



Deacon Dave Rezendes' house opened to visitors on Nov. 30 with a display of 902,120 lights. This year his house has an international "The World Celebrates Christmas" theme and is a contender in the 12th season of ABC's "Great Christmas Light Fight," which premieres on Thursday, Dec. 5. Deacon Dave, who is an ordained deacon at St. Michael Catholic Church in Livermore, offers daily viewings of his house through the end of the year from 6 p.m.-10 p.m. weeknights and Saturdays, 6 p.m.-9 p.m. on Sundays. The address is 352 Hillcrest Ave., Livermore, although the house is hard to miss. (Photo — Doug Jorgensen)

Pleasanton Race Track Has Experienced A High Number of Horse Deaths in 2024

Stabled Horses at Track More Than Doubled After Golden Gate Fields Closed

By Ruth Roberts

PLEASANTON — Table for Ten, an 8-year-old gelding injured and subsequently euthanized following a race-related incident at the Pleasanton Fairgrounds on Nov. 29, brings the number of equine deaths at the nation's oldest racetrack to 11 in just five months. Four of the horses have died since October.

Mike Marten, spokesperson for the California Horse Racing Board (CHRB), which oversees

and regulates horse racing in the state, agrees that the number of deaths in Pleasanton in a short amount of time is cause for concern.

"This number is very high and we are well aware," Marten said. "Without a doubt, this cluster in the last few weeks is not normal."

Pleasanton Fairgrounds CEO Jerome Hoban did not return several requests for comment on this story by press time. His staff reported he was out of the country over the Thanksgiving holiday.

The 11 Pleasanton deaths fall into two categories, as do all horse racing fatalities: musculoskeletal and non-musculoskeletal, the former being injuries directly related to racing. The other category includes deaths due to illness or other non-racing injuries. In the case of Pleasanton, seven of the deaths are the direct result of racing and the remaining four are classified as non-musculoskeletal. In 2023, the fairgrounds saw three deaths classified as 'other.' In one case the cause of death was

(See HORSES, page 9)

Las Positas College

\$3M Grant Boosts Latinx Student Success

Guided Pathways Program Works to Increase Matriculation, Transfers

By Ruth Roberts

LIVERMORE — Las Positas College (LPC) has received a \$3 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education to support and enhance academic outcomes for Hispanic/Latinx and low-income students. The grant, spread over five years, will help fund LPC's Guided Pathways program.

Guided Pathways focuses on recruiting students from high schools and the local community and providing comprehensive academic and personal support, including personalized educational plans and dedicated "success teams" to guide students

throughout their college careers.

The eight-year-old program takes a structured step-by-step approach to education by creating organized curricular pathways for employment or further education following matriculation from LPC. That includes helping students not just to decide on a major, but also to learn about various options and strategies to stay on course and maximize their potential, whether they go on to a four-year college or enter the workforce after completion.

These touchstones lead to increased retention, degree completion and transfer rates. Students enrolled in

the program are assigned to academic or career pathways based on their interests and goals.

"We are very excited about this grant. It is a very highly sought-after grant," said LPC math professor Kristy Woods, who is also an advisor to the program. "For the past seven or eight years, we have undergone a huge collaborative effort across our campus, and it (the Pathways Program) has helped bring students together. Through this program, we have drastically reduced the number of undecided students."

The grant is specifically aimed toward the Hispanic and Latinx popu-

(See PATHWAYS, page 7)

Concannon Vineyard Acquired by Two Livermore Wineries

New Owners Darcie Kent Winery and Lemmons Family Vineyards Will Continue 141-Year History

By Jesse Watson

LIVERMORE — The historic 141-year-old Concannon Vineyard has been acquired by Darcie Kent Winery and Lemmons Family Vineyards. Announced last week, the sale will transfer ownership of the company, wine production assets and the 230-acre vineyard from The Wine Group, which has owned Concannon since 2004.

David and Darcie Kent, owners of Darcie Kent Winery and Almost Famous Wine Co., will oversee winery operations at Concannon while Tom and Paige Lemmons, owners of Lemmons Family Vineyards, have their sights set on the vineyards and bottling operations.

The new owners hope to continue the legacy of the Concannon brand and keep the experience the same for customers.

"The Concannon hospitality team has been retained and it is our goal to ensure that what guests loved about the Concannon tasting room experience will be preserved under new ownership," the Kents said in a statement announcing the sale last week.

Concannon Vineyard has been a cornerstone of the Livermore Valley wine industry since its founding in 1883. Over the last four generations, the Concannon family has been responsible for the first release of petite sirah as a single varietal wine in the United States and the preservation of historic cabernet vines whose clones now make up 80 percent of the cabernet planted in California.

The Lemmons family said they will "concentrate on replanting the vineyards to the historic grape varietals, such as cab franc and sauvignon blanc, that made Livermore famous in

(See CONCANNON, page 9)



Amador Valley High triumphed over Bishop O'Dowd in the North Coast Section Division II championship game on Nov. 29. This is the first time the team has won a regional championship. (See story on page 10) (Photo — Doug Jorgensen)

Livermore

City Council's 2025 Priorities Focus on Open Space, Housing

By Larry Altman

LIVERMORE — Two new members will take their seats with the Livermore City Council on Dec. 6, joining a group that will continue to debate open space both outside and within the urban growth boundary (UGB), affordable housing, climate change and completing a new General Plan in the coming year. Planning commissioner Steven Dunbar and Kristie Wang, a former Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District trustee, will take their oaths to represent Districts 3 and 4, respectively.

Dunbar and Wang topped their opponents in the November election and will serve for the next four years.

Mayor John Marchand ran unopposed and will enter a new 2-year term.

"Our new council will represent a diversity of life experiences and skill sets," Wang said. "Coming from our school board, I will continue to have the mindset of how we can support our youth and create a healthy community, and I will also bring experience in serving on a governing body, fiscal management, community engagement, and balancing a

(See LIVERMORE, page 8)



Steven Mirassou, owner of Steven Kent Winery, is helping build a movement of likeminded vintners to boost Livermore Valley cabernet franc wines. (Photo — Doug Jorgensen)

Tri-Valley Is Turning into Cab Franc Country

By Christina Cavallaro

LIVERMORE — A group of passionate Livermore winemakers are working on a collective vision for local wines: one in which Livermore is considered a world-class growing region for cabernet franc.

A sold-out public tasting of that varietal was to be held Wednesday, Dec. 4 at the Bankhead Theater after this article's deadline. The event was organized by the newly formed Livermore Valley Cab Franc Guild.

Steven Mirassou, owner of the Steven Kent Winery and a zealous leader of what he describes as an

"incremental movement," has been working with the cabernet franc varietal since the early 2000s. "I like the idea of a movement, a tribe, a group of people who are passionate about this particular varietal. And cab franc, I think, is the future."

A University of California, Davis study in 2020 made questions about the future of the Livermore Valley wine country more pressing. The Tri-Valley Conservancy (TVC) commissioned the "Realizing the Heritage" study from researchers at the UC Agricultural Issues Center at Davis for an impartial assessment of the economic viability of the Liver-

more Valley wine region.

There were a number of different conclusions (the full report can be found on the TVC's website), but the study put forth that varietally, cabernet franc and cabernet sauvignon made the most sense for the Livermore Valley in terms of their suitability from a viticultural standpoint. One conclusion is that, provided irrigation is available, the soils of the Tri-Valley are excellent for vineyards.

"Livermore is a place that is unique in California, given the way that it's an east-west oriented valley and the way the wind comes

(See CAB FRANC, page 6)

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PET OF THE WEEK



LAURA GARCIA

Start your mornings with Laura Garcia. This sweet one-year-old feline is hoping to find a new home today in the Bay. Laura takes time to warm up, but once comfortable, her purrsonality really shines through. She even gets along well with other cats. This is your wakeup call: stop by Valley Humane Society's pet adoption center in Pleasanton to meet Laura Garcia, visit valleyhumane.org to learn more, or email info@valleyhumane.org to start the adoption process. (Photo courtesy of Valley Humane)

Pleasanton Schools Lay Foundation for Major Expansion of Transitional Kindergarten

By Ruth Roberts

The Pleasanton Unified School District (PUSD) is moving forward with mul-

tfunds. Measure I was the \$395 million school board bond approved by voters in 2022. The PUSD Board of Trustees also recently

schools where needed to support and enrich the district's TK program, according to Aaron Kael, PUSD's executive director of facili-

expansion is \$11.8 million. The budget includes the cost of design, consultants, permits, construction, project management, furniture and other incidentals.

The Donlon portion of the project will involve the construction of two new buildings with a total of three classrooms. The project will also receive a new playground, play structures and other site improvements.

At Fairlands Elementary, four new TK classrooms will be built, along with new play structures, trike tracks and additional storage for play equipment and bikes. The total project budget for the Fairlands Elementary School TK expansion

project is \$13.6 million, which includes the incidental costs.

Last month the PUSD board also approved a \$70 million project for Foothill High School to renovate

the aging athletic building which will include an upgraded large gymnasium designed to seat 1,100 people. See the full story online at <https://bit.ly/4g8NdFQ>.



A rendering depicts changes planned for Fairlands Elementary School's Transitional Kindergarten program. The additions, paid for with Measure I funds, will include expanded play areas and additional classrooms. (Image courtesy of PUSD)

timillion-dollar expansions of two elementary schools. The projects at Donlon and Fairlands elementaries are expected to be the first of several that will eventually include all the elementary schools.

The list of projects is focused on enhance Transitional Kindergarten (TK) facilities at the schools.

The PUSD Board of Trustees has unanimously approved two contracts to hire project managers to oversee the Transitional Kindergarten expansion at Donlon and Fairlands elementary schools. TK is a program for 4-year-olds that provides an extra year of schooling before entering kindergarten.

The price tag for the two schools comes to \$25.4 million, which will be paid for with Measure I

awarded a management contract for the two projects to United Inspection, an Oakland company. The cost of the contracts, \$228,850, is also paid for with Measure I funds.

The facilities and construction team at PUSD received three proposals and eventually recommended United Inspection based on the firm's qualifications, expertise and competitive pricing.

United Inspection, out of Oakdale, California, will have a separate contract for each school site, per state law. The cost for managing the Donlon project is \$107,180, and for Fairlands, the cost is \$121,670.

The construction plans which the project managers will oversee include new classroom space at the

ties and construction. Kael added that while there may be open classroom spaces at one or more school sites, there are several reasons why construction of new classrooms is necessary.

"TK and kindergarten classrooms include restrooms and are larger than grade 1 through 5 classrooms," Kael said. "Additionally, we typically prefer to locate the kindergarten and TK classrooms in a community closer to the front of the campus. This allows our kindergarten and TK staff an opportunity to collaborate and better serve the students and parents. It is possible to convert existing classrooms. We assess these opportunities on a case-by-case basis."

The overall projected cost of the Donlon project

"Most Wanted" Bomber Sought in Pleasanton Blast is Arrested in U.K. After 21-Year Search

By Larry Altman

An animal rights activist sought for 21 years for allegedly bombing a Pleasanton nutritional company just weeks after two pipe bombs exploded at an Emeryville biotech firm was caught last week in a rural town in the United Kingdom.

Daniel Andreas San Diego, 46, a native of Berkeley who was named to the FBI's "Most Wanted Terrorists" list following his alleged crimes, was arrested Nov. 25 in Maenan, a town in north Wales.

Britain's National Crime Agency announced on the social media site X that counterterrorism and North Wales police officers took San Diego into custody. He faces extradition to the United States.

San Diego was indicted in 2004 in U.S. District Court in Oakland for the bombings.

"Daniel San Diego's arrest after more than 20 years as a fugitive for two bombings in the San Francisco Bay Area shows that no matter how long it takes, the FBI will find you and hold you accountable," FBI Director Christopher Wray said in a statement. "There's a right way and a wrong way to express your views in our country, and turning to violence and destruction of property is not the right way."

Packed with explosives, nails and a kitchen timer, the bomb placed in the doorway of the Shaklee Corp. on Sept. 26, 2003, went off at 3:22 a.m., shattering windows and damaging stucco. No one was hurt.

Shaklee, which makes nutritional products and air and water purification systems, was targeted about a month after two bombs exploded at Chiron Corp., an Emeryville biotechnology firm. No one was hurt there either.

