

Supervisor Haubert
State of the
County Talk
Presented

By Ruth Roberts

LIVERMORE — Alameda County Supervisor David Haubert put his enthusiasm on full display last week as he shared some of the county’s nonprofits, assistance programs and infrastructure projects at the State of the County Wine Country Luncheon.

“Hello, Livermore!” Haubert called out as he took center stage amid an old AC/DC song. “In case you don’t know, I absolutely love my job. Working for Alameda County is an amazing experience, and I am humbled and honored and privileged to serve you.”

The Livermore Valley Chamber of Commerce hosted the luncheon at the Garre Vineyard & Winery in Livermore.

Running through the list of the duties of a county supervisor, Haubert gave a shout-out to all the departments and county staff under his purview, including health and human services, public works and social services.

Alameda County has an operating budget of \$4 billion a year, said Haubert, and approximately half of that

(See COUNTY, page 6)

Dublin

\$105 Million
In Projects
Announced

By Ruth Roberts

Dublin will spend some \$105 million on capital improvement projects (CIPs) over the next five years, with the bulk of the funds going toward street improvements.

Projects in the next fiscal year will total about \$35 million and consist of \$10.4 million in general improvements, \$500,000 for public art, \$1.9 million for parks and \$22 million for street improvements.

“We have all of these assets and now we need to maintain them,” said CIP Manager Michael Boitnott during the April 16 Dublin City Council meeting. “And some of them have hefty price tags.”

After the council took a

(See PROJECTS, page 6)



The Pleasanton Partnerships in Education Foundation held its 12th annual Pleasanton Run for Education on April 28. The event raised money to help support 15 public schools, while also encouraging fitness and community. (Photo — Doug Jorgensen)

Pleasanton Shooter Accepts Plea
Deal Pushed by the Victim’s Family
District Attorney Pamela Price Criticized for Leniency

By Larry Altman

PLEASANTON — Following a plea deal pushed by her victim’s family, an Oakland woman faces 19 years to life in prison for killing a Home Depot loss prevention officer in Pleasanton last year. The deal concludes a case in which District Attorney Pamela Price drew criticism for refraining from additions to the charges that would have increased prison time.

Benicia Knapps, 32, agreed April 19 to plead no contest to a second-degree murder charge for shooting 26-year-old Blake Mohs when he tried to prevent her from shoplifting

a toolbox while her 21-month-old daughter waited in a get-away car outside, prosecutors said.

Knapps’ accomplice, David Guillory, pleaded no contest to counts of child abuse, being an accessory to a robbery, and evading an officer. He will receive seven years and four months in state prison.

Knapps’ plea means she will not face trial for the slaying with the potential for a first-degree murder conviction and sentence of 25 years to life. Mohs’ mother said she suggested the plea negotiation to avoid putting her family — as well as Knapps’ — through a lengthy trial and appellate

process.

“It was important to me to really look at all aspects of what a trial would mean for my family and for their family and how my son would want to be represented,” Lorie Mohs said. “I took all of those factors, and I made a conscious decision that there was a better option for us.”

The decision also means Lorie Mohs and her family will not put witnesses through the ordeal of testifying about the April 18, 2023, crime, and will not relive that awful day through store security videos that would have been played in court.

“Family is most important (See PLEA DEAL, page 6)

City of Pleasanton to Celebrate Its 130
Year Anniversary With Park Concert

By Ruth Roberts

PLEASANTON — The City of Pleasanton is turning 130 this year and reflecting on the stories that have graced the city since its founding. Officials are marking the milestone with a Concert in the Park celebration on June 21 at Lions Wayside Park in downtown Pleasanton.

Pleasanton’s history begins with the settlement of Native Americans — specifically, the Ohlone.

From there, the sprin-

gling of names now familiar to residents begin to appear, such as Jose Amador, who brought the first white settlement to the valley in 1826, and Augustine Bernal, who arrived in 1850 and whose adobe home on Foothill Road remains today. John Kottinger arrived in 1851 and is known for naming the city after the Civil War general Alfred Pleasanton. When the city was incorporated on June 18, 1894, a typographical error by the United States Post Office is believed to be responsible

for the current spelling of the city’s name.

The late 1800s also saw the arrival of the Pleasanton Fairgrounds and its one-mile racetrack, which is still in use today. It was recently chosen to finish out the 2024 racing season by the California Horse Racing Board, following the closing of the iconic Golden Gate Fields track in Berkeley.

With the coming of the railroads in the late 1800s came enormous growth.

“The railroads were really the catalyst for the (ar-

(See ANNIVERSARY, page 7)

Livermore

Lawsuit Alleges
City Collecting
Trash Fees Illegally

By David Jen

LIVERMORE — The Alameda County Taxpayers’ Association (ACTA) is suing the City of Livermore in Alameda Superior Court, alleging that the city collected fees illegally under Propositions 218 and 26. ACTA is also asking that the fees be refunded to all of the city’s garbage customers.

Approved by state voters in 1996, Proposition 218 amended the California Constitution to require voter approval for all taxes imposed, extended, or increased by local governments.

According to the California Legislative Analyst’s Office, prior to the measure, many local governments leaned heavily on revenues from

assessments, property-related fees and small general-purpose taxes to compensate for revenues lost when Proposition 13 limited their ability to raise property taxes in 1978.

As Proposition 218 did not define “tax,” in 2010 state voters approved another constitutional amendment — Proposition 26 — defining the term as “any levy, charge, or exaction of any kind imposed by a local government.”

ACTA’s class-action lawsuit, filed earlier this year, alleges that certain fees paid to the city by its garbage contractor, Livermore Sanitation, effectively served as a tax levied on its customers, and that the fees did not gain voter approval even though Proposition 218

(See TRASH, page 8)



Reyna de Los Angeles, America’s first all-female mariachi ensemble, will help Livermore celebrate Cinco de Mayo weekend at the Bankhead Theater on May 4. (See story on page 8.) (Photo courtesy of Livermore Valley Arts)

PUSD Superintendent
David Haglund to Retire

By Ruth Roberts

PLEASANTON — Pleasanton Unified School District (PUSD) Superintendent David Haglund is stepping down at the end of the school year from the post he has held for the past seven years. Haglund said he will spend more time with his family and explore new career opportunities after the move. His last day in the district will be Aug. 1.

“I am preparing to bring this chapter to a close to head back to Southern California to see what I can contribute there and refocus my attention on my growing family,” he wrote in a letter to the PUSD community. “It has been the honor of a lifetime, and a great privilege for me personally, to serve as your superintendent.”

During his tenure in the district, Haglund has worked to implement educational initia-

(See HAGLUND, page 8)



Members of the Donlon Elementary School community and neighborhood self-organized a vigil at Val Vista Park on April 28 to mourn Tarun George, Rowan George, Aaron George and a fourth identified victim who died in a car crash last week. (See story on page 8.) (Photo — Doug Jorgensen)

The Livermore Flagpole Swing Event
Marks Its 50th Anniversary This Week

By Christina Cavallaro

LIVERMORE — Fifty years ago yesterday marked the anniversary of one the most surprising events to ever happen in downtown Livermore. Many Tri-Valley residents still remember it to this day, posting the date each year on community Facebook pages. It was the height of the great cruising craze and Livermore’s First Street was a magnet for mostly young men — locals and out-of-towners alike — looking to drive up and down the street showing off their cars, hoping to attract girls.

On May 1, 1974, a packed Saturday night on First Street, bored teenager Don Baird, with

the help of his brother Jack and a crew of Livermore High wrestling buddies, jumped off the top of the old Blaisdell’s Typewriter building holding onto the rope of the iconic First Street flagpole. In those days it was made of wood and stood 130 feet tall before it was replaced in 2005 with a fiberglass version at 120 feet tall. Baird climbed on top of the low Blaisdell’s building adjacent to the flagpole and caught a ball of string tossed up to him — attached to the flagpole rope — and used the string to fish the rope up to the rooftop.

Fueled by heroic courage and the derring-do of an era also made famous by the likes of Evel Knievel — the American

motorcycle daredevil performer who captivated audiences with his death-defying stunts — Baird had road flares pulled from the trunk of his dad’s car attached to his boots, heavy gloves and motorcycle helmet.

Baird still remembers the adrenaline rush as he was egged on to jump by the crowd who’d gathered. “I just did it for fun,” he said. “It was exhilarating, and I was 20 feet off the ground at least.” There was a lot of centrifugal force. “The flagpole was huge.” He swung around it seven times in giant concentric circles.

On that Saturday night downtown, there were people at the other end of First Street who said they could see Baird from

(See FLAGPOLE, page 6)

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Classifieds	10
Editorial	4
Mailbox	4
Obituaries	9
Sports	10

World’s Largest Astronomy Camera Completes Construction	2
Pleasanton Teen Earns a Spot on the US Cricket Team	3
LLNL Releases 2nd Fusion-Based Comic	3
Donlon Elementary Community Mourns Pleasanton Family	8
Dublin High Hires Former Oakland Raider Napoleon Kaufman	10
Astrobiologist Talk to Turn Science Fiction Into Fact	12

PETS OF THE WEEK



MARJORIE

Marjorie is the Majestic Maven of Kitty City. This mature and marvelous cat is a model companion and pet-pleasing pursuits. Marjorie is a master companion, mingling merrily with her feline friends. Make your home complete with Marjorie’s melodies — she’s a magical match for any cat-loving household. Visit valleyhumane.org to learn more or email info@valleyhumane.org to start the adoption application process. (Photo — Valley Humane Society)

Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory

Construction of the World’s Largest Astronomy Camera Completed in April

By David Jen

Bay Area scientists and engineers completed construction of the largest astronomy camera in the world last month, marking a major milestone in a decade-long project that will explore the very fabric of the universe when operations begin next year at the Vera C. Rubin Observatory in Chile.

The project will also yield data on our immediate solar system, shedding light on how it formed and helping track the paths of potentially hazardous asteroids.

Led by the Stanford Linear Accelerator Center (SLAC) in partnership with the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL), as well as other international universities and labs, the Legacy Survey

of Space and Time Camera (LSSTCam) will, in a few years, gather more data than all other telescopes in the world combined, as it seeks to better understand the nature of dark energy and dark matter.

Named for our inability to see them, dark energy and matter serve as placeholder terms for phenomena that would help explain our observations of the universe’s expansion. Current calculations estimate that 68% of the universe is dark energy, 27% dark matter and only 5% the ordinary matter that we are familiar with, according to SLAC.

“When you look at statistics (and) the movement of cosmological objects, they are moving in some ways that make it look like there should be more mass than

we visibly can see,” said Vincent Riot, who managed the LSSTCam project at LLNL.

While the big bang theory expects the force of gravity to have gradually slowed the universe’s initial expansion, the expansion instead accelerated about five billion years ago, according to NASA.

“What we see doesn’t match what we infer from the equations of physics that we know,” said Riot.

With a resolution of 3,200 megapixels, equivalent to about 1,500 high-definition televisions, LSSTCam will, over the next 10 years, capture as much of the southern night sky as continuously as possible. The project will detect about 20 billion galaxies, marking the first time that a telescope will observe

more galaxies than people on Earth. With this trove of data, scientists hope to infer the behavior of dark energy and matter based on the movements of the objects we can see.

LLNL leveraged its expertise in large optics, gained through its development of the laser-based National Ignition Facility, in the design of LLNL’s optical components.

Riot said that while many organizations were capable of specifying the designs of the camera’s large optics, it was a different question as to whether they could actually build them.

“I think one of the things that Livermore really brought to this project from the optics standpoint is the knowledge of designing something that can be made and can be verified that you’ve actually made it,” he said.

Optical filters made with nanometer-thick deposits needed to remain uniform across an eight-meter diameter for the camera’s data to be usable.

“The success of the fabrication of this unique optical assembly is a testament to LLNL’s world-leading expertise in large optics, built on decades of experience in the construction of the world’s largest and most powerful laser systems,” physicist Scot Olivier said previously. Olivier helped manage Livermore’s involvement in the LSST project for more than a decade.

The camera will soon begin a journey to Chile that will end with a drive up an 8,900-foot peak on Cerro Pachón Ridge in the Andes, where it will be installed on the Simonyi Survey Telescope later this year.



LLNL optical engineers Justin Wolfe, left, and Simon Cohen peer through the LSSTCam’s “r” filter. Frank Arredondo appears in the filter’s reflection. (Photo — Garry McLeod)

LARPD Parks to Get New Playground Equipment

The Livermore Area Recreation and Park District (LARPD) is installing new playground equipment at three neighborhood parks.

New playground equipment and shade structures are being installed at Jack Williams Park on Neptune Road, Bill Clark Park on Hillflower Drive, and Ida

Holm Park on Crystal Circle, all in Livermore.

LARPD said the parks are the first three in a districtwide Playground Replacement Program to address deferred maintenance.

“These three parks were identified based on an evaluation of age and condition,” said Parks and Facilities

Manager Fred Haldeman. “The playground at Bill Clark was originally installed in 1985, while Jack Williams and Ida Holm were installed in 1999. This program is part of LARPD’s commitment to providing safe and engaging recreational spaces for the community.”

LARPD said it would upgrade at least two parks every year during the project.

Work on the first three parks began April 22 and is expected to be completed by the end of May.

Created by a public vote in 1947, the LARPD covers most of eastern Alameda County.

Encore Players to Perform Neil Simon Comedy in May

Encore Players of Livermore, a nonprofit theater group, will perform the Neil Simon comedy “Jake’s Women” at the Bothwell Arts Center over two weekends in May.

The play tells the story of Jake, a novelist who talks with women he knows, both in real life and in his imagination, as he struggles to save his marriage. The play, which had a seven-month run on Broadway in 1992, was made into a movie starring Alan Alda in 1995.

Performances are scheduled for 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, May 11, Friday, May 17, and Saturday, May 18. Sunday matinee performances are scheduled for 2 p.m. on May 12 and May 19.

The Encore Players hope the third time is the charm for putting on the Neil Simon play.

The play was originally scheduled for early 2022 but was postponed twice because of a surge in COVID-19 cases.

The play was rescheduled for August 2022, but the audience was required to wear face masks and it only ran for one weekend.

Encore Players described attendance for the short August 2022 run as good but limited, with some theatergoers not yet ready to return to indoor events following the pandemic.

The group, however, said reviews were favorable and it received requests to try again.

“I hope audiences will join us for this witty take on modern relationships and discover how Jake comes to grips with himself and the loves of his life,” said director Jim Lobao.

The play stars Bob Cowgill as Jake and Lea Blevins as his wife, Julie.

Tickets are \$25 and are available online at livermorearts.org. The Bothwell Arts Center is at 2466 Eighth St., Livermore.

Garden Club and Symphony Will Sponsor Garden Tours

The Livermore-Amador Valley Garden Club will sponsor a walking tour of five private gardens in Livermore and Pleasanton on Saturday, May 4, with musical interludes provided by Livermore-Amador Symphony ensembles at each stop.

For more information about the self-guided Garden Symphony tour, visit their website at livermoreamadorsymphony.org.

Proceeds go to both nonprofit organizations. The gardens will be open from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.



LOOKING FOR HOME!

Buyers prefer South Livermore with at least two bedrooms. Pool is a bonus!

Please call or text Linda or have your agent do so right away. Flexible terms available.

Linda Diaz Futral
Broker/Realtor
925.980.3561
linda@lindafutral.com
www.lindafutral.com
License #01257605

LUXICOR
REAL ESTATE

Just Listed



**2940 Kennedy St
Livermore**
\$1,000,000
3 Bedrooms
2 Bathrooms
1,444 Square Feet
7,112 Sq Ft Lot

GINA HUGGINS
Realtor
925.640.3762
homes@ginahuggins.com
ginahuggins.com
DRE #01243739

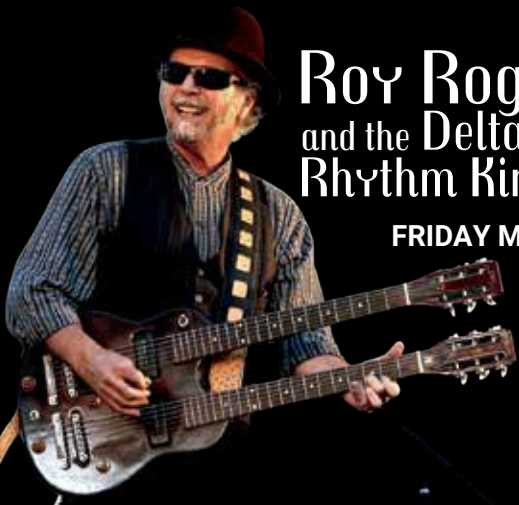


LIVERMORE VALLEY
arts
LIVE AT THE BANKHEAD

*Mother's Day
@ The Bankhead*



Jason Lyle Black
SUN MAY 12 | 3PM



**Roy Rogers
and the Delta
Rhythm Kings**
FRIDAY MAY 10

GET TICKETS NOW!
LivermoreArts.org | 925.373.6800

Livermore Community Celebrates
Teacher Appreciation Week MAY 6- MAY 10

Today & Everyday.
WE THANK OUR
Livermore Valley Joint
Unified School District
TEACHERS!

Participating businesses offering special discounts or gift cards for Raffle Basket. Contact Debbie for complete list of offers.

