

Dublin Garbage
Overbilling
Reduces Fee
Increases

By Ruth Roberts

DUBLIN — City residents will pay more for garbage services beginning this month, but they won't have to dig too deep to meet the new rates. Excess charges already billed by the city's garbage contractor, stemming from miscalculations two years ago, will help offset the increase.

The city council unanimously approved on June 25 a 0.92% rate increase for all trash services. Residential garbage and recycling fees will rise by \$0.39 per month for a 32-gallon can, resulting in a total rate of \$42.92 per month. Dublin's increases from the previous two years, in comparison, were 5.66% and 4.85%.

Commercial rates vary by service level, with an average rate of \$208.26 for a one-yard bin collected

(See GARBAGE, page 5)

Pleasanton Planning
Commission
OKs Senior
Housing

111 Units Proposed
On Foothill Road

By Ruth Roberts

PLEASANTON — The Planning Commission has recommended the development of a 111-lot residential subdivision on 46 acres along Foothill Road, about a quarter mile south of Foothill High School. The 5-0 vote came during the commission's June 26 regular meeting.

The proposed project, presented by applicant Foothill Boulevard Holding Company, LLC, includes plans for an age-qualified community with 92 single-family detached homes, 18 affordable senior courtyard homes, and one existing single-family residence. Each residential unit would have a two- or three-car garage.

"The Foothill LLC has owned about 30 acres of this property since about 1999," said Jim Summers, president of Foothill Boulevard. "As many of you know, we have been very patient, waiting

(See SENIOR, page 8)



The Alameda County Fair fireworks display, at the Stella Artois Grandstand in Pleasanton, explodes above the racetrack on June 28. (See additional photos on page 6.) (Photo – Doug Jorgensen)

Flying Taxi Network Coming Next Year
Plans Include a Terminal at Livermore Municipal Airport

By David Jen

LIVERMORE — Electric-aircraft manufacturer Archer Aviation announced last month plans to develop an "air mobility network" that will connect Livermore, South San Francisco, Napa, San Jose and Oakland with short, air-taxi flights.

"Archer's goal is to transform urban travel, replacing 60-90-minute commutes by car with es-

timated 10-20-minute electric air-taxi flights that are safe, sustainable, low noise and cost-competitive with ground transportation," the company said in a statement.

Five Rivers Aviation, Livermore Municipal Airport's service provider, has partnered with Archer to provide high-speed charging systems and to serve as the Tri-Valley's Archer terminal. Five Rivers expects operations to begin next year.

"Archer is planning on promoting Livermore as a tourist destination with our wineries, restaurants and outlet mall," said Five Rivers owner Pete Sandhu. He added that airlines based at the San Francisco, Oakland and San Jose airports will use Archer for their employees' commutes.

"It'll reduce road congestion with no noise and no pollution," said Sandhu, estimating flight costs as

(See FLYING TAXI, page 5)

Agricultural Advisory Committee on Urban Growth Boundary
Legislative Review of County Open
Space Law Raised for Consideration
Wider Stakeholder Engagement Suggested

By Larry Altman

REGIONAL — The Alameda County Agricultural Advisory Committee (AAC) voted last week to develop a process to conduct a legislative review of Measure D, a citizen-approved ballot initiative that has played a key role in protecting open space and agricultural land for nearly 25 years.

The 8-4 vote at the AAC's June 25 meeting was only to put together a plan for a legislative review process, not necessarily to conduct one. But some committee members suggested it was time for "interpreting the purpose and principles of Measure D," which voters approved in 2000 without a legislative review that would have resolved "persistent conflicts

that debate the principles, inconsistencies, definitions and ambiguities of the initiative."

Measure D's rules and provisions come up routinely in discussions about developments proposed for open land, often leading to litigation. Such developments include plans outside the urban growth boundary for both a cemetery north of Livermore and the Aramis solar power plant set for development at the intersection of North Livermore Avenue and Manning Road.

"It's very clear that there's a lot of emotion and a lot of opinion about whether Measure D is good or not good with the overall group of people that make up Alameda County," said AAC Member Chuk

Campos. "It bears looking into. The whole time I've been part of this committee, Measure D has been a tug of war, and it's not a bad thing to go through it and try to figure out what it means. You ask any two people in here, there'll be a different opinion."

A potential review would interpret the purpose and principles of Measure D, identify inconsistencies in its language, define words and terms, consider the role of comparable uses in local, state and federal ordinances, and consider the impacts of legal judgments and settlements.

Larry Gosselin, the committee's vice chair who has advocated for agrivoltaics at solar farms on open land, made the motion for the review.

(See OPEN SPACE, page 6)

Bay Area Affordable
Housing \$20B Bond
Measure Advances
Awaits Counties' Supervisor Approvals

By Larry Altman

REGIONAL — Voters in Alameda and eight neighboring Bay Area counties will likely vote in November on whether to pass a \$20 billion bond measure to finance construction of about 70,000 affordable housing units across the region.

The Bay Area Housing Finance Authority (BAHFA) voted unanimously last week to put the measure on the Nov. 5 presidential-election ballot. Residents in Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Solano, Sonoma and San Francisco counties will vote on the measure.

Although BAHFA approved putting the measure before voters, boards of supervisors in each county must formally vote to put the issue on their ballots.

"I am extremely thankful for the vote to move this measure to the Nov. 5 ballot," said Alameda County Supervisor Nate Miley, who serves on the BAHFA commission. "I am hopeful for its passage to provide over \$2 billion to address our affordable housing crisis in Alameda County, plus another \$765 million for the City of Oakland. The real work begins now to get this historic measure passed that will serve the public good."

If approved, the \$20 billion general obligation bond issue would result in property tax increases for businesses and homes of about \$19 per \$100,000 of assessed value. The owner of a home worth \$1.2 million — Alameda County's median home price — would pay an additional \$228 a year.

BAHFA's decision to put the Bay Area Affordability

(See HOUSING, page 6)



A helicopter helps fight a 20-acre fire on June 28 near the intersection of Altamont Pass Road and Grant Line Road. (See additional photo on page 2.) (Photo – Doug Jorgensen)

Water Report Highlights
Safe Tri-Valley Supplies
More Zone 7 PFAS Treatment on the Way

By David Jen

REGIONAL — Drinking water in the Tri-Valley continues to exceed state and federal regulatory standards, according to the 2023 Annual Water Quality Report released on June 18 by the Zone 7 Water Agency.

"We encourage the businesses and residents of (the) Tri-Valley to review our latest Water Quality Report and see how we ensure the high quality of our drinking water, providing

safe, clean, and sustainable water to our community," said Zone 7 General Manager Valerie Pryor. "We have invested in state-of-the-art monitoring and treatment systems — and we have been proactive in investing in upgraded facilities, leveraging millions in grant funding to maintain our high standards."

Zone 7 treats and delivers drinking water to over a quarter million people throughout Dublin, Livermore, Pleasanton and the Dougherty Valley area of

(See WATER, page 8)



Rhonda Wood, above, sees inclusionary thinking as a driver behind area wine successes like Vasco Row, the Women's Wine Collective and the Livermore Valley Vintners Collective. (Photo – Doug Jorgensen)

Vintners Build Upon Collaboration
In The Heart of Livermore Valley

By Christina Cavallaro

LIVERMORE — The Tri-Valley is increasingly gaining traction in the hospitality sector with its trifecta of wine, craft cocktail and craft beer. At the helm of that growth is a group of passionate women in wine who believe in the beauty and power of collaboration to bring further progress and prosperity to the area.

Rhonda Wood, of Wood Family Vineyards, and Rosie Fierro, of Rosa Fierro Cellars, said this inclusionary

thinking was what sparked initial conversations between them and neighboring businesses about the formation of what they've collectively coined "Vasco Row." The name describes Livermore's up and coming neighborhood off Research Drive that now includes 10 wineries, two breweries and a distillery.

Wood said, "We're working together with Altamont Brewery, with the distillery (Sidewinder) and not leaving them out, like, 'Oh, we're wineries and you're

that.' Bring everybody here."

When Fierro and her tasting room partner Frank Favallora, of Favallora Vineyards Winery, moved into the neighborhood in 2020, Fierro saw its potential with all the new wine makers and other businesses moving in and the natural collaborations that were already happening.

"Frank and I immediately had to look around because we didn't have all this equipment," said Fierro. "So, we just started asking questions

(See VINTNERS, page 7)

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PETS OF THE WEEK



PUP SAJAK

It's Pup Sajak: this furry celebrity tail-wagger is great with other dogs, cat-curious, and perfect on a leash. Spin the wheel of fortune and land on the ultimate prize — Pup Sajak as your new best friend. Be his Vanna White and help him solve the puzzle of finding his family. Visit valleyhumane.org to learn more or email info@valleyhumane.org to start the adoption application process. (Photo – Valley Humane Society)

Dublin Bids Farewell to Camp Parks Commander

By Ruth Roberts

Lieutenant Commander Marisol Chalas, Dublin's Camp Parks Garrison Commander for the past two years, was honored by the city council last week for her service and commitment to the community as she prepares for her new posting in Kentucky. "The City of Dublin loves you for what you have done, and we will certainly miss you," said Mayor Michael McCorriston during his presentation to Chalas. Councilmember Jean Josey echoed the mayor's sentiments. "We've had some great garrison commanders, but you have set the bar super, super high," said Josey. "The community engagement

piece has been nothing short of remarkable." For Chalas, 50, who was the first in her family to graduate from college, it has been a life full of remarkable accomplishments and opportunities. Born in the Dominican Republic, Chalas' father, who served in the country's military in the 1960s, moved the family to Massachusetts when she was nine years old. She joined the National Guard as an enlisted soldier in her junior year of high school. After graduating from high school, Chalas attended the Massachusetts Maritime Academy and continued in the National Guard. Upon graduation from the Maritime Academy, she got a job working for General Electric Technology in Georgia while

simultaneously performing her non-active service duties. It was there that an officer recognized her potential and qualifications to become an officer. During that time, an opportunity also presented itself for her to attend Officer Candidate School, where Chalas qualified to become the first Latina Black Hawk helicopter pilot. Her expertise led her to fly in two tours: one in Iraq and another in the Dominican Republic. "I love to fly," said Chalas, who holds multiple degrees and is bilingual. "To me, it's freedom, and I feel like I am an eagle flying in the sky. ... Whether you are an immigrant or come from humble beginnings, the opportunities are there."

As Garrison Commander, Chalas was responsible for the care of the Camp Parks community, ensuring that infrastructure was in place and making sure families were housed and fed. "We compare it to being a city manager or a principal," said James C. O'Donnell, public affairs officer for Camp Parks Reserve Forces Training Area. "We're a city within a city, like the Vatican, and she (Chalas) is our Pope." Now Chalas will take those experiences and relationships with her to her new posting in Fort Knox, Kentucky, where she will serve as an operations officer in charge of an army reserve aviation command, which means she will be finding her

way back into the cockpit. "I am very excited that I will get to fly again," said Chalas. And as she reflects on her time in Dublin and her 34 years serving the country she loves, Chalas said her leaving is a little bittersweet. "We really feel that the entire community embraced us with open arms, and it really extended to the whole Tri-Valley," said Chalas. "There are some other locations where the community is not as warm, and I think we just really hit the jackpot." As for things she will miss about Dublin, the list is a long one. "Oh, so many (things)," Chalas said. "But I have to say I will miss our St. Patrick's Day Parade, espe-

cially with the Humvees, and our Christmas tree lighting event and the Star-Spangled Banner program. ... It takes a village, and I am so grateful for all of the support."



Lt. Commander Marisol Chalas. (Photo courtesy of Marisol Chalas)



Cal Fire crews work an incident involving a burning wind turbine on June 26. Located near the intersection of Altamont Pass Road and Grant Line Road, the blaze grew to 20 acres before firefighters contained it on the afternoon of June 26. (Photo – Doug Jorgensen)

Tri-Valley Haven Offers Internships

Tri-Valley Haven, a Livermore-based nonprofit that provides support services to victims of sexual assault and domestic abuse, is offering unpaid internships to students enrolled in social work or marriage and family therapy master's programs.

The nonprofit said the positions are open to second-year students, who would work under the guidance of a licensed marriage and family therapist (LMFT), following California Board of Behavioral Sciences guidelines.

Participants will gain practical experience in supporting individuals and families affected by domestic violence or sexual assault. For more information, call 925-667-2705, or email resumes to olga@trivalleyhaven.org.

Livermore Chamber Launches Mobile Marketplace App for the Public

The Livermore Valley Chamber of Commerce (LVCC) has introduced a mobile app, Livermore Marketplace, designed to allow businesses to reach tourists and residents more easily with information about sales and daily specials. "This is the next level marketing tool that will help our members and business owners promote and market their business," said LVCC President Sherri Souza. "Whether it is a restaurant with a daily special, or a retail store offering a sale, or a nonprofit sharing their next fundraiser, this app will assist with those marketing efforts and gives us one more option beyond our printed business directory and online directory to advertise and promote for them." The chamber is making the app available to its 400 business members and the public.

It is available for download to both Apple and Android devices through the Apple App store and Google Play. The chamber said it would be marketing the app as a "one stop shop for all things local" to tourists, residents, and neighboring communities. LVCC "will be working diligently to engage the number of new in-app consumers as well as increase online conversion rate for businesses in order to ensure the highest level of engagement with the Livermore

Community," Souza said. The chamber said non-member businesses will also have an opportunity to participate in the app.



Pleasanton Rotary Donates Painting to Firefighters

The Pleasanton North Rotary (PNR) Club has donated a painting by one of its members honoring the men and women who fight Northern California

wildfires to the Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department. "The Firefighter," by Rotary Club Secretary Deb Covert, shows a lone

firefighter, holding an ax and wearing a full brim helmet and protective bunker gear, appearing to emerge from the stripes of an American flag. Covert said the painting was inspired by the firefighters who fought the 2018 Camp Fire that destroyed the town of Paradise, California, and killed 85 people. She completed the painting in the summer of 2020, during the COVID-19 pandemic. "The Firefighter" was auctioned off during the PNR's annual A Starry Night fundraiser in October 2020, held virtually because of the pandemic,

and purchased by former PNR President Tom Hall to be donated to the fire department. After several delays, including more wildfires, Covert, Hall, and other PNR members officially presented the painting to Fire Captain Scott Otvos and firefighters Miguel Beltran and Jim Schultz last month at Pleasanton Fire State 1. The painting will be displayed at the Firefighters Union Hall, IAFF Local 1974, on Hopyard Road in Pleasanton.



Pleasanton North Rotary presents "The Firefighter" Painting. (Photo courtesy of PNR)

Pleasanton Grocery Outlet Launches Its 14th Annual Food Security Campaign

Grocery Outlet in Pleasanton is joining franchise owners across the country for the 14th annual Independence from Hunger campaign to collect food and cash donations for needy families. "Since 1946, our core values have been built around our desire to both provide and give back to our local communities," said RJ Sheedy, president of the Emeryville-based Grocery Outlet Holding Corp. "Our customers and communities alike are the foundation of our success. We feel it's important to continue supporting these

communities in every way possible, especially in their time of greatest need." Grocery Outlet has 500 bargain-value grocery stores in California, Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Nevada, Maryland, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Ohio, and Delaware. Most of the stores are independently owned and operated. The Pleasanton store is teaming up with the Alameda Food Bank and Tri-Valley Haven for this year's food-security campaign, accepting in-store food and cash donations. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture,

inflation is squeezing low-income communities across the nation, with the number of people turning to food banks for assistance now at 41 million, or 1 in six households. Meanwhile, the number of people donating to food banks has gone down. During the campaign, shoppers at Grocery Outlet can get a \$5 coupon for a future purchase by donating \$5 or more. They can also purchase a pre-filled bag of groceries to place in a collection bin at the front of the store or make a monetary donation at the cash register.



