

Strongest Proof: Humans Cause Climate Change

By Jeff Garberson

REGIONAL — A new study of the upper atmosphere provides startlingly clear evidence that humans are responsible for global warming, according to an international research team led by an eminent former Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory climate scientist.

“This is the clearest evidence I’ve seen in my 30-plus years...of a human fingerprint on climate,” said Dr. Ben Santer, the former LLNL scientist.

He considers it the culmination of decades of pioneering work in which he has developed statistical methods that are able to identify subtle patterns of human-caused climate change amid the noisy turmoil of daily weather changes and long-term cycles like the so-called El Niño.

The latest findings grew out of the first search for human-caused patterns of climate change in the middle and upper regions of the stratosphere, some 15 to 30 miles above the Earth’s surface.

A report on the research was published in the Pro-

(See CLIMATE, page 6)

Airport Policy Proposal Stirs Noise Concerns

By David Jen

LIVERMORE — The comment period for Livermore Airport’s first comprehensive development policy closed on April 24, but a Tri-Valley community group continues to voice concerns that the new policy might invite unrestrained expansion at the airport.

The Livermore Airport Citizen’s Group (LACG), which previously petitioned against a KaiserAir proposal at the airport last year, told The Independent that the new policy removes public transparency from the development process and decouples approvals from aviation demand, effectively increasing aircraft noise for surrounding communities.

“We do not want to see the Livermore Airport, which is a small regional airport, expand towards the direction of a big-city airport,” said Jon Krueger, LACG member and Pleasanton resident.

The draft policy, released in February, lays out procedures for reviewing, approving or denying applications

(See AIRPORT, page 6)



Grupo Folklorico Tlapalli perform Mexican folk dances during the Hispanic Heritage Celebration on May 7 at the Bankhead Plaza in Livermore. The Cultural Celebration Series is made possible by Livermore Valley Arts, Las Positas College, Joya Studios and a Rotarian Foundation of Livermore 2023 Community Grant. [See photo gallery at www.independentnews.com/multimedia] (Photo - Doug Jorgensen)

Hively Opens Mental Health Services In Pleasanton for Tri-Valley Residents

By Larry Altman

PLEASANTON — Tri-Valley leaders recently celebrated the opening of Hively Mental Health, a facility in Pleasanton that will expand services for families in need across the region.

The facility at 7901 Stoneridge Drive will have more than 10 therapists on staff to offer high-quality counseling services for issues affecting the emotional health and well-being of individuals and their families. The organization’s name is derived from “hive” and

“lively” to represent a community that is supported, cared for and thriving. Hively CEO Mary Hekl

next six months.

“The additional Pleasanton location helps to accomplish the goal of available, accessible and affordable community mental health services, providing Tri-Valley residents with a menu of low-cost options to address a variety of needs,” Hekl said.

Hively’s mental health center is the latest of its locations for people in need. The Pleasanton office already offered subsidies to families for child care. Last year, the nonprofit organi-

(See HIVELY, page 6)

“The additional Pleasanton location helps to accomplish the goal of available, accessible and affordable community mental health services, providing Tri-Valley residents with a menu of low-cost options to address a variety of needs.”

— May Hekl, Hively CEO

said the center will offer in-person and remote one-to-one therapy, along with group counseling sessions. Hively hopes to have at least 100 clients within the

BART Appoints New Inspector General

By Larry Altman

REGIONAL — California Governor Gavin Newsom last week appointed BART’s assistant inspector general to the agency’s top Inspector General (IG) position, promoting a veteran auditor to the task of rooting out waste, fraud and abuse.

Claudette Biemeret, who has worked as the No. 2 official in the IG office since February 2020, will replace Harriet Richardson, who resigned abruptly in March, saying BART officials and employees’ unions obstructed her from doing her job.

In a statement, BART Board of Directors President Janice Li said she and

her fellow board members “looked forward to a constructive and cooperative relationship with the incoming inspector general.”

“The inspector general is crucial to ensuring that BART meets the highest standards of accountability, efficiency, and transparency,” Li said.

Tri-Valley Sen. Steve Glazer, who was instrumental in a 2018 ballot measure that included establishing an IG to conduct oversight of BART, said in a statement that Biemeret “is in the position to do great public good by continuing the tradition of honest and transparent investigations into BART’s

finances and practices.”

“To be able to fulfill her duties, she must have the full power to root out waste and abuse,” Glazer continued. “The previous inspector general resigned, in part, due to the refusal of BART to give full access to data and whistleblowers. This must be corrected to give confidence to riders and taxpayers that our massive transit spending is justified.”

In February this year, Glazer authored a watchdog bill in the state legislature to make the IG stronger, requiring BART officials to give the IG access to records or face jail time. That bill is still

(See BART, page 7)

Rooftop Solar Future Up in the Air

By David Jen

PLEASANTON — While the city’s greenhouse-gas reduction efforts have progressed in some areas, work still remains to expand rooftop solar, with state regulations complicating matters.

City staff provided a Climate Action Plan status update at the May 2 city council meeting, sharing details on recent accomplishments and planned actions toward the city’s carbon reduction objectives. Adopted in February 2022, the plan lays out a 10-year roadmap toward the city’s goal of reaching carbon zero by 2045.

Although the city has already completed some of the

plan’s priority items — such as adopting all-electric reach codes requiring new buildings to be all electric, and adopting an environmentally preferable purchasing policy for city supplies — Councilmember Julie Testa saw opportunities for more rooftop solar, and she pushed city staff to “lead by example.”

“I remember that we did an analysis on which buildings used the most electricity, and the swim center was the biggie, and we said, ‘Oh, well that’s got to get solar,’” she recalled. “That was literally years ago, and we haven’t done that.”

The library roof replace-

(See SOLAR, page 6)

Commission Ok’s Rule Amendment To Approve Hotel

Residents Decry the Change

By Larry Altman

LIVERMORE — The planning commission on May 2 approved recommended changes to the city’s South Livermore Valley Specific Plan (SLVSP) to enable the development of a 30-room hotel that a court recently ruled had failed to meet the SLVSP requirements.

Specifically, the planning commission voted 5-0 to recommend that the city council amend the SLVSP to allow the proposed Wine Country Inn to have a 50-foot setback from Hansen Road. The SLVSP language will still require 100-foot setbacks from the property line but added language to exclude the Wine Country Inn site.

The change will circumvent a California 1st District

Court of Appeal ruling that said the SLVSP explicitly required 100-foot setbacks.

“The planning commission recommended the change to clarify that the current zoning that applies to the property and allows a 50-foot setback is consistent with the Specific Plan’s intent,” said Livermore Planning Director Steve Stewart. “The setback for the site was always intended to be less than the 100-foot setback on Arroyo Road, and the zoning that was approved under the Specific Plan by the city council in 2001 for all of the residential development around this area, and the commercial sites, includes a 50-foot setback from Hansen Road for the Wine Country Inn.”

Jean King, a resident who

(See HOTEL, page 7)

Teen Creates Software to Help International Travelers

By Dawnmarie Fehr

DUBLIN — Dublin High School senior Eli McDuffie was so frustrated by the logistics of international travel that he took matters into his own hands.

Applying his interest in software development and a proclivity for programming, he created a website to circumvent Homeland Security’s Trusted Traveler Programs (TTP) and is now offering it to the public.

“It can be hard to get the appointment to get the Trusted Traveler card, and that’s what happened with my mom,” said Eli, 17. “She was traveling internationally and didn’t want to wait so long. She is disabled, and the hours of standing can be difficult.”

Some frequent international travelers utilize the TTP centers, which allow members to use expedited lanes at the U.S. airports and when crossing international borders, but getting into the program can be a challenge. Appointments at TTP centers to obtain the necessary identification card book up months in advance and trying to schedule one –

while working and juggling life’s other activities – is a daunting task.

Eli, 17, said his mom had tried for months to get an appointment to get into TTP, but time slots were booked one year out.



Eli McDuffie

“Instead of checking the government page over and over again to see if a spot opened, I thought it would be easier to create a program, just for my mom, to read the appointments,” he said. “It took about three or four months, but the program was able to notify her when something on the date she wanted was open, and she was able to book it

(See TRAVELERS, page 6)

School Administrators Weigh in On Bill to Increase Teacher Pay

By Larry Altman

REGIONAL — Three Tri-Valley school district administrators welcomed a state lawmaker’s recently introduced bill to raise California teacher and school employee salaries by 50% in the next seven years, but expressed mixed opinions on how the plan would work.

AB 938, introduced by Assemblymember Al Muratsuchi, D-Torrance, is an effort to close a wage gap between teachers and similarly-educated college graduates who find better pay in other professions.

“Schools across the state are facing a workforce crisis, with many teachers and school employees unable to afford to live in the communities that they work in,” said Muratsuchi, chair of the Assembly Education Committee, during an April 26 hearing in Sacramento. “If

we want world class schools, we need to pay teachers and essential school staff what they deserve.”

The passed 6-0, drawing bipartisan support and was sent to the Assembly’s Appropriations Committee, which handles bills affecting the state budget.

AB 938 would increase the target amounts in the state’s Local Control Funding Formula, which is used to allocate money to districts. Specifically, the amounts districts receive based on average daily attendance (ADA) would rise by 50-60%. Districts would have to annually report their progress in meeting the targets through 2030.

According to the bill, the state would spend \$13,749 per student for kindergarten through third grade, up from \$8,935; \$13,956 for grades

(See PAY, page 4)



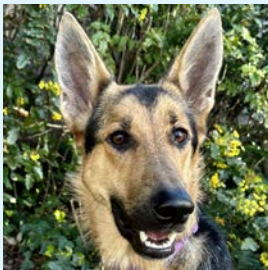
Participants in Pleasanton’s Annual Wine Stroll enjoy the evening event downtown on Saturday, May 6. Guests sampled wine and tasty bites, while musicians performed on Main Street. The stroll is the first of several Saturday events downtown now through October. [See photo gallery at www.independentnews.com/multimedia] (Photo - Doug Jorgensen)

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PET OF THE WEEK



JUNO

Juno, the jubilant jumbo pup, jumps joyfully for a jaunt, just jonesing for jocular jibes. Join Juno for a journey jam-packed with joy and jolly good times. Learn more about Juno and other cats and dogs at valleyhumane.org. Email info@valleyhumane.org to start the adoption application process. #ShareTheCare to help pets today!

(Photo - Valley Humane Society)

Congressman DeSaulnier Requests \$30 Million for Local Projects

U.S. Congressman Mark DeSaulnier (D-CA) has submitted 15 projects in Alameda and Contra Costa counties to the House Committee on Appropriations for potential funding in the 2024 congressional budgeting process.

If approved, the projects would total \$30.5 million. DeSaulnier represents a large portion of Dublin in Alameda County, along with several areas in Contra Costa County.

“Whether by lowering everyday costs for families, increasing access to public spaces, or by making our communities safer, these

projects will each have a meaningful impact on the daily lives of people across our district,” DeSaulnier said in a news release. “I am grateful to our cities and local organizations for their advocacy and partnership in advancing these projects, and I will fight for them through each step of the process.”

Congress approved submitting requests for funding of specific projects, with the funds going to either local governments or nonprofit organizations, as part of the Omnibus Spending Bill in 2022, restoring what used to be referred to as “earmarks.”

In the House, those requests are now referred to as “Community Project Funding,” while in the Senate, they are known as “Congressionally Directed Spending.” According to the Government Accountability Office,

each senator and congressperson can submit up to 15 projects in categories ranging from environmental projects, such as flood mitigation, to health, education, energy, and community development projects, including efforts to prevent homelessness and expand affordable housing.

Among the funding re-

quests submitted by DeSaulnier were:

- \$2.5 million for the Livermore Amador Valley Transit Authority (LAVTA) to add a second hydrogen fueling tank, which would meet the needs of the transit authority’s entire fleet of buses. Alameda County Supervisor and LAVTA board chair David Haubert said the project “represents critical infrastructure needed to operate future zero-emissions buses and to meet the growing transportation needs of Tri-Valley residents.”
- \$198,000 for Dublin’s Situational Awareness Cam-

eras Project to increase community safety near public parks and schools. Mayor Melissa Hernandez said funding for the cameras “will ensure that Dublin Police have the necessary tools and technology to help reduce crime and keep our community safe.”

- \$3.5 million for the Zone 7 Water Agency to partially fund a PFAS (polyfluoroalkyl substances treatment facility at the Chain of Lakes well site in Livermore to remove chemicals from groundwater in the Tri-Valley, Zone 7 General Manager Valerie Pryor called the chemicals “a

significant concern in our community” and said the proposed treatment facility would “help ensure continued access to safe and reliable water.”

DeSaulnier’s requests must now be vetted by the Appropriation Committee, along with requests from other representatives, including a determination that congress members have no financial interest in the projects and that there is community support.

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Human Services Grants Program Responds to Pandemic End

By David Jen

Grant-funding decisions at the May 2 Dublin City Council meeting took care to respond to post-pandemic changes within the non-prof-

and a senior meal program through Open Heart Kitchen.

The coming 2023-24 fiscal year, however, marks the last year of ARPA support.

ARPA provided emer-

gency for COVID-19 will end May 11.

Councilmember Sherry Hu worried about preparing organizations for the change.

“I want to make sure we get this information out to all the organizations when we give the money this year, so they have the expectations for the next year,” said Hu.

But Shaun Chilkotowsky, Dublin cultural arts manager, felt confident that the city had provided sufficient lead time.

“When we started with ARPA funding for this, it was something we wanted to be very careful about, to say, ‘Hey we’re adding funding as a response to COVID, but it’s not going to be here for the long term,’” he continued.

And Mayor Melissa Hernandez touted the resiliency of non-profit finances in the area.

“Not only are they getting our funding, but they’re also getting funding from other cities, and from state funding, and from federal funding, and from, hopefully, fundraising as well,”

she said.

Also in response to the end of the pandemic, the city council decided to defund a \$4,960 grant to non-profit Wishing Well, Inc., which previously provided food-delivery assistance during the pandemic, and which requested \$25,000 for the coming fiscal year to operate a free-meals service.

Hernandez described delivery services as less relevant today, given that less people are confined indoors.

Councilmember Jean Josey also questioned the Wishing Well grant amount.

“From the application that they sent, they couldn’t really operate without the \$25,000,” said Josey. “Under \$5,000 doesn’t get them where they need to be.”

Councilmember Kashaf Qaadri, although ultimately supportive of the motion to defund Wishing Well and redistribute their funds proportionately, expressed some hesitation.