Please be prepared to show LVJUSD Staff ID to take advantage of these offers.

Inviting Livermore Teachers!
TEACHER APPRECIATION OPEN HOUSE
187 South J. Street,
Downtown Livermore

WEDNESDAY, MAY 8TH FROM 2-5 PM
Visit Intero Real Estate for complimentary snacks, handmade earrings, and a chance to win a **\$500 Summer Gift Basket.**

Event organized by Debbie Byrnes Realtor®, powered by Intero Real Estate.

Scan QR Code for Complimentary Home Valuation!



DEBBIE BYRNES
REALTOR®
(925) 525.1584
homes@debbiebyrnes.com
www.DebbieByrnes.com
DRE#02077395



INTERO
RESIDENTIAL • COMMERCIAL
REAL ESTATE • TITLE • MORTGAGE
This office is independently owned and operated.

©Intero Real Estate Services, Inc., a Berkshire Hathaway Affiliate and wholly owned subsidiary of HomeServices of America, Inc. All rights reserved. The logo is a registered trademark of Intero Real Estate Services, Inc. Information deemed reliable but not guaranteed. This is not intended as a solicitation if you are listed with another broker.

Seniors Real Estate Specialist® | LeadingRE Heroes® | Accredited Buyer Representative® | Real Estate Negotiation Expert® | Seller Representative Specialist® | Notary Public®

Pleasanton Teen Earns a Spot on the US Cricket Team

By Ruth Roberts

Saanvi Immadi, a 15-year-old girl with a big pitching arm, is making a name for herself in the sports world as one of the youngest players to earn a spot on the United States Women's Cricket Team for those under 19.

The Amador High School sophomore is currently in Dubai where, for the next few weeks, she will participate in a series of international World Cup qualifying tournaments as the newest member of the U.S. U-19 cricket team.

"I feel very proud to play for the U.S.A. Women's Cricket Team," Saanvi wrote in an email to The Independent. "It is any sports player's dream to represent their country in competitions such as the

World Cup qualifiers, and it made me realize all these years of hard work had paid off."

Growing up in Pleasanton, Saanvi and her older brother were introduced to cricket by their father, Rameshu Immadi. The older Immadi, a life-long cricket enthusiast who immigrated to the U.S. in 1997 from India, saw the opportunity to introduce cricket to his children as a way for them to form lasting friendships with others interested in the sport.

"I felt we needed to have some common thread to bring the community and kids together," said Rameshu Immadi, who started a non-profit youth cricket league called Cricket for Cubs in the Tri-Valley several years ago. "It's important to be active on the field and to keep their

minds active and off the gadgets and social media."

Cricket, a distant cousin to American baseball, is a bat-and-ball game played between two teams of 11 players. At the field's center is a pitch with a wicket at each end comprising two bails balanced on three stumps. The bowler, the equivalent of a pitcher, rolls the ball towards the striker — the batter. The striker's goal is to hit the bowled ball and then switch places with their batting partner, who stands on the opposite end of the pitch. The batting team scores when the striker hits the ball and the two batsmen run to exchange places.

Cricket has seen a significant rise in popularity over the past decade. In the Tri-Valley, there are several

cricket clubs for players of all ages.

Cities have also worked to accommodate the growing sport. In Pleasanton, a new cricket field, or pitch as it is officially called, was opened in March at the Ken Mercer Sports Park on Parkside Drive. In Dublin, there are two cricket pitches: one at Fallon Sports Park on Fallon Drive and the other at Emerald Glen Park on Central Parkway. In Livermore, a field has been built at Altamont Creek Park and Field on Altamont Creek Drive.

While Saanvi is away in Dubai, she will be engaged in an independent study program through Amador, which will keep her current on her school-work during her absence.

"I got very lucky with having very flexible and

understanding teachers this year, so they were open and adaptable with my due dates," Saanvi wrote. "Many of the other girls (on the team) are also in school currently, so we all work together to get our work done."

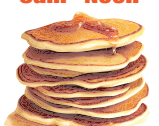
As Saanvi hones her skills playing against some of the arguably best players in the world, she will keep her eye on the ultimate prize — a spot on the 2028 Women's Olympic Cricket Team.

"Right now, I am focused on the U-19 World Cup coming up in January and just taking it tournament by tournament," she added. "But, yes, the Olympics are definitely in my future plans.

It is not every day that you get to be an Olympian."

Her proud father agrees. "The end game is definitely a spot in the Olympics," said Rameshu Immadi. "As a parent, you couldn't ask for more than that."

SUNOL 4-H
PANCAKE BREAKFAST
SUNDAY MAY 5th
8am - Noon



Adult \$12 | Child \$6
SUNOL ELEMENTARY
1160 Main St., Sunol

LLNL Releases 2nd Fusion-Based Comic

By Ruth Roberts

Explaining nuclear fusion in an entertaining way to both children and adults may seem like a task of superhero proportions, but someone at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) works to accomplish just that.

Not quite Clark Kent, John Jett is a mild-mannered graphic designer and illustrator who happens to be the award-winning author of two educational comic books about the lab. The first, honored with Adobe's Government Creativity Award in 2018, explains how the lab's National Ignition Facility (NIF) operates, and

the second, recently released, tells the story of LLNL's history-making achievement of fusion ignition in 2022.

Colorful and engaging with a decidedly Superman/Spiderman appeal, the comic books are Jett's way of spreading the lab's scientific updates and accomplishments in a simple and entertaining way.

"What we do here is very high-level sophisticated science and one of our challenges is telling our stories to the public," said Jett, who manages the communications teams at LLNL. "So, I wanted to make sure that we made something that a younger audience could grasp, but was also some-

thing that an older audience wouldn't be embarrassed to be caught looking at."

Jett, a Tracy resident, has been with the lab since 2011. He got his start working in independent comics, even designing a poster for Marvel, before building a career in communications and marketing, which eventually led him to the lab. He said coming to the lab was "an easy way to segue into how can we (LLNL) apply what I know as an illustrator and work on a project to get our message out to the community."

One of the unexpected outcomes of the comic books has been their attraction to a range of ages, said Jett.

"It's been a lot of fun and the reception has been really positive," he said. "One of the surprise aspects is that it resonates with the younger population, but also the responses we get from visitors and workforce individuals. Because sometimes even the people who work here don't have an understanding of what we do, so the books are a really good elevator pitch."

And they offer a bit of bragging rights for Jett's three school-age children as well.

"I think they are very proud to be able to tell people

that their dad gets to do what he loves for a living and is helping make a difference," said Jett, who finds ways to incorporate his children into the books by placing their names in the background or modeling a character after them. "They are very proud of what we do here."

Jett says that while he is not a scientist, he is thrilled to be able to contribute to the lab and its overall mission of national security.

"To be able to take something I have essentially been doing my entire life and point it toward a larger goal is incredibly satisfying," he said. "Art in the science of service ... my hope is that when the next project happens, I'll be here for that and be able to use my skill set to help tell the story."

Jett's books will be on display and free to the public at Fantasy Books and Games in Livermore on Free Comic Book Day, Saturday, May 4, at 2247 First Street.



Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) graphic designer and illustrator John Jett reads his recently released "Ignition" comic book, which shares the story of the lab's ignition milestone with a wide audience. (Photo courtesy of LLNL)

Students to Exhibit Watercolors

Students in a watercolor class taught by Charlotte Severin will exhibit their artwork at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Boulevard, from Tuesday, May 7, through Friday, May 11.

There will also be a reception for the student artists from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. on Monday, May 6.

The reception is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served.

Severin, an award-winning Bay Area artist, has been teaching the city-sponsored watercolor class, "Art Made Easy," for more than three decades.

"Nobody wants me to quit," Severin said. "I have been teaching this class for the past 31 years and will continue as long as I can. I have students who have been taking lessons from me for many years."

The watercolor class meets in the Firehouse Arts Center in Pleasanton from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Thursdays, with six-week sessions offered in the fall, winter, and spring.

"Painting is a celebration of all that surrounds us," Severin noted, "from beautiful landscapes to beloved pets and more. People want

to learn ways to express their inner joy."

Severin will have several of her own paintings on display for the exhibit, along with student artwork by Cindy Alvarez, Cynthia Altman, Claudia Curran, Henry Murakami, Betty Nostrand, Trish Adams, Gerri Vegas, Janice Cantua, Arlie Alford, Patty Dobbin, Melissa Lenk, Patty Koepke, Ava Chinn, Jennifer Myslak, Candy Estalilla, Heidi Brown, and LaRene Kidd.

The exhibit will be open from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Tuesday through Thursday, and 8:30 a.m. to noon on Friday.

Thunderstorm Artis to Perform at Almost Famous Wine Lounge May 8

Thunderstorm Artis, a finalist on NBC's "The Voice" in 2020, will take the stage at the Almost Famous Wine Lounge in Livermore on Wednesday, May 8.

Born in Hawaii, the 28-year-old singer-songwriter is the son of the late Ron Artis, a Motown musician who played keyboard on the iconic Michael Jackson

album "Thriller." His mother, Victoria, sang backup for several Motown recording artists.

Prior to his appearance on "The Voice," which launched his solo career, Artis toured for many years with his older brother, the award-winning soul singer-songwriter Ron Artis II.

The younger Artis' music is a blend of folk, rock 'n' roll,

and country.

His song "Stronger" was featured in the 19th season premiere of the long-running medical drama "Grey's Anatomy" in October 2022. Earlier this year, Artis released "Surprise," a song about falling in love with his wife, Faith.

At his concerts, Thunderstorm Artis mixes in his original compositions with timeless classics from such superstars as David Bowie, Elton John, the Beatles, and Leonard Cohen.

Tickets for the 7:30 performance at the Almost Famous Wine Lounge, 2271 S. Vasco Road, start at \$15 and are available online at almostfamouswine.com.

Food will be available from Marty's Joint, a Livermore food truck that offers "comfort food for the soul."



Singer-songwriter Thunderstorm Artis will perform at the Almost Famous Wine Lounge in Livermore. (Photo courtesy of Thunderstorm Artis)


THE PARKVIEW
Assisted Living and Memory Care
In the Heart of Pleasanton



Receive exceptional personalized care crafted to your needs. Enjoy living in a maintenance free environment while discovering new passions and building meaningful relationships along the way.

Schedule a personalized tour today!
925-701-8613
theparkview.org

100 Valley Avenue, Pleasanton, CA 94566
License #015601283 • Equal Housing Opportunity • Proud member of the ESKATRON family

EDITORIAL

Happy Birthday to Pleasanton, the City of Planned Progress

On June 18, the City of Pleasanton will celebrate its 130th birthday, marking another year in a long history that has taken it from the era of Californios to the city of coveted schools, housing and jobs it is today.

During this time, Pleasanton, which calls itself “the city of planned progress,” has sought to manage development. It has resisted everything from a Six Flags theme park along Foothill Road to a housing development

in the area that has become Pleasanton Ridge Regional Park. Pleasanton’s urban growth boundary, ratified in 1996, preceded the county’s by several years.

Much of the space and open views of the 9,000-acre Pleasanton Ridge continue to serve as a draw for residents and visitors. The Alameda County Fairgrounds host numerous community events throughout the year. Additionally, the Fire-

house Arts Center in the city’s quaint downtown, the highly rated school district, high-tech businesses, and access to BART and ACE complete the city.

Today, temptations for over-development remain. The latest housing cycle requires cities to zone for a sharp increase in housing units. This has spurred long meetings poring over city maps to best locate where to put more housing. Developers can also take advantage of a

variety of state housing laws to circumvent judgment calls on the local level.

But despite this, we hope that the city will continue its planned progress well into the future. There are conversations with residents, state legislators and other cities to be had on how to manage growth and preserve the city’s character. We look forward to another 130 years of respect for Pleasanton’s quality of life.

MAILBOX

Mailbox Guidelines:

Opinions voiced in letters published in Mailbox are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of The Independent. Anonymous letters will not be published. All letters are required to have the name(s) of the person(s) submitting them, city of residence and phone number, for verification purposes. Letters may not contain advertising. Abusive letters 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 should be limited to 400 words or less and should be sent by email to letters@independentnews.com or submitted using the form below. The letters to the editor deadline is Monday at 10 a.m. If you wish to submit a letter pertaining to a special event or meeting taking place on a Monday before any given Thursday print edition — and you would like your letter to run that week — please contact the editor (editor@independentnews.com) as soon as possible on Monday to discuss the content and publication options. Otherwise, all letters submitted after 10 a.m. on Monday must hold until the following week.

Sharing Our Stories
Abdul Awwal, Pleasanton

When I started college in Dhaka, Bangladesh at BUET University, I had a roommate called Byron. He was not an English man, but his father loved English poetry and named his sons Milton, Byron, and Shakespeare. I met Shakespeare; he looked exactly like the real one. Byron told me on Dec. 14, 1971 during the independence war of Bangladesh, Indian planes helping Bangladesh at the time were trying to bomb General Niazi, a Pakistani general. They had intelligence that he was in a house which had a roof made of tin. Byron’s house was made of tin at that time. He was out of the house on Elephant Road, where he heard that the Pakistani army was about to surrender. At that time, a bomb fell on his house,

killing his father and brother Milton instantly. After 9/11, when my wife would go out to our front yard in Dayton, Ohio, passerby cars will sometimes wave a U.S. flag at her. Recently, a Jewish parent mentioned to me that her son is afraid to apply to big colleges because of the protests making him uncomfortable. Another Jewish acquaintance also mentioned that her friends worry from Israel about spending sleepless nights when Iran sends drones to Israel. Yesterday, I had the chance to stop by “Souls of my Souls” exhibit in Livermore. They listed children who were murdered in recent Gaza bombing by IDF, with a picture and a very short story. For example, Yara and Mara, who were cousins and playing in their homes when Israeli planes bombed their homes, resulting in their tragic deaths on October 16, 2023. It took their families three days to pull their bodies from the rubble. There were numerous stories at the exhibit like that. Dr. Haifa Younus, who recently came back from a Gaza hospital, mentioned that the actual number of people killed may be close to 100K according to local people (uncounted are those under the rubble). I think it is important to share our stories and common humanity so that we can rise above the specific sides we may take in the Gaza genocide.

Save The Date/ Critical County Hearing Monday May 6th

SAVE THE DATE !!!
IMPORTANT COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS HEARING MONDAY MAY 6TH AT 9:30 AM
Alameda County currently has ordinances that ban fracking. Recently, in Chevron v. County of Monterey, the California Supreme Court ruled that only the state – not local governments – has the authority to regulate the methods and practices of oil and gas extraction. The Alameda County Counsel is recommending the Board of Supervisors repeal ALL ordinances prohibiting fracking to match current law.
However, the state legislature is considering AB 3233 (Addis), which would affirm local authority rights to regulate oil and gas. The bill has widespread support; AB 3233 should pass before June 2024. Therefore, the County lawyer’s request to repeal fracking ordinances is unnecessary before the state legislative cycle is completed this summer.

Many environmental organizations, agencies, and hundreds of concerned residents worked for years to pass ordinances to prohibit fracking, horizontal fracking, and other high intensity oil drilling methods in Alameda County. A repeal of these ordinances would place our health and safety at risk, and could negatively impact our clean water supplies, streams, and wineries. The repeal would be a step backwards for climate change actions and the use of renewable energy.

Here’s what you can do to help:

Please attend hearing Monday May 6th at 9:30 am. (zoom participation link will be listed in Alameda County Transportation and Planning Committee agenda posted May 3rd.)

Urge Supervisor Haubert and Supervisor Miley to continue this item until AB 3233 is passed.

Emphasize it is unnecessary to rescind county ordinances before the legislative cycle is complete.

email your comments to the Clerk of the Board cbs@acgov.org

Let’s work together to protect our health and safety; rescinding ordinances against fracking would be a huge mistake.

Energy Hype
Rion Causey, Livermore

I have to admit that I was totally entertained by the article about LLNL physicist Tammy Ma in last week’s Independent. The hype in that article was truly off the scale. “When we make fusion energy a reality, energy will become so plentiful that it will no longer be a limited resource. It will change the world as we know it.” Words like this about fusion energy have not been heard since back in the 60’s and 70’s when work began in earnest on using plasmas in Tokamak reactors for fusion energy. “Electricity so cheap you won’t even have to pay for it”. Yeh, right. Fast forward to the present when the ITER tokamak, the machine that was supposed to show the viability of fusion energy, is over a decade late and more than \$10B over budget. This reactor will not even achieve sufficient energy to put on the grid. And this is for a donut-looking machine that will have a plasma circulating around in a big tube continuously producing energy from the fusion of deuterium and tritium ions. Compare that to an inertial fusion machine like the NIF machine that will rely on dropping little beads containing deuterium and tritium, catching them at just the right place and the right time, and hitting the beads with unimaginable intensities of laser energy to produce something the equivalent of a stick of dynamite going off. How many

times a second is this going to happen? Even ten times a second isn’t going to be a lot of energy. Pure hype. The article did not quote Dr. Ma, but stated that NIF uses deuterium for its fuel. That is not true. Producing fusion reactions from deuterium and tritium is orders of magnitude easier than deuterium alone. Just like what ITER will use, NIF uses a combination of deuterium and tritium. Tritium is a radioactive form of hydrogen that presently can only be produced in nuclear reactors. So, unless you are going to have a nuclear reactor sitting next to your future NIF type machine producing its fuel, the future energy-producing NIF will have to be colossal in size to operate on deuterium alone. What NIF did a year or so ago was indeed an engineering feat, but don’t make it out to be a huge breakthrough leading to free or even cheap energy.

