

Livermore

Eden Plan Returns to Sup. Court

Housing Project Will Go On Ballot, Await Ruling

By Larry Altman

LIVERMORE — Livermore’s recent decision to reapprove the controversial Eden Housing project is now before an Alameda County Superior Court judge.

Judge Michael Markman must decide whether a Livermore City’s Council vote on June 24 appropriately interpreted a recent court ruling by the California 1st District Court of Appeal. The vote was in favor of a resolution that would enable Eden’s development to move forward without funding for a public park.

At first glance, the appellate court’s ruling had appeared to support a citizen group’s call for a public

(See EDEN, page 9)

Housing, Crime Top Concerns

Mayors’ Summit Tackles Local Issues in Tri-Valley

By Christina Cavallaro

REGIONAL — Housing and crime topped the list of concerns Tri-Valley mayors are dealing with. That was the main takeaway from the annual Tri-Valley Mayor’s Summit Luncheon on Aug. 24.

All the mayors agreed that retail crime and “smash and grabs” were still an ongoing issue that needed funding and attention, though Pleasanton Mayor Karla Brown said she was heartened by breakthroughs that put an end to last year’s spate of catalytic converter thefts, including using aerial drones to help find the stolen equipment.

She thanked the county supervisors and the City of Livermore for their collaborative efforts to find the bulk of the converters. “Working together is our power,” she said.

Most of the questions at the summit had been provided in advance. The annual event was held at the Blackhawk Museum in Danville, surrounded by its collection of rare and classic cars. The

(See MAYORS, page 8)



Turnouts are dedicated lanes for cyclists riding up to the top of Mount Diablo. With 67 such turnouts now on the mountain, there hasn’t been an accident between a cyclist and a car since 2022. (Photo courtesy of Mount Diablo Cyclists)

Cycling Up Mount Diablo Now Safer

Community Groups Came Together to Build Dozens of Turnouts

By Dawnmarie Fehr

REGIONAL — Local cyclists recently celebrated the completion of 22 bicycle turnouts on the roads leading to the summit of Mount Diablo.

The 22 turnouts were phase 2 of a three-phase plan to build 89 turnouts in Mount Diablo State Park. The \$750,000 project was funded entirely by donations and overseen

by California State Parks (CSP).

“This has been an amazing journey, and we now have 67 turnouts,” said Alan Kalin, president of Mount Diablo Cyclists (MDC). “This is 10-plus years of working on this and the safety message has resonated with the public, both motorists and cyclists.”

The turnouts are a unique safety feature for

two-lane roads Kalin said doesn’t exist anywhere else. Bicycle turnouts are lanes added to blind curves to allow cyclists, who move at slower speeds as they pedal uphill, to pull out of the main traffic lane into their own lane so vehicles can safely pass. Without them, motorists often cross into the oncoming lane to pass riders, endangering themselves and any traffic coming

(See CYCLING, page 7)

Garaventa Property Sale Continues To be Ruled Out by City of Livermore

Preserving Open Space at Issue During Public Hearing

By Ruth Roberts

LIVERMORE — A plan to buy a private parcel in north Livermore and preserve it for open space isn’t feasible, city staff have said, because the owners aren’t willing to sell it to the city. Opponents have argued that the city isn’t trying hard enough.

The statements were made to the Livermore Planning Commission on Aug. 20 during a public hearing on the Garaventa Hills project, which has been in and out of court for several years. Opponents of the plan have said they will continue to push the city to buy the land.

The city staff’s opinion that it is unable to do so has not changed since the city was ordered by California’s First District Court of Appeal to redo an environmental report for a proposed housing de-

velopment.

The Garaventa Hills project is proposed for a privately-owned 32-acre property located on the northern edge of Livermore, east of Vasco Road and west of Laughlin Road. The property lies within the city’s urban growth boundary and has been zoned for residential development since the 1970s.

The plan proposes 44 residential units, which includes 38 detached single-family homes and six units in two-unit attached houses covering more than half the site. These are officially called “duet” houses, because the two units can be bought and sold separately, unlike a standard duplex. The rest of the site would remain undeveloped and would feature public hiking trails.

The developer, Lafferty Communities, filed its revised

draft environmental impact report for the project earlier this month.

Opponents of the plan, the Save the Hill Group and Citizens for Balanced Growth, want the city to purchase the property and instead preserve it as open space. A lawsuit filed by the groups in 2019 says the city hasn’t done enough to try to buy the property from the Garaventa family, including identifying potential funding from a conservation account.

That was the focus of the project’s opponents in the public hearing, who considered the city’s attempts to have been lowball offers.

“The city’s recent offer of over \$800,000 and then \$1.7 million, wasn’t a fair market offer. No wonder the owners rejected it,” said Bianca Covarelli, who said she represented the Save the

(See GARAVENTA, page 8)

Dublin

Urban Limit Line Goes to Ballot

Court Rejects Community Groups’ Request For Restraining Order in Crosby Case

By Larry Altman

DUBLIN — A measure that could lead to development of a 180-acre vacant parcel between Dublin and Livermore will appear as planned on Dublin residents’ ballots this November. The parcel lies outside what Dublin calls its urban limit line, and what Livermore calls its urban growth boundary. Neither could be moved without voter support.

Alameda County Superior Court Judge Michael

Markman last week rejected two community groups’ emergency request for a temporary restraining order (TRO) to stop the measure from going before voters without environmental reviews.

Markman provided no reason for his decision, issuing a one-word “denied” on Aug. 21.

Rebecca Davis, attorney for Save Mount Diablo (SMD) and Friends of Livermore (FOL), said a court hearing is scheduled

(See CROSBY, page 7)

Corrections to Story on Park Districts’ Revenue

A story that appeared on page 1 in The Independent’s August 22 edition misidentified the Livermore Area Recreation and Park District (LARPD) director who thought a significant amount of property tax revenue had been distributed to the East Bay Parks and Recreation District (EBPRD) to pay for

maintaining and operating LARPD properties. The director, James Boswell, questioned whether EBPRD was inappropriately spending the revenue outside Livermore.

Last week’s story omitted a key context in that the amount of revenue in question may not be known at this time. The amount of

(See CORRECTION, page 7)



Ballet Roots Dance Company’s Rayley Farnam (left), Tenaya Fallis (center) and Artistic Director Talia Fallis perform on opening night of the troupe’s fourth season Aug. 24 at the Livermore High School Theater. (Photo — Doug Jorgensen)

Livermore

Unhoused Sharpen Skills At the Vineyard Job Fair

By Ruth Roberts

LIVERMORE — Gary, a soft-spoken, educated man has, over the past few years, lost his wife, his health, his job and eventually his home. Today, the former teacher, who has been unhoused for

eight months, is living in an area motel as he awaits his first disability check.

“I had a great job and then COVID hit and I was told I would be on ‘leave’ for just a few months until things get back to normal,” said Gary. “Well, we all know how that

(See HOMELESS, page 8)



Fertile GroundWorks volunteer and Board President Angela Ko picks kale with the group’s volunteer coordinator, Lori Pohlmann. The nonprofit operates a teaching garden to train gardeners and grow food for local community kitchens and food pantries. (Photo — Doug Jorgensen)

Fertile GroundWorks Prepares for Major Expansion With “Wish Garden”

By Christina Cavallaro

LIVERMORE — On an overcast late summer day, a small grouping of sunflowers provided a pop of cheer as volunteers bustled around Fertile GroundWorks in preparation for a public tomato tasting event. The Livermore nonprofit is a teaching garden that has been an invaluable community resource for more than 14 years, growing food for those in need and giving residents a place to learn how to garden, and at tastings

like the one they were prepping for on Friday, Aug. 23. The nonprofit also teaches participants how to use and cook the produce they grow.

Thanks to a recent flurry of grants, Fertile GroundWorks is expanding a sizable portion of their grounds to accommodate a new “Wish Garden” program. The project cost approximately \$20,000.

Angela Ko, a volunteer and board president for the group, explains how the new Wish Garden idea came about. “One of the things

we have been hearing a lot from our volunteers and partners is that vegetables like this —” she held up a bitter melon that resembled a knobby cucumber “— are very uncommon.”

“Or they’ll say, ‘My grandmother used to make this. Do you grow that here?’” she added. Ko explained that many fruits and vegetables are culturally unique and dear to people. “And they’d like to see them grown,” she said.

Through partnerships with community kitchens

(See GARDENS, page 8)

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Classifieds	10
Editorial	4
Mailbox	4
Obituaries	9
Sports	10

Livermore Superintendent Draws on Collaboration	2
Emerald Aerouants Debut in New Stadium	10
Amador Valley Flag Football’s Rugby Connection	10
Man in 2015 Shooting Sentenced	12
Campaign Announcements for LVJUSD, LARPD	12

PET OF THE WEEK



TINA SPAY

You might recognize Tina Spay from her namesake, Tina Fey, or from when she starred in a recent Tongue Out Tuesday. This girl’s sweet personality lands her multiple roles, most notably as an expert cuddle buddy. She loves riding in the car, taking naps, and of course, showing off her million-dollar smile! Tina has a very loving personality and is ready to find a loving home to match. If you’re ready to give Tina a starring role in your heart, visit valleyhumane.org to learn more or email info@valleyhumane.org to start the adoption application process. (Photo courtesy of Valley Humane)

New Superintendent Appreciates Collaboration with Community

By Ruth Roberts

Not quite two weeks into the new school year, and Torie Gibson has hit the ground running.

As the new superintendent of the Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District (LVJUSD), she has already handled one issue that was ‘bubbling up’: ice cream. More specifically, the selling of it at school, what kind is allowed to be sold and where it can be purchased on campus, and still be within the rules setting the nutritional content of food sold to students.

“I made one phone call and after a five-minute conversation we had it solved,” Gibson said. “I am a big believer in just picking up the phone.”

A small incident for such a large district to be sure, but one that is indicative of the kind of leader Gibson plans to be.

“I am a very collaborative person, and I come from the perspective that the sky is never falling, everything can be solved,” Gibson said. “It might take longer than a five-minute phone conversation, but it can be done.”

When she heard about the opening in LVJUSD, a large district with 19 schools and more than 100,000 students, Gibson felt an immediate kinship.

“One of the things that really drew me here was the FFA (Future Farmers of America),” said Gibson, who grew up in Red Bluff, California, and comes from a cattle ranching family. Taking care of the community is important to her. “There are not many of those programs left and that, along with the service side (of FFA) was a draw.”

After earning a bachelor’s degree in psychology from California State University, Sacramento, she obtained a master’s in education counseling from Chapman University, then a doctorate in organizational leadership from the University of La Verne.

Her path led her to a career in educational leadership, now with more than 10 years of superintending under her belt, most recently as the superintendent of the Amador County Unified School District. She has been a teacher, vice principal, principal and director of program improvement for school districts in Northern California and Nevada. Gibson has also served as the superintendent of the Amador County Office of Education, which oversees the school district’s budgets and educational plans, and functions as a school district that serves the county’s most vulnera-

ble students.

Gibson was pleased to discover the level of interconnectedness and co-operation throughout the community in Livermore.



Torie Gibson (Photo courtesy of Torie Gibson)

“I am extremely impressed with the inter-agency connections here among the school district and LARPD (Livermore Area Recreation and Park District) and the police department, different foundations and the labs,” she said. “It’s like having the best of all possible worlds.”

As for the business side of the district, Gibson said she did her homework and loved what she learned.

“The big topic of conversation among superintendents in today’s world is the school board, because they are not always super-stable,” she said. “But this board, our board, is

super-stable and great to work with.”

And the board returned the favor.

“Dr. Gibson’s selection was unanimous by our board,” said Emily Prusso, LVJUSD board president, in a previous statement. “We look forward to the new perspectives and ideas she will bring to our district.”

Some of those new perspectives will involve taking a deep dive into the district’s annual \$200 million budget and its \$4.5 million structural deficit.

“We have a new CBO (chief business officer) coming on board and we will focus on understanding where that deficit lies and what it is and from there, we will have to do some reinventing of ourselves,” said Gibson. “With COVID money we hired a lot of people and now we will have to determine where cuts will go ... but in the meantime, we are waiting to find out where we are heavy and what to do. My attempt will always be to find something for everyone that wants to stay.”

Other changes in the works include the move this year from trimesters to semesters for the two community high schools.

“The big reason was that staff and students didn’t feel they were con-

necting well enough with each other because they were only together for such a short time,” said Gibson. “We were one of only two districts left in the state who still had trimesters, LVJUSD board president, in a previous statement. “We look forward to the new perspectives and ideas she will bring to our district.”

North Monterey County is the other district still on trimesters.

Outside of the office, Gibson and her husband are settling into life in Livermore. They are currently residing in an apartment downtown where they are enjoying the abundant selection of shops and restaurants, the farmers market and other downtown events.

“We love it here, it’s such a great place,” she said. “We are already seeing associates and families

we know downtown ... I tell people all the time, ‘If you see me, stop and say hello, you’re never a bother, we’re out and about for a reason.’” She then added with a laugh. “‘If you see me at The Press (restaurant) on a Saturday, I’m going to look like I just rolled out of bed’ ... we love it here; it’s such a great place. I 100% made the right decision.”



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SPARC Names Arts Development Director

Felicity Cowlin has been named development director by the Livermore-based Shakespeare & Performing Arts Regional Company (SPARC).

Cowlin, who has a master’s degree in theater arts administration from Rowan University in New Jersey, was development director at the Aurora Theater in Berkeley, which recently went through staff layoffs.

She also has a bachelor’s degree in theater arts from California State University, Long Beach, according to her LinkedIn profile.

“I was sad to see Aurora struggling, but excited as I learned about SPARC during my last week on the job,” Cowlin said. “One of the things I love about living in this area is the abundance of art and cultural activities and the number of skilled theater professionals who

call the Bay Area home.”

Cowlin, who lives in Conrad, said she is “passionate about the ability of live professional theater to nurture and heal society” and looks forward to working with SPARC to provide year-round theater and educational activities in the Bay Area.

SPARC recently expanded its programming to include Danville, where it is currently presenting Shake-

speare’s “Twelfth Night” at The Village Theatre and Art Gallery.

“We’re so excited to have found Felicity at the perfect time for us,” said SPARC Executive Director Lisa Tromovitch. “She has advance administrative training, years of experience in theater development at a company I respect, and is deeply rooted in the shared experience that is live theater.”

End-of-Summer Festival Returns to Dublin

Dublin’s annual end-of-summer festival, “Splatter,” will return to Emerald Glen Park, 4201 Central Parkway, from noon to 8:30 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 14, with food, wine, a craft bazaar, multicultural

music, carnival rides, and an evening dance party.

The grand finale will be a 250-light drone show.

Admission to the family-friendly festival is free. However, there is a charge for the children’s carnival

rides and games.

The Purple Ones, a Prince tribute band, will open on the Main Stage at noon, followed by Crawdad Republic, a Livermore Valley bluegrass and folk band, Twist on Taylor, a Taylor

Swift cover band, and Mustache Harbor, with music from the ‘70s and ‘80s.

