/pledge/>, which simply asks people to support others who have been hurt or harmed, treat others with kindness, be more accepting of people’s differences, and help include those who are left out.

Keep Term Limits in Place

John Lahommedieu, Dublin

Term limits must be in place for the city of Dublin. Third terms and or extensions must never be allowed. Those who serve as mayor and the city council must come to grips to serve their allotted terms and then move on. There are many reasons for this, and those who serve fully realize why. I urge my fellow citizens in the city of Dublin to deny any attempt to change the rules regarding term limits. In the end, it ends up being about the representatives doing more for themselves than the citizens they represent! We can never allow that to become the norm!

Flags on School Flag Poles

Phyllis Couper, Pleasanton

The issue of what kind of flags should be flown on flag poles of educational institutions is this: educational institutions exist for every American student for education, not for forums or agendas of individual groups. That is why only the flag of the United States of America is flown over educational institutions. It says proudly that

we welcome all students. It says to students you are special and important to this country. The American flag flown at educational institutions is a symbol of togetherness, signifying to each student that they deserve to have the best education that America can give.

The American flag does not say educational institutions should be forums for personal or cultural issues that belong in other forums. To bring those types of issues into the educational arena do nothing but deprive students of the right and precious time to learn unincumbered with issues that belong outside the classroom.

There are hundreds of organizations in America with their own flags to represent who they are and what they stand for. These groups make up the rich culture in America, and they should be flown when and where appropriate for their independent activities. We as Americans should not use our educational or public institutions to tout our specific groups, nor should we use those platforms to express concerns. There are forums aplenty throughout our communities to express both the negative and the positive.

We do not need to abuse the educational system by using such to accomplish individual political or other non-educational issues.

Education is a fundamental, extremely important part of the lives of children, and that environment should be structured so that children upon reaching adulthood will be able to read, write, do math, express themselves without judgement, and become contributing citizens to our society and to our Republic. Our Republic is not an armchair entertainment government. It survives when its citizens accept their civic responsibilities. Children must be taught these responsibilities as part of their education. Without this education, we could be condemning our children to life under a dictatorial life filled with questions as to why we let this happen to them. We must remain unified in our educational and governmental responsibilities, doing all we can to teach the importance of both. To do less is to commit a grave disservice to all children in America.

Longer Term Limits for the City Council

Japneet Khanuja, Dublin

I noticed in the recent City Council meetings that a recurring topic has been

term limits for the city council. I’m aware you’ve already written an article on this topic, but I’ve done some of my own research and figured it doesn’t hurt to see if you are interested.

With the research I have done, I think members should not be allowed to serve in office for more than sixteen consecutive years. This longer limit would allow members to take on long-term initiatives, make lasting connections to get policies passed, gain experience creating/passing policies, have incentive/opportunity for gaining policy expertise, etc. I believe this length is long enough to accomplish all this, while also ensuring a check in the system in case the public is too apathetic to vote out an ineffective member.

Unfortunately, I do think there will be popular resistance to this measure. Popular opinion tends to lean towards shorter term limits, associating longer limits with corruption and careerism. I have to admit, even I was initially an opponent until I took the time to research and found that shorter limits don’t necessarily have the results I was looking for.

For example, opponents believe that shorter limits would prevent members from becoming too comfortable and thus ineffective. In reality, research shows shorter limits demotivates policy expertise and causes candidates to view these positions as stepping stones in their career. They feel as though developing expertise isn’t so helpful, considering that in a few years they won’t even have this role anymore. A CRCMICH study looking at term limits in Michigan found “the focus is on short-term gains and fixes because politically costly solutions might undermine legislators’ plans for their next political office.” Even more concerning, since officials care less for their role, they also become less effective. One PPIC study looking at how term limits affected Sacramento found “a dramatic drop in gate-keeping, the process by which committees screen out poorly crafted or unpopular legislation.”

I have a lot more research backing up my argument that I would love to share, but please let me know if you’re interested. Thank you.

Opinion (and Fact): Mayor Marchand’s Inaccuracy at the TVNPA-APC

Greg Scott, Livermore

Commenting at the

Tri-Valley Nonprofit Alliance’s Anti-Poverty Collaborative event last Thursday, October 5th, Mayor Marchand was inaccurate about my not having suggested solutions to homelessness in Livermore. His statement is meritless. Readers can review my letter, “Transitioning Land for Enclosed Commons for Homeless,” in The Independent, July 13, 2023.

I spoke in every “Community Forum” at the Livermore City Council, except for two meetings from late September 2017 to early March 2020. I am on record proposing a “commons” for the homeless. I was answering my own question: Where do we expect the homeless to go? Mayor Marchand is on record in one of those meetings rejecting the idea. He recognized the proposal, but discounted it, thus countering his recent inaccuracy that I didn’t propose any solutions for homelessness.

Early in this period of speaking to the City Council, I also proposed a self-ish solution. I was living in my car, as do a number of homeless in Livermore. It was tiring playing the “cat-and-mouse” game at night with the City of Livermore Police. My idea was to have a “safe parking” area for sleeping, with access to a bathroom or outhouse, for homeless living in their cars. Soon after, a church in Hayward came up with this idea and, if I recall correctly, so did a church in Castro Valley.

A short time later, there was a slew of grants that Livermore obtained, including one for around \$124,000 for “safe parking.” The City of Livermore implemented this program before using up the money and discontinuing the program. There was another grant for \$60,000 for safe storage for the belongings of homeless who did not have cars. The City used this additional \$60,000 for the safe-parking program instead, and the homeless who didn’t have cars never got safe storage. Was there a measure of success or failure to the safe-parking program?

Whether wittingly or unwittingly, Mayor Marchand, by being inaccurate about my not proposing any solutions, manifests that he was never really listening to me at all. Yes, I have been critical about what the City of Livermore has done with regard to homelessness. If there were any honesty about the City’s homeless policies, there would be a

known count available to the public of how many homeless and formerly homeless have died in Livermore in the past year. This would serve as an important metric for Livermore’s homeless policies.

Hospital Strike

Rich Buckley, Livermore

LEAVE THE HOSPITAL PATIENTS ALONE!

Unions for hospital-based health care staff are antiquated and unnecessary... being a remnant of corrupted union bosses, captured by their own union boss narcissistic personality disorder... wanting power and control.... to what end?

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THE MORAL CODE

The staff and the hospital have the same moral code as the doctors...do no harm. “The oath, the physician pledges to prescribe only beneficial treatments, according to his (his, as quoted) abilities and judgment; to refrain from causing harm or hurt; and to live an exemplary personal and professional life.”

AN ALTERNATIVE PROCESS

Consider this: The doctors in control of the hospital form an Employee Benefits Committee (EBC) with rotating volunteer lay members of the staff on the committees. The EBC would have no union bosses in need of being appeased.

Do you think these EBCs would fail to produce a non-disruptive claimant?

I think we would never again hear from these personality disorder union bosses disrupting hospital staff with antiquated hospital picket lines. These bosses are remnants from an archaic system. For those employees of the hospital staff that need to express themselves, let them do it in an EBC... raise hell with the doctors inside the privacy of the EBCs, but leave the patients alone!

2. On Tuesday, go to the library and make a kindness card for a senior citizen. Or, if you are an elder, make a card for someone younger—intergenerational goes both ways.

3. On Wednesday, Unity Day, wear orange and help make a unity chain at one of the Livermore Libraries.

4. On Thursday, at 5:30, meet at the Wetmore en-

Valley’s Only Hispanic Woman Winemaker Has Deep Mexican Roots

By Christina Cavallaro

Rosa “Rosie” Fierro of Rosa Fierro Cellars punches down some zinfandel fruit fermenting in several huge plastic bins. As she stirs the purple mash with a long pole that breaks up the grapes and the submerged skins, she explains it’s this freeing of the juice that adds color to the wine.

Five minutes earlier, a towering stack of empty fruit bins fell sideways with a loud boom off the forklift she was driving and smashed the taillight on her truck parked behind the winery.

“So glamorous,” she said with a laugh.

It may not be glamorous, but Fierro has certainly broken new ground in the Livermore Valley wine industry as the only Hispanic woman winemaker in the region.

“I’m hoping more will come,” she said.

Her achievements are especially celebrated right now as the nation marks National Hispanic Heritage Month between Sept. 15 and Oct. 15. During this time, the U.S. government recognizes the countless contributions of more than 60 million Hispanic Americans -- Latinos and Lati-

nas -- to American culture and society.

Fierro, who is Mexican American, and was raised in San Lorenzo, recalls her neighborhood as a largely white community. There were not a lot of other Hispanic families around except for one across the street, which included three young boys.

But even going over to another Mexican family’s house was not a cultural fit. “I grew up with tamales, rice, beans—always Mexican food all the time,” she said. “But I’d go over to our neighbors and have tamales and they’d be wrapped in banana leaves.”

It wasn’t until she took a trip with her maternal grandparents to Albuquerque, New Mexico that she began to understand the specific type of Mexican culture and community.

“I was like, ‘oh my God, these are my people. I understand this culture here.’” The New Mexicans ate the same food her family did, and she understood every menu.

“When the food was served to me, it wasn’t a rolled-up enchilada. It was stacked up. And with Hatch chiles.” And all the homes were familiar to her,



Rosa Fierro of Rosa Fierro Cellars agitates the grapes during the initial fermentation at her winery in Livermore. (Photo - Doug Jorgensen) [See photo gallery at www.independentnews.com/multimedia]

too. “None of my friends’ houses had a velvet Jesus over their fireplace with thorns and blood, or statues of saints and lit candles everywhere. That’s all over New Mexico,” she said.

And now she can credit another community with making her feel at home, the Livermore Valley wine community. “You’re in a room where you’re speaking each other’s language,” she said of the monthly wine quality alliance gatherings she attends.

The group discusses everything from acid levels to harvest numbers.

“It’s the place where I most feel like I belong anywhere. These are my people.”

Her foray into winemaking started twelve years ago in Livermore, where she said she realized she had a naturally gifted palate for discerning specific flavors in wine. After a night spent in a friend’s garage making port on a small basket press, she said she knew she had found her life’s work.

“I left there covered in petite Syrah. And on the way home I was like, ‘my God, this is exactly what

I should be doing for a living.’”

She made her first vintage of cabernet in 2011, and in 2019, she realized her dream of opening her own winery and tasting room in Livermore, which she shares with Frank Favalora of Favalora Vineyards Winery. She called him her “winery roommate.”

“I was teasing her,” Favalora said, “‘You’re half Mexican and I’m half Mexican; we make a whole.’ We work together really well.”

According to the U.S. Department of State website, Hispanic Americans are the largest minority group in the United States. Boutique winemakers such as Fierro and Favalora are part of a growing list of Hispanic winemakers who have made great strides in the industry. Robledo Family Winery and Mis Sueño Winery and owner Rolando Herrera are household names in the Napa Valley and beyond for those in the wine business.

