

Court Rejects
Appeal of Design
And CEQA Review
For Eden Project

By Larry Altman

LIVERMORE — California’s First District Court of Appeal last week rejected arguments that sought to undo the Livermore City Council’s May 2021 approval of the 130-unit four-story Eden Housing project. The community group Save Livermore Downtown (SLD) wanted changes made to the project before it was approved.

In a 27-page unpublished opinion, the three-judge panel voted unanimously to uphold Alameda County Superior Court Judge Frank Roesch’s February 2022 ruling denying the lawsuit filed by SLD. The group’s objectives in filing the lawsuit were to ensure that the Eden project adhered to mandatory design and development standards in the city’s Downtown Specific Plan (DSP) and underwent appropriate California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review. SLD believed the city failed to comply with these legal requirements when it approved the project.

The case, however, is not over. SLD said in a statement that it will likely file a petition asking the Court of Appeal to reconsider its ruling.

“Save Livermore Downtown is frustrated by the Court of Appeal’s opinion

(See EDEN, page 6)



Enjoying the lull in a series of storms that have swept through the Tri-Valley, a couple and their dog take a walk at the top of Croak Road in Dublin on Friday, Dec. 30. A historic atmospheric river moved into the region on New Year’s Eve, causing widespread flooding and power outages throughout the Tri-Valley. According to the National Weather Service, the wet weather is expected to continue throughout most of the month. (Photo - Doug Jorgensen)

Livermore Teachers Ask for Rate Increase

By David Jen

LIVERMORE — Teachers from the Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District (LVJUSD) argued for pay increases beyond the three percent offered by the district at the district’s Dec. 13, 2022, board meeting.

The Livermore Education Association (LEA) has asked the district for a 10.9 percent ongoing salary increase. It pointed to salary increases that fell short of cost-of-living adjustments during the past two school years.

The teachers warned of a situation where unfilled positions in the district will shift workloads onto existing teachers, who will then

experience more burnout, leave the district, and create still more open positions.

“It does make me wonder - could this year’s FTE (full time employee) shortages in the district have been mitigated with a more robust and competitive compensation package?” asked Mendenhall Middle School science teacher Christine Davidson.

The LEA reported 30 unfilled positions in the district at the beginning of the school year.

Davidson also shared how Mendenhall began the current school year short one math teacher and how, while the district has since filled the position, the stu-

dents still experienced the uncertainty of who would be teaching them.

“Livermore students benefit from award-winning instruction; they will be negatively impacted as teachers leave to go work in neighboring districts,” read an LEA statement prior to the meeting.

Salary comparisons compiled by the LEA showed LVJUSD teacher pay as the lowest in the Tri-Valley. Total compensation in Livermore amounted to 77 percent of what an equivalent position would receive in Dublin, and 91 percent for one in Pleasanton, for the 2022 to 2023 school year.

(See TEACHERS, page 5)

Swalwell Secures
\$6.3M in Funding for
Tri-Valley Programs

Larry Altman

REGIONAL — Tri-Valley Congressman Eric Swalwell recently announced that he secured \$15 million for local projects, including \$6.3 million for Tri-Valley programs, as part of the \$1.7 trillion government spending bill signed into law by President Joseph Biden on Dec. 29.

The funds will be used for 15 projects as part of the Fiscal Year 2023 government funding package passed in the Senate and House of Representatives before Christmas.

“I am thrilled to see this funding for community projects headed to California’s 15th Congressional District,” Swalwell said in a statement. “Whether it’s ... mitigating food insecurity in Livermore, or increasing student support programs at local community colleges,

funding for these projects will help meet the needs of our communities.”

The project requests came directly from local governments and nonprofits in his district. All 15 projects championed by Swalwell were funded.

“I look forward to seeing their impact in the months and years to come,” Swalwell said.

Five projects in the Tri-Valley will receive \$6,250,000 of the \$15 million. Remaining funding will go toward programs outside of the region.

Tri-Valley projects include:

Pleasanton’s PFAS Treatment and Well Rehabilitation Project. With a price tag of some \$46 million, the city will receive \$2 million from the

(See SWALWELL, page 5)

City Council Questions New
Streamlined Housing Process

By David Jen

PLEASANTON — A streamlined review process for some of the city’s housing projects may risk turning public hearings into exercises in frustration, according to the city council at its Dec. 20, 2022, meeting.

As the city nears the end of its Housing Element update, a process that began in March 2021, its professional services team, Lisa Wise Consulting, recommended that the city introduce a separate Planned Unit Development review process for sites included in the Housing Element inventory.

The recommendation came in response to concerns from the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD), which ultimately approves Housing Elements across the state, that Pleasanton’s existing PUD process may introduce time and cost to the development process.

Council concerns stemmed from the public hearings included in the process, as the city will have little leeway to take action on community feedback.

“Denial (of inventory projects) can only be based on failure to conform to the (city’s) objective design standards or other zoning standards that are applicable,” said Community Development Director Ellen Clark.

The council voted unanimously for city staff to revisit just how much transparency is warranted by standards-based decisions.

Vice Mayor Jack Balch, who recalled episodes from his time on the planning commission when the law required approvals despite public grievances against projects, worried the new PUD process would create a similar situation.

“This is setting up our planning commission to have a hearing about something that the basis of denial is so narrowly allowed that, I think, we possibly can be undermining trust in government,” he said.

Councilmembers Jeff Nibert and Valerie Arkin likened the imposed rules to the Housing Element process in general.

“The state is telling us we have to zone for this housing and people come

(See HOUSING, page 5)

Children’s Chorus Sings National Anthem at Warriors Game



The Cantabella Children’s Chorus performed at the Warriors Game on Dec. 30.

The Livermore/Pleasanton-based Cantabella Children’s Chorus sang the National Anthem in four-part harmony at the Golden State Warriors game at the Chase Center in San Francisco on Dec 30, to 17,000 spectators. Twenty-nine singers from the Cantabella Honors, Chamber and Children’s Choirs, along with a few alumni, performed. Vocalist’s ages ranged from 5th grade through college. Clement Cano, the new Cantabella artistic director, conducted as the enthusiastic crowd cheered the children on. To view the video, visit www.Cantabella.org.

Livermore Set to Construct New Pump Track

By Dawnmarie Fehr

LIVERMORE — Livermore Area Parks and Recreation District (LAPRD) plans to begin construction of a paved pump track at Sunken Gardens Park in the spring of 2023.

A pump track involves a circuit of rollers, banked turns and features designed to be used by anything with wheels, not just bikes. The track’s versatility can be utilized by those using skateboards, scooters and wheelchairs. Riders begin by pedaling or wheeling to the nearest elevated ‘bump’ in the track and as they go down, they generate momentum with up and down body movements, instead of pedaling or pushing.

Livermore resident Mike Ralph originally approached the LAPRD board with the idea nine years ago and said the track has been a long time coming.

“I thought this would be a great place for a bike park,” said Ralph, an avid cyclist. “The general manager at the time said it sounded great and wanted details.”

Ralph spent a few years putting together information on bike tracks in other cities, noting where they were located, how they are operated and what features they have. Once his information was gathered, staff turnover, then the pandemic, caused delays. However, at their regular meeting in November, the board voted to approve the project.

“We are excited for everyone to use it,” said Ralph. “We think it’s going to be a slam-dunk for all types of riders.”

The track at Sunken Gardens will be paved, and unlike BMX tracks — which often have a definitive start and finish — will be made into a loop, to promote continuous riding.

Sunken Gardens already has a traditional skate park, and the new pump track will go into the empty field next to it.

LAPRD spokesperson David Weisgerber said the City of Livermore contracted with Spohn Ranch to design and build the track. The budget for the project

(See SKATE, page 5)



Livermore resident Mike Ralph, above, stands near the location where the city’s new paved pump track at Sunken Gardens Park will soon be built. Construction is expected to be completed by spring 2023. [See photo gallery at www.independentnews.com/multimedia] (Photo - Doug Jorgensen)

PET OF THE WEEK



NIKKI

Need a novel, noble, and notable furriend for the New Year? Take note of Nikki the nice! Nikki navigates the neighborhood neatly, nurturing her toys in tow. Learn more about Nikki and other cats and dogs at valleyhumane.org. Email info@valleyhumane.org to start the adoption application process. #ShareTheCare to help pets today!

(Photo - Valley Humane Society)

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President Biden Pardons Dublin Man

On Friday, Dec. 30, President Joseph Biden granted full pardons to six individuals, including a 50-year-old Dublin man.

In a statement, a White House official said the president was granting pardons to “individuals who have served their sentences and have demonstrated a commitment to improving their communities and the lives of those around them. These include individuals who

honorably served in the US military, volunteer in their communities, and survived domestic abuse.”

Edward Lincoln De Coito III pleaded guilty to involvement in a marijuana trafficking conspiracy at age 23; his involvement was limited to serving as a courier on five or six occasions. De Coito began his term of imprisonment in March 1999 and was released from custody in December 2000. Prior

to his offense, he honorably served in the U.S. Army and the Army Reserves. In the course of his service, he received numerous awards, including the Southwest Asia Service Medal, Army Good Conduct Medal, and the Humanitarian Service Medal. After his release, Mr. De Coito worked as a skilled electrician for approximately 15 years and then embarked on a second career as a pilot.



Heavy rains on New Year's Eve flooded El Padro Drive between Canterbury Avenue and El Prado Park in front of Mendenhall School in Livermore. According to Public Works, the storm drains and pipes could not handle the volume of water flowing down the streets. (Photo - Glenn Stewart)



Broadway's “Wicked” star Jessica Vosk, above, will be performing at the Bankhead Theater in Livermore on Friday, Jan. 27. (Photo courtesy of Bankhead Theater)

A Taste of Broadway Is Coming to The Bankhead Theater this January

Livermore Valley Arts is continuing a January packed with hits in the New Year with a taste of the Great White Way, right here in the Tri-Valley. From a comedy stacked with Broadway-level talents in Lucy Loves Desi: A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Sitcom on Monday, January 23, to a current Broadway star, Wicked's Jessica Vosk on Friday, Jan. 27, The Bankhead will be bringing some live theatre offerings for the community in this first month of the year. Both of these performances will be at the Bankhead Theater in Downtown Livermore.

Lucy Loves Desi: A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Sitcom is the hilarious and true story behind one of America's most beloved TV comedies. Lucille Ball paved the way for many of today's top comedienne, while forcing Hollywood to begin dealing with the rising power and influence of women artists, both on-screen and behind the scenes. Her iconic series, I Love Lucy, remains one of the most groundbreaking and influential shows in television history. Playwright Gregg Oppenheimer—son of I Love Lucy creator Jess Oppenheimer—spins this witty, fast-paced tale of Lucy and Desi's battles with CBS over the pioneering ideas that changed the face of television forever: Lucy insisted on Desi Arnaz, her Cuban-born bandleader husband, as her TV co-star—instead of the “All-American” leading man preferred by the network. The couple wanted the show filmed in Hollywood, where they planned to raise a family—not broadcast live from New York like other major TV programs of the time. They demanded and won the right to own the show themselves. Their writers incorporated Lucy's real-life pregnancy into the program's story line—an absolute taboo in 1950s America—resulting in the highest audience share ever recorded. And they proposed the unheard-of notion of airing “reruns” on the network in order to accommodate Lucy's mid-season maternity leave—an experiment that

ultimately turned the entire TV industry's business model on its head. Lucy Loves Desi: A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Sitcom tells all of these stories, and more, with as much heart and humor as an episode of I Love Lucy itself. This crowd-pleasing show, written for L.A. Theatre Works, played to sold-out houses during its world premiere run at the James Bridges Theater in Los Angeles in 2018, thanks in large part to Oppenheimer, who co-authored his father's memoir, Laughs, Luck...and Lucy, and produced the award-winning I Love Lucy DVD series, as one of the world's foremost authorities on this classic sitcom, along with Lucie Arnaz, who served as technical advisor. This performance is immediate, spontaneous, and features a first-rate cast, live sound effects, and a connection to the audience rarely felt in a traditional theater setting. This theater...is an event, and The Bankhead is elated to bring a live performance of this caliber to the Bay Area on Jan. 23.

