

Officials Reverse IB Program Decision

International Baccalaureate Classes to Be Saved

By Larry Altman

LIVERMORE — Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District (LVJUSD) officials on Monday reversed a decision at its May 23 board meeting to suspend Granada High School's International Baccalaureate (IB) diploma program, two weeks after dozens of students and parents spoke out to save it during the emotional board meeting.

Superintendent Chris Van Schaack said that instead of pausing the IB program entirely next year, a "streamlined" version will proceed at a much lower price.

"Nobody wants to end programs that are popular with students and have good outcomes," Van Schaack said. "However, when difficult budget decisions have to be made and something has to go, we do our best to limit the impact, especially on students who need the most support. In this case,

(See PROGRAM, page 7)

Shadow Cliffs Lake Refilled

By David Jen

PLEASANTON — Swimming and boating will return to the Shadow Cliffs Recreation Area this month, thanks to the abundant rain and snow last winter that has allowed the State Water Project (SWP) to deliver more than 100% of requested water supplies.

The East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD), with assistance from the Zone 7 Water Agency, has used the state's bonus water to refill the 80-acre Shadow Cliffs Lake. It completed its refill project a day early on May 30, after running two pumps for about four weeks, transferring some 230 million gallons of water from the Arroyo Valle into the lake, according to EBRPD unit manager David Vance.

Located on Stanley Boulevard along the Livermore border, the lake's ever-lowering water levels at the popular swimming attraction, prior to the refill project, served as a prominent visual of the area's drought conditions during the past three years.

The project used Article

(See LAKE, page 7)



Former Pleasanton resident Don Lewis will be honored in a tribute at the Firehouse Arts Center on June 15 as part of Black Music Month. The music icon died in November following a brief illness. (Photo - Doug Jorgensen)

Don Lewis Remembered in Tribute

By Ruth Roberts

PLEASANTON — Performer, composer and synthesizer pioneer Don Lewis will be honored in a tribute at the Firehouse Arts Center in Pleasanton next month as part of Black Music Month. The program is presented in conjunction with the library's summer reading program. The former Pleasanton resident died last November at the age of 81, leaving a legacy of community service and international acclaim. The event on June 15 is open to the public and will feature remembrances from Tri-Valley residents and professional counterparts.

"We've been putting to-

gether a group of wonderful Bay Area musicians (for the event), and there will be some amazing music and memory tributes to Don," said Julie Lewis, Don's wife of 44 years. "It should be a really wonderful time."

Lewis came of age in the 1950s in Dayton, Ohio, parlaying his passion for music as a church organist into performing at Carnegie Hall and participating in studio sessions with Michael Jackson and Quincy Jones. Lewis' career was eventually fueled by his creation of the first multi-synthesizer network designed for live performances. Praised for his vision, while criticized by others for a perceived attempt to supplant live mu-

sicians, his success with the Live Electronic Orchestra (LEO) became the prototype for the 1980s Musical Instrument Digital Interface.

But it was his background, said Julie, that melded his outlook and passion for music as a healing agent.

"Don was born in 1941 and came through segregation and the civil rights movement," said Julie. "And he came to believe that music — that his journey and mission in later years — was to make sure he could spread the gospel of music. He wanted young people to be given the opportunity to have music make a difference in their lives."

(See LEWIS, page 9)

Pleasanton Police, City at an Impasse In Contract Talks

By Larry Altman

PLEASANTON — The Pleasanton Police Officers Association (PPOA) last week declared an impasse in contract negotiations with the city, saying an offer of 15% to 18% raises over the next three years was not enough to bring salaries in line with other nearby forces.

The negotiations could be headed to mediation. The PPOA's contract for rank-and-file officers and sergeants expired on May 31.

"The city and PPOA have been meeting regularly since March, and both sides have made considerable movement in an effort to reach an agreement," city officials said in a newly created website to keep residents informed about the negotiations. "Despite these efforts, there are a few significant areas of difference between the parties current positions."

The disagreement is primarily over salary. PPOA President Brian Jewell said the city's latest offer would

keep Pleasanton officers among the lowest paid in nearby cities.

"The PPOA is not asking to be the highest paid but to be fairly compensated so we can become competitive with other cities to have an opportunity to retain and recruit," Jewell said during a public comment portion of a closed-door city council meeting held the day their contract expired.

Both sides took their cases to the public, the PPOA posting its positions on Facebook and the city creating its own website specifically to respond to the association.

City officials called their offer "a generous compensation package that represents one of the largest pay increases for police officers and sergeants in the city's history." It followed a three-year contract where officers received 10.25% raises.

"If accepted, the proposal would increase the city's costs by more than \$6.6

(See IMPASSE, page 9)

Culinary Teacher Honored

By Dawnmarie Fehr

DUBLIN — Culinary teacher, Jackie Upshaw-Lawson, has served on the school's campus for more than a decade, building its culinary program into a successful

Honors Catering course, three full-time instructors and a successful student-run catering business.

"When I started, there was no equipment," Lawson said. "There were 30 different



Dublin High School culinary teacher Jackie Upshaw-Lawson, left, has built the school's food classes into a signature program. This month, she is retiring after 13 years on the job. (Photo courtesy of Dublin Unified School District)

venture. This month marks the end of her 13-year reign in the Dublin High School kitchen as she heads into retirement.

During her tenure, Upshaw-Lawson turned a few culinary classes into one of Dublin High's signature Academy programs. When she took over the program in 2009, the school had three classes. With her retirement, the Dublin High Culinary Academy now boasts 15 sections, including a UC

plates; the knives had no handles ... I couldn't get money from anyone for equipment, so (former Dublin mayor) Tim Sbranti came along and said he needed a luncheon catered for some veterans. Could we do that? And I said we could ... It made a little money and then the word spread, and it snowballed from there."

Sbranti said the work he saw Upshaw-Lawson's stu-

(See CULINARY, page 7)

PFAS Treatment in Sight for Zone 7

By David Jen

REGIONAL — New treatment vessels designed to remove per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), or forever chemicals, have arrived at the Zone 7 Water Agency's Stoneridge site at 3750 Stoneridge Drive in Pleasanton. The new equipment will help bring the site's contaminated wells back into service as early as September, according to Zone 7 Assistant General Manager Heath McMahon.

The treatment system, which uses ion-exchange resins to pull PFAS molecules out of the water, will reduce PFAS concentrations to the point that tests cannot detect them, said McMahon.

"For what we're testing at this level, if the complete water supply that you're

treating goes through the train, it brings (the PFAS levels) all the way down to non-detect," he continued.

Ion-exchange technology uses electrostatic attraction, similar to the static cling that attracts pet hair to clothes, to grab PFAS molecules while ignoring electrostatically neutral water molecules during the treatment process.

Zone 7 — the region's water wholesaler, which supplies water to the cities of Pleasanton and Livermore, the Dublin San Ramon Services District, and the California Water Service — shut down its Stoneridge well last October, following an announcement from the California Department of Drinking Water (DDW) detailing new advisory levels for perfluorohexane sulfonic

acid (PFHxS), a common PFAS. Zone 7 also took its Chain of Lakes wells offline last December.

Because the DDW set PFHxS notification and response levels at 3 and 20 parts per trillion (ppt), both well sites would have exceeded those levels once the advisory levels became effective at the beginning of this year. Stoneridge PFHxS levels ranged between 19 and 26 ppt during the third quarter of 2022, while the Chain of Lakes levels ranged between 23 and 25 ppt during the same period, according to Zone 7 test results released last October.

The state asks that water providers notify customers if contaminants exceed notification levels, and requires

(See ZONE 7, page 7)

Congressmen Explain Their Votes on Debt Bill

Tri-Valley Representatives Take Opposing Positions

REGIONAL — Two Democratic congressmen representing portions of the Tri-Valley area, Eric Swalwell and Mark DeSaulnier, issued statements defending their votes last week on a bill to suspend the nation's debt limit. Although, Swalwell voted in favor and DeSaulnier opposed the debt ceiling bill, both criticized Republicans for demanding that spendings cuts be part of the measure.

"I voted to pay America's bills," Swalwell said. "When you rack up a tab, you pay it. Republicans were willing to dine and ditch on the American economy, leaving Social

Security and Medicare recipients and our veterans with the bill. I was not."

Without increasing or suspending the debt limit, currently at \$28.4 trillion, the federal government would likely have defaulted on paying its bills this month, including Social Security and Medicare payments.

Although DeSaulnier acknowledged that "defaulting on our debt is not an option," he explained, "(I) voted against this bill, because I refuse to reward the political extortion of the extreme faction of the Republican Party."

(See BILL, page 9)

Graduates Turn Tassels

Last week, as hundreds of Dublin and Pleasanton high school seniors crossed the stage to receive their diplomas, school officials and families celebrated the 2023. Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District students graduate next week and will be featured in The Independent's June 15 edition. Read about this week's graduations and top honorees on pages 2 and 6.



Kark Kappler paints Livermore's old city hall and police station at the corner of McLeod and First streets during last weekend's Paint Livermore 2023 competition. The annual outdoor event is hosted by the Livermore Art. [See photo gallery at www.independentnews.com/multimedia] (Photo - Doug Jorgensen)

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PET OF THE WEEK



IONIQ

Ioniq will give you six million reasons to smile! This fluffy little man is super wiggly but goes sloooow motion at naptime. At just over 2 months old, Ioniq is expected to be a large adult dog. Visit valleyhumane.org to learn more; email info@valleyhumane.org to start the adoption application process. #SharetheCare to help pets like Ioniq today! (Photo - Valley Humane Society)

Livermore, Pleasanton School Districts Name Their Top Academic Achievers

By Dawnmarie Fehr

As students graduate this month, many were reminded of the extraordinary circumstances that led to the Class of 2023's graduation. In March 2020, this year's seniors saw their freshman year cut short in the wake of the pandemic.

Dublin Unified School District (DUSD) Superintendent Chris Funk said this year's group of seniors turned out to be one of the most remarkable classes the district has seen.

"They were halfway through their freshman year when COVID-19 changed everything," he said. "They were forced to adapt to online learning via Zoom classes, isolation, hybrid learning, social distancing, mask-wearing and more. And while these challenges came at a price, their resilience, determination, and incredible spirit did not stand in the way of their academic, athletic, and artistic accomplishments. The Class of 2023 is capable of handling any challenge life places in their path."

While the DUSD does not recognize individual students



Asmitha Aluri



Isabel Dong



Natalie May



Ali Ulusu



Ian Zolynas

for top honors, the Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District (LVJUSD) and the Pleasanton Unified School District (PUSD) do acknowledge their top academic achievers.