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Voting for the recall of Sunol Glen Unified School District Trustees Linda Hurley and Ryan Jergensen ended on July 2. Results were unavailable by press time. The divisive three-member board has been the subject of controversy amongst itself and the public since it voted last year to ban certain flags on school property. (Photo – Doug Jorgensen)

Library Recruiting Literacy Volunteers

The Livermore Public Library is recruiting volunteers for its adult literacy program.

After completing a three-session training program, volunteers can work either one-on-one or with a small group of adults to improve their basic reading, writing, or conversational skills.

Volunteer tutors generally meet with their students once or twice a week for one

to two hours each meeting. No previous experience is required.

Training sessions will be held at the Livermore Civic Center Library from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Monday, July 22, Wednesday, July 24, and Monday, July 29. Volunteers must attend all three sessions.

For more information, or to volunteer, email literacy@livermoreca.gov or call 925-373-5507.

Nonprofit Sponsors Student Art Contest

Tri-Valley Haven (TVH) is sponsoring a student art contest to raise awareness of domestic violence.

The nonprofit, which provides housing and support services for victims of domestic violence, is encouraging students in fourth grade through high school to submit artwork inspired by the theme “Collective Voice, Collective Action: Together We Make a Difference.”

TVH said submissions should include positive messages about healthy relationships, consent and empowerment, or keeping individuals safe from violence.

The contest is open to students in the Tri-Valley area.

TVH said submissions must be original, with no

digital graphics, and no more than 11 inches by 17 inches in size. Artwork must be dropped off at the TVH community building, 3663 Pacific Ave., Livermore, by July 19.

The contest winner will receive a \$100 Amazon gift card. Second and third place will receive \$50 and \$25 gift cards, respectively.

Axis Reports Perfect Score From Federal Audit

Axis Community Health, which operates healthcare centers in Pleasanton and Livermore, received a perfect score during a federally mandated Health Resources and Services Administration operational site visit audit, according to the nonprofit.

As a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC), Axis must undergo an audit every three years. FQHCs are eligible for reimbursement from Medicare and Medicaid.

The Pleasanton-based nonprofit said the audit assesses the performance and compliance of outpatient health centers in such areas as clinical services, quality of care, fiscal management, operations, and data reporting.

Axis operates medical and behavioral health clinics in Pleasanton and Livermore.

It also offers a nutritional program for women, infants, and children in both cities, and a dental clinic in Dublin.

In addition to providing services to low-income and underserved sectors of the community, Axis said community health centers contribute to the economic well-being of the community by creating jobs and lowers healthcare costs overall

Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District

Staff Cuts Possible as School District Operates at a Deficit

By Dawnmarie Fehr

After \$6 million in cuts, the Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District (LVJUSD) will still operate at a \$4 million deficit for the 2024-25 fiscal year.

According to a district staff report, the previous budget iteration accounted for \$196 million in revenues and \$206 million in expenditures. The cuts — including reductions to administration, teacher and support staff — were approved last month and will go into effect in the new fiscal year.

“It’s not uncommon for school districts to deficit spend in a specific year, given that the state budget is so volatile and doesn’t become final until after we are required to complete our own budgets,” said LVJUSD Superintendent Chris Van Schaack.

Gov. Gavin Newsom signed on June 29, after

LVJUSD’s budget approval, a balanced budget that addressed a previous \$46.8 billion shortfall statewide. The school district has 45 days from June 29 to revise its budget in response to the state’s budget.

The district previously reported its reserves at \$16.8 million.

Van Schaack admitted the district cannot continue in the deficit pattern, noting that unless revenues increased, further reductions would need to be made.

He said staff is one place further reductions could be made, since it composes 86% of the district’s budget.

LVJUSD Board President Emily Prusso said the current cuts reduced staff by 3%.

“That’s 45 positions,” said Prusso. “We were able to do this through attrition, primarily retirements, but we also have had some of

our staff move out of the area.”

The budget went through several iterations this year, and changes were made based on community feedback. Prusso said the feedback clearly indicated that cuts should be kept away from classrooms.

“Though budget reductions will almost always have some impact on site operations, we did all we could to reduce the impact on classrooms,” she said.

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City of Dublin Shares Cooling Center Locations Amid Marathon Heat Wave

With summer temperatures rising, Dublin is encouraging residents to cool off at several air-conditioned community facilities that are open to the public during the day, including the Dublin Senior Center and the Dublin Library.

The Dublin Senior Center, 7600 Amador Valley Boulevard, is the city’s official “cooling center” during heat waves.

Offering a lounge area, television, reference computers, books, and a puzzle table, the senior center is

open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, and 9 a.m. to noon on Saturday.

The library, 200 Civic Plaza, is open from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., Monday through Thursday, and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday.

However, the library will be closed on Thursday, July 4, for the Independence Day holiday.

The lobbies of the Dublin Civic Center, 100 Civic Plaza, and Shannon Community Center, 11600 Shannon Ave., are also air-conditioned

and open to the public from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Dublin said open hours at city facilities may be extended if temperatures are forecast to exceed 95 degrees for several days.

Dublin also operates a waterpark, The Wave, at Emerald Glen Park, 4201 Central Parkway, that is open from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Sunday. The Wave will be open on July 4.

Daily passes to the waterpark start at \$14 for residents and \$17 for nonresidents.



On Wednesday, June 12, 2024, the Livermore Valley Chamber of Commerce welcomed Club Livermore as the newest member with a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony. Club Livermore originated in 1970 and has expanded to a true multi-fitness facility. Brothers Akshay & Ankit Arora became new owners in 2023. Club Livermore offers Pool & Spa, Courts for Basketball, Pickle Ball, Tennis, Volleyball, Racquetball, Badminton, Wallyball, Sauna & Steam Room, Weights, Cardio, Group Fitness Classes, Child Care, Game Room and a Cafe Lounge.

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EDITORIAL

Regional Affordable Housing Bond Is Necessary for Our Community

The Bay Area Housing Finance Authority recently voted in favor of a \$20 billion bond measure to help add some 70,000 affordable housing units to the nine counties of the Bay Area. Of this, \$2.8 billion are earmarked for Alameda County.

Almost 10,000 people in the county experienced homelessness in 2022, according to the latest point-in-time survey data. The problems have steadily increased over the past two

decades as housing prices have ballooned without commensurate increases in wages. The problems have also outstepped traditional stereotypes of homelessness, with people working steady jobs, but living out of their cars.

Anyone making less than \$33.97 per hour cannot afford a one-bedroom apartment in this county, according to a report from the National Low Income Housing Coalition.

Alameda County’s Housing & Community Development Department, which works to assist unhoused people through service programs and affordable housing projects, has repeatedly described a lack of funding as the primary hurdle to addressing the area’s homelessness issue.

State and federal grants have proved insufficient. The proposed bond, which would increase annual property taxes by \$19 per \$100,000 of assessed value, now

calls upon residents to assist their struggling neighbors who live and work alongside them.

Despite the finance authority’s approval, the measure still needs support. It requires the vote of the individual county boards of supervisors before being placed on the ballot and ultimately, the acceptance of the voters.

We urge the Alameda County Board of Supervisors to support this bond and place the measure on this November’s ballot.

MAILBOX

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The Genocide of Native Americans in California by European Settlers Prince Masozuru

The genocide of Native Americans in California by European settlers is a dark chapter in American history. Between 1846 and 1873, the Native American population in California plummeted from approximately 150,000 to less than 30,000 due to systematic violence, disease, and displacement.

European settlers, driven by greed during the Gold Rush, resorted to extreme measures, including placing bounties on Native American lives. These bounties, applicable until the early 20th century, provided monetary rewards for scalps or other body parts, incentivizing mass murder. Local governments and private groups funded these atrocities, leading to the deaths of thousands.

The brutality didn’t end with bounties. Settlers also employed forced relocations, starvation, and outright massacres. Entire villages were destroyed, and diseases introduced by

settlers decimated the Native American population, furthering the genocidal impact. Native Americans were dehumanized, portrayed as savages to justify their extermination and the theft of their land.

Despite the brutality, American history often sanitizes or even celebrates the perpetrators. John C. Frémont, for instance, led several campaigns against Native American tribes, resulting in significant loss of life. Yet, he is often remembered as a pioneering explorer, with places like the city of Fremont named in his honor. This normalization of genocide extends to cultural narratives like “Manifest Destiny,” which justified the conquest and civilization of the West, ignoring the destruction of Indigenous societies.

The legacy of this genocide continues to affect Native American communities, who struggle with the long-term effects of historical trauma, including poverty, loss of cultural heritage, and systemic discrimination. Acknowledging and confronting this history is essential for reconciliation and justice.

Educational reforms, public apologies, and reparative measures are crucial steps in addressing this dark legacy. We must re-examine how historical figures are commemorated and ensure that the full story of American expansion is told, including its devastating impact on Indigenous populations. By learning from history, we can work towards a more just and equitable future for all.

In conclusion, the genocide of Native Americans in California by European settlers serves as a stark reminder of the brutal consequences of colonialism and unchecked expansionism. The practice of placing bounties on Native American lives and the subsequent celebration of these acts in American history underscore the need for a more honest and inclusive historical narrative. Only by facing this painful past can we hope to build a better future.

Toxic Contamination Bob Abbot, Livermore

I expect more from those given the say so in our lives. When I worked, I was licensed by California as an engineering geologist, a registered civil engineer, and a professional engineer. Very recently, the article of June 13, 2024, “Local Geologists Oppose City’s PFAS Plans for New Wells” was brought to my attention.

I was not aware of the toxic contamination of our groundwater near the Livermore Airport. The Livermore/Amador ground-

water basin is well known in science as an example of its type of underground reservoir. Its contamination has been irresponsible in the first place.

I had a small role in the superfund cleanup of the spill near the lab. I also got involved when Pleasanton hired a geotechnical firm to support a proposal to fill Shadow Cliffs with garbage from San Francisco.

Water is a closed system with respect to Earth. We always have the same amount of water. This is the “water cycle” taught in grade school. Energy is not a closed system, and we store it as electricity in the grid. The best place to store potable water is underground to keep it clean and prevent evaporation. As a people, we have had more than adequate time to learn to do both well.

The choice to drill new wells downhill on the energy gradient before cleaning up the plume of toxicity upstream sounds to me as ridiculous as filling Shadow Cliffs with garbage.

Referendum on Downtown Livermore Redevelopment Richard Ryon, Livermore

I am one of the litigants who filed the Move Eden Housing lawsuit against the City of Livermore regarding the referendum the City refused to process in 2022. I attended the recent Livermore City Council meeting Monday evening, June 24th, when the Council addressed the demands made by the Court of Appeal’s decision in favor of the community in that lawsuit.

I am certain the Superior Court understands the requirements of the Elections Code. The City must follow the ruling of the Court of Appeal to either hold an election or withdraw its Resolution 2022-085. Nowhere did the Court of Appeal allow the City to fudge the Court’s demands by withdrawing only a portion of City Resolution No. 2022-085, as suggested in the city attorney’s staff report.

Statements by audience members were divided between those supporting the staff report and those of us calling on the Council to either put the referendum before the people for their vote, or rescind its Resolution 2022-085.

Council members, particularly John Marchand and Evan Branning, gave impassioned statements about their desire to accommodate people of all income levels in the city. In doing so, they falsely claimed that proponents of the referendum were against affordable housing for lower income individuals and families. That view is manifestly untrue.

Everyone I know who

has supported the referendum, including the Move Eden Housing group, also supports providing low-cost housing in downtown Livermore. The point that the Council members continue to ignore is that there is a more suitable location for the Eden Housing project nearby, just across Railroad Avenue to the north.

On a 4 to 1 vote, the councilmembers approved one of the city attorney’s recommendations to rescind only the funds for the small public park, attempting to allow the Eden Housing development to go forward on the current site as they had planned. Only Councilman Ben Barrientos opposed their action.

I believe this decision, which seeks to evade the referendum, will only further delay development of the property in the heart of downtown Livermore and the low-cost housing the community needs across the street.

It. Is. Not. A. Genocide. Patricia Munro, Livermore

I would prefer to stick to city topics, but the anti-Israel rhetoric here using the tropes of genocide, ethnic-cleansing, and ‘anti-Zionism is not antisemitism’ demand a response in the face of these lies.

On October 7, 2023, over 1,000 Jews were brutally murdered, raped, mutilated, and taken captive. Some of those captives—assuming they are still alive—are still captives. The terrorist group Hamas, funded by Iran, has sworn to repeat October 7 until Jews no longer exist. That is intended genocide.

With much forethought, Hamas’ murderous actions presented Israel with an impossible choice. Don’t respond and commit national suicide. Or fight for survival, which inevitably would (and did) result in the deaths of innocents—particularly as Hamas uses civilians as shields.

War is called hell for a reason: it results in innocent death and destruction. But war is not genocide. Accusing Israel of genocide is the ancient blood libel, thrown at a people whose numbers have still not recovered from an actual genocide. For shame.

There are only 15 million Jews out of 8 billion people. There is precisely one majority Jewish state with just over nine million people, of whom seven million are Jewish and two million are Arab (Christian, Muslim, and Druze). In the mid-1950s, Arab lands expelled their 900,000 Jews and confiscated their lands and goods. Those Jews—definitely not European—went to Israel. Arab lands remain virtually free of Jews. Ethnic cleansing where?

Every people has the right to self-determination. For the Jewish people, that right is called Zionism. To attempt to erase that right is simply antisemitic. Yes, anti-Zionism is antisemitism.

Why Israel as the Jewish state? Why the need?

The rest of the world has a terrible record with regard to Jews. Throughout history, in one country after another, Jews have been fine. Until they are expelled or worse. Israel changed that equation.

The Jewish people, Judaism, and Israel are intertwined through history, holidays, and culture. Israel is the only country where all that fully comes to life. Meanwhile, there are 50 Muslim countries for two billion Muslims and around 160 Christian countries for 2.3 billion Christians.

It would have been easier to remain silent—I can imagine the arguments coming my way next week. Instead, please learn about the Jewish people and Israel. I recommend “Israel: A Simple Guide...”, along with “Uncomfortable Conversations with a Jew”.

Gun Safety, Not Control Janie Dobbs, Pleasanton

I was pleased to see that The Independent covered the Wear Orange event hosted by the Livermore Valley Moms Demand Action group in Pleasanton last week. However, I was disheartened that the caption read, “Rally for Gun Control”. June 7-9 is Wear Orange Weekend, where we come together to honor victims and survivors of gun violence and raise community awareness of the devastating toll of gun deaths and injuries in the U.S. Many distinguished community partners came together, including Tri-Valley National Alliance of Mental Illness, Veterans Affairs, Youth Alive!, American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, Access Mental Health, The Soul Box Project and more to highlight the myriad of solutions for preventing suicides, preventing unintentional shootings by children and teens who have easy access to guns, and curbing city gun violence. Our mission is not gun control, but gun safety. We respect the second amendment but recognize that guns are lethal in the wrong hands. When effective policies, strategies and plans are enacted, fewer people die by guns. We have no beef with responsible gun owners. Our objective isn’t gun control, but gun safety. There’s a difference.

I’m Voting for Kristie Wang Lori Souza, Livermore

I’m a resident of Livermore in District 4 and I’ll be voting for Kristie Wang

in November for City Council. Kristie is well qualified for the role and has clearly demonstrated her skill as a community leader.

Kristie has experience as an elected official, having served on the Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District board since 2020 where she has represented us with integrity, intelligence, and compassion. She has been the school district’s representative on the inter-governmental committee, providing her with meaningful experience working with the City of Livermore, LARPD, and Las Positas College.

I trust her judgement on issues and her aptitude for seeking fair and practical solutions to complex problems. I think she is exactly what we need in city governance.

Let Us Vote Thomas Soules, Livermore

A few weeks ago, my understanding is the Alameda County Registrar of Voters approved that a sufficient number of signatures were obtained to enable the referendum asking voters to decide whether they approve the City of Livermore’s Resolution 2022-085, the city’s plan for Eden Housing, to proceed. As one who collected signatures, I knew that the folks who signed the petition wanted to be able to vote on the city’s plan for Eden Housing downtown including the location of the Eden Housing apartments.