According to news reports at the time, the

animal rights group Revolutionary Cells Animal Liberation Brigade took responsibility for the Emeryville blasts. The group said it targeted Chiron for its ties to a firm that conducted experiments on animals.

Although Shaklee did not conduct tests on animals, animal rights groups had accused its parent company, Yamanouchi, of ties to Huntingdon Life Sciences, the same company involved with Chiron.

After authorities identified San Diego as a suspect, a \$250,000 reward was offered for information leading to his capture.

"San Diego has ties to animal rights extremist groups," the FBI's wanted flier said, adding that he followed a vegan diet. He was also known to possess a handgun.

The flier also said San

Diego sported several tattoos, including a round image of burning hillsides in the center of his chest with the words "It only takes a spark" printed in a semicircle below. He wore tattoos of burning and collapsing buildings on the sides of his abdomen and back; and a single leafless tree rising from a road in the center of his lower back.

According to a BBC report on his arrest, San Diego paid 425,000 British pounds — about \$542,000 — for his house near Llanrwst in north Wales in August 2023. He used the name Danny Webb to buy the property.

"He was quite excited because there was a big woodland at the back," the seller, Aled Evans, told the BBC. "He was into his mountain biking and that's what sold it to him, apparently."

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Pleasanton Hires First Woman Police Chief in City’s History

By Ruth Roberts

Foster City Police Chief Tracy Avelar has been named the City of Pleasanton’s new police chief. She will officially take the helm on Dec. 9, becoming the first female chief to be hired in the city’s history.

Pleasanton City Manager Gerry Beaudin announced the appointment last week.

“Chief Avelar has a proven track record of leadership and innovation in law enforcement and we are excited to welcome her here to Pleasanton,” said Beaudin. “Her dedication to community engagement, public safety and operational excellence will be a great asset to our city.”

Avelar has over 20 years of law enforcement experi-

ence with the Foster City Police Department. She worked her way up through the ranks to become that city’s first ever female lieutenant, captain and chief. During her tenure in Foster City, Avelar oversaw youth services, crime prevention and the patrol division. She also managed critical department programs including field training, SWAT and traffic enforcement. As a captain, Avelar was responsible for administrative and operational divisions, overseeing dispatch, records, budget preparation and investigations.

In addition, Avelar is the current president of the California Police Chiefs Association and has served on the Sheriff Executive and San Mateo County Police

Chiefs boards. She earned a bachelor’s degree in criminal justice management and a master’s degree in Homeland Security from



Tracy Avelar

the Naval Postgraduate School’s Center for Homeland Defense and Security. She is also a graduate of the Sherman Block Leadership

Institute and the Los Angeles Police Department’s leadership academy.

Avelar says she is looking forward to working in Pleasanton and serving the community and its residents.

“Pleasanton holds a special place in my heart and I am truly honored to step into the role of police chief for the city,” said Avelar. “I have so much respect for the men and women of this department and look forward to working alongside them to continue building strong community partnerships, ensuring public safety and fostering trust and transparency.”

Avelar replaces interim Police Chief Gina Anderson, who took over from former Chief David Swing, who left the department

in May. According to city staff, Anderson, the former Newark police chief, was

not a candidate for permanent hiring as police chief in Pleasanton.

Seeds of Music Showcase Brings a Big Stage Opportunity to Local Band Program Participants

By Christina Cavallaro

Musician and teacher Chris Ansuini started a rock workshop in 2014, providing band opportunities for Tri-Valley music students. In 2021, he took his project a step further, opening the doors of the Seeds of Music Academy to provide private and group lessons, and performance and recording opportunities to students of all ages and in all genres of music.

The vision Ansuini had for the academy, to build upon each artist’s love of music to develop mastery and gain skills in performance, improvisation, leadership and teamwork, will be realized on Friday, Dec. 6 at 7:30 p.m. on the Bankhead Theater stage.

Five bands, composed of four to six students each from his rock workshop, will perform in the Seeds of Music Showcase.

“I’m always looking for more exciting opportunities for the students,” Ansuini said. “And the Bankhead show is definitely kind of a dream come true. They haven’t been able to play on a real stage like this. A stage that people like Eric Johnson and just so many other great musicians have played on.”

While over the years he has booked his student bands locally to play at the Ale House in Livermore and at the Livermore Downtown Street Fest, the Bankhead is their biggest opportunity to date.

“I’m almost concerned, like, oh man, if this is how it starts — a lot of the shows they are going to play in the future aren’t going to be as awesome as this. I hope it doesn’t create the wrong kind of expectation,” he laughed, “but I’m just so excited.”

Drummer Bowie Goldstein, who’s been in the

program since she graduated from Granada High School this past summer, said she’s excited to perform, but also a little nervous. “I’ve played drums with my dad at his shows before (in the Evan Thomas Blues Band), but I haven’t ever played on a big, actual stage like that.”

Her band Evil Good will play a mix of classic metal and alt rock, including songs from Metallica and Red Hot Chili Peppers. But there are softer songs in the mix, she added. “I’m super-excited because we’re playing ‘Dreams’ by Fleetwood Mac.”

Ansuini graduated from Cal State University East Bay in 2011, with a degree in jazz performance. Soon afterward, however, a battle with fibromyalgia halted his dreams of a career on stage, and it was then that he put all of his creative energy into teaching. The band program came about when he noticed he had a lot of students,

but almost none of them were finding other musicians with whom to play. “And I realized it just didn’t feel accessible to them.”

One such group in the showcase started with him in 2018 when they were between the ages of 11 and 12. The band members, now calling themselves Kind Viper, are about to graduate high school.

“It’s just wild — the same six kids for this entire time,” Ansuini said. “It’s pretty awesome. I keep thinking about how this is it: this is the last year before some of them move away. And it’s going to bum me out. But you know, I hope that eventually, after they’ve all kind of settled into their lives, if enough of them are around, we can do some kind of reunion shows.”

Tickets for the showcase are \$10 for adults, \$5 for kids. For more visit livermorevalleyarts.org

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EDITORIAL

There Are Ways to Remain Involved in Causes You Believe In

In every post-election season, former candidates, campaign managers and staffers, in addition to supporters and opponents of ballot measures, analyze their races, weighing choices made and roads not taken. What worked? What motivated the voters? What could have been done differently?

That’s especially true for those who lost their contests, at any level. In some cases, there does not appear to be much that could have changed the outcome, which can cause some people to tune out, at least until the next election.

But democracy doesn’t work that way — not effectively. Showing up once every couple

of years to vote and then ignoring the causes or officials you voted for (or against) will often lead to unpleasant outcomes.

The lesson for the losers and those who supported them is not to disengage but to re-engage. Democracy is a word derived from Greek meaning “rule by the common people.” There are many ways other than voting in which the “common” people can pursue change.

One of the most important means of affecting policies is to engage directly with political leaders — county supervisors, city councils, school boards, utility district boards and other elected officials. Sending emails or calling their offices, speaking

during public meetings, and organizing events are all equally valid means of trying to influence policy outcomes.

Also, the public needs to educate itself on the issues at hand. It’s easier for elected officials to dismiss an uninformed rant than a nuanced argument supplemented by the facts.

There’s another important way of staying involved: run or apply for other offices or committee openings. After 2016, a movement began to encourage those discouraged by the outcome of the presidential election to step forward. RunForSomething.net was one such effort, and it recruited more than 1,800 candidates across the U.S. from

2017-2021 to run for every office from water district board member to state senator. Approximately one-third of them won their races.

However, people don’t need to run for an office or a committee to be effective. Just lending their voices and time to an issue or campaign can make the difference in some races. Volunteering, knocking on doors, even the proverbial licking of envelopes take time and effort. Campaigns, especially in smaller races, can often use all the help they can get.

Democracy doesn’t go on hiatus between elections. Perhaps being a politician isn’t for everyone, but supporting causes you believe in should be.

MAILBOX

Mailbox Guidelines: *Opinions voiced in letters published in Mailbox are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of The Independent. Anonymous letters will not be published. All letters are required to have the name(s) of the person(s) submitting them, city of residence and phone number, for verification purposes. Letters may not contain advertising. Abusive letters and letters containing ad hominem attacks may be rejected or edited. Letters are subject to verification and may be edited for clarity at the discretion of the editor. We reserve the right to decide whether or not the letter will be published. Headings for all letters may be edited at the discretion of the editor to properly reflect their content. A headline will be added to letters received without one. Frequent letter writers may have publication of their letters delayed or not run at all. Letters should be limited to 400 words or less and should be sent by email to letters@independentnews.com or submitted using the form below. The letters to the editor deadline is Monday at 8 a.m. If you wish to submit a letter pertaining to a special event or meeting taking place on a Monday before any given Thursday print edition — and you would like your letter to run that week — please contact the editor (newsroom@independentnews.com) as soon as possible on Monday to discuss the content and publication options. Otherwise, all letters submitted after 8 a.m. on Monday must hold until the following week.*

Two Stories on Why I Give Thanks

Ken Henneman, Pleasanton

At Thanksgiving time I remember two stories that are a reason I give thanks for living in the USA.

One: My maternal grandmother grew up on a German farm north of then Belgard, Germany (now Polish). In the 1800s, Bismarck consolidated the Polish Pommeran area into Germany. Poland reclaimed it after the war. Grandmother came over the pond in 1892.

Germans going north. Her cousin grew up on the farm and came over in 1946, and he remembers the war well. When

the German army marched north, they often killed old ‘Polish’ farmers to take the goods and land. Their Polish/German farmworkers warn them “. . . get out, TODAY.” So the family fled, promptly, in their hay wagon — his sister’s legs and body wrapped up in bandages so the Germans wouldn’t rape her if they were stopped.

Russians going south. He said the Russians were worse than the Germans when it came to plundering, raping, and killing German farmers and farmworkers. His dad of course heard they were coming, and hid the farmworkers, deep under the hay in the haymow.

Two: My Ukrainian co-warehouseman in 1954 at the small TDC Company in Chicago told 18-year-old me his story; it’s kept me thankful. Especially at Thanksgiving time.

Germans going north. They killed his father.

Russian going south. They killed his mother.

Most wars are very bad, some are very unnecessarily necessary, but all wars are hell. To be avoided.

Developers Hit the Jackpot in Dublin

Tom Evans, Dublin

It’s no secret that Dublin is the soft target in the Tri-Valley for developers. The city government seems to accommodate developers in a way that makes it foolish for them to pass up a Dublin opportunity. A recent example is 77 acres on Tassajara Road, formerly known as the SCS Property and now goes by the name of Dublin Centre. SCS Development Co., Mission Valley Properties, and Landsea Homes have made good use of Dublin’s developer-friendly atmosphere. [The following dollar amounts are my estimates, but I think they’re in the ballpark.] First, the number of residential units was increased from 261 to 500 — perhaps a \$20M-\$30M bonus. Secondly, the number of required affordable units for sale was reduced from 38 to 6 in exchange for a two-acre property — \$14M gain, in exchange for a \$6M property. And just last city council meeting, the third part of a developer’s trifecta, the council voted to approve a Mello-Roos tax on future homebuyers in Dublin Centre in order to pay the developers for about \$30M of infrastructure (i.e. streets, water, sewer, and utilities that most

of us get included in the price a house.)

So what’s wrong with making a profit? Nothing, as long as it’s done fairly. Developers have an obligation (in any city that they choose to build in) to pay city fees, school fees, and build affordable housing in accordance with that city’s requirements. When the City of Dublin uses its authority to make favorable zoning changes and bypass norms, it not only makes the developer a lot of money, it also results in more traffic, more students, more crowding, fewer affordable houses for sale, and increased taxes (\$4k-\$8k per year for new home buyers) — all of which make it tougher on the residents of Dublin.

When the City of Dublin takes such actions, I wish that they would consider what’s best for the residents. And what does the city get for all of this accommodation? I am concerned that daily living in Dublin will become less appealing given the choices that the Dublin city government has made over the past few years. There are even more crowded conditions on the way when Dublin completes its new downtown on Dublin Blvd. near the west Target, which will add 3,000 people in only three square blocks.

