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Tri-Valley Candidates Vying for Open Seats

By Larry Altman

REGIONAL — Who will vie to represent the Tri-Valley in the California Senate remained uncertain this week as potential candidates — including a husband and wife and a former U.S. Congressman — jockeyed for the spot as the filing period for the March primary neared its deadline.

Potential politicos considering the race for the newly drawn 5th District seat filled the San Joaquin County Registrar of Voters office on Friday as the deadline approached, said Registrar Olivia Hale. The district now corrals Bay Area cities Dublin, Pleasanton and Livermore, along with Sunol, into a district with unincorporated communities including Midway, Altamont, and Ulmar.

(See CANDIDATES, page 6)

Planning Official Set To Retire

By Larry Altman

LIVERMORE – Steve Stewart, a key figure in Livermore planning for nearly a quarter century, will retire from his post this month, He states that he believes the city is "poised to maintain its unique community character into the future."



Steve Stewart

A planner who rose through the ranks to become assistant community development director in September, Stewart said he decided the time was right to pursue other interests and spend time with his family.

"I've had 23 full and incredible years at Livermore and worked with so many dedicated and bright people

(See OFFICIAL, page 6)



Rabbi Raleigh Resnick of Chabad of the Tri-Valley, center, dances with celebrants during "Chanukah Under the Stars" on Dec. 9. The event was held outside the Bankhead Theater in Livermore. (Photo – Doug Jorgensen) *(See photo gallery at www.independentnews.com/multimedia)*

Speakers Oppose Plan to Break The Urban Growth Boundary

EIR Public Review at Planning Commission

By David Jen

LIVERMORE — At a Dec. 5 Planning Commission meeting, commissioners held a public hearing of the Notice of Preparation for the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the East of Greenville area. The purpose of the EIR would be to evaluate the environmental impacts of industrial and commercial uses in the area.

The provision of an EIR would be the next step needed to develop the 1,100 acres outside of Livermore's urban growth boundary (UGB), selected by the city for possible development. Because the meeting was part of the 30-day public review period for the EIR's Notice of Preparation, the commission collected citizen comments for inclusion in the draft EIR.

Roughly bounded by Greenville Road, I-580 and the South Bay Aqueduct outside the eastern edge of the city, the plan before the city would provide a mix of commercial and industrial uses.

Currently limited to open space and agricultural uses, East of Greenville is one of five focus areas under consideration for land-use changes in the city's General Plan 2045 update. City representatives have noted that the changes aim to support the city's economic and housing needs to maintain a jobs/housing balance through 2045.

According to city staff, an EIR is required by state law for the city to develop East of Greenville. Because the area falls outside both Livermore's city limits and its UGB, the city council and the county Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) would then have to approve annexation of the land, and voters would have to support expansion of the UGB that presently protects the open space and agricultural uses.

Some speakers at the hearing called the EIR premature and questioned the merit of spending money to evaluate a project before establishing any need.

(See EIR, page 8)

Cricket Field to Open in Spring 2024

By Dawnmarie Fehr

PLEASANTON – The city will open its first cricket field in a park when one opens in the spring of next year.

The field is replacing a baseball diamond at Ken Mercer Sports Park and is nearing completion. The City Council approved the project last year, and after public outreach to determine the best spot for it, construction began earlier this year.

Pleasanton Mayor Karla Brown said she was pleased the city would be able to offer the cricket field for its residents.

"Over the past few years, I have seen a sudden rise in popularity for cricket by both youth and adults, so I expect this field will be very busy," Brown said.

Though Pleasanton spokesperson Heather Tiernan said construction will be done soon, the field will be closed for the winter to allow the new grass to take root. Tiernan said the area will open on or near March 1; There is also a cricket field at Alisal Elementary School.

City officials said $500,000 was allocated from the city's capital improvement program to fund the project, Costs are anticipated to total $485,000.

Ken Mercer Sports Park – named for the late Pleasanton mayor who advocated developing the amenity – was chosen after extensive public outreach conducted by Director of Library and Recreation Heidi Murphy and her team.

Prior to their outreach, Murphy and

(See CRICKET, page 9)

Participants Divided at Water Board Hearing

How Much Water Flow Should We Give Our Rivers?

By David Jen

REGIONAL — Competing science reports about how much water rivers need were presented at a recent State Water Resource Control Board meeting.

Environmental advocates calling for more river flows in the Sacramento River watershed — the largest in the state — made arguments to save imperiled fish, aligning with a draft staff report recommending that flows increase from 40% to 55% of unimpaired river flows. They argue that this would reverse the decline of numerous fish species, and the downstream Bay Delta and ocean ecosystems that depend on them.

The watershed — a 27,000 square-mile area that includes the Feather, Yuba and American Rivers — feeds the Bay Delta, which the Tri-Valley relies on for its water. Reduced river flows have, in the past, allowed brackish water to creep in from the San Francisco Bay, raising salinity concerns in the Delta and stressing water sources already overtaxed during droughts. During California's most recent drought, the State Water Project delivered as little as 5% of its water supply allocations, forcing the Tri-Valley to rely heavily on local groundwater sources.

However, ranchers and those who support less in-stream water, favored more consumptive uses, such as agriculture and water storage. Such groups have proposed voluntary agreements as an alternative to the staff recommendation.

(See WATER, page 8)

All Gas Leaf Blowers Banned in Pleasanton

By David Jen

PLEASANTON — Gasoline-powered leaf blowers have been outlawed in Pleasanton. Those who use them could be cited starting in June.

The City Council approved the ban at its meeting last week, following residents' complaints that the garden equipment is noisy and causes air pollution.

Without an emissions control system, and with oil mixed directly in its fuel, a commercial gas-powered leaf blower releases the same amount of smog-forming pollution in one hour as one passenger car traveling 1,100 miles, according to a city staff report.

"One out of five days, we have air quality affecting sensitive individuals," said Ron Baskett, chair of the Tri-Valley Air Quality Community Alliance. He added that about 18% of the Tri-Valley population suffers from asthma.

Councilmember Julie Testa said, "The community's been asking us to do this based on noise, based on health; it's just the right thing to do."

The council approved the ban on a 4-1 vote, with Vice Mayor Jack Balch voting against the ban.

Balch said he worried how the ban would affect the small businesses currently dependent on the gas leaf blowers.

"The 'how' matters when individual's lives are dealing with these problems, who may not have the resources to transition as quickly as we would like them to," he said, pushing for financial support from the city to accompany the ordinance.

With electric-leaf-blower backpack units sold separately from the necessary batteries, adapters, chargers, and possible in-shop wiring upgrades for the chargers, Parks Division Manager Giacomo Damonte estimated a replacement cost of about $5,000 per leaf blower, including the batteries.

"(Small businesses) are out there; they're working hard, and they don't have $5,000 to buy a new piece of equipment," said Pleasanton

(See BLOWERS, page 9)

Cancer Patients a Top Priority

Dublin Wig Shop Perseveres Following Multiple Burglaries, Pandemic Strife

By David Scholz

DUBLIN – A wig shop in Dublin has been vandalized and burglarized more than a dozen times in the past three years, but the owner says that hasn't broken her spirit for helping cancer patients who she knows face great challenges.

Janie Mecham said she worked hard to get Valley Rags & Wigs on San Ramon Road off the ground 15 years ago and make it the success it is today.

There were other wig outfitters in the area when she opened her doors, but one by one they closed, she said.

"I have outlasted all of them," Mecham said.

A further impetus for her to serve the needs of this special client base is the reality that various forms of cancer have stricken her family.

She feels lucky that it has skirted her.

"They are our first priority," said Mecham. "They need tender loving care because they are going through hell."

"They come in sad and leave happy," she added.

Mecham noted that since 2020, police have logged 15 break-ins at the shop. Four of them occurred in the first 11 months of this year, and two happened in November.

The latest break-in, on Nov. 29, resulted in the arrest of Robert Butler, 44, of San Ramon. He is facing charges of burglary, vandalism, possession of stolen property and narcotics.

He was arrested Nov. 30

(See WIG, page 8)



Janie Mecham, owner of Dublin's Valley Rags & Wigs, has been serving customers in the Tri-Valley for more than three decades. Her shop was recently burglarized, and Mecham estimates the business has been targeted approximately 15 times over the past few years. Helping struggling cancer patients has motivated Mecham to fight through challenges. (Photo – Doug Jorgensen)

PETS OF THE WEEK



BEAUTIFUL BROTHERS

The Bridge brothers, London and Millau, are on a journey to find their new family this holiday season. No tolls here, just unconditional love and affection. These feline engineers can't wait to build a bridge to your heart. Visit valleyhumane.org to learn more or email info@valleyhumane.org to start the adoption application process. (Photo – Valley Humane Society)

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Mysterious Disappearance Solved at Popular Burger Joint

By Christina Cavallaro

A mystery that started at a Livermore burger place and led the police to investigate the circumstances surrounding the brief disappearance of the eatery's owners has come to an end.

As many things do, the mystery started with a post on the neighborhood website NextDoor. It stated that Livermore's long-time fixture, John's Char-Burger, was open for business, but no one was there when customers showed up for a bite to eat.



John Shon, owner of John's Charburger in Livermore, was buoyed by the outpouring of community support during a recent medical emergency. (Photo – Doug Jorgensen)

The lights were on, and the door was open, but there was no sign of the owners. People checked the walk-in freezer and all the closets, bathrooms and offices, but found no one. The owners' car was reportedly seen in the parking lot, where some trash cans had been knocked over. A concerned customer contacted the Livermore Police Department and other regular customers and neighbors checked the police blotters, but found no information explaining the disappearance.

The following day a note that appeared to have been scrawled hastily with a black Sharpie pen was taped to the door. It read, "family emergency," and explained that the business was closed.

It re-opened one day later. The Independent caught up with owners John Shon and his wife Jenny Shim, who had been unaware of the community's outpouring of concern; and explained the details surrounding their mysterious disappearance and safe return.

Shim, who is of Korean descent, said that her English skills are limited and that she didn't know about the NextDoor community or the postings of concern for them.

Here's what happened:

"My husband cut his finger on a lettuce-cutting machine," she said. She mimed the excessive blood spurting everywhere and their screams. "We were very confused and me and my husband were in shock." Shim said they dropped everything, ran out, knocking over trash cans as they took off for urgent care. An hour later, she said they returned and found two police cars waiting for them.

The mystery carried over into the next day as the business stayed closed while Shon recuperated. There were comments flooding social media of concern and prayers. One woman wrote, "I hope the owner and his wife are okay. They're both such lovely and kind people."

Another person expressed fear for the "very worrying situation. Hope all isn't what it appears." And the speculation continued as the business remained closed. One woman's post read, "A real mystery in Livermore. Who knows what the outcome may be."

Finally, Shim returned with her husband in tow. "I'm okay," he smiled, waving both of his hands, which were covered completely in blue gloves. A long stitch was visible on his finger through the plastic.





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Student Brings Knife to Montessori School; Administrators Say Police Were Not Notified

By David Scholz

A child brought a camping knife to Valley Montessori School in Livermore this week and administrators did not notify all parents or call police, the head of the school told The Independent.

The incident happened on Monday at the Livermore Avenue School; there was no threat to other students, teachers or staff members, said Head of School Patti Wilczek, adding that the student was sent home for the day.

"The incident involved a young child who brought a small, folding camping knife to school in order to show their friend, because the friend had never seen one," said Wilczek. "A teacher found out within minutes of the child arriving on campus that morning, and the knife was confiscated right away."



A young student brought a camping knife onto the campus of Valley Montessori School in Livermore last week. The episode sparked concern among parents and some faculty who say the incident was never reported to the police. (Photo courtesy of vmschool.org)

Livermore Police were not made aware that a student had brought a knife to school, said police spokesperson Azenith Smith.

Police said law enforcement is not always involved in such cases because bringing a knife to school is not necessarily a criminal matter; it is often handled internally as a school administrative issue.

Wilczek said students and teachers who were nearby the student with the knife were interviewed about what they saw and heard.

"Based upon the information provided, it was determined that no threats were made to another child or to any adult, and the knife was never opened/unfolded. There was no safety risk involved at any time," Wilczek said.

"That said, our emergency protocols reflect a no tolerance policy for weapons, which is why the small knife was immediately confiscated, and the child was sent home," Wilczek added.

The Independent was alerted to the incident by a teacher at the school who did not provide her name in the email she sent to the newspaper.

"I'm deeply concerned for the safety of my students," the teacher wrote to the paper. "With all the school violence out there, my school needs to do what's right and protect our students."

Wilczek acknowledged the incident was another reminder of the importance of regular conversations that take place in classrooms to spotlight what is appropriate and inappropriate to bring to school.

"And communication with transparency is always important to us. As such a note to the community will be pushed out shortly," she said.



Bus Pass Program Enters Eighth Year

The Tri Valley Bus Pass Program, sponsored by Asbury United Methodist Church in Livermore, is entering its eighth year of providing free 24-hour Wheels passes so the needy have a way to get to work or access social service programs.

The program was started by Livermore resident Jacky Poulsen, who continues to oversee the program while Asbury United handles the accounting and fundraising.

Poulsen created the program after realizing that many people most in need of social programs, including free meals and health care, could not afford bus fare. That also applied to people getting to work or job interviews.

Poulsen began purchasing daily passes for the Wheels bus service, operated by the Livermore Amador Valley Transit Authority, with routes that cover Dublin, Pleasanton, and Livermore.

She provides bus passes to about a dozen nonprofit organizations, including Open Heart Kitchen, Tri Valley Seek and Save, Tri Valley Haven, Interfaith Food Pantry, and Cornerstone Fellowship, which in turn distribute them to their clients.

"We are so thankful for the provision of bus passes each week," said Erin McGrath, outreach pastor for Cornerstone in Livermore. "We have folks coming from all over the Tri-Valley for services such as food, laundry, showers, clothing, and help with housing. It is so helpful to know we can help get them here each week."

Cornerstone is a non-denominational Christian church with multiple locations in the East Bay area, including Livermore.

This year, the Unitarian Universalist Church in Livermore is also working with Poulsen, both with fundraising and the distribution of bus passes.

Donations for the bus-pass program can be made online at asburylive.org or by sending a check, with "bus passes" written on the memo line, to the Asbury United Methodist Church, 4743 East Ave., Livermore.



THE Independent

Now Seeking Freelance Reporters

The Independent is engaging freelance reporters to cover breaking news, government meetings, science and cultural topics and feature pieces in the Tri-Valley. Must have at least two years of experience writing for a newspaper or news website. Prefer candidates who live in the Tri-Valley, but will consider others willing to report in the region.

Please email Kristin@independentnews.com with your resume and at least 5 writing samples., with the subject line "Freelancer Application."

In the Next Two Years

Livermore Airport Must Offer Unleaded Fuel

By Larry Altman

Spurred by residents' concerns about the community's air quality, the City Council voted unanimously Monday to require Livermore Municipal Airport's (LVK) aircraft fuel supplier to provide an unleaded product within two years, a date that could be extended if found necessary.

The action occurred during a meeting where the council also sided with residents and voted down a proposal that would have abolished the city's Beautification and Historic Preservation Commissions.

The issue of unleaded fuel availability at LVK began several months ago when a Livermore parent blamed the airport for her son's positive test for lead in his blood. The woman told The Independent that she had no evidence to support her claim, but said she lived in a home where lead pipes had been replaced before she moved in and could think of no other reason why her child tested positive. She and her husband have moved with their son out of the city.

The woman shared her story with Livermore Mayor John Marchand and other Livermore residents, who repeatedly spoke at City Council meetings during televised open forums. Speakers demanded city officials force LVK to switch from leaded fuel to unleaded.

LVK's fuel provider, Five Rivers Aviation, sells Low Lead fuel and Kerosene-based fuel, but does not offer unleaded, although it is in its future plans.

