

On Contamination

City Engages Firm to Clean, Monitor Sites Downtown

By Larry Altman and Aly Brown

LIVERMORE — The city council on April 24 approved a \$1.17 million contract with a company to complete the cleanup and monitoring of three contaminated locations in the downtown core.

The locations include the former Quality Cleaners site near the proposed L Street parking garage; the former J Cleaners site near Stockmen's Park in Blacksmith Square, where retail, SPARC Theater and Quest Science Center are planned; and the Old Train Station, the site approved for the Eden Housing complex.

Pangea Environmental Services, the city's environmental consultant, will test soil vapor over the next two years, as work begins to remove tetrachloroethylene (PCE) tainted dirt from the sites bounded by First Street, L Street, Railroad Avenue

(See DOWNTOWN, page 6)

Fifth Inmate Dies at Jail This Year

Following Medical Emergency in Cell

By Larry Altman

REGIONAL — An inmate at the county's Santa Rita Jail in Dublin died April 27 after becoming sick in his cell, sheriff's officials said.

The 26-year-old man became the fifth inmate to die in the jail in 2023.

The man, whose name was not released, was booked into the facility March 28 following an arrest in Livermore. He was assigned to a restricted housing unit, where he was held as the sole occupant in a cell "due to extensive assaultive history on staff," Alameda County Sheriff's Office Lt. Tya Modeste said.

"During the Intake medical screening by Wellpath custodial medical personnel, he admitted he used a controlled substance the day before his arrest," Modeste said. "Despite his admitted drug use, there was no cause for concern found during the medical and mental health intake process."

About 10:35 a.m. April 27, a deputy saw the man in his cell "drinking a profuse amount of water from his sink and vomiting." He was

(See INMATE, page 6)



Tri-Valley Repertory Theatre opened "The Song of the Nightingale" at Pleasanton's Firehouse Arts Center on Saturday, April 29. The musical, based on a Hans Christian Andersen Tale, features the character of Mei Lin, a kitchen maid, and her search for the elusive nightingale. The production runs through May 14. For tickets, visit www.firehousearts.org. [See photo gallery at www.independentnews.com/multimedia]

Mayor Delivers State of the City

By Ruth Roberts

DUBLIN — Mayor Melissa Hernandez delivered the annual 2023 Dublin State of the City address to a sell-out crowd at the Shannon Center on April 19.

Hosted by the Dublin Chamber of Commerce, Hernandez touched on economic and development issues, as well as the city's plans to improve and support its Climate Action Plan.

"It is truly an honor to serve this community that I love, and to share the dais with my fellow city council members," said Hernandez. "I appreciate their intellect and passion ... we understand that the decisions we

make will impact us for years to come."

Hernandez said the City of Dublin has had a banner year in myriad ways, includ-

ing successful community programs, planned development and city outreach strategies to aid local businesses.

"The people that work for the City of Dublin come together every day to serve our community with a common purpose, to make Dublin the best, the best, and the very best that it can be."

— Dublin Mayor Melissa Hernandez

ing successful community programs, planned development and city outreach strategies to aid local businesses.

"We are fortunate to have so many in our community who are passionate about helping others," said Hernandez. "I am proud of the city's relationship with the community and the services

the mayor added, saying the city's 2022-2023 coffers have \$13.5 million set aside in revenue reserves.

Hernandez also said there is \$211.5 million earmarked in the general fund for projects, including the Downtown Dublin Preferred Vision, Wallis Ranch Com-

(See CITY, page 6)

BART Addresses Fare Evaders

By Larry Altman

REGIONAL — BART's board of directors recently awarded a \$47 million contract to begin replacing 700 turnstiles with gates designed to prevent people from entering train platforms without paying.

The new gates will be installed at all of the 50 stations in the BART system, including the Tri-Valley.

BART officials believe new gates featuring tall swinging doors instead of the current orange fins will increase ridership safety, and improve access for bicyclists and people in wheelchairs and with strollers.

"It's going to go a long way in improving the rider experience," BART Board Member Debora Allen said

during the agency's April 13 meeting. "It's been a long time coming... This is one of the very few, maybe the only, capital projects that we have planned with a 20-year asset life that will not only pay for itself in five to seven years through added rider revenue, reduced maintenance costs and an improved rider experience."

BART awarded the contract to STraffic America, a Virginia firm whose South Korean parent company has installed gates around the globe, including in China and India.

"We look forward to working with the BART team and providing new technology, new fare gates, and more importantly, the highest performance and the best possible customer

experience to all riders in the Bay Area," Paul Korczak, an STraffic consultant, told the board. He added the firm had installed 16,000 fare gates around the world.

BART staff will develop an installation timeline with STraffic for a project that ultimately is estimated to cost \$90 million. The project requires every BART station to have new gates by 2026. A prototype will be installed at the West Oakland Station by the end of this year.

The new gates will be designed to prevent fare evaders from pushing through, crawling under, jumping over or "piggybacking" over the current fins. Although the design is not finalized, the gate will

(See BART, page 7)

Emil Villa's Famous Hickory Pit Cooking Up New Partnership

By Dawnmarie Fehr

LIVERMORE — For more than 35 years, the Livermore institution known as Emil Villa's Hickory Pit has served up tender ribs and fresh pies. Owned by Ali Alae since 1998, the restaurant recently announced a new partnership that he said can mean only good things for customers' taste buds: longtime employee Inocencio Hernandez is now co-owner of the business.

"It's been half of my life working here," said Hernandez. "You have to love what you do, and I love it here ... Ali gave me the opportunity

to be his partner and I love this place."

Alae said he had been looking for a partner who would care for the restaurant and its guests as much as he did, so he could spend time with his growing family.

"There's no one who could fill my shoes except him," Alae said. "I built up this restaurant and I don't want our customers not to have the best service they can, so if it can't be me, I knew it could be him and he's done a great job so far."

Hernandez immigrated to the United States from Mexico in 2001. He began

(See PARTNERSHIP, page 7)

Leaders Eye a New Shared Bond Measure

By Larry Altman

LIVERMORE — Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District (LVJUSD) campuses, city leaders, school administrators and Livermore Area Parks and Recreation District (LARPD) officials are in preliminary discussions about a joint bond measure that would benefit the school district and also make improvements to the city's parks and downtown destinations.

Suggested by the LVJUSD, which would receive the majority of the money, the ballot proposition is in its early stages. It came up for discussion April 26 during the LARPD's Board of Directors meeting. No

action was taken. The agenda item provided an opportunity for LARPD General Manager Mathew Fuzie to inform his board of what's possibly in the works.

"The city, school district and LARPD are discussing a bond act that would be less than \$500 million with the school district needing \$375 million of that," Fuzie said. He noted the remainder of the money would be spread across several projects.

Fuzie added that although the bond measure was discussed at up to a half-billion dollars, LVJUSD Superintendent Chris Van Schaack has told city leaders the district had the funding ability or capacity

(See BOND, page 7)

Vigil Held for Victim Of Home Depot Killing

By Ruth Roberts

PLEASANTON — Friends, family and community members gathered last weekend for a candlelight vigil to honor Blake Mohs, the Home Depot loss prevention specialist who was shot and killed during a shoplifting

26, was remembered as an Eagle Scout, volunteer camp counselor and volunteer cadet with the Newark Police Department.

"I am devastated by the loss of Blake Mohs ..." said Mayor Karla Brown in a previous statement. "Through



A candlelight vigil was held Friday, April 28 in Pleasanton to honor Home Depot employee Blake Mohs, who was shot and killed during an attempted robbery at the Pleasanton store last week. [See photo gallery at www.independentnews.com/multimedia] (Photo - Doug Jorgensen)

attempt April 18 at the Pleasanton store.

The vigil was hosted by the Boy Scouts of America and held at the Pleasanton Boy Scout offices. Mohs,

his service to Tri-Valley organizations, Blake was a model for others. To have a life cut short is heartbreaking and infuriating. I'm joined

(See VIGIL, page 7)

City, School District Hold Annual Joint Meeting

By Dawnmarie Fehr

PLEASANTON — The City of Pleasanton and Pleasanton Unified School District (PUSD) held their annual joint meeting on April 20 to discuss student safety and district growth.

The joint meeting is a longstanding tradition, allowing the two jurisdictions to collaborate in the best interests of students and families, share information and promote conversation around areas for ongoing collaboration.

"This annual meeting is an important public forum where the city and school district discuss how we best serve our community," said PUSD Superintendent Dr. David Haglund. "We were pleased to share how we are nearing the completion of Measure I1 construction projects and moving for-

ward in exciting ways with Measure I."

School district staff gave updates on Measure I1, a \$270 million bond passed in 2016, and Measure I, a \$395 million bond passed in 2022. All Measure I1 funds are expended or targeted for projects underway or soon to start, except for \$35 million set aside for a new elementary school. Plans for the new school are currently on hold, due to declining enrollment within the district.

The list of projects slated for Measure I funds was pulled from Tier One in the Facilities Master Plan (FMP) developed by the district in 2022. "Quick start" projects identified to begin quickly include the refurbishment of fields at Pleasanton's middle schools, and the relocation of Horizon

(See MEETING, page 9)



Inocencio Hernandez, left, is the new co-owner of Emil Villa's Hickory Pit in Livermore. The longtime employee has joined with original owner Ali Alae, right, holding his daughter, to form a new partnership after working at the restaurant since 2001. (Photo - Doug Jorgensen)

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PET OF THE WEEK



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Talkative, terrific, and tripod - that's Prince Caspian the Siamese sensation! He's a stoic, snuggly sweetheart who's already a pro at getting along with his fellow furry friends. Learn more about Prince Caspian and other cats and dogs at valleyhumane.org. Email info@valleyhumane.org to start the adoption application process. #ShareTheCare to help pets today!

(Photo - Valley Humane Society)

East Bay Regional Park District Acquires Finley Road Ranch

The East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD) has completed its purchase of the 768-acre Finley Road Ranch property in Contra Costa County, at the western edge of the Morgan Territory Regional Preserve and the southern edge of Mount Diablo State Park.

The EBRPD said the \$11.6 million purchase, which became official April 24, would preserve one of the largest remaining open spaces adjacent to Mount Diablo State Park.

“The acquisition is an important step toward a

long-desired staging area at the end of Finley Road,” said EBRPD board member John Mercurio. “Access to western Morgan Territory Regional Preserve and southern Mount Diablo State Park has been limited over the years and this property is an important step toward improving public access.”

The district agreed to purchase the property earlier this year, after receiving a \$7 million grant from the California Coastal Conservancy, a state agency that provides funding to restore

and protect natural lands and waterways. G

EBRPD General Manager Sabrina Landreth said the acquisition furthers California’s 30x30 Initiative goal of conserving 30% of the state’s lands and coastal waters by 2030.

EBRPD is the largest regional park system in the nation, comprising 73 parks, 55 miles of shoreline, and over 1,300 miles of trails for hiking, biking, horseback riding, and environmental education in Alameda and Contra Costa counties.



The East Bay Regional Park District has completed the \$11.6 million purchase of the 768-acre Finley Road Ranch property in Contra Costa County. The acquisition preserves one of the largest remain open spaces in the area. (Photo courtesy of East Bay Regional Park District)

Zerkle Named Deputy Director of LLNL Foundation

Carolyn Zerkle, deputy director of the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL), has been appointed to the board of directors of the Livermore Lab Foundation (LLF).

Created in 2016, the nonprofit foundation is the philanthropic arm of LLNL, providing grants and gifts to both public and private organizations to support science and research initiatives and STEM education.

Zerkle, a Dublin resident, joined LLNL in 2022 as a member of senior management, leading many of the lab’s institutional initiatives, including business, operational, and infrastructure improvements, as well as workforce recruitment and retention.

She also serves as vice

president of Lawrence Livermore National Security, the organization that manages LLNL for the Department of Energy’s National Nuclear Security Administration.

“We are delighted and honored to have Carolyn as a member of our board,” said LLF board chair Dona Crawford. “In addition to her significant career accomplishments and her strong commitment to operational excellence, she is personally dedicated to the foundation’s fundamental mission of creating public-private partnerships and philanthropic opportunities that showcase how science can best serve society. Her expertise will be invaluable.”

Prior to joining LLNL, Zerkle served in several se-



Carolyn Zerkle

nior leadership roles at Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico.

She has a bachelor’s degree in architecture and civil engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and graduate degrees from the University of Illinois in architecture and business, with a focus on nuclear construction project management.



On Thursday, April 27, members of the Livermore Police Department attended the high school and middle school-aged Special Olympics Summer Games kick-off at Granada High School. Special needs students from all high schools and middle schools within the Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District attended the event. (Photo courtesy of the Livermore Police Department)

Funding Allocations Approved For Community Needs Agencies

By David Jen

The Pleasanton City Council allocated approximately \$1.2 million at its April 18 meeting to agencies working to address community needs, such as housing, human services and arts and culture.

Grant amounts ranged from \$2,500 for the Assistance League of Amador Valley and Hope Hospice, to \$250,000 for the Tri-Valley Haven, a Livermore-based nonprofit working to rebuild a 45-bed emergency domestic-violence shelter.

About \$407,000 of the total funding will come from the federal Community Development Block Grant program, \$133,000 from the federal HOME Investment Partnership program, \$354,000 from the city’s Lower Income Housing Fund, and \$340,000 from the city’s general fund.

While the council expressed support for most requesting agencies, some questions arose around Habitat for Humanity, an Atlanta-based nonprofit that assists low- to moderate-income households by building and improving homes.

Councilmember Julie Testa described the concern that Habitat’s “administrative costs were being expended, but the community wasn’t receiving any projects.”

The issue arose several years ago, according to Mayor Karla Brown.

“They had a lot of money and they never spent it,” said Brown. “The fact that they’re doing the job is wonderful; we just want to make sure.”

In response, Pleasanton Housing Manager Steve Hernandez said that the organization had spent around \$15,000 on each of its four projects in the current fiscal year, and he expected Habitat to expend all of its grant funds by year’s end in June. This year’s projects included shower, roof, flooring and air conditioning replacements.

The council voted unanimously to allocate \$80,000

to Habitat for the 2023-24 fiscal year.

Meanwhile, Councilmember Valerie Arkin asked staff to return with reasoning behind funding reductions to the Pleasanton Community Concerts Band and the Pleasanton Cultural Arts Council.

“Those are two very specific to Pleasanton and very well known in Pleasanton,” said Arkin.

