

CPUC Cuts Incentives For Rooftop Solar Clients

By David Jen

REGIONAL – Schools, apartment buildings, and other electric customers with multiple meters will have less reason to install rooftop-solar power after a California Public Utilities Commission decision this month.

The CPUC voted unanimously to adopt a new virtual net billing tariff that reduces the amount paid to multimeter rooftop-solar customers. The decision upends the financial feasibility for many to gain a degree of energy independence and to help with decarbonization through solar power.

The change will not apply to existing program participants, or those that join within a 90-day grace (See SOLAR, page 6)

Funds for DC Ranch Easement Approved

By Larry Altman

LIVERMORE – The City Council on Monday unanimously approved a county committee’s recommendation to spend \$145,000 to buy 120 acres at Diran Ranch in eastern Alameda County to preserve the land for perpetuity.

The council’s approval was required following the Altamont Landfill Open Space Committee’s (ALOSC) vote in September to purchase the land located about 11 miles east of Livermore near the Carnegie State Vehicle Recreation Area.

Commonly known as the DC Ranch, the property owned by Jeannine Diranne is home to one of the largest documented populations of Large-flowered Fiddleneck, an orange trumpet-shaped flower that is natural to the region but endangered. The land also is home to threat-

(See COUNCIL, page 6)



Walkers along the ridge at Jordan Ranch Park in Dublin have an expansive view of the valley and the increasing residential growth in the area. A recent Zillow Home Value Index ranks home prices in Dublin at an average of \$1.29 million. (Photo – Doug Jorgensen)

Dublin and Pleasanton Home Prices Outpace San Francisco

By David Jen

It now costs more to buy a home in Pleasanton and Dublin than in San Francisco.

Tri-Valley home values have increased steadily since March in spite of mortgage-interest rates that have more than doubled since last year.

In October, Pleasanton’s Zillow Home Value Index — a metric that includes area appreciation and tax assessments in addition to recent sales data — valued Pleasanton homes at an average of \$1.58 million. Dublin home values came in at an average of \$1.29 million, above San Francisco’s aver-

age of \$1.25 million. Zillow showed Livermore homes at an average of \$1.09 million that same month.

Pleasanton’s small-town feel and highly ranked schools continue to bolster its home values, according to rental managers East Bay Property Management.

Pleasanton offers commuting options to San Francisco and Silicon Valley, but unlike Dublin, it serves as an established employment center in itself, making it possible to live and work in the same small city, said David Stark from the Bay East Association of Realtor. “Add to this a highly ranked school district, recreation opportunities, a reputation

for safety, and Pleasanton checks all the boxes.”

“It also has a vibrant downtown that some have argued has inspired other communities in the Tri-Valley to pump up their downtowns,” added Stark.

Addressing Dublin’s rise in home values, Stark said. “There was a big push, during COVID, when workers said, ‘My dwelling needs to be a shelter; it needs to be an office; (and) in some cases, it needs to be a school and it also needs to be a vacation resort’ and Dublin homes are all those things.

Dublin’s newer housing stock with higher energy efficiencies, along with its

(See HOME, page 7)

Wine Country Inn Developer Lists Controversial Land Site for Sale

By Larry Altman

LIVERMORE – The controversial effort to build the Livermore Wine Country Inn in South Livermore took an unusual twist this month when the developer suddenly listed her property for sale.

Michelle Boss, who proposed the inn in 2018 and battled neighbors for 2 ½ years over its design in court, said she is looking to either sell outright to someone else, take on a partner, or possibly hold onto it. An online listing shows the property and entitlements to build the approved hotel and other uses with a price tag of just under \$6 million.

“I will consider any offers received and am ready to sell under agreeable conditions,” Boss told The Independent. “One

of those conditions includes the fact that the only thing that can be built here is what the parcel is approved for. This community deserves the South Livermore Valley Wine Country Inn project to be built without further delay.”

Boss said that current lending rates make financing the project difficult. She listed the 3.2-acre vacant parcel and entitlements for her approved 30-room inn on Nov. 2 and has already received great interest.

“I’ve been having a lot of conversations with luxury developers as well as brands and soft brands. There’s no doubt in my mind that there would be a hotel there if this were to sell,” she said.

Boss, who purchased the parcel from Alameda County’s Surplus Property Authority

(See WINE COUNTRY, page 7)

Contamination Milestone Met

Storms Caused \$41M Damage to Zone 7 Channels

By Larry Altman

REGIONAL — The Zone 7 Water Agency estimates it will cost \$41 million over the next five years to repair 177 flood channel sites that were damaged during last winter’s heavy storms.

The water agency’s board began to address the issue during its Nov. 15 meeting, which included a 5-0 vote to spend an initial \$6.1 million of that price tag on design and permitting services to begin the repair process.

“We have applied to the local, federal and state agencies for public assistance,” said Jeff Tang, Zone 7 associate civil engineer. “However,

we’re not quite sure when that response will be addressed... It is likely that we will be partially reimbursed for the design and environmental permitting that we need to begin the work on.”

Last year, Zone 7 officials declared local states of emergency for each of a series of heavy storms that hit the Bay Area from January through March. Justin Pascual, a Zone 7 water resources engineer, told the board the storms’ intensity caused significant damage to Zone 7’s channels, many of them natural, including failures along banks, severe erosion, exposure of

(See ZONE 7, page 7)

Lab Engineer Turned Astronaut is Focus of Amazon Prime Movie

By Christina Cavallaro

LIVERMORE — The opening scenes of a new Amazon Prime biopic, “A Million Miles Away,” show a young boy glued to the television on a December evening in 1972 watching grainy images of the final take-off of Apollo 17, its destination the moon.

The boy’s amazement is palpable. The audience can see a dream forming in his young mind. The next scene flashes to him running outside in the light of the moon holding aloft a corn husk and whizzing it through the air

as an imaginary spaceship.

That young boy was 10-year-old José Hernández and the newly released “A Million Miles Away” is based on his 2012 autobiography “Reaching for the Stars: The Inspiring Story of a Migrant Farmworker Turned Astronaut.” The movie depicts Hernández’s tale of perseverance, community and sacrifice to accomplish a seemingly impossible dream.

The son of migrant farmworkers, Hernández grew up working in the fields

(See ASTRONAUT, page 6)



Astronaut José Hernández speaks at the dedication of the Dream Big mural in Livermore last fall. A new film, “A Million Miles Away,” is based on Hernández’s life and decades-long struggle to become an astronaut. (Photo – Doug Jorgensen)



Birch Creek Ranch owner Linda Marshall at her orchard in Livermore. Her olive oil recently won a gold medal at the 2023 California Olive Oil Council competition. (Photo – Doug Jorgensen) (See photo gallery at www.independentnews.com/multimedia)

Olive Oil Production: A Hidden Gem Thriving in the Livermore Valley

By Christina Cavallaro

LIVERMORE — Livermore is not so different from the little villages dotting Italy, Spain, France, or Greece when it comes to climate and agriculture.

But in a town that boasts more than 50 wineries and a thriving wine community, it might be easy to overlook another of Livermore’s agricultural commodities—its olive oil.

In nearly every hamlet throughout the Mediterranean, it’s part of life to visit a local olive oil producer, usually a neighbor or the community mill, and buy the revered culinary staple as you

would wine, cheese, bread, or meat.

Fresh, aromatic extra virgin olive oil sampled straight from the source in Europe is an experience not easily forgotten. But unless you live there, you need a plane ticket and a passport to benefit from it.

For residents of the Tri-Valley, that experience can be found right in our own backyard. Livermore is a bountiful source for local olive oil. And olive harvest is upon us, which means celebrating the first oil of the season, called “Olio Nuevo” or “new oil” (when discussing Spanish varieties) or “Olio Nuovo” (Italian varieties).

The milling of this celebratory oil results in a bright grass-green version, and the chance to explore the terroir of the Livermore Valley through the different olive cultivars that grow here. And harvest season is the perfect time to get to know our community mill and our olive oil producing neighbors.

In Italy, all roads lead to Rome. In Livermore, they lead to the Olivina Estate, established in 1881, and to the Crohare family, who have owned and operated the historic Olivina since 1939.

The Crohares have the largest olive orchard in the East Bay with almost 11,000 olive trees in production and

(See OLIVE OIL, page 6)

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PETS OF THE WEEK



WONDERFUL WATERCRESS

“Lettuce” introduce you to your new best friend, Watercress. She is the perfect blend of sweetness and sass. This 2-month-old “radishing” kitten is ready to “romaine” in your heart; she’s truly a “leaf” above the rest. Visit valleyhumane.org to learn more or email info@valleyhumane.org to start the adoption application process. (Photo – Valley Humane Society)

Chamber Orchestra Kicks Off Holiday Season with Handel’s Messiah



The Pacific Chamber Orchestra conducts the audience in the Hallelujah Reprise at the end of last weekend’s performance of George Frideric Handel’s “Messiah” at the Bankhead Theater in Livermore. (Photo courtesy of Claudine Cheng)

By Christina Cavallaro

The Pacific Chamber Orchestra kicked off the holiday season at the Bankhead Theater last weekend with a rousing performance of George Frideric Handel’s “Messiah.” Ironically, when the English-language oratorio now

synonymous with Christmas was first performed in Dublin, Ireland in 1742, it was at Easter time. “Somewhere along the way it became a Christmas tradition, but it didn’t start out that way,” said orchestra musical director Lawrence Kohl. Handel’s “Messiah” was quite radical for its day

which had a lot to do with its unique start. “There is no actual messiah in the ‘Messiah,’” said Kohl. It is more about human-kind’s reaction to the notion of there being a Messiah coming. And the verses, all taken from The Bible, reference people’s excitements or

fears about that idea and the trumpets that would sound. This unique absence of a Christ role meant the churches in London at the time didn’t feel it was religious enough and the demands on the soloists likely lent more naturally to using singers from the theater. But in those days, you could not have a theater singer performing in a religious setting. So that path was out too and the choral work that has become one of the most revered and oft performed in Western music almost fell into oblivion. After much convincing of the Bishop of Ireland at the time, Handel was allowed to perform it. Audiences there loved it. The next opportunity for its public viewing after Easter was naturally Christmas. And that tradition remains. The presentation at the Bankhead breathed the Christmas spirit through soprano Leslie Katter, contra alto Sara Couden, tenor Jon

Keenan, bass-baritone Ben Brady, and the orchestra’s 50-member chorus. And in a unique ending under Kohl’s direction, the chorus headed out into the audience for a reprise of the famed Hallelujah chorus. Kohl conducted from the stage with the soloists beside him, while the entire audience and the chorus sang along. “The audience becomes the choir,” said Kohl.

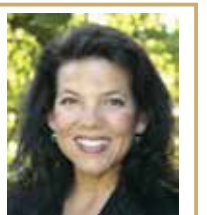


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In December Dublin and Livermore to Increase Checkpoints and Patrols

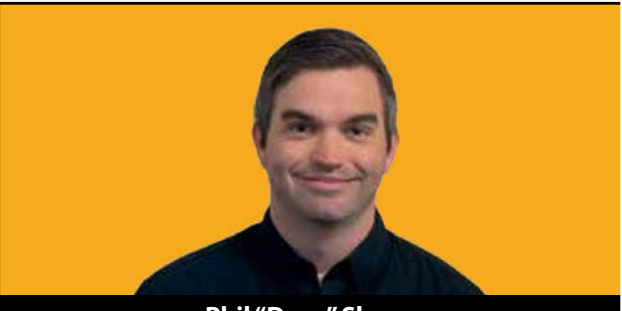
By Dawnmarie Fehr

Tri-Valley law enforcement agencies plan to set up DUI checkpoints and increase patrols during December. Both Dublin and Livermore police departments said they will do sobriety checkpoints on Dec. 15 at undisclosed locations and increase patrols on Dec. 16. Police said frequent parties during the holiday season lead to an increase in drivers under the influence of drugs or alcohol. Dublin Police Department’s Lt. Kevin Monaghan said checkpoints are meant to deter and apprehend intoxicated drivers in areas associated with a history of DUI-related collisions and arrests. “DUI checkpoints are also critically important to educate the public of the

dangers of drunk driving,” he said. Livermore Police Department spokesperson Azenith Smith said the checkpoints are funded by a grant from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. The grant requires the checkpoints to be implemented. However, they are also particularly desirable at this time of year. Smith said there is an increase in “drunk driving crashes” during the holiday season, increasing the need for deterrents. Under the law, police must release the date, but not the location, of checkpoints. California Highway Patrol (CHP) is also preparing for a maximum enforcement period (MEP) during the days surrounding Christmas and New Year’s Eve. Held during major holidays,

MEPs have long been used by the CHP to help save lives by addressing primary collision factors, such as impaired driving, speed and seatbelt use. CHP spokesperson Tyler Hahn said MEPs also assure a prompt response to any incident causing a hazard or traffic delay. The most recent MEP was held over Thanksgiving weekend, but the CHP said data was not ready as of press time. During last year’s Thanksgiving MEP, 37 people were killed in crashes within CHP jurisdiction statewide, and more than 8,600 citations were issued for speed and seatbelt violations. Officers also made 1,016 arrests for driving under the influence during the four-day MEP. “We use MEPs when holiday gatherings are

common, which leads to the increased chances of consuming alcohol,” Hahn said. “Every year, people’s lives are impacted forever by making the decision to get behind the wheel while under the influence.” Checkpoints and MEPs are announced to the public beforehand to gain voluntary compliance from the public and promote alternate plans, such as designating a sober driver, utilizing a ride-share program or cab, or choosing to skip drinking alcohol. Monaghan said DUI arrests and collisions are preventable, and law enforcement agencies hope to ensure safe roadways for all drivers this holiday season.



Phil “Dave” Sharp

Barnett Plumbing & Water Heaters is honored to recognize Phil “Dave” Sharp and his 5-year anniversary with our company. Phil began his career with us as a Customer Service Representative answering calls and helping our customers navigate the world of Water Heaters. After 2 years of service in the office, he made the switch to Warehouse Supervisor where he transformed our 4,000-square-foot warehouse into a well-oiled machine.

His readiness mentality has ensured that day in and day out our team is fully equipped to take care of our customers, while his commitment to the team, has him always looking for an opportunity to lend a hand.

We are grateful to have had Phil on the team these past 5 years and for the impact he has made on our company and community.

Thank you, Phil, for all of your hard work, we are a stronger more organized team because of you.