Jessica Vosk is a celebrated singer and actress known for stirring roles on the musical theatre and concert stage. Vosk made her sold-out Carnegie Hall debut in November 2021 in a solo show titled “My Golden Age.” Before the infamous shutdown, she starred as the Narrator in the 50th anniversary of Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat at Lincoln Center. She also created the role of Aunt Val in the world premiere of Becoming Nancy, directed and choreographed by Jerry Mitchell. Before that, Vosk finished an acclaimed run as Elphaba in Wicked on Broadway, having played the role for two years and during the iconic musical's 15th anniversary. Vosk starred in New York City Ballet's Jerome Robbins tribute Something to Dance About, directed by Warren Carlyle, and re-created the role of Fruma-Sarah in the most recent Broadway revival of Fiddler on the Roof. Other Broadway credits include Finding Neverland and The Bridges of Madison County. On the West Coast, she starred as Anita in West Side Story

with the San Francisco Symphony, whose recording of the concert was nominated for a Grammy. Her debut, Billboard-charting solo album Wild and Free was released in 2018 and was followed by 2020's A Very Coco Christmas. The Bankhead is overjoyed to be able to present a theatre performer of such stature on Jan. 27, transporting audiences to a Broadway house right here in the Tri-Valley.

The Bankhead Theater keeps COVID safety protocols in place with enhanced air circulation and no touch ticketing. Proof of vaccination is no longer required for entry at ticketed performances unless noted as part of a contractual obligation with the artist. Tickets for all shows in the 2022-2023 Bankhead Presents season are available online, by calling 925-373-6800, or at the box office windows. For a complete list of events, visit livermorearts.org.

Axis Offers Help with Covered California Enrollment

Axis Community Health, a Pleasanton-based non-profit provider of health and medical services, is providing free assistance for Tri-Valley residents seeking to enroll in the Covered California Health Exchange, which offers subsidized health-care plans under the federal Affordable Care Act (ACA).

The open enrollment period for Covered California runs through Jan. 31.

Axis said in a news release that its enrollment counselors are available to help consumers throughout the process, including determining eligibility for financial support.

“Health insurance is confusing,” said Axis community relations manager Paula Barriga-Denk. “Our enrollment counselors can help determine eligibility for Covered California, Medi-Cal, or CalFresh during a free enrollment assistance appointment.”

Covered California offers health-care plans from private insurance companies for U.S. citizens and documented immigrants. Under the ACA, coverage cannot be denied due to preexisting conditions and many applicants are eligible to receive financial assistance to help cover the cost.

To qualify for financial assistance, individuals must have an annual income of \$54,360 or less; a family of four must have an income of \$111,000.

Those who do not qualify for financial assistance may still be eligible to receive a federal tax credit to help lower their premiums.

Plans purchased during the current open enrollment period will be in effect through the end of 2023.

“It's important that consumers not miss the open enrollment window for Covered California or they may

not have another opportunity to enroll,” Barriga-Denk noted. “Remember, you must now have coverage or potentially face a state tax penalty.”

Barriga-Denk said Axis assistance is available by phone, in English and Spanish, during business hours, Monday through Friday. Other languages are also supported.

To schedule an appointment with an enrollment counselor call Axis at 925-462-1755.

Axis counselors can also assist people with Medi-Cal and Medi-Cal renewals.

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Missing Woman Found Dead Near Livermore Creek

By Larry Altman

Human remains found Dec. 21 along the Arroyo Las Positas creek near Livermore were identified as a 60-year-old woman who went missing in November, Livermore police announced.

Cindi Robinson's body was found in an area she was known to frequent and where she was last seen on Nov. 19, police said in a statement issued on social media.

Detectives opened a missing persons investigation two days later, posting her photograph on social media and asking for help. Robinson was last seen at

1:30 a.m. in the area of Portola Avenue and East Airway Boulevard in Livermore, police said.

Records showed she had an address not far from there.

At the time, police indicated she might be experiencing a mental health emergency.

According to friends, who created a Facebook page "Searching for Cindi Robinson," her dog was found safe Nov. 18 near 1700 Paseo Laguna Seco about 11:30 p.m.

Livermore detectives said they conducted more than 20 interviews and conducted numerous coordinated searches in an effort to

find her. They used searchers from multiple agencies, drones, a search and rescue

navigating this devastating news the best we can. Lastly, please pray for Cindi's chil-

"Please be patient and kind; we are navigating this devastating news the best we can. Lastly, please pray for Cindi's children, family and friends. She was loved by so many and will always be remembered, especially in our hearts."

— Amber Nicole Smith

dive team and cadaver dogs.

On Dec. 21, officers from the department's Crime Prevention Unit combed the area where she ultimately was found. Police described the area as difficult to navigate with dense terrain.

The Alameda County Sheriff's Office's coroner unit, which officially identified Robinson, is working to determine Robinson's cause of death and whether her death was a result of an accident, homicide or suicide.

As news of her death spread, friends posted thank yous to those who prayed and helped search for the grandmother.

"We are slowly getting answers and beside ourselves with grief," Amber Nicole Smith wrote on the Facebook page. "Please be patient and kind; we are

dren, family and friends. She was loved by so many and will always be remembered, especially in our hearts."

Robinson's daughter, Katie Russell, announced her mother's death on Facebook, calling her "my best friend."

"We found my Mom," Russell wrote. "I know you will always be with me."



Cindi Robinson

Excel for Genealogists — Using Analytics to Reveal Hidden Stories Through Visualization

Data in spreadsheets allows researchers to make breakthroughs by correlating data points.

On Monday, Jan. 9, learn basic functions like filtering, sorting, color coding, date calculations and more with professional genealogist Stewart Blandón Traiman and the Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society,

Transitioning from inter-

nal medicine physician and health information technology analyst to professional genealogist, Traiman turned a 30-year dream into reality. He is an expert in RootsMagic; an LGBTQ genealogy blogger; and an officer in the California Genealogical Society, where he also serves as editor and publisher of a monthly electronic newsletter. He is also

a member of the National Genealogical Society and the Association of Professional Genealogists.

The event takes place from 7 to 8:30 p.m., via Zoom at <https://bit.ly/3CEV-qAD>. There is no charge, and visitors are welcome. For more information, email Tom Mathews, program chairperson, at program@L-AGS.org.

Happy New Year!

Cheers to good health, happiness and adventure in 2023!

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EDITORIAL

City of Livermore in Sync With Residents Against Cemetery Project

Last month’s approval of a 47-acre cemetery in unincorporated Livermore resulted in two citizen groups and the City of Livermore filing individual appeals asking the Alameda County Planning Commission to overturn its decision.

Friends of Livermore (FOL) and Friends of Open Space and Vineyards (FOV) contend that the plan for Monte Vista Memorial Gardens near Interstate

580 between North Livermore Avenue and North First Street violates provisions of Measure D, a voter-approved initiative passed in 2000 to protect and enhance agricultural land and open space in Alameda County and that it violates the county’s General Plan.

The City of Livermore agrees, stating that “The commission abused its discretion when it determined that the cemetery project is an allowable use as

defined in the East County Area Plan’s (ECAP) Large Parcel Agricultural Use Designation and the amendments thereto by voter-approved Measure D.”

Kudos to the City of Livermore for listening to its constituents and seeing the move for what it is – a land grab that violates the principles of smart growth that citizens in the county and city have agreed on since 2000.

MAILBOX

Mailbox Guidelines: *Opinions voiced in letters published in Mailbox are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of The Independent. Anonymous letters will not be published. All letters are required to have the name(s) of the person(s) submitting them, city of residence and phone number, for verification purposes. Abusive letters may be rejected or edited. Letters are subject to verification and may be edited for clarity at the discretion of the editor. We reserve the right to decide whether or not the letter will be published. Headings for all letters may be edited at the discretion of the editor to properly reflect their content. A headline will be added to letters received without one. Frequent letter writers may have publication of their letters delayed. Letters must be submitted by someone living in or from the Tri-Valley; they must not offer medical advice from unconfirmed professional sources or contain libelous or inappropriate content. Letters should be limited to 400 words or less and should be sent by email to letters@independentnews.com or submitted using the form below. To be considered, letters must be received by 10 a.m. on the Monday before publication.*

Mainstream Media, Big Tech, FBI and Dems Lie, Cheat and Steal Democracy
David Ott, Pleasanton

Now that the Twitter files have been made public, we all know beyond the shadow of a doubt about the collusion between the FBI, DNC and the Biden administration to suppress the truth about the Hunter Biden laptop. Twitter, Biden administration and Fauci also colluded to spread lies regarding covid. This is on top of Facebook being part of this same collusion to kill Democracy. NY Times and CNN have also played a major role in hiding the truth from the American people as they continue to spread lies about the success of the Biden administration. The truth is this that this administration’s policies have failed all Americans and led to the severe inflation and economic woes of America – over taxation and regulations, the reduction of oil and natural gas pro-

duction, the failed green energy policy, a southern border crisis that has never been experienced in world history, and the reduction of all American’s net wealth. It is time for America to wake up and accept the truth and rid ourselves of the party that steals democracy and is ruining America.

Independent Missed the Boat
Sharon Piekarski, Pleasanton

I read with interest the article in the December 29th edition which listed 42 new state laws that take effect in 2023. Many are interesting but nearly all require absolutely no action on the part of the vast majority of The Independent’s readers. The one that does impact every driver, which I assume most of your readers are, was listed at number 40 of the 42 under a category of “Other”. This was so far down the list of laws that don’t impact most of us that I suspect very few of your readers even got that far.

The law that I am referring to requires drivers to change lanes when passing a bicyclist on a street or road with more than one lane. To disobey this law could result in a driver receiving anywhere from an expensive ticket to being found at fault in an accident and charged with vehicular manslaughter.

This law protects bicyclists and is important for drivers to know about. I feel The Independent was negligent in not listing this law in a more prominent place in the list.

Wisdom for the New Year
Evelyn Mitschelen, Livermore

How blessed is the man who finds wisdom and the man who gains understanding. For its profit is better than the profit of silver and gold.

What is wisdom? It is an insight into the meaning of life. A skill to live life.

How do I receive wisdom? Receive wise counsel from honest respectable people. Use common sense, seek knowledge, ask questions. Listen to your parents. Keep from evil. Doing justice is the right thing to do. listen to others, be respectable. Show wise behavior. Learn from creation.

Seek peace, love God.

What are the results of Wisdom? You show honor to others and respect yourself. You are honored. You have a vitality of life and peace.

Seek wisdom for in wisdom are hidden the treasures. Life has meaning and freedom from being self-centered. The world needs people who show understanding, concern, respect and wisdom.

Happy For Progress In Livermore
Russ Greenlaw, Livermore

Several weeks ago, I wrote to congratulate Livermore’s new City Manager and to ask her to see about fixing a few things that had gone unfixed for a number of years.

I am very pleased to observe that within about one week, the two streetlights I mentioned were fixed. Quick work!

I am also very pleased to also observe that the two left turn signals, which had not been allowing enough traffic to pass, now seem to be functioning much better. Good work!

I am extremely pleased to see that there seems to be progress on the dangerously uneven stretch of city street pavement that had been bothering me for years - it isn’t fixed as of this writing, but I do see that warning signs similar to those at construction sites are now present, seeming to indicate that full repairs are soon to be underway. Fabulous Work!

It is very nice to see things getting fixed in Livermore and I certainly hope our new City Manager stays around for many years to see that things stay fixed. My thanks to you, and Happy New Year!