Unleaded fuel is available at many California airports but is not readily in supply and not safe for all aircraft. The FAA and the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA) are working toward transitioning from leaded fuels to an unleaded fuel, but the product is still being tested. Tens of thousands of piston-powered planes across the country continue to require leaded fuel to remain in the air, and a pilot who mistakenly uses unleaded fuel in the wrong airplane could crash.

Last month, the FAA approved full-scale engine and flight testing of Lyondell-Basell Industries/VPRacing's UL100E aviation fuel for piston engine aircraft. A U.S. goal is to transition completely away from leaded by 2030.

During Monday's meeting, Five Rivers Aviation owner Pete Sandhu said he was eager to sell unleaded and some pilots would take advantage of it. A 1,000-gallon tank is available in the ground to get started.

"All the pilots agree: No one likes lead," Sandhu said. "We're all looking forward to the day when suitable replacements are available. This is a step in the right direction. It's an interim step, but it's a step in the right direction."

Sandhu said some newer fossil fuels will be introduced at the airport in the coming months, but the industry is also working beyond unleaded fuel, looking at natural gas, biogas, propane, hydrogen-fuel cell and battery-powered aircraft.

"We're really excited about some of these advancements," he said. "There's a lot more in the realm of aviation fuels than we're addressing today."

Livermore resident Donna Cabanne, who has repeatedly urged the council to take up the fuel issue for months, thanked the council for doing so, but suggested the panel cut the two-year timeline in half.

Cabanne explained, "We are not asking for a ban on leaded fuel, only to offer unleaded fuel as an option."

Cabanne pressed the council to seek funding sources to purchase a larger tank to be ready when unleaded fuel becomes readily available. She suggested the city consider purchasing an 8500-gallon fuel tank using airport enterprise funds or seek FAA grants to buy additional fuel tanks. She also suggested offering incentives to Sandhu and to pilots to help cover the higher cost of unleaded fuel, which is estimated to be priced about $1 more a gallon than leaded fuel.

"I know there is more you can do," Dublin resident Shirley Lewandowski added. "There must be additional funds and grants so they can get to financially help (Sandhu) buy a 10- to 15,000-gallon tank in readiness for when the UL100 unleaded fuel becomes available next year."

In other council action, the council deadlocked 2-2, with Council member Ben Barrientos absent, on a proposal to terminate its Beautification and Historical Preservation Commissions. Vice Mayor Brittni Kiick and Council member Evan Branning voted in favor of the plan, but Mayor John Marchand and Council member Bob Carling voted against the idea. The failure to receive a majority means that the two commissions will not be suspended.

> ***"All the pilots agree: No one likes lead. We're all looking forward to the day when suitable replacements are available ..."***
>
> Pete Sandu, Five Rivers Aviation

The proposal followed a months-long review by Kiick and Branning of the city's nine citizen advisory bodies, including arts, youth advisory, and more. The council members assessed them for their responsibilities, makeup, relevance and amount of time they required of city staff.

Kiick and Branning determined the Beautification committee's duties — which included reviewing designs for small parks and rest areas at intersections, revisions of the street tree ordinance, the placement of street trees and suggestions on replacing landscaping — were better handled by paid engineering and planning staff and suggested the committee be disbanded.

Similarly, the council members found that the Historical Preservation Commission was no longer necessary because a full inventory of all of the city's buildings was completed two years ago and the committee had nothing left to do.

But during a public comment period, residents strongly opposed bringing an end to their roles.

"I do not think the Beautification Committee should be disbanded," said Saundra Lormand, a committee member. "There will be no avenue for citizen input concerning the horticultural beautification and development of Livermore. In this era of climate change, appropriate trees and landscaping are important. Committee members have creative ideas regarding funding tree type priorities. We assessed the street medians for planting, and we evaluated signage placed at city entrance points."

Beautification Committee member Tania Panarello said the committee served to inspire and encourage her fellow residents to "continually improve our city aesthetically and environmentally."

"We serve on this committee because we care about creating a beautiful, welcoming place for residents and visitors alike," Panarello said. "If you truly value the functions that advisory committees serve, why have you kept us in the dark for the past six plus months? Every time we asked about recruiting new committee members, we were told basically nothing, except that our committees were still under review. When we finally received updates, we were given only a few days to respond to the recommendation to sunset the Beautification Committee, a committee that has been around for almost 60 years."

Another Beautification committee member, Karen Jefferson, said participants were not given a chance to discuss with council members and staff why their panel should survive.

"Citizen participation leads to more informed decision making in city government and also adheres to the democratic principles that the U.S. was founded on," Jefferson said. "Advisory bodies are important conduits for citizen input, perspective and participation."

During a lengthy discussion, Branning said the city was looking at other ways to get residents involved in volunteering instead of the commissions. Kiick said some commissions, including the youth advisory commission, were restricted by public meeting rules that required quorums and agendas that necessitated staff time and preparation. Some teenagers, she said, who hoped to participate in the youth committee, would find meetings canceled because not enough could attend to forge a quorum.

In the end, Carling and Marchand agreed to fold the youth commission under the library, meaning it would no longer have to adhere to the Brown Act's rules for public meetings. But neither would agree to sunset the Beautification and Historical Preservation committees.

"We need more input, not less," Carling said. "I think the folks that volunteer for those committees offer a valuable service to this community. I disagree with sunsetting Beautification or (Historical Preservation.)

At the end of the meeting, Marchand announced that Carling will serve as vice mayor in 2024, replacing Kiick. The position is rotated annually. He also announced the Assistant City Manager Christine Martin is retiring. Community Development Director Paul Spence will replace her.



Supervisor David Haubert, shown above, celebrates his annual Holiday Toy & Food Drive that gathered hundreds of toys and food for distribution to local nonprofit organizations in the Tri-Valley and Fremont areas. Haubert and his wife Michele supported the event along with Project HOPE, a donor-advised fund managed by the Three Valleys Community Foundation for the benefit of nonprofit organizations and community causes in the broader East Bay region. (Photo courtesy: Supervisor David Haubert)

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EDITORIAL

In the Region, Pleasanton Leads the Way With Its Ban on Gas-powered Leaf Blowers

A quiet Saturday morning during the fall months can be ruined by a piece of garden equipment – the mighty leaf blower.

In the United States at least 11 million leaf blowers, which produce 200-mile-per-hour winds, are used in residential and commercial settings every year.

They not only shatter peace and quiet, but also cause an inordinate amount of air pollution.

Without an emissions control system, and with oil mixed directly into its fuel, a commercial gas-powered leaf blower releases the same amount of smog-forming pollution in one hour as one car traveling 1,100 miles. That's about the distance between Denver and Los Angeles.

One study found that gas-powered lawn mowers, trimmers, leaf blowers, and other lawn equipment accounted for 25% of all emissions of cancer-causing benzene in 2011, the most recent data available.

For these reasons, we applaud the Pleasanton City Council's recent decision to ban gas-powered leaf blowers in the city. The ban builds off the state's initiative to achieve 100% zero emissions by 2035.

Those who break the ban could face citations.

With poor air quality impacting sensitive people at least 20 % of the time and 18 % of Tri-Valley residents suffering from asthma, we also agree with the Tri-Valley Air Quality Community Alliance on the leaf blower ban.

Pleasanton's ban follows other cities and towns that have enacted bans. Bans on the gas-powered blowers are in effect in Washington, D.C.; Miami Beach, Florida; and Evanston, Illinois. Portland and Seattle are also considering doing away with the noisy gas-powered machines.

Pleasanton's decision to oust the blowers is also in line with the state's decision to end the sale of gas-powered blowers next summer. Battery powered blowers are expected to replace them.

While we realize that swapping out gas-powered blowers for battery- operated ones will be an inconvenience and an added expense for businesses, we think Pleasanton is doing the right thing by exploring grant options for possible buy-back or assistance programs for businesses and homeowners.

California is also helping. Ahead of next year's ban on the sale of gas-powered leaf blowers, the state has set aside $27 million for small landscaping businesses to buy electric equipment.

The whole community, including both residents and businesses, should benefit from Pleasanton's innovative action.

MAILBOX

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

Humanitarian Crisis in Israel and Gaza

Maureen Hamm, Livermore

The Social Justice Committee of the Unitarian Universalist Church in Livermore (UUCiL) supports the following response to the urgent humanitarian crisis in Israel and Gaza, and to prevent further catastrophic loss of life:

1. Ceasefire, de-escalation, and restraint by all sides

2. All parties to abide by the laws of war, including the Geneva Conventions and customary international law

3. Prioritizing steps to secure the immediate release of hostages and ensure international protection for civilians.

We invite everyone to write letters in support of this to the local media, members of congress and the president.

Installing An Unleaded Aviation Fuel Tank

Mark Strauch, Livermore

There have been several letters regarding installing an unleaded aviation fuel tank at the airport. While laudable, the topic of aviation fuel is complicated. Aircraft are certified for particular fuel types, and fuels must be "fit for purpose." While there may be 35 airports that sell unleaded avgas, there are another nearly 3,000 that do not. Meanwhile, 1/2 mile away, 170,000 vehicles spew exhaust daily on I-580. The letter writer also suggests that spending an additional dollar per gallon is not much to ask. That person has a future in Sacramento, where spending other people's money is an Olympic sport.

The General Plan

Linda Milanese, Livermore

Livermore is working on a General Plan that will prepare for its growth through 2045. The city's projections, however, for population and jobs in the next 20+ years are questionable. Who knows if today's growth forecasts for population and jobs will actually match the predictions? The most troubling aspect of the discussion is the move to annex open space outside our protected urban growth boundary east of Greenville Road for industrial development.

Why not wait awhile to see if the annexation is necessary? Why not regularly revisit aspects of the General Plan to see if the projections are accurate? After all, Livermore voters will get to vote and be the ones who make the final decision on urban growth boundary changes, and most Livermore voters don't want to risk losing their open space. But the City has already (prematurely) commissioned an expensive Environmental Impact Report on the land in question and is moving ahead.

I don't understand why the city would risk losing an election for something that might not even be needed.

2024 or 1968?

Aidan Taylor, Livermore

1968 was a boiling point in American politics, especially for the Democratic Party which was trying to oppose itself against Richard Nixon. President Lyndon B. Johnson wasn't seeking a reelection, so the democrats had to prop someone up and fast. The problem was who to pick, as the party had vastly different views regarding Vietnam, poverty, civil rights, infrastructure, and other issues. "Hawkish" democrats were pro-war and wanted to intensify the campaign in Vietnam while focusing on boosting infrastructure. Younger and more progressive democrats were anti-war and wanted to pull out while fighting poverty and racism at home. The progressive stance was popular amongst the younger generations and groups like the SDS and the Yippies. However, their champions for these ideas, Robert F. Kennedy and Martin Luther King Jr., were both assassinated months prior for their stances on civil rights and Vietnam. These young voters, tense and angry, came to Chicago in 1968 to protest the Democratic National Convention to find a candidate they could support. Unfortunately for them, the Democratic Party elected pro-war Democrat and current VP, Hubert Humphrey. This outraged the party and young voters, which in turn caused a riot in the city caused by Chicago police, and we ended up watching anti-war protesters getting severely beaten by Chicago police on national television. This led to the downfall of the Democratic Party in the 1968 elections letting President Nixon win, extending the war in Vietnam, and with the help of Henry Kissinger, expanding it to Cambodia and Laos.

Where am I going with all of this? Doesn't it seem oddly familiar what young people are talking about right now through the advent of social media and all the messed-up things happening in the world? To me, it sounds similar to 1968. I'll tell you what young voters want: we want a ceasefire, we want affordable housing, food and rent, we want better access to social programs, student debt forgiveness, guaranteed rights to healthcare like abortion services, free contraceptives, and better mental health services, we want to protect LQBTQ+ youth, etc. So many things we want… has Biden pushed hard for any of these things? He hasn't—outside of weak attempts at rhetoric. If he or the Democrats don't start pushing hard for these issues, they are going to lose in 2024, and the party will crumble just like it did in 1968.

Sell Unleaded AV Fuel Sooner

Donna Cabanne, Livermore

The Airport Commission recommended the Fixed Base Operator (FBO) start selling unleaded aviation fuel at Livermore Airport (LVK). The Livermore city staff have taken some preliminary steps to implement this minimal airport standard. However, the staff is recommending the FBO be given a two-year timeline---with possible extensions--- to start selling unleaded aviation fuel. This is too long. Surely, we can reduce the timeline.

At least seven California airports now sell unleaded aviation fuel safely including Hayward, Oxnard, Reid-Hillview (San Jose), San Carlos, San Martin, Santa Monica, and Watsonville. How did these airports achieve this transition more rapidly? It's time for Livermore to follow their lead. 35 airports nationwide currently offer unleaded aviation fuel.

A second fuel tank for unleaded aviation fuel exists at LVK, but only holds 1,000 gallons. The city should consider purchasing an additional 8,500-gallon fuel tank using Airport Enterprise Funds. FAA grants are also available for additional fuel tanks.

The price difference between leaded and unleaded aviation fuel would be about one dollar more per gallon. Some pilots may choose to go to other airports to avoid that minimal difference in price. However, I believe most pilots owning small piston aircraft at LVF will choose to protect the health of the community IF an alternative is available. A dollar a gallon difference is not much to ask to support the health of Tri-Valley children and residents.

We removed the lead from car fuel; now we need to do the same with aviation fuel for small piston-engine aircraft. The City Council needs to shorten the two-year timeline. The City Council could offer incentives to the FBO to sell unleaded fuel sooner and reduce lead air exposure from small piston aircraft at LVK. For the health of all Tri-Valley residents, the Livermore City Council needs to modify the proposed minimal airport standards to require the sale of unleaded aviation fuel in less than two years.

Too Early to Decide

Alan Burnham, Livermore

I observed previously that Livermore does not have sole control over its residential growth due to the RHNA process. An ABAG document used in Livermore's Housing Element predicts Livermore will grow by 0.7% per year—lower than the past 20 years—but our current RHNA assignment requires 1.7% growth—about average for the past 50 years. That is a big difference.

Previous letters ask whether we should try to maintain the same jobs/household value. Our Housing Element mentions a current ratio as 1.71, but more careful reading of jobs and household numbers from various agencies suggests it is more likely 1.55 +/- 0.05—closer to Alameda County. To maintain that ratio, we must match jobs growth with household growth. Also, important—the 2022 U.S. census estimates indicate about the same number of employed residents as jobs, even though most commute either in or out of Livermore.

The higher RHNA growth rate means we have to rezone industrial land to housing, and there is some appropriate low-value-use industrial land within city limits. But then households will grow faster than jobs. Without expanding the city limits past Greenville, our jobs/household ratio will drop to 1.25 by 2045 if we build our expected RHNA assignments. Some argue we should not presume all that housing will be built, so the drop will be acceptable. Should that be Livermore's gambit?

Another perspective is that expanding east of Greenville is good independent of population growth. There is almost no industrial land inside city limits that is not already built or committed. The low-value-use areas might be redeveloped, but that is more expensive than greenfield. New companies will not be attracted, and some current companies might seek greener pastures. Fees and taxes from development east of Greenville could pay for both new amenities and permanent open-space preservation. Is this a win-win or a lose-more-than-win proposition?

Many recent letters have not adequately considered the pros and cons of the decision. If one's position is simply to block all development as much as possible, the pros and cons really don't matter. If one wants to promote growth regardless of the downsides, they don't matter either. I hope most residents will wait for the pros and cons to be more clearly articulated for an informed decision. We have not reached that point yet, in part because there is no final proposal to evaluate at the time of this writing.