BARNETT PLUMBING & WATER HEATERS

Axis Can Help Individuals Enroll in Covered California and Medi-Cal

Open enrollment for Covered California health insurance coverage is open to anyone until January 31, 2024. Axis Community Health offers free enrollment assistance to help consumers with the process, including determining eligibility for financial support. Assistance at Axis is free and available in English and Spanish during business hours via phone, Monday through Friday. Other languages are also supported. To make an appointment with an enrollment counselor, call Axis at (925) 462-1755. “Health insurance is confusing. We will answer your questions,” says Diego Alonzo, Community Engagement Manager for Axis. “Our enrollment counselors can help determine your eligibility for Covered California, Medi-Cal, or CalFresh during a free enrollment assistance appointment.” Covered CA offers plans from private insurance companies that are available for U.S. citizens and for documented immigrants. Applicants cannot be denied coverage due to preexisting conditions. Many applicants are eligible to receive financial assistance to help cover the cost of plans and services. Individuals with an income of \$58,320 or less qualify; a family of four with an income of \$120,000 or less qualifies. In 2024, those who do not qualify for financial assistance may still be eligible to receive a federal tax credit to help lower their premiums. For coverage starting January 1, enroll by December 31. For coverage beginning February 1, enroll by January 31. Plans purchased during the current

open enrollment period will be honored through the end of 2024. “It’s important that consumers do not miss the open enrollment window for Covered CA, or they may not have another opportunity to enroll,” says Alonzo. “Remember, you must now have coverage or potentially face a state tax penalty.” Axis counselors also assist people with Medi-Cal and Medi-Cal renewals. To qualify for Medi-Cal, an individual must meet income and other eligibility requirements. For individuals, an income of \$20,121 or less qualifies; for a family of four, an income of \$41,400 or less qualifies. New in 2024, Alameda County

residents 26-49 years of age may be eligible for full-scope Medi-Cal. Immigration status does not matter. Axis can help you determine if you qualify for full-scope Medi-Cal and help you apply for health care coverage. For more information, call Axis at (925) 462-1755 or visit axishealth.org. Axis Community Health provides quality, affordable medical, dental, and behavioral health services that promote the well-being of all members of the community. A non-profit organization founded in 1972, Axis provides services for 15,000 local residents. For more information, call 925-462-1755 or visit www.axishealth.org.

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EDITORIAL

New Rooftop-Solar Policy Hinders Decarbonization

California’s decarbonization efforts suffered a major setback this month, with a policy decision that will turn many electric customers away from rooftop-solar installations.

Rooftop solar, where individual homes and businesses invest their own money to add carbon-free power and energy resiliency to the power grid, plays a key role in the state’s decarbonization goals.

California aims to reach carbon neutrality by 2045. To achieve that goal, the California Air Resources Board released a scoping plan last year calling for 3 million climate-friendly homes by 2030 and 7 million by 2035.

Yet the California Public Utilities Commission voted earlier this month to cut rooftop-solar compensation to new installations with multiple meters, such as those on schools, apartment buildings and farms. These solar customers were previously allowed to offset the power they consumed with the power they produced through a virtual net-metering program, but are now denied that offset.

While the adopted proposal still allows for net-metering for individual apartment units, the common areas of an apartment building — such as hallways, gyms and outdoor areas — were not similarly protected.

For many, the change extends the financial recovery period of rooftop-solar projects to the point of infeasibility.

In addition to the unrealized capacity and resiliency from these lost projects, downstream decarbonization efforts that relied on rooftop solar, such as electric-vehicle infrastructure, will experience their own setbacks from the missing generation.

“We cannot install rooftop solar on school sites, convert district vehicle and bus fleets to electric vehicles, and install charging infrastructure in parking lots without any financial benefit to help us finance these significant investments,” said Nancy

Chaires Espinoza, Executive Director of the School Energy Coalition, in a California Solar and Storage Association press release.

Prior to the vote, advocates of renters, schools, farmers and developers — including Livermore Indivisible and the East Bay Clean Power Alliance — decried the proposal.

The state now turns to its legislators to bring our decarbonization path back on course. The compensation programs for both single-family and multiple-meter rooftop solar deserve to be revisited. Your California Assemblymember and Senator can be contacted through findyourrep@legislature.ca.gov.

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.*

Please Save The Date
Donna Cabanne, Livermore

Please save the date. On Monday Dec. 11, the Livermore City Council will consider the Airport Commission’s recommendations for Minimal Airport Standards. Please ask the Council to follow the Commission’s recommendations to require the Fixed Base Operator (FBO) to start selling unleaded aviation fuel at Livermore Airport (LVK).

At least seven California airports now sell unleaded aviation fuel; Hayward: Oxnard, Reid-Hillview (San Jose), San Carlos, San Martin, San Monica, and Watsonville. In addition, unleaded av fuel is sold at Denver, Colorado; Naples, Deland, Sebring, Florida; Muncie, Anderson, Michigan City, Indiana; Falmouth, Great Barrington, Massachusetts; Marshall, Michigan; South St. Paul, Stanton, Minnesota; Georgetown, Wauseon, Ohio; Smoketown, Pennsylvania; Waco, Texas; East Troy, Franksville, Prairie Du Sac, Pulaski, Portage, Phillips, Cumberland, Neillsville, Wisconsin.

35 airports are now selling unleaded av fuel safely. It’s time for Livermore to follow their lead.

A second tank exists at the airport for unleaded av fuel and/or the city can purchase a new 8,500-gallon tank using Airport Enterprise Funds. FAA grants are also available for additional fuel tanks. The price difference between leaded and unlead-

ed av fuel would be about one dollar more per gallon. A dollar a gallon difference is not much to ask to protect the health of Tri-Valley children and residents. Ask the City Council to act now to reduce lead air exposure from small piston aircraft.

Respected Journalist, Ron McNicoll
Bill Stevens, Livermore

I read about Ron’s passing today. I knew Ron when he was reporting on Zone 7 Water Agency matters when I was on the Board of Directors for 20 years. He interviewed me for most of my 5 elections and for hot water supply and flood control topics. I would tell Ron things “off the record” about water politics and infrastructure, and sometimes my frustrations and opinions; and he never published any of my “off the record” remarks. I believe he used the information I provided as a learning tool. He was honest and never inserted his opinions or nuanced phrases in any of the articles he wrote. He was an old-fashioned, honest journalist, not like the journalists I read in the newspapers and magazines nowadays. In my latter years on the board, Direct Quigley used to give Ron rides to the Zone 7 Board meetings due to his deteriorating health. Rest in Peace Ron, a respected journalist.

Don’t break Livermore’s Urban Growth Boundry
Richard Ryon, Livermore

The Livermore City Council is proposing to break the Urban Growth Boundary (UGB) in order to accommodate industrial development east of Greenville Road. At a recent public meeting to discuss its General Plan update, a very biased presentation was made by the city’s consultant to support industrialization east of Greenville Road in land now reserved for agriculture and open space. It was simply a sales presentation. No mention was made of the need, the amount of land or buildings available within the UGB, nor of the benefits of leaving the boundary at Greenville Road.

Prior to the establishment of the UGB by initiative in 2002, Alameda County persistently advocated expansion of urban growth outside city limits, most notably in North Livermore. The county’s Flood Control and Water Conservation District, Zone 7, was seen as the agency to supply water through its contract to import water from the California Water Project. Former Pleasanton mayor Bob Pearson and I were elected to the Board of Directors of Zone 7 in opposition to supplying water to develop-

ment outside city limits. We were successful in our opposition, but it was always nip-and-tuck.

The majority of residents in the Livermore Valley gave a sigh of relief when the UGB was established. When Pard-ee tried to break the UGB to establish a “new town” in the north of Livermore in 2005, voters overwhelmingly voted down the proposal. I suspect public opinion remains unchanged in the years since. I believe the people of Livermore enjoy being surrounded by vineyards and open space, rather than being in a city indistinguishable from its neighbors, as are the cities closer to the San Francisco Bay.

I urge you to contact Livermore City Council members to abandon any thought of breaking the current UGB. They can be reached at www.livermoreca.gov/government/city-council. This web page gives their e-mail addresses. Exercise your citizen’s right to inform your representatives of your views.

It Takes a Heart to Cry
Patricia Munro, Livermore

Since the barbaric attacks on Israel by Hamas, the terrorist government of Gaza, the world—including Livermore and the Bay Area—have been singularly focused on the resulting war and its terrible cost.

Though it takes knowledge to understand context and make policy, it only takes a heart to cry for all those who have died in this terrible war. They were parents, children, brothers, sisters, friends, community members. No matter who they were, how old they were, how they lived or how they died, their absence leaves great holes where there was once someone to hold, someone to live life with. That grief is something our community can share.

I would prefer to focus on Livermore in these letters of the editor, but I can no longer ignore the way this subject has made its way into our lives in ways that are painful and divisive for individuals and communities. For me, these past weeks have been agonizing. Israel—and Jewish history writ large—is personal. It is part of my identity. In addition, I have spent much of my life studying Jews, Judaism, Jewish history, and the historical and geographical context of Israel and the Middle East. (Though I have also studied Islam and the larger history of the Middle East, it would be chutzpah for me to speak about those subjects or the Palestinian lived experience. I respect those experiences and that history, but the danger of voicing opinions and making assumptions without adequate knowledge often creates more harm than does

silence.)

As I have listened and read, I have been struck by the lack of knowledge of Jews, Judaism, and how Jews fit into world history—including the world’s long history of anti-Judaism. I have been struck by the lack of knowledge of how the European colonial powers (particularly Britain) shaped the entire Middle East. I have been struck by how some words have been flipped on their heads in order to delegitimize Israel’s existence (as opposed to supporting a two-state solution to the region). These are all areas I can speak to with some authority and will—but not here. With the exception of this one letter, local papers should remain places to discuss local issues. Rather, I will be using the Substack platform (<https://questionsassumptions.substack.com/>) to inform, to learn, and to discuss these issues. Do join me.

Surprise! Residents Care About the Environment
Doug Mann, Livermore

In July, I wrote to explain how Livermore officials are undertaking a multi-step process to violate our Urban Growth Boundary by punching a hole through our eastern greenbelt. In “Step 3”, I expressed that the Council’s handpicked members on the “Advisory Committee of Insiders” will move their plan along by recommending the UGB be expanded. Now, we can see they are not even being subtle; every single one of their proposals includes a massive breach of the eastern UGB, which would eat up open space and expand the size of our city by 10%.

A regulatory requirement of “Step 3” includes public workshops, one of which was held November 15th. Here, the Insiders conveyed the false appearance that they care what the public has to say. It didn’t go well for them. The results were reported in last week’s Independent, and the outcome was predictable.

Real people want to protect the environment and save open space. Very few want to break our Boundary. The Committee of Insiders will ignore your opinion of course, and they will still propose violating our UGB no matter how much public pressure they receive.

Ultimately, Council will approve breaking the UGB - on that, you can be sure. The only thing that will stop them is YOU (Step 9), when it goes to the ballot for an up or down vote.

On the Passing of Ron McNicoll
Dick Corso, Livermore

Ron was key to the probing of the former charter

schools in Livermore under Tri-Valley Learning Center. He helped uncover the pattern of personal gain by former leaders of the group and some of the administration, especially the high school. His probing was thoughtful and incisive. He got to the point that helped many of us to shut down the corrupt group and stop the graft, and he helped create visibility that gave many of us an opportunity to change the law around the charter school, providing transparency. Ron will be missed; he made an impact on many people in a positive way.

Apologies?
David Furst, Livermore

In Patricia Munro’s latest weekly Letter to the Editor, she seems upset that a newspaper would publish information. Publishing descriptive information about people who are the subject of an article is an essential part of reporting. Although Ms. Munro seems to think that being elderly is a negative, many of us who are elderly do not believe it is an issue. Maybe it is she who owes the apology?

Gavin Steals from Kids, Churches, Farms, and You
Alan Marling, Livermore

Governor Newsom’s energy commission (CPUC) made a ruling that is both harmful and outrageous. They declared that power produced by rooftop solar installed by schools, churches, and farms belongs not to the people who paid for it, but to PG&E. Also, a cut must be paid to the corporation. This seizure of property built after 2023 will discourage many from installing rooftop solar, even during a climate crisis, and will harm small businesses. This ruling helps no one and nothing except for PG&E’s bottom line. I wish to list by name the corrupt commissioners responsible for this betrayal:

Alice Busching Reynolds
Genevieve Shiroma
Darcie L. Houck
John Reynolds
Karen Douglas

These commissioners are all appointed by Governor Gavin Newsom. Directly and indirectly, he has accepted over \$700,000 from PG&E, according to a 2019 Washington Post article. By now, it’s likely over a million dollars.

At the same Nov. 16 meeting, the CPUC unanimously approved a 13% rate hike to PG&E, a criminal and negligent company that burns Californians every way it can.

Unanswered Questions On the Growth Plan
Rifka Seval, Livermore

I was pleased to be part of the General Plan 2045 work-

shop, having the opportunity to meet with a random group of community members to review five proposed growth plans. My table, along with a majority of the other tables, unanimously agreed to maintain the Urban Growth Boundary approved by voters in 2002 and not to recommend development east of Greenville.

We had unanswered questions on the other four proposed scenarios:

What effect would the new residential and industrial developments have on the 580-commute corridor, and the surface streets already increasingly being used by commuters.

The impact on existing schools with increased residences, and any proposals for new schools to reduce the need for students to travel distances from the new residential areas to attend.

Data on the increased water, sewer and garbage services that would be needed, and how these would be met with our existing infrastructure or proposed expansions.

Budget projections for increased police and fire services and plans for satellite stations.

Additional information on how the population projections were achieved would be helpful, given the current downward trend since 2019.

I appreciate the time and thought that went into the different growth plans. It’s clear we need more information to make wise decisions for the future of our community. Careful consideration should be given to citizen input not to make changes to the Urban Growth Boundary, which was a promise we made to our future.

Urban Growth Boundary (UGB)
Thomas Soules, Livermore

I attended the city wide meeting on the UGB for the first time last night. Two things struck me immediately. First the city’s population is not increasing but decreasing so the need for 15,000 more housing units is very questionable. I often go past the huge Legacy apartment complex that was completed in May right downtown. In spite of being a prime location and being leased since May, I see only a few cars and lights on. No more than half a dozen of the 220 units appear to be occupied and there is another Eden housing complex to be built across the street! The second thing that struck me is that if you want to grow the community you need jobs and industry. Building industry outside of the downtown is a good idea. However, why can’t the county zone some of this

(See MAILBOX, page 5)

MAILBOX

(Continued from 4 page)

land adjacent to Livermore as industrial? It seems to me that there is no need for this to be part of the city proper and there is plenty of land.

To Prevent a Repeat of October 7

Russ Greenlaw, Livermore

A few weeks ago, The Independent printed a letter from Jeff Kaskey. I have mislaid that issue, but I recall his ancestors included survivors and victims of the Holocaust.