Superintendent Makes Threats!
Barbara Dyer, Livermore

In a widely spreading, viral video (over 310,000 views in 9 days, with over 5,900 comments) Dublin school district superintendent Chris Funk can be heard making threats of physical violence against a member of the public. Funk, who makes almost \$400,000 a year, threat-

ened a journalist by saying “I’ll put you down”. Threatening to put down a man with a camera? Like you put down an animal to end his misery? I am sure the district has a zero-tolerance policy. Should that not hold true for your senior staff? It would not be difficult to convince a group of 12 unbiased members of the community as to his meaning. How can he (or the school system) now discipline any student or teacher for communicating ‘a threat’ if he is allowed to stay employed? The “eye roll” from Funk when the journalist mentioned the rights afforded by the Constitution is very concerning to me. The disconcerting thing is the superintendent was very calm when he made the threat. This was not an emotional utterance; this was a measured response that revealed an underlying character flaw. When Funk was told by the responding police officers that what the journalist was doing was not only legal but protected by the Constitution (that

he swore to uphold and defend), Funk doubled down. The inability to apologize when one is wrong is a horrible character flaw, and not one I would want my kids to learn.

Imagine what he does when not on camera and with the children and staff? ... I WILL PUT YOU DOWN ... violence is never the answer ... BULLYING is never Ok ... Realistically, the school board MUST act in some manner; but what? A student can be suspended, or even expelled, but what about a superintendent? As the ultimate leader, and hence the ultimate example to be followed, he must be held to a much higher standard.

That means he must also incur the ultimate consequence.

Wise Words
Jan Brovont, Livermore

“Truth will ultimately prevail where there is pains taken to bring it to light.” - George Washington in a letter to Va. delegate, Charles M. Thruston, Aug 10, 1794.



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Veterans Affairs Mobile Outreach Van Coming to Livermore Library

The VA Palo Alto Health Care System’s mobile medical outreach van will be at the Civic Center Library parking lot, located at 1188 S. Livermore Avenue, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., on Thursday, Jan. 26, 2023.

Medical provider(s) will be on-site to provide examinations, consultations, and referrals to veterans enrolled in the VA Palo Alto Health Care System.

Veterans who have not enrolled or are uncertain about their eligibility for medical and/or mental health services are encouraged to visit the outreach van as the team can help and answer their questions. Veterans who are currently not enrolled in the VA system should bring an extra copy of their DD-214.

For additional program information, visit library.livermoreca.gov, call (925) 373-5500, or follow the library’s Facebook page.

HOUSING

(Continued from first page)

and say ‘don’t zone,’” said Arkin, referring to the fact that the council often can’t accommodate public input.

Pleasanton’s Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) assignment requires that the city zone for 5,965 new housing units in the coming 2023 to 2031 housing cycle.

While city staff previously considered a list of 24 possible housing sites, yielding a surplus of 1,488 housing units over the 5,965, they are now in the process of paring down that list, and recommended that the city council reduce the

inventory to 17 sites with a 238-unit surplus.

Councilmember Julie Testa argued for as few sites as possible in the inventory. “We should have zero buffer because we know that there’s already so much triple buffer built into the whole Housing Element,” she said, referring to the state Density Bonus Law and the city’s use of conservative densities in its projections.

Other councilmembers, however, agreed with staff and its consultants that some buffer was prudent in the interest of HCD ap-

proval.

The council voted unanimously to add back in the St. Augustine site and its 19 assumed housing units in the inventory, and to adjust the densities of the Pleasanton Unified School District sites on both First Street and Vineyard Avenue to 12 and 4 units per acre, respectively, bringing the final unit surplus to 238 over the required 5,965 units.

The draft Housing Element will return to city council this month for planned adoption before the state’s Jan. 31 deadline.



One lucky biker enjoyed a ride through some suds last Thursday, Dec. 29, when he spotted a bubbly prank in the fountain in front of the Carnegie building in Livermore. No word on who is responsible for the soapy scandal. (Photo - Glenn Stewart)

TEACHERS

(Continued from first page)

Noel Mattern, history teacher and cross-country coach at Granada High School, shared that the Dublin Unified School District is actively recruiting Livermore teachers.

“By working in our district, I’m losing out on hundreds of thousands of dollars, almost a half a million over the course of a 35-year long career,” said Mattern.

While negotiations between the district and LEA continued, the board voted unanimously at the meeting to approve an agreement between the district and

another union — the California School Employees Association (CSEA) — that specified a three percent ongoing compensation increase for the 2022 to 2023 school year, retroactive to July 1, 2022.

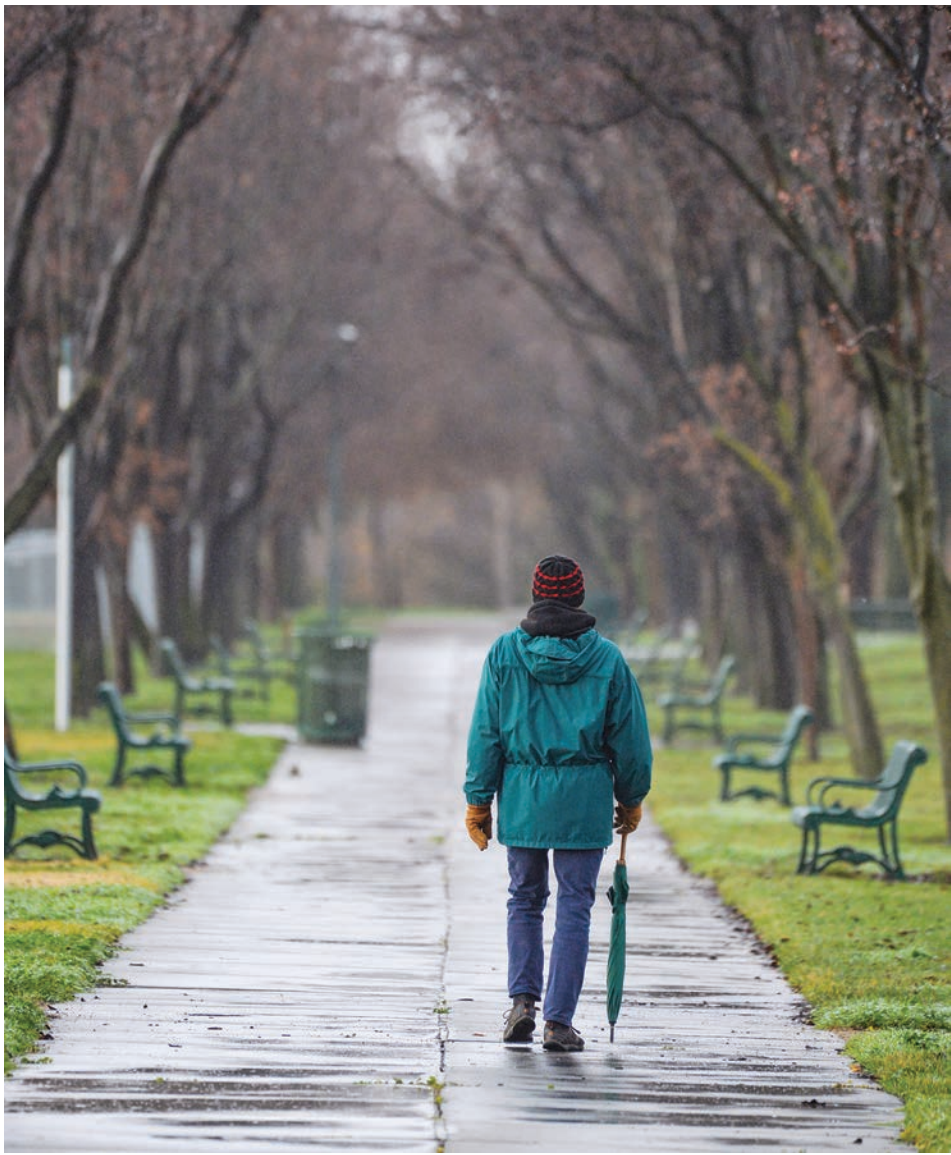
The CSEA represents some 250,000 school staff throughout the state; the LEA focuses only on the Livermore school district.

In light of the discrepancy between what was offered by and asked of the district, speakers at the meeting touched on teacher retention, teacher quality

and student success in Livermore schools as reasons to support the raise.

“Many of us teachers are products of the district we teach in,” said Del Valle Continuation School teacher Jake Anderson. “We stand on the shoulders of legends that have taught here before us. Now we are trying to inspire the next generation of teachers that will come after us. Give them a chance to teach in the community we love.”

The LVJUSD could not be reached for comment due to the holidays.



A lone walker, armed with an umbrella, braves a break in the weather on Friday, Dec. 30 at Emerald Park in Dublin. (Photo - Doug Jorgensen)

SWALWELL

(Continued from first page)

funding bill. The project aims to eliminate PFAS, or per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, found in the city’s wells. The city council put the project on hold in September to assess its plan because of rising costs.

Livermore’s Goodness Village/Livermore’s Affordable Housing Project will receive \$1 million. The project aims to house the chronically homeless in 28 tiny homes at CrossWinds Church in Livermore. Project officials are hoping to increase the number of homes.

The Livermore-based organization, One Nation Dream Maker’s Last Mile Delivery Program, will receive \$2 million. The program utilizes food that would be thrown away

from companies including Grocery Outlet, Costco, Panera, Smart & Final and Bay Cities Produce Co., and delivers them to people in need in Alameda County and the Bay Area, according to its website.

The Chabot-Las Positas Community College District’s East Bay College Agile Network will receive \$1 million for the program that works “to increase student-focused equity pathways and an innovative model that increases certificate and degree attainment for students.”

The Muslim Community Center, which is located in Pleasanton, will receive \$250,000 for its Rental Assistance Program.

According to Swalwell, the funding package also

includes \$40.6 billion to assist communities across the country recover from drought, hurricanes, flooding, wildfire, natural disasters, and other emergencies.

SKATE

(Continued from first page)

is \$839,344, funded through AB 1600 funds designated to increase park capacity. The project should take about three months, once begun.

According to Weisgerber, Sunken Gardens is already a popular spot in Livermore and adding the pump track will give users more space to spread out.

“LAPD has worked collaboratively with mem-

bers of the Livermore bike community to shape the vision for this park,” he said. “We’re excited to be able to meet this community need and secure the available funding to make this happen.”

Sunken Gardens Park is located at 3800 Pacific Avenue in Livermore. For more information, visit www.lapd.org or email info@lapd.org.

LIVERMORE
CALIFORNIA

The City of Livermore invites applications for appointment to the
Planning Commission

The Planning Commission advises the City Council on the adoption and on-going review of the General Plan for the physical growth of the city. The Plan, in conjunction with the Development Code, guides the general location of future public facilities, private buildings and improvements.

The Commission has specific responsibilities in the administration of the Development Code, including decisions or recommendations on subdivision of land and other development projects. The Commission is also responsible for ensuring development projects meet the City’s Design Standards and Guidelines.

In addition, the Commission promotes public interest in planning and encourages citizen participation in the formulation of land use policies. The commissioners also acquaint the public with problems and solutions relating to the local physical environment. Preference is for applicants to have demonstrated ability in the area of design by virtue of avocation, vocation, talent, and interest in design, architecture, landscape architecture, or a related field.

Applicants are required to have attended at least one meeting of the Planning Commission prior to submitting an application. Meetings are held the first and third Tuesdays each month at 7:00 pm in the Civic Center Meeting Hall, City Council Chambers, 1016 S. Livermore Avenue. The application, agendas, and general information can be found using the following link: www.LivermoreCA.gov/PlanningCommission. The next Planning Commission meeting will be held Tuesday, January 17, 2023.

Interested parties are invited to attend an informational meeting on Tuesday, January 17, 2023, 5:30 pm prior to the regularly scheduled Planning Commission meeting.

Applications are available on-line at www.LivermoreCA.gov/AB. Applicants must reside within the Livermore city limits. If you have questions regarding the application, please contact the City Clerk’s Office at cityclerk@LivermoreCA.gov or call (925) 960-4200.

Applications will be accepted now through
Friday, January 27, 2023, at 5:00 pm.
Interview date to be determined.