Both agencies received \$1,300 less than requested, leaving \$5,000 for the Community Concerts Band and \$5,800 for the Cultural Arts Council.

Jay Ingram, recreation manager shared an anecdote that described how one charity funded another. He started by explaining that Partners for Change Tri-Valley, an organization focused on lifting individuals and families out of poverty, ranked last among this year’s 22 applications based on the city evaluation

committee; it was slated to receive no funding at all.

“The executive director of Open Heart Kitchen came forward and said, ‘I think it’s important to give this up-and-coming nonprofit organization an opportunity to help out,’” said Ingram.

Open Heart Kitchen donated \$3,000 of its own \$47,000 allocation to Partners for Change.

“That was an interesting process, one that we haven’t seen in a while or, possibly ever,” said Ingram.

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Dublin High student Anwesha Ghosh, third from the right, was recently named as an International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF) finalist for her project that generated electricity with algae and removed heavy metal. Her project was presented to the Dublin San Ramon Services District. Anwesha also won a variety of special awards, including the Stockholm Junior Water Prize, U.S. Navy & Marine Corps Award and Alameda Water Districts Water/Wastewater research award. (Photo courtesy of Anwesha Ghosh)

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The Pleasanton Partnerships in Education Foundation (PPIE) hosted the 11th Annual Run for Education on April 30 at the Alameda County Fairgrounds in Pleasanton. The run is PPIE's largest fundraiser of the year and celebrates the community while encouraging fitness and support for schools. [See photo gallery at www.independentnews.com/multimedia] (Photo - Doug Jorgensen)

New Private School Proposed for East Dublin

By David Jen

Residents in the area may soon have alternative education options if plans for a new private school gain the necessary approvals.

Jerry Hunt of the Rubicon Property Group, on behalf of BASIS Independent Schools, submitted an application to the city last August for a conditional use permit and site development review for a development project at the Corrie Center office building at 7950 Dublin Blvd. near the intersection of the 580 and 680 in western Dublin.

The permit would allow for the operation of a private school for grades six through 12, with a maximum of 420 middle-school students and 380 high-school students, said Linda Ajello, project planner, during an April 20 community meeting on the proposal.

Ajello also said that she expects the planning commission to hold a hearing for the project on May 23.

Dublin Unified School District (DUSD) Public Information Officer Chip Dehnert, who pointed to a “phenomenal” 90% DUSD student growth rate between 2010 and 2020, told The

Independent that the district did not expect the project to significantly affect DUSD enrollment.

“Given the footprint of their proposed middle school, high school campus — under four acres — and the fact that they are attempting to attract students from cities in the Tri-Valley — according to the description on their site — we anticipate the overall impact to the Dublin Unified School District to be minimal,” said Dehnert. “With the City of Dublin still expanding, we don’t anticipate a drop off in students in the coming years.”

BASIS, a national network of Pre-K-12 private, secular schools, belongs to the Spring Education Group, controlled by Hong Kong-based Primavera Holdings Limited, according to the BASIS website.

The project intends to renovate the existing 81,895 square-foot office building at Corrie Center and build a new, 9,164 square-foot gymnasium along with a new outdoor play area, said Ajello. It will also build 147 parking spaces and various site improvements, such as landscaping and a trash

enclosure.

The conditional use permit would also require that the project ensure compatibility with surrounding areas, detailing impacts on the city, such as traffic.

“One of the things that BASIS strives to do is reduce the amount of traffic coming in and out of the site,” said Ajello. “They have a pretty thorough traffic and circulation plan that they have been using at other sites, including one in San Jose and Fremont.”

BASIS’s San Jose location currently serves 1,190 students, and the Fremont location serves 643 students, with annual tuition of \$33,700 and \$30,700 respectively, according to the Niche website.

DUSD, meanwhile, is looking forward to its new Emerald High School in eastern Dublin, currently under construction.

“We think the direct community involvement in the project, the offerings that only a true comprehensive high school can provide, and the proximity to the growing community on the east side of town make Emerald High a compelling option,”

Pleasanton Police Looking for Help From Public After Fatal Stabbing

The Pleasanton Police Department is asking for the public’s help in locating two suspects involved in a fatal stabbing that occurred on Monday, May 1. At approximately 10:31 a.m., an adult male died after he was stabbed during an attempted robbery in an apartment complex located in the 5700 block of Owens Drive.

A witness reported two male suspects, wearing ski masks, seen running from the apartment. Both

suspects are currently outstanding. Although still in the early stages of the investigation, officials believe this is an isolated incident and there is no public threat

at this time.

Anyone with information about the homicide is urged to call the Pleasanton Police Department’s tipline at 925-931-5107.

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EDITORIAL

Cities Offer More Than Monetary Support to New Tri-Valley Haven Facility

The city councils of Livermore, Pleasanton and Dublin have each allocated federal funding toward the construction of a new Tri-Valley Haven Emergency Shelter in Livermore.

For those who are unfamiliar, Tri-Valley Haven is a community organization that serves local area adults and children who have experienced domestic violence, sexual assault or homelessness. The recent commitments from these three cities, will allow the non-profit to increase its available bed numbers by 50% and add numerous support programs to their list of services. Livermore and Pleasanton have pledged \$484,000 and \$250,000 respectively, with Dublin set to announce their contribution at their next city council meeting.

And it is much needed. While Tri-Valley Haven serves more than those who have suffered at the hands of domestic violence, there is no doubt that the abused are a significant percentage of the center’s population. In California, domestic violence accounts for roughly 20% of all violent crimes in the state, and in 2019, California had approximately 12,500 misdemeanor convictions for domestic violence cases according to the California Department of Public Health.

In 2021-2022, Tri-Valley Haven answered 2,685 crisis calls, provided 5,871 bed nights for domestic violence victims and distributed 249,860 pounds of food.

Thanks to shelters like Tri-Valley

Haven, those who are suffering can find peace in a safe community of support, confidentiality, empowerment and prevention services to help them recover and rebuild their lives.

And thanks to city councils such as those in the Tri-Valley, whose recently committed funds will help pave the way for the new shelter, estimated to cost between \$6.5 million and \$7.5 million.

Not only should these cities be commended for their monetary contributions, which will literally save lives, but they should also be noticed for their collaborative examples of support and community goodwill. Neighbors that care and share the responsibility for their residents in need, create a critical and lasting sense of community for all.

MAILBOX

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

Where Do We Expect The Homeless to Go?

Greg Scott, Livermore

“Pleasanton has always taken a philosophy of ‘in order for our community to be healthy, we want our neighboring communities to be healthy,’ and we want to work together,” per Pleasanton Councilmember Testa (Larry Altman, “Tri-Valley Cities Allocate Funds For New Shelter in Livermore,” The Independent, 4/27/2023).

Great! Send your homeless, abused women and their children to Livermore, Pleasanton! Why take any responsibility for this in your own community, Councilmember Testa?

The homeless who cannot get a bed at the Tri-Valley Haven Emergency Shelter - and during the shelter rebuild - are to go where?

“For Tri-Valley Haven, the money will go toward paying for a new shelter

estimated to cost between \$6.5 million and \$7.5 million.” That is “with 45 beds available instead of the current 30, along with counseling rooms, a garden, and safe indoor and outdoor play areas for children.” One would think the emphasis is beds, and their safety, so, effectively, that is \$144,000 to \$167,000 per bed. Why is it that these projects are this expensive per person?

“The nonprofit [Tri-Valley Haven] is working with HomeAid, a nonprofit developer of housing and facilities for people experiencing or at risk of homelessness.” The Orange County chapter of the Building Industry Association of Southern California founded HomeAid in 1989. HomeAid is funded by the building industry and other companies in the building industry. Building expensive housing that leaves many unhoused, and the profiteering from the building industry are the solutions to homelessness.

What is needed is a homeless “commons” to provide adequate, safe shelter for as many homeless as possible, using as few resources as possible, including less expensive mobile services. What is the primary logistic? Security. How do you solve that? With a secure perimeter at a safe location where you have police officers live at the “commons.” You could have a comfortable and spacious tent village with safe community and play areas and with two tiny houses for police officers that have partly or totally subsidized housing costs as an enticement. This would tend to be for new, young, and probably single police officers. Imagine police officers living in the same community they policed in. Tents or yurts are considerably cheaper than regular construction. Hunters, for example, have tents that are quite comfortable and are tall enough to stand in and have heating sources. There has to be a better pathway to a housing solution.

We the People: Teaching Civic Engagement

Trish Munro, Livermore

When people understand how their governments

work and have the knowledge to understand how to effectively participate, their communities flourish. At the national level, that is what The Center for Civic Education does: develop the public knowledge of our democratic institutions, along with the ability, willingness, and confidence to be civically engaged. We see the results in the Tri-Valley through the popular and successful CA We the People program.

The program uses the US Constitution to provide excellent civic education, training, and experience to students from upper elementary through high school ages. Students learn what the Constitution is, why it is relevant today, and—through working together—how to use that understanding to discuss the most critical issues facing us today. They gain confidence and knowledge; communities benefit as these students become engaged community members. (Please find recent research and videos at civiced.org.)

But the program doesn’t happen by accident. Teachers need special training, which the summer institute provides. The five-day program includes content, pedagogy, materials, and mentoring.

The benefits are priceless and there is a growing demand for more programs. Yet experienced teachers are retiring, more schools want to participate, and we have not been able to provide training in recent years.

In Livermore, seven middle school teachers are attending the summer institute, using monies from a federal grant. They are eager to learn the material and work with students. However, that grant money does not provide for high school teachers. This is a program well worth everyone’s support. For more information—and to support the program, go to the website here: www.CAWTP.org. In the words of Thomas Jefferson: “An educated citizenry is a vital requisite for our survival as a free people.”

SCOTUS Disgrace

Richard Andrews, Livermore

It has been known for years that Justice Clarence Thomas has had a very questionable habit of handling his relationships with wealthy, conservative oligarchs. It is a matter of proven record. He and the late Antonin Scalia hunted private reserves owned by litigants and other corporations as guests. And while Justice Scalia did show intelligence in writing opinions, Thomas has been about as erudite as a grammar school student. A

true embarrassment to the SCOTUS. That his wife is unabashedly a very active, vocal, activist of the extreme right is also known -- and demonstrated constantly. Even promoting proven lies. I have never known a spouse of any Justice to be as loud and ignorant.

Now, we are seeing just how low he went in flagrantly using his office for personal enrichment: private jets, questionable real estate dealing, multi-millions in free trips, gifts, and vacations. And those are just the ones we have seen. His effete response shows just how above the law he feels himself to be. That Chief Justice Roberts has done nothing about this gross abuse only damages the court and his (Roberts’) own reputation. Shameful neglect of duties.

We are already saddled with two of the least competent, blatantly biased appointees in history, Kavanaugh & Coney Barrett, thanks to Mitch McConnell’s partisan intrusion. Why must we endure the Limbo champion (How low can you go?) who is not only not all that bright, but purchasable? Clarence Thomas must resign, or be impeached.

Pure Democracy

Owen Brovont, Livermore

While inconsistent quality of leadership has proven a frequent source of instability in most societies, their Achilles’ Heel has actually been the quality of their citizens. In a “pure democracy” all decisions flow from the body of citizens qualified by age, gender, property, or wealth to vote on the decisions affecting their society.

The problem with pure democracy is it is fragile and it is vulnerable. It is vulnerable because its direction is inherently fluid and can too readily respond to short sighted expressions of popular will. It is also sensitive and fragile owing to the undisciplined passions of its citizens. Passionate people, especially when they are shallow, ignorant, and deceitfully led by glib rhetoric, are susceptible to joining in mob behavior and suspending their moral and ethical principles – ordinarily the basis of sound judgment. Mob behavior is often driven and cleverly guided by individuals who have hidden motives not shared with the mob. These leaders persuade the mob to do things that most of the participants would not ordinarily do were they not under sway of their passions that have divorced them from reason and judgment. A final criticism of pure democracy is that after a society grows to a certain size, pure democracy is impracticable

and unmanageable, becomes disorganized, and is destined to devolve into a tyranny of one form or another.

For these, and other reasons, building a government based upon pure democracy is unwise. After several thousand years, the principle of people being free and responsible for their own governance has been judged the only morally and ethically satisfactory arrangement for living together in societies as free people. This conclusion raised the problem of how to create a social structure where the citizens are free individuals, and the society can manage itself effectively in ways that preserve the freedom of the individual. The solution has been a Democratic Republic.

A democratic republic retains the preferred features of a democracy in that the citizens are free to lead their lives, so long as they do not deny that same freedom to other citizens. It responds to the requirement that it be manageable by periodic selection of leaders from its members to represent their collective views in public forums where issues are freely and openly discussed, and weighty, impactful decisions require majority support.

Does this describe contemporary American political practice? What are the consequences if it does not?

A Troubling Truth

Teresa Miller, Livermore

In Sacramento, the elements that be pass ABs and SBs continuously and no one seems to know until the deed is done, and often we become aware months and months later.

This Bill signed into “law” gives the electric companies in this State approval to add a monthly fee imposed on us by California Assembly Bill 205 (AB 205) [passed in June 2022.] The PUC hasn’t approved this yet, but oh they will. I think PUC waits until nobody notices, if ever. And the PUC knows we won’t remember, if by all accounts we ever remember a year later. They keep approving higher rates Ad Infinitum.

The latest after the fact Bill will allow these NOT Municipally owned companies to add a fixed rate charge to the electric bill above the outrageous amount, they charge per kWh of 30 to 38 cents. Our gas and electricity have been as high as \$700.00, and this with their grand, medical needs allowance they give, NOT so grand.

Now they will charge, for example, \$51.00 a month from their formula if you earn thus: “Households earning \$69,000 to

\$180,000 and Households earning \$28,000 to \$69,000 would pay \$30 a month.” Do take a look at the BILL 205 turned law; there are more earning tiers.

The PUC, Public Utility Commission (a governor appointed commission), by the way, has not approved this yet, so they will cut it some, I propose, and tell us “What a deal we are getting,” with their corrected monthly fees.

Sorry, this may be confusing, but so am I confused, and sad for this State because of all the fodder-feeders out of Sacramento who force us to eat at their table.