I am neither Jewish, nor do I have any known ancestors who were subjected to genocide, at least not since 1746 when the British Crown, under George II, attempted to eliminate the Macdonald clan.

Regardless, I support Israel's right to exist and to defend herself. On October 7, knowing that Hamas and Hezbollah have been firing rockets into Israel for decades and conducting raids into Israel to terrorize her combined population of Jews (73.5%), Muslims (21%) Christians and others (5.5%), my first thoughts were that to stop this repeat terrorism, Hamas must be broken as thoroughly as was Nazi Germany and Imperial Japan. As Cato often spoke in the Senate, "Carthage must be destroyed," and it was, ending 118 years of wars between Rome and Carthage.

Considering Hamas' history, I was not surprised that the attack took place, but outraged at the clear targeting of unarmed civilians including whole families and young children. There was no military objective in deliberately slaughtering little children. It was certain to provoke a major response.

I am also dismayed at the public outpouring of hatred for Israel by inadequately educated students and others, and their slogans such as "75 years of occupation," which is less than accurate. Even if it were accurate, nothing could be changed by the murder of children and parents in their homes and recording the same in videos with chants while decapitating a dead Thai farmer.

The lead letter in The Independent of November 23 attempts to justify the attack of October 7 with an incomplete recitation of history and condemns Israel's military actions as if she were attacking Hamas in retribution for Hitler's atrocities. The writer omits that a large portion of Palestinians lived in Jordan, not under Israeli occupation, for decades before resettling west.

Those who brand Israel an occupier should remember that Israel was there before the Ottoman Empire, before Mohammad, thousands of years before Caesar and Alexander. Jewish and Christian populations in Arabia and the east and south shores of the Mediterranean were displaced by Muslim Arabs 1,400 years ago.

Asking, "Who is the occupier?" is not the point. Israel attacks Hamas not to

avenge a 1400-year-old invasion but to rightfully prevent a repeat of Oct. 7.

Protect the UGB

Susan Springer, Livermore

The majority of attendees at the recent workshop hosted by the City of Livermore to update the General Plan were opposed to expanding the urban growth boundary (UGB) at Greenville Road. Livermore citizens repeatedly voiced their preference for open space, and yet proposals surface to expand the UGB in favor of industrial and commercial development. The table where I was seated unanimously preferred that the city focus on infill of existing unutilized commercial and industrial properties within the city limits. Examples of areas for potential development include the Rincon and Pacific Avenue shopping centers, the commercial center on Southfront Road, and space on Las Positas Road south of First Street. We need to protect the UGB from attempts by the city to break it. Don't turn us into another Dublin.

America Slumbers Through Bloodlust

Greg Scott, Livermore

The buxom young woman markets red wine barrel-aged tequila at a display table in front of the liquor store. The \$300,000 cars flit about in the adjacent parking lot. If metaphorically the red wine essence is blood, can it be tasted over the anesthesia from the blue agave? Millions of dollars chase tens of millions of dollars in a bubble of reality. The Navy and aeronautical manufacturing town I grew up in is unrecognizable to me now.

In this environment, I'm not hearing the words "Gaza," "Palestine," or "Israel," as much as I hear the word "pickleball." Failure to understand social conflict is not foreign here. When I was a child, Jews could not purchase homes in La Jolla, so a number of Jews bought homes in Del Cerro, a ridge across the San Diego River from San Diego State College (now University).

I had childhood male friends from a neighboring Jewish family. Their father was a child prodigy piano player and became a brilliant surgeon. This doctor had a bicycle I had never seen before as a kid: it had three front chain rings, which made it a fifteen-speed with the five-gear rear sprocket. He rode this bicycle all over Europe shortly after World War II. Tragically, this Jewish doctor, at the age of 57, was killed by a drunk teenage driver while riding his bicycle near Mount San Miguel.

My grandfather was left for dead from being shot in a battle in northern France in World War I. In the aftermath, a Jewish family found him, then hid and nursed him until he recovered in their home, so he could return to Allied lines. He was later gassed with phosgene

by the Germans in another battle. Religiously, my grandfather wrote letters to that Jewish family until he lost contact with them at the end of the 1920s or the start of the 1930s. You European history buffs can make educated guesses why.

The stupidity of warfare marches on. The Geneva Conventions were drafted after World War I. Now Israel bombs with white phosphorus. The world witnesses the United States arm Israel's atrocities. The "shots heard round the world" ring again with Hamas's murderous attacks last October 7th and Israel's war crimes in retribution. We cannot continue with this insanity.

The blood from America's role in Israel's campaign tastes angry. #ceasefirenow

Open Space Is Livermore's Treasure

Susan Putnam, Livermore

The City of Livermore is now updating its General Plan that will guide decisions for the next 20 years on critical issues, including housing and jobs. Their in-person outreach to the community and online ImagineLivermore2045.org provides an opportunity for all citizens to voice their opinions on the future growth of our city.

Livermore residents have consistently championed open space and agriculture, decidedly voting in favor of the Livermore Urban Growth Boundary (UGB) in 2002. As a result of this effort, all Livermore residents enjoy the beauty of open space balanced with growth in housing and jobs, combined with less traffic congestion, fewer water usage issues, and limited impact to surrounding habitat.

There is enough space within our present Livermore boundaries to accommodate projected residential and job growth for the next 20+ years. There's no reason for Livermore to break the UGB by moving the boundary to the east of Greenville Road.

Voice your opinion now to protect Livermore's open space for the future.

Dublin Doesn't Have Enough Police

Mike Grant, Dublin

At a November 7th council meeting, after hearing public speakers, the mayor made a comment saying that the city has enough police. She brought this up because several citizens questioned why the council and mayor were willing to spend \$300,000 dollars on an election so they could stay in office 12 more years. The citizens asked about putting more police on the streets — and this idea was basically put down and killed by the mayor, who said that the city has the right amount of officers.

This mayor and council have no idea what public safety is or how to make this city safe from crime. But if you took a picture of the group, the entire council

and mayor would be in front for the news. This is not the Dublin police department's fault — it's the city manager, mayor and council who decide how many officers we have to protect our citizens.

So, let's talk about the ratio we should have in Dublin for officers to citizens. Our city has around 72,000 people, and we only have 62 sworn officers. Out of those 62 officers, there may only be 57 that actually hit the streets. The FBI calls for a 1.1 ratio of officers for a city of our size from their report. So that puts us down as much as 15 sworn officers on the street. This understaffing issue has been going back to 2016, an example of how slow the mayor, council and city manager are to react.

In 2016-2017 our population was 63,241 and there were 55 sworn officers. In

2018 our population was 54,577, with 57 sworn officers. In 2019-2020 our population was 65,716, with 59 sworn officers. In June of this year, the AG Bonta released a crime report for one year, 2021 to 2022, showing a 22% increase in crime across the state. Carjackings are up, assaults are up, home invasions are up, and major shoplifting is off the charts.

I know of one business in Dublin hit by robbers reaching in through broken windows and pulling items from the shelves. This business has been hit 14 times over the years!

Let's vote this mayor and council out!!

The Livermore School District Made the Right Choice

Bobbie Wehner-Miller, Livermore

This must be a joke. Par-

ents have been complaining to Chris about Right at School for 2 years now. Unfortunately, his lack of caring and action has now scarred many kids. RAS teachers have gotten into fights causing kids to feel terrified and crying. I'm just wondering why Chris has passed the buck back to RAS, or lied when he said ESS would be back to Lawrence Elementary last winter.

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OLIVE OIL

(Continued from front page)



Charles Crohare, whose family has owned and operated Olivina since 1939, tends to a batch of olive oil at the family's mill in Livermore. (Photo – Doug Jorgensen)

a state-of-the-art olive mill on-site that allows them to produce their certified extra virgin olive oils within hours of harvest. They also press the olives of many other producers from Livermore and other cities.

Fourth generation Charles Crohare said supporting others in the community who are producing quality oil is as important to his family as their own production.

One such producer is Matthew Sylvester, who tends to an olive orchard on Arroyo Road and Hansen Road for an absentee owner and brings the fruit to Olivina to mill. Crohare has a particular soft spot for Sylvester and his wife Helena, who together run Happy Acre Farm in Sunol.

“Matthew and Helena are great,” said Crohare. “They’re a young couple

and they’re the future of farming. I’d like to see more younger ones like them.” And Sylvester has been grateful for Crohare’s ongoing support. “He’s hell a cool,” he said. “He lets me borrow bins and stuff. And just his help has been so great. The Crohares have been mentors of mine for sure.”

Crohare, who in addition to custom milling for a thousand pounds of olives or more, opens his tasting room to the public on the third Sunday of every month.

“People enjoy the experience. Some just totally dive in and I say, ‘Now (we’re) addicted, (we’re yours) for life,’ he said. “But I tell them it doesn’t even have to be ours, as long as it’s true extra virgin olive oil. You’ll find a flavor profile that you like the best. Just make sure you’re getting

the real deal and not the junk that’s out there.”

While the Crohares have been in the olive oil business the longest in Livermore, there are plenty of other options—everything from Italian, Spanish, Greek and California native Mission olive. But sometimes it takes a little work to find them.

In Livermore you can wander through the Purple Orchid on your way to the spa and take a quick sip of their estate Manzanilla olive oil from a stainless-steel dispenser in the reception area. This dispenser, also known as a ‘fusti’, steel drum in Italian, is designed to safely hold oils.

Armie Kaufman of the Olive Oil Pantry on First Street is also a resource for local producers who have a large enough crop yield to offer his store some of their oil for his

customers to buy.

Kaufman suggested Cerro Vista Ranch as a local option for tasting in his store. “They have a horse ranch out there, but also a farm that is covered in olive trees.”

Other outlets around town to pick up local oil offerings are boutique shops and cafes like the Cheese Parlor, Wingen Bakery, Charming Fig and Rosetta Roasting.

A great occasion for tasting the latest harvest oils from the valley is at the upcoming annual Holidays in the Vineyards (Dec. 2 and 3), when the Livermore Valley wine community invites the public for special tastings of olive oil in addition to wine.

For Tarric and Remily El-Sayed of El Sayed Orchard. There is one goal.

“Our business goal is not to go broke,” said Tarric El-Sayed.

Their operation is so small that their friends help them hand-harvest to remove leaves and stems before it gets to Olivina for milling.

Linda Marshall of the Olive Orchard at Birch Creek Ranch didn’t set out to be an olive farmer. “I’m a city girl and an event planner,” she said. But when her family needed someone to tend to the trees in front of their property on Patterson Pass Road, they put her in charge with successful results—oil that has consistently won awards, most recently a gold medal at the 2023 California Olive Oil Council competition.

Terry Carson and his wife Nancy Frishberg of Rancho Milagro came to olives after suffering from what Frishberg called “nature-deficit disorder”, that is, years of commuting to city-based day jobs.

“There’s something special about working in the fresh air. And there’s a romance to olives. You drizzle some of this wonderful oil on the fresh organic vegetables we grow and it’s like, how could it get any better?” said Carson.

ASTRONAUT

(Continued from front page)

picking seasonal produce as his family traveled between California and Mexico chasing the harvests. The family finally settled in Stockton at the urging of Hernández’s second-grade teacher, Mrs. Young, who saw his potential.

In the movie, a young Hernández asks her, “What are stars for?”

She replies, “I think you’re going to be the kind of kid to find out. You are a force of nature. Nothing will stop you. Remember that.”

Hernández didn’t fully learn English until he was 12, but he excelled at math and was determined the rest of his life would not be spent on his hands and knees in the dirt.

He went on to become an engineer and spent more than 15 years at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL), where he worked on the development of a space deployed X-Ray laser as part of the Strategic Defense Initiative. But he was most proud, he said in an article on the LLNL website, of his co-development of the first full-field digital mammography system for the earlier detection of breast cancer.

Despite all of his career achievements, the one thing Hernández continued to want most was to be an astronaut. He applied to NASA year after year, even as his dream seemed to get further from his grasp. In the movie, a pep talk from his cousin Beto pushes him to persevere “Who better,” he asks Hernández, “than a migrant who dives into this ground to leave the planet?”

And after 11 straight rejections by NASA, Hernández’s tenacity finally paid off. In 2004, at the age of 41, he became one of the 19th class of NASA astronauts.

Following 18 more months of intense training, Hernández’s lifelong ambition was finally realized when Discovery launched from Cape Canaveral on a two-week mission.

Hernandez said in the LLNL article, “You go from zero to 17,500 miles an hour in eight-and-a-half minutes. Once you’re up there 300 miles above the ground, you’re going around the world once every 90 minutes in a continuous fashion, and you’re free-floating in a microgravity environment.” Hernández added, “Once the

solid rocket boosters light up, you know you’re going somewhere, because you can’t turn them off.”

One of the first things he did in orbit was to view the planet from a perspective only about 550 humans have ever had. The experience left him forever changed.

From above, he couldn’t make out where Canada ended and the U.S. began, or where the U.S. ended, and Mexico began. “I had come to realize that down there, we’re really just one—that borders are human-made concepts designed to separate us.”

He had another epiphany during the shuttle’s 219 revolutions around the Earth as it passed from the dark side of the planet into the light of the sunrise.

“When the sun hits the horizon at the right angle, you can see the thickness of our atmosphere, and you realize how scary-thin and fragile our environment is — that’s when I became an instant environmentalist,” he said.

Hernández was in attendance last year at a ceremony in Livermore to inaugurate a new mural meant to inspire viewers to reach for the stars. The 17 feet tall by 77 feet long mural, visible from K Street, depicts five astronauts, including Hernández, who worked at LLNL or Sandia national laboratories either before or after achieving their dream of visiting space.

On seeing his life portrayed in film, Hernández said in the LLNL article, “It’s kind of surreal. I never grew up and said, ‘Gee, I hope that I grow up and they make a movie about me;’ that’s just not one of the goals in life I had.” He continued, “It’s incredibly humbling to have a movie done about yourself. I hope it provides direction for kids and adults that anything is possible in life.”

And since his time at NASA and after so many years spent in the public eye as an aerospace consultant, speaker and UC Regent, Hernández has gone quietly back to his roots. He’s spending time with his family farming and growing grapes in Lodi with his father Salvador.

Hernández’s view of the constellations from space inspired the naming of his Tierra Luna Cellars.

SOLAR

(Continued from front page)

period.

Sasha Horwitz, of the Los Angeles Unified School District, said the district “strongly opposed” the proposal.