In LVJUSD, Livermore High School recognized Valedictorian Asmitha Aluri and Salutatorian Ian Zolynas. Granada High School only names a valedictorian, and 17-year-old Natalie May received that honor. Natalie said she hadn't planned to achieve the title but was thrilled to earn it.

"This wasn't a goal, really," she said. "I saw it as a possibility, but I didn't

want to schedule my classes around getting the highest GPA. That seemed like a backwards way of going about it ... I think it's more important to take classes you're interested in and focus on jobs and sports that matter to you and enrich who you are as a person."

Natalie plans to attend Northwestern University in the fall and double major in radio, television and film and sociology.

"While we look forward to celebrating all of our graduates this week, we want to acknowledge the exceptional commitment, focus, and dedication of our students who

have earned the distinctions of valedictorian and salutatorian," said LVJUSD Superintendent Chris Van Schaack. "Congratulations to Natalie, Azmitha, and Ian on their outstanding achievements."

Pleasanton's high schools also singled out their highest academic achievers. For the first time this year, the district's continuation school, Village High School, also named a valedictorian and a salutatorian. Village High School celebrated Valedictorian Tyler Dawe and Salutatorian Ramprasad Venkatesaprabu.

At Amador Valley High School, Valedictorian Ali

Ulusu and Salutatorian Tony Wang were recognized for their academic success.

Foothill High School named Valedictorian Isabel Dong and Salutatorian Claire Xu. Isabel said she selected her classes to ensure rigor in her schedule but could never have achieved this title without the support of her parents, teachers and friends.

"To have this title is a great thing," she said. "It means all my hard work

has paid off. It feels really amazing and I'm super happy to get this recognition and I'm so thankful to everyone who has helped me along the way."

Isabel will study at UC Berkeley this fall and plans to double major in Business Administration and Cognitive Science.

All honored students were contacted for photos. Photos above are those we received by press time.

Matt Finders, Element 116 Lead off Tuesday Tunes

Matt Finders and the Element 116 jazz band will lead off this summer's lineup of free Tuesday Tunes outdoor concerts at Livermore Plaza on Tuesday, June 13.

Finders is a Livermore native who spent 17 years as a trombonist with the Tonight Show band.

Since returning to Livermore in 2013, he has directed the jazz programs at Mendenhall and East

Avenue Middle Schools and founded the Jazz Lab Music Camps.

He also formed the teen jazz band, Element 116, named for a synthetic chemical element, Livermorium, discovered, by Lawrence Livermore National Laboratories.

Tuesday Tunes concerts are sponsored by the Livermore Cultural Arts Council, with financial support from

Fremont Bank, Uncle Credit Union, Uncle Yu's at the Vineyards, and The Livermore Independent.

Bands will play from 6:45 p.m. to 8:15 p.m. every Tuesday through August 22, except July 4.

Also appearing on the Shea Homes Stage at Livermore Plaza, adjacent to the Bankhead Theater in downtown Livermore, this summer will be Dirty Cello

on June 20, The Frankie Bones Project on June 27, LunaFish on July 11, John & Linda Take 2 on July 18, The Chris Bradley Band on July 25, The Hurricane Band on Aug. 1, Michael McNeve on Aug. 8, Sacred Fire on Aug. 15, and Jeff Bordes & Friends with Matt Axton on Aug. 22.

For more about each of the scheduled bands, go to lcac.org.



City leaders joined student athletes, board members, district and school staff, bond oversight members, and parent leaders to mark the completion of the Livermore High School Aquatics Complex with a ribbon cutting on Friday, June 2. The pool and the gym update, completed last spring, were paid for using funds from Measure J. Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District Superintendent Chris Van Schaack said, "New facilities like this not only benefit our students, but also become resources for our greater community." (Photo courtesy of LVJUSD)

LVO to Present Two 'Opera in the Vineyard' Programs

The Livermore Valley Opera (LVO) will present its popular Opera in the Vineyard summer programs this year at the Garre Vineyard & Winery, 7986 Tesla Road, Livermore.

"Family traditions and a deeply rooted heritage are the backbone of Garre Vineyard & Winery, welcoming visitors as family to enjoy the experience

of Old Italy," said Gina Molinaro-Cardera, daughter of winery owner Bob Molinaro.

The first of two outdoor programs will be on Sunday, June 25, and will feature tenor Sergio Gonzalez, baritone Ryan Bradford, soprano Hope Briggs, and mezzo soprano Molly Mahoney.

A second program will

be held on Sunday, Aug. 27.

Tickets are \$80 and can be purchased online at www.LVOpera.com. Gates for both shows will open at 4:15 p.m., with the performances beginning at 5 p.m. Guests are encouraged to pack a picnic dinner and wine from Garre Vineyards will be available for purchase.

"Opera in the Vineyard

has always been a popular LVO event that has created a wonderful community of music lovers," says Raquel Holt, LVO founder and board member. "We are so excited that we can come together again to enjoy unique performances of opera arias, show tunes, and maybe even a little cabaret."



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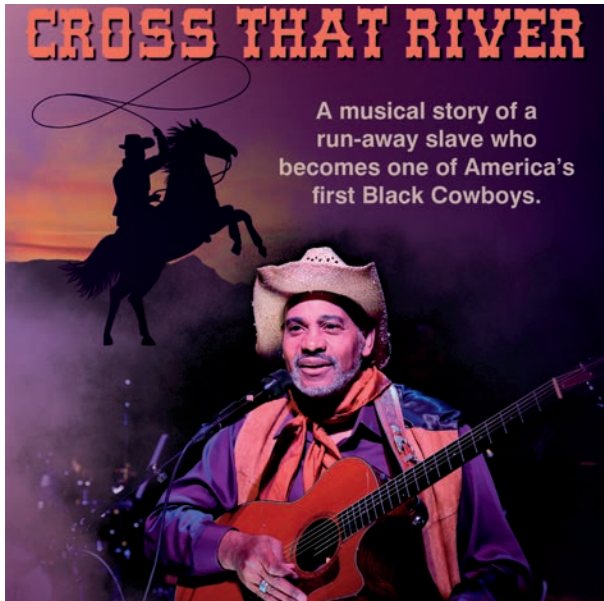
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EDITORIAL The Livermore School District Made the Right Choice

School district administrators and board members often face difficult decisions. There’s little doubt Superintendent Chris Van Schaack, his staff and the Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District (LVJUSD) board want the best for their 13,000 students.

That’s why they made the right decision Monday to keep the district’s International Baccalaureate (IB) program at Joe Michell TK-8 School and Granada High School.

The decision comes two weeks after about 60 parents and students addressed the LVJUSD board on May 23 in hopes of saving the IB coursework. Prior to the meeting, district officials had announced that the program would be suspended next year because of a possible state budget deficit that might require them to return \$6 million in funding. IB students, administrators said, could take Advanced Placement courses instead.

Parents, students and some teachers rallied, creating one of the most impressive displays of what’s right in public education that we’ve seen. One after another, a diverse group of students took to the microphone, extolling the virtues of the challenging IB program. As Van Schaack later said of these students, they were passionate, respectful and rational.

Many said the program involved more than memorizing facts for an AP History test. Instead, they said, it encourages in-depth and analytical study of subjects, such as foreign language, arts, history, science and math. As parent Skye McCloud said, “It’s not about memorization. It’s about learning how to think for themselves, to connect ideas, work through complex problems and collaborate.”

Several students said analyzing their subject matter and working with other students helped them learn, while also improving them emotionally and mentally.

As student Jonathan Van Essen put it, the district should not suspend the program, but help it grow “for all the benefits to the current students and all future generations and students to come.”

Unfortunately it’s also expensive, costing about \$546,000 a year and serving a relatively small number of students. Although

IB courses are open to all district students, as well as others from outside, just 311 took at least one class in the program from 2022-23, and just more than 233 are slated for next year. In all, only 77 of 2,682 Granada students who graduated from 2018 to 2022 earned the IB diploma, which can lead to college credit. Twenty-two of 531 students slated to graduate this month are on track to receive the diploma.

The small numbers and high price tag means it costs nearly \$25,000 for each student who earns the diploma. Assistant Superintendent Melissa Thiede compared that to \$300 a student for the 2,000 involved in athletics, which has a \$600,000 budget.

Based on what we saw at the board meeting, the money for IB is money well spent. District officials should be proud of their students, who revealed themselves to be future leaders, business people, parents and educators. They proved public education works.

We agree that no one wants to keep the IB program if its budget means cutting money for other programs, especially those that help students on the lower end of the educational spectrum. But students at the top also deserve the best public education possible.

On Monday, Granada High Principal Clark Conover said the district’s administration “identified a path forward that will enable Granada to offer a streamlined IB Diploma Programme beyond the 2023-24 school year at significantly reduced cost.”

Courses with high student interest will be continued, indicating some other courses will be cut back or eliminated. Superintendent Van Schaack said streamlining the program’s options will reduce the cost to about \$200,000.

In order to moderate the streamlining of the program, perhaps the district could find ways to enroll more students. That could lead to more state funding from average daily attendance.

Together we must find a way to save IB from extensive cuts. As eighth-grader Asher Steeley put it, “No amount of money should affect the students’ education for what they want to do and how they want to learn.”

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.

Recent Drowning At Del Valle

Gary Mansfield, Livermore

As an avid swimmer and retired safety professional, it was frustrating to read about YET ANOTHER drowning at Lake Del Valle (“Del Valle Drowning Victim Identified as San Jose Man” Independent article on June 1, 2023.) These drowning incidents occur almost every summer – like clockwork. At the risk of being accused of ‘blaming the victim’ – I believe that the Independent could serve the public

better by finding out and publishing the CAUSE of this drowning.

These drownings don’t just happen – most (if not all) are completely preventable. Although some information may not be available yet, in the interest of preventing future drownings the following questions should be answered and made public:

How many people were on the boat?

How many approved, personal floatation devices (“life jackets”) were on the boat?

Were people on the boat WEARING life jackets?

Was the victim wearing a life jacket when he entered the water?

Did the victim know how to swim?

Did ANYONE on the boat know how to swim?

Did consumption of alcohol contribute to the accident?

I also wonder if the boat (and occupants) received any sort of safety inspection before being allowed onto the lake.

If The Independent would publish such information, it might go at least a little way to preventing the next drowning.

Wine Country Inn

Paul Speroni, Livermore

The City Council Voted 4 to 1 to approve the changes to the original plan for the Inn.

The changes included reduction of setbacks on Hansen Road from 100ft to 50ft.

