



The fate of hundreds of stablehands and other employees who worked at the Alameda County Fairgrounds remains unsettled. Horse racing in Pleasanton was canceled in February, and all operations related to horse training and upkeep are scheduled to end later this month. The disruption could extend to the families of workers, local schools and service providers in the Tri-Valley. (File Photo — Doug Jorgensen)

Job Loss and Disruption Threaten County Fair Stablehands and Service Workers

With the End of Racing, Hundreds Face Uncertainty in Work and Housing

By David Jen

PLEASANTON — Several hundred Pleasanton residents associated with the horse racing industry face unemployment and disruption as the March 25 deadline to cease training operations at the Alameda County Fairgrounds approaches. Many of those workers live in a trailer park on the fairgrounds in Pleasanton. Meanwhile, local agencies continue to search for assistance for those individuals and families affected by the closure.

“I would like to know where

our help is supposed to go?” said one horse owner at a meeting of the Alameda County Agricultural Fair Association Ad Hoc Committee last month. “We have guys that have purchased trailers; they’re living in a trailer park over there paying rent. What are they supposed to do? (Their) kids are going to school. They’re just supposed to take them out of school?”

Another speaker at the meeting, George Smith, said that beyond those working directly in horse racing, local participation in programs such as Future Farmers of

America or the 4-H youth organization will feel the drop in demand for horses.

“The fair will see significant declines in attendance without horse racing,” said Smith.

Other public speakers added that the local economy, such as those restaurants supported by stable hands or race patrons, will suffer as well.

In January, the California Association of Racing Fairs (CARF) decided to discontinue Northern California horse racing, leading to the closure of the fairgrounds

(See STABLES, page 7)

Pleasanton

State Water Board Now Looking at Fire Training Facility as Possible PFAS Source

Dangerous Chemicals Found in Very High Concentrations at the Facility

By David Jen

REGIONAL — The investigation into where the source of the Tri-Valley’s “forever chemical” contamination is located has identified a Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department (LPFD) fire training facility in Pleasanton as one possible source.

LPFD announced those findings last week, saying that while the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board has ruled out LPFD Fire Station 10 as a possible contamination source, the LPFD Fire Training Center at 3301 Busch Road needed further investigation.

Sampling at several test wells around the facility’s training tower revealed concentrations as high as 3,500 parts per trillion of the

chemical perfluorooctanesulfonic acid, and 1,100 parts per trillion of perfluorooctanoic acid, according to an investigative report prepared by Integral Consulting Inc. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has set maximum drinking-water contaminant levels for these chemicals at 4 and 10 parts per trillion, respectively.

The samples at the fire training facility were taken about 750 feet from the city groundwater well known as Well 8, also located on Busch Road and which has been closed since 2019.

“LPFD takes this matter seriously and is working with regulators to determine the next steps,” said LPFD in a statement. “LPFD is committed to working with all appropriate environmental and regulatory agencies to identify and

implement solutions. Ensuring the safety of residents and protecting the environment remain LPFD’s top priorities. The department is dedicated to transparency and collaboration as it navigates this process.”

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), also known as forever chemicals, are a class of several thousand synthetic chemicals known for their resistance to heat, oil and water. Those same properties also cause them to persist in the environment and, if ingested, within the human body, causing health problems, including reduced immune function and some cancers.

Groundwater testing in 2019 revealed elevated PFAS levels in the Livermore Valley aquifer. The results eventually led Zone 7, the

(See PFAS, page 6)

Pleasanton

City Will Tap Pension Fund To Bridge Deficit

\$4 Million Only Goes Part Way to Address Annual Shortfalls; Other Cuts Are Still Being Debated

By David Jen

PLEASANTON — The city will draw \$4 million from a \$51 million pension fund over the next two fiscal years to ease staff and service cuts, as it balances a budget deficit exceeding \$10 million annually. The 4-1 city council decision on March 4, with Councilmember Julie Testa opposed, deviated from the recommendation of a city-hired consulting firm, which had suggested the city not make any withdrawals from the fund.

Pleasanton’s Section 115 Supplemental Pension Trust allows for greater returns on investment than the city’s general fund and is intended to help stabilize the city’s pension costs. Former Councilmember Kathy Narum explained during public comment at the meeting that the city contributed \$28 million to

the trust in 2018 and then another \$10 million the following year. The investments have earned about \$13 million as of this month. City Manager Gerry Beaudin explained the rationale for tapping the fund, stating it will also buy the city time to get its budget into shape.

“This is essentially applying money that was set aside for the pension earlier than an actuary might recommend, but practically to smooth us into budget reductions,” Beaudin said. “It would be taking approximately \$2 million per year off of the next two years’ budget. It gives us time to orient ourselves to the budget reductions that are in front of us and make those hard decisions, but hopefully not going as deep as we would have to.”

City Finance Director Susan Hsieh said she would expect the city

(See PENSIONS, page 7)



The Livermore Girls Softball Association opened its 2025 season on March 8 with a ceremony at the Junction Avenue K-8 softball fields. More than 450 girls are registered to play. (Photo — Doug Jorgensen)

Tri-Valley Reps Look for Ways to Protect the State

Dems in Congress Strategize in the Minority, While State Legislature Moves to Enact Protective Laws

By Ruth Roberts

REGIONAL — As fear and uncertainty persist among those affected by the potentially sweeping new policies coming from the Trump administration, local representatives from the Tri-Valley say they remain vigilant and committed to keeping their constituents safe, informed and empowered.

U.S. Rep. Eric Swalwell, who represents the 14th Congressional District covering eastern Alameda County and parts of central Contra Costa County, said he and his Democratic colleagues are working to ensure their constituents are heard and protected under this new

administration by being active, persistent and steadfast in their pursuit of democracy.

“I am trying to work with everyone,” he said. But he noted the fact that the administration and its Republican allies are pursuing different goals. “What I am seeing right now is that they are on a crusade to help their billionaire friends at the cost of the American people. This is all in the 2025 playbook and so we should expect that to continue.”

Swalwell added that he will keep trying to reach across the aisle on several topics, including border control.

“I get that we need boundaries

(See REPRESENTATIVES, page 6)



Bob Taylor, who died Nov. 1, 2024, at the age of 92, was co-founder with his wife Gloria Retzlaff Taylor of Retzlaff Winery, one of the first organic wineries in California. (Photo courtesy of Retzlaff Winery)

Wine Pioneer Bob Taylor Remembered

Retzlaff Winery Patriarch Started as Lab Scientist, Died Nov. 1 at Age 92

By Christina Cavallaro

LIVERMORE — Robert Wesley Taylor, winemaker, geochemist, adventurer, wanderer, wonderer, storyteller and family man, died at the end of last year. He was 92.

The list of Taylor’s accomplishments and interests is long, but in the Livermore Valley and throughout California he is perhaps best known for the establishment of Retzlaff Winery, one of the first organic wineries in the state. He founded the winery with his late wife of 50 years and business part-

ner Gloria Retzlaff Taylor.

Taylor’s daughter-in-law, Salomé Garau-Taylor, described Retzlaff as the love of his life. “He was always so impressed with Gloria,” she said.

The couple met at University of California, Berkeley. Taylor, who was raised in Martinez, California, during the postwar period, had already discovered the thrill in hitchhiking, jumping freight trains, flying planes (at age 15 and a half, no less), and had spent time as a cook on a fishing boat in Alaska.

Taylor’s eldest son Aaron Tay-

lor hinted that his father’s adventurous spirit was in part a reaction to his upbringing. “He grew up as a pretty strict Seventh Day Adventist with all the stipulations that go along with that, being a vegetarian and no alcohol, no meat of course, no activities on the Sabbath and so on and so forth. So any chance he got to be, quote, ‘rebellious,’ by hitchhiking or whatever (he took it).”

But when he met the strikingly elegant and effervescent Retzlaff, whole new worlds opened to him, Aaron said.

(See BOB TAYLOR, page 8)

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PET OF THE WEEK



SHADOW

Just like Peter Pan’s sneaky sidekick, Shadow is a playful girl full of curiosity and charm. She loves to explore, cuddle, and stay close by — no sewing required. She is happy as the star of your home, ready to bring adventure, affection, and a touch of mischief to your life. If you’re looking for a friend like Shadow, follow the second star to the right to Valley Humane Society to meet her today. Call (925) 426-8656 or email info@valleyhumane.org to start the adoption process. (Photo courtesy of Valley Humane)

Las Positas College Forum Encourages Racial, Gender Diversity in Medicine

By Ruth Roberts

More than 600 students across Northern California recently attended the third annual Black Men in White Coats Youth Summit at Las Positas College (LPC) in Livermore. Sponsored by Kaiser Permanente Northern California, the March 1 event was held to assist students of all cultural backgrounds and genders in applying to college and medical school and explore

careers in health care.

The daylong summit included CPR exercises, suturing demonstrations, robotics and virtual reality simulations, and workshops with physicians who shared their college and medical school experiences as people of color.

According to Kaiser data, of the 23,156 medical students enrolled in U.S. medical schools in 2024, only 7% were Black/African American and 6% were

Latinx/Hispanic.

For Dr. Kenneth Job, a sports medicine physician for Kaiser Permanente in San Jose, this was his second time participating in the annual event. He said the importance of creating more diversity in the medical field cannot be overstated.

“There is a huge physician shortage everywhere and there is a huge shortage from underrepresented backgrounds,” said Job. “I did not have any physicians or providers that were African American (growing up), so to be able to be that face for many is huge. ... As soon as I heard about this program, I immediately knew I wanted to be a part of such a mentorship opportunity.”

Lovette Jackson, a mother of four from Bakersfield, made the four-hour trip to Livermore with her two teenage children to give them a chance to experience the event. Jackson, a self-employed bookkeeper, is both Mexican and Black, “So I fit the bill,” she laughed. She wanted her children to meet medical professionals who “looked like us.”

“It was so inspiring and moving,” said Jackson. “As a person of color, you can identify when doctors talk about being the only Black person in the room. Seeing

all the other ways you can get into the medical field and that there are other paths towards medical school and other careers in medicine, was awesome.”

Jackson was so impressed with the event that she signed up for two courses at LPC: medical billing and notary classes. Her daughter, 18, also signed up for pharmacy tech and phlebotomy courses. Her son, who is 14, has a few years to go before he’d enroll in college, but Jackson said he was considering taking some radiology courses in the future.

Sean Brooks, LPC’s vice president of administrative services, said they were honored to host the event with Kaiser.

“Diversity in medicine is such an important topic,” said Brooks. “We were so happy to host this event because it sits in line with our core values of outreach, diversity and education-based pursuits such as STEM ... I think it’s an important program because within the medical field, there is a lack of African American doctors and Latinx people who look like the people they serve.”

Black Men in White Coats was established in 2013 by Dr. Dale Okorodudu, associate professor of internal medicine at the

University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, as a way to bring awareness, hope and change for diverse students to pursue their dreams in the medical field,

or whatever dream their “white coat” might be.

For more information on the Black Men in White Coats program, visit bit.ly/43rmXn0



Dr. Kenneth Job, center, with two women participants in the recent Black Men in White Coats Youth Summit at Las Positas College in Livermore. The event, sponsored by Kaiser Permanente Northern California, was designed to inspire youth of all genders and cultural backgrounds who are interested in careers in the health care field. (Photo courtesy of Kaiser Permanente Northern California)

Livermore School District Approves Cuts to Staff

By Ruth Roberts

The Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District (LVJUSD) Board of Trustees has cut more than 40 full-time equivalent positions (FTE) for the 2025-26 school year to meet its \$6 million general fund deficit. The two votes at its Feb. 18 regular meeting for certificated and classified reductions, was 4-1, with Trustee Craig Bueno dissenting both times.

Many layoffs could be reversed after the Governor’s revised budget is released in May, which might yield additional state funding for schools. Early retirement and attrition will also likely free up positions.

As of March, the state-required pink slips include 24.4 FTE positions, 13.8 of them teaching positions, and 16.1 classified positions, spread out among various administrative and facilities departments.

Trustee Craig Bueno said he didn’t vote to approve the cuts for the

classified and certificated positions because he felt there might still be additional room to find cuts that didn’t involve laying off staff. He was particularly concerned about the elimination of 2.6 school psychologist positions.

Kelly Manke, assistant superintendent of special education, said the psychology and consulting department is currently overstaffed and that they are working together and continuing to meet to ensure remaining psychologists are supported and able to meet the needs of their students.

But Bueno wasn’t convinced.

“We are making the assumption we will be able to make it work, but I haven’t heard there is a plan,” Bueno said. “I’ve just heard ‘We’re in talks,’ and that gives me concern ... I understand we have to make cuts, but in this case, I see it as a little bit of the cart before the horse.”

Trustee Steve Drouin agreed with Bueno.

“The budget sucks and

I think it puts us in a difficult position,” Drouin said. “I know we are dealing with a March 15 deadline, but I think meeting (our budget) on paper and meeting the needs of the students are two different things. I think we need to make sure we are meeting the needs of the students as well as our employees.”

The district must maintain reserves of 3% of its budget to remove the Alameda County Board of Education’s “qualified” status. A qualified budget indicates that a school district may not be able to meet its financial obligations for the current year or the next two years and risks the county taking over the running of the district.

In October, the county Board of Education warned the district that if it didn’t make the necessary cuts, it might have to intervene. Currently, the district has reserves of 3.9% of its \$206 million budget, meeting the county’s requirements for this school year. However, it must

also demonstrate sufficient reserves for the 2025-26 and 2026-27 school years. Since adopting its initial budget in December 2024, the district has seen a \$1.3 million drop in outside funding due to reduced state funding, declining enrollment, and the end of one-time COVID-19 federal funding.

Zone 7 Offers Prizes to Leak Detectives

The Zone 7 Water Agency’s Water Wise Wendy Fix-A-Leak Challenge is back for 2025.

The water agency is offering residents of Livermore, Pleasanton, Dublin and the Dougherty Valley of San Ramon who find and correct a household water leak the chance at winning an outdoor water adventure package at Lake Del Valle

or Shadow Cliffs valued at \$400.

One winner from each of the retail water providers in the Zone 7 service area — California Water Service, Dublin San Ramon Services District, and the cities of Livermore and Pleasanton — will be randomly selected on Tuesday, April 15.

To enter, residents must submit photos detailing their

leak detection journey by Monday, March 31.

According to the Environmental Protection Agency, minor household leaks in U.S. homes account for more than 1 trillion gallons of water wasted annually.

For more information and a checklist to help find and fix leaks in the home, go to zone7water.com/challenge.

Pleasanton Water Open House Draws 200 To Learn About New Improvement Projects

More than 200 Pleasanton residents attended an open house to learn about the city’s water system and upcoming improvement projects, according to Heather Tiernan, the city’s communications manager.

The session, at the Veteran’s Memorial Building in Pleasanton on Saturday, March 1, included exhibits on where the city’s water comes from, short- and long-term municipal projects, and regional groundwater resources.

The Zone 7 Water Agency was also on hand to discuss a joint groundwater wells study with the city.

“This event was a first for our city and it was encouraging to see so many of our residents engaging in discussions about the current and future health of our water system,” said Pleasanton Mayor Jack Balch. “As we face important decisions in the coming months regarding our water system, we’re committed to an approach focused on listening while addressing the needs and priorities of our community.”

In January, the Pleasanton City Council adopted the city’s first Water System Management Plan, which covers projected operations, maintenance

and capital needs over the next 20 years. A Water Enterprise Financial Analysis, with a financial framework to prioritize and fund critical water infrastructure projects, was presented to the council this month.