Last Monday, I attended the city council meeting where the council discussed for two hours parsing the 2022-085 plan. The city attorney stated that the council could submit to a public vote only a small part of the referendum having to do with a city loan to Eden Housing for a small strip of land between the Eden Housing apartments.

The lawyer on the Move Eden Housing side said this was clearly illegal. The city could not pick and choose what was referred.

In the end, the council voted to rescind the portion of the city’s resolution that addressed the financing of the small park, and to go forward with all the rest of the city’s plan for the housing development on the current site without a vote.

In other words, don’t do anything the California court said had to be done and don’t put anything on the ballot! More accurately, give the people a bone so they will go away and don’t let them decide on the substance. In a direct democracy, you let folks vote on an issue as important as this. There is no guarantee as to how the vote will turn out.

Only Council member Ben Barrientos had the

(See MAILBOX, page 5)

FLYING TAXI

(Continued from front page)

comparable to Uber Black. Archer’s “Midnight” aircraft uses six electric motors dedicated to vertical takeoffs and landings, while an additional six motors will tilt depending on whether in vertical or horizontal flight. Six independent battery packs will power the motors. The configuration is optimized for rapid back-to-back flights of up to 50 miles long, traveling at about 150 miles per hour while in flight.



Archer Aviation’s “Midnight” aircraft will carry travelers on flights up to 50 miles long within the Bay Area. The company plans to launch its air-taxi network next year with a stop at Livermore Municipal Airport. (Photo courtesy of Archer Aviation)

“With fully electric propulsion and smaller rotors than helicopters, our aircraft are up to 100X quieter than a helicopter when flying at cruising altitudes, making them virtually inaudible from the streets below,” according to the company’s website. During a recent hover test, a nearby idling van had to be asked to turn off its engine so that participants could hear the Midnight, said Sandhu.

“Even the power to charge the battery-electric Archer Midnight aircraft will be produced by solar on the airport, if the city approves our development plans,” he continued. Last year, Sandhu submitted to the City of Livermore a comprehensive development proposal, which included solar power, green hydrogen and other electric-aircraft infrastructure. The proposal remains under city review.

Archer has also begun discussions with Las Positas College to train technicians for the inspection and maintenance of battery-electric aircraft, said Sandhu. “Livermore students will be trained for high-paying local jobs of the future.”

In May, the Federal Aviation Administration issued its final airworthiness criteria for Midnight, which are the standards by which the aircraft will be judged for airworthiness certification. Only one other air taxi has reached the criteria milestone: Joby Aviation’s JAS4-1. Archer plans to begin piloted flight tests of Midnight this year with a goal of commercialization in 2025.

In addition to its air network announcement, Archer signed a memorandum of understanding last month with developer Kilroy Realty Corporation to explore vertiport opportunities at Kilroy’s Oyster Point property in South San Francisco. The renewable-energy-powered, 50-acre waterfront campus would also serve as a “sea portal,” offering electric ferry services on San Francisco Bay.

GARBAGE

(Continued from front page)

weekly. “The increase is very, very minimal,” said Vice Mayor Sherry Hu. “This is good news for residents and commercial owners.”

While the current agreement between the city and Amador Valley Industries (AVI), the city’s garbage contractor, limits AVI’s operating ratio to 90% of the industry standard, a financial review conducted by city consultants HF&H revealed that AVI collected \$292,182 more than allowed during fiscal year 2022-23.

HF&H then factored the overcollection into the coming year’s revenue requirements to arrive at the recommended increase.

Dublin City Manager Linda Smith said that the reason for the recalculations versus refunding the overcharges to the city is that the money is technically residents’ dollars, not Dublin’s.

“Refunding isn’t a practical way to handle this,” said Smith. “It’s better to provide it as a credit for the ratepayers in the next fiscal year since it isn’t the city’s funding/money.”

Smith added that she could not speak to whether AVI conducts its own internal audits.

Councilmember Jean Josey asked how Dublin sits in comparison with other garbage rates in the Tri-Valley.

“I would say it’s probably not the best to look at just each city individually,” said Gordon Galvan, managing partner with HF&H.

“Because if you looked at some of the rate basis, some will be higher, some will be lower, and there are different reasons for each. They are all like snowflakes; they are completely different.”

In Livermore, customers with 32-gallon carts pay \$44.60 per month and those with 64-gallon carts pay \$66.26 per month. In Pleasanton, residents pay \$31.55 per month for 32-gallon carts and \$55.04 for 64-gallon carts, according to the city’s website.

But according to City of Dublin staff, comparisons with nearby communities now inaccurately assess affordability, due to changes in recycling and organic waste costs from Senate Bill 1383. Enacted in 2016, SB 1383 aims to reduce the number of organic materials in landfills by 75% by 2025.

To date, Livermore’s recycling rates are 80% of their garbage rates, while Dublin’s are 25%, playing into Livermore’s higher rate. Also, according to staff, Pleasanton’s costs are outliers because they own their transfer station, which alleviates costs.



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MAILBOX

(Continued from page 4)

gumption to stand up to the staff recommendation. He agreed with the appellate court and the will of the petition signatories, namely, that the entire referendum should go forward, and the city’s plan be put as is to a vote. Not only do I agree with Ben and our lawyer, but I think this is a charade and a perversion of our democracy by the city, a tricky way to prevent a vote.

Let the citizens of Livermore vote on something that will affect all of us.

Happy July 4th, Debates and SCOTUS

David Ott, Pleasanton

Happy 248th birthday to the United States of America. We all should be so grateful for the excellent job our founding fathers did to create the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. These documents laid the foundation for the freedom and democracy that we enjoy in the constitutional republic we call America. Our great country was founded on Christian principles and over time the progressive left have tried to destroy our country by chipping away at those basic principles to take away our freedom and democracy. Fortunately, there are many Americans who want to hold onto these principles and morals that make our country exceptional. Last week, the state of Louisiana took a step in the right direction by restoring the Ten Commandments in all public school rooms. Kudos to Louisiana.

For all those that watched the presidential debate between Biden and Trump, the debate confirmed that Biden continues to be the worst president in our lifetime. Biden is a stumbling, bumbling train wreck who has added over \$7T to the national debt that has fueled the 20% inflation. Trump, as he stated during the debate, will secure the border, reduce taxes for all – low, middle class and businesses, reduce the government regulations that have crippled U.S. businesses, reduce inflation and stimulate the economy. Trump will also end the Russian-Ukraine war, re-implement the sanctions on Iran to stop the terrorist threats and restore peace once again in the Middle East. Trump will also stop the weaponization of the DOJ and restore the freedoms and democracy that we have lost under Biden.

The Supreme Court’s ruling on Trump’s immunity was fair, just and balanced.

Their interpretation of the Constitution in regard to the office of the President was spot on. God bless the United States of America.

It’s Time for Leadership, Not Tax Increases

Trish Fuzesy, Pleasanton

The Pleasanton City Council must vote No on placing the city sales tax increase to 10.75% on the ballot. Three good reasons why:

1. The budget deficit is 5%. Any successful business is prepared to figure out how to trim 5% of the budget. Any household may have to do this. The City’s budget is \$250 million. How the City divides its budget into funds isn’t relevant; that’s just their accounting system. What’s relevant is where the money comes from: taxpayers. Total in becomes total out. That’s \$250 million in. \$13 million is 5% of that.

2. Residents are squeezed already. We’re paying substantially more for water, power, food, all basic necessities. Now is not the time to tax residents even more. Pleasanton City Council has presented just one option: increase the sales tax. What are our other options? Where’s the detailed budget that doesn’t assume increased revenue? When you present that, there are options. There is an opportunity to trim costs in every budget. Let’s not pretend the City doesn’t have some spending it can defer, reduce, or eliminate. We’re all adults here.

3. Leading with scary talk of cutting fire and police without a detailed cost analysis isn’t giving us options either. If anything, it’s a substitute for careful decisions. Of course, there are departments that have more opportunity to trim or defer.

Council needs to show leadership and find a way to live within our means. A sales tax seems like easy, free money! But the easy way out is hard on residents. We need this council to make decisions. That is what you were elected to do. If your only solution is higher taxes, you can’t trim even 5%, you’re not showing leadership, and you’ve lost me.

Person Animosity Becomes an Olympic Sport in Livermore

Elizabeth M. Judge, Livermore

Insecure Livermore officials, contrary to professional civic behavior, have made a sport of encouraging personal animosity toward two individuals who have disagreed with the Liver-

more City Council (LCC) on a regular basis. Instead of limiting discussion to the issues, council meetings have descended into uncivil discourse, with personal insults extending to all dissenters. Individuals entering the political scene learn from these officials that personally insulting opponents is the way to join the “in” crowd. All they have to do is get on the “anti Joan and Jean (J&J) train”.

The LCC meeting on June 24 took this to a new level. While the rest of Livermore was oblivious, the LCC decided to try to keep the referendum about Eden Housing off the November ballot despite the appellate court’s decision. News about this effort evidently spread selectively to those who favor council’s attempt. Remarkably all fifty emails received by council favored the council’s effort along with 24 out of 36 speakers appearing at the meeting.

Since the referendum had been signed by about 8,000 Livermore citizens, a dozen speakers cautioned council to listen to the people and allow it to be on the ballot. Two council members responded that they were listening to the people: counting those who wrote emails (50) and those who appeared at the hearing in favor of council’s action (24). What made this laughable was that they each said this with a straight face!

Leading up to that were the common insults aimed at J&J: plutocrats, elitists, anti-affordable housing “NIMBYS”, plus a new one, racist. (A speaker implied that most people needing affordable housing are black, concluding those trying to move the housing were racist.) Another speaker slandered J&J by lying about their past positions.

One council member, pontificating for the less fortunate, even accused J&J of being responsible for the “hate and division in the city” even though all that hate is directed toward them. All this was called “political theater” by another council member while the last speaker of the evening was allowed to mock by name many individuals who spoke against the council’s action!

Then, to make it clear that folks wanting to move Eden Housing were indeed NIMBYS, the mayor added, without evidence, that one of the speakers had told him that he/she did not want to run into any low income folks in the downtown.

Personal animosity has no place in good government.

For the Love of Country

Daniella Karo, Pleasanton

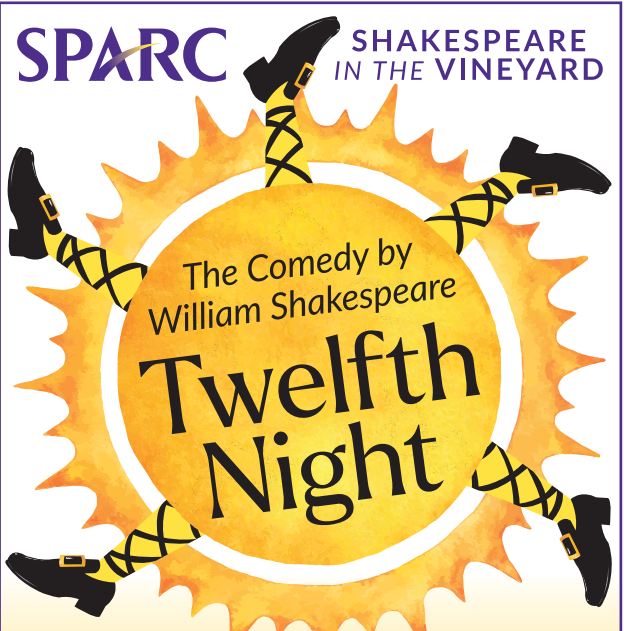
As only an observer of national politics for many decades, I now feel compelled to address the current state of affairs!

I am among the lucky individuals to live in the USA, after spending 20+ years behind the Iron curtain in a stark communist country in Europe. I arrived in the early 60s, and enrolled at UCB. Berkeley campus was a mess with student mobs and cops. Since mobs in my old country usually centered around distribution of badly needed staples, I figured that the rebellious students were lacking toilet paper or other necessities and were acting up. In the decades that followed my Berkeley experiences, I found Americans complaining quite a bit about this and that, yet food and staples were aplenty. I also realized that one could even complain loudly about the POTUS and his policies, with no repercussions, like being picked up by the KGB and thrown in prison. My communist years were behind me, and

(See MAILBOX, page 6)

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Above, the Drone Spectacular Show flies over the fairgrounds racetrack at the Alameda County Fair on June 28. Below, fairgoers whirl through the sky on the “Wave Swinger.” The fair will run through July 7. (Photos – Doug Jorgensen)



HOUSING

(Continued from front page)

Plan before voters followed a discussion of polling results that showed about 54% of the region’s voters favoring the plan with 46% against. During BAHFA’s meeting, about 65 people spoke in support of the measure, with about 15 against.

Under current law, the measure requires a two-thirds yes vote to pass, but a constitutional amendment that also will be before voters in November will lower the threshold on bond issues to 55% if it passes. The lower requirement would apply immediately to the BAHFA measure.

“We will, if the voters allow us, show the people of the region, the state and beyond, what it is that we can do when we choose to invest (and) turn our investments back to the people, rather than to our corporate interests when it comes to public interest around housing,” BAHFA Commissioner Victoria Fleming said.

BAHFA Commissioner Hillary Ronen called the decision to place the measure on the ballot “one of the most significant votes I’ve ever taken in my career.”

“Housing should be a human right, but sadly, it’s not, and our federal government has failed to address one of the biggest issues in our country,” Ronen said. “This body is going to give the voters of the Bay Area an opportunity to step in where others have failed, and to go a long way toward fixing this issue. I think it’s profound. I think it’s amazing. I think it’s exciting.”

The measure requires the creation of homes near transit, jobs and stores; conversion of vacant lots and blighted properties into affordable housing, and extension of assistance to first-time homebuyers. It is estimated the bond measure will generate about \$670 million annually to be distributed among the counties.

Under the \$20 billion proposal, \$4 billion will be placed into a regional housing fund with the rest dispersed to the counties. Alameda County

would receive \$2.8 billion; San Francisco County, \$2.4 billion; San Mateo County, \$2.1 billion; Santa Clara County, \$4.5 billion; Contra Costa County, \$1.9 billion. Sonoma County would receive \$795 million; Napa County, \$364 million; Solano County, \$489 million; and Marin County, \$699 million. The cities of San Jose, Oakland, Santa Rosa and Napa also will receive a share.

Expenditures would be monitored by a civilian oversight committee appointed by BAHFA commissioners.

The decision to increase affordable housing comes a year after the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) Regional Housing Needs Allocations identified the need for 441,176 housing units across the region to deal with the state’s housing crisis.

During public comments, supporters of the measure described the hardships of high housing prices, which some said made it impossible for their children to live nearby and helped to fuel homelessness.

“We are more than 1.2 million units short for low-income households, and more than 78% of our low-income Californians spend more than 50% of their income on housing,” said Shola Olatoye, chief operating officer for Eden Housing, a nonprofit organization that builds affordable housing across California. “(California) has the unwelcomed distinction of having the highest number of unsheltered homeless individuals in the country, and we also know that some members of our community, especially our Black, brown and native communities, are disproportionately impacted by this crisis. We believe the solution is housing.”

AmyBeth Willis, a policy team member with Save the Bay, said the lack of affordable housing and the health of the environment were “deeply connected.” A study, she said, showed that building

affordable housing within a half mile of transit reduces pollution.

“The health of the bay is directly related to the health of people and access to healthy, safe homes,” Willis said. “We are committed to working with other environmental organizations to support this measure and turn out yes votes in November.”

Roma Dawson of the League of Women Voters said her organization supports the measure. The league, she said, has always recognized that a regional effort was necessary to “dig out of the hole we dug by not constructing enough housing for almost two decades.”

Dawson, however, cautioned the commission that without “a robust, independent citizens oversight process that far exceeds legal requirements,” the measure will not pass.

“We have members that have been part of citizens oversight committees that have not worked well,” Dawson said. “We are trusting in all of you to set a new standard for public engagement and transparency.”