Move the Eden Project

Owen Brovont, Livermore

The Independent’s November 21st edition contained the latest article on the status of the Eden Project in the center of town. The story, by Larry Altman, discloses that Alameda County Superior Court judge, Michael Markman, ruled that the Livermore City Council violated the law when it approved a minor change in its revision of the “Disposition, Development, and Loan Agreement” in favor of continuing the development of the Eden Project, but without its associated green space which Eden described as a park. The CEO of Eden Housing, Linda Mandolini, said in the article, “It is unfortunate that a well-funded, small group of individuals, Move Eden Housing, continues to pursue legal actions designed solely to delay and stall projects aimed at addressing our region’s critical housing crisis.”

The residents with whom I have worked to have the project moved to a MORE APPROPRIATE LOCATION IN LIVERMORE, do not and have not supported the idea of disallowing the construction of housing for low-and-moderate income families. We have consistently argued that the location on which Eden and the Council want to construct the project is not appropriate for any housing. We believe that Livermore would be far better served for now and for the future, if it used that last available central location in town for an official Livermore City Park, which we do not presently have, and it would closely adjoin

the small lovely.42-acre green grass of the Stockman’s memorial Park commemorating Livermore’s contribution of rancher-soldiers to winning WWI.

In short, the many residents with whom I have worked on this issue, have directly addressed the city council to no avail. The council is locked into its decision regarding the location of the Eden Project and simply refuses to seriously entertain moving it to a more suitable location in Livermore. We believe that the center of town is an inappropriate location for any housing project.

What Is in Our Drinking Water?

Greg Scott, Livermore

In the 20th century, the United States began treating large amounts of its public drinking water supplies with chlorine. This vastly reduced waterborne pathogen-caused disease deaths and illnesses. Chlorine works as a disinfectant by causing the loss of electrons, specifically by binding to proteins and other contaminants. This process kills living microorganisms, like bacteria, archaea, and protozoan cysts. Many viruses are also neutralized. (It is a running argument whether viruses are living or dead.)

This was thought to be working well until 1974, when concern grew over chlorine disinfectant byproducts. Since chlorine is highly reactive — being a member of the halogen group, like fluorine and bromine, on the standard Periodic Table of the Elements — it creates numerous disinfectant byproduct compounds, estimated to be 600 to 700, discovered in the last 50 years. Some of these are carcinogenic and linked to such cancers as those of the bladder and colon.

In response to these revelations and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) rulings, many U.S. public drinking water suppliers turned to the disinfectants of inorganic chloramines, which are a combination of chlorine and ammonia. Chloramination was determined an economic and effective alternative, though chloramine decomposition byproducts are less understood. Chloramines provide lower disinfectant action and are more volatile than chlorine. Chemistry techniques established that 5% to 10% of the nitrogen mass balance in chloramine-treated water output was unaccounted for from chloramine-treated inputs. At a point, over 30 years ago, a nitrogen unidentified product (UP) showed up in anion exchange chromatography columns. (Anions are negatively charged ions that are attracted to positively charged anodes, like in your lead-acid car batteries and other electrochemical batteries. This particular chromatography method uses positively charged material to capture anions.) This substance is appearing in chlora-

mine-treated U.S. drinking water supplies at concentrations up to nearly 100 micrograms per liter.

The UP structure has recently been determined and the substance identified. This molecular ion contains chlorine, nitrogen, and oxygen and has been named chloronitramide anion, a newly identified substance whose toxicity and physiological effects are unknown. Computational estimates reveal that chloronitramide is probably harmful. The study of chloronitramide anion needs to be an imperative.

Chloramination also increases the leaching of lead from pipes. The lead concentration in the water for Michelle Obama’s White House produce garden was 93 parts-per-million. Scary.

There may be good reason why chloramination is rarely used or is banned in the European Union.

Compassion?...Marat/Sade

Daryl R Carlson, Livermore

“Compassion is the property of the privileged classes. When the pitier lowers himself to give to a beggar, he throbs with contempt. To preserve his riches he pretends to be moved, and his gift to the beggar amounts to no more than a kick,” from the Peter Weiss play, “Marat/Sade.” Aristocrat DeSade, averse to a certain trip to the guillotine during the French Revolution, finds himself secreted in an insane asylum, producing a play about the assassination of firebrand John-Paul Marat, with DeSade and the inmates serving as actors; an intellectual exercise, com-dram musical farce.

Which brings us back to Livermore and the perpetual multi-aliased wealthy “Citizens Group,” the Geritol PAC, who when they could not con the council into dropping the Eden project downtown, found a court order to delay it for yet another year. In spite of two successive city elections when they failed to garner a council majority to dash the hope and dreams of working families, the battle cry was “Let the People Vote,” — well they have, and they said “No.”

I suspect that the majority of this PAC purchased city homes decades ago when the housing cost was just unfair instead of obscene and criminal. They have benefited from Howard Jarvis’s Prop 13, which kept them from paying fair property tax on the evolving value of their homes. Their refrigerators are stocked. No worries about paying for pricey prescriptions either. Most importantly, they confuse wealth with wisdom.

Newsom: Most Corrupt Man in CA

Alan Marling, Livermore

PG&E and other big utilities don’t like rooftop solar as it cuts into their profits. They would rather Californians burn alive in their homes than see a dip in their quarterly earnings. Once

again, Governor Newsom has let PG&E get away with murder.

Gavin Newsom is the most corrupt man in California. Directly and indirectly, he has accepted over \$700,000 from PG&E, according to a 2019 Washington Post article. By now it’s likely over a million.

Gavin Newsom vetoed SB 1374, which was the legislature’s gambit to push back against the Governor’s corruption. His energy commission (CPUC) made a ruling that was both harmful and outrageous. They declared that power produced by rooftop solar installed by schools, churches, and farms belongs not to the people who paid for it, but to PG&E. You then have to pay a cut to the corporation. This seizure of property built after 2023 discourages many from installing rooftop solar in the first place, during a climate crisis, and crushes small businesses. It helps no one and nothing except for PG&E’s bottom line.

We will need both rooftop solar as well as solar farms to meet CA’s goals, according to the Joint Agency Report: Charting a path to a 100% Clean Energy Future. However, PG&E can only profit off solar farms, so they ask their creature, Gavin, to suppress rooftop solar. His appointees in the CPUC changed the rules to take away benefits for installing solar on your house, diminishing the common-sense option into a luxury item.

Downtown Housing

Richard Ryon, Livermore

Move Eden Housing and the Livermore voters who brought this case are extremely pleased that the Court found that the City violated the California Elections Code this past June when the City Council rescinded the original agreement with Eden Housing and immediately reapproved a nearly identical version.

The Court’s finding that the City’s approval was “too clever by half” is correct, as the City clearly sought to avoid the referendum of the Eden Housing agreement. Just three months before the City Council’s action, the First District Court of Appeal determined that the referendum was a valid and appropriate exercise of the voters’ constitutional rights.

It is unfortunate that the City continues to take unlawful actions and refuses to listen to the concerns of the referendum’s proponents. There remain solutions to the long-running dispute about this property and the future of downtown Livermore that would benefit residents and businesses, and still result in much needed affordable housing being built.

The proponents hope that the City considers those concerns and makes adjustments to its downtown plan. This is the time for the City to use its leadership to bring a divided community together.

(See MAILBOX, page 5)

THE Independent

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The annual Tri-Valley Turkey Burn run kicked off in Ken Mercer Sports Park in Pleasanton on Thanksgiving, Nov. 28. The 5k/10k/stroll was organized by the Pleasanton North Rotary and drew more than 2,400 participants. Donations supported Tri-Valley youth programs. (Photo — Doug Jorgensen)

MAILBOX

(Continued from page 4)

For now, the City must rescind its illegal resolution readopting the agreement and comply with the Elections Code, as required by the Court of Appeal’s opinion earlier this year. It can simply rescind its illegal restatement of agreement with Eden Housing, and seek alternate, nearby location for low-cost housing, such as just north of Railroad Ave. Such an action would benefit all the people of Livermore, and nearby businesses on First Street, by enlarging the veterans’ memorial park for all to enjoy.

The End

Patricia Thorstad, Livermore

I accept rejection of my Letters to the Livermore Independent as just that: “rejection” letters (or technically, rejection emails): they hurt, or used to. They don’t hurt anymore.

But, natch, they print Owen Brovont’s thank-you to the Independent Editors for “what?” Fulfilling their task of carefully editing and allowing concerns of Livermore residents and its environs to be voiced, usually, on page six of the Thursday freely-delivered newspaper filled

with all things about our town, or edge city, with several National Laboratories here, one of them two miles from my bed.

I still marvel that it is a free bulk-mail distribution; you pay for packaging in the products that you buy but the Independent even pays the shipping.

I’ve been trying to have a correction printed but been told we are concerned about local elections, and rightly so.

Rejected again; didn’t see it in the paper on the 14th.

If you take Owen Brovont’s white-washing, why not, now, take my correction to “Mofo Picture-Windows.”

Three (3) rejections so far; rear-flank attack: here is my correction to my July 11, 2024 Independent Letter to Editor:

Trump sells a pair of cheap golden sneakers not cheap: silver coins now, not with Nero’s neck, but with the Fulton County, Georgia, full-frontal mug shot.

Did you think the gift would stop whether he was elected or not? Not a realist, huh? My first letter, March 30, 2017, was technically about the squelching and squeezing away of regula-

tions that protect us. And that we should be able to feel and know falsehoods in our daily lives.

Know them? We can now quantify them: is this now, what, four or five, federal court cases postponed? To remind you, they involve the 45th and future 47th President of the United States.

His name is Donald John Trump.

Toxic PFAS

Michael Grossman, Pleasanton

Toxic PFAS (per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances), known as “forever chemicals”, are in our groundwater basin. Forever, toxic PFAS accumulates in our bodies like lead and mercury, and is just as harmful. We in the Tri-Valley are drinking tap water and accumulating PFAS in our bodies.

Since 2002 to 2023 when Mocho Wells 3 and 4 were installed at Santa Rita Rd. and Stoneridge Dr., we’ve had nine years of sufficient water and twelve years of dry and critical water, including years 2020, 2021, and 2022. During these dry and critical years, the state doesn’t provide the usual 80% of our Zone 7 wa-

ter. The state provides only 5% to 15% of Zone 7’s water in critical and dry years for which Zone 7 uses 60% to 80% groundwater to replace water withheld.

Zone 7 is the caretaker, wholesaler of the groundwater basin with full responsibility for it. If Zone 7 sells toxic groundwater to its retailers, e.g. Pleasanton, Zone 7 is responsible for removing the toxins, not the retailers. Zone 7 must bear the cost of removing PFAS from the groundwater.

The 2019 monitoring of Zone 7 groundwater found that seven out of ten of Zone 7’s wells had elevated PFAS as did 3 Pleasanton wells. Zone 7 shut its Stoneridge well and a Chain of Lakes (COL) well, while Pleasanton shut down all three of its wells.

Since 2019, Zone 7 decided the best way to remove PFAS was at the wellsite using Ion Exchange PFAS Treatment (IEPFAST). Zone 7 installed IEPFAST at the Stoneridge Well facility, opening Sept. 2023. The next IEPFAST is in process by Zone 7 at a COL Well.

Zone 7, rather than shutting Mocho Wells 2 and 3, is blend-

ing the elevated toxic PFAS Mocho Wells 2 and 3 into the lower toxic PFAS Mocho Well 4, which increases the amount of toxic PFAS into Mocho Well 4, but doesn’t decrease the elevated levels of toxic PFAS in Mocho Wells 2 and 3.

Zone 7 should immediately install IEPFAST at the three off-line Pleasanton wells and all six of the remaining Zone 7 wells that have elevated PFAS.

Zone 7 forever, toxic PFAS groundwater migrates from east to west until it fills the entire groundwater basin.

Currently we have been and still are drinking toxic PFAS water from the Zone 7 groundwater basin. PFAS has been and continues to accumulate in our bodies.