“I can’t underscore enough our commitment to a rate structure that addresses the critical needs of our water system as we balance the increasing demands of our aging system, new regulations, and the rising costs for services,” said City Manager Gerry Beaudin.

For more information, go to PleasantonWater.com.



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Director of Targeted Outreach, California Department of Financial Protection and Innovation (DFPI)



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Livermore Approves Funding to Buy Land for Open Space

By Larry Altman

The Livermore City Council on Monday night unanimously approved spending \$670,000 toward the purchase of 82 acres in unincorporated land outside the urban growth boundary to preserve as open

space in perpetuity.

The money will combine with a \$650,000 grant from the Altamont Landfill Open Space Committee (ALOSC) to buy the \$1.3 million Goecken Road Property, two parcels located north of Altamont Pass Road, about one

mile east of Greenville Road and north of Interstate 580. The property is bordered by Goecken Road on the east, private property to the north, Brushy Peak Regional Preserve to the west and Altamont Pass Road to the south. A Union Pacific Railroad Co.

heavy rail line runs through the property, which is zoned as Large Parcel Agriculture.

The purchase is one of three the city announced in November it would draw on ALOSC funding to purchase and preserve as open space. The 41-acre Quint property, which lies inside the city limits and the urban growth boundary, was bought for \$1.13 million in December. The city also drew on its Dougherty Valley Settlement Account for part of that funding. A \$3 million deal to purchase the 86-acre Collier Canyon property, which lies outside the city and growth boundary northwest of Las Positas College, is still being finalized.

In its ALOSC grant application, the city wrote that it plans to keep the land as open space with possibilities for trail connections and recreational uses in coordination

with the East Bay Regional Park District. The city said the land will serve as a greenbelt around Livermore.

“Open space is very important to this community and also to the council,” Mayor John Marchand said before the vote. “I fully support this, as do the rest of the members of the council. We do preserve open space, and we are committed to acquire additional open space to protect the urban growth boundary that we have around us.”

Owned by Jeanne Moghadam, the land has “significant biological and recreational value and preserving it as open space would secure important habitat linkage in the Altamont Wildlife Corridor,” a city report said. The city negotiated a purchase and sale agreement with Moghadam last summer.

According to a city report, the land has critical habitat for

the California red-legged frog, the California tiger salamander and is a potential home for the western burrowing owl, which is a candidate for California’s endangered species list.

Once the purchase is complete, the city will manage the open space and coordinate with EBRPD, the Tri-Valley Conservancy and the Alameda County Resource Conservation District to maintain the land’s biological resources and recreation possibilities.

The ALOSC, which allocates funding collected from sanitation fees for open space acquisitions, approved the city’s grant request in November.



Potted geraniums are in bloom along Main Street in downtown Pleasanton. (Photo — Leah Silveira)

Bankhead to Host World Premiere of Kathak Dance Program

The Leela Dance Collective, a Los Angeles-based Kathak dance company, will perform the world premiere of “Encounters with Beauty” at the Bankhead Theater in Livermore on Saturday, April 19.

Kathak is a classical India performance dance with stories conveyed using dra-

matic hand, feet and body movements, as well as facial expressions. Kathak dancers also wear ghungroos, or ankle bells.

Created by Lela Dance Collective artistic directors Rukhmani Mehta and Seibi Lee, “Encounters with Beauty” weaves together

classical Hindustani vocals, the percussive footwork and dramatic movement of Kathak dance, and contemporary Western chamber music.

“The creative process has pushed us outside of our comfort zone and fueled experimentation and innovation within our form of

Kathak dance,” Metha said. “This production combines and celebrates contemporary and classical genres of dance and music, bringing together artists and audiences across cultures and communities. My hope is that together we create a transcendent experience that demonstrates the universality of music and dance.”

The score for “Encounters with Beauty” was curated by Indian American composer Reena Esmail and includes songs featuring traditional Indian mystical poetry along with contemporary Indian-Western crossover offerings from the album “Beyond,” recorded by the Los Angeles chamber ensemble Salastina and Hindustani vocalist Saili Oak.

Tickets to the 8 p.m. performance range from \$25 to \$75 and are available online at livermorearts.org. Student and military discounts are

available by calling the Bankhead Theater box office, 925-373-6800.



Joanna Meini, Rukhmani Mehta, Rachna Nivas of Leela Dance Collective perform the classical Indian storytelling dance form, Kathak. (Photo — Margo Moritz)

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EDITORIAL

Hard Choices Lie Ahead for Pleasanton City Council

The Pleasanton City Council last week voted to tap into an employee pension fund to partially fill the gap in its budget this coming year. The move would allow the city to whittle down its deficit by \$4 million, but it still wouldn’t be enough to plug a hole likely to be more than \$10 million, and which could be at least \$13 million per year in coming years.

This was not a good choice to make, but it’s also unclear if there are any that are much better. The city still needs to make cuts. While the \$4 million drawdown of the city’s Section 115 Supplemental Pension Trust will come out of interest earned, rather than the principal that has been deposited over the years, it’s a one-time measure. Further withdrawals could seriously affect the pensions the city is required to pay its retirees.

Rightsizing the city’s balance sheet requires looking at the structural problems the city faces: Pleasanton is not bringing in enough revenue and is spending too much.

Cutting spending is easy on paper, but hard in real life, because most of a city government’s spending takes the form of salaries and facilities. There are a few big-ticket items on the list that could help fill the budget gap, but they all come at a steep price to the community: Closing Fire Station 1 would degrade response times to emergencies. Closing the Dolores Bengston Aquatic Center would deprive the city’s families of an important recreational facility. Eliminating police school resource officers could make schools less safe.

Finding new sources of revenue is also difficult. The key one is taxes. In

November, Pleasanton voters rejected Measure PP, which would have raised city sales taxes by one-half of one cent on the dollar. The vote wasn’t close: 54.2% of residents voted no.

The run-up to the vote was marked by a campaign that at times downplayed the city’s financial forecast and described the budget crisis as nowhere near as bad as supporters of Measure PP made it out to be. Among those was Mayor Jack Balch, who as a member of the city council had opposed placing Measure PP on the ballot.

An independent analysis of those finances has since determined that the forecast was largely accurate. The budget crisis is now the new city council’s problem to solve, and they have a June deadline to do so.

There is no magic wand that will

restore the businesses that were lost from the Stoneridge Shopping Center and elsewhere. Deferred maintenance still needs to be completed. And inflation, while lower than before, is still frustratingly high, driving up the costs of purchases for both the city and residents. It may be that the council will have to reconsider its opposition to taxes as a source of revenue and try to convince a reluctant population that it would be better to pay a little more to ensure key services aren’t eliminated.

The city faces hard choices, but at the core, those choices are about what kind of city Pleasanton is going to be: one which pays for and provides necessary services for its residents, or one which doesn’t pay as much and doesn’t provide as much.

The city council should choose wisely.

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. Letters may not contain advertising. Abusive letters and letters containing ad hominem attacks 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 or not run at all. 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. The letters to the editor deadline is Monday at 8 a.m. If you wish to submit a letter pertaining to a special event or meeting taking place on a Monday before any given Thursday print edition—and you would like your letter to run that week—please contact the editor (newsroom@independentnews.com) as soon as possible on Monday to discuss the content and publication options. Otherwise, all letters submitted after 8 a.m. on Monday must hold until the following week.

Preserve the Department of Education

Jessica OBalle, Livermore

Our public schools serve as vital centers of community, fostering collaboration and shared understanding among children from diverse backgrounds. They are where future citizens learn to engage in informed discourse and where the seeds of innovation are sown.

Eliminating the Department of Education would trigger significant disruptions:

Severe Funding Implications: Public schools would face substantial reductions in federal funding, including Title I and crucial support for special education programs. This would place considerable financial strain on state and local governments, potentially leading to increased taxes or reductions in other essential services.

Diminished Oversight and Equity: The absence of federal oversight would weaken civil rights protections and create inconsistencies in educational standards. This could result in increased discrimination and unequal opportunities for students nationwide.

We have a responsibility to advocate for the preservation of the Department of Education and our public

schools. This is an investment in our collective future, and we must urge our leaders to prioritize it.

Welcome to MAGA World

Rosario Milelli, Pleasanton

The Chaos Administration, the gang that couldn’t shoot straight. Their mantra is ready, fire, aim.

On tariffs: They are on, then off, then on, then piece parts, absolutely no rhyme or reason to the thinking. But why are we surprised? Here are Trump comments on the USMCA:

“I mean, who can blame them if they made these great deals with the United States, took advantage of the United States on manufacturing?”

“On just about anything, every aspect you can imagine, they took advantage.”

He continued, “I look at some of these agreements, I’d read them at night (doubt it), and I’d say, ‘Who would ever sign a thing like this?’ So the tariffs will go forward, yes, and we’re gonna make up a lot of territory. All we want is reciprocal. We want reciprocity.”

Really what idiot could have possibly signed such a terrible agreement saying it was the “best agreement we’ve ever made”. You guessed it, Donald Trump himself. Obviously hav-

ing severe memory issues, didn’t realize he signed the agreements, didn’t recognize his own signature.

There are disparities in tariffs between the U.S. and other countries. Perhaps diplomacy first, work the differences amicably, if not successful, then punitive action. Tariffs are a sales tax; we pay the price in higher costs for everything. As Trump says, “a little pain”.

On Russia: Why does Trump want Ukraine to essentially surrender? He says he wants peace; the only leverage he has is to make Ukraine capitulate, and he has no leverage on Russia to make them seek peace. Trump doesn’t care about Ukraine, he wants the Nobel Peace prize at any cost. He was always jealous of Obama who achieved that honor. Look, Russia invaded Ukraine, they could stop any time they wanted to. Trump is so blinded by this desire, he is doing everything to force Ukraine to surrender. Consider: Trump has halted delivery of essential weapons and equipment to Ukraine. Trump has halted aid to support infrastructure. Trump has halted intelligence sharing to assist Ukraine in defending itself. Unbelievably, Trump has paused offensive cyber operations against Russia by U.S. Cyber Command; Russia state actors continue to attack the U.S. with disinformation and attacks on businesses and infrastructure. He wants to remove sanctions and cripple NATO. His love and adoration of Putin makes you wonder when we will start addressing each other as comrade.

Help for the Hurting

Paul Stone, Dublin

In my short young life of threescore and ten plus years, I have never seen such a miserable, wretched, venom-filled conglomeration of politicians in one place at one time as on the Democrat side of the aisle at last week’s joint session of Congress. The hatred was etched into their very visages. They couldn’t even rise to honor a 13-year-old cancer survivor who wanted to be a policeman someday.

Judging by the letters to Mailbox, it seems many contributors share the same level of vitriol as those Congress members.

I didn’t like Biden a bit, but I didn’t hate the man. You poor people are going to be beating your heads against the wall for the next four years. You might want to ask yourself whether that’s a healthy thing.

I’d recommend primal scream therapy, but Jesus would be a lot less expensive. He said, “And whoso-

ever will, let him take the water of life freely.” (Revelation 22:17)

Apathy is Un-American

John Cameron, Dublin

Bottom line—while the richest man in the world is slashing every facet of government from air traffic safety, natural disaster relief, social security, education, veterans’ benefits, consumer protection and loads more, he personally benefits from ridiculously generous tax cuts for the elite of our society, as income inequality is worse than ever.

And let’s make things even better for the bloated, greedy elite by drastically cutting the agency that makes sure they pay their already disproportionate share of taxes!

It’s disheartening to know how 80 million people listened to the barrage of bull and voted for a grifter. It’s more disheartening to know that tens of millions thought it wasn’t important enough to even vote!

It matters who is running the country. Effects reach every door in the nation, and it will affect you and your family, too!

Since when in history have the rich and privileged ever cared more for the average citizen than their friends and egos? You’ve been bamboozled! Don’t take my word for it—you’ll see it soon yourself. The question is, will you continue to believe lies and be made a fool, or join truth and logic to fight back and save all that is still decent and amazing about our country...?

We’re called the United States, so why do we accept a leader that does nothing at all to UNITE us? It’s in our name, for Pete’s sake!

Livermore Wine Industry Development

Ted Dudziak, Pleasanton

Glad to see that some development is going to take place for the wine industry in Livermore. However, the location of the development is vague to me anyway, as I am not that familiar with all the sections of Livermore. I do not know where the sewer lines are that were approved. I think they are near Poppy Ridge. Can you confirm or tell me where the development will take place?

Who Is Our Real Ally?

Diane Burkhart, Pleasanton

I’ve been trying to comprehend what really happened this past Friday when President Donald Trump and Vice President J.D. Vance met with Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy.

It was very difficult for me to watch our courageous

ally being subjected to such vile treatment by the leaders of the United States of America. Trump blamed Zelenskyy: If the war continues, you will be responsible for causing more deaths on the battlefield, or, even worse, starting World War III. Then Vance disgraced Zelenskyy for not showing appreciation to Trump for how much he has done for Zelenskyy and Ukraine. What bothers me most is what Trump said after he and Vance delivered their verbal blows to Zelenskyy: “This is going to be great television.”

What has changed so quickly to the relationship between the United States and Ukraine? Before the meeting, a bipartisan congressional group met with Zelenskyy and vowed continued support for Ukraine. Later in the day, Senator Lindsey Graham, a member of the group, said Zelenskyy should resign. In the past, Graham had repeatedly shown his support for Zelenskyy and Ukraine. Just a few days before the meeting, Graham said the United States “should arm Zelenskyy to the teeth.”

The press corps for that meeting did not include the Associated Press or Reuters, who were not on the approved list. How could that happen? If that wasn’t enough, a Russian state reporter gained entrance to the Oval Office but was removed because he did not have permission to attend. To add insult to injury, Marjorie Taylor Greene’s boyfriend, Brian Glenn, White House correspondent for Real America’s Voice, ridiculed Zelenskyy for not wearing a suit to the meeting.

Was this all a show for Vladimir Putin? Trump described how he and Putin had “gone through a lot of hell together.” Then, over the weekend, Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth suspended offensive cyber operations against Russia.

So now maybe Russia — and not Ukraine — is our real ally? Or did I miss something?

has replaced apolitical civil

servants with loyalists, yet fails to name one loyalist named by Trump. Accordingly, Trump has members in his cabinet that are unqualified, yet fails to name why they are unqualified. This means, I disagree with their policies, so they must be unqualified. It’s a small mind at work.

I could continue on with this ignorant and biased editorial written by a graduate of the Joy Behar School of Ignorance, but I would rather comment on the lack of editorial comments on a policy of the prior administration.

Due to the lack of editorial comment by the Independent on the open border policy of the prior administration, one could conclude full support of an open border, allowing drug pushers, criminals and other unworthy individuals easy access to cross. Included in this support is the “catch and release” policy where those seeking asylum are allowed to roam free in our country until their plea can be heard in court. Of course, it’s never mentioned that this court hearing could take more than five years. And there is no comment on the prior Director of Homeland Security lying continually that the border was secure. I won’t mention the great work our former Border Czar did.

The Independent must support unlimited government spending, meaning there are no programs our tax dollars are funding that are worth a second look or there are no agencies that have outlived their usefulness and need to be removed.

There is so much negative projection in this editorial, one would think the Constitution was being shredded and the future is hopeless. No, it’s just a president who has different policies and was elected based on those policies. It’s an example that our Democracy works.

Leader of the Free World or of “Trump World?”