The Emerald Glen Park Amphitheater will welcome cultural performances by Xiaopei Chinese Dance, Riar Academy of Performing Arts, Halau Makana Lani, the Ballet Folklórico Costa de Oro, and the Dunsmuir Scottish Dancers.

The Rotary Club of Dublin will serve local craft beers and wine, while the Rose Lounge will offer food, wine and beer tastings, a private dance floor, and a front row seat to the drone light show. Food vendors will also be available throughout the park.

Street parking will be available on Central Parkway and Gleason Drive, with free shuttles also running between the festival and Fallon Sports Park and the parking lot at the East County Hall of Justice, 5151 Gleason Dr.

Tickets for the carnival rides can be purchased in advance through Friday, Sept. 13, at dublinsplatter.com.



The annual Splatter festival returns to Dublin on Saturday, Sept. 14 from noon to 8:30 p.m. A colorful celebration of community and multiculturalism through music, dance, crafts, food and wine, the event is family friendly and admission is free. (File photo — Doug Jorgensen)

Armchair Travelers will Learn About Portugal

Juls Vistnes, who spent two weeks in Portugal with her husband, Rick, in 2023, will present an Armchair Travelers program on her experiences at the Civic Center Library in Livermore

at 1:30 p.m., on Thursday, Sept. 12.

Their travels included Lisbon and Porto, castles built by the Moors and medieval rulers, and the vineyards of the Douro Valley.

Her presentation is entitled “Portugal: Moors, Port, and Fado: Living from the Earth and Soul.”

This is a free drop-in program and registration is not required.

Library to Host Bilingual Poetry and Art Festival

The Livermore Public Library and La Raiz Magazine will host a Cultura Poetry & Art Fest on Saturday, Sept. 21, with artwork and bilingual poetry readings by Bay Area artists and poets.

Members of the public are also encouraged to write

and share their own poetry.

The free event is in celebration of National Hispanic Heritage Month, which is observed from Sept. 15 to Oct. 15. It will be held at the Civic Center Library, 1188 S. Livermore Ave., beginning at 1 p.m.

La Raiz Magazine is a lit-

erary journal based in Santa Clara County that features visual art and multilingual poetry.

The program is sponsored by Friends of the Livermore Public Library. For more information, call 925-373- 5505 or go to library.livermoreca.gov.



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EDITORIAL

Climate Plans Are a Good Start, But More Must Be Done

Representatives from the U.S. Department of Energy are expected to co-host an event with the City of Livermore on Aug. 30 to mark the city’s installation of two solar electric vehicle chargers at the Civic Center Library. This is the latest example of the city moving forward and executing on its climate action plan.

Climate action plans have been around for decades but are increasingly being implemented as the effects of global climate change become more pronounced.

Livermore and Pleasanton adopted their first plans in 2012 and updated them in 2022 for the next decade. Dublin’s first plan was adopted even earlier, in 2010, and the city is now looking forward to meeting California’s greenhouse gas reduction targets by 2030. These plans run several hundred pages, chock-full of data and lists and time frames.

California has an aggressive goal of achieving carbon neutrality

by 2045, consistent with the Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change’s target of limiting the global average temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels. But even a 1.5-degree increase (equal to 2.7 degrees Fahrenheit) is unprecedented in human history.

We need to do our part, even setting an example of what can be achieved, so others can follow. Fortunately for us, having two national laboratories in our backyard will help us lead the search for creative solutions to the climate crisis.

Tri-Valley cities have already laid out specific goals. Livermore’s plan calls for planting 1,000 trees by 2030 to serve as sinks for atmospheric carbon dioxide, for example. More greenery is also needed to reduce reflected heat off hard surfaces—such as downtowns and other urban areas—to prevent what are known as “urban heat islands.”

Pleasanton’s climate plan calls for creating an Urban Forest Master Plan that will include recommendations for increasing the tree canopy on private and public property. The city plans to choose species that are drought-tolerant and are adaptable to a changing climate. In addition, they should function as carbon sinks. Pleasanton was the first city in the Tri-Valley to ban gas-powered leaf blowers. One blower produces as much carbon dioxide as a 1,100-mile car trip, according to city staff.

Dublin’s plan similarly calls for planting more trees to capture greenhouse gases and provide more shade. Shading buildings can also reduce the use of air conditioning and save electricity.

There’s much more in all these plans, but that’s just it: these are plans. Identifying where those trees would go, for example, whether along streets, in existing parks or open spaces, or creating

new parks within city limits, are policy decisions. And those, in fact, are harder questions to answer, because turning plans into specific policies and projects requires public outreach, engineering studies, cost-benefit analyses, and money. Lots of money.

In 1962, President John F. Kennedy made the case for the Apollo moon program, saying we weren’t doing it because it was easy, but because it was hard. Working to mitigate and adapt to climate change is the moon shot for this generation, and likely for many more to come. This will be difficult and expensive, but in the end our survival depends on us succeeding.

So let’s applaud the efforts our cities are making now, and the plans they’re laying out for the future. We also need to let our leaders know that we support a significant allocation of resources to fight climate change in our communities.

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. Letters should be limited to 400 words or less and should be sent by email to letters@independentnews.com or submitted using the form below. The letters to the editor deadline is Monday at 10 a.m. If you wish to submit a letter pertaining to a special event or meeting taking place on a Monday before any given Thursday print edition — and you would like your letter to run that week — please contact the editor (editor@independentnews.com) as soon as possible on Monday to discuss the content and publication options. Otherwise, all letters submitted after 10 a.m. on Monday must hold until the following week.*

Animals Don’t Get Labor Day Off
Lucas Nelson, Livermore

Labor Day often brings to mind long weekends, barbecues, and the close of summer. But it’s also an opportunity to make compassionate choices. Each day, over 23 million land animals and 150 million sea

animals are killed in the U.S. for food. The worldwide numbers are even more staggering. Choosing to eat animals and their byproducts harms our health and contributes to the climate crisis.

This Labor Day, why not opt for a cruelty-free celebration? Our daily dietary choices save the lives of thousands of animals each year. Plant-based burgers, sausages, and hot dogs are widely available, and most sides are already vegan. Top off your meal with delicious dairy-free desserts.

Let’s celebrate a kinder, healthier holiday for all this year.

Jeff Kaskey for Livermore City Council
Lee Younker, Livermore

I enthusiastically support and endorse Jeff Kaskey for Livermore City Council District 3. I have known Jeff for more than 15 years as we worked on a variety of community projects and issues. We are both currently members of the Livermore Valley Arts Board of Directors. This is what I know about Jeff from those interactions.

Jeff may be the most direct, open, transparent person that I know. He is thoughtful and measured. What that means is that you can be assured that he has thought long and hard about each of the eight commitments to the City he lists on his campaign web site.

Jeff is a listener. In any discussion, he does not wait his turn to give you his predetermined opinion. He listens carefully. He asks thoughtful often difficult questions, and he listens again carefully to the answers.

Jeff is reflective. He changes or modifies his opinion in the face of sound arguments and data. He is often the first to spot flaws in his own views.

Jeff is a hard-worker, and he always does his homework. I have arrived at many meetings to find that Jeff has already sought out data and analysis to inform the discussions.

Jeff is respectful of others. I have never seen him get personal or insulting of a

person with different views. Indeed, I have seen him go out of his way with memos or phone calls to bridge any differences left over from a discussion.

Jeff, as a 40-year Livermore resident, working on a wide variety of community projects, understands what is special about Livermore and he also understands the issues and challenges facing the city. You can expect him to vigorously defend what is special and you can expect him to dig in to understand and address the issues.

I endorse Jeff, not because of any particular position on a current city issue, but because he has the values, experience, character and personal attributes that will make him an outstanding addition to the city council. Livermore is fortunate to have an opportunity to elect a person like Jeff to the council.

Palestinians Are People with Rights Too
Bob Johnson, Livermore

All people are human beings with the same hopes, dreams and abilities, if given the opportunity. It is time to stop defining selected groups as “those” or less than. All people are worthy and deserve the opportunity to live freely and peacefully.

While there are many places on earth where this is not the case, and all injustice is wrong, I want to focus on the plight of the Palestinians. I did not always have this concern, but my feelings have evolved, especially after a pilgrimage to Palestine and Israel last spring. On one hand, I was elated to visit the many religious sites, but I also felt great sadness as I witnessed in the West Bank the impact of what is now 57 years of Israeli occupation. What I witnessed was truly heartbreaking.

For example, I visited a refugee camp in Bethlehem, which is one of many that have existed since 1948, when over 750,000 Palestinians were forced out of their villages, and over 500 villages were destroyed, in what became Israel. The remaining original refugees and their descendants are still waiting to go home.

The clearing out and destroying of Palestinian villages is happening again right now in the West Bank. Villages that have not been cleared out are being terrorized with the burning of cars and homes, and physical violence. While the focus has been on the tragedy of Gaza, over 500 Palestinians have died in the West Bank since Oct. 7.

I worry for the people I met last year in a Palestinian farming village near Bethlehem. Israeli settlers from a nearby settlement, which is illegal under international law, have vandalized the village, left threatening leaflets telling the villagers to get out, and prevented farmers from tending their fields.

Centuries of persecution of the Jewish people was wrong and so was the violence of Oct. 7, but more violence carried out indiscriminately against Palestinians is not the answer. And asserting that any criticism of the state of Israel’s policies is antisemitism suppresses an honest discussion.

Our country has great power, and with it, great responsibility. The U.S. can and must make a permanent ceasefire happen now and stop providing weapons to Israel. The Israelis need to stop trying to bomb the Palestinians into submission or non-existence, and stop claiming to have a superior right to the land. Palestinians are people with rights, too.

Dunbar for Livermore Council
John Marchand, Livermore

I hope that you will join me in this upcoming election and vote for Steven Dunbar for Livermore District 3 City Council member. Steven has consistently demonstrated that he will do the hard and sometimes tedious work that is necessary for smart planning and good governance. Steven is an engineer and is currently serving as a member of Livermore’s Planning Commission. Steven has proven that he listens to the community, and he will bring a much-needed younger perspective to the Council, which is too often missing from the discussion. He pays close attention to detail and provides careful analysis to ensure that city codes are met. To learn more, his website is DunbarforLivermore.com.

Vote for experience and good government. Vote for Steven Dunbar.

Jeff Kaskey is for US
Richard Andrews, Livermore

We citizens and residents of District 3 in Livermore have a golden opportunity to take back our City Council from the developers who look upon Livermore as a cash cow.

As we observe that the “Developers Friend” is running unopposed for Mayor, we must realize that he listens to them and not us. We need a counterbalance to this situation. With Jeff Kaskey,

we can have that. He listens to his constituents, not money. He has served on many committees and boards to help us for 20+ years and proved his dedication to Livermore. He will bring this great service to the Council, which has shown almost no ability to be little more than marionettes to the Mayor.

Being a local businessman also adds to his resume. His many years of work at The Lab as an electrical engineer clearly shows he has the mental acuity to do the job. He will work to get OUR needs addressed, something we haven’t seen from our current member. He wants to bring balance and accountability to the Council through deliberation and discussion, not acrimony. So don’t think he is coming with fire. He is coming with reason and our needs.

There is another person on the ballot who feels that his service on the Planning Commission for 4 years is enough. However, if we look at what has happened with that body for the last 4+ years, we see another rubber stamp for developers. This is not what we need.

Look carefully at ALL candidates and ask the hard questions. Jeff welcomes that. That is why I am voting for JEFF KASKEY...he is a voice for District 3 citizens.

Deena Kaplanis for Livermore School Board
Cathryn Villasenor

Please vote for Deena Kaplanis for Livermore School Board this November. She would be a great asset for parents and children. Thank you.

I Endorse Christiaan VandenHeuvel
Kira Brown, Livermore

As a former student of LVJUSD, class of 2021, I have had the opportunity to observe Christiaan in various roles, each highlighting his exceptional dedication and impact.

Christiaan was my first boss at age 15, working in a coffee shop. His guidance was instrumental in shaping my work ethic, as he continually encouraged me to excel and emphasized the importance of education. His support and reminders that academics come first were invaluable.

In his role as an educator, I have witnessed Christiaan’s commitment to teaching both in the classroom and at church. His passion for education and his ability to inspire a desire for learning in others are evident in his teaching and interactions.

Additionally, I have seen Christiaan as a father through my involvement in leading a small group that included his youngest child. Despite his busy schedule, Christiaan was deeply involved and supportive, demonstrating genuine care for his children’s well-being and for me as a leader. His supportive presence extended to his older children as well, where he provided encouragement throughout their college years.

Christiaan’s dedication to leadership, education, and community support is commendable. His broad experience and genuine care make him an excellent candidate for the school board. I wholeheartedly endorse him.

Collaborations Make for Thriving Cities
Patricia Munro, Livermore

People who run for local office most often do so to build thriving communities. Having a common vision shared by community and elected officials means the path forward is, though never easy, smoother. In 2018 the collaborative vision for the 8.2 acres in Livermore’s city center inspired many. In a time of deep division, it was exciting to see the Stockmen, science community and arts groups, seniors and young adults in need of affordable housing, vintners, retailers, and a hotelier come together to benefit the whole community.

The 2018 election results broadly supported the City Center Plan, and it seemed that vision would become reality. That did not happen. Different pieces of the plan have made progress (most notably Stockmen’s Park), but between a referendum to block the downtown hotel and ongoing nuisance lawsuits, that collaborative plan has not been fully realized.

These lawsuits have delayed or stopped real plans to build affordable housing — plans vetted by city staff, Planning Commission, and City Council. These lawsuits hurt the people most in need of affordable housing. And they cost the city — that’s all of us — time and literally millions of dollars.

Why is this relevant? Because one of District 3 candidates for City Council—Jeff Kaskey — has, over the past decade and more, consistently supported every tactic to delay the completion of downtown. He opposed and spoke against Stockmen’s Park. He opposed the downtown hotel. He has worked

(See MAILBOX, page 5)

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Stratford School Pleasanton summer campers test their balance skills through an egg race challenge. Students spent the summer learning through STEAM-based play, enjoying time outdoors and flexing their creativity. (Photo courtesy of Stratford School Pleasanton)

MAILBOX

(Continued from page 4)

hard to stop any downtown housing. And he has done so by speaking ill, not only of council members, but of the hardworking city staff.

The result divides the community, delays any progress either directly or by sucking up staff time better used to nurture a thriving community. This approach to city governance is not something District 3 — or Livermore — needs. Want to see real collaboration and a Livermore that continues to thrive? Vote for someone who understands what those words mean.

Favor vs. Freedom
Glenn White, Dublin

We have been hearing a lot of talk about democracy and autocracy in recent days. It seems this coming election is a choice between the two. There are two more competing systems in this election: favor and freedom.