Fierro’s Mexican heritage has been traced back generations to New Mexico before the area was part of the U.S. Describing how

her family history contributed to her winemaking, she says with a laugh, “It’s not on my (Mexican) mother’s side.” To this day, her grandparents drink Carlo Rossi, which they call “Carlos.” “I tell my grandma, ‘I don’t know why you still drink that when I can bring you some of mine.’”

The theme of this year’s Hispanic Heritage Celebration month is, “Todos Somos, Somos Uno: We are All, We are One.”

“I love it,” she says of the Livermore Valley. “We know each other’s kids and this person helps that person. There’s nothing competitive about this. It’s not just a wine country, it is a wine community.”

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Automotive technologies student Calvin Mills works on a catalytic converter during the recent Las Positas Collage Automotive Technologies and Livermore Police Department free catalytic converter etching event. The program highlighted a new tool designed to combat catalytic converter thefts with state-of-the-art etching technology which will make it harder for thieves to steal and sell them. (Photo - Doug Jorgensen) [See photo gallery at www.independentnews.com/multimedia]

COUNTY

(Continued from front page)

direction.”

BAHFA and Enterprise Community Partners, a non-profit organization that advocates for affordable housing, said recent research showed \$7.6 billion in public financing is needed for 295 affordable housing projects in planning stages across the Bay Area to move forward. Affordable housing is needed for people in “essential service jobs,” including restaurant cooks, teachers, janitors, lab technicians, as well as seniors, veterans and people with disabilities.

“We have a brain drain of people leaving the Bay Area because they can’t afford to buy a home,” Hartley said. “We have the lowest percentage of homebuyers between the ages of 25 and 34 in the nation...There’s a general economic decline caused by this housing problem that is affecting everyone.”

Haubert said the Town Hall will begin at 6 p.m. Nov. 9 at the Pleasanton Public Library at 400 Old Bernal Avenue. Tickets can be reserved at www.eventbrite.com/e/728438538277?aff=oddtcreator. The event also can be watched remotely at www.eventbrite.com/e/730865176417?aff=oddtcreator.

Other informational meetings will and have already been held throughout the region.

Although the bond proposal currently would require a two-thirds vote for approval, its chances of passage will improve if voters throughout California approve a state constitutional amendment slated for the same ballot. The amendment would lower the threshold for passage of some bond measures, including those for affordable housing, from a two-thirds yes vote to 55%. Because it would be on the same ballot, it will imme-

diately lower the threshold for the bond vote. If voters approve the bond issue, 80% of the money raised would go to counties. Large cities, including Oakland, San Jose, San Francisco, Napa and Santa Rosa, will also receive direct allocations from this portion of the bond. BAHFA would keep 20% “to invest around the Bay Area.”

Property owners would pay the bond back on property tax bills. Estimates in July indicated the price would be \$10.62 per \$100,000 of a property’s assessed value. The owner of a \$1 million home would pay about \$100 a year.

Although many housing advocates support the measure, Jason Bezis, an attorney with the Alameda County Taxpayers Association, said Tri-Valley voters did not support recent housing measures as voters did in other parts of the county. Measure A1, a countywide property tax increase in 2016, received 73% of county residents overall to

pass, but just 54% combined from voters in Pleasanton, Livermore and Dublin. Measure W, a countywide sales tax increase, for homeless programs, passed in 2020 with a countywide 50-49 vote, but received a 68% no vote in the Tri-Valley, according to ACTA numbers.

“The Alameda County Taxpayers’ Association believes that the effectiveness of existing ‘affordable housing’ taxes like Measure A1 and Measure W first must be evaluated before placing new ‘affordable housing’ taxes on the ballot,” Bezis noted. “Tri-Valley voters rejected Measures A1 and W in the last two presidential elections and are likely to reject this new property tax increase, too.”

Although Haubert said he had not taken a position on the bond measure, his immediate comments appeared to show he had some reservations.

“I share Gov. (Gavin) Newsom’s concern that more

needs to be done for people living in homeless encampments,” Haubert said. “The apartment units generated by this bond will take years to build and cost nearly \$1 million per unit, but people are suffering right now, and this bond doesn’t help them fast enough.”

Haubert said he also was concerned that some of the funds would be used to purchase existing housing units and convert them to affordable housing units

“This does not create new housing and, in fact, reduces the supply of market rate housing,” Haubert said.

Haubert added that under the plan, 80% of the funding will be returned to the counties, with 20% deducted for “undesignated projects.” He said that does not assure where the money is going.

“This seems to create an additional layer of bureaucracy to administer the funds,” he said. “I’m not sure how efficient this is.”

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GLAZER

(Continued from front page)

term, was elected to his own term in 2018 and ran for reelection successfully in 2020. If Glazer decided to run again and won, the law would require him to walk away after serving half of his next term.

“There are special elections that happen every year or so, so there are other legislators who are in the same predicament that I’m in,” Glazer said. “I would just be the first one up. The unfortunate part is the law’s never been litigated.”

Glazer said the Alameda County Registrar of Voters or the state Secretary of State’s office will have to make a determination before the issue could go to court. Because a decision wouldn’t come until late in the filing

period for 2024, other robust candidates wouldn’t seek the seat, Glazer said. Instead of “creating this period of chaos,” Glazer said he’s bowing out.

The filing period to replace him opened in September and runs through November for the March primary. So far, seven people are listed on state campaign finance reports as having an interest in the seat.

In the meantime, Glazer said he has plenty to do before his term ends next year. Several of his bills are sitting on Gov. Gavin Newsom’s desk waiting for signatures or vetoes. Among them is a bill that would allow consumers to cancel, at full refund with

no charges, up to 24 hours to cancel any booking with hotels, short-term rentals and Internet booking sites. In proposing the law, Glazer said the law will protect consumers who make mistakes online or change their minds. Many lodging services do not offer cancellations without fees.

Glazer said to stay tuned for what he has planned for the next session.

And, he said, if an Assembly seat opens, he might consider running. Assembly members serve two-year terms, the number of years he has left for service. Glazer, who ran an unsuccessful campaign in 2022 for state Controller, said he also might consider statewide office.

Glazer said that during his time in the Senate, he is proud of accomplishments that include a law that assisted students and raised the 4-year graduation rate at state universities from 19% to 35%; authoring the nation’s first truth-in-lending law that requires lenders to provide clear and consistent disclosures to small business owners when offering financing; and creating the Inspector General’s office to provide oversight for BART.

“They need to run their operation more efficiently and with enhanced safety,” Glazer said. “You can’t dig a financial hole and not make the tough decisions to get yourself out of it. And they refuse to do that.”

Glazer said he has appreciated serving his district, which straddles Alameda and Contra Costa counties, stretching from Livermore on the south end to Antioch in the north. Voters, he said, support his “thoughtful independence.” At times, Glazer found himself as the only member of his party voting against issues including single-payer health care and high-speed rail funding.

He said he considers himself “very progressive” on human rights, civil rights, and women’s rights. On financial matters, he said he is fiscally conservative, “ensuring that every dollar that government has is spent in the most effective way possible.”

“That puts me in a different kind of category as a Democrat, but I’m here in my ninth year in the Senate, because the voters have given me strong votes in my three elections to the Senate,” he said.

Recently, Glazer said, he has enjoyed podcasting, telling stories and discussing issues of the day.

As for the Tri-Valley section of his district, Glazer said his accomplishments include the state’s purchase of Tesla Park to preserve it as open space; legislation to aid local wineries; trying to expand BART into the region; and supporting Valley Link.

“It’s been a really wonderful relationship with the Tri-Valley,” he said.

STATS

(Continued from front page)

impacted by people who do not live in Pleasanton.

“The issue of crime occurring by residents of other communities is not a new phenomenon. For many years, we have consistently seen the majority of those arrested are not Pleasanton residents,” Swing said.

Violent crimes investigated by officers included three homicides.

The report showed that property crimes cases jumped 32 % when compared to the rolling three-year average. Additionally, there was a 77 % increase in burglaries, a 60 % rise in car thefts, and a 23 % increase in larceny cases. An uptick in gang-related graffiti was another notable trend.

The department has responded by adopting

crime-fighting methods, including parking patrol cars in high-crime areas, hiring a crime and intelligence analyst, and sharing real-time information with regional law enforcement partners.

In contrast to the increase in property crimes, violent crime dropped 18% between January and July 2023; this includes a 33% decrease in aggravated assaults.

The report also notes the success of a two-year pilot program called the Alternate Response Unit, which partners licensed mental health workers with non-uniformed officers to assist homeless people who are having a mental health crisis.

“The City of Pleasanton’s Alternate Response Unit has provided a tre-

mendous resource for our community and officers by connecting those in crisis or who are unhoused with appropriate services,” Swing said.

The department’s Community Advisory Board has seen success as well by directing a 12-member board to give input to the police chief on a range of topics and community concerns, including use of force, technology and homelessness.

Swing also noted that as crime trends evolve, the department, like many others is grappling with hiring and retaining police officers. The police department is budgeted for 85 sworn officers but is currently down 9 officers with another 9 out on medical leave.



Master of Ceremonies Jeff Kaskey helps celebrate the Livermore Heritage Guild’s 50th anniversary Gala at Poppy Ridge. The Guild’s recent event marked it’s successes in helping to save myriad landmarks including Livermore’s SP Depot, the Ravenswood estate and Duarte Highway Garage. (Photo courtesy of Jeff Kaskey)

UTILITY

(Continued from front page)

er they have solar or not.

California Assembly Bill 205, signed into law June 2022, requires that the CPUC decide how to implement a new, income-based fixed charge for residential electricity customers by July 2024.

Proposals for the new charges effectively move a portion of the volumetric costs — those tied to electricity usage — into recurring fixed costs that utilities will charge regardless of how much power customers use.

Rainey, a Livermore rooftop-solar owner, said the change would more than wipe out the compensation he currently receives for the energy he provides to the grid.

A joint proposal submitted by the Southern California Edison, Pacific Gas and Electric, and San Diego Gas and Electric companies defines four income brackets based on the federal poverty level and on participation in either the California Alternate Rates for Energy or the Family Electric Rates Assistance programs.

“This proposal aims to help lower bills for those who need it most and improves billing transparency and predictability for all customers,” said Marlene Santos, Executive Vice President of Customer and Communications and Chief Customer Officer for PG&E in a press release.

Households enrolled in either assistance program

and making less than the poverty level would see a \$15 per month fixed charge on their electricity bills. Other CARE and FERA participants would see a \$30 fixed charge.

CARE currently limits income to \$39,440 for a two-person household.