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EDEN

(Continued from first page)

denying our challenges to the city’s unlawful approval of the proposed Eden Housing project in downtown Livermore,” SLD spokesperson Jean King said. “Although we are currently evaluating our options, based on errors in the opinion, it is likely that we will be filing a petition for rehearing of the decision with the court in early 2023.”

“As Save Livermore Downtown has consistently stated, we are not opposed to affordable housing in downtown Livermore,” King added. “We have supported and continue to support more affordable housing opportunities in the city and that is why our organization has worked tirelessly over the last two years to propose a solution to this ongoing dispute that would allow Eden Housing to build its project at a site north of Railroad Avenue. This alternative option would allow for up to 100 additional affordable units, an increase in the parking stalls per unit and the preservation of the former Lucky site for an attractive and inviting park available to residents of the project and the public.”

In an opinion issued Dec. 28, Presiding Justice Alison Tucher wrote — with Associate Justices Carin Fujisaki and Ioana Petrou concurring — that the panel agreed with Roesch that SLD’s case “lacked objective merit.” Tucher wrote that Roesch also did not abuse his discretion when, at Eden’s request, he ordered SLD to post a \$500,000 bond. According to Roesch, because SLD did not approach the city about preparing the administrative record for the lawsuit until near the deadline to complete it and asked for an extension, this suggested that SLD’s lawsuit was filed for the purpose of delay. SLD, the city, and Eden ended up agreeing to a short extension, but that was not enough to sway Roesch.

“With the trial court we conclude, ‘this is not a close case,’” Tucher wrote. “SLD’s contentions regarding the project’s consistency with the (DSP) and its (CEQA) arguments lack merit, so much so that the inherent weakness of these claims further supports the trial court’s finding that SLD brought this action to delay the project.”

What the ruling means next for the Eden project is unclear. According to the Court of Appeal’s website, SLD must file a petition for rehearing within 15 days of the ruling, pointing out where it believes the judges erred.

Meanwhile, a separate lawsuit by Move Eden Housing (MEH), a community group with a few of the same members as SLD, is awaiting a decision in Alameda County Superior Court. MEH’s lawsuit seeks to require the city clerk to continue processing a referendum petition signed by 8,053 Livermore voters protesting the city’s approval of an agreement between the city and Eden to facilitate development of the project at its currently proposed site. Judge Michael Markman could rule at any time on MEH’s contention that Livermore’s city clerk was wrong when she refused to validate the petition’s signatures and send the referendum to the City Council for consideration. Markman held arguments in November and had indicated that he expected to issue a ruling before 2022 ended.

Livermore City Attorney Jason Alcalá was on vacation and unavailable for comment on the latest development. Eden Housing’s attorney Andrew Sabey did not respond to a request for an interview. SLD’s attorney, Winston Stromberg, was on vacation over the

holidays and also did not respond.

Controversial from its inception in 2018, the Eden Housing project would place two four-story buildings reserved for affordable housing at a location bounded by Railroad Avenue on the north, L Street on the west, Veterans Way on the south and the extension of K Street on the east. A public park would be created between the two buildings; 117 parking stalls would be built underground with 16 additional spaces at the proposed nearby L Street Garage. The downtown core of restaurants, theaters and other businesses sit to the project’s east and south.

Following the Planning Commission’s approval, the City Council voted 5-0 to move the project forward on May 25, 2021. The city said the project conformed with the city’s General Plan and the DSP’s standards and guidelines, and that no substantial changes were proposed that required another EIR.

A year later, the City Council approved a revised agreement involving over \$17 million in city funds for the project and park. Under the revised deal, the city transferred the city-owned land to Eden on September 7, 2022, not waiting for the litigation to end.

Eden’s supporters contend affordable housing is necessary in the city because high Bay Area housing prices and rents force teachers, police officers, fire fighters, other professionals and low-income workers employed in the city to live miles away. Several Livermore and Bay Area anti-poverty and environmental organizations, including the Livermore Housing Authority, East Bay Housing Organizations, the Tri-Valley Anti-Poverty Collaborative and Greenbelt Alliance, support the project.

In opposing the project, SLD said it agrees affordable housing is necessary in Livermore, and offered an alternative plan located across the street.

SLD contends any residential buildings developed in the very heart of the city will destroy the downtown core’s character. Throughout the court battle, SLD’s attorney, Winston Stromberg with Latham & Watkins LLP, argued that the project failed to comply with mandatory DSP provisions, asserting that the building’s lobby does not face a primary street as required; parking between the building and street is not allowed; the four-story portions of the buildings take up too much of the site’s frontage; the project’s windows are not ‘vertically proportioned’; and open space requirements are not satisfied.

SLD also contended the City Council’s approval incorrectly relied on a 2009 CEQA review. The group argued that a new study was required to determine whether gas from toxic chemicals in the ground is dangerous. The site previously housed a Lucky supermarket, a Southern Pacific Railroad depot, and businesses including auto body shops and a dry cleaners.

After Roesch called their contentions without merit and ruled against the group, SLD filed its appeal and waited for the decision that came after Christmas.

In the end, the Court of Appeal rejected all of SLD’s arguments. Tucher wrote that SLD failed to show that the project was inconsistent with the “objectives, policies, general land uses and programs” of the DSP.

Although projects must conform to a General Plan, the court said, they do not have to do so perfectly. Tucher added that it’s up to elected officials, not the

courts, to decide whether a project is “in harmony” with the principles of a specific plan, and rebuffed arguments that the buildings’ entrances, height and parking areas, open space, windows and appearance violated the DSP’s standards.

“The City found that the project will promote the goals of providing housing and revitalizing the City’s core area, and it went on to find that the project conforms to applicable development standards related to setbacks, height, and open space, and to the design standards in the Downtown Specific Plan, with reference to architectural details supporting its finding,” the court wrote. “Although the findings did not specifically discuss each of the project details SLD contends were inconsistent with the specific plan, SLD has not shown

they were inadequate.”

The court also agreed the 2009 EIR was adequate in addressing environmental concerns like contamination and that no new report was needed.

SLD noted that “in our view,” the Court of Appeal’s decision was “incorrect.”

“Save Livermore Downtown believes the court simply got it wrong,” King said. “First, the court’s determination that the City did not err in finding that the project is consistent with the Downtown Specific Plan misinterpreted many of the provisions in the Specific Plan and ignored evidence Save Livermore Downtown cited in its briefs.

“Second, we disagree with the court’s determination that the city did not need to conduct additional environmental review

given the fact that the city and Regional Water Quality Control Board had determined — long after the prior environmental impact report for the entire downtown had been prepared — that the Lucky site was contaminated by various chemicals of concern that could impact development of the project.”

King added that SLD disagreed with the finding that Roesch did not abuse his discretion in requiring SLD to post bond, “even though it recognized that the evidence submitted by Eden Housing was not strong.”

King concluded, “We will continue to support alternatives that will heal a divided community and allow for a more robust revitalization of downtown Livermore.”

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Students Can Sign Up For Trips Abroad

Las Positas is venturing out into the world again after the pandemic, and students interested in studying abroad should visit the Frederick Douglass Global Fellowship website at: <https://www.ciee.org/>.

Any student who applies, but is unsuccessful, will receive \$7500 to put towards another CIEE trip, and additional financial scholarships may be available. Students must identify as an ethnicity typically underrepresented on study abroad programs and apply by Feb. 14, 2023. In 2023, fellows accepted into the program will spend four weeks in the U.S., South Africa, and Ireland, engaging in a comparative study of social justice leadership.

BART Board Elects Janice Li President And Mark Foley as New Vice President

BART Director Janice Li urged fellow Board members to “push ourselves to do more” as she assumed the Board Presidency Dec. 15, following a unanimous vote to elect her to the leadership position.

Li, who represents District 8 in San Francisco, served as Board Vice President in 2022 and she thanked outgoing President Rebecca Saltzman for her tenacity, vision and effectiveness. Li pledged to seek “as much unity as we can” among the Board as the transit agency confronts extraordinary financial challenges in the years ahead.

“We are all pushing for the safest, most reliable, most well-run system with the most integrity”, said Li. “I’m asking you all for the willingness to do more, to do better, to try something new.”

Li is the first queer woman of color to be elected president of the board.

Director Mark Foley, who was elected Board Vice President, echoed her aspirations. “I think our priorities are clear. We need to focus on providing a world-class customer experience at BART,” said Foley. “Part of that is investing in our own future and identifying sustainable funding that we need as an organization to be successful for the next 50 years.”

President Li was first elected to the BART Board of Directors in November 2018 and was re-elected in 2022. Her district includes portions of San Francisco.

She was born in Hong Kong and moved to the U.S. at a young age. President Li works at Chinese for Affirmative Action, a San Francisco-based organization that has led Asian American civil rights advocacy for over 50 years.

Vice President Foley was first elected to the BART Board on November 6, 2018 and was re-elected in 2022. Director Foley represents District 2, which includes the cities of Antioch, Brentwood, Concord and other cities and unincorporated communities of Contra Costa County.

A long-time public servant at the East Bay Municipal Utility District, Vice President Foley served as Board President in 2021 and Vice President in 2020.

(Courtesy of BART)



Mark Foley, left, and Janice Li, right, were recently named as BART’s new vice president and president, respectively. (Photo courtesy of BART)

Alameda County District Attorney’s Office Announces Swearing-In of Pamela Price

The Alameda County District Attorney’s Office announces Attorney Pamela Price was sworn in at the Rene C. Davidson Courthouse Tuesday, Jan. 3, as the 14th District Attorney of Alameda County.

Presiding Judge Charles Smiley of the Alameda County Superior Court presided over the oath and offered his courtroom for the historic moment. The official Oath of Office was given by retired Alameda County Superior Court Judge, the Honorable Brenda Fay Harbin. DA Price was surrounded by her family from across the U.S., more than 90 members of the DA’s Office, and elected officials including Alameda County Board of Supervisors President Keith Carson, Supervisor David Haubert, Supervisor Lena Tam and County Administrator Susan B. Muranishi.

“My vision is to serve you as a Minister of Justice,” said DA Price during her speech. “My job is to protect public safety by advancing justice. Our goals are to reduce crime and criminal activity, engage the entire community in eliminating exploitation and violence against vulnerable members of the community, and lead the conversation about justice in the diverse communities that we represent.”

DA Price enters the District Attorney’s Office as the first African-American/Black individual to hold the office in Alameda County’s history and only the second woman elected to the position.

“We will have a DA committed to transparency, equity and accountability to make the system work for all of us,” DA Price.

DA Price is a graduate of Yale College and UC Berkeley Law School and has been practicing law for more than 40 years. DA Price’s historic win ushers in a new era at the DA’s Office. As a survivor of juvenile justice and foster care systems, she brings to the helm of the office a knowledge and understanding of those systems.

DA Price also held a public inaugural celebration on Monday evening at the Oakstop California Ballroom. The event was attended by more than 450 people with speakers including Rev. Dr. Harold Orr, Rev. Wanda Johnson, former Oakland Mayor Jean Quan, California State Senator-elect Aisha Wahab, BART Director Lateefah Simon, activist and renown author, Angela Davis and Oakland Mayor-elect Sheng Thao. Mayor-elect Thao officiated the public Oath of Office.