Opponents at the meeting said the measure will unnecessarily burden property owners.

“This bond attacks homeowners,” Elizabeth Henry said. “The whole affordable housing issue has gone berserk. As far as I’m concerned, there is no accountability in this bond that I have seen that will guarantee that affordable housing will be built.”

Anne Gray said she was not convinced the bond would lead to more affordable housing.

“I think it will lead to higher, unaffordable property taxes, and therefore Californians not being able to afford those taxes, their homes, rentals or businesses,” Gray said. “I urge people to vote no. I know we have a problem. I don’t feel like throwing money at it is going to solve it. We’re being taxed out of our homes already.”

OPEN SPACE

(Continued from front page)

“What we’d like to do is to formalize this process, start to look at definitions, what the purpose of the measure is, what the findings are,” Gosselin told the committee. “What the Ag Advisory Committee has to consider is whether or not we want to look at our purpose, powers and duties, see how we can exercise them, in order to design a process for legislative review, not conduct their legislative review, but to design the process and bring that back.”

Some committee members voted against moving forward, saying the volunteer AAC, composed of citizens, was not equipped to take on such a task, which would require legal expertise. Although the initial proposal before the committee was to “implement” a legislative review, some committee members, including Chair Karl Wente, called the job “daunting.”

By the end, they decided only to initiate the process and talk about it at a future meeting when the committee’s Land Use Subcommittee comes up with some ideas.

During discussion, some members took exception to a statement in their agenda item on the matter that said “agriculture has been in steady decline” in the county, supported only by the wine industry.

“Not only is the agricultural economy in decline, but the culture and infrastructure needed to manage our agricultural and open space resources is also in decline,” the item said.

The line was stricken from the ultimate vote.

During public comments, Dick Schneider, a co-author of Measure D, told the committee that Measure D’s passage helped to preserve open

land that would have been covered with thousands of homes. Any attempts to change it, he said, should involve residents, county attorneys, and guidance from the board of supervisors.

Schneider said an effort that began five years ago to amend Measure D’s rules for the size of arenas at horse ranches, and for the size of agricultural buildings at vineyards, went first to the board of supervisors. Supervisors established a stakeholders committee that held numerous meetings, discussed the issue and ultimately came up with a ballot measure that voters passed in 2022.

“This committee, if it’s going to do something, should do the same thing,” Schneider said. “It should deploy stakeholders, not just from this particular committee, but people from the outside, have a meeting, and then have that synthesis circle up to the board of supervisors.”

David Rounds, a representative from Friends of Livermore (FOL), which helped to write the Measure D 2022 ballot initiative, said the move for a legislative review appears to be from landowners who want to push the initiative to “accomplish more growth and more use of their land.”

FOL, Rounds said, is monitoring the review plan and believes that if it goes forward, it should include members of the environmental community in the discussion.

“This is a really complicated process,” Rounds said. “We certainly wouldn’t have any legal authority to stop them (the AAC) from doing that. So for now, it’s more of ‘Okay, we’re watching, we see this, and we consider it a threat to the intent of Measure D.’”

MAILBOX

(Continued from page 5)

life was moving along at a nice pace. I found the same complaints in many Western countries in Europe as well, and so I understood that no matter how good one has it in Western democracies, people want and labor more as opportunities are always available for advancement.

Which brings me to today! People still complain, but now food, gas, energy, toilet paper, housing, etc. are priced out, unaffordable to many. The diverse political views, a staple of a healthy American life, have become toxic, pulverizing our unity for a better future for all. Obscene charges against competing political candidates, an uninspired riot, division that’s dense and dangerous. A weak and frail president does not inspire much confidence here and abroad. As a result, two wars are now being fought, raising the prospect of nuclear engagement. We are now at a dangerous crossroads that the two oceans separating us no longer can protect us from!

As an independent, I have to make a critical, informed decision when voting in the next election. I am not happy with the current status quo, inflation, polarization, illegals at borders, international ping-pong politics and nuclear threats, abandonment of allies, academic dumbing down, elitism vs. plebeism, etc. We now have a duty to make America great again for us and future generations to straighten things out and steer this country to greatness again.

Opposition to the Referendum

Robert Koelle, Livermore

I would like to express my extreme opposition

to any referendum on the downtown plan, as proposed by Move Eden Housing.

First, how is it possible to have a referendum based on fiction? There cannot be and will not be a downtown park, because Eden Housing cannot be moved from its current location. Any attempt to do so will land this city in legal trouble for breaking contracts and using money earmarked for low-income housing to build a park. This is not to mention what the state can and will do with the land if we are in breach of building promised low-income housing. The housing will be built, but we will lose control of the design and density if and when the state takes over. That’s before even considering that there are no city owned parcels downtown to move the housing to. It’s an absurdity, and having a referendum to endorse an absurdity is simply a waste of time and money.

Second, the track record of distortion and dishonesty by those behind this effort should be weighed. “Would you like a pretty downtown park? Look at our pretty pictures!” Who would say no to that, and not sign a petition? But only a few years ago, they claimed to want a hotel there. Now they want a park. Either they are just trying to block low-income housing from downtown, or they still harbor the pipe dream of a huge 2,000 seat performing arts theater on that site. I don’t believe for a second that they really want a park.

Regardless of motive, this is a reckless effort that will cause the city financial catastrophe if successful.

Compiling the Qur’an

Abdul Awwal, Pleasanton

Recently, I wrote a letter

on the tradition of Qur’an memorization (in the March 14 edition). After writing that letter, I came across information about the written basis from a scholar, Sheikh Talal Ahdab.

One of the companions of the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) requested the then Caliph Abu Bakr Siddique (may God be pleased with him) to compile the Qur’an into a single written copy. A committee was set up with Zaid ibn Thabit as the head. Zaid came up with a process. He asked everyone who had written any part of the Qur’an in front of the Prophet, who had two witnesses who saw that he wrote it in front of the Prophet, and also then recited it to the Prophet and received his approval, to bring those copies to him. After verifying these written copies with the attested memorized order and wording of the Qur’an, the complete written copy of the Qur’an was thus compiled and kept with Hafsa (may God be pleased with her). This codified master copy was used for subsequent copies and dissemination throughout the Muslim world.

Now, someone could have copied a portion from the original scribe himself. Then, his relatives or friends could have copied from the copy of the copy. Note that these copies or copies of copies are not authenticated and could introduce variations. Such manuscripts that are uncovered from time to time do not bother the scholars, because they are not copies of the original. That is why we find that from India to Indonesia, from Mali to Istanbul, or in any other countries where the Qur’an is recited in the

daily prayers or during Ramadan, Muslims enjoy the exact same copy of the Qur’an.

On this occasion of the 4th of July, I would like to remind my fellow Americans that the first country to recognize this young nation called America was none other than Morocco, a land well-known for their huge number of Qur’an reciters and Hufadh (those who memorize the entire Qur’an). That is also where Qari Amr comes from, who is the Imam (leader) for night prayers in Ramadan at MCC East Bay.

Kristie Wang for District 4 Cate Sarraille, Livermore

The residents of District 4 have an outstanding candidate running for City Council. Kristie Wang has the skills, abilities and background to meet the needs of the district and city of Livermore. Kristie’s education prepared her for this role—she has a master’s in public policy from Harvard and has spent a significant portion of her life working with local nonprofits and government agencies.

In 2018, Kristie Wang cofounded Flavors Addict Kids-Livermore, an organization that contributed to Livermore passing the nation’s strongest tobacco control ordinance. Kristie’s groundbreaking work not only made our city proud, but also received national recognition. Kristie has been serving as a volunteer domestic violence advocate in the Tri-Valley for more than 12 years.

In 2020, Ms. Wang was elected to the Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District Board of Education. During her time on

(See MAILBOX, page 7)

VINTNERS

(Continued from front page)

and finding people to help us.” And people did help them. Neighbors lent the use of destemmers and presses so they could process their fruit — separating the grapes from the stems and then crushing the grapes to extract the juice for wine-making. “That’s kind of how we knew this was the right place for us.”

More businesses followed. The Almost Famous Wine Lounge opened its doors in 2021 and became a formidable music venue, followed by Free Range Flowers Winery, Rivers End Brewery and other boutique wineries. As the neighborhood grew, so too did the goodwill that turned into brainstorming in the form of a big block party where the businesses all gathered and created the concept for Vasco Row. Their branding vision for the area to become a destination was realized in the City of Livermore’s recent draft of its next General Plan that will provide direction through 2045. In it, Vasco Row is called out for recommended approval in 2025 to turn it into a visitor destination with winery and production uses, and with a mixed commercial/industrial designation.

Fierro said, “I’m so excited about that. I can’t believe some of us just sitting around talking turned

into this so fast.” The group has plans for a digital app that will show visitors in advance what events, food trucks and other specials are available for all the Vasco Row merchants.

“Kind of like build it and they will come,” said Fierro. “I could go and buy a winery somewhere and just try to, you know, grow it myself, and that’s fine. But the power of collaboration is much bigger because you can grow an entire area, and then you share all of the love amongst each other.”

Citywide Camaraderie

Winemaker and proprietor Jessica Carroll of JMC Cellars, with her tasting room on Greenville Road at the site of the former Big White House Winery, may not benefit from the Vasco Row collaboration but she more than supports it.

“They’re all direct neighbors so it makes sense for them to do stuff together and pool their resources. I think that’s amazing,” she said.

Carroll is, however, part of the Women’s Wine Collective of the Livermore Valley and the Livermore Valley Vintners Collective (LVVC), both of which Fierro and Wood are also members.

The LVVC, Carroll explains, is a group of like-minded winemakers

who came together on a side project whereby they create a set of guidelines using Livermore Valley fruit and each make their own versions of wine based upon that. “It’s just another way to highlight our amazing growing region, winemaking skills, and our collaborative and community efforts that happen here, and do that all in one project.”

The group, which is open to anyone, held a public tasting last month at the Bankhead of the 2021 vintage of their LVVC blends.

“The Women’s Wine Collective is great too,” Carroll said. “It’s highlighting female-driven wines in Livermore, which is amazing because we do have more presence than other regions in the state, and I think that’s something we should talk about more.”

She credits a lot of that business success to the supportiveness of the city and the Livermore community. And she takes with a grain of salt any doom and gloom reports that the wine industry might be facing challenges post pandemic. Wineries reported a spike in sales in 2020 that waned as customers seemed to be working through their surplus inventory once the world reopened.

“I think everything is cyclical. I’m really not that



The Livermore Valley Vintners Collective (LVVC) shares the 2021 vintage of its LVVC blend at the Bankhead Theater on June 22. (Photo – Doug Jorgensen)

concerned about it,” said Carroll.

As if on cue, in walks Carroll’s cellar master, Shannon Tesseyre, to tell her the quick-connect on the power washer is broken.

Carroll bursts into laughter, “I mean nothing in life is easy, right?”

Laughter is a common denominator among all the women. It just flows, like the wine Wood pours from behind her tasting bar while we talk, maybe because all the women left jobs in the corporate sector to follow a dream. And they’ve banded together in support of that.

Fierro said of the Women’s Wine Collective, “The group has really taken off, we gather strength from each other. And we have a

lot of fun together.” Anyone can join the group and men are welcome too.

That welcoming spirit is another common trait among the women and throughout the whole community, says Wood, who’s been part of the Livermore Valley for 24 years. “I think we will take anybody that’s interested in the Livermore Valley and help them grow into where they would want to be.”

This pay-it-forward attitude just makes sense given all three women benefited from some form of mentorship or incubation scenario as they were coming up in wine. Wood was advised by mentors at Wentle and Concannon. Fierro came up through Tenuta Vineyards’ custom crush facility years

before she opened her own tasting room. And Carroll honed her skills by working her way up through the Big White House Winery and John Evans Cellars.

Wood, who does custom crush for Fierro, said if she had more space she would love to help more people. “We need a custom crush facility. As soon as we get the sewage system to come down Tesla, then I think we’ll be able to have that. And that would bring more winemakers.”

For now, says Carroll, “I think we kind of incubate each other as it is.” And that goes back to the community that she says is so supportive where incubation is not so formal maybe, “but it’s still very present.”

MAILBOX

(Continued from page 6)

the board, she has worked with Las Positas Community College, LARPD, and served on the Intergovernmental Committee.

Ms. Wang took office as students were returning to classrooms after months of distance learning caused by the Covid crisis. She came to the board committed to listening to the community and she met that commitment. Over the next four years, Kristie worked cooperatively with her fellow board members to ensure schools provide a safe environment for all students despite efforts by fringe groups to disrupt school board meetings. Our students have access to mental health and wellness interventions. Our elementary school students have state of the art science materials aligned with the NGSS science standards. Our district is truly data driven, relying on quantifiable objective analysis of programs used by the district.

Before she announced her run for city council, she held three listening sessions to hear from her constituents. Her priorities include affordable housing and maintaining infrastructure. I know Kristie will carry forward her willingness to listen to all points of view.

For those of you who read Alan Heckman’s letter on May 30, I can assure you that Ms. Wong was not on the board in December

of 2013. The teacher Mr. Heckman referenced in his letter was arrested the day after school authorities learned of her actions. The rest of the allegations revolve around his well-known animosity towards LVJUSD, Dr. Kelly Bowers and former Superintendent Chris Van Schaack.

Letters and the City Council Meeting
Owen Brovont, Livermore

Judging by the subjects in the Letters to the Editor in the June 27th Independent, it almost seems like some residents of Livermore live in alternate universes. This idea gains traction as one reads the range of thought expressed by the writers. Though the range of ideas was interesting, the clarity of thought represented is open to serious question. It is clear that beliefs drive opinions which, in turn, motivate actions. What is apparently not clear to some people is that values underlie beliefs. It is undeniable that the current American version of western culture is in a state of disintegration. This situation is largely attributable to the belief that conflicting ideas are not anathema to a stable social structure or that a stable social structure is preferable to chaos and mayhem. Least one counters these comments by casting them as likely painting a scenario of tyranny, it cannot be ignored that freedom has

established the most fertile environment for human creativity and progress in just about any venue that can be identified.

In any case, it is a tricky business to analyze and opine on these kinds of issues. Any subsequent commentary intended to contend with the contents of this letter must remain relevant to the subjects discussed and not obscure or confuse the issues by wandering off into unrelated territory – an unfortunately common occurrence.

A second topic – observations of Mayor Marchand’s brief reprise of the June 24th City Council meeting.

At 2:51:15 into Monday’s City Council meeting, the Mayor offered an outrageous misrepresentation of the content and intentions of the speakers who expressed opposition to the location of the Eden Project – it was not to kill affordable housing as he claimed. One wonders, was the mayor sufficiently attentive during the meeting because – without exception – all the opponents of the Eden project spoke in opposition to its location, not its construction. Alternative locations in Livermore were even suggested, one just across Railroad Avenue – all of about 100 feet from its presently designated site! Three likely possibilities to consider: his accusation was a figment of his imagination; he simply didn’t pay attention to the comments of those who spoke in opposition; or he is personally opposed to relocating the project under any circumstances – the interpretation is yours to choose.

White Dog Walking Four Men
Patricia Thorstad, Livermore

Err... I mean silver-haired man walking four dogs.

Heh heh heh, from original “3:10 to Yuma”: Ben Wade’s first joke.

I was born in 1956, so my dad, in 1957, if he watched this film first-run (doubt it; three babies at home) would have been watching his doppelganger.

Mama always said she liked “Charley Heston,” but she slept with Glenn Ford every night; six offspring, me the oldest of the babies (the last set of three, with 21 months between

me and bro).

Feeling chatty with this interesting guy walking by you in lady-land, east Livermore?

Don’t... he got an important job: that job is to return home unscathed.

Love-lost divorcees, graveyard shift catcher, leased electric cars that are too much vehicle for the backward parker, the criminally-equipped bad-marriage partner, lying in wait. My hubby is fed up with them and fed up with me.