Soul of My Soul
Palestine Art Exhibit
Layal Hilal, Dublin

I recently volunteered and attended the Soul of My Soul Palestine art exhibit in Livermore on Saturday, April 27. I loved the exhibit so much and it was so beautiful to see kids’ artwork expressing their feelings about Palestine. It is so important to me that everyone who has lost their lives in Palestine are recognized and honored. I hope that the Soul of My Soul will continue to be presented all around the Bay Area, because it is crucial to many of the people who live here that public events happen that continue to honor the Palestinian people. This exhibit overcame me with emotion and made me feel so sad for everyone who has passed away. As a Palestinian girl, it is extremely important to me that this Palestinian genocide is recognized, and I am so grateful to everyone who has put hard work into this exhibit. I sincerely hope we can continue to host the Soul of My Soul exhibition. Thank you for your consideration!

The Right to Choose
Bernard Cabanne, Livermore

A referendum is an essential component of our democracy – government of the people, by the people, for the people. The appellate court protected our right to petition the government in its recent ruling concerning the Move Eden Housing (MEH) lawsuit. We have finally been given an opportunity to vote on an alternative plan for our downtown. Now all residents – whether they signed the petition or not – will be able to vote on this important issue.

MEH filed the lawsuit to give voters a CHOICE between the plans developed for the downtown area. Over 8,000 signatures were gathered, much more than

the 5,700 needed to qualify for the ballot.

The City is responsible for a two year delay by failing to put the downtown plans to a vote when the referendum signatures were originally submitted in 2022. The City doubled down on their indefensible refusal to submit petitions to the county and then used our public funds to try and justify their illegal actions in court. Finally, because of the appellate court’s wise and law-based ruling, the opportunity to choose our downtown has been returned to us.

Let’s work together for a large, inviting downtown park to be enjoyed by residents and visitors. Let’s work together to see affordable housing moved across the street from the downtown area and/or to numerous infill sites across the city, such as the former Nob Hill site. Mutual collaboration can lead to a downtown we can be proud of – a downtown that is inspiring, profitable, alive and enjoyable.

Avoiding Gaza's Genocide and America's Humiliation of Sampson
Greg Scott, Livermore

Israel has helped tie Sampson to the pillars of America’s global temple of domination. Few notice the cracks in those pillars and the reality the fractured structure is weakening. This temple was built with vast resources, some wisdom, incredible ingenuity, military might, and fortuitous worldly fate, along with repression and oppression (Seymour Hersh, “The Sampson Option: Israel’s Nuclear Arsenal and American Foreign Policy,” 1991).
America, with respect to Israel’s genocide in Gaza, mostly lives in “The Zone of Interest,” like some Germans in World War II did by paying scant attention to the smoke scent of the crematoriums, the report of the executioner’s gunshots, and the Zyklon B-gas quieting of screams in the extermination camps. Some of The New York Times columnist Ross Douthat’s “real world correlates” would be the Israeli airstrikes on Rafah that killed eighteen children and four adults hours after the United States’ \$26 billion Israel aid approval (Ross Douthat, “What Students Read Before They Protest”, The New York Times, 4/28/2024). The airstrikes’ casualties included a father, his three-year-old, and his 30-month pregnant wife. The deceased mother arrived at a local hospital where she was cut open and the baby delivered alive. The infant died five days later. A true education would have been for Ross Douthat and me to have been at that hospital witnessing the carnage. Reading does not reveal all

of life’s lessons.

Domestically, except for Pearl Harbor, the United States suffered no significant damage from attacks by Axis powers during World War II. Our manufacturing base remained intact. In mid-1944, it was apparent that Germany was losing the war. Two lead Allies, the U.S. and Great Britain, crafted the Bretton Woods Agreement in Bretton Woods, New Hampshire, where the U.S. surreptitiously made the U.S dollar (USD) the world’s reserve currency. With the agreement’s creation of the IMF (International Monetary Fund) and the World Bank, the U.S., with a powerful conquering military, could then economically dominate the world. This, with repressive, oppressive, and inhumane actions, such as supporting Israel’s Gaza genocide and ethnic cleansing, has increased the world’s resentment of the U.S. and the USD.

Whether Israeli leadership’s Gaza genocide and ethnic cleansing is lunacy – or they are pretending, in a ruse, that it is not – the net effect is to help Sampson pull down the pillars of America’s temple of world domination on themselves and all of us (Credit: Norman Finkelstein).

Entitlements Enslave Society
Owen Brovont, Livermore

Entitlements are resources provided by a government to qualified members of the population who satisfy the criteria defined by the relevant authority. There are two distinctly defined population groups where the concept of primary support is applicable – those who cannot provide for themselves owing to serious disabling physical or mental limitations, and to those who choose not to support themselves for whatever reason the government finds acceptable. The effect of a guaranteed support program has historically created situations where the gift provided or replaced a resource which the recipient was him or herself responsible for acquiring by virtue of labor or other valuable considerations, which include the production of original art, literary creations, or other examples of talent that produce creative ideas, processes, or objects that society finds valuable. Thus, the mandated gifts quickly evolve into a necessity for mere subsistence for those who are unwilling to experience the discomfort of finding an alternative way of meeting their basic needs, such as selling their talents or labor. Unearned support breeds an indifference to the idea of self-respect typically felt by those who

(See MAILBOX, page 5)

Omission

In our story titled “PUSD Executives Turn Down ‘Me Too’ Raises,” published in our April 25, 2024 issue, we omitted the base salary of Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District Superintendent Chris Van Schaack. Van Schaack received a base salary of \$308,000 in 2023.

Museum to Offer Free Family Days, Walking Tours for Summer

The Museum on Main in Pleasanton will offer free Family Days and Charles Huff Walking Tours once a month, June through September, as part of its summer programming.

Family Days, for children and adults, will be 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. the first Saturday of each month and will include hands-on crafts, demonstrations, and other activities relating to a monthly theme.

The theme for June will be “Old Time Toys and Games.”

Visitors will learn about early games, optical illusion

curiosities, and wooden and retro toys, and they will have an opportunity to make toys of their own to take home.

Family Day themes also include “Retro Pleasanton,” with a look at Main Street Pleasanton in the 1950s, complete with poodle skirts and bobby socks, in July; “Exploring Nature,” in partnership with the East Bay Regional Park District, in August; and “Celebrating Community” and the various cultures represented in the area in September.

“For each Family Day, we aim to provide families

with fun, educational, and hands-on activities during the long summer days,” said Museum Education Director



Kids can learn about fossils at the East Bay Parks Family Day. (Photo courtesy of Museum in Pleasanton)

Rachel Brickell.

Family Days are also scheduled to coincide with the Pleasanton Downtown

Association’s “First Week-ends on Main” events.

The Charles Huff Walking Tours, named for an architect who helped preserve many of the city’s historic buildings, will begin Wednesday, June 19, and Saturday, June 22, with “A Storied Past: Exploring the Buildings in Downtown Pleasanton.”

The tours are free, begin rain or shine at 9 a.m. at the museum, 603 Main St., and last about two hours.

The museum will host walks titled “If These Walls Could Talk: Exploring Downtown’s Historic

St. Mary Neighborhood” on Saturday, July 13, and Wednesday, July 17, and “If These Walls Could Talk: Exploring Downtown’s Historic Second Street Neighborhood” on Saturday, Aug. 10, and Wednesday, Aug. 21.

The “A Storied Past: Exploring the Buildings in Downtown Pleasanton” tour will be repeated on Thursday, Sept. 19, and Saturday, Sept. 21.

The museum is open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday.

For more information, go to museumonmain.org or call 925-462-2766.

MAILBOX

(Continued from page 4)

earned it by providing for themselves and their families. A common result is to breed a general disrespect for order in society. Conformity to social norms becomes ostensible responses lacking dedication to those higher values that motivate and stabilize society. The perceived virtue of good citizenship becomes an unimportant curiosity in which the entitlement slave will elect not to participate.

The primary political purpose of fostering permanent entitlements to otherwise capable individuals is to create a permanent constituency that will uncritically support the slave masters.

Our Downtown

Janet Chance Buckley, Livermore

“It was so interesting to read in Patch yesterday the Bay Area cities listed for desirable living. Livermore wasn’t one of them. But we, and many who have chosen Livermore as home, certainly feel Livermore is a great city to live in, work in and raise a family in.

Our family has four generations of people living and working in the city, several of us local business owners. My mother’s family, the Bireleys, arrived in 1928 via the original Train Station now moved to the Wheels bus depot. My uncle immediately vested in a business local service station, as did my other uncle after returning from WWII.

My father came to Livermore from Georgia in 1936, worked in sales at the Chevy Garage, met my mother and married in 1938 at our local Methodist Church, which many of us are still a member of on East Ave UMC. He was a decorated Bomber Air Corp pilot and chose Livermore as home. My husband after returning from Vietnam as a decorated Fighter pilot also put down roots in the ownership of a local business here in Livermore and the valley. All of the family children have graduated from our local schools, middle and high school and several educated in universities in the Bay Area. All grew up in Livermore.

Now the land that the huge garage is being built on is land that the city literally took from my family when my mother was 94 in 2011. They had plans then for development on that land my father and uncle bought in the late 50’s for the future and what it would entail. She was the last of the original owners of the driveway egress and building that the city is now going to use for what????

I and so many of us in the family and local Livermore residents are pleased to see that the Move Eden Housing referendum is in fact legal!!!! The court of appeal ruled in favor of the citizens of Livermore. We now have a chance to protect Livermore from a four-story housing development in the center of our downtown, where so many hoped and showed in many community meetings that we should have a park. So onward and hopefully development for all of Livermore, not just a handful of persons not vested in the life a downtown should be.

Selective Animus?

Daniella Karo, Pleasanton

Mr. Greg Scott, a frequent writer to this newspaper, strikes me as an anti-Israel crusader and a terrorist Hamas enabler. Under the guise of concern for Israel’s “Genocide in Gaza”, he conveniently refuses to acknowledge the truth behind this war.

By now, we all know who did what to whom and that the rest is still a work in progress.

As in all wars of the past, there are casualties, yet Mr. Scott is clearly focusing on Israel’s retaliatory actions in Gaza, conveniently forgetting the enormous inflections on human life by Russia’s invasion and attack on a sovereign country, Ukraine. A good portion of the Ukraine was occupied and decimated by constant bombardment, torture and killing of civilians! Yet, Mr. Scott is mum about it!

By contrast, he is very strident about Gaza civilians caught in the line of fire between Israel and terrorist Hamas. Could it be that Mr. Scott’s animus towards Israel’s right to a peaceful existence has something to do with his own antisemitic, anti-Zionist sentiments, which appear to infuse “ad infinitum” each of his repetitive dissertations on this specific war?

Thank You Livermore for Hosting Us!

Yosra Abdelaziz, Dublin

On April 27, the Soul of My Soul Exhibit had the honor of displaying children’s artwork in Stockmen’s Park. One of our attendees came from Fairfield and another from Morgan Hill. Several people who were walking by our display stopped by to see the artwork that was made by local children from the East Bay and Tri-Valley.

The Soul of My Soul Exhibit is a mobile art exhibit previously displayed in Pleasanton, Lafayette, and San Jose.

Our exhibit allows children in our community to express their grief regarding the current Israeli aggression in Palestine that has killed 34,346 people, of them 14,500 children.

Several residents of the City of Livermore expressed to us that they were really grateful to see our exhibit and this conversation happening in their local community.

We would like to thank the City of Livermore for hosting us and everyone who attended. If you would like to catch our next event, visit our website at soulfmysoul.com.

Between Heaven and Hell

Patricia Thorstad, Livermore

Dante Alighieri illustrated the place between heaven and hell; this space applies, both, to serial-lazy writers and lazy-lazy writers.

Is Gender Medicine Safe

Sunit Wijeyesekera, Pleasanton

Britain’s National Health Service (NHS) recently released the results of a four-year investigation of gender medicine. This investigation led by Dr. Hilary Cass was a response to complaints by physicians

and patients about the quality of care at Britain’s youth gender clinic. A key finding was that there is no good evidence on the long-term outcomes of interventions, such as puberty blockers and cross-sex hormones in children and youth. The studies supporting these interventions were too biased and low-quality to draw conclusions from. On the other side of the scale, there are serious concerns about side effects. The report notes that bone density is compromised and that there are concerns about cardio-metabolic risk, cognitive risk and loss of fertility. Gender clinicians are aware of the side effects; for example, they offer fertility preservation (which may not work) to minors.

As a result of this study, Britain became the fifth European country to severely reduce the availability of these treatments after a systematic review of the evidence. The NHS has stopped prescribing puberty blockers. Cross-sex hormones are allowed for youth over 16, but Dr. Cass recommends extreme caution. Other countries that have reduced access include Finland, Sweden, Denmark and Norway. All these countries have socialized medicine with a central gender service which aids in data gathering. They also have a tradition of using evidence-based guidelines to support medical treatment.

What does this mean for California and the U.S? Here, these treatments are being pushed aggressively by doctors, with support from groups, such as the Endocrine Society and the American Pediatric Association. Doctors and patients who complain are ignored and their concerns minimized. Politicians contribute to the problem by passing laws making California a sanctuary state for such treatments, and through legislation that would punish parents who disagree with the affirmative model. In the last year, ten lawsuits alleging medical harm have been filed against doctors providing gender care, with many

more in preparation. One wonders whether U.S. medical societies have learned from previous history. The opioid epidemic resulted from medical procedures that were dramatically scaled up, while ignoring evidence of long-term harm.

Replace Animal Products

Lex Manwill, Livermore

The USDA’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service has just decreed that dairy cows must be tested for the deadly bird flu, which has already killed millions of chickens in the U.S. The unprecedented transmission of the H5N1 virus to cows has drawn public health concerns because cows are mammals, just like humans.

Although the precise cause of the outbreak remains uncertain, the horrendous conditions in today’s factory farms make egg and dairy production extremely vulnerable to disease outbreaks. Sick, crowded, highly stressed animals in contact with contaminated feces and urine provide ideal incubation media for viruses.

Indeed, 61% of the 1,415 pathogens known to infect humans originate with animals.

These include Asian flu, dengue fever, Ebola, bird flu, HIV, West Nile fever, yellow fever, and the more recent COVID-19 pandemic.

Each of us can help end animal farming and build up our own health by replacing animal products with delicious, healthy, cruelty-free, eco-friendly plant-based meats, cheeses, and ice creams offered by our favorite supermarket. These foods don’t carry flu virus-

es, or government warning labels. They may have been the preferred fare in the Garden of Eden.

ARROYO
CELLARS

Tasting Room Open:
Saturday: 12 - 5pm,
Sunday: 12 - 5pm,
or by appointment

2270 Research Drive,
Livermore
(925) 292-9157

FIND OUT
WHY

Your neighbors
have switched to
V3 as their
energy provider.

Traditional
Utility
Tier Structure

Our Structure

V3

With traditional utility, what cost you 22¢ in 2020 now costs you 45¢ in 2024. With V3, your rate is locked in.

SEE IF YOUR HOME IS ELIGIBLE

Tyson Parker (925) 306-4597
tparker@v3electric.com

V3 Electric, Inc.
CSLB #1000573

What is Agnostic Christianity?



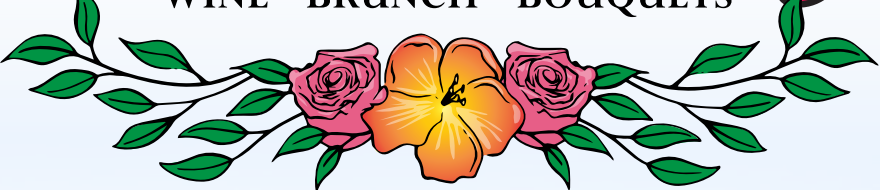
Agnostic Christianity is where various faiths come together and discuss their similarities, differences and questions about each other. Visit our website to learn how to contribute articles including Featured Articles like our current article discussing the Trinity. Or simply comment in one of our many open forums to discuss social, religious and political issues of the day locally or nationally. Visit us at:

www.agnostic-christianity.com

Livermore Wine Trolley Presents

Mother's Day

WINE • BRUNCH • BOUQUETS



Sunday, May 12th

2 Seating Times – 11:00 am and 1:00 pm

Garré Vineyard & Winery
Wine Tasting
& Mini-brunch

Singing Winemaker Winery
Gourmet Wine and Chocolate Pairing
with Hanna's Chocolates!

Exclusive Discount at Main Street Designs in Downtown Livermore

\$115.00 per adult over 21 (\$105.00 for non-drinkers - and children under 21 years)

Optional Bouquet for Mom from **Livermore Valley Florist** - \$29.50



LivermoreWineTrolley.com
Customer Service: (925) 989-0421



COUNTY

(Continued from front page)

money is locally generated. The other half comes from the federal government and state grants. He added that, last year, \$1 billion was spent on social services, over \$1 billion on public protection — which runs the courthouses, jail and law enforcement — and about \$180 million on public works operations.