The council also added a single-family house with a swimming pool to the original plan for the developer to live in.

During discussions before the vote, council members praised the developer for hanging in there and

not giving up. What about the opposition? A lot of effort and money to preserve the original plan was put forth.

I think the 4 members who voted for the changes really shortchanged the opposition.

Few, if any, compromises were made with the opponents to the changes to the original plan.

Andrew Jackson Part II
Julie La Blanc, Livermore

Well, the direct copy about Andrew Jackson from Wikipedia in the 6/1/23 Independent Mailbox omitted the following tidbits. “Jackson has also been criticized for his racial policies, particularly his treatment of Native Americans.” And let’s not forget, “Jackson purchased a property known as the Hermitage, becoming a wealthy planter who owned hundreds of African American slaves during his lifetime.” And lastly, “In 1830, he signed the Indian Removal Act. This act, which has been described as ethnic cleansing, displaced tens of thousands of Native Americans from their ancestral homelands east of the Mississippi and resulted in thousands of deaths.”

A New GPAC Focus Area

Alan Burnham, Livermore

The Livermore City Council recently authorized staff and General Plan Advisory Committee (GPAC) members to start thinking about whether and how light industrial development between Greenville Road and the south bay aqueduct might enable current and future companies to grow and maintain a healthy jobs-housing balance. This area is outside the urban growth boundary established 23 years ago and would require approval by City voters. Any such change must be accompanied by sufficient additional community benefits and open-space protections to convince voters that it is worthwhile.

City policy has focused on light industrial uses near the airport and the eastern portion of Liv-

ermore. However, once housing development around current and future transit centers is built, Livermore will have less than 50 acres of land for local businesses to expand and to attract new employers with high quality jobs to our city.

The initial options provided to GPAC by staff are useful for getting the conversation started, but they must evolve significantly before consideration by the City Council and voters. Developing a viable proposal will require considerable discussion of both open-space preservation and job-oriented land-use options. No new housing is envisioned outside current city limits.

I hope those who value open space as a priority will join the discussion. It may be our best opportunity to create an open space “greenbelt” around the eastern edge of our city, which is currently blighted by unplanned development. A greenbelt east of the aqueduct would join the south valley agricultural preserve, where the wine industry is facing a do-or-die situation. This affects the economic viability of preserving open space with vineyards that are both attractive and a proven firebreak. Hopefully, the final proposal will strike a good balance among job creation, open-space preservation, and a vibrant wine industry.

Livermore Airport Development Policy

Vishal Soni, Livermore

It has come to my notice that Livermore airport is again pushing for a new development policy without socializing it with neighboring communities and ignoring the 2010 resolution to actively reduce noise.

We are concerned with the lack of transparency in which the whole matter is handled. We, the neighboring communities, need a say and to be informed at each stage and to have all documentation made public on the airport website, along with a sincere outreach effort.

Safe Graduations And Celebrations

Tania Panarello, Livermore

Summer is here! School is out: time for vacations and staycations, summer jobs and excited mobs. But let us not forget to take an extra measure of safety wherever we may roam.

If you are out drinking, PLEASE call Uber or Lyft, or find some other safe source of transportation home. Or walk if it’s not too far – preferably with others, and if you can do so quietly and respectfully.

Hikers, bikers, seniors and lil’ tykers: Please share the paths with others; this is not Planet You. Be always aware of your surroundings. Say hi, wave or nod to your fellow outdoor enthusiasts; sunshine and smiles go a long way in lifting spirits.

Run and fun in the sun: USE THAT SUN-SCREEN! Many of us have family and friends who have shared their cautionary tales and dangers of skin cancer; please take them seriously and apply some SPF.

Electric Bikes: I don’t know the rules governing the use of electric bikes, but it’s a good idea to protect those hard-headed yet mushy melons with a bike helmet, going at those whizzing, buzzing speeds. WHAT THE CRAP, DUDE?! SLOW DOWN! Again, please be aware of your surroundings: I can’t tell you how many times I’ve almost been hit by someone on an electric bike while running or walking my dog, or how I’ve almost hit an electric bicyclist while driving. PLEASE be careful and slow it down – for your safety and for others’.

Personal fireworks: NOPE. Let me say it again: NOPE! Just don’t. Come on, guys! Did you really forget so quickly about all the wildfires? We have one phenomenal season of rain, and you think that changes things? Plus, my dog (and his canine buddies) and some of our autistic loved ones may not appreciate your penchant for lighting M-80s at 2am. RECAP: JUST SAY NO TO FIREWORKS: Leave the show

to the pros, and less frequently is more special.

Years ago, my drive home from work took me past the football field of my alma mater, Livermore High. I forgot all about graduation ceremonies taking place, so, instead of getting frustrated by any traffic, I started honking and whooping like crazy in support of the graduates. I encourage you to do the same this Friday, June 9, around 5-6pm – if you can do so safely. Happy Summer!

No to Tiny Homes Close To Large Neighborhoods

Ron Causey, Livermore

It’s interesting to read some of the letters to the Independent from the “holier than thou” types that chastise those that oppose the building of Tiny Homes in the long-established neighborhood around Asbury United Methodist Church in Livermore. I can only hope that it is ignorance of the situation that leads to this type of behavior. Perhaps they think the homeless are all grandmothers that missed a house payment and ended up homeless. Those in the surrounding neighborhood certainly wish that was the case. In an article out of Stanford University, I found the following information. “Another challenge lies in the interactions between mental illness, drug addiction, and homelessness. In 2020, about 25 percent of all homeless adults in Los Angeles County had severe mental illnesses, such as a psychotic disorder and schizophrenia and 27 percent had a long-term substance use disorder. Moreover, a higher percentage of so-called chronically homeless have drug addiction, a severe mental illness, or both.” Forgive me for not giving the specific article to save time and space. The charity that will likely end up running the operation of the Tiny Homes will not be able to pick and choose who will be housed. That would be discrimination. Therefore, approximately 50% of the

(See MAILBOX, page 5)

THE Independent

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(Continued from page 4)

Under the Radar???

Donna Cabanne, Livermore

The continued use of leaded aviation fuel at the airport directly conflicts and is inconsistent with section 1.2 Goal, Objectives, and Development Priorities, which states the policy must include “features to minimize adverse impacts on the environment.” The policy does not address significant new information concerning the use of leaded aviation fuel near schools. (2021 studies Santa Clara County and Kaiser Permanente)

Have concerns? Join us at the June 26th Livermore City Council meeting. Our health and safety could be at risk.

(See MAILBOX, page 6)

Under the amendment, police officers will also be able to rely on their own observations, witness statements, and other information to issue an adminis-

Police said they would conduct proactive patrols for illegal fireworks during the Fourth of July holiday.

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There are two director positions on the Board of Directors that will be filled by appointment of the Board of Supervisors, County of Alameda. The directors are appointed at-large for a four-year term and serve without compensation. For more information or to request an application packet at the Alameda County Resource Conservation District office, 3585 Greenville Road, Suite 2, Livermore, CA 94550 or email request to marilyn.harvey@acrcd.org. The application must be completed, with the original returned, to the office by June 20, 2023 at 5:00 p.m.

For additional information: Please contact Marilyn Harvey, Chief Financial Officer, 925-453-3863.

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A woman with curly hair and a backpack stands in front of a blurred bus, smiling. A yellow swoosh graphic with blue dots curves around her. The background is a dark blue gradient.

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The Wait is Over

XX [See photo gallery at www.independentnews.com/multimedia] (Photo - Doug Jorgensen)

A white clock face icon with a yellow segment at the top, representing 15 minutes.

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RIDE RAPID

Congratulations, Class of 2023!



From top left: Amador Valley High School celebrated its 100th commencement ceremony on Friday, June 2, with students walking under a purple and gold balloon arch. All dressed in blue, the Foothill High Falcons, led by Foothill High Principal Sebastian Bull, participate in the ‘Roller Coaster,’ a movement like the ‘wave’, meant to symbolize the twists and turns of the last four years. Throwing their caps in the air, Dublin High School graduates celebrate with family and friends at the 2023 commencement ceremony on June 2. [\[See photo gallery at www.independentnews.com/multimedia\]](#) (Photos - Doug Jorgensen)

MAILBOX

(Continued from page 5)

sued for doing his job. He was asked by his boss, a non-South Asian individual to provide weekly reports on John Doe as he was falling behind on his deliverables.

All of this should sound off alarm bells in the executives, managers, and professionals of South Asian origin.

The risk of victimhood being mistaken for discrimination and harassment is very real as Dr. Kaufman points out in his article in “Unraveling the Mindset of Victimhood” in Scientific American.

The proposed law, instead of removing discrimination, will lead the professionals of South Asian ancestry to a legal morass. Further, the lack of definition of caste will drive mediocrity in the businesses, as professional discretion can be mistaken for harassment.

This is not just a problem limited to Americans of South Asian origin in California. This law will reduce professional practices to mediocrity, including academia.

I urge every Californian to contact their assembly member to vote NO on this bill.

To Be or Not to Be: Sign Ordinances In Livermore

Trish Munro, Livermore

Late last year, the city council passed an ordinance, to be implemented this July, that would ban all signs in the public right

of way for the 60 days prior to an election. As July approaches, the council is taking one final look at the ordinance. Why was the ordinance proposed and passed? How was it developed? And what are the likely consequences?

Political signs in every city, and Livermore is no exception, are a contentious issue. On the one hand, they make it easy to see who is running for office. On the other, that’s all they do. If signs help candidates win, then the person with the most signs and the most readable signs will have the edge.

But is that a good thing? Having many well-designed signs says nothing about the candidate’s ability to do the job effectively. Who hires an employee based on a fancy cover sheet to a resume?

There are other problems.

-Signs can be damaged, whether through wind or tampering. They can be placed inappropriately (for example, in medians), put up too early, or left up too late following an election. The resulting bickering is divisive and makes it more difficult to focus on issues and candidates’ qualifications.

-Signs are wasteful: they cannot be recycled, ending up in the landfill.

-Signs are expensive, making it more difficult for newer candidates to run for office.

However, without actual regulation—that is, an ordinance—every candi-

date, simply to compete, will need signs.

That is why the city council passed the ordinance. It is simple to understand: all signs are banned in public spaces for the 60 days prior to an election. (Of course, this ordinance would not affect private residences or businesses.) It frees the city from the need to monitor the correct placement of signs: if a sign appears, it would be removed. It stops the sniping and enables candidates to focus on the issues and voters.