VIOLINS OF HOPE

Strings of the Holocaust

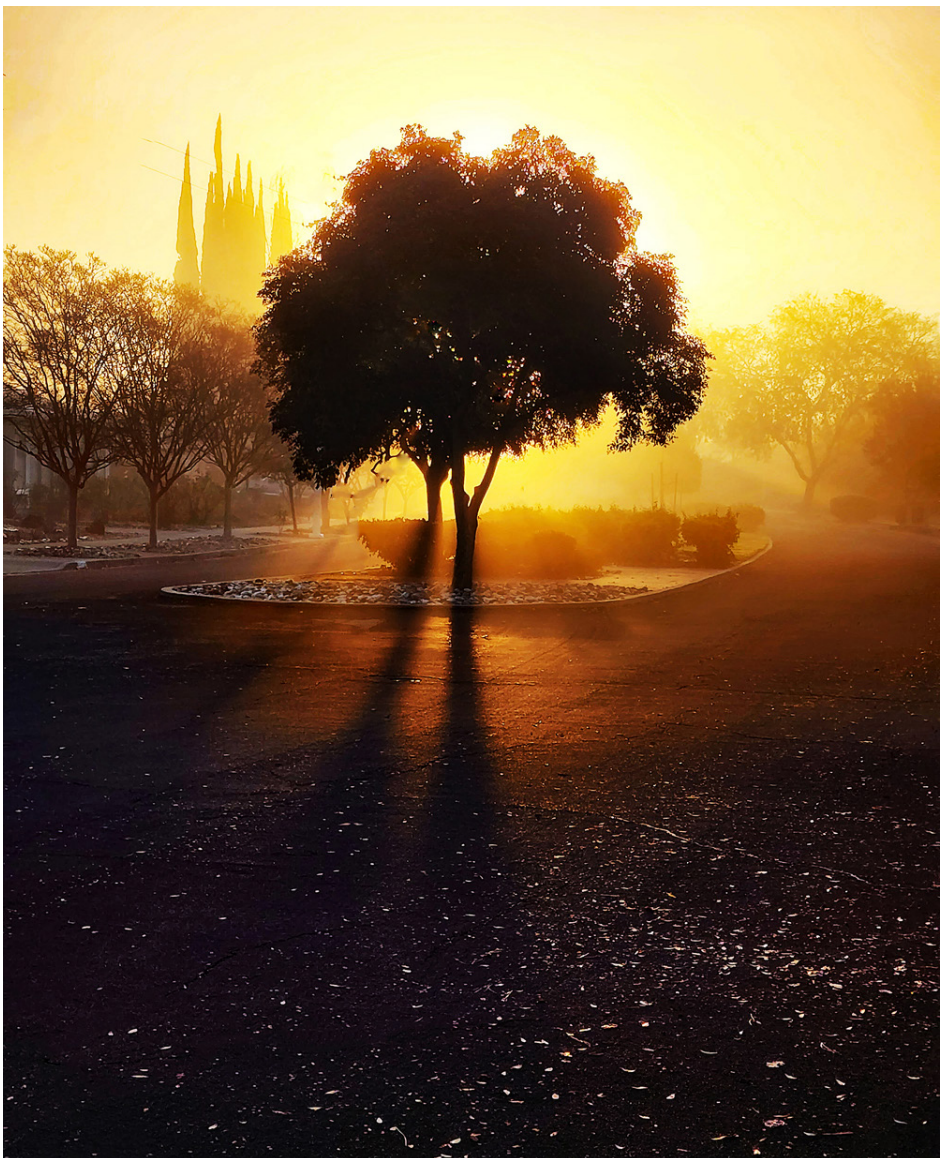
CONCERTS AT BANKHEAD THEATER, LIVERMORE

Sunday, February 5th – 3:00 pm

Monday, February 6th – 7:30 pm

Tuesday, February 7th – 7:30 pm

BUY TICKETS AT LIVERMOREARTS.ORG



Livermore resident Glenn Stewart captured a stunning sunrise as it aligned behind a flowering pear tree during a recent morning walk in his neighborhood. . (Photo - Glenn Stewart)

Cities Offer Help for Next Wave of Storms

The Bay Area’s recent deluge may be just the tip of the iceberg, as more rain is expected to continue into next week. Those who have already experienced flooding during a prior storm will likely experience flooding again. Water flow is expected to exceed channel capacity.

Sandbags can be picked up from the City of Dublin Corporation Yard, located at 5709 Scarlett Court. A self-serve, sandbag-filling station (with sand, a shovel, and bags) is also available if the pre-filled sandbags are gone. It is recommended residents bring their own shovel for faster service. Please limit the number of sandbags taken to 10 or fewer.

Alameda County Public Works Agency also makes sandbags available at their Maintenance and Operations Corporation Yard at 4825 Gleason Drive in Dublin. I

Residents are advised to stay off all trails due to potential mudslides and overflowing creeks.

The following are tips to keep family, home and property safe:

- * Stay off all trails due to potential mudslides and overflowing creeks.
- * Stay home if are able to do so. However, keep your car fueled or, if electric, powered. If electric power is cut off, gas stations may be inoperable.
- * Keep your cell phone charged. Have a car charger on hand.
- * Check emergency supplies (first aid kit, essential medicines, cash, food, water, non-electric can opener, portable radio, flashlights, and spare batteries) and ensure they are in air-tight bags and in handy locations.
- * Clear debris from storm drains. Keep a rake on hand to clear debris that may clog storm drains during rainstorms.
- * Secure or remove items that can blow around.
- * Keep garbage cans and cars at least one foot from the curb to avoid blocking storm water flows.

Dublin Police will issue alerts when necessary, during the storms. Text ‘94568’ or ‘Dublin’ to 888777 to receive Nixle alerts. You can also register for AC Alerts.

The City of Pleasanton is also offering free sand and sandbags for residents and businesses concerned about flooding. Fill up and take-home sandbags at any time. The city has a sandbag filling station in the parking lot of the Operations Services Department, located at 3333 Busch Road. Residents are advised to bring their own shovels.

For more information about what to do before, during, and after a storm, check out the City of Pleasanton’s Emergency Preparedness page here: http://www.cityofpleasantonca.gov/gov/depts/os/emergency_preparedness.asp

In Livermore, sand and bags are available at the following locations. Residents need to bring their own shovel and there is a limit of six (6) bags per household.

Maintenance Service Center - 3500 Robertson Park Road

Fire Station 6 - 4550 East Avenue

Fire Station 8 - 5750 Scenic Avenue

Pre-filled sandbags are also available at the following location from November through April.

Zone 7 Water Agency - 100 North Canyons Parkway

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LLNL's Global Security Research Center Director Receives High Honor from Japan

Brad Roberts has received one of the highest honors bestowed by the Government of Japan.

The director of the Center for Global Security Research (CGSR) at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL), Roberts has been given the Order of the Rising Sun, an honor

prior recipients. It also is an honor and pleasure to work with the people of Japan to meet the new challenges of a changing security environment,” said Roberts after the ceremony.

He added that “the ceremony had a certain personal quality to it because the ambassador was my partner

engagements significantly with U.S. allies in Europe and Asia, bringing a very important perspective to the Lab as we continue to evolve to advance our missions in the 21st century.”

Roberts recalls that when he arrived in the Pentagon in 2009 as the newly appointed deputy assistant secretary

Dialogue—which continues to this day.”

Under the EDD, government officials from the two nations meet regularly to analyze new developments in the security environment, to deepen shared understanding of emerging challenges to deterrence and to agree and implement measures to adapt extended deterrence and strengthen it for new challenges.

Roberts added, “after I left government service in 2013, I spent two months in Tokyo at the think-tank of Japan’s Ministry of Defense, the National Institute for Defense Studies. My mandate was to help reorient that community onto emerging challenges to extended deterrence and strategic stability in North-east Asia. I was particularly impressed with the focus of the younger generation of scholars on emerging challenges. Many of them have gone on to have a major impact on policy development.”

During last month’s ceremony, Ambassador Tomita also congratulated Roberts on the publication of a Jap-

anese translation of his 2015 book, “The Case for U.S. Nuclear Weapons in the 21st Century.” Released in August, the Japanese edition has already gone into its second printing. “This is both a sad reflection on the eroding security environment and a clear indicator of rising Japanese interest in nuclear deterrence,” Roberts said.

Roberts joined Livermore in 2015, following 16 months as the William J. Perry Fellow at Stanford University’s Center for International Security and Cooperation, where he wrote his book on the case for U.S. nuclear weapons.

Earlier in his career, prior to 2009, Roberts served for 14 years as a member of the research staff at the Alexandria, Virginia-based Institute for Defense Analyses and as an adjunct professor at George Washington University.

“At CGSR, we have made it a priority to bring the perspectives of our allies in both Asia and Europe into all of our discussions,” he said. “We’ve also put much more focus on extended

deterrence than most other study centers. Our allies live in the nuclear crosshairs of their nuclear-armed neighbors. The extended deterrence the United States provides in both Asia and Europe is critical to their security. If we fail to do this job well, the repercussions will be wide-ranging and dangerous.”

CGSR was established at LLNL in 1996 to serve as a bridge between the science, technology and national security policy communities. It focuses on emerging national security challenges in the areas of deterrence, assurance and strategic stability.

(Courtesy of LLNL)



Brad Roberts, (left) the director of LLNL’s Center for Global Security Research, has been given the Order of the Rising Sun in Washington, D.C. in a small ceremony at the residence of the Japanese ambassador to the United States, Koji Tomita. (Photo courtesy of LLNL)

awarded by the prime minister of Japan to people who have rendered distinguished service to the nation. The honor is rarely awarded to citizens of countries other than Japan.

Roberts received the award last month in Washington, D.C., in a small ceremony at the residence of the Japanese ambassador to the United States, Koji Tomita. The award was presented for his contributions to the U.S.-Japan alliance, particularly for his role in strengthening bilateral cooperation on extended nuclear deterrence and in mentoring the emerging generation of officials and scholars.

“It is an honor to join a distinguished group of

in co-founding the Extended Deterrence Dialogue in 2010. He spoke about the value of our collaboration to the Government of Japan, to the people of Japan and to him personally and about our progress over more than a decade in deepening the cooperation.”

LLNL Director Kim Budil noted that, “Brad is exceptionally deserving of this important recognition of his leadership in working with the Japanese to strengthen deterrence. He has done immense work building relationships and sharing his expertise with a wide range of allies and partners and is a trusted adviser around the world. Under his leadership, CGSR has expanded its

of defense for nuclear and missile defense policy in the Obama Administration, the governments of Japan and the U.S. had no prior or on-going dialogue of any kind about nuclear deterrence.

“It was essentially a taboo subject,” he said. “But then we broke some new ground. During the 2009 Nuclear Posture Review, we discovered a mutual interest and benefit in frequent consultations, in reaction to the growing nuclear threats to Japan. When the review concluded, we had a new foundation in place for sustained, substantive and high-level bilateral dialogue on nuclear deterrence. This was formalized as the EDD, short for Extended Deter-

Meir Show Leads Speaker Series

Historical impressionist Peter Small will portray the late Golda Meir, who served as Israeli prime minister from 1969 through 1974, in the Museum on Main’s first Ed Kinney Series presentation at the Firehouse Arts Center in Pleasanton for 2023.

The Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., will present “An Afternoon with Golda Meir” at 2 p.m., follow by “An Evening with Golda Meir” at 7 p.m., on Tuesday, Jan. 10.

Tickets begin at \$15. Born in 1898 in Kyiv, Ukraine, then part of the Russian Empire, Meir immigrated to the U.S. with her family in 1906 and was raised in Wisconsin. She and her husband emigrated to what was then known as the British Mandate of Palestine in 1921, settling on a kibbutz, or community farm.

In 1928, she was elected secretary of the Working Women’s Council, launching a political career that culminated with Meir

becoming that country’s fourth prime minister in 1969.

Known as the Iron Lady of Israeli politics, she was prime minister during the three-week Yom Kippur War in 1973, when Israel fought off an attack by a coalition of Arab states led by Egypt and Syria.

Meir died in 1978.

This will be a return performance for Small, who also portrayed Meir for the museum’s Ed Kinney Series in 2016.

The Ed Kinney Series is a monthly program of historical portrayals and speakers presented by Pleasanton’s Museum on Main with support from the Civic Arts Commission Grant Program, National Endowment for the Humanities, California Humanities, Alameda County Arts Commission, and Best Western Pleasanton Plus Inn.

Tickets may be purchased at www.museumonmain.org, at the Museum on Main, or by calling 925-462-2766.

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TRI-VALLEY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Monday Jan. 9
EXCEL FOR GENEALOGISTS — USING ANALYTICS TO REVEAL HIDDEN STORIES VISUALIZING
On Monday, Jan. 9, learn basic functions like filtering, sorting, color coding, date calculations and more with professional genealogist Stewart Blandón Traiman and the Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society. The event takes place from 7 to 8:30 p.m., via Zoom at <https://bit.ly/3CEVqAD>. There is no charge, and visitors are welcome. For more information, email Tom Mathews, program chairperson, at program@L-AGS.org.