Wasting Taxpayer Dollars

John Lawrence, Livermore

What is it going to take before that local name changing special interest group stops trying to delay, discredit and undermine Livermore’s downtown development plan? The individuals in this group, now calling themselves “Save Livermore Downtown” (SLD), have spent years forcing the city to waste significant amounts of staff time and taxpayer dollars to fight their misguided efforts. SLD’s spokesperson claims their vision will revitalize and unify the community, but will it? Theirs is clearly not a vision shared by Livermore voters or our elected officials. In addition to failures in backing several Council candidates and petitions, SLD has now lost another frivolous legal challenge to the project. Come on SLD ... It’s way past time to stop this narcissistic craziness!

The Importance of Benjamin Rush

Jan Brovont, Livermore

“Where there is no law, there is no liberty.” Benjamin Rush.

Benjamin Rush was born in 1746 in Philadelphia, where he was an educator and physician. He was a Founding Father of the United States. He was a delegate to the Continental Congress. He served as surgeon general in the Continental Army.

The Continental Congress was a series of legislative bodies, with some executive function for the 13 colonies of Great Britain in North American & the newly declared U S before, during and after the American Revolutionary War. As an Enlightenment intellectual, Rush was committed to organizing all medical knowledge around explanatory theories, rather than relying on empirical methods. As a leading physician, Rush had a major impact on the emerging medical profession. Source: Wikipedia.

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A vehicle crashed into the dining area of the Everest Momo restaurant on Main Street in Pleasanton, Sunday, April 30. According to authorities, there were no reported injuries. The incident remains under investigation. (Photo - Doug Jorgensen)

Local Youth to Compete in Memory Competition

Eliot Mort, a 12-year-old homeschool student from



Eliot Mort

Livermore, has qualified for the 2023 National Memory Master Competition to be held this week at the Classical Conversations conference in North Carolina.

Classical Conversations is a Christian homeschool curriculum that currently enrolls about 125,000 students nationwide.

The Memory Master program encourages students to commit their lessons in history, geography, English grammar, Latin, math, and science to long-term memory. Elliott, the son of Josh and Annie Mort, is one of

16 finalists for the National Memory Master competition and the chance to win a \$10,000 prize.

This is the fifth year that Elliott earned local Memory Master honors for reciting all the information learned over the past school year. His family has participated in Classical Conversations for eight years.

Josh Mort said the Classical Conversations model has given his son “confidence to tackle hard lessons and has certainly shaped him into the devoted student he is today.”

California State Library Issues Annual Report

The California State Library said last week that it awarded a total of \$310 million in grants in 2022 to renovate and modernize public libraries across the state. Another \$175 million in grants is set to be awarded this year.

In its 2022 annual report, the library also highlighted providing the state’s 5.8 million public school students with access to online educational resources, which already have been used 284 million times.

It also invested \$15 million in English-as-a-Second-

Language pilot programs in California libraries; launched a State Parks Pass Program that allows California residents to check out free day-use passes for state parks at their local public libraries; expanded the Lunch at the Library program, which provided more than 264,000 free meals last summer to children and teens facing food insecurity; and created an eBook collection that can be accessed by anyone with a California public library card and an internet connection.

“From free, high-speed

broadband access to virtual reality stations in local libraries, we are continuing to innovate as we fulfill our mission of meeting California’s information needs, preserving our unique history and supporting libraries in this dynamic and diverse state,” said California State Librarian Greg Lucas.

The California State Library is the primary reference and research library for state government. It also provides technical assistance and disburses state and federal funds to the 1,127 public libraries in the state.

Livermore Valley Set to Celebrate Cabernet Franc with June CabFranc-A-Palooza Event

The Livermore Valley will host CabFranc-A-Palooza, a four-day celebration of Cabernet Franc wines, from Thursday, June 1, through Sunday, June 4.

More than 40 wineries will be participating in the celebration, according to event organizers, culminating in a Grand Tasting on Sunday.

CabFranc-A-Palooza is being organized by the Momentous Hospitality Group with support from the Tri-Valley Conservancy, a nonprofit group that works to preserve open space and promote agriculture.

The event will kick off with an outdoor tasting of Cabernet Franc wines produced by 16 area wineries from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at Posada Restaurant, 988

Murrieta Blvd., Livermore, with Southwestern-inspired hors d’oeuvres from chef Eduardo Posada.

On Friday, there will be a blind wine tasting with Jim Denham, owner of The Wine Steward wine shop in Pleasanton, and Steven Kent Mirasou, founder of the Mount Diablo Highlands Wine Quality Alliance and the president of the Livermore Valley Wine Growers Association, comparing six Cabernet Francs from Livermore Valley and the historic Loire Valley region in France.

The tasting, discussion of the two wine-producing regions, and “grand reveal” will be 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. on The Patio at the Steven Kent Winery, 5443 Tesla Blvd., Livermore.

From 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Saturday, winemakers from the Livermore Valley, Napa Valley, Oregon, Virginia, and the French Bordeaux will discuss their regions and winemaking styles at the Charming Pig restaurant, 1510 Holmes St., Livermore. The winemakers will each pour two Cabernet Franc tastings, paired with a charcuterie table of cold meats.

Finally, from noon to 4 p.m. on Sunday, the Steven Kent Winery will host a “Grand Tasting” of 40 Cabernet Francs from seven states and five countries, with live music, entertainment, carnival games, and food trucks.

Tickets to each of the events can be purchased online at cabfrancapalooza.com.

State Budget Proposal Designed To Protect Decarbonization Plan

A California Senate budget committee announced a proposal last week that it said would restore critical investments for the Equitable Building Decarbonization program, in response to cuts and delays proposed by Gov. Newsom in January.

“The Senate is holding our ground on investments in building decarbonization to ensure Californians can transition their homes to zero emission and clean air alternatives,” said State Sen. Josh Becker, a San Mateo Democrat who chairs the Senate Budget Subcommittee on Environmental Protection and Energy. “Our proposal finds creative budget solutions to protect our progress in fighting climate change.”

In January, Newsom proposed cutting \$87 million and delaying another \$370 million, out of \$922 million initially earmarked for the decarbonization program.

The committee’s “Protect Our Progress” proposal outlines a strategy to maintain current funding levels for the upcoming fiscal year.

The Equitable Building Decarbonization program would pay for electric heat pumps, weatherization, and other home upgrades in low-income communities, particularly those impacted by extreme heat and high energy bills.

Supporters argue that switching from appliances that use fossil fuels to more efficient heat pumps will reduce household energy bills, improve indoor air quality, cut climate pollution, and create jobs.

“The program will provide urgently needed investments in holistic home upgrades that create good jobs and help us achieve our electrification and climate goals,” said Zach Lou, coalition manager for the California Green New Deal Coalition. “We commend

the Senate’s commitment to protect this funding, which centers equity in the state’s transition to clean energy by protecting tenants, upholding labor standards, and delivering material benefits to low-income residents.”

San Diego Democrat and Senate president pro tem Toni Atkins said the budget committee proposal would cut taxes for more than 1.9 million small businesses by 25%.

But about 2,500 of the state’s largest businesses would see an increase, Atkins said.

Those corporations recently saw a 14% reduction in their federal tax rates. The state proposal would offset part of those savings by increasing state taxes from 8.84% to 10.99% on net income over \$1.5 million.

“There are so many economic uncertainties facing Californians right now, but we can, and we will, make it through this challenging time if we continue to rely on our responsible, common-sense approach to budgeting,” Atkins said. “Our budget structure, plus

new improvements like tax relief for small businesses, continued support for schools and education, and funding to address the ongoing homelessness crisis, will do exactly what the Senate’s budget plan name implies, it will protect our progress so that we can safeguard California families from further financial harm.”

California must adopt its annual budget by June 15. The governor is expected to revise his earlier proposal to delay spending on the decarbonation program something time month, based on updated revenue projections.

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Participants in Livermore's annual science poetry competition pose with Livermore Mayor John Marchand, left, and Livermore's Poet Laureate Peggy Schimmelman (center in blue). (Photo courtesy of Peggy Schimmelman)

Livermore Announces Poetry Contest Winners

The winners of Livermore's seventh annual "Poetry in a Test Tube" contest were announced last week during an awards ceremony at the Civic Center Library.

First-place winners were Dia Pise in the kindergarten through fifth-grade Youth Division for "Ornithologist's Pantoum," An Bui in the Middle School Division for "The Beauty of Questions," Amira Sain in the High School Division for "Crystalline." and Megan Malloy for "A Glory of Butterflies."

"There was an abundance of entries, making the contest very competitive," said Livermore poet laureate Peggy Schimmelman. "I was amazed at the creativity and intelligence demonstrated by the poets in every division."

Second place in the

Youth Division went to Sonia Pannu for "Schrodinger's Cat," while there was a tie for third between Andrew McCall for "Shadows" and Atharv Sharma for "Dr. Whatt's Robot."

Honorable mentions went to Luke Egger for "Star Over Time," Imogene Lockhart for "To Do List," and Ingrid Vaughan for "Science is Everywhere."

Claire Spinka was second in the Middle School Division for "Kakapo," with Arshia Sharda receiving third place for "The Science Behind the Universe."

Honorable mentions went to Nithik Singh Bon-dili for "Human Body," Avery Lockhart for "The Discovery," and Evelyn Soto for "All Cells Excel."

In the High School Division, second place went to Michaela Ledon for "The

Cells of Henrietta Lacks," while Jay Traugott received third place for "Catalyst."

Honorable mentions went to Saskia Bley for "Global Warming," Vaidehi Chaudhari for "We Are All Scientists," and Jonah Kozioziemski for "Why?"

Patricia Boyle finished second in the Adult Division for "Conus Marmoreus," with Lauren de Vore placing third for "Seeing."

Honorable Mentions went to Chris Buck for "Sciencecina," N. Ann Furlotte for "Perfect Equation," Kevin Gunn for "Livermorium," and Alexandria Malloy for "The Science of Writing."

The annual poetry contest celebrates Livermore's scientific heritage. Authors of the top three poems in each division received \$75, \$50, and \$25, respectively.

Mendenhall Middle Student Receives Top Prize in Livermore's Water Conservation Art Competition

Ananya Garg, a seventh-grade student at Mendenhall Middle School, was named the grand prize winner in this year's Livermore Water Conservation Art Contest for her entry showing the journey a single water droplet takes from snowfall to local homes.

Abigail Dow, a homeschooled fourth grader, was awarded second place, while Annapoorani Amarnath, also a seventh student, was third.

Honorable mentions went to Akshara Vishwak, kindergarten, and Jude Mitsumata, second grade,

Lawrence Elementary; Jun-woo Hong, first grade, and Dongkeon Park, second grade, Sunset Elementary; Vaidehi Chaudhar and Vedita Chaudhari, eighth graders at Joe Mitchell K-8 School; and Matthew Seong, a homeschooled second grader.

The students were recognized by the Livermore City Council last week.

"We are delighted at the high number of participants in this year's art contest," said Anthony Smith, interim manager of the city's Water Resources Division. "These amazing student artists have shown that they have learned about how water flows from the Sierra Nevada mountains all the way to our taps here in the Tri-Valley."

Artwork from all 10 finalists can be seen at flic.kr/s/aHBqjzGE2z. Their artwork will also be on display at the Livermore Chamber of Commerce, 2157 First Street, during May, in celebration of "Drinking Water Awareness Month."

The annual contest is sponsored by the city, along with the Zone 7 Water Agency and California Water Service.



Grand prize contest winner Ananya Garg, above holding certificate, with former Livermore Vice Mayor Gina Bonanno, second from right, Cal Water Regional Community Affairs Specialist Robert Seeley, far left, and Zone 7 Board President Angela Ramirez Holmes, right. (Photo courtesy of Stephanie Egidio)

Tom Chance to Head Legacy Real Estate Sales Team

Tom E. Chance has been named to head real estate sales, along with the coaching and mentorship programs, at Legacy Real Estate & Associates.

Legacy Real Estate has offices in Pleasanton, Livermore, Fremont, and Danville.

"I'm enthusiastic to see Tom bring his decades of experience to our organization and expand the company's scope of career development opportunities," said Legacy president and owner Bill Aboumrad Jr. "Since 2020,

Legacy Real Estate has successfully attracted more than 150 agents from across the region seeking our progressive, innovative, and relevant training programs. Tom has devoted his career to serving the community and leading growth, and as such, he's the perfect candidate for this leadership role. We are excited to congratulate him and welcome him to the Legacy family."

Before joining Legacy, Chance was Livermore manager for Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices,

Drysdale Properties. He is a past president of the Livermore Marketing Association of Realtors and a former Tri-Valley Realtor of the Year.



Tom Chance

INMATE

(Continued from first page)

taken to the jail's medical unit, where he was found unresponsive in bed about five hours later.

"Life-saving measures were initiated by custodial medical personnel and paramedics who also responded," Modeste said. "He could not be revived and was pronounced deceased at 4:05 p.m."

The inmate's name was not released pending notification of his relatives. Jail investigators are trying to locate his next of kin, who are believed to live in Mexico.

Alameda County Coro-

ner's Bureau Medical Examiner will work to determine the cause of death.

A report will be submitted to the District Attorney's Office.

Deputies are investigating four other deaths at the jail this year. Candice "Cody" Vanburen, 33, of Oakland, died March 1 after he was found unresponsive in his cell. He had ingested a controlled substance before entering the facility, deputies said.

Elizabeth Laurel, 39, died Feb. 13 after she was found unresponsive in her

cell. Arrested in San Leandro for selling drugs, she had an extensive history of drug addiction, deputies reported.

Charles Johnson, 45, suffered a medical emergency in his cell Feb. 2 and died two days later in a hospital.

Stephen Loftin, 39, died by apparent suicide on Jan. 17, four days after he was booked into the jail on suspicion of possession of a stolen vehicle and drug offenses. Deputies found him with a bed sheet wrapped around his neck and tied to a top bunk.

DOWNTOWN

(Continued from first page)

and South Livermore Avenue. Exposure to PCE, a solvent used in dry cleaning, can cause eye, skin, sinus and throat irritation. It also can cause liver damage and is a potential carcinogen.

According to the agreement, Pangea will install 12 soil vapor extraction (SVE) wells and four soil vapor sampling wells along with pipelines at the sites and report their findings to the San Francisco Regional Water Quality Control Board (Water Board). A public notice from the Water Board indicated that five new extraction wells will be built near Stockmen's Park; seven new extraction wells and the four vapor sampling wells will be constructed on the L Street Garage site. Earlier, four extraction wells were installed on the Old Train Depot site. At that time, contaminated soil was removed.