There is one catch: Due to freedom of speech issues, this ordinance would not impact only candidates running for office, but all signs, including those of businesses that place signs in public spaces. Yet many of our neighboring cities have enacted similar sign ordinances, yet businesses in those cities have not suffered during election season.

So, is it worth it? What do you think?

Livermore Airport Jean King, Livermore

At their meeting Monday, June 5, the Livermore Airport Commission voted to recommend that the City Council approve the new Airport Leasing and Development Policy and the draft Hanger Waitlist Policy. The City Council is scheduled to vote on the policies at their June 26 meeting. Members of the public can express their opinions at that public

meeting.

Residents from Livermore and Pleasanton voiced to the Airport Commission their concerns, including noise, air pollution, PFAS, follow Livermore Resolution of 2010, contamination from the lead aviation fuel, public transparency and the need to keep the public informed. The airport staff received 120 emails

between March 23rd and April 24th. None of the emails were made public in the report.

The airport is a wonderful asset for Livermore. We need to make sure that the airport remains an asset and is not a negative to the city’s and valley’s residents.

Please attend the Council meeting on June 26 to voice your opinions.

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ZONE 7

(Continued from first page)

water providers to remove water sources from service, or treat them, if they exceed

response levels.

While the Zone 7 Board of Directors awarded a



Crews move new treatment vessels to the Zone 7 Water Agency's Stoneridge site in Pleasanton. The new equipment will help bring the site's contaminated wells back into service as early as September. (Photo courtesy of Zone 7 Water)

LAKE

(Continued from first page)

21 water, a special category of water that only becomes available when SWP reservoirs near capacity with water still to spare. The SWP has not offered Article 21 water since 2019, according to the California Department of Water Resources (DWR).

"This is the first time ever that we were offered this opportunity to pump water into this lake," said Vance.

Zone 7, the region's water wholesaler and a SWP contractor, agreed to facilitate the Shadow Cliffs transfer by requesting the water from the SWP, said Zone 7 Assistant General Manager Heath McMahon.

EBRPD, however, covered the cost of delivery and pumping. The SWP does not charge for Article 21 water itself, nor does it count the

design-build contract for treatment at Stoneridge in October 2022, the project was greatly accelerated by a bit of foresight earlier that year, when Zone 7 bought treatment vessels previously fabricated for a canceled project, allowing Stoneridge to come back online this fall, said McMahon.

The board awarded a similar design-build contract for Chain of Lakes this April and expects that treatment project to complete in August 2024.

The City of Pleasanton, meanwhile, unique for acting as both a Zone 7 retailer and the manager of its own groundwater allotment, paused its PFAS-treatment efforts last September to explore alternative water-supply options in light of rising equipment costs and

uncertainty around moving regulations. It estimated its Pleasanton-specific treatment facility to cost around \$46 million when the project paused, and expects cost estimates for the supply alternatives in July.

The city currently relies wholly on Zone 7 for its water.

Although Zone 7 will face this summer missing two of its well sites, McMahon said this winter's precipitation alleviated any supply concerns. These well sites are different from those owned and managed by Pleasanton.

"We could have been in a more concerning situation, with those wells down, if we hadn't had a good rain year, if we had had a real low allocation," McMahon said. "This summer we're actually

trying to minimize well use and let the groundwater table recharge and build back up."

The State Water Project announced a 100% allocation this year, a first since 2006, allowing Zone 7 to reduce its reliance on well water to about 5% of its supply this year, compared to about 50% last year.

Pleasanton, however, receives no SWP water directly, and its city council voted recently to use its contaminated Wells 5 and 6 this summer as needed.

With the two treatment projects underway, McMahon said Zone 7 will continue to monitor the rapidly evolving set of regulations set forth by the state and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

The EPA announced on March 14 its proposed Na-

tional Primary Drinking Water Regulation for six PFAS that sets maximum-contaminant level goals for perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS) at exactly zero.

The proposal, however, acknowledging the limitations of current testing technology, sets enforceable limits at 4.0 ppt, below California's current notification levels of 5.1 and 6.6 ppt for the two PFAS.

"It takes a while to get these projects in, so based on what happens with the EPA regulations — that could be coming by the end of this year — that may affect a different set of our wells," said McMahon. "We're constantly watching to try to make sure we're delivering the best water we can at the most efficient prices."

CULINARY

(Continued from first page)

dents produce was amazing. He now serves as Dublin High's athletic director and has enjoyed watching the program grow.

"I remember I saw the work they were doing in the class, and the food was great," Sbranti said. "(Upshaw-Lawson) has inspired a generation of students and prepared them for careers."

Sbranti also serves as president of the Chabot-Las Positas Community College Board of Trustees. He explained that Upshaw-Lawson's work has inspired his own at the two community colleges. He said the students coming out of her program

need a "next step" culinary program, which he hopes to provide at Chabot and Las Positas colleges in the next few years.

Upshaw-Lawson's student catering business provided income to grow the program by purchasing equipment, chef coats and ingredients, as well as funding student field trips. The catering business also supported donations to the Dublin Unified School District and created a scholarship fund offering \$8,000-\$10,000 in scholarships to graduating Culinary Academy seniors each year. Over the last 12 years, the program has

grossed over \$750,000.

"I never had those goals in mind," Upshaw-Lawson said. "We started off the first couple of years with no culinary academy, and about eight or nine years ago, I formed the culinary academy ... all money raised went back into the program. We are the best outfitted culinary classroom, and that's all purchased from our catering proceeds."

Each week, the classes provided catering for as many as 15 events, depending on student ability, schedules and resources. Upshaw-Lawson — whose two sons attended Dublin

High — said her favorite part of teaching was the students.

"To have students realize they just served 500 people ... for them to sit there and see that, and have a sense of satisfaction and accomplishment, that was by far the best part," she said.

The district is looking for a new culinary teacher but hasn't chosen anyone yet. Upshaw-Lawson said she looks forward to seeing where the program can go under someone else.

Marcos Castro, Dublin High School class of 2013, began his high school career thinking he'd work in politics. After asking for

Upshaw-Lawson's help to make a specialty cake, he ended up joining her classes and switching tracks from politics to food service. He now works in hospitality.

"I remember we would all work together during class time, and afterwards, and it would be a good amount of fun doing our shopping trips and putting food together, packaging, delivery, set up. It was always a good time," Castro said. "She was very much a person who would let you run with a vision, and if you seemed to stray, she would give pointers to make it better or improve on for next time."

Castro said the culinary classes were the best part of his day in high school and he has no regrets looking back. After graduation, he attended culinary school, worked in restaurants, catered large events, and now works as the director of sales for a hospitality group in New York.

The final catering event Upshaw-Lawson oversaw was the district's retirement event, during which she and other retirees were celebrated.

PROGRAM

(Continued from first page)

the IB folks who have had very, very inflexible requirements in the past provided us with some flexibility, which allows us to keep the program."

Van Schaack said trimming some courses will drop the district's cost from \$546,000 to about \$200,000. To cover the \$200,000 added expenditure, another program will need to be reduced or eliminated.

Similar to Advanced Placement courses, the IB program offers students an opportunity to earn college credit. Based in Geneva, Switzerland, with an office in Washington D.C., IB is utilized at schools in more than 40 countries, including at more than 1,900 campuses in the United States. IB offers a rigorous curriculum of subjects, including foreign language, business, history, philosophy, world religions, science, computers, mathematics and the arts. Participants say in-depth courses encourage them to think critically, collaborate with others and develop social skills, instead of just memorizing facts.

"Being able to dramatically reduce the cost while maintaining the essence of the program was what led to the change in the decision," Van Schaack said. "We had previously been told that such changes would not be

allowable."

The reversal follows Granada High Principal Clark Conover's May 11 email that caught many parents and students by surprise. Conover said the district was suspending the IB program for the 2024-25 school year and suggested students take AP courses instead. The program is offered at Granada and Joe Michell K-8.

In response to Conover's recommendation, students and parents packed the LVJUSD board meeting May 23, pleading with Van Schaack and the trustees to keep the program and find another solution to fund it.

Van Schaack said during the meeting that no one wanted to cut the program, but California was facing a potential \$32 billion budget deficit that might mean less money for schools. Should that occur, LVJUSD might be required to give back \$6 million. District administrators said the cost per student receiving an IB diploma added up to \$24,000 per student, which they could not justify when compared to other programs, such as athletics, which cost \$300 per student.

District officials said 311 students were enrolled in the program, but just 22 were on track for the diploma. Although parents and teachers

disputed the numbers saying 425 were taking at least one class at Granada, along with hundreds more students at Michell, district officials said even fewer students were set for the course next year. Some parents blamed that on the COVID-19 pandemic.

Van Schaack said he was proud of the way students articulated their support for the program.

"They spoke passionately, respectfully, and rationally," the superintendent said. "I wish public discourse was always this way."

Explaining what streamlining means, Van Schaack said the program will become leaner. Students who previously were offered three options to meet the program's science requirement, for example, will now be offered one.

"If there are 25 students in the Diploma Program, and they are given three options for science, that creates three very small classes — eight, eight and nine if divided equally. That's where some of the additional expense comes in," Van Schaack said.

Van Schaack said more difficult decisions might have to be made to deal with a worsening state budget situation.

Granada High parent Jennifer Wong said she

appreciated that LVJUSD's leaders and trustees listened to their students and parents' concerns. She said cutting the program "would have been incredibly short-sighted," especially as the first cohort of students who took the coursework at Michell were advancing to Granada.

"It's a shame that IB was considered for budget cuts at all, especially since it has turned Granada into a destination school," Wong said.

Wong said the program "demonstrates that our community values critical thinking, problem solving, global awareness and academic choice."

"IB participation has been shown to improve both college acceptance rates and college graduation outcomes, especially for students in underserved populations," Wong said.

Karen Marguth, a retired IB coordinator for Michell, said a streamlined IB program was "certainly better than cutting the whole program."

"It allows time to try and repair the misconceptions out there about it," she said.

"I just hope that it's not going to be so limited as to squelch the growth that was beginning to build after the COVID dip."

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Paula Poundstone Returns to Bankhead

Standup comedian Paula Poundstone will make a return visit to the Bankhead Theater on Saturday, June 10.



Stand-up comedian, author, actor, interviewer and commentator Paula Poundstone returns to the Bankhead Theater in Livermore on Saturday. (Photo courtesy of Bankhead Theater)

Poundstone has headlined several HBO comedy specials, including “Cats, Cops and Stuff” and “Paula Poundstone Goes to Harvard.” She is also a regular panelist on National Public Radio’s comedy news quiz program, “Wait Wait... Don’t Tell Me!” and host a weekly podcast, “Nobody Listens to Paula Poundstone.”

