

Lab Makes Breakthrough for Defense and Energy

By Jeff Garberson
LIVERMORE – In a stunning experiment last week, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory’s giant National Ignition Facility finally lived up to its name, igniting fusion fuel with precisely tailored laser pulses and generating more energy in the ensuing explosion than was needed to trigger it.

The achievement was the high point of a decade of research using the huge NIF laser, itself the most advanced in a sequence of ever more powerful lasers dating from the early 1970s. The basic mathematics of last week’s experiment was deceptively simple: 2.05 megajoules of laser energy went into the target

and 3.15 megajoules came out, so energy was boosted by a little over 50%. That kind of energy gain “has never been done before in any fusion laboratory anywhere in the world,” said an ebullient Mark Hermann, program for weapons physics and design at LLNL, speaking at a press conference in Washington, D.C.

The “hundreds of colleagues” at LLNL who made the experiment possible are “really pumped.” Those involved in the experiment said that no single change led to the improved results but cited slightly increased laser energy as one contributing factor and slightly thicker target walls as another, allowing more of

the fusion fuel to be burned. Accolades poured in from senior officials in Washington. U.S. Energy Secretary Jennifer Granholm called it a “breakthrough that will go down in the history books.” Presidential Science Advisor Arati Prabhakar, who worked on early laser fusion efforts at LLNL as a summer

student in 1978, called it a “beautiful example” of how basic science and engineering can support each other to achieve “really big, hard things.” She went on to call it an “amazing example of the power of America’s research and development enterprise.”

(See LAB, page 8)

Swalwell and DeSaulier Call For Improved Jail Condition

By Larry Altman
REGIONAL – Two congress members from the Bay Area joined an effort last week to demand that the warden of the troubled federal women’s prison in Dublin provide essential health care and legal representation to inmates who, they say, continue to suffer from sexual abuse in the facility. U.S. Rep. Eric Swalwell, who represents the Tri-Valley, and U.S. Rep. Mark DeSaulnier, whose redrawn Contra Costa County district will include parts of Dublin come January, said they and two Southern California House members wrote to Federal Correctional Institution (FCI) Dublin Warden Thahesha Jusino “regarding numerous and alarming reports” about the prison. The 3-page letter dated Dec. 9 contends conditions at FCI Dublin are worsening, despite recent statements from Federal Bureau of Prison (BOP) officials about recently instituted changes to make the facility better. About 635 women are held in the low-level institution. “Despite encouraging conversations with BOP officials who committed to improvements in the culture and infrastructure of this institution, numerous independent sources inform us that conditions at FCI Dublin continue to deteriorate,” the letter read. “We write today to raise serious concerns with access to legal and healthcare services in the hopes that these issues will be met with the attention and due diligence they deserve.” Besides Swalwell, who serves on the House Judiciary Committee, and De-

(See JAIL, page 9)



Volunteers gathered at the Pleasanton Senior Center to help assemble wreaths in preparation for Wreaths Across America, set for Dec. 17. During the annual event, about 560 graves of veterans will receive a wreath. (Photo - Doug Jorgensen)

Students Express Concerns About Firearms

By David Jen
PLEASANTON – Black student concerns over firearms carried by school resource officers (SROs) in Pleasanton high schools remain unanswered, according to students. Kendra Kabiru-Salapeh, Foothill High School student and president of its Black Student Union (BSU), explained to The Independent how Black students had relayed concerns to school counselors earlier in the year. “We felt sort of unsafe with the firearms on campus because, in the media, we’re always seeing an altercation between Black people and police officers, and it’s normally never positive,” she said. The BSU provides a safe space for Black students to come together, said Kabiru-Salapeh. “Because there (are) so few of us, it was important for us to have that community where we could come

together and have each other to discuss issues or just hang out to have that space where we can really express ourselves,” she said. Black students comprised 1.5% of the student population in the Pleasanton Unified School District (PUSD) in 2021-22, according to Ed-Data. BSU members also worried their concerns had fallen on deaf ears. “(We) just kind of felt like they didn’t really care about our input when we were giving it to the counselors,” said Kabiru-Salapeh. The Pleasanton Police Department’s SRO program, begun in 2002, employs two police officers, one stationed at Foothill High School and the other at Amador High School, explained Sgt. Marty Billdt. Billdt, a former SRO and current SRO supervisor, said that the two SROs also cover the elementary and middle schools; although the officers spend most

of their time at the high schools. “Our role is primarily to keep the school environment safe for everyone that goes to school there, whether it’s students, teachers, staff, (or) people visiting,” said Billdt. “But it’s also really for the outreach and hence the middle name of our title – resource – to be a resource.” According to surveys conducted by the district during the 2021-22 school year, 88.9% of parents, 84.1% of staff, and 61.2% of students felt that SROs contributed to a sense of safety while on campus. Conversely, 3.4% of parents, 0.6% of staff, and 7.4% of students felt that SROs made campus feel less safe. But then, student trustee Saachi Bhayani questioned those statistics at a May 26 PUSD Board of Trustees meeting, saying BSU counterparts at Amador High School and members

(See FIREARMS, page 7)

BART’s Future at Stake Amid Financial Woes

By David Jen
REGIONAL – The Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) District confronted financial realities threatening its existence at its Dec. 1 Board of Directors meeting. Michael Eiseman, BART financial planning director, highlighted how stagnant post-pandemic ridership and expiring federal assistance will soon generate growing deficits if the district fails to open new revenue streams. Leaders report that cutting services is not an option; the agency must increase ridership as much as possible and find additional funding. Eiseman presented to the board the district’s Reimagined Short Range Transit Plan (SRTP) for fiscal year 2023, which concluded that

any strategy reliant on service cuts would result in a “death spiral” of ever-dwindling ridership and revenue. “We can cut and cut and cut service, and that will not balance our budget because we’ll just lose and lose and lose riders,” said Board President Rebecca Saltzman. Due to the high fixed costs of rail operations, service reductions do little to save money, explained Eiseman. “Cutting service does not offer a viable path to fiscal stability,” he continued. The board voted unanimously to pursue other financial options and not cut ridership. “We cannot survive the death spiral,” said director

(See BART, page 5)

Court of Appeal Rejects City Position on Wine Country Inn

By Larry Altman
LIVERMORE – Development of the Livermore Valley Wine Country Inn suffered a significant blow last week when California’s 1st District Court of Appeal ruled that the project’s 50-foot setbacks failed to meet the 100-foot requirement demanded in the city’s South Livermore Valley Specific Plan (SLVSP). The decision could place the project in jeopardy. The three-judge court’s 2-1 decision issued Dec. 6 sided with the Friends of South Livermore (FSL), which sued to stop the project after the Livermore City Council approved it. After initially losing in Alameda County Superior Court last year, FSL appealed to the higher court, whose decision will return the case to the lower court for further

discussion. Although the decision does not necessarily kill the 30-room project on 3.2 acres at Hansen and Arroyo roads, an attorney for developer Michelle Boss said the Livermore Wine Country Inn’s future is now uncertain. “It’s disappointing because this was a project that she was excited to move forward with, and it’s just been delayed,” attorney Eric Samuels said. “A lot of money has been put in. So, right now, the end, the outcome? We don’t know yet.” Livermore City Attorney Jason Alcalá did not respond to an email to discuss how the city will deal with the court’s ruling. Mark Wolfe, an attorney for FSL, said only that the case will resume in Alameda County court.

(See INN, page 6)

With Groundwater Offline, Zone 7 Shares Plans

By David Jen
PLEASANTON – Updated drinking water regulations around forever chemicals have sent the Tri-Valley into an emergency-response mode. Water providers are now engineering plans to supply enough safe drinking water in the face of groundwater now identified as contaminated. Released by the state Division of Drinking Water (DDW) on Oct. 31, the new regulations will take effect Feb. 1, 2023. But both Pleasanton and Zone 7 – the region’s water wholesaler – have already responded to the new contaminant specifications. Pleasanton shut down its two operational groundwater wells on Nov. 2 and has since been supplying cus-

tomers with water wholly purchased from Zone 7. The city council voted unanimously on Dec. 6 to keep all its wells offline. Zone 7, meanwhile, launched a \$16 million emergency project this summer to bring its Stoneridge well, its most productive well, back into regulation and operation. The water agency also continues to expand its network of monitors while it contemplates diversifying its water sources. “When push comes to shove, this precious local resource is the one we have to depend on,” said Ken Minn, Zone 7 groundwater resources manager. “This is the resource that we have. Other emergency Delta outages, any other things, can interrupt the supply. But (this) local resource is the

one we have to preserve and we have to relish.” Minn went on to explain how in a normal year, Zone 7 typically pumps around 9,000 acre-feet of groundwater. This year, however, it has pumped in the range of 15,000 to 19,000 acre-feet because of reduced State Water Project water. “(The) groundwater source has basically been our life support, especially during drought,” he said. Pleasanton previously shut down another of its wells in 2019 after tests revealed perfluorooctane-sulfonic acid (PFOS) exceeded state response levels. PFOS belongs to a class of chemicals known as per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) — a family of several thousand syn-

(See GROUNDWATER, page 5)



Dublin High School’s tree lighting ceremony on Dec. 7 this year had an extra special winter surprise: snow! [See photo gallery at www.independentnews.com/multimedia] (Photo - Doug Jorgensen)

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Livermore's Ravenswood Historic Site held its Ravenswood Victorian Yuletide event on Sunday, Dec. 12. Victorian costumed docents gave tours and shared the site's history. [See photo gallery at www.independentnews.com/multimedia] (Photo - Doug Jorgensen)

Livermore Rotary Club Increases Its Yearly Grant Opportunities

By Dawnmarie Fehr

The Rotary Club of Livermore, which last year awarded a total of \$94,951 to 22 community organizations, is gearing up for its new batch of donations. In 2023, thanks to a bequest from the late Dr. Martin Plone, the foundation will have almost \$200,000 to award to projects in the community that align with the RFL vision and mission. Local nonprofit organizations and schools are invited to apply for grants up to \$50,000 by Jan. 20, 2023, with grants being awarded in April 2023.

“The foundation makes a lot of projects that need to be taken care of, possible,” said Rotary Club of Livermore member Nile Runge. “It makes them happen when they would not happen otherwise.”

Since its establishment by rotary members as a tax-exempt qualified charitable fund in 1987, the RFL has provided support to create opportunities for young people, promote community service and improve the quality of life for the benefit of all in the Livermore Valley.

Grant program recipients in 2022 include many well-known organizations and schools, who received between \$500 and \$5,000 to fund projects for students, the arts, those experiencing homelessness, veterans, the elderly and struggling families.

Mary Hekl is the CEO of Hively and said her organization utilized its \$5,000 RFL grant to purchase diapers and wipes to distribute to low-income families who visit the Hively Dublin resource center.

“Diapers are so expensive,” Hekl said. “We work to try and find sale diapers, buy them in bulk, and distribute them to families who come into our center to shop for free clothes. Families on our childcare subsidy program receive them as well.”

The Hively resource center is located at 7066 Village Parkway in Dublin and stocked with donated clothes, housewares and food, all available free of charge in a shopping experience.

RFL granted another \$5,000 to Kids Bike Lane for their Big Bike Build 2022. Co-chair Cathy Griggs said a total of \$60,000 was spent on bikes, shipping and helmets for this year’s event, where 250 volunteers assembled 553 bikes.

“The bikes and helmets go to 19 charities we have partnered with throughout Alameda and Contra Costa counties,” Griggs said. “About 90 bikes were given to Livermore schools. Principals and caseworkers identified students who would benefit from having a bike and helmet. Bikes also go to nonprofits that serve foster kids, youth and family centers, police and fire departments. etc.”