The L Street Garage, a \$30 million project, is slated to add 452 spaces near L Street between Veterans Way and First Street. Quality Cleaners operated at the location from the late 1940s to 2000. According to city documents, the site requires the removal of 490 tons of soil — or 35 truckloads — along with the installation of an SVE system to remove and treat organic volatile chemicals before the four-story structure can be built.

J Cleaners operated at 2093 Railroad Avenue from the early 1970s to around 2008 when the strip mall was demolished. Stockmen's Park was constructed in the approximate location of the dry cleaners in 2019. As part of the construction of Stockmen's Park, 1,811 tons of soil with traces of PCE was removed in December 2019. Pangea will continue to monitor the northwestern

portion of the Stockmen's Park site, the future SPARC location, where it will build 5 extraction wells.

Eden Housing's 130-unit affordable housing project is planned for the site where the Old Train Depot was located, north of the L Street Garage. In 2018, the city contracted Pangea to test the soil, soil vapor, and groundwater; submit documents to the Water Board; and prepare reports required by the Water Board. Then in 2021, crews from Pangea drilled four wells at the Old Train Depot site.

sites. About half the work is expected to occur during that time and will be eligible for grant reimbursements. The 2022 COP Debt Construction Fund 320 will fund remaining expenses for Quality Cleaners tasks and all expenses for the J Cleaners sites. Low Income Housing Fund 611 will fund expenses for the Eden Housing project site tasks completed outside of the two-year period that is covered by the grant. Work is anticipated to be completed in 2026, at which time, the remediation systems will

"It's the first time in 50 years that a new school has formed in this district, which means it's all the more important that the mascot of the school is one that the students enjoy."

— Shreya Krishnakumar,
Future member of Emerald's inaugural class

Remaining activities at this site include construction observation of the Eden Housing project and post-construction indoor air sampling. As part of the L Street Garage construction project, vapor extraction piping is going to be connected to the existing wells at the Eden Housing location. This work is scheduled for 2023. Vapor extraction is then planned to begin in this area beginning in early 2024.

The budget from the Livermore Village Remediation Project 2021-18 covers the cost of the \$1.17 million agreement with Pangea. This budget includes revenue from the California Department of Toxic and Substance Control, which has approved two years of grant funding for remediation activities at the L Street garage and Eden Housing

be removed.

Earlier, the city allocated additional funding to deal with the pollution at the planned Eden site. On May 25 last year, the Livermore City Council approved a resolution, currently under litigation, that enabled Eden to purchase the Old Train Depot site and provided it with a \$17.6 million funding package. A \$4.3 million portion of that funding is allocated to address subsurface contamination at the site.

The city's public works department staff has been asked whether all \$4.3 million would be needed to address contamination, in addition to funds already awarded to Pangea since 2018. The question was not answered by press time.

In February, the city hired Gannett Fleming Inc. to oversee the construction of the L Street Garage.

CITY

(Continued from first page)

munity Park, Jordan Ranch Neighborhood Square, Library Tenant improvements, Village Parkway Pavement Reconstruction and the Dublin Boulevard Extension to Livermore. She added that the city's valuation, what the city is worth, is \$21 billion, an uptick of \$1.2 billion from the previous year.

"One very important reason we have such a positive financial outlook is due to our business community," Hernandez said. "Businesses are the backbone of our economy. During and after the pandemic, the city council supported many economic development programs to ensure our city could continue to be prosperous."

Some of those programs include Taste of the World, Small Business Navigator Program, Holiday Gift Guide and the Small Business Spotlight series, which introduces businesses to the community via social media.

"We had 2,210 businesses in Dublin and more than 33,000 people employed," said Hernandez. "Our unemployment rate is a low 3.4%." She added that there is an uptick in office leases, with the most notable being Snowflake, which is expanding its footprint in Dublin to 153,000 square feet at Dublin Corporate campus.

Dublin's retail market remains strong, with 4.2 million square feet of retail space and an occupancy rate of 95.4%. Coming soon to Dublin are AutoZone, Domino's Pizza, VinFast and Serendipity Labs.

"Business is strong here in Dublin," said Hernandez. "Very strong."

Within the next five years, Hernandez added, the Dublin Place Shopping Center, which is home to Burlington Coat Factory, Hobby Lobby and Target, will become a town square, making it a walkable main street-type of experience.

Turning to housing, Hernandez said the new housing element updates include 3,719 Regional Housing Needs Allocation units assigned by the state. The senior population has also

been included in the city's housing plans.

"Like it or not, it comes as no surprise we are all getting a little older," she said. "Recognizing that, the

years.

"Some of the projects have already been completed," said Hernandez. "Including new solar panels at city facilities, LED lighting,

"We are fortunate to have so many in our community who are passionate about helping others."

— Dublin Mayor Melissa Hernandez

city council voted last year to support several projects.

The first project devoted to seniors is on Inspiration Drive, a 139-bed unit. The second is on Arnold Road at the Dublin Senior Living Center, which will provide a 152-unit project. All will include assisted living and memory care units.

The city's parks are also growing. In addition to Jordan Ranch Neighborhood Square and Wallis Ranch Community Park, Dublin also celebrated the opening of Don Biddle, a 30-acre park just east of Dougherty Road.

Dublin's 2030 Climate Action Plan is moving along and will result in \$28 million in savings over the next 25

HVAC replacements and more."

Following COVID, the need for mental health services became crucial, said Hernandez. Together with the city, the police department created the behavioral health unit, which is staffed with licensed therapists to assist individuals and the community at large.

"The people that work for the City of Dublin come together every day to serve our community with a common purpose, to make Dublin the best, the best, and the very best that it can be ... thank you for letting me share all the wonderful things that are taking place in our new American Backyard."

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BOND

(Continued from first page)

for up to a \$650 million bond measure.

A lesser amount, \$450 million, was also discussed, Fuzie said.

“What the (LVJUSD) engineers are doing and what the bond team is doing is they’re putting together estimates for us to bring to our boards and see if that’s even something that we would support,” Fuzie said. “That’s how fast this thing’s moving.”

Fuzie told the board that as more information is gathered, they would have to decide whether to support the LVJUSD bond measure or go about a separate bond measure to support their own projects. During the meeting, the LARPD board also discussed the possibility of building a sports complex that would need to be funded in the future.

Fuzie further added that he could not predict what direction the bond measure would take, but said the LARPD’s share would involve potential improvements at Bothwell, Max Baer and Bill Payne parks, the May Nissen Swim Center, and a gym and classrooms at the Springtown Community Center. The hope for Max Baer Park would be to make it a destination that the Little League Intermediate World Series would commit to long-term, he said.

“I threw out everything we had, and these were the ones that the city and the school district, and, frankly, I felt were the biggest benefits to the community because they benefit underserved areas or fix issues that we have,” Fuzie said.

Livermore has previously seen the successful passage of a shared bond between the city, LVJUSD and LARPD. In 1998, the council agreed to place a \$150 million shared bond on the 1999 ballot, which then led to the construction

of the Robert Livermore Community Center, the library, and the public pool.

In more recent years, the school district was unable to secure a majority of votes for Measure G – a bond measure from the November 2022 election that would have generated revenue needed to replace aging school facilities. The measure won 50.12% of 33,995 votes but fell short of the necessary 55% to pass.

At the time, Van Schaack said the district would pursue alternative capital funding options.

In an email, Van Schaack told The Independent that facility bond measures can appear on ballots in general elections in even numbered years, so March and November 2024 would be the two possibilities.

“There have been some preliminary conversations about the three entities coming together for a facility bond, but we need to find out from the community whether there’s an interest in the types of projects that are being discussed,” Van Schaack said. “The \$500 million sounds like a ballpark-estimate type number, based upon the high end of what’s possible. Bonding authority is based upon the assessed value of the homes in a community, and I think the maximum in Livermore would be about \$600 million, so maybe that’s where the \$500 million came from.”

The district plans to conduct a community poll in May to “guide the conversation,” Van Schaack said.

Van Schaack said the funds would be used for the “construction and renovation of school, city, and LARPD facilities.”

“We’re currently putting together very specific projects lists, which we would then use in the survey,” the superintendent said. “The school district already has

a Facilities Master Plan, so we know exactly what our needs are. We have preliminary lists from the City and Parks. Any work done would have to be done at ‘joint use’ facilities, as the sponsor of this bond would be the school district.”

More solid information will be determined by June, he said.

Fuzie said LVJUSD prefers that the election be in March to avoid the November 2024 election, when the presidential race will be decided and the bond measure will get lost on the ballot.

Fuzie told the board the City of Livermore is taking part in the discussions because officials view some of LARPD’s potential projects, including an aquatics center, a gym and improvements to the Bothwell Arts Center downtown as beneficial to the city as a whole. The city additionally wants to include other projects in the measure, including a fire station near the Isabel housing development.

Livermore City Manager Marianna Marysheva said the city had no additional comment to what Fuzie and Van Schaack said at this time.

During a brief discussion, LARPD Board Chair James Boswell said he was not convinced about getting involved in the district’s bond proposal. He said he wasn’t saying the board should be against it, but suggested the LARPD was being used to help the district pass a bond measure it otherwise couldn’t because LARPD has a better reputation with the public.

“I’m concerned about us ponying up to the bar with people that can’t manage their money,” Boswell said. “I’m concerned about stepping up to the plate, doing a bond, just because we’re the wrapping on the outside because they can’t get it approved.”

VIGIL

(Continued from first page)

by the city council in offering our deepest condolences to Blake’s family, friends, loved ones, and to everyone impacted by this tragedy.”

A GoFundMe account has been established in support of the family, and as of press time, had raised over \$40,000.

“‘DK’ was one of the most cherished members of our scouting and Roy-aneh family,” wrote Neil and Christine Altimari on the GoFundMe page. “You made not only Camp Roy-aneh, but the world a better place. Thank you for the love, adventure, magic and overall, just good times you shared with all of us. Camp

will never be the same without you there, but we’ll carry on and do the best we can because we know that’s just what you would want us to do. We miss you Blake ‘DK’ Mohs.”

Another GoFundMe contributor added:

“Although I didn’t personally know Blake, I can tell he was a wonderful human being who had a positive impact on those around him and the community he lived in,” wrote Stephen Wong. “My thoughts are with him and his loved ones during this difficult time.”

Benicia Knapps, 32, has been arrested and charged with murder and robbery

in the April 18 killing of Mohs. After she was arrested, Knapps admitted that she was shoplifting in the store at 6000 Johnson Dr. in Pleasanton and had a gun, but said she fired the weapon accidentally, according to a court document filed in Alameda Superior Court. In addition to the murder and robbery charges, Knapps also faces counts of child abuse and as a felon in possession of a firearm. Court records said she previously was convicted of grand theft in San Joaquin County in 2014.

To contribute to the family’s GoFundMe site, visit, bit.ly/3LqZVSG

PARTNERSHIP

(Continued from first page)

as a dishwasher at Emil Villa’s, working hard to learn both English and everything he could about the eatery. He moved up to busboy, then cook, eventually becoming head cook. He took on serving tables, got to know customers and began helping with the menu, creating dishes on his own and becoming a popular fixture with patrons.

“I like working here and I like to do the recipes,” Hernandez said. “People come here, and they know each other, and it’s a happy place.”

Emil Villa’s Hickory Pit was originally established in Oakland in 1928 by Emil Villa, who was known for his pies. He soon became known for his BBQ as well and opened restaurants around the Bay Area. Villa eventually parted ways with most of the locations, keeping a few for himself and renaming them Original Hick’ry Pit. The remaining locations in Livermore, Walnut Creek, Hayward and Campbell are each independently owned and operated.

“We make everything here -- soups, pies, sauces, everything,” said Alae, who purchased the Livermore location from Emil Villa. “We are also really famous for our 100% guest satisfaction. We never let our customers leave upset. Our signature item would be our BBQ ribs, which Mr. Villa started back 95 years ago.”

But the most popular tradition at Emil Villa’s might be the collection of pigs visible to guests as soon as they enter the restaurant in the form of paintings, ceramics and china figurines.

“The pig collection started way back,” said Alae, “We had just a few, and then our customers brought them to us. All of the pigs are donated to us by the customers. We have pigs from South Korea, Mexico, Europe. When our customers travel, they think about us and bring us back a pig. Kids come in and enjoy looking at them. We have over 200 pigs in our collection, almost all brought to us by our customers.”

As Alae and Hernandez move forward as partners

in the business, they hope to continue bringing their customers good food in a place that feels like home.

Emil Villa’s Hickory Pit is located at 3064 Pacific Ave. in Livermore. For more information, call 925-449-1499 or visit www.emilvillaslivermore.com.

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BART

(Continued from first page)

form a barrier of 6 feet with limited space at the bottom to slip through.

“Alarms will sound if piggybacking or climb overs are attempted, and the system logs all fare evasion activity,” Wendy Wheeler, BART’s Group Manager of Systems & Data Analytics Engineering, told the board.

BART said the new gates will be able to handle large crowds without slowing people down as they move in and out of stations while processing their Clipper cards. Gates will have advanced 3D sensors able to detect if someone is in a wheelchair or has a bike, stroller or luggage with them, allowing for more time before the swing barrier closes.

Gates will have LED lighting on the swing barriers and the pathway through the gate to help visually impaired riders.

BART staff evaluated proposals from three companies before choosing STraffic America, which

it said offered the best value and a commitment to subcontracting 11% of the work to disadvantaged business enterprises.

BART has so far secured nearly \$73 million toward the project, including about \$23 million in BART funds; \$28 million from the County Transportation Agency; \$15 million from the federal government; and \$6.5 million from the state. The source of the remaining \$17.5 million is yet to be determined.

“BART will continue to work to secure full funding from local, state and federal sources,” according to a press release.

“Ok, just don’t mess this up,” BART Board President Janice Li said with a smile before she and her colleagues voted unanimously to award the contract. “Don’t come back to me a year from now and be like, ‘Oh, this thing happened. We’re slow.’ I just want to at the end of 2025 have 50 stations with amazing

brand new fare gates that the public is so deeply appreciative of. Please deliver. We need you to do that timely and on budget.”

In March, BART officials announced they will run an estimated \$48 million deficit next year once federal pandemic aid runs out. The agency said it needed new funding sources or incur more than \$1.2 billion in debt by 2032.