A cheery Hi! could/can distract him, upset him, or the dogs, and there he goes, down, down, down, dragged to death by the frightened dogs, like in the movies, or him hitting his head on the curb and never being my sweet hubby again.

That was the most dominant murder-action that I ever discovered on “Highway Patrol,” you know, that pistol-whipping type of incident. The wife is always surprised/shocked (women are essentially good) and the murderer/”it was an accident” are bad men up to no good.

Let the innocent guy get home safe and let him bring both he, and the very healthy dogs, back to me. Thank you.

B’s Men
Biden’s men are “careful, quick, and kind.”

Biden’s men (ditto: WoMen) “take a load off of my mind.”

“Pulling any stops... daa daa daaa daa daaaa daa... They’re the best-blame-policy-men around.”

Pros: they are, with their cautionary-manners, big-stick-sanctions, elegant visages, top-shelf blue/black tailored-suits, comprehensive philosophy/current affairs readers themselves (as well as their staff), and hair getting grayer by the yearly-quarter (every three months)... they represent u.s.

And prose “means poetry” in policy.

We gotta believe in them and, as they used to say, wish them God’s speed, like every day.

My second haiku; Livermore Library Haiku Contest, February 2024 (participant):

the libraries’ FOL
even steven 10 books
\$10

forgettaboutit!

Patricia’s meaning for forgettaboutit!: expressing surety, wonder.

Here is my first haiku:

oxygen redox
the forces that drive my
green blood

oxygen... oops, I just
used up the 400 words...
Ahhhhh

Affordable Housing
Nic Carter, Livermore

Livermore wants affordable housing. Stop blocking it.

The majority of Livermore residents have voted multiple times to approve the Eden Housing project, either by their elected officials or through ballot initiatives. On the opposite side of the issue is a small group of well-funded individuals posing as a grassroots resistance. They operate under several names so as to appear larger than they really are.

After failing over and over again to win at the ballot box, their only move now is to throw money at the issue through legal action. What makes it all the more galling is their populist rhetoric, claiming to stand up for the people of Livermore, when all they’re really doing is using money to go around the democratic process that keeps rejecting their ideas.

You’ll always find people grouching about changes to the city, but voting has shown time and again that the majority of residents recognize the need for more affordable housing and think the Eden project is a good solution. I hope the legal system can recognize stalling tactics when they see them, shut this down, and we can get on with the city plan.

A Failure of Leadership
Jan Batcheller and Doug Miller, Pleasanton

A budget reflects our values.

Pleasanton’s leadership has failed its residents in balancing the budget. They propose cuts directly impacting us—fewer trash pickups, reduced park maintenance, shorter library and aquatic center hours, elimination of teen programs and school crossing guards, and reduced police and fire services—while barely touching the City’s travel budget. This raises questions about whose values our current leadership is representing.

For the past year, the mayor, city council, and staff have spent approximately \$400,000 on a ½

cent sales tax increase ballot proposal without convening a budget committee for an independent review of cuts. PUSD recently convened an independent committee to scrutinize their budget. Why didn’t the mayor and city council do the same? And when a council member suggested oversight for the measure—if it passes—staff indicated it wasn’t needed.

This isn’t new. When leadership pushed through a significant water rate increase, they failed to consider alternatives to ease the impact on residents. This pattern of going hat in hand to the public due to poor leadership is eroding trust. Instead of addressing these issues, leadership resorts to fear mongering about essential service cuts if a sales tax increase is not enacted. The mayor even suggested that police and fire services may be compromised without additional taxes, which is unacceptable.

Residents do not trust the city’s information and feel financial decisions lack transparency. This sentiment is justified, as financial decisions appear half-baked and rushed. At the last council meeting, a councilmember claimed the fiscal cliff wasn’t their fault, yet took credit for cost savings from over a decade ago. This contradiction only adds to the distrust.

We had advance warning of this fiscal tsunami but did not heed the signs. Inflation spiked in 2021, yet the City didn’t adjust spending accordingly, and now is asking voters to bail them out or lose important services. When citizens hear that over \$500,000 remains in the budget for staff and council conferences, we need to ask: what other expenditures can be reviewed to ensure a balanced budget that reflects our priorities?

Pleasanton’s leadership must cut non-essential spending before threatening essential services. This failure undermines trust and does not reflect our community values.

Jill Stein’s 2024 Housing Platform
Yvonne Konneker, Livermore

I think that solutions arise when we consider different perspectives. A one-size-fits-all approach

(See MAILBOX, page 8)

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SENIOR

(Continued from front page)

for the right time to bring a well-thought-out project to the City of Pleasanton. We believe this project brings many things to the community.”

According to the staff report, the architectural designs will feature seven styles including French, modern farmhouse, Sonoma, Spanish and traditional farmhouse, and are primarily single-story homes, with a few houses offered with second stories to provide an additional bedroom.

The site consists of four parcels located on the east side of Foothill Road. According to staff, the area is relatively flat on the western edge before dropping 60 feet in elevation toward the entrance of the age-restricted portion, gradually sloping downward toward Interstate 680.

The location is mostly vacant except for two existing single-family residences, a few outbuildings formerly used for agriculture, and the remnants of an old orchard. The project would retain one of the existing residences.

The site is bordered by residential areas on all sides except the eastern boundary, which is adjacent to I-680. The Muirwood neighborhood is to the north, the Foothill Knolls neighborhood is to the south, and single-family homes are across Foothill Road to the west. Primary access to the site will remain as a single driveway from Foothill Road.

The proposed project will also include adding bicycle lanes along the property’s frontage on Foothill Road, in line with the city’s Bicycle Master Plan. Regarding parking, the project will provide a total of 597 parking spaces, averaging just over five spaces per unit, including individual garages.

As part of the development agreement, the applicant has agreed to create and maintain a public-access extension of the Marilyn Murphy Kane trail and contribute \$1 million toward a public safety facility and equipment fund to manage extra costs.

The property is located outside of the city limits but has been designated for low-density residential development in the city’s General Plan for many decades. It was recently identified as a housing opportunity site and pre-zoned for similar density as part of the recent Housing Element update. The proposed project is consistent with the General Plan and its zoning’s allowed density, plus a density bonus allowed under state law for senior housing.

To move forward with the city’s Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) of over 5,000 units, the applicant must annex the project into the city. This requires approval from the Alameda County Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) if the city

council decides to submit an application.

During annexation, the city must negotiate with Alameda County on whether any county RHNA units will count towards the city’s quota and how tax-sharing will be managed.

Public comments on the project were mixed, with most speakers voicing concerns over traffic mitigation on Foothill Road.

“Foothill (Road) is a high-speed, heavily used corridor by motorists, and this particular section is near Foothill High School,” said Sharon Piekarski. “Please require protected bike lanes throughout this location.”

Resident Rennie Bowers was more concerned about car traffic along the busy road.

“I’ve watched the cars backed up there and put smog into my yard, and I think this is a city problem,” said Bowers.

Doug Marshall, a 40-year resident, voiced his support for the project.

“When I was in high school, they were talking about this project, and now I’m old enough to be one of your residents,” said Marshall. “We want to have options to stay in the area and with these 18 units maybe some people can stay. ... I hope you can move forward and approve this project.”

Resident Linda Moniz agreed.

“I too am in favor of the project,” she said. “I’ve lived here for 55 years and watched many changes in Pleasanton. I would have loved Pleasanton to stay the way it was when I moved in, but progress happens, and I think this is a good project.”

City Traffic Engineer Mike Tassano addressed traffic concerns.

“Age-restricted housing generates much fewer — about a third of the amount — of trips as standard houses, and those trips usually are taken outside of peak hours,” he said.

Commissioner Anurag Jain offered his support for the project during closing comments.

“I feel the developer has been very diligent in that they have worked with the community and staff, which is what we want,” he said. “There will always be challenges ... but we can use more housing, especially for seniors, so I feel this provides a good opportunity for that.”

Chair Matt Gaidos said the project was a good and necessary option for the city.

“I can telegraph my support for this project and commend the developer for what they are willing to do,” he said. “There is a lot of benefit to this project. ... This is probably the least, worst thing that could happen in this neighborhood. As far as appropriateness for that area, I don’t think you could come up with a better design.”

The project is expected to come before the city council for approval in August.

Free Art Walks to Honor Pleasanton Benefactors

The Pleasanton Cultural Arts Council (PCAC) will sponsor free walking tours of the public art on display at the Firehouse Arts Center and the Museum on Main on Wednesday, July 10, and Thursday, July 25.

The tours will include 12 pieces donated by Gary and Nancy Harrington and on display inside and outside the Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., including a painting by French impressionist Claude Monet, and three outdoor sculptures about a block away at the Museum on Main, 603 Main St.

PCAC “is grateful for the opportunity to honor Gary and Nancy Harrington through this partnership with the Museum on Main,” said council President Kelly Cousins. “Our intent is to bring a rich understanding of their many artwork donations to Pleasanton.”

The tours will begin at 10 a.m. and last about an hour.

Each tour is limited to 25 people and registration is required. To register for the Harrington Art Walk Tours, call the museum at 925-462-2766.

PCAC is a nonprofit organization that promotes art in the community and Pleasanton schools.

The Harrington Gallery at the Firehouse Arts Center is also open Wednesday through Saturday. Admission is free.



Monet’s Bench by Gary Lee Price (Photo courtesy of Museum on Main)

WATER

(Continued from front page)

San Ramon. The agency also provides untreated water for agricultural use and controls some 37 miles of local flood-protection channels.

As much as 80% of the Tri-Valley’s water begins as rain and snowmelt from the Sierra Nevada mountains, which travels to the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, one of the largest estuaries in the country. From there, water is pumped into the South Bay Aqueduct and carried to area reservoirs before treatment at either the Del Valle or Patterson Pass treatment plants.

Depending on recent precipitation, another 20% to 40% of Zone 7’s water comes from local groundwater sources.

The report, available at bit.ly/Indy_zone7_2023, details contaminant levels found in Zone 7’s groundwater and surface-water sources compared to maximum contaminant levels, which are set to minimize risks to public health. Levels of contaminants such as bacteria, inorganic chemicals and radionuclides came in well below maximum levels or were not detected.

Additionally, the water agency is continuing forward with more facilities to treat PFAS in the area’s groundwater.

Also known as forever chemicals, PFAS have been linked in humans to immune system dysfunctions, developmental delays, some cancers and other adverse health effects, even at concentrations of just a few parts per trillion.

Levels of PFOS, a common PFAS, averaged 6 ng/L and as high as 27 ng/L in Zone 7’s groundwater wells. The PFOS notification level, or the level at which agencies are required to notify customers about the contaminant, is

6.5 ng/L.

Similarly, levels of PF-HxS averaged 5 ng/L and as high as 21 ng/L, while its notification level is 3 ng/L.

The two chemicals have been detected in eight out of Zone 7’s 10 wells, according to Alexandra Bradley, Zone 7 communications specialist. “(The wells) have been either taken out of service or treated to below the new federal standards even before the required compliance in 2029.”

Three of the agency’s Mocho wells in northern Pleasanton and three of its Chain-of-Lakes wells in eastern Pleasanton remain offline because of PFAS contamination.

The same groundwater contamination caused the City of Pleasanton, which previously pumped its own groundwater to supplement purchases from Zone 7, to shut down all of its wells

by the end of 2022. The city, in collaboration with Zone 7, is now exploring new wells in southwest Pleasanton.

The California Department of Water Resources, through its Sustainable Groundwater Management Grant Program, awarded Zone 7 \$16 million in September 2023 for an ion-exchange treatment facility at Zone 7’s Stoneridge well. The facility, which began operation that same month, was the first of its kind to offer ion-exchange PFAS removal in Northern California.

While a similar treatment facility will come online at Zone 7’s Chain-of-Lakes wellfield later this year, the agency is also preparing a different conceptual design for a PFAS treatment facility at its Mocho wells. The design is expected to be completed by the end of 2024 as well.

MAILBOX

(Continued from 7 page)

only works for a small segment of any population. In the spirit of democracy and celebrating our country’s birthday, look at what the forward-thinking and compassionate doctor Jill Stein prescribes for housing healing. You can’t criminalize homelessness especially without providing a way out. See Dr. Jill Stein’s complete platform on her 2024 campaign website. She says,

“Housing is a human right. We need to end homelessness, support tenants and homebuyers, and massively invest in public housing to provide high-quality, affordable homes for all.

“A Jill Stein administration will:

“End homelessness and housing insecurity with a Homes Guarantee

“Fund social housing as part of the Real Green New Deal to build at least 15 million green, union-built, publicly-owned homes over the next 10 years

“Support a universal tenant’s bill of rights

“Direct the Department of Labor to assist with the establishment of a national tenants union

“Impose taxes on unoccupied homes (vacancy tax) and investment rental ‘homestay’ properties to curb speculation

“Expand House Choice Initiatives, and provide full funding to all existing project-based rental assistance contracts

“Repeal the Faircloth Amendment so that the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) can build public housing again

“Prohibit predatory lending, require clearly listed mortgage costs and risks, and no fine print

“Expand HUD and US Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Develop-

ment Programs for first-time home buyers, with down-payment assistance, direct guaranteed loans, and pre-purchase housing counseling

“Reinvigorate federal housing programs that build publicly-owned housing for families, for the elderly, and for people with disabilities

“Expand and protect the homeowner mortgage interest benefit, and eliminate the ‘second home’ and ‘yacht’ loopholes

“Implement universal rent control and a prohibition on excessive rental deposits

“Eliminate credit checks from rental applications”.

Bringing this home, my questions would be, can Eden Housing be expanded in the currently proposed downtown location? What could a phase 2 of Eden Housing look like if it were located somewhere else? Help me out, I’m not seeing Livermore’s housing long game. My thinking is that if you lay down the tracks before you know where you’re going, it’s awfully difficult to change direction. While I’m no housing expert, I see some red flags with the way the City is handling the process and am wondering why they’re doubling down to negate other perspectives and options.

June 20th Article on Electricity Bills and Ava Randy Dore, Pleasanton

Ava Community Energy is a completely useless unneeded extra middleman that adds 18 cents per kilowatt-hour (kWh) to everybody’s bill. How does a supposed non-profit have an extra \$39 million dollars and is expecting more somehow; by adding to everybody’s bill without notice, and to get rid of them you have to opt out.

It should have been the other way around, where you have to opt in. I’m sure there are people that don’t even know it’s on the bill. Ava also can’t deliver what they offer, like if you pay extra for the 50/50 mix of solar and wind, the only way they could deliver that would be to run dedicated wires to your house. In reality, everyone gets the same mixed source power. Of course, we opted out because they are a sham and unnecessary. Your line about historically low natural gas prices was laughable. You should write an article about what Ava actually does, like adding 18 cents per kWh to your bill, and being a nonprofit with millions of extra dollars from ripping off the customers that didn’t opt out.

Put the Downtown Eden Housing Project to a Vote!

Greg Scott, Livermore

“There’s really is no such thing as ‘voiceless’. There are only the deliberately silenced, or the preferably unheard.” (Arundhati Roy)

What does the Livermore City Council majority and Livermore City Staff have to fear in a democratic ballot box vote on the downtown Eden Housing Project location?

With the Livermore community providing enormous resources to the proposed project, why should we not have a democratic ballot box vote on its placement?

The City of Livermore is giving a \$7.8 million “sweetheart” loan to Eden Housing at 3% annual interest for 55 years. Currently, capital can readily get 5% annual interest. At these rates, Livermore is subsidizing this loan in its first year at around \$150,000. Over the course of this loan, the subsidy will be

in the millions of dollars. It is doubtful interest rates will be significantly lowered soon. We are also subsidizing an indemnity agreement not to exceed \$4.3 million for hazardous cleanup at the downtown Eden Housing Project site. This amounts to \$33,000 for each of the 130 units.

What should be clearly presented to the public are the projected capital costs of each unit of the current downtown Eden Housing Project, including the most expensive per unit capital cost, and the least expensive per unit capital cost. When you are building “affordable housing” units for the equivalent price of astandalone, single family homes, or nearly so, in Livermore, do we think it is expensive? Should we have a say in the location of this costly project? Also, the annual per unit operational subsidy costs should be plainly presented.