Coincidental? I Think Not

John Lawrence, Livermore

Last week, there was a factual and well-composed letter in the Mailbox section asking this paper to stop endorsing candidates for Livermore City Council. The letter criticized the paper’s “sham process” offered to candidates as a means to request an endorse-

ment. The letter was absolutely point-on regarding the inability of any candidate who opposes the views of the paper’s owner to receive an endorsement. Of course, another letter in the same issue heaped cult-like praise on the paper’s coverage of election issues. This was not coincidental! When letters critical to a viewpoint of the paper’s owner are printed, at least one other letter is included that counters the criticism. Even a casual observer can see what is happening. The letter writing minions are getting advanced notice in time to submit letters supporting their leader’s views, most often with

(See MAILBOX, page 6)

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Joshua Hydrick of Livermore Troop 924 has earned his Eagle badge, the highest achievement for a scout. He has learned along the way many lifelong skills such as first aid, citizenship, wilderness survival and leadership. To earn the rank of Eagle, a scout must choose a project and manage it to completion. Joshua planted 3 shade trees at Joe Michell Elementary School in fabricated planter boxes. (Photo courtesy of Jennifer Hydrick)

MAILBOX

(Continued from page 5)

deceptive statements and opinions. No doubt these writers will be ensuring readers that this is not the case.... but let's just wait and see.

Strengthening the Community's Safety Net
Patricia Munro, Livermore

The City of Livermore sends out regular community updates (sign up on the city website). The update last week was full of upcoming activities from an app to find local businesses to information about Livermore's "Moon Tree" to a report on Climate Ac-

tion Plan progress. But it was the grants supporting "Essential Services for Low-Income Residents and Vulnerable Populations" that stood out the most.

Almost one million dollars (which sounds like more than it is) was awarded to a variety of local non-profits. These grants, funded largely by federal and state grants, are administered through the city's Housing and Human Services Department with the work of the Human Services Commission (why yes, there are vacancies for this advisory body! Apply here: www.livermoreca.gov/departments/

city-clerk/advisory-bodies/ap-
ply-for-an-advisory-body).

The grants help those in need of critical services, including people of all ages and types of families, unhoused people, those with disabilities, and veterans.

This year awards were given to:

Abode Services (for rental assistance), Axis Community Health, CALICO for intervention services in child abuse cases, CityServe of the Tri-Valley for one-on-one assistance in case management, CRIL for help with independent living skills and housing, Goodness Village, Open Heart Kitchen and Spectrum Community Service — both providing food assistance, and Tri-Valley Haven.

Here is a sample of what the combined efforts of these groups provided over the summer months (July 1 — Sept. 30):

- Ten households with rental assistance and case management services,
- Access to shelter services for 77 people,
- Almost two thousand people with meals or food from the food pantry,
- More than four hundred people with case management or supportive services.

There is more information here: www.livermoreca.gov/Home/Components/News/News/1211/3774, including success stories from CityServe of the Tri-Valley, Spectrum Community Services, Community Resources for Independent Living, Tri-Valley Haven Food Pantry, and Tri-Valley Haven Shelter and Housing.

Whatever the coming year

has in store, the work of these organizations — largely staffed by volunteers — will continue to be critical. They are examples of how collaboration among government, non-profits, and individuals helps us build a better community for all.

What the District Election Brought to Livermore
Kyoko Takayama, Livermore

The Livermore City Council election transitioned from an at-large (citywide) to a district election in 2020. The election was in the middle of the Covid shutdown. District 4 incumbent Bob Carling was unchallenged. District 3 elected Brittini Kiick, a 30-year-old community organizer with two young children, over 42-year-old Peter Patterson. She ran on equity and inclusion, and for the city of Livermore to support events like the annual June-teenth, cultural and Livermore Pride festivals.

In 2022, Evan Branning, a teacher, won the election on his service to the county and the city in District 1, and Ben Barrientos, a retired teacher and longtime Livermore Lions Club president won the election in District 2.

This year, District 3 elected Steven Dunbar, an engineering supervisor at GILLIG, planning commissioner and passionate public transportation advocate. Kristie Wang, an immigrant activist who worked to ban vaping in the Livermore and beyond, has served as a school board member since 2020, and got elected in District 4.

Livermore is now represented by diverse and somewhat younger elected officials with different

backgrounds, and I believe that it is a result of a districting election. I see their common desire to serve our city and its residents.

I thank those who engaged during the Livermore's districting process. During the redistricting, our city council members brought their knowledge of the communities to the process without the ego to protect themselves that I am accustomed to seeing. Fair maps require community participation because those who live in the communities are the only ones who know them. And yet we struggle to get them. Livermore School District's transition to the district election is ongoing and requires our participation. I urge you to participate in the process at www.livermoreschools.org/

board-of-education/area-maps. District elections may not change how our schools perform right away, but it will bring our neighbors to represent us. I am looking forward to seeing who will step up and start making changes. Yes, it takes all of us to make our city and schools better.

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Steve Mirassou, owner of Steven Kent Winery, is dedicated to promoting Livermore as a world class wine region for cabernet franc. (Photo — Doug Jorgensen)

through here and creates a season that is long, much longer than Napa Valley's," Mirassou said. "Much cooler than, certainly, northern Napa Valley, and it puts a lie to a lot of people's perceptions about what this valley is."

The UC Davis study dovetailed with a need for midsize wineries to invest in planting cabernet grapes to create long term sustainability and viability for the region.

The recent Nov. 25 announcement of the purchase of the historic Concannon Vineyard by the Lemmons Family Vineyard and Darcie Kent Winery included their plans to replant the 230-acre, 141-year-old winery with cabernet franc and sauvignon blanc.

Mirassou and other advocates think cabernet franc could also be the key to unlocking the door to more world-wide recognition for Livermore Valley wines that up until now has been largely elusive.

"The area deserves more visibility," Mirassou said. "I think the winemaking community hasn't done the best job in the world, up until recently, with showing people how great the wines can be here."

In October 2022 the formerly named Livermore Valley Winegrowers Association, dedicated to the advancement, protection and promotion of the region's wines, vineyards and experiences, rebranded itself as the Livermore Valley Wine Community.

"We need to focus on something and create a reason for wine lovers to come to Livermore," Mirassou said. "You don't have an hour to talk to somebody as to why they should go across the bridge from San Francisco to Livermore: Cabernet franc, that's the only thing you should have to say."

Meredith Sarboraria, a consulting winemaker with Rodrigue Molyneaux, has been making cabernet franc for her entire career, and said she agrees with the vision of it becoming a signature grape for the Livermore Valley.

"We could say to the public, well, everything grows well in Livermore, which it does, but that's a hard sell because people roll their eyes and go, 'Yeah, whatever.'"

Mirassou said, "That's the worst marketing expression in the world, right? It doesn't tell anybody anything about why this place is special. Every great region in the world is associated with a grape, or a few, but not everything."

And what makes cabernet franc so appealing as a signature grape? For one, it has not been claimed by other regions in California. "We could try to go with something else, like petite syrah, which would kind of make sense because this is where petite syrah was first varietally labeled back in the '60s," Sarboraria said. "But the thing is, not all people like petite syrah. We could go with (cabernet sauvignon) because the mother vine of cab is here in Livermore,

but that's already claimed by Napa and who wants to compete with Napa?"

Sarboraria has long felt cabernet franc was the right varietal choice for Livermore. "It makes a really elegant wine and doesn't get enough recognition."

Unless you consider the negative recognition the grape received in the 2004 movie "Sideways." The overly critical wine snob Miles, played by Paul Giamatti, slammed cab franc as "flabby" and "pointless."

Sarboraria addressed the fictional dissing at a women-made cab franc tasting a few years ago and opened with the snarky quote from the film. Nobody knew where the quote was from when she asked them. "I think they mostly remember the merlot-bashing."

For Mirassou, cabernet franc is "the sexiest grape out there. It's the most alluring, the most food friendly." And there's a mysteriousness to it that is the contrapuntal variety to Napa-dominated cabernet sauvignon that he said gives a "what you see, what you taste, what you smell is what you get" vibe.

Not so with cabernet franc which has a more mysterious herbal edge, often associated with the presence of pyrazines, a compound that exists in grapevines and gives wine more of a green character.

For Mirassou part of the allure is allowing those savory herbal qualities to naturally shine through. "For me there's a connection to

all growing things. It sort of connects you to the well-spring of life."

He and the guild hope the grape becomes a connector to shine a light on the whole region.

And to those in the wine community who think focusing on one or two grapes means by dint of that, excluding everything else, Mirassou said, "That's not our point at all."

"It's sort of an idea of creating a hook, creating a point of conversation about what makes Livermore special," he added. "And then you come here, and you taste these amazing Verdelhos and amazing merlot and amazing cabernet sauvignon and amazing Italian varieties and the like and then you get an opportunity to introduce your passion project as an individual winery to wine consumers who have come here because they were looking for cabernet franc."

THE Independent

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The Independent is hiring a part-time (approximately 20 hours/week) photojournalist to be our primary shooter, someone who also is able to step in as needed to write extended cutlines or possibly short stories. The ideal candidate will be a self-starter plugged into community events in the Tri-Valley, and open to seizing opportunities for attention-grabbing imagery as they encounter them. The person filling this staff position will be able to maintain an ongoing photography calendar, work with and provide input to the editor and writers to determine priorities and image selection, and produce a variety of photography for print and online every week, including news, features and sports. Night and weekend work will be required to cover events. The staff photojournalist also will be responsible for guiding and/or training freelance photographers or interns.

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PATHWAYS

(Continued from front page)

lations in the Guided Pathways program. According to the school, 31% of LPC students say they identify themselves as such. However, any low-income student can also benefit from the program.

“The goal is to create clear pathways to a student’s future; help students explore their options; assist them in staying on their path and ensure they’re taking the proper courses to achieve their goals in a timely and efficient manner,” said Woods.

Goals for the first year of the grant include establishing student success teams and engaging students around their personalized plans, Woods said.

“This is something that is already underway,” said Woods. “We are also recruiting more intentionally from our local

community, by going out with outreach teams and talking about LPC and student ambassador’s experiences there.”

In the spring of 2025, the program will continue to support students by using student ambassadors as part of the support team for the different pathways. These ambassadors will reach out to students with opportunities for programs, classes or activities they might be interested in and would support their educational journeys, and by engaging with prospective students at outreach events.

Alberto Missael Moreno Herrera is one of eight current student ambassadors in the Pathways Program. The 18-year-old film and media studies major is the son of Mexican immigrants who moved to California before

Herrera was born. His duties as an ambassador in the Livermore area include having a strong understanding of the many resources LPC offers. As part of his own education, Herrera has been working in LPC’s marketing department where he has had the opportunity to create promotional videos. He said being involved in supporting students in this venue while at the same time being a participant has been incredibly beneficial.

“Personally, I feel like I have the chance of helping my community (with this program),” said Herrera. “As a Mexican American, I’ve always wanted to learn more about my people and see how I fit in in our cultural narrative. In high school, I was involved in the International Baccalaureate and the National Honor

Society, and I met a lot of awesome students who were advocates for issues they were passionate about . . . I too wanted to do something similar. I wanted to be like the people I admired and help people and advocate for issues I’m passionate for.”

Andre Valle, a 2024 graduate of Granada High School and LPC’s Middle College Program, which allowed him to earn college credits while still in high school, is on track to receive his associate’s degree in the spring. Valle plans to transfer to a four-year university in the fall where he hopes to ultimately pursue a master’s in counseling and a doctorate in educational leadership. For the 18-year-old LPC ambassador, the program has been a double blessing.

“As a dual-enrollment stu-

dent in the Middle College Program at Las Positas, it was initially difficult to figure out the career and education path I wanted to pursue,” said Valle, whose parents are from El Salvador. “But using tools that LPC offers, allowed me to investigate majors and careers that I had not yet considered. As a student ambassador, I work to highlight the resources and services around campus that aid students in figuring out their career and educational paths. As a specialist in the Career and Transfer Center, I collaborate at campus events, giving class presentations, and assisting in outreach.”

Guided Pathways is one of several programs at Las Positas College that promote student success among traditionally marginalized communities. Umoja is a guided pro-

gram and learning community for Black and other students to enhance their appreciation for the literature, art, culture and critical thought of the African Diaspora worldwide. Puente is a similar program focused on, but not exclusive to, the Hispanic/Latinx student body.

LPC President Dyrell Foster said the grant would have a long-term effect on the success of the program and its students.

“Our mission is to empower students to succeed in their academic and career goals and this grant will provide the resources needed to support them every step of the way,” Foster said in a recent press release. “We’re excited about the transformative impact this initiative will have not only for our Hispanic/Latinx and low-income students, but for the entire LPC community.”