David Turner, Livermore

Recently, someone basically said that Trump isn’t so interested in getting a peace deal in Ukraine as he is in getting a deal with Vladimir Putin. In the Oval Office ambush last Friday, he came off as more the New York real estate agent than a president/statesman, pushing to get a deal, any deal. He repeatedly emphasized the importance of a deal, the necessity of a deal, the mechanics of making a deal. And he obviously impressed himself with the card game analogy, assessing the strength/weakness of Zelensky’s hand.

(See MAILBOX, page 5)



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EDITOR: Chris Winters

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All the teams in the Livermore Girls Softball Association came to Junction Avenue TK-8 school on March 8 for the opening ceremonies of the 2025 season. More than 450 girls ages 4 and up make up 43 teams in the league. The games began on March 10. (Photo — Doug Jorgensen)

MAILBOX

(Continued from page 4)

And just what kind of a deal would he make with a murderous dictator, who invaded another country without provocation, bombed civilian populations, and kidnapped their children to take back to his country to offer them up for adoption?

Continuing the card game analogy, Trump’s actions since Friday will stack the deck for Putin. His move to freeze military aid to Ukraine is punitive, far reaching, and applies more pressure on Zelensky than Putin. It was confirmed today that military hardware already approved and shipped is also covered by this freeze. So while Putin continues his assault, the invasion Trump can’t even acknowledge, weaponry that could help Ukraine resist will sit idle in a warehouse in Poland.

It seems that Trump is not so interested in being the “leader of the free world” as in being the leader of Trump world, whatever that may be.

Potential Medicaid Cuts
Julie Elfin, Pleasanton

I am writing to express my deep concern over potential Medicaid cuts, which would devastate individuals with disabilities, the public schools that support them, and the countless adults with disabilities and their families who rely on these services for daily care, independence, and dignity.

My son, Jacob, has a rare disability called Trisomy 9, similar to Down syndrome. Thanks to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), he was never hidden away—he was part of a thriving, inclusive community in the Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District. IDEA ensured he had the right to public education, receiving the support he needed to succeed. His presence in school taught empathy and compassion, benefiting not just him, but every student and educator he encountered.

Now, as an adult, Jacob lives in a special needs community in Pleasanton, where he and his peers depend on Medi-Cal to survive. Medi-Cal isn’t just healthcare—it funds critical support services like the Regional Center system and In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS), which allow people like Jacob to live with dignity. Without these programs, thousands of individuals with disabilities would face devastating consequences.

Furthermore, Medicaid funding supports essential school-based services like speech therapy, nursing care, and behavioral support, all mandated under IDEA. Cutting Medicaid threatens these programs, jeopardizing the futures of countless students with disabilities and undermining the very protections that allowed Jacob to thrive.

This issue is personal to me. As a child, I had a neighbor with Down syndrome whom I never knew existed—because there

were no special education programs in schools back then. Today, we risk returning to those days. The Trump/Musk administration has openly disrespected people with disabilities, from Trump mocking a disabled reporter on live television to Elon Musk proudly using the R-word as a slur. Their actions are not just offensive; they signal a dangerous disregard for the dignity and rights of people like my son. Now, they are pushing Project 2025, a plan to dismantle the Department of Education and defund special education.

We cannot let this happen. Protecting Medicaid means protecting Medi-Cal, the Regional Center system, IHSS, and the fundamental rights of individuals with disabilities. We must demand our lawmakers defend these critical programs.

Jacob, his friends, and millions of others like them deserve better.

Trump
Joanne Duncan, Livermore

I’m so proud of our nation once again. The last four years have not been pleasant. Trump is doing everything right and making good on his campaign promises. The best part was creating DOGE. This will cut wasteful spending by the previous administration considerably. He has already made a good headway. It is important that we bring down our debt and decrease high costs. Give the President time to do this. The topics he won on: secure our border, reduce crime, and improve the economy are all on their way to great successes.

For the first time in years, we are ensuring that foreign leaders do not take unfair advantage of our aid by imposing tariffs on those countries who will not comply with mandates. His presidential message on Tuesday night was inspiring and left many with a feeling of optimism for the future. His cabinet picks were done with thoughtful consideration and a knack for finding the best qualified for that particular position. Jobs should be given based on merit, regardless of race or gender, and Trump succeeded brilliantly. It is a pity that a majority of Democrats continue spreading divisiveness instead of finding ways to work with our current administration. We truly are on the way to a Golden Age by Making America Great Again.

Kicking Friends —
Boot-Licking Enemies
Patrick Weidhaas, Dublin

One of your frequent contributors to “letters” offers high praise for the Trump Regime (my word) which has “commonsense policies that will restore the peace, security and democracy to our country.”

Really?
Trump’s “commonsense” policies have just enacted severe tariffs on several countries, including our neighbors Mexico and Canada—yes Canada, our for-

merly close ally! These tariffs will bring about higher prices and strained relationships with our friends.

Trump’s “commonsense” policies also included bullying a war hero, Ukraine’s President Zelenskyy, in the Oval Office. Another friend has been kicked, while at the same time a dictator, war monger, Putin has his bloody boots licked by an American president.

Trump’s “commonsense” policies caused his two fellow stooges Elon Musk and Vice-President Vance to voice their support for Germany’s neo-Nazi Party (“AfD” the “Alternative für Deutschland”) days before German elections.

Kicking our friends, standing up for autocrats and their parties—is this the path to peace, security, and democracy?

SB330 Apology
Mark Strauch, Livermore

David Jonas deserves an apology. After significantly more research, SB330 was tag-teamed with AB1893 and AB3116 to gut local control over zoning and development standards for low-income housing. Those laws, signed by Newsom in late 2024, amended California Code sections 65915 and 65589. Apparently, little prevents a mini Cabini-Green from being built. Adding insult to injury, there is a carve-out if such a development poses a health or safety issue. Although one could argue a mental health impact on Livermore residents, the bills explicitly bar deviations from zoning or development standards as a health or safety issue. Welcome to the tyranny. Sacramento creates a housing problem by driving up costs through excessive regulations, then decides to fix it by stripping local governments of their zoning and development standards to build vertically.

I also erred when suggesting that those that want to decimate the small-town feel and scenic corridor sightlines of Livermore move west a few miles and enjoy the sprawl; one can also move east a handful of miles over to Tracy Hills. A more accurate description would be The Sea of Stucco.

Mistreating Our Allies
Donna Andersen, Livermore

There is a fable about a father who overheard his five sons arguing about which of them were the strongest. He then gathered five sticks, tied them into a bundle, and asked his sons, one at a time, to break the bundle of sticks. None were successful. He then untied the bundle, handed each son a stick, and asked each one to break the stick he held. Each of them easily broke his stick. The father explained that it was not important to know which of them were the strongest. What was important was to understand that if they were united, together they were stronger than the most powerful of enemies.

Former leaders of the United States understood the moral of this story.

Following the attack on Pearl Harbor, leaders of our country abandoned the ill-conceived notion of isolationism and embraced the opportunity to strengthen our nation’s security by forming alliances. NATO was formed in 1949 and included other countries who believed in territorial integrity. They agreed that if any member country were attacked it would be considered an attack against them all. The United States, Canada, and Denmark were some of the original members of this alliance.

For the past 76 years the leaders of America have worked to strengthen our national security by strengthening our relationships with our allies. Until now. Until Trump.

Trump has started a tariff war with Canada and has repeatedly said he plans to either absorb Canada as the 51st state or redraw the border between our two countries, expanding U.S. territory. He has repeatedly insulted the leader of Canada by calling him “governor.” Trump has said he plans to acquire Greenland from Denmark. When Denmark said that Greenland was not for sale, Trump insisted he would acquire it anyway and that he wouldn’t rule out using our military as a means to do so. Is that how we treat our friends? Is that how we strengthen our relationships with our allies?

And what about Ukraine? When Ukraine gained its independence from the USSR it held a large arsenal of nuclear weapons. In 1994 Ukraine signed a pact with the USA, UK, and Russia. It agreed to dismantle its nuclear weapons with the promise that the USA, UK, and Russia would provide assistance to Ukraine should it become a victim of aggression. How is that going today?

Mistreating our allies makes us less safe!

An Uninformed
Electorate
Moe Cranston, Livermore

Ever since Trump took office, I’ve been seeing all sorts of people on social media talking about how much they regret their vote for Trump. I can understand why one might regret such a vote: firing essential federal workers without cause, imposing massive tariffs on our largest trade partners, ending foreign aid to Ukraine as they fight the largest land war in Europe since World War II, and the list goes on. Trump is actively plunging our country

and the world into chaos. And while I understand why one might regret their vote for Trump, I don’t have a shred of sympathy for any

(See MAILBOX, page 6)

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VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

LIVERMORE RESIDENTS: Share your talents with the community by volunteering on one of the City of Livermore’s advisory bodies. We are accepting applications now through May 2, 2025, at 5:00 PM.

Commission for the Arts (1 Vacancy)

Join us in promoting Livermore as a vibrant and stimulating environment for artists and audiences, young and old, to experience the performing, visual, and literary arts.

(1) Unexpired Term ending 1/1/2029

Meets 4th Tuesday of each month at 4:30 PM

Next meetings: March 25th and April 22nd

Historic Preservation Commission (2 Vacancies)

Join us in identifying, protecting, and preserving Livermore’s historic resources. The Commission’s successes are visible in the beauty of Livermore’s historic structures and landmarks.

(2) Regular Terms ending 5/1/29

Meets 1st Thursday of each month at 7:00 PM

Next meetings: April 3rd and May 1st

Library Board of Trustees (3 Vacancies)

Join us in helping to set goals and objectives for the broad variety of services and programs the Livermore libraries provide.

(1) Unexpired Term ending 6/1/26

(2) Regular Terms ending 6/1/28

Meets 4th Thursday of each month at 7:00 PM

Next meetings: March 27th and April 24th

Livermore Housing Authority (1 Vacancy)

Join us in administering and overseeing affordable housing for low-income families, seniors, and persons with disabilities in the City of Livermore.

(1) Unexpired Term ending 1/1/2028

Meets 2nd Wednesday of each month at 5:30 PM

Next meetings: March 12th and April 9th

SAVE THE DATE! In-person interviews tentatively scheduled the week of May 12th or May 19th. For more information or to apply, please visit www.livermoreca.gov/AB, call the City Clerk’s office at (925) 960-4200, or email: cityclerk@livermoreca.gov.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY CELEBRATION
FESTIVAL
Saturday & Sunday
March 15 & 16
10AM–5PM
Dublin Civic Center

Dublin Historical Society
SHAMROCK GALA
Friday, March 14 at 6PM
Shannon Community Center

Alameda County Firefighters
PANCAKE BREAKFAST
Saturday, March 15 at 7AM
Fire Station #16, Donohue Drive

Dublin Rotary
PARADE
Saturday, March 15 at 9:30AM
Dublin Boulevard at Amador Plaza Road

City of Dublin
SHAMROCK 5K FUN RUN & WALK
Sunday, March 16 at 8:30AM
Dublin Boulevard near Dublin Civic Center

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Second graders from Altamont Creek Elementary in Livermore learn about planting, growing and harvesting food from a school garden. The school garden is supported by Fertile GroundWorks, a Livermore nonprofit that encourages communities to grow their own food. (Photo courtesy of Altamont Creek Elementary School)

MAILBOX

(Continued from page 5)

Trump voters who now regret their vote.

Trump was president for four years, during which we watched him slash corporate tax rates without benefiting the middle class, create a safe environment for hate to flourish, botch the federal government’s response to a global pandemic, and attempt to overthrow Congress to try to cling to power after he lost a free and fair election.

Needless to say, he was one of the worst presidents in U.S. history, and historians largely agree with that statement. On the campaign trail last year, he promised insanely high tariffs on our allies. He promised to end foreign aid to Ukraine. He promised to gut the federal workforce, often while Elon Musk was on stage with him. Now that he’s in office, he’s doing exactly that.

If you voted for Trump last year and regret it now, I have a few things to say

to you, so listen up. You saw what he did during his first term. If you can stand to listen to his incoherent rambling for hours on end, then you heard what he promised to do on the campaign trail. You voted for him anyway. And now that he’s doing exactly what he promised to do, you regret your vote? You know the old saying: fool me once, shame on you; fool me twice, shame on me. Trump fooled you twice, and here we are. Shame on you.

An uninformed electorate will be the death of this country, and in this day and age when information is readily accessible anywhere at any time, there is no reason why voters should be uninformed. Google is free. Please use it next time.

Trump’s Fantastic Speech
David Ott, Pleasanton

Last week President Trump gave the best speech

that we have heard since Reagan or JFK! He shared his plans for economic growth, border security, peace for Ukraine, and that he wants to lower taxes for all Americans, especially the working middle class. With the help of the DOGE team, we will continue to stop the waste, fraud and abuse.

Survey polls by CBS news and CNN showed an approval rating of President Trump’s speech was 76%. President Trump laid out his plans and it is exactly what America needs to get to our golden age.

President Trump introduced many special guests: a young man recovering from brain cancer that has a dream to be a police officer, a young man who was granted an appointment to West Point, a school teacher that was released by Russia, a wife whose police officer husband was murdered in the line of duty,

two mothers whose daughters were killed by illegal aliens that should have been deported by Biden, a border control agent that saved his partner’s life in a shootout with cartel members, the arrest of the Islamic terrorist that planned the Abbey gate bombing in Afghanistan in 2021 and that Mexico had deported 29 cartel leaders to the U.S. for prosecution. During all of these introductions, the Republicans stood and applauded, and all of America who watched were brought to tears, but ALL of the democrats in the House sat on their hands in a deplorable display of disrespect and indecency. Who in their right mind would not acknowledge these human accomplishments and sacrifices? The foolish and out of touch dems in congress that’s who.

The fantastic poll results were not just from President Trump’s message, but it is also because the dems have no policies, no leadership and no decency. They do, however, know how to raise taxes, spend taxpayer’s money on waste, fraud and abuse. How can the dems be against securing the border, ending the war in Ukraine, arresting a known Islamic terrorist and 29 Mexico cartel leaders, and stopping the waste, fraud and abuse of taxpayer’s money? The American citizens are seeing the democratic leaders for what they are – disgraceful and out of touch with America. The dems have lost touch with what is important to the American citizens and what America needs to get to our golden age.

What Would It Take?
Thomas Gray, Livermore

I’d like to ask a question of Trump supporters, and I’d like a serious and thoughtful response. What would it take for you to withdraw your support from Trump?

I fear your answer is, “nothing could sway my support for Trump.” In which case you need to grapple with the likelihood that you’re in a cult.

Trump has now switched American foreign policy from supporting Ukraine to supporting Russia. Trump has been, and appears willing to be going forward, very cozy with Russia.

I predict that at some point Trump will agree to joint military cooperation between U.S. and Russian forces. Would that be a “red line” for Trump supporters?

What if Trump agrees to joint U.S./Russian military exercises taking place on U.S. soil? What if those Russian troops NEVER leave the U.S.?

What if Trump agrees to joint U.S./Russian military operations in places around the world, such as in supporting Russia in completing its Ukraine takeover?

An adversary wanting to topple America would do four things:

- 1)Remove government safeguards, such as public health, public welfare, epidemic response, and disease response and prevention. Leave citizens as helpless as possible;
- 2)Dismantle government institutions, especially those that support items listed in goal one (i.e. NIH, FEMA);
- 3)Bypass Congress and the courts to accomplish goals one and two;
- 4)Encourage the U.S. to leave any and all international organizations that might undermine goals one through three.

Does any of this sound familiar?