Households making between 100% and 650% of the poverty level — or between \$19,720 and \$128,180 with two people — would see a \$51 per month fixed charge, while those with incomes above 650% would see a \$92 per month charge in the joint-utilities proposal.

These fixed charges would be offset somewhat by lower volumetric rates.

The CPUC Public Advocates Office submitted a similar proposal and anticipated lower bills for those making less than \$50,000 per year and higher bills for those making more than \$100,000 per year.

Igor Tregub, Strategic Partnerships Director of Reimagine Power, called the new charges and the solar-incentives proposal, a “two-pronged attack by investor-owned utilities on renters, working families, and families on fixed income.”

Consumer and environmental advocates, such as Dave Rosenfeld, Executive Director of the Solar Rights Alliance, still considered \$40,000 per year, and even \$100,000 per year, as lower income.

“Yes, it’s going to lower

bills for people who are on the CARE and the FERA program,” said Rosenfeld. “But it’s going to increase bills on millions of other low- and middle-income people who just don’t make that cut off. So (the utilities are) not telling the whole story.”

Furthermore, the new proposals would dampen the benefits of energy conservation, such as through rooftop solar, as a greater proportion of energy bills would be charged independent of usage.

An analysis of the utilities’ proposal by Flagstaff Research concluded that “small efficient homes would subsidize larger, less-efficient homes.”

Rosenfeld added, “Basically anyone that is a low-energy user will see their bills go up as a result of these extreme proposals.”

An Aug. 25 letter signed by some 170 organizations, including Livermore Indivisible and the Solar Rights Alliance, sent to the State Legislature and the Governor’s Office, has called for the repeal of AB 205. The letter noted that the fixed-utility charges were included in the bill in three days without public hearing and that their effects on those in apartments, condos and small homes require further analysis and clarity. “(Legislators) can introduce a bill to put the genie back in the bottle,” said Tregub.

BILL MEDLEY

(Continued from front page)

our thing and our audience stayed with us,” he continued. “They didn’t jump off the Righteous Brothers’ ship.”

In the early days, he acknowledged there was the comparison to the likes of another popular duo, The Everly Brothers, and the calls by the record companies and producers for Medley and Hatfield to change their style.

Instead, they took a cue from another partnership who were closer to their blues heart and soul, Don and Dewey, comprised of the late Don Harris and Dewey Terry. Performing out of Los Angeles, the duo was an off shoot of the mid 1950s high school doo-wop vocal group, The Squires, which eventually split up.

Don and Dewey were writing and performing some of their own music, but they were making their mark as much by singing hits penned by others. Following the same path that gained traction for Don and Dewey, the Righteous Brothers also made their inroads in musical circles by injecting their unique blues sound in the songs of other artists.

The connection between these two acts came full circle when “Justine and ‘Big Boy Pete,’” written by Don and Dewey, became staples for Medley and Hatfield through the years.

Also embracing songs by the likes of B.B. King and Ray Charles, “We took a lot of their stuff and made it our own,” Medley said, citing the rich musical landscape of blues and R&B artists of the times.

“At the beginning, it was difficult,” conceded Medley. “But we made it and had some success, and people said, ‘that is way you ought to do it.’”

But life, especially for those in the entertainment field, is hardly always a bed of roses, Medley acknowledged. He and Hatfield endured their share of the ups and downs.

“You have a private life, too, and sometimes you are going through hard times

in your private life,” said Medley. “It is a real tough balance to keep your head on straight.”

“If you love the music, that is going to sustain you,” he continued. “But if you go in it to get a lot of girls or make money, you won’t last.”

“People see that, and they don’t like it,” Medley added.

He and Hatfield took solace in knowing that through the years, they didn’t have to beg their legion of fans to keep up their support for the act.

Weathering the seemingly uncertain and difficult times ultimately led to a musical resurgence, of sorts, in the 1990s that even they may not have expected, as their hits contributed to the soundtracks for some of the decade’s most popular movies including “Top Gun,” “Dirty Dancing,” and “Ghost.”

“We were bigger than ever,” said Medley, and blessed to be able to ride that wave.

“It may not have been the most successful time for us,” he continued, “but it was the most fun and most gratifying time of our careers.”

“It made you feel ‘hey we did it the right way,’” Medley added.

And, from 1990 to 2003, a new, younger audience was just discovering the Righteous Brothers for the first time.

“The kids were going home and telling their parents ‘Have you heard of this new group,’” said Medley of a decades old first tenor and bass duo, who were simply belting out soulful ballads.

“We stayed really true to the music that we did best,” said Medley, and “It just kept coming back round to us.”

The latest stop for the musical journey, which Medley expressed repeatedly he is blessed to be on, is in Livermore with Heard, a versatile and popular performer in his own right. Heard has a gutsy rock and roll persona and incredible vocal range, lending his talents to the Righteous Brothers legacy.

“I’d been friends with

Bucky for years, but when I caught his show, he just killed me! The next day it hit me — that’s the guy, someone I could sing hard with, laugh hard with, love and respect — on and off stage. He fits The Righteous Brothers live performance show perfectly,” Medley said,

Medley and Hatfield parted ways in the late 1960s when they pursued individual projects. But they eventually reunited in 1974 and within a few weeks the duo had yet another monster hit with “Rock and Roll Heaven.” From then, until Hatfield’s death in 2003, The Righteous Brothers never stopped performing to packed crowds. Hatfield died in a hotel room in Kalamazoo, Mich., at 63. Prior to Hatfield’s death, The Righteous Brothers were inducted in the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in March 2003 by Billy Joel.

While Medley acknowledged The Righteous Brothers fan base “is getting pretty old right now,” hardly so is the endearing impact of their music. Veterans are a notable part, as the songs represented an important taste of home in the middle 1960s when American men and women were serving in Vietnam.

So, after their upcoming 90-minute show, Medley and Heard will go out to where the merchandise is being sold and sign autographs and visit with the audience.

The evening at the Bankhead, said Medley, will be another chance “to have a lot fun and get to relive all their memories, and get to hear the songs that they fell in love with.”

So as the 83-year-old prepares to take the stage yet again, he also expects someone else to certainly be listening in — and looking down — with equally high expectations for another crackin’ performance and for the songs to be belted out just a little louder.

“I hope (Bobby) is up there yelling at me,” said Medley. “We went through so many dramatic times.”

“Bobby and I were blessed.”





Laura Ness

By Laura Ness

Twenty years ago, new wineries sprouting up in Livermore brought much of their fruit from outside the area. There simply wasn't much available in the valley, as most of the fruit was spoken for by Concannon and Wente.

As the wine industry here grew, and more vineyards were planted, choices improved and a "Livermore Only" wave swept over the region. At the same time, winemakers became more selective, and while the price of Livermore fruit rose, the quality didn't always keep pace. Some winemakers began cherry picking from other regions.

Fundamentally, the cost of grapes is directly reflected in the price of wine. If you paid \$2500/ton for fruit, you can charge \$25—\$30 per bottle, but if fruit costs you \$6500/ton, you now have to charge at least \$65 to \$75, to recoup winemaking costs.

A huge harvest in 2019 made some Napa Cab available at attractive prices. Then came Covid in 2020, cutting off restaurant business for many wineries, causing Sonoma Chardonnay and Pinot Noir grapes to come on the market. The fires of 2020 tainted some Livermore fruit. Such factors forced wineries like Nottingham Cellars, Occasio and Steven Kent to look elsewhere.

All are glad they did: their discoveries have led to higher quality wines, which means happier winemakers and more customer choice.

Collin Cranor of Nottingham Cellars went from all in on Livermore to all in on Napa for his Grape Culture brand. Choosing between Livermore fruit at \$5500/ton and great Napa stuff at the same price, was a no-brainer.

"My son was born in 2019, and that changed my whole perspective. I don't have family land or a trust fund to fall back on." In side-by-side trials of Cabernets he made from Napa and Livermore grapes, he absolutely preferred the former, even

HER VINENESS

Livermore Winemakers Find Treasures Afield

though he was rooting for the latter. He moved his family and wine production to Napa, where all the Nottingham and Grape Culture wines are now made. "Being in Napa gives us a lot more options and we can continue to offer those wines to Livermore residents, while broadening the landscape of our vineyard sourcing." Nottingham's Livermore tasting room in Blacksmith Square still features primarily Livermore grown wines, but customers can taste Grape Culture there.

Steven Mirassou conducted a similar experiment, but drew a different conclusion. "We have been saying forever that Livermore is a world class area on par with Napa, and we finally had the opportunity to prove it," says Mirassou. "It has reinforced that we are a Livermore Valley winery, and we want Livermore to be our focus. The Napa experiments have proven interesting, but we don't plan to continue. Besides, I always wanted to be the first person from Livermore and not the 500th from Napa."

During the smoke out of 2020, he also bought fruit from the Santa Cruz Mountains, and is thrilled with Bates Vineyard Cabernet Franc and Zayante Vineyard Merlot, two places he never knew existed. He's happy to have them in his lineup, especially given the focus on Cabernet Franc with his L'Autre Cote brand. "We can now offer our customers the chance to taste wine from great

vineyards in Napa, Livermore and Santa Cruz, all through the lens of our winemaking style."

For Occasio's John Kinney, the Covid shutdown provided the perfect occasion to explore Rhones from Shake Ridge in Amador and Pinot Noir from Wildcat Mountain in Sonoma. Although the Sonoma Pinot Noir was ultimately smoked out, Shake Ridge was thankfully not impacted, and Kinney calls the 2020 Grenache, Syrah and Mourvedre from Shake Ridge Ranch, "the best and cleanest fruit I have ever seen. Our two best-selling wines online have been the Shake Ridge Ranch Grenache and GSM."

Occasio also sourced Zinfandel from Shake Ridge in 2021. "We quit making Zin from Livermore after 2015, because we couldn't get even ripening in the berries."

In 2021, Occasio lost their allocation of Sauvignon Blanc from Livermore's Ghielmetti Vineyard when the crop came up short, forcing Kinney and others to source from Alexander Valley. For 2023, only half of the fruit he's getting comes from Livermore. He worries about possible grape shortages here, due to the need to replant aging vineyards, which will take many acres offline for several years. "This will probably force more wineries to look outside for grapes."

He's happy he's ahead of the curve.



SUNFLOWER

(Continued from front page)

Hernandez for really thinking of us and identifying Sunflower Hill and afford-

able housing as something they want to focus on," said Lenard-Benson, who

estimated several years before the Grace Pointe project breaks ground.



DaisyYip paints trees during the Breaking BEARriers student volunteer service organization's second mural project at Fertile GroundWorks in Livermore. [See photo gallery at www.independentnews.com/multimedia] (Photos - Doug Jorgensen)

Late-Night Comedian to Lead Off Fall Season at Firehouse Arts Center

Comedian Kellen Erskine will lead off the fall season at the Firehouse Arts Center this weekend.