“Rising energy costs will make it harder for Los Angeles Unified to reach its climate goals,” said Horwitz at the CPUC meeting. “These costs will come out of our classrooms, hurting our ability to reduce emissions, electrify our schools, and invest in a safe, healthy learning environment for our children.”

Patricia Blevins, a San Jose resident, urged the Commission to further encourage rooftop-solar adoption.

“In a time of climate disaster, the CPUC should be doing whatever it can to promote rooftop solar in California, and not destroy it,” she said.

The change follows a similar decision, approved last December, that reduced the amount paid to single-family solar customers exporting power to the grid.

In both cases, the CPUC and utilities argued that early rooftop-solar compensation programs paid solar owners the cost of transmission and distribution, even though those owners did not help maintain the grid’s distribution infrastructure.

Commission President Alice Reynolds said, “These programs and tariffs, however, were always intentionally designed to ramp down as the industry came up to commercial scale and became able to provide their products to customers at lower cost.”

Alice Reynolds also went on to describe the cost shifts created by the state’s subsidy programs.

“The subsidies for commercial solar systems come from one place: other customers on the system,” she said. “Any solar subsidy done through a tariff, does affect other customers, and many of those customers are already struggling to pay their bills.”

Commissioner John Reynolds said this month’s multimeter decision is another way to reduce those cost shifts.

“In response to over-arching concerns about modifying these programs, I think we have been showing a trend towards reducing cost shifts anywhere we can, and ensuring that, if there is a cost shift, that it’s specifically targeted to equity and environmental and social justice outcomes,” he said.

While the new tariffs will take effect after a 90-day grace period, state representatives can still introduce legislation to reverse the CPUC decision.

COUNCIL

(Continued from front page)

ened creatures including the California tiger salamander and the pallid bat.

“The large Fiddleneck is really a very cool looking plant,” Mayor John Marchand said. “It looks like the back of a fiddle. It curves around with flowers on top of it. It exists in very few places in the world, and this is one of them.”

The decision to purchase the 120-acre conservation easement was discussed at the ALOSC’s September meeting, where Livermore rancher Darrel Sweet described his California Rangeland Trust (CRT), a nonprofit company he founded to give ranchers an alternative to development to preserve their land.

According to an ALOSC report, Sweet’s CRT and Vollmar Natural Lands Consulting (VNLC) are working with Diranne to place her privately-owned 160-acre cattle ranch under a conservation easement. VNLC was recently awarded a grant from the federal Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) to purchase 120-acres of her property, but the funds are not enough to cover all of the costs, including those required for long-term monitoring and maintenance.

“By funding these necessary project costs associated with the establishment of any conservation easement, ALOSC would make the sale of the easement economically viable for the landowner as well as enable the protection of the easement area lands in perpetuity,” the Altamont committee report said.

This is the first time ALOSC has partnered with CRT and BOR to finance a conservation easement. According to Dick Schneider, who attended the ALOSC meeting, the expected future collaborations will significantly increase the purchase of conservation easements.

ALOSC, created in 1999

through a legal settlement in connection with an Altamont Landfill expansion, last year had more than \$20 million in its coffers. The funds must be used to acquire land to preserve native biological diversity and wildlife habitat, protect land with visual value, or provide land for non-motorized recreation.

The committee — composed of representatives from Alameda County, Livermore, Pleasanton and the Sierra Club — decides who will receive the funding but cannot do the purchase themselves. That’s why the committee required the Livermore vote. Councilman Bob Carling is Livermore’s representative on ALOSC.

In 2000, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife began working on a plan to bring the endangered Fiddleneck back to life. It chose the DC Ranch as one of 10 sites to plant a crop because the steep north-facing slopes of the eastern Diablo Range offer the necessary shade required throughout the plant’s vegetative state until the flowering stage begins with the early spring sun, the agency said.

Although it’s a beautiful flower, picking or possessing the plant is prohibited by the law because it is an endangered species. According to Fish and Wildlife, populations of the plant steadily decreased following the European settlement of California’s Central Valley. Introductions of non-native species, livestock, agriculture, and fire took its toll on many native plants, especially the large-flowered fiddleneck. By 1997, most of it was gone.

After efforts to revive it, 20,000 Fiddleneck flowers were growing at the DC Ranch in 2021, making it the largest and most successful area for its rebirth. The only known natural occurrence of the flower was at the Con-

tra Costa Water District’s Etchelet Property, where 6,500 plants grow, Fish and Wildlife said.

Marchand said the flower also grows on land at Site 300, where Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory scientists conduct experiments with heavy explosives about 15 miles east of the facility.

“It’s a pretty interesting habitat for it,” the mayor said. “I think this is a great opportunity to preserve the land and protect our endangered species.”

Short term rentals

In other action, the council unanimously altered the city code to allow owners with permits for accessory dwelling units (ADU’s) issued before 2020 to offer them as short-term rentals. Short-term rentals are units that can be rented for 30 days or less on sites like Airbnb and Vrbo. Property owners who built ADUs and were issued a permit Jan. 1, 2020, or later cannot use them for this purpose.

A law went into effect in the city on Jan. 1, 2020, banning ADU’s from being used as short-term rentals. Livermore Principal Planner Steve Riley said 223 property owners obtained permits for ADUs before 2020, but only three used them as short-term rentals. Those owners complained that the law cost them their income.

Councilmember Evan Branning said it concerned him if all those people decided to go into the short-term rental business, but he voted in favor of allowing them to use their ADU’s that way if they chose.

“For the people who have invested in the property and were expecting a return on this, having the game change, midstream, it really hurts them a lot,” Branning said. “Some of the people we’ve heard from, it is a major blow after a very large

capital investment.”

Arts Funding

The Council unanimously approved a \$5,800 grant to the Livermore Art Association for its Spring Arts Program. The city’s Commission for the Arts chose the program from applications received in September. The City Council established the Project and Program Grant Program to provide funding from the Public Art Fund for local organizations and artists offering cultural enrichment experiences in Livermore.

Livermore Valley Wine Heritage District

The Livermore Valley Wine Heritage District anticipates a budget of about \$737,000 for fiscal year 2023-2024 to promote the area as a “premium wine-growing region and as a leader in the global wine community.”

Formed by the City Council in 2021, the district collects 2% of direct-to-consumer wine sales to promote wineries within the historic Livermore Valley American Viticultural Area (LVAVA). Brandi Lombardi, president of the Livermore Wine Growers Association, highlighted some of the district’s early achievements, including training its members in the use of glass for taste; discussing business models; getting press coverage; collaborating on wine tastings; doing trade shows; contracting with a Fremont lab for wine testing; and bringing local agencies together to work jointly to lure people to the region.

“Our largest portion of our budget goes to marketing and brand awareness,” Lombardi said. “We are excited about this. We’re ready to move the needle. We do not want to be the best kept secret anywhere. We are a hidden gem that is being discovered and this Wine Heritage District is allowing that to happen.”

ZONE 7

(Continued from front page)

pipes, damage to concrete, and endangerment of roads. Pascual displayed photos of damage along Alamo Creek, Arroyo Mocho, El Charro Road and Arroyo Las Positas.

In addition to the local states of emergency, California Gov. Gavin Newsom and President Joe Biden declared state and federal emergencies, respectively. Those orders open the door to funding and streamlining the repair processes.

“In a normal year, Zone 7 experiences only about eight to 10 slides and with the recent large influx of damage, Zone 7 will need additional public assistance to aid staff and to implement all repair projects resulting from the January and March storm events,” Pascual said.

According to a Zone 7 report, Zone 7 has applied to the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and the Governor’s Office of Emergency Services.

In response to a question from board member Kathy Narum, Tang said some of the more severely damaged sites have been protected with plastic in anticipation of this season’s rainfall.

In other Zone 7 news, the California Department of Water Resources Sustainable Groundwater Management Grant Program recently issued a \$16 million grant to Zone 7 to develop the Stoneridge Well Ion Exchange (IX) PFAS Treatment facility. The facility will remove Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) from groundwater. It will be the first to offer IX PFAS removal in Northern California.

WINE COUNTRY

(Continued from front page)

in 2018 for \$750,000, said that since the Livermore City Council approved the final version of the project in May, the lending market for commercial real estate significantly changed.

“It’s a difference of millions of dollars as far as the capital stack,” she said. “And so that is why I’m prepared to hold on to the project if a buyer does not come along. It’s not likely that I will proceed with construction with the current lending market, the current rates where they’re at.”

She added that if a deal does not come along, she has “complete development and operator teams standing by” and is prepared to wait for lending rates to come down.

Approved by the Planning Commission in 2019 and by the City Council in 2020, Boss’s project includes a two-story inn, a 77-seat restaurant and bar, a 2,300 square foot caretaker’s house where she would live, a private swimming pool, a business center with meeting rooms, and a parking lot.

Although the South Livermore Valley Specific Plan (SLVSP) has long called for a boutique hotel to boost the region as a wine tasting destination, some residents of the area did not welcome Boss’s proposal. The Friends of South Livermore (FSL) filed a suit in Alameda County Superior Court, claiming the hotel’s design violated the SLVSP’s requirement for 100-foot setbacks. Boss’s hotel in-

cluded a 50-foot setback from Hansen Road

Rejected by an Alameda County Superior Court judge in 2021, FSL appealed to California’s 1st District Court of Appeal. The justices agreed that the SLVSP explicitly demanded 100-foot setbacks and required the hotel’s design to meet the rule before the hotel could be approved.

In a decision that angered some members of FSL, instead of altering the hotel’s design, the City Council in May added language to the SLVSP that allowed for 50-foot setbacks on Hansen Road. Hansen Road, the council said, did not exist when the SLVSP was written. Once that language was adopted, the council reapproved the hotel project.

Pleased, Boss said would go about obtaining her building permits and financing and begin construction by September. She lined up executive chef Rodney Worth, owner and operator of The Peasant & The Pear in Danville and The Peasant’s Courtyard in Alamo, to serve as her restaurateur.

But financing terms got in the way. Lending rates significantly changed, she said.

“I’ve dedicated over five years of my life now to this project and it’s a personal decision,” Boss said. “If I find a buyer and I feel that that’s a good fit to keep the project moving forward for the community, I will take the opportunity to exit myself and my investors.”

Boss’s online listing

identifies her brokers as Zack Heller of Brickhouse Real Estate Partners in San Ramon and Michael Copeland of Cushman & Wakefield in Pleasanton.

“Located in the heart of the South Livermore Valley,” the Crexi.com listing says. “The Project is permit-approved and ready to begin construction. The original developer, (Livermore Wine Country Inn (LWCI) LLC, is selling the project in its entirety including all approved entitlements. There is pent up demand for accommodations in the Livermore wine region, which grows exponentially every year.”

In an interview, Heller called it a “beautiful property.”

Livermore officials issued a statement saying a sale would not change the project’s status.

“While staff was unaware of the listing for sale of the Wine Country Inn, it does not affect the project’s approvals. The City’s land use approvals apply to the land and would transfer to a new property owner if the property is sold.”

Boss, however, pointed out that a buyer would reserve the right to scrap the approval and start over from scratch. The SLVSP would not allow for a massive hotel.

Livermore resident Jean King, who spoke at public hearings against the city’s language change in the SLVSP, said she supported Boss at first because she supports a hotel on the site to

boost the South Livermore wine industry. But King said she came to oppose Boss’s proposal, because it includes too much development with the private residence and swimming pool and should

have had to conform to the SLVSP setback rule.

“I hope that a new owner will not use Ms. Boss’s plan but will have a plan that is better suited to the location,” King said.

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Thursday, December 7th
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Dublin High School (DHS) will host its third annual Holiday Tree Lighting at 5 p.m., Wednesday, Dec. 6. The community gathering at 8151 Village Parkway, above during last year's event, will include performances by the DHS choir and the school's jazz and symphonic bands, along with a winter boutique, photo booths, and activities for kids. (Photo – Doug Jorgensen – December 2022)

HOME

(Continued from front page)

commute options and parks, continues to make it an attractive opportunity for homebuyers, said Stark. He mentioned the 30-acre Don Biddle Community Park, which opened last year, and the Iron Horse Trail, which installed a Dublin Boulevard crossing last month, as examples of Dublin’s amenities.

“When you actually get off the freeway and you start experiencing Dublin from a resident’s perspective, it’s remarkable,” Stark explained.

San Jose replaced San Francisco as the country’s third most expensive urban area for home buyers this year, according to the Council for Community and Economic Research. New York and Honolulu continue

to rank as first and second.

The upward tick in home prices has continued despite a simultaneous climb in interest rates. Thirty-year fixed rates for mortgages reached a high of 7.79% in October after falling below three percent in 2021, according to data from the St. Louis Fed, which helps set interest rates on the federal level.

“It’s important to understand that interest rates weren’t always three or four percent,” said Stark. “There are about a dozen years where interest rates were low, and then there were a couple years where they were super low. But if you look at interest rates, going back to the 70s, rates in the six to seven percent were the minimum or the norm.”

NFPA Urges Caution with Lithium-Ion Batteries

This holiday season, the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) is urging consumers to use caution when charging, storing, and using lithium-ion batteries, which can be found in cell-phones, laptop computers, e-bikes and e-scooters, and electric vehicles.

“Lithium-ion batteries are increasingly found in the many devices and systems we use every day,” said Lorraine Carli, NFPA vice president of outreach and advocacy. “With this greater use, however, we are seeing an increase in dangerous

related fires. As the holidays near and consumers are purchasing devices that use lithium-ion batteries, NFPA is helping to educate the public about the risks associated with these batteries and ways to prevent them.”

Lithium batteries can be at risk of overheating, causing fires or exploding, and releasing toxic chemicals.

The nonprofit NFPA is urging consumers to only buy lithium-ion battery-powered devices and charging equipment that has been certified and properly labeled by a laboratory

on the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) list of recognized testing laboratories.

In addition, consumers should use charging equipment that came with, or is compatible with their devices, unplug chargers once the batteries are fully charged, and not dispose of lithium-ion batteries in the trash. Used lithium-ion batteries should be taken to an authorized recycling location.

Consumers should also stop using their lithium-ion powered devices if the bat-

tery shows any signs of damage, such as an unusual odor, excessive heat, popping sounds, swelling, or change in color. NFPA said devices should be repaired only by qualified professionals.

More safety information, including a 10-minute lesson plan for educators, social media cards, and safety tip sheets, are available at nfpa.org/lithiumionsafety.

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

Please email Kristin@independentnews.com with your resume and at least 5 writing samples., with the subject line “Freelancer Application.”



Students rehearse for upcoming performances of The Royal Theater Academy’s musical “School of Rock.” Matinee shows begin Dec. 2 and evening shows start Dec. 8. (Photo courtesy of Livermore High School)

‘School of Rock’ Musical is Coming to Livermore High

The Royal Theater Academy will present “School of Rock,” a musical based on the 2003 comedy starring Jack Black, at Livermore High School the first two weekends in December.