A group petitioned for a referendum to place the location of the downtown Eden Housing Project on the ballot through legal democratic means. They achieved enough qualifying valid signatures. This was no easy task, nor does it involve a “small group” of the electorate; I learned this firsthand, because I volunteered on Fremont’s Measure K in 2005, which we qualified for the ballot. Move Eden Housing has every right to protect their democratic efforts. What Move Eden Housing (MEH) is proposing is a larger, affordable housing project on the north side of Railroad Avenue. MEH is certainly not against affordable housing.

“The most urgent, the most disgraceful, the most shameful and the most tragic problem is silence.” (Rabbi Joachim Prinz)

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OBITUARIES

Michael John Waite
May 25, 1934 – June 22, 2024

John Waite, 90, formerly of Livermore, California, passed away peacefully on Saturday, June 22, 2024.

John was born May 25, 1934, in Reading, Berkshire England. He grew up in a loving family with his mum, dad and four sisters. Some of his favorite childhood memories include times of playing the accordion for American soldiers during WWII. They filled his case with candy and gum to the delight of his friends in the neighborhood. He served in the Coldstream Guards for the British army in the 1950's. John was a devoted family man who loved and cared for his first wife, two daughters and a son.

His talent as a pianist allowed him to share his gift in every phase of his life. After long days of delivering grocery goods across the English countryside, he would play piano for local establishments. When he moved to Livermore, California in the late 1990s, John's talent brought joy to all in the local senior center.

Settling in Livermore, John and Hiroko, his wife of 25 years,



enjoyed traveling, bowling, ball-room dancing, golfing, cooking and hosting parties for their friends. John received local acclaim for his near perfect bowling games and top average for his team. His humility, abundant joy and polite manner exuded love to everyone. People eagerly reciprocated their love for John. Even in his latter days when some hospital visits were required, the doctors, nurses and staff would comment that he was a "delightful" man.

He is survived by his wife, Hiroko, sister June and family, son Mark, grandchildren Martine, Nadine, Donna, Louise, Michael, Christopher and Leanne, and many great-grandchildren. He is also survived by his stepchildren,

Tina, Tim, Thomas, David, and grandchildren, Beth, Brian and Mary. He was preceded in death by his sisters Jean, Pamela and Janet, his first wife Janet, and daughters Nicola and Julia.

This past year, the care John received at Lyndale Assisted Living and Chisholm Court Place in Abilene, Texas made life so much easier for him. The communities embraced John and Hiroko, providing numerous days of enjoyment. We are grateful for all the care given to John in his last months at Chisholm Court. The staff's hard work, talent, teamwork, dedication and genuine kindness blessed John and his entire family. We are also grateful for Dr. William Shudde, nurse Ruby and the Abilene Family Practice staff for their excellent care.

John's life will be celebrated by a small gathering of family in Abilene. We will enjoy memories with pictures, CDs of John's piano playing, Chinese food, and apple crumble with ice cream. We would love to hear your favorite memories of John.

William (Bill) Francis Dougherty
Aug. 21, 1938 – March 2, 2024

Bill Dougherty, 85, of Livermore, California, passed away on March 2, 2024. Though not the immediate cause of death, he had Alzheimer's disease.

Bill was born in 1938 to Helen and William Dougherty in Wichita, Kansas. There his parents owned a print shop where young Bill was printing his own calling card by age eight. As a boy, his family moved to the Bay Area and settled in Livermore in the early 1950s. Bill was a proud member of the Livermore High School Class of 1957, where he achieved four years of perfect attendance. He met his future wife, Veronica Vukota, on the tennis courts of the Livermore Recreation Center in 1961 and wed soon thereafter. Bill and Veronica raised four children and enjoyed 62 years of marriage living in Livermore the entire time.

Bill enjoyed camping and fish-



ing with his family and spent many days water skiing on lakes Camanche, Oroville and Shasta. He and Veronica built a cabin at Lake Tahoe, spending summers hiking and winters skiing. Later in life they enjoyed many trips to Maui, scuba diving with friends, and watching their grandchildren's sporting events.

Bill worked for more than 40 years for Sears & Roebuck repairing home appliances, a skill that he lent to friends, family and

thousands of grateful customers.

Bill was preceded in death by his father, William Dougherty; mother and stepfather, Helen and William (Roy) Nevil; sister Helen Dentici; brother John Dougherty; and his sons Robert (Bob) Dougherty of San Diego and John Dougherty of Alamo. He is survived by his wife Veronica; sister Mary Hobert (David); sister-in-law Barbara Dougherty (John); son William Dougherty (Cathy); daughter Valerie Dougherty (Ed Borak); daughter-in-law Sandra Dougherty (Robert); grandchildren Caroline, Lauren, Greg, Jennifer, Tyson and Grant Dougherty; and great-grandchildren Grayce and Johnny.

We thank the staff at Carefield Pleasanton Memory Care, Hope Hospice, and the remarkable people at Khivi Care in Livermore. A celebration of Bill is planned for later this summer.

William "Bill" Burnham
June 20, 1944 – June 22, 2024

William "Bill" Burnham passed away peacefully on June 22, 2024, two days after his 80th birthday. Born in Berkeley, California, Bill started his working life making donuts before and after school. He attended Castle-mont High School in Oakland, where he met the absolute love of his life, Frankie, who passed away in 2006 after 38 years of marriage. Upon completing his military service, he returned to the Bay Area and the newlywed couple stretched themselves to buy their house in Dublin, which remained their forever home.

He was a local self-employed contractor that made sure things were done "right". That work ethic and honest way of doing business made him a household name in the Tri-Valley.

Both Bill and Frankie were passionate about volunteering and giving back to the community. Bill was involved in many organizations throughout his 56 years as a Dublin resident. Bill



could be seen all over the valley, pitching in at every event possible. His work with the Dublin Chamber Ambassador Committee helped keep him active in retirement and was his way to still give back to the community.

As a way to spend more time with his son in the early years, he became involved in a number of youth sports organizations. He was a coach, an umpire, groundskeeper, and could frequently be seen behind the snack bar counter at the Dublin Sports Grounds.

As a Dublin Planning Commissioner, he wanted to be "in on

the ground floor" of the eastern Dublin expansion initiative, which has continued to reshape the city for the last 30 years.

One of his biggest passions was working year-round with the Dublin Lions Club on the city's St. Patrick's Day Parade. He was one of the original organizers and served as chairman for 36 years. As the "good time" parade grew over the years, so did the smile on Bill's face. Awarded Citizen of the Year in 1985 by the Chamber of Commerce, Bill humbly accepted the award in his signature plaid shirt, jeans and work boots amongst the suit and tie crowd.

He will be missed by all that knew him; he is survived by his son Dean and daughter-in law Jessica, his nieces Kandy and Patti and grandniece Tia.

Visitation will be held on July 12 at Graham-Hitch Mortuary in Pleasanton from 4 to 7 p.m. Services will be held on July 13 also at Graham-Hitch Mortuary at 11 a.m. Reception following.

CELEBRATION OF LIFE

Paul Patrick Lewis
July 12, 1940 – April 27, 2024
A resident of Livermore for 50 years.

Mr. Lewis passed peacefully at Rosewood Gardens, surrounded by his family. Paul and his wife Julia moved to Livermore in 1974, where they raised eight children. Paul served honorably in the Coast Guard Reserve for eight years while building a successful 25-year career in the railroad industry with Norfolk Southern Railroad. After that, he embarked on a thriving career in transportation management and sales for various companies, eventually retiring from Matson Integrated Logistics fifteen years later.

Paul's selflessness and commitment to making a difference were evident in his active involvement in the community. He was a member of the Toastmasters Club in Livermore, the San Francisco Transportation Club, and the Boys Scouts of America. He coached baseball and soccer and volunteered his time in the church, working with ministries that helped the homeless.

Paul leaves behind a legacy of family; a role he took very seriously as a loving husband and devoted father who always provided unwavering support and guidance. Paul Lewis is survived by his four



daughters, Theresa, Julia, Sarah and Geraldine, and two sons, Paul Jr. and Danny Lewis, his eleven grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, and his sister Roseanne. Paul was preceded in death by his wife Julia (2018) of 54 years, infant daughter Caroline, daughters Mary (2009) and Molly (2010) and grandson Zachary (2021).

Throughout his life, Paul touched the lives of many with his kindness, generosity, sense of humor and strength of character. He will be deeply missed by all who had the privilege of knowing him. May his memory live on in the hearts of those who loved him.

The celebration of Paul's life, a testament to his impact on those around him will be held on July 12, 2024, at 11 a.m. at Callaghan Mortuary Chapel, 3383 East Ave., Livermore. Pastor Clay Worrel from Calvary Tri-Valley in Pleasanton will officiate the service.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Hope Hospice.

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

CELEBRATION OF LIFE

Muriel Irene Springer
Sept. 5, 1938 – May 9, 2024



On May 9, 2024, Muriel Irene Springer, went to her final resting place in Heaven surrounded by lifelong friends and family. Muriel Springer was born, Muriel Irene Bernier, in Pawtucket, Rhode Island to her parents Corrine Lambert and Aimee Bernier on Sept. 5, 1938. She was one of eleven siblings. In 1964, Muriel moved from the east coast to her forever home in Livermore, California. Muriel furthered her education to become a para-educator for the Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District, where she remained for 33 years of dedicated service. Muriel loved working with children. She also loved to spend the summers working at the Alameda County Fair with her dear friend Dona, where they had lots of fun and laughter cruising the fairgrounds in the golf cart and overseeing the maintenance department.

Muriel loved participating in multiple community outreach programs through her beloved First Presbyterian Church and celebrating the holidays with her many activities and organizations. For years, she was involved with the Red Hatters, Eagles, volunteered at LARPD, and participated in senior center events and trips and RPEA/ CSEA groups. Muriel loved to be creative, and in 1974 formed a community group called Reach Out for parents in transition

after divorce and volunteered as a lay counselor for many years. Over the years, whether it was painting something old to turn it into something unique and colorful, puff paint t-shirts in the 1990s, flannel scarves in the 2000s, dropping painted rocks on her friends porch with the slogan "you've been rocked" or capturing a silly picture and framing it for a special memory for years to come and a good laugh, Muriel always shared her unique creativity.

She is also known for her wonderful lemons, oranges and cherries that she has been able to share with friends and neighbors throughout the years. All of the many people whose lives she touched in her 85 years are forever changed in some way through knowing her kindness, generosity and quirky sense of humor. She showed extreme strength, resilience, and positivity throughout the duration of her illness. The family of Muriel Springer would really like to thank the beautiful community that was able to help support her and provide life-sustaining measures with kindness and care for as long as possible. Muriel is survived by her two children, Leslie Johnson and Mark Harper, as well as her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. There will be a celebration of life held in Muriel's honor at the First Presbyterian Church in Livermore on Sept. 7, 2024, at 1 p.m.

Richard H. White
Nov. 9, 1934 – May 24, 2024



Richard Harold White was born in Salem, Oregon, on Nov. 9, 1934, to Laverne and Pauline White. Richard – or Dick as he was known in his younger years – had a maturity and a sensibility that seemed beyond his years. He worked summers when he was 15 and 16 loading trains to help with the family finances.

From a young age, it was apparent that Richard had a strong aptitude for math and science. When he was a senior at Salem High School, he competed in and won a division of the Westinghouse Science Talent Search. His project was a Van Der Graaf generator which he built with help from his father who was a machinist. This propelled him off to college with help and guidance from his favorite aunt and uncle, Lucille and Glenn, along with the unwavering support of his parents.

Richard attended Pomona College in Pomona, California as a physics major and graduated with honors in 1956. After graduating, he came to work for Lawrence Livermore National Lab the same year. He completed his post graduate work concurrently at UC Berkeley. His academic achievements were not limited to math and science as he was a very learned man with a great knowledge of many subjects including history, literature and music.

Richard had a notable career at LLNL. Among his achievements were some of the earliest work and theories on black holes and the gravitational fields of collapsing stars, which were subsequently proven accurate by the Supernova 1987A. Richard was always a "man of the people" and ready to help others. He was instrumental in starting the Society of Professional Scientists and

Engineers (SPSE), which helped to give his coworkers more of a voice in collective bargaining and workers' rights. He gave support, guidance, and counseling to many people, in and outside the workplace. After forty years, Richard retired from the lab in 1996. After retiring, he was featured in an episode of the PBS series Nova for his scientific work.

Richard met his wife, Carol Hurlburt, while working at the lab and they were married in 1961. They had three children in three years: Kristofer in 1962, Kim in 1963, and Mark in 1964. He first rented and then purchased his house on McLeod Street where he would live for almost 65 years. The home was the venue for many good times, parties, and memories over the years.

Richard was a skilled craftsman and wood worker, completing countless projects. He also enjoyed his sports: tennis, fishing and camping in his younger years. At one point he was ranked at or near the top of the Old Livermore Tennis Ladder. After taking a couple of trips down the Camp Nine Run of the Stanislaus River in a rubber raft with his best friend, Robert Burke, Richard was hooked on whitewater boating. He signed himself and his young sons up for a whitewater kayak school and began a kayaking

career that would span 40 years. He loved extended paddling and camping trips with family, friends, his dogs and especially with his youngest son Mark, who was an expert kayaker. Richard introduced many people to the sport of white-water kayaking and his Toyota truck loaded up with boats was a familiar sight around Livermore for many years. Richard was an exceptional cook, as anyone fortunate enough to eat a meal at his home could attest to. He also had an extensive collection of music, including his favorite folk music and especially music from his dear friend, Bruce Murdoch. He also liked art and appreciated the works of art and friendship that his friend Christophe brought to his life. In his later years, he enjoyed taking his Akitas, Blue, Kage and Kuma, for walks in the Arroyo Mocho. He also took pleasure in mentoring his grandsons into their adult and college lives.

After a long life well lived, Richard passed away at home on May 24, 2024, with his family at his side. He is survived by his son Kristofer (Tina), his daughter Kim White Steele (Tom), his former wife Carol, and his three grandsons Thomas, Calvin and Max Steele. He was predeceased by his son Mark and his sister Betty. The family would like to offer thanks to the special women who helped Richard in his final year for their skilled and truly compassionate caregiving. Without their assistance, Richard would not have been able to stay in his own home. In lieu of flowers or donations, the family would simply ask that you help someone else less fortunate than yourself in Richard's honor. The family will hold a small, private ceremony on the Trinity River to celebrate Richard's life.

Jeanne Ann Holcomb, nee Peggs
June 9, 1929 – May 10, 2024

Jeanne Ann Holcomb, nee Peggs, born June 9, 1929, to William Loren and Helen Peggs in Youngstown, Ohio, passed away on May 10, 2024, at the age of 94.

Jeanne graduated from Cuyahoga Falls High School in 1947 and attended the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, where she was an active member of the choral and Alpha Phi Delta. She attended UPenn for both her undergraduate degree and her MA in Education. One of her first teaching jobs was at Fair Lawn High School in Fair Lawn, New Jersey, where she

taught English and Latin.

In 1956, she met Franklin Jay "Frank" Holcomb, who would later become her husband. They were married in June 1958, and moved to Teaneck, New Jersey. Jeanne taught at Fair Lawn High School in Fairlawn, New Jersey, while Frank studied for a degree in industrial engineering at Columbia University in New York.

In June 1959, they moved to Jupiter, Florida, where they had their son in 1960, and their daughter in 1962. In 1963, the family moved to Palo Alto, California and in 1968 to Livermore, California.

Once in Livermore, Jeanne worked for Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District and surrounding school districts and fondly spoke of her time working with students in the Home/Hospital program.

She is survived by a son, Steven Holcomb, of San Diego; a daughter, Nancy and her husband Brad Thompson, of San Ramon, California; and grandchildren Trevor Thompson of San Ramon and Marissa Thompson of Pleasant Hill.