Erskine, who has appeared on several late-night television programs, "America's Got Talent," and the Amazon Original Series "Inside Jokes" will bring his adult standup comedy to Pleasanton on Friday, Oct. 13.

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

The Fall at the Firehouse season will continue at 2 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 15, with "The Magic of Andy Amyx."

Amyx combines sleight-of-hand magic and on-stage illusions, inviting members of the audience to be part of his family-friendly performance.

Tickets to "The Magic of Andy Amyx" begin at \$15.

The Grammy-nominated, all-female ensemble sàje, featuring Sara Gazarek, Amanda Taylor, Johnaye Kendrick, and Erin Bentlage, will bring their unique blend of voices, featuring soul and smooth jazz, to the Firehouse Arts Center stage on Thursday, Oct. 19.

Tickets for the 7:30 p.m. performance are \$35.

The Firehouse Arts Center is also offering a VIP experience, including a pre-show meet-and-greet with the group, including a photograph and a sàje tote bag, for \$75.

On Saturday, Oct. 21, two-time Grammy award-winning violinist Mads Tolling and Grammy-nominated pianist will perform music from their new instrumental album, "Ramblin," from classic standards and contemporary jazz to Americana.

Tickets for the 8 p.m.

concert begin at \$20.

Closing out the Fall at the Firehouse season on Thursday, Nov. 9, will be Nashville recording artist Andy Kahrs.

His show, "Always on My Mind—A Country Songbook," will include a guest appearance by Nick Crossen and features a collection of country, blues and R&B classics including hits from Glen Campbell, Willie Nelson, and Sam Cooke.

Tickets for the 7:30 performance begin at \$20.

Tickets for events at the

Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., are available online at firehousearts.org.



MAILBOX

(Continued from 4 page)

trance of Sycamore Grove to take a walk with LPD officers and LARPD rangers.

5. End the week on Friday at Stockmen’s Park where, from 3-6, participants can use sidewalk chalk to draw messages of love, hope, and support for the future.

In today’s world, standing against hate and bullying is more important than ever. Here’s to participating in Unity Week and living its message in the future.

No to Increased Term Limits
Dawn Plants, Dublin

In November 1996, voters in Dublin established term limits, so that no one may serve more than eight consecutive years in any combination of positions on the City Council. Why does the current gang want to go backwards?

Not many residents are aware that City Council members are paid about \$1,500 a month for TWO meetings per month, or \$750 a meeting. Are they lawyers now? This also includes expensive medical insurance that every one of them already have with their jobs. I didn’t know that they get free vacations to Europe/Ireland as well. This is a slap in the face to the majority of residents who specifically voted in term limits. Using covert phone survey tactics shows that greed knows no bounds!

I ran as a “clean money” candidate in 2020, without the deep pockets of developers and construction unions. I came very close to winning because residents were frustrated at the speed of growth and false promises by prior elected officials. I remember the candidate’s claiming “sustainability” and “controlled growth” to get elected and then immediately dropping their platforms.

I suggest you watch the new Avalon project nearing completion with 500 units, which will first create epic traffic gridlock. In the last three years I’ve seen the “Downtown Dublin” Plan steamroll forward, which is a massive housing plan disguised as a “charming downtown” similar to Pleasanton? Not at all. The crush of 1,300 “downtown” units will put 1,300+ more cars onto a 6-block radius every workday, creating traffic gridlock! Add the other 500 Avalon units and now it’s 1,800+ of increased vehicles! It will take hours to access the freeway.

These shenanigans are costing taxpayers dearly, who are trying to survive in the current economy, while part-time elected officials “work hard for us” riding bicycles and gallivanting to Europe on our dime? Enjoying double medical coverage on our tax dollars? Working part time and getting a PENSION?

How can any of them justify this highway robbery of the hard-working taxpayers? Pay for your own vacations like the rest of us, and get that expensive medical coverage DENIED for PART TIME. They already get overpaid pensions! (Google “The California Rule” and try not to explode)

Actions speak louder than words.

VOTE NO ON INCREASING TERM LIMITS.

Don’t just vote for whoever is easier, which continues to downgrade our quality of life, another unkept promise.

Telegraph Quartet Returns to Bankhead Theater

Del Valle Fine Arts, a nonprofit chamber music organization, will open its 44th season at the Bankhead Theater in Livermore with the Telegraph Quartet on Saturday, Oct. 21.

The Telegraph Quartet, featuring Eric Chin and Joseph Maile on violin, Pei-Ling Lin on viola, and Jeremiah Shaw on cello, also performed at the Bankhead Theater in 2016 and 2019.

Formed in 2013, the Bay Area group received the Fischhoff Chamber Music Competition Grand Prize in 2014 and the Naumburg Chamber Music Award in 2016. The group is also on the faculty of the San Francisco Conservatory of Music as the Quartet-in-Residence.

The quartet released its latest album, “Divergent Paths,” in August, the first in a planned series of recording titled “20th

Century Vantage Points.”

For this year’s performance at the Bankhead, the quartet will perform Grażyna Bacewicz’s String Quartet No. 4, Benjamin Britten’s String Quartet No. 1 in D major, Opus 25, and Antonin Dvořák’s String Quartet No. 14 in A-flat major, Opus 105 B.

Tickets for the 7:30 p.m. performance begin at \$35 and are available online at livermorearts.org/events.

Students under 18 can obtain free tickets at the Bankhead Theater box office, 2400 First St., or by calling 925-372-6800, with tickets for accompanying adults priced at \$20. Tickets for college students are \$16 at the box office.

The Livermore-based Del Valle Arts presents five chamber music concerts at the Bankhead each season.



Sri Satpathy of Ballistics United Premier U13 works on soccer skills at the newly renamed Stanford Medicine Sports Complex in Pleasanton. The spot was previously known as Bernal Community Park. (Photos – Doug Jorgensen)

Dublin Boulevard to Close for Bridge Installation

Dublin Boulevard will be closed from Dougherty Road to Hacienda Drive from 9 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 21, to 9 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 22, for the installation of the Iron Horse Regional Trail pedestrian and bicycle bridge.

The Dublin Public Works Department said local vehicular and pedestrian traffic would be allowed up to Scarlett Drive and Sterling Street.

The arch truss bridge will free span approximately 230 feet over Dublin Boulevard. The final stage of the project requires lifting and putting the prefabricated bridge into place and pouring the concrete walkway.

The roadway will also be closed from 11 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 4, to 7 a.m. Sunday, Nov. 5, for the concrete to be poured.

Installation had been planned for early September, but was postponed by the contractor, Goodfellow



Witches descended on Downtown Livermore for Witches Night Out, an annual event put on by Livermore Downtown Inc. [See photo gallery at www.independentnews.com/multimedia] (Photo - Doug Jorgensen)

Library to Host Korean Music, Dance Performance

The Livermore Public Library will host a traditional Korean music and dance performance by Hansamo, a non-profit student organization created to promote Korean culture in the Bay Area, at the Civic Center Library Plaza, 1188 S. Livermore Ave., on Sunday,

Nov. 5.

The performance, part of the Authors and Arts Series sponsored by Friends of the Livermore Public Library, will begin at 2 p.m.

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

TRI-VALLEY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Now to Oct. 12
Broadway Chorus

The chorus will be starting rehearsals for the Winter Concert “A Funny Thing Happened at Broadway Chorus - A Night of Musical Comedy.” This is a non-audition chorus, so if you love to sing, this is the place for you. Rehearsals are every Thursday from 7 to 9:30 p.m. Adults and children are welcome. Those interested are welcome to come to rehearsals to see if you would like to sing with us. Sign-ups and more information are available at eastbaymusicals.org.

Now to Oct. 31
Livermore Art Association (LAA) Showing Vicki Assegued

LAA is proud to have Vicki Assegued’s fiber art as the inaugural exhibit at the Robert Livermore Community Center (RLCC) Seniors Center, located at 4444 East Ave., in Livermore. Assegued is an experimental, original fiber artist who teaches her many techniques through various art schools, organizations and retreats, and she also exhibits and sells her artwork. The exhibit will be up for the month of October, hung in the lounge and the hallway. Her art is available for sale. A two-hour time slot to meet the artist is now scheduled for Oct. 18 from noon until 2:00 pm. The RLCC is open Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, visit vickiart.com.

Now to Oct. 31
Library Art Show

Livermore Library, at 1188 S. Livermore Ave., will host an art show featuring original art and photography by members of the Livermore Art Association. The theme is “Nature’s Gifts.” Membership and show information is available at livermoreartassociation.org or dp.rodriquez@icloud.com.

Saturday, Oct. 7 to Sunday, Oct. 15
Livermore Valley Opera Presents “Of Mice and Men”

Stage Director Marc Jacobs will bring the forceful tale of two depression-era farm workers whose dream of owning their own land one day ends in tragedy. Carlisle Floyd, arguably the greatest of America’s 20th Century opera composers, adapts to the operatic stage a vivid representation of John Steinbeck’s story that will grip audiences with its powerful music and timeless themes. In addition, LVO is thrilled to be partnering with the National Steinbeck Center located in Salinas, with the mutual goal of building community bridges and forging connections between arts and cultural organizations. Performances takes place at 2 p.m.; Oct. 14, at 7:30 p.m.; and Oct. 15, at 2 p.m. An opening-night dinner will be held at Uncle Yu’s at the Vineyard at 4 p.m., with a separate ticket purchase required. Tickets are on sale now at the Bankhead Theater in downtown Livermore, and ticket buyers who purchase both operas together will receive the best seats at a 10% discount. Both operas will be sung in English and expertly accompanied by the LVO orchestra, conducted by maestro Alexander Katsman.

Sunday, Oct. 15
Road Rally of Livermore Historical Sites

Livermore Inner Wheel presents a fun and interesting way to learn about Livermore history. Using a curated list of clues and a car, attendees will track down Livermore historical sites, a great way to become familiar with the interesting and important history of Livermore. Meet in the parking lot of Round Table Pizza, 1024 Stanley Blvd., at 1 p.m., and donate \$25 to participate. All cars will be on the road by 2 p.m. Prizes will be awarded to the first cars to complete the rally. For questions or to preregister, contact ebell4830@sbcglobal.net.

Sunday, Oct. 15
Road Rally of Historical Sites in Livermore

Inner Wheel of Livermore presents a fun and interesting way to learn about Livermore History. Using a list of clues and from a car, you will track down Livermore Historical Sites, a great way to become familiar with the city’s interesting and important history. Meet in the parking lot of Round Table Pizza, 1024 Stanley Blvd., at 1 p.m., and pay \$25 to participate. All cars will be on the road by 2 p.m. Prizes will be awarded to the first cars to return. For questions or to preregister, email ebell4830@sbcglobal.net.