Nonprofits

Haubert highlighted several of the grants given out to local businesses this year that are still recovering from COVID. A little over \$250,000 from the American Rescue Plan with combined funding from the county helped dozens of organizations, said Haubert, including Culinary Angels, a Tri-Valley organization that provides healthy meals to cancer patients, and CityServe, a faith-based organization that assists those in need.

The supervisor also recognized One Nation Dream Makers and its founder Ronnie Forbes. The non-profit organization addresses food insecurities through a food bank program.

“Right here in the middle of Livermore, he (Forbes) took a closed down, moth-balled fire station and turned it into a food hub,” said Haubert, gesturing to Forbes in the au-

dience. “No one does it better than Ronnie Forbes and One Nation Dream Makers.”

Haubert spoke about Tri-Valley Haven, which shelters women and children from domestic abuse situations.

“I’m really proud that of that \$4.6 billion (in the county budget), two million went to Tri-Valley Haven, because they have a building that was built in the 1950s,” he said. “It will take nearly \$8 million to fix it, but when it is done, they will have more room to accommodate individuals.”

He continued with the foster care program in the county and their efforts to attract more foster parents. An event on May 9, from 5-7 p.m. at the Robert Livermore Community Center, will address the need and offer assistance to those who want to participate in the program as foster guardians.

“What we are trying to do is improve our services,” said Haubert. “We have over 1,300 kids in the county’s care. If we can recruit more foster parents, it will make the experience better for the child.”

There was also plenty of attention given to additional programs receiving county grants, including Vineyard 2.0 in Livermore, which has permanent housing on a site

for the homeless, a dining room and resource facilities; and Tri-Valley Seek and Save, which among other features, provides refurbished automobiles for those in need.

A new program is also in the works for residents recovering from substance abuse under the guidance of the La Familia organization. According to Haubert, a \$7.6 million state grant has been awarded to the group. They have acquired a property on Tesla Road where they will build a facility to help those suffering from drug abuse.

“We have zero ways of treating folks with substance abuse long term, but that is going to change,” said Haubert. “La Familia is the group we went to (in order) to make this happen. ... We have never had this before and I am so proud of my team for making this happen.”

Infrastructure and Wine Country

Moving on to infrastructure updates, Haubert touched on Measure P and its importance to the Livermore Valley. Passed by voters, Measure P seeks to create a sewer extension from the boundaries of Livermore into the unincorporated areas of the wine country. Currently, there is \$6.5 million of county

money and \$1 million from Congressman Eric Swalwell earmarked for the \$13 million to \$14 million project.

“This is so important, because we have 5,000 acres of grapes, but only 2,000 acres under vine and that’s because we don’t have a sewer system that can process the wastewater that we need to clean the vines,” said Haubert. “If we find a few more million dollars, we’ll get the job done.”

Haubert described the wine country as the primary focus of the county.

“Of all the things that are important in my district, the wine country is number one,” he said. “We are going to create some sister wine region opportunities here. There are over 50 wineries in Livermore, and if you think about it, so do other parts of the world have wonderful regions.”

The plan, he explained is to create a collaboration with several countries, and talks are already in the works with France, South Africa and Mexico, said Haubert.

“We are going to have collaborative discussions with wine regions around the world that have family-owned estate-grown grapes like we have and have winemaker exchanges and regulation

discussions and find out how can the county better serve you, as they do it in Italy and France,” he continued.

Another project is repairing East County roads.

“One thing to say about that,” joked Haubert, “is they sometimes fail.” Many rural roads were damaged during the recent winter storms and with 166 miles of rural roads in Alameda County, many of which are over 100 years old. There is much to be done. “This is a very important thing we do,” Haubert added.

Valley Link, the passenger rail service which will connect commuters traveling over the Altamont Pass each day to the Tri-Valley, is still in the works according to Haubert.

“This has been long in the making,” he said. “We all voted for BART 50 years ago and paid money for the last 50 years and we got stifled, but that’s ok ... so what we did was create a joint powers of authority and are doing it ourselves.”

When complete, the project will connect 32 miles of rail service from Stockton and Lathrop into Silicon Valley.

“So instead of going to Pleasanton or Dublin to get to BART, they can use Valley Link,” said Haubert. “God-speed to Valley Link. It’s been

a couple of years, but it is still in the works.”

Continuing on the topic of infrastructure and connecting communities, Haubert talked about the Dublin Boulevard expansion project coming into Livermore. When finished, the \$150 million plan will merge Livermore at North Canyons Parkway to Dublin.

“So, people from Livermore can get into Fallon Shopping Center and people from Dublin can shop at Costco without getting on the freeway,” Haubert explained. “It’s making progress, but talks are still in the works with the county because it will require annexation ... We’re getting closer and I look forward to seeing this happen.”

The supervisor ended his address with a call for the annual National Day of Prayer.

“We have done it now for four years in a row,” he said. “Please pray for our country, pray for world peace and pray for our leaders,” he said.

Haubert was elected in 2021 and serves the cities of Dublin and Livermore, most of the City of Fremont, the unincorporated community of Sunol, a portion of the City of Pleasanton and most of the unincorporated areas of the Livermore-Amador Valley.

FLAGPOLE

(Continued from front page)

seven blocks away lit by the flares as he orbited the flagpole.

“They said it looked like a pinwheel going around,” said Baird. “You know, like

fireworks.”

The phosphorus from the flares started dripping and burned through his jacket to his shoulder. “But I had to

hang on. It was just amazing. I couldn’t let go and people were just yelling and screaming below,” he said.

By the seventh circle, the rope had stretched from Baird’s weight and he was about ten feet off the ground. His crew caught his fall. With police nearby, they stomped out the flares and tossed them in the gutter, removed his jacket, helmet and gloves and made them disappear, too. Then, they all melted into the crowd. The police were held up by the cars who had stopped at the traffic lights to watch the show.

Spectators weren’t the only ones to witness the impromptu performance in the days before cell phones and social media. Joan Boer, a journalist working on a late story in The Independent office on the second floor of the Schenone building, saw the whole thing from the window she could see from her desk. She also recognized the Baird brothers, who had been delivery boys for the paper several years earlier. Later, Boer called their mother, whom she knew.

Baird recalled that his mom just kind of shook her head. She said she’d never heard about the swinging around the flagpole, but that it sounded like something her boys might do. And then she handed him the phone and said, “Don, somebody wants to do a

phone interview with you.”

Baird agreed to the interview, as long as their names weren’t used, because the Livermore police were looking for them.

On the next day, Boer’s article appeared on the front page of the paper with a stylized artist’s rendition of Baird swinging around the flagpole with flares flying, his ground crew waiting below, the cruising cars stopped, and gawkers on the sidewalks.

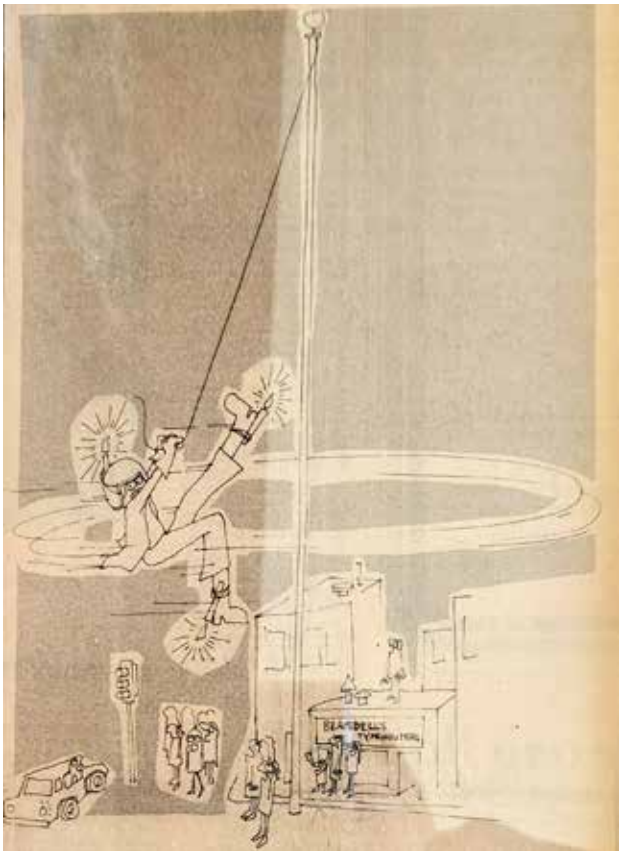
“She just put ‘two Livermore brothers.’ So that was perfect,” said Baird. “We got the notoriety, but we weren’t exposed.” When they got to school on Monday, they were treated like heroes for the stunt they pulled off.

Baird and his friends made several more jumps — though never with flares again — always spacing apart the days and times to keep the police guessing.

The police finally got smart though and put black roofing tar along the edge of the building they had to climb up. On what became their final jump, the swing was successful, but the boys got tar all over their hands.

Some police officers walked up and asked if they’d been swinging the flagpole. They said, “No.”

The officers asked to see their hands. “So, we hold them



Independent illustrator Tom Gee captured Don Baird’s flagpole swing event in the newspaper’s May 1, 1974 issue. (Photo courtesy of Don Baird)

up and they’re all black,” Baird said laughing. “They were full of tar. ‘You’re busted,’ they said.”

The boys were never cited, just asked for their own safety to stop doing it, which they did.

Baird, a retired elementary school teacher and wrestling

coach said, “We just invented these fun things. You could get away with that back then. We didn’t cause any damage and we didn’t cause any harm. We were the only ones at risk. I think that’s why the police never arrested us or anything.”

PLEA DEAL

(Continued from front page)

to me,” the mother said. “Sparing my family, sparing the Home Depot family, sparing (Knapps’) children, (Guillory’s) children — there’s seven children on that side of the fence. It was important for us that we look at everything, and putting my family through the torture of a trial did not make sense.”

Police said Knapps entered the store at 6000 Johnson Drive shortly after 2 p.m., picked up a yellow box, and exited through a rear door without paying. Blake Mohs and another employee confronted her outside. After Mohs wrestled the box from her, Knapps pulled a gun from her purse.

Blake Mohs and the other employee ran back into the store, followed by Knapps, who tried to take the box back. She then shot Mohs at point-blank range.

Knapps ran to the getaway vehicle outside. As Knapps held her daughter in her lap, Guillory raced at speeds up to 90 mph, weaving in and out of traffic on the 580 freeway to get away.

Police in the air and on the ground gave chase. Guillory exited in Oakland, where he pulled over and ran. Police arrested Knapps and found Guillory after a 12-minute search.

The case quickly created

controversy when District Attorney Pamela Price, who took office four months earlier, charged Knapps with murder, but not with any sentencing enhancements or special circumstances allegations that could put Knapps in prison for the rest of her life. During her campaign, Price said she did not believe in sentences of life in prison without parole. Once in office, she ordered her prosecutors not to file enhancements, such as using a gun in the commission of a crime, which can add years to a sentence.

Her decision, along with those in other high-profile cases, sparked a movement to recall her. Proponents of removing Price from office submitted enough signatures to hold a special election, which will be scheduled in the next few months.

Lorie Mohs was among those who criticized Price. During a House Judiciary Committee hearing on retail theft in June 2023, Knapps said her son’s alleged killer was not charged appropriately. The counts filed against Knapps — who was on parole at the time from previous crimes — included an enhancement, but for gun possession, not for using it. The possession charge did not carry the same weight, and the lack of a special circumstances allegation meant

Knapps would have a chance at parole if convicted.

In her plea deal, Knapps received 15 years to life for the second-degree murder conviction and four years for possessing the weapon.

In a statement about the deal, Price said her office was in “continuous contact” with Mohs’ family and the “prosecutor stated on the record that the resolution occurred with the blessing of the next of kin, who were present in court during the negotiations with the defense and when the plea was entered.”

“Blake Mohs was murdered for nothing more than doing his job,” Price said. “My condolences go out to his family, friends, coworkers and the community who are still grieving his death. While nothing can be done to undo this senseless tragedy, I hope that holding these two defendants accountable for taking Blake’s life will be an important step in the lifetime healing journey for his family and friends, and they will be able to move beyond their grief and trauma.”

Lorie Mohs said she voted for Price, but collected signatures for petitions to recall her. Mohs said she believes Knapps’s attorneys agreed to the plea deal because they could not risk a new District Attorney who might file tougher charges.

Sentencing is scheduled for June 6 in Alameda County Superior Court. Lorie Mohs said she intends to speak, but has not determined what she plans to say. Knapps’s deal means Knapps has no right to appeal.

“It’s over,” Lorie Mohs said. “We get to reclaim our life now. It looks a lot different. It’s not what I want or expected. However, it’s our life. And these people that took away my son, they don’t get to hold ransom anymore.”

Lorie Mohs said she will fight against Knapps’ effort at parole when that date arrives.

Meanwhile, the mother said she is planning to memorialize her son through scholarships for Boy Scout camps. Blake Mohs, an Eagle Scout who served as an explorer with the Newark Police Department, also aspired to be a police officer. Lorie Mohs said a bench honoring him will be placed at the station.

She called her son “the most kind-hearted, sweet man that you would ever meet.”

“He cared for everybody, but he cared mostly for the one that was by themselves, the one that felt like they were outcast or not welcomed,” Lorie Mohs said. “He was a very inclusive young man. And he would rush to somebody’s aid to help defend in a moment’s notice.”

PROJECTS

(Continued from front page)

first look at the city’s draft CIP for fiscal years 2024-2029 at the meeting, it directed staff to return with a final draft for possible approval in June. The city updates its CIP every two years.

Funding for CIP projects comes from a variety of sources, with the largest amount pulled from the city’s General Fund.

The street improvement category takes the lion’s share of the \$35 million earmarked for this year, according to Boitnott, with about \$11 million for Dublin Boulevard extensions and another \$4.5 going toward annual street resurfacing. The city will also undertake bike and pedestrian improvements, Tassajara Road realignment and widening, and Village Parkway reconstruction in the coming year.

General improvements include citywide energy upgrades and calls for replacing generators and modifications to the back parking lot at city hall; glazing, sealing and painting of the Civic Center, two electric-vehicle charging stations at the Dublin Sports Park, which are partially funded by the Department of Energy, and improvements to the library, which are yet to be determined.

Mayor Melissa Hernan-

dez called marquee signs “archaic” during a discussion on their use on Amador Plaza and Tassajara roads. Their costs total \$350,000.

“Everyone has so much technology,” said Hernandez. “I see (announcements for) bingo and jazzercise and something else when I drive by and so to me, I feel this is a total misuse of funds ... I would like the council to look at where that funding can actually go for better use.”

In the public art category, there are two projects: one for downtown artwork and the other for murals for a combined cost of \$500,000.

Four park projects have been funded this year, according to the staff report. They include the Iron Horse Nature Park and Open Space, the Jordan Ranch Neighborhood Square Park, the Dublin Town Square Park, and Sunday School Barn Improvements.

Future projects beyond the CIP time period, for an estimated \$215.4 million, include a corporation yard equipment wash pad, waste enclosure upgrades, improvements to both sides of the Croak Neighborhood Park, renovations to the Dublin Sports Park and city entrance signs, among other items.

ANNIVERSARY

(Continued from front page)

ea’s) development, and from there, we see land being used in different ways,” said Sarah Schaefer, executive director of the Museum on Main in downtown Pleasanton. “We were then able to ship hops (along what is now Hopyard Road) all the way to Guinness in Ireland.”

Hearst Elementary School is named after Phoebe Hearst, the mother of William Randolph Hearst, the fabled owner of the San Francisco Examiner who went on to build San Simeon Castle in Southern California. Phoebe resided in Pleasanton in a palatial home on the site where the Castlewood Country Club now sits. She died of the Spanish flu in 1918.

“As the story goes, Phoebe had the property here because a lot of San Franciscans spent the summer here, because it was so cold in the city and summers in the valley are very warm,” said Schaefer.

In the 1920s and 1930s, Hollywood found Pleasanton, and several movies were filmed in town, the most famous being “Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm” starring Shirley Temple and Randolph Scott.

Post-war Pleasanton saw simpler times said lifelong resident Judy Rathbone Harrill Burt, 77, who grew up on St. Mary’s Street in downtown. Burt remembers when Pleasanton was nothing but fields and dairies and wide-open spaces.

“My dad used to take us out to the end of Bernal

Avenue where it goes into Foothill and he’d pull off the side of the road and explain the mudslides,” laughed Burt. “He always said how there would be houses there someday and we all giggled.”

For Burt, everything changed in 1953.

“That was the year they paved the streets and put the bridge in on First Street and opened up Ray Street to Vineyard Avenue,” she said. “With all the growth, we couldn’t play baseball in the streets anymore.”

The 1970s through the 1990s also saw a huge boom in population, said Schaefer.

“Hacienda (business park) is getting built and you see an era of farms get turned into businesses,” she said. “Stoneridge Mall was built in the 1980s, followed by BART in the 1990s and that connects us, just like the early railroads connected us, to the rest of the area.”

The city is also home to the Pleasanton Ridge Regional Park, which offers sweeping views of the Tri-Valley and is popular with walkers, hikers and bicyclists. In 1980, a real estate developer had proposed building a golf course and new homes atop the ridge. However, area residents opposed the proposal and defeated it in a referendum in 1983. In 1988, the East Bay Regional Parks District bought 1,700 acres of the ridge. Today the park has grown to over 9,000 acres.