Open Heart Kitchen also received \$5,000 for its Hot

Meals Program, which donates freshly prepared meals to anyone in need at the Robert Livermore Community Center. Development Director Denise Bridges said the money funded about 2,500 meals, which are prepared by staff, then delivered to the community center for distribution. Open Heart also has a senior meal program, and the street outreach program, which provides hot meals and breakfast to people experiencing homelessness.

“We work to provide nutritional meals, so everything is made fresh from scratch and evaluated by a registered dietician,” said Bridges. “We want to focus on providing food that will be given to our clients that are experiencing food insecurity so they can focus on other needs and use their budget for rent, for finding a way to cover medical bills and anything else they may be going through.”

Bridges noted the organization served over 2 million meals last year and appreciates the continued help and support of the local community.

Livermore’s Quest Science Center was another 2022 grant recipient and used their funds to sponsor seven science-related events at Stockman’s Park this year.

“We began creating monthly events there during the summer in 2021, and the rotary helped finance that, and in 2022, we wanted to do more,” said spokesperson Vaughn Draggoo. “The events are free and open to the public and consist of a science experience and events for elementary-age children and their parents.”

Quest partners – organizations like Lawrence Livermore Labs, Lawrence Hall of Science, East Bay Regional Parks District and

Livermore Area Recreation and Parks District – present experiments and materials at the events to educate and inspire a new generation of scientists.

Since 1999, the foundation has awarded roughly \$1.5 million in grants to the community. The additional funds donated by Plone will enable the RFL to continue and expand its support of local projects and services.

Plone passed away last year, leaving a substantial portion of his estate to the Rotarian Foundation of Livermore. He was a long-time Rotarian, served as club president and became a founding member of the RFL. He owned the Del Valle Pet Hospital, where he worked until he retired in September 2000. Plone remained an active member of the community as well as an active Rotarian throughout his life. He volunteered in several capacities including working with the California Attorney General’s Office to develop and review bills supporting victims’ rights. Plone believed in the power of the individual as a member of the community to make a positive difference in the lives of others. His bequest will benefit thousands of community members and the RFL is grateful for his part in the expanded Community Grant Program.

For applications, requirements and more information on the RFL grant program, visit www.rotarianfoundationlivermore.org.

For more information on Hively, call 925-417-8733.

For more information on Kids Bike Lane, visit www.kidsbikelane.org.

For more information on Open Heart Kitchen, call 925-580-1616 or visit www.openheartkitchen.org.

For more information on Quest Science Center, visit www.quest-science.org.

Book Now to Recycle Live Holiday Trees

It's not too early to start thinking about how to recycle live Christmas trees after the holidays are over. Anyone can give their tree new life by recycling it. For a donation of just \$10 per tree, local Boy Scout Troop 905 will pick up holiday trees from Dublin residences on Jan. 1. Reservations are required and accepted until 3 p.m. on Dec. 31. Only clean trees will be accepted; no flocking or tinsel is allowed; and tree bases or stands should be removed. Amador Valley Industries will also provide special holiday tree pickup on your regular service day, Jan. 2 to 13. Two large bins will also be available at the Dublin Sports Grounds parking lot between Dec. 30 and Jan. 16 for residents to drop off their trees for recycling. Only clean trees (no flocking or tinsel) are accepted at this location as well. For more information visit bit.ly/3FnV0yR. For reservations, visit dublintroop905.org.

Desaulnier Introduces Bill to Protect Workers

The Chair of the Subcommittee on Health, Employment, Labor, and Pensions Mark DeSaulnier (CA-11) last month introduced the Justice for Local Communities and Workers Act (H.R. 9305), a bill that would protect local communities and workers from mismanaged closures and layoffs like those seen recently at Twitter. Specifically, the bill would require large corporations to evaluate, consider, and mitigate the impacts any possible closure or downsizing would have on the local workforce and economy.

“While big corporations rake in record profits, local communities and their employees are treated as disposable rather than the engine of their growth, as we saw recently in billionaire CEO Elon Musk’s haphazard firing of over 7,500 Twitter employees,” said Chairman DeSaulnier. “With more layoffs expected in the tech industry, by expanding and strengthening existing law to protect workers from such unfair layoffs, this bill would ensure CEOs like Musk are held accountable and that the balance of power is restored to the American workforce.”

The Justice for Local Communities and Workers Act would build on existing laws to better prepare and support workers in these situations, better help states and localities provide services for dislocated workers, and identify and prepare for changes in the local labor market.

Federal law currently only requires big corporations to provide 60 days’ notice to affected employees, states, and localities if they choose to shut down or do mass layoffs, an unreasonable amount of time for working Americans to prepare. Additionally, this timetable does not allow for these companies to be properly held accountable for the negative effects their decision has not only on their workers, but also on the local economy.

Specifically, H.R. 9305 would close loopholes in how employees are counted that allow big corporations to skirt their responsibilities under federal law, increase penalties for violations to give workers twice the backpay they are owed, and ensure that local governments have the power to sue a company that fails to give workers enough notice of a closure. Additionally, the legislation would require corporations voluntarily closing or laying

off workers to conduct an economic impact study to determine the real cost of their closure or relocation on the local workforce and economy. Companies that choose to close or relocate even if it is determined there would be a negative economic impact would be required to pay into an Impacted Workers Fund, which would help support the workers and businesses affected by the closure. This bill also provides exemptions for businesses closing due to financial hardship.

Congressman DeSaulnier is a former small business owner, union member, and mayor and currently serves on the House Committee on Education and Labor. Inspiration for this legislation came from his work on the Future of Work, Wages, and Labor initiative he spearheaded to address the big issues facing our economy like wage stagnation, rising inequality, and declining union membership.

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Livermore’s Chick-fil-A Opens Without Ruffling Any Feathers

By Larry Altman

Chick-fil-A’s newest eatery opened last week in Livermore with concerns about traffic congestion, long lines and protests over the company’s political positions failing to materialize.

The restaurant known for its classic chicken sandwiches began operation at 1754 N. Livermore Ave. on Dec. 8 with cars lining up in the drive-through and about 90% of its parking spots filled through the day.

The restaurant is the latest of 18 Chick-fil-A restaurants in the greater Bay Area market. Another restaurant is located at 5785 Johnson Dr. in Pleasanton, and the company signed a lease in September to open another eatery at Hacienda Business Park at 4501 Hopyard Road. Two Chick-fil-A restaurants are in the application process in Dublin – one for the Hacienda Crossings shopping center on Dublin Boulevard and another at 7400 San Ramon Road.

Although popular, Chick-fil-A also has had its controversies over its leaderships’ public statements against same-sex marriage. A year ago, even

as they voted to approve the restaurant, Livermore Councilmembers Bob Carling and Brittini Kick expressed displeasure with Chick-fil-A’s ownership’s past stands.

In 2012, Chick-fil-A’s CEO Dave Cathy expressed his opposition to same-sex marriage during a radio interview. Media investigations also discovered the company had donated millions of dollars to anti-gay causes from 2003-2010. In 2019, the company announced it would stick to chicken and leave the marriage debate to the politicians.

The company said it would no longer make donations to entities with anti-LGBTQ ties and instead direct its money to organizations emphasizing education, and ending homelessness and hunger.

A Chick-fil-A spokesperson said the franchise owner, Tyler McCain, and his wife, Noelle, were too busy for an interview. McCain didn’t respond to an email from The Independent. In a statement issued by the company, McCain said he and his wife were “thrilled to settle down in a community like Livermore.”

“I am excited to bring the first Chick-fil-A to this part of the East Bay, and I am even more excited for our team members to impact the community and become known as Livermore’s most caring company,” McCain said.

Chick-fil-A explained that McCain will be responsible for all day-to-day activities of the business. A Louisiana native, McCain grew up in Atlanta and joined Chick-fil-A when he was 14 years old. He graduated from Kennesaw State University in Georgia in 2013 with a degree in business management.

During his 16-year career with Chick-fil-A, McCain worked in Georgia and Northern California in various leadership roles. McCain also spent more than two years in Chick-fil-A’s Leadership Development Program.

Chick-fil-A openings frequently can bring huge crowds ready to dive into their popular chicken sandwiches, which generally get better reviews than their counterparts at other fast-food restaurants.

Chick-fil-A touts its sandwich’s real, whole, boneless breast of chicken with no added fillers. The

company was the first to eliminate chicken raised with antibiotics and fries in fully refined peanut oil.

For days, police alerted the public and media about potential traffic delays. A Livermore social media post suggested drivers find alternate routes to and from Interstate 580. Officers also urged patience, telling drivers “everyone will get to enjoy the classic chicken sandwich if they want.”

Perhaps, motorists abided by the warnings. Livermore police spokesperson Azenith Smith said the drive-through line remained contained in the parking lot. Although police monitored the traffic, there was no need for them to become involved as the line didn’t spill into the street.

Some customers expressed surprise that the line wasn’t as congested as anticipated.

“The traffic was nonexistent. The way they have designed the drive-through I think helps a lot,” Shannon Wilson wrote on Livermore Rants & Raves on Facebook. “They also have plenty of parking for those who want to go inside.”

Chick-fil-A said the restaurant will employ about 130 people. Speak-

ing for the city, Director of Innovation & Economic Development Brandon Cardwell said “Chick-Fil-A is by some accounts the most popular restaurant chain in America.”

“In addition to meeting the demand for the restaurant’s product within the community, Livermore’s new Chick-fil-A will be a source of jobs, including entry-level jobs for young people, as well as a significant source of revenue for the city, which supports the continued delivery of high quality public services,” Cardwell noted.

In opening the business, Chick-fil-A is donating \$25,000 to Feeding America to distribute to partners in the greater Bay Area.

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Women’s Hall of Fame Now Accepting Nominations

Last week the Alameda County Women’s Hall of Fame held an evening reception at the Sequoyah Country Club in Oakland to pay homage to the over 200 local women warriors inducted into the Women’s Hall of Fame since its establishment in 1993. The reception also served as the kickoff to the 28th annual luncheon and awards ceremony on March 25, 2023.

The annual Alameda

County Women’s Hall of Fame awards ceremony has been on pause since 2020 due to the pandemic.

“The effects of COVID-19 have left an indelible mark on the world in ways we’ve not seen in our lifetime,” said County Administrator Susan S. Muranishi, who established the program in 1993 to celebrate local women making a difference in the diverse communities of Alameda County. “Likewise, resil-

ience has been on display like never before. It’s the passion and perseverance of the female voice that influences and inspires many throughout Alameda County, and those voices represent the likes of past and future Women’s Hal of Fame inductees.”

The Dec. 7 reception was also a time to inspire future inductees. Many came out to meet and greet changemakers and learn more about the rich histo-

ry of the Alameda County Women’s Hall of Fame.

To submit a nomination, inquire about corporate sponsorship, or for more information about the upcoming event, visit www.acgov.org/whof or call 510.272.6984. The nomination deadline for the 2023 Women’s Hall of Fame is January 13, 2023. The 2023 awards ceremony will be on March 25, 2023, at the Greek Orthodox Cathedral in Oakland.

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Tuesday, February 7th – 7:30 pm

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National Defense Budget Includes Swalwell Cybersecurity Measures

The National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for fiscal 2023, approved by the House last week, included two measures introduced by Rep. Eric Swalwell to address cybersecurity threats.

The California Democrat, whose 15th congressional district includes the Tri-Valley, said the defense budget included language from the Proactive Cyber

Initiatives Act and the Industrial Control Systems Cybersecurity Training Act.

According to Swalwell, most U.S. cybersecurity efforts are defensive, usually only patching vulnerabilities after they are exploited, but the Proactive Cyber Initiatives Act would encourage continuous, active security testing to secure critical systems against future breaches. The second

measure would provide training for technology professionals across the nation to protect against attacks on critical infrastructure and ensure that essential digital networks are safe from foreign cyber threats.