Saturday, Oct. 21
TriValley Writers’ Speaker

Chris Hennessy, an independent filmmaker, author, and speaker, will explain how to promote a book, social media marketing, and more at 2 p.m. at Tri-Valley Writers meeting at Las Positas College, Room 2470 at 3000 Campus Hill Drive, in Livermore. Check-in begins at 1:30 p.m. To RSVP, email treasurer@trivalleywriters.org by Oct. 19, and make payment, Tickets are \$10 for CWC adult members; \$12 for nonmembers; \$5 for CWC student members ages 14 to 22; and \$8 for student nonmembers.

Saturday, Oct. 21
Glitz and Gratitude - A Gala & Auction to Benefit Culinary Angels

Join in for Culinary Angels’ largest fundraiser of the year featuring a gourmet dinner and Garré wine, an amazing live and silent auction with emcee Juliette Goodrich of KPIX 5 and local celebrity auctioneer Big Frank, live entertainment and more. A no-host full bar will be available and cocktail attire is requested. The event takes place from 6 to 10 p.m., at Garré Vineyard & Winery, 7986 Tesla Road, in Livermore. For more information, visit culinaryangels.org.

Saturday, Oct. 21
Telegraph Quartet (Strings)

Del Valle Fine Arts presents Telegraph Quartet, quartet-in-residence at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music. The group will perform the String Quartet No.4 by Grażyna Bacewicz, Britten’s String Quartet No. 1 and Dvorák’s String Quartet No. 14., at 7:30 p.m., at the Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., in Livermore. Tickets are free for youth and are available at the Bankhead box office or livermorearts.org.

Sunday, Oct. 22
Matt Finders and Friends

Hosted by Livermore Jazz Society from 2 to 4 p.m., Matt Finders and Friends has been swinging together for nearly 10 years. Come check out the magic. To request seating, email info@livermorejazzsociety.org or fill out an online form at livermorejazzsociety.org/reserve-seats. If seating is available, a reply will be sent with a formal invitation including the performance location. The event link is livermorejazzsociety.org/events/matt-finders-and-friends. A donation of \$20 is suggested, but donations of any amount are most welcome. For more information, visit livermorejazzsociety.org.

Sunday, Oct. 22
Pleasanton Community Concert Band Fall Concert

The Pleasanton Community Concert Band will play its annual Fall Concert in the Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., in Pleasanton, at 2 p.m. This year, the band is saluting Animals as Portrayed in Music. The concert is free. For more information, call 925-846-5897.

OBITUARIES

Dale Wallace LaCroix
Korean War Veteran
Aug. 23, 1928 – Sept. 27, 2023



Dale passed away on Sep. 27, with both sons Cliff and Andy at his side. Born in Alameda, California to Terrance and Vivian (Goldt) LaCroix, Dale’s early memories include taking the train to school, Neptune Beach, and the island of Alameda in its heyday of working families and bedroom community to Oakland and San Francisco. As a teenager, he enjoyed sailing with older brother Terry Jr. in the bay and working at his father’s gas station in Oakland.

Drafted into the Korean war in 1950, Dale said goodbye to his fiancé, Helen Ekstrom. After initial processing at Ft. Ord, Dale completed his basic training at Camp Cooke, (now known as Vandenberg AFB), which had been reactivated to provide training for combat troops headed for Korea. Dale was then sent overseas for further training at Etajima, Japan. Operating the “Angry Nine” field radio

with two others, they would call in spotter planes and P-51 Mustangs for their mission. He was proficient in Morse code and sent letters home to Helen for her to decipher. He married Helen in 1952, and they were together for 64 years until her passing in 2017.

Cliff was born in Glendale, California in 1953, and Andy was born in San Jose, California in 1955. Dale worked many years for various metal suppliers, and in 1969 started with his partner their own distributorship. They were Initially in Oakland for three years, and then

in Hayward for the next 20 years. His company expanded to two additional locations in Southern California and Seattle, Washington

Dale retired in 1989, and enjoyed golf, travel, fishing with his pal Phil, volunteering with blind children, but mostly spending time with Helen, Cliff and Diann, grandkids Ellen, Nicole, Erik, Andy and Rose, grandkids Christina and Elisa. He was a hardheaded SF Giants fan for 60 years, with a barrel full of golf putters still looking for the right one. Whether family, friend, or employee, you quickly knew Dale was someone you were thankful was in your life. How fortunate we all were to know and spend time with this man. It was a life very well lived.

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

Barbara Ann De Paoli
Feb. 17, 1936 – Sept. 29, 2023



Barbara Ann Heeg was born on Feb. 17, 1936, in St. Mary’s Hospital, San Francisco. She was the only daughter of George and Katharine (Kelleher) Heeg and the younger sister of George Heeg Jr.

Barbara was raised in the family home on Vicente Street in the inner Sunset district of “The City” and attended St. Cecilia Elementary School and Presentation High School. Barbara then traveled by train each day to Holy Names College in Oakland. Following her graduation in 1957, she taught school in San Francisco and volunteered in a Catholic young adult group where she met Charles (Chuck) De Paoli from Sutter Creek. Barbara and Chuck married on July 25, 1959, at St. Cecilia Church and had their reception at the Olympic Club. For their honeymoon, they road tripped to Canada, setting the stage for years of adventures together.

In the summer of 1960, Chuck and Barbara moved to Livermore where they both

were hired by the school district. Barbara taught 5th grade at Marilyn Avenue School until their first child, Christina, arrived in January 1964. In 1965, Barbara and Chuck moved to their Davis Way home located in a great neighborhood that included 14 children under the age of five. George joined the family in April 1966, and their third blessing, Chad, was born in July 1974.

Barbara was an active parishioner and dedicated volunteer at St. Michael Catholic Church and School. She was also a talented seamstress and crafter. Chuck and Barbara spent vacations on road trips around the USA and Canada

and made regular visits to the family cabin in South Lake Tahoe and the Shack on Hecker Pass Road. Barbara always enjoyed trips to the coast, as watching a sunset was a favorite thing to do. When Chad was in 6th grade, Barbara returned to education, working in Arroyo Seco Elementary School’s library. Becoming a grandmother was one of Barbara’s greatest joys. She loved spending time with each grandchild, always ready to read a story, or as they grew older, hear about their lives. Chuck and Barbara lived in the Davis Way house for 51 years until moving to Elk Grove in 2016.

Barbara passed away peacefully on Sept. 29, 2023. She is survived by Chuck, her husband of 64 years, their children Chris and Brock Thayer (Elk Grove, California), George and Barbara De Paoli (Australia), Chad and Jodi De Paoli (Eugene, Oregon), and grandchildren Christopher, Andrew, Cameron, Ron, Monica, Jason, Ashton, Carsyn and Ty.

CELEBRATION OF LIFE

Anthony Leon Higgins
Nov. 27, 1950 – July 3, 2023



Anthony “Tony” Leon Higgins was received into the loving arms of Jesus on July 3, 2023, with his cherished wife, daughters, and sister by his side.

Ask Tony where he grew up and he’d say, “here, there, and everywhere.” Tony was born on Nov. 27, 1950, in Los Angeles, California, to single mom Patricia, daughter of Pentecostal preacher Ernest Nathan Gurr. By 1952, Pat and Tony made their way to Fairbanks, Alaska to live with Grandma and Grandpa Gurr. There they met Army Private Leon Higgins and soon after the three became a family.

As Army brats, Tony and his younger siblings grew up throughout the United States. By the time he graduated from East Anchorage High School in 1967, Tony had attended 27 schools (including four high schools) and visited 38 states and five countries. Some of his most notable memories are from Fort Smith, Arkansas; Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri; Wildwood Station in Kenai, Alaska; Sheridan, Oregon; Fort Dix, New Jersey; and Fort Richardson in Anchorage, Alaska. Despite their frequent moves, faith and frequent connection with extended family kept the Higgins family rooted.

In the fall of 1969, Tony came to Livermore, California to attend Pentecostal Bible College. Livermore remained his home for the rest of his life. At PBC he met Rosa Stafford; the two married in October 1971. Shortly after completing his bachelor’s degree, daughter Crystal was born. Daughters Melissa and Tracy followed over the next few years.

Through the years, faith and family continued to be Tony’s top priorities. Growing up, the girls remember their dad always playing gospel music or oldies in the house and on road trips, perpetually curating song collections. Tony often took the girls to car shows, A’s games, the Alameda County Fair, and sometimes even concerts. He always showed up to school and sporting events with his video camera and Olympus 35 mm camera ready to document his girls’ achievements. As an adult, Tony met and developed strong relationships with his two elder brothers. He also remained an active church volunteer at Faith Chapel Assembly of God through teaching, serving in elected leadership, and tech production, until his death.

Tony was known for his sharp memory and analytical mind. He spent most of his career as a data analyst and account manager in consumer sales at AT&T. After retiring from AT&T, he continued working as a fraud analyst at Safeway and Google.

As empty nesters, Tony and Rosa loved to explore new places while remaining rooted in Livermore. They developed a love for taking cruises and other vacations with their kids and grandkids.

Tony was predeceased by his parents Patricia and Leon Higgins, sister Norma Welch, and brothers Johnny Higgins and George Welch. Tony is survived by his wife Rosa; daughters Crystal (Kevin) Hackl, Melissa (David) Taylor, and Tracy (Ted) Nakamura; grandsons Aaron and Jason Nakamura and Collin Hackl; sister Bonnie (David) Posey; brothers Ernie (Melody) Welch, Rick Higgins and Mike Higgins; and many nieces and nephews.

A celebration of life will be held on Oct. 21 at 11 a.m. at Faith Chapel Assembly of God (6656 Alisal Street, Pleasanton, California). All are welcome.

CELEBRATION OF LIFE

Rita M. Mortara
April 15, 1942 – Sept. 10, 2023



Rita Marie (Hannan) Ficken Mortara, 81, passed away peacefully Sunday, Sept. 10, 2023, at her Livermore home, surrounded by her loving family.

Rita arrived with much fanfare and anticipation on April 15, 1942, at Mt. Zion Hospital in San Francisco, California, the oldest of nine children born to the late Eugene S. Hannan and Florence M. (Winters) Hannan. Though a delayed talker as a toddler, those that knew Rita, even slightly, knew that she spent the remainder of her lifetime making up for those few silent years.

Rita proudly grew up in San Francisco’s Noe Valley, where she lived in multiple houses on Sanchez Street and attended both St. Paul Grammar School (’56) and St. Paul High School (’60). She

married Larry G. Ficken in 1961, started a family in 1962, settled down in South San Francisco in 1966, and enjoyed being a stay-at-home mom to her three children for several years. When she did re-enter the work force, she worked for Southern Pacific Railroad for 15 years.

Rita remarried in 1991, making a new start with Richard R. Mortara. They enjoyed living in Carmichael, Santa Rosa and Windsor, California. They relocated to Livermore in 2011 to be closer to their youngest grandchildren.