Today, the city of nearly 78,000 residents is a highly

sought-after community in which to live and raise families, with its small-town charm and quality-rated schools, said Pleasanton Mayor Karla Brown.

“Through the years, Pleasanton has evolved from what was once called ‘the most desperate town in the west’ of old (due to bandits during the gold rush), into an outstanding community with 57,000 jobs, including biotech firms like Roche Molecular, Applied Biosystems, Unchained Labs and 10x Genomics, plus Workday for large-scale cloud applications,” said Brown. “Our historic downtown with quaint shops and delicious offerings from our restaurants, help to make downtown an excellent place to have dinner and enjoy a stroll. And of course, the word is out — our own Meadowlark Dairy was ranked as the number-eight best ice cream cone in the nation, according to YELP! Now that is delicious news!”

The Firehouse Arts Center, a unique reconstruction of the area’s historic firehouse, has brought performances in music, poetry, theater, comedy and film since its opening in 2010.

The June 21 celebration, part of the city’s Concerts in the Park series, will feature danceable groove covers from the East Bay Groove Line dance band. The series runs from June 7 to August 30, offering free concerts from 7-8:30 p.m. on Friday nights.



The 7th annual Tri-Valley Eid Ul-Fitr Family Fun Carnival was held at the Muslim Community Center East Bay on Saturday, April 20. The event has continued to grow. This year entertained nearly 2,000 attendees with outdoor games, pony rides and a climbing wall. The celebration also included food trucks, snow cones, cotton candy and the Eid Market, highlighting a diverse array of vendors offering traditional handicrafts, clothing and accessories. (Photo courtesy of Julie Wild)

LVO to Launch 33rd Season with Donizetti Comedy This Fall

Livermore Valley Opera (LVO) will launch its 33rd season this fall with performances of Gaetano Donizetti’s two-act comedy, “Daughter of the Regiment,” at the Bankhead Theater the weekends of Sept. 28-29 and Oct. 5-6.

LVO said the opera would be sung in its original French with surtitles projected in English above the stage.

“As we unveil our 33rd season lineup, I couldn’t be more excited for what’s in store,” said LVO Artistic Director Erie Mills. “I have the utmost confidence in our talented cast and crew to bring these productions to life in ways that will exceed expectations. Their dedication, passion and artistry will shine brightly on stage, creating magical moments for our audiences.”

In March 2025, LVO will present Mozart’s “Don Giovanni,” two-act opera about a promiscuous young nobleman, sung in Italian with English supertitles.

Both productions will be accompanied by the LVO orchestra under the direction of maestro Alexander Katsman.

Tickets for both productions are now available at the Bankhead Theater box office and online at lvopera.com. Tickets begin at \$25 and include a pre-opera lecture one hour before the performance.

LVO is also sponsoring an Opening Night Dinner at Uncle Yu’s at the Vineyard, 39 S. Livermore Ave., on Saturday, Sept. 28, for “Daughter

of the Regiment” and on Saturday March 1, for



Livermore Valley Opera’s 33rd season brings Donizetti comedy and Mozart’s “Don Giovanni” with a talented cast of performers. (Photo courtesy of Livermore Valley Opera)

“Don Giovanni.” Tickets for the four-course dinners, with a reception at 4 p.m. and seating for dinner at 4:30 p.m., are \$130.

The Livermore-based LVO is a non-profit organization founded in 1992.

Reed Plumbing Company

Livermore, CA

(925) 371-5671

davidreed@dareedplumbing.com

LIC #601931



WINNER
BEST
2023

MILLER'S

AIR CONDITIONING and HEATING

925.447.3000

SINCE 1960

Lic#253756 www.millersacandheating.com

GAY NINETIES

Pizza & Pasta Co.

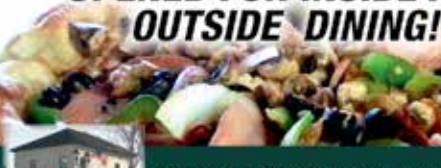
gayninetiespizza.com

HAPPY

Mother's

DAY

OPENED FOR INSIDE AND OUTSIDE DINING!



2288 Main Street, Pleasanton | (925) 846-2520
Hours: Sun-Thu 11am-9pm, Fri & Sat 11am-10pm





FRIDAY MAY 3, 2024

AANHPI CELEBRATION

**BANKHEAD PLAZA | 2400 FIRST ST.
DOWNTOWN LIVERMORE | 6PM-8PM**

**FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!
ALL ARE WELCOME!**

Media sponsorship provided by 

Heart of the Valley



By Christina Cavallaro

At the “In Conversation with Tri-Valley Mayors” symposium on March 14, Livermore Mayor John Marchand called out the day as both Einstein’s birthday and International Pi Day — the holiday that celebrates the famous irrational number beginning with 3.14. He waved his colorfully patterned tie covered in pies at the audience, who were equally excited about the holiday.

When you live in a community as we do with a major research and development center like the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) at its core, science and math can’t help but work their way, sometimes literally, into the fabric of our lives.

Growing up in Livermore in the ‘80s and returning to its fold like a prodigal daughter after many years away, I’ve learned firsthand, with the perspective of time and distance, just how unique an impact a childhood spent in the Tri-Valley with two national laboratories in your backyard can have on a person.

The Independent’s photographer Doug Jorgensen said something similar recently when I talked to him about his dad, Andy, who passed away in February. He said a lot of kids’ parents worked at the lab, but they usually had no idea what they did. Doug’s dad was a nuclear physicist at LLNL and helped build and fire the first laser for the lab. I’m sure the kids he played tetherball with at recess had zero idea.

In fourth grade, I went to Almond Avenue Elementary School. My classmate Tammy Mallon’s mom, who used to sing Moon Shadow for us on her guitar sometimes, would drop her off at school in a weird-looking little car. It was noticeable not only for its toy-like size, but also the eerie sound it made driving down the street. Apparently, it was some kind of invention of her dad’s...an electric car?!...as rumor had it.

Haha — nerd alert — we’d all snicker on the playground. As if a battery-operated car could ever be a thing.

Obviously, the nerd jokes were on us. Tammy’s dad, inventor Richard G.

Let Them Eat Pi

Mallon, was busy filing patents right and left for a long list of rockstar physics inventions, aside from any e-car tinkering he did on the side, pre-Elon Musk.

And more pi

After school I’d sometimes go down the street to play at my neighbor’s house with some other kids on the block. The Nelsons had older children already out of the house and seemed to like having our rambunctious energy around. We loved it because their home was filled top to bottom with all kinds of fun brain games and mechanical puzzles. Turns out, Harry Nelson, a mathematician and computer programmer at the lab was also a member of the team that won the World Computer Chess Championship in 1983 and 1986. Oh, and he also co-discovered in 1979 the 27th Mersenne prime — at the time, the largest known prime number.

He loved inventing puzzles. Basically, as I understood it later in life, Harry had discovered an extension of pi. And I had no idea as I ran around his house playing his fun genius games with my friends.

My mom had a book on her shelf when I was a kid called, “The Millionaire Next Door.” I was captivated by the idea that you could just be going about your business, mowing your lawn and the guy over the fence was secretly filthy rich.

I realize now how much better I had it. I was living with a genius next door. I’m sure that hasn’t changed. How lucky are we to live amongst so many riches of the mind.

And to be so near that inventiveness of thought, my own mind was opened to the belief that there is always a different way of seeing and doing things. And maybe that line of thinking leads us all to brilliance.

Do you have tidbits about the Tri-Valley or know of interesting people, places, events or unique perspectives that should be featured in the Heart of the Valley column? If so, we want to hear from you. Please email me at christina@independentnews.com.

Donlon Elementary Community Mourns Pleasanton Family

By David Jen

Some 200 people from the Donlon Elementary School community and neighborhood gathered at Val Vista Park last weekend to honor and mourn a Pleasanton family. The four residents died when their vehicle crashed into a large oak tree

on Foothill Road near Stoneridge Drive in Pleasanton.

Janet Gates, Donlon’s principal, said that the community self-organized the vigil.

“It’s somber; it’s really hard,” said Gates.

Nearly all of Donlon’s staff attended.

While a full investigation

is ongoing, initial reports from the Pleasanton Police Department (PPD) suggested that the vehicle’s speed caused it to lose control around 9 p.m. on April 24.

The victims were a family of four: Tarun George, 41; Rowan George, 13; Aaron George, 9 and a fourth victim

whose identity was yet to be released, according to the Alameda County Coroner’s Bureau.

First responders rendered aid to one of the children, but all four family members died at the scene, according to the PPD.

“The City of Pleasanton of-

fers its deepest condolences to everyone affected by this heartbreaking loss,” wrote PPD in a statement. “We understand that this tragedy deeply impacts the victims’ families, first responders, and our entire community, and encourage those affected to seek support through available resources.”

The Pleasanton Unified School District also shared support resources the day after the crash to help families process the loss, including tips on how to recognize distress in students and how to talk about tragedy.

Doug Jorgensen contributed to this story.

TRASH

(Continued from front page)

required that they do so.

Livermore Sanitation provides solid waste, recycling and compost collection services in Livermore.

The fees contested in the lawsuit, which are paid by Livermore Sanitation to the city, include the following annually: a \$640,000 street sweeping fee, a \$1.06 million vehicle impact fee, and a \$178,000 neighborhood preservation fee, as well as an exclusive-rights fee for Livermore Sanitation amounting to 11% of its gross rate revenues.

Livermore Sanitation performs none of these services.

Addressing the solid waste services agreement at issue, ACTA alleges in the lawsuit that “the City and Livermore Sanitation understand and expect Livermore Sanitation to embed the agreement fees in its solid waste service fees, effectively passing on all of the agreement fees to its customers.”

The fees pay for services provided to the public at large that are normally paid out of tax proceeds. The services benefit “anyone who lives, works and travels through the city, regardless of whether they pay the charge,” continued the lawsuit.

Proposition 26’s definition of tax exempts charges that are imposed for a specific benefit conferred, privilege granted, or government service provided directly to the taxpayer “that is not provided to those not charged, and which does not exceed the reasonable costs to the local government of conferring the benefit or granting the privilege (or) of providing the service.”

In response, Livermore Interim Public Works Director Judy Erlandson said, “Under the franchise agree-

ment, the hauler pays the city agreement, street sweeping, vehicle impact, and neighborhood preservation fees. The fees do not require voter approval because they are exempt charges under the California Constitution.”

Another City of Livermore staff member said that because the fees are charged to a private hauler and because they are not property-related fees, they did not require voter approval as outlined in Proposition 218.

“These are fees and not taxes,” said staff.

Neither Livermore Mayor John Marchand nor City Attorney Jason Alcalá responded before The Independent’s deadline.

Alan Heckman, an individual plaintiff in the lawsuit, said, “Really, what a city should be doing is trying to find good service for us at the best rate. That’s what they should do. And what they are doing is they’re using the garbage service to charge us an illegal tax.”

According to the lawsuit, ACTA looks to stop the city from collecting the fees and to order “a refund of unlawful taxes and fees on behalf of a class of solid waste services customers.”

In 2009, the city and Livermore Sanitation entered into an exclusive franchise agreement for solid waste services. The agreement was extended in 2020 for another 10 years.

According to the city’s website, “It is mandatory that all residents and businesses subscribe with Livermore Sanitation for solid waste cart collection services.”

An initial case management conference before Superior Court Judge Michael Markman is scheduled for June.

HAGLUND

(Continued from front page)

tives, such as the facilities improvement bond, Measure 1, as well as purchasing new office space on West Las Positas that paved the way for the remodeling of Village High School.

Board President Mary Jo Carreon said Haglund will be sorely missed.

“I would like to thank Dr. Haglund for his strong leadership, his vision to improve facilities and expand learning opportunities for students. I understand him wanting to be with family and wish him well,” said Carreon.

According to Haglund, a succession plan is already in place, with Deputy Superintendent Ed Diolazo poised to take over Haglund’s seat pending board approval. He added he is certain the district will continue to thrive under the guidance of PUSD’s team.

“I am confident that, with the support of our Board of Trustees, Mr. Diolazo, the PUSD governance team, district and site leaders, and our faculty and staff will continue to invest in this organization with integrity,

compassion and a dedication to excellence,” he said.

As for his future, Haglund said he is not ruling anything out as far as career opportunities but will be forever grateful for his time at PUSD.

“While I am excited to embark on the next chapter of my life and focus on my role as a grandfather to three incredible young human beings, I will deeply miss the relationships and shared experiences that have enriched my life while living and working here in the community,” he

wrote in a statement. “I am grateful for the friendships I have developed, the memories we created together, and the invaluable lessons I have learned about myself and my role as a leader. I am better because of your trust, encouragement and confidence.”

Haglund is one of four Tri-Valley superintendents leaving their school districts at the end of the year: Sunol Glen’s Molly Barnes, Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District’s Chris Van Schaack and John Malloy in San Ramon.

TRI-VALLEY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Thursday, May 2

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

To be held at the Alameda County Fairgrounds Amphitheatre at 4501 Pleasanton Ave. on May 2 at 6 p.m. Reception and dinner at 5 p.m.

Thursday, May 2

BOOK PRESENTATION, “THE ALAMEDA COUNTY SHERIFF’S OFFICE”

From its beginnings in the 1800s, when faced with challenges such as cattle rustling and the likes of outlaw Joaquin Murietta, to the anti-war demonstrations, kidnappings, and natural disasters of the 20th century, the Alameda County Sheriff’s Office has always been ready to respond. Using archival photographs and documents, historian Steve Minniear will bring the past to life during this presentation based on his recently released book, “Alameda County Sheriff’s Office”. The presentation will take place at the Dublin Library from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at 200 Civic Plaza in Dublin.

Thursday, May 2

SUPPORT DUBLIN’S YOUTH AND SENIORS AT THE 10TH ANNUAL DUBLIN BENEFIT CONCERT

On May 2, at 5:30 p.m., the City of Dublin’s Youth Advisory Committee will showcase talented Dublin youth and senior performers at the annual Dublin Benefit Concert, to be held at the Emerald Glen Park Amphitheater (4201 Central Parkway) during the Dublin Farmers’ Market. Come out and cheer on the performers. Donations will be accepted to provide financial assistance to Dublin youth and seniors, whose household income levels meet specific requirements.

Saturday, May 4

Tri-Valley APAPA Asian Heritage Celebration

Join the City of Dublin for the 6th Annual Tri-Valley APAPA Asian Heritage Celebration on May 4, at 7 p.m. APAPA, the Asian Pacific Islander American Public Affairs, will host the celebration at the Dublin High School Center for Performing Arts and Education at 8151 Village Parkway. Performances will include dancing, singing, martial arts, and Irish music, plus tunes from Broadway shows, and a professional orchestra led by a Korean conductor. Tickets are \$10 for adults, and \$5 for kids ages 6-18. Tickets can be purchased at tinyurl.com/asianheritage2024.

Sunday, May 5 / Monday, May 6

AN AFTERNOON AND EVENING WITH MEDIUM CINDY KAZA

Renowned psychic medium and co-host of the Travel Channel’s “The Dead Files,” Cindy Kaza will be appearing at Tommy T’s Pleasanton for two days of fantastic evidential and heart-centered messages on May 5 at 3:30 p.m. and May 6 at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$25-35. Info and tickets can be found at tommyts-com.seatengine.com/events/88189.

Thursday, May 9

LIVERMORE AMADOR VALLEY GARDEN CLUB MEETING

May’s meeting, “Creating Pollinator Corridors with Native California Plants”, led by Carol Garberson, will cover such topics as how increasing native plant biodiversity can provide food resources for a variety of native pollinators. The meeting will be held Thursday, May 9 from 6-8 p.m. at the Crosswinds Church, 1660 Freisman Rd., Livermore, in the Farm Theater (in the red building).

Saturday, May 11

FRATERNAL ORDER OF EAGLES SPRING FLEA MARKET

The first annual Fraternal Order of Eagles Spring Flea Market will be held in the parking lot at The Fraternal Order of Eagles, 527 N. Livermore Ave. in Livermore on May 11. Vendors are welcome at \$20 for a 15’x15’ space. Table rental is \$5. Contact Dolores Castillo at 925-876-9118 or dcpanache@aol.com.

Thursday, May 16

ALTERNATIVE FAMILY SERVICES GOLF TOURNAMENT

Come to a fun golf tournament at Callippe Golf Course in Pleasanton that will support children and youth in foster care. Your swings will help send kids to summer camp, enriching their lives with unforgettable experiences. The tournament will include prizes, a buffet, an auction, and more. For sponsorship or individual golf information, please contact Angie Taylor at 510-988-3006 or Ataylor@afs4kids.org. Shotgun start at 10:30 a.m. Registration opens at 8:30 a.m.

Thursday, May 16

TVC’S 15TH ANNUAL UNCORKED SHOWCASE

Tri-Valley Conservancy presents its 15th Annual Livermore Valley Uncorked Showcase on Thursday, May 16th, at the Bella Rosa Event Center at Garré Vineyard & Winery starting at 5:30pm. Celebrate the best local wines and support land preservation in the Tri-Valley. This reception-style event promises an unforgettable experience celebrating the best local viticulture paired with delectable cuisine and a live musical performance from Sugar Bear. Early Bird Special: Save \$10 before March 25. For more information or to purchase tickets, visit TriValleyConservancy.org, or email lvuncorked@trivalleyconservancy.org.