“I think it’s worth giving newer organizations a chance and see what they can accomplish in serving the needs of our community,” said Qaadri.

The coming fiscal year will mark the 19th of Dublin’s Human Services Grant Program.

“I want to make sure we get this information out to all the organizations when we give the money this year, so they have the expectations for the next year.”

— Councilmember Sherry Hu

it landscape, weaning off American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding and shifting focus away from food-delivery services.

The city council voted unanimously to allocate some \$330,000 to 23 grants through 18 organizations, using about \$163,000 in ARPA funds, \$107,000 of the city’s General Fund, and \$60,000 in Community Development Block Grant funds. The money will support programs such as homelessness prevention and family stabilization through City Serve of the Tri-Valley

agency federal funding through various channels — including \$1,400 household checks, increased tax credits and funding to state, local, territorial and tribal governments — in response to the COVID-19 pandemic in 2021.

Dublin used about \$163,000 per year in ARPA funds during the past two fiscal years to support its Human Services Grant Program.

California’s COVID-19 State of Emergency ended on February 28 and the Federal Public Health Emer-

Public Hearing Set for Isabel Neighborhood Taxes

By Larry Altman

The city council on Monday scheduled a public hearing for June 12 to discuss the potential formation of a Community Facilities District (CFD) that will impose a special tax to fund long-term street maintenance and other infrastructure needs in a portion of the massive Isabel Neighborhood development.

The proposed CFD is the first to potentially be created for future property owners slated to purchase homes and property in the Isabel development, which will bring nearly 4,100 new housing units, parks, streets, bike paths and other amenities to the land north and south of Interstate 580 and Isabel Avenue.

Specifically, the first CFD would be created for the Triad East residential project, designated for a 112-unit condominium development on the northwest corner of North Canyons Parkway and Triad Place north of I-580.

The council’s unanimous vote on the consent calendar item occurred without discussion. Besides scheduling the public hearing, the

action authorized a process that would annex adjacent tracts set for development in the Isabel Neighborhood to be taxed within the CFD.

The move comes a year after the city council approved an application by Denova Homes to build 12 three-story buildings with one-, two- and three-bedroom unit options, along with an 8,700-square-foot central park and a 2,600-square-foot dog park, at that location.

The condos, including 22 affordable and 12 accessible units located close to public transit, will incorporate rooftop solar panels, on-site electric vehicle chargers, recycled water for landscaping, and native and drought-tolerant plants.

Ryan Parlett, the president of Denova Homes, submitted the application to form the CFD on May 2. By law, the application requires a public hearing.

Under California’s Mel-lo-Roos act, CFD special tax districts bring additional funding to finance infrastructure and other services to a particular area. A special tax is assessed against property but is not based on the property’s assessed value.

Each owner will be charged a fixed amount.

According to a city staff report, the maximum annual operation and maintenance costs for Triad East is estimated at \$48,691 in 2023 dollars. The cost will be spread over 112 units with an average homeowner cost of \$435.

The money will be used to maintain streets for cars, bicycles and pedestrians; parks, trails and plazas; a pedestrian bridge and tunnel crossing at Isabel Avenue; a pedestrian bridge/tunnel crossing of Isabel Avenue; Valley Link Plaza and pedestrian bridges; and a Valley Link parking lot.

Following the public hearing, the city council will schedule a mail-in election among landowners in the CFD. If approved, the council would adopt an ordinance to impose the tax in perpetuity.

According to a city report, Livermore will administer the CFD, manage the budget and perform the maintenance. Once the entire Isabel Neighborhood Plan Area is built, the estimated annual cost for maintenance is \$1.8 million plus administrative expenses.

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Livermore Friends Embark on Bucket List Cycling Adventure

By Dawnmarie Fehr

Two friends from Livermore are planning the ultimate European Mountain Cycling Vacation together, checking one of their life-long dreams off their bucket lists.

Livermore residents Beau Grant and Mike Stewart

France, Switzerland and Italy became ingrained in our memories. They felt like part of another world. During COVID, both of us kind of reevaluated some things in our lives and we said we aren't getting any younger and should get over there."

Grant said he chose a bike. "I still have that bike," he said. "It was \$3,000 back in 1988, it was a lot of money back then. My dad didn't get to hear about this trip because he passed, but I wish I could tell him that bike is still paying dividends and I'm going to go see the world and it just means a lot."

Stewart said cycling is a part of him, and as he watched time tick by, he knew there was no better time than the present to make this trip.

The two men also collaborate on a podcast, "Cycle Jerks," where they discuss all things "bike," interview athletes and industry insiders, and share stories meant to entertain and inspire.

"The idea of this trip came up a couple times with guests and I finally just decided, 'hey, let's make this happen,'" said Stewart. "It's Beau's dream, it's my dream, and I think it's the dream of many cyclists to ride these roads from the big races over there in Europe. I still can't believe we are going."

To train, both Grant and Stewart have put in plenty of miles, watched their diets and cross trained. Grant – who fell away from cycling for years, then came back to it – has used his bike on a weight loss journey over the past eight years, dropping more than 80 pounds. Stewart had stayed in shape, but still used a Zwift indoor bike to log training miles. Core workouts, increased protein and recovery drinks are part of their daily routines, as they prep to take on some of Europe's most scenic and challenging rides while dealing with altitude changes, time differences and unfamiliar sleeping quarters.

"The tricky part will be not to ride too much at the beginning," Stewart said. "When riding your bike, it's normal for a regular cyclist to go out for 50 miles, it's

not that big of a deal. But adding hills into it changes the dynamic, and we are going to climb all these legendary mountains."

Though riding will be the focus of their trip, Grant said they plan on visiting some museums and eateries between rides. One of their podcast listeners has offered to show them around in Italy, and they have a list of the best chocolatiers Europe has to offer.

"I have dieted so much, I am jonesing for some chocolate and pizza," said Grant, laughing. "On these rides I have planned, we will be burning between 4,000 and 7,000 calories each day, we will actually be in a deficit and we will need to eat as healthy as possible, and need carbs, carbs, carbs."

For more information, or to follow along on Grant and Stewart's journey, visit

www.cyclejerkspodcast.buzzsprout.com or follow the pair on Instagram at @cyclejerkspodcast.



Beau Grant, above, and his longtime friend Mike Stewart are embarking on a European bike trip, which will be the culmination of a dream begun nearly 30 years ago. (Photo courtesy of Beau Grant)

art met in the old Schwinn bicycle shop in downtown Livermore in the 1980s. Stewart, 56, worked in the shop and was well-known in BMX racing circles. Grant's interests lay in traditional road cycling. The pair became friends for a few years, but drifted apart and didn't see each other for three decades. They came together again while volunteering at a charity event and rekindled their dormant friendship. Now they are planning to conquer the mountain passes they read about in cycling magazines back in that bike shop.

"Our trip goes back to when we were kids and seeing the Tour de France on television," Grant, 53, said. "The internet didn't exist, so we relied on magazines, and the pictures of these iconic mountain passes in

The duo depart for Milan on June 7 and will head straight for the Alps. Over two weeks, they will push on to the Dolomites, the French Alps and southern France, finishing with the Pyrenees in Spain. Grant said they've spent the past year working on the logistics, finances and some hard choices – so many mountain passes, so little time – to create the perfect itinerary for their excellent two-week adventure.

"We aren't going there to set any type of records and we couldn't anyway," said Stewart. "We are just going to ride it and soak it all in and soak up the culture."

Cycling has been a major part of both Grant and Stewart's lives. When he graduated high school, Grant's father offered to buy him a car or a racing bike, and

Happy Mother's Day!

To all mothers whether you are past, present, soon to be moms, mother figures and moms in heaven. May your Mother's Day be filled with joy and laughter.

It is on honor for me to give a tribute to my mom and grandma every year on Mother's Day. I fondly remember our annual mother daughter daughter trips together. Grandma Rae is no longer with us as she passed away at the age of 102. I wear grandma's necklace (pictured) on Mother's Day in her memory.

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EDITORIAL

DeSaulnier’s Proposals Show Support for the Community

Congressman Mark DeSaulnier’s recent proposals provide an excellent example of how elected officials can work effectively to address the needs of their constituents. With his tireless efforts, DeSaulnier is making a significant impact on the Tri-Valley region.

One of the most notable bills proposed by DeSaulnier is the allocation of \$3.5 million to fund a PFAS treatment facility at the Chain of Lakes well site in Livermore. This bill provides critical help to address dangerous chemicals in our groundwater.

Another commendable proposal from DeSaulnier is the allocation of \$198,000 for the Dublin Situational Awareness Cameras Project. This project aims to provide police with surveillance cameras to enhance community safety in public

parks and schools.

Furthermore, DeSaulnier’s proposal to spend \$2.5 million for the Livermore Amador Valley Transit Authority to add a second hydrogen fueling tank to their fleet of buses supports a critical infrastructure project. This project will enable LAVTA to operate a fully zero-emissions bus fleet, reduce carbon emissions, and improve air quality in the Tri-Valley.

The Tri-Valley is fortunate to have a hardworking and dedicated representative in DeSaulnier. We commend him for his efforts to negotiate and build consensus to achieve legislative goals that will benefit the region. The success of these bills depends on the implementation by local governments and organizations, but with DeSaulnier’s leadership, we can be confident that they are in good hands.

MAILBOX

Mailbox Guidelines:

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America, Please Open Your Eyes

David Ott, Pleasanton

Have you noticed that the Democratic party and the Biden Administration with the help of the mainstream left media are turning the United States into a Marxist communist regime? Don’t believe me? Here is some proof. Elon Musk released the Twitter files to three liberal journalists - Matt Taibbi, Bari Weiss and Michael Shellenberger (listen to Joe Rogan episodes #1940 and #1963). These three left journalists have confirmed that the Twitter files exposed the immoral and unlawful doings of the Democratic party, the Biden Administration, the DOJ, FBI and the mainstream left media. The Twitter files prove that the Dems tried to bury the Hunter Biden laptop story because they knew how damaging it would be – Biden would have never been elected. We have lost our liberty, democracy and our free speech. These are the things that happen in China and Russia, not America. The corrupt and immoral Biden administration have taken a page out of the Karl Marx doctrine and are turning America into a Marxist communist regime.

The Biden administration have weaponized the DOJ / FBI to attack their political opponents with false accusations and charges. And what is worse is what they are doing to normal everyday American PTA parents and Christian leaders with their harassment, arrest and illegal operations.

The Biden administration have taken away free speech and replaced it with their speech. Open debate and discussion is no longer allowed in public, in the

media or at the majority of collages. The only opinion on any topic is their opinion. They use the Marxist tactic of shouting people down at colleges and in public that have a different point of view – remember when open discussion and debate was encouraged at all colleges? Open debate is a founding principle of America. This is no longer allowed by the left.

The Biden administration knows that their policies have failed America and the only way to stay in power is to lie, cheat and steal the freedom, liberty and democracy away from the America people. Control and power is their end game and they will do anything to achieve it.

America, open your eyes and take action to rid our country of the Biden administration. We do not want socialism, Marxism or communism. We want free speech, religious freedom, open and civil debate, low taxes, low government regulations, and a secure border.

Don’t Change the South Livermore Valley

Donna Cabanne, Livermore

Did you hear? On May 22nd, the Livermore City Council is considering an amendment to the South Livermore Valley Specific Plan. The vision of this specific plan is to preserve and promote South Livermore as an historic wine growing and wine producing region. The plan states, “Building setbacks for commercial uses within the area shall be 100ft from all road frontages; all setback areas shall be planted with vineyards” (Policy 4-7). The Court of Appeals ruled that the 100 ft. setbacks are “mandatory, fundamental; and not open to subjective interpretation”. The Court also concluded that the “City’s arbitrary setback of 50 ft. on Hansen Road was legally erroneous and an abuse of the City Council’s discretion.”

Instead of complying with the law, the applicant of the Wine Country Inn is now asking the City to amend the plan. The amendment before the City Council will reduce the 100 ft setbacks in half to 50 ft on Hansen Road and trade vines for parking spaces and commercial-sized dumpsters. Any General Plan amendment as serious as this one should not be rushed through at one City Council meeting to appease one applicant. This amendment is contrary to the law and the vision of the South Livermore Valley. Think about it; South Livermore is known for its beautiful vineyards and rural landscapes. Instead of increasing viticultural acreage, we are getting parking spaces and dumpsters -- is that the image needed to promote South Livermore?

Ask the City Council to consider the long term consequences of amending an entire plan to accommodate one developer. Why should an arbitrary exception be made? The ramifications of this amendment are far-reaching. Once the setback is changed, it will

seriously weaken the very viticultural acreage the plan is supposed to protect. This is a slippery slope; if one exception is made, others will ask for equal treatment. It will set an undesirable precedent. The City will not have the moral authority to turn down other applicants seeking to change their designs for their own benefits.

There are many ways the applicant’s design could be modified to conform to the plan. Rather than changing the specific plan, the City Council should ask the applicant to follow the law and conform to the plan.

A Little Stealing is Not OK

Kenneth Henneman, Pleasanton

Your 4/27/23 article describes how Mr. Mohs was killed, murdered by someone who thought a “little” stealing was OK. Is it?

‘Little’ isn’t something we can say about ‘death’. Death is death, there’s no ‘little’ death.

‘Little’ isn’t something we can say about ‘poison’. Poison is poison, there’s no ‘little’ poison.

‘Little’ isn’t something we can say about ‘rape’. Rape is rape, there’s no ‘little’ rape.

Little isn’t something we can say about ‘stealing’. -- No civilization or country or city; no religion, or religious/spiritual writing; no book or anyone I have heard or talked to -- has ever condoned stealing. So ‘little’ isn’t something you can say about ‘stealing’. Stealing is stealing, there’s no ‘little’ stealing.

Yet, incredulously, unbelievable, unfortunately, California leaders have said a ‘little’ stealing is OK. And so, a Home Depot salesperson was killed. Murdered.

How long will it take before our leaders, our legislature, our governor, realize that a “little” stealing is NOT OK. It has obviously led to Mr. Mohs murder.