So Many Holidays, So Little Time...
Patricia Munro, Livermore

This year, Ash Wednesday, the beginning of the 40 days of Lent that lead up to Easter, took place on March 5. It is a solemn reminder of how ephemeral life is—a literal “ashes to

ashes, dust to dust” observance, followed by 40 days of abstaining from indulging in pleasures.

This year, Ramadan—which cycles through the seasons—takes place through the entire month of March. As Abdul Awwad explained last week, it is a month of reflection on the Quran, marked by abstaining from food or drink through the day, breaking that fast at sundown each night.

Both Lent and Ramadan, in their different traditions, speak to the human need to reflect on values and meaning, to recenter and recommit to our best selves.

Friday, March 14 (03-14) is, of course, Pi Day, celebrated with pies of every kind — which is appropriate for pi, the ratio of a circle’s circumference to its diameter. It is also the day two holidays of wild abandon are celebrated. There is the Hindu holiday of Holi that celebrates spring, love, and the triumph of good over evil. It is celebrated by tossing powdered color on each other until all participants look like rainbow. And there is the Jewish holiday of Purim that celebrates bravery, threat, and defeating evil. It is celebrated with costumes, farces, sweet treats, and drink.

This coming week, the Muslim Community Center will host an Interfaith Iftar. Down in the South Bay, Jews and Hindus put on a Holi-Purim party last week, featuring hamentaschen, mango lassi, and bright colors smeared all over Jews and Hindus alike.

Whether an individual believes in God or not, chooses to be part of religious community or not, humans need moments that celebrate life with wild abandon and times evaluate our lives with serious contemplation. We are lucky to live in a place where we can celebrate with and learn from each other. We are all the richer for it.

REPRESENTATIVES

(Continued from front page)

at the border, and I would like to be a partner in this,” he said. “I think (Republicans) are missing an opportunity to work together on solutions.”

U.S. Rep. Mark DeSaulnier, whose 10th Congressional District represents parts of Contra Costa and Alameda County, including Dublin, said the current political situation is what the American people have to work with and as such, citizens must continue to make their voices heard. Locally, he has been working with constituents to help them express themselves peacefully and lawfully through organized protests, such as a March 1 gathering at a Tesla dealership in Dublin, which he attended.

“The biggest thing is that since we are in the minority and we lost the election and elections have consequences, we have to continue to work where we can,” said DeSaulnier. “We are working a lot through the courts and raising money so we can get the House back.”

But for long-term success, DeSaulnier said, the key is going to be patience.

“We have to be strategic. They try to create as much chaos as possible,” DeSaulnier said. “America works best when people are engaged; we all have to show up for this and say, ‘This is unacceptable.’ We can have those debates, but respectfully... I can’t believe the country is going through this right now. I was taught to be respectful and the shamelessness of this administration and the total disregard for honesty and ethics is what keeps me up at night. ... We have been through this before and we just have to stand united and get through this again.”

California State Senator Jerry McNerney, whose 5th District includes the

Tri-Valley and parts of San Joaquin County, says the next four years will sorely try the tenets of democracy, but he believes it is a test the American people can win.

“People have lost faith and trust, and they don’t know what to believe right now,” McNerney said. “But we have to remain vocal; we have to remain sure of ourselves and continue to organize so that we can turn America back into a better place.”

On the international front, all agreed that President Trump’s White House meeting with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy marked a new low for American diplomacy.

“Zelenskyy thought he was walking into the White House, and he walked into the Kremlin,” Swallow said. Regarding Trump’s behavior, he added, “It was premeditated, and he wanted to humiliate Zelenskyy, but I think people know who the real leader is. ... Unfortunately, we have lost a lot of credibility with our allies.”

DeSaulnier said emotions were running high on both sides of the aisle in Congress.

“It’s very intense,” said DeSaulnier. “I’m so embarrassed by this; it’s beyond shocking.”

McNerney said that the recent meeting between Zelenskyy and Trump set off alarms among his fellow colleagues in California.

“I am just so hurt about what is happening in Ukraine,” McNerney said. “They have sacrificed everything. ... I was there right after the Russians invaded the second time and they were looking to us, saying, ‘We love you guys. We want you to be there for us.’ It is so embarrassing to me that this is happening under this presidency.”

In Sacramento, the Senate and Assembly are shor-

ing up the state’s defenses.

So far, \$25 million has been allocated to ensure the state has enough money to fight lawsuits that are likely coming should the Trump administration hold back on disaster aid for the recent Southern California fires or future disasters. Trump has threatened to withhold relief funding unless Gov. Gavin Newsom overhauls the state’s water policies.

A second bill has been signed by Newsom that provides another \$25 million for legal services for people caught up in the immigration crackdown. The funds would also be used to educate immigrants, regardless of their status, about their rights under the law.

McNerney said he plans to hold several town hall meetings in his district in the coming months on a variety of topics ranging from water rights to immigration and deportation.

“Right now, we are organizing a Delta caucus concerning the Delta water,” McNerney said. “It’s about getting people to stand up and be counted ... I had a meeting last week in Stockton with an organizer there and they are saying that people are afraid and subject to investigation based on their immigration status and they want to see opponents of Trump and Musk speak out and act out in big and little ways, and that’s something I am going to be focusing on; bringing people together.”

Swallow remains hopeful that the country will persevere through this turbulent period.

“We can’t shrink from our challenges, and we must be as brave and bold as always,” he said. “That’s what we do as Americans.”

Assemblymembers Rebecca Bauer-Kahan and Liz Ortega were unavailable for comment.

Valley Humane Society to Hold Annual Fundraiser

Valley Humane Society (VHS) will host the 11th annual Tails at Twilight gala at Casa Real at Ruby Hill Winery in Pleasanton on Saturday, April 12.

The fundraising event, from 6 p.m. to 11 p.m., will include a champagne reception, seated dinner, auction,

and Black & White ball.

Auction items will include a seven-night cycling tour for two on the Italian island of Sicily, a three-night stay in Scottsdale, Arizona, and a dinner for eight at Oyo in Pleasanton.

Tickets to the fundraising gala are \$200 and are avail-

able online at valleyhumane.org.

Proceeds go to support VHS animal welfare programs, including cat and dog adoptions, AniMeals pet food pantry, Phil Scholz Veterinary Surgery Center, and Canine Comfort pet-assisted therapy.

PFAS

(Continued from front page)

Tri-Valley’s water agency, to shut down two of its 11 wells in October 2022, and the City of Pleasanton to shut down all three of its wells in November 2022. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency finalized its PFAS drinking-water standards in April 2024.

Zone 7 has since installed a PFAS-treatment facility at its Stoneridge well and plans on March 26 to bring a similar facility online at its Chain of Lakes Facility between Pleasanton and Livermore. Pleasanton, in partnership with Zone 7, has elected to find new well locations outside of the contaminated area.

Jim Lehrman, a Pleasanton resident and geologist, told The Independent that the latest Water Board findings bring into question Zone 7’s groundwater models, which had predicted PFAS concentrations almost two orders of magnitude less than what was sampled at the training facility.

“The new data underscores the magnitude and complexity of the problem, and the difficulty of modeling future plume movement,” said Lehrman, who started a petition last year urging the city to abandon its plan for new wells and instead focus on treatment at their existing wells. “If conservative assumptions are used in modeling the PFAS plume, the results would likely show that the proposed new production

wells would accelerate the spread of PFAS, cause greater harm, and would require wellhead treatment at the proposed new wells at much greater cost.”

But Zone 7 General Manager Valerie Pryor said that the findings did not affect plans for the new wells, which began with the digging of exploratory test wells at the end of last year. “The training center and the location of the potential new wells are in different sub-basins in the groundwater basin, so we don’t anticipate any impact, and that is one of the reasons we are exploring the potential new wells in the Bernal subbasin,” Pryor said. “We don’t anticipate any significant direct impact from the training center information.”

In the 1960s, the U.S. Navy began using aqueous film-forming foam (AFFF) as a fire suppressant for emergencies, training exercises and equipment testing. AFFF was then adopted by other firefighting agencies because of the chemical’s ability to quickly extinguish large fires, including those that involve liquid fuel or munitions. The foam commonly used for liquid fuel fires, known as Class B foam, contains significant amounts of PFAS.

LPFD spokesperson Rosa Ramos said that the fire department could not determine when or how frequently it used the foam, as no records of AFFF use

exist.

A Water Board report on the investigation only noted that class B firefighting foam may have been used at the fire training facility. “Most class B foams contain PFAS. An initial Site History Report requirement will provide additional information on Class B firefighting foam use and storage,” the report said.

The Water Board began requesting information from LPFD in May 2021 and, in December 2023, asked several local fire stations to voluntarily investigate PFAS in the soils beneath their facilities. In addition to the training center and Fire Station 10, LPFD Fire Stations 1, 3 and 5 are also being investigated, and the Water Board expects to receive investigation work plans for these stations later this year.

The Water Board said it plans to determine which, if any, LPFD facilities are PFAS sources by the end of the year.

Should the training center turn out to be a source, the Water Board will work with LPFD to stop any continued seeping into the groundwater. No plans for remediation have been discussed. “For many sites the Regional Water Board oversees, it can take several years, depending on technical and economic considerations, to complete this process and achieve regulatory closure,” a Water Board statement said.

Bankhead Shows to Feature Global Music

The Bankhead Theater in Livermore will host an international lineup of musical performances this month, beginning with Teada, an Irish dance band, for a rousing St. Patrick’s Day celebration at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, March 17.

That will be followed by the traditional sounds of Japan, Hawaii, India and, of course, American rock ‘n’ roll.

Teada is a five-piece band led by Oisín Mac Diarmada on the fiddle, Paul Finn on button accordion, Damien Stenson on flute, Tristan Rosenstock on bodhrán (a

type of open-ended drum), and Sean McElwain, switching between guitar and the four-string Irish bouzouki.

The band has appeared as a headliner at music festivals throughout the U.S., Canada, Mexico, Europe, Africa, Russia, the Middle East and Australia.

Two days later, at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, March 19, the Bankhead Theater will welcome Yamato, a celebrated Japanese drumming troupe.

The traditional taiko drumming performances feature more than 30 Japanese drums, each varying

in size and tone, along with traditional Japanese instruments, including shamisen, chappa, shinobue and koto, the national instrument of Japan. Each performance begins with the striking of a wadaiko drum, made from a single piece of wood from a 400-year-old tree and weighing half a ton.

The Ronstadt Revue, a tribute band led by singer/songwriter Gesinia Gerenia, will return to the Bankhead Theater at 3 p.m. on Sunday, March 23, for “The Ultimate Celebration of Linda Ronstadt,” covering the 40-year career of the American

rock ‘n’ roll superstar and performed in both English and Spanish.

John Beland, lead guitarist during Ronstadt’s early years, will be a special guest for the performance.

The Daniel Ho Quintet, featuring the six-time Grammy Award-winning ukulele virtuoso will take the Bankhead Theater stage at 8 p.m. on Saturday, March 29, with Hawaiian music and contemporary jazz, followed by Rhythm India with “Bollywood & Beyond,” featuring the vibrant costumes, traditional dance, and music of India.



Yamato, a Japanese taiko drumming troupe, will perform at the Bankhead Theater on March 19. (Photo courtesy of Livermore Valley Arts)

Tickets to all shows start at \$25 and are available online at livermorearts.org,

at the Bankhead Theater box office, or by calling 925-373-6800.

12 Livermore Students Are Finalists in Scholarship Competition

All semifinalists from the Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District (LVJUSD) who participated in the National Merit Scholarship competition have advanced to the national finals. A total of 12 students from Granada, Livermore and Vineyard high schools ranked in the top 1% of high school seniors nationwide.

The prestigious distinctions were based on their academic achievements and

test scores along with extracurricular activities and leadership roles on campus and in their communities.

Granada High School’s finalists are Sameer Dhanvantari, Avi Iyer, Rishabh Mahesh, Audrey Manley, Caspar Markel, Aarav Mehta, Ziad Mohammed, Amelia Mueller, Kayla van Waes and Kate Wang. Livermore High’s Grace Gallagher and Vineyard Alternative High School’s

Jessica Traugott round out the list of winners.

“Becoming a National Merit Scholarship Finalist is no small feat, as it reflects not only on a student’s academic excellence but also on their involvement and leadership throughout their high school career,” said Torie Gibson, LVJUSD superintendent. “We are incredibly proud of these students for their hard work and commitment to success.”

A portion of the students’ qualifications were related to their PSAT test scores. The PSAT, or Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test as it is often called, is a standardized test that measures a student’s reading, writing, and math skills. A student’s performance on the PSAT during their junior year is a key factor in qualifying for National Merit semifinalist and finalist status.

“Thanks to the generous support of the Pedrozzi Foundation, LVJUSD is proud to offer the PSAT to all juniors each year at no cost,” said Michelle Pechette, LVJUSD’s assistant superintendent of educational services. “We are grateful that our partnership with Pedrozzi continues to eliminate financial barriers, ensuring every student has the opportunity to pursue National Merit recognition.”

The winners of the finalist rounds will be announced in early spring or summer, according to the Merit Scholars website.

Since 1955, the National Merit Scholarship Program has recognized and provided scholarships to high-achieving students through corporate, institutional, and non-profit sponsors. For more information on the National Merit Scholarship organization, visit nationalmerit.org.

STABLES

(Continued from front page)

in Pleasanton, according to the Alameda County Agricultural Fair Association.

“We recognize that the closure of the stables will impact some families, and we remain committed to working with the county and other support services to assist them during this transition,” according to a statement from the Fair Association. “(The association) is saddened by the loss of horse racing in Northern California and its long tradition in Pleasanton.”

There are approximately 120 people living in 45 vehicles in RV park on the fairgrounds, according to the Fair Association. No eviction notices have been served, and most racing employees work directly for a racing stable and not for the fairgrounds.

The Pleasanton race track, one of the oldest one-mile tracks in the country, was seen briefly as a savior for Northern California horse racing after Berkeley’s Golden Gate Fields closed last June. A year-round racing program called Golden State Racing formed and ran races at Pleasanton until last October.

“The intention there was to give a home to horsemen and horses in the north (and) move them from Golden Gate Fields to Pleasanton; (it) became the only option at the time,” Jerome Hoban, CEO of the Alameda County Fairgrounds, said at the committee meeting. “That ran until December until it was obvious it was not solvent. CARF was losing lots of money and ultimately the CARF board voted to discontinue Golden State Racing for financial reasons.”

Wagering dollars ultimately amounted to just half of what CARF expected, a result that Hoban attributed to a decision to disable algorithmic betting during races at the fairground.

Per an agreement with Southern California race tracks, training operations at the fairgrounds will close March 25, leaving stable hands and their families left to figure out their next steps.

Pleasanton Unified School District (PUSD) representative Patrick Gannon told The Independent that, while the district could not say how many families

in the district are affected by the changes, those who may have to move will have the option to continue in the school district through the end of the school year, even if they move out of Pleasanton.

“Our amazing team of social workers is collaborating with CityServe of the Tri-Valley, a local nonprofit, to help families identify housing, as well as connect them with other resources,” said Gannon.

Alameda County Supervisor David Haubert’s office has also been in close contact with CityServe in offering assistance to families facing displacement. The office did not specify what assistance is being offered.

CityServe CEO Christine Beitsch-Bahmani said that beyond job losses, some of the workers in the industry are undocumented immigrants and are experiencing housing and food insecurity, as well as not having stable transportation or schooling. CityServe will work onsite with families at the fairground this week to further assess their needs.