Inaccurate Criticism

David Furst, Livermore

I never expected to follow up my short letter to the editor, published in The Independent, Nov. 30, where I objected to Trish Munro's criticism of The Independent because the journalist described the owners of the Garaventa Hill by gender and age group. However, the recent letter by Ms. Chopra criticizing me was so wildly off base, inaccurate and irrelevant, that I believe I need to respond. Maybe she and I can go for a cup of coffee and let future letters to the editor focus on more pressing issues, such as preservation of open space on both the west and east sides of Livermore. She believes the sale and development of the Garaventa Hill is a "private land use matter." Maybe, but since I never discussed this topic in my short letter, her whole argument is irrelevant. She sings the praises of Ms. Munro, saying she was the "voice of reason and compassion." However, I never discussed Ms. Munro's character, and from what I know of Trish, she is a voice of reason. I only disagreed with her critique of the descriptors used in the original article. Ms. Chopra's criticism of me is therefore again irrelevant. I did speak at the City's town hall meeting which focused on the proposed Garaventa Hill development, and I clearly identified myself as the Sierra Club rep to the Altamont Landfill Open Space Committee (ALOSC). I told those present that the ALOSC had money to buy the Hill. I am proud to serve the public as a Director of the LARPD, but I never identified myself as one of the directors, and I was not representing the LARPD at the town hall meeting. The LARPD is not involved in this issue. My statement that the ALOSC has the money does not conflict with the position of the LARPD, as she stated, and her accusation that I violated the Brown Act (sunshine meeting laws) is totally incorrect and, again, irrelevant. In summary, what we are left with from her letter are just her criticisms that are both inaccurate and irrelevant.

Urgent: EIR Comments Due

Bernard Cabanne, Livermore

The City of Livermore is proceeding with an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) to study the impacts of breaking the city Urban Growth Boundary (UGB) to allow for large scale development east of Greenville Road. The majority of speakers at the Planning Commission meeting December 5th opposed this idea. Most residents would prefer to see the city develop industrial and commercial sites within current city limits. Further, most residents would prefer to upgrade needed infrastructure and crucial services --- police, firefighters, roads, water, sewer ---within city limits before expanding outwards.

The need for large development east of Greenville Road is based on questionable data and assumptions that may not prove to be correct.

For example, the consultant stated Livermore's population is currently 90,000 when, in fact, the records show our current population is less and declining due to a number of factors. Planning is important but needs to be based on accurate data--not overly optimistic speculation.

One thing is certain. Development outside of our current city limits will strain our current resources, impact our quality of life and our environment in many negative ways. Large scale development east of Greenville will increase traffic on residential streets, increase greenhouse gas emissions, increase air pollution, increase PM2.5 particulate matter, increase Spare the Air Days in our non-attainment air basin, increase climate change, and increase noise.

Additionally, large scale development east of Greenville will reduce agricultural and ranching lands, reduce sewer capacity, reduce school capacity, reduce our water resources, reduce public services and reduce open space.

If you have any concerns about breaking the city UGB for large scale development east of Greenville Road, please email your comments and concerns to Ashley Vera, Senior Planner at asvera@livermoreca.gov

(See MAILBOX, page 5)

MAILBOX

(Continued from 4 page)

Time is of the essence; comments are due by Dec. 20. Please pass along this information to your neighbors and friends.

Genocide, By Any Other Name

Greg Scott, Livermore

"But while genocide is a uniquely terrible crime, its very uniqueness can make it hard to define and recognize." (Adam Kirsch, "Is It Time to Retire the Term 'Genocide?' The Wall Street Journal, 12/9/2023).

"Hard to define and recognize"? The sick, savage, brutal, murderous attacks by Hamas last October 7th that killed in the neighborhood of 1,200 mostly Jewish Israeli citizens, also including dozens of foreign nationals, as part of a genocide is "hard to define and recognize"? The Hamas 1988 charter states: "There is no solution for the Palestinian question except through jihad."

Since last October 7th, Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) have slaughtered more than 7,000 Palestinian children and 15,000 civilians, displaced 1.7 million from their homes, rendered half the 2.2 million population into starvation, increased the conditions for diseases, denied the access to potable water and necessary aid, and bombed designated "safe" areas in Gaza. This is "hard to define and recognize" as genocide?

"The pulverizing of Gaza now ranks among the worst assaults on any civilian population in our time and age. Each day we see more dead children and new depths of suffering for innocent people enduring this hell." (Jan Egeland, Norwegian Refugee Council).

The U.S. is the sole veto on the Security Council of the United Nations for a recent humanitarian ceasefire resolution in Gaza. Do we think the world is not watching?

In Jewish history, some praise the territorial conquest of the evil Hasmonean Dynasty over the previous valiant and morally upright Maccabean Revolt. (See: www.jewishencyclopedia.com/articles/7319-hasmoneans). "The irony that Israel is destroying the political, cultural and religious identity of the Palestinians - indeed going even further now by practising (sic) ethnic cleansing and genocide -- while celebrating Chanukah is obvious." (Norman Finkelstein, 12/9/2023).

What has happened to our sense of humanity?

"The Hasmonean Dynasty betrayed not only the Maccabean Revolt, but the vision of a just society, without kings, nationalism, and militarism, that had inspired Jews who returned from Babylon. 'Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit' - a prophetic warning ignored both by the Hasmonean Dynasty and the modern State of Israel." (Finkelstein, ibid.).

Israel's military has nuclear weapons. The Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) could evaluate their possible use, along with the LLNL's upcoming modeling on the "El Capitan" supercomputer of the detonations of the W87-1 warhead for its implementation and installment on the new Sentinel inter-continental ballistic missiles.

Approving An Unleaded Fuel Tank

Thomas Gray, Livermore

A lot of people need to temper their expectations when it comes to approving an unleaded fuel tank at Livermore Airport. Availability of unleaded fuel is the lowest obstacle to the adoption of unleaded fuel in small aircraft. Install an unleaded fuel tank—just don't expect the use of leaded gas (and subsequently) lead levels to miraculously drop in the ensuing weeks and months.

Aircraft engines aren't like automotive engines. An aircraft engine must be able to operate in a range of harsh environments, and leaded fuel is key to that capability. Unleaded automotive gas has vapor lock issues that car makers have to engineer out of the fuel system, so unleaded automotive gas and engines can't just be a one-for-one replacement of current aircraft engines. The currently most common type of small aircraft aviation fuel (which is actually low-lead) lubricates the engine's valve seals, so any replacement fuel needs to be properly tested for its effects on the seals and the reliability of various engines.

Aircraft engines use a variety of different engine technologies (remember: they must be able to operate in a range of harsh environments) not needed in cars, and each of those technologies must be tested and evaluated for how they withstand unleaded fuel.

All of this changing and testing must be monitored and approved by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA).

The FAA estimates there are still 220,000 aircraft needing leaded gas. The next biggest obstacles are the cost to aircraft owners, the availability of new engines, the availability of mechanics to make the changes, and the time it would take the FAA to certify each aircraft. (Airplanes have airworthiness certification that needs to be updated and approved with major changes like a new engine.)

The FAA hopes (emphasis on HOPES) to eliminate leaded aviation fuels by the end of 2030—seven years from now, if all goes well. I'm not being cynical here: do people think a complicated, expensive, lengthy, safety-sensitive, and wide-ranging program run by a consortium of the government and for-profit companies will really get done in seven years?

In the 1989 movie "Field of Dreams", Iowa farmer Ray (Kevin Costner) hears a mysterious voice, "if you build it, he will come." Modify that phrase for an unleaded fuel tank at Livermore Airport: if you build it, {they} will come {in about seven years or more}.

GPAC and the UGBs

Carol Silva, Livermore

Livermore's General Plan Advisory Committee (GPAC) scheduled a meeting on Dec. 13, 2023, for its consultant, Placeworks, to make a presentation on its summary of the community input process and feedback on the alternatives in five focus areas. The GPAC report is to cover the anticipated growth or changes in population, housing, and commercial and industrial development during the 20 years beginning in 2025 through 2045.

The most controversial focus area is the approximate 1,100 acres from Greenville Road eastward to the aqueduct, between Highway 580 to East Avenue. The city limit and the city and county Urban Growth Boundaries (UGBs) run along Greenville Road. Before the City of Livermore can approve development in this area, it would require a vote by the voters to break the UGB. If the voters allowed the UGB to be broken, the City would annex the property and the land would then fall within the city limits.

I have many concerns with the UGB being broken, in addition to what I think is a too optimistic projected population growth and the need for housing, and commercial and industrial development. I attended both workshops, and the city staff and consultant spoke about the Greenville area supporting high-tech, good-paying jobs versus having warehouses. However, many high-tech employees work from home and may only infrequently go into the office where desks are shared by multiple employees.

The City has contracted with an environmental consultant to compile all comments and prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR). The Notice of Preparation (NOP) is to inform the public and other entities that an EIR is being prepared. The public can submit written comments to provide input on the scope of the EIR and the expectant impacts, such as traffic, noise, loss of wildlife habitat, loss of wildlife corridors, increased property assessments, etc., that industrial and commercial development will have in this area. Written comments are due to the Planning Division by 5:00 p.m. on Dec. 20, 2023, and should be addressed to: Ashley Vera, City of Livermore Senior Planner, 1052 South Livermore Avenue, Livermore, CA 94550, or emailed to asvera@livermoreca.gov.

The environmental consultant will prepare a Draft EIR that will include a copy of the comments received on the NOP. Then the Draft EIR will return to the Planning Commission for review and recommendation to the City Council at a future public hearing.

Planning For the Future, Again

Patricia Munro, Livermore

Livermore is a city of almost ninety thousand people; hardly a small town. Despite that population, it has managed to maintain a strong sense of community connection. This is not accidental; it happens through careful attention to planning so that the needs of the community as a whole are taken into account when planning for the inevitable changes that the future brings. The General Plan is the roadmap—as should not be a surprise as Livermore nears the end of the 2045 update. All cities are required to have a General Plan, and Livermore works hard to ensure that plan will enable the city—regardless of size—to build a city that continues to have that community feel.

As Livermore takes the next steps in the 2045 update, it is worth remembering its vision of a Livermore where people of all ages, experiences, and viewpoints will thrive, where land use balances different needs for housing, work, and open space, and where managing resources is integrated into daily life.

It is worth remembering some underlying principles that will help make that vision real. These include:

1. Encouraging a variety of local jobs as well as different types of housing so that residents can live and work locally,

2. Developing "complete streets," including public transportation, so that there are transportation options for all needs,

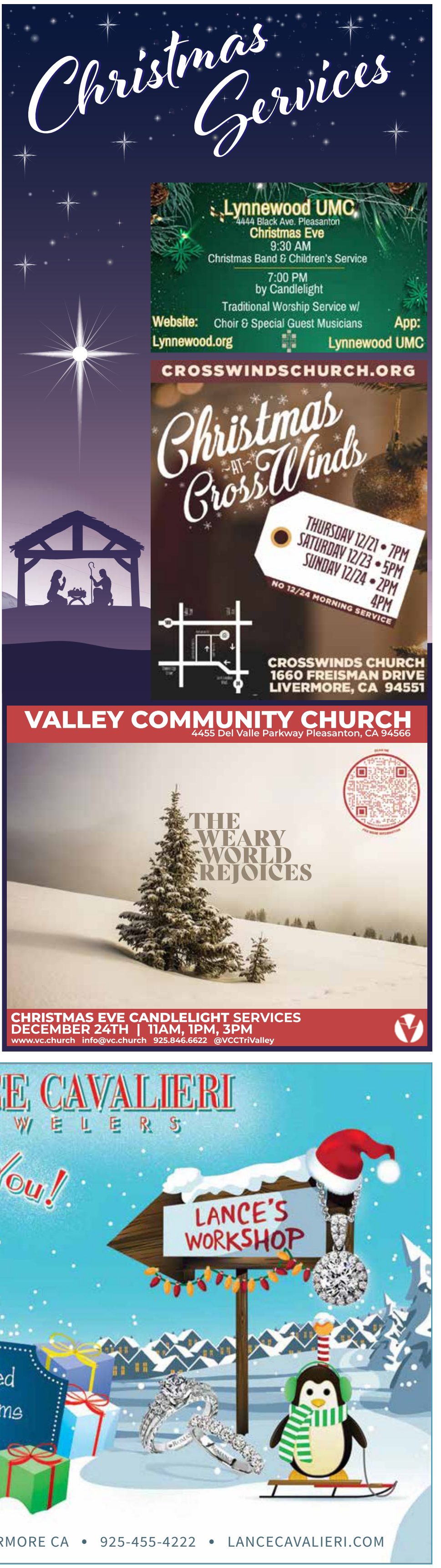
3. Being prepared for emergencies both in the moment and during recovery,

4. Preserving natural resources, while adapting to the effects of ongoing climate change,

5. Continue to encourage the vibrancy of downtown Livermore's cultural core, which includes options for arts, sciences, retail, dining, and community events, and

6. Building connections from the past to the present and into the future, while respecting diverse back-

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OFFICIAL

(Continued from front page)

over the years," Stewart said. "The organization is in great shape, is progressing, and will continue to positively influence and shape the high-quality community character that residents, business owners, and the broader community expect and celebrate."

Well-known to residents who watch City Council meetings and to those with projects that require approval by the city, Stewart began his career with Livermore in 2000 as an associate planner. He was soon promoted to senior planner, rose to principal planner in 2013, planning manager in 2016 and ultimately assistant community development director.

Along the way, Stewart played an integral part in the development of the Livermore Valley Center, including its cinema, the Bankhead Theater, Blacksmith Square and the redesign of First Street/Railroad Avenue.

Stewart recounted some of his other accomplishments: He served as coordinator and manager of the East Alameda Conservation Strategy adopted by the City Council in 2010 to promote the protection of biological habitats. He served as a coordinator for the Downtown Steering Committee that recommended the Downtown Plan that is currently under construction; and he worked to grow relationships with planning commissioners and city council members over the years.

"I've lived in Livermore for over 25 years and it's really fun and rewarding to see the projects and developments come out of the ground that I played a part in," Stewart said.

Stewart said he has no regrets or anything he would change. Along the way, there were opportunities after project milestones, and meetings to learn how to improve and grow for the next ones.

"Most folks don't notice the small things, like texture and shape of the cornices in the buildings, brick shape and orientation in columns, doorways and windows, the shape, size and neon color of the cinema sign, the site lines into and through the plaza, plant choices," Stewart said. "Most folks do realize it's a cool space and it feels good. Those spaces are really the sum of all those smaller details."

Stewart said he learned in college at UC Santa Barbara to accept criticism, such as that from residents who opposed projects, even suing to stop them. One of his professors taught students, "If you don't like politics, then don't go into city planning. If you do go into city planning, then keep your sense of humor."

Stewart added his own advice: "If you don't love people, then don't go into planning."

"Sometimes it's hard not to take negative things people say or write about projects I'm involved with personally," he said. "Those who really know me and work with me would never write such things, because they know that I really try to just work hard, be honest, and be nice to people."

In retirement, Stewart said he plans to support his wife, Wendy, who works for a national insurance brokerage firm, just as she did for him with all his years of night meetings, weekends and off-hours work.

He plans to play golf with his father, serve with the First Presbyterian Church, the Livermore Mission and Service team, surf and ski more, continue to learn Spanish, and American Sign Language and classical guitar. He might also consult part-time on land use and planning.

City Manager Marianna Marysheva said the city will recruit a replacement. Marysheva called Stewart an invaluable asset who consistently demonstrated "a level of dedication, expertise and leadership."

"His keen insight and strategic thinking have played a pivotal role in driving progress across various projects and programs that our community experiences today," she said.

Stewart said one aspect of his job he enjoyed most was hiring people he worked with and developing the various city plans. He called the city's Downtown Specific Plan, South Livermore Valley Specific Plan, and Isabel Neighborhood Specific Plan "successful examples of what happens when stakeholders work together to implement the General Plan, build great looking and functioning projects, and preserve habitat and open space."

For the future, Stewart said "Imagine Livermore 2045," the city's ongoing General Plan update, "offers the opportunity for Livermore to continue growing smart."