Five Good Things You Can Do in Livermore

Trish Munro, Livermore

1. Protect your Catalytic Converter! When: Thursday, May 11, from 8 AM to 3 PM (for the last vehicle) Where: Las Positas College’s Automotive Department Loop Road behind Building 800. What happens: Technicians etch your license plate on your catalytic converter and spray paint your car with a Livermore Police identifier. Questions? Email CrimePrevention@livermoreca.gov
2. Volunteer for the Livermore Area Youth Advisory Commission (LAYAC)! Who: Youth between 12 and 20 years old. Oh, and one adult advisor! Why? Civic engagement matters. This is your chance to learn about city governance and contribute to the conversation to make good changes. When: Apply by 5 p.m. on June 9 to LivermoreCA.gov/AB
3. Celebrate Summer’s Approach at the Children’s Carnival! Who: everyone who likes circuses, ice cream, and games! Where and When: Livermore’s Civic Center Library on Satur-

day, June 10 from noon- 3 p.m. What: Slim Chance Circus will perform, ice cream will be eaten, plate spinning and juggling will be taught. Also: children who sign up for the Summer Reading Program can take home a free book!

4. Enjoy Verse on the Vine! Where and When: Civic Center Livermore on Sunday, June 4 at 3 p.m. Poetry with Livermore’s Poet Laureate, Peggy Schimmelman, featuring award-winning poets David Alpaugh and Sarah Kobrinsky.

5. Experience Wine Down in the Grove! Where and When: Ravenswood Park on Saturday, May 13 from 4-7 p.m. What: music, appetizers and desserts, wine and beer. And lots of good company. Why: to advance LARPD Foundation’s community support program, which provides financial assistance that allows children the opportunity attend summer natures camps and swim lessons. Purchase tickets at: bit.ly/winedowninthegrove23

There is, of course, much more going on—the Livermore Street Fest and the Livermore Rodeo, to name two big events. But the five things above represent very different ways Livermore residents can participate in our community. Attend one or all—you’ll find yourself in the company of neighbors and friends.

East Avenue Corridor Plan a Disaster

Ellen Raber, Livermore

I am writing in support of the previous letter 2 weeks ago from Bill Beiriger stating that the traffic engineers in Livermore who approved this East Avenue Ballards project need to get remedial 101 traffic training. This pilot project is far from an excellent scientific study/project as suggested by others, unless you are comparing this to the elementary or middle school science fair projects that I have judged during my years at LLNL. It is obvious that geometry is not a skill set of this company that the City of Livermore hired, since they can’t seem to understand how to calculate a simple turning radius as a function of the length of a car or a truck. I have reported to the Livermore Police Department that the intersection of Hillcrest and East Avenue is an accident waiting to happen. I needed to back up several times while at the light on Hillcrest and East to avoid getting hit by a large car or delivery truck making a left turn from East Avenue turning south onto Hillcrest. Should I just let the oncoming vehicle back up into East Avenue? Or should I sit and get hit? Who will pay for the damages caused by this? The City of Livermore? Please provide the address as it is only a matter of time before there is an accident. All streets along East Avenue should be evaluated for similar hazards.

This situation is truly an embarrassment for those of us who are actually scientists and engineers that work at LLNL.

Civic Center Library to Host VA Health Care Outreach

The Veterans Affairs Palo Alto Health Care System’s outreach team will be at the Livermore Civic Center Library, 1188 S. Livermore Ave., from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., on Thursday, May 25.

Medical providers will be available to provide examinations, consultations, and referrals for veterans enrolled in the VA Palo Alto Health Care System. The outreach team will also answer questions for veterans who have not enrolled or are uncertain about their eligibility for medical or mental health services. Veterans not currently enrolled in the VA system should bring a copy of their DD-214. For more information, go to library.livermoreca.gov or call 925-373-5500.

PAY

(Continued from first page)

4 to 6, up from \$8,215; \$14,370 for grades 7 and 8, up from \$8,458; and \$16,653 for grades 9 to 12, up from \$10,057.

Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District (LVJUSD) Superintendent Chris Van Schaack said his district supports the idea, but it was unclear to him from reading the bill where the state would find the money.

“An increase of 50% would be significant,” he said. “We’d need about \$60 million more each year. I don’t see the State pulling that off without a major shift in budget priorities. I’m hopeful, but it’ll take a great deal of work in Sacramento to pull it together.”

Van Schaack said more than 85% of LVJUSD’s budget is spent on employee compensation.

“We would be very supportive of the goal of increasing teacher pay, as it would greatly assist in our efforts to recruit and retain high-quality educators,” Van Schaack said. “Being able to live in the community in which you work is a great thing.”

Chris Hobbs, assistant superintendent of business services for the Dublin Unified School District (DUSD), called Muratsuchi’s proposal to establish higher funding targets for the LCFF “good news,” but said salaries are just one part of DUSD employees’ total compensation.

The 50% salary increase “ignores the other costs that will be increasing over the same time period.”

“For every dollar in salary that Dublin Unified pays to employees, we pay an additional 39 cents in benefits,” Hobbs said. “Medical and retirement benefits are going to see significant hikes. Requiring that the new money be spent on salaries, without addressing these other compensation costs, will ultimately result in fewer services for students.”

Hobbs added that the bill ignores the basic premise of local control, where local boards and staff know best how to manage their system.

“Some districts, like Dublin, already compensate their teachers very well,” Hobbs said. “Dublin is proud to provide the best total compensation package among the districts with which we compete for talent.”

A rookie teacher in Dublin, with a bachelor’s degree and teaching credential, starts at \$76,994 for 185 days of work, he said. DUSD pays 80% of the employee’s medical insurance plan and into CalSTRS, the state teacher retirement program, which provides a guaranteed pension at retirement. Top scale for a teacher in Dublin is more than \$127,000 plus benefits.

“It’s also worth noting that while Assemblymember Muratsuchi’s proposal would increase the funding that schools receive from the Local Control Funding Formula, that funding only covers a portion of a district’s revenue,” Hobbs said. “There would not be similar increases, for example, from federal funds, meaning that our salary costs will rise across the board, but only a portion of our revenue will benefit from the proposed 50% increase. Since we must

run balanced budgets, this means doing less with the money we get.”

An entry-level teacher in Livermore makes \$67,762 to start with the highest salary at \$126,402, Van Schaack said.

“It occurs to me that there might be some value in establishing a statewide teacher salary schedule,” Van Schaack said. “Perhaps it could be modified for regional differences in cost of living, but it has never made sense to me that teachers in neighboring districts receive different levels of compensation.”

Pleasanton Unified School District Superintendent David Haglund said the district has advocated for increased base funding at the state level for many years.

“We are very supportive of the concept outlined in this bill which would increase the salaries to our world class educators over time,” Haglund said. “It’s important that the legislature look at this issue holistically. We have classified, non-represented staff and school administrators who also face challenges affording to live where they work due to the cost of living. Public education in California has been underfunded for years, and shifts in the law have inhibited each district’s ability to raise revenue — effectively transferring the burden of funding increased costs of public education from the state to the local community.”

PUSD entry-level teachers receive \$75,011 to \$79,542, depending on the incoming teacher units. The highest salary, which requires 20 years of experience, is \$123,004. Increasing those by 50% would adjust the entry-level from \$112,516 to \$119,313 annually. The highest salary will be \$184,506 annually in today’s dollars.

District spokesman Patrick Gannon said the district’s classified employees’ association has a “me too” clause, meaning those workers receive the same increases as teachers. To pay everyone, the district would need an additional \$91 million in the LCFF funding, which would include additional \$53 million for certificated non-management employees; \$7 million for certificated management employees; nearly \$16 million for classified non-management; \$1.6 million for classified management; and another \$13.7 million or operational costs. During the state hearing, San Francisco Unified School District special education teacher Elena Royale cited housing costs leaving her with no savings.

“Rent takes up nearly my entire paycheck,” Royale said. “Our school has found it almost impossible to recruit teachers and paraprofessionals.”

Assemblymember Josh Hoover, R-Folsom, in voting for the bill to move on to the next committee, said he supported the funding plan.

“I know we’re going to have a lot of budget discussions this year on what our priorities should be as a state,” Hoover said. “I think education has to be our top priority, because our students really are the most important.”

THE *Independent*

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In honor of Mother's Day, Cantabella Children's Chorus will perform in concert Saturday, May 13 at the Bankhead Theater in Livermore. For ticket information, visit www.cantabella.org. (Photo courtesy of Cantabella Children's Chorus)

Wente Vineyards Announces Summer Event Schedule

Wente Vineyards in Livermore will host several events now through October, beginning with a Mother's Day celebration on Sunday, May 14, and the return of the winery's annual White Party on Sunday, May 28.

The family-owned winery, now in its 140th year of operation, will also host a series of tribute bands featuring local artists at the vineyard, 5040 Arroyo Road, beginning Friday, June 2, with San Francisco party band Mustache Harbor and the soft rock sounds of the 1970s and '80s.

"We're so excited to officially announce this year's spring and summer events lineup," said Aly Wente, fifth-generation winegrower and Wente Vineyard's vice president of marketing. "Our White Party is always our most popular annual event, so we can't wait to bring it back for our 140th anniversary year."

"We're also thrilled to

announce our summer concert series, Wine Wednesday, as well as this year's special Mother's Day and Father's Day events," Wente added. "Enjoying wine as a celebration – big or small – is really what we are all about."

The Mother's Day celebration, on the winery's Cabernet Lawn from noon to 5 p.m., will include a solo performance by singer Meredith McHenry and food vendors including Que Squared BBQ and the HP Taco Truck. All ages are welcome, and reservations are not required. Pets are not allowed.

The winery will also celebrate Father's Day from noon to 5 p.m. on Sunday, June 18.

Wente Vineyards touts its White Party, scheduled for 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. on May 28, as the kickoff to its summer celebration. Guests are invited to dress in their favorite all-white attire for

music, dancing, a boxed lunch, and a glass of Wente Vineyard's wine. General admission tickets are \$95 per person.

Wine can also be purchased by the bottle, and there is a VIP option that includes a reserved table under the winery's pavilion.

Wente Vineyards will host Wine Wednesday on the winery's patio from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. on July 26.

Admission is free, with live music and food and wine by the bottle available for purchase. Guests must be 21 or older.

Tickets for the first concert on the winery lawn with Mustache Harbor on June 2 are \$50 per person and include a complimentary glass of wine.

Wine can also be purchased by the bottle and food will be available from such vendors as Taco Guy, Que Squared BBQ, Crazy Empanadas, New Tradition, and the HP Taco Truck.

Library Seeks Volunteer Literacy Tutors

The Pleasanton Library is seeking volunteer tutors for its Adult Literacy Program to teach reading, writing, and conversation skills.

Tutors work one-on-one with students and assist with U.S. citizenship, General Education Development (GED), or High School Equivalency Test (HiSET) preparation.

The library provides all books and materials, meeting space, and ongoing training and support for

volunteers. The next training and orientation event for new volunteers will be held from 5 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. on Wednesday, May 10, at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Boulevard.

Volunteers should be 18 or older, fluent in English and familiar with American culture, and able to devote 1-2 hours weekly for at least 6 months. No prior teaching experience is required.

For more information or to register for the training workshop, email literacy@cityofpleasanton.org

cityofpleasanton.org or call 925.931.3405.

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Livermore-Granada Booster Club Names Scholarship Finalists

The Livermore-Granada Boosters have announced 12 finalists for this year's \$2,500 Olympian Scholarships.

One scholarship is awarded annually to one male and one female athlete from both Livermore and Granada High Schools. The eight runners-up will each receive a \$750 scholarship, and all 12 will receive an Olympian Finalist Award plaque.

Team awards are also presented to the outstanding male and female athlete leaders on each varsity team.

This year's finalists are:

Sophia Anderson, a senior at Granada High School with a weighted grade point average (GPA) of 4.4, earned four varsity letters in water polo. She also was an East Bay Athletic League (EBAL) All-League honorable mention, a California Interscholastic Federation North Coast Section (NCS) scholar athlete, and was team captain and voted Most Valuable Player by her teammates.

Hannah Callahan, a senior at Granada High School with a weighted GPA of 4.16, played four years and earned three varsity letters with the Granada girls volleyball team. She was also team captain and received the Granada Pride and Matador awards. She was an EBAL honorable mention.

Shea Hill, a senior at Granada High School with a weighted GPA of 4.38,

competed in both track and cross country, earning eight varsity letters. Shea was named to the EBAL first and second teams and received an honorable mention cross country and was an EBAL second-team selection two years in track.

Kinsey Claudino, a senior at Livermore High School (LHS) with a weighted GPA of 4.16, earned four varsity letters in lacrosse and two in basketball. She was an EBAL honorable mention in lacrosse and set an LHS record for single season (39) and careers goals (96). She also participated in the LHS marching band, Winter Drumline, Concert Choir, Symphony Orchestra, and Jazz Labb.

Cameron Ho, an LHS senior with a weighted GPA of 4.12, earned seven varsity letters in with the school's cheer and stunt teams. She was named to the first and second EBAL stunt teams during her four years at LHS and was a member of the NCS Championships qualifying team.

Viviana Valenton, an LHS senior with a weighted GPA of 4.43, was in cross country and track all four years at LHS, earning seven varsity letters. She was an EBAL honorable mention and second team selection in cross country. She qualified for the NCS cross country championships three times, placing as high as seventh in the state finals.

Tyler Martin, an LHS senior with a weighted GPA of 3.15, earned six varsity

letters in football, basketball, and track.

Jaxson Mosby, an LHS senior with a weighted GPA of 3.65, earned six varsity letters in football and volleyball. He was an EBAL second team selection in volleyball and Booster award winner in football, was team captain in both sports.

Shaun Smith, an LHS senior with a weighted GPA of 3.69, earned four varsity letters in football and basketball. He was an EBAL honorable mention in football. He was also a team captain in football, received a Booster award, and was named Offensive Player of the Year.

Carter Bailly, a senior at Granada with a weighted GPA of 3.32, earned four varsity letters in wrestling. As a freshman, he placed fifth at the NCS tournament, the first freshman wrestler from Granada to place at the tournament. In 2020, he was EBAL and NCS champion in his weight division and placed fifth at the California Interscholastic Federation state championships. Currently ranked 14th in the nation by USA Wrestling, he is now wrestling for Lehigh University in Pennsylvania.

Wesley Chiba, a senior at Granada with a weighted GPA of 4.43, earned six varsity letters in track and cross country, where he was team captain. He was All-EBAL honorable mention in cross country.

Anthony Molleson, a senior at Granada with a

weighted GPA of 4.13, earned five varsity letters in baseball, track, and football, where he was a team captain. He was captain of the throw squad in track and field.