Independent of CARF’s decision, the San Francisco

Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board alerted the fairgrounds to water quality issues with its runoff last spring.

“The wastewater has been determined to be out of compliance with discharge regulations, so we can’t discharge water,” said Haubert. “We can’t pipe it into DSRSD without a permit.”

Although the fairgrounds continues to work with the Water Board in developing an interim wastewater plan, they told the Water Board last December that they will not be submitting a long-term plan because of the pending closure.

As of last week, Haubert’s chief of staff Shawn Wilson told The Independent that his office is continuing to work with the Water Board and DSRSD on how the fairgrounds might be brought into compliance with Water Board regulations.

On March 4, Assemblymember Liz Ortega, whose district includes parts of western Dublin and Pleasanton, sent a letter to the Water Board asking that it find the lowest-cost solutions for keeping up to 499 horses at

the fairgrounds, plus “adequate time” for families to transition without fines or excessive costs.

“This is very concerning to us, especially considering that the abrupt end of this industry will leave thousands of people unemployed, unhoused, with many having to remove

their children from school,” wrote Ortega, who went on to say that all of the workers were low-income and people of color. “These folks are already in fear of the Trump Administration and now they are in fear of regulations in which your Board is sanctioning the Alameda County Fair with.”

PENSIONS

(Continued from front page)

to lose about \$10 million in the fiscal year beginning this July and \$12 million the following year if no budget-balancing strategies are implemented. The city’s forecast projects annual deficits between \$10.4 million to \$16.9 million over the next 10 years, as spending continues to outpace revenues for the next several years.

Narum highlighted a section of the trust fund’s policy, which states that withdrawals can be made if the general fund experiences a structural deficit that requires addressing. “Well, guess what?” said Narum. “We’ve been talking for a year about that. So, I think it’s time we really evaluate how we’re going to use this thing.”

An analysis of the city’s financial position, conducted and released by accounting firm Eide Bailly LLP last month, also viewed limited use of the Section 115 funds to address the structural deficit as appropriate. The city’s

consultant, Foster & Foster Actuaries and Consultants, had advised against tapping the fund to ensure the city would fund 100% of its pension obligations sooner.

Even if the city tapped the pension fund, further cuts to services and assets, possibly including staff jobs, would still be required, a prospect that doesn’t sit well with council members. The list of potential cuts shared by the city at its Budget Town Hall in February included eliminating school resource officers, closing Pleasanton Fire Station 1, and closing the Dolores Bengston Aquatic Center.

“I certainly don’t want to be in a position where we’re laying off employees, or we’re impacting public services without having evaluated and utilized this type of solution to offset what that looks like,” Councilmember Craig Eicher said.

The withdrawals are expected to come entirely out

of the trust funds’ earnings and not its principal, which Mayor Jack Balch said helped earn his support to “soften the blow” of the budget cuts.

“It is not what I prefer, and I also don’t want it to be automatic,” said Balch.

However, Testa spoke against using the trust in this way, saying the city’s unfunded pension obligations, estimated at \$204 million last summer, already need every dollar they can get. The city’s total pension obligations sit at \$842 million and are 75.8% funded, compared to an average level of 80.6% across state and municipal pension plans in California, according to an Equable Institute analysis.

Pleasanton’s current pension model projects required payments from the city of up to \$40 million per year before its obligations peak in fiscal year 2037-2038.

“If we start using that (Section) 115 (funds), it only

makes it worse,” said Testa. “It is truly kicking the can down the road. ... Just because we can, doesn’t mean we should. The money isn’t enough to stretch it.”

The city’s staff will present an updated long-term forecast along with a proposed fiscal year 2025-2027 city budget in May.

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Livermore Hosts Online Workshop on Tenant Rights

Centro Legal de la Raza, a nonprofit organization offering legal services to immigrant and low-income communities, and the City of Livermore will host a Zoom-based Tri-Valley Tenants Rights Workshop at 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 20. The workshop will also

be offered at 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 17.

Centro Legal was started by law students at the University of California, Berkeley in 1969 and provides bilingual legal representation, education and advocacy for immigrant, low-income and Latino communities.

The workshops will answer questions about tenants’ rights and legal protections.

To register for the workshops, go to tfaforms.com/5078130, or contact TenantsRights@Centro-Legal.org for more information.

BOB TAYLOR

(Continued from front page)



Robert Taylor (shown with his wife and business partner Gloria Retzlaff Taylor) had a profound influence on Livermore winemaking, founding one of California's first organic vineyards. His intellectual curiosity and storytelling were legendary. (File Photo — Doug Jorgenson)

“At Berkeley as he described it... Let’s see, having his first hamburger, smoking a cigarette, having a glass of wine and sex all in the same month,” he said.

Garau-Taylor added, “She really blew his world up. There was no going back. And she was exquisitely beautiful and intelligent. And she had tons of energy, boundless. He saw a bountiful life ahead of him.”

Taylor earned a degree in chemistry from UC Berkeley and eventually a Ph.D. in geochemistry from Pennsylvania State. He had an illustrious 35-plus-year career in the earth sciences department at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory.

The Taylors settled in Livermore in 1963, initially living near the city center. In 1976 they moved out to a neglected 14-acre sheep ranch on the south side of town. The pair restored the dilapidated house on the property with the help of their two young sons and extended family. That house became home to the winery.

“A place where people come together in a healthy environment,” Garau-Taylor said. “They loved this community together, making sure that the no-growth initiatives (passed) and keeping the hillsides open.”

It was through Taylor’s work at the lab that he was given the opportunity to travel with his family to Europe, where he conducted research at the Max Planck Institute in Göttingen, Germany. He also worked on solar coal gasification in the Pyrenees Mountains in Font-Romeu-Odeillo-Via, France.

The family’s time in the south of France especially influenced both Taylors’ vision for the winery as a place to appreciate fine food, culture, art and company.

“They made some lifetime friends and literally changed their attitude towards the finer things in life. Good wine and cheese, among other things,” Aaron Taylor said.

He said of his father’s viticultural legacy, “In terms of the valley winemaking, well, because this property never had anything other

than the sheep ranch on it, and my dad being a chemist, he understood the implications of putting poisons and toxins on the dirt.”

Retzlaff has grown its grapes without chemical intervention since the beginning and in 2006, the vineyard became one of the first in California to be certified as organic through the California Certified Organic Farmers (CCOF).

Retzlaff remains the only certified organic winery vineyard in the East Bay. “With his chemical background he said, ‘Nope, there’s no reason to do that. I wouldn’t put Round-up on my tomato plants. Why would I put it on our grapes?’”

Taylor’s son said he’s heartened by what he sees as a move toward more organic certification for Livermore wines and referenced the recently purchased Concannon property by Darcie Kent Winery and Lemmons Family Vineyards as an example of that. “Their long-term plan is to convert a good portion of it to organic farming. And we hope to kind of coordinate efforts on that. They’ve reached out (for us) to share background and knowledge about organic farming.”

“I think we’re starting a trend,” Garau-Taylor added, “and there’ll be more to follow and that’s the whole idea.”

Bob Taylor was diagnosed with terminal cancer about six years ago and given six months to live. He ended up exceeding that expectancy.

“He’s dearly missed,” said Noah Taylor, Taylor’s youngest son. “I feel really fortunate, because of course, he was in a lot of pain. And in so many ways, things could have been so much worse. And also, so much more sudden. So we really got an extra five or six good years of great time together.”

Bob Taylor also had a very close relationship with his five grandchildren who are also missing him dearly, Garau-Taylor said.

“They were the highlight of his life,” she said. “If there was anything that made him happiest on this planet, it was his grandchild-

dren. He loved knowing what they were up to, helping them find their path, seeing their success, helping them through their failures. He just rejoiced in what they were up to and what they were going to be up to, the possibilities. Just awesome. And they miss him.”

A celebration of Taylor’s life is planned for April 27 at Retzlaff Winery. For details contact salome@retzlaff-winery.com.

Dublin School District May Expel Students in Brawl

By Ruth Roberts

Three of the five Dublin High School students who were suspended following a lunchtime brawl at Dublin High School on Feb. 20, are now facing expulsion, according to Chris Funk, Dublin Unified School District’s (DUSD) superintendent.

“Following an investigation into the event and review of available evidence, three students have been recommended for expulsion,” said Funk in a statement to the school community on March 3. “For confidentiality reasons, we will not be sharing the names of those students. I want to be clear that the recommendation is just that, a recommendation.”

The altercation in the student union left one student unconscious and another with

minor injuries. Two of the students were taken to a nearby hospital where they were treated and later released. Anywhere from 50 to 100 students gathered to watch the brawl and the school was put on lockdown as a precaution to ensure student safety.

Prior to Funk’s statement, Dublin Police Services arrested three of the students involved in the altercation on Feb. 28, with another arrest still anticipated because the suspect doesn’t live in the area or attend schools in the district.

“We have made three arrests in connection with the fight and one (arrest) pending,” said Dublin Police Services Captain Miguel Campos. “The pending one is believed to no longer live in the area, but we are ready to proceed with an arrest if and when we are able to make

contact with them. We do not anticipate making any more arrests.”

According to Chip Dehnert, DUSD’s director of communications, an expulsion hearing must be held within 30 school days of the initial suspension. In this case, the date was Feb. 20. An extension to the deadline has not been announced. The board of trustees must decide on expulsion within 10 school days of receiving the hearing’s recommendation. The hearing is typically conducted by the district’s governing board or a hearing panel authorized by the board.

If expelled, the students must be assigned to an alternative education program such as a continuation school outside of the DUSD, a county community school or an independent study program.

Lions Club to Hold Fish Stew Fundraiser

The Livermore Lions Club will hold its annual cioppino fundraiser from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, March 22, with proceeds benefiting local charitable organizations.

Cioppino is a stew made

with shellfish and tomatoes that originated in the San Francisco area.

The annual event is a “take home” event.

The cost is \$75 for a 64-ounce container of ciop-

pino and bread for a family of four, which can be picked up at The Singing Winemaker in Livermore.

Orders will be accepted through Saturday, March 15, by calling 925-290-7450.

TRI-VALLEY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Thursday, March 13

STATE OF GIVING GATHERING | CELEBRATING PHILANTHROPY

The second Three Valleys Community Foundation State of Giving Gathering, a free community-focused event dedicated to celebrating the spirit and strength of philanthropy, will occur on March 13 at the Roundhouse Conference Center, a beautiful lakeside venue at Bishop Ranch, 2600 Camino Ramon, San Ramon. The event will be held in the Tahoe Auditorium. Community reception at 4 p.m. / program, keynote, and presentation of grant awards at 5:30 p.m. See 3vcf.org/events for more information.

Thursday, March 13

LIVERMORE/AMADORE GARDEN CLUB MEETING

A discussion by Carol Vander Meulen will highlight a selection of the plants on the U.C. Master Gardener’s brochures; especially those that thrive in the Tri-Valley’s hot summers. At Crosswinds Church, 1660 Freisman Rd., Livermore, at the red Farm Theater Building, on March 13 from 6 to 8 p.m.

Friday, March 14

PATRICK BALL | CELTIC HARP AND STORY

Patrick Ball is one of the premier Celtic harp players in the world and a captivating spoken word artist. In “Celtic Harp and Story”, Patrick Ball rekindles the fire and wonder of an evening of Irish storytelling. He not only carries on two of the richest traditions of Celtic culture, but blends them in concert to create “a warm and magical performance. The concert will be held March 14, at 7 p.m., at Trinity Lutheran Church, 1225 Hopyard Road in Pleasanton. Tickets: \$20 General; \$5 student; twelve & under free; no one turned away! Reception with refreshments both at intermission and afterwards. For more details, contact Dwight Stone at 510-512-2623 or stonemusique@gmail.com.

Friday, March 14

SHAMROCK GALA

The St. Patrick’s Day celebration kicks off with the Dublin Historical Society’s Shamrock Gala on Friday, March 14, from 6-8 p.m. at the Shannon Community Center, 11600 Shannon Ave. The Dublin City Council, representatives from Bray, Ireland, and many others will join in for an evening of fun, kicking off St. Patrick’s Day weekend in Dublin. \$75 per person. For more information, email lauren.marriott@dublin.ca.gov.

Saturday, March 15

13TH ANNUAL CRAB FEED

Livermore High School Alumni Associations will be hosting their 13th Annual Crab Feed on March 15 from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. (doors opening at 5:30). Dinner will include crab, pasta, salad, bread and dessert (chicken is available with pre-order instead of crab). We will have a live and silent auction, no-host bar, dancing, games, and lots of fun! To purchase tickets, go to livermorehighalumni.com. The funds raised will help support Livermore High School. Your support is appreciated! Please email with any questions: lhsalumniassoc@gmail.com.

Saturday, March 15

FIREFIGHTERS LOCAL 55 ST. PATRICK’S DAY PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Enjoy a delicious hot pancake and sausage breakfast served fresh off the griddle by Alameda County firefighters from Local 55. The cost is \$5 per person and the funds are used to support charitable efforts funded by Local 55. Start the morning before finding a seat for the Dublin Lions Club St. Patrick’s Day Parade or heading over to the festival. Breakfast includes green pancakes, eggs, sausages, juice, and coffee. At Dublin Fire Station #16, 7494 Donohue Dr., from 7 to 10 a.m. Tickets at the door.

Saturday / Sunday, March 15 and 16

VALLEY CONCERT CHORALE CONCERTS

The Valley Concert Chorale, the Tri-Valley’s premier chorus for over 60 years, has a new artistic director, Joseph Castro, who will make his debut in directing the chorale for two performances March 15 and 16. Both performances will feature Beethoven’s Mass in C Major and Hegenberg’s Songs from Silence. On March 15, 7:30 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church, 2020 Fifth St., Livermore and on March 16, 4 p.m., Trinity Lutheran Church, 1225 Hopyard Rd., Pleasanton. Tickets are \$30. College students are \$10 with valid student ID. Children K-12 are free. Advance tickets may be purchased at valleyconcertchorale.org or at (925) 866-4003.

Sunday, March 16

LIVERMORE JAZZ PARTY / NATALIE CRESSMAN & IAN FAQUINI

Livermore Jazz Society will be hosting Natalie Cressman and Ian Faquini, a duo encompassing their love of the Brazilian songbook, jazz, impressionism and sophisticated pop songcraft. Their original material features lyrics in Portuguese, French and English with sumptuous vocal harmonies accompanied by trombone and acoustic guitar. On March 16, from 2 to 4 p.m. Details at www.livermorejazzsociety.org/events. To request a seat, email info@livermorejazzsociety.org, or go to www.livermorejazzsociety.org/reserve-seats. Location to be emailed. Suggested donation: \$20 per person.

Saturday, March 29

BIKE RODEO

Asbury United Methodist Church, in collaboration with the Livermore Police Department and local non-profits, is excited to host its First Annual Bike Rodeo – a free, family-friendly event designed to promote bicycle safety, outdoor adventure, and community connections. On March 29, 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at Asbury UMC. A complimentary lunch will be served between 12 and 1 p.m. Event highlights include a free helmet giveaway to children in need, an obstacle course with LPD, safety inspections and games, activity stations, and more. All levels welcome – no registration is required. For more information, contact Rachel Olson at children@asburylive.org or visit asburylive.org/bike-rodeo.

Sunday, March 30

CHILDREN’S DAY AT HAGEMANN RANCH

Join the Livermore Heritage Guild for Children’s Day at Hagemann Ranch on March 30 from 1-5 p.m. Visit the small animals in the 4-H petting zoo and explore the HistoryMobile. Wander the historic site on a tour or on your own and visit the resident horses and goats. Good News Bears will be sharing their stuffed animals. Always free and family friendly! Located at 455 Olivina Ave. in Livermore.