"Livermore is poised to maintain its unique community character," Stewart said. "It's a character that, in part, comes from careful and deliberate planning, preservation and design."



Buzz Valente of the Amador Valley Lions Club, left, presents Reney Parag, manager of the Tri Valley Haven Food Pantry, with a $1,000 donation on Friday, Dec. 8. Food donations are accepted Monday – Saturday from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. at the pantry, 150 N. L St., Livermore. (Photo courtesy: Kathy Woofter)

CANDIDATES

(Continued from front page)



Eric Swalwell



Alison Hayden



Vin Kruttiventi



Luis Reynoso

Many wanted information on who else might apply for the senate seat and whether that included Assemblyman Carlos Villapudua, a Stockton Democrat. His last-minute candidacy for the senate would open the San Joaquin Valley seat that he is abandoning in the Assembly, potentially for his wife, who already had indicated she was running for the Senate.

The political jockeying came as the Friday deadline arrived for candidates to file their paperwork for most races set to appear on the March 5, 2024 Presidential Primary ballot. Besides selecting a president and U.S. Senator, Tri-Valley voters will find their new state Senate seat, and other races including their representatives on the county Board of Supervisors, members in Congress and the Zone 7 Water Agency.

Although Friday was the deadline for candidates to file for most races, the deadlines for those without an incumbent were extended to Wednesday. That allowed Villapudua's late decision not to run for his own Assembly seat to become a political chess game. Those interested in replacing him got a chance to decide whether they wanted to continue running for the senate seat or shift to his 13th District Assembly seat.

And because State Sen. Susan Eggman, who represents the current 5th District senate seat, cannot run again because of term limits, the shuffle to replace her was not expected to sort out until Wednesday, after The Independent's publishing deadline.

What was clear, however, was that whoever ends up on the Senate ballot will not hail from the Tri-Valley. Hale said the candidates who filed by Friday — some of whom may withdraw — were Democrats Jerry McNerney, a former U.S. Congressman who represented Stockton; Villapudua; his wife, Edith Villapudua, who is expected to switch to the Assembly race; and San Joaquin businessman Khalid Jeffrey Jafri. Businessman Jim Shoemaker was the lone Republican. Rhodesia Ransom, a former Tracy City Councilwoman, had filed to run for the senate, but announced on Sunday that she would seek the Assembly seat instead.

The top two finishers in March will square off in November.

Here are the other races Tri-Valley residents will find when their vote-by-mail ballots begin arriving in early February. Contests will range from president to judges. The last day to register to vote is Feb. 20.

10th District U.S. Congress

Five candidates are challenging U.S. Rep. Mark DeSaulnier, a Democrat who has served in Congress since 2015. Following redistricting in 2020, the primarily Contra Costa County seat includes a portion of Dublin. DeSaulnier's challengers are Republicans Katherine Piccinini, president of the East Contra Costa Women's Republican club; mechanical engineer Nolan Lee Chen; and travel agent Mohamed El Sherbini. Businessman Joe Sweeney did not list a party preference. The top two will face a runoff in November.

14th District U.S. Congress

Three Republicans will try to unseat Democratic U.S. Rep. Eric Swalwell, who has represented the Tri-Valley in Congress since 2012. The candidates are businessman Vin Kruttiventi; and former Chabot-Las Positas College Community College District Trustee Luis Reynoso; and special education teacher Alison Hayden, who lost to Swalwell in 2020 and 2022. The top two will be on the November ballot.

The district includes Livermore, Pleasanton, part of Dublin, Hayward, Union City, Fremont, Sunol, Union City, Castro Valley, San Lorenzo, San Leandro, Cherryland, Ashland and Fairview.

16th District Assembly

Assembly member Rebecca Bauer-Kahan, who has represented the Tri-Valley in Sacramento since 2018, again will face a challenge from Republican businessman Joseph Rubay. Bauer-Kahan defeated Rubay in primaries and general elections in 2020 and 2022. Even if she wins again in the primary, they will face off in November.

The 16th Assembly District represents Dublin, Livermore, Pleasanton and Sunol in Alameda County, along with Contra Costa County cities including San Ramon, Danville and Orinda.

20th District Assembly

Assemblymember Liz Ortega will run unopposed for re-election to the 20th Assembly District, which she has represented since its formation in 2022. The district includes parts of Dublin, Pleasanton, as well as San Leandro, Hayward, Union City, Cherryland, Ashland, San Lorenzo, Castro Valley and Hayward Acres.

Zone 7 Water Agency Board of Directors

Four seats on the Zone 7 board will be on the ballot, including three four-year terms. Director Angela Ramirez Holmes' decision not to seek another term extended the deadline for filing to Wednesday. For the three four-year seats, incumbents Laurene Green, Kathy Narum and Sandy Figuers each filed for re-election. Chemist Alan Burnham also filed to run. Voters will pick three.

Catherine Brown was the lone person to file for the two-year seat to complete the term of former director Olivia Sanwong, who was elected to the East Bay Park District in 2022. The filing deadline was extended to Wednesday.

1st District Alameda County Board of Supervisors

Supervisor David Haubert, whose district includes Dublin, Livermore, most of Fremont, Sunol and a portion of Pleasanton, filed for re-election to the seat he has held since 2020. The former mayor of Dublin is running unopposed, so he would win outright in March.

4th District, Alameda County Board of Supervisors

Psychiatric nurse Jennifer Esteen filed to run against Supervisor Nate Miley, who has served on the Board of Supervisors since 2000. Whoever wins in March would be declared the winner for the following term.

5th District Board of Supervisors

Supervisor Keith Carson's surprise decision to retire at the filing deadline means the board will have an open seat on the ballot in March and a number of fresh names from which to choose. Tri-Valley voters will not have a say in the district that serves Albany, parts of Oakland, Emeryville, Piedmont and Berkeley. Candidates had until Wednesday to file papers to make the ballot. At The Independent's deadline, they included Berkeley City Council member Ben Bartlett; Emeryville City Council member John Bauters; attorney/data scientist Lorrel Plimier; and Gerald Pechenuk, who has previously run for the seat. Candidates had until Wednesday to complete their paperwork.

Appointed Supervisor Elisa Marquez's 2nd District seat also is on the ballot for voters in Hayward, Union City, Newark and portions of Fremont, but a potential challenger, Elizabeth Ames, did not complete filing her paperwork by the deadline. Marquez will run unopposed.

MAILBOX

(Continued from 5 page)

grounds of all kinds.

These are big and abstract ideas and goals. Nevertheless, they are good guides for keeping the ethos and community connection that Livermore has as the future inevitably approaches.

Understanding the Conflict's Roots

Stephanie Ericson, Dublin

When discussing the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, I often hear expressed the sad conclusion that it is an age-old struggle unlikely to see an end in the foreseeable future. However, to say that this conflict is intractable serves only to absolve ourselves from understanding its very modern historical roots and advocating steps to resolve it.

In the same vein, for too long the U.S. response to Israeli violence visited upon Palestinians has been to wring its hands with feigned helplessness, when in fact in all the world there is no power with greater ability to influence its behavior.

Instead, it has tolerated Israeli bad conduct over the decades, which has only emboldened Israel and exacerbated the conflict.

Such bad conduct includes ignoring international law. Israel has thumbed its nose at UN Resolution 242 (1967), which called upon Israel to withdraw its troops from the territories of the West Bank and Gaza Strip that it continues to occupy.

Instead, it established ever-increasing Jewish settlements, and over the decades it has:

• imposed increasingly severe and often arbitrary restrictions of movement of Palestinians, severely limiting economic and social life and access to resources including urgent health care.

• failed to protect Palestinians from violence from settlers, and often gave settlers de facto immunity.

• held thousands of Palestinians in prison without charges for indefinite periods of time, a practice recently accelerated.

• tortured Palestinian prisoners, including children, also on the uptick. (Amnesty International)

• consistently imposed collective punishment, from bulldozing the homes of families of arrested Palestinians to economic blockades to bombing campaigns, the last as recently as May of this year in Gaza.

In the face of these ongoing actions, and the current unprecedented and horrific scale of violence against Palestinians, at a minimum, the U.S. should withhold all military and economic aid to Israel. It should also, but won't, declare what the rest of the world already knows, that Israel is in gross violation of international humanitarian law.

Looking Ahead by Looking Behind

John Cameron, Dublin

If you could ask a German citizen that survived WW2 if they could go back in time and change their vote for Hitler, would they?

For most of us today, the only effect we have upon our leaders is our vote. So, try to imagine a President Trump years into his second presidency…?

If character matters in a leader, then take a hard look. Here we have a person entitled since birth, devoid of compassion, spouting nationalism and authoritarianism, vowing retribution against his "enemies." He's a bully, which many in America see as a strength. His ego and opinion of himself as "all knowing" and "highly intelligent" have constantly shown he is beyond understanding others' points of view. There is little in the way of kindness or levity, and a clear disdain for anyone who disagrees.

Throughout history, people in power without compassion, without the ability to feel the tremendous responsibility of their position, act not humbly but with the idea that they are deserving. They meet anyone who questions them as an enemy to be belittled or even destroyed.

We live in an ever-growing atmosphere of anger derived from fear, which leads to hatred and inevitably violence. It's nothing we haven't already seen repeated throughout history.

No doubt it would be a better, fairer political system in America without wealthy donors and costly smear ads that leave us with only two choices.

There are cracks in the foundation of our democracy we didn't see revealed until recently. Research your vote/voice wisely because it may be the last one you get.

Samuel Adams, Part 2 of 2

Jan Brovont, Livermore

Parliament passed the Coercive Acts in 1774, at which time Adams attended the Continental Congress in Philadelphia, which was convened to coordinate a colonial response. He helped guide Congress towards issuing the Continental Association in 1774 and the Declaration of Independence in 1776, and he helped draft the Articles of Confederation and the Massachusetts Constitution. Adams returned to Massachusetts after the American Revolution, where he served in the state senate and was eventually elected governor.

Adams later became a controversial figure in American history. Accounts written in the 19th century praised him as someone who had been steering his fellow colonists towards independence long before the outbreak of the Revolutionary War. This view was challenged by negative assessments of Adams in the first half of the 20th century, mostly by British historians, in which he was portrayed as a master of propaganda who provoked mob violence to achieve his goals. However, according to biographer Mark Puls, a different account emerges upon examination of Adams' many writings regarding the civil rights of the colonists, while the "mob" referred to was a highly reflective group of men inspired by Adams, who made his case with reasoned arguments in pamphlets and newspapers, without the use of emotional rhetoric.

Source: Wikipedia.

Her Vineness



Laura Ness

'Tis the Season for Enjoying Livemore's Finest Wines

By Laura Ness

With the holidays nigh, some of our Livermore wineries have recommendations for their most festive holiday wines, along with fun gifts for wine lovers.

Cabernet is King with the traditional meals of the holidays. Among them, and in the more elegant style, is the 2018 Occasio Cabernet Sauvignon, sourced from two classic Livermore Valley vineyards: Sachau and Ghielmetti. Speaking of Sachau Vineyard, owned by Wente Vineyards, the 2020 Murietta's Well Cabernet sourced from Sachau and Louis Mel Vineyards is holiday worthy.

Rosie Fierro's great sense of humor extends to her wine labels. It's hard to beat her 2020 "Call Me A Cab," sourced from Thatcher Bay Vineyard, with a kiss of Malbec. Approachable and easy to love, your taste buds won't mind taking a long ride.

At Nottingham Cellars, winemaker Collin Cranor recommend his 2021 Pivot Cabernet from Oakville and his 2021 Glen Oaks Cabernet Franc from Sonoma, which he says is the best they've ever done. For Zin lovers, he's offering the 2021 Monte Rosso Zinfandel, packed with fruitful cheer.

At McGrail Vineyards & Winery, you'll find A Jó Élet, 100% Estate Cabernet Sauvignon, aged in Hungarian oak, which fills it with baking spice notes. This makes it the perfect wintertime Cab with a prime rib. The name is Hungarian for "The Good Life," ideal for celebrating with friends and family. Heather McGrail, president of the winery, says the tasting room is filled with wonderful hostess gifts and apparel, too.

With its appealing branding that features a lacy heart, Longevity Wines has always been a stellar place for gifts. The late Debra Long saw to that with her matchless ability to source a variety of heart-themed items. The tradition continues. Dragonetti Woodwork, a veteran-owned Brentwood business, crafted a 9" charcuterie board ($45) with the signature Longevity heart laser-engraved on natural wood.

Big bottles make a large impression. Darcie Kent of Darcie Kent Winery suggests a hand-painted and signed double magnum (i.e., four 750ml bottles worth) of their 2016 Choreography blend, $450. If you love Merlot, though, you might want to snap up the last of the 2019 Ghost Vines Merlot, as the vineyard is no more.

Rhonda Wood of Wood Family Vineyards suggests a 3-bottle set of 2022 Para Mas Amigas Chardonnay, 2021 Grenache and olive oil, for $95. Cute "Keep on Sippin'" T-shirts and aprons, plus hoodies in many hues that say, "Wine is my favorite color," are emblazoned with the Wood Family logo.

Rodrigue Molyneaux Winery invites your tastebuds to France with their new "Paris Cuvée" Bordeaux style blend. Their 2018 Petit Verdot, 2019 Sangiovese and 2019 Barbera are on sale, starting at 30% off for a 3-bottle purchase. Browse their unique selection of Japanese fabric silk scarves, handmade wine bottle gift bags and totes, and tableware, from $5 to $75.

Retzlaff's quaint tasting room is packed with jams, jellies, estate honey, mustards ($6 to $10), and olive oils from Olivina and Scibica, $12 and up. The latter are naturally infused with lemon, rosemary, garlic, jalapeño, and habanero. Retzlaff's GM, Salome G. Taylor, suggests their fabulous 2019 Cabernet, noting her all-time favorite is the 2016 Blend (65/35 Cabernet and Merlot), on sale by the case, $300.

Lift someone's spirits with Sidewinder's 3-pack samplers in 200ml bottles. Occasio and Sidewinder Proprietor, John Kinney, says he bought the 200ml bottles in the early days of Covid for to-go cocktails. Order these sets online (www.sidewinderspiritsco.com) for pickup at the distillery.

Gin Set - $39: London Dry, Botanical, and Barrel Rested artisanal gins.

Classic Whiskey Set – $60: Small batch, pot-distilled Bourbon, Rye, and Single Malt whiskies, floor malted by hand in Alameda with California grains.

IPA Whiskey Set - $75: Distilled and aged from three distinct IPA beers, including Maui Waui IPA and Scarcity Triple IPA from Altamont Brewery, plus Livermorium IPA, a consortium brew from Shadow Puppet Brewery, all proudly made in Livermore.

We'll toast to that.



Tri-Valley's Must-See Holiday Lights

By: Hannah Ferguson

Decorating for the holiday season brings immense joy and spirit to Tri-Valley residents each year. The following list shows 10 locations to see spectacular holiday light arrangements in Dublin, Livermore and Pleasanton.



Alex Dourov's decorated home on Knottingham Circle in Livermore is just one of many merry locations to view holiday lights this season. (Photo – Doug Jorgensen)

Riesling Circle, Livermore

Riesling Circle has more than 25 decorated houses, but the decorations go beyond just homes. They have lights on the power lines, light poles, and anywhere they could fit them. Their lights are complemented by their own radio station.

467 Knottingham Circle, Livermore

This home has every holiday element you could imagine: elves, presents, music, Santa in the window, horses in carriages, a nativity scene, and more. What makes this home extra special is that it is designed by owners Aly and Stella Depretis for viewers to walk through and engage with all of the decorations. The Depretis' set up a snow machine, Santa phone, and several interactive buttons. This home also has a radio station for viewers to tune into.