Autocracy is joined to favor. This was exemplified during the last Trump administration when Trump threatened to withhold federal funds to California after a wildfire that destroyed the town of Paradise. Trump threatened to withhold funds claiming Newsom didn't rake the National Forests which were under Trump's jurisdiction. The fact was that California's electoral votes went against Trump and for that reason Trump was threatening to withhold funds, demonstrating he will punish those Americans who freely choose not to vote for Trump. However, Trump did offer aid to Russia for wildfires raging in Siberia. The difference was: Russia supported Trump and California did not. This is how fascist favoritism works. Government is corrupted, so the leader appropriates disaster relief funds based on political support rather than actual need, even if the support comes from Russia and the actual need is in a state that did not support the hate filled autocrat. It's Trump's retribution.

If one is a coward or weakling unwilling to stand up to defend American freedom against Russian style autocracy, they will support Trump, like Ted Cruz, who threatened to withhold funds

from New Jersey after hurricane Sandy before Trump. They will even tolerate the autocrat insulting their wives like Cruz and McConnell. They believe bending the knee to a dictator is worth the favor even at the expense of their personal honor and integrity, let alone at the expense of patriotically defending American freedom.

The autocrat will personally judge guilt or innocence based on his personal prejudice, like Trump judging the Central Park Five or Putin judging Navalny. He will reject any judgment against him made by a jury of his peers based on the evidence presented in a court of law. The autocrat judges the legitimacy of elections by the outcome, not the process. The autocrat will corrupt the electoral process to achieve the desired result by installing local sycophants who will refuse to certify the results if they do not support the autocrat. Trump has indicated these are already in place in Georgia.

So the choice is clear: freedom and democracy for all Americans or autocracy and favor for the favored few. With autocrats, character matters.

DNC Was a Train Wreck
David Ott, Pleasanton

Last week's DNC was a train wreck filled with untruths and fantasyland theatrics. First, the Dems built two walls around their convention center and required photo ID to enter the convention. This oozed of hypocrisy because for the last four years the Dems have been against a secure southern border, and they do not require anyone entering the southern border to have a photo ID. The Republican House of Representatives passed HR2 in 2023, which would secure the southern border, but Chuck Schumer and Kamala Harris have blocked the bill. Also, the Dems are against voter ID because it will be harder for them to scam the elections.

At the DNC, we heard speaker after speaker paint a rosy picture about the current state under Biden / Harris, but we know that the border is insecure, taxes are excessively high, government spending is out of control, the deficit is at an all-time record,

inflation is still too high, and the Dems got caught fabricating over 800,000 jobs in 2024 that never happened.

The Biden / Harris policies have ruined our country for the past four years, and four more years of Harris / Walz policies will sink our country into further despair.

Harris's strategy is to be as vague as possible for as long as possible on the specific policies, and to paint herself as a moderate, when in reality she is far more progressively left than Biden. She is borrowing a page from the Biden playbook by hiding from the media and the American people because when she speaks, her truth will surface and will show that her policies will fail America. She is stalling as long as she can to allow for as many of the early votes to be cast before she is exposed and the American people see the true failure that she is.

Harris also claims that she will unite the country, just as Biden promised in 2020, but in reality, she will divide the country further than Biden did.

Her tax plan is the largest taxes in history, to go along with the highest level of government spending which will increase the deficit even more and cause more inflation.

When she finally gives a real press conference, or joins a debate and is asked difficult questions, she will fail, just as she has done in her whole career.

Christiaan's Got My Vote for Livermore School Board!
Daniel Alpher, Livermore

I am writing to express my support for Christiaan VandenHeuvel's campaign for a position on the Livermore School Board. I have known Christiaan for many years and have been a recipient of his insight and wisdom on many occasions. As a long-time resident and substitute teacher within the Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District for several years, I have seen Christiaan's undeniable chemistry with students, parents, and staff. Christiaan exudes a calming presence that leads with action and compassion. He brings with him insight and forward thinking that helps others to want to do and

be better. Whenever I run into Christiaan on campus or out in the community, he is typically surrounded by students or members of the community engaging in conversation and some laughter that allows others to be seen, heard, and better for it. Christiaan also embraces creativity and technology as strong communication tools to connect with others. He models what it means to put others first and to always remain open to hearing both sides of a story before jumping to a conclusion.

Christiaan naturally builds bridges to enable a brighter, better place for students to thrive and overcome obstacles and challenges that would otherwise limit their potential. Having an advocate like Christiaan enables students the opportunity to succeed in all areas and truly be seen for who they are and the unlimited potential that lives within them.

Please join me in supporting Christiaan VandenHeuvel for the Livermore School Board.

Kristie Wang for Livermore City Council
Philomena Rambo, Livermore
Retired LVJUSD Educator

I'm excited for Livermore that Kristie Wang is on the ballot for City Council. Her training in public policy and her experience at every level of government, including her current role as a member of the Livermore School Board, prepare her to lead our community forward.

I have known Kristie since 2018 when she advocated to protect youth from the vaping epidemic led by Big Tobacco. Working with students, staff, and families, Kristie collaborated with city leaders to pass the strongest ordinance in the country, leading the way for other communities to safeguard the health of teens and young adults.

More recently, Kristie has collaborated with the Livermore leaders to provide for safe street crossing on Portola Ave., near Lawrence Elemen-

tary School. Kristie is actively engaged in our community, and uses her involvement to hear the concerns as well as the kudos for Livermore. I'm impressed with her ability to listen to others, and then to research both to understand the problem and to develop a successful solution.

We elected Kristie in 2020 to serve on the school board. She has taken that role seriously, being present at school events, meeting with parents and staff members, and navigating challenges so that our students can be safe, healthy, and thrive. She has worked with the City of Livermore, LARPD, and Las Positas College to move our schools forward.

I encourage you to vote in 2024 to elect Kristie to serve on Livermore City Council.

She will serve with experience, vision, and dedication to improve our community.

Vote No on Pleasanton's 10.75% Sales Tax
Alan Heckman, Alameda
County Taxpayers' Association

Vote NO on Measure PP, the 10.75% Pleasanton Sales tax that will destroy
(See MAILBOX, page 6)

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MAILBOX

(Continued from page 5)

businesses and is too costly. Pleasanton's sales tax burden would be 10.75% — highest in the nation — and will cost residents \$215,000,000.00 a year based on THEIR OWN NUMBERS.

With Pleasanton's population of 76,689, this means the average sales tax bill for a family of four will be \$11,214.12 a year! Nobody outside of Pleasanton will shop in Pleasanton when all surrounding cities have much lower sales taxes. And you will pay this tax even when you shop online or buy a car in another city; Pleasanton residents CAN NOT ES-CAPE this tax. The death spiral of Stoneridge Mall will be complete and small businesses in Pleasanton will suffer. And don't forget your other taxes — California's new 14.4% income tax rate and tens of thousands of dollars a year in property taxes.

Don't be fooled! This tax is NOT LEGALLY restricted to any specific program; it is a GENERAL TAX and they can spend it however they wish. The Pleasanton City Attorney's "impartial analysis" ADMITS the money can be used to fund BIG RAISES for administrators, such as Pleasanton City Manager Girard Beaudin, whose 2023 total compensation was \$442,026.82!

Taxpayers are suffering from raging inflation and we have all had to cut back. We cut back on our lowest priorities. So what does Pleasanton Mayor Karla Brown and her cronies say are the lowest priorities in Pleasanton that should be cut back first? Karla says fire, police, and the safety of Pleasanton's children are the least important to her and should be first on the CHOPPING BLOCK.

Karla Brown does not know how to budget, and she and her cronies' priorities obviously DO NOT MATCH the citizens of Pleasanton. Vote AGAINST this tax and against Karla and ALL politicians who support this expensive monstrosity that will pick your pocket to line theirs.

Deena Kaplanis Gets My Vote

Deborah Gibson, Livermore

Over the last few years, I have attended several school board meetings and have seen firsthand the determination of Deena Kaplanis to stand up for the students and families of Livermore.

Her perseverance and her passion to bring awareness about the critical issues such as school safety and low academic scores compared to other cities in our area are qualities that we need to see in those elected to our school board.

She gets my vote!

Vote for Steven Dunbar

Peg Folta, Livermore

Please join me in voting for Steven Dunbar for Livermore City Council, District 3!

I've come to know Steven in his role on the Livermore Planning Commission. I found him to be a trusted source of information who studies the details, and takes a systems approach to formulate the best solutions for the city. Steven has always had an answer to every question and the ability to explain complicated issues. He is very passionate about the city and engages the city staff and citizens alike with a great deal of respect. Steven is a highly regarded member of the community, which is evident by his strong list of endorsements. He will use his Planning Commission experience, as well as his work on the city's Community Asset Management Program to step into the council role and be effective on day one. Please elect Steven to the Livermore City Council on Nov. 5.

The "Joy" of Silencing and Exterminating Palestinians

Greg Scott, Livermore

"Joy." "Be joyful." This is the public relations meme of the Democratic Party. Nev-

er mind the slaughter by Israel's genocide against the Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank, and the stealing of Palestinian lands. This genocidal atrocity and land theft - supported again by a recent President "Genocide Joe" Biden Administration's granting of \$20 billion in arms for Israel, with presidential candidate "Queen Kamala" Harris's blessing — is completely avoided and not even mentioned by the majority of Democrats. The Democrats couldn't even allow one Palestinian to speak on the main stage of the Democratic National Convention, despite the urging of 29 Uncommitted delegates, representing 740,000 votes in several states, and the begging of the UAW (United Auto Workers) and six other labor unions. None of those Uncommitted voters should vote for the anointed and undemocratically nominated Democratic presidential candidate "Queen Kamala" Harris, even in the face of the "fear-of-Trump" hysteria. If no recognition is granted, no power should be received in the form of votes, especially in the state of Michigan.

With duplicity and disingenuousness, this shows how little respect the Democrats have for Palestinians and labor, which have insufficient political power to counter the influence of Democratic billionaire donors; Democratic corporate donors; arms manufacturers' lobbyists; and the pro-Zionist, pro-Israel lobbying groups, like AIPAC (American Israel Public Affairs Committee) and others. (See: Ilan Pappé, "Lobbying for Zionism on Both Sides of the Atlantic," 2024. Note: In the Democrat Party's representation of "democracy," Ilan Pappé was recently detained for questioning for two-and-a-half hours in Detroit, probably at the behest of the President "Genocide Joe" Biden's Administration. Other pro-Palestinian activists have been put on the "no-fly" list and/or detained for questioning.)

Popular thinking is that the presidential choice in the United States is between the lesser of two evils of the two major parties. The choice of either of the major party candidates is actually a choice of great evil. Both major party candidates support the arming of Israel for their murderous genocide of Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank. The price to be paid for electing either major party candidate is the continued extermination of the Palestinian people and the stealing of their lands. The resentment in the world from this will last for generations. Americans have the freedom to support the good, moral, and ethical by not voting for either of the major party presidential candidates. #cornelwest2024

Christiaan VandenHeuvel Is the Clear Choice

Faith Alpher, Livermore

To me, it's a clear choice. I'm voting for Christiaan VandenHeuvel because he embodies honesty, effectiveness, and transparency. With him, what you see is what you get.

When Christiaan VandenHeuvel moved to our neighborhood, our families started carpooling together, and it was a blast! That's when I first noticed his honesty. He's someone who doesn't cut corners or make excuses. After carpooling for years, I saw his integrity up close. His effectiveness as PTSA President at LHS was impressive — he earned the respect and admiration of both staff and students, creating real excitement. And let's be honest, parents are not easy to deal with...

Moreover, Christiaan is refreshingly transparent. He's not one of those people who expects everyone to share his views. He respects differing beliefs and understands the value of diversity. It does make a difference. I've witnessed plenty of misguided attempts to impose narrow-minded views on our

community, but Christiaan stands apart. He believes in celebrating our differences and working together to create a truly representative School Board. It's ok to celebrate our differences. We are different. Right?

Bottom line, he's a great guy. Having him on our School Board would be a real asset. We've had the pleasure of volunteering together for the past 16 years, and it has been an absolute joy! When you vote for Christiaan VandenHeuvel, you're choosing someone who is genuine and dedicated. You won't be disappointed — he's the real deal.

Elect Jim Shoemaker

Phyllis Couper, Pleasanton

The old saying that doing the same thing over and over, expecting but not getting different results, truly applies to elections. According to the Public Policy Institute of California, 62 percent of California voters say California is going in the wrong direction. Voters must choose to change the directive by electing new people into offices. Jim Shoemaker, candidate for Senate District 5, is just the person who can turn things in the right direction. Jim Shoemaker has lived and worked for many years in California. His focus is on protecting children, water preservation, making crime a crime, and inflationary costs of gas, food and medical services. To help change the direction of our state for the better, vote for Jim Shoemaker.

Sometimes the Truth Hurts

Thomas Gray, Livermore

Why does The Independent allow letter writers to spew lies? There are too many examples to list in the allotted space, so let's sample one lie in particular: that the Biden administration and/or Kamala Harris (all by herself) "allowed 10 million illegals into the country." This lie has been cited by a few letter writers, more notably by Dave Ott (twice) and Daniella Karo.

It's simply not true.

Customs and Border Patrol data shows that from February 2021 to January 2024, immigration officials recorded nearly 8.8 million encounters nationwide. An encounter is simply a stop at the border, and a person who has been stopped by border officials on three separate occasions would be counted as three encounters. The 8.8 million encounters do not reflect how many were detained, turned away, or allowed into the country.

I don't peruse right-wing news outlets for a reason: it has been proven time-and-again that they stretch credibility, or just outright lie, to pursue an agenda.

The Independent can either shirk its journalistic duty and be complicit in the lies, or it can refuse to publish letters containing lies. I hope it chooses the latter.

The Independent should also go a step further and refuse to allow letter writers to refer to people as "illegals" (there's no such thing) or "the Dems" (they're the Democrats).

Words matter, and I'd think people who work at a "news-paper" would know that as well as, or better than, anyone.

To Dave Ott, Daniella Karo and their ilk, I doubt it will work but it's worth a try: YOU'RE IN A CULT.

Please Vote Deena Kaplanis for Livermore School Board

Betty Ellis, Livermore

Please vote Deena Kaplanis for Livermore school board. As a business owner, she knows how to work successfully with people and stay within a budget. Her openness, integrity, and creativity in solving problems will be an asset. I have known Deena for years as a giving, caring and compassionate friend, and mother to her children. You will not go wrong in supporting Deanna. Thank you.



On Aug. 21, members of Livermore's Hindu-American community, including the Hindu Swayamsevak Sangh USA and Hindu Community and Cultural Center, Shiva Vishnu Temple in Livermore, visited the Livermore Police Department to offer their blessings. They honored the police and fire departments as part of the Raksha Bandan celebration and gave Rakhi bracelets as a symbol of unity. (Photo courtesy of Livermore Police Department)

Livermore Schools Need VandenHeuvel on the Board of Education

Nia Rashidchi, Livermore

What? Christiaan VandenHeuvel is an amazing candidate running for the Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District (LVJUSD) Board of Education.

Who? VandenHeuvel is a longtime involved parent and community member who deeply cares about the education of children in LVJUSD. His wife is a Livermore Special Education teacher, his children have attended and graduated from the Livermore schools, and he has always been an authentic believer in the power of education. He knows that every student matters and should feel welcomed and included in their schools.