Rita loved travelling, with her favorite vacations being those she shared with Richard in Europe. She was an avid reader, Yosemite enthusiast, gardening lover, amateur photographer, ice cream connoisseur, and ardent S.F. Giants baseball fan, yet her passion was dotting proudly upon her grandchildren.

She is survived by her loving, second husband of 32 years, Richard; her children, Thérèse L. Lesher, Daniel R. Ficken (Christine) and Valerie R. Hancock (Daniel); her six grandchildren, Jamie, Joseph, Catherine, Lauren, Emily and Morgan; and one great-grandson, Jacob.

Rita is further survived by siblings, Carol J. Morgan, Eugene A. Hannan, Ray J. Hannan, Joseph M. Hannan, Marian T. Hannan, Steven J. Hannan; and numerous in-laws, nieces and nephews, and great-nieces and nephews.

In addition to her parents, Rita was preceded in death by her brothers, James E. Hannan Sr. and William P. Hannan; and brother-in-law, Brian A. Morgan Sr.

Rita adored her family and friends, lifelong or recently attained; she will certainly be missed by the many hearts that she touched.

The family has requested that remembrances be made in the form of memorial contributions in her honor to St. Paul H.S. Alumnae Association, P.O. Box 567, Pacifica, California, 94044-9991; or Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation, via www.komen.org.

A memorial celebration of life will be held in the future at a date still to be determined.



Duane Gary Gordon
July 14, 1956 – Sept. 5, 2023



Duane Gary Gordon, a security specialist known locally for his support of community art and music, passed away peacefully in his home in downtown Livermore on Sept. 5, 2023, at age 67, after battling Stage 4 cancer for two and a half years.

Duane was born in Chicago, Illinois on July 14, 1956, to James (“Jim”) Clark Gordon and Suzanne Marie Gordon. Jim was a well-known jazz collector and encouraged Duane’s life-long love of the genre. Suzanne had emigrated from Germany after WWII and fostered in Duane a sense of responsibility and strong work ethic. The two also shared with their children a love of film, especially horror.

Duane joined the US Air Force in 1975 as a Law Enforcement Specialist, the beginning of a distinguished 40-year career in Federal service. From 1975 to 1986, he provided police services and defensive combat operations at air bases in the US and overseas. His final post was at Misawa Air Base in Japan, where he managed base-wide security, anti-terrorism, and crime prevention programs, and developed a taste for sashimi. For his military service, Duane was awarded the USAF Good Conduct Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal and two Commendation Medals.

After leaving the military, Duane moved with his young family to Livermore, California, and joined the US Department of Energy/National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) in 1990. He served for ten years as the Livermore Field Office Computer Security Operations Manager providing Federal oversight of the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) classified computer security program. Duane played a key leadership role in implementing security policies for inter-site classified networking within the NNSA complex, such as using supercomputers

to support reliability testing and maintenance of nuclear weapons without the need for nuclear explosive testing.

From 2005 until his retirement in 2015, Duane served as the NNSA Livermore Field Office’s Security Manager. He provided oversight of all the lab’s security programs including information, physical and cyber security, protective forces, and nuclear material control and accountability. Duane oversaw significant upgrades to the lab’s physical security systems and protective force capabilities to defend against “post 9-11” threats. Following the de-inventory of LLNL’s weapons grade nuclear material in 2012, Duane oversaw the lab’s transition to a reduced asset-based protection strategy. Duane was awarded the NNSA Silver Medal upon retirement.

Away from the lab, Duane was better known for his hands-on support of local musicians and artists. In 2002, Duane met Livermore artist Linda Ryan and helped her to produce the city’s first Artwalk. The two became partners in the arts and in life, working together as a team to create and produce public events such as Artwalks, Night of the Livermore Dead Zombie Pub Crawls, Art Crawls and New Orleans Bash parties. He also helped her significantly with her own art career. First as a volunteer and later as an employee of Livermore Valley Arts, Duane worked with Linda to produce many concerts and events

at the Bothwell Arts Center and in the community, and in 2009 helped to transform a derelict liquor store into the Downtown Art Studios. He became instrumental in helping to create Two Day Town, a local music festival at Lake Del Valle. Duane and Linda married in 2021 in a private ceremony.

Passionate about the history of jazz music and its preservation, Duane digitized and cataloged more than 200 hours of live Bay Area jazz performances and interviews of notable jazz musicians from reel tapes and cassettes that had been stored in private collections for 30-60 years. Products of Duane’s work have been featured in jazz radio programs and archived at the Stanford Jazz Library. He especially enjoyed fixing and remastering a series of interviews made in the ‘50s with famous musicians like Louis Armstrong and Dizzie Gillespie by his friend Richard Hadlock, a long-time jazz radio personality.

Duane is survived by his wife, Linda Ryan Gordon; son, Christopher Gordon; daughter, Jacqueline Gordon; stepchildren Grace Ryan and Jason Ezell; grandchild Lillian Gordon and step-grandchild Adelaide Heath; and his sisters Charlotte Gordon and Constance Van Beek.

A memorial service will be held at the Bothwell Arts Center on Saturday, Oct. 28, from 3-5 p.m., ending with a two-day town-style informal jam session. An online tribute page can be found at memorialsources.com/memorial/duane-gary-gordon.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be considered to World Central Kitchen (wck.org) or Livermore Valley Arts (livermorevalleyarts.org), both nonprofits that he believed in and volunteered for. Alternatively, a Redwood Tree can be planted in his name through Save the Redwoods League (savetheredwoods.org).

Granada Football Edges Dublin

By Phil Jensen

Granada High School quarterback Quinn Boyd threw for 207 yards against Dublin, but the most important yard he gained on Oct. 6 was his final one on the ground.

Boyd's 1-yard leap over the Dublin defensive line into the end zone with 32 seconds remaining in the game broke a tie and provided the host Matadors with an eventual 21-14 victory.

"Perfect team win. This is what we needed to get back on track," said Boyd, whose team fell to California High 41-17 on Sept. 29 in a nonleague game. "I give all credit to my guys."

On the game-winning drive, Granada (5-2, 1-0 East Bay Athletic League Valley Division) started on its own 38-yard-line with 4:36 remaining. After Boyd connected on a key third-down 24-yard pass to his brother Mikey, the Matadors ran the ball the final seven plays of the drive for 38 yards.

"We wanted to burn the clock," said Granada coach Marc Moses. "The idea was, we knew they didn't have any timeouts left, so we were going to take our time taking it down."

Included in that drive was a fourth-down play on the Dublin 4 with 1:18 to go. Quinn Boyd, a 6-foot-3 senior, ran behind the left side of his line for three yards.

Against California High, Granada fell behind 14-7 and 21-10 in the first half. The Matadors wanted to make sure that didn't happen again, as they took a 14-0 first-half lead against the Gaels (4-3, 0-1).

On both touchdown passes, Quinn Boyd fit the pass into tight passing windows in the end zone. The first went 17 yards to Peyton Richards with 4:56 left in the first quarter. The second was a six-yard dart to junior Mikey Boyd with 5:19 remaining in the second quarter.

"I thought our quarterback played very well. He's a Division I quarterback," Moses said. "He is just coming into his own."

Quinn Boyd said he has not finalized his college plans yet. He finished Friday's game with 15 completions in 27 attempts with no interceptions. He also led the Matadors with 34 yards rushing.

Dublin produced an impressive comeback in the second half. Gaels quarter-

back Jack Duncan threw a couple of touchdown passes to Garrett Esomou, the first for 41 yards on the opening drive of the second half and the second for 16 yards with 9:37 left in the game.

Esomou had an impressive game. The 6-foot-1 senior secured a game-high nine receptions for 163 yards.

"Garrett's a heck of a receiver. He's one of the best receivers in the league," said Dublin coach Brandon Black. "He works hard."

"We finished strong, we've just got to get over the hump and start the way that we finish," said Black about his team, which starts three underclassmen on the offensive line and have 38 players on their roster. "I'm proud of them. It's a great group of young men that have fought hard. They don't quit."

Granada's defense had a pair of impressive second-half stands to keep its team in the game.

In the third quarter, Dublin drove from its 25 to the Granada 17 before the Matadors' Haven Hahn grabbed an interception on the Granada 1. Then after a Granada turnover on its 45 with 7:04 remaining,



The Granada Matadors' Mike Boyd catches the ball in the endzone for a touchdown during their homecoming game against the Dublin Gaels. Granada won 21 to 14 (See photo gallery at www.independentnews.com/multimedia) (Photos – Doug Jorgensen)

the Matadors defense only allowed seven total yards in the ensuing drive. Included in that stand was a seven-yard sack by Riley Winchell. It was the senior's second sack of the game.

Offensively for Granada, Christian Clouser grabbed

five passes for a team-high 78 yards, Mikey Boyd added five receptions for 50 yards and Richards had three catches for 69 yards.

Dublin's Kemaury Stinson rushed for a game-high 57 yards. Duncan completed 21 of his 37 pass

attempts for 252 yards and also rushed for 33 yards. Dublin outside linebacker Tyler Coto also recovered a fumble.

Granada travels to face Dougherty Valley (2-5, 0-1) on Oct 13 at 7 p.m. Dublin has a bye.



Foothill's outside hitter, Kaycie Burdick jumps for a spike during their winning matches against the Livermore Cowboys at Foothill High School. (See photo gallery at www.independentnews.com/multimedia) (Photos – Doug Jorgensen)

Scouts Earn Eagle Badge

Troop 941 Scout Earns Eagle Badge

Ashwin Anugraham, a member of Troop 941 in Pleasanton, has earned his Eagle badge, the highest rank in the Scouts BSA program.

To achieve the rank of Eagle, a Scout must earn at least 21 merit badges and complete a community service project.

For his Eagle project, Anugraham, a senior at Amador Valley High School (AVHS), refurbished the dugouts at the school's baseball diamond. He led a team of seven Scouts and three adults to complete the project.

In addition to Scouting, Anugraham, the son of Rupesh Anugraham and Rajsree Munikrishnan, is a member of the DECA business leadership pro-



Ashwin Anugraham

gram at AVHS and both the Pleasanton Seahawks and his high school swim team.

Troop 941 sponsored by the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 6298.