Las Positas College Literary Arts Festival

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Tommy Orange

American Book Award winner and Pulitzer Prize finalist

California Poet Laureate

Lee Herrick

and

Livermore Poet Laureate

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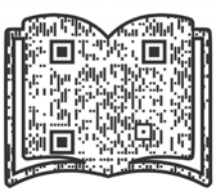
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Catherine Ceniza Choy & More!

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HIVELY

(Continued from first page)

zation opened the Hively Family Resource Center at 7066 Village Parkway in Dublin to provide a “one-stop shop” where families in need could find basic necessities, including diapers and wipes, clothing, shoes, books, housewares and early reading materials. All are free.

Hively offers clinical mental health services in San Leandro. Hekl noted that, in August, the organization will add mental health care to its Oakland facility, which also provides child care subsidies.

“It’s a huge need — helping people process and get through really difficult things in their lives,” Hekl said. “We take care of a variety of mental health issues — depression, anxiety. Sometimes it’s episodic. People can have really horrible things happen, like a parent dies or a bullying incident. We can work with things such as eating disorders.”

Several Tri-Valley leaders and chamber officials attended a ribbon cutting for the Pleasanton office on May 5. Pleasanton Vice Mayor Jack Balch discussed the epidemic of loneliness and the pandemic’s impact on the mental well-being of young people.

“It should ring true in all of our hearts as to the

need,” Balch said. “We hear it. We see it. We know it.”

Livermore Mayor John Marchand welcomed the increased availability of mental health services in the Tri-Valley and said people with mental illness should be treated with “kindness and grace.”

“Has there ever been a time when these two traits have been in shorter supply?” Marchand said. “We need kindness and grace now more than ever.”

Tracey Lewis Taylor, the COO of Stanford Health Care Tri-Valley and a member of the Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce, said the mental health office “highlighted an important collaboration in the community.”

“I think about it in my work every day,” Taylor said. “To have a healthy economic community, you need to first have a healthy community.”

Hekl said the need for counseling services is at an all-time high, especially for adolescents. She pointed out that the American Academy of Pediatrics declared a state of emergency in adolescent mental health care in 2021.

Hively’s mental health centers double as training centers for marriage and family therapists and clinical social workers.

“We actually have trainees who are getting their degrees in either social work or therapy,” Hekl said. “Part of their degree program is to do practicums to get on-the-job training. We have the ability to support them, to give them guidance and to give them supervision. Once people graduate from those programs, they need 3,000 hours of supervised therapy to become licensed, so we also have those people on staff. We’re really trying to expand the supply of therapists by being the quality training ground for these therapists.”

During the last year, Hively assisted more than 2,000 Alameda County families and children seeking child care referrals, and served more than 975 child care providers.

People wishing to access Hively’s mental health services can do so through its website, behively.org. The new Pleasanton center is certified to accept Medi-Cal.

May is Mental Health Awareness Month. On May 11, Page Mill Winery in Livermore is holding a Twilight Tasting event to benefit Hively Mental Health. The winery is donating \$10 of the \$15 ticket fee and 10% of proceeds from sales to Hively. The event will be held from 4:30 to 8 p.m.



Hively Board Chair Ryan Duncan Anderson and CEO Mary Hekl (at center) cut the ribbon to celebrate the opening of Hively Mental Health with Tri-Valley leaders and the Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce. (Photo courtesy of Hively)

AIRPORT

(Continued from first page)

for leasehold and development projects at the airport. It details what a project applicant might expect during the design, concept development, and construction phases of a project.

The airport commission will review the final version of the policy on June 5, with city council review and possible adoption set for June 30.

In response to transparency concerns, Stephanie Egidio, assistant to the city manager, said “(The) Airport Development Policy requires that entities proposing to develop airport properties will be required to develop a comprehensive public engagement plan designed to inform the public as to the scope and scale of the proposed projects.”

But LACG said policy details raise questions about how easily future projects will receive approval.

In 2010, the Livermore City Council adopted resolution number 2010-058, which stated, “Future development at the airport shall only occur in response to existing aviation demand. Whether the demand exists shall be evaluated by the Airport Advisory Commission, and shall be based on tangible evidence.”

Although the latest policy draft states that its objectives reflect the 2010 priorities, LACG expected more explicit references and questioned policy language that will allow the city to issue requests for interest, qualifications or proposals based solely on the availability of land.

“In this new policy they’ve proposed, they will be the initial gatekeepers and advisors and recommenders,” said Krueger, who had also hoped for more policy restrictions

on noise. “The word noise does not appear once in a 60-page document.”

The draft policy does, however, say it can reject a project if it “could be detrimental to the public, result in congestion of aircraft, and/or negatively impact the safety and-or efficiency of the airport, operators, tenants, or users of the airport.”

Egidio also said the airport now uses an updated noise-reporting tool, available at bit.ly/indy_airportnoise, “to identify and remind pilots of recommended flight patterns and traffic pattern altitudes to reduce noise.”

LACG members were still upset that Kaiser Air’s recent proposal to run Boeing 737 airplanes out of the Livermore airport had received support. Kaiser Air eventually withdrew its plan prior to any official vote on the project. LACG worried that more development will lead to more aircraft noise over the Tri-Valley.

“The noise has gotten more frequent, and I was very surprised to hear that the plan was to make it even more so,” said Krueger, who pointed to a flight track of an aircraft flying circles over the airport. “Ultimately, this is not transportation. It is what somebody wanted to do and LVK (Livermore Airport) is not going to say one word to the operator, or the pilot about flying for literally hours, over and over and over again, over a residential neighborhood.”

But Tyler White, pilot, Pleasanton resident, and president of the Flying Particles flying club at Livermore, explained that the laps in the sky arise out of a need for safety.

“The reason we’re doing

that is, first of all, if we’re training new pilots, it takes hundreds of landings and takeoffs for someone to learn to land,” said White. “It’s the hardest thing to learn; it’s the hardest thing to teach.”

And once learned, the skills remain “perishable,” requiring regular practice to maintain proficiency, continued White.

“I’ve been flying for 50 years,” he said. “I’m not doing it because it’s particularly fun to do. I’m doing it because I need to do that to be a safe pilot. ... Livermore Airport is part of a whole aviation ecosystem. When people go flying on an airliner somewhere, on vacation or on business, their pilot probably learned at a place like Livermore.”

While federal law prohibits the city from denying airport access to aircraft, the airport publishes a voluntary night-flying curfew between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m., along with recommended procedures for noise reduction, according to the airport’s website.

“Each pilot based at Livermore Airport is provided with a Pilot Information Guide that includes recommended flight patterns and traffic pattern altitudes to reduce noise,” said Egidio. The guide identifies noise-sensitive residential areas and includes other tips for noise reduction.

But the control tower, as it coordinates traffic on a busy day, may give instructions that prioritize safe spacing over preferred routes, Egidio continued.

“As a pilot and as a flight instructor, my primary focus is flight safety,” said White. “If we can fly safely and adhere to those noise abatement guidelines, we do it.”

Attorney to Discuss Intellectual Property

Siegmar Pohl, a partner with the international law firm Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton, will discuss intellectual property negotiations for start-up businesses at a Lunch and Learn event hosted by Daybreak Labs in Livermore on Wednesday, May 17.

With more than two decades of legal experience, Siegmar focuses on cross-border mergers and acquisitions and complex intellectual property transactions. The Lunch and Learn, from noon to 1:30 p.m., will be held at the Daybreak Labs offices, 7683 Southfront Road. The session is free.

SOLAR

(Continued from first page)

ment project, currently underway and estimated to be completed on May 15, also does not have solar, continued Testa.

City Manager Gerry Beaudin said solar was in the city’s future plans and indicated that the capital improvement budget will be shifted to support the need.

Staff remained unclear how recent changes to rooftop-solar incentives will affect projects. Last December, the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) revised its Net Energy Metering (NEM) program — the compensation structure for rooftop-solar owners who sell power back to the grid — by reducing the rate paid to those owners by about 75%.

“It’s going to cost residents more money, and it’s going to be required,” said Becky Hopkins, assistant to the city manager.

The change, known as NEM 3.0, extended the cost-recovery period for those considering rooftop solar. The CPUC explained

in its decision that the new plan returned to the grid and shared program costs the compensation portion previously used to incentivize rooftop-solar owners.

Just how the new policy will interact with other regulatory changes, such as new solar tax credits from the Inflation Reduction Act and revised California Building Codes, which require solar on most new buildings as of January 1, remains to be seen, said associate planner Megan Campbell. In other words, although NEM 3.0 will work against new solar, IRA tax credits and the new building-code requirement will work in favor of new solar; it’s unknown how the opposing forces will balance out.

“The California Building Code did require solar on a lot of different buildings with this update in 2023,” said Campbell. “I think we’re still going to see solar, but it is definitely a change in the money back.”

NEM 3.0 took effect on

April 15 for Pacific Gas & Electric customers applying for new rooftop solar installations.

The city will also monitor how well its climate goals align with other state laws, such as Assembly Bill 1346, which bans the sale of new gasoline-powered lawn equipment, and Senate Bill 1383, which requires the collection and reuse of organic waste.

Overall, however, the city council applauded progress made within the Climate Action Plan, which lists actions across the subjects of buildings and energy, transportation and land use, materials and consumption, natural systems, water and wastewater, and community resilience.

“I think it’s great to hear all this progress and look forward to further progress updates as we move forward,” said Councilmember Valerie Arkin.

City staff provide Climate Action Plan updates annually.

CLIMATE

(Continued from first page)

ceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

Santer, now at Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute in Massachusetts, was joined in the study by two atmospheric scientists still at LLNL, Steven Po-Chedley and Karl Taylor.

The origins of the rest of the research team show the international nature of today’s climate science. Members contributed from China, England and four different parts of the U.S.

A local participant was Carl Mears of Remote Sensing Systems, a Santa Rosa based company that processes and analyzes satellite measurement data for research purposes.

Earlier research including Santer’s work found human fingerprints of warming at lower atmospheric levels. One example is that accumulating carbon dioxide warms the troposphere — the part of the atmosphere where we live — while cooling the stratosphere by trapping heat that would otherwise reach it from the Earth.

This effect was predicted as early as 1967 and has been confirmed repeatedly by satellite measurements in the lower stratosphere, about 10-15 miles above the Earth’s surface.

“At least half a dozen” studies have noted cooling in the higher stratosphere, Santer said, but until the latest research, none had gone much beyond considering average temperatures to develop the kind of statistical patterns that establish human fingerprints.

Making use of the findings of nine top international climate models, the new study examined the atmosphere at six different levels — two in the troposphere and four in the stratosphere.

TRAVELERS

(Continued from first page)

and get her card.”

Eli said his interest in software development began in middle school when his father suggested Eli try a computer programming class. He learned java scripts and other programming languages and used that knowledge to create a website for his band. He continued learning more, and eventually took AP (advanced placement) computer science in high school. He began coding in different languages, broadening his knowledge to open his options for the future.

Once he had the TTP appointments website up and running for his mom, Eli decided to keep it active and offer it to the public. Eli

Remarkably, Santer said, human fingerprints on the climate are five times more distinct in the upper stratosphere than at the Earth’s surface.

This is because the constant turbulence of natural weather variations at the Earth’s surface obscures changes driven by human activities.

In some ways, the problem at the Earth’s surface is a reminder of the days when it was hard to hear someone talking on a static-filled long distance telephone line. At the technical level, “finding the signal in the noise” became a stock phrase.

In the upper stratosphere, Santer said, the team found that the absence of Earth-surface turbulence means there is much less “noise,” so it is easier to identify the signals of human activity — the fingerprints.

In particular, the upper stratosphere has cooled as much as 2°C (3.6°F) in the past 35 years, an amount and speed of temperature change that can’t be mistaken as natural, the study found.

To Santer, Po-Chedley and most atmospheric scientists, it is no surprise that humans are changing the climate by generating greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide. The evidence for many years has been overwhelming, they agree.

Nevertheless, Santer notes that there are still people — including some in Congress — who claim that climate change is caused entirely by natural processes, like increased output from the sun.

This is objectively wrong, he said, and this latest research makes it far harder to offer that false

said several hundred people took advantage of the site in its first six weeks, with over 100,000 appointment notifications sent.

“Our website is meant to assist,” Eli said. “It’s a service. It’s meant to get that appointment that is needed. This is meant for people trying to get into an enrollment center that is packed, and places like San Francisco and Los Angeles are jam packed. We are just trying to help people, which is why we have a free plan.”

Debbie Gibson of Phoenix, Arizona, said she had tried for weeks to schedule an appointment for a Global Entry card — one of the Trusted Traveler programs

— without luck.

“I then did some research online trying to see how others got appointments,” she said. “I found out about TTP appointments on Reddit from other users. I then signed up for the text plan. I picked the dates I was available. Within 24 hours, I already started getting alerts to my phone on openings. Within two days, I got an appointment that would work with my schedule and booked it.”

Eli plans to create an application version of the website for smartphones this summer.

For more information, visit www.ttpappointments.com.



Congregants of the Buddhist Tzu Chi Foundation pray during the third annual Alameda County National Day of Prayer on Thursday, May 4. The event was hosted by Supervisor David Haubert and held at the Alameda County Fairgrounds in Pleasanton. [See photo gallery at www.independentnews.com/multimedia] (Photo - Doug Jorgensen)

Red Cross Offers Incentives for Blood Donors

The American Red Cross is offering a \$10 gift card to blood donors now through Friday, May 19, and a Red Cross beach towel to those who donate blood between Saturday, May 20, and Wednesday, May 31.

In addition, those who donate blood or platelets anytime during May will be entered in a drawing for a trip for two to the 2023 MLB All-Star Game in Seattle on July 11.

The giveaway includes two tickets to the game, round-trip airfare, four-night hotel accommodation, and a

\$750 gift card.

May is National Trauma Awareness Month.

The Red Cross said Type O negative donors are especially needed. Type O negative blood, considered the universal blood type for transfusions, is the most used blood type in hospital emergency rooms.

Blood drives are scheduled at the Asbury United Methodist Church, 4743 East Avenue, Livermore, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Friday, May 19, and Thursday, May 25.

Blood drives are also

scheduled for the Red Cross Blood Donation Center, 5880 W. Las Positas Blvd., Pleasanton, from 7:45 a.m. to 2:45 p.m. every Friday, Saturday, and Sunday in May, and from 11:45 a.m. to 6:45 p.m. every Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday.

To schedule an appointment, download the American Red Cross Blood Donor App, go to RedCrossBlood.org, call 1-800-RED CROSS, or enable the Blood Donor Skill on any Alexa Echo device. Blood donors will need two forms of identification.