Tuesday, Jan. 24
CAN ISRAELI INNOVATIONS HELP SOLVE CALIFORNIA’S WATER CRISIS?
From drip irrigation to the recycling of wastewater and desalinization, Israeli environmentalists have devised strategies for the smart use of water. Dr. Clive Lipchin, the Arava Institute’s leading scientist for water management, will explore these and other Israeli innovations and examine how they may be able to help solve California’s water crisis. The event is free and takes place online from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. It is sponsored by Congregation Beth Emek and the Contra Costa JCC, in partnership with BA-JAIN, Congregation B’nai Shalom, Congregation B’nai Tikvah, JCICOR, and Diablo Valley Hadassah. For more information, email israelworldjewry@bethemek.org. For tickets, visit <https://bit.ly/3vt6xZn>.

Wednesday, Jan. 11
INTERFAITH INTERCONNECT RELIGION CHAT
All are welcome to join at 5 p.m. for this month’s Religion Chat topic: Choose a particular holiday, holy day, feast, or other celebration that you observe in your faith or culture. Any participants who wish to share a brief response (under three minutes) to the topic may do so. Optional breakout discussion groups will take place from 6 to 6:30 p.m. via Zoom at <https://bit.ly/3HMCp2g>. Zoom room opens at 4:45 p.m. Religion Chat is a free interfaith forum presented by Interfaith Interconnect on the second Wednesday of most months. For more information, email interfaith.interconnect@gmail.com or visit facebook.com/InterfaithInterconnect.

Thursday, Jan. 12 to Thursday, Feb. 23
CACTUS CORNERS SQUARE DANCING LESSONS
Cactus Corners, a nonprofit, is offering free square-dancing lessons to new dancers. Anyone age 8 and up is invited to this great activity for the entire family. Meetings take place on Thursday, Jan. 12, 19, and 26, and Feb. 2, 9, 16, and 23, from 7 to 8:30 p.m., at 2253 5th Street, in Livermore, between south J and south I streets. This is at 5th Street School (now Del Valle Continuation High School). For more information or to be placed on the class notification list, email Margaret at mmiller1435@gmail.com or call 925-447-6980.

Monday, Jan. 16 and 23
AUDITIONS FOR VALLEY CONCERT CHORALE
The chorale is seeking experienced singers with sight-reading skills who enjoy singing exciting and challenging music. Full vaccination is required, but masks are optional. The 15-minute appointment will include vocalizing, reading, and clapping. Singers must commit to the season with Monday evening rehearsals held at the First Presbyterian Church of Livermore, located at 2020 Fifth St., in Livermore. Auditions are available by appointment at 925-866-4003 or by text at 650-274-5315. Auditions will be held at First Presbyterian Church. For more information, visit valleyconcertchorale.org or call 925-866-4003.

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

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

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

OBITUARIES

Patricia McDonald
Feb. 5, 1936 – Nov. 30, 2022



Patricia Catherine McDonald (Pat) a loving wife, mother, noni, aunt, cousin, godmother and friend, passed away peacefully on Wednesday, Nov. 30, 2022, at her home in Livermore. Pat was 86 years old at the time of her passing.

Pat was born on Feb. 5, 1936, in San Francisco. Her parents, Harry and Virginia Bigarani; brother, Bill; and her loving husband of 47 years, Ray, preceded her in death.

Pat attended St. Vincent’s All-girls Catholic High School in San Francisco, where she was student-body president and a star volleyball and basketball player. In high school, she met her future husband, Ray, through mutual friends. She knew immediately Ray was the man of her dreams and that she would marry him and have lots of babies! Pat’s goal in life was to become a loving wife, mother, and homemaker. It turns out she excelled at it and exceeded her goals.

After graduating high school that summer, Pat and Ray married and had six wonderful children. The first four years, they had three children (Jim, Dan, Kathy). Looking for a larger house to live in, they moved from San Francisco to Hayward in 1958.

Ray worked for Sears in San Leandro, while Pat stayed home and took on the important responsibility of raising three young children and making sure the household ran smoothly.

Between 1961 and 1964, three more children were born (Dennis, Tim, Carrie). The three-bedroom house was now too small for six children, all under 10 years of age. In 1965, the family moved to a larger house in Livermore, where Pat was currently residing at the time of her passing.

For the next 12 years, they remained in the Livermore house. For extra income, Pat took on some baby-sitting jobs, because she could contribute to the family income and still remain at home to raise her six children. She managed a very busy household, and had enough room in her heart to care for her family and the children she babysat.

In 1977, they were presented a business opportunity to run Swafford Storage

in Hayward. Ray quit his job at Sears, they packed up the three remaining children, and moved back to Hayward. They rented out the Livermore house to Father John Dollard of Saint Charles Church for \$140 a month, which would cover their mortgage payment. For the next 20 years they travelled the United States, with and without kids, in their Winnebago motorhome and enjoyed their life together.

In 1997, Ray was diagnosed with lung cancer. That year, Ray retired from the storage yard, and they moved back into the Livermore house. Father Dollard moved to another residence in Livermore, but kept in frequent contact. Ray passed away from cancer in 2002, and Pat remained at the house for another 20 years.

She kept busy with her ever-growing family and was so proud of them all. She enjoyed her six children, nine grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren immensely. Pat was happiest when the family was together. She especially enjoyed family gatherings at Christmas, Easter, Thanksgiving, and the annual family reunion at her property in Alta.

She was a member of the Native Daughters of the Golden West, S.F. and the Red Hat Society, and she also volunteered at senior organizations before volunteering long term at Quail Gardens in Livermore. Owners Bob and Alecia liked Pat’s great work and personality, so they hired her to work part time as the assistant activities director.

She would read stories, do trivia, play the piano, call Bingo, crafts, and do whatever was necessary to make every day a better day for the seniors who lived there. She always maintained a positive attitude, and it made her

happy to bring joy to those in need. Pat worked at Quail Gardens for several years until she could no longer drive to the facility.

Due to Pat’s numerous health issues the last couple of years, she was mainly confined to the house. Fortunately, her son Dennis, who was retired, had moved in with Pat to help her out. The other five siblings were also a constant presence and helped out considerably. Pat’s wish was to die at home and said, “When God wanted her, he could come and get her, but she wasn’t leaving this earth before that time.” She handled her deteriorating condition with dignity, grace, and a positive, upbeat attitude.

The last two months of her life, she needed much more assistance. Caretakers Joyce, Melissa, and occasionally Vee took excellent care of Pat 24/7 until her passing. The family is eternally grateful for their compassion and caring during this stressful time in our lives. The family is also grateful to Kaiser Hospice for their guidance, caring and cooperation during this difficult time.

Pat will be dearly missed, but the memories, the way she lived, the lessons she taught us, and the love she showed are her legacy and will last for generations to come.

Pat is survived by her six children, Jim (Bonnie), Dan (Lynn), Kathy (Mike Bianchi), Dennis, Tim (Cindy), and Carrie (Scott Silvert-horn); nine grandchildren, Brian, Christopher, Kevin, Brianna, Nick, Garrett, Samantha, Mark, and Allison; and five great-grandchildren, Alani, William, Ella, Hailey, and Thomas; along with her nieces, nephews, cousins, godchildren, and friends.

Pat’s Celebration of Life will be held on Friday, Jan. 27, 2023, at 11 a.m., at Callaghan’s Mortuary, 3833 East Ave., in Livermore. A reception will follow at Beebs Bar and Grill, 915 Clubhouse Dr., in Livermore. In lieu of flowers, the family would appreciate donations be made to the Lung Cancer Research Foundation, or to the Officer Jeffrey M. Fontana Scholarship Fund, San Jose State University Administration of Justice, One Washington Square, in San Jose.

CELEBRATION OF LIFE

Mary (Banley) Minaker
July 1, 1930 – Dec. 13, 2022



On Dec. 13, 2022, Mary (Banley) Minaker passed away at the age of 92, at her 4M Ranch in Livermore, heralding the end of an era.

She was preceded in death two years ago by her husband Robert (Bob), to whom she was married for more than 70 years. She is survived by her children, Scott and Sandy; as well as grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and niece and her family.

By any measure, she led an extraordinary life. There was poverty in her family when she was young. Born in Chicago, her family moved to Arizona due to her mothers’ health issues when Mary was a child. Mary did not have an easy childhood, losing her mother when she was only 13, while her father traveled trying to earn a living.

There was homelessness as a teen, before moving to the Bay Area to live with her older brother and his wife. A short time later, she met the love of her life, Robert (Bob) Minaker. The humble conditions of Mary’s childhood and adolescence led to the distinctions that made her our beloved matriarch – generosity, kindness, warmth, fearlessness in her goals, fierce determination, respect for others and a thirst for adventure.

Mary and Bob were well-known for their generosity, humility, wisdom and the love of family and good company which always made for

a great party. Mary and Bob made friends everywhere they went, with no adventure too great. They traveled the world, visiting destinations such as New Zealand, Tahiti, Europe, Asia, and every corner of North America.

Mary pursued her interests and had many talents. She had a voice with the timbre and power to entertain crowds. Mary was a trained and performing opera singer. There was a period where she showed Siamese cats and her beloved Great Danes.

Mary had a lifelong love of horses, which eventually led her and Bob to purchase an 18-acre ranch in Livermore in 1979. Mary and Bob named it “4M Ranch” after a family friend had coined the term ‘4M’ (Minaker’s Marvelous Mon-eymaking Menagerie), as Mary and Bob were always ambitious in their endeavors. Mary (and Bob) lived the rest of their lives at their 4M Ranch.

When Mary and Bob moved in, the ranch and the surrounding areas were open, golden fields with rolling hills. Mary’s vision saw 4M Ranch become a realized equestrian facility, breeding and showing purebred Arabian Horses. Henceforth, 4M Ranch was to be known as 4M Arabians.

Through the years, Mary generously allowed family and friends to board horses at 4M Arabians. Mary loved all animals and raised sheep, cows, chickens, and geese, and even an adopted Pea-Hen over the years. Mary (and Bob) loved camping with her horses, be it riding back country trails or to the beach with family and friends at her favorite destinations - Silver Lake, Clarke’s Fork, and Stewart’s Ranch in Pt. Reyes National Seashore. Mary and Bob also loved RV-ing caravan style with family and friends across the U.S., visiting national parks and monuments and making many trips to Yellowstone, Grand Canyon, Bryce, Zion, Denali, and Glacier National Park through the years.

Over the last 15 years, Mary and Bob realized another dream, transitioning 4M Arabians from an equestrian facility to one of three sustainable pistachio orchards in the Livermore Valley, which will serve as their legacy.

When asked about Bob, Mary would say, “He never belittled me, and he supported all my ambitions.” Those ambitions led them to a full, beautiful life together. They shared the fruit of their accomplishments with anyone who desired - high Sierra sunsets, pristine meadows, dusty trails, alpine lakes, great food and countless parties and holidays at their ranch.

Mary’s life did not begin with any gifts except time, and she never wasted a minute. She achieved much and accomplished everything she wanted in life. Mary kept her sharp wit until the very end, and she will always be the sterling example of how to live life to the fullest extent possible. Mary’s family and extensive cast of lifelong friends will forever speak fondly of the memories she created with us during her lifetime. The world is a much lesser place without Mary, but we can take solace that she is back with Bob, making new memories in heaven.

A celebration of lLife for Mary will be held at their 4M Ranch in Livermore on April 22, 2023.



CELEBRATION OF LIFE

Harvey Bernard Kameny
March 17, 1937 – Nov. 3, 2022



Harvey Bernard Kameny entered eternal rest unexpectedly on Nov. 23, 2022, in Pleasanton, at the age of 85.