In a statement on its website, STraffic said BART had “long sought various measures to reduce fare evaders” and the company planned to solve the problem with its sliding doors and camera detection system.

STraffic said the contract will have a positive impact on its global market penetration.

“We will further accelerate our entry into the global market, including the United States, based on our technological superiority, such as a fare evasion solution,” the company said.

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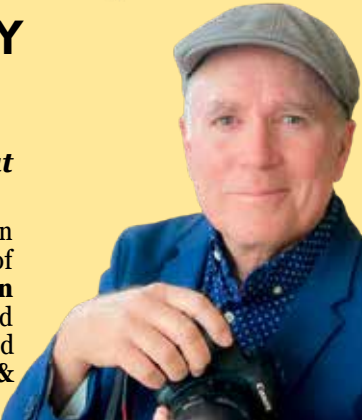
LIVERMORE VALLEY
— arts —

AN EVENING WITH
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THU MAY 11 | 7:30 PM

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About the Man, Live at The Bankhead

Michael Collopy has gained worldwide recognition for his commissioned portraits of hundreds of public figures, including world leaders like Nelson Mandela, The Dalai Lama, Mother Teresa, and 41 Nobel Peace laureates to 7 U.S. Presidents and entertainers like Mick Jagger, Salma Hayek, & Frank Sinatra.



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Hot Wax Paintings on Display At Pleasanton Arts Center

Hawaiian artist Claudette McDermott, who works primarily in encaustic, or hot wax, painting, is the featured artist on the Pleasanton Art League (PAL) Wall at the Firehouse Arts Center's Harrington Gallery now through the end of May.

McDermott will also be joining eight other artists

for the PAL's TriValley Open Studios Tour at the Firehouse Art Center from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, May 6, and Sunday, May 7.

Each of the artists will have a studio set up at the Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton, for a demonstration of their techniques.



Artist Claudette McDermott is the featured artist on the Pleasanton Art League Wall at the Firehouse Arts Center's Harrington Gallery open now through the end of May. (Photo courtesy of Firehouse Arts Center)

Speaker Series to Present An Evening With Robert Frost

Robert Frost, who won four Pulitzer Prizes for poetry, will be portrayed by actor J.T. Turner during afternoon and evening Ed Kinney Speaker Series presentations at the Firehouse Arts Center in Pleasanton on Tuesday, May 9.



J.T. Turner will appear as poet Robert Frost in an upcoming performance sponsored by the Museum on Main. (Photo courtesy of Museum on Main)

Turner will share stories about the life of the acclaimed poet, along with some of his most popular poems, during "Robert Frost: Light and Dark" at 2 p.m. and again at 7 p.m.

Frost, known for his use of American colloquial speech, focused much of his poetry on rural life in America. In addition to receiving four Pulitzer Prizes, he was nominated for the Nobel Prize in literature 31 times and was awarded the

Congressional Gold Medal in 1960.

Born in San Francisco in 1874, Frost's family moved to Lawrence, Massachusetts, in 1885, following the death of his father. His first published poems appeared in the Lawrence High School magazine, and he sold his first poem, "My Butterfly. An Elegy," to the New York Independent in 1894.

Frost died in 1963, at age 88, having achieved unparalleled success as a poet despite episodes of personal tragedy.

"As one of the most celebrated poets in the United States, Robert Frost had a profound impact on the literary world," said Rachel Brickell, director of education for the Museum on Main, which sponsors the speaker series. "We are excited to watch J.T. Turner bring Robert Frost to the Pleasanton stage on May 9."

Tickets to both performances are \$25, with discounts for senior citizens, students, and museum members. Tickets are available online at museumonmain.org, by phone at 925-462-2766, or at the museum, 603 Main St., from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday.

The performance will also be available for viewing via the webinar platform BigMarker on Tuesday, May 16. Tickets for the online presentation are also on sale now.

Tri-Valley Writers to Learn About the Power of Memorable Storytelling

Kate Farrell, author of "Story Power: The Secrets of Creating, Crafting, and Telling Memorable Stories," will deliver an interactive presentation on



Kate Farrell

storytelling for the Tri-Valley Writers Chapter of the California Writers Club on Saturday, June 17.

Farrell is a graduate of the School of Library and Information Studies at the University of California, Berkeley.

A former language arts teacher and librarian for the San Francisco Unified School District, she has also written several guides

on storytelling for teachers and created the Word Weaving Storytelling Project in collaboration with the California State Department of Education.

Her latest book, "Story Power," was a Gold winner in the 2021 Next Generation Indie Book Awards.

Farrell's presentation for the Tri-Valley Writers will explore how to enliven talks and create shared experiences with listeners when converting stories from written pages to spoken words.

The meeting, at 2 p.m. in Room 2470 at Las Positas College, 3000 Campus Hill Dr., Livermore, is open to the public.

To register, email an RSVP to treasurer@trivalleywriters.org by Thursday, June 15.

The cost is \$10 for members and \$12 for nonmembers, with discounts for students from 14 to 22. Payment must be made online at trivalleywriters.org/speaker-meeting-registration-and-payment.

TRI-VALLEY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Now to Wednesday, May 31 CELEBRATE WOMEN, ART THAT HONORS WOMEN

Celebrate Women, Art That Honors Women, is both a photography competition and an exhibition of all 2-D art honoring women. Submissions are still being accepted. To participate, visit livermoreartassociation.org. Celebrate Women will be up in the gallery (hallway) at the Civic Center Library, 1188 S. Livermore Ave., in Livermore. All are welcome to the Awards and Art Reception on May 7, at 3:30m in Conference Rooms A & B at the library. For more information, email celebratewomen2023@gmail.com.

Thursday, May 4 ALAMEDA COUNTY NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

The Alameda County National Day of Prayer will be held at the Alameda County Fairgrounds Amphitheatre, 4501 Pleasanton Ave., at 10 a.m. A reception with light refreshments will take place at 9 a.m. Walk-ins are welcome. To register or watch the event online, visit bit.ly/3G0m2ky.

Saturday, May 6 DREAM! THE MUSIC OF LIFE AND HOPE FROM BROADWAY AND HOLLYWOOD

This concert is a musical play set at the Creative Musicians Retreat in Wolfeboro, New Hampshire, in the summer of 2022. The play follows the attendees, faculty and staff as they prepare for their show at the end of the retreat, and they tell their stories about performance anxiety, self-doubt, broken dreams, and imposter syndrome. From the audition to the encore, this is a behind-the-scenes, in-their-head perspective of what it's like to be a performer and the village it takes to support them. The event takes place at 7:30 p.m., at Trinity Lutheran Church, 1225 Hopyard Road, in Pleasanton. Suggested contributions are \$20 for general admission. Students and children are free, and no one will be turned away. Proceeds support the artists and the TLC ongoing concert series. For more information, call 510-512-2623, email stonemusique@gmail.com, or visit tlcpleasanton.org or facebook.com/TLCpleasanton.

Saturday, May 6 and Sunday, May 7 TRI-VALLEY ARTIST STUDIO TOUR

The Tri-Valley Artist Studio Tour (TVAST), organized by Alliance for Visual Arts (AVA), a non-profit organization, will showcase the works of local artists and provide a platform for them to showcase their talent to the community. AVA will welcome the general public to visit a selection of public art studios, pop-up artist venues, private home studios, and other art collectives at various locations in Dublin, Pleasanton, Danville, San Ramon, and Livermore. For more information, visit bit.ly/3KLxtaj.

Sunday, May 7 LAG B'OMER-ATHAN DOWNS

Join Tri-Valley Cultural Jews for the Lag B'Omer Potluck Picnic in San Ramon at 10:30 a.m. Attendees can play some field games, and participate in the annual watermelon toss, as is tradition. Please bring a dish to share, games to play, and a mask for when social distancing isn't possible. Email culturaljews@gmail.com or call 925-399-8029 for an Evite or visit trivalleyculturaljews.org. The event is free to members, with a suggested \$15 donation per non-member adult if you are able.

Monday, May 8 SENIOR INFORMATION

Caregivers, family, and friends of adults 60 and over are invited by CityServe of the Tri-Valley to come discover local resources to support their journey. Come meet representatives from companies who provide fiduciary services, senior legal aid, in home care, home safety, and medical alert systems. The event takes place from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., at 5353 Sunol Blvd., in Pleasanton. For more information, email seniors@cityservecares.org.

Monday, May 8 LIVERMORE-AMADOR GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY PRESENTS JANICE M. SELLERS

This class will cover how to start researching your Jewish family history and how the unique aspects of Jewish culture and history will affect that research. Topics include methods, genealogy Web sites, overview of family tree software, record types, history, worldwide resources, geography, and languages. Janice M. Sellers is related to actor Peter Sellers and to John of Gaunt, son of a king and father of a king. At least that's what her grandparents told her. Unfortunately, they were wrong, but that's why she has researched her family for 48 years and now helps others find the right pieces to fit their genealogy puzzles. She specializes in Jewish, Black, forensic, and newspaper research and has taught at local to international levels. Her site is ancestraldiscoveries.com. For additional information contact: Tom Mathews, L-AGS Program Chair program@L-AGS.org

Monday, May 8 to Tuesday, June 27 UPCOMING SUPPORT GROUPS

When grieving the loss of a loved one, people may feel overwhelmed by the ebb and flow of emotions. Hope Hospice's grief support services help adults and youth learn to process these feelings and find ways to move forward in a positive direction. Hope's grief support services are free of charge, but registration in advance by phone is required at 925-829-8770 on weekdays, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. A brief assessment is required. Support groups are currently being conducted online by Zoom video conference, and services for young children are temporarily paused until in-person group gatherings can continue. General Grief runs May 8 to June 26, on Mondays, from 6 to 7:30 p.m.; Spousal and Partner Loss runs May 9 to June 27, on Tuesdays from 6 to 7:30 p.m. or Wednesdays from 1:30 to 3 p.m.; and Loss of a Child runs from May 8 to June 26, on Mondays from 6 to 7:30 p.m. For Teens Group, call for dates. Groups are offered once per quarter. Those who cannot make the next sessions should call the office to put your name on the interest list for the following quarter.

Wednesday, May 10 LUNCH AND LEARN: HOW TO BUILD YOUR INVESTOR NETWORK

From noon to 1 p.m., learn how Daybreak Labs advisor and serial entrepreneur Drew Felker has built relationships that have allowed him to fund several startups. Drew Felker, Daybreak Labs Early Stage Company advisor and CEO of Carboniferous, started his first company from the original Daybreak Labs facility. Currently working in climate tech, he has built a strong network of investors that has allowed him to start several companies. In this lunch and learn, participants will learn how Drew has built relationships that have allowed him to fund companies in diverse industries. This in-person event will be held at Daybreak Labs, 7683 Southfront Road, Suite 230, in Livermore. For more information or to register, visit bit.ly/3VodmYo.

Thursday, May 11 SICILY: LAND OF PLENTY

Armchair Travelers will take place at 1:30 p.m. in the Storytime Room of the Livermore Public Library Civic Center, 1188 S. Livermore Ave. Vicki Stephens will present a slideshow entitled "Sicily: Land of Plenty." Registration is not necessary to attend this free program. Vicki will share photographs and stories of her adventures in Sicily.

Saturday, May 13 "BY GEORGE, IT'S GERSHWIN, THE BEATLES AND MORE"

Valley Concert Chorale's final concert of its 60th Anniversary season is "By George, It's Gershwin, The Beatles and More." This concert is one for the entire family and a perfect treat for a Mother's Day weekend. The event takes place at 7:30 p.m. at Asbury United Methodist Church, 4743 East Ave., in Livermore. Tickets are \$30. High school and college students \$10 with valid student ID. Children are free. Advance tickets are available at valleyconcertchorale.org or 925-866-4003.

Saturday, May 13 DUBLIN TO HOST YOUTH HACKATHON, START-UP PITCH EVENT

The City of Dublin's Youth Advisory Committee will host a Youth Hackathon and Start-Up Pitch Event for youth in grades five through eight from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., at the Dublin Senior Center. In teams of

two to three, participants during this competition will create mobile applications, websites, and/or 3-D models. After brainstorming and building, each team will give a five-minute presentation and "pitch" their idea. No experience or advance preparation is required. Join with a friend, or staff will pair registrants up at the event. Mentors will be on site all day. Please bring a laptop. There is a maximum of 80 participants at this event. To registers, visit bit.ly/3MCHuCy.

Saturday, May 20 TRI-VALLEY WRITERS CHAPTER OF THE CALIFORNIA WRITERS CLUB HOSTS AM LARKS

AM Larks, editor, author, and book critic will present "Published! Tips and Tricks from an Indie Editor" on May 20, 2023. Larks will share advice on submitting to blogs, journals, agents, and publishers. Her lecture will include an overview of submission and publication processes. Join at 2 p.m., at Tri-Valley Writers' new meeting location, Las Positas College, room 2470, 3000 Campus Hill Drive, in Livermore. Check-in begins at 1:30 p.m. To RSVP and pay, email your RSVP to treasurer@trivalleywriters.org by Thursday, May 18, then register at bit.ly/3CpD0UC. CWC adult members are \$10; nonmembers are \$12; CWC student members ages 14 to 22 are \$5; and student nonmembers are \$8.

Saturday, May 20 and Sunday May 21 COME AND BE REFRESHED WITH PACIFIC CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

Revitalize the soul with Handel's Water Music, celebrate composer Joseph Haydn's last and most famous Symphony #104 "London," appreciate the bold, romantic power of Sir Edward Elgar's beautiful May Song and Love's Greeting, and delve into the expansive melodies of Gordon Jacob's lively A Little Symphony for Orchestra. For one week only, get a special offer of 25% discount off best seats. Use promo code PCO25%NOW at checkout. The events take place on May 20, at 7:30 p.m., at St. Stephens Episcopal Church, in Orinda; and on May 21, at 3 p.m., at the Bankhead Theater, in Livermore. For more information, visit pacificchamberorchestra.org.

CCOP Grad Mass SUNDAY, MAY 21

At 6 p.m., at St. Augustine Church, 3999 Bernal Ave., in Pleasanton, all high school seniors and their families are invited to the CCOP Grad Mass for special recognition by the Catholic Community of Pleasanton. Seniors are asked to wear their graduation gowns and will receive special red cords to attach to their gowns. Seniors will be able to sit together in a reserved section. A pastoral blessing will be bestowed upon the graduating class during Mass, followed by a photo op in the outdoor grotto and a light reception in the hall. This Eucharistic Celebration is open to all seniors and family members. Attendees are asked to wear church clothes or graduation gowns with no graduation caps. For more information, contact Lien-Thi De la Peña at ldelapena@catholicsofpleasanton.org or Jim Garber at jgarber@comcast.net.