Saturday, April 5

DRESS A GIRL AROUND THE WORLD

Make simple dresses for girls in third world countries! The next monthly Sew-Fest is on April 5, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., at Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 1020 Mocho St., Livermore. Bring your sewing machine or serger, iron, ironing board, scissors, along with your helping hands. Come for an hour or all day! (Please bring a bag lunch if you plan to stay all day.) Cheerful cotton fabric donations are always welcome. Contact Suzanne Beck, 925-352-8447, or suzbeck@yahoo.com for questions or kits that you can sew from home.

ONGOING VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

LIVERMORE HISTORYMOBILE

The Livermore HistoryMobile needs docents who are available during the day to guide and engage Livermore’s third graders. These visits take place during the months of April and May when the schools are visited. The kids love being in a “touch me” museum; something exciting in our virtual age. The experience is very rewarding. If interested, please contact Nancy Mulligan: n.mulligan@comcast.net.

QUEST SCIENCE CENTER

Quest’s vision is to connect everyone to the value of science. Volunteers are needed to facilitate science activities at community events. For more information or to volunteer, contact the Director of Education, Dan, at dgolub@quest-science.org.

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 Rd. in Livermore. 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 Sept. to May. The 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. 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. This community practices loving neighbors in daily life. The church has Sunday School and nursery care, and worship is followed by a fellowship time. The church is located at 4743 East Ave., in Livermore. For more information, visit asburylive.org.

WINGS — WOMEN IN GOD’S SPIRIT

WINGS is a faith enrichment group of multi-generational Catholic women who meet October thru May on Thursday mornings at 9:30 a.m. at St. Charles Borromeo, 1315 Lomitas Ave., Livermore. Attendees can enjoy a variety of speaker presentations and topics, small group discussion, fellowship and more. All are welcome! See www.stcharleslivermore.org/wings for more information.

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



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OBITUARIES

Joseph Raymond Valero
April 15, 1943 — March 2, 2025

It is with sadness that we announce the passing of Joe Valero, beloved husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather and friend. Joe was a resident of Livermore, California, who went to be with our heavenly father on March 2, 2025, aged 81. Joe was born in Santa Paula, California, to Jose and Guadalupe Valero. As a child, he worked the fields of Northern California as a migrant farm worker with his parents. He was in the first graduating class of Bishop Mora Salesian High School in Los Angeles, California, in 1962, where he majored in business. He was on the Student Council, and participated in drama, business, and the speech club. He played football and was a member of the Letterman's Society. His favorite expression was "Always be sure of yourself, Valero". He moved to Hayward, California, after high school, where he began a career as a printer for the City of Hayward and became a prominent member of the Bay Area community for 60 years. He continued his career at the County of San



Mateo as the head of the Reprographics Department before he opened JRV Quality Printing in Livermore, California, which he and his wife owned and operated for 26 years. Joe was a devoted husband and engaged father who actively supported and participated in his children's endeavors throughout their lives. Joe and his wife were the recipients of the Brother Hugh Kennedy, FSC Award in 1990 for outstanding service to St. Mary's High School. Joe is survived by his loving and devoted wife of 57 years, Jessie, whom he met in Los Angeles, California, in 1962,

his four children — daughter Nadine Martinez (Marco Martinez); sons Raymond, Johnny, and Michael; ten grandchildren — Alecia Martinez-Collins, Gabriella Martinez, Joseph Martinez, Jay Martinez, Chase Martinez, Raymond Valero Jr., Audrey Valero, Bella Valero, Amelia Valero, Michael Valero II; and six great-grandchildren — Lexi Tenorio, Jaxon Martinez, Eric Collins, Asher Martinez, Eve Corona and Theo Corona. Visitation will be held at Callaghan Mortuary, 3833 East Ave., Livermore, CA 94550 on Sunday, March 16, 2025, from 5–7 p.m. Rosary beginning at 7 p.m. Mass at St. Michael's Church, 458 Maple St., Livermore, CA 94550 on Monday, March 17, 2025, at 12 p.m. Final Resting Place will be at Chapel of Chimes Cemetery, 32992 Mission Blvd, Hayward, CA 94544 at 2 p.m.

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

Brenda Joyce Schlientz
June 19, 1931 — Feb. 18, 2025

Brenda Schlientz passed away at home in the early morning on Feb. 18, 2025, surrounded by family nearly five months after her husband, Randall, passed. Born Brenda Joyce Leakey in Bath, England, in 1931 to Charlie and Dora Leakey, she endured the hardships of World War II, and after finishing trade school, worked as a secretary for a local bank. A chance meeting in 1960, orchestrated by friends, led to her marriage to Randall in 1961. They were married in Bath and embarked on a three-month European honeymoon before settling in England and having their first son, David. In 1963 they moved back to San Jose, California, where they added sons Ian and Mark. The family finally settled in Livermore in 1968 in a home Randall designed. Brenda's parents Charlie and Dora Leakey joined them shortly before moving to Livermore, living in an attached in-law apartment.

Brenda dedicated her life to family and service. She lovingly raised her family and cared for her parents as they aged. She later worked as a librarian, combining her love for children and books. Additionally, she helped as a volunteer secretary for Ran-



dall's firm when times were tough. As a beloved grandmother, her nurturing spirit extended to her grandchildren, Matthew and Andrea, whom she adored, and later to her great-grandchildren, Evan and Isla. Brenda and Randall were active volunteers, notably at St. Michael's church and Open Heart Kitchen, and generously supported numerous charities.

Brenda and Randall shared a life filled with travel and simple pleasures. They explored Europe, revisited honeymoon destinations, and enjoyed cultural programs. Their daily routines, like shared breakfasts and afternoon tea, provided a com-

forting rhythm to their lives. In her final years, Brenda cherished seeing her grandchildren marry and the birth of her great-grandchildren, finding joy and purpose in the continuation of her family's legacy.

Family was paramount to Brenda, and the love she shared was her lasting legacy. Her life was marked by grace, generosity, and unwavering devotion to those she held dear. She leaves behind her three sons David, Ian and Mark, David's wife Jackie, her grandson Matthew and his wife Kate and their son Evan, granddaughter Andrea

and her husband Craig Avanzino and their daughter Isla. Integral extended family also includes Gerri Schultz, Jackie's sister, her husband Lance and their daughter Hailey and Jackie's mother Margaret Hogan. Brenda leaves a legacy of love that will continue to inspire those who knew her.

A memorial Mass will be held for Brenda at 11:30 a.m. on Friday, March 14, at St. Michael's Church in Livermore. In lieu of flowers, we request donations be made in Brenda and Randall's names to Open Heart Kitchen at www.openheartkitchen.org.

CELEBRATION OF LIFE

Gloria Marie Zanolin Sheleg
March 14, 1945 — Feb. 10, 2025



Italy, inspired by her parents' journey from Italy to Ellis Island. Gloria was known for her artistic creativity, often bringing crafts to the library and capturing beautiful images of windows. She had a remarkable ability to form inside jokes with everyone she met and was always fun to be around, of-

ten surrounded by laughter. Gloria was predeceased by her parents, Anthony and Filicina, her only son Scott Sorenson, and her previous husband, Paul J. Sheleg. She is survived by her partner of 28 years, George Buffleben, her daughter-in-law Alexandra Estrella, her nine grandchildren and one great-granddaughter.

Her celebration of life will be on Friday, March 21, 2025, at 11 a.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Church in Livermore, 1893 N. Vasco Road, with reception to follow on site.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in her honor to Tri-Valley Haven.

George Ayrs Fisk
1941 — 2024



Longtime Sandia Labs researcher George Ayrs Fisk died Dec. 10, 2024 at home in Saddlebrooke, Arizona of complications of a fall that re-broke his hip. His wife, son, and daughter were by his side. He was 83 at the time.

George graduated from Lamar High School in Houston in 1958, from Rice University in 1962, and from UC Berkeley (PhD) in 1966. He then held a postdoctoral position at Harvard through 1968. He joined the faculty at Cornell in 1969, where he mentored several graduate students, including F. Fleming Crim, who would go on to be elected to the National Academy of Science; serve as head of the National Science Foundation's Directorate for Mathematical and Physical Sciences; and serve as Professor at the University of Wisconsin-Madison for over 40 years.

George joined Sandia Labs in Albuquerque in 1975, doing

basic research on combustion. In 1984 he transferred to Sandia Labs in Livermore, California, serving as head of the Combustion Sciences Department from 1993 until his retirement in 1996. His colleague at Sandia Labs, Dr. David Chandler, reports that George authored 19 scientific publications that garnered over 300 citations in others' scientific publications.

George and his wife of 61 years, Mary Frances Fisk (Lamar '59 and Rice '63) retired to Saddlebrooke after a careful evaluation of alternative retirement sites.

In addition to his scientific career, George was very interested in how things worked, which led to his rehabilitating several sports cars (which in turn led to trying them out, with Mary Frances, in Autocross competition) and restoring several working models of old engines. He and Mary Frances also participated for many years in off-road driving with others in the Tucson area.

George is survived by his wife; a son, Harold Fisk, and Harold's wife, Jennifer Yucel (Ohio State University and Hilliard, Ohio); a daughter, Laura Vali Fisk (also living in Saddlebrooke); brother- and sister-in-law Richard and Mary Harris (Albuquerque); and his sister Norma Jean Fisk (Columbia, Missouri). He was pre-deceased by his mother and father, Emma Ayrs Fisk and Harold Norman Fisk.

George Ayrs Fisk will be missed but remembered fondly by family and friends.

CELEBRATION OF LIFE

Norman Edward Volponi
Oct. 7, 1932 — Feb. 2, 2025



Norman Edward Volponi was born Oct. 7, 1932, in Livermore, California to Edward and Bertha Volponi. He passed away on Feb. 2, 2025, at the age of 92.

He resided for 47 years in Livermore where he owned Norm's Barbershop and The Side Pocket Family Billiard Parlor. He enjoyed hunting, fishing and golfing. He was a trapshooter and a founding member of the Livermore Pleasanton Rod & Gun Club. He was an outdoor writer and editor for several magazines and newspapers. He served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War.

In 1979 he moved his

family to Groveland, California where he bought the Groveland Barbershop and continued enjoying his outdoor pastimes.

Norman is survived by his wife of 69 years, Jane Volponi, sons Norman Vol-

poni, Jr. (Rocky) of Big Oak Flat, California and David Volponi (Sharon) of Groveland, California, daughter Gina Clemens (Mark) of Valley Springs, California, and sister Betty Fiorella of Watsonville, California. He had six grandchildren, six great-grandchildren, and one great-great grandchild. He was a wonderful husband, father and friend.

A celebration of life is planned for Aug. 24, 2025, at the Norman Volponi Annual Trap Shoot at the Livermore Pleasanton Rod and Gun Club in Livermore, California. A local memorial is pending in Groveland, California.

CELEBRATION OF LIFE

Frederick Marshall Cutter
July 9, 1929 – Feb. 8, 2025



On Feb. 8, 2025, Frederick Marshall (Fred) Cutter of Newark, California passed away in Livermore at the age of 95.

Fred was born on July 9, 1929, in Cleveland, Ohio to Robert and Frances Cutter. He was the eldest of four children. During his childhood, his family lived throughout the Midwest, moving frequently for his father's Navy career. "Foofy," as he was called by his youngest sister, was a very talented roller skater and ice skater and was active in the Boy Scouts. Fred maintained close relationships with his siblings throughout their lives.

Eventually Fred's family settled in the San Francisco Bay Area. Fred attended San Leandro High School, where he graduated in 1949. While there, he met the woman he later called "the love of my life"—his future wife, Nancy

Elizabeth Gatter.

Fred and Nan were married on April 1, 1951. They settled in Newark, California where they were blessed with six children over the span of seventeen years. Always active socially, they were known to host many gatherings at their home and built many lifelong friendships with neighbors, co-workers, and others they met along the way.

After high school Fred joined the Navy Reserve. He went on active duty for several years in the US Navy in the early 1950's serving at the Naval Air Station in Oakland. Fred completed his military service and then went to work at "Ma Bell" from 1953-1958. While in his maintenance role with Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Co., he once noted an irregularity with a phone off the hook. Upon investigating,

he assisted in getting help for a man who'd had a heart attack, possibly saving his life. In 1958, Fred was hired at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. At LLNL, Fred had a successful career in electronics and chemical milling which spanned over 30 years. His work at "the lab" and his service awards were something Fred was proud of and enjoyed dis-

cussing.

Throughout his life Fred had many hobbies and was truly a lifelong learner. He was active in Jiu Jitsu and Judo, in which he earned a second-degree black belt. If you ever spoke with K6UIU on ham radio, you were on with Fred! He was very active in a ham radio group called "Knights of the Megahertz," that met on the radio and in person for several fun gatherings each year. Whatever the activity, Fred was fully involved, enjoyed sharing his knowledge, and was an active contributor to the community.

Fred loved being in the mountains. Fred and Nan backpacked the entire John Muir Trail over numerous trips and backpacked extensively in the Sierra Nevada. Yosemite was a very special place for him and his family. They spent many summers at the family cabin in Foresta

before it burned down.

After retirement, Fred and Nan traveled throughout North America on cruises or in their travel trailer, including completing all of Route 66 and several noteworthy visits to Canada, Alaska, and Hawaii. Even in their 80's, Fred and Nan weren't ready to slow down. Walking in their neighborhood or a nearby park was a daily routine. They could often be found meeting friends or family for lunch, or sipping a cappuccino at one of several local coffee shops where they were known by name. They would attend the annual family camping trip each year, eventually staying in a nearby cabin. Even in their advanced years they joined in for many of the festivities, including a toast with whisky at cocktail hour.

Fred and Nan were married for over 72 years, until

her passing at the age of 91 in 2023. Fred possessed unwavering love, care, and support for his beloved wife, their entire family, and their many dear friends. He will be remembered often and greatly missed.

Fred is survived by his sister, Susan Jacobson; children Scott (Pauline) Cutter; Cheri (Adriano) Salamanca; Sean (Katie) Cutter; Kurt (Beth) Cutter; Rick (Teresa) Cutter; daughter-in-law Terry Langdon; fourteen grandchildren; and eleven great-grandchildren. He joins his siblings Robert Cutter and Josephine Wiggins; his wife, Nancy; and his son, Clay, who passed away in 1990. The family invites those who knew Fred to join in a celebration of his life on Saturday, April 26, from 11 a.m.–2 p.m. at the Brookmeadow Clubhouse at 450 Charlotte Common in Livermore.

Foothill Baseball Team Firing on All Cylinders to Start the Season

By Phil Jensen

The Foothill High School baseball team showed how well-rounded they are in an 8-1 defeat of visiting Berkeley on March 7.

The Falcons scored more than one run in three separate innings against the Yellowjackets. Foothill, which improved to 5-0 this season with the win, also gave an example of how effective their pitching has been. Starting pitcher Take Sato-Kreis fired a three-hitter with five strikeouts over the first five innings, and Jack Fowler finished up with two scoreless innings in the win.

“Our strength has been our pitching,” said Foothill coach Zeke Palma, whose pitching staff allowed only two total runs in the first six

games of the season. “We pound the zone, we limit (baserunners) and we use our defense. ... We have a great defense behind our pitching staff.”