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Artist-Winemaker Produces Olive Oil Unique to the Tri-Valley

By Christina Cavallaro

Harvest time in the Livermore Valley usually brings to mind visions of wine. But with a growing climate not dissimilar to villages in Italy,

Spain, France and Greece when it comes to climate and agriculture, Livermore also produces outstanding olive oil. And local producers of it don't have very far to go to mill it, because the Olivina

Estate, established in 1881 and owned by the Crohare family since 1939, is located down on Arroyo Road. The Crohare family has the largest olive orchard in the East Bay with almost

11,000 olive trees, but they also press the olives of many other producers from Livermore and other cities. The first customer in line for milling this year (and in 2023, too) was Nancy Rodrigue, who owns Rodrigue Molyneaux Winery in Livermore with her husband Garry. Rodrigue has earned a reputation over the past 25 years for her stand-out, award-winning Italian and French Bordeaux-style wines, but the avid painter and expert gardener has somehow managed to stand out among olive oils too, as the valley's only producer of a single varietal kalamata oil, often called koroneiki oil. Charles Crohare said, "I am not aware of any others that do exclusively Kalamata." And it's not a cultivar he is accustomed to milling except for Rodrigue's fruit each year. From the living room in her home on the winery's estate, surrounded by some

of her recent paintings and her dogs Blue and Cade, Rodrigue explained how she landed on kalamata as her olive of choice when most people tend to grow and press California mission, Spanish and Italian varietals. She had memories of traveling on motorbikes through Greece with her husband when they were younger, tasting olive oil from the small producers there with their stone presses and straw mats. "And I know what really good olive oil tastes like," Rodrigue said. "And to me, good olive oil — it's full bodied and rich — and I think kalamata is one of the best expressions for that." How the Rodrigues went from tasting olive oil in Greece to tending 31 trees and making their own oil, she's not entirely sure. "I don't know, it wasn't like this huge plan really. It was like, 'We could put some olives here.'" They

planted grapes in 1997 and the olives followed in 2000. Kalamata varietal seedlings were not very easy to find then. "We found this place up in the foothills and they had kalamatas. They were like little sticks." Those little sticks are now full grown and produce a ton of olives each year and an oil with a luxurious mouth feel, robust pungency and green earthy aliveness that reflects the natural beauty of its surroundings on her garden-filled property. And those garden views have inspired the artful labels for the wine and oil, designed mostly by Rodrigue herself. Even her choice of bottle, a tall, graceful form — "I think it's called 'bellissima,'" she said — feels like an object of art. She gestured around her at the trees and gardens visible through her living room windows. "This is my palette," she said.



Nancy Rodrigue, co-owner of Rodrigue Molyneaux Winery, also grows a single-varietal kalamata olive for pressing into her own labeled oil. (Photo — Christina Cavallaro)

LIVERMORE (Continued from front page)

community with differing needs and perspectives. I look forward to what we can do together to move our city forward." Barrientos, the lone "no" vote in the past on some issues, said he expects that might be the case again in the coming years. Barrientos said he hopes to forge relationships with the two new members. He believes he will be able to work with Dunbar and Wang, and that they don't have to be in 100% agreement. He said Dunbar possibly shares common ground on developing more trails for recreation. "I think he's open to talk," Barrientos said. In contrast, he said outgoing Councilmember Brittni Kiick never spoke with him in the two years he has served on the council.

Urban Boundaries at Issue

The Crosby Property, a controversial patch of unincorporated land separating Dublin and Livermore, is likely to remain in the forefront of issues facing Livermore in 2025. Dublin voters recently approved the city's Measure II, which amends the city's 2013 Open Space Initiative and allows the council to annex land east of the city's urban limit line for development. Livermore opposes development on the property and has negotiated with Dublin to try to resolve the matter, which will play a significant role in how the cities will pay for the extension of Dublin Boulevard into Livermore. Two community groups went to court to try to keep the measure off the ballot, but Alameda County Superior Court Judge Michael Markman denied the motion. The case to determine whether the vote will stand is expected to be held in the coming year. Wang said that with Dublin's passage of the measure, she wants to "make sure Livermore's interest in maintaining an open space buffer with Dublin is prioritized." "Open space is a priority for us in Livermore, and our city has expended considerable resources to maintain it," Wang said. "In the spring, our council approved the annexation of unincorporated land near the airport within our urban growth boundary for light industrial use. I will continue to support efforts to maintain our open space while balancing them with our community's need for residential and commercial space." Barrientos has voted against a study of development outside the UGB, and on the campaign trail Wang had said there was no compelling proposal to warrant annexing the land east of Greenville Avenue. Two losing candidates in November's elections

said the urban growth boundaries and the Eden Housing project should remain a top focus for the new council. Tom Soules, who lost 61% to 39% to Wang, said he believes the council should strongly support the urban growth boundary. "Unless there's a serious reason for extending the urban growth boundary, I wouldn't do that," Soules said. "I know there is not a serious reason right now. "There's a chance that we've influenced things," he said. "That's all we can do, because we lost." Jeff Kaskey, who came in second to Dunbar 41% to 31% — David Farley came in third with 28% of the vote — said the council's top priority should be "preserving the character of Livermore" by defending the UGB and preventing the overdevelopment within the city. He said the council should focus on preserving the open space buffer with Dublin on the west and refrain from studying development east of Greenville Avenue.

Eden Case Remains Open

The Eden Housing project — first proposed in 2018 — continues to remain controversial and in litigation. The city has filed an appeal of a Judge Markman's recent ruling against the city's proposed agreement with the developer. Barrientos, elected largely for his opposition to the plan as it stands, said the controversy will end if residents get their chance to decide one way or the other. "I would love to get downtown settled right now," he said. Wang also said the issue should be resolved. "My fellow Councilmember-elect Steven Dunbar and I both spent a lot of time engaging with residents door-to-door during our campaigns and heard a lot of interest in seeing our city move forward with its plans," Wang said. "While the community may have different perspectives on projects, we have to make decisions that are legally viable and financially responsible. A recurring theme in what I heard from Livermore residents is the desire for us to come together as a community to make progress and not continue to expend public resources in ongoing disagreements." Soules said he hopes the council will change direction. "We had a lot of support for the idea of there being more open space downtown, not building it all up, which is what's going to happen," Soules said. "I think with the new council, they've got an opportunity maybe to rethink this and hopefully come up with a good plan." Kaskey also support-

ed the council finding a downtown development that met a broader range of community needs. Climate Work to Continue Wang said she also wants the city to continue its efforts to meet the goals of the city's Climate Action Plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Barrientos, Livermore's representative on the Ava Community Energy board, said the electricity generator is planning projects to place solar panels above Livermore's police station, the city's water treatment plant, and city council chambers. The airport might be involved too, he said. "They're working on the pricing," he added, "and hopefully trying to get them by January."

Livermore General Plan

The city also is working on completing its new General Plan, a document that will set the agenda for the city's growth over the next 25 years. Wang said she has attended most of the meetings of the General Plan Advisory Committee, an advisory body that met several times in the past year to set priorities for the new 20-year general plan. She said she wants to remain engaged on "issues regarding the balance of designating land for needed housing and commercial space, while maintaining open space and our urban growth boundary." "An important priority for me is asset management and public safety, which are critical responsibilities of local government," she said. "Underpinning all of our decisions is fiscal responsibility and maintaining the financial health of our city, and this will be a priority for me as it was for me on our school board." Wang added that residents are concerned about traffic safety in their neighborhoods, and she plans to look into implementing traffic calming measures, particularly near schools. Barrientos said he'd like to see more attention given to the city's less advantaged Springtown area, including more trails, picnic areas and community gardens. Kaskey said he hopes the new council will be more receptive to opposing views and be respectful and compassionate. He added that the council can accomplish many priorities at once. "I believe they can improve community safety while also finding a positive solution to incorporate both low-income housing and excellent public space in downtown, while also encouraging Livermore as a technology hub with such welcome new ventures as the electric planes at Livermore Airport," he said.



Livermore Police to bring smiles to Shop with a Cop participants on Dec. 14. Donate to the program here: <https://bit.ly/3BoKE3l>. (Photo courtesy of Livermore Police Department)

'Shop with a Cop' Fundraising Falling Short

Livermore police last week issued a plea for donations for their annual "Shop with a Cop" program for children from low-income families. The Livermore Police Department (LPD) said it had raised less than \$4,000, well short of its \$10,000 goal. The annual project pairs children with officers who

take them holiday shopping to buy gifts for their families and themselves. "This program is about more than just giving gifts," LPD said in a news release. "It's about spreading joy, building connections, and letting these kids know they have a community that supports them."

Last year, LPD reported raising \$21,000 and helping 66 elementary and middle school students identified by the Livermore Valley Joint United School District. This year, LPD has established a GoFundMe fundraiser for its "Shop with a Cop" program. To contribute, go to tinyurl.com/y98x2aaj.

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CONCANNON

(Continued from front page)

the 1880s without losing sight of Concannon’s pioneering efforts with cabernet sauvignon and petite sirah.”

They plan to phase out international bottling operations and return to organic farming techniques while also providing new amenities for local winemakers by repurposing Concannon’s current bottling pavilion into a “high quality maker space for small family wineries.”

“To better serve our neighbors, we hope to provide much needed custom crush and storage capacity to local winegrowers by next harvest,” the Kents said.

The previous owner of Concannon, The Wine Group, is a global wine producer that owns over 60 wine brands, including Franzia, Cupcake Vineyards and 7 Deadly Wines. The corporation’s Livermore headquarters on the Concannon property will be occupied by Almost Famous by mid-2025.

The Wine Group first listed the Concannon property for sale in late 2019. At that time, the agent representing The Wine Group, Brooks Pedder of Cushman & Wakefield, told The Independent that Concannon’s listing was due to the redundancy of the vineyard’s functions within The Wine Group’s larger portfolio of brands.

“The sale of Concannon supports The Wine Group’s continuous focus on aligning our portfolio to our long-term goals,” said John Sutton, CEO of The Wine Group, in a statement last week.

“We’re honored to have

played a role in Concannon’s rich history and are pleased to sell it to local winegrowers who will continue to build on the legacy of one of Livermore’s foundational wineries. We look forward to watching the brand’s continued success in the Livermore Valley Wine Community and beyond.”

In 2017, the Concannon property was annexed by the city per The Wine Group’s request in order to obtain city sewer services. As part of the annexation, the property was placed under conservation easement with an agricultural zoning, limiting additional development on the property. The new owners plan to meet with city and Tri-Valley Conservancy staff to discuss how to best proceed.

““We plan to honor the conservation easement and maintain at least 90% of the estate in wine grapes,” said David Kent. “Inside the estate’s building envelope, we intend to focus less on bottling operations and more on providing several of the key wine country services envisioned in the South Livermore Valley Area and Specific Plans, which our region currently lacks.”

Brandi Lombardi, executive director of the Livermore Valley Wine Community, commented on the purchase: “The Livermore Valley Wine Community is thrilled to have the Kents and Lemmonses take over operations of the historic Concannon Vineyard. Their commitment to the sustainability of the Livermore Valley wine country is unmatched and we know they will be great stewards of this property.”

HORSES

(Continued from front page)

an accident brought on by cellulitis and myofascitis, ailments that affect the muscles. The other was described as “neurologic.”

The recent rise in deaths at the fairgrounds is likely due in part to the increase in racing at the fairgrounds with the closure last year of the iconic Golden Gate Fields track in Berkeley, said Larry Swartzlander, executive director of the California Authority of Racing Fairs (CARF). As a result of the closure, Pleasanton was awarded additional races by CARF from now through the end of December.

CARF is composed of members of area fairs who provide horse racing to Pleasanton, Ferndale, Fresno and Cal Expo in Sacramento. Also, with the closure of Golden Gate Fields earlier this year, Pleasanton received an additional 500 horses, bringing the fairground’s total number of stabled horses to 850. The average age of the horses is three to four years old, Swartzlander said. Approximately 50 horses race on each day of racing at the fairgrounds.

“The influx of injuries is an unfortunate risk correlated to the increase in horse population,” Swartzlander said. “While the racetrack and barn areas are maintained with the same excellent condition and safety measures, the substantial increase in horses has increased the chance of injury.”

However, he added, “one death is one too many when it comes to the care of our equine athletes.”