Why? VandenHeuvel and I served on the Livermore High School (LHS) Parent/Teacher/Student Association (PTSA). He was a passionate PTSA president. During his presidency, he was organized, innovative, collaborative, empathetic, energized, hardworking, smart, creative and humorous. He will bring all of these fantastic qualities to the Board of Education.

When? The time is now to make sure your vote counts for a community leader who will make decisions for our school district that are student-centered, fair, clearly articulated and comprehensive. We need a leader like VandenHeuvel on the LVJUSD Board of Education. He will help lead our school district to new heights and bring all school partners along with him. A vote for Christiaan is a vote for a lifelong learner who will listen and make decisions that serve our students well!

Dog Walking on the Murrieta Trail

Sue Koopman, Livermore

I enjoy the lovely Murrieta walking trail, which continues through Holdener Park. I want to suggest that if you are walking a dog which is sensitive to loud noises, that you skip this trail. This is the time that grape growers generate sounds which duplicate gun shots. These sounds probably protect the grapes, but they are very loud and upsetting to some dogs and walkers. I suggest walking the trail along Concannon, in Sycamore Grove, etc., until the grape season is over.

Dublin Public Services Need Critical Attention

Eve Sprunt, Dublin

On the west side of Fallon Road just south of Kingsmill Terrace, about a forty-foot stretch of sidewalk has in the recent past been covered with slime for months at a time. There is a blocked drain on the edge of Dublin Ranch Golf Course that even now in the middle of the dry season is full to the brim with slime and algae. The muck is flowing down through the landscaping and just barely wetting a patch of sidewalk. If we have heavy rain, that part of the sidewalk will again be a hazardous mess. That sidewalk is used by people running and walking for exercise, as well as school children.

I have tried three times to get action by reporting the problem through the Fix It – Dublin official website. The first time, the inspector claimed he couldn't find it, so I made an appointment to meet him at the problem location at 8 a.m. the next morning. I waited for 20 minutes before calling the city and was told he was out sick. The lady who answered the phone thought it was no problem that he didn't let me know he wasn't going to meet me.

His boss had no trouble finding the blocked drain, but no action was taken. When I reported the problem again, the inspector claimed it was not a code violation. I wrote to the mayor, who didn't reply, and reported the problem again. The third time, the inspector said I needed to contact Dublin Golf Course, which is on land leased by the city.

The quality of public services in Dublin is plummeting. Redlight running and speeding is so widespread the streets are dangerous. At the intersection of Tassajara and Dublin Corporate Way, at 8 a.m., there are so many left-turn redlight runners, cars going straight must wait when the light turns green for them to clear the intersection.

We need to clean house at Dublin City Hall (both elected officials and employees). We must elect and hire people who will enforce speed limits, stop redlight runners, and keep our sidewalks and community safe. Elected representatives and city employees should be responsive to safety issues facing the citizens of the city. Blocked al-

gae-filled drains, slimy sidewalks, speeders and redlight runners are not a joke. They are dangerous hazards.

Livermore Will Be Better with Christiaan VandenHeuval

Lisa Gray, Livermore

I just saw that Christiaan VandenHeuval is running for the school board and wanted to support him publicly. I stopped going to church years ago (my kids are grown) but I have never forgotten the way Christiaan made them feel. Yes, he's a pastor and that might not be your thing. But he's the kind of pastor that acts like Jesus in the best ways, and not the horrible ways you might encounter on Twitter. My kids loved him because of his kindness, but also because he challenged them and thought outside of the box. He was smart and creative and encouraged them to be that way, too. I was excited because if he brings this same spirit to the school board — and I believe he will — Livermore will be so much better off for it!

Don't Overturn Proposition 12 Via the Farm Bill

Rajitha Vemuri, Livermore

Certain special interests in the pork industry are pressuring Congress to overturn Proposition 12 via the Farm Bill. Proposition 12 sets commonsense animal welfare and food safety standards on certain animal products and passed overwhelmingly by California voters in 2018. Nullifying this law via the federal Farm Bill would not only overrule the will of California voters, but it would be a step backward and undermine progress of treating animals more humanely. The proposed Farm Bill language in the U.S. House of Representatives would go beyond dismantling Proposition 12; it could also invalidate hundreds of other state laws that protect public health. As a voter in California who cares deeply about how animals are treated, I respectfully urge Senator Alex Padilla to stand against these controversial attempts to gut Proposition 12 and work to keep language that invalidates state animal welfare and agriculture laws out of the final Farm Bill. The repercussions for public health and animals would be devastating!

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CORRECTION

(Continued from front page)

revenue disbursed annually to EBRPD has grown from \$330,000 per year in 1993, when the tax revenue sharing agreement between the two districts was first established, to \$7.6 million in 2023. The amount that each district should have been given was not available.

The story also misstated the mechanism with which LARPD and the EBRPD entered into a tax revenue-sharing agreement. The story mistakenly included the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo) of

Alameda County, an independent state agency, in that relationship; the districts entered into the tax-sharing agreement themselves. Under the agreement LARPD, which covers eastern Alameda County, would send a portion of revenue to East Bay Parks for the upkeep and operations of regional parks and trails that are within LARPD’s jurisdiction. LAF-Co administers boundaries and is not involved in the disbursement of tax revenue.

The story has been corrected online.

Park Visitors Urged to Avoid Newborn Calves

Calving season runs through October and the East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD) is cautioning visitors to be wary of grazing cattle.

Park visitors should not approach or touch a calf, take selfies with a calf, or get between a calf and its mother, according to EBRPD.

The district added that there is no need to worry if a calf is by itself. The mother cow is usually nearby.

If a calf appears to be in distress, injured, sick,

or dead, visitors should report the location, color of the animal, and ear tag number to park staff at 510-881-1833.

EBRPD noted that animals have grazed the area for thousands of years and continue to play a key role in maintaining a healthy ecosystem for native plants and wildlife. They also reduce the risk of wildfires. Cattle, sheep, and goats graze the district’s parkland during the winter and early spring months.



Fall means calving season in the East Bay Regional Parks District. Visitors are advised to never get between a calf and its mother. (Photos courtesy of EBRPD)

CYCLING

(Continued from front page)

toward them.

According to Kalin’s research, there were 65 collisions involving cyclists and motorists on Mount Diablo between 2002 and 2022. He said since the turnouts went in in 2022, there have been no reported accidents involving cyclists and cars on the road up the mountain. He compiled the data from dozens of accident reports obtained via public records act requests and conversations with law enforcement and state parks officials.

Dublin resident Mark Dedon is a member of the Valley Spokesmen Bicy-

cle Club and worked with Kalin to raise funds and awareness of the safety issues on the mountain. He said the turnouts dramatically improve safety for both cyclists and motorists travelling to the peak of Mount Diablo.

“They’re primarily for the cyclists but they provide a huge convenience for motorists as well,” Dedon said. “As a cyclist, it is immediately obvious when you are riding up the mountain how great they are.”

Kalin said the celebration, held at the summit of Mount Diablo last week, was about more than

increased safety. It was also about the fundraising partnerships that made the project happen. To raise funds and awareness for the turnouts, Kalin and members of MDC worked with members of the public, the Valley Spokesman Bicycle Club, California State Parks, the California State Parks Foundation, and state Sen. Steve Glazer and Assemblymember Rebecca Bauer-Kahan, both of whose districts include the park.

Kalin, Dedon and others began working toward this goal in 2014. The first phase of 45 turnouts was completed in 2022,

funded by \$1.5 million in the California state budget set aside by Glazer and Kahan. Phase 2 was kicked off by local cycling legend Joe Shami.

“Joe was known for riding to the summit of Mt. Diablo for 615 consecutive weeks,” said Dedon.

“He was an amazing guy.”

Shami was struck and killed by an SUV while riding his bike in Lafayette in 2021. Shami, an advocate for the turnouts, left \$123,000 in his will to be used exclusively for construction of more turnouts in the state park, his favorite place to ride his bike. Kalin said MDC was thrilled with the donation and wanted to do more.

“We asked State Parks to match the donation, and they did,” he said.

Over the next year, MDC continued to raise funds until they had generated a total of \$750,000. Donations were facilitated through the California State Parks Foundation, ensuring 100% of donations went to the turnout project, rather than being funneled to other projects or overhead costs.

Because the work was being done in a state park, CSP oversaw the construction process and covered contingency costs.

With the phase 2 work now complete, visitors to

the state park can enjoy a safer trip to the summit, whether riding on two wheels or four.

“I love the turnouts,” said Dedon. “I ride with the Valley Spokesmen to go up the mountain and there isn’t anyone who doesn’t like these things, including the motorists, because they can go around us safely now.”

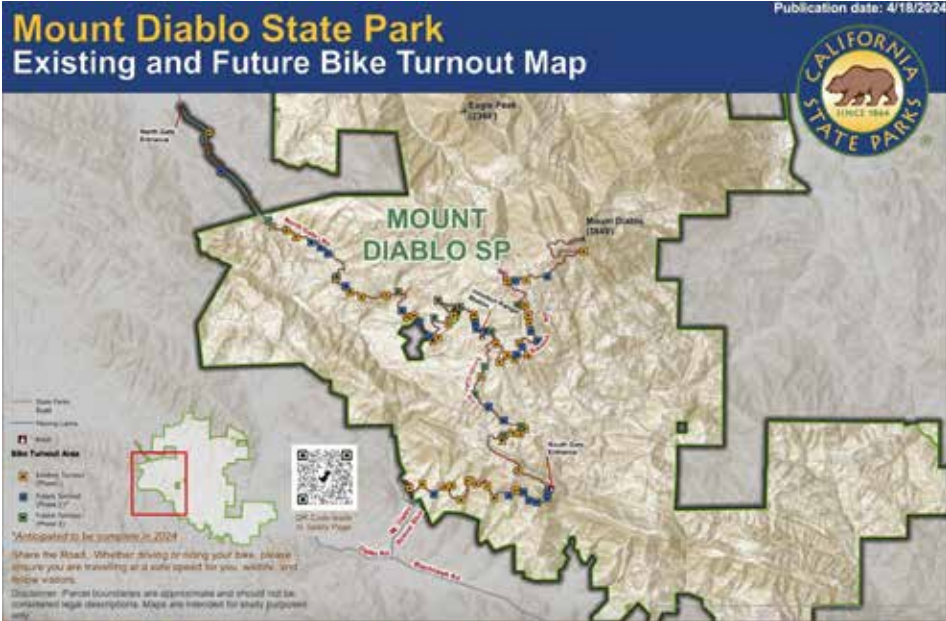
With 67 turnouts complete, the team from MDC is taking a break from fundraising. However, Kalin said phase 3 is still on his mind. The final phase of the turnout project calls for 22 more turnouts, with a price tag of \$700,000. No schedule has been set

for when the project might begin.

“We just need someone to donate the money,” he said.

For more information on MDC and their efforts, visit www.mountdiablocyclists.org/.

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A map shows the location of 67 turnouts for cyclists on the roads leading up Mount Diablo. (Photo courtesy of Mount Diablo Cyclists)

CROSBY

(Continued from front page)

before Markman on Nov. 7 to discuss the matter. By then — two days after the election — the groups will likely know whether the measure passed and will determine how to react.

SMD and FOL sought the emergency order because the Alameda County Registrar of Voters’ deadline to finalize the November ballot for printing is Aug. 30. Voters will begin receiving their ballots in the mail during the first week of October.

Although the request failed, SMD and FOL’s Aug. 9 petition for legal action will continue through the court process to try to legally invalidate the measure if it passes.

“Now the case proceeds on the merits,” Davis said. “The election will move forward.”

If voters reject the measure, the case will “probably just go away,” she added.

The issue is over undeveloped parcels called the Crosby properties in unincorporated Alameda County outside its urban limit line. The property also lies outside Livermore’s urban growth boundary to the east and serves as an open space buffer between the two cities.

Dublin’s leadership has suggested building commercial and industrial projects on 80 acres of the land to help pay for the proposed \$110 million Dublin Boulevard extension to North Canyons Parkway. A survey conducted in 2023 found 59% of Dublin residents supported commercial development as a way to pay for the roadway. Livermore officials and a majority of their residents surveyed

prefer keeping the land undeveloped.

The November ballot measure would be the opening step in the development process. Dublin voters will be asked whether to give their city council the authority to extend the city’s urban limit line around the Crosby properties. The city could then apply to the Alameda County Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo) to annex the land for development.

SMD and FOL contend in their lawsuit that the measure should not be on the ballot until it has undergone a review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) to determine how 80 acres of development will impact air pollution, wildlife, traffic and other issues.

The city, however, said its measure does not require the review because it is not a “project” that would be subjected to CEQA rules. The measure, the city contends, merely authorizes the city to designate the open space for future development.

Dublin officials in July voted 3-2 to move the ballot measure forward. Vice Mayor Sherry Hu and Councilmembers Jean Josey and Janine Thalblum voted in favor; Mayor Michael McCorriston and City Councilmember Kashif Qaadri opposed the idea.

The measure would amend the city’s General Plan and Open Space Initiative of 2014, which has for a decade prevented development on more than 3,800 acres of unincorporated land in Doolan and Collier canyons north of I-580. The initiative prevented development on the

Crosby property for ten years. This year it allows the city to revisit the parcels along Dublin Boulevard for possible development, and states that the city may put a measure on the ballot to authorize development in the area.

Davis said that if voters approve the measure, the judge “can and must invalidate” it if he finds the city violated CEQA.

Davis said a similar case occurred in 2001 involving the city of Sierra Madre in Southern California. The citizens group, Friends of Sierra Madre, sued the city over its failure to conduct CEQA review before placing a measure before the voters, according to Davis.

“The lower court allowed the measure to remain on the ballot and it was approved by voters,” Davis noted. “However, after the election, the California Supreme Court ruled in favor of the plaintiff. The Court held that the city violated CEQA by failing to analyze the environmental impacts of the measure before placing it on the ballot and invalidated the voter-approved measure.”

Dublin city officials did not comment on the judge’s TRO ruling.

Seth Adams, conservation director of SMD, said Markman’s decision was not a surprise.

“It’s not unusual for judges to let election battles play out, because a lot of times, if they go down, it resolves the issues,” Adams said. “It’s always kind of a heavy lift to get a temporary restraining order... We don’t think it means anything about the eventual outcome.

Following the election,

the groups will decide whether to proceed with their suit on the grounds that the city violated CEQA. The groups plan to campaign against the measure’s passage.

“We feel like we’re in a very strong place legally,” Adams said. “We were just hoping that the judge would agree with us to hold off on the ballot measure until the environmental review question was decided.”

Adams said development will result in “more pollution, more traffic and less open space.”

“This is not about one property,” Adams said. “If they break the urban limit line here, the entire green belt is at risk.”