Sato-Kreis entered this week with a 3-0 record and an impressive 0.54 earned run average with 14 strikeouts in 13 innings pitched. Charlie Stearns, the team’s other starting pitcher this early season, starts this week 2-0 with a perfect 0.00 earned run average.

But the Falcons also scored an outstanding 39 runs in their first five games this season.

“The beauty of our offense is that we pick each other up,” said Palma about how his team is hitting as a group. “We’re able to score a lot of runs because we have

a very good approach. ... We hunt fastballs and we make sure we don’t miss them.”

A majority of the team’s starters also started last season, Palma said.

“We’re strong this year and we have enough youth that we’ll be strong again next year,” said Palma, whose squad was 13-13 last season and 7-6 in the East Bay Athletic League regular season.

Landon Comerford, a second-team all-EBAL selection last season, was 3 for 3 at the plate against Berkeley with two runs scored and two RBIs. The senior’s double to the right field-center field gap in the first inning drove in the game’s first two runs.

Berkeley, which fell to 1-2 with the loss, halved the lead in the top of the fourth

inning on an RBI double by Seddrick Henderson. But then Foothill exploded for four runs in the bottom of the frame.

With one out, Comerford singled, and after a walk to George Schmitt, Aiden Tavares ripped a two-run double. Stearns followed with a triple to deep centerfield to drive in Tavares, and the final run of the inning was produced by an RBI single to right field by Ryan Wescott, who entered this week with a .636 batting average.

In the next inning, Tavares had another run-scoring double and Dylan Souza plated Tavares with a single up the middle for the final run of the game. Souza entered this week with a .667 batting average. Tavares finished 2 for 4 at the plate against Berkeley with two runs scored and three RBI.

In an 11-0 win over James Logan-Union City on March 4, Stearns and Jackson Hoban combined for a two-hitter on the mound. Schmitt was 2 for 4 at the

plate with a double and triple, two runs scored and three RBIs. Hudson Flora was 2 for 3 with a run scored and two RBIs. Wescott was 2 for 3 with an RBI, and Grant Hoenninger was 1 for 1 with a run scored and two RBIs.

Foothill traveled to play Washington-Fremont on March 11 after this article’s deadline. The Falcons host Rocklin on March 15 at 11 a.m. before opening EBAL play at San Ramon Valley on March 19 at 4 p.m.



Foothill junior George Schmitt slides home in the March 7 game against visiting Berkeley High. The Falcons defeated the Yellowjackets 8-1 and entered the week 5-0 for the season. (Photo — Leah Silveira)



Foothill senior Take Sato-Kries allowed just three hits and struck out five batters in the first five innings of the March 7 game against Berkeley. (Photo — Leah Silveira)

Granada, Amador Valley Reach the NorCal Regional Soccer Semifinals

By Phil Jensen

The most successful season in the last 40 years for the Granada High School boys soccer program concluded on March 6 with a 2-0 loss to Hillsdale-San Mateo in the California Interscholastic Federation Division III NorCal Regional playoff semifinals.

Granada, the No. 3 seed, first beat No. 6 Woodland 4-2 on March 4 in the first round of playoffs. But in the semifinals, second-seeded Hillsdale scored both of its goals late in the first half against Granada and held off an offensive charge by the Matadors in the second.

Hillsdale outshot Granada 9-3 in the first half, but the Matadors had a 5-4 shot advantage in the second half. Hillsdale, which had not allowed any team this season more than one goal in a game up to that point, went on the defensive for much of the second half. One way it tried to whittle away the second half was to, multiple times, kick the ball so far out of bounds that it went over a fence and slowed the game down.

“We gave it our best,” said Granada coach Rob Hansen. “They battled and won the first half, but I kind of feel like we won the second half. We

kept the pressure on the ball on their end pretty much the whole half.”

The Fighting Knights also concentrated on defending Granada star Amir Anway. He was triple-teamed a lot when he had the ball, which slowed down this year’s East Bay Athletic League Offensive Player of the Year.

Granada finished the season with a 16-9-1 overall record and reached a North Coast Section championship game for the first time since 1985. The team also qualified for its first CIF NorCal Regional in program history.

Against Hillsdale, Granada sophomore goalkeeper Kyle Crose made five saves, including turning away a powerful shot by hitting it over the crossbar at the 31 minute, 33 second mark.

Hillsdale produced the eventual winning goal at the 32:11 mark. Tyler Hughes sent a corner kick from the left side into the goalie box and Carson Levy headed the ball into the net with the back of his head.

The final goal of the game occurred during extra time in the first half on a shot by Nisith Andrabadu.

In the NorCal Division III championship game on March 8, Hillsdale fell to No.

1 seed, Archie Williams-San Anselmo 5-1.

In Granada’s first-round victory over Woodland, Anway scored three goals and Christian Franco produced the Matadors’ fourth.

Girls Soccer

Amador Valley, the No. 6 seed in the CIF Division II NorCal Regional playoffs, also advanced to the semifinals before No. 2 seed St. Francis-Mountain View ended the Dons’ season with a 2-0 win.

The Dons reached the semifinals after defeating No. 3 Rocklin 2-1 in overtime in a first-round game on March 4. Alden Hofstede scored the Dons’ goal in regulation on an assist from Kaia Hoyman. Maylen Montoya produced the game-winning goal in overtime on an assist from Julia Wanis.

Amador Valley finished the season with an impressive record of 14-5, which included its first NCS championship game appearance since 2002.

St. Francis beat No. 5 Archbishop Mitty-San Jose 1-0 in the NorCal Division I championship game on March 8.

Boys Basketball

Dublin, the No. 7 seed in the CIF Division I Nor-



Granada seniors Anderson Liao and Hunter Black pursue the ball in a hard-fought March 6 soccer game against Hillsdale in the Division III NorCal Regional playoff semifinal. Granada lost 2-0 in the team’s first CIF regional playoffs ever. (Photo — Leah Silveira)

Cal Regional playoffs, was edged by No. 10 St. Ignatius-San Francisco 65-62 in a first-round game on March 4.

Cameron Anderson

paced the Gaels with 21 points, including 7 for 10 field-goal shooting, and teammate Jaiden Jones added 19 points. Anderson also led Dublin in re-

bounds (eight) and blocks (two). Miles Pollard scored 10 points and had a team-high five assists for Dublin, which finished its season with a 24-8 overall record.

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LEGAL NOTICES

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 612352

The following person(s) doing business as: Glowing Reflections, 5688 Linden ST, Dublin, CA 94568 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Reshma Khatri, 5688 Linden ST, 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: 12/1/2024. Signature of Registrant/s/: Reshma Khatri, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 6, 2025. Expires February 5, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6296. Published February 20, 27, March 6, 13, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 611990

The following person(s) doing business as: Fiesta Cart, 33141 - 7th ST, Union City, CA 94587-2126 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Neha, 33141 - 7th ST, 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: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Neha, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 24, 2025. Expires January 23, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6297. Published February 20, 27, March 6, 13, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 612395

The following person(s) doing business as: Viking Plumbing, 2572 Spyglass Hills Rd., Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Ronald L. Monk, 2572 Spyglass Hills Rd, 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: 9/28/1998. Signature of Registrant/s/: Ronald L. Monk, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 10, 2025. Expires February 9, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6298. Published February 20, 27, March 6, 13, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS

NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 612079

The following person(s) doing business as: Erikos Touch LLC, 1285 Gilman ST, Berkely CA 94706 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Erikos Touch LLC, 1285 Gilman ST, Berkeley, CA 94706. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 1/1/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: Erikos Johnson, Owner/President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 28, 2025. Expires January 27, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6299. Published February 20, 27, March 6, 13, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 612279

The following person(s) doing business as: Gluten Free Cards, 5654 Felicia Ave, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): David Kehn, 5654 Felicia Ave, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious

business name(s) listed above: 1/1/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: David Kehn, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 5, 2025. Expires February 4, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6300. Published February 20, 27, March 6, 13, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 612271

The following person(s) doing business as: Benchmark Environmental Engineering, 21228 Cabot Boulevard, Hayward, CA 94545 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Forensic Analytical Consulting Services, Inc., 21228 Cabot Boulevard, Hayward, CA 94545. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 1/1/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: Fred Vigniera, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 5, 2025. Expires February 4, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6301. Published February 20, 27, March 6, 13, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS

NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 612402

The following person(s) doing business as: Alamo Landscape LLC, 1881 Collier Canyon Rd, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Alamo Landscape LLC, 696 San Ramon Valley BLVD, STE 335, Danville, CA 94526. 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: 2/10/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: Marco Antonio Cisneros, Manager. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 10, 2025. Expires February 9, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6302. Published February 20, 27, March 6, 13, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 612448

The following person(s) doing business as: Clearpath Analytics Inc, 5421 Campbell Lane #404, Dublin, CA 94568 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Clearpath Analytics Inc, 5421 Campbell Lane #404, Dublin, CA 94568. This business is conducted by a Corporation.

The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Amruta Vantipalli, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 13, 2025. Expires February 12, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6303. Published February 20, 27, March 6, 13, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 612308

The following person(s) doing business as: Stealth Street Partners, 289 Wright Brothers Avenue, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): 866, Incorporated, 289 Wright Brothers Avenue, Livermore CA 94551. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 6/22/2000. Signature of Registrant/s/: Ryan M. Callahan, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 5, 2025. Expires February 4, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6304. Published February 20, 27, March 6, 13, 2025.

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME Case No. 24CV091706 SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF ALAMEDA TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:

Petitioner: Jazzmine C. Wise 3314 Monaghan St Dublin, CA 94568 filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:
Present Names: Raleigh Wright
Proposed Name: Riley Wise
THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear

at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.

NOTICE OF HEARING Date:04/18/2024
Time: 9:30 AM
Dept: 103

The address of the court is: **Wiley W. Manuel Courthouse 661 Washington ST. Oakland, CA 94607**

A copy of this Order To Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation printed in this county: The Independent Newspaper 2250 First Street, Livermore, CA 94550 Dated: 2/5/2024 /s/: Han Tran, Judge of the Superior Court. The Independent, Legal No. 6305. Published February 27, March 6, 13, 20, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 611962

The following person(s) doing business as: T4T Studio, 4121

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Broadway, Oakland, CA 94611 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Jordy Tyre, 4121 Broadway, Oakland, CA 94611. 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/: Jordy Tyre, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 23, 2025. Expires January 22, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6306. Published February 27, March 6, 13, 20, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 612146

The following person(s) doing business as: Linen and Thread Co., 16991 Grovenor DR, Castro Valley, CA 94546 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Diana Cardenas, 16991 Grovenor DR, Castro Valley, CA 94546. 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: 1/25/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: Diana Cardenas, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 30, 2025. Expires January 29, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6307. Published February 27, March 6, 13, 20, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 612169

The following person(s) doing business as: Wonderbloom Therapy, 1811 Santa Rita RD, Ste 224, Pleasanton, CA 94566. This business is conducted by an individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 2/1/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: Kelly Shah, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 30, 2025. Expires January 29, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6308. Published February 27, March 6, 13, 20, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 612474

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. TaxBeats; 2. TaxBeats Accounting & Tax Services, 4532 Jacodo PL, Dublin, CA 94568 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Hetal Amarseda, 4532 Jacodo PL, Dublin, CA 94568. This business is conducted by an individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Hetal Amarseda, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 14, 2025. Expires February 13, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6309. Published February 27, March 6, 13, 20, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 612129

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Venus en Scorpio Ventures LLC; 2. Venus en Scorpio Coffee; 3. Venus en Scorpio Creative, 1401 21st, ST Suite R, Sacramento, CA 95811 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Venus en Scorpio Ventures LLC, 1401 21st ST, Suite R, Sacramento, CA 95811. 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/: Ingrid Ramon Parra, Managing Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 29, 2025. Expires January 28, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6310. Published February 27, March 6, 13, 20, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 612486

The following person(s) doing business as: Bustamante Concrete, 2322 Stonebridge Road,

Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Raul Bustamante, 2322 Stonebridge 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: 5/21/2015. Signature of Registrant/s/: Raul Bustamante, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 14, 2025. Expires February 13, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6309. Published February 27, March 6, 13, 20, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 612553

The following person(s) doing business as: Friday Specialty Services, 3640 Grand Avenue, Oakland, CA 94610 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Irene Friday, 4200 Park Blvd, #235, Oakland, CA 94602. This business is conducted by an individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Irene Friday, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 19, 2025. Expires February 18, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6312. Published February 27, March 6, 13, 20, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 612547

The following person(s) doing business as: Pacific Green Funding, 29300 Kohoutek Way, Suite 110, Union City, CA 94587 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Adhi Financial Inc, 29300 Kohoutek Way, Suite 110, Union City, CA 94587. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 5/16/2012. Signature of Registrant/s/: Ravi Selvaraj, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 19, 2025. Expires February 18, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6313. Published February 27, March 6, 13, 20, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 612566

The following person(s) doing business as: Dragon Therapeutics, 850 3rd St, Santa Rosa, CA 95404 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Anne Szostek, 296 Park View Terr Unit 3, Oakland, CA 94610. This business is conducted by a General Partnership. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 2/15/25. Signature of Registrant/s/: Anne Szostek, General Partner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 19, 2025. Expires February 18, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6314. Published February 27, March 6, 13, 20, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 612382

The following person(s) doing business as: Naxiko, 4357 Crestwood ST, Fremont, CA 94538 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Naxiko, 4357 Crestwood ST, Fremont, CA 94538. 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: 1/30/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: Fu Wang, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 7, 2025. Expires February 6, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6315. Published February 27, March 6, 13, 20, 2025.

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME ORIGINAL FILE NO. 586487

The person(s) listed below have abandoned the use of the following fictitious business name(s): Creekside Laundry, 20894 Mission Blvd, 20894

Mission Blvd, Hayward, CA 94541. Registered by the following owner(s): Cycle Spin Jr. LLC, 6845 New Melones Circle, Discovery Bay, CA 94505. The fictitious business name statement was filed on 2/15/2022 in the County of Alameda. This business was conducted by a Limited Liability Company. Signature of Registrant/s/: Charles Shavies Jr., Owner/Manager. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 11, 2025. The Independent, Legal No. 6316. Published February 27, March 6, 13, 20, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 612602

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Relan Real Estate; 2. EMC2E Universe Publishing, 3051 Quantum Dr. #4503, Fremont, CA 94538 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): R K Relan, Inc., 3051 Quantum Dr. #4503, Fremont, CA 94538. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 2/20/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: Rakesh K. Relan, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 21, 2025. Expires February 20, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6317. Published February 27, March 6, 13, 20, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 612265

The following person(s) doing business as: Julian Bond Financial Equity Research Institute, 1970 Broadway, Suite 350, Oakland, CA 94612 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Center for Responsible Lending, 301 W. Main Street, Durham, NC 27701, NC 27701. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 11/15/2024. Signature of Registrant/s/: Marcus Bowen, Treasurer. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 5, 2025. Expires February 4, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6318. Published February 27, March 6, 13, 20, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 612576

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Good Vybes & Brews; 2. Good Vybes Coffee & Tea, 412 Madison ST, Oakland, CA 94607 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Good Vybes & Brews LLC, 412 Madison ST, 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/: Konstantin Braverman, Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 19, 2025. Expires February 18, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6319. Published February 27, March 6, 13, 20, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 612692

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Nakamura Cellars; 2. Noria Wines; 3. Nafela Wines, 725-A Gilman Street, Berkeley, CA 94710 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Nori Nakamura, 725-A Gilman Street, Berkeley, CA 94710. 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: 10/1/2010. Signature of Registrant/s/: Nori Nakamura, Manager. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 26, 2025. Expires February 25, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6320. Published February 27, March 6, 13, 20, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 612699

The following person(s) doing business as: Miomomento,

31153 Bulmer ST, Union City, CA 94587 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Ricardo Gallo, 31153 Bulmer ST, Union City, CA 94587. This business is conducted by a Married Couple. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Ricardo Gallo, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 26, 2025. Expires February 25, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6321. Published February 27, March 6, 13, 20, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 612513

The following person(s) doing business as: Perfect Harmony Properties, 541 N O ST, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Barbara Lymberis, 541 N O 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: 1/1/2024. Signature of Registrant/s/: Barbary Lymberis, Broker. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 18, 2025. Expires February 17, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6322. Published February 27, March 6, 13, 20, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 612632

The following person(s) doing business as: Kin Phed, 4086 East Ave., Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Kin Phed Corporation, 4086 East Ave., Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 2/29/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: John Encinas, CFO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 23, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6323. Published February 27, March 6, 13, 20, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 612439

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Janice & Co.; 2. J and A Rose, 6754 Bernal Ave, Ste 740-258, Pleasanton, CA 94566 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Golden Valley Mortgage Corporation, 6754 Bernal Ave # 740-258, 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: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Janice M. Smith, Secretary. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 11, 2025. Expires February 10, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6324. Published February 27, March 6, 13, 20, 2025.