The musical tells the story of Dewey Finn, a down-on-his-luck musician who stumbles into a substitute teaching gig at a prestigious prep school. Through unconventional methods, he transforms a class of young students into a powerhouse rock band, teaching them to embrace their inner rock stars and face life’s challenges head-on.

The movie, a box-office hit, was later adapted for the stage by composer Andrew Lloyd Webber and had a three-year run on Broadway.

Matinee performances are scheduled for 2 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 2, Sunday, Dec. 3, Saturday, Dec. 9, and Sunday, Dec. 10. Evening performances are scheduled for 7 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 8, and Saturday, Dec. 9.

Tickets begin at \$25 and are available at tinyurl.com/yd43rpuv.

The Royal Theater Academy is a Dublin-based educational theater program

for adults and children as young as 5 years old.

Former Poet Laureate’s Work Named as Best Book Finalist

Two collections of poetry by former Livermore poet laureate Connie Post were finalists for 2023 Best Book Awards, sponsored by American Book Fest.

“Broken Metronome,” which a short collection of poems in which Post explores her brother’s struggle and death from Parkinson’s disease, was a finalist in the Chapbook Poetry category.

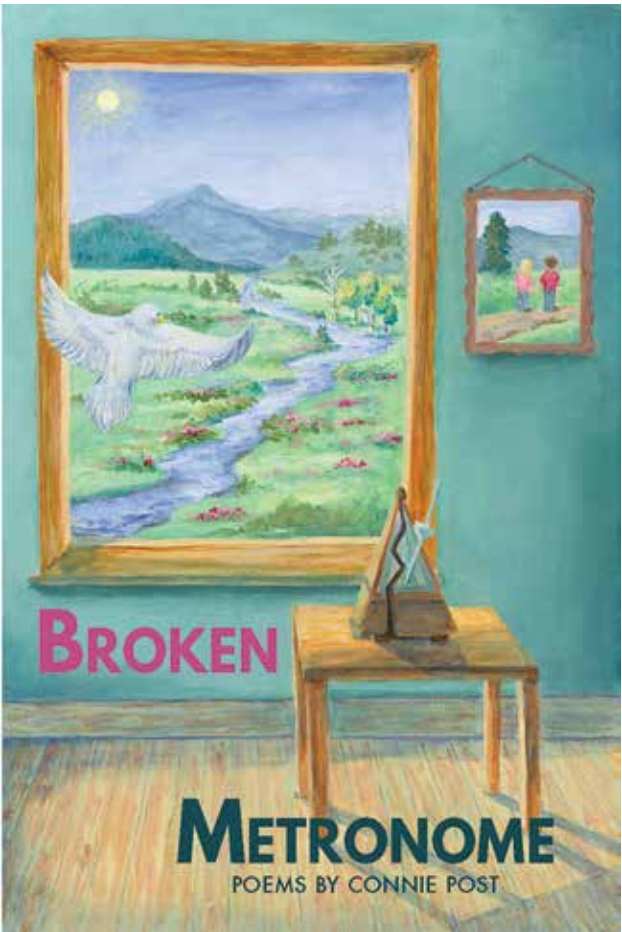
A chapbook is a small collection of poems that center on a specific theme.

“Between Twilight,” Post’s third full-length collection of poems, was a finalist in the General Poetry category.

Both collections were published this year.

Post was Livermore’s first poet laureate, serving from 2005 to 2009.

American Book Fest is an online publication that reports on books from mainstream and independent publishers, as well as self-published authors. It has sponsored the annual Best Book Awards since 2002.



TRI-VALLEY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Now through Nov. 30
TRAVEL BLUES INTERNATIONAL PHOTOGRAPHIC SHOW
The Livermore Art Association presents its second solo artist exhibit at the Robert Livermore Community Center at 4444 East Ave. in Livermore. The theme is “Travel Blues,” an international photographic show. On display are photos taken from around the world dominated by the color blue. Photographer Craig Varden has extensively travelled with family, the Navy, and with international business. The show is up all November at the Senior Center area Mondays through Fridays, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Dec. 1 through Dec. 31
JESS COPEMAN’S “CALIFORNIA COLORS” OIL PAINTING EXHIBIT
The Livermore Art Association’s December show at the Robert Livermore Community Center will be “California Colors,” artist Jess Copeman’s oil painting collection inspired by the beauty of the California coastline. The show is up all through December at 4444 East Ave. in Livermore, Mondays through Fridays, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 1
VALLEY CONCERT CHORALE ANNUAL SING-IT-YOURSELF MESSIAH
VCC’s “Sing-it-Yourself Messiah” is open to all singers of all ages in the community to join in singing Part I of Handel’s great choral masterpiece, also known as the Christmas portion of “Messiah”, which will conclude with a powerful rendition of the “Hallelujah Chorus”. Singers are encouraged to bring their own copy of “Messiah,” though there will be some copies available to borrow. The event is also open to those who wish to listen to the performance. Tickets are \$15. Students K-12 are free. Advance tickets may be purchased by visiting the Chorale’s website at www.valleyconcertchorale.org, or by calling the Chorale’s information number at (925) 866-4003. Tickets also available at the door at Asbury United Methodist Church, 4743 East Ave., Livermore.

Saturday, Dec. 2
FREE FAMILY CONCERT
Livermore-Amador Symphony performs its annual Free Family Concert. Features will include music from Beauty and the Beast, holiday medleys of Hanukkah songs and Christmas carols, and Nutcracker excerpts with dancers from Valley Dance Theatre. It’s a short, fun program designed for the young and young at heart. There is an instrument petting zoo immediately following in the lobby. Saturday, Dec. 2 at 3 p.m. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. Tickets at the box office and at www.livermorearts.org/event-list.

Saturday, Dec. 2
WINTER TALES
Celebrate the season with Livermore-Amador Symphony’s magical music and fairy tales. Sibelius’s “Karelia Overture” depicts a grand castle built in the Middle Ages. Humperdinck’s Hansel and Gretel Suite takes us back to our childhood adventures, fears and fantasies. Respighi’s shimmering Trittico Botticelliano brings a warm glow to the dark days of winter and features music familiar to us in Christmas carols. Get your holidays off to a festive start with the sounds of the symphony! Saturday, Dec. 2 at 8 p.m. Youth under 22 are FREE. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. Tickets at the box office and at www.livermorearts.org/event-list.

Tuesday, Dec. 5
FEARLESS READERS FIFTH GRADE BOOK CLUB
Fearless Readers is a book discussion group for 5th graders. If you love reading books and discussing them with a group, this is the place for you! Some months we’ll also have an activity to go along with the discussion. We will meet on the first Tuesday of each month. For our December meeting, we are reading The Real Boy by Anne Ursu. If you do not have a copy, come to the library and ask for one at the reference desk. This month, Fearless Readers will be meeting in the Group Study Room. Please bring your Alameda County Library Card to the meeting so you can check out a copy of next month’s book.

This month’s group will meet on Dec. 5, 4:00 -4:45 p.m., at the Dublin Library, 200 Civic Plaza, Dublin.

Friday, Dec. 8
BIG BAND ORCHESTRA AT THE ANNUAL HOLIDAY DANCESCAPE
Celebrate the holiday season with friends at the City of Dublin’s annual Holiday DancEscape on Friday, Dec. 8, 6:00 to 9:00 p.m., at the Dublin Senior Center, 7600 Amador Valley Blvd. You’ll dance the night away to the sounds of a live, big band orchestra, The Cool

Tones. Tickets are \$10/residents; \$13/non-residents. Guests may also pay \$15 at the door on the evening of the event. This event is for ages 21+.

Saturday, Dec. 9 / Sunday, Dec. 10
“THE MIRACLE OF CHRISTMAS” HOLIDAY CONCERT
Valley Concert Chorale Presents “The Miracle of Christmas” Holiday Concerts. The highlight of the program is Ottorino Respighi’s little cantata, Laud to the Nativity. The Chorale will be accompanied by flute, oboe, piccolo, two bassoons, English Horn, piano for four-hands, and three professional soloists. Completing the program are familiar carols and new arrangements for the choir, including O Little Town of Bethlehem and Pat A Pan and a salute to Ukraine with the well-known Carol of the Bells, a Ukrainian carol. As is tradition, the audience is invited to sing-along for a selection of carols. Tickets are \$30. College and High school students \$10 with valid student ID. Children are free. Advance tickets available at www.valleyconcertchorale.org, or by calling (925) 866-4003. Saturday, Dec. 9, 7:30 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, 2020 Fifth St., Livermore. Pre-concert lecture at 7:15 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 10, 4:00 p.m., Trinity Lutheran Church, 1225 Hopyard Rd., Pleasanton. Pre-concert lecture at 3:45 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 10
LIVERMORE JAZZ SOCIETY HOSTS SHANNA CARLSON / LARRY SMITH & FRIENDS HOUSE CONCERT
An exciting quintet will be playing in a Livermore house concert, featuring two vocalists: Shanna Carlson and Larry Smith. The band also includes Lee Bloom on piano, Matt Finders on bass, and David Rokeach on drums. Details can be found on the LJS website at <https://livermorejazzsociety.org>. To request a seat, email info@livermorejazzsociety.org, or use the web form at www.livermorejazzsociety.org/reserve-seats. If seats are available, you will receive an email with the concert address. Seating capacity is limited, so advance notice is highly recommended. For livestream info, refer to the ‘Events’ page of our website listed above. Suggested donation: \$20 per person. 2-4 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 16
TRI-VALLEY WRITERS DECEMBER WORKSHOP
Members of Tri-Valley Writers are offering four distinct presentations which will share tips of the writing trade. Each attendee will receive a handout packet. Workshop topics include: “Engaging Openings: Hook Readers from the Beginning” (B. Lynn Goodwin-Brown), “Choosing a Theme or Period of Time for Memoir Writing” (Connie Hanstedt), “Cutting the Excess: Honing Your Writing for Impact” (Linda Todd), and “Options in Publishing” (Jordan Bernal). The workshop will be held on Saturday, Dec. 16 at 2 p.m. at Las Positas College, Room 2470, in the Multi-Purpose Building. (Directions: from Campus Hill Dr. in Livermore, park in Lot E and enter Building 2400). Check-in begins at 1:30 p.m. RSVP to treasurer@trivalleywriters.org and remit payment online by Thursday, Dec. 14, at www.trivalleywriters.org/speaker-meeting-registration-and-payment/.

Saturday, Dec. 16
HARMONY FUSION CHORUS PRESENTS “HITTIN’ THE HOLIDAY ROAD”
Get in the holiday mood and enjoy an afternoon of festive music when Harmony Fusion Chorus, a women’s acapella show chorus, presents “Hittin’ the Holiday Road,” featuring Fog City Harmonia treble chorus, Livermore’s Grace Clark & Swingitude, and a sleigh full of other talented performers. The chorus will perform well-known songs including Jingle Bells, a medley of Winter Weather and Marshmallow World, Fleetwood Mac’s Holiday Road and more. Harmony Fusion will host a reception for all guests immediately following the performance in the church fellowship hall. Advance purchased tickets are \$20.00 for adults or \$25.00 at the door. \$10.00 for children under the age of 12. Tickets may be purchased starting Dec. 1, at <http://www.ticketsource.us/harmony-fusion-chorus>, through the chorus’ website at www.harmonyfusion.org, or by contacting Kenit Golabi at (925) 719-1250 or kenitgolabi@gmail.com. Saturday, December 16, 2 p.m. at Our Savior Lutheran Church, 1385 S. Livermore Ave.

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.

Chabot College to Host Raza Day STEM Program

More than 600 middle and high school students are expected to attend Chabot College’s annual Raza College Day on Friday, Dec. 1.

This year’s program will focus on STEM education and careers in science, technology, engineering, and math for students of Hispanic heritage or other

minorities.

Emilia Sanchez, the first Latina to serve as director of engineering for the Port of Oakland, will give the keynote address.

In addition to workshops and a performance by the Latin American band Grupo 415, the day will include tours of the college campus in Hayward.

Workshops Planned to Apply for Arts Grants

The Alameda County Arts Commission (ACAC) will host three online workshops to aid nonprofit arts and cultural organizations in applying for the 2024 ARTSFUND grant program.

The free workshops will held on Friday, Dec. 15, Wednesday, Jan. 17, and Friday, Jan. 26. All three sessions will begin at 1 p.m.

The ARTSFUND grants are available to all types of arts and cultural programs, including visual arts, dance, music, theater, literature, and media arts.

This year, the ACAC

awarded grants to 119 Alameda County nonprofit organizations. The standard grant ranges from \$2,000 to \$3,000.

Funding for the grant program comes from the county, individual contributions made along with county property tax payments, and donations to the Foundation for the Arts in Alameda County.

For details about how to join the Zoom-based workshops, go to arts.acgov.org. No registration is required.

ACAC staff can also be reached by email at artscommission@acgov.org or by calling 510-208-9646.

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LLNL Team Clinches the Gordon Bell Prize for Climate Modeling

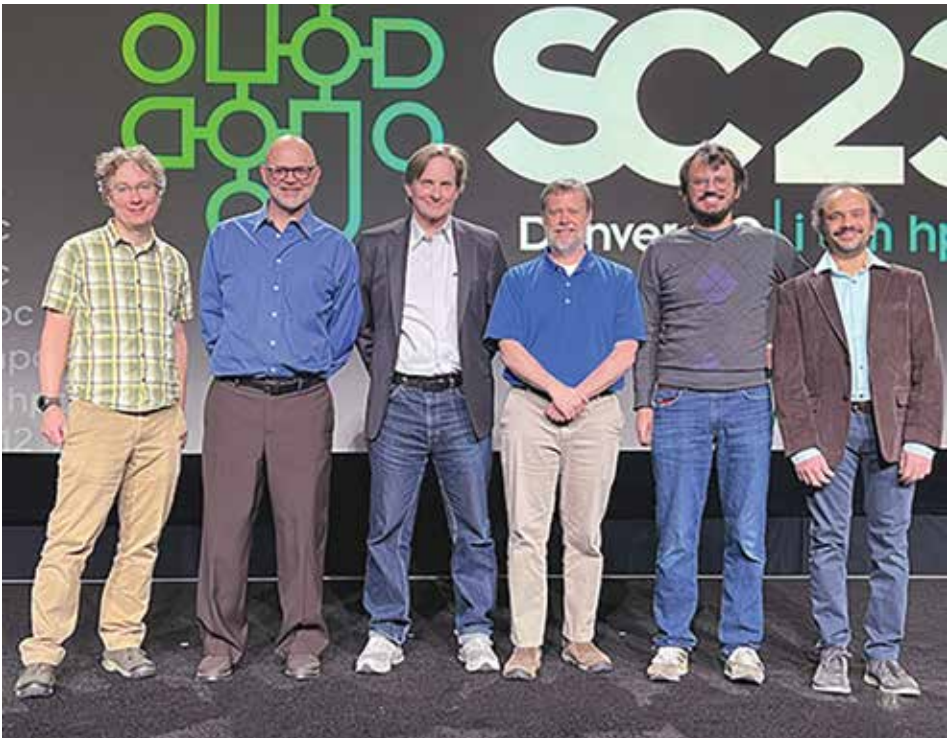
A Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL)-led effort that performed an unprecedented global climate model simulation on the world’s first Exascale supercomputer has won the first-ever Association for Computing Machinery (ACM) Gordon Bell Prize for Climate Modelling, ACM officials announced.