Sunday, May 21 "JAZZ, SHE WROTE"

This all-star quartet of Bay Area jazz women originally came together to celebrate Marian McPartland's 100th birthday, with a sold-out show at Piedmont Piano. This time, the group will perform a wide range of captivating music by a host of brilliant jazz composers, including Melba Liston, Tia Fuller, Emily Remler, Anat Cohen, Blossom Dearie, Mary Lou Williams, Laura Nyro, and others. The event will take place with in-person attendance and livestream. To request seating, email info@livermorejazzsociety.org or fill out an online form at livermorejazzsociety.org/reserve-seats. If seating is available, organizers will reply with a formal invitation including the performance location. For more information, visit livermorejazzsociety.org. Suggested donation are \$20 per person, but donations of any amount are most welcome.

Sunday, May 21 SHAVUOS AT CREEKSIDE PARK

At 10:30 a.m., join Tri-Valley Cultural Jews for Shavuos Book Fest in Pleasanton. Celebrate Shavuos by sharing the best book each person read this year. Iced tea and cookies will be provided. Bring your favorite snack to share! Email culturaljews@gmail.com or call 925-399-8029 for an Evite. For more information, visit trivalleyculturaljews.org. The event is free to members, with a suggested \$15 donation per non-member adult if able.

Saturday, May 27 WAVE WATERPARK OPENS

The Wave waterpark opens for the summer season on Memorial Day weekend, from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Daily operations begin June 3. Presale tickets for the season will be available online starting April 4. Presale reservations for cabanas and loungers for the season will also be available to reserve online starting April 4. Recreational swimming is ongoing through April 30, in the natatorium on Saturdays and Sundays, from 1 to 4 p.m. Fitness swimming and water walking are also available. For more information, visit dublinrecguide.com.

Monday, May 29 MEMORIAL DAY CELEBRATION

The Pleasanton American Legion Post 237 in conjunction with the Pleasanton Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 6298 will hold a Memorial Day Celebration at The Pleasanton Senior Center Centennial Park, located at 5353 Sunol Blvd., in Pleasanton. The ceremony will begin at 10:30 a.m., with patriotic music played by Pleasanton Community Band. The Memorial Day program will begin at 11 a.m. There will be parking in the Senior Center parking lots. For more information, visit americanlegionpost237.org/home.html.

Saturday, June 17 TRI-VALLEY WRITERS PRESENTS KATE FARRELL

Farrell will show attendees how to enliven their talks and create a shared experience with listeners when converting stories from written pages to spoken words. Join in at 2 p.m., at Las Positas College, room 2470, 3000 Campus Hill Drive, in Livermore. Check-in begins at 1:30 p.m. To RSVP and pay, email treasurer@trivalleywriters.org by June 15, then register at trivalleywriters.org/speaker-meeting-registration-and-payment. Tickets for CWC adult members are \$10; nonmembers are \$12; CWC student members ages 14 to 22 are \$5; and student nonmembers are \$8.

Friday, June 23 2023 JUNETEENTH CONCERT SERIES

The Oakland Interfaith Gospel Choir (OIGC) is proud to announce a powerful and inspiring series of concerts to celebrate Juneteenth, featuring performances in Berkeley, Livermore, and San Francisco. This concert series celebrates the resilience, joy, and strength of the African American community through the power of gospel music. The three concerts will take place on June 16 at the Freight & Salvage in Berkeley, June 23 at the Bankhead Theater in Livermore, and June 25 at the Great American Music Hall. Each concert will feature the OIGC performing a variety of gospel music styles, from traditional to contemporary, and paying tribute to the Freedom Songs of the Civil Rights movement. The event takes place from 8 to 10 p.m., at the Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., in Livermore. For more information, call 510-839-4361 or visit oigc.org. Tickets for all seating range from \$22 to \$30. For tickets, visit oigc.org/tickets.

ONGOING VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES TOPSCIENCE

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

ONGOING WEEKLY EVENTS PLEASANTON FARMERS MARKET

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

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

OBITUARIES

Steven Peter Sanders
Sept. 14, 1964 – April 25, 2023



Steven “Steve” Sanders passed away peacefully surrounded by his siblings on April 25, 2023, after a year and a half battle with cancer. Steve fought hard and valiantly to beat his illness and was taken from us too soon at only 58.

Steve was born in Roswell, New Mexico on Sept. 14, 1964, fighting his way into our world six weeks prematurely, as the youngest of six children, to Royce and Arlene Sanders. The family moved to Redwood City, California where Steve grew up and attended grade school at Our Lady of Mount Carmel and Sequoia High School. He continued his education at Foothill College. In his twenties, Steve was employed as security for Mervyn’s Department Store and Home Depot. After which, he worked for a time with his brother-in-law in construction before starting his 25-plus years in engineering at Sensor Concepts, Inc. (SCI) in Livermore, where he also resided.

Starting in the third grade Steve became very interested in basketball and played for his grade school’s team. As the youngest in the family, he learned to hold his own while playing “Horse” with his siblings on the backyard basketball court. He has always been an avid Golden State Warriors fan and loved to join watch parties cheering loudly with his friends.

While in his 20’s Steve took an interest in the martial arts and for many years was a devoted student of Aikido where he became a black belt. Early in his 50s, Steve took up ballroom dancing and enjoyed traveling to compete in events. Throughout the years, Steve has traveled to many places and enthusiastically shared pictures and his appreciation of the sights he had seen. Alaska and Hawaii were very special to him.

Steve really enjoyed liv-

ing his life, socializing, golfing, cooking, barbecuing, entertaining, wine tasting, and would often refer to himself as a “foodie.” He enjoyed nothing better than to create a great meal for family or friends and have the perfect wines to share, this was pure enjoyment for him. He was a wine enthusiast, whose knowledge was vast and his wine bottles plentiful. He enjoyed the many wine clubs he joined. A while back, he decided he wanted to share his love for wine with others and volunteered in the tasting room on the weekends at Tenuta Winery.

Steve was funny, compassionate, kind, generous and could brighten anyone’s day with his smile. He was a very gregarious man who loved his routine and his favorite Livermore hangouts. He loved to exercise at 24 Hour Fitness several times a week where he had made many friends, and the highlight of his workout was a nice long hot sauna. On his weekends he looked forward to spending his mornings having breakfast and reading his paper at Panama Bay Coffee in downtown Livermore, where he enjoyed talking to the employees and people watching. In the evenings and further up the street, Steve favored Fondue and always made himself quite at home enjoying his friendships and

camaraderie there, in particularly with Bobbi.

Steve was a dedicated and loyal employee who loved working at SCI, which he considered his extended family. He was authentically and wholeheartedly there for those in his life and made many dear and close friendships through work; which often included their family members. He enjoyed sharing stories about his friends and how each of them held a very special place in his heart. Steve was also very proud of the accomplishments of the company he worked for and its mission in supporting our military. He was truly happy that he was able to interact with customers and had been a part of their successes.

We know that Steve is now in the loving arms of his parents and sister Patricia Hutchison who preceded him in death. Steve will be forever loved and missed by his siblings and their spouses, Michele Sanders (Brock), Michael Sanders (Michelle), Pam Rice (Jim), Cindy Antoniazzi (Dino), and his nieces and nephews, Jenny Cantwell (Kentin), Christina Rice, Alexander Antoniazzi, Emily Antoniazzi, Becky Hutchison, Keith Sheehan, and his great-nieces Emilia Cantwell and Annabeth Alvarez.

Those who were lucky enough to know Steve and have him in their life will be forever touched by him. Steve would want each of us to go on living and loving life, as he so passionately did. He will be dearly missed and always in the hearts of his SCI extended family, friends, and colleagues.

Services will be private. Per Steve’s request, in lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to Shriners Hospitals for Children (Tax ID 36-2193608), 2900 N. Rocky Point Dr. Tampa, Florida, 3607 for the use and benefit of Shriner’s Children’s Northern California.

braker and a loving community of friends.

You may share memories at www.westfordfuneral-home.com.

Michael Robert Delgado
Jan. 14, 1963 – April 25, 2023

Michael was born Jan. 14, 1963, and grew up in Livermore, California, where he was the youngest of four children in the Delgado family. He passed away peacefully in Bellingham, Washington

on April 25, 2023.

Michael was preceded in death by his parents, Tony and Bernice Delgado. He is survived by his siblings, Rosemary Guerrero, Anthony Delgado, Sharon Stone-

CELEBRATION OF LIFE

Arlene Margaret Conger
Sept. 14, 1934 – Feb. 24, 2023



Arlene Margaret Conger passed away Feb. 24 at the age of 88 years. She leaves behind her husband of 69 years, Roy Conger, son, Jeff Conger (spouse Amy), daughters, Laura Conger-Maxey (spouse Kevin), and Mollie Jensen. She was the beloved grandmother to Marissa, Tamara (partner Erin), Michael, Jena and Stephen (partner Kadie); in addition to great-grandchildren Kai, Ronin, Jackson, Savannah, Cylis and Azi.

Arlene was a versatile fiber artist who was an avid knitter, basket weaver and jewelry designer, as well as creating woven textiles on her loom, spinning her own yarn from fleece and making detailed needlepoint pictures. This love of creativity brought her to a group of close friends that would gather each week to work together on their projects, a group that lasted throughout most of her lifetime.

She was active in the Livermore Art Association for many years in addition to volunteering her time with the Livermore Heritage Guild, for which she was a member of the Ravenswood Victorian era-inspired croquet team.

The thing that mattered most to Arlene was her family and she loved nothing more than sharing her unique talents through giving her handmade creations, which will be treasured for years to come.

A celebration of life will be held for Arlene on April 29 at 1 p.m. at the Robert Livermore Community Center, 4444 East Ave, Room Larkspur South.

Robert Steve Lowder
July 22, 1937 – May 18, 2022



A one-year memorial will be held May 10, 2023, at 11.am., in the chapel at First Presbyterian Church Livermore, 2020 5th St. Livermore, California. Reception to follow in the Fellowship Hall.

After an extended stay Steve Lowder passed away at Valley Care Hospital in Pleasanton, California on May 18, 2022.

Steve was born in South Gate, California. During his school years he lived in San Bernadino and Crestline, California. All through high school, while in Crestline, he worked at Goodwin’s Grocery Store.

Steve received his B.A. in physics from UC-Riverside in 1961, where he was elected junior class vice president.

He worked at Advanced Kinetics in Costa Mesa, California developing an experimental simulation of the solar wind’s interaction with the earth’s magnetic field. In

For many years he was active in the Livermore Valley Tennis Club. Steve was a member of the First Presbyterian Church and attended Asbury United Methodist Church, both of Livermore.

Steve was the most intelligent, kindest and generous man many of us have ever known and will be missed by his friends and family. The world has lost a gem.

Many years ago, he was diagnosed with hereditary spastic paraplegia (HSP). Only about 20,000 people in the US are affected by HSP. For five-plus years Steve was a resident of Heritage Estates in Livermore. A special thank you to the staff for their assistance as his disease progressed.

Donations may be sent to the Spastic Paraplegia Foundation, 1605 Goularte Place, Fremont, California, 94539-7241 in honor/memory of Robert Stephen Lowder of Livermore.

MEETING

(Continued from first page)

Preschool and the district’s infant and toddler care to the existing preschool at Harvest Park Middle School. The goal is to expand the preschool’s footprint and allow the district to centralize services in one location.

Measure I’s first issuance of \$100 million was sold on April 11, with an estimated cost of \$49 per \$100,000 assessed value. The district also reported savings on some of its projects.

“The district has been able to save about \$7 million through the projects and additional revenues through interest earnings,” said Ahmad Sheikholeslami, PUSD Assistant Superintendent of Business Services. “Those dollars are going back into Measure I and allowing us to do more projects that benefit students, staff and the community, so we are pretty excited about that.”

Some of the Measure I1 projects discussed were roofing and HVAC work, security measures – cameras and perimeter fences on all campuses – and fire alarm projects. Sheikholeslami said the perimeter fences are an important part of campus security.

“Our focus has been to design it so that everyone who wants to enter the campus has to go through the office first,” he said, noting the district is looking into higher tech options as well. “This gives a different feel to the campus. We are trying to have a campus that is inviting but is also secure.”

The two bodies also discussed school safety in terms of student behavior. The topic was foremost on their minds in part because the video of a fight between two Pleasanton Middle School (PMS) students in January went viral, making the rounds of social media and appearing on local news stations. After the incident, the district honed the PMS safety and climate plan with staff and families, identifying three main goals: ensuring students follow discipline guidelines laid out in the state education code; improve the connectedness and climate on campus;

and improve relationships and connectedness between school staff and the community.

“We want to make sure the students understand and are aware of what the discipline codes are and what are the consequences,” said Ed Diolazo, PUSD deputy superintendent of student support services.

Director of Student Services Leslie Heller presented data to give a bigger understanding of what student behavior and consequences

look like. Among a variety of consequences for different violations, expulsion is the final resource and most severe consequence. Requirements for this measure are clearly dictated by the State of California. Heller noted expulsions have declined in the district over the past five years, but at the time of the January incident, PMS did have the highest number of suspensions for students trying to harm other students. Suspension is temporary removal of a student from the school, while expulsion is the permanent removal.

Heller also discussed the

“We are really, really grateful for this unique opportunity. Our proximity to the school is an advantage to us and we are just thrilled to have the students and have this great opportunity.”

– Lia Bushong, Assistant Director of Library and Recreation

continuum of supports in place for students, including curriculum for social emotional learning to help students handle and regulate emotions and behaviors, positive behavior interventions and supports (PBIS), a coordination services team and restorative practices.

“The theory behind PBIS is that you need to model and teach positive behavior, so students know how to behave,” she said, adding the program is present in all PUSD schools. “We

reward positive behavior because we have learned that positive praise works much stronger than negative reactions. In order to change behavior, we need to praise the positive behavior five times before we can give a correction, and that tends to change behavior in a positive direction.”

During the comment period of this agenda item, Pleasanton City Councilmember Valerie Arkin asked about policies guiding student social media behavior, and expressed concern there seemed to be more of a focus in student culture on pulling out phones to video altercations rather than intervening or getting help. Diolazo said the district has looked at some policies but has yet to put anything in place.