The Senate was expected to approve \$858 billion defense budget bill this week, with the measure then going to President Biden for his signature.

LIVERMORE

CALIFORNIA

The City of Livermore invites applications for appointment to the
Planning Commission

The Planning Commission advises the City Council on the adoption and on-going review of the General Plan for the physical growth of the city. The Plan, in conjunction with the Development Code, guides the general location of future public facilities, private buildings and improvements.

The Commission has specific responsibilities in the administration of the Development Code, including decisions or recommendations on subdivision of land and other development projects. The Commission is also responsible for ensuring development projects meet the City’s Design Standards and Guidelines.

In addition, the Commission promotes public interest in planning and encourages citizen participation in the formulation of land use policies. The commissioners also acquaint the public with problems and solutions relating to the local physical environment. Preference is for applicants to have demonstrated ability in the area of design by virtue of avocation, vocation, talent, and interest in design, architecture, landscape architecture, or a related field.

Applicants are required to have attended at least one meeting of the Planning Commission prior to submitting an application. Meetings are held the first and third Tuesdays each month at 7:00 pm in the Civic Center Meeting Hall, City Council Chambers, 1016 S. Livermore Avenue. The application, agendas, and general information can be found using the following link: www.LivermoreCA.gov/PlanningCommission. The next Planning Commission meeting will be held Tuesday, December 20, 2022.

Interested parties are invited to attend an informational meeting on Tuesday, January 17, 2023, 5:30 pm prior to the regularly scheduled Planning Commission meeting.

Applications are available on-line at www.LivermoreCA.gov/AB. Applicants must reside within the Livermore city limits. If you have questions regarding the application, please contact the City Clerk’s Office at cityclerk@LivermoreCA.gov or call (925) 960-4200.

Applications will be accepted now through
Friday, January 27, 2023, at 5:00 pm.

Interviews are tentatively scheduled the evening of February 15, 2023.

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Valley Dance Theater’s annual production of the holiday classic ballet, Tchaikovsky’s “The Nutcracker,” opened at the Bankhead Theater on Saturday, Dec. 10. Performances run through Dec. 18. [See photo gallery at www.independentnews.com/multimedia/] (Photo - Doug Jorgensen)

Livermore High School’s Symphonic Band Places First, Second at Foothill Band Review

Passion, excellence, and musical mastery have been the hallmarks of Livermore High School’s music program and have resulted in an impressive and continuous streak of honors and performance opportunities for students, especially for those in the LHS Honors Chamber Orchestra and Honors Symphonic Band.

Most recently, the Honors Symphonic Band placed first in its division and second overall out of 20 high school wind bands competing in the Foothill Band Review, and both ensembles delighted those in attendance at their October 26, 2022 LHS fall showcase.

“We are extremely proud of our music students and appreciate their undeniable talent and dedication,” said Principal Helen Gladden. “We have every confidence they will continue to shine and be outstanding ambassadors for our school in their many performances this year.”

Both the Honors Symphonic Band and Honors Chamber Orchestra are poised to have eventful winter seasons culminating with performances at Carnegie Hall in New York City in April 2023 for the National Band and Orchestra Festival. This honor, bestowed upon a select few, was

earned by both ensembles receiving the highest-ranking Adjudicator Awards at a music festival in Anaheim last spring.

“I am thrilled the students have earned this opportunity to perform at the historic Carnegie Hall. It is an experience they will hold on to and take pride in sharing about for the rest of their lives!” exclaimed Justin Enright, LHS’s music director, who joined the school in 2016 and has been instrumental in the growth and development of its music program.

Leading up to their Carnegie Hall debuts, the LHS Chamber Orchestra will participate as featured performers in the 2023 California All-State Music Education Conference from Feb. 16 to 18, in Fresno. Additionally, the Symphonic Band earned an invitation to the Music for All National Band and Orchestra Invitational at Sonoma State University (SSU) in March 2023, and the Chamber Orchestra was selected as one of only five California high school orchestras to perform at the State CMEA Band and Orchestra Festival, also at SSU in April 2023.

“I’m always so excited to watch the students perform during competition season and witness their drive and love of music,” said LHS

parent Victoria Smithson. “This year holds so many great opportunities for the students, and it’s exciting to be a part of (it).”

Video clips of the LHS Honors Chamber Orchestra and the LHS Honors Symphonic Band can be viewed at vimeo.com/lvjusd.

GROUNDWATER

(Continued from first page)

thetic chemicals previously favored by manufacturers for their ability to resist heat, water and oil. PFAS, however, have since been linked to reproductive harm, developmental harm and some cancers by peer-reviewed scientific studies.

The state’s Oct. 31 update issued notification and response levels for another PFAS chemical — perfluorohexane sulfonic acid (PFHxS) — at three parts per trillion and 20 parts per trillion, respectively.

DDW recommends that a utility inform its customers when a contaminant exceeds notification levels, and it recommends a utility remove a water source when levels exceed response levels.

PFHxS levels in Pleasanton wells 5 and 6 have exceeded or nearly exceeded the new response level since at least as far back as April 2019, according to staff-report data.

The new levels also brought Zone 7’s Stoneridge well offline.

“(The update) changes the game significantly,” said Minn. “We cannot serve our high-quality water just by a blending strategy. Now, we (have) got to do something about this new regulation.”

Zone 7 has therefore fast-tracked a treatment facility at Stoneridge that Minn said should be online by next summer, when increased water demand will exacerbate any supply deficiencies. Zone 7 will also construct a new treatment facility for its Chain of Lakes wells.

Pleasanton’s plans to remove PFAS with its own

treatment plants came to a halt in September when city staff first began to anticipate the state’s PFHxS update.

The prospect of continually updating facilities at great cost because of moving state recommendations gave the city reason to second guess its plans and consider alternatives.

The city council intended its complete reliance on Zone 7 to serve only as a stopgap during the evaluation study.

“We’ve got to move with haste on the study — on the pause — figuring out what we’re going to do,” said councilmember Jack Balch at the Dec. 6 meeting.

No Smoking Gun

While Minn presented a heatmap of the PFAS plume concentrated underground, Councilmember Julie Testa and Vice Mayor Valerie Arkin asked whether the original source could be identified.

Lawsuits against manufacturers alleging misinformation and PFAS emissions have cropped up around the country. But Minn explained that Zone 7 lacks the authority to conduct such an inves-

tigation, and the agency’s modeling assumes there is no ongoing source.

“We cannot speculate the

“When push comes to shove, this precious local resource is the one we have to depend on.”

— Ken Minn, Zone 7 groundwater resources manager

unknowns,” he said. “We just have to work with what we have.”

The San Francisco Regional Water Control Board, however, does have such authority and will soon begin an investigation on the origin of the Tri-Valley plume.

“They are stepping up on that,” said Minn.

Valerie Pryor, Zone 7 General Manager, estimated the investigations to span two to three years.

City staff expects to present to the city council in February an update on the city’s water supply options.



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DECEMBER 25 - 31, 2022

There are **NO CHANGES** to the residential service schedule during the Christmas Holiday week.

JANUARY 1 - 7, 2023

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- Cut tall trees into pieces no longer than six feet.
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The Bankhead Is Ringing in the New Year with “Nostalgia Feels” This January

As Livermore Valley Arts moves beyond the 2022 portion of its 15th Anniversary Season, The Bankhead will welcome two tribute shows of absolute music icons in the first weeks of the New Year. From folk-rock-pop legend John Denver in a Tribute starring Jim Curry on Friday, Jan. 6, to pop icons of disco themselves in Night Fever—The Bee Gees Tribute on Friday, Jan. 20, The Bankhead will be celebrating the first month of the year with some true nostalgia feels, transporting Tri-Valley audiences back in time in music history. Both of these performances will be at the beautiful Bankhead Theater in Downtown Livermore.

The soundtrack to many of our lives, The Bankhead’s first performance in 2023 will celebrate folk-american-country music star John Denver. The music of the late Denver is like an old friend, outlasting trends and standing the test of time, and the John Denver Tribute starring Jim Curry is in the hands of an expert performer. After being awarded a full Rotary International scholarship to study music and voice and being selected to sing as the voice of Denver in the CBS Television Movie “Take Me Home, the John Denver Story,” there was no doubt that Jim Curry would continue to sing the praises and songs of “America’s Troubadour.” As a life-long fan,

Curry dedicates himself to continue Denver’s legacy of songs and his message of love and caring for our planet to future generations. Since 2002 the combined talents of Jim and his band have brought John’s music back to thousands upon thousands of people. Curry is honored to have had John Denver band members join him in some of the most prestigious venues in the country, and he also works behind the scenes to preserve Denver’s music. Most notable is Jim’s collaboration with Lee Holdridge in rebuilding and preserving Denver’s original symphony arrangements. Jim Curry was also a key performer in the induction of John Denver to the Colorado

Music Hall of fame show, hosted by Olivia Newton John, and Curry was also the host of the official John Denver Estate show which toured the United States and Australia. Jim’s latest project is titled “Such a Wild Place” and was produced by two of John Denver’s band members, Pete Huttlinger and Chris Nole. It includes four original songs co-written by Jim Curry and also includes three unreleased songs written by John Denver. Having emerged as today’s top performer of Denver’s vast legacy of multi-platinum hits, Curry’s uncanny ability to mirror John’s voice and clean-cut look has been taking sold-out audiences all over the country back to the

time when “Rocky Mountain High,” “Sunshine,” “Calypso,” and “Annie’s Song” topped the charts. The Bankhead is lucky to be able to showcase such a talent here in the Tri-Valley on January 6. Exactly two weeks later, a Friday night at The Bankhead on January 20 will transform into a Saturday Night Fever with Night Fever—The Bee Gees Tribute, the world’s number one production of its kind for one of the greatest bands in pop history. The Bee Gees span over 50 years of hit songs and have been inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, so from the early years to the disco era, audiences will hear all the hits from “To Love

Somebody,” “How Can You Mend a Broken Heart,” “More Than a Woman,” “Jive Talking,” “How Deep Is Your Love” to “You Should Be Dancing.” The songs are done note for note, chord for chord, exactly like the record, backed by a live band of studio musicians, creating a sound so close it is just like hearing the original recording. With an all Canadian cast from Toronto, Night Fever features the vocals and look of the Bee Gees with John Ralphs as Barry Gibb, Daryl Thistel as Robin Gibb, and Matthew Whale as Maurice Gibb. Dates, times, and ticket prices for other events available at www.LivermoreArts.org.

INN

(Continued from first page)

“It means it gets sent back to the trial court with direction to set aside the original approval,” Wolfe said. “The developer presumably could re-submit a revised application that includes compliant setbacks.”

Just 21 months ago, Boss celebrated when Alameda County Judge Noel Wise rejected the FSL lawsuit. Boss said she was ready to break ground if FSL chose not to appeal. Samuels, at the time, said an appeal was unlikely.

But FSL did appeal, and last week won at least a partial victory. Although all three justices rejected the group’s arguments that the hotel’s planned size and aesthetics violated the city’s SLVSP adopted in 1997, two of them agreed with FSL’s contention that the SLVSP demanded that setbacks — the space allotted between the road and building — be 100-feet.

The approved project, the judges said, violated the SLVSP because the setbacks were set at 50 feet to leave enough room for vehicle parking.

“The policies the (SLVSP) plan sets forth for commercial development, including the setbacks policy, are the means by which the plan furthers its overarching goals of preserving and enhancing the rural, wine-country character and image of the area,” the judges wrote in a 27-page ruling.