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Interim Building Code Appeals Board (3 Vacancies)
The Board will hear and decide appeals of orders, decisions, and determinations made by City staff relative to the application and interpretation of the California Building Code and other regulations governing construction, use, maintenance, and change of occupancy, as specified in Section 1.8.8 of the California Building Code.
Potential Board members shall be knowledgeable in the applicable building codes, regulations, and ordinances of the City of Livermore.
(3) Terms tentatively ending February 2025. The City will be adopting an ordinance making the Board permanent. At that time, members will have the opportunity to continue.
The Interim Building Code Appeals Board will meet as needed.
SAVE THE DATE! In-person Interviews are tentatively scheduled in late September. For more information or to apply, please visit www.livermoreca.gov/AB, call the City Clerk’s office at (925) 960-4200, or email: cityclerk@livermoreca.gov.

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GARDENS

(Continued from front page)

and food pantries, the group donates 20,000 pounds of organic, sustainably grown food every year to those in need in the Tri-Valley, all part of an effort to serve about 6,500 people and families. And now the group has put some recent grant money toward the effort to solicit feedback from the community to try and provide these beloved food items.

Looking out onto a large flat empty rectangle lined with narrow black irrigation hoses, Fertile GroundWorks Executive Director Brenda Kusler waved her hand over the 5,000-square-foot plot of sheet mulch and said, “Just think: bananas and pineapples and mangos.” Kusler plans to create a kind of tropical food forest in the space and will also try growing plantains, papaya, kumquats, kiwi, loquats and some new citrus trees. Kusler explained that with recent grant money from StopWaste, Kaiser Permanente and Sandia Laboratory

Livermore, the nonprofit was able to conduct a survey in multiple languages asking people what they wanted to see grown, and then bought the plants, seeds and supplies to make their wishes come true.

The community feedback represented local people with roots around the globe: China, India, Turkey, Eastern Europe, South America and beyond. “We were like, what are you missing?” Kusler said she asked local pantries. “What would you like to see us grow?”

Kusler, a gardening master, said she had to look up some of the responses. “Who knew what an ‘opo’ was?” Turns out it’s an edible gourd. Other requests were for Chinese artichokes and custard apples, native to South America. “It kind of looks like a little hand grenade thing,” she said.

Kusler said she’d never heard of a lot of these fruits and vegetables. “Yeah, give me a pear, give me a peach — I know those things.”

But she said she is more than ready to give the unfamiliar fruit a try to help further bring the community together. She says Torie Gibson, the new superintendent of Livermore Valley Unified School District, has been very supportive of the group’s longstanding relationship with local schools where Kusler and volunteers have provided education to help students create and sustainably operate their own gardens. Kusler is excited to share with Gibson and the school district some of the new exotic varieties that will be part of the expanded Wish Garden.

“I figure some of the kids are related to our pantry clients too. What fun it will be for grandmas to share their favorite dishes with their grandkids,” Kusler said.

And this sharing of recipes and ways of using everything the garden grows is exactly what Ko said tasting events are meant to highlight. One of the recipes being prepared was



Garden volunteers Rayna Lazarova (right) and Si-Si Lee-Warner (center) help Angela Ko, Fertile GroundWorks’ board president (left), with event preparations for the group’s annual tomato tasting. (Photo — Doug Jorgensen)

Karela Sabzi, a bitter melon stir-fry. “We’re making an Indian dish that one of our volunteers says is what her mom makes. It’s really popular” in Indian culture, she added.

Fertile GroundWorks’ tastings have become so popular that this year’s tomato tasting sold out online

in less than two hours, and attendance was capped at 60, double what it was last year.

Ko said she aims to accommodate more visitors and volunteers to experience the garden tastings and bring the community together.

“We’re considering 60-70 for our September 20th

event,” she said. That event will be a squash tasting.

On Oct. 5, Fertile GroundWorks is holding a fundraising event, “Taste for Giving Gala” at McGrail Vineyards and Winery to help continue support for the new Wish Garden.

For more information, visit fertilegroundworks.org.

MAYORS

(Continued from front page)

summit is sponsored by the Tri-Valley Chamber of Commerce Alliance.

The upcoming election provided the backdrop for the mayors to air their concerns about a lack of affordable housing in the region. The summit was held shortly after the Bay Area Housing Finance Authority withdrew a \$20 billion bond for affordable housing from the November ballot. Public support for the measure was falling short of the required two-thirds supermajority vote the bond would have needed to pass.

The group’s moderator, former state Assemblymember Catherine Baker, asked the group if, in their opinion, it was harmful to the Tri-Valley that the measure wasn’t happening.

San Ramon Mayor Dave Hudson grabbed the mic first. “No,” he said emphatically. “It was not going to pass. It was like, ‘Give me your wallet and your credit card and whatever code you have — and I’ll let you know when I’m finished.’”

“I mean, there is a need for affordable housing... but it’s just tougher to do this than people realize,” he added.

Hudson and Brown were joined on the stage by mayors Michael McCorrison of Dublin, John Marchand of Livermore, and Karen Stepper of Danville.

Development plans were also discussed, with McCorrison expressing excitement around the development of downtown Dublin, which is currently not as clearly defined as some of his Tri-Valley neighbors’ downtown areas.

“We’re going through a lot of master plan work right now and we’re looking forward to this and I know I’m going to be around when this thing really starts to kick in,” McCorrison said.

Lastly, Baker surprised the mayors with a question

on which they had not been briefed in advance: the upcoming ballot measure in Dublin regarding the possibility of constructing a road connecting to Livermore.

The measure asks Dublin residents whether to amend the 2014 Open Space Initiative and give the city council the authority to accept the donation of land outside the city’s urban limit line to explore for possible development.

The land at issue, also known as the Crosby property (so named because it is owned by the heirs of late singer Bing Crosby), lies in unincorporated Alameda County, and has been the subject of several lawsuits over the years by citizens groups seeking to stop Dublin from developing the land and preserving it as open space. (See story on page 1.)

Livermore’s John Marchand responded to the question. “The idea is to create another East West connection,” in addition to Stoneridge Road that connects the two cities south of the 580 freeway, he said.

The proposal would extend Dublin Boulevard to North Canyons Parkway on the north side of I-580. “When 580 is gridlocked, we’ve got another connection.” He added, “But Livermore’s interest is that we can ensure an open space between our two cities.” Livermore has not been a party to the lawsuits over the property in question.

McCorrison expressed enthusiasm for the connection to Livermore. “What we’re talking about is a mile and a half total. The measure everyone is looking at right now would give the council the authority to evaluate future development. The ballot measure really focuses on that last half mile that can link our sister city here, Livermore, (and us) together.”

Neither McCorrison nor Marchand addressed the issue further.

GARAVENTA

(Continued from front page)

Hill group. “That is why they are considered an unwilling seller. The city contends the owners are not willing to sell. I feel that if a bona fide, fair market value offer was made, they’d be willing sellers.”

Doug Mann, secretary for Citizens for Balanced Growth, said the group will continue to fight the development, and said the city should continue its efforts to buy the property, even as the development process begins anew.

“We’ll be starting all over again for as many years as it takes,” said Mann. “Although you are not required to take any action (tonight), you, as a neutral party may be able to find solutions to the fractured relationship between the seller and the city ... you could also request your staff contract with an actual real estate agent to represent the city. It costs nothing.”

The project opponents also believe that the hill and wetlands provide a unique environment for several species that are protected under the California or federal Endangered Species Acts, including the California red-legged frog, California tiger salamander, California burrowing owl, San Joaquin kit fox, western spadefoot toad, vernal pool fairy shrimp, Livermore tarplant,

palmdate-bracted bird’s beak, and Congdon’s tarplant.

The property owners have rebuffed several attempts to sell to the city, however. The city offered approximately \$860,000 for the land on Feb. 2. When that was declined, the city asked if the owners would accept a fair-market price.

“The City received a reply letter on February 13, 2024, stating that the owners were not willing to discuss selling the property to any entity other than Lafferty Communities because of their existing contract and legal obligation,” the city’s report to the Planning Commission states.

The city made one more attempt on Feb. 29, offering \$1.7 million, which it considered a fair-market price. The owners declined the offer and asked the city to stop sending offers to buy the property.

The city had applied to the Altamont Landfill Open Space Committee for funding for the purchase, but that group does not provide funding if there is not a willing seller. The same condition applies to money from the Dougherty Valley Settlement Fund and the city’s own Transferrable Credits Development Fund, the latter of which also can only be used to buy proper-

ties beyond the urban growth boundary. “Regarding those open space funding sources that might be available,” said Steve Stewart, the city’s special projects manager, “We stopped to explore those over the course of 2023 and 2024, including several appearances at the Altamont Open Space Committee to discuss the availability of those funds ... there are also funds through the Dougherty Valley Settlement Agreement. Both of those funds do require a willing seller, so they were determined to be ineligible.”

The report also states the city is unlikely to condemn the property via eminent domain, saying it would be cost-prohibitive. The report estimates it would cost anywhere from \$17 million to \$35 million, not counting the costs of expected legal challenges, and would be inconsistent with the city’s past practice of using eminent domain for public rights-of-way, such as streets, sidewalks and trails.

The remaining option, drawing from the city’s general fund, would require a public vote on a ballot initiative or bond measure.

The original development application was filed in 2019, but the citizens groups sued,

stating that the city had failed to identify potential preservation funds that could be used to acquire the land. The opponents lost the initial case, but won on appeal in 2023, prompting the City Council to revoke its approval of the plan. The California Supreme court later rejected the city’s request to “depublish” the appellate ruling, which allows the case to be citable and used as a precedent for future litigation.

Developer Lafferty Communities re-filed the application this month, this time including the funding sources and a “No Project, No Development” option among other choices. Most of the rest of the proposal remained unchanged.

The report, officially called a “Recirculated Partial Draft EIR,” is available for public view and comments through Sept. 13. It can be read online on the city’s website at <https://www.livermore-ca.gov/departments/community-development/planning/environmental-documents>.

The document can also be read in person at City Hall, 1052 S. Livermore Ave., and at the Civic Center Library, 1188 S. Livermore Ave.

The project will eventually go before the City Council for approval.

HOMELESS

(Continued from front page)

went, and then through a series of events I lost everything, including my life’s savings. It’s been very hard.”

Gary, who like other homeless individuals interviewed for this article declined to provide his full name, was taking part in a pilot program sponsored through Alameda County called the Readiness Boot Camp, which helps homeless individuals return to the work force. The program’s intention is not just for the participants to secure their economic futures, but to build up their self-confidence, too.

The program was held at Livermore’s Vineyard Resource Center from Aug. 19-23. The center offers permanent housing and services to low-income families and individuals.

During the sessions, staff worked with individuals on resume writing, job search strategies, professional decorum and interview skills, among other subjects. To encourage attendance, Alameda County Supervisor David Haubert’s office funded a \$100-per-day stipend for those who completed the week of training.

The sessions come at a time when the state government is facing increasing pressure to provide services to combat the shortage of available housing and growing homelessness.

This month, Alameda County Health has contributed an additional \$14 million from its Behavioral Health Bridge

Housing program to provide temporary housing services to address homelessness among people with mental health needs. The allocation increases the total sent to the county to \$60.8 million.

The funding focuses on several key areas, including homelessness prevention strategies, rehabilitating existing housing to prevent closure due to deferred maintenance, expanded access to programs for people within the criminal justice system, and other increased outreach, engagement and housing navigation services.

At the Vineyard job fair, 25 individuals participated in the program, seven of whom are housed at the Vineyard. The boot camp culminated in a job fair in which seven Tri-Valley employers interviewed the participants.

“We are very hopeful this boot camp will serve to result in employment for some, a strong connection to the Tri-Valley Career Center to continue job pursuits for others, and a very positive and good experience for all,” said Gloria Gregory, the community liaison director for Supervisor Haubert’s office. “We are very hopeful it will be the seed that will result in more Job Readiness Boot Camps in the Tri-Valley, as well as other locations in Alameda County.”

John Bost, executive director of Open Heart Kitchen, a nonprofit organization that provides meals to those

in need and which is headquartered on the Vineyard campus, said the wrap-around services these organizations can provide for the unhoused makes for an unbeatable combination.

“While every individual’s most cherished service at Vineyard differs, finding employment is a top priority for most of them,” said Bost. “After meeting with everyone, we knew we had a winning formula. The Vineyard Resource Center can provide a wide array of support to individuals, but without reliable monthly income, none of our guests are going to be able to move forward and beyond their present challenging circumstances. I’m confident that this employment boot camp is just the beginning for our job seekers at Vineyard and that more opportunities like it will be available in the months to come.”

Jerry Simerman, a volunteer with the Tri-Valley Career Center, led the daily classes for the participants. He said being able to give individuals the tools to be successful in their job searches was gratifying.

“It makes me feel terrific to be a part of all this,” said Simerman. “To help them and counsel them as they go is very exciting and very important.”

Another participant was LuAnn, a woman in her late 60s who until recently was living out of her car while still being able to work. However,

when she fell ill and became hospitalized, LuAnn was unable to work and quickly found herself unhoused.

“I had never been homeless before,” she said. “My background is in insurance and more recently as a caregiver, but now I am having to start all over, and it is scary for someone my age to be going through the interview process and job search all over again.”

LuAnn attended the boot camp and said the benefits of the program were more than about freshening up her resume.

“I leave each class filled with hope,” said LuAnn, who has been living at the Vineyard since February. “I am slowly getting back my confidence and brushing up on my skills.”

Marianna, who is currently unhoused but will soon have a spot at The Vineyard thanks to the Livermore Housing Authority’s voucher program, said she is feeling hopeful for the first time in a long time.

“Yes, better times are coming I think, I hope,” said Marianna, who is looking to find work in the retail sector. “I get a little uneasy at times, but I am trying to do what’s best for me and my health. I feel lucky to be here. I feel hopeful.”

And hope is what it’s all about.

“It’s been hard, very hard,” said Gary of his journey. “But I feel blessed to have found this place and these people. I am prayerful things will work out.”



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OBITUARIES

Steve Overton Whetzel
March 27, 1948 – Aug. 10, 2024

Steve Whetzel passed away at Kona Community Hospital on Aug. 10, 2024. Born March 27, 1948, to Virgil Overton Whetzel and Sally Beryl Ours in Petersburg, West Virginia, Steve grew up in Moorefield. The family later moved to Ohio and Florida.

He served in the Navy from 1965-1969 and served three tours in Vietnam aboard the USS Coontz. He was a certified public accountant and certified fraud examiner licensed to practice both in Hawaii and California. Steve was a member of the Kona Elks, DAV, VFW and was recently installed as Post Commander of American Legion Post 20. In California he was a member of Niles Rotary and Livermore American Legion Post 47.

Steve graduated from San Jose State University with a BA in accounting and passed the CPA exam. After college he joined the CPA firm of Arthur Anderson in San Jose and later joined the firm of Greenstein, DiMarta and Rogoff in Fremont where he became a partner in the firm. In 1994 he opened his own accounting



practice in Pleasanton. He retired in 2017.