The Simple Cloud Resolving E3SM Atmosphere Model (SCREAM) team, led by LLNL staff scientist Peter Caldwell and including researchers from Sandia National Laboratories (Sandia) and six other Department of Energy (DOE) national laboratories, took home the prestigious prize at the International Conference for High Performance Computing, Networking, Storage and Analysis (SC23) in Denver. The prize — the highest honor in high performance computing for the climate modeling category — was established to recognize “innovative parallel computing contributions toward solving the global climate crisis,” according to ACM. The award will be given out annually for the next 10

years to recognize the contributions of climate scientists and software engineers in addressing climate change.

“The Gordon Bell Prize has been an inspiration to DOE’s climate scientists for many years (and doubly so for this new climate award),” Caldwell said. “In that sense, Gordon Bell has accomplished his goal of pushing climate science forward.”

The SCREAM team’s winning Gordon Bell submission, led by Energy Exascale Earth System Model (E3SM) chief computational scientist Mark Taylor of Sandia, presents the efficient and performance-portable implementation of SCREAM. SCREAM is the first global cloud-resolving model to run on an exascale supercomputer and the first model to break the one-simulated-year-per-day barrier for realistic cloud-resolving simulations at less than five kilometers of horizontal resolution: achieving 1.26 simulated years per day using 32,768 graphics-processing units (GPUs) on 8,192 nodes of Oak Ridge National Laboratory’s Frontier supercomputer. It also



Members of the Simple Cloud Resolving E3SM Atmosphere Model (SCREAM) team won the first-ever Gordon Bell Prize for Climate Modelling at the International Conference for High Performance Computing, Networking, Storage and Analysis (SC23) in Denver on Nov. 16. (Photo courtesy of LLNL)

is the first to run on both AMD and NVIDIA GPUs, as well as conventional CPUs. Researchers said this benchmark time is about 50% faster than the initial prize submission, thanks mainly to improved com-

pile-time settings. The paper also discusses the benefits of running the model on an exascale system and how it can be used to improve scientific understanding of climate change and weather patterns.

“This award is a testament to teamwork,” Caldwell said. “It took us five years and the equivalent of six full-time employees spread across about 15 staff members to get where we are. We come from an interesting mix of back-

grounds: half of the people are atmospheric physicists and the other half are computer scientists or applied mathematicians. One of the major accomplishments of this effort was just learning how to work together across disciplines.”

As a full-featured atmospheric general-circulation model developed for very fine-resolution simulations on exascale machines, SCREAM incorporates state-of-the-art parameterizations for fluid dynamics, microphysics, moist turbulence and radiation. SCREAM can explicitly resolve large convective circulations and other important atmospheric phenomena, thereby avoiding critical sources of uncertainty in traditional climate models. By running SCREAM at exascale, E3SM can provide more trustworthy and higher-fidelity predictions of future climate for longer durations than were previously possible, researchers said.

The team also receives a \$10,000 award provided by its namesake, Gordon Bell.

Pleasanton and Dublin Boy Scouts Awarded Top Honors With Eagle Scout Badges



Yash Shelar

Two members of local Boy Scout Troops in Pleasanton and Dublin have recently earned the rank of Eagle Scout —the highest rank in the Scouts BSA program.

Yash Shelar

Yash Shelar, a member of BSA Troop 908, has been awarded the rank of Eagle Scout.

Shelar, a senior at Foothill High School in Pleasanton, is the son of Seema and Mahendra Shelar.



Christopher Groves

To attain the rank of Eagle in the Scouts BSA program, a member must earn at least 21 merit badges and complete a community service project. For his Eagle project, Shelar built two sets of wired wooden shelving and a worktable for a greenhouse at St. Claire’s Episcopal Church.

The church, which also sponsors Troop 908, grows organic food that is donated to the homeless and Culinary Angels, a Tri-Valley

nonprofit organization.

In addition to the greenhouse, the church’s Clare’s Fare Garden includes several outdoor vegetable and herb beds, fruit trees, and a pollinator garden.

Shelar worked with the church’s gardeners and nine volunteers to design and build the shelving and worktable.

Shelar is also president of the Foothill Cybersecurity Club, captain of the school’s CyberPatriot team, helps organize the annual Tri-Valley Hacks Hackathon, and is website developer for Avitris Consulting, a student-run small business consulting initiative.

He also plays for the Foothill volleyball team.

Christopher Groves

Christopher Groves, a member of Troop 904, has also earned his Eagle badge. Groves, a junior at Dublin High School, is the son of Glenn and Crista Groves.

To attain the rank of Eagle, a Scout must earn at

least 21 merit badges and complete a public service project.

For his project, Groves led a renovation of a teaching garden and outdoor study area at Wells Middle School in Dublin, including 40 feet of pavers, a new tool shed, and a picnic table.

Groves raised more than \$7,000 in donations for the project and coordinated the efforts of adult and Scout volunteers over two weekends to complete the renovation.

Jill Zollinger, Eagle Scout coordinator with the Golden Gate Area Council’s Valley District, called the garden renovation “one of the most significant projects” she has seen in 20 years.

Groves is currently a junior assistant scoutmaster for Troop 904, sponsored by John Knox Presbyterian Church, and will become an assistant scoutmaster when he turns 18.

In Time for the Holidays

Livermore Post Office Package Sorter Updated

The U.S. Postal Service (USPS) has installed 100 new package-sorting machines at mail centers across the country in time for the holidays this year, including a Small Delivery Unit Sorter (SDUS) at the Livermore Post Office.

The sorters are part of a 10-year, \$40 billion upgrade to the postal system announced in 2021.

USPS said the Delivering for America plan involves reorganizing the Postal Service’s processing, transportation, and delivery networks. Almost 350 new package sorters, designed to expedite sorting and delivery, have been installed since the plan was announced.

Livermore Postmaster Harminder Hundal said the SDUS “uses the best assets of the larger mail processing equipment in a scaled-down size” and can process up to 3,000 packages an hour.

USPS said it now has the

processing capacity nationwide to handle 70 million packages per day.

During the 2022 holiday season, the Postal Service said it handled more than 11.7 billion letters, cards, flats, and packages, with an average delivery time of 2.5 days.

This year, to ensure delivery by Dec. 25, USPS is urging that cards, letters, and packages be mailed by Saturday, Dec. 16, for Ground Advantage or First Class mail, and by Monday, Dec. 18, for Priority Mail.

Delivery to Hawaii and Alaska may take longer, and shipping deadlines for international mail vary depending on the destination.

For more information, including how to send mail and packages to overseas military destinations at domestic prices, go to usps.com. The Postal Service is the only delivery service that ships to APO, and DPO addresses.

Coastal Landscapes on Display At Livermore Community Center

The Livermore Art Association is hosting a solo showing of brightly colored oil paintings of California coastal landscapes by Livermore artist Jessica Copeman at the Robert Livermore Community Center, 4444 East Ave.,

now through Friday, Dec. 29.

A lifetime resident of the Bay Area, Copeman received a bachelor’s degree in art from California State University, East Bay. Her artwork primarily features loosely interpreted seascapes and landscapes.

The community center is open weekdays, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The Livermore Art Association is a volunteer-run nonprofit organization that promotes public interest in fine arts and crafts.

Tri-Valley Haven Requests Donations Of Gift Cards for Holiday Program

Tri-Valley Haven, a Livermore-based nonprofit that provides housing, counseling, and support services for the homeless and victims of domestic and sexual abuse, is asking the community to help families in need by donating \$20 Walmart or Safeway gift cards for its

annual Holiday Program.

The nonprofit said it expects to provide food, present-filled stockings, and gift cards to more than 3,000 people from Livermore, Pleasanton, and Dublin this holiday season.

Gift cards can be dropped off at the Tri-Valley Haven Community Building, 3663

Pacific Ave., from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekdays, now through Monday, Dec. 11.

Tri-Valley Haven is also accepting donations for its Holiday Program at trivalleyhaven.org.

For more information, email christine@trivalleyhaven.org.

Axis and Culinary Angels Seek Community Support

This is the time of year that many nonprofit organizations are encouraging members of the community to support their programs.

Two of those organizations are Axis Community Health and Culinary Angels.

Pleasanton-based Axis Community Health is involved in a capital campaign to build a new clinic in Livermore that will offer dental, behavioral health, and primary care services for patients enrolled in Covered California, Medi-Cal, Medicare, or the Health Program of Alameda County (HealthPAC).

Axis says the new clinic at 1686 Second St. in downtown Livermore will serve about 5,600 patients annually.

The nonprofit currently offers medical and behavioral health services at locations in Pleasanton and Livermore, dental services at a clinic in Dublin, and a Womens, Infants, and Children (WIC) Nutrition Program in Pleasanton.

To donate, or for more information, go to axishealth.org.

Culinary Angels, which provides free, nutrient-rich meals to cancer patients and their caregivers throughout the Tri-Valley, also depends on donations.

Volunteers with the Livermore-based nonprofit use the industrial kitchen at Sunflower Hill’s Irby Ranch, an independent-living community for adults with intellectual and development disabilities in Pleasanton, to prepare the meals.

Culinary Angels also partners with Fertile Groundworks, Sunflower Hill, Clare’s Fare Garden, and Berkeley’s Florent Farms for locally grown, organic produce.

To support the Culinary Angels mission of providing “hope, health, and wellness” to cancer patients and their caregivers, go to culinaryangels.org/donate.

OBITUARIES

Lucille Marie Kusko Oct. 12, 1933 – Oct. 31, 2023



Lucille Marie Kusko, born Oct. 12, 1933 in Fall River, Massachusetts, died on Oct. 31, 2023 in Livermore, California. Lucille died peacefully at home two weeks after celebrating her 90th birthday with her children along with their spouses Glen (Marfel), Scott (Zlatina), Lynn Gutierrez (Gabriel), David (Kym) and most of her ten grandchildren and 15 great-grand-

children. Lucille worked for many years as the Smith Elementary school librari-

an, and was known for her special Paddington Bear tea parties and having student assistant librarians. Some of the students went on to become teachers in the Livermore School District. Services will be held on Dec. 21 at 10 a.m. at St. Charles Borromeo in Livermore, California. In lieu of flowers, please donate to Hope Hospice or St. Charles Borromeo.

William Edward Loewe April 22, 1932 – Nov. 26, 2023



Bill was born in Chicago, Illinois to William Edward Loewe and Gertrude Althea Loewe, née Smith. He is survived by his wife Audrey Virginia Loewe, his daughters Nancy Jean Becker and Mary Ellen Miller (Matthias), son William Edward Loewe (Nadia), and granddaughter Isabella Jolie Miller.

Bill and Virginia Decker met as freshmen at Carl Schurz High School in Chicago, and remained close since their sophomore days there, wedding after college in 1953. Residents of Livermore, California since 1967, they traveled together throughout the U.S. and around the world, in later years mainly by cruise ships.

Bill took his bride to North Augusta, South Carolina to begin his first job as a physicist there at the DuPont Savannah River Plant. He then worked at IIT Research Institute in Chicago before arriving at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, re-

tiring on Dec. 31, 1990. His fields of specialization included reactor physics, nuclear design, and neutron transport.

He graduated from the University of Chicago (A.B.), the University of Illinois (B.S.), and Illinois Institute of Technology (Ph. D.).

Bill was the tympanist in high school and college orchestras, played on the U of C baseball team, and then went on to informal softball, bicycle riding, and golf. In later years, he was a regular at the local gym.

Bill placed a high value on integrity. He loved his family and put them ahead of all else. He passed away peacefully in his home.

Dublin Boys Basketball Team Falls in Opener

By Phil Jensen

DUBLIN – It was a tale of two halves for the Dublin High School boys' basketball team in its opener on Nov. 25 against visiting St. Ignatius-San Francisco at the Nor Cal Tip Off Classic. The Gaels scored 27 of the last 39 points in the first half to take an 11-point lead into halftime. But St. Ignatius battled back in the second half and outscored Dublin 25-9 in the fourth quarter to win 63-54.

"I think our youth and inexperience kind of showed up," said Dublin coach Tom Costello, whose squad returns only one starter and six total players from last year's 17-player roster. "We're a young group, and for a lot of guys, that was their first varsity experience on a pretty big stage.

"We played hard, just didn't always make the

right play, all things that are fixable ... We have a very talented team; we just have to learn how to close out games and play winning basketball."

The Nor Cal Tip Off Classic is a day-long boys basketball showcase event that included nine total games and 18 teams.

The one returning Dublin starter, 6-foot-5 junior wing Jalen Stokes, scored a team-high 20 points and also had a game-high 12 rebounds. The Gaels also received double-digit scoring from 6-7 sophomore forward Cameron Anderson (12 points) and 6-1 senior guard Evan Bautista (11 points). Those three started for Dublin along with 6-3 junior guard Ramir Raymore and 5-10 senior point guard Isaiah Wong, who had a team-high four assists. Raymore and Anderson both had six rebounds.

St. Ignatius (1-0) took a 5-1 lead to begin the game, but a three-pointer by Bautista started a 14-2 Gaels run. The Wildcats closed the gap to 17-13 by the end of the first quarter, but a three-pointer by Raymore started an 11-4 run for his team to end the half with a 28-17 advantage.