During the 2023-2024 fiscal year, which ended June 30, there were 87 fatalities at racetracks throughout California. The advocacy group Kill Racing Not Horses (KRNH) estimates the number to be 99 deaths, but Marten said 12 of the horses KRNH is reporting were sick horses that came from New Mexico and were just present in California when they expired; they never raced here.

“Those horses came from another state and died from a virus,” said Marten. “You can’t attribute those to California horse racing.”

Horse racing, and gambling on the races, is a big business in California. The horse racing industry is responsible for billions of dollars in economic impact and tens of thousands of jobs, according to a report released by the American Horse Council.

In 2023, the equine economy provided a total value of \$11.6 billion to California’s economy and a direct contribution of \$6.5 billion to state gross domestic product, according to the report. This marks a significant increase from the American Horse Council’s previous report in 2018, which found a total value of \$8.3 billion to the state economy and a direct contribution of \$4.5 billion to the state GDP.

However, according to the Paulick Report, a thoroughbred racing website, in the first 11 days of an October-December meet, the average daily handle, or total amount of bets placed, for Golden State Racing has declined by 65% from the wagering numbers generated one year ago at Golden Gate Fields. The amount plummeted from an average of \$2.3 million per day to approximately \$800,000. Golden State Racing officials had projected only a 10 percent decline due to the track’s closure, according to the report.

Marten added that while the deaths are tragic, the overall number of equine deaths has decreased significantly throughout the state over the past few years. In fiscal years 2016-’17, there were 206 horse racing-related deaths in California, five of them in Pleasanton. In 2017-’18, there were 138 deaths statewide, with three in Pleasanton. The 2019-’20 period saw 122 deaths, two of which were in Pleasanton.

The statewide numbers of deaths have continued to drop, to 72 in 2020-’21 (with zero in Pleasanton), 66 in 2021-’22 (one in Pleasanton), 69 in 2022-’23 (four in Pleasanton).

Marten attributes the steady decline in equine deaths to better veterinary care, firmer protocols pinpointing issues that might be dangerous to the horses

(such as the number and type of injections horses receive) and having veterinarians supervise training exercises at the tracks.

“Each death causes us to look and see if there was a hole somewhere in the rules,” said Marten. “What happens (after a death) is each and every trainer and owner and those responsible for the horse’s care, meet with the vet and trainers with all the records, in order to better understand that fatality ... what all this is really aimed at is doing what we can to prevent further injuries.”

Martha Sullivan, a spokesperson with KRNH, said the CHRB is not doing enough to stem the rate of horse racing deaths.

“The unprecedented deaths of 11 racehorses at Pleasanton since June 3, indicate to us that the racetracks are unable to provide the preventative checks,” Sullivan said.

KRNH says the answer is to outlaw horse racing and subsequent gambling on the sport in California. Gambling on horse races was legalized via an amendment to the state constitution in 1933.

The group is hoping to get a proposition placed on the November 2026 ballot to repeal the legalization of betting on live horse racing. “93 years is long enough for horses’ lives to be risked and taken for mere gambling,” Sullivan added.

OBITUARIES

M. Lee Davisson
Sept. 1, 1962 — Sept. 6, 2024



Lee was a kind-hearted and intelligent man, a dear friend, and a devoted husband and father who spent his career as an isotope geochemist and groundwater consultant. He passed away at the age of 62 at home in Livermore, California on Sept. 6, 2024, from Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS).

Lee was born to David and Billie Davisson on Sept. 1, 1962, in Indianapolis, Indiana.

During his childhood, he had a newspaper route, getting up at 5 a.m. every morning, a habit he kept throughout his career. A few cross-country road trips with his family spurred a lifelong curiosity about geology. After spending his childhood in Indianapolis, he graduated from high school in Manassas, Virginia, and moved to the San Francisco Bay Area, where he started working in the printing industry. After his father, and then his mother died before he turned 24, he decided to return to San Francisco City College, and later transferred to the University of California, Davis to earn his Bachelor’s in Geology and his Master’s in Geochemistry under the mentorship of Robert Criss. They later became co-authors, co-researchers, and shared a 35+ year friendship.

Lee joined the Chemistry and Materials Science Division of Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in 1992. Here, he was instrumental in developing innovative applications of isotope hydrology to support multiple laboratory programs in water resources and groundwater protection. His work in Southern Nevada was prominent during the evaluation of environmental effects of the underground nuclear weapons detonations at the Nevada Test Site. Lee also developed significant collaborations with the Orange County Water District in Southern California to advise and support their groundwater restoration and recycling program, one of the earliest, largest, and most heralded programs of this sort in the world.

After moving between several divisions, he transferred to the Forensic Science Center (FSC). Here, he worked on projects in nuclear non-

proliferation, ranging from detailed analytical chemistry projects in his laboratory to first responder training events and also to scientific engagement projects across the globe. He was among the first U.S. technical teams to travel to Libya and Jordan to train Libyan and Iraqi nuclear weapons scientists on how to establish water quality programs. Lee also traveled to and consulted with nuclear scientists in Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, and Tajikistan, aiding in their nuclear non-proliferation programs.

Later, he supported the FSC’s Department of State Bureau of International Security and Nonproliferation programs by training emergency first responders from Iraq, Kenya, Malaysia and Lebanon in detecting threat chemical and biological materials. As an instructor, Lee provided our foreign partners with the skills needed to protect themselves during a suspect threat event, screen for suspect threat materials, rescue victims, and implement decontamination procedures.

Above all, at the Lab, Lee is remembered as “the nicest of colleagues and friends. He was inclusive, collaborative, imaginative, constantly learning, and always ready to lend a hand. Lee was incredibly accomplished, talented, and passionate ... but never arrogant or self-important. In short, Lee was “the kind of guy that makes going to work worth it.”

In 2012, he started his own groundwater consulting business to foster groundwater solutions in the Owens Valley, Medicine Lake, Hat Creek, the Amargosa Desert, Mount Shasta, and the Republic of Haiti, and help clients determine the resiliency of their groundwater.

Lee met his wife, Heidi, while they were neighbors in San Francisco and married a few years later. During their 36 years together, they raised their kids and traveled to places like France, England, Australia, Canada, Hawaii, and Israel. They enjoyed hiking, skiing, musical performances, theater, and annual trips to Lake Tahoe and beyond with their extended families. Family trips always included some form of geological exploration, whether in the Mojave Desert, Lehman Caves, Zion, Bryce, or any place on the side of the road.

Lee was absolutely devoted to making sure he showed up for his family. He started work early, took a break to make his kids breakfast and lunch, went back to work, and returned home to have dinner with his family. Sometimes, after the kids were in bed, he would continue working from home or go back to the Lab to continue his experiments. He also wished to expand their horizons and wanted them all to graduate from college.

He gave to others knowing he would get back tenfold. He was an adult literacy volunteer through the Livermore Library Literacy Program, a Cub Scout Den Leader, and an active president of the Livermore Lithophiles, participating in Science Odyssey and Del Arroyo 4-H.

Lee is survived by his wife Heidi, his extraordinary children Joshua, David, and Sarah, his brothers, Jo and Pete, and his sister Cemantha, his nephew, nieces, and grandniece, and many cousins. He is remembered as a supportive and loving husband and father, a passionate enthusiast of art and music, and as someone characterized by his deep sense of integrity, humility, and curiosity. He will be greatly missed by his family and friends.

A funeral and memorial service were held on Sept. 11, 2024.

Donations can be made in Lee’s name to the Lee Davisson Memorial Scholarship Fund at the Pedrozzi Foundation, Congregation Beth Emek, the ALS Network, Outward Bound, and the Nature Conservancy.

Phillip Nolan Dean, 90 years old, passed away on Nov. 20 after a short illness. He was born in Houston, Texas, one of five children of Mary and James Dean. After high school, he attended what was then Rice Institute (now University) and received his BA and MA in physics. He joined the U.S. Air Force in 1957 and served as first lieutenant at the time of his discharge in 1961 when he became a staff member at Los Alamos National Laboratory. In 1974, he moved to Livermore to work as a biophysicist until he retired in 1993 after 32 years with the University of California.

It was then that he had time

Phillip N. Dean
1934 — 2024

to develop his artistic skills and learn to draw and paint, activities he enjoyed and loved the rest of his life. He became the president of the Livermore Cultural Arts Council in 1989, a position he held for ten years followed by another seven years on the board. In 1997, he joined the Livermore Rotary Club, and his life changed. He truly loved Rotary and all it stood for and eventually served as the club president in 2013.

Together with Joan Seppala and Phil Wente, he founded Livermore Valley Performing Arts Center (LVPAC) whose goal was to build two performing arts theaters in downtown Livermore. In the

Paul H. Bauman, Jr.
March 10, 1039 — Dec. 1, 2024



Paul was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

As an only child, Paul knew the importance of family and dedicated his life to them. On any given day, he could be found at dance recitals, coaching soccer games, watching track meets, or whatever Brian and Paula were into. He continued the same support with his grandchildren at dance recitals, soccer games, baseball and golf matches.

He loved camping, and many vacations were spent traveling the country in their van, pulling various trailers behind. By far, his favorite place to visit was Pismo Beach.

Paul migrated from Pittsburgh to Denver, where he met his wife of 57 years, Karen. They moved to Milwaukee, Wisconsin, for a few years, where Brian and Paula were born, before they were transferred to sunny Livermore, California, the place they called home for over 50 years.

Paul loved his many pets, but was especially fond of his dogs, Sam, Hobo, Chicka, Levi

and Cody. They were his faithful companions.

Paul was an active member of Asbury Methodist Church in Livermore. He was a proud member who led youth groups and was particularly proud of the growth and expansion of the church over the years. Paul was proud of his faith, which was developed by some early religious mentors in Pittsburgh. He was also a member of the Masonic and Eastern Star organizations for over 50 years.

Michael Shaun Mullins
Nov. 24, 1964 — Oct. 30, 2024



Michael Shaun Mullins of Livermore, California, passed away Wednesday, Oct. 30, 2024, at Kaiser Medical Center, Santa Clara, California. Michael was born on Nov. 24, 1964, in Marin County, California. He graduated from Fremont High School in Sunnyvale, California and from Stanislaus State University in Turlock, California. He worked as a Sr. Financial Manager at Five9 in San Ramon, California. He is survived by his mother, Judy Mullins, of Patterson, Cal-

ifornia; brother, Brian (Elena)

beginning he served as secretary, treasurer, and ultimately the executive director. The trio succeeded in building the Bankhead Theater which hosted an opening gala in October 2007. He was very proud of this accomplishment and that the administrative offices of the theater are named in his honor.

He was a good, industrious, charming, intelligent, giving man who loved his community and contributed to it for 50 years.

Phillip is survived by Muriel Frechette, his wife of 60 years, his son Derek, and two grandsons, Miles and Graham, of Hailey, Idaho. A memorial celebration of his life will be held at a later date.

He spent the majority of his career working for the General Electric Lamp Division before he started his second career working for Rapid Displays. After retirement, Paul could be found at the golf course hunting for lost balls and chasing that elusive perfect round with his golf buddies. He was president of the Men’s Senior Golf Club for several years and a marshal at Las Positas Golf Course.

He leaves his wife Karen Bauman of Livermore, California, his son Brian Bauman his wife Leigh Ann and their daughters Kate and Stella, his daughter Paula McClen-don, her husband Joe and their son and daughter Nick and Kayla, and his brother-in-law Dale Myers.

A memorial service will be held on Wednesday, Dec. 11 at 3 p.m. at Asbury United Methodist Church in Livermore, California.

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

Mullins; nephews Makaio and Logan Mullins; nieces Briele and Alexa Mullins all of Sunnyvale, California and girlfriend, Daniela Williams, of Alameda, California. Michael enjoyed sports, photography and traveling and was fortunate enough to have traveled extensively around the world. A private celebration of life will be held sometime in December. Any memorial donations should be made to the JW House in Santa Clara, California.

Amador Valley High Triumphs in First NCS Football Title

By Phil Jensen

The Amador Valley High School football team produced the program’s first North Coast Section championship in impressive fashion. A strong second-half surge propelled the Dons to a 42-18 victory over Bishop O’Dowd-Oakland in the NCS Division II championship game on Nov. 29 at Dublin High School.

“It’s a special group. Just proud of everybody,” said Amador Valley coach Danny Jones after the trophy presentation. “It was just one of those games where we kind of took over in the second half again with running the

football.”