Pleasanton's Community of Character Collaborative Announces 2023 Juanita Haugen Award Winners

Four Pleasanton residents and the Pleasanton Police Officers Charitable Foundation will receive 2023 Juanita Haugen Awards during the annual Pleasanton Community of Character Collaborative luncheon at the Pleasanton Senior Center on Wednesday, May 17.

The foundation will be honored for its commitment to helping needy children and seniors, including the Shop with a Cop program for children from disadvantaged families at Christmas and its contributions to Officers Give Hope, which helps match patients with bone marrow donors, and Miracles for Kids, which provides financial aid, subsidized housing, and counseling for families with critically ill children.

Last year, the foundation also helped fund a program providing backpacks for needy children in the Pleasanton Unified School District (PUSD) and the Adopt a Senior at Christmas program.

Individual awards will be presented to George Bowen, Tina Ghai, Bill Butler, and Todd Utikal.

Butler and Utikal will be recognized for their work on the "Yes on I" campaign to approve a PUSD bond measure, including hosting meetings with individuals and community groups, neighborhood door-knock-

ing, and engaging people at the Pleasanton Farmers' Market.

A former Navy pilot, Butler has also served as a board member for the Pleasanton Cultural Arts Foundation, campaign chair for the Firehouse Arts Center, and youth basketball coach. He is a graduate of the Leadership Pleasanton program and received the first Jenny Doehle award.

Utikal, a member of the Pleasanton Rotary Club, has chaired various committees to raise money for scholarships, wheelchairs, and other nonprofits. In 2020, he started a group called "We are Pleasanton," raising over \$475,000 for projects at Amador Valley and Foothill High Schools.

In 2007, Bowen, a 38-year resident of Pleasanton, helped start the Sacramento-based nonprofit, Impact Teen Drivers, which works with schools and first responders to promote traffic safety education after the death of a friend's 16-year-old son.

With his own son serving with the Marines, Bowen also visited hospitalized soldiers and organized a benefit concert with Pleasanton Military Families, a Tri-Valley support group, that raised more than \$70,000.

As a second career, Bowen custom builds acoustic guitars. When he was diagnosed with amyotrophic

lateral sclerosis (ALS) earlier this year, some of his best-known customers held a benefit at the Bankhead Theater in Livermore for the ALS Cure Project.

Ghai is an artist who donates the proceeds from her sales to various charities and individuals without health insurance who need medical treatments. She also drives seniors to the grocery store and doctor appointments and donates school supplies for teachers.

During the Covid-19 pandemic, she coordinated the distribution of 2,000 cooked packets of food for the sick and elderly and sick and had groceries delivered to essential workers, caregivers, and people who lost their jobs. She also stitched 4,000 facemasks for essential workers.

The Juanita Haugen Awards are named for a longtime PUSD board member and community volunteer, Haugen also cofounded the Pleasanton Community of Character program, which encourages the values of responsibility, compassion, self-discipline, honesty, respect, and integrity.

Tickets to the luncheon, which is open to the public and begins at 11:30 a.m., are \$45 and available at the Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce website, pleasanton.org.

BART

(Continued from first page)

going through the legislative process.

A Santa Rosa resident, Biemeret previously served as audit manager for the City of Berkeley from 2014 to 2020 and as an auditor there from 2008 to 2014. Before that, she was an auditor at Maze & Associates, an accountancy services firm in Pleasant Hill, from 2006 to 2008; and an account executive at Maguire/Maguire, a management firm for nonprofits, from 1997 to 2006.

Biemeret is board president of the Association of Inspectors General, Western States Chapter; and a member of the Association of Local Government Auditors, the Institute of Internal Auditors and the Institute for Public Procurement.

She has a bachelor's degree in business administration from Golden Gate University and is a certified inspector general.

She will earn \$220,000 in her position.

At BART, the inspector general conducts oversight of all of the agency's activities and operations and is "empowered to conduct independent audits and investigations and to provide reports of findings to BART's Board of Directors, the California State Legislature, and the public," BART officials said in a statement.

"We, at BART, are grateful to the Governor for filling this vital position with a highly qualified professional so quickly," said BART General Manager Bob Powers.

In resigning in March, Richardson said that in addition to BART's management and employees hindering her efforts to conduct oversight, BART failed to fund the office, including rejecting her request for \$1.7 million to bring the IG's budget to \$2.7 million.

Two weeks after her departure, BART autho-

rized the \$2.7 million that Biemeret will now oversee.

BART's board interviewed candidates for the job and submitted three names to Newsom to consider.

"We look forward to Ms. Biemeret assuming the responsibilities of Inspector General,"

BART Board Director Bevan Dufty said in a statement. "It is essential that we have independent oversight to help improve BART's operations and ensure the effective use of public funds."

In March, BART officials announced that they expect a \$48 million deficit next year and must find new revenue sources or incur more than \$1.2 billion in debt by 2032.

Glazer then quit his post on the Senate Select Committee on Bay Area Public Transit, accusing Bay Area leaders of failing to fix BART's fiscal oversight problems.

HOTEL

(Continued from first page)

said she supports a hotel development but opposes the proposed project's design, disagreed.

"Rather than requiring the applicant to conform to the rules, the city is changing the (Specific Plan) to conform to the applicant's plan," King said. "The plan should not be changed to fit the inn. The inn should conform to the plan."

In a letter to the planning commission, King said the hotel planners "are trying to fit too much in the space available."

"The setback requirements on this particular location should not be changed," King continued. "To be consistent with the rural, wine country character of the area, the setback on the Hansen Street access street should remain 100-feet and be required to be planted with vineyards and orchards and not include parking and a trash enclosure."

The planning commission's decision is not final. The commission makes recommendations to the city council, which will discuss and vote whether to approve the project at its May 22 meeting.

ect after it received planning commission approval in 2019.

The move prompted the residents' group Friends of South Livermore (FSL) to file a suit in Alameda County Superior Court. Among the group's arguments was that the building's proposed 50-foot setbacks from Hansen Road came up 50 feet short of the 100-foot requirement in the SLVSP. The city council, the lawsuit argued, had no discretion to ignore that provision.

Alameda County Superior Court Judge Noel Wise rejected FSL's claims in 2021, saying the city council did have the authority to approve the project. FSL appealed to the higher court. Two of the three justices who heard the case agreed with FSL, saying the 100-foot rule was explicit in the SLVSP and required that the city council adhere to it.

The third judge disagreed, saying the city council had the authority to adjust the code. The 2-1 vote halted progress on the development. Boss said she and the city were working on ideas that would allow it.

Their solution to amend the SLVSP was considered at the planning commission's meeting, where they rescinded the previous approval, added language to the SLVSP and recommended it go back to the city council.

Mark Wolfe, an attorney for FSL, said his clients do not need to appeal because the hotel proposal will go automatically to the city

council.

"Changing the rules in the SLVSP is a legislative action," Wolfe said. He did not indicate how the residents will respond if the city council puts its stamp of approval on the hotel.

Boss' attorney, Eric Samuels, said he expected the council to approve the new hotel plan.

"The same motions need to be approved by a majority vote, which we anticipate will happen," Samuels said.

In addition to opposing the shorter setbacks, King said she was opposed to the planning commission allowing the hotel to use electric kitchen equipment.

"The independent Consumers Union highly recommends induction (cooktops and ranges) for energy-efficiency, speed and precision cooking, safety, absence of toxic fumes, absence of fossil fuels and funding from the Inflation Reduction Act," King said. "This is another instance where the applicant does not want to conform to the city rules but wants the city to conform to their wishes."

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The Almost Famous Wine Lounge to Host West Coast Songwriters Showcase

The Almost Famous Wine Lounge in Livermore will host the West Coast Songwriters Spring Showcase on Thursday, May 25, with former Little Richard drummer Derrick “D’Mar” Martin as the emcee.

The Spring Showcase will feature Bay Area musicians Steve Kritzer, Aireene Espiritu, Tala Newell, and Chance McCauley in an “in the round” Nashville-style performance, popularized by the Bluebird Café in Nashville.

Kritzer, an award-winning songwriter, producer, and teacher, has been a mainstay in the Bay Area music scene for more than 30 years. Espiritu performs a mix of Americana, while McCauley is a solo artist who has popularized his own brand of West Coast soul. At just 16-years-old,

Newell is an independent singer/songwriter who has already produced and released six songs and is working on an EP compilation for later this year.

Martin, who will emcee the performances beginning at 6:30 p.m., spent 17 years travelling with Little Richard as lead drummer. He has also released more than 80 songs as a solo recording artist.

His Drums & More workshops, which he takes to schools and festivals, covers the history of the drum set and the role it has played in different genres of popular American music.

Tickets are \$5 to \$15 for reserved seating at the Almost Famous Wine Lounge, 2271 S. Vasco Road, and are on sale online at bit.ly/almofamo.



Former Little Richard drummer Derrick “D’Mar” Martin will emcee an upcoming event at the Almost Famous Wine Lounge in Livermore.

(Photo courtesy of Almost Famous Wine Lounge)

East Bay Regional Park District To Offer Mother’s Day Events

The East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD) is offering several programs for Mother’s Day on Sunday, May 14.

Ardenwood Historic Farm in Fremont will host Mother’s Day festivities from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., including live music, croquet or bocce ball, and a buffet brunch with reservations. Food will also be available for purchase from a special a-la-carte menu at the farm’s café.

Farm programs at Ardenwood, 34600 Ardenwood Boulevard, recreate life on a prosperous 19th century estate, centered around the restored Patterson House. Admission fees apply; parking is free. For information, call 510-544-2797.

Del Valle Regional Park, south of Livermore, is offering a two-mile Mother’s Day hike, with natural realist Alex Collins, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. The hike will begin at the School House Flats picnic area. Registration is not required.

There is a parking fee of \$6 per vehicle. For information, call 510-544-3146.

The cultural heritage of the Ohlone Peoples will be on display at Sunol Regional Wilderness, south of Sunol and Interstate 680, during a drop-in program with naturalist Kristina Parkison from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, May 13.

Registration is not required, but children must be accompanied by an adult. There is a parking fee of \$5 per vehicle.

There will also be a half-hour naturalist-led stroll 3 p.m. on Saturday, May 13, on the marsh boardwalk at Coyote Hills Regional Park in Fremont. The wheelchair-accessible program will include stories and songs.

Registration is not necessary, and all ages are welcome; children must be accompanied by an adult.

This is just a partial list of EBRPD activities and programs in coming days. For a full list, go to ebarks.org.

TRI-VALLEY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Now to Tuesday, June 27 UPCOMING SUPPORT GROUPS

When grieving the loss of a loved one, people may feel overwhelmed by the ebb and flow of emotions. Hope Hospice’s grief support services help adults and youth learn to process these feelings and find ways to move forward in a positive direction. Hope’s grief support services are free of charge, but registration in advance by phone is required at 925-829-8770 on weekdays, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. A brief assessment is required. Support groups are currently being conducted online by Zoom video conference, and services for young children are temporarily paused until in-person group gatherings can continue. General Grief runs May 8 to June 26, on Mondays, from 6 to 7:30 p.m.; Spousal and Partner Loss runs May 9 to June 27, on Tuesdays from 6 to 7:30 p.m. or Wednesdays from 1:30 to 3 p.m.; and Loss of a Child runs from May 8 to June 26, on Mondays from 6 to 7:30 p.m. For Teens Group, call for dates. Groups are offered once per quarter. Those who cannot make the next sessions should call the office to put your name on the interest list for the following quarter.

Thursday, May 11 SICILY: LAND OF PLENTY

Armchair Travelers will take place at 1:30 p.m. in the Storytime Room of the Livermore Public Library Civic Center, 1188 S. Livermore Ave. Vicki Stephens will present a slideshow entitled “Sicily: Land of Plenty.” Registration is not necessary to attend this free program. Vicki will share photographs and stories of her adventures in Sicily.

Saturday, May 13 through Saturday, Nov. 11 MASTER GARDENER TALKS AT LIVERMORE DEMO GARDEN

UCCE Master Gardener Program of Alameda County presents this program at 3575 Greenville Road, in Livermore, on the second Saturday of the month at 10 a.m. The program dates and topics are May 13 - Succulents Pt 2: General care and maintenance of succulents in the garden; June 10 - Firescaping: Best practices to slow the burn in wildland interface areas; July 8 - Sages: Best species for each season and care; Aug. 12 - Pruning Native Plants: How, when, and why; Sept. 9 - Vermin in the Garden: How to identify and protect your garden from the mammal pests; Oct. 14 - Plant Propagation: Seed collection; and Nov. 11 - Roses: Best roses for a low water garden and winter pruning and care. For more information, visit acmg.ucanr.edu.

Saturday, May 13 “BY GEORGE, IT’S GERSHWIN, THE BEATLES AND MORE”

Valley Concert Choral’s final concert of its 60th Anniversary season is “By George, It’s Gershwin, The Beatles and More.” This concert is one for the entire family and a perfect treat for a Mother’s Day weekend. The event takes place at 7:30 p.m. at Asbury United Methodist Church, 4743 East Ave., in Livermore. Tickets are \$30. High school and college students \$10 with valid student ID. Children are free. Advance tickets are available at valleyconcertchorale.org or 925-866-4003.

Saturday, May 13 CANTABELLA CHILDREN’S CHORUS INVERSIONS

Cantabella Children’s Chorus performs Inversions in concert at 1 and 4 p.m., at the Bankhead Theater in Livermore. In celebration of Mother’s Day, the Inversions theme was selected to honor women, presenting many pieces representing female artistry. The chorus won the top Grand Prix award at the July 2019 World Youth Choral Festival and Competition, South Korea. Cantabella young singers perform at 1 p.m., and Cantabella teenage singers perform at 4 p.m. Youth tickets are \$2 and adult tickets are \$28 to \$38. Both are available at the Bankhead box office and livermorearts.org.

Saturday, May 13 DUBLIN TO HOST YOUTH HACKATHON, START-UP PITCH EVENT

The City of Dublin’s Youth Advisory Committee will host a Youth Hackathon and Start-Up Pitch Event for youth in grades five through eight from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., at the Dublin Senior Center. In teams of two to three, participants during this competition will create mobile applications, websites, and/or 3-D models. After brainstorming and building, each team will give a five-minute presentation and “pitch” their idea. No experience or advance preparation is required. Join with a friend, or staff will pair registrants up at the event. Mentors will be on site all day. Please bring a laptop. There is a maximum of 80 participants at this event. To registers, visit bit.ly/3McHUCy.