Dublin had a 43-29 lead with 2 minutes, 9 seconds left in the third quarter on a three-pointer by Stokes. But St. Ignatius went on a 9-2 run to end the quarter, then took the lead for good at 51-49 with 3:44 left in the game. St. Ignatius was powered offensively in the game by 6-4 forward Vince Crisp (24 points) and 6-3 sophomore guard Raymond Whitley (23 points)

Last season, the Gaels were 18-12 overall (7-2 in the East Bay Athletic League) and was the No. 5 seed in the North



Dublin's Cameron Anderson slam dunks for 2 points during the Nor Cal basketball Tip Off Tournament on Saturday, Nov. 25. Dublin High played the St Ignatius Wildcats of San Francisco. St. Ignatius won 63 - 54. [See photo gallery at www.independentnews.com/multimedia] (Photo – Doug Jorgensen)

Coast Section Open Division playoffs. First-team all-EBAL player Courtney Anderson Jr. and

second-teamer Donovan Cooks were both seniors on that squad.

Dublin played Newark

Memorial on Nov. 28 after this article's deadline. The Gaels host Hayward on Dec. 5 at 7 p.m.

Las Positas Girls' Basketball Guard Brings Heart and Talent to Team

By Matt Schwab

A special story is unfolding on the basketball court at Las Positas College.

Kierstin Constantino, a humble 5-foot-5 guard out of Lathrop High, has a scintillating style of play and a bent for 3-pointers. She scored at least 35 points three times in the Hawks' first seven games this

season) are drawing rave reviews for their heartfelt efforts under difficult circumstances. In a recent road loss to Merced, they outscored the Blue Devils 41-36 in the second half while playing four against five.

Clearly, Theodore sees the glass as half-full in the program. Others do too.

girl, is to play where my parents grew up," she says. "That's where a lot of my family is from, so it would be nice to play in front of all of my culture and all that over in the Philippines."

Playing against larger teams this season only heightens the Hawks' resolve.

"Even though we have low numbers we still have to give it our all on the court and just push each other to be better," Constantino said. "No matter the wins or losses, it's still going to be a lesson for us. Just play our game because you never know who's watching in the stands. It can help us go to the next level."

Constantino had a prolific career at Lathrop but didn't receive a lot of attention from recruiters.

"She was overlooked, absolutely," Theodore said. "The kid was a champion coming out of high school. If she wasn't as short as she is, she would have the world just craving to come add her to their roster."

Coaches like Theodore want to shout from the rooftops about players like Constantino — a reserved person with electric skills who leads by example. Good luck trying to stop her on the court.

"The way that she can shoot the ball, create her shot, get downhill, make decisions, I mean, you just don't see it," Theodore says. "She's shooting from the volleyball line and she doesn't think twice about it. You don't see that a lot at this level."

Constantino, a major in kinesiology and sports management, said she had a "great experience" playing Wenatchee Valley and met a lot of "wonderful people" she stays in touch with.

She is using this season as a springboard to the four-year school.

"This is my last year in junior college basketball, and I have no time to waste," she says. "I have to give it my all on the court and see where it will take me for the next teams of my basketball career."

She also considers Theodore a "great mentor" who pushes her to work hard every day.

"In the beginning of the

year we had a meeting about how many points I can score each game," she recalled. "He would say, like 'eight each quarter would get you to 32 points for the game.' I always thought that was so hard and I always doubted myself and didn't think I could obtain that."

She's pretty close to that.

Constantino recently led the state at 26.5 points a game, after an electrifying performance with 37 points against Taft on the Hawks' Tony Costello Court. She was 8 for 16 from 3-point range in an 93-89 loss — a notable result considering Las Positas went the entire 40 minutes with five available players against a quality opponent.

Coach Theodore marvels at his team's skill and drive. Others are taking note as well.

"I'm very proud of them," he says. "Every single game we've had up to this point I've just gotten nothing but a shower of compliments from coaching staffs, opponents, fans, and friends and family, and it's just been all in high regard as far as their effort and their heart."

The enthusiastic Theodore last season inherited a Hawks program that had been dormant since the 2019-20 season. He wants to make history by taking the Hawks to the playoffs and regularly contend for conference championships. He previously enjoyed success as a first assistant coach at Cal State East Bay, helping the women's team to a California Collegiate Athletic Association Tournament of Champions title in 2021-22, in a record-breaking season.

Now, his program is showcasing a special talent in Constantino — a role model on and off the court.

"The epitome of what being an example to the next generation of women in athletics," Theodore said of Constantino. "Little girls across the Bay Area and the Central Valley are going to look up to her and want to be like her some day. How can you not be motivated and inspired? This is what empowering women in athletics is all about at Las Positas. She is using our platform to motivate and inspire. I love it."



Winners of Power of Giving: Salute to Impact Makers Announced

Tri-Valley Nonprofit Alliance (TVNPA) proudly announces the Power of Giving: Salute to Impact Makers winners. This annual event took place at the Bankhead Theater in Livermore on Wednesday, November 8th, where nearly 300 people came together to celebrate the remarkable contributions of individuals and organizations in the community.

"We are ecstatic to recognize our winners and nominees' phenomenal work and dedication to the Tri-Valley. Each has made a significant impact in our community, and their commitment to service is truly inspiring," said Kathy Young, CEO of TVNPA.

Award Winners:

- Unsung Hero: Showna Bost, Open Heart Kitchen.
- Lifetime Achievement: Susan Houghton.
- Corporate Partner/Philanthropic Partner: Sensiba, LLC.
- Arts and Culture: Livermore Valley Arts.
- Excellence in Impact under \$1M: Sunflower Hill
- Excellence in Impact Over \$1M: Axis Community Health.

The event also highlighted the impressive work of all nominees in these categories and the dozens of nonprofits receiving grant funding through the Tri-Valley Nonprofit Fund throughout the year, reflecting the diverse and dynamic nonprofits serving the Tri-Valley area.

TVNPA extends heartfelt thanks to elected officials and community leaders who attended the celebration and for supporting the non-profits doing great work in the Tri-Valley.

A special appreciation goes to the event sponsors: Livermore Valley Arts, Pop-

py Bank, AMAEAB, Jean King, Hacienda, Connected Philanthropy, Fremont Bank, Susan Hayes, Lee's Imperial Welding, Safeway, Eric Swallow, and Terry's Tree Service. Their support was instrumental in making the event a success.

The evening was further enhanced with fabulous food from Maple Street Eatery, local wines from Wente and Concannon Vineyards, and musical entertainment by Meredith McHenry. The inspiring keynote address by Chris Helfrich from the Eat. Learn. Play Foundation and words of encouragement from Emcee Dr. Dyrell Foster were appreciated by everyone in attendance. Attendees were also thrilled to have Carrie Varoquiers, Chief Philanthropy Officer at Workday Emcee, the awards portion of the event, where she announced a \$50,000 to the TVNPA Tri-Valley Nonprofit Fund for 2024 grantmaking!

The Power of Giving: Salute to Impact Makers event acknowledged the achievements of these individuals and organizations and highlighted our community's collective strength and compassion.

For more information about the event or the winners, please visit www.tvnpa.org.

About the Tri-Valley Nonprofit Alliance –The Tri-Valley Nonprofit Alliance (TVNPA), a 501(c)(3) organization, was founded in 2014 as the regional convener for nonprofit organizations throughout the Tri-Valley and beyond. The mission of TVNPA is to provide advocacy, collaboration, and education to strengthen nonprofit organizations enriching our communities. Tax ID: 47-4672151. Find out more at www.tvnpa.org.



Kierstin Constantino, a 5-foot-5 guard for Las Positas College, above, is ranked third in the state – scoring an average of 25.4 points per game. [See photo gallery at www.independentnews.com/multimedia] (Photo courtesy of Alan Lewis)

season, topped by 43 points against Cosumnes River. She entered this week ranked third in the state in scoring at 25.4 points a game.

Las Positas head coach Caleb Theodore can't say enough good things about Constantino, a sophomore transfer from Wenatchee Valley College in Washington.

"She's the most humble person that I know," he said recently. "She's determined to help our program make history and make a postseason appearance. ... Constantino is ready for this moment. Her process works. I'm proud of her. She is humble, hungry, smart."

With a small squad impacted heavily by injuries, the Hawks (1-6 to start the

"When we become healthy, I can't wait to see what we can do," Theodore said.

The numbers reflect just how impactful Las Positas' small cast has been. In addition to Constantino, 6-foot-1 freshman Joyce Mulumba and 5-11 sophomore Monique Cavness entered this week ranked first and second in the state in rebounding, at 23.0 and 22.3 per game.

With deep family ties in the Philippines, Constantino has a goal of playing for the Philippines national women's basketball team — an achievement that would involve getting a passport and dual citizenship, she says.

"That's always been my dream since I was a young

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LEGAL NOTICES

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 601689

The following person(s) doing business as: Beer Baron, 336 Saint Mary St., Pleasanton, CA 94566 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Judge Brothers LLC, 1185 Orchard St., Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business

under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 3/30/2016. Signature of Registrant/s/: Harpreet Singh, Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 27, 2023. Expires October 26, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5667. Published November 9, 16, 23, 30, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 601692

The following person(s) doing business as: Thirsty Agave, 2086 1ST Street, Livermore, CA 94550

is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Gopa Restaurant Group LLC, 1185 Orchard St., Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Harpreet Singh, Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 27, 2023. Expires October 26, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5668. Published November 9, 16, 23, 30, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 601691

The following person(s) doing business as: Fat Pigeon, 2223 1st Street, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Judge Family LLC, 1185 Orchard St., Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above:

N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Harpreet Singh, Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 27, 2023. Expires October 26, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5669. Published November 9, 16, 23, 30, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 601766

The following person(s) doing business as: Jpar Iron Horse Referrals, 550 Main Street, Pleasanton, CA 94566 is hereby registered by the following

owner(s): Starkey Holdings, 550 Main Street, 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: 10/31/2023. Signature of Registrant/s/: Erica Starkey, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 30, 2023. Expires October 29, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5670. Published November 9, 16, 23, 30, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 601465

The following person(s) doing business as: Faeella, 4908 Hibernia Drive, Dublin, CA 94568 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Fairy Frolics LLC, 4908 Hibernia Drive 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/: Swapnal Ambekar, Managing Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 18, 2023. Expires October 17, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5671. Published November 9, 16, 23, 30, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 601815

The following person(s) doing business as: Hipot Capital, 25568 Crestfield Circle, Castro Valley, CA 94552 is hereby registered by the following

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owner(s): Diya Zhao, 25568 Crestfield Circle, Castro Valley, CA 94552. This business is conducted by an individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 11/1/2023. Signature of Registrant/s/: Diya Zhao, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 2, 2023. Expires November 1, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5672. Published November 9, 16, 23, 30, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 601811

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. WWW Express; 2. WWD, 1035 Mission CT, Fremont, CA 94539 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Vince Truong, 696 San Ramon Valley Blvd # 128, Danville, CA 94526. This business is conducted by an individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 3/1/2021. Signature of Registrant/s/: Vince Truong, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 2, 2023. Expires November 1, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5673. Published November 9, 16, 23, 30, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 601782

The following person(s) doing business as: Serpico, 1764 National Ave, Hayward, CA 94545 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Serpico Landscaping Inc., 1764 National Ave., Hayward, CA 94545. 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/: Roshan Bhakta, CFO - Secretary. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 1, 2023. Expires October 31, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5674. Published November 9, 16, 23, 30, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 601200

The following person(s) doing business as: Refined Autos, 5285 Irene Way, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Refined Innovations LLC, 5285 Irene Way, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Chaudhry Ahmed, Managing Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 3, 2023. Expires October 2, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5675. Published November 9, 16, 23, 30, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 601403

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Accounting by Brian and Stephen for Property Management; 2. ABS4PM, 7038 Dublin, CA 94568 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Brian Conway, 8075 Bethel Lane, Pleasanton, CA 94588; Stephen Conway, 8075 Bethel Lane, Pleasanton, CA 94588. This business is conducted by a General Partnership. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 10/16/2023. Signature of Registrant/s/: Brian A. Conway, General Partner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 16, 2023. Expires October 15, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5676. Published November 9, 16, 23, 30, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 601662

The following person(s) doing business as: Alta California Agave, 4462 Mines Rd., Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Michael D. Harris, 4462 Mines Rd., 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: 10/26/2023. Signature of Registrant/s/: Michael D. Harris, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 26, 2023. Expires October 27, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5677. Published November 9, 16, 23, 30, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 601808

The following person(s) doing business as: Fused Permanent Jewelry, 102 Daisyfield Drive, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Anna Richardson, 102 Daisyfield Drive, Livermore, CA 94551; Laurie Hoyt, 32 Vintage Circle Unit 1143, Pleasanton, CA 94566. This business is conducted by a General Partnership. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 11/1/2023. Signature of Registrant/s/: Anna Richardson, general Partner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 1, 2023. Expires October 31, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5678. Published November 9, 16, 23, 30, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 601653

The following person(s) doing business as: 911 Restoration Bay Area, 6841 Village Parkway, Dublin, CA 94568 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Worldwide Restoration LLC, 6841 Village 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/: Rajat Mohan, Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 26, 2023. Expires October 25, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5679. Published November 9, 16, 23, 30, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 601685

The following person(s) doing business as: A1 Enterprises, 105 RD. 12, Pleasanton, CA 94566 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Bay Area Sanitation, LLC, 3744 St. Francis Dr., Lafayette, CA 94549. 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/: Kurt Winter, Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 27, 2023. Expires October 26, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5679. Published November 9, 16, 23, 30, 2023.