“Moreover, the standard for the depth of the setbacks and the requirement that they be planted with vineyards or orchards are clear and specific, not amorphous, imprecise or otherwise open to subjective interpretation. Plainly, the city envisioned the 100-foot depth, and the agricultural planting would be the norm. Indeed, it is difficult to imagine how the drafters of the SLVSP could have been more explicit.”

City lawyers, however, argued in court that the city council had discretion over that rule. Hansen Road, they argued, did not exist when the SLVSP was written, and city officials should be allowed to modify a project to conform to the space.

Long desired by those wanting to establish Livermore’s wine country as a tourist destination, a boutique hotel of about 30 rooms was spelled out in the SLVSP, which called for development of 1,891 acres along the city’s southern border. In addition to a restaurant in the hotel, the SLVSP called for residential homes and other commercial uses for the land.

In 2019, Livermore’s Planning Commission approved a site plan and conditional use permit for Boss’ project to include a two-story hotel, a restaurant and bar, a 2,300-square-foot caretaker’s house with a pool, a business center with meeting rooms, and a parking lot.

Although pleasing for some, the decision prompted nearby homeowners Donna Cabanne, Peter Young and Ann Spies-Young to form FSL. They filed an appeal of the Livermore Planning Commission’s decision to

the city council, asking the panel to overturn the vote. The city council made some changes, but approved the project.

FSL then filed a lawsuit, arguing among other contentions that the setbacks were too narrow.

In 2021, Judge Noel Wise rejected the group’s claims, saying the city council acted within its discretion when interpreting whether the project met the SLVSP’s requirements.

In reversing Wise’s ruling, Court of Appeal Justices Therese Stewart and James Richman said they did not agree with Livermore’s position that it is up to the city council to interpret its own Specific Plan and set aside particular provisions.

“In general, this is a sound principle — one that courts ordinarily respect,” the judges wrote. “This is not an example of judicial micromanaging. It is simply accepting the city’s own SLVSP at face value and requiring that current city officials follow through in conformity with its own fundamental and mandatory policy.”

In her dissent, Judge Christine Van Aken, on assignment to the appellate court from the San Francisco County Superior Court, said she agreed with her colleagues that FSL failed in its arguments on the building’s square-footage and other environmental impacts.

Van Aken did not concur, however, that the SLVSP’s language should be strictly enforced.

“I respectfully depart from the majority, however, in its conclusion that a 100-foot setback, planted with agricultural crops, from the portion of Hansen Road west of Arroyo Road is such a fundamental, mandatory, and clear policy,” she wrote.

Van Aken said she did not agree that the SLVSP clearly stated the setback must be 100-feet from public roads that did not exist when it was adopted. She said drawings of the area included within the SLVSP created ambiguity as to whether “the plan commands a 100-foot agricultural setback along the not-yet extant portion of Hansen Road. She added the drawings undermine any claim that this command is mandatory and clear.”

“Where a specific plan is ambiguous, local officials are accorded ‘great deference’ in interpreting it,” Van Aken said, citing case law. “Because I believe that a reasonable person could interpret the SLVSP as the Livermore City Council and the trial court did, I disagree with the majority’s contrary determination.”

Van Aken added that even if the SLVSP had an “unambiguous and mandatory command” for 100-foot agricultural setbacks from roadways, she did not believe the policy was “fundamental such that the Livermore City Council may not forego it in order to serve other aims set out in the SLVSP.”

Samuels said Livermore plans to file a motion for

a hearing to convince the justices to reconsider their decision. Meanwhile, the city plans to meet with the developer’s architects and engineers to determine the

project’s viability with 100-foot setbacks.

Samuels said the plan would need “reorganization” to comply with the larger setback requirement.

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Livermore Police Host Shop-With-A-Cop

Off-duty Livermore police officers took 44 elementary and middle school students on a holiday shopping trip to Walmart on Saturday, Dec. 10, for the annual “Shop with a Cop” program.

The Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District identified students from needy families for the program, and students were encouraged to buy gifts for themselves and other family members. In addition, 20

high school students were also given \$300 Walmart gift cards.

Before heading to the Livermore Walmart on Las Positas Road, the students were treated to hot chocolate and cake pops at the Starbucks on Portola Avenue. At Walmart, they were greeted by the Granada High School (GHS) Marching Band and members of the GHS and Livermore High School leadership programs, who assisted in the shopping.

Afterwards, the police department provided breakfast, and volunteers helped wrap packages, at Junction Avenue School. Flowers Bakery in Modesto provided pastries for the students to take home.

Funding for the “Shop with a Cop” program was provided by Wal-Mart, the Livermore Police Officer’s Association, and community donations.



Despite the rain, participants of the Pleasanton Sweater Stroll brought out their ugliest sweaters on Dec. 10. Revelers enjoyed spirits at various downtown locations. [See photo gallery at www.independentnews.com/multimedia] (Photo - Doug Jorgensen)



Livermore Police Reserve Officer Don Swanson enjoyed a shopping spree with two local girls during the recent Shop-With-A-Cop event at Walmart. (Photo courtesy of the Livermore Police Department)

Dublin Police Offer Safety Tips for Holiday Shopping

The Dublin police are reminding residents to stay vigilant during the holiday shopping season.

In the city’s Backyard Brief newsletter, the police department says it is easy to be forgetful about personal property and safety when shopping, leaving residents vulnerable to theft and other crimes.

To stay safe, the department recommends parking only in well-lit areas, and always be aware of your surroundings. Be cautious

of strangers approaching you for any reason. The department also recommends locking packages and other valuables in your vehicle’s trunk. Do not leave packages, shopping bags, or valuables in plain view inside your car.

While shopping, never place packages on floors or counters or leave them unattended when purchasing additional items. Women should carry their purses under their arms, and men should carry their wallets

in an inside coat pocket or front pants pocket. When returning to your vehicle, always have your keys readily available and scan the interior of the car to be sure no one is hiding inside.

The police also recommend against carrying large amounts of cash and paying with checks or credit cards whenever possible.

Shoppers should report suspicious activity by calling 911 or the police nonemergency line at 925-462-1212.

FIREARMS

(Continued from first page)

of the Student Inter-Schools Action Council voiced similar concerns over SRO presence.

“I genuinely don’t trust the data that you’ve shown me with students’ responses because every single student I’ve talked to says they don’t really feel safe with SROs,” said Bhayani. “I really think we should be working to phase out the SRO role.”

She went on to recount an episode that illustrated her point.

“One of our SROs, I believe he was standing in front of the parking lot just saying ‘good morning’ to people,” she said. “And traditionally, that entrance is very walkable; everybody’s talking to each other. But that day, everyone was just speed-walking away. No eye contact, just getting away as fast as we can.”

In light of the school shooting at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas, which occurred two days

prior to the May meeting, Trustee Joan Laursen also cast doubts on Pleasanton’s SRO program.

“There really isn’t a lot of data that shows that having an SRO on campus actually makes you safer,” she said. “It might make you feel safer, but it doesn’t actually. And as we have seen from recent events and continued events, having an armed officer on campus doesn’t protect you from an intruder who is intent on causing harm to students and staff.”

Instead, Laursen suggested that schools focus on how to identify root causes of sociopathic tendencies before they erupt into violence.

“We’ve got to change something that allows us to recognize when students are a threat to themselves or others,” she said.

PUSD Board President Mark Miller, although sympathetic to Bhayani’s concerns, stopped short

of questioning the SRO program.

“You can’t get anecdotal evidence and bring that to a board meeting and say this is the way it should be,” said Miller. “We need data. ... To throw the baby out with the bathwater without the data to support it; we just can’t go there; we really can’t.”

Patrick Gannon, PUSD director of communications, told The Independent that although the district has not engaged with students on the topic recently, it welcomed the dialogue.

“We can certainly understand where that’s coming from,” said Gannon. “We knew that this was going to be an ongoing process, and that’s why we’ll continue to have conversations with students, and we remain open and committed.”

As an alternative to removing SROs entirely, Kabiru-Salapeh suggested that officers keep their firearms in their car while on campus.

“It might ease a little bit of the fear factor,” she said. “That’s kind of the main concern.”

From a police officer’s standpoint, however, Billdt described the suggestion as infeasible.

“First and foremost, we are law enforcement officers and at any given time, we can be pulled away from the schools,” said Billdt. “So if there’s something – a critical incident happening at the mall or happening in another city – we need to be able to be prepared to go to that call.”

The Pleasanton Police Department hosts bi-monthly think-tank meetings that could help continue the conversation with students, said Billdt.

“It sounds like they feel like there’s some kind of disconnect or a lack of communication or maybe a misunderstanding,” he said. “So I know that (the district) is going to reach out to them, and I know our

school resource officer is available to be part of that conversation. We’re always open to having a dialogue, because we always want to be better. We want to build that public trust.”

Gannon also said the district plans to conduct another survey on SRO perception during the coming spring.

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BART

(Continued from first page)

Debora Allen. “And we can’t cut our way out of the deficits that we face; that’s clear.”

BART ridership in 2022, the highest since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, only amounted to about 35% of what it was in 2018.

While the SRTP considered scenarios where ridership returns to 60 to 80% of pre-pandemic levels within the next 10 years, director Liz Ames suggested that staff confront how BART will survive until that time.

“This whole push of getting new ridership, knowing that we have a changed ridership model — they’re telecommuting, this is not going away — that’s a con-

cern I hope we discuss at our (upcoming) study session,” said Ames.

It’s anticipated that the district will exhaust its federal funds as soon as January 2025. As of September, it had spent 50% of these funds and held \$802 million remaining, according to the SRTP.

On its current track, BART will incur a deficit of between \$170 million to \$300 million per year, beginning in 2025, said Eiseman.

Public feedback supporting BART’s hard look at the numbers.

“The district has some lofty and ambitious goals that should be applauded,”

said David Sorrell from the Association for Commuter Transportation. “Given our climate scenario, we have to make transit far more competitive, especially as we rebuild service moving forward.”

Saltzman clarified that the studies around reduced service did not imply actual service reductions.

“I wanted to reiterate: we’re not cutting service,” she said. “This shows why we can’t cut service, and so it’s now on all of us to find the funding to make sure that that never has to be something that we consider.”

The board will discuss more concrete strategies

to increase ridership and revenues next month.

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Writing Coach to Conduct Workshop on Emotions

Novelist and writing coach C. S. Lakin will lead a three-hour workshop on how to convey emotions and evoke an emotional response in readers at a meeting of the Tri-Valley Writers on Saturday, Jan. 21.

In addition to her novels, including the Gates of Heaven fantasy series, Larkin is the author of over a dozen nonfiction books on writing and is the fiction track director for the San Francisco Writers' Conference. The meeting will be held at 2 p.m., in room 2470 at Las Positas College, located at 3000 Campus Hill, in Livermore. Reservations are required.

The cost is \$25 for members, \$30 for nonmembers,

\$10 for student members, and \$15 for student non-members. Las Positas students will be admitted free

with their Las Positas Activity card, but they must register. To register, tinyurl.com/bdz4zswr.



C. S. Lakin

LAB

(Continued from first page)

Jill Hruby, head of the National Nuclear Security Administration, referred to the “sheer excellence and grit” of the Livermore Laboratory’s staff.

The National Nuclear Security Administration is responsible for most LLNL programs. Hruby once worked at the Livermore branch of Sandia National Laboratories and has long been familiar with LLNL work.

She noted the “tireless efforts of the thousands of people” from LLNL and its many partners. “We are so proud of the accomplishments of our Livermore National Ignition Facility!”

California Senators Diane Feinstein and Alex Padilla sent their congratulations, as did Representatives Eric Swalwell (CA-15) and Zoe Lofgren (CA-19.)