Saturday, May 18

DRESS A GIRL AROUND THE WORLD

Make simple dresses for girls in Third World countries. Group meets once a month. Next Sew-Fest is Saturday, May 18, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Trinity Lutheran Church, 1225 Hopyard Rd., Pleasanton. All kinds of sewing needed. Please bring machine or other supplies. If you can’t make the Sew-Fest but would like to sew, please contact us for kits that you can sew from home. Questions? Suzanne Beck, 925-352-8447 or suzbeck@yahoo.com.

June 3-9

LIVERMORE RODEO

Join the Livermore Stockmen’s Rodeo Association in celebrating Liver-

more’s rich ranching history and warm western heritage during Rodeo Week, June 3-9. See the world’s top cowboys and cowgirls competing in bronc riding, barrel racing, roping, bull riding and much more. Information about the rodeo, mixer, cowgirl luncheon, the rotary club’s rodeo parade and tickets for the 106th Annual Livermore Rodeo on June 8 and 9 are now available at Livermorerodeo.com. Tickets are NOT sold through any other sites. A limited number of parking passes and mixer tickets are also available online.

Tuesday, June 11 (start date)

TRI-VALLEY EXECUTIVE EDUCATION PROGRAM

The Tri-Valley Executive Education Program combines a mix of group meetings and speaker workshops used to help members improve collaboration, increase alignment, and cultivate professional growth. Held by Vistage Inside group, a unique skills development program designed to support emerging and established growth focused leaders within the Tri-Valley, delivered by Steve Lanza, Tri-Valley Advising Principal and Vistage Group Leader. A six-class series will be held at Hawthorn Suites by Wyndam in Livermore from June 11, 2024, through April 2025, classes are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. To learn more about the program, contact Steve Lanza 510-734-4070 or steve.anza@vistagechair.com. To sign up, contact Sherri Souza at ssouza@livermorechamber.org.

ONGOING VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

TOPSCIENCE

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

ONGOING EVENTS

FARMERS MARKETS

Saturday Pleasanton Farmers Market

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

Sunday Livermore Downtown Farmers Market

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

Thursday Night Livermore Farmers Market

Now through to Oct. 10 at Carnegie Park, 2155 Third St., downtown Livermore, from 4 to 8 p.m. See www.livermorefarmersmarket.org.

Thursday Evening Dublin Farmer’s Market

The City of Dublin partners with Pacific Coast Farmers’ Market Association to operate the weekly market on Thursdays, 4 to 8 p.m., through September 26. Themed nights will be held the first Thursday of each month. Arts and crafts for kids will be available at the City of Dublin booth.

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

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

GRIEF WORKSHOPS

The death of a loved one is unlike any other loss. Although there is no right or wrong path, these are stepping stones that are part of each grief journey, and we will explore them in this eight-week series workshop. This will be held at St. Elizabeth Seton Church, 4001 Stoneridge Drive, Pleasanton April 4, 11, 18, 25 and May 2, 9 and 16 at 7 p.m. Pre-registration is required. Space is limited. A one-time \$20 donation is requested. For more information and to register you can call Barbara at 925-846-3904, or see catholicsofpleasanton.org and scroll down to Grief Ministry and tap on the box. This workshop is open to all, regardless of religious affiliations.

DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION (DAR) CHAPTER MEETING

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

ASBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

WINGS-WOMEN IN GOD’S SPIRIT

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

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



FOR DAILY
ONLINE LOCAL
NEWS VISIT

independentnews.com

Community Foundation Forms a Financial Advisory Group to Strengthen Philanthropy

The Three Valleys Community Foundation (3VCF) has formed an advisory group of financial and investment professionals to help strengthen the nonprofit organization’s philanthropy programs.

“We are delighted to welcome these experts to our organization,” said 3VCF Chief Executive Officer and President Kelly Bowers. “We are committed to the “Power of Three:” trust, transparency and a Tri-Valley focus in all fund and investment opportunities.”

The foundation said the Professional Advisors Network (PAN) would include experts from the legal, accounting, insurance, banking, wealth management, and investment sectors. PAN members are expected to share industry insights, current trends, policies, and issues in philanthropy with 3VCF leadership.

The initial PAN members include Richard Atkinson, Atkinson & Co.; Jon Elfin, Open Advisors; Val Howard, Farmers Insurance, Danville;

Donald Marek, Fremont Bank; Libby Mahalka, Altamont Wealth Management; Grace Nash, Tri-Valley Group at Morgan Stanley Wealth Management; David Ogburn, BNY Mellon Wealth Management; Elizabeth Trutner, Demiris Law, Livermore; Tim White, Heritage Bank of Commerce; and Kim Damiani, Summit Financial Group.

Damiani is also a 3VCF board member and will chair the new advisory group.

The foundation funds

grants for nonprofit organizations in the Tri-Valley area. It also manages charitable funds for individuals and other organizations and helps connect donors with community needs and nonprofit groups.

Bowers noted that many of the foundation’s donors have questions about how to maximize their philanthropic contributions. “PAN’s advice related to our array of fund options and generational giving will be invaluable.” Bowers said.

Husband-Wife Team Buys Vitality Bowls Cafe in Dublin

The Vitality Bowls franchise cafe in Dublin has been purchased by the husband-and-wife team of Diego Puentes and Stefanny Rubiano.

The cafe, 5271 Martinelli Way, features acai bowls, smoothies, salads, wraps, and grain bowls.

“With the support from the previous owner and my passion for serving fresh, nutritious food, I knew it was the right fit,” Puentes said. “My family is excited

to introduce ourselves and become part of this vibrant community. We look forward to providing healthy, convenient meal options.”

Roy and Tara Gilad opened the first Vitality Bowls cafe in San Ramon in 2011 and began franchising the concept in 2014. Now with more than 145 cafes open across the country, Vitality Bowls was named a Top Food Franchise by Entrepreneur Magazine in 2022.

OBITUARIES



Aimee Lorene Zimmerman Gonzales
Sept. 30, 1984 — April 14, 2024

Aimee Zimmerman fell asleep in death on April 14, 2024, in Palo Alto, California, surrounded by her family after a brief and unexpected illness; she was 39. Aimee was born in San Jose, California, and raised in Mountain View. She later moved to Pleasanton and then Livermore, the birth-

place of her father, grandmother and many ancestors. Aimee followed in her grandmother Alices’ footsteps and graduated from Amador Valley High in Pleasanton, California. She then went on to become a licensed cosmetologist. Aimee had a passion for the outdoors; she loved to turn a patch of dirt into a

blossoming garden. She was also a songwriter/composer and a musician. She played many instruments, but her favorite was the piano, which she played daily. She was also extremely intelligent and loved studying physics and astronomy. Aimee is survived by her son Peyton Detlefsen of Pleasanton,

California; father Ron Zimmerman; mother Deborah Zimmerman of Livermore, California; sister Tanya Zimmerman of Lexington, Kentucky; niece Taylor Howell and nephew Micah Howell, both of Lexington, Kentucky; grandparents Gary and Carole Cherry of Hollister, California, and

many cousins, aunts and uncles. She is preceded in death by her grandfather Don Webb; grandfather Charles Zimmerman, and grandmother Alice Zimmerman. All who knew Aimee will miss her beautiful smile and cheerful laugh, along with her generosity and kind heart.

Christian John Miller III
July 4, 1937 – Dec. 29, 2023



Chris Miller III was born in 1937 in the state of Connecticut and raised in a small town called New Canaan. He attended New Canaan’s public schools and graduated from New Canaan High School. For his “senior prediction”, Chris’ classmates said that “Chris was most likely to star in a revival of Bob Hope’s “Casanova’s Big Night”. After graduating High School, he moved to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania to attend the Wharton School of Finance and Commerce at the University of Pennsylvania. At the Wharton School, Chris received a Bachelor of Science in economics with a focus on transportation. While in college, Chris participated in R.O.T.C., and after graduation was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Army Reserve. In the army, Chris discovered a great love for flying, and in particular flying helicopters. In 1962, Chris successfully completed the Army’s Helicopter Flight School. From 1963 through 1964, Chris flew combat missions in the Republic of South Vietnam. In 1965, Chris was redeployed to the Dominican Republic, where he continued to fly combat missions for the army. July 1965 saw Chris’ departure from the regular army, and a relocation to San Francisco, California. From his arrival in 1965, and until its closure in 1976, Chris was an S-61N helicopter captain with SFO Helicopter Airlines. With SFO Helicopter, Chris flew helicopters transiting between the SFO Airport and the Oakland Airport, specifically the “Bee-Line” helicopter, famous for its “Bee” livery. Also, once in the Bay Area, Chris continued to serve with the Army Reserve for another 22 years. After 27 years in the armed forces, both regular and reserve, Chris retired from service in 1987 as a Lieutenant Colonel, having accumulated over 10,000 hours of civilian and military flight time.

With the closure of SFO Helicopter Airlines, Chris decided it was time to put his college degree to work. And because he had always been told by others that he would be good in a sales position, he made a move into real estate. In 1977, Chris entered the profession with a local independent real estate firm. After studying and hard work, Chris attained his real estate broker’s license. Chris’ motto since the start of his career was always “100% effort 100% of the time”. This determination helped him weather difficult times in the real estate market and enjoy the upturns. As a real estate agent, Chris was always working to improve his skills and achieved many designations: Graduate Realtor Institute (1978), Certified Real Estate Brokerage Manager (1981), Certified Residential Specialist (1988), and Seniors Real Estate Specialist (2002). Throughout his career, Chris was a mentor

to many new real estate agents, and enjoyed helping others on their way to helping others find their new home.

While living in San Francisco, Chris met Marty and soon after they were married in 1967. After living in San Francisco for a few years, Chris and Marty decided to move to the East Bay to start a family. They moved to Pleasanton in 1971. While in Pleasanton, Chris continuously contributed to Pleasanton, specifically via his participation with the Rotary Club of Pleasanton, which he served as president from 1986-87. During his tenure as president, Chris led the rotary project to add blue reflectors to fire hydrant locations throughout the city. This earned him the title of “Colonel Blue Dot” with his fellow Rotarians. The dishonorable treatment of veterans coming home from the Vietnam war left a lasting impression on Chris and he made it his passion to never let our veterans be treated that way again, so in 1990-91, Chris put

together a letter-writing campaign for local troops, which led to his appointment as co-chairman of the Pleasanton Support Group for all the troops from Pleasanton deployed to Desert Shield/Desert Storm during the Gulf War. In 2003, Chris helped start and became Chairman of the Pleasanton Military Families Support Group to support local troops and their families involved with Operation Enduring Freedom (Afghanistan) and Operation Iraqi Freedom (Iraq). Still to this day If you drive down Main St., you will see yellow ribbons hanging from the lights, each with the name of a current Pleasanton native that is serving in the Armed Forces. This was one of the many lasting impacts Chris Miller had on the community.

As humble as Chris was giving back to Pleasanton over five decades-plus, community leaders certainly noticed. His list of accolades stands second to none: Mayor’s Award in 2020, Ed Kinney Community Patriot Award in 2020, Pleasanton Weekly’s Man of the Year in 2009 and one of our inaugural Tri-Valley Heroes (2012: Community Spirit).

Chris is survived by his wife of 56 years, Marty Miller, his three sons, Christian Miller IV, Jason Miller and Michael Miller, his sister Caroline Sprich, brothers Arnold and Doug Miller, daughters-in-law Adrienne, Alison and Jenna, and grandchildren, Lilly, CJ, Ashton, Maverick and Bodi.

CELEBRATION OF LIFE

Edna Janice
July 13, 1926 – Nov. 15, 2023



The descendants of Edna (Merle) Byrd Greer are sad to announce her passing at the age of 97. Merle will be remembered for her strength and strong will, as well as her deep love of family. She will be sorely missed. Merle passed away peacefully on Nov. 15, 2023, after a brief period of health challenges.

Born in Gloster, Mississippi, to Dudley and Beatrice Byrd, on July 13, 1926, Merle was the eldest of four siblings. Her colorful life started here, where her father owned a small trucking company, hauling gravel. The family left Mississippi in 1941 with their beloved dog, Poochie, in a black Chevrolet, headed for California, where Dudley would find work. Landing in Farmington, California, for a short period, the family then spent a year in Sunol, while Dudley worked at Camp Parks in Dublin, and Merle attended Amador High School.

Sunnyside, Washington, was the family’s next stop for about eight years, where Merle and her sister, Connie, graduated from high school. Merle met the love of her life, Frank Greer, while he was home on leave from Naval Service in World War II. After brief stops in Bridgeport and Scottsdale, Arizona, the whole family finally settled in Pleasanton in 1952. It was here that Frank built their “custom” Jensen Tract home, where they would settle and spend the rest of their lives. Their only child, Michael Greer, was born in June that same year.

Merle and Frank were true soulmates and shared an adventurous life together. Merle was strong-willed, and Frank was perfectly suited to her nature. Always active and looking for new things to do, their life in

Pleasanton included square dancing, horseback riding, water-skiing, sailing, and flying to many destinations in their private plane, for which Merle was also a licensed pilot. In line with her adventurous spirit, they acquired for Merle a sleek 1976 Jaguar XKE that she used for her commute to Hayward where she worked for the Alameda County schools for over 20 years. She and a close friend, Muriel, also traveled to Canada in the Jag. Upon retirement,

Merle and Frank and their lifelong friends chartered a boat and sailed the Greek Islands, then spent subsequent years roaming the west in their motorhomes, often spending several weeks at a time on the California coast, the Sierra Nevada and Arizona. Merle said goodbye to Frank when he passed away in 2012; they had been married 65 years.

As a loyal eldest daughter, Merle brought structure and steadfast devotion to her family. She was her mother’s best friend, going above and beyond for family. She was preceded in death by her sister, Connie, and survived by her brothers, James Dale Byrd of San Francisco and Robert Byrd of Pleasanton. Her devotion continued through the next generations, as she loved and cared deeply for her son, Michael, and his three children, Nicole (Greer) Klein, Julia (Greer) Tohlen (Ben Tohlen) and Joel Greer. She was blessed with five grandchildren, Kiley, Kaitlyn, Zoey, Savana and Sawyer.

Services will be held on Saturday, June 1, 2024, beginning with a graveside service at Pioneer Cemetery in Pleasanton at 11 a.m., followed by a celebration of life at the family home for friends and family.

Jean Pefley Hawley

June 24, 1930 - April 11, 2024

Jean Pefley Hawley, a talented artist and a cherished member of her community, passed away peacefully surrounded by her loving family on April 11, 2024. Born in 1930 in Portland, Oregon, Jean’s journey through life was rich with creativity, learning, and exploration.

Jean’s formative years were spent in Portland, but in 1957, she laid roots in Livermore, California, where she would live until 2004 before moving to San Francisco/Daly City. It was here she continued to flourish until her passing in 2024.

An alumna of Oregon State, Jean later graduated from San Jose State University. She initially embarked on a career in education, nurturing young minds with dedication. However, her passion for the arts called her to a different

path. Jean pivoted to her true love—art—where her innate talent profoundly shone. Remarkably ambidextrous, she mastered painting with both hands, and her artwork spanned a variety of media.

Jean’s influence in the art world was profound. She served as the President of the Livermore Art Association and successfully operated her own art and frame shop for 34 years, enriching the cultural fabric of Livermore. She lived in Holland for two years, where she immersed herself in the culture and honed her artistic skills. Jean’s travels around the world didn’t just add stamps to her passport; they filled the pages of a sketchpad, replacing snapshots with sketches. These drawings were later compiled into an extraordinary book, a testament to her unique perspective and artistic flair.



Jean often reflected on her life with gratitude, considering it more wonderful than she could have ever imagined. Her legacy of love, artistry, and caring continues to inspire those who knew her.

Jean leaves behind a loving family: her sister Florence Guimary of Portland, Oregon; her brother William Lee of Tustin, California; her sons, Norman Pefley (and

wife Emma) and David Pefley (and wife Mona); and her cherished grandchildren, Shelby and Daniel Pefley. She reunites in passing with her beloved brother Robert Lee, whose wife Nancy Lee resides in Madison, Wisconsin.

Jean was not just greatly loved and admired; she was an integral part of her community and her family. Her memory will be cherished, and her absence deeply felt.

Dramatic Double Lifts Livermore Over Foothill

By Phil Jensen

There are two outs. It's the last inning and the tying and winning runs are on base.

There may not be a more pressure-packed at-bat in baseball. Livermore's Mateo Bullis rose to the occasion, as he hit a double off the top of the left-field fence to drive in the tying and winning runs in a dramatic 12-11 victory over visiting Foothill on April 26.

"I was just waiting for my pitch. I got that fastball down the middle and I decided to take it for a ride," said Bullis, a senior who also had a walk-off hit earlier this season. "All adrenaline in that at-bat. ... I had to do it for the team."

In a wild game, Livermore produced 10 runs in the fifth inning to wipe out a 4-0 deficit, then Foothill scored seven runs in the top of the seventh to take the lead. The strike zone was confusing this game, and that partly resulted in 13 walks in the last three innings — seven issued by Foothill and six by Livermore.