Saturday, May 20 WONDERFUL WITCHES AND WIZARDS!

Broadway Chorus’ Spring Concert featuring songs from the Wizard of Oz, Wicked, the Wiz and Harry Potter will take place on at 7 p.m., at Asbury United Methodist Church, 4743 East Ave., in Livermore. Purchase tickets at eastbaymusicals.org. Discounts are available for children and seniors.

Saturday, May 20 TRI-VALLEY WRITERS CHAPTER OF THE CALIFORNIA WRITERS CLUB HOSTS AM LARKS

AM Larks, editor, author, and book critic will present “Published! Tips and Tricks from an Indie Editor” on May 20, 2023. Larks will share advice on submitting to blogs, journals, agents, and publishers. Her lecture will include an overview of submission and publication processes. Join at 2 p.m., at Tri-Valley Writers’ new meeting location, Las Positas College, room 2470, 3000 Campus Hill Drive, in Livermore. Check-in begins at 1:30 p.m. To RSVP and pay, email your RSVP to treasurer@trivalleywriters.org by Thursday, May 18, then register at bit.ly/3CpDOUC. CWC adult members are \$10; nonmembers are \$12; CWC student members ages 14 to 22 are \$5; and student nonmembers are \$8.

Saturday, May 20 and Sunday May 21 COME AND BE REFRESHED WITH PACIFIC CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

Revitalize the soul with Handel’s Water Music, celebrate composer Joseph Haydn’s last and most famous Symphony #104 “London,” appreciate the bold, romantic power of Sir Edward Elgar’s beautiful May Song and Love’s Greeting, and delve into the expansive melodies of Gordon Jacob’s lively A Little Symphony for Orchestra. For one week only, get a special offer of 25% discount off best seats. Use promo code PCO25%NOW at checkout. The events take place on May 20, at 7:30 p.m., at St. Stephens Episcopal Church, in Orinda; and on May 21, at 3 p.m., at the Bankhead Theater, in Livermore. For more information, visit pacificchamberorchestra.org.

CCOP Grad Mass SUNDAY, MAY 21

At 6 p.m., at St. Augustine Church, 3999 Bernal Ave., in Pleasanton, all high school seniors and their families are invited to the CCOP Grad Mass for special recognition by the Catholic Community of Pleasanton. Seniors are asked to wear their graduation gowns and will receive special red cords to attach to their gowns. Seniors will be able to sit together in a reserved section. A pastoral blessing will be bestowed upon the graduating class during Mass, followed by a photo op in the outdoor grotto and a light reception in the hall. This Eucharistic Celebration is open to all seniors and family members. Attendees are asked to wear church clothes or graduation gowns with no graduation caps. For more information, contact Lien-Thi de la Peña at ldelapena@catholicofpleasanton.org or Jim Garber at jvgarber@comcast.net.

Sunday, May 21 “JAZZ, SHE WROTE”

This all-star quartet of Bay Area jazz women originally came together to celebrate Marian McPartland’s 100th birthday, with a sold-out show at Piedmont Piano. This time, the group will perform a wide range of captivating music by a host of brilliant jazz composers, including Melba Liston, Tia Fuller, Emily Remler,

Anat Cohen, Blossom Dearie, Mary Lou Williams, Laura Nyro, and others. The event will take place with in-person attendance and livestream. To request seating, email info@livermorejazzsociety.org or fill out an online form at livermorejazzsociety.org/reserve-seats. If seating is available, organizers will reply with a formal invitation including the performance location. For more information, visit livermorejazzsociety.org. Suggested donation are \$20 per person, but donations of any amount are most welcome.

Sunday, May 21 CONNECTING THE WORLD THROUGH PUBLIC WORKS

Encore Players will present the fascinating history of public works in the U.S., starting with the New Deal. They will also discuss the role of women in unions, war efforts, and construction – from Eleanor Roosevelt to Rosie the Riveter to present-day women in public works projects. This program will take place from 2 to 3 p.m., in the Civic Center Library Storytime Room (1188 S. Livermore Ave.). For more information, call 925-373-5500, visit library.livermoreca.gov, or follow the Library’s Facebook page.

Sunday, May 21 SHAVUOS AT CREEKSIDE PARK

At 10:30 a.m., join Tri-Valley Cultural Jews for Shavuos Book Fest in Pleasanton. Celebrate Shavuos by sharing the best book each person read this year. Iced tea and cookies will be provided. Bring your favorite snack to share! Email culturaljews@gmail.com or call 925-399-8029 for an Evite. For more information, visit trivalley-culturaljews.org. The event is free to members, with a suggested \$15 donation per non-member adult if able.

Saturday, May 27 WAVE WATERPARK OPENS

The Wave waterpark opens for the summer season on Memorial Day weekend, from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Daily operations begin June 3. Presale tickets for the season will be available online starting April 4. Presale reservations for cabanas and loungers for the season will also be available to reserve online starting April 4. Recreational swimming is ongoing through April 30, in the natatorium on Saturdays and Sundays, from 1 to 4 p.m. Fitness swimming and water walking are also available. For more information, visit dublinrecguide.com.

Monday, May 29 MEMORIAL DAY CELEBRATION

The Pleasanton American Legion Post 237 in conjunction with the Pleasanton Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 6298 will hold a Memorial Day Celebration at The Pleasanton Senior Center Centennial Park, located at 5353 Sunol Blvd., in Pleasanton. The ceremony will begin at 10:30 a.m., with patriotic music played by Pleasanton Community Band. The Memorial Day program will begin at 11 a.m. There will be parking in the Senior Center parking lots. For more information, visit americanlegionpost237.org/home.html.

Wednesday, May 31 MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS CELEBRATION

God’s Love Outreach Ministries (G.L.O.M.) invites the public to attend the annual Mental Health Awareness Celebration at Las Positas College, Building 1000, Room 1011, 3000 Campus Hill Drive, in Livermore, from noon to 2 p.m. Attendees can tour the recreational facility, meet participants and staff, and learn how G.L.O.M. supports their participants as they build themselves towards self-sufficiency and independence. There will also be a raffle, entertainment, and food provided. Organizers ask attendees to RSVP on or before May 8, at 925-487-7809 or Jturner@glom-arf.org.

Saturday, June 17 TRI-VALLEY WRITERS PRESENTS KATE FARRELL

Farrell will show attendees how to enliven their talks and create a shared experience with listeners when converting stories from written pages to spoken words. Join in at 2 p.m., at Las Positas College, room 2470, 3000 Campus Hill Drive, in Livermore. Check-in begins at 1:30 p.m. To RSVP and pay, email treasurer@trivalleywriters.org by June 15, then register at trivalleywriters.org/speaker-meeting-registration-and-payment. Tickets for CWC adult members are \$10; nonmembers are \$12; CWC student members ages 14 to 22 are \$5; and student nonmembers are \$8.

Saturday, June 17 DISASTER PREPAREDNESS WORKSHOP RESCHEDULED

Attend a Disaster Preparedness workshop from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., in the Regional Meeting Room at Dublin Civic Center (100 Civic) to learn how to identify hazards and risks; how to make a communications and family reunification plan; what to put in your emergency kits; and more. To register, visit eventbrite.com.

Friday, June 23 2023 JUNETEENTH CONCERT SERIES

The Oakland Interfaith Gospel Choir (OIGC) is proud to announce a powerful and inspiring series of concerts to celebrate Juneteenth, featuring performances in Berkeley, Livermore, and San Francisco. This concert series celebrates the resilience, joy, and strength of the African American community through the power of gospel music. The three concerts will take place on June 16 at the Freight & Salvage in Berkeley, June 23 at the Bankhead Theater in Livermore, and June 25 at the Great American Music Hall. Each concert will feature the OIGC performing a variety of gospel music styles, from traditional to contemporary, and paying tribute to the Freedom Songs of the Civil Rights movement. The event takes place from 8 to 10 p.m., at the Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., in Livermore. For more information, call 510-839-4361 or visit oigc.org. Tickets for all seating range from \$22 to \$30. For tickets, visit oigc.org/tickets.

Sunday, June 25 LIVERMORE VALLEY OPERA’S “OPERA IN THE VINEYARD”

Join Livermore Valley Opera for its ever-popular Opera in the Vineyard programs this year to be held at Garré Vineyard & Winery. These events sell out quickly, so reserve your spot today - Tickets are on sale now for both summer events, each with its own unique musical program. Opera in the Vineyard – June takes place on Sunday, June 25, with gate opening at 4:15 p.m.; and Opera in the Vineyard – August takes place on Sunday, Aug. 27, with gates opening at 4:15 p.m.; both at Garré Vineyard & Winery, located at 7986 Tesla Road, in Livermore. LVO will offer the extremely popular “Arias a la carte” portion of the program when guests will have the opportunity to purchase songs from a “menu of delectable arias and show tunes” for the singers to perform at the purchaser’s table or seating area. The program begins at 5 p.m. and ends at 8. Garré wines will be available for purchase, but no outside wine is permitted. Guests are encouraged to carpool. Individual seats at a table are \$80 each. Complete tables of 10 may be purchased for \$800. Reservations close June 15. For more information, visit LVOpera.com.

ONGOING VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES TOPSCIENCE

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

ONGOING WEEKLY EVENTS PLEASANTON FARMERS MARKET

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

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

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OBITUARIES

James Cyril O'Connor May 16, 1941 – April 25, 2023 Resident of Livermore, California



Jim spent his early years growing up in San Francisco's Mission District and Bernal Heights neighborhoods, graduating from Saint Ignatius High School in San Francisco in 1959. Ever the scholar, he earned a bachelor's degree in education and a master's degree in education from the University of San Francisco. As a lifelong educator, Jim served communities and students for 39 years in local schools and school districts throughout the Bay Area. He was a teacher in Hayward, a teacher and counselor in Larkspur, a principal in Pacifica, a middle school principal and Assistant Superintendent for Business Services in Tracy, an Assistant Superintendent for Business Services, Associate Superintendent for Administration and Property Management, Deputy Superintendent in San Ramon Valley, and finally Assistant Superintendent for Business Services and Deputy Superintendent for Business Services in the Castro Valley School District.

Jim was recruited to teach as an adjunct faculty for the School of Education at both the University of Southern California and Saint Mary's College of California teaching

graduate-level courses. School districts, colleagues, and mentees valued Jim's perspective and voice throughout his career and even well into his retirement. Jim was active in the Kiwanis Club in Tracy, and the Rotary Club in Castro Valley. In 2003, Jim was recognized by CASBO's associate members with the Schuyler C. Joyner Outstanding Service Award.

Upon retirement, Jim and Sharon prioritized and cherished time with their family by cheering on grandchildren at sporting events, celebrating accomplishments, and beaming with pride at family dinners. They spent time with their grandchildren teaching, exploring, playing, and supporting each of them as the people they have become and are becoming. They loved live music and attended countless Dixieland jazz festivals in Old Town Sacramento, Pismo Beach and Monterey. Among their travels, one grand adventure included journeying across America by train. Through all of these activities, what Jim loved and cherished most was having Sharon by his side.

An avid US history buff, Jim spent 20 years volunteering as a docent on the USS Potomac. He was proudly the "voice" of FDR's presidential floating White House as they cruised through San Francisco Bay or sat dockside in Oakland. With his gregarious and engaging personality, Jim truly never met a stranger. Meeting Jim was meeting a friend who was curious and wanted to learn about you. His many circles of friends included classmates from St. Ignatius and St. Peter's, fellow Mission District and Bernal Heights pals, as well as his special neighbors in Livermore and Pleasanton Meadows, and of course his weekly Pleasanton coffee buddies.

The cornerstone of Jim's life was family and friends. Always an Irishman and gentleman, Jim loved to raise a chilled

Manhattan and offer a toast, acknowledging the moment, appreciating the ancestors who brought the moment to be, and highlighting to everyone that special moments with family is what life is all about. Jim brought love, joy, warmth, laughter, and tradition to his family and friends alike.

Jim passed away after a sudden and valiant battle with melanoma.

Born in San Francisco he is predeceased by his parents Cyril and Mildred O'Connor, and his son James Howard O'Connor. He is survived by his devoted wife of 56 years Sharon Lorrene O'Connor and children Dan (Edi) of Los Angeles, Michelle (Jon) of Pleasanton, and Mark O'Connor of El Dorado Hills. He is also survived by his beloved grandchildren Connor and Madison Perkins of Pleasanton, and Everleigh and Venture O'Connor of El Dorado Hills, brother John O'Connor (Margaret) of Concord, and sister Geraldine Cappuccio of Odenton, Maryland. His generous and loving spirit will be missed by all that knew him.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that you consider a donation to Melanoma Research Foundation or Shriners Hospital for Children.



Patricia Neault March 29, 1945 – April 30, 2023



Patricia Neault passed away on April 30, 2023, at the age of 78. She was born in Canton Ohio to Katheryn and George Lhota on March 29, 1945. Patricia was a devoted mother of three, grandmother of seven, loving sister, devout Catholic, navy officer, nurse, educator, singer and beloved dog mom.

Her life and career were dedicated to serving others. As an officer in the Navy, Patricia served her country for three years before leaving to continue nursing at Kaiser hospital. Her work as a nurse in the mom-baby department was a reflection of her love for helping others. As an elementary school teacher, Patricia inspired her students to learn and grow. She was so passionate about working with children, that after her retirement she continued to work in elementary schools as a volunteer. Her dedication and selflessness will always be remembered.

Patricia's love of music was evident throughout her life. She enjoyed singing with

the Sweet Adelines as part of the Bay Area Showcase. She also sang in quartets and was known for her beautiful tenor. Through her music, she formed many long-lasting friendships, and she will be remembered for her love of singing and the joy it brought.

Above all, Patricia was a devoted mother, grandmother and dog mom. She loved her chil-

dren, grandchildren and pets deeply, and they brought immense joy to her life. She was a source of strength and support to her family and friends and will be deeply missed by all who knew her.

A viewing was held at Callaghan Mortuary in Livermore on May 10, 2023, at 9:30 a.m. followed by the service at St. Michael Catholic Church in Livermore at 11 a.m. Patricia will be laid to rest at San Joaquin Valley National Cemetery in Santa Nella, on May 12, 2023, at 10:30 a.m.

Patricia Neault will be remembered for her kindness, compassion and dedication to others. Her legacy will live on through the countless lives she touched, and she will be deeply missed by all who knew her. May she rest in peace knowing that she made a positive impact on the world around her.