The first woman ever to perform standup comedy at the White House Correspondents Dinner, Poundstone is known for her observational humor and sharp wit. She has performed at the Bankhead Theater several times since

her first appearance in 2012. Tickets for the 8 p.m. show are \$25 to \$70. The Bankhead Theater will also host an outdoor

“happy hour” in the Madmen Courtyard at 5:30 p.m. on Friday, June 9, with the three-piece acoustical Livermore pop/rock band KNR. Band members Kevin Snyder, Nick Selchow, and Rob Allen have been performing as KNR since 2005, with a mix of covers and original compositions. Happy hour tickets are \$10.

On Sunday, June 17, the Bankhead Theater will host a Juneteenth Celebration, sponsored by Livermore Valley Arts and Tri-Valley for Black Lives.

Juneteenth is a national holiday commemorating the emancipation of African

American slaves at the end of the Civil War.

Traditionally celebrated on June 19, the holiday marked the day that Union Major Gen., Gordon Granger arrived in Galveston, Texas, and announced that all slaves in the state, and other states then in rebellion against the U.S., had been freed 18 months earlier under President Abraham Lincoln’s Emancipation Proclamation.

The day was declared a federal holiday by Congress in 2021. Juneteenth National Independence Day is officially celebrated on June 19.

The celebration, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., will include food, music, dancing, drumming, singing, storytelling, and other activities. A schedule of speakers and entertainment were not announced.

The program is free and open to the public.

Lastly, on Friday, June 23, the Bankhead Theater will welcome the Oakland Interfaith Gospel Choir for a musical journey reflects the resiliency, joy, and strength of the African American community, including traditional Black gospels and freedom songs of the Civil Rights Movement.

The mission of the choir, founded in 1986, is to “inspire joy and unity among all people through Black gospel and spiritual music traditions,” according to the organization’s website.

Tickets for the 8 p.m. performance begin at \$22.

Tickets for Bankhead Theater programs are available online at livermorearts.org, by calling 925-373-6800, or at the box office, 2400 First St.

Summer Concerts Begin June 15

Dublin’s eight-week outdoor Summer Concert Series at the Emerald Glen Park Amphitheater begins Thursday, June 15, with the band Careless Whisper and its “ultimate tribute to the 80s.”

The concerts will run from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., during the Dublin Farmers Market. The Dublin Lions Club will be on site for beer and wine sales before and during the concerts. The concert lineup also includes:

- June 22 - Salvage Title with rock ‘n’ roll covers from the ‘70s, ‘80s, and ‘90s.
- June 29 - Journey tribute band, Evolution.
- July 6 - Tom Petty tribute band, Big Jangle.
- July 13 - The Deep Fakes, with rock ‘n’ roll, pop, and dance hits from the ‘70s, ‘80s, and ‘90s.
- July 20 - Houserockers, a 10-piece rock and soul band.
- July 27 - The Cheeseballs dance band.
- Aug. 3 - Fleetwood Mac tribute band, Fleetwood Mask.

Suffragist Portrayed at Firehouse Arts Center

Actress and living-history reenactor Leslie Goddard will portray suffragist Alice Stokes Paul at the Firehouse Arts Center in Pleasanton on Tuesday, June 13.

An innovative and tireless worker, Paul arranged parades, organized demonstrations, lobbied politicians, and endured imprisonment in the United Kingdom and the U.S. during the struggle for women’s suffrage in the early 20th century.

Goddard’s presentation is part of the Museum on Main’s Ed Kinney Speakers Series. She will appear at 2 p.m. and again at 7 p.m. The museum also offers an online presentation a week after the live performances.

Tickets for the in-person performances are \$25, with discounts for museum members, students, and seniors, and are available at the museum, online at museummain.org, or by calling 925-462-2766. Tickets for online viewing are \$25.

The Ed Kinney Speaker Series is sponsored by the City of Pleasanton, Civic

Arts Commission, National Endowment for the Humanities, California Humanities,

Alameda County Arts Commission, and Best Western Pleasanton Plus Inn.



Suffragist Alice Stokes Paul will be portrayed by Leslie Goddard at the Firehouse Arts Center in Pleasanton on June 13. (Photo courtesy of Firehouse Arts Center)

Library to Host a Preview Of Shakespearean Comedy

The Shakespeare & Performing Arts Regional Company (SPARC) will present a free preview of its summer production of “Much Ado About Nothing” from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Tuesday, June 20, at Livermore’s Civic Center Library, 1188 S. Livermore Ave.

The romantic comedy tells the story of an Italian maiden, Beatrice, and a somewhat inept soldier,

Benedick, who are always arguing, and their friends’ plot to make them fall in love with each other.

SPARC will also present the play from mid-July through early August as one of two Shakespeare in the Vineyard productions at the Darcie Kent Vineyards in Livermore.

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

LVO to Perform ‘Of Mice and Men’

The Livermore Valley Opera (LVO) will perform an adaptation of John Steinbeck’s “Of Mice and Men,” at the Bankhead Theater in Livermore this fall.

The 1937 Steinbeck novella tells the story of two depression-era farm workers whose dream of owning their own land one day ends in tragedy. The late composer Carlisle Sessions Floyd adapted it for the opera in 1969 and it was first performed by the Seattle Opera in 1970.

Floyd considered his adaptation of the Steinbeck novella to be his greatest operatic achievement.

The English-language opera will be presented at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 7, and Saturday, Oct. 14, with matinees at 2 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 8, and Sunday,

Oct. 15.

Tickets begin at \$20 and are now on sale at LVOpera.com, the Bankhead Theater box office at 2400 First St., or by phone at 925-373-6800.

Tickets include a pre-opera lecture one hour prior to curtain time. LVO will also host an artist’s reception in the Bankhead Theater lobby following each performance.

Separate tickets are also available for an opening night dinner at Uncle Yu’s at the Vineyard at 4 p.m. on Oct. 7.

In addition to “Of Mice and Men,” LVO announced that its 2023-2024 season will include a fully staged performance of Mozart’s “The Magic Flute” in March 2024. Tickets for “The Magic Flute” are also now on sale.

TRI-VALLEY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Now 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.

Thursday, June 8 “SELF-CARE FOR THE CAREGIVER”

The stress that family caregivers experience as their loved one declines can be staggering. The constant fluctuation of changing roles, uncertainty about the future, and fatigue may ultimately result in compromised health and family dysfunction. From 10 to 11:30 a.m., his webinar will focus on understanding the causes of stress, strategies for coping, and the importance of seeking support and utilizing resources. Register at hopehospice.com/family. For more information, call 925-829-8770.

Sunday, June 11 PLEASANTON / TULACINGO SISTER CITY OPEN HOUSE

What’s a sister city and how has Pleasanton fostered a relationship and friendship with Tulancingo, Mexico for the past 40 years? Do you want to practice your Spanish, travel to a non-tourist region of Mexico and explore its history? Are you interested in an affordable fully immersed student exchange? All this and more will be presented at 1 p.m., at the Pleasanton Cultural Arts Center, 4477 Black Ave. For more information, visit ptsca.org.

Monday, June 12 to Friday, June 16 HOLY CROSS LIVERMORE STELLAR VBS

VBS 2023 will be held Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m. to noon, at Holy Cross Livermore Church, 1020 Mocho Street. Registration ends May 31. To register to attend or volunteer, visit holycrosslivermore.org/vbs.

Monday, June 12 LIVERMORE-AMADOR GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY PRESENTS STEPHEN P. MORSE

When the 1950 census was released in April 2022, it didn’t have a name index so finding people in the census involved searching by location instead. Now that a name index is available, there are still many reasons for doing locational searches. Stephen Morse is the creator of the One-Step Website for which he has multiple awards. This free event takes place from 7 to 8:30 p.m., in person only, at Congregation Beth Emek, 3400 Nevada Court, in Pleasanton, and is open to the public.

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.

Wednesday, June 28 BUSINESS POLICY IN WASHINGTON DC WITH CONGRESSMAN MARK DESAULNIER

From 9 to 10:30 a.m., join in a discussion with Congressman Mark DeSaulnier to learn about current issues in the district and business policy in Washington DC. DeSaulnier represents the 10th Congressional District, which covers East Dublin and Camp Parks, as well as the neighboring cities of San Ramon, Walnut Creek, Lamorinda, Concord and Brentwood. This is a great opportunity to meet and get to know our newest representative. The event takes place at Dublin Holiday Inn, 6680 Regional St., in Dublin. Admission is \$50 for members, \$60 for nonmembers, and \$550 reserves a table for eight. Registration closes on June 20, at 4:30 p.m. Sponsorships are available. For more information, call 925-828-6200.

Saturday, 8 July MEDICARE HEALTH FAIR

A free, comprehensive health fair for Medicare beneficiaries is happening from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., at Dublin Senior Center. Offered services will include Medicare Part D Assistance for money-saving prescription drug cost tips, a thorough review of medications, vaccines, blood pressure, cholesterol, diabetes, bone density, fall risk testing, and more. For more information, call CityServe Senior Services at 925-294-0558.

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.

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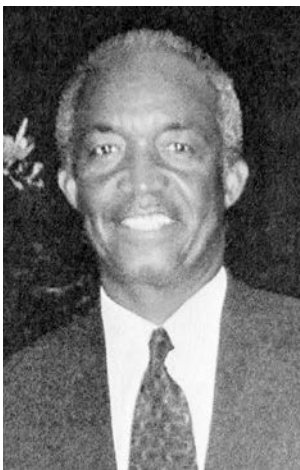
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OBITUARIES

Dr. Perry was born in Madison, Illinois to Verna Pauline and Charles McKinley Perry. He passed away on May 14, 2023, at the age of 86 in Pleasanton, California after a long struggle with frontotemporal lobe dementia. He was a beloved husband, stepfather, uncle and friend.

He is survived by his wife Elaine, his daughter Christina Cavallaro, his sister Barbara Daniels and many much-loved nieces, nephews, grandnieces, grandnephews and friends. He was predeceased by his mother and father and his brothers Charles Jr., Rubin and Harold.

Dr. Perry was a star athlete and scholar at Ukiah



High School. He held various offices during his four years including student body president in his senior year.

Manuel Perry Ph.D. May 14, 2023

(In 2003 he and his sister and brother Harold were recipients of the Ukiah High School Distinguished Graduate Award). He played basketball, football and ran track, setting records along the way. In his senior year he was recruited to play quarterback for San Francisco State. At the time, there was only one other Black quarterback in the country. He played on their 1958 undefeated team and was selected All Conference and in 2000 was inducted into their Gridiron Hall of Fame. He graduated in 1960 with a bachelor's degree in chemistry.