"It was kind of fluctuating

all day, didn't really have a good idea of the zone," said Bullis, a catcher. "But it goes both ways, you know, so you've just got to adapt to it."

Livermore improved to 13-9 overall and 5-6 in the East Bay Athletic League with the win. Foothill fell to 11-11, 5-6.

Foothill took a 3-0 lead in the third inning on a two-run single by Tanner Tarpley. The junior also had a run-scoring double in the first inning and finished 2 for 2 with two walks, three RBI and a run scored.

The Falcons took a 4-0 lead in the top of the fifth on an error, but Livermore sent 13 batters to the plate in the bottom of the fifth. After one out, 10 straight batters reached base, capped by a grand slam over the left-field fence by Tanner Lee. Andrew Arante had an RBI single, and CJ Johnston, Jaden Vassallo and Dominic Shepard also drove in runs in that half-inning with either bases-loaded walks or being hit by a pitch with the bases loaded.

Lee finished 4 for 5 and was just a triple short of the cycle in the game. Besides his four

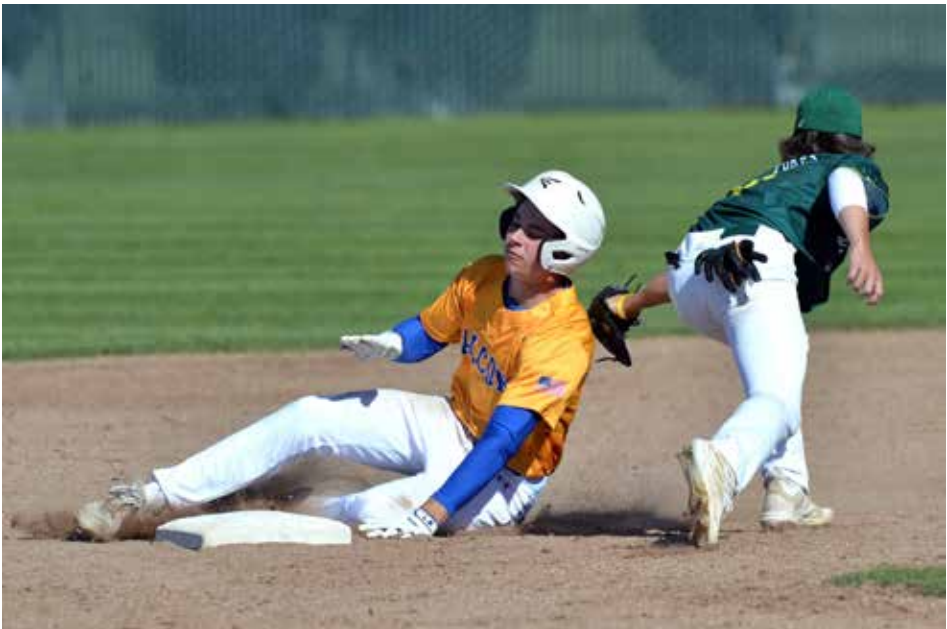
RBI, he also scored two runs.

Foothill countered in the top of the seventh with seven runs, six of them with two outs. After an RBI groundout by Austin Harris, teammates Charlie Stearns, Elijah Lammle and Ryan Wescott all walked with the bases loaded and George Schmitt was hit by a pitch with the bases full. Nate Novitske gave the Falcons an 11-10 lead with a two-run double.

But Livermore rallied in the bottom of the inning, doing all of its damage with two outs. Arante reached base on an infield single before Zach Bickerton and Johnston walked to load the bases. On a 2-1 count, Bullis sent a line drive toward the left-field fence to end the game.

With the victory, Livermore clinched a winning overall record this regular season. Besides the truncated 2020 season, it is the first time that the Cowboys have achieved this since 2016. It is also the first time the Livermore baseball squad defeated Foothill since 2019.

"I'm just proud of our



Livermore's shortstop Jaden Vassallo tags Foothill's Tanner Tarpley at second base. Livermore hosted Foothill on April 26, with the Cowboys winning 12-11. (Photo – Doug Jorgensen)

guys for battling and fighting through," said Livermore coach Dave Perotti about the April 26 game. "They come back and score seven and we come back and battle like that? ... That's awesome."

Foothill won the first game of the series, 12-1 on April 24. Wescott was 4 for 4, including a double, with a run scored and an RBI. Tarpley had a double, a walk, scored two runs and drove in three. Landon Comerford was 2 for 3, including a triple, with a run scored and

two RBI. Caden Roth produced the pitching win with five innings of one-run, five-hit ball. Braeden McRae drove in the Cowboys' run.

Entering this week, Livermore and Foothill were battling for one of the top three spots in their EBAL division to advance to the league playoffs. Granada clinched the top spot in that division, but Livermore, Foothill and Amador Valley were all tied for second.

"We win one or two more games and we're in the play-

offs," said Foothill coach Zeke Palma. "We fought hard to get back in the ballgame (on April 26), and things didn't fall our way at the end. You've got to tip your cap to Livermore. They played a great game as well."

In a rivalry week, Foothill hosted Amador Valley on May 1 after this article went to press. The Falcons travel to face the Dons on May 3 at 4 p.m. Livermore, which faced Granada on May 1, hosts the Matadors on May 3 at 4 p.m.

Dublin High Hires Former Oakland Raider Napoleon Kaufman

By Ruth Roberts

Former Oakland Raider and two-time All-American running back Napoleon Kaufman will be taking the field next year as the new varsity football head coach



Former Oakland Raider Napoleon Kaufman, left, will serve as head coach of Dublin High School's varsity football team starting next year. (File photo – Doug Jorgensen)

at Dublin High School. Kaufman will replace Brandon Black, who is moving on to new challenges.

"While we are sad to see Coach Black leave and want to thank him for his contributions to our school, we are

excited for what lies ahead," said Dublin High Athletic Director Tim Sbranti. "Napoleon Kaufman brings a storied high school, college and professional career — and the experience that comes with it — to Dublin."

Kaufman's journey is an impressive one, transitioning from a celebrated high school athlete to a prominent figure both on and off the football field. His accomplishments at Lompoc High School and the University of Washington laid the foundation for a successful NFL career with the Oakland Raiders. Kaufman was selected in the first round of the 1995 NFL Draft by the Oakland Raiders, where he remained for the entirety of his six-year NFL career. During his tenure with the Raiders, Kaufman averaged 4.9 yards per carry and played in 91 games. He finished with 18 touchdowns, 127 receptions

and 8,048 all-purpose yards (4,792 rushing).

After retiring from professional football, Kaufman found a new calling in serving his community as a pastor, leading the Well Christian Community Church in Livermore. His commitment to guiding others extended to coaching, where he invested his knowledge and passion for the game in mentoring young athletes, first in the Pleasanton Junior Football League and later at

Bishop O'Dowd in Oakland.

His tenure as the head coach of the Bishop O'Dowd varsity football team was marked by success, including multiple league championships and a California Interscholastic Federation State title in 2016. Kaufman's impact reached beyond the football field, influencing the lives of his players and contributing to the school's athletic legacy.

"One of the most re-

warding experiences in my life has been working with young athletes, inspiring them to reach their potential and showing them the beauty of teamwork, commitment, and perseverance," he said. "I enjoy helping young men and women become better athletes and also better human beings. Dublin High has a great tradition of athletics success and I hope to add to that legacy as the new head coach of Dublin High football."

Livermore-Granada Boosters Announce Scholarship Finalists

Livermore-Granada Boosters have announced 12 finalists for the nonprofit organization's annual Olympian Award scholarships, recognizing top male and female scholar-athletes from each of the two Livermore high schools.

Female finalists are Sarah Deplitch, Lauren Nguyen, and Saskia Rabb from Granada High School (GHS) and Anne Polaski, Savannah Battaion,

and Jae Cosgriff from Livermore High School (LHS).

Male finalists are Jakob Blake, Navaughn Long, and Parker Warner from Granada and Aidan Chirica, Nathan Thompson, and Xavier Thorpe from Livermore.

Winners will be announced at the Olympian Scholarship Awards banquet at LHS on Monday, May 13.

The four winners will each receive scholarships worth

\$2,500, while the eight other finalists will each receive \$750. All 12 finalists will receive Olympian Finalist Award plaques.

The boosters instituted the Olympian Award in 1958 to honor male scholar-athletes at LHS. The scholarships were expanded in 1966 to include students at the newly opened GHS. Both male and female student-athletes have been honored since 1979.

Team awards will also be presented at the banquet to the outstanding male and female athlete leaders on each of the high school's varsity teams.

The boosters will also induct 1996 GHS graduate Chris Gomes into the Livermore-Granada Hall of Fame, while Steve Goodman and Brad Morisolii will receive the Keith Fraser Community award.

Tickets to the 6 p.m. banquet are \$35, with a \$15 discount for those under 12. The banquet is free for varsity coaches and athletes.



Basketball tricksters, the Harlem Wizards, faced off against teachers from area schools last week to help raise funds for the Livermore Valley Education Foundation. The high-flying professional basketball team brought trick hoops and alley oops to Livermore for the seventh time. (Photo – Doug Jorgensen)

LEGAL NOTICES/CLASSIFIEDS

www.independentnews.com



LEGAL NOTICES

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 605330

The following person(s) doing business as: Prachie Studio, 31297 Santa Rita Way, Union City, CA 94587 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Prachi Shah, 31297 Santa Rita Way, Union City, CA 94587. This business is conducted by an individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s: Prachi Shah,

Owner This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 4, 2024. Expires April 3, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 5889. Published April 11, 18, 25, May 2, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 605203

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Fred N SayDee; 2. Fred and SayDee, 4078 Standard Way, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Roxanne Portillo, 4078 Standard Way, 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: 3/29/24. Signature of Registrant/s/: Roxanne Portillo, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 29, 2024. Expires March 28, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 5890. Published April 11, 18, 25, May 2, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 604504

The following person(s) doing business as: Tri-Valley Tracy Jobs, 1368 Capri Court, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Kinnect Consulting, LLC, 1368 Capri Court, Liver-

more, 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/: Shirley Louis, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 6, 2024. Expires March 5, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 5891. Published April 11, 18, 25, May 2, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 604721

The following person(s) doing business as: Jump Around Party Rentals, 263 Martin Ave,

Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Geoffrey Pi-Gonzalez, 263 Martin Ave, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by an individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Geoffrey Pi-Gonzalez, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 12, 2024. Expires March 11, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 5892. Published April 11, 18, 25, May 2, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 605192

The following person(s) doing business as: Par 5 Golfing, 7022 Village Pkwy, Dublin, CA 94568 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Par 5 Golfing LLC, 7022 Village Pkwy, Dublin, CA 94568. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Ishrat N. Zahid, Managing Partner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 29, 2024. Expires March 28, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 5893. Published April 11, 18, 25, May 2, 2024.

Owner This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 29, 2024. Expires March 28, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 5893. Published April 11, 18, 25, May 2, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 605201

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Premier Beer And Sake; 2. Premier Signs, 25509 Industrial Blvd., Unit G8, Hayward, CA 94545 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Premier Pos LLC, 25509 Industrial Blvd., Unit G8, Hayward, CA 94545. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 3/29/24. Signature

of Registrant/s/: Richard Huo, Managing Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 29, 2024. Expires March 28, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 5894. Published April 11, 18, 25, May 2, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 604670

The following person(s) doing business as: Globocoatings, 2484 Regal Dr., Union City, CA 94587 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Frank Zepeda IV, 2484 Regal Dr., Union City, CA 94587. This business is conducted by an individual. The date on which the registrant

LEGAL NOTICES/CLASSIFIEDS

www.independentnews.com



first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Frank Zepeda IV, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 11, 2024. Expires March 10, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 5895. Published April 11, 18, 25, May 2, 2024.

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME
Case No. 24CV070547**SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF ALAMEDA****TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:**

Petitioner:
Ana Margarita Vega Rodriguez
1390 Capri Court
Livermore, CA 94550
filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:

Present Names:
Madeline Patricia Brown
Proposed Name:
Madeline Patricia Brown-Vega

THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.

NOTICE OF HEARING
Date: 05/16/2024
Time: 10:0 AM
Dept: 14

The address of the court is:
Alameda County Administration Building
1221 Oak Street
Oakland, CA 94612

A copy of this Order To Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation printed in this county: The Independent Newspaper 2250 First Street, Livermore, CA 94550
Dated: 4/5/2024 /s/: By Milagros Cortez, Deputy Clerk. The Independent, Legal No. 5896. Published April 18, 25, May 2, 9, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 605210

The following person(s) doing business as: SynergyAI, 3014 Calle De Mesa, Pleasanton, CA 94566 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Synchronous Energy Systems LLC, 3014 Calle de Mesa, Pleasanton, CA 94566. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 2/1/2024. Signature of Registrant/s/: Bryan S. Lewis, Manager. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 1, 2024. Expires March 31, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 5897. Published April 18, 25, May 2, 9, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 605349

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Latin Bowls; 2. Gilda's Catering Experts, 223 Swallowtail CT, Brisbane, CA 94005 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Gilda Centeno Vergara, 223 Swallowtail CT, Brisbane, CA 94005. 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/: Gilda Centeno Vergara, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 5, 2024. Ex-

pises April 4, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 5898. Published April 18, 25, May 2, 9, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 605329

The following person(s) doing business as: Protein Research, 1852 Rutan Drive, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Berkeley Nutritional Manufacturing Corp, 1852 Rutan Drive, 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: 3/9/2009. Signature of Registrant/s/: Matt Galeazzi, Controller. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 4, 2024. Expires April 3, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 5899. Published April 18, 25, May 2, 9, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 605365

The following person(s) doing business as: Sofia's Design Studio, 2571 Walker Place, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Sofia Moufarrej, 2571 Walker Place, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by an individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Sofia Moufarrej, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 5, 2024. Expires April 4, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 5900. Published April 18, 25, May 2, 9, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 604952

The following person(s) doing business as: Good Forever, 4101 Dublin Blvd Ste F107, Dublin, CA 94568 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Peiyi Tan, 4101 Dublin Blvd Ste F107, Dublin, CA 94568. This business is conducted by an individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Peiyi Tan, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 20, 2024. Expires March 29, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 5901. Published April 18, 25, May 2, 9, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 605514

The following person(s) doing business as: Aroma Cafe, 1900 Franklin Street, Oakland, CA 94612 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): VG Bay Inc. 136 Royal Court, Vallejo, CA 94612. 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/: Thao Nguyen, CFO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 12, 2024. Expires April 11, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 5902. Published April 25, May 2, 9, 16, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 605563

The following person(s) doing business as: Springtime Creations, 10816 Rugby CT, Oakland, CA 94603 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Spring Melody Schoenhuth, 10816 Rugby CT, Oakland, CA 94603. 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: June 1988 (Washington State). Signature of Registrant/s/: Spring Melody Schoenhuth, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 15, 2024. Expires April 14, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 5903. Published April 25, May 2, 9, 16, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**FILE NO. 604950**

The following person(s) doing business as: San Leandro Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram Fiat, 1444 Marina Blvd, San Leandro, CA 94577 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): San Leandro Car Stop LLC, 1444 Marina Blvd, San Leandro, CA 94577. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Carlos Hidalgo, Managing Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 20, 2024. Expires March 19, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 5904. Published April 25, May 2, 9, 16, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 605594

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Mr. Handyman; 2. Mr. Handyman Serving Livermore — Pleasanton, 4047 1st Street Suite 207, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Bittmore Holdings Inc., 1280 Geneva CT, 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/: Brian Bogie, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 16, 2024. Expires April 15, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 5905. Published April 25, May 2, 9, 16, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 605636

The following person(s) doing business as: Specialized Dental Hygiene, 569 Cedar Drive, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Karina Ballesteros, 101 E Vineyard Ave #119, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by an individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Karina Ballesteros, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 17, 2024. Expires April 16, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 5906. Published April 25, May 2, 9, 16, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 605456

The following person(s) doing business as: Auspicious Intelligence, 43092 Coit Ave, Fremont, CA 94539 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Shih-Chieh Hsu, 43092 Coit Ave, Fremont, CA 94539. 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/: Shih-Chieh Hsu, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 8, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 5907. Published April 25, May 2, 9, 16, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 605544

The following person(s) doing business as: TSP Capital, 851 81st Ave, Suite 227, Oakland, CA 94621 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Trevor Anthony Paszkiewicz, 8511 81st Ave, Suite 227, Oakland, CA 94621. 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/: Trevor Anthony Paszkiewicz, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 12, 2024. Expires April 11, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 5908. Published April 25, May 2, 9, 16, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 605799

The following person(s) doing business as: OE Federal Cred-

it Union, 250 North Canyons Parkway, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Operating Engineers Local Union #3 Federal Credit Union, 250 North Canyons Parkway, 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: 2013. Signature of Registrant/s/: Kevin Considine, Chief Marketing Office. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 24, 2024. Expires April 23, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 5909. Published May 2, 9, 16, 23, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 605749

The following person(s) doing business as: Fed Ex Dublin, 2770 Lahontan Way, Dublin, CA 94568 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): PAAS Group Inc., 2770 Lahontan Way, Dublin, CA 94621. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Ameet Seth, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 23, 2024. Expires April 22, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 5910. Published May 2, 9, 16, 23, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 605696

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Zilla Trading Company; 2. Boba Tea Supplies and Equipment, 6724 Preston Ave, Ste C, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Zien International Inc., 5291 Flagg Lane, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 01/01/2024. Signature of Registrant/s/: Kimmy Zien, Corporation. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 19, 2024. Expires April 18, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 5911. Published May 2, 9, 16, 23, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 605694

The following person(s) doing business as: Personal Edge PT, 7080 Donlon Way, Ste 108, Dublin, CA 94568 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Personal Edge Physical Therapy, Inc., 7080 Donlon Way, Ste 108, Dublin, CA 94568. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 04/15/2024. Signature of Registrant/s/: LeeAnn Price, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 19, 2024. Expires April 18, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 5912. Published May 2, 9, 16, 23, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 605175

The following person(s) doing business as: Credo Legal Services, 125 12th Street, Suite 100, Oakland, CA 94607 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Karim Salamah, 125 12th Street, Suite 100, Oakland, CA 94607. 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/: Karim Salamah, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 28, 2024. Expires March 27, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 5913. Published May 2, 9, 16, 23, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 605453

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. 350 East Bay Action; 2. 350 San Francisco Action; 3. 350 Silicon Valley Action; 4. 350 Sonoma Action; 5. 350

Marin Action; 6. 350 Contract Costa Action; 7. Napa Climate Now! Action, 4163 Culver St, Oakland, CA 94619 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): 350 Bay Area Action, P.O. Box 18762, Oakland, CA 94619. 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/: Jack Lucero Fleck, Treasurer. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 10, 2024. Expires April 9, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 5914. Published May 2, 9, 16, 23, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 605820

The following person(s) doing business as: C J Construction, 1142 61st Ave, Oakland, CA 94621 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Carlos Jose Valle, 1142 61st Ave, Oakland, CA 94621. 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/: Carlos Jose Valle, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 25, 2024. Expires April 24, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 5915. Published May 2, 9, 16, 23, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 605533

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Replenish, 2. Replenish Refill, 3. Replenish Marketplace, 4. Replenish Goods, 5. Replenish Grocery, 6. Replenish Market, 3030 Fennside Boulevard, Alameda, CA 94501 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Nursing The Planet LLC, 3030 Fennside Boulevard, Alameda, CA 94501. 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/: Laria Phippen, Principal. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 12, 2024. Expires April 11, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 5916. Published May 2, 9, 16, 23, 2024.