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME ORIGINAL FILE NO. 569129

The person(s) listed below have abandoned the use of the following fictitious business name(s): Lavender Valley Ranch, 4462 Mines Rd., Livermore, CA 94550. The fictitious business name statement was filed on March 2, 2020 in the County of Alameda. This business was conducted by an individual. Signature of Registrants: /s/. Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 26, 2023. The Independent, Legal No. 5680. Published November 9, 16, 23, 30, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 601723

The following person(s) doing business as: TLSC Handyman, 1033 Hollyhock ST., Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Anthony Canales, 1033 Hollyhock ST, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by an individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 11/15/2021. Signature of Registrant/s/: Anthony Canales, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 30, 2023. Expires October 29, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5681. Published November 16, 23, 30, December 7, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 601796

The following person(s) doing business as: SLED, 1010 Glen Dr., San Leandro, CA 94577 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): San Leandro Education Foundation, 1010 Glen Drive, San Leandro, CA 94577. 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: 09/03/2008. Signature of Registrant/s/: Jill A. Raimondi, Treasurer. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 1, 2023. Expires October 31, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5682. Published November 16, 23, 30, December 7, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 601541

The following person(s) doing business as: Shuttlers Direct, 19077 Meekland Ave, Hayward, CA 94541 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Michael Conforti, 405 Pinenut St., Oakley, 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: 2018. Signature of Registrant/s/: Michael Conforti, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 23, 2023. Expires October 22, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5683. Published November 16, 23, 30, December 7, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 601818

The following person(s) doing business as: Castro Dental Care Dental Office of Elsa C. Castro, DDS, 39572 Stevenson Pl. Ste. 129, Fremont, CA 94539 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Castro Dental Office P.C., 2104 Gomes Rd., Fremont, CA 94539. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 10/01/2023. Signature of Registrant/s/: Elsa C. Castro, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 2, 2023. Expires November 1, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5684. Published November 16, 23, 30, December 7, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 601804

The following person(s) doing business as: BEAM Professionals, 2600 Tenth St., Suite 700, Berkeley, CA 94710 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): PBK Architects, Inc., 11 Greenway Plaza, 22nd Floor, Houston, TX 77046. 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/: Christopher Cunico, COO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 1, 2023. Expires October 31, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5685. Published November 16, 23, 30, December 7, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 601914

The following person(s) doing business as: Wanah's Transport, 8640 Southwick Drive, Dublin, CA 94568 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Samir Zemaryalai, 8640 Southwick Drive, 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/: Samir Zemaryalai, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 6, 2023. Expires November 5, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5686. Published November 16, 23, 30, December 7, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 601795

The following person(s) doing business as: Gym Guards, 3620 Andrews Drive, 102, Pleasanton, CA 94588 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Mickey Cares LLC, 3620 Andrews Drive, 102, 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: 08/01/2023. Signature of Registrant/s/: Mikhail Solomin, Managing Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 1, 2023. Expires October 31, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5687. Published November 16, 23, 30, December 7, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 601768

The following person(s) doing business as: Leslie's Cookies and Treats, 787 Barleta Lane, Livermore, CA 94550-7157 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Leslie Joan Tregear, 787 Barleta Lane, Livermore, CA 94550-7157. 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: 09/08/2023. Signature of Registrant/s/: Leslie Joan Tregear, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 1, 2023. Expires October 31, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5688. Published November 16, 23, 30, December 7, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 601875

The following person(s) doing business as: HLCMT, 1415 Pullman Way, Oakland, CA 94607 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Helen Ly Lee, 1415 Pullman Way, Oakland, CA 94607. This business is conducted by an individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Helen Ly Lee, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 6, 2023. Expires November 5, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5689. Published November 16, 23, 30, December 7, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 601475

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. The Urban Doll; 2. The Urban Doll Beauty; 3. Highly Illogical Human 1393 Solano Ave, Suite D., Albany, CA 94706 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): The Urban Doll LLC, 5501 De Marcus Blvd #133, 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: 12/01/2022. Signature of Registrant/s/: Navita Manyisha, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 17, 2023. Expires October 17, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5690. Published November 16, 23, 30, December 7, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 602161

The following person(s) doing business as: Mobile PC Services, 1866 Sally Creek Circle, Hayward, CA 94541 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): John S. da Eira, 1866 Sally Creek Circle, Hayward, CA 94541. 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: 2003. Signature of Registrant/s/: John S. da Eira, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 17, 2023. Expires November 16, 2028. The Independent, Legal

No. 5691. Published November 23, 30, December 7, 14, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 602085

The following person(s) doing business as: Jpar Iron Horse Referrals, 550 Main Street, Pleasanton, CA 94566 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Starkey Holdings Inc., 550 Main Street, 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: 10/31/2023. Signature of Registrant/s/: Erica Starkey, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 14, 2023. Expires November 13, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5692. Published November 23, 30, December 7, 14, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 601512

The following person(s) doing business as: Spur X Brand Co, 12371 Tesla Road, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Carly M. Piazza, 12371 Tesla Road, 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: 11/14/2013. Signature of Registrant/s/: Carly M. Piazza, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 20, 2023. Expires October 19, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5693. Published November 23, 30, December 7, 14, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 601675

The following person(s) doing business as: Mission-Hope Day Program, Hayward, 21328 Mission Blvd, Hayward, CA 94541 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Mission Blvd Day Program LLC, 21328 Mission Blvd, 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: 10/28/2013. Signature of Registrant/s/: Jay Francis Y. Gamez, Managing Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 27, 2023. Expires October 26, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5694. Published November 23, 30, December 7, 14, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 602075

The following person(s) doing business as: Infinite Lynk, 2150 Portola Avenue Ste D #1081, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Kakazu, LLC, 2150 Portola Avenue Ste D #1081, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Jessica Lynn Kakazu, Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 14, 2023. Expires November 13, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5695. Published November 23, 30, December 7, 14, 2023.

LEGAL NOTICE – The business records of the following customers of ACCESS INFORMATION MANAGEMENT (or any affiliates of ACCESS) located at 5785 Las Positas Road, CA, Livermore CA 94551 have been abandoned: GEORGE COBB, MD. All records will be shredded 9 days after publication of this notice. Anyone claiming to have an interest in the records should contact Access Information Protected in writing at the following address: 500 Unicorn Park Drive, Suite 503, Woburn, MA 01801, Attn: Legal Department, Tel. No. (888) 869-2767 (Client Support); email: Collections@accesscorp.com. The Independent, Legal No. 5697. Published November 30, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 602115

The following person(s) doing business as: Dear Taco, 3811 Macarthur Blvd, Oakland, CA 94619 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Dear Taco LLC, 3811 MacArthur Blvd, Oakland, CA 94619. 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: 11/01/2023. Signature of Registrant/s/: Kao Saelee, Manager. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 15, 2023. Expires November 14, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5698. Published November 30, December 7, 14, 21, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 602194

The following person(s) doing business as: VS Services, 1141 Catalina Drive, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Todd Storti, 1141 Catalina Drive, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by an individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Todd Storti, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 20, 2023. Expires November 19, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5699. Published November 30, December 7, 14, 21, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 602176

The following person(s) doing business as: OMEMI Data Photonics, 34499 Jasmine Court, Union City, CA 94587 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Donghong Wu, 34499 Jasmine Court, Union City, CA 94587. This business is conducted by an individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 11/17/2023. Signature of Registrant/s/: Donghong Wu This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 17, 2023. Expires November 16, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5700. Published November 30, December 7, 14, 21, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 602140

The following person(s) doing business as: Alice Home Care, 2515 Santa Clara Ave., Suite 201, Alameda, CA 94501 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Veris Eastbay Homecare, Inc., 2515 Santa Clara Ave., Suite 201, Alameda, CA 94501. 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: 7/18/20017. Signature of Registrant/s/: John Han, CFO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 16, 2023. Expires November 15, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5701. Published November 30, December 7, 14, 21, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 601879

The following person(s) doing business as: Walgreens Health Corner #50008, 1916 Webster St., Ste. 101, Alameda, CA 94501-2140 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Walgreens Health Services LLC, 108 Wilmot Road, Deerfield, IL 60015. 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/: Michael Emerson, Vice President, Tax. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 30, December 7, 14, 21, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 601880

The following person(s) doing business as: Walgreens Health Corner #50009, 2600 Mowry Ave., Ste. 101, Fremont, CA 94538-1619 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Walgreens Health Services LLC, 108 Wilmot Road, Deerfield, IL 60015. 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/: Michael Emerson, Vice President, Tax. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 6, 2023. Expires November 5, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5703. Published November 30, December 7, 14, 21, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 601882

The following person(s) doing business as: Walgreens Health Corner #50010, 164 W Jackson St., Ste 10, Hayward, CA 94544-1810 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Walgreens Health Services LLC, 108 Wilmot Road, Deerfield, IL 60015. 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/: Michael Emerson, Vice President, Tax. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 6, 2023. Expires November 5, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5704. Published November 30, December 7, 14, 21, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 601883

The following person(s) doing business as: Walgreens Health Corner #50034, 23958 Hesperian Blvd., Ste 101, Hayward, CA 94541-7241 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Walgreens Health Services LLC, 108 Wilmot Road, Deerfield, IL 60015. 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/: Michael Emerson, Vice President, Tax. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 6, 2023. Expires November 5, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5705. Published November 30, December 7, 14, 21, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 601883

The following person(s) doing business as: Walgreens Health Corner #50034, 23958 Hesperian Blvd., Ste 101, Hayward, CA 94541-7241 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Walgreens Health Services LLC, 108 Wilmot Road, Deerfield, IL 60015. 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/: Michael Emerson, Vice President, Tax. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 6, 2023. Expires November 5, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5705. Published November 30, December 7, 14, 21, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 601885

The following person(s) doing business as: Walgreens Health Corner #50063, 301 E 18th ST., Ste 10, Oakland, CA 94606-1813 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Walgreens Health Services LLC, 108 Wilmot Road, Deerfield, IL 60015. 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/: Michael Emerson, Vice President, Tax. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 6, 2023. Expires November 5, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5706. Published November 30, December 7, 14, 21, 2023.

2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5706. Published November 30, December 7, 14, 21, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 601886

The following person(s) doing business as: Walgreens Health Corner #50074, 5809 Foothill Blvd., Ste 101, Oakland, CA 94605-1305 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Walgreens Health Services LLC, 108 Wilmot Road, Deerfield, IL 60015. 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/: Michael Emerson, Vice President, Tax. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 6, 2023. Expires November 5, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5707. Published November 30, December 7, 14, 21, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 602056

The following person(s) doing business as: Vogue Beauty Salon, 46485 Mission Blvd, Ste 800 Fremont, CA 94539 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Arkas Flips LLC, 1877 Sioux Dr., Fremont, CA 94539. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Abhay Sachar, Manager. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 13, 2023. Expires November 12, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5705. Published November 30, December 7, 14, 21, 2023.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to section 2107 of chapter 10 to division of 8 of the business and professions code, notice is hereby given by the undersigned that a public lien sale of the following described personal property will be held at the hour of 9am on December 14th, 2023. The sale will be conducted by John Cardozo, auctioneer, (209)667-5797, bond number 5860870, located at:

UNITS East Bay
6011 Las Positas Rd,
Livermore, CA. 94550
The items to be sold are generally described as follows:
Household/Miscellaneous goods
R0039 Marilyn & Ryan Burns
R0149 Dawn Smallwood
B0532 Rishell Alexander
N80712 Loretta Van Wegen
B0386 Sheila Burton
100530 Wes Case
The Independent, Legal No. 5709. Published November 30, December 7, 2023.

C L A S S I F I E D S

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Our current weekly adoption events include:

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6960 Amador Plaza Rd. Hours: 10:00am to 1:00pm.
Visit our website:
WWW.TVAR.ORG, to see adoptable animals, volunteer opportunities, and how to donate.

Follow:
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FREE SECTION



Pleasanton North Rotary hosted the 9th annual Tri Valley Turkey Burn run on Thanksgiving morning at Ken Mercer Sports Park in Pleasanton. The traditional gathering benefits Tri-Valley Youth programs. This year set a record of over 2800 runners and walkers who participated in the event. [See photo gallery at www.independentnews.com/multimedia]

(Photo — Doug Jorgensen)

Dublin Police Collecting Toys for Children in Need

Help make the holidays brighter for underprivileged children by donating to the Dublin Police Services Toy Drive. Toys can be dropped off at Dublin Police Services, 6361 Clark Ave., in Dublin.

All donations will be given to the Hively Family Resource Center (Hively), which is now open in Dublin at 7066 Village Parkway.

Hively provides a one-stop shop for families to obtain all the basic necessities they need, including diapers, food, clothing, children's

Project HOPE to Hold Toy Drive

Project HOPE, a charitable fund created by Alameda County Supervisor David Haubert and his wife, Michelle, will hold a Holiday Toy & Gift Drive on Thursday, Dec. 7.

Unwrapped toys and nonperishable food can be dropped off at the Heritage House, at the Alameda County Fairgrounds.

Project HOPE (Helping Others with Philanthropy & Education) is a donor-advised fund managed by the Three Valleys Community Foundation for the benefit of nonprofit organizations and community causes in the broader East Bay region.

Give to the Asante Africa Foundation During the Christmas Holiday Season

A donation during the holiday season to the Asante Foundation will help support the many causes of the organization. A cash donation today could help a teen gain access to a digital tablet to jump start their success in the 21st Century. It can also provide much-needed hygienic supplies and assist a student with their school fees.

Asante Africa Foundation traces its origins to the collective vision of three accomplished women who shared a profound commitment to advancing education and empowerment in rural East Africa. This visionary trio, comprised of Hellen Nkuraiya, an esteemed Kenyan Primary School Headteacher; Emmy Moshi, a successful Tanzanian business owner; and Erna Grasz, a distinguished Silicon Valley Electrical Engineer, founded Asante Africa with the objective of equipping East Africa's youth to confront life's challenges with confidence, assert their rights, prosper in the global economy, and catalyze positive transformative change.

Initially rooted in two small villages in Kenya and Tanzania, Asante Africa's primary focus centered on advancing girls' education. However, the co-founders realized the imperative need for a multifaceted, systemic solution driven by local communities. This realization prompted the development of age-appropriate life skills, leadership training, and hands-on entrepreneurial initiatives tailored for primary and secondary school youth.

To donate, or for more information, visit www.asanteafrica.org.

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Overnight Closure of Dublin Boulevard This Weekend

A full closure of a portion of Dublin Boulevard, from Dougherty Road to Hacienda Drive, will be required from Saturday, Dec. 2, at 11 p.m., to Sunday, Dec. 3, at 7 a.m., in order for crews to pour the concrete walkway onto the new Iron Horse Trail bridge. Detour signs will direct traffic south to Pleasanton. Local vehicular and pedestrian access will be allowed to travel up to the road limits of Scarlett Drive and Sterling Street.

There is a possibility, due to unforeseen circumstances, that the dates and times of the closure may change. Any updates to the schedule can be found on the City's website at: <https://www.dublin.ca.gov/IHTBridge>.

The bridge is expected to be open in Spring 2024, as additional work requires construction of touchdown landings with graduated ramps on the north side of Dublin Boulevard within Don Biddle Park, and on the south side of Dublin Boulevard within the existing Iron Horse Trail right-of-way.

Enter Dublin's "Deck the Homes" Decorating Contest

Each year, the City of Dublin hosts the "Deck the Homes" Holiday Home Decorating Contest to celebrate those who create festive holiday displays around town. The City's Parks and Community Services Commission serves as contest judges. Winners receive a yard sign for display, and a gift card to a local business, and are recognized before the Dublin City Council.

2023 Contest Categories:

- Seen from Space Award – Best use of lights and color.
- Winter Wonderland Award – Best use of music, movement, and technology.
- Over-Inflated Award – Best use of inflatables.
- Deck the Hall Award – Best decorated apartment/condo/balcony/door.
- Dashing Debut Award (New category!) – First-year contest participant.
- Spotlight Award – Judges' choice.

For additional information or to enter the contest, visit www.dublin.ca.gov.

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