3648 Montrose Place, Livermore

The Montrose House of Dogs features more than 30 different decorative dogs lit up and clothed for the holidays among inflatable Santas, trees and other lights.

Deacon Dave's, 352 Hillcrest Ave., Livermore

Dave Rezende started decorating his house 40 years ago to celebrate his ordination as a deacon in the Catholic Church. He loves to share his house with the public as an act of Christmas ministry. This exceptional exhibit illuminates more than 600,000 lights. There are many activities that spectators can participate in, such as the children's favorite: the wishing pond.

Widmer World, 3671 Chelsea Court, Pleasanton

Bob and Susan Widmer have been building up their holiday display for nearly 45 years. They have a collection of characters, trees, arches, nativity scenes, nutcrackers, elves, winter village scenes, ferris wheels, cable cars, and a salute to veterans.

Candy Cane Lane, Walnut Drive, Pleasanton

Just outside of downtown Pleasanton, Candy Cane Lane presents nearly 30 decorated homes for viewers to drive or walk through. There are homes of all different themes and layouts showing their holiday cheer and timing lights with their radio station.

3108 Chardonnay Dr., Pleasanton

This Plesanton home has a variety of holiday decorations and a very large tree glimmering in lights. Even their fence is gleaming and automated with holiday characters who dance along with their radio station.

7574 Sutton Lane, Dublin

Featuring a moving train and animals, this arrangement attracts large crowds each year. Their shutters are decorated with holiday wrapping paper and every foot of their roof is covered by lights.

7964 Gunshot Court, Dublin

This house in Dublin has many moving parts, including a teeter totter with Santa on top. It is accompanied by a humongous shining arch, dinosaurs, penguins, a nativity scene, and more.

11319 Champagne Place, Dublin

Each year this Dublin home's snowmen grow taller and taller. A pathway of candy canes winds around inflatable elves, trees, snowmen, penguins and more.

There is Still Time to Spread The Cheer with Beer for Charity

Two more weeks remain in the second annual Spread the Cheer with Beer campaign to reward beer drinkers with $20 donations to a charity of their choice.

In an effort to make drinking beer an act of charity, Visit Tri-Valley, a destination marketing organization, will make donations on behalf of patrons who visit 10 or more breweries, alehouses, and taprooms on its Tri-Valley Beer Trail now until Jan. 2.

As an extra incentive, serious sippers will also receive a limited-edition Pom Pom Beanie while supplies last.

"We had such a great response to this campaign last year, we knew we had to bring it back this year," said Visit Tri-Valley marketing vice president Robin Fahr. "It's a perfect way for locals and visitors to get in the holiday spirit and explore great stops along the Tri-Valley Beer Trail while raising funds for a local charity. Everyone wins in the season of giving."

To participate, download a free Beer Trail Passport at visittrivalley.com. Then use GPS on a mobile device to check-in and redeem discounts and deals at more than 20 participating locations. After 10 check-ins, select a local charity to receive a $20 donation.

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Livermore Sanitation
We wish you the happiest of holidays and a prosperous 2024!

Holiday Service Schedule
CHRISTMAS WEEK & NEW YEAR'S DAY WEEK: The service for all carts will be delayed by one day from their usual schedule.

DECEMBER 25-30, 2023

If your collection day is:	Mon. 25	Tue. 26	Wed. 27	Thu. 28	Fri. 29
Your holiday collection day will be:	Tue. 26	Wed. 27	Thu. 28	Fri. 29	Sat. 30

JANUARY 1-6, 2024

If your collection day is:	Mon. 1	Tue. 2	Wed. 3	Thu. 4	Fri. 5
Your holiday collection day will be:	Tue. 2	Wed. 3	Thu. 4	Fri. 5	Sat. 6

Holiday Tree Collection
Livermore Sanitation will collect trees from JANUARY 2 - JANUARY 15, 2024.

PLEASE REMEMBER:
- Put your tree at the curb by 6am on your regular service day during the two weeks listed above.
- Make sure the stand, lights and decorations have been removed.
- Cut tall trees into pieces no longer than five feet.
- **NOTE:** Flocked trees cannot be composted. Please contact us for disposal options.

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Biologist to Discuss Nature's Toxins

Evolutionary biologist Noah Whiteman will discuss his latest book, "Most Delicious Poison: The Story of Nature's Toxins from Spices to Vices," at the Livermore Civic Center Library at 2 p.m. on Sunday, Jan. 7.

Whiteman is a professor of molecular and cellular biology and evolution at the University of California, Berkeley, and faculty director of the school's Essig Museum of Entomology.



Noah Whiteman

In the recently published book, Whiteman discusses many of the potentially deadly toxins produced by plants, mushrooms, microbes, and even animals; how that chemical warfare has driven diversification of life on Earth, including humans; and how many of those same toxins have ended up in common foods and medicine cabinets.

Whiteman received a Guggenheim Fellowship to write "Most Delicious Poison" in 2020.

The program is free, and registration is not required.

WATER

(Continued from front page)

These agreements would instead focus on habitat construction — such as spawning gravel beds, fish passages and floodplain reactivations — in lieu of more water in the rivers.

The Tri-Valley's water manager, Zone 7, supports the voluntary agreements, calling them "a promising pathway to protect and restore our environment, enable California's economy to thrive, and provide a foundation for a more resilient future."

An update to the Water Board's Bay Delta Plan, expected for adoption in late 2024, will hinge on the board's support of either the current staff recommendation or the voluntary agreements.

Peter Drekmeier, from the Tuolumne River Trust, framed the flows' decision within the political factors weighing on the board. He mentioned Gov. Gavin Newsom's decision against reappointing former Board Chair Felicia Marcus after she pushed to increase river flows during the first phase of the Bay Delta Plan.

"The voluntary agreements for Phase Two are destined to fail and only exist to support certain political ambitions," Drekmeier told the board.

Alluding to Newsom's support of big agriculture, he acknowledged the board's difficult position by saying to the members, "I know you're in a tough spot and there's a lot of pressure on you."

Newsom either appointed or reappointed four of the five current board members.

At the meeting, a panel from MBK Engineers, in support of the voluntary agreements, described how increased flows threaten to leave less water in storage. They argued that this raises resiliency concerns, and also leaves less water for hydroelectric-power generation later in the season. Cold reservoir water, used to improve fish-spawning outcomes, would also become scarce, according to the group.

Representatives from the East Bay Municipal Utilities District, which serves about 1.4 million people from San Ramon to San Leandro to Richmond, also supported the voluntary agreements, warning that increased flows would trigger more rationing and higher water rates for its customers.

But Greg Reis, staff hydrologist at the Bay Institute, repeated the research and advocacy organization's conclusions from 2016 that linked river flows with ecosystem health over habitats alone, supporting the staff recommendation for more water.

"Flow is the master variable in the estuary and drives many ecological processes, including salinity, sediment transport — which maintains beaches and marshes, south bay stratification and productivity — and controls habitat extent and quality, pollution and invasive species," said Reis.

Sacramento resident Tom Biglione suggested a flows increase was overdue. Referring to the Bay Institute's past report, he said, "Yet, here we are seven years later still parsing whether fish need water… Rivers are not the sole property of water agencies; they belong to all Californians."

Erin Wooley of the Sierra Club, who opposed the voluntary agreements, suggested that they had overstated their ecological benefits, listing restoration projects that were already underway or completed before the agreements were even proposed.

Members of the board, who have yet to decide between the staff-proposed update and the voluntary agreements, tried to keep the discussions productive.

"I hope we don't stop at comments just trying to pour out the problems, but we look at what might be constructive ways of mitigating those impacts or finding ways of optimizing things beyond just the static proposals and alternatives," said Boardmember Laurel Firestone.

Early next year, the Board will accept additional components to the voluntary agreements and then make their proposed Bay Delta Plan update available for public review in the middle of 2024.

EIR

(Continued from front page)

"Why spend today the several hundred thousand dollars it will cost for an EIR for land that the city does not need today and might not need in 2045?" asked Livermore resident David Rounds.

Resident Jeff Kaskey also failed to see reason to develop outside the city's boundaries.

"There is a lot of underdeveloped and undeveloped land for industrial and research uses within the city limits," said Kaskey.

Former Planning Commissioner John Stein also recommended providing industrial land within Livermore's current boundary. He suggested adding light-industrial land along I-580 to act as a buffer to the other land uses, and to expand industrial space within the city.

Other residents, such as Jean King, cast doubt on the city's population assumptions. The large increase in residential growth, which the city projects, calls for extensive industrial and commercial development to sustain a jobs/housing balance.

A General Plan report from the city listed Livermore's 2020 population as 90,555 with projections for it to increase through 2045, while the U.S. Census Bureau measured the city's population at 87,955 people for the same year, and estimated that it had decreased down to 84,701 by 2022.

Livermore rancher Paula Peterson, who traced her family's property back to the 1800s, identified herself as one of the residents who stood to suffer under the Greenville proposal.

"If we expand the urban growth boundary, the population of the people that live there will probably have to pay higher property taxes or eventually have to move," she said, regretting any loss of open space for her grandchildren 20 years down the line.

Resident Michael Ferrucci even brought a guitar to sing his comment, which closed with, "Home home on the range / With a boundary not subject to change / For it's right to protect / And not to neglect / The open space that still remains."

In total,11 speakers addressed the commissioners during the public comment period. All opposed the plan, or seriously questioned it, except two members of the General Plan Advisory Committee: Jeremy Troupe-Masi and Alan Burnham.

"I think it would be irresponsible of the City of Livermore, on behalf of everyone who lives here, to not consider everything in the scope of our influence," said Troupe-Masi. "And that includes East of Greenville."

Burnham also supported moving forward with the EIR, and recommended more emphasis on the public benefits of Greenville development.

"It really hasn't been discussed here tonight, but it really impacts all these things," he said, referring to the topics that the EIR will include, such as aesthetics, recreation and public services.

In response to some comments, Commissioner Tracy Kronzak said, "I have heard, yes, in aggregate, if you were to take all of the commercial and industrial space (within city limits) and pack it all together, we have plenty of it. But some of those sites are too small to be useful for the kinds of uses we want for our city moving forward."

Kronzak also asked for more details on wildlife impacts, in response to Juan Pablo Galván Martínez of the Save Mount Diablo nonprofit, who described the East of Greenville area as the "narrowest point in the 200-mile-long Diablo Range," and therefore a unique natural area key to wildlife corridors.

The city is ending its 30-day public review period for the EIR's Notice of Preparation on Dec. 20.

For a recording of the Planning Commission discussion, visit CitizensForBalancedGrowth.org.

WIG

(Continued from front page)

on a warrant and a search was conducted of his home. Police said they found stolen property in his house, including a few wigs. Butler was jailed but bailed out shortly thereafter, police reported.

The shop was burglarized in January when a suspect shattered an exterior glass wall, reached inside and stole approximately $2,300 in merchandise. Then, in September and twice in November, a suspect smashed the exterior glass door to get inside, but was unsuccessful and left before the police arrived.

"I have done everything I can to prevent these break-ins," said Mecham, adding that she has installed alarm systems and nine cameras ,as well as latex within the windows to make it more difficult for them to shatter.

"That is a nightmare. Windows are expensive," she said. Still, she continues to fight the good fight, motivated by the needs of her clients.

"They want to look as real possible," said Mecham of her clients, as if "the hair is growing right out of their heads."

Along with referrals through attendees of the cancer support groups and classes offered through Stanford Medicine Health Care Tri-Valley in Pleasanton, her company brochures are in oncologist offices throughout Walnut Creek and the East Bay.

Word of mouth has further helped attract customers through the decades, she said.

Despite helping many people, keeping the shop open has had its challenges. When the pandemic hit and she had to shutter her doors, it broke her heart to hear from cancer patients who needed her service, but she knew she couldn't oblige. However, eventually, Mecham said she started illegally opening her shop to serve them.

"Losing their hair is worse than losing their breasts," said Mecham. "They don't want to look sick," she added.

With Butler's arrest, the investigation is continuing, said Capt. Gurvinder Gosal of the Alameda County Sheriff's Office. "Our investigations unit is still working on that, but we do believe he may have been responsible for the other three incidents this year," he explained.

Police said the merchandise that Valley Rags & Wigs sells is the draw to thieves.

Gasol pointed out, "Those wigs can range anywhere from a couple of hundred dollars to a couple of thousand dollars."

TRI-VALLEY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Dec. 1 through Dec. 31
JESS COPEMAN'S "CALIFORNIA COLORS" OIL PAINTING EXHIBIT
The Livermore Art Association's December show at the Robert Livermore Community Center will be "California Colors," artist Jess Copeman's oil painting collection inspired by the beauty of the California coastline. The show is up all through December at 4444 East Ave. in Livermore, Mondays through Fridays, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 16
TRI-VALLEY WRITERS DECEMBER WORKSHOP
Members of Tri-Valley Writers are offering four distinct presentations which will share tips of the writing trade. Each attendee will receive a handout packet. Workshop topics include: "Engaging Openings: Hook Readers from the Beginning" (B. Lynn Goodwin-Brown), "Choosing a Theme or Period of Time for Memoir Writing" (Connie Hanstedt), "Cutting the Excess: Honing Your Writing for Impact" (Linda Todd), and "Options in Publishing" (Jordan Bernal). The workshop will be held on Saturday, Dec. 16 at 2 p.m. at Las Positas College, Room 2470, in the Multi-Purpose Building. (Directions: from Campus Hill Dr. in Livermore, park in Lot E and enter Building 2400). Check-in begins at 1:30 p.m. RSVP to treasurer@trivalleywriters.org and remit payment online by Thursday, Dec. 14, at www.trivalleywriters.org/speaker-meeting-registration-and-payment/

Saturday, Dec. 16
HARMONY FUSION CHORUS PRESENTS "HITTIN' THE HOLIDAY ROAD"
Get in the holiday mood and enjoy an afternoon of festive music when Harmony Fusion Chorus, a women's acapella show chorus, presents "Hittin' the Holiday Road," featuring Fog City Harmonia treble chorus, Livermore's Grace Clark & Swingitude, and a sleigh full of other talented performers. The chorus will perform well-known songs including Jingle Bells, a medley of Winter Weather and Marshmallow World, Fleetwood Mac's Holiday Road and more. Harmony Fusion will host a reception for all guests immediately following the performance in the church fellowship hall. Advance purchased tickets are $20 for adults or $25 at the door. $10 for children under the age of 12. Tickets may be purchased starting Dec. 1, at www.ticketsource.us/harmony-fusion-chorus, through the chorus' website at www.harmonyfusion.org, or by contact ting Kenit Golabi at (925) 719-1250 or kenitgolabi@gmail.com. 2:00 p.m. at Our Savior Lutheran Church, 1385 S. Livermore Ave.

Wednesday, Dec. 20
THE CHRIS BRADLEY BAND
Live music to celebrate the holidays! The Chris Bradley Band will be playing at The Old Mexico Restaurant on Portola Ave. in Livermore on Wednesday, Dec. 20 from 7:00-9:00 p.m. There is a dance floor and a large bar. Come enjoy original traditional jazz from New Orleans.

Saturday, January 20
LIVERMORE LIONS ANNUAL SEAFOOD FUNDRAISER
Livermore Lions Club is now taking orders for its annual seafood fundraiser. This event features cioppino, a delicious Italian stew brimming with shellfish, tomatoes, wine, spices and herbs. Each 64-ounce container serves four and comes with a bread round. The cost is $70 per order, and the deadline to order is Jan. 16. Drive by pick up will be on Sat., January 20, from 10:00 am until 1:00 pm, at the Singing Wine Maker, 5143 Tesla Rd. in Livermore. To order, call (925) 454-1489. Proceeds will benefit Livermore Lions charities and Lions Club International disaster relief funds.

ONGOING VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

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

ONGOING EVENTS

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

SUNDAY LIVERMORE DOWNTOWN FARMERS MARKET
Open year-round on Sundays 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in downtown Livermore, on Second St. between J St. and L St.