With the victory, Amador Valley qualified for the California Interscholastic Federation North Regionals. The team will travel to face host McClymonds-Oakland on Dec. 6 at 7:30 p.m. in the Division 3-AA North Regional.

On Nov. 29, Amador Valley (9-4), the No. 2 seed, held a 14-6 lead over No. 3 Bishop O’Dowd (10-3) at halftime. But the Dons received good field position after an interception by Anthony Harrington to end O’Dowd’s first drive of the second half, and Amador Valley proceeded to score touchdowns on three of its next four possessions to put the game away.

On their first drive of the second half, the Dons gained 35 of the 47 yards on the ground. Quarterback Tristan Ti’a ran the ball in from one yard out, then also got the two-point conversion on the ground for a 22-6 Amador Valley lead with 6 minutes left in the third quarter.

“We thought, they’re going to play, man, they’re going to be wary of our pass offense,” said Ti’a, who also threw two touchdown passes in the victory. Amador Valley finished with 277 yards rushing and 76 yards passing.

Bishop O’Dowd answered the scoring run by Ti’a with a touchdown of its own on a 34-yard touchdown pass from

Devin Wilson to Deji Ajose. But the Dragons’ two-point conversion run failed, and Amador Valley then drove 75 yards and reached the end zone on the first play of the fourth quarter on a 35-yard play-action pass from Ti’a to Ben Stout. Then Ti’a connected with McKay Kenitzer on a two-point conversion pass deep in the end zone for a 30-12 Dons advantage.

“Tristan does a phenomenal job of spreading the ball out. He’s been that way all year,” Jones said. “I think that’s a big part of what makes him so great.”

It was Stout’s second TD reception of the game. In the second quarter, the senior caught a 14-yard scoring pass from Ti’a on a fade for a 14-6 Dons advantage with 3:24 left in the half. Stout finished with two catches for 49 yards.

“One-on-one coverage, 50-50 ball, that’s my play,” Stout said.

The Dons increased their advantage to 36-12 on a defensive touchdown. Gabe Gyamfi, a 6-foot-3 senior outside linebacker, returned an interception 85 yards for a score. It was his first interception of the season.

“I’m so proud of Gabe because he’s been dealing with injuries all year long,” said Jones. “He changes our defense with how physical and how good of a player he is.”

Amador Valley’s first and last touchdowns of the game were on the ground. Tommy Vespi opened the scoring with a five-yard run up the middle before a Ti’a conversion run with 1:28 left in the first quarter.

Defensively, the Dons limited Saliou Sow, O’Dowd’s leading rusher this season, to 78 yards. Wilson passed for 270 yards, but his top receiver this season, Ajose, was contained with five receptions for 75 yards.

“We were able to cover our zone and pass off to man. It worked out,” said Gyamfi about the coverage of Ajose. Jaren Beene led O’Dowd with six receptions for 115 yards.

Cross Country

A top-20 finish by Granada’s Sade Bumpus highlighted local schools’ performances at the CIF state cross-country championships on Nov. 30 at Woodward Park in Fresno.

Bumpus, a sophomore, placed 16th in the Division II girls race with a time of 18 minutes, 7.2 seconds for the 3.1 mile course. She moved up in the final mile from 18th, and was the second NCS finisher in the 203-runner race.

Another local athlete who finished in the top 75 in that race was Foothill’s Macy Mullins. The freshman placed 57th with a time of 18:50.8.

In the Division I boys race, Dublin was the top NCS team with a 17th-place finish (404 points). Its top finisher was Daniel Santhiapillai in 59th place (15:50.9). The junior steadily moved up throughout the 197-runner race, as he was 109th at the one-mile mark (5:00.2) and 76th with one mile to go.

In the Division II boys race, the top local finisher was Granada’s George Mikhael in 29th (15:39.4). Teammate Nicolai Barron added a 74th-place finish (16:06.3) in the 203-runner race, as Granada placed 15th as a team with 363 points. Amador Valley was 19th (481), led by Aiden Versteeg (82nd, 16:11.6).



Amador Valley senior Tristan Ti’a helped lead the Dons to their first NCS championship. Ti’a completed two touchdown passes and ran the ball for a third during the matchup against Bishop O’Dowd. [See photo gallery at [independentnews.com/multimedia](https://www.independentnews.com/multimedia)] (Photo — Doug Jorgensen)

‘Selected Shorts’ Returning To the Bankhead in February

“Selected Shorts,” a theatrical reading of short stories by stage and screen actors, will return to the Bankhead Theater on Sunday, Feb. 2.

Livermore Valley Arts (LVA) announced last week that comedian Wendie Malik and Bay Area native Richa Moorjani will each be reading three or four stories tailored for Livermore.

Malik is best known for her starring roles in the television sitcoms “Hot in Cleveland” and “Just Shoot Me.” She also had recurring roles in “Baywatch” and

“Frasier,” and she appeared as a character actor in several Hollywood movies.

Raised in Santa Clara County, Moorjani has had guest roles on several TV programs, including “The Mindy Project,” “NCIS: Los Angeles,” and “9-1-1.” She also had a recurring role in the Netflix comedy-drama “Never Have I Ever” from 2020 to 2023.

LVA said they would focus on stories reflecting a theme of “Better Together,” including short fiction featuring characters “that push one another to unexpected

conclusions, stories that emphasize what happens in moments of great cooperation, competing desires, and unexpected encounters.”

In addition to a nationwide tour with rotating storytellers, “Selected Shorts” is a weekly public radio program and podcast recorded live on stage in New York and has been described as “story time for adults.”

Tickets for the 3 p.m. performance at the Bankhead start at \$25 and are available online at livermorearts.org or by calling 925-373-6800.

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LEGAL NOTICES
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 610232
The following person(s) doing business as: Lily Skin Care Studio, 4230 Rosewood Dr, Suite 117, Pleasanton, CA 94588 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Lilya Bendjedid, 4230 Rosewood Dr, Suite 117, Pleasanton, CA 94588. This business is conducted by an individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 10/23/2024. Signature of Registrant/s/: Lilya Bendjedid, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 24, 2024. Expires October 23, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6178. Published November 7, 14, 21, 28, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 610122
The following person(s) doing business as: Binge Coffee House, 2199 Bancroft Way, Berkeley, CA 94720 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Boba Binge, 1004 Webster ST, Oakland, CA 94607. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Benjamin G. Brillo, Owner/Operator. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 29, 2024. Expires October 28, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6182. Published November 7, 14, 21, 28, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 610273
The following person(s) doing business as: Westo's, 2825 McArthur Blvd, Oakland, CA 94602 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): W Food

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 610133
The following person(s) doing business as: New Water Labs, 1130 65th Street Unit 301, Oakland, CA 94608 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Very Good Technology Inc., 1130 65th Street Unit 301, Oakland CA 94608. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 10/21/2024. Signature of Registrant/s/: Bradley S. Roan, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 22, 2024. Expires October 21, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6180. Published November 7, 14, 21, 28, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 610341
The following person(s) doing business as: Pressure Bright, 31338 Santa Elena Way, Union City, CA 94587 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Benjamin G. Brillo, 31338 Santa Elena 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/: Benjamin G. Brillo, Owner/Operator. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 29, 2024. Expires October 28, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6182. Published November 7, 14, 21, 28, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 610390
The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Nueva; 2. Xolo; 3. New Vintage Beverage, 2553 6th ST, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): New Vintage Beverage LLC, 2553 6th ST, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 5/2024. Signature of Registrant/s/: Mario Rubio, Manager. This statement was filed with the County Clerk

NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 610265
The following person(s) doing business as: Blown Away, 516 Jayar Place, Hayward, CA 94544 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Ryan Hartsinck, 516 Jayar Place, Hayward, CA 94544. 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/: Ryan Hartsinck, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 25, 2024. Expires October 24, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6183. Published November 7, 14, 21, 28, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 610325
The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Imperial Star Empire; 2. Emperior; 3. Empress; 4. Emprerx; 5. Emprix, 4075 Compton CT, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): John Marques Jr., 4075 Compton CT, 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/: John Marques Jr., Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 29, 2024. Expires October 28, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6185. Published November 7, 14, 21, 28, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 608842
The following person(s) doing business as: JC Skye HR Consulting, 5690 W Cog Hill Terr, Dublin, CA 94568 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Judy Wu, 5690 W Cog Hill Terr, 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: 8/22/2024. Signature of Registrant/s/: Judy Wu, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 22, 2024. Expires August 21, 2029 with legal No. 6098. Published September 5, 12, 19, 26, 2024. Alameda County letter# 289306. Corrected on The Independent with Legal No. 6187. Published November 7, 14, 21, 28, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 609747
The following person(s) doing business as: Kosmetica, 2150 Portola Ave, D214, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Reveca Pereda, 2150 Portola Ave D214, 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/: Reveca Pereda, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 31, 2024. Expires October 30, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6184. Published November 7, 14, 21, 28, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 610114
The following person(s) doing business as: Pharmily Shop, 3809 Boulder Canyon Dr, Castro Valley, CA 94552 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Mark John-Yung Lin, 3809 Boulder Canyon Dr, Castro Valley, CA 94552. This business is conducted by an individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 9/2/2024. Signature of Registrant/s/: Mark Lin, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 21, 2024. Expires October 20, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6188. Published November 14, 21, 28, December 5, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 610446
The following person(s) doing business as: Rocca Audiovisual, 45274 Industrial Dr., Fremont, CA 94538 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): The Rocca Group LLC, 45274 Industrial Dr., Fremont, CA 94538. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 7/26/2019. Signature of Registrant/s/: Jessica Rocca, Member. This statement was filed with

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 610433
The following person(s) doing business as: Takimori Collections, 24842 Sinclair St, Hayward, CA 94545 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Huang Hua, P.O. Box 12, Hayward, CA 94557. 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/: Huang Hua, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 4, 2024. Expires November 3, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6190. Published November 14, 21, 28, December 5, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 610296
The following person(s) doing business as: Bella Roma Pizzeria, 853 E. Stanley Blvd, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Nijjar Family LLC, 853 E. Stanley Blvd, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability

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Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 10/25/2024. Signature of Registrant/s/: Palwinder Singh, Manager. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 25, 2024. Expires October 24, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6191. Published November 14, 21, 28, December 5, 2024.

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 610450**

The following person(s) doing business as: Elevate Property Management Professionals, 22253 N 6th St, Castro Valley, CA 94546 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Good Doge LLC, 22253 N 6th St, Castro Valley, CA 94546. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 11/1/2024. Signature of Registrant/s/: Frank Lee, Principal. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 4, 2024. Expires November 3, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6192. Published November 14, 21, 28, December 5, 2024.

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 610400**

The following person(s) doing business as: Professional Integrity Taxes, 301 Earhart Way, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Julie Ann Rost, 301 Earhart Way, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 2/14/2024. Signature of Registrant/s/: Julie Ann Rost, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 1, 2024. Expires October 31, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6193. Published November 14, 21, 28, December 5, 2024.

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 610475**

The following person(s) doing business as: Vargas Mechanical Services, Inc., 3573 First St, Suite A, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Vargas Mechanical Services, Inc., 3573 First St, Suite A, 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/: Taurino Vargas, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 5, 2024. Expires November 4, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6194. Published November 14, 21, 28, December 5, 2024.

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 610307**

The following person(s) doing business as: Amador Cleaners, 1787 Santa Rita Rd, Pleasanton, CA 94566 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Prime Cleaners, 1739 W. San Carlos ST, Pleasanton, CA 94566. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Yongjae Ham, CEO. This statement was filed with

the County Clerk of Alameda on October 28, 2024. Expires October 27, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6195. Published November 14, 21, 28, December 5, 2024.

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 610337**

The following person(s) doing business as: BGG Publications LLC, 4971 Hollis Court, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): BGG Publications LLC, 4971 Hollis Court, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 10/29/2024. Signature of Registrant/s/: Electra Gentry, Principal. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 29, 2024. Expires October 28, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6196. Published November 14, 21, 28, December 5, 2024.