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

Marita Christine (Weil) Lovegren Jan. 20, 1948 – April 20, 2023 Resident of Manteca, California



On April 20, 2023, Marita died peacefully at home. Marita was born on Jan. 20, 1948, in Grand Rapids, Michigan to Jack and Jean (Geneva Ailshie) Weil, their first daughter. In 1951 Marita, her sister Jackie and their parents moved to San Francisco, California where in 1952 their third daughter Kathy was born. In 1962 her family moved to Livermore and established (Jack's) Donut Wheel on First Street, which is still open today and considered a landmark of the city. Marita married and had five children, all born in Livermore. In 1976, she and her children joined The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, all being baptized by her father, Jack.

Marita met and married Donald Lovegren in 1985. They were introduced by mutual friends and were inseparable from that moment on, being completely devoted to each other. She enjoyed working at the family donut shop, opening her own needlepoint store, working at the Livermore Lab, being a retail jewelry manager and her favorite job as an interior decorator for Ethan Allen. Some of the activities she loved included sewing, needlepoint, crafts, scrapbooking, cooking and travelling. She faithfully served in her church callings and family and friends in need. She was a

master planner, list-maker and organizer for any family function and made every Christmas amazing and magical for all.

Don was at her side when she passed and will miss her deeply. Don and Marita were long-time residents of both Livermore and Elk Grove, California. They enjoyed many activities together throughout the years, which included numerous vacations, cruises, trips with their kids and grandkids, bowling on a league together and hosting many family gatherings and dinner parties with their friends. Their favorite place to visit was San Francisco where they spent many anniversaries.

She is survived by her husband Donald Lovegren of 37 years, children, David

Thomsen of Meridian, Idaho; Leslie Walters; Dennie Moreland (Skip) of Pleasanton, California; Joanne Thomsen (Rene) Gomez of Manteca, California; stepdaughter Donna Lovegren (Dirk) Schinkel of Livermore, California; and stepson Jim (Teri) Lovegren of Valley Springs, California along with her grandchildren, Sam (Stacy) Harbert, Justin Keef, Jamie Walters, Andrea Schinkel (Jesse) Rollins, Jamie Lovegren (Michael) O'Meara, Jodie and JD Lovegren, Arianna and Michael Moreland, Johnny, Steven and Tomas Gomez; and eight great-grandchildren; her father Jack Weil of Manteca, California, sister Kathy Weil (C. Gordon) Austin of Manteca, California and brother-in-law Bill Rose of Tracy, California, along with several nieces and nephews and great-nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her son Thomas L. Thomsen Jr. (Buster), her mother Jean (Geneva Ailshie) Weil, her sister Jackie (Jacqueline Weil) Rose and great-niece Amanda Nicole Austin.

The memorial services will be held on Friday, May 19, 2023, at 2 p.m., at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, 1233 Northgate Drive, Manteca, California. Reception to follow.

Maurice H. Lowrey June 10, 1932 – May 6, 2023

Long-time Pleasanton resident, Maurice H Lowrey passed away Saturday, May 6, at the age of 90. Maurice moved with his wife Mickey to Pleasanton in 1964 from Buffalo, New York. NY. He was a graduate of Alfred University and worked on the family Christmas tree farm. Maurice took a job as a diesel engine draftsman at DeLaval Engine and Compressor Company in Oakland where

he quickly moved up to Chief Engineer.

As Private First Class he worked in the Army Maintenance Corps on Okinawa. He spent many years as referee coordinator, coach and referee for BUSC.

He is survived by his children Kim and Mark.

Services will be held Saturday morning at 10 a.m. at Graham Hitch Mortuary 4167 First St., Pleasanton.



Janet Bird July 10, 1937 – May 4, 2023



Janet Bird passed away May 4, 2023, in Oakdale California at the age of 86, surrounded by her loving family. Janet was born July 10, 1937, in Eureka, California and graduated from Eureka High School in 1956. Following high school, she married the love of her life Norman Bird. Shortly after moved to Castro Valley, California.

Janet will always be remembered for her love for her family. Janet had a career of 30 years working in admitting for Vesper Memorial Hospital.

Janet is survived by her husband of 67 years, Norman Bird and their four daughters and their spouses, Lesley and Bill Barnett; Debbie Wheeler; Linda and Steve Baptista;

and Lisa and David Kahre. Janet was blessed with nine

Denise Gouvaia Nov. 12, 1951 – April 20, 2023

Denise was born in Livermore to Sylvian Christensen and Winifred Lester.

Raised in Livermore, Denise had many stories from attending Fifth Street School to graduating from Livermore High School.

After marrying her husband, Mark, they raised two sons in Livermore as well. Denise was very involved in raising her children and encouraging them with their 4-H projects and events over the years.

Denise spent 35 years working for Safeway in the deli department and made many

friends of both co-workers and customers.

She will be greatly missed by family and friends.

Denise is survived by her husband Mark, sons Michael (Suzanne) and Paul; brother Tom; and grandsons Cole and Travis.

A memorial service for Denise will be held on Tuesday, May 16, 2023, 11 a.m. at Callaghan's Mortuary in Livermore.

In lieu of flowers, please make a donation to any cancer research or charity of your choice.



Lois Marie (Lemos) Combs July 1, 1943 – April 30, 2023



Lois Marie (Lemos) Combs of Tracy, California passed away peacefully in her son and daughter-in-law's home on Sunday, April 30, 2023, surrounded by family, from COPD and Breast Cancer. She was 79 years old.

Lois was born on July 1, 1943, to Milton and Carroll Lemos in Bishop, California. The family moved to Livermore, California where she grew up on Las Positas Road in a small farmhouse (where the Walmart and Home Depot now sit). She attended Fifth Street School, Junction Avenue School, and then Livermore High, graduating in 1961. In each of these schools she gained life-long friends.

She was happiest when surrounded by her family and friends. If she waited on you at the Vine Theater, the West Cafeteria (@ LLNL), or Cruiser's Diner in Livermore you would remember her by her smile. She had a passion for Elvis, George Strait and BINGO. Her other hobbies included planting Iris and daffodils, going on road trips with her girlfriends, collecting frog trinkets, music and dancing, playing canasta/pinochle, carrying on her family's Portuguese traditions, making

her famous crock pot beans, mandatory party-staple potato salad, and passing along the secret recipe to milk toast, and of course anything to do with her grandkids.

Proceeded in death by her parents Milton and Carroll Lemos, her older brother Russell Lemos (whom she sorely missed for 67 years), and her favorite uncle Carl D. Rau Jr., her beloved husband of 18 years Herb Combs, brother-in-law John

Lautenslager Sr. and nephew John Lautenslager Jr.

She is survived by her two children, Randy (Melissa) Betz, Rene Betz-Trudeau, and stepdaughter Gina (Ed) Sottile. Her beloved nine grandchildren; Austin and Brock Trudeau and Victoria, Kyle, Jamie, Charlie Betz and Maggie, Emily, and Hailey Weber. Her sister Claudia Lautenslager. Along with her four nephews: Shane (Kathy) Lautenslager, Jason (Julie) Creighton, Jim (Karen) Creighton, and Joel Creighton, and niece April (Rod) Ivie, and numerous great-nephews and great-nieces.

"So, when tomorrow starts without me ... don't think of life without me or that we are far apart, for every time you think of me ... I will be right here in your heart!"

Per her request, there will be no services held, should you wish donations can be made to: Community Hospice of Modesto, Children's Hospital of Los Angeles, or the SPCA.

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

Diane Maren Reinstein May 5, 1932 – April 24, 2023



Our precious Mom passed away on Monday, April 24, 2023.

She was born to Earnest and Alice Ehrich on May 5, 1932, in Las Vegas, New Mexico.

In the summer of 1949, after the passing of their parents, Diane and her only sister Shirley Lovegren moved from New Mexico to Livermore, California to live with their uncle and aunt, Clarence and Mildred Keene.

There, Diane met the love of her life, Arthur Reinstein at a rodeo in Livermore. Rodeos were one of the many things she enjoyed. Diane became Arthur's June bride and were married in June 1950. They celebrated 63 years together until Art's passing in 2013.

To their special union four sons were born into this world. Dennis (Donna), Henry (Kathryn), Rick (Liz), and Thom. She was proud to share stories about each son.

Taking care of her four little "cowboys", roundups at the ranch, learning from grandma Dean in the kitchen, camping, gardening, and dancing with Art, are to name a few of the many things she loved about life. She was also very much an animal lover. Besides caring for

her sons, any animal that ever wandered onto the ranch was always well-fed and adopted. Her love for animals is something she passed down to her sons and grandchildren.

Art and Diane joined Dania Hall in 1958 with Diane being a long-standing member of Danebod 16. Also, Grand President and Past Grand President of Dannebrog Danish Society. This is where she loved to play cards, go to conventions, and spend time with friends and family. She was also a member of the Eastern Star in Livermore, California. She attended

her last convention a week before her passing. She made many special friends at Dania Hall gatherings. Music, one of her many passions also, led her to join the Sweet Adelines Aca-pella group in Twin Falls, Idaho.

Adding to her growing (ranch), 10 grandchildren came along: Kara, Chanda (Nathan), Brock (Stephanie), Kody (Megan), Tianna (Andrew), Allison (John), Christianna (Albi), Zack, Liz (Bill), Brandon (Ali), and also 13 great-grandchildren who enjoyed her love, hugs and kisses too!

Aunt Di also leaves behind many nieces and nephews she truly loved and enjoyed.

Requested words to describe their Granny D, here she is through their eyes: Unconditional Love, Energetic, A Good Heart, Kind, Stoic, Vivacious, Plants, Positive, Selfless, Stubbornly Happy, Determined, Role Model, Turquoise, Wagon Wheels, Card Shark, (Hot Dog!), Adventurous, and Soft Loving Hands.

90 years went too fast!!!! We will miss you so much mom, Granny D, Aunt Di, and Diane.

A private memorial will be held at a later date for family and friends.

Amador Sweeps Foothill Ahead of Playoffs

By Phil Jensen

The Amador Valley High School baseball team found itself in a precarious situation entering the fifth inning Friday at Foothill—the Dons were trailing 3-0 and didn’t have a hit.

But Amador Valley was able to chip away at the lead, tying the score in the top of the sixth, then taking a 5-4 lead in the seventh. Foothill countered by tying the score in the bottom of the frame, but Amador Valley scored the eventual winning run in the top of the eighth to win 6-5.

“We’re all exhausted,” said a weary but happy Amador Valley coach Lou Cesario. “I told the team what we just did the last two weeks, to go through Granada and Foothill (undefeated), pretty tough for anybody to do. ... This was a team effort.”

Amador Valley swept the series against both Granada and Foothill in the final four games of the regular season to improve to 18-4 overall and finished the East Bay Athletic League regular season with a 9-4 record. Granada also had the same final regular-season league record, but Amador Valley has the No. 1 seed in the EBAL Valley Division for the EBAL playoffs due to its sweep of Granada. The Dons had a bye in the first round. De La Salle is the top seed in the Mountain

Division and also had a first-round bye.

Foothill ended the regular season with a 15-8 overall record and a 7-6 mark in the EBAL. The Falcons traveled to face San Ramon Valley in a first-round game on Tuesday after this article’s deadline.

On Friday, the matchup included a pair of top-notch starting pitchers in Foothill’s Jackson Flora and Amador Valley’s Oliver de la Torre. The first three-and-a-half innings showed that, as the score was 0-0. In that stretch, Flora had six strikeouts and retired 11 straight batters since the second batter of the game.

Foothill ended the scoreless streak with three runs in the bottom of the fourth. Landon Comerford drove in the first run with a single to the left-center field gap. Two batters later, Brendan Comerford drove a sharp single up the middle by Tyler Kubo. The Dons tied the score at 3-3 one inning later on an RBI double into the left-center field gap by Mitchell Kreider.

With de la Torre no longer on the mound, Foothill

took the lead again on an RBI single by Charlie Stearns in the bottom of the sixth. But Amador Valley countered with two runs the next half-inning on a run-scoring single to left by pinch hitter Jason Alonso and a bases-loaded walk to Gage Talbot. However, Foothill forced extra innings with a long sacrifice fly to center field by Nate Novitske.

In the top of the eighth, Amador’s Matthew Foley reached on an error, Kobayashi walked and Evan Berry hit a sinking liner for a single to drive in the eventual winning run. Amador Valley sophomore relief pitcher Brendan Baptist got out of a two-on, one-out situation in the bottom of the eighth with two straight outs to get the save for Kubo, who pitched two innings of relief for the win.

“One thing we always talked about was being relentless and being able to come back from being down,” Kubo said. “This team’s a great team, this Foothill team. We knew going into it, it was going to be rough, and if we were able to kind of ride out the storm and get through, we would get a chance.”

Foothill’s Brendan Comerford was 3 for 4 with an RBI and a triple. Stearns was also 3 for 4 with an RBI. Flora allowed only four hits in his six innings of work and had seven strikeouts.



Dublin’s Ashton Florentin jumps to spike the ball during the North Coast Section Boys Volleyball Championships, Quarterfinals on May 4. The Dublin Gaels hosted the American Eagles of Fremont. Dublin won 3 matches to 0. [See photo gallery at www.independentnews.com/multimedia] (Photo - Doug Jorgensen)



Foothill’s Brenden Comerford dives over Amador catcher Evan Berry in an unsuccessful attempt to score a run during the varsity baseball game on Friday, May 5. Amador won 6-5. [See photo gallery at www.independentnews.com/multimedia] (Photo - Doug Jorgensen)

Las Positas Forms Alliance with Arizona State

Las Positas College (LPC), a two-year community college in Livermore, has formed an alliance with Arizona State University (ASU) for students who are planning to transfer to a four-year institution. The MyPath2ASU program is designed to provide students with a seamless transfer process, allowing them to begin planning for the move to ASU, and shorten the time to complete their degree, when they first enter LPC.

“We are thrilled to announce our new partnership with Arizona State University and their MyPath2ASU program,” said LPC President Dyrell Foster. “This partnership provides an exciting opportunity for our students to seamlessly transfer to a top-tier university and pursue their academic and career goals.”

The program offers course-by-course guidance for students to choose classes that apply to an associate degree from Las Positas and a bachelor’s degree from ASU, and they received personalized communications to prepare them for the transfer academically and build a connection to ASU. Students are guaranteed admission to ASU and their choice of majors if all the requirements are met.