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME ORIGINAL FILE NO. 589398

The person(s) listed below have abandoned the use of the following fictitious business name(s): Next Venture Rentals, 8905 San Ramon Rd., Dublin, CA 94568. Registered by the following owner(s): Next Venture Rentals, LLC, 8905 San Ramon Rd., Dublin, CA 94568. The fictitious business name statement was filed on 5/31/2022 in the County of Alameda. This business was conducted by a Limited Liability Company. Signature of Registrant/s/: Alex Minick, Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 27, 2025. The Independent, Legal No. 6325. Published February 27, March 6, 13, 20, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 612838

The following person(s) doing business as: Judah Dental Laboratory, 117 Black Mountain Circle, Fremont, CA 94536 is

hereby registered by the following owner(s): Gwang Su Jang, 117 Black Mountain Circle, Fremont, CA 94536. This business is conducted by an individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 3/3/2025. Signature of Registrant/s/: Gwang Su Jang, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 3, 2025. Expires March 2, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6326. Published February 27, March 13, 20, 27, April 3, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 612595

The following person(s) doing business as: State Creative, 1300 Clay Street, Oakland, CA 94612 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Logo 74, 1300 Clay Street, Oakland, CA 94612. This business is conducted by a Corporation. Signature of Registrant/s/: Garrett Goldman, Managing Partner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 21, 2025. Expires February 20, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6327. Published February 27, March 13, 20, 27, April 3, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 612858

The following person(s) doing business as: Fracisco Properties, 2207 Third Street, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Patrick Joseph Fracisco, 2207 Third Street, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by an individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Patrick Joseph Fracisco, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 3, 2025. Expires March 2, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6328. Published February 27, March 13, 20, 27, April 3, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 612494

The following person(s) doing business as: Topiary Studios, 1555 Lakeside Drive # 145, Oakland, CA 94612 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Gregory Schram, 1555 Lakeside Drive # 145, Oakland, CA 94612. This business is conducted by an individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Gregory Schram, Founder. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 14, 2025. Expires February 13, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6329. Published February 27, March 13, 20, 27, April 3, 2025.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 612748

The following person(s) doing business as: Brick House, 581 5th St, Oakland, CA 94607 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Purse First LLC, 5156 Cutter Ct, Antioch CA 94531. 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/: Jerome Franklin, Principal. This statement

was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 27, 2025. Expires February 26, 2030. The Independent, Legal No. 6330. Published February 27, March 13, 20, 27, April 3, 2025.

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME ORIGINAL FILE NO. 607450

The person(s) listed below have abandoned the use of the following fictitious business name(s): Golden Valley Realty, 6200 Stoneridge Mall Rd #300-1283, Pleasanton CA 94588. Registered by the following owner(s): Golden Valley Mortgage Corporation, 6754 Bernal Ave #740-258, Pleasanton, CA 94566. The fictitious business name statement was filed on 6/24/2024 in the County of Alameda. This business was conducted by a Corporation. Signature of Registrant/s/: Janice M. Smith, Secretary. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 11, 2025. The Independent, Legal No. 6331. Published 13, 20, 27, April 3, 2025.

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HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF LIVERMORE

THIS IS A NOTICE FOR THE OPENING OF THE PROJECT BASED VOUCHERS (PBV) WAIT LISTS FOR: LEAHY SQUARE, CHESTNUT SQUARE FAMILY, CHESTNUT SQUARE SENIOR, CARMEN AVE., AND STONEY CREEK.

Starting on Thursday March 20, 2025, at 7:00am the Housing Authority of the City of Livermore (LHA) will be opening the wait list for PBV properties. It will close on Wednesday April 10, 2025, at 3:00pm or until such time that a sufficient number of applications are received. Updates will be posted to the LHA website at www.livermoreha.org.

Please visit our website for more detailed information: www.livermoreha.org. To apply, use the direct link <https://info.affordablehousing.com/livermore>.

Below are the property wait lists opening:

Leahy Square: 3203 Leahy Way Livermore, CA 94550 – 1, 2, 3, 4, & 5 bedrooms
Chestnut Square Family: 1665 Chestnut St. Livermore, CA 94551 – 1, 2, & 3 bedrooms
Chestnut Square Senior (62+): 1661 Chestnut St. Livermore, CA 94551 – 0 & 1 bedrooms (senior is 62 & older and must be head of household or co-head of household)
Carmen Ave: 2891 & 2895 Carmen Ave. Livermore, CA 94550 – 0, 1, 2, & 3 bedrooms
Stoney Creek: 5896 East Ave. Livermore, CA 94550 – 2 & 3 bedrooms

The Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) Program wait list remains closed.

Life of Former Veterinarian-Mayor John Shirley on Display

By Christina Cavallaro

The Livermore Heritage Guild, established in 1973, by residents whose mission was to preserve the local train depot, has transformed into a multi-platform keeper of Livermore’s past for sharing with future generations.

The all-volunteer nonprofit historical society manages three city-owned historic properties in the public interest: Duarte Garage, Hagemann Ranch, and the History Center, the latter of which is a treasure trove of local artifacts and art. The center’s collections are all tucked away on the second floor of the Carnegie Building at 3rd and K Streets in Livermore.

Every six months, volunteer Harry Briley and a handful of other dedicated historians put together a new display to highlight a local resident who has greatly impacted the community. Last year the group featured the life of Carol Jean Famariss, owner of the eponymous dance studio that anyone who grew up in the Tri-Valley from the 1960s to the early 2000s likely knew of or passed through.

The crown jewel of that exhibit, a 21-minute slideshow that spans decades of Famariss’s life and includes slides of Carol Jean dancers throughout the years. The slideshow proved so popular that the guild has kept it as a

permanent feature.

Currently on display is an exhibit centered around the life of John Shirley. As with Famariss, anyone who lived during a certain era in Livermore would be hard-pressed not to have known Shirley as

as mayor of Livermore from 1963 to 1965.

Prior to settling in Livermore, Shirley fought in World War II as a platoon leader and company commander in L Company, 15th Infantry Regiment, in Germany. He was

Shirley’s foray into politics, “I think the fact that he had built up a practice as a vet and people knew him as a person you could talk to (led to his getting) involved in politics. But he got there through the Rotary.” Shirley was a Rotar-

case with a photo of Shirley gently cradling the neck of a black cat.

The different shelves of the exhibit represent different aspects and eras of Shirley’s life and career in service. Briley pointed to a section that held various documents and papers from Shirley’s time as mayor. He grabbed a thin pamphlet between two fingers titled, “Livermore California Directory, 1959.”

“This would be the Yellow Pages. It tells you what a tiny town we were,” Briley said.

Another shelf is devoted to Shirley’s World War II heroism and features a book he authored on the subject, along with various articles, plaques and medals. Shirley also wrote a book titled “I Remember: Stories of a Small Town Politician in Livermore CA during the 1950s and 1960s,” which is available for purchase in the History Center.

“He was here before the Lab got started in 1955,” Briley said. “And you can imagine Livermore just kind of ballooned up, so he was right on that cusp.”

The most eye-catching shelf holds two iconic signs adorned with dogs and cats from Shirley’s original practice that indicated separate entrances for canines and felines. The current pet hospital has continued that tradition of having species-specific

entrances.

Briley held up a small plastic container filled with what looked like dried weeds and grasses that he took from a bottom shelf. “And this item is things that he picked out of dogs’ noses.”

“When we do the exhibits, we have to take into account (both) small children and adults,” he explained. “So all the adult stuff is up higher, which is boring, and all the fun stuff is down below for the children. If you were a third grader that’s what you’d be looking at.”

There were some menacing-looking syringes, an old microscope slide-counting machine and a fully assembled dog skeleton.

“They gave me a binder with photographs describing procedures for surgery, and I said, ‘There’s no way I’m going to show those photographs. They are so gory.’ It’s like, ‘Okay, I’m squeamish.’ I mean, it’s fascinating if you’re a doctor, but for the average person, it’s like ‘Oh no, not Fluffy,’” he laughed.

The Livermore Heritage Guild’s exhibit on Shirley will be on display until the end of June in the former Carnegie Library at 2155 Third Street, Thursdays through Saturdays from 11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., and on select Sundays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.



The display about the life of John Shirley includes the tools of his trade, including syringes and other equipment, and a complete dog skeleton. (Photo — Christina Cavallaro)

either a veterinarian or local politician.

Shirley was beloved in the community for his service in both spheres. Shirley began practicing veterinary medicine in Livermore in 1954 and founded the Livermore Veterinary Hospital (now the Livermore Family Pet Hospital) in 1957. He later served

distinguished for his efforts in battle, earning the Silver Star for valor, two Bronze Stars, a Purple Heart, and the European Theater Operation Medal among others.

Shirley died in 2021 at the age of 97.

Briley, who is retired from the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, said of

ian for 52 years.

“I knew nothing of the Livermore city workings for decades, I was nose-to-my-work at LLNL,” Briley added. “So, I have no personal knowledge of Dr. Shirley, but you can just tell by his demeanor, of how he’s treating the animal...” He pointed to a newspaper article in the

Amador Valley Senior Targets Cancer in Winning Science Project

By Ruth Roberts

Aditi Nikhil Deshpande, a senior at Amador Valley High School in Pleasanton, was recently named one of the top 300 finalists by the Society for Science for her research on early detection of pancreatic cancer. Aditi’s project was entitled, “Assessing the Role of Matrix Metalloproteinases and Classical Complement System in Pancreatic Ductal Adenocarcinoma Using Bulk RNA Analysis in Acinar-to-Ductal Metaplasia.”

Aditi’s research focused on identifying genetic markers that might serve as early precursors, or indicators, of pancreatic cancer. It is estimated that pancreatic cancer will kill 60,000 people in 2025, according to the American Cancer Society.

For Deshpande, her research was personal.

“My father passed away from pancreatic cancer,” Deshpande said, a Pleasanton

native. “He was always my role model; he always had an optimistic outlook no matter the problem.”



Aditi Nikhil Deshpande (Photo courtesy of Aditi Deshpande)

Armed with a natural affinity towards science and a healthy dose of curiosity, Deshpande signed up for the competition on a whim; never guessing she would become a finalist.

“When I heard about the program from my classmates,

I thought ‘Wow, that’s so cool,’ so I signed up,” she said. “Growing up I was always interested in the sciences. I used to build a lot of circuit boards and I made a musical pencil once; just things that require a lot of tinkering and working on ... so I thought I’d try this.”

Deshpande and Amador Valley High School each received \$2,000 as part of the Regeneron Science Talent Search. Founded in 1942, the competition is the country’s oldest pre-college science and math contest.

“Scholars were chosen based on their outstanding research, leadership skills, community involvement, commitment to academics, creativity in asking scientific questions and exceptional promise as STEM leaders,” according to the Society for Science website.

The 300 scholars come from 200 American and international high schools and

homeschools in 33 states, as well as Washington, D.C., Hong Kong, Malaysia, and Switzerland.

Deshpande, who enjoys playing tennis and hiking in her spare time, said she is grateful for the recognition and will donate a portion of her winnings to pancreatic cancer research. Her future plans include college and a career in either research or medicine.

“It was such a surprise and such a great honor to be listed beside some very talented people,” she said. “It was really cool to be recognized among such a diverse group of peers.”

Dublin High School seniors Sonya Chamberlin, Ishaan Gupta and Sajeev Magesh were also among the



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LAVTA Contract with MV Transportation Extended To Operate Wheels Service

The Livermore Amador Valley Transit Authority (LAVTA) has signed a new contract with Dallas-based MV Transportation to operate and maintain the Wheels fixed-route bus system for another three years.

LAVTA said the contract, approved by the board of directors on March 3, reflects an increase in wages for the existing workforce and includes new standards for technology and innovation. Under the contract, MV will be responsible for the operations, safety, dispatching, road supervision, and maintenance for LAVTA facilities and vehicles.

The agreement goes into effect in July 2025 and runs through June 2028.

MV Transportation has been operating the Wheels bus service since 2007, and MV President Kevin Klika said the contract “builds our partnership with LAVTA and is foundational to MV’s footprint in the Bay Area, underscoring MV’s proven ability to deliver safe, reliable and efficient fixed route services.”

MV operates more than 200 fixed-route, paratransit and school transportation systems in 30 states and Canada, with revenues exceeding \$1.3 billion.

Founded in the Bay Area as California Medivan in 1978, the company moved its headquarters to Dallas, Texas, in 2013.

“It is clear to me that MV is committed to the workforce, and that commitment set MV apart from the other proposers,” said LAVTA Chair Evan Branning. “We are excited to extend this partnership with MV and continue to deliver quality, safe and professional bus service throughout the Tri-Valley.”

LAVTA was created in 1985 by Alameda County and the cities of Dublin, Livermore and Pleasanton.

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We're Hiring: Managing Editor

We're looking for an individual who will be able to provide editorial leadership for our weekly newspaper. This is a full-time position that requires solid journalistic skills and ethics, a creative approach to story generation, and the ability to lead a team in a deadline-driven workplace. Some night or weekend work is required to keep pace in a dynamic news environment. The ideal candidate will possess a blend of leadership and investigative fervor, with a deep-seated love of community-focused journalism.

Duties:

- Develop and assign stories to a stable of freelance writers and staff
- Edit stories for AP style and readability
- Write editorials and news stories
- Coordinate with writers and photographers for imagery and event coverage
- Maintain an active planning calendar for upcoming events
- Maintain and grow a network of freelance reporters and contributors to ensure coverage of key beats
- Assist with page layout and proofreading

Qualifications:

- A seasoned journalist with a strong ethical and moral code
- Editing experience, including AP-style copy editing
- Management experience with professional communication skills, both within the community and among staff
- Organized and adept at juggling multiple projects simultaneously, including publishing the current paper while simultaneously planning future editions
- Excellent time management skills
- The ideal candidate would also benefit from a keen eye for effective imagery and page layout, curiosity about everything from land use law to nuclear physics, a drive to hold the powerful to account and a passion for accurate and fair news coverage.

To apply, send a resumé, a cover letter detailing your experience and interest in the position, and a few recent examples of your writing and editing (in PDF format) to jobs@independentnews.com.