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH
The Unitarian Universalist Church is welcoming to all. Join in on Sundays at 10:30 a.m. for music, singing, and conversation. The church is located at 1893 North Vasco Road, Livermore CA 94551. For more information, visit uucil.org.

DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION (DAR) CHAPTER MEETING
The local Josefa Higuera Livermore Chapter meets on the first Saturday of the month from September to May, with a short business meeting and a program. The DAR was founded in 1890 and is headquartered in Washington, DC. DAR is a non-profit, non-political volunteer women's service organization dedicated to promoting patriotism, preserving American history, and securing America's future through better education for children. Its members are descended from the Patriots who won American independence during the Revolutionary War. For more information, visit jhl.californiadar.org or email jane.everett@sbcglobal.net.

ASBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Asbury United Methodist Church invites the community to join for worship at 10 a.m. on Sunday mornings. There, discover a church that believes that all people are children of God and are of sacred worth. This community practices loving neighbors in daily life. The church has Sunday School and Nursery Care, and worship is followed by a fellowship time with bagels, beverages, and great conversation. The church is located at 4743 East Ave., in Livermore. For more information, visit asburylive.org.

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

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OBITUARIES

Rose Marie Lyons
April 7,1932 – Nov. 9, 2023

Rose Marie (Caponio) Lyons was born on April 7, 1932, in Oakland, California, and passed away peacefully at home in Livermore on Nov. 9, surrounded by her affectionate family. She is survived by Bob Sr., her loving husband of 69 years, her sons Bob (Anne), Shawn, Tom (Jill), Dan, her daughter Kathleen, five beloved grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. Rose is predeceased by her dearly loved granddaughter, Tate. Rose also leaves behind many nieces and nephews in her large extended family. She was the youngest child of Sam and Mary Caponio, both Italian immigrants, and graduated from St. Elizabeth High School in Oakland.



Bob Sr. persuaded her to marry him in 1954, and they had five children in six years; life was busy! In spite of these responsibilities, she went on to earn multiple associate degrees from Las Positas College and developed a passion for horticulture. Rose was renowned for her ability to create healthy, blooming gardens for herself and others. Christmas decorations and celebrations were her delight, and she established traditions such as a delicious Italian dinner on Christmas Eve, which will bring joy to generations to come. Throughout her adult years she was a loving wife and dedicated mother to her children and grandchildren. Rose Marie Lyons created a remarkable legacy of faith in God and devotion to family and will be dearly missed by all of us. Rose and Bob were married for 25,478 days of peace, love and happiness. A memorial Mass will be held at St. Charles Borromeo Church on Thursday, Jan. 4, at 10 a.m. in Livermore, with a reception immediately following. In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to the Alzheimer's Association at www.alz.org.

William Jeffrey Adams

William Jeffrey Adams (Jeff), lifelong resident of Livermore, unexpectedly passed away on Dec. 3, 2023. His father Bill Adams preceded him in death. Jeff leaves behind his mother Renee Adams, his wife Jill, his sister Stephanie (Tim) Adams, his nephew Brian Adams, his niece Skye Adams, three great-nieces, Lilly, Ava, and Saia, great-nephew Dominic, uncle Stan Preftokis, and aunt Kim Adams.



Jeff loved the outdoors. The ocean and the redwoods were two of his favorite places. He would visit as often as possible. He was a kind, gentle soul and loved all creatures, big and small. He touched so many lives. He was loved so much and will be missed by so many. There's a bright new start in the heavens above and his name is "Jeff." Sweet dreams, dear one: God grant you peace.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to his widow, Jill Adams, through a "Go Fund Me" account set up by his sister at the following website: https://gofund.me/99700aa6.

Bert Rodriguez
Oct. 13, 1934 – Dec. 2, 2023

Bert Rodriguez, a beloved husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather and uncle, passed away peacefully from natural causes on Dec. 2, 2023. He was born on Oct. 13, 1934, in Oakland, California, and he lived a life full of love with friends and family.



Bert was a graduate of San Leandro High School. He served in the United States Marines. He worked for Lucky Stores for 45 years, retiring as a district supervisor.

Bert was a man of faith and family. He worked hard to get to his position at work, but he loved spending his time off with his family. He loved camping, traveling and boating. He coached his children's little league and football teams for 16 years.

Bert is survived by his loving wife of 65 years, Novalene. He leaves behind a legacy in his sons, Dan Rodriguez (Lynne), Steve Rodriguez (Marcy) and Rick Rodriguez (Darlene). His memory will continue to be cherished by his grandchildren, Janelle (Garth), Jaimie, Samantha (Travis), Cassandra (Matt), Austin (Emily), Brooke (Zach) and great-grandchildren, Harper, Brooklyn, Jase, Ashton, Lucas, Leighton, Charlotte, Kensley, Navy and Hope.

Bert's life was characterized by his intelligence, thoughtfulness, and kindness. His dedication to his family was unwavering. His memory will live on in the many lives he touched, the lessons he taught, and the love he shared.

A memorial service will be held on Dec 19 from 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. at Callaghan Mortuary, 3833 East Ave., Livermore.

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

Kenneth Lynn Price
July 29, 1933 – July 22, 2023

Ken passed away surrounded by his family after a brief battle with pneumonia and other age-related illnesses. He was one week short of 90.

Ken was preceded in death by his parents Fred and Ethel, his wife Lillian and his oldest daughter Robin.

Ken was born in Goose Creek, Texas (now known as Baytown, Texas) in 1933. After the death of his father when Ken was 16 months old, he was raised by his mother and grandparents. At the age of 17, with his mother's permission, Ken joined the Navy. He was stationed in California, Florida, Tennessee, Alaska and finally Whitby Island, Washington. He flew in P2V-5F Neptunes and was at the Marshall Island in Kwajalein for the H-Bomb Test. He eventually got his pilot's license, but an eye stigmatism at the time prevented him from becoming a commercial pilot. While stationed in Washington, he met a young Canadian girl, Lillian Coutts, who became his wife in 1953. They settled in Hayward where Ken worked for United Airlines from 1955 to 1994.





Together they raised three girls, Robin, Gaylene and Jill. They lived in Hayward until Lillian's death in 2004. Ken was an active community member. He served on many committees and commissions while in Hayward, including the Hayward Planning Commission. In 2005, Ken moved to Dublin to be near his daughters, and lived there until his death in 2023.

Airplanes were a passion of Ken's. He could name any airplane flying across the sky. He could explain everything about the dihedrals, ailerons, turboprops, empennage and aerodynamics. He was very animated when talking about planes, and in his later years enjoyed flying remote-controlled airplanes and attending the Reno Air Races and other airshows in California. Ken traveled the world for his job, and after retirement, for the joy of traveling. For his 89th birthday, Ken took his first "Glider Ride" and was tickled to finally do something with an airplane he had never done before.

When he no longer was driving a car, he "graduated" to mobility scooters and owned four at the time of his death, each one serving its unique purpose. Most days, he could be seen riding around Dublin just enjoying being outdoors.

He loved cruising to places all over the world and took over 20 cruises from 2006 to 2023. His final cruise to Alaska was in May, where he enjoyed visiting Prince Rupert, Canada for the very first time.

Ken is survived by his daughters Gaylene Burkett (Tom) and Jill Stangeland (Layne), his seven grandchildren, Elizabeth Waits, Christina Medeiros, Mary-Anne Fall, JulieAnne Pearson, Kyle Fall, Victoria Wilson and Katie Taugher, and eight great-grandchildren.

A private graveside service was held in September. A celebration of life will be held in January.

Antonio B. Manipis

Antonio B. Manipis was born on May 18, 1938, to Antonio and Amparo Manipis in Cavite City, Philippine Islands. His siblings are Eleanor, Henrietta, and Howard (died 2018). His mother was born in Kawai, Hawaii. His father was a pathologist for leper colonies in the Philippines. Antonio had to curtail pre-med after two years when his father died. He joined the U.S. Navy at the age of 18 and was stationed at Balboa Naval Hospital in San Diego and Oak Knoll U.S. Naval Hospital before meeting Melina at a youth group Valentine's dance in 1960. They got married seven months later. Their daughter, Angela, was born in 1962 and son, Anthony, in 1965. Angela married lan after graduating from UC Berkeley. Their grandson Nikko was born to Anthony and Diana in 2000. Anthony died in 2015.



Antonio served for three years as laboratory technician on a military transport ship which sailed to Okinawa, Korea, Philippines, Guam, and Hawaii. He was stationed for two years at hospitals in Danang and Saigon, Vietnam. Later, he was chief-in-charge of hospital laboratories in Guantanamo, Cuba, Rota, Spain, and Virginia, U.S. He worked as a medical technician at Portsmouth Hospital in Virginia and at Alta Bates in Berkeley. After retirement from the U.S. Navy, he settled down in Livermore, California. After retiring, he began working at the Livermore U.S. Postal Office. Then he worked at Trader Joe's for two years! His hobbies were raising canaries, white mice, German Shepherds, pit bulls, and English bulldogs. He loved to fish, garden, read non-fiction literature, and work out at the gym.

Visitation will be held at Callaghan Mortuary on Dec. 10, 7–8 p.m., with rosary at 8 p.m. Mass will be held Dec. 11 at 12:30 p.m. at Saint Michael's Church with burial to follow at St. Michael Cemetery at 1 p.m. Callaghan Mortuary is honored to be serving the Manipis family. An online guestbook is available for condolences at www.callaghanmortuary.com.

Pete Oliver, Jr.
Nov. 16, 1938 – Dec. 8, 2023

Pete Oliver, Jr. died peacefully on Dec. 8, 2023, at the age of 85. He was born on Nov. 16, 1938, to Pete and Bertha Oliver in Sacramento, California. At the age of two, Pete and the family moved to Livermore, California, where he would reside for eighty years.

Pete is survived by his loving wife of 61 years, Ann, and three children, Dave (Marilyn) Oliver of Mount Vernon, Washington, Bruce (Olga) Oliver of Barcelona, Spain, and Chris (Regis) Lehrman of Livermore. He is also survived by six incredible grandchildren, Amanda, Kyle, Ray, Amy, Ivan, and Isla, two beautiful great-granddaughters, Teigen and Taytum, and sister Pat Kasberg. He is preceded in death by his parents, his brother Gilbert and sister Ruby.

Pete would joke that he never strayed too far from East Avenue. He attended kindergarten at Naval Air Station Livermore (now LLNL) and later Livermore High School. While at LHS, he ran track and played basketball, and was all-league quarterback for the Cowboys class of '56. After high school, Pete enrolled at San Mateo City College where he played basketball for one year, then joined the army, proudly serving two years at Fort Ord and in Korea.

After his time in the army, he returned to Livermore and got a job with Coast Manufacturing. During this time, he met the love of his life, Ann Wright. They were married in 1962 and quickly started



a family. Despite his hectic schedule working full-time at Coast and raising three kids with Ann, Pete believed his path to the American Dream was through education and hard work and enrolled at San Jose State University. He graduated with a degree in business followed by an MBA from Golden Gate University.

Pete spent 35 years working at Sandia National Lab in Livermore, retiring in 2003. During his time at Sandia, he worked in various positions in the Materials Department and Procurement Department. He spent his final few years working as a facilitator for project meetings.

In retirement, he enjoyed working around the house, always with his beloved dog Ernie by his side. He also enjoyed trout fishing with his buddy Joe at Eagle Lake and Lake Berryessa. He liked watching all sports but particularly the San Francisco 49ers. During the season, he would talk with his sons each Monday and critique the game. Pete and Ann traveled frequently, visiting family and friends throughout the U.S. They would also periodically plan trips to Europe with friends.

However, nothing gave Pete more enjoyment than spending time with his family – particularly with his grandchildren. He loved hearing about their lives and offering his grandfatherly advice and wisdom. He was forever an optimist, and believed his children and grandchildren could accomplish nearly anything. His support was unwavering.

Over the past five years he progressively lost his eyesight. With his mobility limited he would sit for hours listening to the TV with Ernie at his side, or chat with Ann and his kids and grandkids. Despite the adversity of losing his eyesight and restricted independence, he never once complained. True to his pragmatic character, he accepted life and his fate sensibly.

When family would visit for birthdays or Christmas and the house was full, Pete would sit in his favorite spot on the sofa and patiently listen, smiling as amazing stories were told. He was so proud of his family and would often say he lived a blessed life. In the end Pete never did stray far from East Avenue. It was his destiny. The neighborhoods near an unremarkable road provided a wonderful and cherished life.

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

CRICKET
(Continued from front page)

her team researched cricket fields in nearby communities to learn about construction, maintenance, and typical play on a cricket field.

"After reviewing current park locations that could accommodate the size of a cricket field, city staff were directed by the City Council to provide options within Ken Mercer Sports Park for a cricket field," Murphy said. "Staff determined that there were three locations within Ken Mercer that could safely accommodate the size of a cricket field and pitch."

To narrow down the options, staff held meetings and conducted public surveys.

Cricket is a bat-and-ball game popular in Britain and its former colonies, namely India, Pakistan and South Africa. Its growing popularity in the Bay Area is evident from the increasing number of local teams and leagues.

BLOWERS
(Continued from front page)

resident Vicki LaBarge.

Damonte also noted that city reviews showed that because electric blowers work more slowly than gas blowers, more time would be needed to complete a task. Resident Terry Johnson added that unlike blowers with gas batteries, electric battery blowers cannot be stored in the cold, heat or rain.

While the city will explore grant options for possible buy-back or assistance programs for businesses and homeowners, it does not have any planned.

Enforcement of the ban will rely on watchful neighbors, said the city's senior code enforcement officer Mark Dennis.

Pleasanton's ban follows a state law that will prohibit the sale of small off-road engines fueled with gas beginning Jan. 1, 2024, although the city ordinance applies only to leaf blowers.

Foothill High Girls' Soccer Team Remains Undefeated

By Phil Jensen

The Foothill High School girls soccer team ruled the final 10 minutes of its nonleague match against visiting Heritage-Brentwood on Dec. 7, and that turned out to be the deciding factor in a 2-0 victory.

Gianna Guerrero scored two goals in the last 10 minutes and the Falcons defense continued to play well as Foothill remained undefeated this season. It also tied Livermore 0-0 on Dec. 5 and tied American-Fremont 1-1 on Dec. 9 in nonleague matches for a 1-0-2 record so far this season.

"I was pleased to see that our girls didn't give up a goal in these first two games and we finally found the back of the net," said Foothill coach Jason Wescott after the win over Heritage. "They fought. We're down some injuries right now, but I know Heritage is as well. … We played a little better than we did a couple nights ago (against Livermore)."



Foothill High's Ainsley Lyon dribbles the ball during the Dec. 7 game against Heritage High School. Foothill won 2-0. *[See photo gallery at www.independentnews.com/multimedia]* (Photo – Doug Jorgensen)

Wescott was Foothill's boys soccer coach for the past 12 years before shifting to coach the girls team this season.

The first goal against Heritage occurred on a fast break. Dayanara Barajas, a junior, drew out the Heritage goalie to the right of the goal and crossed the ball to another junior, Guerrero, who deposited the ball into the net at the 71 minute, six second mark.

In the final goal, senior Kaiah Gentry drew multiple defenders toward her on the right side of the field near the box. She was able to make the pass to Guerrero, who scored again.

Foothill's defense was its strength. Rafa Sapiz, a junior, played her first game at center back and was impressive. Sophomores Claire Young and Peyton Hasty also were powerful defensively, as well as Naomi Austin.

Foothill controlled play early in the first half, including producing four of the first five shots of the game, but Heritage (0-1-1 after the loss) had a 3-1 shot advantage the rest of the half. However, the Falcons outshot Heritage 7-0 in the second half. Foothill senior goalkeeper Jillian Barth produced four saves in the shutout.