CLASSIFIEDS**ANIMALS****Adopt a New Best Friend**
TVAR
Tri-Valley Animal Rescue

Our current weekly adoption events include:
Saturdays — Dogs & Puppies at:
Dublin Petsmart
6960 Amador Plaza Rd. Hours: 10:00am to 1:00pm.
Visit our website:
WWW.TVAR.ORG, to see adoptable animals, volunteer opportunities, and how to donate.
Follow:
TRI-VALLEY ANIMAL RESCUE on Facebook, and Instagram

EMPLOYMENT

Tailored Shared Services
Dublin, CA & Brooklyn, NY seeks Sr Prod Mgr, eCommerce Platforms to own & manage PLC (ideation through launch) of eCommerce platform enhancements and oversee platform upgrades & migrations aimed at driving improvements to payment systems, security platforms & merchandise catalog platform. Master's in Eng, CS, BA (Marketing/Mgmt), Tech Mgmt, Mgmt IS, or related + 3 yrs exp. Salary \$135,325-\$155,325/yr. EOE Send CV to: Shabnam.Jolly@tailoredbrands.com. Ref Job No: RV0424.

HELP WANTED**SERVICES**

BE WARY of out of area companies. Check with the

local Better Business Bureau before you send money or fees. Read and understand any contracts before you sign. Shop around for rates.

TO PLACE CLASSIFIED ADS go to
bit.ly/Indy-Classifieds or call
(925)243-8000

MERCHANDISE**FOR SALE****ESTATE/ GARAGE/ YARD SALES****FREE SECTION****LOST/ FOUND****NOTICES /ANNOUNCEMENTS**

We are pleased to announce our new website:
Agnostic-Christianity.com which will launch on April 25, 2024.

Agnostic-Christianity.com is where various faiths including Christian, Muslim, Atheist, Buddhist, Hindu, etc. come together to discuss their similarities, differences and questions about our own faith and the faith(s) of others regarding history, local, state and national politics and education while providing an engaging interactive experiences through our open forums. Visit **Agnostic-Christianity.com**

NOTICES

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

REAL ESTATE**LAND FOR RENT****OFFICE/HOUSE/CONDO / DUPLEX / APT RENTAL****HOUSE/ROOMS/RENTALS TO SHARE****BOAT / RV / RENTAL SPACE**

Inland Valley Publishing Co. Client Code:04126-00001
Re: Legal Notice for Classified Ads
The Federal Fair Housing Act, Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and state law prohibit advertisements for housing and employment that contain any preference, limitation or discrimination based on protected classes, including race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin. I/PC does not knowingly accept any advertisements that are in violation of the law.

PLACE YOUR CLASSIFIED ADS ONLINE
independentnews.com

Professional's Choice Real Estate Directory
Local guide to the Valley's Leading Real Estate Professionals & Services

MIKE FRACISCO 925.998.8131 FRACISCO REALTY Residential • Commercial • Property Mgmt www.MikeFracisco.com DRE #01378428	 Broker	Sandee Utterback (925) 487-0524 CalBRE#00855150 WWW.SANDEEU.COM Specializing in Livermore's Finest Homes
---	------------	--

 Cindy Grci 925.784.1243 DRE #01323804 Dominic Grci 925.525.0864 DRE #01707140 www.GrciGroup.com	 Claire Meager REAL ESTATE Claire Meager, Broker Associate 925.315.4502 OFFICE 510.715.7682 MOBILE claire.m.meager@gmail.com CalDRE #0184005
--	---

 PREFERRED BROKERS Wanda Thompson 925.858.9128 411 So L St, Suite E, Livermore BRE#00983781 / NMLS#244633	 Gordon Corsie Real Estate Broker Scotsman Realty Group CA DRE Lic # 0091100 Call/Text: 925.202.5497 www.thescotsman.com
--	---

AVR Properties
We Rent Your Homes
PROPERTY MANAGEMENT
925.447.2367 | DRE 0096046167

Call 925-243-8010 or Email Kim@Independentnews.com to Advertise in this Directory!	NICOLE SWEENEY REALTOR® 925.518.2142 nicole@nicolesweeneyhomes.com Results That Move You 1983 Second Street Livermore, CA 94550 CA BRE# 01965816 CA BRE# 01268085
---	--

 Rebecca Evans, REALTOR® Top 2% of the network, nationwide rebecca.evans@bhhsdrisdale.com (925) 784-2870 DRE #01498025 1891 2nd Street, Livermore, CA 94550	 Lydia Vetere Realtor® CalRE #01910741 925.548.6702 Lydia.Vetere@cncorcal.com www.lydiavetere.com "Finding your way Home!"
--	--

 Leslie FAUGHT REALTOR®, CRS, SRES® COMPASS	925.784.7979 LeslieFaught.com SellingEastBayHomes.com DRE01027778 "For a current home value, Visit MyTodaysHomeValue.com"
--	--

 Emily Hunter & Michael Bowers Broker-Owner Broker Associate Father Daughter Team Serving the Livermore Valley for over 40 years bluebrealty.com 925.785.3795	 BLUEBIRD REALTY
---	----------------------------

To Place Your Ad, Call or Email:
925-243-8010 Kim@independentnews.com



HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF LIVERMORE NOTICE OF REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

RFP No. P24002

Fee Accounting Services

AGENCY CONTACT PERSON

Sarah Ramler, Executive Director
Telephone: (925)447-3600 x208
E-Mail: sarah@livermoreha.org
TDD/TTY: (800)545-1833 x917

HOW TO OBTAIN THE RFP DOCUMENTS ON THE EPROCUREMENT MARKETPLACE

1. **ACCESS HA.INTERNATIONALEPROCUREMENT.COM (NO "WWW").**
2. **CLICK ON THE "LOGIN" BUTTON IN THE UPPER LEFT SIDE.**
3. **FOLLOW THE LISTED DIRECTIONS.**
4. **IF YOU HAVE ANY PROBLEMS IN ACCESSING OR REGISTERING ON THE MARKETPLACE, PLEASE CALL CUSTOMER SUPPORT AT (866)526-9266.**

PRE-PROPOSAL CONFERENCE
DEADLINE TO SUBMIT QUESTIONS
PROPOSAL SUBMITTAL RETURN
PROPOSAL SUBMITTAL DEADLINE

NONE SCHEDULED
Monday, May 13, 2024, 3:00 PM PT
Attn: Sarah Ramler, Executive Director
3203 Leahy Way, Livermore, CA 94550
Wednesday, May 22, 2024, 3:00 PM PT

[SECTION 3, MINORITY- AND/OR WOMEN-OWNED BUSINESSES ARE ENCOURAGED TO RESPOND]

Astrobiologist Talk Will Turn Science Fiction Into Fact

By Sarah Peters

Astronomer and astrobiologist Aomawa Shields shared insights into her Rising Stargirls organization ahead of her May 2 talk at the Bankhead Theater, “Life on Other Planets.”

Founded by Shields in 2014, Rising Stargirls focuses on science through a creative-arts lens. A set of free activity workbooks online encourages “girls of all colors and backgrounds to bring their whole selves

to the learning, exploration, and discovery of the universe,” according to its website.

Activities include the girls creating their own system of exoplanets — planets outside our solar system, creating constellation patterns, writing poems and songs about the galaxies, and generally bringing a personal connection to them, said Shields.

The organization’s inspiration stemmed from Shields’s own experiences,

as she found a link between creative activities and an understanding of the sciences through her own research.

Shields said, “Girls get quiet in middle school and ask less questions.” Rising Stargirls looks to raise interest in the science, technology, engineering and math fields, especially to promote representation for underrepresented girls.

Shields’s own interests have led her to computer models that calculate atmospheres and climates on

exoplanets for habitability.

“A lot of information we can’t determine from observation,” said Shields. “Computer models fill in the gaps of what we know and what we need to know (in order to learn) if the planet is habitable.” To be habitable, the exoplanet must be warm enough to hold liquid water. The computer models can also recognize other possible signs of life and whether the exoplanet’s orbit is shaped like a circle.

She has been fascinated with the stars since childhood. Shields said that there was, “a sense of comfort when I looked up. The feeling of not being alone.” She often wondered, “What is looking back at me?”

Shields began a journey in astronomy at 12, when she wanted to be an astronaut. At first, she thought it would be a linear journey, going to astronomy camps and then to MIT. But she described an inner conflict between astronomy and drama in her late teens and early 20s. It was like a “pendulum swinging, from one side to the other.” She said that she had not “done the inner work” to discover who she was.

On her path to MIT, she explained, “I was dragged to an audition for ‘Steel Magnolias.’ Friends audi-

tioning wanted me to come along. I ended up being cast. I had never considered doing that as a career until I got to high school.”

Shields did choose to attend MIT, following her science passions.

After MIT, Shields proceeded to study acting with an MFA degree. Eventually, she said she discovered a “through line” between acting and science, referring to stories.

“I loved the aspect of storytelling astronomy gave me, and looking up at the night sky to see those planets and realize they had stories, too,” Shields said.

After her MFA, Shields moved back to science working with the Spitzer Space Telescope.

As a mentor once said, her “theater background is a superpower.” Shields then applied to grad school for her Ph.D. in astronomy and astrobiology at the University of Washington. Ultimately, Shields emphasized she had to learn to accept two sides of herself.

In advice for aspiring scientists, Shields underscored the importance of rest periods and creating a network of mentors to become involved in the community. Questions she advised are: “What do I want?” and “What do I

need?”

She said, “It’s not a sprint. Take your time to discover what you love most and what lights you up.”

Shields has a memoir from 2023, titled, “Life on Other Planets: A Memoir of Finding My Place in the Universe.” Shields wants readers to take away from the book, “There is no one way to be a scientist or artist, or to do anything. We can be our own role models.”

In the end, she explained her work is about “turning science fiction into science fact.”

Shields’s will give her “Life on Other Planets” talk at 7:30 p.m. on May 2 at the Bankhead Theater. She will be the final speaker in this year’s Rae Dorough Speaker Series, hosted by Livermore Valley Arts. The talk is sponsored in part by Sandia National Laboratories.



Las Positas College (LPC) President Dyrell Foster, far left, and Chabot-Las Positas Community College District Vice Chancellor Owen Letcher, far right, join representatives from the architectural firm Lionakis, the construction company Overaa and construction management firm Vanir in the ribbon cutting of LPC's new Advanced Manufacturing & Transportation building on April 16. (Photo courtesy of LPC)

Artist Studio Tour Set for First Weekend in May

Artists from Danville, San Ramon, Dublin, Pleasanton, and Livermore will welcome the public into their studios from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. On Saturday, May 4, and Sunday, May 5, for the third annual Tri-Valley Artist Studio Tour (TVAST).

More than 100 artists are expected to participate at 16 studio sites, with artwork ranging from paintings, drawings, and photography to ceramics and sculpture.

Organizers stress that the tour can benefit the artists and be enjoyable for mem-

bers of the public.

“Personally, this has been a great boost to my art career,” said Lynda Briggs, an abstract landscape artist who works out of the Bothwell Arts Center in Livermore. “People will find you and you will find your people. It’s so fun.”

New this year, nine home studios will be opened to the public for a “sneak peek” from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Friday, before the tour officially starts. The early sites will also offer art giveaways and chances to win an original painting by TVAST director Linda Ryan.

Organizers said the tour is being set up so sites are accessible by bike; Pedego Bikes of Livermore is offer-

ing e-bike rentals and picnic packages. Hawthorne Suites Livermore Hotel is offering discounted weekend room rates for out-of-town visitors.

The tour is a project of the Alliance for the Visual Arts, a nonprofit whose goal is to connect Tri-Valley communities with its visual artists. For more information, go to TVASTart.com.



Shown above, Alliance for the Visual Arts President and Tri-Valley Artist Studio Tour founder Dennis Baker with participating artist Lynda Briggs. (Photo courtesy of TVAST)

Livermore Olive Oil Producer Receives Multiple State and International Awards

Olive oil produced by The Ranch at Birch Creek in Livermore received multiple gold medals in the 2024 California State Fair Olive Oil competition and the 2024 California Olive Oil Council (COOC) competition.

Birch Creek also entered the New York International Olive Oil competition for the first time this year and received silver medals for both its estate and Italian blend extra virgin olive oils.

The New York competition

is the world’s largest competition for olive oil producers and considered the most prestigious in the industry.

Birch Creek was awarded gold medals for both its estate and Italian blend olive oils at the California State Fair and from the COOC. The Italian blend also received the COOC’s Best of Show award.

Birch Ranch is a family-owned boutique olive oil company, now with more than 700 olive trees lining the property along Patterson Pass Road.

Owner Linda Marshall began planting olive trees in 2013, with the first harvest in 2017.

The estate oil is a blend of three Spanish olives — hojiblanca, picual, and arbequina — while the Italian blend is made from frantoio, coratina, and pendolino olives.

The olive oil is available locally at Alden Lane, The Olive Oil Pantry, The Cheese Parlor, and the Livermore Downtown Sunday Farmers Market. It is available online at theranchatbirchcreek.com.



RETZLAFF
Estate Wines

NOW OPEN FOR WINE TASTING AND PICNIC TABLE RESERVATIONS.
FRIDAYS, SATURDAYS, SUNDAYS AND MONDAYS 12-4:30 SUMMER HOURS.

WINE DOWN FRIDAYS 5-8
FOOD TRUCKS & MUSIC
LIVE MUSIC MOST WEEKENDS.
CATERER ON SITE MOST WEEKENDS.
Make your online reservation at
RetzlaffVineyards.com



Creek Hill Farm
Horseback Riding Lessons,
Training, Boarding,
Breeding, Sales

925.337.5375
creekhillfarms.com



The Las Positas College
(FREE!)
Literary Arts Festival

Reserve Your Seats Today!

May 11, 2024
LPC, Building 4000



Lemony Snicket (Daniel Handler) on
How to Write Like a Burglar

Local Libraries **Activities for Kids**

Zine/Graphic Novel **Creation Workshop**

James Spooner (Keynote) on
Afro-Punk and the Graphic Memoir

Jaron Lanier (The Father of VR) on
AI and the Future of Education

Ariel Schrag (The L-Word) and
Brittany Miller (Woke) on **TV Writing**

Tamim Ansary on **The History of Islam**

SF Writers Grotto on **Getting Published**

Tomás Moniz on **Working with a Publisher**

The LPC **Poetry Slam**

Dominic Lim From the **Stage to the Page**

The LPC Magazine
(Havik) **Publication and Awards Ceremony**

Harm Reduction and **Narcan Training**

Grace Loh Prasad **The Translator's Daughter**

Poetry with
Wine and Chocolate Tasting (21+)

Food Trucks and MORE



Register **Seating is Limited**

Sponsored by the LPC Foundation, LPC SEA, and The President’s Speakers Series Grant



**Now Seeking
Freelance Reporters**

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

Please email David@independentnews.com with your resume and at least 3 writing samples, with the subject line “Freelancer Application.”