LLNL director Kim Budil, speaking at the press conference, referred to decades of effort by teams of collaborators from around the U.S. and abroad, from industry as well as from the public sector.

“After all that work, the laser has exceeded its performance goals, opened whole new areas of high energy density science to exploration, and delivered the data we need to keep our nuclear deterrent safe, secure and effective,” she said.

She also spoke of past doubts.

“Our pursuit of ignition over the past decade at NIF was an incredibly ambitious technical goal. Many said it was not possible. ‘The laser wasn’t energetic enough.’ ‘The targets would never be precise enough.’ ‘Our modeling and simulation tools were just not up to the task.’”

Negative opinions began to shift with recent progress, she said. Best known was an August 2021 target experiment that generated 1.35 megajoules of energy, a record at the time.

In the days that followed December 5, as data accumulated indicating that NIF had achieved a significant energy increase,

word spread rapidly in the scientific community and then more widely.

It soon leaked to the UK’s Financial Times, which published an article last weekend. The story then found its way to other media in the U.S. and around the world.

Technology enthusiasts immediately began speculating that it might soon be possible to harness fusion energy for commercial power purposes.

Those more familiar with NIF, like Hermann and Budil, noted that the experiment was not aimed at commercial energy, but is part of LLNL’s responsibilities under the Stockpile Stewardship Program for ensuring the safety and reliability of U.S. nuclear weapons.

Hermann pointed out that the temperatures and pressures generated in the NIF target experiments can approach the conditions of a nuclear explosion.

Absent full scale nuclear testing, “we have no other way to access” these extreme conditions, he said.

For example, he said, while it was demonstrating the energy gain that excited fusion power advocates, the December 5 experiment enabled the researchers for the first time to observe the response of important defense materials to an intense pulse of neutrons.

Marvin Adams, deputy head of the National Nuclear Security Administration, cited several ways in which the NIF research will “enhance our national security.”

For one, it will produce technical information that helps “maintain confidence in our deterrent without nuclear explosive testing.”

For another, it contributes to the credibility of the U.S. deterrent by “demonstrating world leading expertise in weapons relevant technologies...That is we know what we’re doing!”

For a third, it will allow us to “advance non-proliferation goals” by making it unnecessary to resume nuclear testing.

While NIF experiments

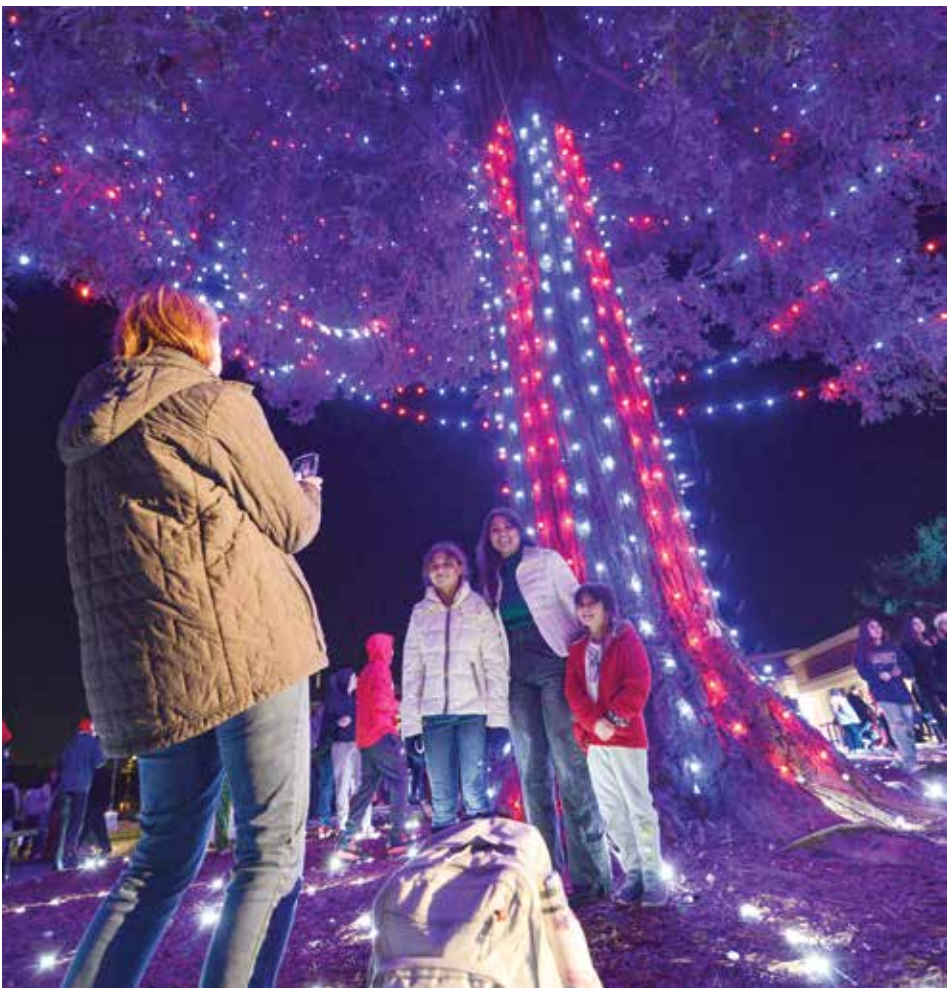
are aimed at national defense concerns, LLNL was historically a fusion energy research facility as well.

Magnetic fusion energy, then called Project Sherwood, was one of the Laboratory’s original programs when it opened in 1952. At the time, it was largely hidden from public view by strict classification rules.

Completely declassified in later years, magnetic fusion energy research continued at the Laboratory through the 1980s and later through collaborations with other research centers like General Atomics and the Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory.

The idea of using then-new laser technology to trigger fusion reactions was proposed first at LLNL in the 1960s, growing into today’s Inertial Confinement Fusion programs including NIF research.

Lasers are not the only possible means to drive fusion from targets. Other laboratories are exploring the possibility of using electron beams and heavy ions.



Residents flocked to Dublin High School on Dec. 7 to enjoy the annual lighting of the campus’s enormous redwood tree to celebrate the holidays. [See photo gallery at www.independentnews.com/multimedia/] (Photo - Doug Jorgensen)

Livermore Police Conclude 38th Citizen’s Academy

Two dozen residents recently completed the Livermore Police Department’s 10-week Citizen’s Police Academy, making them el-

igible for the department’s volunteer program. Volunteers typically fill support positions in the department.

This was the 38th acad-

emy session offered by the Livermore police, which includes a ride-along with an on-duty officer and observing dispatch.



Residents of the Livermore Police Department’s Citizen Police Academy recently completed the program, making them eligible for the department’s volunteer program.

(Photo courtesy of the Livermore Police Department)

TRI-VALLEY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Saturday, Dec. 17 KYMBERLIE INGALLS PRESENTS “CREATE A RELEVANT MARKETING PLAN”

Ingalls is an award-winning essayist, editor, and author of memoir, opinion, and short fiction. Her books, *Bridges: A Lifetime in Essay and 43*, compile personal essay, social media, and memoir to address themes of grief, humanity, and the heart. In her presentation, Ingalls will explain the essential parts of doing this, including building a platform, focusing your efforts, and developing a flexible strategy while tackling your fear and self-doubt. Join in at 2 p.m., at Four Points by Sheraton, 5115 Hopyard Road, in Pleasanton. Check-in begins at 1:30 p.m. Reservations are required at bit.ly/3CpD0UC. Tickets are \$14 for adult members; \$18 for adult nonmembers; \$6 for student members ages 14 to 22; and \$10 for student nonmembers.

Sunday, Dec. 18 THE DAN MARSCHAK TRIO WITH DANIELLE PEREZ

Comprised of Las Positas College faculty and alums, this will shake it up to close out the 2022 Livermore Jazz Society concert season with a mix of standards and originals. To request seating, email info@livermorejazzsociety.org or fill out a form at bit.ly/3F7roFI. If seating is available, a formal invitation, including the performance location, will be emailed back. For more information, visit livermorejazzsociety.org. Organizers suggest a donation of \$20 per person, but donations of any amount are most welcome.

Sunday, Dec. 18 CHANUKAH CELEBRATION

Come celebrate the oil, the lights, and the season at the Tri-Valley Cultural Jews’ Chanukah Celebration, from 10:30 to 12:30 in Pleasanton. Attendees will be making latkes, having an upcycled Menorah competition, singing, and playing games. Join in outside for a safe, festive Chanukah celebration. Cooks will be required to mask indoors. Masks are optional outdoors when social distancing is possible. The event is free to members, with a suggested \$15 donation per nonmember adult if able. For more information, email culturaljews@gmail.com or call 925-399-8029.

Sunday, Dec. 18 CHRISTMAS EXTRAVAGANZA

Families are encouraged to join the GraceWay Church family for its Christmas Extravaganza. The morning opens with the GraceWay children’s presentation of the extravaganza at 10 a.m., at 1183 Quarry Lane. After the presentation, there will be a family Christmas party with snacks and the opportu-

nity to decorate ornaments and cookies. The event is free. Christmas Eve candlelight worship starts at 4:30 p.m., and an informal family gathering will be held Christmas morning at 10 a.m. For more information, visit gracewaylife.org.

Jan. 12 to Feb. 23 CACTUS CORNERS SQUARE DANCING LESSONS

Cactus Corners, a nonprofit, is offering free square-dancing lessons to new dancers. Anyone age 8 and up is invited to this great activity for the entire family. Meetings take place on Thursday, Jan. 12, 19, and 26, and Feb. 2, 9, 16, and 23, from 7 to 8:30 p.m., at 2253 5th Street, in Livermore, between south J and south I streets. This is at 5th Street School (now Del Valle Continuation High School). For more information or to be placed on the class notification list, email Margaret at mmiller1435@gmail.com or call 925-447-6980.

Saturday, Jan. 1 LAKIN’S EMOTIONAL MASTERY WORKSHOP

Novelist, copyeditor, writing coach C. S. Lakin will lead a three-hour workshop presented by Tri-Valley Writers’ Chapter of the California Writers Club (CWC) on how to convey the emotions of your characters and evoke an emotional response in readers at 2 p.m., in room 2470 at Las Positas College, located at 3000 Campus Hill, in Livermore. Check-in begins at 1:30 p.m. The meeting is in-person, and a recording will not be offered. Reservations are required at bit.ly/3iVkiNt. Reservations are \$25 for CWC members; \$30 for nonmembers; \$10 for CWC student members; \$15 for nonmember students. Las Positas students will be free with their Las Positas Activity card but must preregister. For more information, email president@trivalleywriters.org.

ONGOING VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

TOPSCIENCE

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

ONGOING WEEKLY EVENTS

PLEASANTON FARMERS MARKET

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

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JAIL

(Continued from first page)

Saulnier, the letter was also signed by Southern California Congress members Judy Chu and Karen Bass, who shortly after left that post to serve Los Angeles as the new mayor. Bass was sworn in on Sunday, Dec. 11.

“Reports to our offices indicate that significant barriers exist for inmates seeking visits or calls from legal counsel, raising serious constitutional concerns,” the letter read. “As you are aware, individuals in BOP custody retain statutory and due process rights to counsel and a First Amendment right to petition the government.”

The letter said the congress members received numerous reports of delays before attorneys were allowed to speak with inmates. According to the

letter, one attorney sent nine emails to FCI Dublin staff before getting a single return phone call.

“With the history of sexual abuses at FCI Dublin, numerous reports indicate that many survivors are still not reporting instances in fear of retaliation,” according to the letter. “Retaliation includes verbal harassment and abuse by facility staff; being subjected to invasive and unwarranted strip searches; losing access to phones, computers, and commissary accounts; and being terminated from prison employment.”