Steve enjoyed fishing, golf, scouting and traveling. He served as a Cub Scout and Boy Scout leader and was High Adventure trained. He and Chandra traveled internationally to Cancun, Puerto Vallarta, Mazatlan, Cabo San Lucas, Ireland, Japan, Australia and Canada. They enjoyed attending the USS Coontz shipmate reunions which took them to San Antonio, Annap-

olis, Nashville, Buffalo and lastly Bremerton, Washington where the USS Coontz was constructed at Puget Sound. Their U.S. travels also took them to Boston, Memphis, New Orleans, Grand Canyon, Niagara Falls, San Diego, Florida, Hawaii and Alaska. In 2023 they became permanent Hawaii residents.

He is survived by wife of 55 years, Chandra Whetzel, and son Ian Whetzel; sisters Donna Santiago (Ozzie), Patty Copalko; brothers Jerry Whetzel, James Gregory Whetzel (Maritza); nieces Cheryl Galanti, Michelle Stanley, Ashley Madrid, Nicole Whetzel, Jackie Santiago; nephews Dennis Whetzel, Richard Gherardi, Joshua Santiago and their families.

Steve is preceded in death by son Ryan Whetzel, his parents Virgil and Sally Whetzel, brother-in-law Allan Copalko and nephew Michael Whetzel.

Service with military honors will be held Friday, Sept. 6, 2024, at 11 a.m. with interment at 12 noon at the West Hawaii Veterans Cemetery in Kona, Hawaii.

Maria Virginia Vargas
April 22, 1939 – Aug. 5, 2024



a volunteer for many years at the Pleasanton Senior Center. Maria was a parishioner of St. Augustine's Catholic Church in Pleasanton since 1959 and was very devout and dedicated to her faith.

Maria was preceded in death by her parents Jose and Filomena Terra, her brother Jose Terra, her sister Rosemaria Terra, her father and mother-in-law Manuel da Terra Vargas and Maria Vargas, brothers-in-law Daniel Vargas and Jose Vargas, and sister-in-law Marilia Vargas.

Maria is survived by her loving husband of 66 years Manuel Vargas, her daughter Neleen Bigman (Sandy), her daughter Denise Willis (Kip), her son Leon Vargas, daughter-in-law Lonnie Vargas, her grandchildren Jason Moitoso (Yura), Amanda Batalha (Dale), Hallie Bigman, Dominic Freitas (Allysa), Paulo Freitas, Giuliana

Barthel, MacKenzie Willis Halen (Zack), Brady Willis, Nolan Willis (Mattie), Michael Vargas, Nicolette Vargas (EJ), Chloe Vargas, her five great-grandchildren Braxon Batalha, Maela Batalha, Adelaide Freitas, Roman Vizcaino and Dominic Vizcaino, her brothers Manuel Terra (Maria) and Luis Terra, and many brother and sisters-in-law, nieces and nephews.

Maria will be remembered for her endearing love for her family and friends, her compassion for those less fortunate, her sense of humor, her infectious smile, her strong will to live, her generous spirit, her beautiful fashion style, and her love of singing and dancing. She will be deeply missed beyond measure by her family and friends.

A Rosary will be held on Monday, Sept. 2, 2024 (viewing from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. – rosary recitation from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.) at Graham-Hitch Mortuary, 4167 First S., Pleasanton, CA 94566. A funeral Mass will be held at 10 a.m., Sep.3, 2024, at St. Augustine's Catholic Church, 3999 Bernal Ave., Pleasanton, CA 94566. A reception and burial will follow.

In lieu of flowers, the family encourages memorial donations to be given to the Alzheimer's Association and St. Jude Research Hospital.

CELEBRATION OF LIFE

Gay Maestas
Sept. 29, 1937 – June 3, 2024

Gaylor Grace (DeBalto) Maestas passed away on June 3, 2024. She was born on Sept. 29, 1937 in Seattle, Washington. Daughter of Charles and Florence (Rigdon) DeBalto, Gay was predeceased by her parents and her husband Frank Maestas and is survived by several nieces and nephews. Gay grew up in Hayward, California and graduated Hayward High School in 1955. She spent 30 years working at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in administrative and secretarial positions. Gay, with her late husband Frank, built a much-loved country home off of Greenville Rd. in Livermore that was home to an assortment of animals including horses, goats, cats and dogs. Animals were her life's work, and she dedicated many years to the improvement of animals' lives, large and small. Gay was a longtime friend and committed volunteer of Valley Humane Society, serving in many capacities, including serving on the Board of Directors for several years. Her greatest passion was leading the Dog Foster and Adoption programs. Gay continued in this role supporting the Lucky Dog Rescue, fostering momma dogs and



their puppies. Gay loved horseback riding, traveling all over the world and rescuing animals. She volunteered at an equestrian center assisting handicapped children in horseback riding. Her favorite travels included several trips to Africa, as well as Europe, (including the 1972 Summer Olympics in Munich, Germany) Egypt, Machu Picchu and all 50 U.S. states. Gay also loved the Sierra mountains; She and Frank had built and enjoyed two cabins near Tahoe City. Hiking and cross-country skiing were favorite activities there. Another of her loves was driving around in "Slick" — her red 1984 Mitsubishi 3000 GT. She will be remembered fondly by her family and many close friends that were so very important to her. Gay would also want to remind everyone, "Be sure to hug your pets today."

A celebration of life will be held at Cattlemen's Restaurant in Livermore on Thursday, Sept. 26, 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. A light lunch will be provided. In lieu of flowers, donations in memory of Gay can be made to Lucky Dog Rescue. If attending, please RSVP by Sept. 19 to Tony Maestas at email Tutruk777@aol.com.

Allen R. Olsen
1956 – 2024



Allen Olsen died too soon and too early at the age of 67, with his wife at his bedside, at Pleasanton's Stanford Tri-Valley Heath Care, of stomach and esophageal cancer. Allen was born in Sonoma, California, but he lived most of his life in Livermore. At Granada High School, he was active in cross country and in fencing. While in high school, he worked shelving books in Livermore's Public Library, where he met his wife, Carol Silva. Allen and Carol were married for 48 years.

After graduating from high school, he left the library and worked at Burton's shoe store (Allen always wore nice looking shoes!) and later in the custom black and white lab at Bennett's Photo Finishing, which got bought by Drewry Photocolor. After working at Drewry, he worked at a few car dealerships and at FlowTech

semiter. Another one of his favorite travel places was to go to the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force in Dayton, Ohio.

Allen was predeceased by his parents, Kenneth Olsen, Sr. and Cecilia Olsen. He is survived by his wife, Carol, brothers Kenneth Jr. (Anita) and Mike (Nikki) and their son, Michael (Veronica), and several in-laws, cousins, nephews, nieces, and grandnephews and grandnieces.

You are invited to attend a celebration of Allen Olsen's life on Saturday, Sept. 14, at 11:30 a.m., at Dublin's Frankie, Johnnie, & Luigi Too! A head count of attendees is needed by Sept. 7. Please contact 7silva@comcast.net or call or text 925-980-0541 to RSVP.

In lieu of flowers, please donate to the Air Force Museum Foundation or to Yellowstone Forever.

EDEN

(Continued from front page)

referendum on whether the project should be built. Alternatively, the city has the right to rescind its resolution advancing the Eden Housing project.

Opponents attest the city cannot adopt a new similar resolution for at least a year.

"This has a very interesting set of issues," Markman told attorneys at a hearing Aug. 22 in Oakland. "I'll do my best to do right by you all."

Markman gave no indication when he would issue a ruling.

Markman's decision could determine the future of the Eden Housing developer's plan to construct two buildings with 130 affordable-housing units at the southeastern corner of Railroad Avenue and South L Street.

Background of the Dispute

In May 2022, the Livermore City Council finalized a resolution with a 5-0 vote that provided Eden a \$7.8 million loan from its affordable housing fund for Eden to buy the parcel from the city and limited its own liability to \$4.3 million for cleaning up contamination on the site. The city also authorized \$5.5 million in funding to develop Eden's required public park in between the project's two buildings.

Supporters of the project

said the 2022 resolution was necessary to provide affordable housing for residents unable to meet the region's steep housing costs.

Opponents of the project would like the development relocated to property on the north side of Railroad Avenue, so that a park could be created on the current Eden site in the center of downtown. They contend a development with a larger number of units could be built across the street to help provide more low income housing. In their view, creating a park on the site, which is currently a parking lot, would be preferable to any housing, whether market-rate or low-income.

One community group, Save Livermore Downtown, sued to stop the project, but its arguments that the project violated the city's Downtown Specific Plan (DSP) and the city council's approval violated the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) failed in court.

Another group, Move Eden Housing (MEH), appeared to find success in a separate court battle. After collecting more than 8,000 signatures to call for a public referendum on whether the proposed project should go forward, the group sued when the former city clerk refused

to process their petitions.

On the advice of City Attorney Jason Alcala, the clerk said the council's vote was not subject to a referendum because the council's resolution was an administrative matter, not legislative.

Legislative actions establish policies, and can be put to a public vote, while administrative actions only execute those policies, and can't be placed on a ballot.

MEH's counsel, on the other hand, argued that the city clerk was required to process the referendum signatures. Then, if the city wished, it could turn to a court to decide whether the referendum was an administrative or legislative action. Markman agreed with the city, but MEH appealed his decision.

The appellate court justices found that the inclusion of \$5.5 million in city funds for Eden's park made the entire referendum a legislative decision that was subject to a vote, although the other elements were deemed administrative actions.

Then in June, the Eden Housing agreement was sent back before the city council with the requirement that it follow the appellate court ruling. The council voted to accept the signatures gathered, but then chose not to go

forward with a referendum, instead rescinding the resolution approved in 2022.

In a brief filed Aug. 15 with the court, MEH's attorney argues that those two actions were legal, but what the city did next violated the state Elections Code.

Arguments Before the Court

At its June 24 meeting, Alcala told the council that the city could adhere to the court of appeal's ruling by stripping the park funding from its 2022 resolution. That would make the city's action an administrative decision.

The council agreed, approving a resolution on a 4-1 vote, with Councilmember Ben Barrientos voting against it.

Calling Alcala's decision "astonishing," MEH attorney Winston Stromberg quickly filed papers asking Markman to intercede.

"We completely disagree with the position that they're taking there, which entirely ignores the case law about how a city cannot adopt essentially the same agreement and cannot act with an intent to evade the effect of the referendum petition," Stromberg told Markman in court. "The referendum here challenged the entire resolution and agreement. The Court of Appeal confirmed that the

park funding made the entire resolution subject to referendum, and so the city took this as a clever way of trying to get around the problem."

Stromberg also argued that the California Elections Code requires cities to wait a year before approving an ordinance or resolution subject to referendum that is essentially the same as the one that is rescinded. Livermore, he told Markman, violated that statute.

"They didn't make one change, other than to say those four sections (on the park) are not being adopted now," Stromberg said.

Stromberg told Markman that Livermore "has taken a path to evade the effects of the referendum petition by parsing out the provisions related to the park and reenacting the same resolution."

The city and Eden Housing considered the development of housing and the park to be a single project, Move Eden Housing attorney Stromberg said when reached on Monday.

Livermore's development rules require a certain amount of open space to be set aside for every multifamily development, he said, and the city can't strip the park out of the project.

"The park is needed for the project to comply with

the local planning rules," Stromberg concluded.

Attorneys for Livermore and Eden Housing did not return calls.

Attorney Steven Nguy, representing Livermore, and Attorney Andrew Savey, representing Eden Housing, argued in court that the city's new agreement had met the most recent appellate court ruling by removing the park from the agreement.

"What the court said is just because there was at one point a legislative component. That, that agreement does not turn every other component of this agreement into a legislative act," Nguy said.

Sabey agreed with the assertion that the referendum only applies to funding the park and not the housing project.

"The (agreement) as it pertains to the housing is entirely administrative and not amenable to interference," Sabey said.

Move Eden Housing, Sabey said, "come(s) before you today, and they ask you to pretend that they didn't lose, that they actually won," Sabey said. "Move Eden Housing got what it was entitled to."

Sabey argued the judge should rule in favor of the city.

Emerald High Junior Varsity Team Debuts in New Stadium

By Phil Jensen

The operative word in the Emerald High School junior varsity girls flag football scrimmage on Aug. 21 was “new.”

The new team, playing in the first event of the new stadium on its new campus, hosted Campolindo-Moraga in a scrimmage.

There was plenty of school spirit for the Dublin school, as fan chants of “Let’s go Emerald!” could be heard during part of the competition.

“They did a great job,” said Emerald coach James Berry about his team, which had its first official practice on Aug. 12. He said there was a lot of nervousness and anxiousness in that first competition, but “they started getting comfortable towards the end.”

That’s when the first touchdown in the program’s history was achieved. Quarterback Sierra Masse, a sophomore, threw a 20-yard touchdown pass to freshman Elizabeth Haile three plays before the end of the scrimmage. Masse also completed a pass on the second play of the scrimmage, one of her five total completions in the scrimmage for 55 yards.

Masse, who has a background in softball, brought leadership qualities to this new sport. “It’s huge to see how other sports can impact something that’s brand-new,” Berry said.

Berry, who is also the school’s boys football coach, had his offense concentrate on passing in the scrimmage. He said the scrimmage was “a great time to get a great defense to give us a review.”

Emerald, which fielded 28 players at the scrimmage, has only freshmen and sophomores in its school this year. The flag football team is competing at the junior varsity level this season, Berry said; his team faced Campolindo’s junior varsity team on Aug. 21.

Flag football is very new to the entire North Coast Section. This is only the second year of this sport’s existence for high school teams in our area, and the first NCS championships will be held this season.

Emerald will be competing in most sports in the junior varsity and/or freshmen levels. In some sports such as track and field, golf and cross country, there is the chance for some individual athletes to

qualify for varsity events, said co-athletic director Jason Rockwell. He also said that the tennis teams will be competing at the varsity level. All Emerald teams will be competing in the Bay Valley Athletic League this school year.

There are significant differences between high school girls flag football and boys football in the area.

For example, there are seven players on the field for each flag football team. The playing field is 80 yards long and only 30-40 yards wide, not including the two end zones. Each play ends when the ball either hits the ground or a player who is carrying the ball has a flag grabbed by the opposing team. Flags are narrow strips, often made of nylon, that are attached to a nylon belt. Each player has two flags, one on each hip. There is no tackling, and there are two 20-minute halves. There is a running clock for much of the game. The ball is not kicked in any capacity in the game; if a team wants to punt on fourth down, it tells the referee and the ball is placed on the other side of the field at the 20-yard-line.

But the sport can be recognizable to those new

to flag football in that each team gets four downs to make a first down, and touchdowns produce six points. After a touchdown, however, extra-point plays are attempted from either the 5-yard-line (one point) or 10-yard-line (two points). The ball can be moved down the field ei-

ther by passes or runs, although there are no-run zones where only passes are allowed, including five yards from each end zone. The quarterback can carry the ball past the line of scrimmage only once on a series of downs.

Campolindo scored three touchdowns in the

Aug. 21 scrimmage, while Emerald had one. There is no official scorekeeping in a scrimmage.

Emerald’s mascot is now the Aerouants, pronounced “ehr-wants,” and derived from an ancient Celtic word for a dragon-like beast, according to the school’s website.