Interment was at Memory Gardens in Livermore.

Mitchell (Mik) John Evans
Oct. 18, 1948 – June 16, 2024

Mik passed away peacefully at his home in Avondale, Arizona, after a courageous battle with cancer. Mik graduated from Livermore High School in 1967, where he grew up with his family and dear friends. He was a star athlete and loved by all.

Mik had a zest for life that was evident in everything he did. He was an avid sports fan with football

and golf holding special places in his heart.

His passion for cooking, especially grilling and BBQ, was brought to many family and friend's gatherings and created many cherished memories.

He is survived by his wife Sherissa, his son Blaine, and his grandchildren Caden and Makenna.

Mik was preceded in death by

his first wife Diane (mother of his son Blaine) mother Barbara Jean, father Charles (Chuck) Ross and brother Thomas Donald.

We will be celebrating Mik's life on Saturday, July 27 at Eagle Ridge Vineyard, 10017 Tesla Road, Livermore, California, from 2 to 5 p.m. If you plan to attend, please email Sherissa at mikandres@sbcglobal.net as there is limited seating.

Livermore Resident Scores ‘Wheel of Fortune’ Prizes

By Ruth Roberts

When Tammi Barker Neilsen got the call from “Wheel of Fortune” executives saying she was going to be a contestant on the iconic game show, the lifelong Livermore resident and married mother of three thought she had died and gone to heaven. “Honestly, it was a dream come true,” said Neilsen, who had applied on a whim. “I couldn’t believe I’d been picked. I am five generations of ‘Wheel’ watchers. I grew up watching the show with my great-grandparents. I kept thinking about them during the whole process.” And then it got even better. Neilsen learned, during the taping at Sony Pictures Studio in Culver City, that she would be playing on Pat Sajak’s final day of the show that he had hosted for 41 years. “I didn’t know it was Sa-

jak’s last taping until they told us,” said Neilsen. “The whole day felt like there were a lot of emotions going on. It was a milestone event.” Neilsen said that in between tapings, the contestants could hear messages being recorded of co-host Vanna White and Sajak’s daughter, commemorating Sajak’s celebrated career. Although Neilsen didn’t speak to Sajak off camera, she said White went out of her way to put the contestants at ease. “He (Sajak) was very professional and nice, but during the day, Vanna (White) spent a lot of time with us,” said Neilsen. “We were sitting in the Jeopardy studio going over legal documents, and in walked Vanna dressed in casual clothes without a stitch of makeup looking stunning. ... She said good morning to us and wished us all well. She told

us not to worry about what happens out there, ‘It’s all taped; we can fix anything,’ she said, and it helped us all relax.” However, once it was “lights, camera, action,” the nerves did set in. “They prep you throughout the day and tell you to say things clearly and slowly,” said Neilsen. “They try very hard to help you, but once they are taping, it all changes.” Neilsen managed her nerves and wound up a winner, taking home over \$20,000 in cash and prizes, including a trip to Barbados, which she and her husband are planning for early next year. One of her winning puzzles was in the “place” category and the answer was “Chicago, Illinois.” On a larger puzzle, she spelled out the answer “Bee in your Bonnet.” Being on set is very different though, from watching

and playing from the comfort of your living room couch, said Neilsen. “For one thing, when you look at the TV screen, you see the puzzles in small shots,” she said. “But the puzzle is actually the size of a large wall, and there are lots of lights and excitement going on. ... It’s a whole different thing.” But it was a thing she thoroughly enjoyed. “It was more emotional for me than I thought it would be,” said Neilsen. “The group I was with was awesome; we were all rooting for each other. These people ended up being people I could be friends with. ... I feel really, really lucky to have had the experience.” And she encourages everyone to do the same. “I highly suggest everyone try out. I would love for Livermore to be the most represented city on the show,” she laughed.



Tammi Barker Neilsen stands at the iconic wheel. (Photo courtesy of Tammi Barker Neilsen)



The Freedom To Be Independent

By Christina Cavallaro

I had my first taste of real freedom on a red Univega 12-speed bicycle in the 1980s. I got it from the Schwinn Cyclery that was on First Street in Livermore before Schwinn’s foray into bankruptcy a decade or so later. For a long time, I saved in my box of memories the printed manual for that miraculous bike that had granted me my independence. It was bought with the money I’d saved up as a babysitter and a weekend receptionist at the then Vintage Realty on 4th Street. Those 12 speeds took me, like trips around the sun, from our house on Drake Way to the Livermore Valley Tennis Club — recently renamed The Club at Livermore — to Stoneridge Mall — now on the cusp of redevelopment — and eventually to my cafe job in the once-vibrant, now slightly tired Livermore Town Center that funded the purchase of my first car. Everywhere I look, the early expressions of my independence have changed with the city’s own evolutions; while the signposts themselves may no longer exist, their indelible mark of what it means to feel free remain. When I turned 16, I immediately leveled up my freedom-ride to an oxidized silver Toyota Corolla with a bullet hole in the side; the purchase had been made possible with my tips earned as a server at Mrs. Coffee’s Belgian Bistro that is now the Village Pet Shop in the Livermore Town Center. The shopping center, once thriving, had been where freedom grew inside me via the constraints of having a place to be after school. It was where there was a meal to be had and a family created following my parents’ divorce. I literally watched culture unfold and freedom take flight there every week when the now-famous science-fiction author Kevin J. Anderson would meet with his writing group over Belgian beers after his day job at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. Anderson, after 12 years at the lab, went

on to become an international bestselling writer among the likes of Stephen King and James Michener. From the transportive world of Mrs. Coffee, I could see beyond my limited sphere to the freedom and independence I craved. These days my ride is a hybrid SUV because technology has changed, I have changed and Livermore has changed, though thankfully the city has retained — in its core of open space, vineyards and ranches — its identity. I drive around and see all the new growth downtown and out off Vasco and Greenville roads. The counterpoint is that change also means the disappearance of some of the institutions that once held so much meaning for me. But the beauty is that their spirit has breathed new life into other community-minded businesses like Wingen Bakery, Range Life and the Cheese Parlor, among so many others. For a long time, it bummed me out to see the state of the abandoned Livermore Town Center. During the era I worked there, it had been a fun and bustling shopping center where people wanted to be. And Mrs. Coffee had been my world, and my place in it. Recently, a new and magical friend I’ve met here in Livermore, Beverly Goldstein, who is a kind of plant and animal whisperer, said nonchalantly one day that Village Pet was her favorite place, now occupying the site of the former Mrs. Coffee. The wildly popular Love Livermore community group did a whole video during the COVID-19 pandemic on owner Bob LaFave, who is beloved in the community. Sounds like it might be time for me to step through the doors of Village Pet. Who knows what I’ll discover there. The thing about the past is it’s a powerful steppingstone to the future. Every great story has a beginning. And there are so many future stories yet to tell in the Tri-Valley in the journey to freedom and independence.

LPC to Present ‘Escape to Margaritaville’

The Theater Arts program at Las Positas College will present “Escape to Margaritaville,” a musical comedy based on songs by Jimmy Buffett, the last two weekends in July. The play revolves around a part-time bartender for a rundown hotel, Margaritaville, on a Caribbean Island who falls in love with a tourist from Cincinnati. It includes such Buffet classics as “Cheeseburger

in Paradise,” “Margaritaville,” “It’s Five O’clock Somewhere,” “Fins,” and “Volcano.” The musical will be presented in the Barbara Mertes Center for the Arts outdoor amphitheater, 3000 Campus Hill Drive, at 8 p.m. on Friday, July 19, and Saturday, July 20, and again the following weekend on Friday, July 26, and Saturday, July 27. Tickets are \$20, with a \$5 discount for students

and seniors. Tickets are available online at lpc.ludus.com. Seating will be on a first-come basis with admission beginning one hour before the show. Patrons are encouraged to bring a lawn chair and picnics are allowed. Food trucks will also be onsite, along with wine for purchase from the college’s Campus Hill Winery viticulture program. No outside alcohol is allowed.



The Livermore Cultural Arts Council will present The Chris Bradley Band on July 9 at 6:45 p.m. on the Shea Homes Stage in front of the Bankhead Theater. Playing traditional New Orleans-style jazz, including swing tunes, dance music from the 1920s and 30s, and Barbary Coast music that started in San Francisco, the band features well known musicians from the Bay Area. The show will be the fifth Tuesday Tunes concert, which runs through August 20. Shea Homes is the major sponsor, with additional funding from Fremont Bank, Uncle Credit Union, Uncle Yu’s at the Vineyard, and The Independent. (Photo courtesy of The Chris Bradley Band)

Tickets on Sale for Annual Winegrower’s Auction

Tickets are now on sale for the Livermore Valley Winegrowers Foundation’s annual wine auction, with proceeds going to community organizations that help needy children in the East Bay. The fundraiser will be held the evening of Saturday, Oct. 5, at Wente Vineyards, 5050 Arroyo Road, Livermore. The annual wine auction has raised over \$6 million to support underserved chil-

dren since 1995, according to the nonprofit foundation. The 2024 auction will benefit six organizations, including Teen Esteem in Danville, Agape Villages Foster Family Agency in San Ramon, Boys and Girls Clubs of Tracy, Down Syndrome Connection of the Bay Area, Livermore Valley Arts, and the Alameda County chapter of Sleep in Heavenly Peace, a nationwide organization

whose goal is to ensure that all children have a bed to sleep in. The fundraiser will include wine tastings hosted by Livermore Valley winemakers and both live and silent auctions, followed by music and dancing. Early auction items, along with bottles of wine, include private dinners and international vacations. Tickets are \$325 and are available online at lvwf.org.

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LEGAL NOTICES
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 606117
The following person(s) doing business as: RFX Laboratories, 7428 Hillmont Drive, Oakland, CA 94605 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Curtis Frank, 7428 Hillmont Drive, Oakland, CA 94605. 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: 4/1/2024. Signature of Registrant/s/: Curtis Frank, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on May 6, 2024. Expires May 5, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 5977. Published June 13, 20, 27, July 4, 2024.
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 606963
The following person(s) doing business as: Blossoms and Plant Care, 145 Wildrose CMN, Unit 3, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Alexandra Arkuszewski,

The following person(s) doing business as: Kona Leis +, 1257 Amalfi CMN, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Francine Sneddon, 1257 Amalfi CMN, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by an individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Francine Sneddon, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on May 17, 2024. Expires May 16, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 5978. Published June 13, 20, 27, July 4, 2024.
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 606561
The following person(s) doing business as: Blossoms and Plant Care, 145 Wildrose CMN, Unit 3, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Alexandra Arkuszewski,

145 Wildrose CMN Unit 3, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by an individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 5/7/2024. Signature of Registrant/s/: Alexandra Arkuszewski, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on May 17, 2024. Expires May 16, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 5979. Published June 13, 20, 27, July 4, 2024.
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 606431
The following person(s) doing business as: Days of Dystopia Publishing, 28171 Murcia St., Hayward, CA 94544 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Frank Victor Addiego III, 28171 Murcia St., Hayward, CA 94544. This business is conducted by an individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact

business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Frank Victor Addiego III, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on May 16, 2024. Expires May 15, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 5980. Published June 13, 20, 27, July 4, 2024.
STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
ORIGINAL FILE NO. 568380
The person(s) listed below have abandoned the use of the following fictitious business name(s): Mirima LLC, 1267 Willis St., Suite 200, Redding CA 96001. The fictitious business name statement was filed on 02/07/2020 in the County of Alameda. This business was conducted by a Limited Liability Company. Signature of Registrants: /s/ Shuyin Nguyen, Managing Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on

/s/ Shuyin Nguyen, Managing Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on June 3, 2024. The Independent, Legal No. 5981. Published June 13, 20, 27, July 4, 2024.
STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
ORIGINAL FILE NO. 570856
The person(s) listed below have abandoned the use of the following fictitious business name(s): 1. Little Bud; 2. Sedap, 2481 San Carlos Avenue, Castro Valley, CA 94546. Registered by the following owner(s): Mirima LLC, 1267 Willis St., Suite 200, Redding CA 96001. The fictitious business name statement was filed on 6/19/2020 in the County of Alameda. This business was conducted by a Limited Liability Company. Signature of Registrants: /s/ Shuyin Nguyen, Managing Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on

June 3, 2024. The Independent, Legal No. 5982. Published June 13, 20, 27, July 4, 2024.
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 606913
The following person(s) doing business as: Hula Halau O Nalua, LLC, 42285 Osgood Rd, Ste D, Fremont, CA 94539 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Hula Halau O Nalua, LLC, 42285 Osgood Rd, Suite D, Fremont, CA 94539. 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: 8/1/2019. Signature of Registrant/s/: Katrina H. de Jesus, Manager. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on June 3, 2024. Expires June 2, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 5983. Published June 13, 20, 27, July 4, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 606639
The following person(s) doing business as: Spot Programming, 14929 Crosby St., San Leandro, CA 94579 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Denise M Walters, 14929 Crosby St., San Leandro, CA 94579. This business is conducted by an individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 6/10/1993. Signature of Registrant/s/: Denise M. Walters, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on May 22, 2024. Expires May 21, 2021. The Independent, Legal No. 5985. Published June 13, 20, 27, July 4, 2024.
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 606676
The following person(s) doing business as: First Surgical Consultants a Division of BASS Medical

Group, 365 Hawthorne Ave Suite 101, Oakland, CA 94609 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): BASS Medical Group, 2637 Shadelands Drive, Walnut Creek, CA 94598. 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: 4/1/2024. Signature of Registrant/s/: Rajiv Nagesetty, MD, CFO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on May 22, 2024. Expires May 21, 2021. The Independent, Legal No. 5985. Published June 13, 20, 27, July 4, 2024.
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 606678
The following person(s) doing business as: First Surgical Consultants a Division of BASS Medical Group, 3010 Colby Street, Suite 118, Berkeley, CA 94705 is hereby registered by the fol-

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lowing owner(s): BASS Medical Group, 2637 Shadelands Drive, Walnut Creek, CA 94598. 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: 4/1/2024. Signature of Registrant/s/: Rajiv Nagesetty, MD, CFO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on May 22, 2024. Expires May 21, 2021. The Independent, Legal No. 5986. Published June 13, 20, 27, July 4, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 606678

The following person(s) doing business as: First Surgical Consultants a Division of BASS Medical Group, 27206 Calaroga Ave, Suite 206, Hayward, CA 94545 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): BASS Medical Group, 2637 Shadelands Drive, Walnut Creek, CA 94598. 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: 4/1/2024. Signature of Registrant/s/: Rajiv Nagesetty, MD, CFO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on May 22, 2024. Expires May 21, 2021. The Independent, Legal No. 5987. Published June 13, 20, 27, July 4, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 606852

The following person(s) doing business as: Pai International, LLC, 16 Castledown Rd, Pleasanton, CA 94566 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Pai International, LLC, 16 Castledown Rd., Pleasanton, CA 94566. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 5/2/2024. Signature of Registrant/s/: Bing Chang, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on May 29, 2024. Expires May 28, 2021. The Independent, Legal No. 5988. Published June 13, 20, 27, July 4, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 606515

The following person(s) doing business as: Joyce Mindful Yoga, 1272 Donahue CT., Pleasanton, CA 94566 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Hae Hong, 1272 Donahue CT., 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: 5/6/2024. Signature of Registrant/s/: Hae Hong, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on May 17, 2024. Expires May 16, 2021. The Independent, Legal No. 5989. Published June 13, 20, 27, July 4, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 606688

The following person(s) doing business as: Clean Native, 24482 Marie Dr., Hayward, CA 94542 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Timeless Souvenirs, LLC, 24482 Marie Dr., Hayward, CA 94542. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 5/22/2024. Signature of Registrant/s/: Chris Henderson, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on May 22, 2024. Expires May 21, 2021. The Independent, Legal No. 5990. Published June 13, 20, 27, July 4, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 607084