One move the district did make was to open space at the Pleasanton Library – located across the street from PMS – to offer support and materials to students who need them. Students from anywhere in the district can come to the library after school for recreational purposes and tutoring services. This offers activities, socialization, books and other materials.

“We are really, really grateful for this unique opportunity,” said Assistant Director of Library and Recreation Lia Bushong. “Our proximity to the school is an advantage to us and we are just thrilled to have the students and have this great opportunity.”

Due to renovations in the library, this program is on a temporary pause, but will reopen May 16. Pleasanton Police Chief David Swing spoke about student resource officers (SRO) and crossing guards. Swing said the city invests between \$1.2 and \$1.3 million annually in the SRO and crossing guard programs. Currently, each of the district’s two high school campuses has an SRO who participates in events, education and prevention work.

Lt. Erik Silacchi, who oversees the SRO program, said the officers’ campus engagement is important to educate students and remove barriers between youth and officers. As part of the program, the SROs have two uniforms, a “soft” uniform of polo shirt and slacks, and a traditional uniform. Silacchi said soft uniforms are worn whenever possible, but not always.

“At the end of the day, our SROs are police officers and are part of our force multiplier in the city,” he said. “Our SROs do have to respond when there is a critical incident in the city.”

Pleasanton has 23 crossing guards, averaging two per school, except for Mohr Elementary which has one, and Vintage Hills Elementary, which has three, and an additional five “at large” guards. Deputy Director of Community Development Mike Tossano spoke about their locations and the city’s method of handling requests for more guards. Generally,

the city received one to two requests per year for new crossing guards, until 2019, when 10 were received. A data collection process was begun to evaluate the requested sites, but was interrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The data collection restarted in the spring of 2022, and an analysis process was created to evaluate new crossing guard location requests using both quantitative and qualitative data.

Tossano said using the new criteria, two of the 10 requests from 2019 passed, but there are no additional crossing guard funds at this time.

“If the goal is to keep the current 23, what I recommended that we do is any new requests for crossing guards we have, traffic engineering will evaluate that location,” said Tossano. “If they meet the criteria ... there are a couple things we do. We bring that location to our staff traffic committee and evaluate whether we should move an existing crossing guard to this location. If that’s the case, and it makes sense to move that crossing guard to that new location, we will meet with the school and determine if that’s what they want to do. If they really want a third one, then we need to determine if the school site can fund the crossing guard or if there is alternate funding available.”

For more information on the meeting, or to watch a recording, visit www.bit.ly/indy_jointmeeting.

Amador Valley Sweeps Granada in EBAL Baseball

By Phil Jensen

The recent Amador Valley-Granada series showed how fast the standings can change in East Bay Athletic League baseball.



The Amador Dons in Pleasanton dominated Friday night against Granada High School with a final win of 6-3. [See photo gallery at www.independentnews.com/multimedia] (Photo - Doug Jorgensen)

Granada had a two-game lead over Amador Valley entering the teams’ series on April 26 and 28. But Amador Valley swept the series and started this week tied with Granada and Foothill for the second-best EBAL record. De La Salle had the top league record (10-1) entering this week.

“Today was huge,” said Amador Valley coach Lou Cesario after his team’s 6-3 win on Friday at Granada. “I was really proud of them. We came out early and then they answered and then we

settled in.”

Entering this final week of the regular season, Amador Valley, Granada and Foothill all had 7-4 league records.

In Friday’s game, Ama-

runs and five hits in those five innings.

The key inning offensively for Amador Valley was the fourth.

Oliver de la Torre led off with an infield single, and Foley followed with a sacrifice bunt, moving de la Torre to second. Jonathan Sheppard had an infield single to put runners on the corners.

With two outs, Ross Kobayashi walked to load the bases. Evan Berry, the team’s No. 9 hitter Friday, hit the first pitch he saw to right field for a two-run single to tie the score at three.

“The bottom of our lineup, probably since Fresno (a tournament in early April), have really turned it on,” Cesario said.

Tyler Kubo followed Berry by smashing a two-run double to center field to give Amador Valley the lead to stay at 5-3. The senior also retired all three batters he faced, two by strikeout, in the seventh to notch a save. Brady Lederer added a scoreless inning in the sixth on the mound for the Dons.

The final run of the game was a leadoff home run in the fifth inning by Mitchell Kreider, his third of the season. Kreider was 2 for 4 in the game, and de la Torre and Sheppard also had two hits.

In left field, Amador Valley’s Braden Whitworth had a number of catches, including one near the outfield fence for the first out of the sixth inning. The senior ended up with seven outfield putouts in the game.

“He’s a great athlete,” said Cesario about Whitworth. “Left field is a tough place because of the sun;

he handled it great. He was nails.”

Granada’s Peyton Richards also made a great running catch near the right field fence in the third inning. Teammate Denny Derham was 2 for 3 at the plate with a run scored. Bryce Berry and Carter March combined for 2 1/3 innings of scoreless relief pitching for the Matadors.

“I felt like we hit the ball pretty hard and they made some good plays on us. I like the way we approach the game, it’s just one of those baseball games where it seems like every time we got a rally going, it was with two outs and sometimes that’s a little bit too late,” said Granada coach Corrigan Willis. “I have 100-percent confidence in our guys. We pitch well, they have a good idea at the plate what they’re doing, it’s just a matter of day-to-day in this league. You could end up on the short end of the stick anytime.”

In the series opener on April 26, it was a pitching duel between two of the best in the Bay Area, de la Torre and Granada’s Joshua Morano. Amador Valley won 3-0 with all of the runs produced in the bottom of the sixth inning. In his six innings of work, de la Torre allowed only four hits and had eight strikeouts and three walks. Lederer finished up with a hitless seventh for a save.

Kobayashi was 3 for 3, including a double, and he also drove in a run. Whitworth had a triple and two RBI. Berry, de la Torre and Riley Borges all had two hits. Ben Johnston was 2 for 3 for Granada.



The Livermore Girls’ Softball 12U Interleague team recently played against San Ramon and are looking towards the playoffs in Castro Valley on May 6. From right are Alley Chapman, Grace Peterson, Gianna Miller, Bailey Robinson, Camryn Yovino, Michelle Yovino, Tyla Watt, Ken Chapman, Isabella Brennan, Madi Buldoc, Boyd Robinson (head coach), Charlie Makris, Evy Soto, and Kaylie Uelese. The team is now 10-0 against other teams from Pleasanton, San Ramon and Castro Valley. (Photo courtesy of Livermore Girls Softball League.)

Livermore High Baseball Beats Dublin Gaels 10-5

By Nathan Canilao

The Livermore High School baseball team defeated the Dublin Gaels 10-5 on April 28. The Cowboys avenged their loss to the Gaels two days earlier and improved to 10-12 on the season.

Cowboys’ Senior Ray Castillo had a monster game, batting 3 for 4 while recording five RBIs. Livermore junior pitcher Josh Rodriguez pitched five innings and struck out four batters.

The Cowboys got off to a good start, scoring two runs in the first inning. After Dublin scored a run in the third inning, Livermore responded by scoring three

consecutive runs to take a commanding 5-1 lead.

The Cowboys took complete control of the game in the fourth inning as they scored two runs to take a 7-1 lead.

The Gaels scored four runs in the seventh inning, but it was too late as the Cowboys cruised to an easy victory.

Dublin has lost four of the last five games and is now 6-6 in league play with a 15-7 record overall. The Gaels will face Newark Memorial on May 6 at home.

The Cowboys are now 2-3 in their last five games. Livermore will face Granada High School May 5.



The Amador Valley Dons faced the Foothill Falcons in an ice hockey match on Saturday, April 29 as part of Tri-Valley Minor Hockey Association. Amador won 12-4. [See photo gallery at www.independentnews.com/multimedia] (Photo - Doug Jorgensen)

Hockey Gains Foothold in Tri-Valley

By Phil Jensen

Long before the San Jose Sharks originated in the Bay Area, the Tri-Valley Minor Hockey Association was founded.

It started in 1970 and has been dedicated to youth hockey development. Now, high school-aged players from throughout the area converge on Dublin Iceland for club games in April and May.

“I like the competitiveness. ... I like the fact that it’s a team game,” said Dexter Harkness, who scored a game-high four goals for the Amador team in a 12-4 victory over Foothill on Saturday night. “You have to rely on your teammates.”

It’s a tight-knit hockey community. Tom Adrian, the director of the high school league, said that there are about 200 players in that league, which is comprised of nine squads. The teams are co-ed.

Besides Foothill and Amador, other local teams include Granada, Dublin, and a combination Livermore/Brentwood/Antioch squad.

“What we wanted to have is a league for the kids who live in this area so they could play for their high school ... It’s a lot of fun,” Adrian said. “We take kids from any level of experience.”

The high school league is non-checking because there are different levels of

players. Checking in hockey involves defensive techniques aimed at disrupting an opponent.

“We’ll have kids that are just learning to skate that are out there with kids who are playing very high-level hockey, so we want to make it safe for everybody,” Adrian said.

Amador coach Eric Lahrs grew up near Buffalo, New York, where he played youth travel hockey and high school hockey before playing club at San Jose State. When he moved to Pleasanton in 1999, he joked with his wife Alisa, an Amador Valley grad, that he was someday going to coach a hockey team at that school.

Fourteen years later, Lahrs became the head coach of the Amador team and led the squad to five straight league finals before this season. The season starts in early April and ends with playoffs in late May.

Like in other sports, the rivalry between Amador and Foothill is alive and well.

“It’s the inner-town rivalry, and a lot of these kids from both teams know each other,” Lahrs said. “It’s always been a big thing.”

In Saturday’s game, Amador took a 6-0 lead in the second period on its way to the victory. Amador improved to 3-4 this season while Foothill fell to 4-3.

Besides Harkness, teammate Justin Buress had a hat trick and William Harker added two goals for the Dons. Austin Zhao and Ryder Lahrs both passed for three assists for the Dons. Amador goalie Sejal Patel had a shutout until the third period.

For Foothill, Tyler White produced a hat trick and Kyle Bazzone provided the team’s other goal. Alena Gurule and White provided assists for the Falcons.

The league is currently led by the Granada team, which has an 6-1 record this season. On Saturday, the Matadors held a 6-0 lead in the third period over San Ramon Valley and eventually won 6-1.

“I love helping the kids and they love it,” said Rich Rodgers, who has coached Granada for nine years, about the league. “Hockey is kind of one of those things where, I would say, compare it to like lacrosse was 15 years ago. There’s actually quite a few kids that play. There’s actually a pretty strong community of hockey in the Bay Area.”

Luke Brandon led Granada in scoring with two goals against San Ramon Valley. Other Matadors who scored included Lukas Verstegen, Nicolas Grigoropoulos, Zander Denis and Nathan Mann. James Bellig scored for San Ramon Valley on an assist from Addison Alaoui.

West Coast Youth Soccer Club to Hold Tryouts

The West Coast Soccer Club, which sponsors boys and girls soccer teams in Livermore and Tracy, will be holding competitive tryouts for its Livermore teams this month at Cayetano and Christianson parks, beginning Monday, May 8.

For a complete list of age groups and tryout times and dates, go to westcoastsoccerclub.com.

Last month the club hosted the Girls Academy Northwest Talent ID at the Legacy Fields Sports Complex in Tracy, with 144 players in the under-14 and under-17 age groups showcasing their skills for college coaches during morning training sessions and afternoon matches.

“This was a great event for these young student athletes and our staff did an amazing job,” said West Coast Soccer Club founder and former Olympian Troy Dayak, who predicted that

“many of these players will be recruited by top college programs from across the country and some will be selected to youth national

team rosters.”

Girls Academy is a youth development program for female soccer players in the United States.



The West Coast Soccer Club will be holding competitive tryouts for its Livermore teams beginning Monday, May 8. (Photo courtesy of West Coast Soccer Club)

Dublin Softballers Snap Three-Game Losing Streak

By Nathan Canilao

The Dublin High School softball team defeated the Foothill Falcons 5-3 on April 27, and ended their three-game losing streak.

Dublin junior Tanaya Barrett batted 3 for 3 while recording two RBIs and two home runs. Gaels’ pitcher Kelly Maggiora pitched all seven innings striking out seven batters.

The Gaels scored two runs in the third inning to get the scoring going. Foothill responded in the bottom of the third with a run to make the score 2-1.

After Dublin scored a run in the top of the fifth inning, the Falcons responded by tying the game at 3-3 with two runs in the bottom of the sixth.

In the seventh inning, the Gaels scored two runs to take

a 5-3 lead. Maggiora closed out the Falcons in the bottom of the seventh and the Gaels took a win on the road.

The Falcons dropped to 9-11 and are now 5-6 in league play. They will face Amador Valley High School on May 4.

The Gaels improved to 7-15 with the win. They will face Livermore High School on the road on May 5.



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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 596814

The following person(s) doing business as: Feirie Craft, 6450 Rabmlwood Pl., Livermore, CA 94551, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Agnes Stoll, 6450 Rablewood Pl., Livermore, CA 94551. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 4, 2023. Expires April 3, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5453. Published April 13, 20, 27, May 4, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 596761

The following person(s) doing business as: HydroCon, 7977 Capwell Drive, Suite 100, Oakland, CA 94621, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): ACC Environmental Consultants, Inc., 7977 Capwell Drive, Suite 100, Oakland, CA 94621. 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: 1/1/2023. Signature of Registrant/s/: Mark Sanchez, President/CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 31, 2023. Expires March 30, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5454. Published April 13, 20, 27, May 4, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 596851

The following person(s) doing business as: Rodriguez Solutions, 5508 San Pablo Ave, #5, Oakland, CA 94608, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Heather D. Rodriguez, 5508 San Pablo Ave, #5, Oakland, CA 94608. 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/: Heather D. Rodriguez, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 4, 2023. Expires April 3, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5455. Published April 13, 20, 27, May 4, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 596846

The following person(s) doing business as: Izote Arts, 680 Junction Ave, #107, Livermore, CA 94551, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Jessica Torres, 680 Junction Ave, #107, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Jessica Torres, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 4, 2023. Expires April 3, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5456. Published April 13, 20, 27, May 4, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 595955

The following person(s) doing business as: Star Beauty Salon, 1360 Railroad Ave, Livermore, CA 94550, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Frieshta Latify 1360 Railroad 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: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Frieshta Latify, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 2, 2023. Expires March 1, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5457. Published April 13, 20, 27, May 4, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 596537

The following person(s) doing business as: H.C. Build Up Carpentry & Woodwork, 19643 Forest Ave, Castro Valley, CA 94546, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Zachary D. Musson, 19643 Forest Ave, 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: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Zachary D. Musson, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 22, 2023. Expires March 21, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5458. Published April 13, 20, 27, May 4, 2023.