Emerald High quarterback Sierra Masse receives the snap in the Aerouants’ first scrimmage of the season on their new playing field. (Photo — Doug Jorgensen)

Amador Valley Girls Tap Rugby Moves for Flag Football

Dons Win Season Opener 13-0 Over Visiting Las Lomas-Walnut Creek

By Phil Jensen

As Amador Valley High School girls varsity flag football player Maddie

Smith out-juked multiple defenders on many of her catches on Aug. 22 against visiting Las Lomas-Walnut Creek, her rugby back-

ground was evident. “I do a lot of juking in rugby,” said Smith, who plays the sport for the Cavaliers, a youth club.

“I love (flag football) ... I think we have a really, really good group of girls here. I also like how athletic you have to be, how much running there is. I just really like the fitness part of it.”

Smith had a game-high nine catches for 154 yards and scored both of Amador Valley’s touchdowns in a 13-0 season-opening nonleague victory. The 5-foot-4 senior, who plays flyback on offense and linebacker on defense, was a first-team all-East Bay Athletic League selection last year in the first season that local high schools had flag football teams.

Dons coach Phil Peacock said that there are multiple players on the team who have rugby experience. He also said there are two players on the roster who had previous flag football experience in the Pleasanton Junior Football League: quarterback Riley Harrington and backup quarterback/starting safety Ka’Lani Walker.

Harrington, a sophomore, completed 11 of her 21 pass attempts for 168 yards, two touchdowns and one interception.

Peacock described the improvement of this year’s team from last year’s as “night and day.” The team

had a 3-14 overall record last year and 3-12 in EBAL play.

“The girls put in the time, and it’s really showing,” said Peacock about summer workouts. “We’re better now than we were at any point last year.”

“They are such hard workers and it’s just a joy to be out here with them.”

Peacock said that the team has improved the most in catching the ball and general football knowledge. He also said that he has put in hours of film study, learning the girls game through watching National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics women’s flag football games.

Against Las Lomas, the Dons’ defenders were the stars of the first half. Walker grabbed an interception and Amador Valley allowed Las Lomas only one first down to reach halftime with a 0-0 tie.

Amador Valley struck for the eventual winning

touchdown on just the second play of the final half. Harrington sent approximately a 20-yard pass to Smith, who out-raced the defense to the end zone for a 60-yard touchdown. The duo also connected for an extra-point pass and a 7-0 lead. Teams can choose to either go for a five-yard extra point, or try for two points from 10 yards out.

The Dons’ defense continued its outstanding play, as it allowed only one more first down in the second half. Meanwhile, Harrington and Smith connected for a four-yard touchdown pass with 1 minute, 20 seconds left in the game for the final points (the extra point failed). Smith also led Amador Valley in rushing with 32 yards on four running plays.

Amador Valley will attempt to improve to 2-0 in this young season when it hosts Alhambra-Martinez in a nonleague game on Aug. 27 at 7:15 p.m.



Maddie Smith, flyback of Amador Valley High's flag football team, drew on her rugby skills to make nine catches and score both touchdowns against visiting Las Lomas-Walnut Creek. (Photo — Doug Jorgensen)

Bankhead to Host Jayhawks, Singer-Songwriters Bonoff and Souther

The new Bankhead Presents season, sponsored by Livermore Valley Arts, continues next month with The Jayhawks, pioneers in alternative country music, on Saturday, Sept. 14, followed by singer/songwriters Karla Bonoff and JD Souther in a “Together Again” concert on Friday, Sept. 27.

Both performances are at 8 p.m. at the Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore.

The Jayhawks got their start in the upper Midwest

in the mid-1980s and have released 11 studio albums, including “XOXO” in 2020.

The band is widely credited with influencing other alternative country and Americana bands that played the Twin Cities circuit.

Bonoff and Souther are both primarily known as songwriters, Bonoff having written songs for superstar Linda Ronstadt and Souther having co-written several of the Eagles biggest hits.

In addition to singing background for Ronstadt, Bonoff was a member of the 1960s Los Angeles folk-rock group, Bryndle, and has released seven studio albums of her own, including a greatest hits collection, “All My Life,” released in 1999.

In addition to writing for the Eagles and other top performers, Souther had two hit singles as a singer, including “You’re Only Lonely” in 1979 and “Her Town Too,” a duet with James Taylor in 1981.

In 2008, Souther released his first studio album in 25 years, “If the World Was You.” That was followed by “Rain: Live at the Belcourt Theatre” in 2009 and “Natural History,” with new arrangements of songs he wrote for other artists, in 2011.

He was inducted into the Songwriters Hall of Fame in 2013.

Tickets for all Bankhead Presents performances are available at livermorearts.org.



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LEGAL NOTICES ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME Case No. 24CV074016 SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF ALAMEDA TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:	Petitioner: Peris Kimani Morrison 4362 Panorama Drive Dublin, CA 94568 925-226-6937 pariskimani2@gmail.com filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Present Names: Peris Kimani Morrison Cara Daurice Morrison Proposed Name:	Paris Kimani Neal Cara Amani Kimani THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the	reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing. NOTICE OF HEARING Date: 11/22/2024 Time: 9:30 AM Dept: 18	The address of the court is: Alameda County Administration Building 1225 Fallon Street Oakland, CA 94612 A copy of this Order To Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation printed in this county:	The Independent Newspaper 2250 First Street, Livermore, CA 94550 Dated: 4/8/2024 /s/: Thomas Nixon, Judge of the Superior Court. The Independent, Legal No. 6065. Published August 8, 15, 22, 29, 2024. FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 608296 The following person(s) doing	business as: Sunol Aggregates, 11555 Dublin Blvd, Dublin, CA 94568 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): De Silva Gates Construction LLC, 11555 Dublin Blvd, Dublin, CA 94568. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 7/29/2024. Signature of Reg-	istrant/s/: Christopher Hallum, VicePresident/CFO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 29, 2024. Expires July 28, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6066. Published August 8, 15, 22, 29, 2024. FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 608280 The following person(s) doing business as: This Little Life,
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LEGAL NOTICES/CLASSIFIEDS

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5436 Ruth Ave, Oakland, CA 94601 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): This Little Life LLC, 5436 Ruth Ave, Oakland, CA 94601. 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/: Kim To, Principal. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 29, 2024. Expires July 28, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6067. Published August 8, 15, 22, 29, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 608212

The following person(s) doing business as: Otter Construction, 1228 Quarry Lane, suite C, Pleasanton, CA 94566 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Manito Construction, Inc., 1228 Quarry Lane, Suite C, 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/: Victoria Morris, Vice President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 25, 2024. Expires July 24, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6068. Published August 8, 15, 22, 29, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 608027

The following person(s) doing business as: 3D Remodeling Inc., Lindgergh Ave, Suite D, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): James Alexander, PO Box 2812, 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: 4/1/1984. Signature of Registrant/s/: James Alexander, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 17, 2024. Expires July 16, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6069. Published August 8, 15, 22, 29, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 607862

The following person(s) doing business as: SKNWITHKAIT, 4685 Canary Drive, Pleasanton, CA 94566 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Kaitlyn White, 4685 Canary Drive, 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: 4/16/2024. Signature of Registrant/s/: Kaitlyn White, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 11, 2024. Expires July 10, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6070. Published August 8, 15, 22, 29, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 608341

The following person(s) doing business as: Eduardo Lin, MD & Associates, 6155 Stoneridge Dr., STE 101, Pleasanton, CA 94588 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Eduardo Lin, 6155 Stoneridge Dr., STE 101, Pleasanton, CA 94588; Minh Dang, 6155 Stoneridge Dr., STE 101, Pleasanton, CA 94588; Oasis Pain and Wellness Center, Inc., 6155 Stoneridge Dr., Ste 101, Pleasanton, CA 94588. This business is conducted by a General Partnership. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 7/10/2024. Signature of Registrant/s/: Eduardo Lin, General Partner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 31, 2024. Expires July 30, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6071. Published August 8, 15, 22, 29, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 607852

The following person(s) doing business as: Baba Landscaping, 6700 Goodfellow Ave, Dublin, CA 94568 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): 5 Smar Movers, Inc., 6700 Goodfellow Ave, Dublin, CA 94568. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 12/6/2022. Signature of Registrant/s/: Sanjeev Dhewant, Secretary. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 10, 2024. Expires July 9, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6072. Published August 8, 15, 22, 29, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 607834

The following person(s) doing business as: GJ Plumbing, 996 Via Honda, San Lorenzo, CA 94580 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Gilmer Rojas, 996 Via Honda San Lorenzo, CA 94580. 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/: Gilmer Rojas, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 10, 2024. Expires July 9, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6073. Published August 8, 15, 22, 29, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 607834

The following person(s) doing business as: GJ Plumbing, 996 Via Honda, San Lorenzo, CA 94580 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Gilmer Rojas, 996 Via Honda San Lorenzo, CA 94580. 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/: Gilmer Rojas, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 10, 2024. Expires July 9, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6073. Published August 8, 15, 22, 29, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 608404

The following person(s) doing business as: JALC Enterprises, 3670 Whitworth Drive, Dublin, CA 94568 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): JALC Enterprises, LLC, 3670 Whitworth Dr., Dublin, CA 94568. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 9/23/2023. Signature of Registrant/s/: Jeffery Hall, Manager. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 2, 2024. Expires August 1, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6074. Published August 15, 22, 29, September 5, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 608134

The following person(s) doing business as: Seoul Gom Tang II, 3801 Telegraph Ave, Oakland, CA 94609 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): KWM Investment Inc., 3801 Telegraph Ave, Oakland, CA 94609. 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: 00/0/2004. Signature of Registrant/s/: Won Young Kim, Manager. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 22, 2024. Expires July 21, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6075. Published August 15, 22, 29, September 5, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 608238

The following person(s) doing business as: Original Insta Lube, 15526 Hesperian BLVD, San Lorenzo, CA 94580 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): ECO Lube Center, 15526 Hesperian BLVD, San Lorenzo, CA 94580. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 6/1/2016. Signature of Registrant/s/: Quang Phan, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 26, 2024. Expires July 25, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6076. Published August 15, 22, 29, September 5, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 607597

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Amasaan Uji Macha; 2. LAC Coffee, 39658 Cedar Blvd, Newark, CA 94568 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Caffeine-HQ LLC, 2050 Lewelling Blvd, San Leandro, CA 94579. 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/: Quoc Nguyen, Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 1, 2024. Expires June 30, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6077. Published August 15, 22, 29, September 5, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 608090

The following person(s) doing business as: Bethesda Home, 22427 Montgomery St., Hayward, CA 94541 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Christian Retirement Center of Northern California, 22427 Montgomery St., Hayward, CA 94541. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to

transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 5/24/1971. Signature of Registrant/s/: Robin Harvey, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 19, 2024. Expires July 18, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6078. Published August 15, 22, 29, September 5, 2024.

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME ORIGINAL FILE NO. 590828

The person(s) listed below have abandoned the use of the following fictitious business name(s). Original Inst Lube, 15526 Hesperian BLVD, San Lorenzo, CA 94580. Registered by the following owner(s): Huong Truong, 251 Perkins ST., Oakland, CA 94610. The fictitious business name statement was filed on 07/29/2022 in the County of Alameda. This business was conducted by an individual. Signature of Registrants: /s/: Huong Truong. Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 26, 2024. The Independent, Legal No. 6079. Published August 15, 22, 29, September 5, 2024.

SUMMONS (CITATION JUDICIAL) CASE NUMBER (Número del Caso): 24CV070947

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT (AVISO AL DEMANDADO): **PENNYWEIGHT CRAFT BREWING LLC; CHRISTOPHER GUY aka CHRIS GUY; and DOES 1 through 10, inclusive**

YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF (LO ESTÁ DEMANDANDO EL DEMANDANTE): **PANWEE LEASING CORPORATION**

NOTICE! You have been sued. The court may decide against you without your being heard unless you respond within 30 days. Read the information below. You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons and legal papers are served on you to file a written response at this court and have a copy served on the plaintiff. A letter or phone call will not protect you. Your written response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case. There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and more information at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the court clerk for a fee waiver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and your wages, money, and property may be taken without further warning from the court. There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may want to call an attorney referral service. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may be eligible for free legal services from a nonprofit legal services program. You can locate these nonprofit groups at the California Legal Services Web site (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), or by contacting your local court or county bar association. NOTE: The court has a statutory lien for waived fees and costs on any settlement or arbitration award of \$10,000 or more in a civil case. The court's lien must be paid before the court will dismiss the case. ¡AVISO! Lo han demandado. Si no responde dentro de 30 días, la corte puede decidir en su contra sin escuchar su versión. Lea la información a continuación. Tiene 30 DÍAS DE CALENDARIO después de que le entreguen esta citación y papeles legales para presentar una respuesta por escrito en esta corte y hacer que se entregue una copia al demandante. Una carta o una llamada telefónica no lo protegen. Su respuesta por escrito tiene que estar en formato legal correcto si desea que procesen su caso en la corte. Es posible que haya un formulario que usted pueda usar para su respuesta. Puede encontrar estos formularios de la corte y más información en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California (www.sucorte.ca.gov), en la biblioteca de leyes de su condado o en la corte que le quede más cerca. Si no puede pagar la cuota de presentación,

pida al secretario de la corte que le dé un formulario de exención de pago de cuotas. Si no presenta su respuesta a tiempo, puede perder el caso por incumplimiento y la corte le podrá quitar su sueldo, dinero y bienes sin más advertencia. Hay otros requisitos legales. Es recomendable que llame a un abogado inmediatamente. Si no conoce a un abogado, puede llamar a un servicio de remisión a abogados. Si no puede pagar a un abogado, es posible que cumpla con los requisitos para obtener servicios legales gratuitos de un programa de servicios legales sin fines de lucro. Puede encontrar estos grupos sin fines de lucro en el sitio web de California Legal Services, (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California, (www.sucorte.ca.gov) o poniéndose en contacto con la corte o el colegio de abogados locales. AVISO: Por ley, la corte tiene derecho a reclamar las cuotas y los costos exentos por imponer un gravamen sobre cualquier recuperación de \$10,000 ó más de valor recibida mediante un acuerdo o una concesión de arbitraje en un caso de derecho civil. Tiene que pagar el gravamen de la corte antes de que la corte pueda desear el caso.