He was born to Dr. Louis and Mrs. Pauline Kameny on March 17, 1937, in Oakland. He grew up in Alameda and resided in Pleasanton for the last 46 years. He is a graduate of Alameda High School and attended University of California, where he was a member of Phi Lambda Pi fraternity, as well as St. Mary’s College.

Harvey was a long time Pleasanton Rotarian and was very active within the community. He was an avid art and wine collector, as well as a supporter of the Ducks Unlimited group. He loved to travel the world via cruises and visited many places over the years. Harvey loved to spend his weekends watching football, especially the San Francisco 49ers and Cal Bears. When it wasn’t football season, you could find him in San Francisco at the home games of the Giants or at home watching the away games on TV.

He is survived by his wife, Kim Kameny; his children, Sharon Kameny, Kevin (Julie) Kameny and Diane (Jim) Carte; and his four beloved grandchildren, Brandon and Emily Kameny and Austin and Samantha Carte; and his beloved Bichon, Murphy. Although Harvey was an only child, he had an extended family with all his friends.

Friends and family are invited to a celebration of life service to share memories on Jan. 21, at 1 p.m., at Graham Hitch Funeral Home, 4167 First St., in Pleasanton.

William (Bill) P. Frey
June 11, 1929 – Dec. 28, 2022

We all say a great man has left this earth.

Dad grew up in Truckee, California, with his mom and sisters, Dorothea and Varien.

He worked at Lawrence Livermore Lab and retired

early so he and Mom could go on travel adventures. They got 48 good years in before Marion passed away.

He leaves behind his wife, Marilyn (of almost 10 years); and children, Linda Mendenhall, Scott Stewart,

Linda Frey and Bill Frey. He had five grandchildren who also thought he was a great man, as well as six great-grandchildren.

Dad will return to Truckee. You did a good job, Dad!

Anthony J. Escalona
Feb. 25, 1947 – Dec. 12, 2022

Anthony J. Escalona, 75 and a longtime Livermore resident, passed away on Dec. 12, 2022, in Modesto, California.

Anthony was born on Feb. 25, 1947, to the late Isabel and Anthony Escalona. The family lived in Decoto, California, and later moved to Livermore to ranch on Taylor Lane, on what is now the corner of Vasco Road and Daphne Way.

In 1956, the family moved into town, but continued farming in the area.

Anthony graduated from Livermore High School in 1965, was in the Future Farmers of America and exhibited livestock at the Alameda County Fair. He attended Modesto Jr. College and graduated with a degree in agricul-

ture mechanics. He continued his education at Fresno State College. Anthony worked at a tractor sales and parts store in Modesto.

He began his employment with the City of Livermore in the street department and later worked as a mechanic until his retirement in 2005.

Anthony enjoyed restoring old cars and participating at local car shows. He enjoyed spending time at their cabin in Twin Bridges, where he explored off-road Jeep trails with family and friends. Anthony was seldom without his twin brother by his side.

Anthony is preceded in death by his parents. He is survived by his brother, Gerald; sister, Barb Gould (Shingle Springs); nephews,

Brett Gould (Fiddletown) and Chris Gould (Manteca); and great-nephew Tommy C. Gould.

Services will be visitation on Monday, Jan. 16, from 3 to 7 p.m., with rosary at 7 p.m.; visitation on Tuesday, Jan. 17, from 9 to 10:30 a.m., at Callaghan Mortuary, 3833 East Ave. in Livermore; and Mass on Tuesday, Jan. 17, at 11 a.m., at St. Michael’s Catholic Church, 458 Maple St., in Livermore. Burial will follow at St. Michael’s Catholic Cemetery, 3885 East Ave., in Livermore.

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

Dublin Girls Go 2-1 at West Coast Jamboree



Granada's Cassidy Bartolotto shoots a three-point basket, above, during the Westcoast Jamboree girls' basketball tournament on Dec. 29 against the Pyramid Lake Lakers. Granada lost 54-57. [See photo gallery at www.independentnews.com/multimedia] (Photo - Doug Jorgensen)

By Nathan Canilao

The Dublin High School girls' basketball team went 2-1 at the West Coast Jamboree with wins over Valley and Hayward High Schools from Dec. 28 to Dec. 30.

The Dublin Gaels lost their first game of the tournament to Freedom High School 42-36. The loss put the Gaels in the consolation bracket for the remainder of the tournament.

In their second game, the Gaels defeated Valley High School 65-24. It was pure dominance from the jump as the Gaels put together an 11-0 run to start the game and didn't look back.

Dublin forward Kenya Craven led all scorers with 17 points. Sophomore forward Bhagya Gajula added 12 points in the win.

In the final game of the tournament, the Gaels faced Eastbay neighbor Hayward High School. The Gaels easily won 63-14.

Gajula led all scorers with 18 points while going 3-7 from behind the arc while adding five steals.

The Gaels improved to 8-4 after the tournament. Dublin will face Monte Vista High School on Jan. 13 on the road.



Granada Matador Jasmine Branda works the ball around the Lakers Shalaya Barraza during the Westcoast Jamboree on Dec. 29. [See photo gallery at www.independentnews.com/multimedia] (Photo - Doug Jorgensen)

Granada Boys Hold Strong at Damien Classic

By Nathan Canilao

The Granada High School boys' basketball team went 3-1 at the Damien Classic tournament in La Verne, California from Dec. 27 through Dec. 30. The Matadors made it to the tournament semifinals before losing to Cyprus High School from Magna, Utah.

The Matadors won their first game of the tournament against Lakewood High School 63-55.

In the second round, Granada faced St. Paul High School. The Matadors kept it tight until the third quarter and exploded for a 12-2 run to open up the game.

Granada eventually would pull out the victory while halting a St. Paul come back and won 56-51.

In the semi-final, the Matadors faced Cyprus High School. The Matadors got down big early but made a second quarter push to cut the deficit to 28-26 at

halftime.

Cyprus controlled the game in the second half and shut down the Matadors' offense. The Pirates eventually won the game 62-52.

In their final game of the tournament, Granada faced Windward High and defeated the Wildcats 58-46.

The Matadors picked up three key wins down south and improved to 11-3 on the season. They will face Priory High School at home on Jan. 6.

Foothill Wins Tim Cole Memorial Tournament

By Nathan Canilao

The Foothill boys' basketball team won the Tim Cole Memorial Tournament at American High School in Fremont, California on Dec. 30. They beat Mt. Eden High School in the championship game to secure the title.

The Falcons started the tournament strong, defeating

Saratoga High School 56-34.

In their second-round game, Foothill faced Washington High School whom they easily defeated 74-41.

The Falcons made it all the way to the championship game where they defeated Mt. Eden High School 50-31, capturing the tournament championship.

The Falcons started the game off on a 13-0 run and did not give up the lead. Foothill led 29-12 at halftime and closed out the game strong.

With the three victories, Foothill improves to 11-4 on the season and extends their winning streak to four. They will face Freedom High School at home on Jan. 6.



The Livermore Cowboys Boys Varsity soccer team hosted the Newark Memorial Cougars, on Thursday, Dec. 29. Livermore lost 2 to 1. (Photo - Doug Jorgensen)

Hard Loss for Livermore to Newark Memorial

By Nathan Canilao

The Livermore High School boys' soccer team lost their game to Newark Memorial High School 2-1 on Dec. 29. The loss drops the Livermore Cowboys to 5-4 on the season.

The Newark Cougars struck first, scoring a goal in the first half of play. Livermore would come back in the second to tie, but the Cougars got the decisive goal to win the game.

The Cowboys did enough to keep the match close but couldn't capitalize on their shot opportunities.

Newark kept the match at their pace and eventually came away with the win.

The loss extends the Livermore losing streak to two as they record their fourth loss of the season.

They will face California High School in their first league game of the season on Jan. 5.



Despite some fancy footwork from Livermore players, above, the Cowboys lost in a close 2-1 match. (Photo - Doug Jorgensen)

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LEGAL NOTICES

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 593598

The following person(s) doing business as: The Learning Wheel Preschool, 1432 Conannon Blvd, Livermore, CA 94550, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): The Kaur LLC, 4430 Central Parkway, Dublin, CA 94568. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Ramandeep Kaur, Manager. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 23, 2022. Expires November 22, 2027. The Independent, Legal No. 5329. Published December 15, 22, 29, 2022, January 5, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 593513

The following person(s) doing business as: Sierra Dust Offroad, 7724 Frederiksen Lane, Dublin, CA 94568, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Erik Bell, 7724 Frederiksen Lane, Dublin, CA 94568. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Erik Bell, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 18, 2022. Expires November 17, 2027. The Independent, Legal No. 5330. Published December 15, 22, 29, 2022, January 5, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 593522

The following person(s) doing business as: Owen Management, 747 Trinity Hills Lane, Livermore, CA 94550, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Jill De Anne Burns-Leon, 747 Trinity Hills Lane, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 11/1/2003. Signature of Registrant/s/: Jill De Anne Burns-Leon, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 21, 2022. Expires November 20, 2027. The Independent, Legal No. 5331. Published December 15, 22, 29, 2022, January 5, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 593545

The following person(s) doing business as: Crafted by Crobar, 3293 Madera Ave, Oakland, CA 94619, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Benjamin Croft, 3293 Madera Ave, Oakland, CA 94619. This business is conducted by a Married Couple. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Benjamin Croft, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 22, 2022. Expires November 21, 2027. The Independent, Legal No. 5332. Published December 15, 22, 29, 2022, January 5, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 593796

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Pizzeria Mercato; 2. Mercato, 5959 Shellmount ST. #75, Emeryville, CA 94608, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Modu-

sa Inc., 5959 Shellmount ST. #75 Emeryville, CA 94608. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 3/1/22. Signature of Registrant/s/: Dogan Ozdogan, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 5, 2022, 2022. Expires December 4, 2027. The Independent, Legal No. 5333. Published December 15, 22, 29, 2022, January 5, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 593788

The following person(s) doing business as: XO Ranch, 9757 Dubin Canyon Road, Castro Valle, CA 94552, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Palmer Ranch LLC, 9757 Dubin Canyon Road, Castro Valley, CA 94552. 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: 1/1/22. Signature of Registrant/s/: Mollie Cronin Palmer, Manager. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 5, 2022, 2022. Expires December 4, 2027. The Independent, Legal No. 5334. Published December 15, 22, 29, 2022, January 5, 2023.