STATEMENT OF
ABANDONMENT OF USE OF
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
ORIGINAL FILE NO. 581164

The person(s) listed below have abandoned the use of the following fictitious business name(s). Zarri's Deli-catessen, 1244 Solano Ave, Albany, CA 94706. Registered Owner(s): John Robert Fealy Trust, 173 Kendall Road, Walnut Creek, CA 94595. The fictitious business name statement was filed on 8/2/2022 in the County of Alameda. This business was conducted by a Trust. Signature of Registrants: /s/ John Fealy, Trustee. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 29, 2023. The Independent Legal No. 5459. Published 13, 20, 27, May 4, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 597057

The following person(s) doing business as: Everyday Harvest, 7812 Foothill Road, Pleasanton, CA 94566, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Longitude 121, LLC, 7812 Foothill Road, Pleasanton, CA 94566. 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/: Yoshi-ko Sato, Managing Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 11, 2023. Expires April 10, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5460. Published April 20, 27, May 4, 11, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 597030

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. George Noyes Foundations; 2. Horses for Autism; 3. Racing for Inclusion; 4. GNF Providers; 5. GNF Services, 8032 Canyon Creek Circle, Pleasanton, CA 94588, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): George Noyes Foundation, 8032 Canyon Creek Circle, Pleasanton, CA 94588. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Johnny Taboada, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 11, 2023. Expires April 10, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5461. Published April 20, 27, May 4, 11, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 597027

The following person(s) doing business as: Natural Landscape & Construction, 2363 thirds ST, Livermore, CA 94550, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Natural Landscape Maintenance Inc., 2363 Third St, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 4/1/2023. Signature of Registrant/s/: Eva Murillo de la Cruz, Officer/CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 11, 2023. Expires April 10, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5462. Published April 20, 27, May 4, 11, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 596256

The following person(s) doing business as: Marquez Technology Consulting, 1191 Solano Ave #6502, Albany, CA 94706, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Marquez, Victor Rogelio, 1191 Solano Ave #6502, Albany, CA 94706. 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: 2/24/2023. Signature of Registrant/s/: Victor Rogelio Marquez, Proprietor. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 13, 2023. Expires March 12, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5463. Published April 20, 27, May 4, 11, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 597059

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Angelvetting 2. The Live Scan Guy, 4704 Saginaw Circle, Pleasanton, CA 94588, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Timothy David Parks, 4704 Saginaw Circle, Pleasanton, CA 94588. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Timothy David Parks, Sole Proprietor. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 12, 2023. Expires April 11, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5464. Published April 27, May 4, 11, 18, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 597416

The following person(s) doing business as: Arroyo Cellars,

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 597062

The following person(s) doing business as: Spokes on a Wheel, 609 Spokane Ave, Albany, CA 94706, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Joshua Heller, 609 Spokane Ave, Albany, CA 94706. 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: 1/2/2023. Signature of Registrant/s/: Joshua Heller. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 12, 2023. Expires April 11, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5465. Published April 27, May 4, 11, 18, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 597235

The following person(s) doing business as: Snow Drops Child Care, 459 Dover Way, Livermore, CA 94551, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Sreedevi Prakasam, 459 Dover Way, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Sreedevi Prakasam, Director. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 17, 2023. Expires April 16, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5466. Published April 27, May 4, 11, 18, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 597032

The following person(s) doing business as: No Joke, 2037 Walnut ST, Livermore, CA 94551, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Christian Chacon Colin, 2037 Walnut 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: 4/26/2023. Signature of Registrant/s/: Bruce M. Henry, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 11, 2023. Expires April 10, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5467. Published May 4, 11, 18, 25, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 597206

The following person(s) doing business as: Amuse Kitchen, 61 Rickenbacker Circle, Livermore, CA 94551, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Amuse Kitchen, LLC, 73 Rickenbacker Circle, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 4/1/2023. Signature of Registrant/s/: David Victor, Managing Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 17, 2023. Expires April 16, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5468. Published May 4, 11, 18, 25, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 597416

The following person(s) doing business as: Arroyo Cellars,

2700 Researcher Drive, Livermore, CA 94550, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Wise Wine Ventures, LLC, 2270 Research Drive, CA 94550. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 2/24/2018. Signature of Registrant/s/: Ron Perkuchin, Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 25, 2023. Expires April 24, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5469. Published May 4, 11, 18, 25, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 597242

The following person(s) doing business as: Agility Systems, 599 Ridgecrest Circle, Livermore, CA 94551, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Arjun Gill, 599 Ridgecrest Circle, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Arjun Gill, N/A. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 18, 2023. Expires April 17, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5470. Published May 4, 11, 18, 25, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 597477

The following person(s) doing business as: Originowls, 2413 Decker Lane, Livermore, CA 94550, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Bruce M. Henry, 2413 Decker Lane, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 4/26/2023. Signature of Registrant/s/: Bruce M. Henry, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 26, 2023. Expires April 25, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5471. Published May 4, 11, 18, 25, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 597458

The following person(s) doing business as: Mantle Landscape Architecture, Inc., 2612 8th ST, Suite A, Berkeley, CA 94710 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Mantle Landscape Architecture, Inc., 2612 8th ST, Suite A, Berkeley, CA 94710. 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: 4/27/2018. Signature of Registrant/s/: Ramsey Silberberg, President. This

statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 25, 2023. Expires April 24, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5472. Published May 4, 11, 18, 25, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 597348

The following person(s) doing business as: Be Print & Marketing LLC, 8407 Central Avenue, Second Floor, Newark, CA 94560 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Be Print & Marketing LLC, 8407 Central Avenue, Second Floor, Newark, CA 94560. 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/: Roger Gebræel Tohme, CF0. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 12, 2023. Expires April 11, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5476. Published May 4, 11, 18, 25, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 597521

The following person(s) doing business as: Premium Insulation, 6712 Preston Ave, Suite C, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Anthon Inc., 6712 Preston Ave, Suite C, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 5/28/2013. Signature of Registrant/s/: Lesley Anthon, Secretary. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 28, 2023. Expires April 27, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5474. Published May 4, 11, 18, 25, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 597408

The following person(s) doing business as: Sumsaara Plants and Gifts, 3295 Castro Valley Blvd, Castro Valley, CA 94546 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Sumsaara LLC, 7179 Calistoga Lane, Castro Valley, CA 94546. 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/: Mini Bansal, Co-Owner/Managing Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 24, 2023. Expires April 23, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5475. Published May 4, 11, 18, 25, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 597110

The following person(s) doing

business as: Tradex, 19895 Mission Blvd, Hayward, CA 94541 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Tradex Corp, 1675 162nd Ave, San Leandro, CA 94578. 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/: Roger Gebræel Tohme, CF0. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 12, 2023. Expires April 11, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5476. Published May 4, 11, 18, 25, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 596746

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Illuminar Shop; 2. Botanica Illuminar, 3607 Del Monte Way, San Leandro, CA 94548 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Illuminar Enterprises LLC, 3607 Del Monte Way, San Leandro, CA 94548. 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: 3/1/2021. Signature of Registrant/s/: Roger Debbie Giron, Manager. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 31, 2023. Expires March 30, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5477. Published May 4, 11, 18, 25, 2023.

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14th Annual Livermore Uncorked! Celebrates the Best of the Tri-Valley

By Laura Ness

The 14th annual Livermore Uncorked! Wine Competition, sponsored

Best of Show: Garré Vineyard & Winery 2019 Sangiovese
Best White: Las Positas Vineyards 2022 Albariño

County Fair in March when Luna won Best Rosé for the 2022 Garré Grenache Rosé and Amos won Best White for the 2022 Las Positas Verdelho. It's the second wine competition this month to crown a Sangiovese as the overall winner: Amador just gave the nod to the 2019 Cooper Ranch SangioBello. Sauvignon Blanc: Almost Famous Wine Company 2022 Sauvignon Blanc Spanish White: Las Positas Vineyards 2022 Albariño Rosé: Las Positas Vineyards 2022 Garnacha Rosado
Other Whites: Wine Without Borders 2021 Grüner Veltliner Chardonnay: Garré Vineyard & Winery 2022 Chardonnay Cabernet Sauvignon: Garré Vineyard & Winery 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon (Under \$45) Cabernet Sauvignon: The Steven Kent Winery 2019 Single Vineyard Series (\$45 and over) Sachau Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon Zinfandel/Primitivo: Wine Without Borders 2021 Primitivo Other Reds: Garré Vineyard & Winery 2019 Sangiovese Bordeaux Blends: Cellar 13 Winery 2019 Aliheliga Red Blends: Del Valle Winery 2020 Rosso Delight Cabernet Franc: Del Valle Winery 2019 Cabernet Franc Merlot: Darcie Kent Estate Winery 2019 Ghost Vines Petite Sirah: Concannon Vineyard 2019 Reserve Petite Sirah, Captain Joe's



Darin Winton of Cellar 13, left, celebrates with Livermore Mayor John Marchand, right, during the 2023 Livermore Uncorked! Wine Competition. Winton won the Best Bordeaux Award. (Photo - Laura Ness)

and run by the Tri Valley Conservancy (TVC), began with a field of 175 wines. A record 33 wineries entered this year, some for the first time. Wines were screened by a panel of non-Livermore winemakers assembled by TVC wine consultant Julie Schreiber, who narrowed the field down to the 75 wines that went on to the finals. Judges in the medal round were Schreiber, Nick Liang of Uncle Yu's and Savannah Vento Chun, a certified Sommelier who works for Chambers & Chambers. The top Best of Show wines were:

Best Rosé: Las Positas Vineyards 2022 Garnacha Rosado
Best Red: Garré Vineyard & Winery 2019 Sangiovese
Once again, a few wineries dominated, this time Garré and Del Valle (Aaron Luna) with five wins, Almost Famous, Darcie Kent and Wine Without Borders with four wins (all made by Julian Halasz), and Las Positas Vineyards, with two wins, made by winemaker Brent Amos. This is the second time this year Garré and Las Positas have shared Best of Show honors: the first was at the Alameda



Paint Night at the Barn with Naturalist Erica, seen here in past years, is one of the programs on tap for the Celebrate Community events hosted by Museum on Main and the Sunol Wilderness Regional Preserve. (Photo courtesy of Museum on Main)

Annual Celebrate Community Event Coming in July

The Museum on Main will partner with the Sunol Wilderness Regional Preserve this year for its annual Celebrate Community program. The Pleasanton museum said it will host Sunol Wilderness Regional Preserve Family Day from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, July 8. Activities highlighting the nearly 7,000-acre preserve will be held on the front lawn of the museum, 603 Main St., including fossils and artifacts from the Ohlone People from

the park's collection. The activities are free and open to the public. Naturalists from the Sunol Visitor Center will also lead a program about the history of Chinese railroad laborers and the western portion of the Transcontinental Railroad at the museum from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, May 13. The museum will devote its Toddler Reading Time to learning about butterflies on Wednesday, Aug. 9. "We feel very fortunate to be a part of a community

with so many amazing organizations working to enrich the lives of Pleasanton and Tri-Valley residents," said Rachel Brickell, the museum's director of education. "It is an honor to be able to partner with and help spotlight one of these great organizations each year through our Celebrate Community programming. We are thrilled to be working with the Sunol Wilderness Regional Preserve this year." The Sunol preserve is part of the East Bay Regional Park District.

Gospel Choir to Celebrate Juneteenth at Bankhead Theater

The Oakland Interfaith Gospel Choir (OIGC) will celebrate Juneteenth this year with a concert at the Bankhead Theater in Livermore on Friday, June 23. Juneteenth marks the day in June 1865 when federal troops arrived in Galveston, Texas, to take control of the state and free the last of the slaves held in the former Confederate states during the Civil War. Historically observed on June 17, Juneteenth became a federal holiday in 2021. This year the holiday falls on Monday, June 19. During its Juneteenth concert at 8 p.m., the nonprofit choir will introduce the audience to distinctive styles of Black gospel music and connect them to the Freedom Songs of the Civil Rights movement and to music today, according to a news release from the OIGC. Tickets are not yet on sale through the Bankhead Theater.

Chamber Orchestra to Play Classical British Concert

The Pacific Chamber Orchestra (PCO) will perform selections from four top composers of British classical music at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, May 20, at St. Stephens Episcopal Church in Orinda and at 3 p.m. on Sunday, May 21, at the Bankhead Theater in Livermore. The PCO's "Refreshing" program will include works George Frideric Handel, Joseph Haydn, Sir Edward Elgar, and Gordon Jacob. "From Baroque, to Classical to modern times, these four composers demonstrate musical charm, melody, playful wit, and especially the use of concise expression for maximum affectation," said PCO music director Lawrence Kohl. "Their techniques helped define and elucidate the engagingly unique British approach to classical music."

12 written while the Austrian composer was living in London, known for its free-flowing melodies. Also on the program will be selections from Jacob's lively Little Symphony for Chamber Orchestra and Eiger's romantic "May Song and Love's Greeting." Eiger is best known for the popular processional march "Pomp and Circumstance." Tickets are available at pacificchamberporchestra.org for the performance at St. Stephens Episcopal Church, 66 St. Stephens Drive, Orinda, and at liv-

ermorearts.org for the performance at the Bankhead Theater, 2400 First Street, Livermore.

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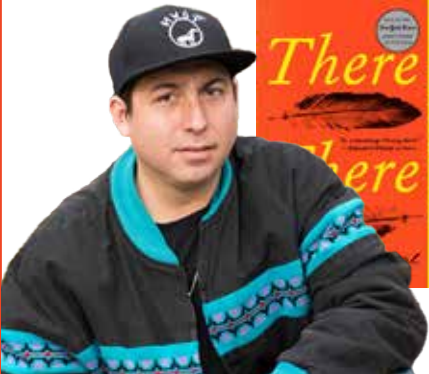
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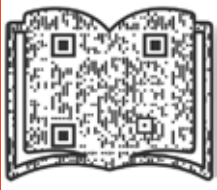


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