The name and address of the court is (El nombre y dirección de la corte es): **Superior Court of California, County of Alameda 1221 Oak Street Hayward, California 94544**

The name, address, and telephone number of plaintiff's attorney, or plaintiff without an attorney, is (El nombre, la dirección y el número de teléfono del abogado del demandante, o del demandante que no tiene abogado, es): **FERNIS, ADAMS & ASSOCIATES 2815 Mitchell Drive, Suite 210 Walnut Creek, CA 94598 925-927-3401**

DATE (Fecha): 04/11/2024
Chad Finke, Executive Officer / Clerk of the Court Clerk (Secretario), D. Franklin Deputy, (Adjunto)
The Independent, Legal No. 6081. Published August 22, 29, September 5, 12, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 608274

The following person(s) doing business as: Runestone Ranch, 19066 Mines Rd, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Runestone Ranch, 19066 Mines Rd, 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: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Jonalyn Porter, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 29, 2024. Expires July 28, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6082. Published August 22, 29, September 5, 12, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 608435

The following person(s) doing business as: Electrical & electronic Services LLC, 3987 First Street, Suite E, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Electrical & electronic Services LLC, 3987 First Street, Suite E, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Samuel Shyam, Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 6, 2024. Expires August 5, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6083. Published August 22, 29, September 5, 12, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 608580

The following person(s) doing business as: Evergreen Cemetery, 6450 Camden St., Oakland, CA 94605 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Evergreen Ministries, 200 Rollingwood Dr., Vallejo, CA 94591. 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: October 2023. Signature of

Registrant/s/: Manuel Mendoza, Accountant. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 13, 2024. Expires August 12, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6084. Published August 22, 29, September 5, 12, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 608598

The following person(s) doing business as: 18 The Label, 1037 Germano Way, Pleasanton, CA 94566 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Prabhjot Randhawa, 1037 Germano Way, 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/: Prabhjot Randhawa, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 14, 2024. Expires August 13, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6085. Published August 22, 29, September 5, 12, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 608681

The following person(s) doing business as: AthleticPro LLC, 188 Bluebell Drive, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): AthleticPro LLC, 188 Bluebell Drive, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Prabhjot Randhawa, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 16, 2024. Expires August 15, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6086. Published August 22, 29, September 5, 12, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 608202

The following person(s) doing business as: Child-led Family Group, 571 Jackson Avenue, Livermore, CA 9450 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Season Jones, 571 Jackson Avenue, 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: 7/1/2024. Signature of Registrant/s/: Season Jones, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 25, 2024. Expires July 24, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6087. Published August 29, September 5, 12, 19, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 608492

The following person(s) doing business as: Body N You, 1501 Buena Vista Ave #2523, Alameda, CA 94501 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Too Pro LLC, 1501 Buena Vista Ave #2523, 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: 8/21/24. Signature of Registrant/s/: Eric Sih, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 21, 2024. Expires August 20, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6092. Published August 29, September 5, 12, 19, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 608808

The following person(s) doing business as: Accentera Decor, 7475 Burnham Way, Dublin, CA 94568-1731 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): JMC Cellars, LLC., 6800 Greenville Rd, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Jessica Carroll, Managing Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 9, 2024. Expires August 8, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6093. Published August 29, September 5, 12, 19, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 608661

The following person(s) doing business as: Big White House Cellars, 2127 S Vasco Road, Unit D, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): JMC Cellars, LLC., 6800 Greenville Rd, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Kristine Oo, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 21, 2024. Expires August 20, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6093. Published August 29, September 5, 12, 19, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 608544

The following person(s) doing business as: Hifiyak Co., 8014 South Lake Dr., Apt G, Dublin, CA 94568 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Kristen Hannah, 8014 South Lake Dr., Apt G, Dublin, CA 94568. This business is conducted by an individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Kristen Hannah, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 9, 2024. Expires August 8, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6090. Published August 29, September 5, 12, 19, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 608667

The following person(s) doing business as: Scrumph, 6775 Golden Gate Dr., Unit 454, Dublin, CA 94568 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): San Francisco Bake-shop, 4847 Hopyard Road, Suite 4438, Pleasanton, CA 94588. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 12/23/2021. Signature of Registrant/s/: Lonny Ng, Founder, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 15, 2024. Expires August 14, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6091. Published August 29, September 5, 12, 19, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 608806

The following person(s) doing business as: Air360 Photography, 4885 Shelton Street, Dublin, CA 94568 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Edic Sih, 4885 Shelton Street, 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: 8/21/24. Signature of Registrant/s/: Eric Sih, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 21, 2024. Expires August 20, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6092. Published August 29, September 5, 12, 19, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 608808

The following person(s) doing business as: Accentera Decor, 7475 Burnham Way, Dublin, CA 94568-1731 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): JMC Cellars, LLC., 6800 Greenville Rd, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Jessica Carroll, Managing Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 9, 2024. Expires August 8, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6093. Published August 29, September 5, 12, 19, 2024.

istered by the following owner(s): Kristine Oo, 4101 Dublin Blvd Ste F - 1013, Dublin, CA 94568-4603. 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/: Kristine Oo, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 21, 2024. Expires August 20, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6093. Published August 29, September 5, 12, 19, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 608685

The following person(s) doing business as: Drol Painting and Decorating, 2120 W Ave 136th, San Leandro, CA 94577 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): David Rivera L., 2120 W Ave 136th, San Leandro, CA 94577. 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/: David Rivera L., Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 16, 2024. Expires August 15, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6094. Published August 29, September 5, 12, 19, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 608749

The following person(s) doing business as: Golden Valley Mortgage Corporation, 6200 Stoneridge Mall Rd., # 300-1283, Pleasanton, CA 94588 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Golden Valley Mortgage Corporation, 6200 Stoneridge Mall Rd., # 300-1283, Pleasanton, CA 94588. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 5/2017. Signature of Registrant/s/: James T. Smith, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 20, 2024. Expires August 19, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6095. Published August 29, September 5, 12, 19, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 608618

The following person(s) doing business as: Casa Di Vita, 51 West Hornet Avenue, Alameda, CA 94501 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Zandi Design Inc., 101 Dublin Blvd, Ste F PMB 1008, Dublin, CA 94568. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 7/10/2024. Signature of Registrant/s/: Henry Chen, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 14, 2024. Expires August 13, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6096. Published August 29, September 5, 12, 19, 2024.

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Man Gets 27 Years in Springtown Area Shooting Death

By Larry Altman

A Mountain House man whose conviction for killing a Livermore man in 2015 was overturned on appeal was resentenced recently to spend 27 years in prison, following a plea deal with prosecutors.

James Henry Wear, 38, pleaded no contest Aug. 5 in Alameda County Superior Court to one count of voluntary manslaughter for the March 1, 2015, shooting of 22-year-old Ryan Rossknecht, prosecutors said. The crime, which also resulted in the slaying of Wear's 28-year-old friend, Brandon Lowell, occurred during a gun and drug deal that went sour at Altamont Creek and Winding Stream drives, court records said.

"This resolution creates finality for all parties," said Wear's attorney, Melissa Adams. "The

families of all of these men get to be done thinking about this case. They get to stop coming to court, talking to law enforcement and attorneys, and just heal."

According to court records, the shooting occurred when Wear and Lowell, who lived together in Mountain House and sold and used heroin and other drugs, arrived in Livermore's Springtown neighborhood to meet Rossknecht. Wear and Lowell went without guns, but Rossknecht showed up with two guns, including a silver Smith & Wesson pistol he intended to sell.

An argument erupted during the encounter. Rossknecht shot Lowell in the chest. During a struggle, Wear gained control of the gun and fired at Rossknecht, hitting him twice in the head.

Both wounded men died. Police arrested Wear

later that night.

Prosecutors at the time believed Wear had set Rossknecht up to be robbed, despite the fact Wear and Lowell did not bring a gun to the meeting. The Alameda County District Attorney's Office charged Wear with two counts of murder along with other attempted robbery and firearms offenses. At trial, they argued two legal theories in an effort to convict him: The state's felony murder rule, which holds someone liable for a homicide if the death occurred during another crime, even if the person did not pull the trigger; and the premeditated-theory rule, meaning they tried to show Rossknecht's slaying was planned.

Prosecutors dismissed the charges related to Lowell's death after jurors deadlocked over whether to convict Wear. But jurors found Wear

guilty of killing Rossknecht, some believing he was responsible under the felony murder rule, and others under the premeditated-theory rule.

Wear was sentenced to 80 years to life in prison.

Wear appealed the conviction, saying there was insufficient evidence to support either murder theory. Justices at California's 1st District Court of Appeal partially agreed with him. The judges concluded in 2020 that the evidence supported a conviction based on the felony murder rule, but not a premeditated crime. Because some jurors relied on the premeditated theory to convict Wear, the judges overturned the conviction in 2020 and sent the case back to Alameda County Superior Court for a retrial.

Instead of taking the case before a jury, where he could possibly argue self-defense, Adams said

Wear "made a tough call" in deciding to resolve his case.

"He chose the certainty of a determinate term sentence, rather than face the risks inherent in a jury trial and the risk that his new sentence post-trial could end in 'to life,'" Adams said. She added that it was possible a conviction would mean a prison sentence of 40 years or more with "no certainty that he would ever go home."

Under the plea terms, Adams received credit for four and a half years for time already served.

"I expect that he will do approximately 15 actual years before he is released, maybe less," Adams said. Wear can no longer appeal.

Adams said she believed Wear acted in self-defense, but arguing that to a jury would have been difficult.

"I believe, based on all the work I did on the case, that James had to make a split-second decision about whether he wanted to live or die, and he chose to live," Adams said. "There are three people who know exactly what happened that day, and two of them are no longer with us. In order to prove the actions were in self-defense, James would not only have to testify, but the jury would have to see past all of the horrific crime scene photos, autopsy reports, criminal history, text messages, facial tattoos and everything else that makes James look like a bad guy."

Adams added that Wear and the defense team offered their deepest condolences to the Lowell and Rossknecht families and hope that ending the case will "allow them to resume their journey of healing."

Boyce Announces Bid for Seat on Livermore Valley School Board

Tara Boyce, owner of Kush Solutions, a business consulting firm in Livermore, has announced a bid for a seat on the Livermore Valley Joint Unified School Board of Education.

Two seats are up for election in November.

"I've spent my career helping inefficient companies creatively problem solve," Boyce said. "Now I want to use my expertise to help my own children's

school district during this financially difficult time so that our students still have excellent educational experiences."

Boyce, who has two children attending Junction Avenue School, said her business expertise sets her apart from other candidates, especially in the face of statewide budget cuts that could impact Livermore schools.

"It is critical to do all we can to keep re-

ductions away from the classroom," Boyce said.



Tara Boyce (Photo courtesy of Laurie Gallagher Photography)

"We can focus on eliminating redundancies and creatively stretching existing funding, along with identifying new funding to serve our school community."

Boyce said her experience in helping her own child navigate learning challenges, due to a medical condition, also fueled her desire to seek a position where she can be an advocate for children on a district level.

"My thoughts kept going to other children that may be struggling, but may not have a family member to advocate for them," Boyce said. "I will strive to be that advocate for all children."

Raised in Pennsylvania, Boyce has a bachelor's degree in economics and political science from Wilkes University and a master's degree in business administration from the University of

Scranton.

She has lived in Livermore for 13 years.

According to her campaign, Boyce has been endorsed by the Livermore Education Association, Livermore Advocates for Public Education, LVJUSD board members Kristie Wang and Craig Bueno, and Livermore City Council members Brittni Kiick and Evan Branning.



Scouts from Troop 999 and 2999, shown above, are part of a pilot program that explores the benefits of co-ed troops. (Photo courtesy of Caroline Booth)

Livermore Scouts Form Co-ed Troop

Two Livermore Scouts BSA troops will participate in a yearlong pilot program as a co-ed organization starting in September.

Troop 999 for boys and Troop 2999, formed for girls in 2019, said the program "aims to explore the benefits of merging troops, providing scouts with a more inclusive and enriched scouting experience."

"We are excited to embark on this new chapter for our troops," said Dominic McGinnis, who will serve as scoutmaster for the combined troop. "This pilot program offers a unique opportunity to foster collaboration, leadership, and a stronger sense of commu-

nity among our scouts. We believe this experience will be incredibly beneficial for all involved."

Katherine Booth, a member of Troop 2999, will serve as senior patrol leader.

"I'm delighted to be leading the new combined troop," Booth said. "It's an amazing opportunity for all of us to learn and grow together and feels like a natural next step in creating an inclusive scouting environment."

Over the next year, the combined troop is expected to engage in a variety of activities, outings, and leadership development opportunities, which will be monitored closely to assess

the impact on the scouts, troop dynamics, and overall program effectiveness.

Both troops are chartered by Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Livermore.

"This pilot program is in keeping with Holy Cross's values, which include creating an environment that loves and supports all people, regardless of age, race, gender identity or sexual orientation," said Diane Bowers, pastor at Holy Cross.

Boy Scouts of America began allowing girls into its programs in 2019. The organization recently announced that it would be changing its name to Scouting America early next year to reflect the new direction.

Vice Chair Palajac Seeks Reelection To Recreation and Park District

Jan Palajac, vice chair of the Livermore Area Recreation and Park District (LARPD) Board of Directors, is running for reelection.

Palajac, who has served on the board since 2017, announced her candidacy last week.

Two at-large seats are up for election in November, including the seat currently held by Palajac and the seat held by James Boswell, who has also filed for reelection.

Members of the five-person board are elected to four-year terms.

In her announcement, Palajac said she was proud of the part she played in keeping parks, open spaces and trails open during the Covid-19 pandemic.

During her time on the board, Palajac has also pushed for streamlining LARPD's organizational structure, updating policies, and addressing pension liabilities, with the district now in a much stronger financial position than it was before, according to her campaign.

Palajac's priorities will

be to promote greater diversity in programming, especially for underserved communities, address maintenance issues, and secure additional sources of funding to support growing demands for programs and facilities.

Palajac is a landscape architect, including 17 years with the City of San Jose where she designed parks and urban trails. She retired in 2017 and has been a resident of Livermore since 2016.

For more about her campaign, go to JanPalajac4larpd.com.

In addition to Palajac and Boswell, Matt Bogdanowicz and Jacob Vital have filed to run for the LARPD board of directors.



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Swalwell to Address Chamber Luncheon

The last Wine Country luncheon of the summer hosted by the Livermore Valley Chamber of Commerce (LVCC) on Thursday, Aug. 29, will feature a legislative update from Democratic Rep. Eric Swalwell.

Swalwell represents California's 14th congressional

district, which includes the Livermore Valley.

The luncheon will be from noon to 1:30 p.m. at the Wente Vineyards, 5050 Arroyo Road, Livermore.

"We are honored to feature Congressman Swalwell as our luncheon speaker," said LVCC Board Chair

Jody Amos, adding that Swalwell "has been a great supporter of the Tri-Valley."

Tickets to the luncheon are \$75 for LVCC members and guests and \$85 for nonmembers. To make a reservation, go to livermorechamber.org or call 925-447-1606.

Downtown Pleasanton Wheels Route Changed

Livermore Amador Valley Transit Authority (LAVTA) is rerouting its Wheels Rapid Route 10R bus service to downtown Pleasanton through the end of August to avoid anticipated traffic around the Meadowlark Dairy during

upcoming events.

Rapid Route 10R service will be detoured to Old Stanley Boulevard between First Street and Main Street. All westbound downtown bus stops will be temporarily closed.

LAVTA said a temporary bus stop has been estab-

lished at Old Stanley and Main. The regular stop at First and Old Stanley will also remain in use.

The westbound bus stops to be closed include Main and Vervais Avenue, First and Neal Street, and Peters Street and Mary Street.

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