Dublin Police Offer ‘Mommy Makeover’

Dublin Police Services is joining with Justin Michaels Salon, Mimi’s Chocolates, and Hand and Stone Massage in Dublin to offer a free “Mommy Makeover” to a Dublin mother. To enter the giveaway, submit name and contact information via a direct message to the Dublin Police Instagram page, @dublin police. The deadline to enter is Wednesday, May 31.

Dublin, Pleasanton to Host Bike Month Events

Dublin and Pleasanton will host events for National Bike Month in May, including participation in the Bay Area’s annual Bike to Work Day on Thursday May 18.

The cities will set up “Energizer Stations” from 7 a.m. to 9 a.m. at the Pleasanton and Dublin BART stations for Bike to Work Day, with free refreshments and give-away bags from local sponsors, including Hacienda, Veeva Systems, and REI Dublin.

Dublin and Pleasanton will also partner with Bike

East Bay, an Oakland non-profit organization, to offer a free, two-part class, Urban Cycling 101, for adults and teens 15 and older.

Bike East Bay will teach a workshop on bicycle safety, including learn-to-ride basics, on-the-road safety, and family cycling, at the Dublin Library, 200 Civic Plaza, from 10 a.m. to noon on Saturday, May 13. The class will also cover rules of the road and how to equip a bicycle, fit a helmet, avoid bike theft, ride after dark, and prevent common crashes.

The second part of the program, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Sunday, May 14, will include practice drills in the library parking lot, followed by an on-road group ride. Bikes and helmets are required.

To register, or for more information, go to bikeeastbay.org.

Bicyclists can also receive \$5 in “Market Money” by riding their bikes to the Dublin Farmers Market at Emerald Glen Park, 4201 Central Parkway, between 4 p.m. 8 p.m. on Thursday, May 25.

Amador Valley Volleyball Clinches Playoffs

By Nathan Canilao

The Amador Valley High School boys’ volleyball team defeated Deer Valley High School 3-0 on May 4 in the North Coast Section playoff quarter finals. The Dons received a bye in the first round of the playoffs, and with the win, they moved on in the bracket.

The Dons took the first set with ease. Led by a big

offensive outburst, the Dons won 25-12 to take 1-0 lead early.

Deer Valley came back in the second set with a much stronger performance. The Wolverines played much better on the defensive end to keep the set tighter.

However, Amador’s offense got the job done late in the set as the Dons won the second set 25-21.

In the decisive third set,

Amador did more of the same as its offense kept Deer Valley at bay. The Dons defeated the Wolverines 25-16 in the third set to complete the sweep.

Amador started its playoff run with a win due in part by getting some much needed rest to start the playoffs. The Dons will look to complete their playoff run with a championship appearance on May 11.

Foothill High Defeats James Logan in Playoffs

By Nathan Canilao

The Foothill High School boys’ volleyball team defeated James Logan High School 3-1 on May 4 in the North Coast Section playoff quarterfinals. The Falcons were the No. 1 seed coming into the game and were awarded a bye before their matchup with the Broncos.

The two teams kept it close in the first set. James Logan went tit-for-tat with Foothill offensively and made it tough for the Falcons on the defensive side.

The Falcons found a way to win late in the set to obtain a 25-23 set victory.

In the second set, Foothill did not waste time taking a 2-0 series lead. The Falcons high-powered offense woke up as they won the second

set 25-9.

James Logan came back in the third set strong. Despite Foothill’s offensive attack, the Broncos were able to hold them back on defense and escaped with a 25-21 victory.

The Falcons finished business in the fourth set 25-16. Their offense proved to be too much as they jumped out to a quick lead early and didn’t look back.

The Falcons cruised to a quarterfinal victory and advanced through the playoff field. They will look to

compete for a section championship on May 11.

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OBITUARIES

CELEBRATION OF LIFE

Linda Marie Mingoia-Dyer
Sept. 2, 1952 – March 15, 2023



Linda Marie Mingoia-Dyer passed away peacefully at the age of 70 after a 3-year battle with Alzheimer's. She stayed active and walked as was her goal until her final weeks. She was beloved by all with many tears shed over her passing.

Linda was a Livermore native; born and raised in the extended Mingoia family. She went to Livermore High School and attended the University of Montana where she received her bachelor's degree. She would go on to receive her Master of Nutrition at Notre Dame de Namur University. Linda worked at San Francisco General Hospital as a registered dietician and Chief of Nutrition for 20 years. She was passionate about Latino culture and Spanish language and was an interpreter for the last six years she worked at the hospital. She even lived in

Mexico for several months to improve her knowledge of the language and had a great love of Mexican food, particularly cheese enchiladas. She also loved listening to Spanish music.

Linda had a great love for dogs, notably her mixed lab Maggie, poodle Sparkie, and Heinz 57 Casanova. She loved her horse Dakota and enjoyed trail rides.

Linda was a longtime vegetarian and continued to follow nutritional research after her retirement. She had a sweet tooth and carrot cake was her favorite.

She traveled to Europe with her brother and father and told the story of how she was kept as a hostage at the gas station while her brother and father went back to the bank to get money for the gas they needed. Yosemite was a favorite and she loved cross-country skiing at Badger Pass. In the summer she enjoyed riding bikes or going swimming.

She was married to two wonderful men and sadly widowed twice. Alfredo (Al) her first husband and Robert (Bob) her second husband. She had a daughter with her first husband named Tiffany. Both were wonderful men who loved to dance with her.

Mary, her best friend, told of all the good she did as Chief of Nutrition and Linda often oversaw her patients personally

in the burn unit.

She lived life to the fullest and never let anything slow her down. Linda believed in the good of everyone and had a big heart.

She is preceded in death by her parents Hazel and Joseph and her husbands Robert and Alfredo. She is survived by her brother Joey, daughter Tiffany, niece Katie and husband Scott, and nephew Charlie with wife Stephanie as well as their children.

Celebration of life will be held on May 21. Please contact Tiffany at 925-724-6107 for more details.



LEGAL NOTICES/CLASSIFIEDS

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LEGAL NOTICES

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 597057**

The following person(s) doing business as: Everyday Harvest, 7812 Foothill Road, Pleasanton, CA 94566, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Longitude 121, LLC, 7812 Foothill Road, Pleasanton, CA 94566. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Yoshiko Sato, Managing Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 11, 2023. Expires April 10, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5460. Published April 20, 27, May 4, 11, 2023.

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 597030**

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. George Noyes Foundations; 2. Horses for Autism; 3. Racing for Inclusion; 4. GNF Providers; 5. GNF Services, 8032 Canyon Creek Circle, Pleasanton, CA 94588, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): George Noyes Foundation, 8032 Canyon Creek Circle, Pleasanton, CA 94588. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Johnny Taboada, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 11, 2023. Expires April 10, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5461. Published April 20, 27, May 4, 11, 2023.

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 597027**

The following person(s) doing business as: Natural Landscape & Construction, 2363 thirds ST, Livermore, CA 94550, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Natural Landscape Maintenance Inc., 2363 Third ST, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 4/1/2023. Signature of Registrant/s/: Eva Murillo de la Cruz, Officer/CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 11, 2023. Expires April 10, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5462. Published April 20, 27, May 4, 11, 2023.

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 596256**

The following person(s) doing business as: Marquez Technology Consulting, 1191 Solano Ave #6502, Albany, CA 94706, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Marquez, Victor Rogelio, 1191 Solano Ave #6502, Albany, CA 94706. This business is conducted by an individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 2/24/2023. Signature of Registrant/s/: Victor Rogelio Marquez, Proprietor. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 13, 2023. Expires March 12, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5463. Published April 20, 27, May 4, 11, 2023.

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 597059**

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Angelvetting 2. The Live Scan Guy, 4704 Saginaw Circle, Pleasanton, CA 94588, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Timothy David Parks, 4704 Saginaw Circle, Pleasanton, CA 94588. This business is conducted by an individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Timothy David Parks, Sole Proprietor. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 12, 2023. Expires April

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 597062**

The following person(s) doing business as: Spokes on a Wheel, 609 Spokane Ave, Albany, CA 94706, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Joshua Heller, 609 Spokane Ave, Albany, CA 94706. 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: 1/2/2023. Signature of Registrant/s/: Joshua Heller. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 12, 2023. Expires April 11, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5465. Published April 27, May 4, 11, 18, 2023.

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 597235**

The following person(s) doing business as: Snow Doping Child Care, 459 Dover Way, Livermore, CA 94551, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Sreedevi Prakasam, 459 Dover Way, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by an individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Sreedevi Prakasam, Director. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 17, 2023. Expires April 16, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5466. Published April 27, May 4, 11, 18, 2023.

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 597032**

The following person(s) doing business as: No Joke, 2037 Walnut ST, Livermore, CA 94551, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Christian Chacon Colin, 2037 Walnut 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: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Christian Colin, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 11, 2023. Expires April 10, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5467. Published May 4, 11, 18, 25, 2023.

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 597206**

The following person(s) doing business as: Amuse Kitchen, 61 Rickenbacker Circle, Livermore, CA 94551, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Amuse Kitchen, LLC, 73 Rickenbacker Circle, 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: 4/1/2023. Signature of Registrant/s/: David Victor, Managing Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 17, 2023. Expires April 16, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5468. Published May 4, 11, 18, 25, 2023.

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 597416**

The following person(s) doing business as: Arroyo Cellars, 2700 Researcher Drive, Livermore, CA 94550, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Wise Wine Ventures, LLC, 2270 Research Drive, 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: 2/24/2018. Signature of Registrant/s/: Ron Perkuchin, Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 25, 2023. Expires April 24, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5469. Published May 4, 11, 18, 25, 2023.

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 597242**

The following person(s) doing business as: Agility Systems,

599 Ridgecrest Circle, Livermore, CA 94551, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Arjun Gill, 599 Ridgecrest Circle, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by an individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Arjun Gill, N/A. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 18, 2023. Expires April 17, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5470. Published May 4, 11, 18, 25, 2023.

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 597477**

The following person(s) doing business as: Originowis, 2413 Decker Lane, Livermore, CA 94550, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Bruce M. Henry, 2413 Decker Lane, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by an individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 4/26/2023. Signature of Registrant/s/: Bruce M. Henry, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 26, 2023. Expires April 25, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5471. Published May 4, 11, 18, 25, 2023.

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 597458**

The following person(s) doing business as: Mantle Landscape Architecture, Inc., 2612 8th ST, Suite A, Berkeley, CA 94710, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Mantle Landscape Architecture, Inc., 2612 8th ST, Suite A, Berkeley, CA 94710. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 4/27/2018. Signature of Registrant/s/: Ramsey Silberberg, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 25, 2023. Expires April 24, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5472. Published May 4, 11, 18, 25, 2023.

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 597348**

The following person(s) doing business as: Be Print & Marketing LLC, 8407 Central Avenue, Second Floor, Newark, CA 94560 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Be Print & Marketing LLC, 8407 Central Avenue, Second Floor, Newark, CA 94560. 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/: Bruce J. McGoldrick, Principle. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 20, 2023. Expires April 19, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5473. Published May 4, 11, 18, 25, 2023.

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 597521**

The following person(s) doing business as: Premium Insulation, 6712 Preston Ave, Suite C, Livermore, CA 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Anthon Inc., 6712 Preston Ave, Suite C, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 5/28/2013. Signature of Registrant/s/: Lesley Anthon, Secretary. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 28, 2023. Expires April 27, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5474. Published May 4, 11, 18, 25, 2023.

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 597408**

The following person(s) doing business as: Sumsaara Plants and Gifts, 3295 Castro Valley Blvd, Castro Valley, CA 94546 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Sumsaara LLC, 7179 Calistoga Lane,

Castro Valley, CA 94546. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Mini Bansal, Co-Owner/Managing Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 24, 2023. Expires April 23, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5475. Published May 4, 11, 18, 25, 2023.

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 597110**

The following person(s) doing business as: Tradex, 19895 Mission Blvd, Hayward, CA 94541 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Tradex Corp., 1675 162nd Ave, San Leandro, CA 94578. 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/: Roger Gebrael Tohne, CFO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 12, 2023. Expires April 11, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5476. Published May 4, 11, 18, 25, 2023.

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 596746**

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Illuminar Shop; 2. Botanical Illuminar, 3607 Del Monte Way, San Leandro, CA 94548 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Illuminar Enterprises LLC, 3607 Del Monte Way, San Leandro, CA 94548. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 4/1/2023. Signature of Registrant/s/: Jennifer Rachel Vieira, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 31, 2023. Expires March 30, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5477. Published May 4, 11, 18, 25, 2023.

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 597686**

The following person(s) doing business as: Mighty Media Partners, 1024 Hansen Rd., Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Quantum Imaging Solutions, LLC, 1024 Hansen Rd., Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 5/19/2009. Signature of Registrant/s/: Scott Pietro, CFO & LLC Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on May 5, 2023. Expires May 4, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5478. Published May 11, 18, 25, June 1, 2023.

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 597594**

The following person(s) doing business as: Jess Wynn-Grant Psychotherapy, 5738 Kingsley Circle, Oakland, CA 94605 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): JWG Licensed Clinical Social Worker Inc., 5738 Kingsley Circle, Oakland, CA 94605. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 3/27/2023. Signature of Registrant/s/: Jessica Wynn-Grant, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on May 2, 2023. Expires May 1, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5479. Published May 11, 18, 25, June 1, 2023.

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 597543**

The following person(s) doing business as: Cloco, 1085 Murrieta Blvd, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Cloco LLC, 3400 Cottage Way, STE G2, Sacramento, CA 95825. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Com-

pany. 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/: Hailey Duckworth, Managing Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 28, 2023. Expires May April 27, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5480. Published May 11, 18, 25, June 1, 2023.

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 597532**

The following person(s) doing business as: Chennai Tiffins, 5970 Mowry Ave Suite #E . Newark, CA 94560 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Annachi Inc, 2672 Tuliptree LN., Santa Clara, CA 95051. 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/: Suresh Seenichamy, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 28, 2023. Expires April 27, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5481. Published May 11, 18, 25, June 1, 2023.

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 597684**

The following person(s) doing business as: Raven Made, 444 Ontario Drive, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Jennifer Rachel Vieira, 444 Ontario 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: 4/1/2023. Signature of Registrant/s/: Jennifer Rachel Vieira, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on May 5, 2023. Expires May 4, 2028. The Independent, Legal No. 5482. Published

May 11, 18, 25, June 1, 2023.

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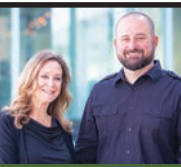


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