**STATEMENT OF
ABANDONMENT OF USE OF
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
ORIGINAL FILE NO. 609616**

The person(s) listed below have abandoned the use of the following fictitious business name(s): 1. Imperial Star Empire, Incorporated; 2. Incorporated; 3. Empress; 4. Emprex; 5. Emprix, 4075 Compton CT, Livermore, CA 94550. Registered by the following owner(s): Imperial Star Empire, Inc., 4075 Compton CT, Livermore, CA 94550. The fictitious business name statement was filed on 09/30/2024 in the County of Alameda. This business was conducted by a Corporation. Signature of Registrants: /s/ John Marques, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 29, 2024. The Independent, Legal No. 6197. Published November 14, 21, 28, December 5, 2024.

**NOTICE OF PETITION
TO ADMINISTER
ESTATE OF:
CASEY JOSEPH GRADWOHL
Case No. 24PR198447**

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of **CASEY JOSEPH GRADWOHL**. A Petition for Probate has been filed by: **Cynthia Gradwohl**, in the Superior Court of California, County of Santa Clara. The petition for probate requests that **Cynthia Gradwohl** be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent. The petition requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority. A hearing on the petition will be held in this court as follows: **December 18, 2024 9:01 am in Dept. 1 Superior Court of California, County of Santa Clara 191 N First Street San Jose, CA 95113** If you object to the granting of the petition, you should appear

at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney. If you are a creditor or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law. You may examine the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (Form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.

**Attorney for Petitioner:
Jennifer E. Ramirez, Esq.
2021 The Alameda, Suite 225
San Jose, California 95126**

The Independent, Legal No. 6198. Published November 21, 28, December 5, 2024.

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 610006**

The following person(s) doing business as: Suite Ladies, 4326 Las Positas Rd, Suite 101, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Brooke Cowens, 4326 Las Positas Rd, Suite 101, 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/: Brooke Cowens, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 17, 2024. Expires October 16, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6199. Published November 21, 28, December 5, 12, 2024.

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 610640**

The following person(s) doing business as: PMI All Bay, 7026 Koll Center Parkway #211, Pleasanton, CA 94566 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Reliance Property Management LLC, 7026 Koll center Parkway #211, 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: 11/14/2024. Signature of Registrant/s/: Najib Rahmatt, Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 14, 2024. Expires November 13, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6200. Published November 21, 28, December 5, 12, 2024.

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 610526**

The following person(s) doing business as: Vending Merchant Trade Inc, 1151 Saddleview CT, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Vending Merchant Trade Inc, 1151 Saddleview 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: 8/26/2024. Signature of Registrant/s/: Darshan Dixit, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 7, 2024. Expires November 6, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6201. Published November 21, 28, December 5, 12, 2024.

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 610443**

The following person(s) doing business as: Bloom's n Such, 638 Dover Wy, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Nicole Campiotti, 638 Dover Wy, 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/: Nicole Campiotti, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 4, 2024. Expires November 3, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6202. Published November 21, 28, December 5, 12, 2024.

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 602088**

The following person(s) doing business as: Commercial Maintenance Management Services, 4261 Moreland Drive, Castro Valley, CA 94546 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Alberto Giannecchini, 4261 Moreland Drive, Castro Valley, CA 94546. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 9/1/2023. Signature of Registrant/s/: Alberto Giannecchini, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 14, 2024. Expires November 13, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6203. Published November 21, 28, December 5, 12, 2024.

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 610554**

The following person(s) doing business as: Skin Evolution Esthetics and Body Bar, 30 W Neal St, Suite 200, Pleasanton, CA 94566 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Bobbie Sage, 30 W Neal St, Suite 200, Pleasanton, CA 94566. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 11/8/2024. Signature of Registrant/s/: Bobbie Sage, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 8, 2024. Expires November 7, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6204. Published November 21, 28, December 5, 12, 2024.

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 610566**

The following person(s) doing business as: Becky's Blooming Buds Daycare, 779 William Drive, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Jinhua Nie, 779 William Drive, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Jinhua Nie, Owner. This statement was filed with the County

Clerk of Alameda on November 12, 2024. Expires November 11, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6205. Published November 21, 28, December 5, 12, 2024.

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 610577**

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Replenish; 2. Replenish Marketplace; 3. Replenish Refill; 4. Replenish grocery; 5. Replenish Goods; 6. Replenish Market, 1503 Webster Street, Alameda, CA 94501 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Nursing The Planet LLC, 3030 Fernside Blvd, 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: 4/12/2024. Signature of Registrant/s/: Laria Phippen, Owner, Principal. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 12, 2024. Expires November 11, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6206. Published November 21, 28, December 5, 12, 2024.

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 610045**

The following person(s) doing business as: Jell Design Studio, 1077 Cragmont Ave, Berkeley, CA 94708 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Elle McDougald, 1079 Gragmount Ave, Berkeley, CA 94708. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 9/15/2024. Signature of Registrant/s/: Elle McDougald, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 18, 2024. Expires October 17, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6207. Published November 28, December 5, 12, 19, 2024.

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 610654**

The following person(s) doing business as: The Space Between Counseling Services, 2150 Portola Avenue Ste D #2048, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Lindsey Sauter, 2150 Portola Avenue Ste D #2048, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 11/1/2024. Signature of Registrant/s/: Lindsey Sauter, Owner. This statement

was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 15, 2024. Expires November 14, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6208. Published November 28, December 5, 12, 19, 2024.

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 610674**

The following person(s) doing business as: Guns Unlimited Repair, 8035 Iglesia Dr, Dublin, CA 94568 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Mike Grant, 8035 Iglesia Dr, 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: 9/15/1977. Signature of Registrant/s/: Mike Grant, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 18, 2024. Expires November 17, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6209. Published November 28, December 5, 12, 19, 2024.

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 610427**

The following person(s) doing business as: Kaashi Bazaar, 4225 Garibaldi PL, Pleasanton, CA 94566 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Mishita Anil, 4225 Garibaldi PL, Pleasanton, CA 94566. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Mishita Anil, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 4, 2024. Expires November 3, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6210. Published November 28, December 5, 12, 19, 2024.

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 610684**

The following person(s) doing business as: Omegachiro Heals, 1474 Buena Vista Ave, Livermore, CA 94550-9630 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Christina Danskin, 1474 Buena Vista Ave, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Christina Omega Danskin, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 18, 2024. Expires November 17, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6211. Published November 28, December 5, 12,

19, 2024.

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 610688**

The following person(s) doing business as: Level Up Wellness and Physical Therapy, Inc., 3645 Grand Ave, Suite 203, Oakland, CA 94610 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Level Up Wellness and Physical Therapy, Inc., 3645 Grand Ave, Suite 203, Oakland, CA 94610. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 4/2021. Signature of Registrant/s/: Hilary Nakao, Owner/Secretary. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 18, 2024. Expires November 17, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6212. Published November 28, December 5, 12, 19, 2024.

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 610744**

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Ms. Livermore; 2. Ms. Livermore Real Estate, 1772 5th Street, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Konn Inc., 1772 5th Street, 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: 12/1/23. Signature of Registrant/s/: Bella Martinez, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 20, 2024. Expires November 19, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6213. Published November 28, December 5, 12, 19, 2024.

C L A S S I F I E D S**ANIMALS**

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:

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PUBLIC NOTICE**NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF THE****ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (EA) FOR THE VALLEY LINK RAIL PROJECT**

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA), as lead federal agency, and the Tri-Valley - San Joaquin Valley Regional Rail Authority (Authority), as project sponsor, are proposing the Valley Link Rail Project, which would establish a new passenger rail service along a 22-mile corridor between the existing Dublin/Pleasanton Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) District Station in Alameda County and the proposed Mountain House Community Station in San Joaquin County, California.

The FTA and the Authority are issuing this Notice of Availability (NOA) to advise other agencies and the public that the Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed Valley Link Rail Project is anticipated to be available for review and comment on December 6, 2024. The EA, prepared pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), analyzes potential environmental effects associated with construction and operation of the Valley Link Rail Project. The EA is available for review on the project website: www.getvalleylinked.com. Copies of the EA are also available for review at the following locations:

Livermore Public Library
1188 S. Livermore Avenue
Livermore, CA 94550
Mountain House Branch Library
201 E. Main Street
Mountain House, CA 95391
Tri-Valley - San Joaquin Valley Regional Rail Authority (by appointment only)
2600 Kitty Hawk Road, Suite 103
Livermore, CA 94551

Proposed Project and Location

The Proposed Project would establish a new passenger rail service along a 22-mile corridor in Northern California between the existing Dublin/Pleasanton BART Station in Alameda County and the proposed Mountain House Community Station in San Joaquin County. The Proposed Project would provide an all-day bi-directional passenger rail service at frequent intervals using zero-emission multiple unit vehicles. The alignment would be constructed within a combination of the existing I-580 freeway median, the existing transportation corridor owned by Alameda County (formerly Southern Pacific Transcontinental Railroad alignment), existing Caltrans right-of-way (ROW) adjacent to westbound I-580, and new ROW to be acquired for the Proposed Project.

The Proposed Project includes the construction and operation of four stations:

- Dublin/Pleasanton Station would be constructed south of

the eastbound I-580 freeway lanes in proximity to the existing Dublin/Pleasanton BART Station.

- **Isabel Station** would be constructed within the I-580 median with adjacent parking on a 24-acre site along East Airway Boulevard south of I-580 and east of the Isabel Avenue I-580 overcrossing in Livermore.
- **Southfront Road Station** in Livermore would be constructed within the I-580 median with adjacent parking located south of I-580 on a seven-acre site along Southfront Road between McGraw Avenue and Franklin Lane.
- **Mountain House Community Station** would be constructed north of I-205 on an approximately 54-acre site west of Mountain House Parkway near the I-205/Mountain House Parkway interchange in the Mountain House community.

Facilities to support the operations and maintenance and ancillary project activities are planned at three locations:

- **The Altamont Maintenance of Way (MOW) Staging Area** would be constructed on a 10-acre portion of the Alameda County Transportation Corridor ROW, approximately 2,250 feet east of Dyer Road.
- **The Mountain House Layover Facility (LF)** would be constructed on an approximately 75-acre site east of Mountain House Parkway and north of I-205 to support train layovers, storage, and light maintenance.
- **Tracy Operations and Maintenance Facility/ Operations Support Site (OMF/OSS)** would be constructed on part of an approximately 200-acre property along West Schulte Road just west of the Owens-Brockway Glass Container Plant west of Tracy.

Potential Environmental Impacts

The EA has determined that construction and operation of the Proposed Project could result in potential impacts to the following environmental resources: Aesthetics; Agricultural Land; Air Quality; Biological Resources; Cultural Resources; Environmental Justice; Geology, Soils, and Paleontological Resources; Hazardous Materials; Hydrology and Water Quality; Land Use and Property Acquisitions; Noise and Vibration; Transportation and Traffic; Utilities; and Indirect and Cumulative Effects. However, avoidance, minimization, and mitigation measures have been identified, where relevant, to avoid or reduce potential

adverse impacts to meet federal requirements and/or state and local requirements.

Written Comments

Written comments on the Valley Link Rail Project EA document will be accepted from December 6, 2024, until 5:00 PM on January 6, 2025. Please send written comments to:

Tri-Valley - San Joaquin Valley Regional Rail Authority
2600 Kitty Hawk Road, Suite 103
Livermore, CA 94551

Your comments on the EA document may also be sent by email to comments@valleylinkrail.com (please include "Valley Link Project" in the subject heading), or through the online comment submission form provided on the project website: www.getvalleylinked.com. All comments must be received by 5:00 PM on January 6, 2025.

Public Event

An opportunity for the public to speak to project team representatives and provide comments on the EA will occur at the following location:

Downtown Tracy Farmers' Market
December 14, 2024
8:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.
North Central Avenue & 9th Street
Tracy, CA 95376

Members of the public will have the opportunity to learn more about the Proposed Project and the EA, and provide written comments on the document that will become part of the public record.

For Further Information

For the latest project updates and information about any additional public events and opportunities to comment, visit our project website at www.getvalleylinked.com, contact us by email at comments@valleylinkrail.com and include "Valley Link Project" in the subject heading, or visit us on X (formerly Twitter) (<https://x.com/ValleyLinkRail>) and Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/ValleyLinkRail>).

Language assistance is available upon request.

Se proporcionará asistencia con el idioma si se solicita llamando al (925) 667-4013.

联系 (925) 667-4013 可应要求提供语言帮助。

925-667-4013

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