The Congressional members also allege that inmates dealt with “unacceptable delays” in receiving medical care and psychological treatment to deal with sexual

abuse, and that there was no access to outside confidential mental health services.

The letter demands Jusino fully comply with constitutional obligations for inmates and answer how many FCI Dublin staff are responsible for fielding attorneys calls or handling their visits.

“The violation of constitutional rights, culture of sexual abuse, and failure to provide basic health services at FCI Dublin are unjust and unacceptable,” DeSaulnier said in a statement. “A prison sentence should not mean the end of a person’s constitutional and human rights, and I am proud to join my colleagues in conducting federal oversight to ensure humanity is upheld in our prison system and basic

dignity is maintained.”

Said Swalwell: “Despite my visit to this prison to get to the bottom of many of these issues, my office continues to receive concerning reports of conduct against inmates that may violate federal law. Rehabilitation of federal inmates does not mean a denial of basic humanities, such as access to health care services and legal counsel — rights that are even more critical when they are the result of sexual abuses.”

Swalwell and Bass, along with retiring U.S. Rep. Jackie Speier of San Francisco, called for improvements in March after touring FCI Dublin in March following a string of arrests and federal charges against prison guards, a chaplain and a former warden, each accused of sexually abusing inmates.

The previous warden, Ray Garcia, was convicted Dec. 8 in U.S. District Court in Oakland of seven counts involving sexually abusive conduct against three female inmates under his supervision. A jury also found him guilty of one count of making false statements to government agents. Garcia, 55, of Merced could be sentenced March 8 to decades behind bars.

FCI Dublin is one of more than 130 federal prison institutions housing nearly 15,000 inmates nationwide. Following the string of charges, the BOP’s director Michael Carvajal resigned. The new BOP director, Colette Peters, who started in March, told

The Independent through a spokesperson in late August that she was “fully committed” to fixing the problems there. BOP spokesman Donald Murphy said last week that the BOP was aware of the letter to Jusino from Congress and was reviewing it.

“The Bureau of Prisons responds directly to members of Congress and their staff,” Murphy said. “Out of respect and deference to members, we do not comment on our Congressional briefings or share our Congressional correspondence with media.”

Another BOP spokesman told The Independent on Monday that the agency had no new updates on efforts to improve conditions at the prison.

OBITUARIES

Grady Theodore Wilcox
Resident of Pleasanton
Nov. 17, 1932 – Dec. 9, 2022



Grady Theodore Wilcox, affectionately known as “Jim,” passed away peacefully on Dec. 9, 2022, at the age of 90, in Castro Valley, California.

He was born on Nov. 17, 1932, in Maysville, Oklahoma. He was preceded in death by his parents, Joseph Martin Wilcox and Idel Friz-

zell Wilcox; sisters, Mary Wiitala and Laveta Fagundes; nephews, Bobby Wiitala and Richard Theodore; and his wives, Amelia Castillo Wilcox and Louise Paulsen. He is survived by his only child, Lisa Marie Wilcox (Jim Peterson) of Pleasanton; nieces, Carol LeDonne, Debbie Potts, Nancy Heredia, Dolores Hobaugh, Catherine Claypool, and Linda Garcia; nephews, Richard, Michael and Raymond Garcia; and many great nieces and nephews.

Jim was a Pleasanton resident for more than 70 years. He owned and trained thoroughbred horses, served in the Army in Korea, and retired from the U.S. Postal Service. He was a huge S.F. Giants fan and enjoyed bowling and his family.

Friends and family are invited to a visitation and vigil on Friday, Dec. 16, from 4 to 6:30 p.m., with rosary to begin



at 6:30 p.m., at Graham Hitch Mortuary, 4167 First St., in Pleasanton. Funeral service will take place on Saturday, Dec. 17, 2022, at 10 a.m., at St. Elizabeth Seton-Chapel, 4001 Stoneridge Dr., in Pleasanton, CA. Burial will follow at St. Augustine Cemetery, 5750 Sunol Blvd., in Pleasanton.

Barbara Paddack
1941 – 2022



Barbara Paddack passed peacefully on Dec. 10, 2022. She will be greatly missed by all her family and friends.

A loving mother, grandmother, great grandmother, and sister to Wanda. Our family affectionally called her “NaNa.” She is survived by her four children, 10 grandchildren, and 18 Great grandchildren.

Barbara was amazing, professional, intelligent, sharp, warm, friendly, beautiful with the funniest sense of humor. She always brightened a room and made people laugh and smile. Once you met her it was impossible to forget.

Barbara retired in 2013 after 35 years in the business. She kept busy, traveled and focused on her family. She

was the keeper of the family history, loved ancestry, and documented everything. Barbara was an orphan and was always looking for information about her parents and other

family members. Her family was everything!

Barbara’s vitality and enthusiasm was contagious, she always had a project, and pushed herself to achieve all her goals. She was a self-educated, independent woman and leader with a flair for storytelling. Gotta love Nana’s stories!

Services are Saturday, Dec. 17, from 9 to 11 a.m. for visitation, and an 11 a.m. service at Callaghan Mortuary, located at 3833 East Ave., in Livermore. The burial will follow at Roselawn Cemetery, 1240 N. Livermore Ave., in Livermore. Callaghan Mortuary is honored to be serving the Paddack family. An online guestbook is available for condolences at callaghanmortuary.com.

Carol Lee Cook
Sept. 3, 1949 – Nov. 17, 2022



The blessing of pets and animals is often celebrated on Oct. 4, the feast of St. Francis, or on a Sunday near the date.

In this picture, Rev. Carol is blessing a stuffed elephant belonging to a child. Blessings of this type seem endless in their capacity to touch our hearts.

Carol Lee Cook was born on Sept. 3, 1949. She died at home with her beloved cats, Sampson and Julie, on Nov. 17, 2022. She was born at O’Connor Hospital in San Jose, to what she described as a “happily bohemian” family. She moved to Minnesota at age 9, then returned to Northern California in 1971, where she earned a master’s degree in psychology and worked for Apple Computer, all the while hearing God call her to ministry.

Carol was involved in high tech writing publications in Silicon Valley. She was a team leader in technical publications in the early days of Apple Computer. Then, she received the “call from God” and responded to God with her whole life. She was ordained an Episcopal deacon at Grace Cathedral in San Francisco in 1990 and as a priest in 1991.

Rev. Carol was one of the first women to be ordained a priest in the Episcopal Church. She served the community for 32 years. Her ordained ministry began with St. Mark’s Episcopal Church in Palo Alto, where her leadership and ministry

as a lay person were recognized as priestly and, with the faithful encouragement of her fellow parishioners, led to her ordination. She eventually served as interim rector in that parish. Carol also served at St. Paul’s in Walnut Creek, St. Bartholomew’s in Livermore, and St. Clare’s in Pleasanton.

In retirement, she did supply work, meaning she was clergy on call when others were unavailable. She retired due to eye issues and could not drive at night, but if it was daylight and she could drive to the location, she was there.

Carol always believed that

there was no “them,” and instead, it was “We are all in this life together to love and help each other.” Carol loved all of us, especially children, animals, outcasts, and the disenfranchised

Services will be held at St. Clare’s in Pleasanton, at 11 a.m., on Jan. 21. For more details, visit stclarespleasanton.org. Cards and well wishes can be sent to St. Clare’s. In lieu of flowers please consider a donation in Carol’s memory to your local Episcopal Church, your local Humane Society, or to any organization that will make the world a better place. Thank you.

Catherine Louise Radosevich
March 29, 1948 – Nov. 27, 2022



Catherine Louise Radosevich, 74, passed away peacefully on Sunday, Nov. 27, after a more than 12-year struggle with ALS.

Cathy was born in San Francisco and spent most of her childhood in Redwood City, California. She was the second oldest of five girls and knew from a young age that she wanted to be a teacher. She went to Sequoia High School in Redwood City, where she was very involved in choir and Rainbow Girls.

Upon graduation, she attended Linfield College in Oregon, and later finished her degree and teaching credential at UC Davis. She moved to Livermore in 1971 for her first teaching job.

She met Lee when they were set up on a blind date, and they were married in 1974. Shortly after they were married, Lee was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis, and her role shifted to include caregiver as his MS progressed rapidly. Cathy taught first and second grade at Arroyo Mocho and Sonoma Avenue Elementary before she stopped to care full time for Lee. She was wonderfully creative and loved integrating music into her classroom.

Cathy was an incredibly devoted wife, mother, grandmother, and friend. She put her family before herself, prioritizing Lee and her daughters above all else. She took amazing care of Lee for 30 years as his disease progressed, while simultaneously supporting her daughters through their school and extracurricular activities.

After Lee passed away in 2004, Cathy took charge of her own health, became an avid walker with her rescue dog Mandy, and enjoyed working and inspiring others at Weight Watchers. She was very knowledgeable about gardening and

took pride in nurturing the many varieties of roses in her yard.

Cathy found a new calling when she became a grandmother in 2009, when Ayden was born, and she took fabulous care of him the first two years of his life, before her health started to decline. She had an amazing bond with all three of her grandchildren; she loved reading and singing to them, baking, creating spaceships out of cardboard, and giving them rides on her wheelchair.

She was finally diagnosed with ALS in 2013, after a few years of balance problems and progressive weakness. Cathy was as strong as they come, and she will be missed dearly by her family and friends.

She is preceded in death by her husband, Lee Radosevich; and sister, Laurie Nakamura. She is survived by her daughters, Jenny (Gregg) Kanter and Kellie (Chris) Golik; grandchildren, Ayden Kanter, Bryce Kanter, and Bodhi Golik; and siblings, Judy (Mike) Slavens, Debbie (John) Lee, and Natalie Kosay.

Per Cathy’s wishes, there will be a private memorial service at a later date. Donations can be made to the ALS Association Golden West Chapter.

Yasue "Jane" Sugaoka
Nov. 18, 1924 – Nov. 21, 2022

On Nov. 21, 2022, Jane Sugaoka quietly passed away from natural causes in Danville, California.

Jane was born Nov. 18, 1924, in Watsonville, California, the third of seven children to Naka and Tanizuchi Higaki. She was raised in Ikachi, Yanai Shi, Yamaguchi Ken, Japan from 1931 through 1949, finishing high school in Japan.

Jane returned to San Jose and married Masumu “Roy” Sugaoka. They moved to Sunol, where they became strawberry farmers until Roy passed away on July 4, 1965. In the

following years, she focused on raising her children and house-cleaning work.

She was an avid piano player and loved going to the opera and symphony. Some of you might have seen her taking her many walks throughout Sunol.

She is survived by her brother, Tadashi Higaki; her four children, Kei Sugaoka (and wife, Show), Arthur Sugaoka, Jeannie Sugaoka and Alex Sugaoka; granddaughter, Danae Sugaoka; and several nieces and nephews.

A private family service is scheduled in January.



Hugh Keener



Early on Sunday, Nov. 6, Hugh Keener, beloved husband, father, grandfather, brother, uncle, co-worker, and friend, passed away at the age of 83 from complications of appendiceal cancer, which he had stocically coped with for 10 years, including three major surgeries.

Hugh was born in Tyler, Texas, to LD and Dorothy Keener, and was raised in Alabama, New Orleans, and Texas before moving to Portland, Oregon, in high school. He graduated from Lewis and Clark College in 1962, spent a summer ocean fishing for salmon, then started working for Pacific Power & Light.

In 1964, he married Julie Bock and they moved to Arizona, where he worked for Pan Am as a contractor - first on Ft. Huachuca, then in Florida near Cape Canaveral supporting the Eastern Test Range. Pan Am contractors were allowed one trip a year at 10% of fare, so Hugh and Julie traveled to Ireland, Germany and Austria, Spain and Portugal, and New Zealand.