The following person(s) doing business as: Canaan Express #2, 3817 International Blvd, Oakland, CA 94601 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): William J. Figueroa, 3264 Unit A School St, Oakland, CA 94602. 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: 8/1/2019. Signature of Registrant/s/: William J. Figueroa, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on June 7, 2024. Expires June 6, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 5992. Published June 20, 27, July 4, 11, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 607105

The following person(s) doing business as: L Campo, 2059 First Street, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): ASV Restaurant Group, 2059 First Street, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by a

Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Caglar Vural, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on June 7, 2024. Expires June 6, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 5994. Published June 20, 27, July 4, 11, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 607032

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Torno Tea House; 2. Torno Mochi, 825 Marina Village Parkway, Alameda, CA 94501 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Bober Alameda LLC, 825 Marina Village Parkway, Alameda, CA 94501. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Albert Tasmin, Managing Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on June 6, 2024. Expires June 5, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 5995. Published June 20, 27, July 4, 11, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 607226

The following person(s) doing business as: Sailoi Labs, 6565 S. Mariposa CT, Dublin, CA 94568 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Chaoying Chen, 6565 S. Mariposa CT, 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/: Chaoying Chen, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on June 11, 2024. Expires June 10, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 5996. Published June 20, 27, July 4, 11, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 607004

The following person(s) doing business as: On the Vine Catering, 73 Rickenbacker Circle, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Cabana Dave's Inc., 73 Rickenbacker Circle, 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: 4/20/10. Signature of Registrant/s/: David Victor, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on June 6, 2024. Expires June 5, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 5997. Published June 20, 27, July 4, 11, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 607239

The following person(s) doing business as: Palisips, 7083 Commerce Circle, STE J, Pleasanton, CA 94568 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Eman Hemdan, 11818 Bloomington Way, 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: 6/12/2024. Signature of Registrant/s/: Eman Hemdan, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on June 12, 2024. Expires June 11, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 5998. Published June 20, 27, July 4, 11, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 607072

The following person(s) doing business as: Bay Smart Education Consulting, 6316 Jarvis Ave, Newark, CA 94560 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Shiyi Huang, 6316 Jarvis Ave, Newark, CA 94560. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Shiyi Huang, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on June 7, 2024. Expires June 6, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 5999. Published June 20, 27, July 4, 11, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 607103

The following person(s) doing

business as: Clover Creek LTD, 5424 #7, Sunol Blvd, Pleasanton, CA 94566 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Alexis Gass, 2768 Sanderling 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: 7/2/2009. Signature of Registrant/s/: Alexis Gass, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on June 7, 2024. Expires June 6, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6000. Published June 20, 27, July 4, 11, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 607143

The following person(s) doing business as: Dark Water, 2035 San Pablo Ave, Berkeley, CA 94702 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Dark Water Studios, 1450 4th ST, Apt 11, Berkeley, CA 94710. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 4/1/2022. Signature of Registrant/s/: Ken- to Mizuno, Managing Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on June 10, 2024. Expires June 9, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6001. Published June 27, July 4, 11, 18, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 607377

The following person(s) doing business as: French Gulch Designs, 580 Aileen ST, Oakland, CA 94609 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): French Gulch Enterprises, LLC, 580 Aileen ST, Oakland, CA 94609. 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: 12/1/2023. Signature of Registrant/s/: Jeannie Johnson, Manager. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on June 20, 2024. Expires June 19, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6002. Published June 27, July 4, 11, 18, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 607351

The following person(s) doing business as: CMP Global, 6710 Paseo San Leon, Pleasanton, CA 94566 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): John F. Duggan, 6710 Paseo San Leon, 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: 1990. Signature of Registrant/s/: John F. Duggan, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on June 17, 2024. Expires June 16, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6003. Published June 27, July 4, 11, 18, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 607205

The following person(s) doing business as: Elizabeth M. Janitorial Service, 4240 Walnut Ave, Fremont, CA 94588 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Karla E. Mentivar Sanchez, 4240 Walnut Ave, Fremont, CA 94588. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Karla Sanchez, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on June 11, 2024. Expires June 10, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6004. Published June 27, July 4, 11, 18, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 607338

The following person(s) doing business as: Handpicked Talent, 22015 Cameron ST, Castro Valley, CA 94546 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Asper & Moso LLC, 22015 Cameron ST, Castro Valley, CA 94546. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Beethoven Yuson, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on

June 17, 2024. Expires June 16, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6005. Published June 27, July 4, 11, 18, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 607298

The following person(s) doing business as: Tia Farrell, 7100 San Ramon RD, #154, Dublin, CA, 94568 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Tia Farrell, 7100 San Ramon RD, #154, 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/: Tia Farrell, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on June 13, 2024. Expires June 12, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6006. Published June 27, July 4, 11, 18, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 606959

The following person(s) doing business as: Pristine Cleaning Services, 466 24th ST Apt 4, Oakland, CA 94612 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Priscila Oliveira Cunha Reis, 466 24th ST, Apt 4, Oakland, CA 94612. 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/: Priscila Oliveira Cunha Reis, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on June 4, 2024. Expires June 3, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6007. Published June 27, July 4, 11, 18, 2024.

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME ORIGINAL FILE NO. 589323

The person(s) listed below have abandoned the use of the following fictitious business name(s). Proud Family Creations, 3760 Thornhill Drive, Livermore, CA 94551. Registered by the following owner(s): Amanda Williams, 3760 Thornhill Drive, Livermore, CA 94551. The fictitious business name statement was filed on 5/25/2022 in the County of Alameda. This business was conducted by an Individual. Signature of Registrants: /s/ Amanda Williams, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on June 6, 2024. The Independent, Legal No. 6008. Published June 27, July 4, 11, 18, 2024.

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME ORIGINAL FILE NO. 591161

The person(s) listed below have abandoned the use of the following fictitious business name(s). Rosy's Cafe, 22616 Vermont ST, Hayward, CA 94541. Registered by the following owner(s): Alejandro Hernandez, 3337 Bridge RD, Hayward, CA 94545. The fictitious business name statement was filed on 8/15/2022 in the County of Alameda. This business was conducted by an Individual. Signature of Registrants: /s/ Alejandro Hernandez, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on June 20, 2024. The Independent, Legal No. 6009. Published June 27, July 4, 11, 18, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 607529

The following person(s) doing business as: Flour Haven, 8531 Bancroft Avenue Unit A, Oakland, CA 94605 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Berger LLC, 6959 Sayre Drive, Oakland, CA 94605. 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/: David Berger, Owner/Manager. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on June 27, 2024. Expires June 26, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6010. Published July 4, 11, 18, 25, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 607563

The following person(s) doing business as: Simplicity Teas, LLC, 286 Kottinger Drive, Pleasanton, CA 94566 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Simplicity Teas, LLC, 286 Kottinger Drive, Pleasanton, CA 94566. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which

the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 6/20/24. Signature of Registrant/s/: Stacey Ristow, Managing Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on June 27, 2024. Expires June 26, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6011. Published July 4, 11, 18, 25, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 607092

The following person(s) doing business as: Nitty Gritty Paralegal Services, 2385 Bluebell Drive, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): TipCro LLC, 2385 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: 1/1/2021. Signature of Registrant/s/: Jamica Tipton, Manager. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on June 7, 2024. Expires June 6, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6012. Published July 4, 11, 18, 25, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 607420

The following person(s) doing business as: Buy Totale, 628 Nightingale ST., Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Yodna Cama Ballon, 628 Nightingale ST., Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 5/15/2024. Signature of Registrant/s/: Yodna Cama Ballon, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on June 21, 2024. Expires June 20, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6013. Published July 4, 11, 18, 25, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 607450

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Golden Valley Mortgage; 2. Golden Valley realty; 3. Simply Real Estate; 4. Walk off Processing; 5. Janice & Co.; 6. GUM Loans; J and A Rose, 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: 05/2017. Signature of Registrant/s/: James Smith, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on June 24, 2024. Expires June 23, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6014. Published July 4, 11, 18, 25, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 607426

The following person(s) doing business as: Almedia, 1253 Heather Lane, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Jordan Litvinchuk, 1253 Heather Lane, Livermore, CA 94551. This

business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 6/7/2024. Signature of Registrant/s/: Ashim Bhagwan Kapai, Managing Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on June 18, 2024. Expires June 17, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6019. Published July 4, 11, 18, 25, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 607424

The following person(s) doing business as: Mvision Science, 1368 Oak Vista Way, Pleasanton, CA 94566 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Ultrablue, LLC, 1368 Oak Vista Way, Pleasanton, CA 94566. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 5/20/2024. Signature of Registrant/s/: Juliao Li, Manager. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on June 24, 2024. Expires June 23, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6016. Published July 4, 11, 18, 25, 2024.

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME ORIGINAL FILE NO. 578768

The person(s) listed below have abandoned the use of the following fictitious business name(s). Grits Marketing Group, 1135 Ballena Blvd, Suite 12, Alameda, CA 94501. Registered by the following owner(s): Susan DeLong, 1011 College Ave, Alameda < CA 94501. The fictitious business name statement was filed on 5/6/2021 in the County of Alameda. This business was conducted by an Individual. Signature of Registrants: /s/ Susan DeLong, President/Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on June 27, 2024. Expires May 30, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6017. Published July 4, 11, 18, 25, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 606890

The following person(s) doing business as: Wildflower Play Cafe, 48541 Warm Springs Blvd, Suite 509, Fremont, CA 94539 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Wildflower Play Cafe LLC, 48551 Warm Springs Blvd., Fremont, CA 94539. 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/: Joyce Turner, Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on May 31, 2024. Expires May 30, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6018. Published July 4, 11, 18, 25, 2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 607375

The following person(s) doing business as: Quantum Leap Advisors, 440 Sandstone Dr., Fremont, CA 94536 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): VAK Quantum Leap LLC, 440 Sandstone Dr., Fremont, CA 94536. 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: 6/7/2024. Signature of Registrant/s/: Ashim Bhagwan Kapai, Managing Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on June 18, 2024. Expires June 17, 2029. The Independent, Legal No. 6019. Published July 4, 11, 18, 25, 2024.

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The Independent Watchdog Committee reviews Alameda County Transportation Commission 2000 Measure B expenditures and 2014 Measure BB expenditures and performance measures. The IWC invites the public to comment on its Draft 22nd Annual Report to the Public at a public hearing on Thursday, July 11, 2024 at 3:30 p.m. Check the Alameda CTC website using the link listed below for the location of the public hearing. The draft report is available on the Alameda CTC website at <https://www.alamedactc.org/news-publications/annual-reports>. For more information, please call 510.208.7400. The Independent, Legal No. 6020. Published July 4, 2024.

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The Livermore Little League Intermediate All-Star baseball team beat Bollinger Canyon 4-2 on Thursday, June 20, to win the District 57 championship. This win advances them into the Little League Intermediate World Series to be held in Livermore from July 27 through August 4 at Max Baer Park. (Photo courtesy of Gene Franck)

Michael McCorriston Running For Dublin City Council Seat

Michael McCorriston announced this week he will run for a seat on the Dublin City Council for District 1 in the general election on November 5.

As a member of the Dublin City Council, currently serving as the city’s mayor, and a 30-year Dublin resident, McCorriston plans to continue to focus his efforts on public safety, supporting local businesses and working to improve the city’s transportation network and infrastructure.

“Our diverse city continues to grow along with its need for services and infrastructure. There will be some tough budgetary decisions over the next few years,” McCorriston said. “As a council member, I will use my leadership experience to ensure city resources support necessary infrastructure requirements, while maintaining sound fiscal strategies.”

McCorriston has been a member of the Dublin City Council since 2020, currently serves as the city’s mayor, served as vice mayor in 2023, and serves on committees focusing on economic development, affordable housing, water resources, transportation, and military/veteran community affairs.

McCorriston has extensive experience in corporate

finance and managing the complex financial resources of large multinational companies. He has directed the corporate treasury operations



Michael McCorriston

of a Fortune 150 technology company in the Bay Area. Mr. McCorriston has an MBA from the University of San Diego and a Bachelor of Science degree from San Jose State University in business finance.

Another priority for Mr. McCorriston will be to focus on Dublin’s growth and development strategy.

“Development efforts must be economically and environmentally sustainable, and, of course, well thought out from an aesthetic perspective,” he continued. “We can preserve our remaining natural landscapes and emphasize open space for the enjoyment of our community with intelligent development planning.

As a councilmember, I will encourage redevelopment efforts that partner with developers and local skilled labor to revitalize existing structures to meet Dublin’s residential and commercial demands.”

McCorriston will support initiatives that create more workforce housing and services for seniors and support development efforts that provide for affordable housing.

“Home affordability should be a concern for everyone,” McCorriston said. “Workforce housing is at a critical stage in the Bay Area while our seniors are finding it financially challenging to live in the Tri-Valley. The decisions we make today are the legacy for future generations of Dublin families. Let’s work together to maintain Dublin’s unique heritage in the Tri-Valley.” For more information, visit <https://www.mike4dublin.com>.

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Thalblum Appointed to Dublin City Council

The process of filling vacancies that began with the resignation of former Dublin Mayor Melissa Hernandez in May continued last week as the Dublin City Council appointed Planning Commission member Jantine Thalblum to temporarily fill a seat on the council.

Thalblum replaces former council member Michael McCorriston, who was appointed interim mayor in June.

She will serve until the end of the year, with McCorriston’s former council seat up for election in November.

This is the second time that Thalblum has stepped in to temporarily fill a vacancy on the council.

In 2018, she was appointed to the council following the death of then vice-mayor Don Biddle.

“I am honored, once again, to serve on the Dublin City Council,” Thalblum said. “My previous experience on the city council, and as chairperson of the Dublin Planning Commission, has given me ample experience to step in and provide a seamless transition.”

She was appointed in a 3-1 vote, with council

member Kashef Qaadri opposed.

McCorriston will also serve as mayor only until the end of 2024, with voters set to elect a new mayor in the general election.

He has said he will not be a candidate for mayor.

Hernandez stepped down in May, after being appointed to the board of directors for Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART).

As a two-term Dublin mayor, she also would have been ineligible to run for reelection.

In addition to the city planning commission,

Thalblum, an Army veteran, previously served on the Dublin Parks and Community Services Commission.

She is a graduate of Dublin’s leadership academy, Inside Dublin, the Dublin Police Services Citizens Academy, and the city’s Commercial Development Task Force.

She is a former president of the Dublin Rotary Club.

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Dublin Allows ‘Safe and Sane’ Fireworks

Dublin is allowing non-profit organizations to sell “safe and sane” fireworks through Thursday, July 4.

“Safe and sane” fireworks are fireworks that do not explode or launch into the air, such as fountains, sparklers, smokeballs, ground-spinning fireworks, pinwheels, and other novelty fireworks that don’t leave the ground.

However, Dublin does not

allow fireworks, even those considered “safe and sane,” to be set off at multi-family housing developments, public schools, parking lots, or any other city facility, except for designated parks.

Dublin said “safe and sane” fireworks may be set off in the parking lots at Alamo Creek Park, Dublin Sports Grounds, Emerald Glen Park, and Shannon Park, but only

between 10 a.m. and 10 p.m., on Thursday, July 4.

The city is urging residents to report the use of any illegal fireworks by calling 925-462-1212. Illegal activity can be reported anonymously.

Dublin said it will also be increasing enforcement efforts this week, with additional officers on patrol and both police and firefighters checking city parks.

PG&E Begins Work on Dublin Gas Pipeline

Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E) has begun nightly work on a project in Dublin to replace an eight-inch gas transmission pipeline along Dublin Boulevard, from Village Parkway to San Ramon Road, with a 12-inch pipeline.

The company said work would begin near Village Parkway and proceed west.

Most construction activity will affect eastbound traffic, but at least one lane in each direction will remain open, according to PG&E.

Construction will be scheduled from 9 p.m. to 6 a.m., Sunday to Thursday, although PG&E said some Friday work may be necessary. Construction is estimated to be complete by the end of the year.

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