After a two-year stint in the Army, he worked for

NASA as a biochemist until he heard President Kennedy's call and joined the Peace Corps as a teacher in Barbados.

In 1967 he began working at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory as a research biochemist, eventually transitioning into management positions in employer relations and human resources. During this time, he obtained a master's degree in public administration from Cal State Hayward and in 1983 he obtained an additional master's and a doctorate degree in Public Administration from USC.

Dr. Perry retired from LLNL in 1993 as director

of education programs and immediately began his next project, the building of his own Lincoln log home on 11 picturesque acres of land he had owned for many years. With the help of friends, he and a contractor friend completed his beautiful home in 1998.

In retirement, he continued consulting with groups around the country in planning and managing change in the future.

In 2010, while a Rotarian, he designed and managed the READY program (Rotarians Enriching and Directing Youth). The goal of the program was to provide education and enrichment ac-

tivities for students with high potential performing below expectations of their teachers. Rotarian volunteers met with the students after school and accompanied them on monthly field trips. The program is still in place and remains very successful.

It is so difficult to say goodbye to a man who was so loved and admired by family and friends. It has been said often by many over the years that Manuel is one of the best people they've ever known. His grieving wife and stepdaughter will miss him forever.

Interment has taken place. A private family celebration of life is being planned.

Janice Mae (Worth) Weidhaas Jan. 1, 1939 – May 28, 2023

Janice Mae (Worth) Weidhaas, 84, passed away peacefully on Sunday, May 28, in Dublin, California.

Janice (Jan) was born in Livermore, California at St. Paul's Hospital on Jan. 1, 1939, to Albert and Elsie (Marques) Worth. She attended St. Michael's School and graduated from Livermore High School in 1956. Jan married Dick Hawkins in 1958. The couple had three sons, Dale, Daryl and Danny. In 1978 she married Eduardo "Eddie" Garcia and unofficially adopted his daughter Catalina as her own.

In 1986 Jan met Patrick Weidhaas, a native of Berlin, Germany, whom she adored. The couple was perfectly matched. Both loved to travel, they loved books, wine, champagne and good food. They enjoyed everything together and Jan married Patrick in 2001. They even authored an illustrated cookbook of family recipes, which they gifted to the family. Their love affair spanned 37 years and together they traveled the world and enjoyed life to the fullest, sharing adventures and a boundless love that shall last hereafter.

After losing her mother at a young age, Jan was blessed with the presence of her mother's sister Evelyn,

who stepped in and became like a second mother to her. Jan never forgot her aunt's kindness and support. This experience yielded a fierce love and dedication to her family.

Jan cherished her Livermore background. When she was young, her mother Elsie worked at Bates Department Store and Jan would help her during the summer and holidays. This experience taught her decor and design and led to a lifetime of beautiful, decorative celebrations and spectacular Christmas packages for which she was known. Her professional career began at American Trust Bank in Livermore, which prompted her to start in the mortgage industry. Jan ultimately retired from Allstate Insurance Company.

Above hosting wonderful celebrations and being a phenomenal cook, Jan was smart. She was well-read, educated, business-minded, and honest. She had a feisty spirit and wit and was known for her laughter, humor, style and her propensity for social justice causes. Witnessing the civil rights struggles of the 1960s, Jan developed deep feelings of societal fairness. As a young woman, she was well ahead of her time. She marched against the war



in Vietnam. She marched with Cesar Chavez and the farmworkers in the "March to Sacramento." Throughout her life, she remained a strong advocate for civil rights, democracy and fairness. She was very proud of her activism. Jan treasured her Portuguese background and forever appreciated that her maternal grandparents emigrated from Sao Jorge in the Azore islands. She celebrated her heritage via a love of hydrangeas, and bougainvillea flowers and extended that love into her cooking and traditions throughout her life. Her patroness was Our Lady of Fatima.

Jan was preceded in death by her parents, Albert and Elsie (Marques) Worth (Livermore, California), and her be-

loved Aunt Evelyn (Marques) Machado (Oregon). She is survived by her husband, Patrick Weidhaas (Dublin, California), children, Dale/Diane Hawkins (Mtn. House, California), Daryl Hawkins (Sonoma, California), Dan Hawkins (Dublin, California), Catalina Garcia-Quick (Randy) (Savannah, Georgia), her brother Mark Worth (Crikette) (Sutter Creek, California), her grandchildren, Craig, Chris, Dan and Eric Hawkins; Sierra Green, Selena and Elena Quick; great-grandson Thomas Hawkins, nephews Shawn (Robin) and Matthew Worth, nieces Ashley Worth and Brandi Worth Palmer (Ryan), and grandnieces/nephew Lily, Laurel and Carson Worth and Romy and Reese Palmer.

Janice's tribute would not be complete without mentioning her lifelong 'true blue' friend of 79 years, Marilyn Fraser (Livermore, California), who remained her loyal friend and confidant to the very end.

There will be a private burial service at St. Michael's cemetery in Livermore, and a celebration of life to follow at a later date. In lieu of flowers, the family encourages a donation in her name to St. Jude's. (<https://www.stjude.org/>)

Aldon Ray Reinhardt Aug. 14, 1937 – May 25, 2023 Resident of Carson City, Nevada

Aldon was born Aug. 14, 1937 in Kearney, Nebraska to Louis and Jesse Reinhardt. Aldon was the youngest of seven siblings, and was raised on a farm, until the family moved west to Colfax, California.

Aldon served in the US Army and was stationed in the Marin Headlands as a radar technician for three years. After his time in the military, he settled into the Bay Area, where he met his wife, Margaret McBride. They lived in several communities before moving to Livermore.

He worked for many government agencies, including Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, before starting his own business in Livermore, which he operated for 30 years. After closing his business in Livermore, he moved to Carson City, Nevada to pursue other business ventures.

Aldon was a great dad to his three boys, helping them with schoolwork, supporting them in all their sports and activities. Eventually all three boys went to work for their dad in his business.

He loved the Delta, where he lived for several years on Bethel Island. He also loved his boats, poker runs, county music, car racing events and



Austin, Texas. He had a love for life and a great sense of humor.

Aldon took many trips to Austin, Texas and across the United States in retirement with his longtime companion Dona Bernard-Martin.

Aldon was preceded in death by both parents, seven siblings and his former wife. He is survived by his children, Rich (Curren) Livermore; Gary (Cathy) Livermore; and Tim (Beatrice) Colorado Springs and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

His burial will be private at Sacramento Valley National Cemetery in Dixon, California.

We love you and miss you, Dad.

BILL

(Continued from first page)

"Instead of performing their constitutional duty and raising the debt ceiling to avoid economic catastrophe," DeSaulnier argued that "the Majority held the country hostage and refused to let it go without cuts to benefits working Americans rely on, rollbacks of environmental protections, and making it easier for the ultrawealthy to skirt tax laws."

The House voted 314 to 117 to approve the bill, which suspends the federal debt ceiling for two years, while imposing spending limits in some areas of government.

A bipartisan coalition of 149 Republicans and 165 Democrats backed the measure, while 71 Republicans and 46 Democrats opposed it.

The Senate also approved the bill, 63-36, again with more Democrats in favor than Republicans.

Just 17 Republicans joined 45 Democrats in voting for the bill, with 31 Republicans, four Democrats, and one independent, Bernie Sanders, opposed it.

In a nationally televised address, President Biden, who signed the bill, said passing the budget agreement "was critical. The stakes could not have been higher."

He added that Democrat and Republican negotiators "were able to get along, get things done, were straightforward with one another,

completely honest with one another, respectful with one another. Both sides operated in good faith. Both sides kept their word."

In his statement, Swalwell, whose district includes Livermore, Pleasanton, and parts of Dublin, also noted the strong support for the bill from Democrats.

"Predictably, Democrats had to again save the economy from collapse," Swalwell said.

"For weeks, Speaker (Kevin) McCarthy trashed Democrats and President Biden, but when the rubber met the road, McCarthy was not able to deliver his end of the deal without relying heavily on Democratic votes," Swalwell said. "With this vote, the American people saw a sharp contrast in governing styles. Democrats delivered competence, while Republicans brought chaos."

McCarthy, also a California Republican, represents the mostly agricultural 20th congressional district.

In his statement, DeSaulnier, whose district includes part of Dublin and most of Contra Costa County, added that while he is "grateful to my Democratic colleagues and President Biden for keeping some of the most harmful, extreme proposals out of this bill, the fact remains that we never should have been in this crisis manufactured by Republicans in the first place."

IMPASSE

(Continued from first page)

million over the three-year contract term," city officials said in a statement posted on the Pleasanton city website. "The city remains committed to reaching an agreement that works financially within budget restraints, while demonstrating the city's commitment to the well-being of its police officers and sergeants.

PPOA officials said increased pay is necessary to retain current officers leaving for other agencies and to entice aspiring police officers to Pleasanton to prevent staffing shortages. The PPOA said it hopes to bring salaries to the median of surrounding cities, including Livermore, Fremont and Hayward.

The PPOA said the Pleasanton Police Department has faced staffing shortages during the last two years, resulting in emergency schedules, the disbandment of specialized units, and excessive mandatory overtime. The association claims police officials failed to meet minimum patrol staffing levels more than 200 times in the last year. The department recently reassigned officers from special duties to patrol.

City officials, however, dispute the union's allegations that the staffing problems are related to a lack of recruits and officers finding better opportunities elsewhere. During the last three years, 13 sworn officers left the department for a variety

of reasons including retirement and relocation, with just two taking jobs with another local police agency, the city said.

The city said all 75 PPOA positions are funded in the city's budget, and the department has hired 19 officers in that time.

Staffing shortages, the city said, are a result of seven officers taking leave for medical, family or personal reasons, and five open positions that the city is actively working to fill.

"The city is not cutting units within the police department," a city statement said. "The Department has reallocated personnel to meet the Department's and our community's most critical needs."

On May 19, the city offered the PPOA members a 15% pay increase for officers and an 18% increase for sergeants over a three-year contract. The proposal would give a 6% increase to officers and a 9% increase to sergeants beginning June 1. Each group would receive another 9% pay raise over the next two years.

The city said negotiators also agreed to triple the city's contribution to the officers' and sergeants' health savings accounts, and to provide an additional 5% premium pay for specific departmental assignments.

The city contended the offer will increase costs by more than \$6.6 million

over the three-year contract term."