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LEGAL NOTICES

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 600630

The following person(s) doing business as: Iron Horse Real Estate, 550 Main Street, Pleasanton, CA 94566 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Erica Jones Starkey, 305 Borica Dr., Danville, CA 94526. 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: 9/5/23. Signature of Registrant/s: Erica Jones Starkey, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda

on September 7, 2023. Expires September 6, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5613. Published September 21, 28, October 5, 12, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 600504

The following person(s) doing business as: Fremont Boat Club, 543 Scott St., Fremont, CA 94539 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Helix Data Sync LLC, 543 Scott St., Fremont, CA 94539. 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: Venkat Jegannathen. This statement

was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 31, 2023. Expires August 30, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5614. Published September 21, 28, October 5, 12, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 600359

The following person(s) doing business as: Poco Loco, 7000 Bancroft Ave., Oakland CA 94605 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Gazzalis Supermarket, 1659 Brookside Dr., 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: 8/25/23. Signature of Registrant/s: Hamzah

Saleh, VP. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 25, 2023. Expires August 24, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5615. Published September 21, 28, October 5, 12, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 600749

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Impacttrak; 2. Impacttrak, 5627 Civic Terrace Avenue, Newark, CA 94560. 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: Travis Peng. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on September 13, 2023. Expires September 12, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5616. Published September 21, 28, October 5, 12, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 600816

The following person(s) doing business as: Tri Valley Solar care, 1428 Roselli Dr., Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Chris Frago, 5627 Civic Terrace Avenue, Newark, CA 94560. 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:

first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s: Chris Frago, Jody Kendrick, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on September 15, 2023. Expires September 14, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5617. Published September 21, 28, October 5, 12, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 600725

The following person(s) doing business as: Little Genie Family Daycare, 26931 Lakewood Way, Hayward, CA 94544 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): S and K Education LLC, 26931 Lakewood Way, Hayward, CA 94544. This busi-

ness 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: 8/23/23. Signature of Registrant/s: Meng Chieh Yu, Principal. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on September 13, 2023. Expires September 12, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5618. Published September 21, 28, October 5, 12, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 600292

The following person(s) doing business as: Market Your Wellness, 889 53rd St., Oakland, CA 94608 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): REpro-

cess Inc., 889 53 St., Oakland, CA 94608. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 3/1/23. Signature of Registrant/s: Jennifer Lindsay, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 23, 2023. Expires August 22, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5619. Published September 21, 28, October 5, 12, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 600632

The following person(s) doing business as: Blake at Berkeley, 2033 Blake Street, Berkeley, CA 94704 is hereby registered

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by the following owner(s): Berkeley VQOF II SPE, LLC, 5973 Avenida Encinas, STE 300, Carlsbad, CA 92008. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 1/12/2022. Signature of Registrant/s/: Scott McWhorter, Manager. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on September 7, 23. Expires September 6, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5620. Published September 21, 28, October 5, 12, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 600375

The following person(s) doing business as: Vegas Gift Shop, 1143 International Blvd, Oakland, CA 94606 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): PRO Durrani LLC, 55 Derow CT, Sacramento, CA 95833. 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/: Mohammad Qais, Member/Manager. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 25, 2023. Expires August 24, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5621. Published September 21, 28, October 5, 12, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 600041

The following person(s) doing business as: CloudDish, 2693 Stoneridge Dr., Ste 101, Pleasanton, CA 94588 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Snowflake USA Inc., 2693 Stoneridge Dr., Ste 101, Pleasanton, CA 94588. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Simin Wang, Secretary. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 11, 2023. Expires August 10, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5622. Published September 21, 28, October 5, 12, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 600937

The following person(s) doing business as: Strait Money Management, 1026 Innsbruck ST., Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Kristin Strait, 1026 Innsbruck St., Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Kristin Strait, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on September 21, 2023. Expires September 20, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5623. Published September 28, October 5, 12, 19, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 600919

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Raha Yoga; 2. Bay Area Play Therapy Training, 381 Earhart Way, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Keler Emily, 1688 Fluorite CT., 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: 8/4/23. Signature of Registrant/s/: Emily Keler, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on September 20, 2023. Expires September 19, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5624. Published September 28, October 5, 12, 19, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 600907

The following person(s) doing business as: London's Closet LLC, 10850 80th Ave Unit 1, Oakland, CA 94621 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): London's Closet LLC, 1085 80th Ave Unit 1, Oakland, CA 94621. 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: 8/1/2023. Signature of Registrant/s/: Rosario Khalil, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on September 20, 2023. Expires September 19, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5625. Published September 28, October 5, 12, 19, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 600335

The following person(s) doing business as: Luna's Transport and Watering Services, 7548 San Sabana Rd., Dublin, CA 94568 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Ramon Luna, 748 San Sabana Rd., Dublin, CA 94568. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 6/1/2023. Signature of Registrant/s/: Ramon Luna, Owner/Sole Proprietor. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda

on August 24, 2023. Expires August 23, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5626. Published September 28, October 5, 12, 19, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 600324

The following person(s) doing business as: Mama T's Pies, 1013 Addison Street, Berkeley, CA 94710 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Norman Riffe, 1013 Addison Street, Berkeley, CA 94710. This business is conducted by a Married Couple. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Norman J. Riffe, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 24, 2023. Expires August 23, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5627. Published September 28, October 5, 12, 19, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 600834

The following person(s) doing business as: Plumbing 1 Builder's Inc., 26079 Cascade St., Hayward, CA 94544 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Plumbing 1 Builder's Inc., 26079 Cascade St., Hayward, CA 94544. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Leonardo Cervantes, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on September 18, 2023. Expires September 17, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5628. Published September 28, October 5, 12, 19, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 600469

The following person(s) doing business as: Comprehensive Site Services, 25886 Claviter Road, Hayward, CA 94545 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): ProCraft Equipment LLC, 25886 Claviter Road, Hayward, CA 94545. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Terry S. Truesdale, Manager. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 30, 2023. Expires August 29, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5629. Published September 28, October 5, 12, 19, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 600587

The following person(s) doing business as: Royal Dimeond Magazine, 625 Berry Ave. #110, Hayward, CA 94544 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Rodney Duane Mitchell Jr., 625 Berry Ave. #110, Hayward, CA 94544. 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: 9/6/2023. Signature of Registrant/s/: Rodney Duane Mitchell Jr., Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on September 6, 2023. Expires September 5, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5630. Published September 28, October 5, 12, 19, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 600387

The following person(s) doing business as: Happy Friends Preschool of Pleasanton, 5627 Gibraltar Dr., Pleasanton, CA 94588 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): VLV Educational Services LLC, 5627 Gibraltar Dr., Pleasanton, CA 94588. 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: 8/28/2023. Signature of Registrant/s/: Emily Hui, Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 28, 2023. Expires August 27, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5631. Published September 28, October 5, 12, 19, 2023.

ber 5, 12, 19, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 600940

The following person(s) doing business as: CharityWorks, 7087 Commerce Cir, Unit D, Pleasanton, CA 94588 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Ira Klein, 1888 W Cavendish Dr., Castro Valley, CA 94552. This business is conducted by a Married Couple. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 9/27/2001. Signature of Registrant/s/: Lauri Klein, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on September 21, 2023. Expires September 21, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5632. Published September 28, October 5, 12, 19, 2023.

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: JANNE TURNER CASE NUMBER: RP23141030

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of: **JANNE TURNER, A** Petition for Probate has been filed by: **LAVAUGHN HART** in the Superior Court of California, County of ALAMEDA. The Petition for Probate requests that **LAVAUGHN HART** be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent. THE PETITION requests the decedent's WILL and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. The WILL and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court. The Petition requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority. A hearing on the petition will be held in this court as follows: **Date: 11/13/2023 Time: 10:15 AM Dept.: 202.** Address of court: **SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF ALAMEDA 2120 Martin Luther King Jr. Way Berkeley, CA 94704 Berkeley Courthouse** If you object to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney. If you are a creditor or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law. You may examine the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.

LaVaughn Hart 5351 Superstition Drive Las Cruces, NM, 88011. The Independent, Legal No. 5533. Published October 5, 12, 19, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS

NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 600977

The following person(s) doing business as: Expert Moving & Storage, 25509 Industrial Blvd, Hayward, CA 94545-2802 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Expert Moving & Storage LLC, 1330 Alma Ave, Walnut Creek, CA 94596. 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/: Alexander Belykh, Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on September 22, 2023. Expires September 21, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5634. Published October 5, 12, 19, 26, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 600646

The following person(s) doing business as: Pura Vida Pranaya Inc., 868 Berryessa CT, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Pura Vida Pranaya Inc., 868 Berryessa CT, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 2/22/23. Signature of Registrant/s/: Prathyusha Yarlagadda, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on September 8, 2023. Expires September 7, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5635. Published October 5, 12, 19, 26, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 600207

The following person(s) doing business as: Jeremy Blanchard Coaching, 2930 Domingo Ave Num 1055, Berkeley, CA 94705 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Jeremy Blanchard Coaching LLC, 2930 Domingo Ave Num 1055, Berkeley, CA 94705. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 4/27/23. Signature of Registrant/s/: Jeremy Blanchard, Manager. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on September 21, 2023. Expires September 20, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5636. Published October 5, 12, 19, 26, 2023.

Notice of Intention to Purchase Real Property NOTICE OF INTENTION TO PURCHASE REAL PROPERTY THE PURCHASE PRICE OF WHICH IS IN EXCESS OF 50,000 DOLLARS

Notice is hereby given that on October 31, 2023, at 11:00a.m., at 1221 Oak Street, Suite 536, Oakland, CA, the Board of Supervisors of Alameda County will meet to consummate the purchase of the following property. 1. That certain real property described as APN# 85A-655-5 the land and improvements at 86694 Palo Verde Road, Castro Valley, California. 2. Owner: BURNS KATHLEEN K TR Price: \$1,949,000 10/12/23 CNS-3746117# The Independent, Legal No. 5637. Published October 5, 2023.

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: KEVIN ABBOTT KREMER Case No. RP23146063

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of: **KEVIN ABBOTT KREMER.** A Petition for Probate has been filed by: **KELLY S. FREET**, in the Superior Court of California, County of ALAMEDA. The petition for probate requests that **KELLY S. FREET** be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent. The petition requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to

take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority. THE COURT REQUIRES ALL PARTIES WHO WISH TO ATTEND THE HEARING ON THE BELOW DATE AND TIME, INCLUDING THOSE WHO WISH TO STATE OBJECTIONS, TO APPEAR BY AUDIO OR VIDEO TECHNOLOGY. THE PARTIES SHOULD CONSULT THE COURTS WEBSITE FOR THE SPECIFIC TELEPHONIC AND VIDEO APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE. THE PARTIES MAY ALSO CONTACT THE PROBATE CLERK AT probateclerk2@alameda.courts.ca.gov. PARTIES MUST BE PRESENT AT LEAST FIVE (5) MINUTES BEFORE THE SCHEDULED HEARING TIME. A hearing on the petition will be held in this court as follows: **10/30/2023 at 10:15 am in Dept. 201.** Superior Court of California, County of Alameda **2120 Martin Luther King Jr. Way Berkeley, CA 94704** If you object to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney. If you are a creditor or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California Law. You may examine the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (Form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk. **Attorney for Petitioner: Julie K. Hardisty, A Prof. Corp. 101 Gregory Ln., Ste. 52 Pleasant Hill, CA 94523 (925) 689-9940** The Independent, Legal No. 5638. Published October 12, 19, 26, 2023.