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME Case No. 22CV022932

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF ALAMEDA

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:

Petitioner:
Ann Marie DeKay
3870 Santa Clara Way
Livermore, CA 94550
(925)577-4322
anndekay@sbcglobal.net

I place a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:
Present Name:
Ann Marie DeKay
Proposed Name:
Ann Gomez

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

NOTICE OF HEARING
Date: 1/27/2023
Time: 11:00 AM
Dept: 17

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

A copy of this Order To Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation printed in this county: The Independent Newspaper 2250 First Street, Livermore, CA 94550
Dated: 12/2/2022 /s/: Jamie Thomas, Deputy Clerk - Judge Charles A. Smiley.
The Independent, Legal No. 5335. Published December 22, 29, 2022, January 5, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 593894

The following person(s) doing business as: Thorn Wing Co., 636 Santa Ray Avenue, Oakland, CA 94610, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Sterling McElrath, 636 Santa Ray Avenue, Oakland, CA 94610. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 11/7/22. Signature of Registrant/s/: Sterling McElrath, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 9, 2022, 2022. Expires December 8, 2027. The Independent, Legal No. 5336. Published December 22, 29, 2022, January 5, 12, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 593832

The following person(s) doing business as: Eminent Carpet Cleaning, 3909 Grand Canyon CT, Pleasanton, CA 94588, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Adrian Guinn, 3909 Grand Canyon CT, Pleasanton, CA 94588. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 7/22/2002. Signature of Registrant/s/: Adrian Guinn, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 7, 2022. Expires December 6, 2027. The Independent, Legal No. 5337. Published December 22, 29, 2022, January 5, 12, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 593857

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Bell Liquor Market, 963 Bluebell Dr., Livermore, CA 94551, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): NPN Sharma Inc., 2787 E Pryor Dr., Fresno, CA 93720. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 12/2/2022. Signature of Registrant/s/: Navdeep Singh Sharma, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 8, 2022. Expires December 7, 2027. The Independent, Legal No. 5342. Published December 29, 2022, January 5, 12, 19, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 593903

The following person(s) doing business as: Web studio Group, 6200 Stoneridge Mall Road, Suite 300, Pleasanton, CA 94588, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Mitse LLC, 6200 Stoneridge Mall Road, Suite 300, Pleasanton, CA 94588. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Birinder Pal Singh Dhillon, Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 12, 2022. Expires December 11, 2027. The Independent, Legal No. 5338. Published December 22, 29, 2022, January 5, 12, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 593830

The following person(s) doing business as: Livermore Grocery Outlet, 1320 Railroad Ave, Livermore, CA 94550, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): GRNN Co., 5151 Northway Road, Pleasanton, CA 94566. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 7/1/2022. Signature of Registrant/s/: Supriah Gajendran, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 7, 2022. Expires December 6, 2027. The Independent, Legal No. 5339. Published December 22, 29, 2022, January 5, 12, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 593873

The following person(s) doing business as: Leo Outfitters, 5648 Mt Day Dr., Livermore, CA 94551, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Andrew Garcia, 5648 Mt Day Dr., 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/: Andrew Garcia, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 8, 2022, 2022. Expires December 7, 2027. The Independent, Legal No. 5340. Published December 22, 29, 2022, January 5, 12, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 593691

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. R&D Ventures LLC; 2. R and D Ventures, LLC 22357 Mission Blvd, Hayward, CA 94541, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): R&D Ventures LLC, 2500 Old Crow Canyon Rd Bld 6200 Ste 225, San Ramon, CA 94583. 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/: Jeanette Koskineni, Managing Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 30, 2022. Expires November 29, 2027. The Independent, Legal No. 5341. Published December 22, 29, 2022, January 5, 12, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 593857

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Bell Liquor Market, 963 Bluebell Dr., Livermore, CA 94551, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): NPN Sharma Inc., 2787 E Pryor Dr., Fresno, CA 93720. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 12/2/2022. Signature of Registrant/s/: Navdeep Singh Sharma, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 8, 2022. Expires December 7, 2027. The Independent, Legal No. 5342. Published December 29, 2022, January 5, 12, 19, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 593840

The following person(s) doing business as: Med Spa & Clinic, 4080 Eas Ave, Livermore, CA 94550, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Stephanie Gong, 6276 Camino Del Lago, 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: 10/27/2017. Signature of Registrant/s/: Stephanie Gong, Business Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 7, 2022. Expires December 6, 2027. The Independent, Legal No. 5343. Published December 29, 2022, January 5, 12, 19, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 594029

The following person(s) doing business as: Dublin Infiniti, 3800 A Kaiser Rd, Dublin, CA 94568. Mailing Address: 4200 John Monego CT, Dublin, CA 94568, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): East Bay Infiniti, Inc. 4200 John Monego Ct., Dublin, CA 94568. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 12/1/2022. Signature of Registrant/s/: Inder Dosanjh, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda

on December 16, 2022. Expires December 15, 2027. The Independent, Legal No. 5344. Published December 29, 2022, January 5, 12, 19, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 594280

The following person(s) doing business as: Cal Pro Brokers, 11501 Dublin Blvd, Ste 200, Dublin, CA 94568, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Cal Pro Brokers, Inc., 11501 Dublin Blvd, Ste 200, Dublin, CA 94568. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: William F. Ghiringhelli, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 22, 2022. Expires December 21, 2027. The Independent, Legal No. 5345. Published December 29, 2022, January 5, 12, 19, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 594083

The following person(s) doing business as: Bella 2 Nail Spa, 7375 Amador Valley Blvd, Suite 120, Dublin, CA 94568, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Bella Hair and Nail Salon, LLC, 1976 B St., Hayward, CA 94541. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 11/7/2022. Signature of Registrant/s/: Hoa D. Vo, President, Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 19, 2022. Expires December 18, 2027. The Independent, Legal No. 5346. Published December 29, 2022, January 5, 12, 19, 2023.

SUMMONS

Superior Court of California, County of Alameda. 24405 Amador St., Hayward, 94544 Hayward Hall of Justice. Robert Sassen has exhausted all options and attempts to find his wife Danyelle Allen. He would like to get divorced. Danyelle Allen abandoned Robert Sassen on 10/15/2013. The court finds that Danyelle Allen cannot be served in any other manner specified in the California Code of Civil Procedure. Danyelle Allen, you are being sued. You have 30 calendar days after this summons and petition are served on you to file a response at the court and have a copy served on the petitioner. A letter, phone call, or court appearance, will not protect you. If you do not file your response on time, the court may make orders affecting your marriage, or domestic partnership, your property, and custody of your children. You may be ordered to pay support in attorney fees and costs. For legal advice, contact a lawyer immediately. Get help finding a lawyer at the California courts online self-help center. The Independent, Legal No. 5347. Published January 5, 12, 19, 26, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 594365

The following person(s) doing business as: Smile More Dental Care, 1046 Murrieta Boulevard, Livermore, CA 94550, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Sharma Dental Group, 2655 Henley Parkway #7312, Tracy, CA 95377. 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/: Ashu Sharma, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 28, 2022. Expires December 27, 2027. The Independent, Legal No. 5348. Published January 5, 12, 19, 26, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 594364

The following person(s) doing business as: PolishedCrete, 5637 La Ribera Street Ste B, Livermore, CA 94550, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Bay Area Concretes Inc., 5637 La Ribera Street Ste B, 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: 11/1/12. Signature of Registrant/s/: Ryan T.Chance, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 28, 2022. Expires December 27, 2027. The Independent, Legal No. 5349. Published January 5, 12, 19, 26, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 593893

The following person(s) doing business as: Robles Construction, 565 Empire St., San Lorenzo, CA 94580, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Ma Del Carmen Robles Vazquez, 565 Empire St., San Lorenzo, CA 94580. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 12/1/22. Signature of Registrant/s/: Ma Del Carmen Robles, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 9, 2022. Expires December 8, 2027. The Independent, Legal No. 5350. Published January 5, 12, 19, 26, 2023.

Notice is hereby given that this is an Online Bid Process; only bids submitted through the online portal will be accepted. Please logon or register at <https://ebsourcing.acgov.org/>. RFQ #090211 Refurbishment and Re-Facing of Aluminum Traffic Signs - VENDOR-OUTREACH: Wednesday, January 4, 2023 at 10:30AM. TO ATTEND ONLINE: Join Microsoft Teams or Call-In: +1 415-915-3950 Conference ID: 504 517 635# NON-MANDATORY NETWORKING BIDDERS CONFERENCE: Thursday, January 12, 2023 at 10:00AM TO ATTEND ONLINE: Join Microsoft Teams - Meeting

ID: 239 196 930 489 Passcode: PfkZet or Call-In: +1 415-915-3950 Conference ID: 379 088 653# Response Due by 2:00PM on February 6, 2023. County Contact: Kevin Huynh at (510) 208-9426 or via email: kevin.huynh2@acgov.org. Specifications regarding the above may be obtained at the Alameda County GSA Current Contracting Opportunities Internet website at www.acgov.org. 1/5/23 CNS-3656857# The Independent, Legal No. 5351. Published January 5, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 593965

The following person(s) doing business as: The Happy Broom, 2895 Carmen Ave # 105, Livermore, CA 94550-3166, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Maria D. Alfaro Ramirez, 2895 Carmen Ave #105, Livermore, CA 94550-3166. 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: 4/12/22. Signature of Registrant/s/: Maria D. Alfaro Ramirez, Sole Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 15, 2022. Expires December 14, 2027. The Independent, Legal No. 5352. Published January 5, 12, 19, 26, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 594000

The following person(s) doing business as: Makison, Inc., 7335 Lamar Loop, Castro Valley, CA 94552, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Makison, Inc., 7335 Lamar Loop, Castro Valley, CA 94552. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 3/22. Signature of Registrant/s/: Hui Bao, CFO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 15, 2022. Expires December 14, 2027. The Independent, Legal No. 5353. Published January 5, 12, 19, 26, 2023.

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WWW.TVAR.ORG, to see adoptable animals, volunteer opportunities, and how to donate.

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NOTICES

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NEW YEAR'S EVE 2023



New Year's Eve revelers enjoyed ushering in 2023 with a celebration at Livermore's Shadow Puppet Brewing Company on Saturday, Dec. 31. From top: Mira Diaz, Candice Mcelhaney, Alex Alejandro, David Delgado toast the new year; Stacey and Amber Williams enjoy ringing in 2023; Bernard and Carmen Kraemer, in their new year's glasses, say goodbye to 2022; and Candice Mcelhaney celebrates with a game of cards and a happy new year hat. (Photos - Doug Jorgensen)

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Grief Meetings Free to Those in Need

The death of a loved one is unlike any other loss. Whether the death was sudden and tragic, or one with warning and preparation, the reality of death leaves most people in a state of shock, confusion and sadness. Grieving people need time and space to honor their grief and figure out how to keep on living when our loved one is gone. Those experiencing the loss of a loved one, are invited to a grief meeting at St. Elizabeth Seton, 4001 Stoneridge Drive in Pleasanton Thursday evenings Jan. 12 and 26; Feb. 9 and 23 and March 9 and 23. Meetings begin at 7 p.m., and all are welcome. No advance registration is necessary.

Livermore Warming Center Need Volunteers

The Livermore Warming Center opened on Dec. 17, 2022, as an overnight shelter for unhoused adult residents of Livermore, Pleasanton and Dublin. The warming center is open when overnight temperatures are forecasted at or below 45 degrees and/or a 20% chance or higher of rain is expected. Volunteers are needed for several shifts: 6-8 p.m., 8-10 p.m. (or one 6-10 p.m. shift), and, for early risers, 6-8 a.m. Volunteer duties include welcoming and registering guests, dinner service, assisting guests and staff as needed, monitoring entry and side area inside and outside, breakfast service, kitchen and general clean-up. Volunteers are asked to commit to a one- or two-day shift. The commitment will end April 30, 2023, at the latest. The warming center is operated by Livermore-based non-profit One Nation Dream Makers (501(c)(3) #82-2267805) and is located at the Veterans Memorial Building, 522 S. L St., Livermore, California. Hours of operation are 6 p.m. to 8 a.m.; the last guest for the evening may enter at 8p.m. Dinner is served, and a wrapped “to-go” breakfast is provided. As of this date twelve to thirteen guests are utilizing the warming center each night. Twenty-five guests can be accommodated. The warming center will operate through April 30, 2023.

The decision to establish this warming center was made based on county and local city assessments of unmet needs in Tri-Valley communities. The Livermore Area Recreation & Park District (LARP) has provided assistance and food donations have been received from Taste-ful Catering & Events, Cabana Dave's Catering, Mar Thomas Church and the Catholic Community of Pleasanton. Other donations including K-95 masks, hand sanitizer, sleeping mats, sleeping bags, gloves, “blessing bags” of supplies for unhoused individuals, and more have been provided by Arukah House, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.-San Ramon chapter, Livermore Homeless Refuge and Camp Parks.

The warming center's goal is to achieve very focused, active, and on-going interaction for local unhoused neighbors with service providers including Tri-Valley Seek & Save, Tri-Valley Haven, City-Serve of the Tri-Valley, Monthly Miracles, Abode Services, Echo Housing, Community Resources in

Independent Living, Bay Area Community Service, Alameda County Social Services, Tri-Valley Career Center, Axis Community Health and more. The result is expected to be increased utilization of available services, housing resources (including rooms for rent), street health services, education and employment services and more.

Financial and in-kind donations are welcome. Contact contact Livermore Warming Center Director, Kimberly White, kim@livermorewarmingcenter.org or 510-224-3755 to volunteer or donate. Visit the website at, www.livermorewarmingcenter.org, for more information.

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