In 1971, shortly after the birth of their son, Scott, Hugh drove his wife, son, mother-in-law, and two cats 3,000 miles to central California, where he worked at Vandenberg AFB, and daughter Andra was born.

After the Challenger disaster, Hugh began working at Lockheed Sunnyvale in launch integration, and the family moved to Livermore, where Hugh enjoyed the children’s youth soccer games and traveling to national parks.

He retired in 2012 and enjoyed visiting the Red Bluff farm, where Scott and family lived; the state of Virginia, especially Williamsburg, and nieces and nephews there; northern Michigan, where Julie’s mother was raised; Hawaii; Sedona, Arizona; and cruises to Alaska and South America. Hugh loved bluegrass music and taking pictures in all those places and

photoshopping them.

When cancer kept him from traveling in the last two years, he digitized and edited all his father’s, his father-in-law’s, and his own old slides.

Hugh is survived by his wife, Julie; daughter Andra; son, Scott, and daughter-in-law Karen; grandchildren, Grant, William, Ethan, Amarah; sister, Carol Wilson (Buzz); nephews, Todd Wilson (Crystal), Brian Wilson, and Eric Wilson (Laci); Adam Gonzales (Victoria), Jason Bock (Kris) and Tom Bock (Jenn); nieces, Amanda Wilson Gilbert (Danny), and Jenny Bock-Leidman (Sam), plus all their children. He was predeceased by his parents; sisters, Dee and Gail; and brother-in-law, Jay Gonzales.

A service of remembrance will be held at First Presbyterian Church Livermore, on 4th Street, at 2 p.m., on Saturday, Dec. 17. Donations may be directed to the National Parks Conservation Association, ACPMP (Appendix Cancer Pseudomyxoma Peritonei Research Foundation), or First Presbyterian Church Livermore.

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

Granada Boys Basketball Takes Third in Tournament

By Nathan Canilao

The Granada boys' basketball team took third place at the Mark Madsen Invitational Tournament at San Ramon Valley High School over the weekend, going 2-1 with wins over Bellarmine College Prep and Franklin High School.

Granada went into the tournament without senior center Andrew McKeever, Nate Keaney and Spencer Langowski who are three key rotation players for the Matadors.

Granada started the tour-

namment off strong with a win over Bellarmine in their first game of the tournament. They controlled the game for much of the first half and halted a Bells' comeback in the second half leading to a 60-56 victory.

Senior point guard Matai Fajaiapa'u and senior center Anthony Rodriguez were instrumental in the Matadors' win as they hit big shots down the stretch of the game.

"We did enough things well to beat a Bellarmine team who is always well

coached," said Granada head coach Quaran Johnson. "A lot of credit goes to our guys."

In Granada's semi-final game against California, the Matadors entered a dog fight against an East Bay Athletic League rival.

Granada got off to a slow start going down 6 points in the first quarter, but an 18-6 run in the second quarter gave the Matadors a 30-24 lead at halftime.

The Grizzlies fought back in the third quarter to take a one-point lead going

into the fourth quarter. California made a basket with under a minute to go in the game to snag a narrow 54-53 victory.

Granada shot just 18% from the three-point line in their loss to the Grizzlies.

In the final game of the tournament, Granada closed out Franklin High School with ease winning 67-46 to take home third place in the Mark Madsen Invitational.

Up next, Granada will face Capital Christian High School on the road on Dec. 15.



At the recent USA Swimming Junior Nationals in Austin Texas, Livermore Aquacowboys athlete Jack Hendrick placed 8th in the 1650 free with a time of 15:17. He also placed 14th in the 500 free with a time of 4:24 and 21st in the 400 Individual medley with a time of 3:54. All of his swims were lifetime best times. Jack Hendrick is a Senior at Granada High School and will be swimming for UC Santa Barbara next fall. Pictured (L to R) Alex Silver (LAC Head Swim Coach/CEO), Jack Hendrick. (Photo courtesy of Rachel Clark)

Amador Girls Basketball Defeats San Leandro

By Nathan Canilao

The Amador Valley girls' basketball team was defeated by San Leandro High School 43-29 on Dec. 8. The Dons dropped their second game of the season with the loss.

The Pirates controlled the game for a majority of the matchup. San Leandro's pressure and pace bothered the Dons on both ends of the floor.

The Dons made a push to get back into the game,

but it was too late as the Pirates cruised to an easy victory.

Despite San Leandro shooting just 29% from the floor and 12% from behind the arc, San Leandro controlled the Dons defensively and stalled their offense.

The Pirates also outrebounded the Dons as they pulled down 36 total rebounds for the game.

Amador will head to American High School for their next matchup on Dec. 16.

Dublin High Boys Tie Napa in Soccer

By Nathan Canilao

The Dublin High School boys soccer team tied with Napa High School at home 1-1 on Dec. 8. The Gaels' tied for the second straight game this season.

Dublin was able to get on the board first, scoring a goal in the first half. The Gaels' strong defense helped them shut out Napa's offense early.

Napa got on the board in the second half while Dublin's offense went stagnant. The Gaels got good looks,

but were not able to convert.

After a stalemate, both teams went home with a tie on their record.

The Gaels' offense has slowed since the start of the season where they scored a combined seven goals in the first two games. In their recent two games, they have scored just one goal and have tied twice.

Dublin now has a record of 2-0-2 on the season and will face Pittsburg High School on the road on Dec. 30.

YoungArts Recognizes Dublin High Student Reyes

Charles Reyes, a student at Dublin High School, was named a 2023 finalist in theater by YoungArts, a national organization that recognizes outstanding artists from 15 to 18 years old.

Finalist is the highest award in the organization's annual National Arts Competition. Reyes was one of 16 finalists in theater.

"Every year, we are inspired anew by the talent,

dedication, and creativity of extraordinary early career artists," said YoungArts Artistic Director Lauren Snelling. "YoungArts is proud to support artists at critical junctures throughout their lives, and we look forward to providing community and professional and creative development opportunities that will empower the 2023 award winners as they embark on exciting careers in

the arts."

More than 700 young artists were recognized nationally in 10 disciplines, including theater, classical music, dance, design arts, film, jazz, photography, visual arts, voice, and writing. As a finalist, Reyes is eligible to join in the organization's National YoungArts Week next month in Miami Beach, Florida, with an opportunity to meet and learn

from professional artists and performers.

YoungArts, formerly known as The National Foundation for the Advancement of Artists, was formed in 1981 to identify exceptional young artists and invest in their lifelong creative freedom. The organization provides funding, mentorship, and professional development throughout the young artists' careers.

Granada Girls Defeat American High in Soccer

By Nathan Canilao

The Granada girls' soccer team was defeated 1-0 in their match against American High School on Dec. 6. The Matadors dropped their first game of the season with the loss.

The Matador defense held up in the first half as they did not allow the Eagles to score. They didn't give American many great looks at the box and played the ball well.

The Eagles broke through in the second half of play when junior Nessya Shapiro scored the lone goal for American that broke the tie.

Granada couldn't get their offense going from there and eventually lost the match by one goal.

The Matadors start the year off 0-1 and will be at home for their next matchup against Dougherty Valley High School on Dec. 15.

Livermore Police Work Together with Las Positas College Students at Etch and Catch Event to Reduce Theft



As catalytic converters are often targeted by thieves, the Las Positas College Automotive Technology is now collaborating with the Livermore Police Department to inscribe license plate numbers on the converters. (Photo courtesy of LPD)

The Las Positas College Automotive Technology Department recently collaborated with the Livermore Police Department (LPD) to inscribe license plate numbers on the catalytic converters of 150 vehicles in an effort to reduce the theft of catalytic converters.

Catalytic converters are targeted by thieves because they are easy to remove and contain small amounts of precious metals, including platinum, rhodium, and palladium.

LPD said it is planning another "Etch and Catch" event with Las Positas College early next year.

Livermore Names Teen Poet For First School Trimester

Emily Buttler, a senior at Livermore High School, has been named Livermore Teen Poet for the first trimester of the school year.

Buttler was selected by Livermore Poet Laureate Peggy Schimmelman for her poem "Heatwave," which hints at climate change while lamenting the loss of Livermore summers once shared with a friend. Her poem will be on display at the Livermore Civic Center Library, located at 1188 S. Livermore Ave.

The theme for the city's second trimester competition is "The Web," and is open to Livermore residents in grades nine through 12. Entries must be sent by email to poetlaureate@LivermoreCA.gov by Feb. 24, and must include the student's name, school and grade level, and English teacher's name. Only one entry per student per trimester.

The winner will receive a certificate from the city and a \$20 gift certificate.

Pleasanton Student Named to Dean's List

Pleasanton's Tavin Heisig has been named to the dean's list for the spring semester at The Citadel, The Military College of South Carolina, in Charleston, South Carolina.

The dean's list recognizes students and cadets who achieve a grade point average of 3.20 or higher, with no incompletes or grades below a C.

A stack of several copies of The Independent newspaper, showing the front page with various headlines and images.

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A portrait of Mike Morgan, a man with grey hair, wearing a suit and tie, smiling.

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Join TV30 for Holiday Festivities and Programs

TV30 will air recent holiday events for those who either missed this season's holiday parade and tree lightings or want to enjoy them again.

TV30 is broadcasting holiday events and special entertainment at various times throughout the holiday season. Check the schedule at tv30.org for days and times. The festive program culminates with a Holiday Marathon on Christmas Day.

"TV30 is pleased to once again share with you the spirit of the Tri-Valley by providing this programming to you. Happy Holidays from all of us at TV30," said Melissa Tench-Stevens, Executive Director TV30.

Christmas Eve plan to tune into TV30 at 5 p.m. to enjoy the "Sleepy Dog at the Fire with Sounds of the Holidays" to entertain in the background all night long. This will be followed Christmas Day by a Holiday Marathon of the parades, tree lightings and a seasonal musical performance of the Cantabella Choir.

The holiday festivities may be viewed on Comcast TV Channel 30 and AT&T U-verse via Channel 99 as well as streaming live and via video demand on the TV30 website. For the schedule of air days and times visit tv30.org.

Deacon Dave's 39th Annual Holiday Display:

Join TV30 for the opening ceremonies of the 39th Annual Deacon Dave's Holiday Display.

TV30 New Year's Day Football-A-Thon:

Join TV30 for a day of local high school football. Games include Amador Valley at Foothill, Livermore Granada at Livermore.



Livermore resident Glenn Stewart recently captured a shot of these beautiful cumulus clouds hovering over a newly planted vineyard off Arroyo Road in Livermore.