"This would amount to a 36.9% increase over the \$17.9 million the city currently pays annually for personnel and benefits for this bargaining unit," the city statement continued. "The city is investing at this significant level as public safety is a top priority for Pleasanton."

In response, the PPOA said the city's most recent Annual Comprehensive Financial report showed its reserves stood at \$51.6 million and public safety should be officials' top priority.

"The city's reserves increased by a staggering \$8.4 million in fiscal year 2021-2022 as the city's police department experienced an exodus of personnel, a reduction of services, and unsustainable levels of overtime contributing to the injuries suffered by the remaining police personnel," the PPOA said. "It appears that adding a third skate park and remodeling a century house (totaling \$10.6 million dollars) are more important than hiring qualified police officers and providing service to the community."

According to the city's salary schedule, as of June 2022, Pleasanton police officers earned a base salary ranging from \$104,770 to \$127,275 a year based on experience, not including benefits and retirement contributions. Sergeants earned

from \$124,363 to \$151,216.

In comparison, Livermore officers earned a base of \$105,639 to \$128,405, while sergeants made \$131,448 to \$159,776. Alameda County sheriff's deputies, who patrol in areas including Dublin, started at about \$104,851 with a maximum of \$134,368. Sergeants earned up to \$160,000.

Fremont officers, meanwhile, earned from \$120,000 to \$162,000 with a sergeant earning from \$141,000 to \$194,000. In Hayward, an officer earns from \$109,000 to \$132,000, with sergeants at \$149,000 to \$164,000.

"We are not asking to be the highest paid, or to reset the market," Jewell said. "We are asking to be compensated at the median of our agreed upon benchmark agencies so that we can at least have a chance to recruit and retain highly qualified police officers."

The contract dispute with police officers follows difficult negotiations with the city's firefighters. In January, following months of negotiations, the Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department and its firefighters' union reached agreement on a new contract that included a 13% wage increase spread over 3 1/2 years.

To review contract negotiations on the city's website, visit bit.ly/Indy_PPOAcontract. To learn more about the PPOA, visit www.facebook.com/PleasantonPOA

LEWIS

(Continued from first page)

Lewis' story also became the subject of a documentary by acclaimed producer Ned Augustenborg. The film will be aired at the Firehouse on June 28.

Despite Lewis' international acclaim, he and Julie

remained deeply committed and rooted to the community of Pleasanton. Last month, the Lewises were honored with Pleasanton's Distinguished Mayor's Award for, among other contributions, the development of a youth

performing arts mentoring program.

"Don Lewis was a pioneer in the music industry," said Pleasanton Mayor Karla Brown. "Both Don and Julie were champions for music education, which is now

their legacies, and the City of Pleasanton is lucky to have had two such generous people leave their mark on our music-minded youth."

For Julie, the message of Don Lewis continues.

"Don always saw his

power as a way to use music to help people find common bonds, to think together, to feel together – a way to build bridges," said Julie. "His personality was not militant. He respected the people who did the hard work – the

freedom marches and sit-ins – but he felt his talent was to approach it from a different way and he used his talent as a way to make a difference."

For ticket information to the tribute, visit www.firehousearts.org

Wildkatz Advance to NorCal Soccer Finals

West Coast Soccer, based in San Joaquin County, recently advanced to the NorCal championship by defeating Sierra Surf, a Nevada-based team, 3-0 in a semi-final knockout round match.

Miette Sessoms scored two goals for the Wildkatz, with an assist from Taryn Richey, while Jackie Bellamy accounted for the third goal off a corner kick by Kira Korsak.

“I could not be more proud and happy for our players,” said West Coast coach Troy Dayak, a former Olympian and professional soccer player. “They have dedicated so many hours to

training, learning, practicing, and playing the game that they love. To be able to play in the state final and reach that pinnacle is something very special.”

Both West Coast Soccer and the Diablo Valley Wolves, from Contra Costa County, allowed just one goal in three knockout stage matches.

After growing up together playing for West Coast Soccer, Dayak said several of the U19 team members will be starting college in the fall, including Kamaria Hughes, Fresno State; Taryn Richey, Quincy University; Miette Sessoms and Niella Sessoms,

University of California, Riverside; Jadynn King, Carly Singleton, and Jordan Sawyer, University of California, Monterey; Harlye Holliday, California State University, East Bay; Renee Davis, San Francisco State; Elizabeth Loforte, George Washington University; Madison Reid, Willamette University; Abby Tucker, Fresno Pacific University; Gabi Rodriguez, Sierra College; Mia Degrazio and MaryJane Anzo, Delta College; and Kira Korsak, Las Positas College.

The NorCal championship match will be played at Cosumnes River College in Sacramento.



The West Coast Soccer Wildkatz are heading to the NorCal championship competition in Sacramento. The team won its spot in a 3-0 semifinal knockout round match against a Nevada-based team. (Photo courtesy of West Coast Soccer)

Dublin to Hold Focus Groups on Service Needs

Dublin is looking for residents interested in being part of two focus groups on human services in the Tri-Valley area.

Dublin, Livermore, and Pleasanton are updating their Human Services Needs As-

sessments to address potential gaps in available services.

Dublin is recruiting people to participate in an in-person focus group from 1 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Sunday, June 11, and a Zoom-based session from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., on

Wednesday, June 14. The location for the in-person focus group has not been announced.

To participate, send an email to ena@jsi.com. Participants in either session will receive a \$50 gift card.

City of Dublin Taking Surveys on Electric Vehicles

As part of its Climate Action Plan 2030, Dublin is asking residents to complete a survey about electric vehicles (EV), including where the city should install charging stations.

Dublin said the survey,

which can be completed online, is designed to identify whether residents own or plan to purchase or lease an EV soon and where upgrade to the electric grid may be necessary, as well as the best locations for EV chargers.

Those who complete the survey will be entered into a drawing for 25 Dublin CityDollars for use in the Dublin Marketplace.

To take the survey, go to surveymonkey.com/r/BZ5KJST.



A freestyle BMX and scooter show was on display Saturday, June 3 in downtown Pleasanton. Hosted by the Pleasanton Downtown Association and Superfly Wheels Bicycle shop, the event was part of First Weekends on Main Street. The popular event shuts down Main Street late Friday afternoons through Sunday evenings on the first weekend of each month for residents to roam and enjoy the merchants and events downtown. The program runs now through the end of October for a total of six weekends. [See photo gallery at www.independentnews.com/multimedia] (Photo - Doug Jorgensen)

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The dancers of Livermore-based Xtreme Force Dance Company remain undefeated in the teen advanced level of dance competitions this season. The dancers competed in five large competitions, including KAR, Revolution, Ultra, Celebrity and Headliners. The dancers competed against over 600 competitors at each competition. At the Ultra and Headliners Competition, the dancers of It's Cosmic Love scored the highest score of the entire competition. Dancers include Alexa Firestone, Sophia Moncada, Isabella Clutter, Ellie Lin, Shayla Dempsey, Elvira Hernandez, Maddie Lannoo, Kinley Hewett, Mackenzie Sarina, Raina Choi, Calisa Schwarzer, Addison Fero, and Kaitlyn Chen. (Photo courtesy of Xtreme Force Dance Company)

CityServe to Host Open House Mixer June 14

The Pleasanton-based CityServe of the Tri-Valley will host an Open House Luau Mixer at its recently renovated offices, 5353 Sunol Boulevard, from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Wednesday, June 14.

CityServe is a nonprofit that provides direct support services for seniors and families in need, and helps

coordinate services among government, faith-based organizations, and other nonprofit groups.

The mixer will include island music with San Francisco's Dj Dave, an opportunity to win prizes by learning about the services offered by CityServe, and comments by Pleasanton Mayor Karla Brown.

The mixer is being sponsored by Fremont Bank, Parkview Assisted Living & Memory Care in Pleasanton, Sunrise Senior Living Pleasanton, and the city of Pleasanton.

Reservations are required. To register, email connect@cityservecares.org or call 925-222-2273 by Friday, June 9.



Two Livermore elementary schools recently showed off their computer coding and circuitry skills as part of the California STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics) Team Program. (Photo courtesy of Taylor Parker)

Students Use Skills to Create Arcade Games

Students from two Livermore elementary schools, Arroyo Seco and Marilyn Avenue, showcased their creativity and newfound computer coding and circuitry skills last week when they unveiled cardboard arcade games as part of the California STEAM Team (CAST) program.

The students, in grades second through fifth, spent 10 weeks learning about coding and circuitry before creating their own arcade games. STEAM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics.

“It’s always incredible to see how far students have come in such a short time,” said Taylor Parker, a former Marilyn Avenue teacher who founded the CAST program. Parker said the challenge was inspired

by “Caine’s Arcade,” a 2012 documentary about a 9-year-old boy who created an arcade game out of cardboard boxes and other everyday objects.

Taylor said he hopes to expand the program to other schools, including the Livermore middle schools that the graduating fifth graders will be attending next school year.

“Continuity of learning is so important,” Parker said. “The last thing we want is for these students to leave elementary school and not be afforded the same opportunities to excel in middle school.”

Schools interested in learning more about the program can contact Taylor on a CAST Facebook page.

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Southbound I-680 to Close Overnight Friday

Southbound I-680 in Pleasanton is scheduled to be closed overnight from 10 p.m. Friday, June 9, to 4 a.m., Saturday, June 10, while Caltrans replaces a deteriorated portion of the existing roadway. Caltrans recommends that Dublin motorists heading south take westbound I-580 to SR-238 to southbound I-880. Motorists on southbound I-680 in Pleasanton should exit at Sunol Boulevard, taking Sunol Road to Paloma Way before returning to I-680. In the case of rain or other unexpected delays, the closures will be rescheduled, according to Caltrans. For more information, go to the Alameda County Transportation Commission website, bit.ly/43dKwg1.

Livermore to Award Tourism and Special Event Grants

Livermore will award five \$2,000 tourism grants to support activities that promote the downtown area and the city as a wine country destination.

The Tourism and Special Event grants will go to organizations sponsoring events between this July and June 30, 2024, that

are designed to attract large audiences and directly benefit downtown businesses and local wineries.

To apply, go to the city's website, livermoreca.gov. Applications are also available at City Hall, 1052 S. Livermore Ave. Applications will be reviewed as they are received.