Against American, Sapiz scored on a free kick in the first half to give Foothill a 1-0 lead. But American tied the score in the final two minutes of the game.

Last season, Foothill was 6-7-3 overall and 4-6-3 in the East Bay Athletic League. There were only seven seniors on the 24-player MaxPreps.com roster. The Falcons were the No. 9 seed in the North Coast Section Division I playoffs but lost 2-1 to No. 8 Freedom in overtime in the first round.



The Valley Dance Theater's production of 'The Nutcracker" opened Saturday, Dec 9 at the Bankhead Theater in Livermore. For ticket information, visit. www.livermorearts.org. *[See photo gallery at www.independentnews.com/multimedia]* (Photo – Doug Jorgensen)

Park District Opens Tyler Ranch Staging Area

The East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD) has opened the new Tyler Ranch Staging Area in Sunol, along with an additional 2,800 acres for hiking, biking, and horseback riding.

The area is part of the 9,000-acre Pleasanton Ridge Regional Park.

The new amenities include 78 parking spaces, equestrian staging and trailer parking, handicap-accessible restrooms, family picnic area, and 18 miles of trails with panoramic views of the Bay Area, including the San Francisco Bay, Mount Diablo, Brushy Peak, Mission Peak, Mount Umunhum, and Mount Tamalpais.

The district has also updated its rules to allow Class I pedal-assist e-bikes on all trails where regular bikes are allowed, and Class II e-bikes with throttles on all paved trails. EBRPD said all e-bikes must follow the 15-mph bike speed limit.

EBRPD is the largest regional park system in the nation with 73 parks, 55 miles of shoreline, and more than 1,300 miles of trails in Alameda and Contra Costa counties. For more information, go to ebparks.org.

Wheels Adds Afternoon Bus for Dublin High

The Livermore Amador Valley Transit Authority (LAVTA) has added a second afternoon Wheels bus route for students at Dublin High School.

The additional 501A school bus service will depart 30 to 60 minutes after the initial run, according to LAVTA.

The 501A route serves East Dublin, traveling along Tassajara and Fallon and terminating at Positano Parkway and Valentano Drive.

LAVTA said the added service was necessary because of high afternoon ridership on the school route.

Timetables are available at wheelsbus.com. More information is available by calling the LVTA Customer Service Center at 925-455-7500.

OUR LOCAL NONPROFITS NEED YOUR SUPPORT, PLEASE DONATE IF YOU ARE ABLE!

Alan Hu Foundation
P.O. Box 762
Pleasanton, CA 94566
925-352-6844
Alanhufoundation.org

Allie's Pals Cat Rescue
PO Box 1835
Pleasanton, CA 94566
925-226-8637
AlliesPals.org

Amador Questers
1089 Geneva Street
Livermore, CA 94550-5661
925-292-8123
CalQuest.org
questers1944.org

Amador Valley Lions Club
P. O. Box 1764
Pleasanton, CA 94566
(925) 290-7592
Amador.valley.lions@gmail.com

Amador Valley Quilters
P.O. Box 955
Pleasanton, CA 94566
AmadorValleyQuilters.org

Amador Valley Scholarships, Inc
4764 Harrison St.
Pleasanton, CA 94566
amadorvalleyscholarshipsinc.org

Assistance League Amador Valley
P.O. Box 11843
Pleasanton, CA 94588
925-461-6401
Assistanceleague.org/Amador-valley

Axis Community Health
5925 W. Las Positas Blvd.
Suite 100
Pleasanton, CA 94588
925-201-6068
Axishealth.org

Big Bay Ray, Inc.
Bigbayray16@gmail.com
925-523-3133
Bigbayray.com

Blankets For Kids
7580 Driftwood Way
Pleasanton, CA 94588
925-846-6155

Cantabella Children's Chorus
P.O. Box 131
Pleasanton, CA 94566
925-292-2663
Cantabella.org

Cheza Nami
5424 Sunol Blvd. Suite 10-153
Pleasanton, CA 94566
chezanami.org

Christian Youth Theater Tri-Valley
P.O. Box 1586
Pleasanton, CA 94566
925-421-1351
cyttrivalley.org

Citizens for Balanced Growth
661 S. N St.
Livermore, CA 94550
CitizensForBalancedGrowth.org

CityServe of Tri-Valley
P.O. Box 1613
Pleasanton, CA 94566
925-223-6947
cityservetrivalley.org

Community Health Education Fund
CHEF/TVNF
C/O Maria Mancini
P.O. Box is 420
Livermore, CA 94551

Culinary Angels
4435 First St., #142
Livermore, CA 94550
CulinaryAngels.org

Dublin Historical Society
7172 Regional Street, Box 316
Dublin, CA 94568
dublincahistoricalsociety@gmail.com
www.dublinhistoricalsociety.org

Dublin/San Ramon Women's Club
PO Box 2443
Dublin CA 94568
gfwcdsr.org

Encore Players of Livermore
PO Box 3362
Livermore, CA 94551-3361
Encoreplayers.net

Exceptional Needs Network
P.O. Box 3149
Livermore, CA 94551
925-215-2281
ennetwork.org

Feral Cat Foundation
P.O. Box 1173
Alamo, CA 94507
925-829-9098
Feralcatfoundation.org

Fertile GroundWorks
4743 East Avenue
Livermore, CA 94550
925-344-9090
Fertilegroundworks.org

Friends of the Livermore Library
P.O. Box 2483
Livermore, CA 94551
friendsoflivermorelibrary.org

Friends of Open Space and Vineyards
P.O. Box 1191
Livermore, CA 94551
fov.org

Friends of Pleasanton Senior Center
5353 Sunol Blvd.
Pleasanton, CA 94566
935-931-5365
seniorcenterfriends.org

Girls Soccer Worldwide
P.O. Box 219
Livermore, CA 94551
925-200-4457
GirlsSoccerWorldWide.com

Goodness Village
1660 Freisman Rd.
Livermore, Ca 94551
GVLivermore.org

Hively
6601 Owens Drive, Suite 100
Pleasanton, CA 94588
925-417-8733
BeHively.org

Hope Hospice
6377 Clark Ave.
Dublin, CA 94568
925-829-8770
HopeHospice.com/donate

Interfaith Sharing Inc.
678 Enos Way
Livermore, CA 94551
925-366-5567
saintbartslivermore.com

Kids Bike Lane
P.O. Box 2534
Livermore, CA 94551
(925) 352-2557
kidsbikelane.org

Las Positas College Foundation
3000 Campus Hill Drive
Livermore, CA 94551
925-424-1010
LPCFoundation.org

Little Miracles Inc.
1039 Serpentine Lane Suite E
Pleasanton Ca 94566
Littlemiraclespleasanton.org

Livermore-Amador
Genealogical Society
P. O. Box 901
Livermore, CA 94551
l-ags.org

Livermore-Amador Symphony Guild
P.O. Box 1049
Livermore, CA 94551
925-447-6454
Livermoreamadorsymphony.org/guild

Livermore Area Recreation & Park District Foundation
P.O. Box 3403
Livermore, CA 94551
925-373-5730
Larpd.org/larpd-foundation

Livermore Art Association
P.O. Box 216
Livermore, CA 94551
925-449-9927
Livermoreartassociation.org

Livermore Filipino-American Organization, Inc.
P.O. Box 172
Livermore, CA 94551
Livermorefilam.org

Livermore-Granad Boosters
2117 Fourth St.
Livermore, CA 94550
livermoregranadaboosters.org

Livermore Heritage Guild
P.O. Box 961
Livermore, CA 94551
925-449-9927
Lhg.org

Livermore Homeless Refuge
4743 East Ave.
Livermore, CA 94550
925-895-4167
livermorehomelessrefuge.org

Livermore Jazz Society
info@livermorejazzsociety.org
503-459-2530
livermorejazzsociety.org

Livermore K9 Foundation
PO Box 1064
Livermore, CA. 94551
(925) 209-1029
livermorek9.org

Livermore Lab Foundation
c/o UC Office of National Labs
7000 East Avenue, B661/L-794
Livermore, CA 94550
925-453-9382
Livermorelabfoundation.org

Livermore Lions Club
P.O. Box 975
Livermore, CA 94551
805-405-8743

Livermore Pleasanton Fire Fighters Foundation
4847 Hopyard Road
Suite 4, PMB 303
Pleasanton, CA 94588

Livermore Valley Education Foundation
849 East Stanley Boulevard
PMB Box 143
Livermore, CA 94550
LVEF.org

Livermore Valley Opera
P.O. Box 1002
Livermore, CA 94551
925-321-6964
Livermorevalleyopera.com

Livermore Valley
Performing Arts Center
2400 First St.
Livermore, CA 94550
925-373-6100
LivermoreArts.com

Monthly Miracles
5211 Demarcus Blvd
Dublin, CA 94568
Monthlymiracles.org

Movements For The Mind
MovementsForTheMind.com
movementsforthemind@gmail.com

Museum on Main
603 Main Street
Pleasanton, CA 94566
902-462-2766
Museumonmain.org

NAMI Tri-Valley
164 N. L St., Suite 104,
Livermore, CA 94550
925-344-4480
nami-trivalley.org

Open Heart Kitchen
1141 Catalina Dr. # 137,
Livermore CA 9 4550
(mailing address only)
925-580-1616
OpenHeartKitchen.org

Pacific Chamber Orchestra
PO Box 3134
Livermore, CA 94551
925-324-2775
www.pacificchamberorchestra.org

Pacific Locomotive Assoc., Inc. Operators of Niles Canyon Railway
P.O. Box 515
Sunol, CA 94586-0515
510-996-8420
NCRY.ORG

Parkinson's Network of Mount Diablo / Tri Valley PD Support
PNMD.net
trivalley@pnmd.net

Partners for Change Tri-Valley
4743 East Ave.
Livermore, CA 94550
510-773-6356
pfctv.org

Paws In Need
Info@Paws-In-Need.org
925-551-1877
Paws-In-Need.org

Pedrozzi Foundation
1141 Catalina Drive, #170
Livermore, CA 94550
925-456-3700
Pedrozzi.org

Pleasanton Art League
P.O. Box 23
Pleasanton, CA 94566
Pal-art.com

Pleasanton Community Concert Band
P.O. Box 135
Pleasanton, CA 94566
info@pleasantonband.org
PleasantonBand.org

Pleasanton MilitaryFamilies
3111 Half Dome Dr.
Pleasanton, CA 94566
PleasantonMilitaryFamilies.org

Quest Science Center
P.O. Box 2129
Livermore, CA 94551
925-292-8099
Quest-Science.org

Reins In Motion
Therapeutic Riding Program
P.O. Box 1001
Livermore, CA 94551
reinsinmotionca.com

Robot Garden Makerspace
700 Terminal Circle
Livermore, CA 94551
RobotGarden.org

Rotarian Foundation of Livermore
P.O. Box 2181
Livermore, CA 94551-2181
rotarianfoundationlivermore.org

Sandra J. Wing Healing Therapies Foundation
5890 Stoneridge Dr., Suite 104
Pleasanton, CA 94588
866-862-7270
HealingTherapiesFoundation.org

School Of Imagination & Happy Talkers
9801 Dublin Blvd.
Dublin, CA 94568
925-829-9555
Schoolofimagination.org

Shakespeare's Associates, dba Livermore Shakespeare Festival
P.O. Box 2616
Livermore, CA 94551
925-443-2273
LivermoreShakes.org

Shepherds Gate
1660 Portola Ave.
Livermore, CA 94550
925-443-4283
ShepherdsGate.org

Sleep In Heavenly Peace Alameda Co.
Daniel.curtis@shpbeds.org
510-827-7033
Shpbeds.org

SPECTRUM Community Services, Inc/Meals on Wheels
2621 Barrington Ct.
Hayward, CA 94545
510-881-0300
SpectrumCS.org

St. Vincent de Paul Society
c/o St. Michael Church
458 Maple St.
Livermore, CA 94550
925-758-0126

Sunflower Hill
info@sunflowerhill.org
925-800-1042
SunFlowerhill.org

The Blankenship Program - AEMTAC
1863 Altair Ave.
Livermore, CA.
925-895-7059
mtac-alamedaeast.org/blankenship-project

The Taylor Family Foundation
P.O. Box 2450
Livermore CA, 94551
925-455-5118
TTFF.org

Three Valleys Community Foundation
5960 Inglewood Drive, Suite 201
Pleasanton, CA 94588
info@3vcf.org
www.3VCF.org

Tri-Valley Animal Rescue
P.O. Box 11143
Pleasanton, CA 94588
TVAR.org

Tri-Valley Conservancy
1457 First St.
Livermore, CA 94550
925-449-8706
Trivalleyconservnacy.org

Tri-Valley Haven
3663 Pacific Ave.
Livermore, CA 94551
925-449-5842
TriValleyHaven.org

Tri-Valley Nonprofit Alliance
P.O. Box 2467
Livermore, CA 94550
TVNPA.org

Tri Valley Reach
P.O. Box 5564
Pleasanton, CA 94566
TriVallyReach.Org

Tri-Valley Repertory Theatre
P.O. Box 1445
Pleasanton, CA 94566
info@trivalleyrep.com
Trivalleyrep.org

Tri-Valley Seek and Save
P.O. Box 701
Livermore, CA 94551-0701
(925) 895-1041
TriValleySeekandSave.org

ValleyCare Charitable Foundation/Stanford Health Care-ValleyCare
1111 E. Stanley Blvd.
Livermore, CA 94550
925-373-4560
GiveValleyCare.org

Valley Concert Chorale
P.O. Box 286
Livermore, CA 94551
Valleyconcertchorale.org

Valley Dance Theatre
2247-B Second St.
Livermore, CA 94550
925-243-0925
Valleydancetheatre.com

Valley Humane Society
3670 Nevada St.
Pleasanton, CA 94566
925-426-8656
ValleyHumane.org

Wiesner Memorial Senior Fund
4444 East Avenue
Livermore, CA 94550
925-989-1765
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Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over

National Enforcement Campaign Underway

Pleasanton Police Department wants to remind the public of the dangers of driving impaired and celebrate the holiday season responsibly by not driving under the influence. In December 2021, 1,013 people were killed in the U.S. in alcohol-impaired-driving crashes according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

From Dec. 13 through New Year's Day, Pleasanton Police Department will have additional officers on patrol looking for drivers suspected of being under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs. The high-visibility 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.

"Impaired driving isn't just dangerous, it's illegal," Pleasanton's Sgt. Steve Ayers said. "Let's make this a joyful and safe holiday season for everyone on the road. This enforcement period allows us to get the message out that it is essential to act responsibly and plan a sober ride home."

Pleasanton Police Department 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.

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.

Funding for this program is provided by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

Sign-Up for "Race to the Flagpole" Event

It's time to lace up your running shoes and join the Livermore-Granada Boosters for the 15th Annual "Race to the Flagpole" on Saturday, Jan. 27. The community event, which includes a 5K run/walk, 10K run, and one-mile fun run, is open to participants of all ages and abilities.

The event takes off from Independence Park and takes runners through Sycamore Grove Park in Livermore.

Registration starts at 6:45 a.m. at Independence Park. The 10K race begins at 8:45 a.m., followed by the 5K at 9 a.m. and the fun run at 10:15 a.m. Pre-registration entry fees are $35 for the 5K, $40 for the 10K, and $20 for student participants. Prices increase after Dec. 24, so early registration is encouraged. Special group and family discounts are also available.

Participants receive a commemorative T-shirt, medal, and post-race refreshments. There will be an awards ceremony recognizing the top finishers and age group winners which includes school participation.

All proceeds from the "Race to the Flagpole" event are directed towards supporting the mission of the Livermore-Granada Boosters. Livermore Granda Boosters, established in 1949, is celebrating its 75-year anniversary. Since its inception, the organization has firmly believed that students who excel in academics, athletics, and community service evolve into exemplary civic leaders.