(Photo – Glenn Stewart)

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LEGAL NOTICES

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 5933419

The following person(s) doing business as: Amore Montessori Family Child Care and Preschool, 266 Wood St. Unit 406, Livermore, CA 94550, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Jessica Perez Maldonado Munoz, 266 Wood St Unit 406, 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/: Jessica Perez Maldonado Munoz, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 14, 2022. Expires November 13, 2027. The Independent, Legal No. 5318. Published November 24, December 1, 8, 15 2022.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 5933533

The following person(s) doing business as: Valley Montessori School, 1273 N Livermore, CA 94551, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Tri-valley Montessori School, 1273 N Livermore Ave, 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: 9/23/1994. Signature of Registrant/s/: Andrew Wang, Director of Finance. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 9, 2022. Expires November 8, 2027. The Independent, Legal No. 5319. Published November 24, December 1, 8, 15 2022.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 5934333

The following person(s) doing business as: Rick's Landscape and Maintenance service, 2729 Kennedy St, Livermore, CA 94551, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Richard Sanchez Jr., 2729 Kennedy St. Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 6/00/1993. Signature of Registrant/s/: Richard Sanchez Jr., Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 15, 2022. Expires November 14, 2027. The Independent, Legal No. 5320. Published November 24, December 1, 8, 15 2022.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 5933383

The following person(s) doing

business as: Mountain Ridge Rentals, 3988 California Way, Livermore, CA 94550, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Finster's Hauling and Equipment LLC, 3988 California Way, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Matthew Finster, Manager. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 10, 2022. Expires November 9, 2027. The Independent, Legal No. 5321. Published November 24, December 1, 8, 15 2022.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 5935502

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Harsh Jadhav, CPA; 2. Mirabelle Investments; 3. Harshavardhan Jadhav, CAP, 6436 Tiffany Common, Livermore, CA 94551, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Harshavardhan Jadhav, 6436 Tiffany Common, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 3/9/2018. Signature of Registrant/s/: Harshavardhan Jadhav, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 18, 2022. Expires November 17, 2027. The Independent, Legal No. 5322. Published November 24, December 1, 8, 15 2022.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 5935334

The following person(s) doing business as: Nuhope Wellness, 11501 Dublin Blvd #324, Dublin, CA 94568, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Park Legend LLC, 3045 S. Archibald Ave #H178, Ontario, CA 91761. 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: 11/21/2022. Signature of Registrant/s/: Ferdous Ahmed, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 21, 2022. Expires November 20, 2027. The Independent, Legal No. 5323. Published December 1, 8, 15, 22, 2022.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 5933551

The following person(s) doing business as: Diver City, 1123 El Centro Ave, Oakland, CA 94602, is hereby registered by

the following owner(s): Benjamin Powning, 1123 El Centro Ave, Oakland, CA 94602. 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/: Benjamin Powning, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 9, 2022. Expires November 8, 2027. The Independent, Legal No. 5324. Published December 1, 8, 15, 22, 2022.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 5936669

The following person(s) doing business as: Jaki Demolition Services LLC, 1271 Washington Avenue Suite 158, San Leandro, CA 94577, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Jaki Demolition Services LLC, 1271 Washington Avenue Suite 158, San Leandro, CA 94577. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Bernadette Alexander, Manager. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 29, 2022. Expires November 28, 2027. The Independent, Legal No. 5325. Published December 8, 15, 22, 29, 2022.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 5933379

The following person(s) doing business as: West Coast Employee Perks, 2759 Kelly St, Hayward, CA 94541, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Stellar Marketing and Events, Inc., 2759 Kelly St, Hayward, CA 94541. 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/: Sarah garcia, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 10, 2022. Expires November 9, 2027. The Independent, Legal No. 5326. Published December 8, 15, 22, 29, 2022.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 5937228

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Holy Cross Lutheran Church; 2. Holy Cross Lutheran School, 1020 Mocho St., Livermore, CA 94550, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 1020 Mocho St., Livermore, CA 94550. 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/: John Bost, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 1, 2022. Expires November 30, 2027. The Independent, Legal No. 5327. Published December 8, 15, 22, 29, 2022.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 5936228

The following person(s) doing business as: Circle H Beef, 12461 Mines Road, Livermore, CA 94550, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Nancy Jane Mueller, 12461 Mines Road, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by a Married Couple. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 1/10/22. Signature of Registrant/s/: Nancy Jane Mueller, Owner, Rangeland Manager. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 28, 2022. Expires November 27, 2027. The Independent, Legal No. 5328. Published December 8, 15, 22, 29, 2022.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 5935598

The following person(s) doing business as: The Learning Wheel Preschool, 1432 Conannon Blvd, Livermore, CA 94550, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): The Kaur LLC, 4430 Central Parkway, Dublin, CA 94568. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Ramandeep Kaur, Manager. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 23, 2022. Expires November 22, 2027. The Independent, Legal No. 5329. Published December 15, 22, 29, 2022, January 5, 2022.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 5935133

The following person(s) doing business as: Sierra Dust Offroad, 7724 Frederiksen Lane, Dublin, CA 94568, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Erik Bell, 7724 Frederiksen Lane, Dublin, CA 94568. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of

Registrant/s/: Erik Bell, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 18, 2022. Expires November 17, 2027. The Independent, Legal No. 5330. Published December 15, 22, 29, 2022, January 5, 2022.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 5935522

The following person(s) doing business as: Owen Management, 747 Trinity Hills Lane, Livermore, CA 94550, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Jill De Anne Burns-Leon, 747 Trinity Hills Lane, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 11/1/2003. Signature of Registrant/s/: Jill De Anne Burns-Leon, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 21, 2022. Expires November 20, 2027. The Independent, Legal No. 5331. Published December 15, 22, 29, 2022, January 5, 2022.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 5935455

The following person(s) doing business as: Crafted by Crobar, 3293 Madera Ave, Oakland, CA 94619, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Benjamin Croft, 3293 Madera Ave, Oakland, CA 94619. 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/: Benjamin Croft, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 22, 2022. Expires November 21, 2027. The Independent, Legal No. 5332. Published December 15, 22, 29, 2022, January 5, 2022.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 593796

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Pizzeria Mercato; 2. Mercato, 5959 Shellmound ST. #75, Emeryville, CA 94608, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Modusa Inc., 5959 Shellmound ST. #75 Emeryville, 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: 3/1/22. Signature of Registrant/s/: Dogan Ozdogan, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 5, 2022, 2022. Expires December 4, 2027. The Independent, Legal No. 5333. Published December 15, 22, 29, 2022, January 5, 2022.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 593788

The following person(s) doing business as: XO Ranch, 9757 Dublin Canyon Road, Castro Valle, CA 94552, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Palmer Ranch LLC, 9757 Dublin Canyon Road, Castro Valley, CA 94552. 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: 1/1/22. Signature of Registrant/s/: Mollie Cronin Palmer, Manager. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 5, 2022, 2022. Expires December 4, 2027. The Independent, Legal No. 5334. Published December 15, 22, 29, 2022, January 5, 2022.

C L A S S I F I E D S

ANIMALS



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Rescue
Our current weekly adoption events include: Saturdays - Dogs & Puppies at Farmer's Market in Pleasanton. The location is Delucchi Park, 4501 First St. Hours: 10:00am to 1:00pm. Saturdays & Sundays - Kittens at Dublin PetSmart, 6960 Amador Plaza Rd. Hours: 11am to 3pm. Visit our website: WWW.TVAR.ORG, to see adoptable animals, volunteer opportunities, and how to donate. Follow TRI-VALLEY ANIMAL RESCUE on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. **FERAL CAT FOUNDATION** Cat & kitten adoptions now at the new Livermore Petco on Saturdays from 10:00AM to 2:30PM. We have many adorable, tame kittens that have been tested for FIV & FELV, altered & vaccinated. We also have adult cats & ranch cats for adoption.

EMPLOYMENT

Embracer Freemode Inc. (formerly known as Aionic Labs Inc.) in Livermore, CA is looking for a Senior Frontend/ UI Engineer to Develop video streaming-based mobile applications & web-based frontend user interface & backend APIs with WebRTC. Reqs: BS in CS or related IT engineering discipline & 2 yrs (24 months) of experience in job offered or related occupation developing real-time video/audio streaming related apps w/ Android, iOS, and web technologies. Send CV to: winston@aioniclabs.com.

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NOTICES

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

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LPD Officer Completes Training

Michael Ramsey has completed his field training with the Livermore Police Department (LPD). Before joining the LPD, Ramsey was with the Fremont Police Department, where he served as a motorcycle officer, field training officer, and emergency vehicle operations course instructor, and was part of the department's crowd management team. Ramsey is also a state-certified motorcycle instructor and races motorcycles.



Michael Ramsey

Harvesting Hagemann Ranch History

The Livermore Public Library and the Livermore Heritage Guild present the next installment of Then & Now: Livermore Stories, a local history lecture series. Jeff Kaskey, Hagemann Ranch Curator, will present a program entitled "Harvesting Hagemann Ranch History" on Wednesday, Jan. 18 at 7 p.m. in the Storytime Room of the Civic Center Library, 1188 S. Livermore Ave. Mr. Kaskey will share stories about the people who lived at the ranch and talk about the buildings on the property. No registration is required to attend this free event.

Pleasanton Police Welcomes Officer

The City of Pleasanton and Pleasanton Police Department are excited to welcome experienced Police Officer Thomas Galdos. "We are proud to have Officer Galdos join us in serving our city," said Chief David Swing, "where he can experience the level of support we are so fortunate to enjoy here in Pleasanton." Officer Galdos first became interested in a career in law enforcement as a young child hearing stories about his grandfather, retired Police Chief for Tracy Police Department. His uncle also



Thomas Galdos

Stanford Blood Center In Critical Need of Type O Blood

As a special thanks for keeping patients a priority, anyone who donates at any center or mobile drive from Dec. 11 to 31 will receive enough points for the Donor Loyalty Store to redeem a \$10 gift card of choice from Chipotle, Jamba Juice, Lowe's, or

Note that walk-in availability may be limited, so we encourage donors to make an appointment at the SBC mobile app or by calling us at 888-723-7831. stanfordbloodcenter.org, the SBC mobile app or 888-723-7831.

PPD Reminds Residents "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over"



The Pleasanton Police Department (PPD) recently issued a press release to remind the public of the dangers of driving impaired and to "celebrate the holiday season responsibly by not driving under the

influence." From Dec. 14 through New Year's Day, PPD will have additional officers on patrol looking for drivers suspected of being under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs. The extra

enforcement effort is part of a national campaign, Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over, with the goal of stopping suspected impaired drivers who put others on the road at risk. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), 11,654 people were killed in car crashes nationwide in 2020 that involved an alcohol-impaired driver, or one person every 45 minutes. "PPD encourages everyone to stay in for the night or have a 'go safely' game plan by scheduling a ride or designating a sober driver if you plan to consume alcohol," the PPD release continued. "Impaired driving is not just from alcohol. Marijuana, prescription medications or over-the-counter drugs may also

impair. Do your research and understand how certain drugs may affect your driving ability." "The holidays are a special time of year for many, and we want drivers to act responsibly," said Sergeant Steve Ayers. "This enforcement period allows us to get the message out that driving impaired is an illegal, senseless behavior that takes lives." Funding for this program is provided by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

Supervisor Wilma Chan Legacy Fund Grants To Alameda County Nonprofits are Announced

Last year, the Alameda County Board of Supervisors established the Supervisor Wilma Chan Legacy Fund to honor Chan's life after her sudden and untimely passing on November 3, 2021. Vision Alameda County, an Oakland-based nonprofit investing in promising innovations that improve the wellbeing of the county's youth, families, and communities, was asked to manage the fund and grant-making. Over the past year, the Legacy Fund received \$150,000 in donations from corporations, community-based organizations, and individuals alike, all wanting to put their honor for Chan in action. Vision Alameda County, in consultation with the Chan family, selected two local programs that embody Chan's lifelong commitment of championing equity and access for the most vulnerable to receive funding.

A \$90,000 grant will be awarded to BANANAS, an Oakland-based nonprofit that has supported families since its establishment in 1974. The grant will support the BANANAS CARE program by providing hotel and transportation vouchers, gift cards and other aid to families experiencing homelessness. "We are honored and grateful to be a recipient and steward of this gift. Supervisor Chan was an architect of the CARE Program along with Parent Voices Oakland to ensure unhoused families with young children were provided access to child care and needed services. This generous gift will allow us to support these families with additional resources," said Kym Johnson, CEO of BANANAS. A \$60,000 grant will be awarded to the Alameda County Public Health Department Nutrition Services Program to purchase and distribute water bottles to promote water consumption for students. "This grant provides an opportunity to uphold Supervisor Chan's legacy of uplifting the health and

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