Superior Court of California, County of Alameda 2120 Martin Luther King Jr. Way Berkeley, CA 94704

The following person(s) doing business as: CCM Studios, 31162 San Clemente # 109, Hayward, CA 94544 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Wayne Hayes, 400 del Antico Ave, # 702 Oakley, CA 94561-702. 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: 8/21/2020. Signature of Registrant/s/: Wayne Hayes, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on September 29, 2023. Expires September 28, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5641. Published October 12, 19, 26, November 2, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 601139

The following person(s) doing business as: Revolution Operations Consulting LLC, 484 Lake Park Ave 04, Oakland, CA 94610 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Wayne Hayes, 400 del Antico Ave, # 702 Oakley, CA 94561-702. 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: 8/21/2020. Signature of Registrant/s/: Wayne Hayes, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on September 29, 2023. Expires September 28, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5641. Published October 12, 19, 26, November 2, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 600513

The following person(s) doing business as: Tech Pros Group, 1858 Corte Cava, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Limitless Enterprises Group LLC, 1858 Corte Cava, Livermore, CA 94551. 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: 8/15/2023. Signature of Registrant/s/: Danny Wunderlich, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 31, 2023. Expires August 30, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5642. Published October 12, 19, 26, November 2, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 600298

The following person(s) doing business as: Be Strong Inspirations, 588 emerald St., Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Lisa Tolido, 588 Emerald Street, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above:

N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Lisa Tolido, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 23, 2023. Expires August 22, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5643. Published October 12, 19, 26, November 2, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 601063

The following person(s) doing business as: Milky Way Tea Shoppe, 4288 Dublin Blvd Ste 104, Dublin, CA 94568 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): D'Artique LLC, 3111 Independence Dr, Livermore, CA 94551. 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/: Di Yang, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on September 26, 2023. Expires September 25, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5643. Published October 12, 19, 26, November 2, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 601236

The following person(s) doing business as: Out There Communications, 484 Lake Park Ave 04, Oakland, CA 94610 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Revolution Operations Consulting LLC, 484 Lake Park Ave 04, Oakland, CA 94610. 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/: Laila Makled, Managing Partner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 5, 2023. Expires October 4, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5644. Published October 12, 19, 26, November 2, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 601128

The following person(s) doing business as: Lux Renovations, 22826 Vermont Street, Hayward, CA 94541 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Edmund Narh, 206 W Erics Way, Mountain House, CA 95391. 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/: Edmund Narh, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on September 28, 2023. Expires September 27, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5645. Published October 12, 19, 26, November 2, 2023.

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Rave Reviews for Livermore Valley Opera’s “Of Mice and Men”



George, played by Robert Mellon (in back), reassures Lennie, portrayed by Matthew Pearce (in front) during the play’s last scene which recounts their dream once again before a tragic ending. (Photo courtesy of Barbara Malon)

by Leslie Silberman, LVO Marketing and Communications Director

Livermore Valley Opera’s Season Opening production of Carlisle Floyd’s “Of Mice and Men” (Oct 4-5) successfully captivated newcomers and patrons alike, impressed Bay Area music critics and caught the attention of local opera supporters. The vivid and dramatic portrayal of John Steinbeck’s tragic story, performed by a stellar cast of talented artists, moved those in attendance at the Bankhead Theater to tears. Opera critic Victor Cordell (cordellreports) comments, “Livermore Valley Opera has produced an exemplary rendering of the opera that extracts all of the heart wrenching pathos from its essence

that could possibly be expected. Each artist sings and acts in an exemplary fashion and the production values excel.” Cordell adds, “While the score offers no hummable melodies, it is interesting and easy to listen to, and some of the set pieces are intricate and involving, evoking empathy for the characters.” Joshua Kosman, San Francisco Chronicle classical music critic, wrote in his review, “Livermore Valley Opera, run by retired soprano Erie mills, continues to do inventive work in a setting where another impresario might settle for endless retreads of the standard operatic repertoire. ‘Of Mice and Men’ is emblematic of that lively spirit.” Silvia Lin, devoted opera supporter, spreads the

word about opera performances by sending out a news listing of opera-related events in the Greater Bay Area. After attending this past weekend’s performance, Lin commented, “Livermore Valley Opera created an incredibly successful performance of this rarely performed opera. Especially notable is the excellent singing and expressive acting. Everything else which makes an opera shine was done admirably well.” Opera attendees, swept away by this sensitive and powerful production, were equally impressed. Former professor Linda Riebel, a local resident, remarked, “I sometimes forgot I was in a theater watching a performance.” She added, “I say you should run, not walk, to see Livermore Valley Opera’s current production,

Of Mice and Men. The last two performances are soon — October 14th and 15th — this weekend!” She noted, “I sometimes forgot I was in a theatre watching a performance. I also don’t often stand while applauding during curtain call, but I happily did this time!” Cordell further emphasizes, “For us who live in this region, it is part of our cultural heritage, and this opera should be prescribed to all opera lovers.”

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Amador Valley Quilters to Raffle Off Yosemite Quilt

The Amador Valley Quilters (AVQ) will raffle off a quilt by Dublin-based fiber artist Linda Schmidt at its annual show, Quilted Treasures XVIII - Together Again, in June 2024. Schmidt, a teacher and award-winning artist, used a variety of fiber-art techniques and materials to create the quilt, titled “Yosemite Falls,” which portrays the national landmark. The AVQ’s annual “opportunity quilt” raffle is

“one of our most important fundraisers and helps to fund our many outreach activities,” according to board member Jan Steinhoff. The quilt will be on display this weekend, Oct. 12-15, at the Pacific International Quilt Festival in Santa Clara. Schmidt said she was inspired to create the quilt because “Yosemite is very important to me and to my family.” “My daughter was bap-

tized there, in the Little Brown Church,” Schmidt said. “My family camped there, climbed rocks there, climbed the Mist Trail and the trail to the top of Yosemite Falls, and the trail to Half Dome, twice. “My husband and I hiked to the top of the Falls on our 31st anniversary and got lost and chased by a panther there,” she added. “My daughter-in-law and both grandchildren were baptized in the Merced by the priest

in Yosemite. My son’s ashes are scattered there, in a tiny meadow behind the Little Brown Church. “We’ve seen it in all its glory and majesty and respect its presence and beauty. I hope whoever wins this [quilt] is a friend of beauty and of nature and respects the power of our great Mother Earth.” Raffle tickets are \$1, six for \$5, or 15 for \$10 and are available from AVQ members. AVQ is a nonprofit organization.

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CITIES

(Continued from front page)

with this area that both cities will be very happy with.” Livermore’s council on Monday unanimously approved surveying its residents to see whether they want to preserve the land as open space north of the freeway. Doing that, according to the city, would be consistent with the city’s General Plan, Alameda County’s General Plan, and Measure D, a county initiative that created an urban growth boundary. County voters passed this measure 25 years ago to prevent urban sprawl. Depending on the survey results, the city would attempt to amend its so-called Sphere of Influence with the Local Agency Formation Commission over the land. Then, annexation of the land to Livermore could take place, preserving the open space. Dublin city officials, meanwhile, are considering whether to ask its voters to authorize development in the area as a means of funding the Dublin Boulevard extension. According to Dublin City Manager Linda Smith, in a letter to Livermore’s City Council, Dublin’s Open Space Initiative of 2014 prevented development outside the city limits but opened the door in 2024 to study whether commercial development along the extended roadway was necessary. “The City of Dublin, like the City of Livermore, has great interest in seeing Dublin Boulevard extended to North Canyons Parkway,” Smith wrote. “This is an expensive and needed im-

provement for the cities, and it will also serve the region by relieving I-580.” Smith said Dublin’s objective in considering a non-residential business park development of the Crosby property was to reduce the price tag for construction of Dublin Boulevard, which so far is \$80 million. Livermore is obligated to pay \$27 million, with other funding coming from the Alameda County Transportation Commission’s Measure BB, the Tri-Valley Transportation Council and Local Traffic Impact Fee funds. Federal, state and other grants will also be required to pay the balance. Smith said development of the Crosby property would avoid the costs of acquiring land for the roadway, as well as the price tag for habitat and species mitigation. Dublin has already surveyed its residents but has not released the results. Dublin is also studying commercial development that would be limited to areas directly north and south of the roadway extension. Under its plan, about 80 acres would be developed, and the remaining 100 acres of the 180-acre property would become permanently protected open space north of the new road. “The Crosby property from east to west is nearly 3,000 feet,” Smith wrote. “Dublin is certain that implementing a 200-foot-wide view corridor can easily be addressed through continued discussions between Dublin and Livermore.” During the period of public commenting on the issue,

Dublin Vice Mayor Michael McCorriston read a letter from Dublin Mayor Melissa Hernandez that said the residents of both cities shared the same desire for an improved roadway, while protecting the land. Hernandez’s letter indicated the cities should work “collaboratively and in good faith for the benefit of the residents we both serve.” Jean King, a representative of Friends of Livermore, a citizens’ organization that advocates for Measure D, said FOL supports Livermore’s expansion of its Sphere of Influence into the Crosby Properties to protect open space, agriculture and the biological habitat in North Livermore. “We remain convinced that the residents of Livermore want to protect the open space surrounding our city,” King said. “That open space provides visual beauty and tranquility, protection for agricultural land and natural habitat, and a buffer between Livermore and the other cities, instead of wall-to-wall sprawl in the Ti-Valley.” Donna Cabanne, another Livermore resident and advocate for open space, said she supported expanding Livermore’s Sphere of Influence to include the Crosby land. She said she believes residents will agree when they are surveyed. “Protecting these important resources contribute greatly to our quality of life in Livermore,” Cabanne said. Branning said he believed talks between the two cities over the next month would result in a plan that would

allow negotiators from both cities to “leave the table 90% happy.” Mayor John Marchand agreed. “I would hope that the staffs can come together and negotiate something that is agreeable to both parties,” Marchand said. “(It) may not be the same for both of us, but at least, we can come to some agreement that we walk away mostly happy.” New Livermore Airport Policies Adopted In other action, the council formally approved new waiting list procedures established by the city’s Airport Commission for leasing city-owned hangars at Livermore Municipal Airport. The procedures replaced policies that enabled some businesses to control more than three hangars at a time, leading to decades-long waiting lists for others wanting to lease them. The new policy limits a business to three hangars and establishes a waiting list that gives priority to essential air services, including flight instruction, fuel delivery and aircraft maintenance. Businesses on the waiting list will now be listed in chronological order based on when they applied.

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