To register for the race, explore sponsorship opportunities, or for more information, visit http://www.livermoregranadaboosters.org/events, or contact us at mail to:livgraboosters@gmail.com.

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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 602161
The following person(s) doing business as: Mobile PC Services, 1866 Sally Creek Circle, Hayward, CA 94541 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): John S. da Eira, 1866 Sally Creek Circle, Hayward, CA 94541. 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: 2003. Signature of Registrant/s/: John S. d Eira, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 17, 2023. Expires November 16, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5691. Published November 23, 30, December 7, 14, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 602085
The following person(s) doing business as: Jpar Iron Horse Referrals, 550 Main Street, Pleasanton, CA 94566 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Starkey Holdings Inc., 550 Main Street, Pleasanton, CA 94566. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 10/31/2023. Signature of Registrant/s/: Erica Starkey, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 14, 2023. Expires November 13, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5692. Published November 23, 30, December 7, 14, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 601512
The following person(s) doing business as: Spur X Brand Co., 12371 Tesla Road, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Carly M. Piazza, 12371 Tesla Road, 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: 11/14/2013. Signature of Registrant/s/: Carly M. Piazza, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 20, 2023. Expires October 19, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5693. Published November 23, 30, December 7, 14, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 601675
The following person(s) doing business as: Mission-Hope Day Program, Hayward, 21328 Mission Blvd, Hayward, CA 94541 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Mission Blvd Day Program LLC, 21328 Mission Blvd, Hayward, CA 94541. 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: 10/28/2013. Signature of Registrant/s/: Jay Francis Y. Gamez, Managing Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 27, 2023. Expires October 26, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5694. Published November 23, 30, December 7, 14, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 602075
The following person(s) doing business as: Infinite Lynk, 2150 Portola Avenue Ste D #1081, Livemore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Kakazu, LLC, 2150 Portola Avenue Ste D # 1081, Livermore. CA 94551. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Jessica Lynn Kakazu, Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 14, 2023. Expires November 13, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5695. Published November 23, 30, December 7, 14, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 602115
The following person(s) doing business as: Dear Taco, 3811 Macarthur Blvd, Oakland, CA 94619 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Dear Taco LLC, 3811 MacArthur Blvd, Oakland, CA 94619. 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: 11/01/2023. Signature of Registrant/s/: Kao Saelee, Manager. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 15, 2023. Expires November 14, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5698. Published November 30, December 7, 14, 21, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 602194
The following person(s) doing business as: VS Services, 1141 Catalina Drive, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Todd Storti, 1141 Catalina Drive, 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/: Todd Storti, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 20, 2023. Expires November 19, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5699. Published November 30, December 7, 14, 21, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 602176
The following person(s) doing business as: OMEML Data Photonics, 34499 Jasmine Court, Union City, CA 94587 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Donghong Wu, 34499 Jasmine Court, Union City, CA 94587. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 11/17/2023. Signature of Registrant/s/: Donghong Wu This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 17, 2023. Expires November 16, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5700. Published November 30, December 7, 14, 21, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 602140
The following person(s) doing business as: Alice Home Care, 2515 Santa Clara Ave., Suite 201, Alameda, CA 94501 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Veris Eastbay Homecare, Inc., 2515 Santa Clara Ave., Suite 201, Alameda, CA 94501. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 7/18/20017. Signature of Registrant/s/: John Han, CFO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 16, 2023. Expires November 15, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5701. Published November 30, December 7, 14, 21, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 601879
The following person(s) doing business as: Walgreens Health Corner #50008, 1916 Webster St., Ste. 101, Alameda, CA 94501-2140 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Walgreens Health Services LLC, 108 Wilmot Road, Deerfield, IL 60015. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Michael Emerson, Vice President, Tax. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 6, 2023. Expires November 5, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5702. Published November 30, December 7, 14, 21, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 601880
The following person(s) doing business as: Walgreens Health Corner #50009, 2600 Mowry Ave., Ste 101, Fremont, CA 94538-1619 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Walgreens Health Services LLC, 108 Wilmot Road, Deerfield, IL 60015. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Michael Emerson, Vice President, Tax. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 6, 2023. Expires November 5, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5703. Published November 30, December 7, 14, 21, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 601882
The following person(s) doing business as: Walgreens Health Corner #50010, 164 W Jackson St., Ste 10, Hayward, CA 94544-1810 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Walgreens Health Services LLC, 108 Wilmot Road, Deerfield, IL 60015. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Michael Emerson, Vice President, Tax. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 6, 2023. Expires November 5, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5704. Published November 30, December 7, 14, 21, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 601883
The following person(s) doing business as: Walgreens Health Corner #50034, 23958 Hesperian Blvd., Ste 101, Hayward, CA 94541-7241 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Walgreens Health Services LLC, 108 Wilmot Road, Deerfield, IL 60015. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Michael Emerson, Vice President, Tax. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 6, 2023. Expires November 5, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5705. Published November 30, December 7, 14, 21, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 601885
The following person(s) doing business as: Walgreens Health Corner #50063, 301 E 18th ST., Ste 10, Oakland, CA 94606-1813 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Walgreens Health Services LLC, 108 Wilmot Road, Deerfield, IL 60015. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Michael Emerson, Vice President, Tax. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 6, 2023. Expires November 5, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5706. Published November 30, December 7, 14, 21, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 601886
The following person(s) doing business as: Walgreens Health Corner #50074, 5809 Foothill Blvd., Ste 101, Oakland, CA 94605-1305 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Walgreens Health Services LLC, 108 Wilmot Road, Deerfield, IL 60015. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Michael Emerson, Vice President, Tax. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 6, 2023. Expires November 5, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5707. Published November 30, December 7, 14, 21, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 602056
The following person(s) doing business as: Vogue Beauty Salon, 46485 Mission Blvd, Ste 800 Fremont, CA 94539 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Arkas Flips LLC, 1877 Sioux Dr., Fremont, CA 94539. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Abhay Sachar, Manager. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 13, 2023. Expires November 12, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5708. Published November 30, December 7, 14, 21, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO.601983
The following person(s) doing business as: Cross Over Dental Enterprises, 350 Sonic Avenue, Floor 2, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Streamline Billing, LLC, 350 Sonic Avenue, Floor 2, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Porus Engineer, Managing Director. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 8, 2023. Expires November 7, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5710. Published December 7, 14, 21, 28, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 602255
The following person(s) doing business as: Upward Signing, 35111 Newark Blvd Ste F PMB 5093, Newark, CA 94560 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Amylynn Nicanor, 35251Lido Blvd, Newark, CA 94560. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 11/18/2023. Signature of Registrant/s/: Amylynn Nicanor, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 22, 2023. Expires November 21, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5711. Published December 7, 14, 21, 28, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 602242
The following person(s) doing business as: Calabria Rentals, 5851 Annandale Way, Dublin, CA 94568 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Amol Tuli, 5851 Annandale Way, 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: 11/6/2023. Signature of Registrant/s/: Amol Tuli, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 21, 2023. Expires November 20, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5712. Published December 7, 14, 21, 28, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 602307
The following person(s) doing business as: Premier Jazzman Limo, 36371 Magellan Dr., Fremont, CA 94536 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Canyon Limousine LLC, 1818 Gilbreth Rd., #240B, Burlingame, CA 94010. 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: 1/28/2017. Signature of Registrant/s/: Norman Ngan, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 27, 2023. Expires November 26, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5715. Published December 14, 21, 28, 2023, January 4, 2024

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 601902
The following person(s) doing business as: Jorge's Fences , 241 N I Street, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Jorge Ramirez, 241 N I 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: 11/6/2023. Signature of Registrant/s/: Jorge Ramirez, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 6, 2023. Expires November 5, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5714. Published December 14, 21, 28, 2023, January 4, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 602407
The following person(s) doing business as: M J Financial, 1020 Alison Circle, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Moneshpal Singh Josan, 1020 Alison Circle, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 12/1/2023. Signature of Registrant/s/: Jorge Ramirez, Proprietor. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 1, 2023. Expires November 30, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5715. Published December 14, 21, 28, 2023, January 4, 2024

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 601838
The following person(s) doing business as: Pixie Dust and Pine, 6853 Massey Court, Pleasanton, CA 94588 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Tom Ling, 6853 Massey Court, Pleasanton, CA 94588. 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: 1/1/2023. Signature of Registrant/s/: Tom Ling, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 3, 2023. Expires November 2, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5716. Published December 14, 21, 28, 2023, January 4, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 601936
The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Zageur; 2. Alameda CNC; 3. Redline Robotics, 248 3rd ST., # 1167, Oakland, CA 94607 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Payne Capital LLC, 248 3rd ST., # 1167, Oakland, CA 94607. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Daniel Payne, Manager. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 6, 2023. Expires November 5, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5717. Published December 14, 21, 28, 2023, January 4, 2024.

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The Perfect Tree is Always In the "Eye of the Beholder"

By David Scholz

Be it the shape, the type of needles, or even how the tree itself is ultimately decorated, a Christmas tree's beauty is in the eye of the beholder.

The search for that perfect tree – if it's the freshly cut variety – is happening in earnest this time of year as a notable chill in the air descends. People and families, some bundled for the experience, take to tree lots or farms farther afield – all boasting the best and largest selection.

According to the California Christmas Tree Association, a Christmas tree, on average grows a foot a year and requires constant trimming and shaping throughout its life to get the perfect shape for the season.

From the grower's perspective, labor costs continue to increase as do costs for insurance, equipment, and fertilizer, said Association President Mark Scheberies, of Alhambra Christmas Tree Farm in Martinez. He grows trees locally at that central Contra Costa County location, and in Oregon, and runs a retail operation at his local farm

"Weather and pests have been challenging. Many growers have experienced some sunburn on trees over the past couple of summers due to high temperatures. While these trees will recover and again be beautiful, in most cases, their harvest is delayed a year or more to allow more time for the trees to grow out, which can impact supply," he said.

Noble fir, the go-to traditional tree, the Nordmann fir, and Douglas fir, all recognized for their shape, symmetry, and durability, are favorites found at area lots. The Noble and Nordmann are very similar in branch structure with more layered branches.

Coloring of the needles is the main difference between the two. Nordmann has almost a two-tone needle with lighter coloring with a green topside needle. Fragrance further brings out the holiday spirit. Nordmann fir is the one exception, and it appeals to families with allergies or sensitivity to Christmas tree aroma.

Maybe quality defines the perfect tree. Ryan Nielsen, and his wife, Keri, who own Alpine Christmas Trees Sales and operate the lot at 4441 Tassajara Road in Dublin, are carrying on a family tradition of 40-plus+ years that is renewed every October when they fly to Washington to hand pick more than 300 grade one1 trees, including ones from a small family farm in Oregon. The trees are cut no more than two days before they are shipped to California. They are loaded on trucks and hauled down to arrive in the Bay A area two days before Thanksgiving.

Upon arriving in Dublin, trees are off-loaded and given a fresh cut right away. Then they get drilled in the middle of the trunk so they can stand up in water in such a way that customers get a full view – each and every angle - before they buy one.

In-town lots, as portrayed in such movies as "A Christmas Story", are as much a staple of the Christmas tree buying experience. In the movie, the father haggles for the best possible price. Then, the seller finally laments and offers to tie the tree to the family's Oldsmobile, sealing the deal.

Neilsen acknowledged he gets customers who try to work different angles to hopefully shave a bit off the tree's price. But the business climate has changed drastically over time and most folks understand the prices are what they are.

"We are a small family business competing with big box stores. Our customers come to us because they do not have to dig in a pile of trees and cut twine off to look at trees. We display our trees as much like a small forest as we can," he said.

"The experience and customer service are what we sell, so we are pretty lucky to have customers that really appreciate that," Nielsen added.

Once chosen, customers have the option to "shake" and "net" their Christmas tree. A "shake" is when you place the trunk on a machine that shakes all the dead needles off the tree so there is less of a mess when they bring it into their home.

The "net" makes it easier to tie the Christmas tree down on the customer's car. It also makes the trees easier to carry into their home while setting it up in the perfect corner.

As to what has kept him active in Christmas trees, Nielsen noted it is not so much the perennial symbol of the season, as it is tradition, family, and community. Customers who saw him growing up on the lot, doing everything from cleaning up twine and trimmings to moving into selling, cutting and drilling trees, now see his daughters taking part.

"It's an amazing opportunity to teach my daughters skills that they will use in life," said Nielsen. "The confidence that they get learning new skills each year and then applying to their lives outside of the lot is amazing to watch."

Equally notable about the tree selling experience are the customers who Nielsen has served over the years.

"There seems to be a trend of working families that may be struggling. (They) always seem to be the most humble," he said. "We engage with our customers when we can and sometimes those hardships get spoken of by the customers."

He recalled a situation when parents explained to their kids that they couldn't get a bigger tree, because only one parent was working at the moment.

"An extra tabletop tree made into that pickup truck for the youngsters that night," Nielsen said. "I think the spirit of Christmas definitely plays into the business."



Marie Jane Allan of Alpine Trees in Dublin discusses some of the finer points of choosing and caring for a live Christmas tree. *[See photo gallery at www.independentnews.com/multimedia]* (Photo – Doug Jorgensen)



Americana music will be on the playlist when The Dustbowl Revival takes the stage this Saturday night at the Almost Famous Wine Lounge. (Photo courtesy: Almost Famous Wine Lounge)

Dustbowl Revival to Play at Almost Famous Wine Lounge

The Dustbowl Revival, a Venice, California-based band known for pushing the boundaries of Americana music, will appear at the Almost Famous Wine Lounge in Livermore on Saturday, Dec. 16.

The eight-member band incorporates New Orleans funk, bluegrass, soul, and pre-war Blues into its music, including five studio and one live album.

In 2010, "Dan's Jam," from its first album, was named the American Song of the Year by the Independent Music Awards.

The band's latest album, "Is It You, Is It Me," delves into themes of personal identity, political tension, and the struggle to remain "authentic" in the age of social media.

Tickets for the 7:30 p.m. performance at the Almost Famous Wine Lounge, 2271 S Vasco Road, are available at almostfamouswine.com.

Beatles Shows Set for the Bankhead

Livermore Valley Arts (LVA) will kick off 2024 with two shows at Livermore's Bankhead Theater in January devoted to the Beatles.

First up will be a multimedia Beatles tribute show, "BritBeat," at 8 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 6, featuring six costume changes by band members and a nostalgic journey through the Fab Four's iconic music catalog.

Then, on Thursday, Jan. 25, LVA will present "Scott Freiman: Deconstructing the Beatles' White Album" as part of its Rae Dorough Speaker Series. The program begins at 7:30 p.m.

Freiman, creator of the Deconstructing the Beatles series of multimedia presentations, will take the audience back to 1968 and the famed Abby Road Studios, when the Beatles were recording their best-selling album, "The Beatles," which became better known as "The White Album" for its stark cover.

It was a tumultuous year for the Beatles. Most of the songs were written in India, as the Beatle sought enlightenment in meditation classes taught by spiritualist Maharishi Mahesh Yogi. It was also the Beatles' first album following the death of their manager Brian Epstein in 1967.

There was also growing conflict between the band members. Only 16 of the 30 songs featured all four Beatles, with John Lennon describing the album as a collection of solo recordings. The Beatles would break up less than two years later.

In his multimedia presentation, Freiman will explore some of the revolutionary techniques used in recording such songs as "Revolution," "While My Guitar Gently Weeps," and "Blackbird," allowing the audience to see and hear the evolution of the groundbreaking songs and their lasting influence on popular music.

Freiman, who edited "All the Songs: The Story Behind Every Beatles Release," published in 2013, will also delve into why the Beatle's music remains popular today.

Tickets to both presentations begin at $25 and are available online at livermorearts.org.

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