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LEGAL NOTICES

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 597270

The following person(s) doing business as: Healthy Living at Home - East Bay, Hospice Division, 5976 W. Las Positas Blvd., Ste. 118A, Pleasanton, CA 94588 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Mission Hospice Services of East Bay, LLC, 5976 W. Las Positas Blvd., Ste. 118A, Pleasanton, CA 94588. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 4/1/2023. Signature of Registrant/s: Virginia Pinerio, Director of Contract and Licensing. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 18, 2023. Expires April 17, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5483. Published May 18, 25, June 1, 8, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 597758

The following person(s) doing business as: Club Moto, 7727 Altamont Pass Rd., Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): MTS Racing Inc., 524 Soda Rock Pl, Oakley, CA 94561. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 2/11/2021. Signature of Registrant/s: Traci Sexton, Vice President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on May 10, 2023. Expires May 9, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5484. Published May 18, 25, June 1, 8, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 596998

The following person(s) doing business as: Abesha Ethiopian Products, 4927 Shattuck Ave., Oakland, CA 94609 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Amesiya A. Wube, 2124 Parker St., #200, Berkeley, CA 94609. 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: Amesiya A. Wube, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 10, 2023. Expires April 9, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5485. Published May 18, 25, June 1, 8, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 597623

The following person(s) doing business as: Taboada Racing Stables, Marenta Stables, Johnny D. Taboada, Taboada racing Stables LLC, 8032 canyon Creek Circle, Pleasanton, CA 94588 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Taboada Racing Stables LLC, 8032 Canyon Creek Circle, Pleasanton, CA 94588. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 4/1/2023. Signature of Registrant/s: Johnny D. Taboada, Principal. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on May 2, 2023. Expires May 1, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5486. Published May 18, 25, June 1, 8, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 597785

The following person(s) doing business as: Berger & Co., 8531 Bancroft Ave, Oakland, CA 94605 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Berger LLC, 6959 Sayre Dr., Oakland, CA 94611. 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: 4/7/2023. Signature of Registrant/s: David Berger, Managing Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on May 11, 2023. Expires May 10, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5487. Published May 18, 25, June 1, 8, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 597505

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Bulls I Halal Custom Meats; 2. Bulls I Halal, 39899 Balentine Drive Suite 200, Newark, CA 94560 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Imraam

Mohammed, 38129 Geranium St., Newark, CA 94560. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s: Imraam Mohammed, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 27, 2023. Expires April 26, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5488. Published May 18, 25, June 1, 8, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 597823

The following person(s) doing business as: Los Moreno Hauling, 423 Dover Way, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Armando Moreno, 423 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: 5/1/2023. Signature of Registrant/s: Armando Moreno, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on May 12, 2023. Expires May 11, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5489. Published May 18, 25, June 1, 8, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 597893

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Fei Xiang Bilingual School; 2. Fei Xiang Preschool, 6665 Owens Dr., Pleasanton, CA 94588 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Academic Center Of Volitation Corp, 6665 Owens Dr., 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: 2/1/2015. Signature of Registrant/s: Rui Zhao, CFO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on May 15, 2023. Expires May 14, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5490. Published May 25, June 1, 8, 15, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 597704

The following person(s) doing business as: The Ranch at Birch Creek, 8433 Patterson Pass Rd., Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Birch Creek Ranch, LLC, 8433 Patterson Pass Rd., Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s: Phil Marshall, Manager. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on May 8, 2023. Expires May 7, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5491. Published May 25, June 1, 8, 15, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 597561

The following person(s) doing business as: Grounding Body Wellness, 3527 Grand Ave, Ste C, Oakland, CA 94610 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Marsha Rosenblatt, 787 Alcatraz Ave, Oakland, CA 94609. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the

fictitious business name(s) listed above: 6/1/2022. Signature of Registrant/s: Marsha Rosenblatt, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 28, 2023. Expires April 27, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5492. Published May 25, June 1, 8, 15, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 597960

The following person(s) doing business as: American Tax Solutions, 29245 Albion CT, Hayward, CA 94545-1330 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Satyendra Kaith, 29245 Albion CT, Hayward, CA 94545-1330. This business is conducted by a Married Couple. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s: Satyendra Kaith, N/A. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on May 17, 2023. Expires May 16, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5493. Published May 25, June 1, 8, 15, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 597866

The following person(s) doing business as: Honey Bee Sweet Cafe, 2256 Las Positas Rd, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Lanna Tai Cuisine Inc., 2270 Las Positas Road, 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: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s: Kimberly Gamble, CFO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on May 15, 2023. Expires May 14, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5494. Published May 25, June 1, 8, 15, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 597352

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. The PoolSmith; 2. The Pool Smith; 3. Pool Smith; 4. Pool Smith, 1259 Littlehale Place, Stockton, CA 95206 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Chris Smith, 1259 Littlehale Place, Stockton, CA 95206. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 6/2/2008. Signature of Registrant/s: Chris Smith, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 20, 2023. Expires April 19, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5495. Published May 25, June 1, 8, 15, 2023.

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: LINDA BISSUM (FKA BJORN SATDEVA) Case No. RP23140940

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of LINDA BISSUM (FKA BJORN SATDEVA). A Petition for Probate has been filed by: **Felicitas V. Ferid**, in the Superior Court of California, County of ALAMEDA. The petition for probate requests that **Felicitas V. Ferid** be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent. The petition requests authority to administer the estate under the In-

dependent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority. THE COURT REQUIRES ALL PARTIES WHO WISH TO ATTEND THE HEARING ON THE BELOW DATE AND TIME, INCLUDING THOSE WHO WISH TO STATE OBJECTIONS, TO APPEAR BY AUDIO OR VIDEO TECHNOLOGY. THE PARTIES SHOULD CONSULT THE COURTS WEBSITE FOR THE SPECIFIC TELEPHONIC AND VIDEO APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE. THE PARTIES MAY ALSO CONTACT THE PROBATE CLERK AT probateclerk2@alameda.courts.ca.gov. PARTIES MUST BE PRESENT AT LEAST FIVE (5) MINUTES BEFORE THE SCHEDULED HEARING TIME.

A hearing on the petition will be held in this court as follows: **July 12, 2023, 9:45 am in Department 202 Superior Court of California, County of Alameda 212 Martin Luther King Jr. Way Berkeley, CA 94704**

If you object to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney. If you are a creditor or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California Law. You may examine the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (Form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk. **Petitioner: Felicitas V. Ferid** The Independent, Legal No. 5496. Published June 1, 8, 15, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 597336

The following person(s) doing business as: California Solar and Storage Association, 3011 Dohr Street, Berkeley, CA 94702 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): California Solar Energy Industries Association, 1107 9th St. Suite 820, Sacramento, CA 95814. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 2/1/2018. Signature of Registrant/s: Bernadette Del Chiaro, CEO. This statement was

Dead Birds in Pleasanton Test Positive for West Nile

The Alameda County Mosquito Abatement District reported that two dead birds tested positive for West Nile virus in Pleasanton on May 31.

While no human cases have been reported, the district recommended that residents take steps to avoid potentially contracting the disease, including dumping or draining any standing water where mosquitoes could lay their eggs.

The district also recommended limiting outdoor activity at dawn or dusk, wearing long pants and long-sleeved shirts outdoors, and using an insect repellent containing diethyltoluamide, commonly known as DEET, the synthetic compound picaridin, or oil of lemon eucalyptus.

West Nile virus is transmitted to people and animals through the bite of an infected mosquito.

The district said 20% of those infected with West Nile virus will develop symptoms, including fever, headache, body aches, joint pains, vomiting, or rash. Less than 1% will develop a serious neurological illness such as encephalitis or meningitis.

There is no cure for West Nile virus and anyone who develops symptoms should seek medical care immediately.

Horses are also very susceptible to West Nile virus, but vaccines are available. Horse owners are advised to contact their veterinarians regarding timely vaccinations.

For more information about mosquitoes or the West Nile virus, go to mosquitoes.org or call 510-783-7744. Alameda County residents can also request mosquitofish for ponds, horse troughs, or neglected swimming pools.

filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 20, 2023. Expires April 19, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5497. Published June 1, 8, 15, 22, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 598208

The following person(s) doing business as: Playway Learning Center, 4617 Gerrilyn Way, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Simran Sahni, 4614 Gerrilyn Way, Livermore, CA 94550; Sameer Tandor, 4614 Gerrilyn Way, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by a Married Couple. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s: Simran Sahni, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on May 25, 2023. Expires May 24, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5498. Published June 1, 8, 15, 22, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 597350

The following person(s) doing business as: A Little Cherry on Top, 640 Moraga Drive, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Jennifer Valle, 640 Moraga Drive, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 2/1/22. Signature of Registrant/s: Jennifer Valle, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 19, 2023. Expires April 19, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5499. Published June 1, 8, 15, 22, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 598159

The following person(s) doing business as: Productos Mardel, 2963 Ladd Ave, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Productos Mardel LLC, 2963 Ladd Ave, 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: 5/5/2023. Signature of Registrant/s: Jaqueline Lopez, Manager. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on May 24, 2023. Ex-

pires May 23, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5500. Published June 1, 8, 15, 22, 2023.

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME ORIGINAL FILE NO. 544987

The person(s) listed below have abandoned the use of the following fictitious business name(s). West Coast Strategic Consulting Services, 2323 Broadway, Oakland, CA 94612. Registered Owner(s): Nada Djordjevic, 4220 Montgomery 306, Oakland, CA 94611. The fictitious business name statement was filed on 5/14/2018 in the County of Alameda. This business was conducted by an Individual. Signature of Registrants: /s/: Nada Djordjevic, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on May 5, 2023. The Independent Legal No. 5501. Published June 8, 15, 22, 29, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 597510

The following person(s) doing business as: 1: PMC Appraisal Services; 2: PMC; 3: PMC Realtors; 4: Perry Management Company, 11460 Winding Trail LN., Dublin, CA 94568 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Donald S. Perry, 11460 Winding Trail Lane, Dublin, CA 94568. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 1/1/1992. Signature of Registrant/s: Donald, S. Perry, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 27, 2023. Expires April 26, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5502. Published June 8, 15, 22, 29, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 598155

The following person(s) doing business as: Da Boccery, LLC, 175 Vineyard Ave., Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Da Boccery, LLC, 2300 First St., Suite 220, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s: Michael Nader, CFO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of

Alameda on May 24, 2023. Expires May 23, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5503. Published June 8, 15, 22, 29, 2023.

C L A S S I F I E D S

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Cat & kitten adoptions now at the new Livermore Petco on Saturdays from 10:00AM to 2:30PM. We have many adorable, tame kittens that have been tested for FIV & FELV, altered & vaccinated. We also have adult cats & ranch cats for adoption.

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NOTICES

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